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There is a Long Report of the Reunion of the Twenty-Fifty Michigan Infantry in the Holland City News

Erica D. Heeg

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Recommended Citation

Heeg, Erica D., "There is a Long Report of the Reunion of the Twenty-Fifty Michigan Infantry in the Holland City News" (1875). *Van Raalte Papers: 1870-1879*. 246.
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September 25, 1875

There is a long report of the reunion of the Twenty-Fifty Michigan Infantry in the *Holland City News*, p. 4. It includes the list of visitors such as Governor J.J. Bagley and Senator Ferry, who both attended the event. At the program in the Public Square [now Centennial Park?], Mayor Van Landegend introduced Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, who "delivered a short address of greeting."

The writer went on to say that, "His remarks were eminently appropriate to the occasion and were received with enthusiasm. He pictured the parting of the members of the regiment, that left our city in 1862, with the prayers and God speeds' of mothers, sisters, and wives; and after fervently thanking God for the results of the war, he earnestly hoped that the angel of Peace might swell with us in the future." The Honorable D.B.K. Van Raalte was also on the program.

The archives of Hope College, Joint Archives of Holland.

Holland City News
Saturday, September 25, 1875.

Re-union.
A Grand Success.
Pleasant Weather and good Attendance.
Re-Union of the Twenty-Fifty Michigan Infantry.

The re-union of the Twenty-Fifth Michigan Infantry was held here on Wednesday. The weather, although somewhat cool was favorable, and the result of the day's enjoyment can be considered as a success.

The attendance was not as large as had been expected, owing to the weather, but every train entering the city brought a delegation from neighboring towns.

The order of exercises were as follows: At two o'clock the procession was formed on Eighth street in front of the City Hotel. Two bands headed the procession and furnished the requisite music. Following them came the members of the 25th Mich. Infantry, numbering sixty-three men. Veterans of other regiments, invited guests, members of the common council and of the press, followed.

Among the distinguished men present were the following: Gov. J.J. Bagley, Senator Ferry, Col. I.E. Messmore, Hon. H.S. Clubb, Hon. F.B. Wallin, Mayor Leggatt of Grand Haven and Hon. A.C. Prutzman of Three Rivers. The latter gentlemen's son was Adjutant of the Twenty Fifth and was killed at Resaca.—His father feels such an interest in the old regiment that he came here to its re-union. He was heartily welcomed by the boys; as many an eye was dimmed with tears for a moment, as the memory of their gallant officer rose before them.

Arriving at the Public Square a few minutes delay occurred, which we shall take advantage of by giving the names of the gentlemen whose fine appearance on horseback attracted much attention:

Mr. J.O. Bakker, Officer of the Day.
Mr. H.C. Matran, Chief Marshal.
Mr. W.N. Joslin, First Ass't Marshal.
Mr. J.D. Everhard, 2nd Ass't Mrshal.

The members of the regiment were seated in a body, with Sergeant Newton Smith, of Co. B., residing at Grattan, Kent County and Sergeant Benjamin Van Raalte, of Co. I. holding the old banners over them.—The battle flag was particularly noticeable, being reduced to a few fragments of silk.

Mayor Van Landegend was then called for and after a few words of greeting confessed his inability to favor them with a speech, introducing the Rev. Dr. A. C. Van Raalte as capable of doing the subject more justice.—Dr. Van Raalte came forward and delivered a short address of greeting.

His remarks were eminently appropriate to the occasion and were received with enthusiasm. He pictured the parting of the members of the regiment, that left our city in 1862, with the prayers and God speeds' of mothers, sisters, wives; and after fervently thanking God for the results of the war, he earnestly hoped that the angel of Peace might dwell with us in the future.

The band then gave "Dixie;" after which music the orator of the day Col. I. E. Messmore was introduced.

