

[Eason, Henry Otis]

HENRY OTIS EASON

Schuyler Lake grieves today the passing of her last old soldier, Henry Eason, who heard the final "taps" on Monday night October 1, 1928, at 11 p.m., after a gradual breaking down which began last Memorial Day. On that day, he as was his custom, came to the church to meet with others and go to the cemetery to help decorate the graves of his comrades and soldiers of other wars. While waiting he was taken with dizziness and was obliged to go home. While attending the reunion of the 121st Regiment at Jordanville in August he suffered a slight shock [stroke] and again, was unable to attend the exercises.

Since that time he has been in very poor health and for the past few weeks confined to his bed, although he was able not so long ago to ride up to the village and view the new Masonic temple.

Henry Eason was born in Oswego county, March 26, 1842. As a child his parents moved to Newport in Herkimer county where he lived until a young man, when they moved to Richfield Springs where he lived for many years.

While in Richfield Springs the call came for soldiers and he responded, going from Herkimer August 7, 1862, remaining until 1865, when he was honorably discharged and returned to Richfield where he was employed by Mrs. Eason's (then Sarah Baker's) father, whose second wife was Mr. Eason's sister.

He worked there more or less until his marriage to Sarah Baker which occurred January 2, 1872, and they then went to live on a farm in what is known as the "Hyder" and there their three sons were born and there two died.

In 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Eason and Mrs. and Mrs. S. B. Eason moved from there to the farm where they now reside and which was then the Dan Clark farm.

Mr. Eason's life has been a very full one, and during his younger days a very eventful one. He was a man greatly beloved by all who knew him and was ever ready to do his share at home, church, and Lodge. He was a member of the Universalist church for many years, a member of the Masonic Lodge, F. & A. M. No. 162, since 1865. Two years of this he served as Master of the Lodge. In all these places he bore the burden of the day but it was as a soldier of the Civil War where he bore his heaviest burden and received his greatest honors. The following we take from his certificate of Honorable discharge:

"Henry O. Eason, Civil War. Enlisted August 7, 1862, from Otsego county and was mustered into U.S. service at Herkimer, N.Y., August 23, 1862, as a private to serve three years in Company H., 121 Regiment, N.Y. Volunteers Infantry, under Captain John Ramsey, T. S. Arnold, A. M. Tyler, C A. Butts, Colonel R. Fauchot, and Emery Upton.

"The regiment moved to Washington, D.C., September 2, 1862, attached to the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 6th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. He participated in the battles of South Mountain, September 14, 1862; Antietam, September 17, 1862; Fredericksburg, Va., December 13, 1862; in a Mud March, January 20-24, 1863. Promoted to Corporal, April 20, 1863. Engaged at Mary's Heights, Fredericksburg, May

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3, 1863; Salem Heights, May 3-4, 1863; Bank's Ford, May 4, 1863; Gettysburg, Pa., July 13, 1863; in pursuit of Lee to Manassas Gap, July 4-24; engaged at Funkstown, July 12, 1863; Rappahannock Station, November 7, 1863; Mine Run, Va., November 26-28, 1863; Wilderness, Va., May 5-7, 1864; Spotsylvania, Va., May 8 to 12, 1864. Was wounded May 12, 1864, in the right shoulder, was at Army Square Hospital, Washington, D.C., for a week; then at Chester, Pa.; was transferred to Co. E, 24 Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps, under Captain J. H. Long and Major Stickney, and was assigned to guard fatigue and other special duties; was Corporal of the guard that guarded J. Wilkes Booth and his associate conspirators at the U.S. Penitentiary, Washington, D.C.; also Corporal of the guard that placed the captain of Andersonville, Ga., rebel prison pen, John Wirts, into Old Capitol Prison, Washington, D.C.

"Honorably discharged June 25, 1865, at Washington, D.C., member of Welden Post, No. 256, G.A.R., of Richfield Springs."

Mr. Eason's funeral which was held from his home on Thursday, October 4th, was largely attended by friends from in and out of town. The Rev. George C. Bourne of Cooperstown officiated. Mrs. Ashley Strong sang very beautifully two appropriate solos. At the conclusion of the regular service Welden Post took charge, and in command of Comrade Caldwell of Jordanville and members of Welden Post gave a very impressive G.A.R. burial service. This ended, "lights were out" and "taps were sounded," and Mr. Eason's body between rows of his Masonic brothers was taken to his last resting place, in the village cemetery, where again a very impressive Masonic service was given Past Master E. F. Washburn.

As the procession moved to the cemetery and in front of the school house, the pupils, lined up on either side of the road, sang "Tenting Tonight on the Old Camp Ground," with flags at half mast. The floral tributes were many and beautiful and laid on the casket which was covered with the flag. The flag of the 121st Regiment was also draped behind the casket and now one more flag flies in our cemetery in memory of our last soldiers.

Among the guests from out of town who attended the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. John R. Hauf of Albany, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Eason of Jamestown, Mr. and Mrs. John Veber of Ilion, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Towne of Herkimer, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Starr, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Baker and son Edward, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hyde, all of Richfield Springs, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wing.

Otsego Farmer, Cooperstown NY, Fri. 12 Oct 1928

Transcribed on 29 Oct 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY