

HISTORICAL ADDRESS,
DELIVERED AT THE DEDICATION OF THE
SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, IN MEDINA, O.,
NOVEMBER 10, 1888,

By J. H. GREENE.

M. r. President, Comrades, and Fellow-Citizens:

The service of this day is the culmination of a purpose formed and announced twenty-three years ago.

Company A. of

When the Seventy-ninth battallion of the Ohio National Guard was mustered out of the one hundredth and sixty-sixth Ohio regiment, it had a Company Fund of two hundred and sixty-seven dollars. This, it was decided, should be used as a nucleus for a soldiers' monument fund; and the money was deposited in the County Treasury with instructions to the County Auditor to loan it at interest until such time as a monument should be erected to the memory of our soldiers, when the principal and interest should be devoted to that object.

About the same time the patriotic ladies of Medina formed a Soldiers' Monument Association, and from the proceeds of an entertainment added one hundred and fifteen dollars to that in the Treasury, making a total of three hundred and eighty-two dollars, which has been drawing interest for twenty-three years, and when turned over to the Committee which had the erection of this monument in charge, amounted to forty-four hundred and forty-six dollars.

Since that nest egg was laid the project of building a monument has been revived several times; on one of which the question of raising money by taxation was submitted to a popular vote, and defeated. There the matter rested until recently, when H. G. Blake Post of the Grand Army of the Republic decided that the time had come when the monument should be

built. It was further decided to erect it in our beautiful new Spring Grove cemetery. The Trustees generously donated a choice location, and the Ladies' Cemetery Association, composed of Mrs. H. G. Blake, Mrs. O. C. Shepard, Mrs. H. P. Foskett, Mrs. P. C. Parker, Mrs. R. S. Shepard, Mrs. O. H. McDowell, Mrs. L. A. Lewis and other good women whose hands and hearts are always ready to respond to calls of charity and patriotism, rendered bountiful aid to the enterprise. An entertainment under their auspices realized the handsome sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, which was expended in preparing the ground where the monument was to stand.

The Post decided to make an effort to raise funds by private subscription. An Executive Committee was appointed, consisting of O. H. McDowell, chairman; Capt. H. P. Foskett, Joseph Andrew, Gaylord Thomson, Capt. H. G. Frizzell, Romeo B. Rettig, John Esgate, J. S. Mason, and J. H. Greene, who consulted with our townsman, Mr. D. Hemmeter, and contracted with him for the monument which stands before you completed to-day. All those interested in the work of securing this monument deserve praise for their efforts; but to the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Post, comrade O. H. McDowell, more than to any or all others is the credit due of untiring labor and unceasing effort in its behalf. He gave his whole time and energies to its success; and to him, therefore, in a large measure, is it true to-day that the monument is built. The public response to the call for subscriptions was prompt, generous and cheerful. All gave without solicitation. Nearly every citizen of this village, and many in the country, are on the list of contributors, thus attesting their grateful homage to the undying memory of the heroism and self-sacrificing patriotism of the brave men who laid down their lives that the nation might

It is intended to reserve a fund from these generous contributions to defray the cost of engraving on tablets the names of all the soldiers from this village who fell in the war, or who have died since, together with the names of all soldiers living in Medina hereafter at the time of their final muster out.

The labor of love, begun so long ago, and continued in a never faltering purpose through all these years, is finished to-day. The grassy mound was prepared with taste and skill; the foundation was laid firm and deep; the monument with its enduring inscriptions was erected, and last of all, surmounting the symmetrical shaft, overlooking our beautiful village and keeping perpetual guard over these quiet graves, stands the stately figure of a soldier at rest, leaning on his musket, ---as once stood a million of men in lines of battle, waiting for the word of command which opened the carnage of roaring cannon and blazing musketry.

Placed here by the grateful people of this village, this monument will stand through future ages as their memorial for the patriot dead of the war of 1861---1865.

R. M. M.

No State sent more soldiers into the army, according to population, than Ohio. Three hundred and twenty thousand of its loyal sons followed the starry flag in its victorious progress through the South. More than a third of them never returned. They sleep on the battle fields where they fell, or in the shadow of prison pens, where they were starved, or with the unnumbered dead of the hospitals.

No part of the State was more patriotic than the people of Medina county. They were among the first to volunteer, and the last to return to their homes after the war was over. Fathers, sons and brothers pressed to the front, burning with patriotic ardor to defend the Nation from the attack of traitors. It is impossible to gather accurate information as to the number of soldiers contributed by Medina county; but from the best sources accessible it is estimated that not less than fifteen hundred and probably two thousand soldiers from the county were on the rolls of the Union Army, of whom at least three hundred were from Medina village.

