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A History of Moniteau County Missouri

By J. E. Ford

GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT
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LATTER-DAY SAINTS

(See index and table of contents back pages)

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Acres, Capt. Jack Vivion, Thomas Stephens' two sons, Capt. John Inglish, the two Lanes, J. A. Clay, James Chiders—the scout.

It has proved impossible to compile a list of Moniteau Countians who enlisted in the regular Confederate and Union armies in units formed elsewhere than in this county. Many names on the only copies of the lists available are obviously misspelled, particularly names of German soldiers. With the assistance of C. C. Treiber the spelling has been corrected so far as possible.

When the California Guards left in May, 1861, to carry out Jackson's plans, they pressed some teams into service. Among the non-Jackson men present at Boonville as teamster on May 18 and 19 was W. H. Mengel, who returned May 25. Capt. Haggerty had a tinshop at California, and from him the Confederate quartermaster bought cups, plates and cooking utensils.

The Moniteau County company of Home Guards, organized in June, 1861, for three month' service, was mustered out at the end of the term August 16, 1861, with three officers and fifty-nine men. The quota of Moniteau under all calls prior to December 19, 1864, was 395, of which number 390 men entered the United States volunteers. The call of December 19, 1864, was responded to by sixteen men, leaving seventy-six to be drafted, to whom the county court offered a bounty of $75.00.

Company G, Cole County Home Guards (then of Col. Richardson's Cole County regiment, afterwards known to the War Department as the First Regiment Missouri, United States Reserve Corps) was organized in June, 1861. The Tipton company, H, under Capt. Hopkins, belonged to this command, and also Capt. Hart's High Point company. Company G was organized by Theron M. Rice, captain; Charles Graser, first, and J. S. Hume second lieutenant; W. H. Mengel, first, C. M. Nye, second, J. F. Duvenick, third, and Gotlieb Ziebold, fourth sergeant; Jacob Bauer, Tim. Daly, Chris. Gross and William Timbrook, corporals. George H. Howard was promoted sergeant, and W. H.

Mengel, lieutenant, a few days later, and the officers named with the following troops, formed the command on July 29: J. F. Potthoff, John Dooley, W. Remmert, C. Asahl, F. Affolter, A. Anderson, Joe Bauman, John T. Bauer, Jacob Bauer, Fred, Lewis and Henry Boeckhaus, L Baushausen, F. Roesch, Theo. Roesch, Fred Bantrup, Ernest Begeman, James Conner, A. Collett, Michael Daley, Joseph Daley, Ben Eberhardt, Jacob Eberhardt, Henry Finke, John Fromhard, John Finley, Joseph Geiger, Francis Gentzsch, John Gatschet, H. Gouge, William Gost, Elsten Gouge, Linsey Gouge, C. Henning, John Haldiman, Henry Heess, Fred Heidbreder, Jacob Kolb, John Kennedy, W. Kuhlman, Daniel Kelly, F. Kirchoff, Michael Kiey, Jacob Kirshman, Patrick Lyons, John Lammert, Henry Mayer, Ferd. Markworth, J. McMullen, C. Meusch, Jerry Manahan, Charles Meyer, C. Meyerotte, Patrick Mahony, Daniel Morairty, C. F. Nischwitz, Daniel O'Brien, Henry Obergamer, C. Csick, William Power, D. E. G. Rollins, C. Rohrbach, John Ree-, H. Sprickman, Henry I. Schaffer, killed at Lexington, September 18, 1861; William Sarman, Ferd. Schleifer, Charley Steeg, James Sullivan, August Schlicker, Stephen Tuepker. William Wyland, John Wedebrcok, Gotlieb Wheatland.

The command was mustered in on June 20, and served in the affair at Otterville. When returning, the train was fired upon seven miles east of California, three men being killed. In August the command pursued some rebels at Caifornia, and captured three; and after muster out in the fall, the members scattered through the several regiments, many joining the Twenty-sixth Missouri Volunteer Infantry, and some going into the Missouri State Militia regiment.

