

[Payne, Henry D.]

DR. HENRY D. PAYNE, DENTIST, DIES AT 78

Was Ill Only Four Days With Pneumonia

Practised [sic] Nearly 50 Years

He Was a Veteran of the Civil War, and Was Extending the Notes
of His War Diary When Death Overtook Him.

The death of Henry D. Payne occurred Sunday evening at 6 following a short illness due to pneumonia. For nearly 40 years he had practiced dentistry at his offices in the American block and was one of the most prominent men in his profession locally. He was also in the G.A.R. and shortly before his death had received notification that he was to be an aide-de-camp to the commander at the forthcoming national encampment. Locally he was a familiar figure for he acted as marshal at many celebrations of a military nature and in this capacity he led the greatest parade of veterans ever held in this city, at the time of the dedication of the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument on Public Square 25 years ago.

He was taken suddenly ill Thursday afternoon as he was walking along Stone street and he was just able to reach the home of Dr. J. D. Olin. The doctor had him brought to the Ruddy Sanatorium and it was found that Dr. Payne was suffering from pneumonia. The illness proved fatal and he passed away at 6 Sunday evening.

Dr. Payne was born in Depauville July 15, 1837, a son of Samuel Payne. When but a young man he came to this city and was engaged in business as a builder.

On Aug. 7, 1862, at the age of 25, he enrolled in Watertown to serve three years in the New York Tenth Heavy Artillery. He was mustered in as a private in Company A on the 19th of the same month and was promoted to corporal on Sept. 11, 1862, to sergeant on March 10, 1863, and to the second lieutenancy of Company B on April (3?), 1865. He was transferred to Company G at the latter end of June in the same year and to the 6th Artillery in the middle of July. He was mustered out with the company on Aug. 24, 1865 at Washington, D.C.

The Tenth Heavy Artillery was known as "Abe's Pets," and was stationed on garrison duty along the Potomac during the first year of the war. The regiment took part in the Wilderness campaign, and fought at Cold Harbor, Va., and before Petersburg and Richmond. Under General Sheridan the regiment took an active part in the raid along the Shenandoah.

Two months after returning from the war, Dr. Payne married Miss Harriet Bryant and the golden wedding was celebrated Oct. 6, 1916.

He was an enthusiastic horseman and until a few years ago was a familiar figure on the streets riding horseback. At many of the parades of the G.A.R.

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he acted as marshal and when Col. Roosevelt visited this city in (?) Dr. Payne was selected to head the procession. He was an admirer of Mr. Roosevelt though he remained a staunch Republican. At the time of the dedication of the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument on Public Square 25 years ago, Dr. Payne was marshal of the greatest parade of veterans ever seen in this city. General Henry W. Slocum was the orator on that occasion. When the reunion of the Tenth New York Heavy Artillery was held last year he again filled the position of marshal, riding a spirited horse, although he had attained the age of 78 years.

Dr. Payne was a man of remarkable vitality. Despite his advanced years he never totally discontinued his practice, though of late years his son, Dr. W. B. Payne, who was associated with him, has looked after most of the affairs of the office. It was only a few weeks ago that the aged doctor attended to one of his patients at the office.

At his home amid most pleasing surroundings he had been engaged recently in going through his diary which he had faithfully kept during the Civil War. From the daily entries of those times he was extending the notes which he expected to have printed. Many of them have been typewritten already and it is the intention of his son, Dr. W. B. Payne, to have them completed.

Though a staunch Republican, he never sought office nor would he accept the high honors offered to him in the G.A.R. He was a most unassuming man at all times. He was an attendant at All Souls church [Universalist] and was a member of the old Universalist church which formerly stood on the Square, but as regards religious convictions he has been described as a "Nature's Christian."

Dr. Payne was a great lover of nature and nothing pleased him more than to take walks in the country. D. S. Miller was an intimate associate and today paid him the following tribute:

"When a message came to me yesterday [unreadable] was dead, I felt that I had lost one of my best and truest friends and comrades.

"I had known him very intimately for a long term of years and my faith in humanity and the brotherhood of man has been strengthened because of my acquaintance with him.

"We have enjoyed many glorious horseback rides side by side in past years and I found in him a most delightful companion. There are various types of men and Dr. Payne was of a distinctive type. He was lovable. I never heard him an unclean word. He loved the fields, the green woods, the birds and all the beauties of nature, and it was of such things that he delighted to talk as we cantered along the country roads.

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"Of his firmness of character, his integrity, his unswerving loyalty to friends and country, I need hardly speak. His life was an open book. He professed little and practiced much."

Dr. Payne was known as a man of extreme generosity and he had remarked many times that he wished he were wealthy. It was always found on inquiry that he desired the money not for himself, but for aiding someone he knew to be in dire circumstances. Many people in the city can testify to his generous gifts of money or of services to those in need.

After the Civil War Dr. Payne returned to Watertown and started the study of dentistry under Dr. John D. Huntington, with whom he was associated for a number of years. In 1877 or 1878 he took up his offices in the American building, being the first man to take an office there upon the conversion of the building from a hotel into an office building... From that time to the present, nearly 40 years, Dr. Payne has maintained his offices there, of late years his son being associated with him.

He is survived by his widow; one sister, Mrs. Cecelia M. Andrews; one brother, W. P. Payne, editor of the Nevada Representative, Nevada, Iowa; and one son, Dr. W. B. Payne, who has been associated with him in the practice of dentistry.

The funeral will be held from the late home, (302?) Mullin street, Wednesday morning at 10:30, Rev. Harry Westbrook Reed officiating. Interment will be made at Brookside.

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