

MAHLON D. MANSON.

A Distinguished and Honored Citizen of Crawfordsville Passes Suddenly Away at Frankfort.

THE FAMOUS HERO OF TWO WARS.

The Circumstances Surrounding the Life and Career of a Famous Soldier, Statesman and Citizen.

General Mahlon Dickerson Manson, of this city, died at Frankfort last Monday evening at 8:15 o'clock, of heart failure.

While sudden, the death of General Manson was not wholly unexpected as he had been in declining health for several years. He was very active, however, and to the last went about attending to his business and managing his affairs. On Sunday afternoon he took his attorney, W. T. Brush and left on the Monon for Monticello where Gen. Manson owned a large tract of land. They arrived at Reynolds in the evening and were forced to stay there all night in a hotel which furnished miserable accommodations. They arose before six in the morning and took the train to Monticello. No hacks were at the station and none could be had, so they walked to the hotel. The landlady was an old friend of the



General so she made him very comfortable, and a number of people called on him. Mr. Brush transacted the legal business and in the afternoon they left for home. Gen. Manson was feeling as well as usual and when the Monon train was boarded Mr. Brush suggested that he improve the forty minutes' ride to Frankfort by taking a nap. The General leaned back and was soon sleeping peacefully, his breathing being regular. When Frankfort was approached Mr. Brush turned to rouse him and was startled to observe a great change in his appearance. His breath was coming in gasps and his pulse was gone. It was feared that he would die on the train but several gentlemen picked him up and he was carried to a cab and hurried to the Coulter House.

Stimulants were administered and Mr. Brush and the doctor rubbing his limbs which had grown cold so that after awhile the General rallied. He recognized Mr. Brush and said he felt very badly, being sick at his stomach. He was told his family had been sent for and seemed pleased but was resting badly, suffering considerable pain. His wife, son Will, and daughter arrived on the evening train and the General recognized and conversed with them. At 8 o'clock he seemed somewhat stronger but a few minutes after he turned over in the bed and as he did so again began to sink. Mr. Brush noticed this and told Mrs. Manson who was walking around the bed to face him that he was dying. She supported him as he passed peacefully away.

The body was placed in a handsome casket and on Tuesday morning hundreds of the G. A. R. of Frankfort turned out and escorted the remains of the old soldier to the train. The family and Mr. Brush were accompanied to Crawfordsville by Milton Swan, D. P. Barner and T. N. Lucas. Arrived here the party found waiting to receive the body a large number of Masons and G. A. R. members who marched to the Manson home before the hearse, the bells of the city and county buildings and the M. E. church tolling mournfully as the cortege moved through the streets.

The life and character of Gen. Mahlon D. Manson may be studied with profit by the young, contemplated with satisfaction by the patriotic and referred to with pride by his kindred and friends. His name is honorably mentioned on many pages of the history of his country during the eventful period of the War

of the Rebellion. In political affairs of Indiana he has taken a prominent part. In private life he has sustained an unsullied reputation, and has deservedly received and constantly retained the confidence and good will of his fellow men. He was born February 20, 1820, near Piqua, Ohio. His Christian name was given him as a mark of regard for Governor Mahlon Dickerson, of New Jersey, Secretary of War under Gen. Jackson. His father died when he was but three years old and he early became an assistant to his mother and contributed to her support. After some years of his boyhood having been spent in mechanical pursuits he became a druggist's clerk and soon after set up for himself in that business. In October, 1842, he removed to Indiana and taught school in Montgomery county. He studied medicine and attended a course of lectures at the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, and a partial second course in New Orleans. He did not practice medicine but continued as a druggist at Crawfordsville. Upon the commencement of the war with Mexico, he entered the service as captain of Company I, Fifth Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, with which he participated in the campaign with Gen. Scott and marched from Vera Cruz to the capital. Upon his return to Crawfordsville at the close of the war he resumed his business as a druggist. In 1851 he was elected Representative from Montgomery county to General Assembly and served during the important sessions of 1851-52, in which the laws of the State were revised and which adopted the new Constitution. In 1858 he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Cincinnati that nominated Buchanan and Breckenridge. In 1860 he was an ardent supporter of Stephen A. Douglas, believing that only his election could avert the threatening storm of the civil war. When in April, 1861, the storm broke, he placed himself in the ranks of the defenders of the Union and took an active part to recruit the first company from Montgomery county under Gen. Lew Wallace. Two days afterward he raised in five hours a company with which he marched to Indianapolis. From the men he brought into camp two companies of the Tenth Indiana Regiment were formed. One of these, Company G, elected Manson Captain.

Upon the organization of the regiment he was commissioned major and on the tenth day of May he was promoted to the colonelcy of the regiment in place of Col. J. J. Reynolds, commissioned brigadier-general of volunteers. Early in June his regiment was ordered to West Virginia and participated in the battle of Rich Mountain. Though being the junior Colonel his regiment was placed in advance and with General Rosecrans marched nine miles by a narrow bridge path around the Rebel fortifications, striking Gen. Pegram's command in the rear. In the Battle of Rich Mountain which followed, the Tenth Indiana formed the first line and led the brigade in the charge upon the works of the enemy, which resulted in a total rout of the Rebels and the capture of two pieces of artillery. July 24th he returned to Indianapolis with his regiment which was re-organized for three years, and on September 22nd arrived at Louisville, Ky., and was assigned to Thompson's division of the Army of the Ohio with Manson as brigade-commander. In December they marched to meet the Confederates under Zollicoffer. On the 19th of January, 1863, Colonel Manson and his brigade participated in the Battle of Mill Spring. At daylight the Union forces were attacked in their camp. Col. Manson's regiment was in the advance, and in this its first engagement after reorganization, achieved an honorable reputation for gallantry, at one time saving the day by its firm resistance to a desperate charge. After that battle the Union forces returned to Louisville, where the patriotic ladies of that city presented a beautiful flag to the Tenth Indiana, which was received by Col. Manson in behalf of his regiment. From Louisville the Tenth Indiana marched to the Tennessee river, arriving on the battlefield of Shiloh two days after the battle. They then participated in the siege of Corinth and the march which followed its evacuation. On the 25th of March, 1862, Col. Manson was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers by President Lincoln without solicitation on his part. He was assigned to the command of the Second Brigade, Fourth Division of the Army of Ohio, under General Nelson. With his brigade and his division, he entered Corinth on the 29th of May and thence marched to Jacinto and Iuka, Miss., and Tusculum, Ala., and thence to Murfreesboro, Tenn., a distance of 105 miles in five days.

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Thence they marched to McMinnville, Cany Fork of the Cumberland, Sparta, and back to McMinnville. Here, by order of Gen. Buell, Generals Hanson, Manson, Nelson, Craft and Jackson were ordered to Kentucky to take charge of the new troops then pouring in from Indiana and Ohio. They arrived at Lexington August 24, six days previous to the battle of Richmond. On the morning of the 27th Nelson assigned Manson to take command of the Fifty-fifth, Sixty-ninth, Seventy-first, and Sixteenth Indiana regiments with artillery. The enemy appeared in considerable force and continued to skirmish until the morning of the 30th. Gen. Nelson was at Lexington and although Manson sent Gen. Nelson word of what was going on at the front, he heard nothing from him until the morning of the 30th, when he received an order directing that if the enemy should appear in force to retreat on the Lancaster road, which had been in possession of the enemy for more than five hours. The following extract from Gen. Manson's general report, dated on Sept. 10, 1862, to Gen. Nelson, says: "The enemy now had been advancing in great force through the open fields in line of battle, and while they were thus advancing, a courier rode upon the field and delivered me your written order directing me to retreat on the Lancaster road if the enemy should advance in force. It was then 12:30 p. m. and in less than five minutes from the time I received your order the battle raged in great fierceness along the whole line." Gen. Manson held his position for more than an hour, when his right giving away in great confusion, he was a second time driven back. He commenced to form his men in the woods, on the Rhodes farm, for the purpose of a general retreat, and recrossed the Kentucky river that night. While he was thus engaged Gen. Nelson rode upon the field and assumed command and by his direction the troops were marched to a place near Richmond and a line of battle was there formed extending through the cemetery. Here they waited for more than an hour and a half for the enemy. When at length the Confederates again appeared their advance could not be checked because of the demoralized state of the twice beaten raw troops opposed to them, and who now retreated through Richmond in great confusion. Gen. Manson organized a rear guard for the protection of the scattered army from the pursuing cavalry. By direction of Gen. Nelson he assumed command of the rear guard and with it covered the retreat until they arrived near a toll-gate on the Lexington road when the retreating column in front halted. Gen. Manson went to see the cause of delay and he found that Gen. Nelson had left the field. Gen. Manson made a desperate effort to cross the Kentucky river with the remainder of the command. When they arrived near Foxtown they found the enemy in force concealed in a cornfield from which they fired on Manson's advance, killing seventeen and twenty-five being wounded. Col. Joel Wolf, of the Sixteenth Indiana, being one of the number. Here, with the remainder of the advance, they were taken prisoners. Four days later he was paroled by Gen. Kirby Smith, the Confederate commander, and started immediately for Cincinnati. The greater portion of the Union forces in this campaign had been in the service less than two weeks and had had very little instruction or exercise in drilling. The Confederates had the advantage of greatly superior numbers, but they were met with such valor and received such punishment that the hitherto uninterrupted progress of the invasion of Kirby Smith received such a check that sufficient time was gained to place Cincinnati in a condition of defense, and the principal object of Smith's campaign was thwarted. Gen. Boyle, in writing to President Lincoln from Louisville, Ky., Sept. 1, 1862, speaking of the Indians engaged at Richmond, said: "They fought with the courage and gallantry of veterans." The loss in killed and wounded in the Indiana troops was 1,000, Gen. Manson being one of the wounded. Over 2,000 officers and men, including Gen. Manson, were captured and paroled. He remained on parole but a few weeks, when, after having been exchanged, he was assigned to the Fourteenth Army Corps and placed in