The people of Medina county, sharing the prevailing sentiment of the Western Reserve, were among the pioneers of the anti-slavery party. Dropping all party ties they early joined the ranks of those who were opposed to the extension of slavery into the Territories. The first free press started in Kansas to breast the wave of border ruffianism and pro-slavery fanaticism, was established by a citizen of Medina.

When Sumter was fired on, the loyal people of the county arose by a common impulse and vowed to defend the flag and restore the National authority. On the afternoon of the 23d of April, 1861, President Lincoln having issued his proclamation calling for seventy-five thousand volunteers, the people from every part of the county assembled in the park in this village. Stirring speeches were made by H. G. Blake, then Congressman from this district, C. T. Prentice, Myron C. Hills, W. W. Ross, John B. Young, and Revs. Grosvernor and Davis. Herman Canfield offered a series of resolutions, declaring that no compromise would be made with traitors;

that they would bury all party differences until the supremacy of the laws was vindicated; and that they would take prompt and efficient means for the support of the families of volunteers who would go out to fight their country's battles, pledging the utmost of their resources for that purpose.

These appeals had an instantaneous effect. Two hundred young men offered themselves as volunteers immediately. Two days afterwards they went to Cleveland, where the most of them were enrolled in the 8th Ohio regiment, first for three months and then for three years or during the war. This was the response of the county to the first call for troops. And during the continuance of that long and bloody war, every other appeal from the Government for men to defend its life and honor, met with an equally prompt and hearty response.

There is not time on this occasion to refer in detail to the services of the individual soldiers of the county. I will, however, briefly mention the several military organizations with which they were connected, and give a list of those who fell in the service of their country, and where they were buried, so far as known; together with a mention of the veterans who still survive and have their homes in or near this village. I have endeavored to make the list as near perfect as possible, and if omissions occur it is an oversight and not intentional.

THE 8th OHIO INFANTRY REG'T.

Of that gallant body of young men, the first to respond, in the 8th Ohio regiment, Ira Brigham and James Welch were shot at Gettysburg, the former being buried on the battle field, the latter here. John Gra-

ham was shot in the bloody struggle in the Wilderness, and buried where he fell. John Dunn died and was buried at Grafton, West Va. Orville Welling died and was buried at Harper's Ferry. Curtis Carpenter was shot at Antietam and buried on the battle field. Wollaston Andrews died after returning home. Walter J. Manning was shot at Winchester and his body was brought home for burial. Edward R. Rettig died and was buried in Medina. Arvin Varney was shot at Antietam and buried here. The veterans who survived the perils of battle and disease and who are still living are Geo. M. Hitchcock, C. H. Manville, Chas. Levet, John A. Bradley,

THE 42^d OHIO INFANTRY REG' T.

Two full companies and half as many more were raised in Medina county and joined the 42^d Ohio regiment, of which the lamented President of the United States, James A. Garfield, was the first colonel. Afterwards Don A. Pardee, of Wadsworth, succeeded to the command. Another Medina county man, Wm. H. Williams, of Chatham, became Major of the regiment. Of the brave boys who went out in the 42^d regiment Homer Chase died on boat on the Mississippi river and was buried at Mound City, Ill. Josiah Asire was shot at Thompson Hill, and buried where he fell. Peter Meyers was shot at Thompson Hill and buried where he fell. Reuben Blanot was drowned in Big Sandy river and buried at Pikestown, Ky. David Dyer died at Ashland, Ky., and was buried in Medina and Granger town line cemetery. Milo A. Hobart died and was buried in Medina. Frank Willard, a bright and promising young man, just graduated from college, gave up his life for his country and was buried here. Jasper Powers was wounded in a skirmish near Baton Rouge, La., died in hospital, and was buried at that city. J. B. McConnell died in hospital and was buried at Mound City, Ill. *Love*

~~Harison R. Ince, died at Frankfort, Ky., buried at New Albany, Ind.
Selma R. Mendenhall, died at Youngs Bay, buried at Vicksburg.~~

~~Geo. C. Purdy, wounded at Thompson's Hill, buried at Memphis, Tenn.
Chas. H. Millington, died at Ashland, Ky., buried at New Albany, Ind.~~

~~James Hoffman, died at Ashland, Ky., buried at New Albany, Ind.
Am. Lane, died at Ashland, Ky., buried at Vicksburg.~~

~~Geo. H. Page, died at Youngs Bay, buried at Vicksburg.
Geo. George Daulton, died at Youngs Bay, buried at Vicksburg.~~