He opened with several references to the peculiar features of such occasions and the suggestions of hard tack and picket duty that they awoke. He also gave the Governor and other distinguished guests a few words of cheer, before plunging into the oration proper. The latter was a fine effort and he was frequently interrupted by applause. The following is a brief summary of this oration, which was of necessity delivered more to the soldiers than the citizens:

"Attention! That word is not new to our ears yet it thrills us as in the days of war. The eyes of the civilized world are upon our problem of government. The citizen soldier, and his work has made a great change in the theory of government and caused the advocates of the divine right of kings to tremble." He then referred to the early history of the country and our struggles with England during the establishment of the principle of the self government of the people. He said, "Our hopes had been realized in the termination and results of these wars, and is our fancied security we had forgotten the trite but true saying—'Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty;'" He pictured the state of the country prior to the Rebellion and touched upon the various elements which made up for the population. "Then came the terrible struggle, and for a time the world seemed to have lost confidence in the problem of free government." He vividly portrayed the doubts and fears with which the early days of the war were familiar; and dwelt upon the varied phases of that struggle for the existence of the United States of America.—Then came a brief summary of the results of the war, and the speaker turned to the regiment before him. He gave a history of its part of the conflict, frequently touching upon descriptions that caused the boys to burst forth into cheers.

The fight at Green River, in Kentucky, where this regiment became famous, was dwelt upon. The old veterans became very enthusiastic as the speaker gave a glowing description of that heroic struggle.

Their history before Atlanta and on "The March to the Sea" was given and he closed with a tribute to their fallen comrades.—Of 1000 men who left Kalamazoo with this regiment on Sept. 29, 1862 less than 800 were mustered out of the service.

At the close of this oration Gov. J.J. Bagley, Senator Ferry and people generally indulged in a round of hand shaking.

The visitors were then escorted to the wharf and visited Lake Michigan on the steamer *Huron*. All enjoyed the ride very much.

A camp supper upon the Public Square was the next thing on the programme.—This took place at six o'clock and was productive of much enjoyment. Commissary Wynne served up the hard

tack and the boys made their coffee as if they were down on the Cumberland. The command then marched to headquarters at Bakker's Hall, to the music of the fife and drum. Here a business meeting was held, at which it was decided to hold their next annual re-union at Three Rivers, St. Joseph County.

The grand banquet next came in for a share of attention. This was principally the work of the ladies and, as a matter of course, was, therefore, the most successful part of the day's festivities. The hall was tastefully trimmed with flags, flowers, and evergreens. "Welcome Comrades" were the cheerful words placed over the stage.

The tables were covered with delicious cakes, substantial meats, pies, confectionery and all that goes to make up a grand feast of good things. To the ladies of the city thanks are due for responding so liberally to the calls of the committees.—And by this we include the *young ladies*, especially, whose fair faces and pleasant manner at the banquet called forth many compliments from our visitors.

At eight o'clock the exercises were opened with prayer from the Rev. J. Rice Taylor of Grace Church. Next came the slaughter of the "good things."

Dr. Morris then read two very interesting letters from Col. O.H. Moore and Hon. Austin Blair regretting their inability to be present. Similar letters had been received from Gen. Logan, Gen's Innes, Stoughton and others.

Then came the toasts with appropriate responses. Music by the Holland City and Zeeland band's was also interspersed between the speeches. Having devoted so much space to the history of the regiment we shall merely give the sentiments and parties who responded to them:

"The Volunteer Soldiers."—Gov. J.J. Bagley.

Music.

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Transcribed by Erica D. Heeg
February 4, 2004

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HOLLAND CITY NEWS.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1875.

During our absence this and the next two weeks, our friend JOHN C. FOSTER has consented to take charge of the "News."

EDITOR.

RE-UNION. A GRAND SUCCESS.

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Sewing Machine.

Mr. A. J. Clark of this city the agency of the Weed Sewing Machine. The machines will be kept on residence on Market Street. Sewing machines purchased is warranted and users are instructed in the use of it and examine.

Proposals.

The Board of Education of the Holland will receive proposals on the 18, 1875, for seventy-five or more and maple wood, to be delivered to School Houses in this City.

T. E. HOLLAND, Aug. 23, 1875.

WANTED: 10,000 men, wanted to take Dr. Webster's I. Hartic Pills this month.

Special Notice.

The CITY DRUG STORE will be open on Sundays, until further notice given.

HEBER WALSH, Proprietor.

HOLLAND, Sept. 18, 1874.

"SHAKK" or use Dr. Webster's Ague Prescription. Any other.

A Choice Lot.

Of writing paper and envelopes. WALSH'S CITY. HOLLAND, Mich., June 24.

To the Editor of the Holland City News: I am the owner and agent for the Holland City Lots, which I will sell at such a price as the "Board of Review," now in session shall appraise them at:

- Lot 11, Block 29.
- " 2, " 31.
- " 5, " 15.
- " 1, " C, West Ave.
- " 14, " 45.
- Lots 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 15 in Blocks E and H West.
- Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Block 9.
- Lot 9, Block 2. Lot 4, Block 9.
- " 9, " 6, " 4, " 1.
- " 9, " 12, " 4, " 1.
- " 13, " 8, " 6, " 11.
- " 9, " F, " 6, " G. W.
- " 10, " 15, Old plat.

Also 800 Lots in my addition to the city of Holland, on long time, at 7 per cent interest and no payment down, or latter.

No reflection upon the "Board of Review" M. D. F. W.

Wanted.

To exchange property in for a stock of Lumber.

Address: C. FORBES, Kalamazoo, Mich.

F. & A. M.

A Regular Communication of the F. & A. M. will be held at Main Street, Holland, Mich., on Wednesday evening the 13, at 7 1/2 o'clock.

GEO. LAYTON, Secy.

I. O. of O. F.

HOLLAND City Lodge, No. 192 in the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows, holds its regular meetings at the Fellows' Hall, Holland Mich., on the 1st of each week.

Visiting brothers are cordially invited. R. K. I.

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Special Notices.

Temperance Meeting.

A meeting of the Holland Temperance Society will be held on next Tuesday evening at the Methodist Church. Important business to be transacted. All are cordially invited to attend.

Use Dr. Webster's Eye Water. It cures the worst sore eyes.

J. O. DOZIER, Secy.
I. O. of O. F.
HOLLAND City Lodge, No. 122, I. of Odd Fellows, holds its regular Fellows' Hall, Holland Mich., on of each week.
Visiting brothers are cordially R. K.
N. W. BACON, R. S.

New Advertisements

B. P. HIGSON PHOTOGRAPHER

Eighth St. Holland.

All work burnished and finished Old and Faded Pictures Copied worked up in India Ink. Oil or

VAN LANDEGEND & A.

DEALERS IN

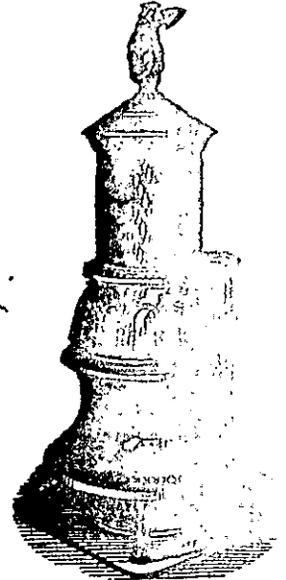
Hardware, Nails, Gl

Agricultural Imple

AND

All kinds of Building

COAL STOVES



Stair and Doors at Grand Rapids Prices. for Drive Wells promptly fitted

Eighth Street - - - - - Holland

BOOKBIND

The undersigned wishes to inform and residents of Holland and vicinity present located at Muskegon, he has arrangements with Mr. W. Vorst, at Holland, store, on River street, all job work for him be left. I have purchased a new and complete set of tools and stock and will furnish first-class

A. CLOETING

Muskegon, Sept. 3, 1875.