

MCELHANEY, J.R.
1843-1924

The Wheatland G.A.R. Post conducted the funeral of Comrade J.R. McElhaney Sunday afternoon, assisted by the Daughters of Veterans.

Due to the cold weather prevailing that day, only four of the Civil War veterans were able to attend, those present being comrades Charles Griffen, Harry Yount, J.T. Duffy and Richard Butner. They were escorted by the members of the Women's Relief Corps, while members of the Daughters of Veterans were honorary pallbearers.

Comrade McElhaney played a stirring part in the mighty drama of the Civil War, having served under General Grant in several hard fought campaigns, including the battles of Shiloh, Vicksburg, Natchez, Blue Mills and a number of other minor engagements. He enlisted on June 7, 1861, when only 18 years of age, going from Butler County, Iowa with company I of the 3rd Iowa Infantry. After seeing active service for three years, he was stricken down with rheumatism, brought on by exposure and laid six months in Benton Barracks, a southern military hospital, before he was finally discharged. He was a sufferer from that ailment the remainder of his life.

He was born in Indiana county, Pa., moving from there with his parents to Illinois, and thence to Iowa. Shortly after returning from the army, he moved to Dows, Wright county, Iowa where he was married in 1865 to Edith Eskridge, to whom he had been united almost 59 years at the time of his death. From there, they moved to Sidney, Nebr., in 1894, Mr. McElhaney came alone to Wheatland, and worked during the summer, helping Charles Goodrich burn bricks for a number of the first buildings in Wheatland.

He returned that winter to Sidney, and came out again with his family the next year, taking up his residence in the property now occupied by Bud Waitman. During this time he also helped build one of the canals for the Wheatland Development Co. Four years later, he moved to the present McElhaney residence.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. McElhaney, of whom Mrs. F.E. Scheie, J.A. McElhaney of Torrington and G.W. McElhaney of Burge, Wyoming are yet living. His widow also lives to mourn his departure.