

Passing of a Pioneer

Artemus Shearer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Shearer, was born on March 31, 1846, in Iowa and died in Logan, Kansas, April 25, 1928, at the age of 82 years, 25 days. In 1863, while yet a boy of 17, he felt the need of his country and enlisted in Co. E, 17th Iowa volunteers for service in the civil war. He was captured October 13, 1864, and held prisoner at Andersonville until April 28, 1865. We read of miracles in ancient history, but Mr. Shearer witnessed as astonishing a phenomenon while confined in that miserable pen where one superintendent said he would kill as many men as any army officer. The many prisoners had not only meager but poor food and drink. The water was a boggy pool, with a scum that the thirsty men must push back with their cup and dip up polluted water. But one day a clear, bubbling spring of sweet water broke forth within the confines of the unsurmountable barrier surrounding the grounds. "God was good to just."



He was one of the pioneer settlers of Phillips county, homesteading a claim near Logan, in school district 70, in section 5 of Belmont township in 1878. While yet in Iowa in 1874, he was married to Miss Ann Elizabeth Moffett, who died in 1880. To this union three children were born, Pearl, who died in infancy. James, who was called to the Great Beyond and his Redeemer six years ago; and Mrs. Daisy Beaver, of Wichita, who with her husband attended her father's funeral.

In 1882 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Eldridge, a teacher who taught several successful terms of school in this county as several citizens of our vicinity still remember with pleasure and pride, even if having many hardships present-day pupils do not, for the buildings were mostly sod, with rudimental furniture and very few books or other necessities and less luxuries. This esteemed woman was called to "house of many mansions" New Year's day, 1928. Two children were born to this union, John G., who died in 1891, and Dr. Chauncey T. Shearer, of Steubenville, Ohio, well known to many of our citizens, as he obtained his common school education in the home district, and is remembered by some as once speaking a piece about being a doctor and telling how he would make pills of paper and so forth. He too was with his father the last trying days to aid the sister in nursing.

Brother Shearer was one of the charter members of the Pleasant Hill School and was one of those who took orphan children, adopting Miss Mable early this century, he and his wife caring for her as their own after their children were gone from the home roof, until she married Henry Wagner, yea, and always as a parent and grandfather to her four children. He was also the last charter member of Logan M. W. A. camp 301, organized in 1887, it being the first camp in Kansas.

In the passing of Mr. Shearer, Logan and the old home neighborhood has lost one of their most valuable and esteemed citizens. He leaves to mourn his gentle greeting and kindly words of advice two children, three grandchildren, Lawrence and Gladys, of Logan and Gerhard, of Steubenville, Ohio; one brother, Valentine Shearer, of Logan; one sister, Mrs. Elizabeth McCoy, of Ottumwa, Iowa, the adopted daughter, Mrs. Mable Wagner and family of Colorado, besides a host of other relatives and friends who bear a kindly sympathy with the bereaved ones.