

Co. I, 9th N. H. Vols. Reunion.

Yesterday, about 20 of the survivors of Co. I of the 9th N. H. Volunteers of the late war, laid aside all other business and came to Milford to hold the annual company reunion, at the invitation of Capt. C. W. Wilcox and landlord J. H. Matthews of Hotel Willan, their comrades in arms. It was a most enjoyable occasion.

About noon most of the visitors marched to the Willan, following their famous company colors. This battle flag was presented by Co. I to their Lt. Green at Covington, Ky., in 1863, on his enforced return home from their ranks because of disability, in 1863. Later he died, and last year Mrs. Green felt the colors should be treasured by his old comrades, and gave them back for safe keeping. Usually, they adorn the walls of the Keene (N. H.) G. A. R. Post headquarters.

Dinner was served at the Willan in landlord Matthews' best manner, and after an informal good time adjournment was had to Memorial Hall, where about 3.30 p. m. the annual business session was held, Capt. C. W. Wilcox presiding.

The usual reports were read, and were satisfactory.

The election resulted: President, Capt. C. W. Wilcox of Milford; vice-president, J. H. Matthews of Milford; secretary, treasurer and necrologist, L. Dwight Darling of Keene, N. H.; executive committee, Geo. C. Wilson of Winchendon, Marshall P. Wood of Rindge, N. H., and Henry F. Partridge of Winchendon. A vote of thanks was extended the secretary and treasurer for past excellent services. Capt. Wilcox read a very interesting sketch of his personal war experiences, in and out of prison.

It was voted that Comrade Elisha Ayer prepare the story of the first organization of the company for use in the regimental history; that company roster be printed and placed, framed, in the 9th N. H. quarters at Weirs; that the next reunion occur at Nashua, N. H., as guests of comrade Alfred Chase, the date to be settled by the executive committee.

After the business meeting, the members all attended a reception tendered by Capt. Wilcox and wife, assisted by several members of the Relief Corps, at their Walnut street residence. An excellent collation and capital time was enjoyed for several hours.

At 9 p. m. all assembled at Hotel Willan, where Comrade Matthews had prepared a fine complimentary banquet to the company and invited citizens of Milford. Among those present were: Col. J. W. Babbett of Keene; Capt. C. W. Wilcox, and J. H. Matthews of Milford; Capt. Horace Perry, Somers, Ct.; Sergt. Elisha Ayer, Keene; Alfred Chase, Nashua; L. D. Darling, W. O. Wilson, Keene; G. C. Wilson, Winchendon; G. W. McClure, Otter River; J. F. Foster, So. Boston; H. F. Partridge, Winchendon; M. P. Wood, Rindge, N. H.; Charles Lang, Troy, N. H.; Lyman E. Esty, James C. Whittle, L. A. Mason, Keene, N. H.; E. M. Messenger, Boston; E. H. Streeter, Worcester; Geo. J. Allen, Fitchburg.

The guests included, Selectman C. R. Scott, W. H. Cook, Commander L. A. Lamson of Post 22 and Past Commanders A. A. Burrell, B. H. Montague, G. H. Libby, Joseph Hancock, H. A. Pond, Geo. L. Maynard, H. J. Bailey, Commander W. J. Clarke of Camp 127, S. of V., and Rev. J. B. Wicks, with Charles Bohanon and Asahel G. Whidden, both of the 9th N. H. regiment, and residents of Milford.

After fully discussing the bountiful repast, President Wilcox rapped to order and speeches were in order. President Wilcox opening with words of welcome and interesting war reminiscences, being followed by Col. J. N. Babbitt, J. F. Foster, Chaplain J. B. Wicks, Alfred Chase, Lt. S. Horace Perry, Commander Lamson, Geo. W. McClure, J. H. Matthews, H. A. Pond, Edward Messenger, J. C. Whittle, H. F. Partridge and W. H. Cook. Letters were read from comrades L. W. Aldrich, C. H. Knight and J. E. White. Col. Babbitt, one of the speakers, was five times badly wounded, and when he led the company to be mustered in at Concord, N. H., went on crutches, the result of a bullet wound.

One of the incidents was the unexpected hearing from a comrade supposed to have been killed in 1864, on the Weldon railroad, but who was shot, captured and imprisoned, and afterwards escaped north. He is in Buffalo.

The representation of the company here was very large, the percentage of attendance of survivors being very unusual. It was unalloyed enjoyment for Host Matthews, Capt Wilcox and all the comrades. Singing of war songs was interspersed in the exercises, led by Capt. W. J. Clarke of Milford Sons of Veterans Camp.

The whole reunion was a great treat to the comrades, who were not backward in manifesting their pleasure.

At a meeting of the comrades of Co. I, 9th N. H. Vols., held in Milford to-day, a vote of thanks was tendered comrades Matthews and Wilcox for their generous hospitality to their old comrades. Never did veterans receive a more cordial welcome from comrades in arms than that extended by comrades Matthews and Wilcox on this occasion to old Co. I.

L. D. DARLING, Clerk.

Milford, Oct. 27, 1892.

—See what H. L. Patrick says of potatoes in this issue. Sweet potatoes 99 cts. per bushel.