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Santa Cruz Yesterdays



LOCAL G. A. R. GROUP, DECEMBER, 1896 (From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

The seven year old rift which had divided Santa Cruz veterans of the Civil War into two posts of the Grand Army of the Republic had been healed when, in December, 1896, 50 members of the reunited organization assembled on the steps of the new high school building for the cameraman.

General W. H. L. Wallace post, formed in 1881, had split in 1889 when A. L. Weeks beat Horace Wanzer for commander. The seceding element was named after General John Fulton Reynolds, a West Point graduate who had fought in the Mexican war and been killed at Gettysburg.

When the breach was patched up the again single organization became Wallace-Reynolds Post No. 32, Department of California & Nevada, G. A. R.

142 Vets Joined

The Civil War "boys" who over 50 years ago gathered for the picture were, however, not the entire post, which numbered 142, according to the first muster roll of Wallace-Reynolds.

Pictured are: (left to right) Front row—A. H. Kane, R. J. Richardson, Hamilton Fay, W. H. Patton, Charles Craghill, J. B. Brown, S. B. Swanton, George W. Newhall, J. D. White.

Second row—G. D. Loucks, Bart Burke, Charles Hohmann, Lucas F. Smith, Bert R. Balding, J. A. Martin, Jacob Trostel, E. N. Stocking, William Armstrong, Uriah S. Nichols, F. T. Houck (behind Nichols).

Third row—S. L. Newcomb, J. W. Ball, E. T. Sanford (in straw hat), Roger Conant, W. W. Parkman, Staples, Harvey Comstock, J. K. Woolfly.

Fourth row—Alton Gould, G. H. Hobson, R. Hallack, L. R. Jenkins, S. Agarter, J. Mandel, H. C. Henney, Lamons Brink, J. A. Reynolds, W. H. Sylvester.

Top row—John Stack, James K.

Fields, Gaylord K. Mead, C. L. Turner, J. A. Bachelder, C. H. Larned (in the derby), C. B. Heather, E. S. Fenton, H. J. Stone, S. I. Horton.

Members' Activities

Hamilton Fay was a prominent druggist here for many years. His home was on Riverside avenue. Charles Craghill was long a justice of the peace. J. D. White was a jeweler, who had a Pacific avenue store almost opposite the town clock.

Bart Burke was a lawyer, school board member and served as postmaster here at the time (July 1, 1890) that free delivery mail service by carrier was first inaugurated with a crew of three men. Lucas F. Smith practiced law and served as superior court judge here for an extended period. William Armstrong is remembered, among other things, for his connection with development of the picturesque "wave motor" of the latter 90's out on the cliff drive.

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