Company H, Cole County regiment of Home Guards, was organized at Tipton in June, 1861, and on the 29th of that month mustered in, with Joseph Hopkins, captain; Isaac Snorgrass and F. C. Becker, lieutenants; J. N. Becker, John Gigas, W. McGee and John Smith, sergeants; James M. Boggs, Simon Bardwell, Jacob Nieuffer and John Lutz,

vania and Kentucky before coming to Missouri. He became pastor of the Sikeston, Missouri church in 1925 and later served at Flat River in the same section of the state



E. B. HENSLEY

and at Weston, north of Kansas City before taking the pastorate of the California church.

Lawrence B. Hert

Lawrence Benjamin Hert was born August 18, 1898 at California. He graduated from the California High School in 1916 and immediately began work in the newspaper office of J. B. Wolfe where he spent two years as reporter and bookkeeper. Leaving the newspaper office in 1918, he entered the University of Missouri, enlisting in the Student Army Training Corps at Columbia. He was selected to go to Camp Grant, Ill. to the Infantry Officers Training School where he served until the close of the war.

During the 50th General Assembly he was a clerk for Hon. W. Joe Allee of Moniteau County. Afterwards he resumed his work at the California Democrat as a writer, but made Abstracts of Title in the office of J. W. Hunter. During 1920 and 1921 he was bookkeeper for the California Woolen Mills. He resumed work at the Democrat in 1922 and remained there a year when he became editor of the Morning Capital in Sedalia and later editor of the Sedalia Independent and also editor of the Pettis County Republican.

During the Baker administration, he was appointed "Chief of Parks" for Missouri. He worked for L. L. Carter on the Moniteau County Herald off and on in all phases of newspaper work.

In 1928 he received an appointment as Instructor of Printing at the Missouri Training School for Boys at Boonville where he spent five years until the change of political administrations.

He has had a small part in the making of this volume of history, in canvassing for subscribers and taking the pictures of many of the rural schools.

Being a Republican in politics, he has taken an active part in all its activities. He is a member of the California Christian church. Following the traditions of the family, he is a member of the California Band.

Benjamin Hert, father of Lawrence B., was born August 20, 1852, in Canton Berne, Switzerland. He came to this country in 1854 with his parents and settled in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. When a boy, he worked in the coal mines. In 1866, the family came to Missouri settling in Moniteau County north of California. They resided there a short time until the mother died in 1867. Then the family returned to Ohio and he learned the trade of blacksmithing and carriage making. In 1875 he came back to Missouri to work for the firm of Hert & Roth of which he later became a partner with his brother, Fred Hert, and James S. Roth. This firm of Hert, Roth & Co., located on the southeast corner of the square in California, manufactured famous

farm wagons and buggies, dealing also in farm machinery and doing both blacksmithing and woodworking.

June 18, 1884, Benjamin Hert was married to Emma E. Messerly in Sedalia, by Rev. F. A. Umbeck, pastor of the Evangelical church in California of which both were members. Four children were born, Charles F. Hert, a registered pharmacist in Sedalia for the past 30 years; Ella E. Hert, a teacher in the Sedalia High School; Clara E. Hert, deputy County Collector at California; and Lawrence B. Hert. Charles F. Hert is the only one married in this family. In 1910, he married Irene V. Davidson, daughter of Pleas. Davidson of West Aurora, Miller County. They have two grown children, Mary Edna and Margaret of the home address in Sedalia. Benjamin Hert died July 15, 1921 at home and was buried in the Evangelical cemetery in California.

Emma Elizabeth Messerly, wife of Benjamin Hert, was born March 21, 1859 in New Philadelphia, Ohio. The family came to Missouri in 1863 and settled in California where they had a grocery store on the west side of the courthouse square. She attended public schools in this city. The family resided in Sedalia for two years prior to her marriage in 1884. Since that time, California has been her home where she continues to reside at the family home on East Main street with Ella, Clara and Lawrence.

Benedict Hert, father of Mrs. Mary Martie, Nicholas, Fred and Ben Hert, was born in Switzerland in 1819. By trade he was a weaver. In 1854 the family came to this country settling in Ohio on a farm. Later the father and the three boys worked in coal mines, in which Nicholas was killed in a mine cave-in.

He married Anna Marie Stoll who was born in 1810 in Switzerland. In 1854 when the family was leaving their home for America, Mrs. Stoll, the mother of Benedict Hert's wife, died in a stage coach accident and was buried at La Havre, France just a few days before the boat sailed. Benedict Hert died about 1889 and was buried in Trenton, Ohio. His wife died on the farm north of California in 1887. She

was buried in the city cemetery in California.

Louis Frederick Messerly, father of Charles E. Messerly of Sedalia, Mrs. Louisa Hert, Caroline Messerly, Will Messerly, Mrs. Emma Hert, Mrs. Anna Meuschke and Mrs. Ella Ludemann of Sedalia, was born January 20, 1824 in Paris, France. His father, Samuel Messerly, because of his stature, was a member of the Royal Guard, composed of Swiss soldiers, for King Louis XVIII of France. Louis F. Messerly died February 4, 1912, in California and was buried in Sedalia.

Elizabeth Eberhardt Messerly, wife of L. F. Messerly, was born March 25, 1831 in Switzerland. She was the daughter of John and Anna Eberhardt. The family came over to this country in sail boats in 1845 taking several months to make the journey. They settled in Ohio before coming to Moniteau County. She died April 27, 1898 in Sedalia and was buried in Sedalia.

Walter L. Hert

Walter L. Hert, postmaster of California from 1924 to 1936 was born in this city October 14, 1888. He is the son of Fred Hert who was born at Berne Switzerland October 16, 1849 and died in 1930. Fred Hert came with his parents to Ohio when young. Coming on to California, he learned the wagon making trade and soon formed the firm of Hert, Roth & Co. which operated on the southeast corner of the square for more than fifty years. He was the leader of California's band for over fifty years.

Louise Messerly, who became the wife of Fred Hert, was born in Ohio May 28, 1853 and died in 1933. Her father was Louis F. Messerli, born in France of Swiss parents. His father was a member of the personal body guard of the king of France. Mr. Messerli was a merchant of California in its pioneer days.

Walter Hert and Miss Lela Morris, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Morris of this city, were married June 20,



FRED HERT

1912. They have four children; Mrs. F. L. Pope of Osage Beach, Mo., Marian F., Helen G. and Dorothy Ann.



WALTER HERT

Following his graduation from high school, Mr. Hert attended Central Business College at Sedalia. He entered the post office as clerk in 1910, and was assistant postmaster from 1912 to 1916. From 1916 to 1924 he served as

deputy county clerk. Appointed postmaster at California in March 1924 he served three successive four year terms. While postmaster he was secretary-treasurer of the Missouri Postmaster's Association, from 1925 to 1934, member of the executive committee of the Tri-State Postmasters Association (Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma) and member of the legislative committee of the National Postmasters Association in 1928-29.

Mr. Hert is of a large family of staunch Republicans, and served as secretary of the Republican county committee from 1920-24. He is a member of the Christian church and Masonic lodge.

N. C. Hickcox

When Nathan Cole Hickcox was born at Sandy Hook November 4, 1855, Moniteau County was ten years old. His father, C. G. Hickcox, (See Chapter XIV), a leading citizen of that time was building up a thriving mercantile business at that then active river port. His mother was Polly Martin Hickcox, daughter of Jonathan P. Martin, an officer of Cole County before this county was established and our first county surveyor. (Chap. XIV). His paternal grandparents were James Fordyce and Malinda Goza Hickcox, natives of New York.

Mr. Hickcox was married May 11, 1881, to Mary Eleanor Buchanan, daughter of James and Anne O'Reilly Buchanan (Chap. XIV). They have had six children, five of whom are now living. Charles B. (Chapter XV) is in the mercantile business at Inspiration, Arizona; Mrs. Erma Snorgrass is the wife of the sheriff of Cole County; Virgil L. is manager of a store in Los Angeles; Anne, post office clerk of California; Tom, deceased; Mrs. Florence Kiely of this city. Charles has three children, Virgil two and Mrs. Kiely two.

Mr. Hickcox attended Kemper Military Academy. On the death of his father in 1879 he succeeded him by appoint