~~Jackman, buried where he fell. Josiah Hunt, killed in charge of a
company which he fell. Geo. Harris, killed in charge on Vicksburg, buried in cemetery.~~

~~Nearby S. Hayden, died of wounds at Chattanooga, buried at A. M. Harris Park.~~

*W. H. ...
Mary ...
Pete ...
Mrs. ...*

Of the 4d boys who returned home and are honored citizens with us Joseph Andrew wears an empty sleeve, having left an arm in front of the rebel stronghold of Vicksburg. The others are Capt. H. P. Foskett, Geo. Hayden, Wm. H. Hickox, E. McDougall, J. H. Snyder, L. A. Lewis, S. S. Alden, W. E. Carleton, S. Styer, John Lance, L. C. Nichols, A. T. Boise, Geo. Randall, Wm. J. Reese, C. F. Lutz, and R. Wall.

THE 72d OHIO INFANTRY REG'T.

The 72d Ohio regiment contained parts of several companies enlisted here. From this village was Lt. Col. Herman Canfield, who fell on the bloody field of Shiloh, while cheering on his men in the fight. His body reposes in our village cemetery. None of the 72d regiment that I can learn live here now.

THE 103d OHIO INFANTRY REG'T.

One full company served in the 103d Ohio regiment from this county. Capt. Wm. H. Garrett died and was buried at Weymouth. Joseph Levet died at Frankfort, Ky., and was buried here. Louis T. Rounds died at Brunswick and was buried here. Patrick Cunningham was shot and buried at Danville, Ky. Filmore Welling was wounded in the battle of Resacca, died and was buried at Black Earth, Wis. Henry Armstrong died and was buried at Frankfort, Ky. L. S. Stoddard died at Frankfort, Ky., and was buried at Medina Center. S. J. Harrington was starved to death in Anderson-

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...*

It is to their memory that we rear this monument, and to the memory as well of those who, returning after the storm of battle had subsided to follow again the pursuits of peaceful industry, have yielded to wounds received in war, or the seeds of disease implanted in their systems by their sufferings and hardships, and been laid away at rest in the quiet graveyards of their homes. To the memory of our soldiers dead, wherever their bones may lie, whether beneath Southern or Northern skies, this granite memorial of their services and their heroism is erected by the loving hands of their surviving comrades and grateful neighbors and friends. So long as this silent statue stands, keeping its quiet guard over these graves it will remind us of the brave hearts now still who met danger and death out of their great love for the country. It will recall to comrades, even as they look upon it, the time when they marched shoulder to shoulder with those who never came back. It will remind them of the dreary march, of the excitement of the skirmish line, and the wild rush and roar of the battle field. It will be a link connecting them with the past, and a perpetual witness to the undying patriotism, unselfish friendship, and undaunted courage of the veteran soldiers of Medina.

To the younger generation, who will come to this monument as to a shrine, let us hope this stately granite figure may be a constant incentive to noble endeavor, and an impressive teacher of the glory of untarnished honor and inspiring patriotism; that they may look upon this silent memorial and gather increased devotion to Republican institutions, and a deeper reverence for the Flag, which is the emblem of law, of liberty, of love

More magnificent monuments have been erected, with more command-

ville, and his body was buried with the unnumbered dead of that prison pen. Jonas Sickman died and was buried at Poe. H. W. Floyd was killed at Altoona, Pa.,. Those of the 103d who were fortunate enough to return at the close of the war and are now living, are G. H. Kimball, J. S. Mason, (wounded), O. M. Jackson, F. M. Burdoin, D. A. Wells (wounded), H. Rork, H. Shuler, R. S. Barnum, J. A. Fretter, A. P. Rogers, O. Howe, Paul Swarts.

THE 124th OHIO INFANTRY REG' T.

One full company and parts of others was raised in the western part of the county and served in the 124th Ohio regiment. The company was commanded by one who is with us to-day, whose armless sleeve attests his gallantry and patriotism more eloquently than words---Captain, afterwards Major G. W. Lewis. Of this company two stalwart sons of our townsman, G. W. Tilley, sleep in soldiers' graves. Another crippled veteran of the 124th is our County Recorder, Jacob Long, who, with Alfred Bowman, also disabled, are the only members residing in this vicinity.

THE 2d OHIO CAVALRY REG' T.

The 2d Ohio Cavalry regiment had more than a full company^{of} bold riders from this county. Wm. Varney from this village died and was buried at Ft. Scott, Kansas. Of those who passed through the stern ordeal and returned were Lt. Col. Welch, now of Barraboo, Wis., Capt. Steele, of Wadsworth, our townsmen R. M. McDowell and O. H. McDowell, A. D. Faust, E. Smedley, N. Seeley, B. Potter, A. Gibbs, ^{and} F. M. Gibbs,. Of the 2d Ohio Cavalry Whitelaw Reid, the historian of Ohio in the War, says: "Its horses drank from twenty-five rivers; it campaigned through thirteen States and one Territory; it marched an aggregate of twenty-seven thousand miles;

participated in ninety-seven battles and engagements; served in five different armies; and its dead, sleeping where they fell, form a vidette line half across the continent, a chain of prostrate sentinels two thousand miles long. Even in their graves, may not these patriot dead still guard the glory and integrity of the Republic for which they fell?"

THE 166th OHIO INFANTRY REG'T.

The last regimental organization which contained any considerable number of Medina soldiers was the 166th Ohio, which was recruited in Medina and adjoining counties. It was commanded by one of our most honored citizens---one whose enterprise, energy, solid worth and commanding abilities, has connected his name indelibly with the history of the country---Harrison G. Blake. He sleeps quietly beneath the evergreen shade in our village grave yard. Though the service of this regiment was not so lengthy or so perilous as those of many other regiments, yet it stood formidably between the National Capital and danger, and saved it from assault. N. H. McClure, from this village, died at Ft. Richardson, Va., as did Henry Shane. Alansen Hewes died after his return home. The following list contains the names of all the surviving members of the 166th living in this vicinity: C. B. Chamberlain, Geo. H. Lowe, N. H. Bostwick, John Esgate, Capt. O. P. Phillips, Romeo R. Rettig, Jas. Newins, O. D. Chapin, Dwight Hinman, Ed. Welling, Jas. Overholt, H. S. Ross, Geo. Thomson, Gaylord Thomson, A. E. Pressly, W. F. Sipher, Capt. L. Fritz, Capt. H. G. Frizzell, B. B. Squires, Geo. E. Miller, Abram Eaken, W. E. Moulton, O. B. Watson, H. W. Mallory, N. H. McConnell, W. O. Sanders, Wm. Bowman, A. D. Sheldon, J. T. Stuart, Adam Bowman, Seth Ault,

Besides those in the organizations mentioned, individual soldiers to the number of a hundred or more went into the service from this county in various regiments and batteries from this and other States. Many of them never returned. The names and burial place of all the heroic dead will never be known. Of the few whose record has been kept the following particulars are given: Joseph O. Packard, 6th Ohio Cavalry, wounded at Hatcher's Run, died in hospital at Cleveland, buried in Weymouth. Richard Ansel, Veteran Reserve Corps, killed at City Point, Va., burial place unknown. Enoch E. Rork, 29th Ohio regiment, met death in a railroad accident. Geo. E. Warner, of a Michigan regiment, died at Bowling Green, Ky., M. D. Warner, of a Wisconsin regiment, died at St. Louis, Mo. Albert Oatman of the 186th Ohio regiment, died at Nashville, Tenn. S. C. Pancoast, of the 16th Ohio regiment, died in Medina. John Gustenberger, of the 124th Ohio, died in hospital at Memphis, Tenn.

The Grand Army of the Republic has gathered within its folds nearly all the surviving soldiers of the war for the Union. The roll call of H. G. Blake Postshows that the following veterans reside in this neighborhood, some of whom entered the army from this county, in other regiments than those already named, while many of them were in regiments from other States where they were living at the time they enlisted: C. A. Kunitz, 10th N. Y. H. A. Squire Frazier, 102d O. O. S. Young, 3d Minn. H. F. Mandy, 49th N. Y. Cyrus Babcock, 186th O. G. D. Billings, 69th O. John Waffle, 180th O. H. H. Hard, U. S. Navy. B. Potter, 2d U. S. Cav. Leon Berlitz, 128th O. J. H. Ford, 144th O. A. Evans, 14th Wis. J. A. Newton, 128th O. C. Hunt, 84th O. E. A. Warner, 129th O. Norman Miller, 70th N. Y. H. J. VanMoss, 6th U. S. Cav. J. B. Ault, 32d O. A. H. Herkner, 115th O. E. Roshon, 29th O. M. Simon, 8th Mo. Wm. Grim, 17th Mich. W. H. Zimmerman, 128th O. E. W. Beedle, 3d U. S. Cav. E. G. Hard, Surg. 1st O. H. A. P. Nugent, 178th O. S. Hudson, Surg. 23d O. H. Buttolf, 25th O. Albert Isbell, 9th O. H. C. Gayer, 46th O. T. Ferriman, 1st O. Art. T. J. Stoaks, 107th N. Y. H. O. West, 1st O. A. J. A. Samson, 198th O. A. Merritt, 108th N. Y. A. L. Corman, 9th Pa. Cav. J. G. Hickox, 178th O. O. C. Blanchard, U. S. Navy. ~~R. W. W.~~ H. L. Bounds, 84th O. Wm. H. Bennett, 8th Wis. J. H. Greene, 8th Wis.

