

Biographical Record of Cowley County, KS. 1901

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Henry C. Loomis

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moved to Indiana, where his death occurred in 1846. He located in Ohio county in 1818. His wife was of English and Welsh extraction, and died several years previous to the demise of her husband. Five children were born to them, of whom three attained their majority, namely: Thomas D., who died in Cowley county, in 1879, and whose widow and sons have since lived with D. B., who never married; John W., who died in Indiana, in 1855; and the subject of this sketch.

D. B. McCollum remained on his father's farm until he became of age, and afterward carried on farming on his own account, and operated a grist-mill, which he owned. During, and a short time after, the Civil War, he was engaged in the lumber business. In 1869, he sold out all his interests in Indiana, and moved west to Wilson county, Kansas. There he took up a claim, but shortly afterwards sold it, and in December, 1870, droye through to Cowley county, where he bought section 23, in Liberty township. He improved that piece of property and made it his home until 1876, when he moved to Pleasant Valley township, and bought the northeast quarter of section 14, township 33, range 4, east. His substantial, nine-room, square house was built in 1887, and stands on the northeast quarter, while the barn is on the northwest quarter of the section. Mr. McCollum was successful from the very start and invested his earnings in additional property. As a consequence he now ranks among the largest land owners in the county, being the owner of 1400 acres in Pleasant Valley township, and 400 acres in

Liberty township. About 900 acres of this extensive area is in pasture and Mr. McCollum raises many cattle and hogs. The balance under cultivation is mostly wheat and corn, and this highly improved farm is all well drained by the Walnut River. Considerable natural timber stands on the property. Three men are employed constantly, and during the very busy season many more are provided with work. Mr. McCollum is a man of many sterling qualities, being upright and honest, and imbued with an enterprising public spirit which always impels him to labor for the best advantage of his community, and for the prosperity of the county, and the country at large. He has a wide circle of friends who hold him in high esteem.

Mr. McCollum formerly belonged to the Masonic order. Religiously, he is a Christian of the Campbellite persuasion. Mrs. Eliza McCollum, widow of Thomas D., keeps house for the subject of the sketch, and he looks after her children with all the care and attention of a father.



OL. HENRY C. LOOMIS, whose portrait is shown on the opposite page, is a citizen who has devoted the major portion of his time and talents to the welfare of others and the material development of the community in which most of his unselfish life has been spent, and well merits the perpetuation of his superb record in the archives of the state and county which comprised the field of his activities.

Henry C. Loomis was born in a log house at Loomis Corners, in the town of Otto, Cattaraugus county, New York, March 16, 1834, and is a son of Bliss and Betsey Loomis. His paternal grandfather was an officer in the Revolutionary War. Henry C. Loomis was reared upon the farm and obtained a common school education. From boyhood he was interested in military affairs, and prior to the Civil War was a member of the New York state militia for seven years. At the breaking out of the war, he was first sergeant of Company C, 64th Reg., New York state militia, which regiment entered the United States service intact as a military organization, retaining its old number. Henry C. Loomis was elected first lieutenant of Company C. At the battle of Fair Oaks, the captain of Company C was absent on account of sickness, and Lieut. Loomis commanded the company in that fierce conflict. While engaged in a charge upon the Confederate lines, Lieut. Loomis was severely wounded in the arm and leg. His regiment lost, in killed and wounded, 115 men. Gen. O. O. Howard lost an arm in this engagement, having been in command of the brigade which included the 64th New York Regiment. Lieut. Loomis' wounds gave him a leave of absence for a time, and while nursing them at home he assisted in raising the 154th Reg., New York Vol. Inf., and returned to the seat of war as its lieutenant-colonel. Age has not cooled his military ardor. Largely to his efforts are due the organization and maintenance, at Winfield, of Company C, 2d Reg. Kansas National Guards, for years prior to the Spanish war.

