

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1933

NEWTON, IOWA,

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1933

# SOUND TAPS FOR G. A. R. MEMBER

**John Sperling of Rhodes  
Dies at The Age of 89  
Years.**

Clear Creek, March 4.—Special to The Daily News.—Funeral services for John Sperling, 89, Civil War Veteran and member of the Daily News' Three Quarter Century club, were conducted Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock at the Methodist Protestant church in Rhodes by Rev. Parrott. Burial was in the Rhodes cemetery. Mr. Sperling died Sunday, Feb. 26, at the home of a daughter, Mrs. J. F. Reinschmidt in Rhodes.

An orphan at the age of three, an apprentice to Horace Greeley and a soldier during the Civil War is the colorful panorama of the life of John Sperling, retired farmer.

Mr. Sperling was born in Oswego, N. Y., in 1844, of a family of two children. When he was three years of age, he was left an orphan under the care of an eight year old sister. At the age of seven years, he was persuaded by some friends to leave the city of his birth and from that time he never saw or heard from his sister again.

**Horace Greeley, Teacher.**

He came under the notice of Horace Greeley, the great publisher and printer, who taught him to read and write. Although this was his sole education, Mr. Sperling was well versed in historical and current events.

Immediately at the beginning of the Civil War, he enlisted for one year in the 154 New York Infantry and re-enlisted at the end of the year in 102 New York Infantry, Company D. He served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged from Harts Island on July 21, 1865. Among the notable events in which he participated was Sheridan's March to the sea.

**Married in 1869.**

In 1869 at Newton, he was united in marriage to Miss Ann Eliza Barker, daughter of one of the earliest settlers in Jasper county. Five children were born to the couple, two daughters dying in infancy. Those living are I. A. Sperling of Eagle Butte, S. D.; Mrs. J. F. Reinschmidt of Rhodes and Miss Anna Sperling of Newton. Since his wife's death in 1913, Mr. Sperling made his home with Mrs. Reinschmidt.

Last Memorial day was the first time Mr. Sperling had missed a service for 50 years. Following the program, at the cemetery the band and Mr. Sperling's friends gathered at his home to pay tribute to him.

On July 2, 1932, a great grandson was born, continuing the fourth generation of only sons in the family. All four were also born on Saturday.

*Courtesy of Lois Lyon,*