In addition to all the volunteers, the draft from first to last, sent 500 soldiers into the army to recruit the depleted ranks of the veteran regiments. From all that can be learned from an examination of the county records, the published history of several of the regiments, the archives of the State, and from conversation with soldiers and older citizens, it is safe to say that Medina county contributed between 1500 and 2000 soldiers to the Union Army.

These soldiers ~~the~~---the living and the dead---were in every battle of that desperate struggle. They were with the army that followed the Mississippi to its mouth, brushing aside the rebel strongholds of Vicksburg and New Orleans. They were with the army that stormed the heights of Lookout Mountain, fighting above the clouds, and that swept the enemy from Mission Ridge. They were with Sherman on his March to the Sea. They fought their bloody way through the Wilderness to Appomattox. They bivouacked beneath Southern skies. They tramped in the red dust of Southern roads. They picked their way through Southern swamps and morasses. They planted the flag on the steeples of church and court house and flag-staff in many Southern towns. They skirmished with the enemy through tangled thicket and open field. They charged breast-works bristling with bayonets and blazing with shot and shell. They wrested rebel flags from the hands of their bearers at the cannon's mouth, in the thick smoke and roar of battle. ~~which no recreancy of disloyal men in power will ever be permitted to be returned to those from whom they were captured, thank God!~~ They fell on hillside and plain, enriching the soil with their precious blood. They languished in hospitals, and starved in prison pens. Their graves are on every battle-field, and by every running stream or sluggish bayou of the South, where the wind plays a solemn dirge and the long hanging moss waves in mournful cadence a requiem to their memories. Of that two thousand young men who left their homes, in the spring time of life, who left father, mother, sister, lover and a career all behind them, to sacrifice themselves if need be upon the altar of country and humanity, more than a third paid the last full measure of devotion, and sleep in soldiers' graves.

It is to their memory that we rear this monument, and to the memory as well of those who, returning after the storm of battle had subsided to follow again the pursuits of peaceful industry, have yielded to wounds received in war, or the seeds of disease implanted in their systems by their sufferings and hardships, and been laid away at rest in the quiet graveyards of their homes. To the memory of our soldiers dead, wherever their bones may lie, whether beneath Southern or Northern skies, this granite memorial of their services and their heroism is erected by the loving hands of their surviving comrades and grateful neighbors and friends. So long as this silent statue stands, keeping its quiet guard over these graves it will remind us of the brave hearts now still who met danger and death out of their great love for the country. It will recall to comrades, ever as they look upon it, the time when they marched shoulder to shoulder with those who never came back. It will remind them of the dreary march, of the excitement of the skirmish line, and the wild rush and roar of the battle field. It will be a link connecting them with the past, and a perpetual witness to the undying patriotism, unselfish friendship, and undaunted courage of the veteran soldiers of Medina.

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More magnificent monuments have been erected, with more command-

ing statues surmounting them, more elaborately carved and chiselled, to mark the last resting place of some eminent personage or in honor of some hero or statesman, which have been vastly more expensive and imposing; but however grand, massive or costly they may have been, no marble shaft or colossal statue bears witness to a profounder reverence for the memory and heroism of the dead, or a deeper affection for their virtues, than this modest, symmetrical suggestive figure, which is unveiled to-day, and which will stand here at the portals of our quiet, "beautiful city of the dead," for all future time, to carry down to coming generations the record of loyalty, courage, sacrifice and death made by the soldiers of Medina village in the war for Union and liberty.

When we who are here to-day have passed from the stirring scenes of life "to that bourne from whence no traveler returns," our places will be filled by others who will make pilgrimages to this spot and feel renewed consecration to the duties of life and the responsibilities of citizenship, because of this, our tribute to our soldier dead. We have therefore not builded merely for our own time, or our own gratification, but leave behind us a memorial whose beneficent influence will go down into the future, widening and deepening with the march of civilization toward that perfect day, when "Nations shall learn war no more; when the spear shall be beaten into the pruning hook, and the sword into the plow-share!" when slavery, injustice, fraud and crime shall have disappeared, and when ~~men~~ will live together in friendship, peace and love.