Company F of the 21st Kansas Volunteers during that war was mainly composed of the Winfield company. Col. Loomis is an active member of Siverd Post, No. 85, G. A. R., Department of Kansas, at Winfield, of which he is at present commander, and he also is a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Kansas Commandery.

In the year 1869, Col. Loomis moved to Kansas, and engaged in railroad bridge building. He heard of the prospective opening of the Osage Indian Reservation to settlement, and was attracted to the valley of the Walnut River. On the last day of December, 1869, he located a squatter's claim adjoining what had been selected as a town site, afterward known as Winfield, and when the land was opened for settlement and purchase, he obtained title to his property direct from the United States government. A part of the city of Winfield occupies 100 acres of his 160-acre tract.

As a Mason, Col. Loomis' career has been exceptional. He became a Master Mason in Cattaraugus Lodge, No. 239, A. F. & A. M., at Little Valley, New York, while on a leave of absence from the army, in 1862. In the year 1872, he was a charter member of Winfield Lodge, No. 58, A. F. & A. M., and while Worshipful Master of that lodge raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason 54 candidates in one year. He has been High Priest of Winfield Chapter, No. 31, R. A. M., and Eminent Commander of Winfield Commandery, No. 15, K. T., for six years; and is also a prominent member of the Royal Order of Scotland;

and a life member of Isis Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. He is a member of Queen City Chapter, No. 138, O. E. S., of which he is now Worthy Patron. He was made a Royal and Select Master, in 1895, in Wichita Council, No. 12; and was made Knight Templar in Winfield Commandery, No. 15, of Winfield. He was made Knight Kadash, in 1890, in Wichita Consistory; and was made a Thirty-second Degree Mason, the same year, by Wichita Consistory, No. 2, at Wichita, Kansas. He was coroneted Honorable Inspector General, in October, 1893, by Philip Crosby Tucker, at St. Louis, Missouri. He was appointed Grand Junior Deacon of the Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Kansas, in 1895, advanced to be Grand Junior Warden in 1896, to be Grand Senior Warden in 1897, was made Deputy Grand Master, in 1898, and Grand Master, in 1899. During his stewardship as Grand Master, there was a net gain of 756 in the membership of the Grand Lodge. The Colonel was instrumental in procuring for Winfield Commandery, No. 15, K. T., the finest Knight Templar banner in the United States, which attracted great attention at the National Conclave of Knights Templar in Boston, Massachusetts, in August, 1895. He has been Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, of the state of Kansas, and also Grand Scribe in the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Col. Loomis is a zealous member of Tohee Tribe, No. 8, Improved Order of Red Men, of Winfield, Kansas; and also a member of Lodge No. 427, B. P. O. E., of Wichita. The establishing of the

elegant Masonic Home at Wichita, Kansas, is primarily due to the efforts of Hon. David B. Fuller, of Eureka, Kansas, president of the Home; James H. McCall, publisher of the *Kansas Free Mason*, at Wichita; and Col. H. C. Loomis, of Winfield, all of them being Past Grand Masters and Thirty-third Degree Masons. One of the finest rooms in the Masonic Home is the parlor, which is richly furnished and ornamented by the Winfield brothers and the Eastern Star Chapter, \$500.00 having been donated by Brother Loomis. Its equipment cost over \$1,000, and it is known as the Winfield Room.

In civil life, Col. Loomis has contributed, to the extent of his means, toward the advancement of Winfield, in a most liberal manner. He was the first county clerk of Cowley county, and has always been active in developing the county's resources. He helped to survey the town site of Winfield, and was one of the commissioners under the law to apportion the town lots to their owners, the schools, churches, etc. He is vice-president of the Winfield Chautauqua Assembly and has always been industrious in promoting its useful work. As mayor of Winfield, from 1896 to 1899, his administration of public affairs was efficient and popular.

—Written by E. C. M.

REV. WILLIAM H. PARKER, who laid down the burdens of this life on Sunday morning, March 18, 1900, was pastor of the Winfield Baptist church. He was a man sanctified by Divine influence, a