

Friday, July 16, 1909
ANOTHER OLD SOLDIER
PASSES AWAY

SUDDEN DEATH OF R. W. GATES

The many friends of Robert W. Gates were shocked last Saturday afternoon when they learned of his sudden death. He had attended to his duties as usual at the Court House during the forenoon. After the noonday meal and a short rest he started to walk downtown and stopped at the home of W. O. Pratt to ride down with him. Just as he was about to step into the buggy, he staggered to one side and his death occurred immediately. He had been affected with diabetes for fifteen years and had had considerable heart trouble for several years past.

Lieutenant Robert Wales Gates was born in Slaterville, Tompkins county, N. Y., October 15, 1835. He died in Wheaton, Illinois, July 10, 1909. Had he lived until October 15th of the present year, he would have reached the age of 74.

Mr. Gates passed his boyhood days in Slaterville, N. Y. He was in his 20th year, when with his father's family, he came to Bloomingdale, working at his trade as carpenter, until his father's death, when he did the farm work for a year, later resuming his trade.

In the fall of 1861 he enlisted in Company D, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, and served until July, 1865, in the war for the preservation of the Union. He went out as Quartermaster Sergeant of the company, and after six months' service was promoted to the same position in the regiment. In July, 1864 he was made Quartermaster of the regiment with the rank of First Lieutenant, in which capacity he served until the close of the war, having reenlisted in January, 1864, serving nearly four years from the time of enlistment.

Mr. Gates returned to Bloomingdale immediately after he was mustered out of service. In August, 1865, he was married to Miss Laura Landon, a native of Bloomingdale. The fruit of this union was four sons and two daughters. Lewis L., the eldest child, died in 1868. He leaves the wife of

his youth, three sons and two daughters to mourn over his departure: Mrs. Natalie A, wife of Frank Congleton, of Holland, Michigan; Robert A. of Austin; Henry W.; Eugene L.; and Hattie B., wife of B. F. Kelley, of Wheaton.

He is also survived by two brothers and two sisters. Mr. Stillman Gates, of St. Louis; Mrs. Sarah Morrison, of Chicago; Mrs. Nellie Davis, of Hartford, Mich.; and Mr. Charles Gates, of Elgin. Two sisters, Mrs. A. Hadlock and Mrs. Lottie Hugett have passed on before their brother, Robert.

Mr. Gates became a member of the Grand Army of the Republic in Elgin. In August, 1886, he settled in Wheaton, transferring his membership to the E. S. Kelley Post, and remained one of its most valuable members up to the very date of his death, being largely instrumental in keeping the ranks of the Post in a healthy, growing condition...

Mr. Gates for many years was identified with the Baptist church at Bloomingdale, and died trusting in the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The funeral was held Tuesday at 12 o'clock. A short service of prayer was held at the home, then the remains, under the escort of the old veterans, were taken to the Baptist church where Dr. J. L. Cheney officiated, assisted by Dr. L. N. Stratton, J. F. Whittle representing the G.A.R. At the close of these services the remains were taken to Bloomingdale and buried beside his father and mother and son, Lewis, the G. A. R. officiating under the command of Mr. B. Loveless. There were fifty members of the G. A. R. in attendance at the funeral.

Thus has Father Time called for another of those loyal souls who gave the best of his life in sustaining the honor and integrity of his country, remaining at the front until the last shot was fired, then returning to his home to enjoy the peaceful honors of civil life filling many positions of trust with credit to himself as well as credit to them who had called him to be their representative, leaving a legacy of courage and loyalty to his children that gold and silver can never purchase.