south side of the river. When the siege was terminated by the advance of Gen. Sherman's forces, Dec. 5, 1862, Gen. Manson with the divisions of the Twenty-third Army Corps followed Longstreet to Rutledge, where the Confederates having made a stand, he was ordered to fall back to Blaine's Crossroads, skirmishing all of the way. Here he was reinforced by Gen. Granger, of the Fourth Army Corps, a line of battle was formed and maintained several days, but no general engagement ensued until in January, 1864, when his troops were engaged with the enemy at Mossy Creek and vicinity. In February he was relieved of his command by Gen. Jacob D. Cox, who outranked him and he was assigned a division in that corps. On the 23d day of April, by order of General Sherman, he proceeded to destroy the bridge over the Watauga River, Virginia, and the railway and Lick Creek trestle, Jonesville, whence by rail they joined Gen. Sherman at Red Clay, Ga. After a forced march and considerable skirmishing they arrived on the 14th of May and moved upon the Confederate works at Resaca. A line of battle was formed. Gen. Hascall and Judsh being on right, Gen. Riley on the left in the woods and Gen. Manson in the center in the open field. The order of charge was given and his command moved through the open ground for a mile exposed to the enemy's artillery. The loss was very heavy. Gen. Manson and Riley carried their division on the works and held them for more than three hours against greatly superior numbers. His ammunition being almost exhausted, and his men famishing for water Gen. Hascall, by order of Gen. Sherman, moved in his force to relieve Gen. Manson. To show Gen. Hascall how he might best avoid the enemy's fire, Gen. Manson sprang upon the works when he was struck by a piece of a shell upon the right shoulder and his arm was thereby forever disabled. He was carried off the field insensible. In a few days he resumed command. He was present at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, but not actively engaged. He was so greatly disabled by his wound that he was compelled to ask to be relieved of his command in the advancing army. He was assigned to the charge of Knoxville, but the inflammation of his wound increased to such an extent that he was again forced to relinquish his position. He accompanied Gen. Thomas on his retreat through Tennessee and was in the hospital at Nashville at the time of the battle of Franklin. From this hospital he was removed to St. Joseph's Infirmary at Louisville, where he remained eighty-five days, lying a portion of the time at the point of death, suffering great torture from his wound. Here he had an operation performed upon his shoulder and becoming satisfied that he would not again be fit for active duty, and being unwilling to stand in the way of the promotion of worthy men in the field, he, on the 21st day of December, 1864, resigned his commission as brigadier-general. During his career he was never known to complain of any position to which he was assigned, but without considering his own convenience or pleasure, and without regard to danger, toil, or exposure, he executed with alacrity and to the satisfaction of his superiors every order ever given him. He was distinguished for clearness of discrimination, accuracy of judgment and promptness of action. He was never surprised when it was his duty to be informed; no emergency found him unprepared; no emergency caused him to hesitate. He gained and always enjoyed in an exceptionally great measure the affection of his subordinates. He was respected by his equals and superiors and loved by his men. Gen. Manson was nominated by the Democratic party in 1864 as their candidate for lieutenant-governor on a ticket headed by the late Joseph E. McDonald, and, while he ran ahead of his ticket, was defeated. In 1860 he was nominated by the Democracy for Secretary of State and defeated. In 1868 he was again nominated a Democratic candidate for Congress in the Ninth district, his competitor being Hon. G. S. Orth. The district was strongly Republican and he was again beaten. In 1870 he was again the Democratic candidate for Congress from the same district, having as his competitor Gen. Lew Wallace and was elected and served as a member of the Forty-second Congress. He was a member of the committee on Invalid Pensions and performed a great amount of labor, rendering great service to his disabled comrades by doing, perhaps, more than any other member of the

been exchanged, he was assigned to the Fourteenth Army Corps and placed in charge of the Union forces at Bowling Green. This command he led at the battle of Stone River, Jan. 3, 1863, when he was ordered to the command of a division of the Twenty-third army corps stationed at Lebanon, Ky., whence they marched to Glasgow and thence to Thompkinsville where they met a division of Morgan's forces with whom they had a lengthy skirmish for several days, after which they were transferred by railroad to Louisville, Ky., and crossed into Indiana, where he was prevented by the orders of a superior officer from intercepting Gen. John Morgan in his raid through Indiana. From Louisville he proceeded with his command on steamboats up the Ohio to prevent Morgan from recrossing the river. At Grassy Plates he came up with a body of Morgan's men and captured a portion of them with forty-six horses. He moved up the river parallel with Morgan to Cincinnati and thence to Maysville, Ky., and Portsmouth, O., where the water was found to be too low to proceed further in steamboats. At Portsmouth with a division of his command, he went by rail fifty miles into the interior of Ohio to intercept Morgan's forces. He, however, had already crossed the railroad at the point at which he hoped to intercept them. He now returned to Cincinnati where he received Gen. Morgan and his prisoners, who were afterwards sent to Johnson's Island, but were finally removed to the Ohio penitentiary at Columbus, by order of Secretary of War. Gen. Manson was then placed in command of the Twenty-third Army Corps with 30,000 men upon its rolls and was ordered to the relief of East Tennessee, and in October, 1863, was in the siege of Knoxville, which lasted twenty days, and superintended the construction of the fortifications at Mayberry and Temperance Hills, and built a pontoon bridge across the Holston, and the fortifications on the

more than any other member of the committee to secure an increase of pensions for the disabled. In 1872 he was a candidate for renomination for Congress and was defeated by Judge Cason by 197 votes, though this district gave President Grant over two thousand majority. In 1873 he was appointed and served as a member of the Democratic State Central Committee; in 1875 was made its chairman, in which capacity he served during the memorable campaign of 1876, having full control of the interests of the Democratic party in Indiana. He represented the State at large in the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis, and supported the candidacy of Thomas A. Hendricks for the nomination for president. He was one of the number who went to New Orleans after the election in 1876 to represent Mr. Tilden. As chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee he called a convention on the 8th day of January, 1877, to consider the duty of the party in this impending political crisis, moderation being recommended by the party. In 1876 he was elected on the Democratic ticket Auditor of State by 14,000 plurality. In 1884 he was elected lieutenant-governor, but resigned shortly after his election to accept the office as collector of internal revenue for the Lafayette district. He was a member of the commission in charge of building the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at Indianapolis. He had long been a prominent member of the G. A. R. He became a member of the Masonic fraternity in 1841, and has taken all the degrees including the thirty-second, and had filled all the offices in the subordinate as well as the Grand Lodge of the State, including that of Deputy Grand Master for two years. General Manson was a man of commanding presence, tall and of large body, and until disabled by his wound he was a man of strong constitution and great capacity for endurance. His manner was frank and engaging and he had an

invaluable faculty, springing from the kindness of his heart and goodness of motive, of making men, whether high or low, feel at home when in his presence. Because of these qualities, doubtless added to his untarnished and unimpeachable record, he in all of his candidacies for office has received many votes and much moral support from his political opponents. He was not fastidious in small things, but was noted for the broadness and liberality of his views upon all subjects. He was an eloquent orator, commanding the attention, convincing the reason, arousing the enthusiasm and awakening the zeal of his hearers. A brave and gallant soldier, a prudent conscientious statesman, a public-spirited and patriotic citizen, a faithful and self-denying friend, an honest man in business and a true man in all the relations of life. It is not surprising that he held a high place in the esteem and affections of the people in his State. He rose from poverty and obscurity to justly deserved eminence and the bright light which beats upon his life discloses no flaw in his character. Not by accident or aid of others, but by earnest toil, constant perseverance, through smoke and blood of battle he had attained success in life, military glory, political and social popularity and the love and honor of his fellow-men. Such men as he make all their fellow-men their debtors.

General Manson was married May 26, 1850, to Miss Caroline Mitchell, who, together with six children, three sons and three daughters, survive him. About two years ago he united with the Methodist church, the church in which he was reared and in which his devoted wife had lived for many years. A few weeks ago at a little gathering of soldiers he made some remarks which were indeed touchingly pathetic. He made public acknowledgment of his endeavors in the Christian life and admonished his comrades to be ready to answer the summons of the Great Commander.

He was connected with several business enterprises, principal among which was that of stockholder and director in the Citizens' National Bank and stockholder in the Indiana Wire Fence Company, besides others of less importance and responsibility.

Gen. Manson was the last survivor of the charter members of the first Masonic lodge organized in Crawfordsville, in 1844.

Gen. Manson was a prominent member of the Indiana Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion,