

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Bealer, Elmer J. C. Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Linn County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 20. May 1845 Bern, Switzerland

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Mrs. Mary C. (Stephens) Erb 26 Oct 1867

3. Significant events for example:  
A. Business He was a leading spirit of the Cedar Rapids Canning Company;  
He built numerous office buildings, stores and private residences  
B. Civic responsibilities G.A.R.; Mason  
C. Profession Bridge builder; contractor

4. Church membership \_\_\_\_\_

5. Sessions served 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> General Assemblies 1902, 1904, 1906

6. Public Offices  
A. Local Cedar Rapids School director  
B. State \_\_\_\_\_  
C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 11 Sept 1928 Cedar Rapids, Iowa; buried Oak Hill Cemetery, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

8. Children Ophelia A. (Mrs John M. Quinn); Willard Y.; Isaac Edie

9. Names of parents John Ellis and Mary E. (Walker) Bealer

Beasley, Elmer J. C.

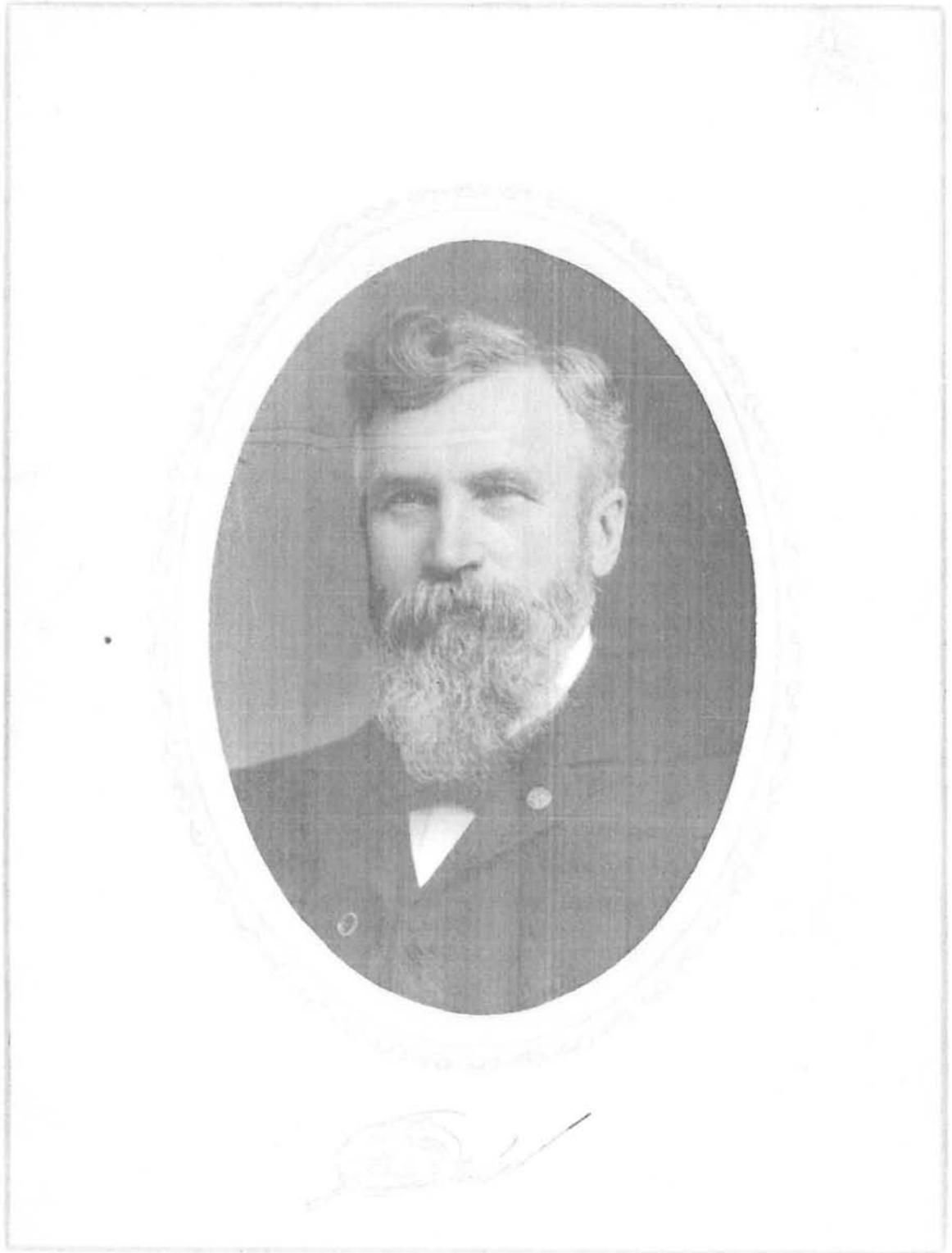
10. Education

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information

- He came to America with his parents at age 4. They went first to Cleveland, Ohio. He found work as a stone mason. They then moved to Newton Falls, Ohio where the father engaged in quarrying and bridge contracting.
- They moved to Iowa City, Iowa where he was age 11. The father did the stone work at the Capital Quarry near Iowa City, Iowa. Elmer assisted his father long before age 21.
- Military service - Civil War - Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry.
- He arrived in Iowa City on 3 Aug 1865 joining his father at work.
- In 1878 he moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There he continued the same work as he did with his father.
- In 1884 he opened the Cedar Valley quarry which was a very fine quarry. He provided well for his workers. It became an important shipping point on the B.C.R. and N. Railroad.
- He was very devoted to the B.A.R.
- His wife, Mary, was the widow of Benjamin Erb who died in 1864.





# E. J. C. Bealer Is De

## BUILDER, WAR VET LEGISLATOR

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(RAPIDS NEWS.)  
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## Mustered Out By Death



COL. E. J. C. BEALER.

—Tru-Art cut

Ever since the Memorial building on the island was started, Col. E. J. C. Bealer, Civil war member of the Memorial commission, had hoped he would live to see the structure dedicated. But death last night denied him this wish. He had lived to see the structure in use and was happy in that culmination of the last civic project on which he worked.

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money situation, or some other "significant" thing today caused a bull market in the Wall street opening. It begins to appear that the people who invest and gamble in the stock market can not be intimidated by anything, not even by a presidential election, in years gone by supposed to be the cause of great uncertainty, falling prices, shorn lambs.

**I**N A \$3,000 CASKET, surrounded by armed gunmen who in turn were watched by armed policemen, Tony Lombardo, Chicago gangster, yesterday was the unwilling principal in a funeral whose splendor might have made some kings envious. The newspapers gave the ceremony big headlines that will cause heady youths to ponder on the prominence gained by ignorant foreigners who, living by gun and bomb, acquire wealth, political influence, power in one of the world's greatest and strangest cities.

**Y**OUNG JOHN COOLIDGE goes to work, spends an extra twenty-five minutes on his railroad job the first day, attracts much attention and many reporters. To protect him a government secret service man escorts him to his office, takes him out for lunch, returns with him and, in the evening, takes him home. Poor lad!

**"THE CHURCH** has no political duty to perform," writes a minister in a nearby town, as he comments on what has been said recently in this column. "Her only duty is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ." Somehow or other, it is refreshing to hear from a minister who clings to this good, old-fashioned idea. "According to our Constitution," he says, "church and state are separate. Let us not forget it."

**THIRTY BARBERS**, attending a convention at The Hague, are overcome by strong perfumes, used in demonstrations. There is a suspicion that this is not the first time visitors to The Hague have gone to sleep. Many plenipotentiaries, gathered there in the cause of peace, have snoozed their opportunities away.

**THAT FARMER BOY** who paid—probably with his father's money—a \$1,000 fine in a local court when he pled guilty for the second time to a charge of driving an automobile while drunk, surely does not seem concerned about the McNary-Haugen bill or any other form of

son, as times, amid pain, or so weak that he was almost unable to sit upright, by sheer determination he would rise from his bed and go and take an active part in the discussions of that body. Of recent months when his condition became gradually worse, the commission met around his bedside.

#### Hoped To Hear Radio Report.

Finally, the building finished, it seemed almost as if the venerable soldier failed,—as if his last mission in life had ended and he was ready to go to his last rest. Early this week it became apparent that Col. Bealer could never be able to see and hear the exercises of dedication. It was arranged that they be broadcast, and a radio receiving set was installed at his bedside.

But yesterday about noon his strength, lashed time and again to do his bidding weakened measurably. The sterling old campaigner lapsed into unconsciousness from which he never rallied.

In the words of a friend who has compiled a biography of Mr. Bealer's life, he lived "a long, full, rich, constructive life." "Few men," wrote he, "retained the spirit and vigor of youth up until the last, if they pass the fourscore mark. Mr. Bealer moved, thought, and talked like a man in the prime of life up until within a short time of his death."

#### An Intense Patriot.

He was an intense patriot. He was early fired by a desire to serve his country, and below the age acceptable for the army, he managed to enlist in spite of it. He made a distinguished record in the Civil war.

He was a builder, technically so and figuratively so. The son of a bridge builder, he followed in his father's profession. He opened up the Cedar Valley quarry, one of the largest in the history of the state, and built roads and bridges all over Iowa. In the early part of the fifty years that he had lived in Cedar Rapids he erected many public and private buildings, several of which still retain his name.

As a member of the school board he revised and rebuilt the physical equipment of the schools. In the state legislature, where he represented Linn county for three sessions, his tremendous energy was a powerful factor. He obtained the unanimous passage of a bill authorizing the construction of tablets and monuments to the Iowa soldiers in the Vicksburg National Military cemetery.

He was active in the Grand Army of the Republic. Several terms he served as commander of the T. Z. Cook post, and later as state commander, and a member of important committees of the national organization.

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#### Born In Switzerland.

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## Hoover Decl To Pledge To Equal

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Herbert Hoover today declined a delegation from the west that he would not pledge to an equal rights amendment to the Constitution until he had completed an exhaustive investigation into the effect of such a change on fundamental law.

The republican presidential candidate said he was not ready to make an investigation made and fully consider the results. He said that he wanted to be sure that he knew of anything more before he made a decision for a candidate for office. He said that he would not pledge to an equal rights amendment until he had completed an exhaustive investigation into the effect of such a change on fundamental law. He said that he would not make a decision on the matter until he had completed an exhaustive investigation into the effect of such a change on fundamental law.

## Wanted Ukelele Is Arrested Stealing

#### (CEDAR RAPIDS)

Elmer Pierce, 25, was arrested today for stealing a ukelele on the convention celebration. He took the wrong road and his ambition, however, was arrested by Connell and Hughes charged with absconding with a watch of Tommy Fort. Fourth street west, and at Sol Rozen's shop for a larceny in the city jail on larceny.

When arraigned in Lightner's court today he was held to the grand jury. He was to furnish \$1,000 bond.

Ray Millsap, 33, was arrested today at 9:45 p.m. in A avenue street, after he smashed that of Max Re berry, creating a motor vehicle accident. Dan Dwyer

rial coliseum would be dedicated. That dedication comes today; Col. Bealer died early last night. He had served on the commission that superintended the construction of Iowa's finest war memorial. He knew that death was awaiting him, just around the corner. But he was determined to live for the dedication ceremonies, and a radio had been installed at his bedside that he might hear the program.

**WINNER OF MANY** battles, Col. Bealer lost this last one. To such as he, to men who overcome the obstacles they meet when building enduringly in new territory, to soldiers who fought to preserve the Union, to citizens who serve in public office, this country is indebted.

**TEXAS DEMOCRATS** yesterday held at Dallas a convention described by the Associated Press as the wildest ever indulged in by members of the party in the Lone Star state. Several hundred anti-Smith delegates bolted the meeting, but not before numerous fist fights had resulted in bloody noses and blackened eyes. The insurgents gone, regular democrats — that is, those who will follow Al through thick and thin, Tammany or no Tammany—proceeded peacefully with their anti-climax.

**ANTON ROSENER**, the village blacksmith at Goodhue, Minn., is dead. His passing probably would not be noted in the news dispatches but for the fact that he was the father of twenty-six children, eighteen of whom survive him. There were five sets of twins. But, despite the notices given his death, Blacksmith Rosener was just an incident. To the mothers of such families must go the credit.

**EITHER THE** Maine election, in which the republicans won overwhelmingly, a slight easing in the money situation, or some other "significant" thing today caused a bull market in the Wall street opening. It begins to appear that the people who invest and gamble in the stock market can not be intimidated by anything, not even by a presidential election, in years gone by supposed to have caused a panic and a depression, falling prices, shorn lambs.

# WAS BUILDER, CIVIL WAR VET AND LEGISLATOR

## Had Long Career In Public Life; Memorial Building One Of Last Projects; Headed G. A. R.

(CEDAR RAPIDS NEWS.)

After a courageous battle for life such as only a man of his indomitable will and buoyant spirit could wage, Elmer J. C. Bealer, for more than half a century one of the leading bridge builders of Iowa, a prominent Civil war veteran, and former legislator, died at his home, 2111 Fifth avenue, yesterday at 8:10 p.m. He was 83 years old.

Funeral services for Col. Bealer will be held in the Turner chapel at 4 p.m. Thursday. The Rev. W. W. Argow, assisted by the Rev. W. L. Ewing, will officiate. Burial will be in Oak Hill cemetery where Crescent Masonic lodge will have charge of the services and where military honors will be paid by the firing squad and bugler from Hanford post of the American Legion. Pallbearers will be Isaac B. Smith, Mayor J. F. Rall and C. D. Hedberg, members of the Memorial commission, of which Col. Bealer was a member as representative of the G. A. R., W. R. Boyd, L. A. Brewer and Glenn M. Averill.

Col. Bealer's dying hope was that he could live long enough to be present at the dedication of the Memorial building, which, as one of his close friends said, "was part of his heart." Col. Bealer never missed a meeting of the Memorial commission. At times, amid pain, or so weak that he was almost unable to sit upright, by sheer determination he would rise from his bed and go and take an active part in the discussions of that body. Of recent months when his condition became gradually worse, the commission met around his bedside.

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**THAT FARMER BOY** who paid—probably with his father's money—a \$1,000 fine in a local court when he pled guilty for the second time to a charge of driving an automobile while drunk, surely does not come from a family that is much concerned about the McNary-Haugen bill or any other form of political farm relief. But it should be interested in the prohibition issue.

**PROF. J. P. COX**, dean of the Michigan state college of agriculture, analyzes Herbert Hoover's farm relief proposals, says they include all the basic principles agreed on at Des Moines in January, 1926, but go still further in suggesting a practical plan for crop surplus control. Now, when John J. Raskob gets his report from Prof. Seligman of Columbia, engaged by the democratic chairman to suggest a way out for the farmer, the two parties will be all ready to convince the agriculturists that farm profits can come pouring from the ballot boxes next November.

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He was active in the Grand Army of the Republic. Several terms he served as commander of the T. Z. Cook post, and later as state commander, and a member of important committees of the national organization.

He was active in Masonry, having attained the thirty-third degree.

#### Born In Switzerland.

"Col. Bealer was born in Bern, Switzerland, May 20, 1845. When he was 4 years old his father came to America and went first to Cleveland, Ohio. He was a stone mason by trade, but found it difficult to find employment. Once he had a chance to demonstrate his ability, however, he was paid a wage in excess of any other workman on the job at which he was employed. From Cleveland he went to Newton Falls, Ohio, where he engaged in quarrying and bridge contracting, and in 1856 when the son of whom we write was 11 years old, he arrived in Iowa City, to take charge of the stone work at the Capitol quarry ten miles up the river. Elmer assisted his father in

(Continued on page 7, column 1.)

the Capitol building. He anticipated an expansive effect of such a change in fundamental law.

The republican presidential candidate said he was not investigating made and fully consider the result of that he wanted to be the delegation and that know of anything more for a candidate for office he official to pledge work for a change in the constitution. He said that an equal opportunity had appeal for him but that ago decided not to make decisions on paramount issues without a very clear Hoover's address to the convention was made at his terms.

## Wanted Ukele Is Arrested Stealing

(CEDAR RAPIDS)

Elmer Pierce, 25, was at the convention celebration and play a ukelele on. He took the wrong road his ambition, however, p.m. was arrested by Connell and Hughes, charged with absconding watch of Tommy Forby, Fourth street west, and at Sol Rozen's shop for is in the city jail on larceny.

When arraigned in J. Lightner's court today, he to the grand jury. He to furnish \$1,000 bond.

Ray Millsap, 33, was 9:45 p.m. in A avenue street, after he smashed that of Max Reberry, Point. Millsap is charged with operating a motor vehicle, intoxicated. Dan Dwyer with him was charged with larceny.

Clarence Kyle, who was disturbing the peace at his sister-in-law in S street west, was booked here station as a peace

## CLINTON YOUTH DIED KEITHSBURG, Ill.

(AP)—The body of Her son of Mrs. Mary Dana Iowa, was found in the river here yesterday morning is believed to have been when his boat was on the waves of a steamer met while on a trip to fishing lines near here.

# COL. E. J. C. BEALER, G. A. R. MEMBER, DIES

(Continued From Page 1)

quarrying and in bridge building and for a time on the farm. Long before he attained his majority he did a man's work; about the only compensation he received was the privilege of attending school during the winter season. But he learned while he worked and in 1862 when but 17 years of age, he did some contracting on his own account.

## Enlisted At Early Age.

"In 1862, however, the country was at war. Below the age when men were generally accepted in the army, he enlisted and became a member of Company A, 22nd Iowa volunteer infantry. He was mustered into the service Sept. 9, 1862. He saw service all the way from St. Louis, through the Vicksburg campaign (he participated in all the battles leading up to the siege and capture of Vicksburg); down into Texas, later to New Orleans, then back north to the Atlantic seaboard, where he fought under Sheridan in many of the important engagements led by that intrepid commander in the Shenandoah valley.

"From here he was transferred to North Carolina and from there to Georgia, back to South Carolina, and thence to Baltimore. He was mustered out August 3, 1865, and arrived back at his home in Iowa City the following day to begin the earnest business of life.

"Once more he joined his father and for two years was associated with him in his work. Then he began business for himself. He did much work for the city of Iowa City and Johnson county, macadamizing roads and building bridges. In 1878 he removed to Cedar Rapids, which has since been his home.

"As with his military activities, so it is with his business activities. It would take more newspaper space than is available simply to mention the many things he did which are of local interest. In fact his hand may be said to have touched his

## POOR PA BY CLAUDE CALLAN



"I don't know but what I agree with Ma that this photograph flatters me, but the girls at the office say it don't do me justice."

community from the building standpoint at almost every point.

## Opens Cedar Valley Quarry.

"In 1884 he opened up the Cedar Valley quarry. It was perhaps the best stone quarry ever developed in Iowa—certainly it was the best equipped. Mr. Bealer never hesitated to junk a labor saving device or any equipment of any kind if something better appeared on the market. The Cedar Valley quarry became a regular community, with houses for workmen, stores which provided what they needed to eat and to wear, and a post office, and it became one of the most important shipping points on the old B. C. R. and N. railroad. Mr. Bealer built railroad and other bridges all over the line of this railroad and on the Rock Island, and in various other places.

"He has been an officer and director of not a few local enterprises. For a long time he was the leading spirit of the Cedar Rapids Canning company. He built store and office buildings and private residences for investment. Sometimes he had interests outside the state, but for the

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"Mr. Bealer and Mary C. Erb. Three children in union—Orpha Grimm, Millard Millard is a res Gale lives in the

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most part he concentrated his ac- tivities and his interests in this city.

"The young man who thinks there is no 'social justice' in the world unless he can get an easy job at a salary that will enable him to live in at least comparative luxury, the moment he is out of school, and who hasn't as yet really learned to do well anything the world wants or needs to have done—might learn something which would give him a more correct perspective of life if he would ponder on how Mr. Bealer spent his youth and young man- hood and what he later achieved.

"Mr. Bealer was married to Mrs. Mary C. Erb, October 26, 1867. Three children were born to this union—Orpha D. (Mrs. John M. Grimm), Millard Y., and Jesse Gale. Millard is a resident of Tipton and Gale lives in the south.

In The Legislature.

"One might think after reading thus far, that a man as busy as Mr. Bealer evidently was, could find little or no time for public affairs, but he found a lot of time for public affairs. From the time he reached his majority he was an interested, active, effective citizen of the United States. He was a patriot by nature; his service in the Civil war made it a passion with him. He never missed an election; he never failed to make his influence felt before the election was held, and he rendered public service of the high- est order.

"For three sessions of the general assembly he represented Linn county in the legislature. He was chairman of an important commit- tee on railroads and there stands to his credit a bill known as House File No. 155 which passed both house and senate without a dissent- ing vote, which bill provided for the erection of monuments and tablets in the Vicksburg National Military park to mark the positions occupied by Iowa brigades, regiments and batteries, and to commemorate the valor and services of Iowa soldiers in the campaign and siege of Vicks- burg.

"Mr. Bealer took an intense inter- est in everything that pertained to the Grand Army of the Republic. He served as commander of the local post. Later he was state com- mander, and he served on important

committees of the national or- ganization. Mr. Bealer's devotion to the Grand Army of the Republic was appreciated. Not long ago he was honored by having named after him a fortress of the Daughters of the Grand Army of the Republic, the name being 'The E. J. C. Bealer Fortress.'

Of Dynamic Personality.

"In 1898 he was elected a school director of the Independent district of Cedar Rapids, and became chair- man of the finance and building committee. He gave six years of active and intelligent effort in this field of endeavor and during this time he superintended the building and remodeling of more than half the schol houses in the city.

"He was a member of the build- ing committee of Mercy hospital and, as mentioned above, was one of the commissioners for the erec- tion of the Memorial coliseum and city hall.

"Mr. Bealer had a dynamic per- sonality. He went at everything he attempted with all his might. At eighty years of age he walked along the street at a pace that would cause most men of half his years to be out of breath if they attempted to keep up with him.

"Doubtless he knew what the modern term 'buck passing' meant, but he never practiced it. He knew no such thing as fear, either on the field of battle or in business, or as a public servant. Oftentimes cow- ardice seems to overtake even brave men like a blight, when they enter politics, but not E. J. C. Bealer. Everybody knew where he stood on every question all the time. He did not even take refuge in silence—he spoke right out. He was one of the most loyal friends we ever knew. No friend in need ever had to send for him—he came and he stayed until the end.

Faithful to Friends.

"We rather think that if Mr. Bealer could tell us what he would rather have remembered concerning him above all else, he would say his service to his country and his fidel- ity to his family, his comrades and his friends.

"We can think of nothing more appropriate with which to close this sketch and this tribute than these lines from a patriotic poem by James Montgomery. We think it ex- presses in beautiful cadence two of the dominating ideals and purposes of his life—love of country and love of home.

"There is a land of every land the pride, Beloved by Heaven o'er all the world beside.

Where brighter suns dispense serene light, Time-tutored age and love-raised youth.

Men through all ages of revolving time

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In 1884 he opened up the Cedar Valley quarry. It was perhaps the best stone quarry ever developed in Iowa—certainly it was the best equipped. Mr. Bealer never hesitated to junk a labor saving device if any equipment of any kind if anything better appeared on the market. The Cedar Valley quarry became a regular community, with houses for workmen, stores which provided what they needed to eat and to wear, and a post office, and became one of the most important stopping points on the old B. C. R. R. N. railroad. Mr. Bealer built roads and other bridges all over the line of this railroad and on the Rock Island, and in various other places.

He has been an officer and director of not a few local enterprises. For a long time he was the leading spirit of the Cedar Rapids Canning Company. He built store and office buildings and private residences for investment. Sometimes he had interests outside the state, but for the

salary that will enable him to live in at least comparative luxury, the moment he is out of school, and "who hasn't as yet really learned to do well anything the world wants or needs to have done—might learn something which would give him a more correct perspective of life if he would ponder on how Mr. Bealer spent his youth and young manhood and what he later achieved.

"Mr. Bealer was married to Mrs. Mary C. Erb, October 26, 1867. Three children were born to this union—Orpha D. (Mrs. John M. Grimm), Millard Y., and Jesse Gale. Millard is a resident of Tipton and Jesse lives in the south.

#### In The Legislature.

"One might think after reading thus far, that a man as busy as Mr. Bealer evidently was, could find little or no time for public affairs, but he found a lot of time for public affairs. From the time he reached his majority he was an interested, active, effective citizen of the United States. He was a patriot by nature; his service in the Civil war made it a passion with him. He never missed an election; he never failed to make his influence felt before the election was held, and he rendered public service of the highest order.

"For three sessions of the general assembly he represented Linn county in the legislature. He was chairman of an important committee on railroads and there stands to his credit a bill known as House File No. 155 which passed both house and senate without a dissenting vote, which bill provided for the erection of monuments and tablets in the Vicksburg National Military park to mark the positions occupied by Iowa brigades, regiments and batteries, and to commemorate the valor and services of Iowa soldiers in the campaign and siege of Vicksburg.

"Mr. Bealer took an intense interest in everything that pertained to the Grand Army of the Republic. He served as commander of the local post. Later he was state commander, and he served on important

Grand Army of the Republic, his name being 'The E. J. C. Bealer Fortress.'

#### Of Dynamic Personality.

"In 1898 he was elected a school director of the Independent district of Cedar Rapids, and became chairman of the finance and building committee. He gave six years of active and intelligent effort in this field of endeavor and during this time he superintended the building and remodeling of more than half the school houses in the city.

"He was a member of the building committee of Mercy hospital and, as mentioned above, was one of the commissioners for the erection of the Memorial coliseum and city hall.

"Mr. Bealer had a dynamic personality. He went at everything he attempted with all his might. At eighty years of age he walked along the street at a pace that would cause most men of half his years to be out of breath if they attempted to keep up with him.

"Doubtless he knew what the modern term 'buck passing' meant, but he never practiced it. He knew no such thing as fear, either on the field of battle or in business, or as a public servant. Oftentimes cowardice seems to overtake even brave men like a blight, when they enter politics, but not E. J. C. Bealer. Everybody knew where he stood on every question all the time. He did not even take refuge in silence—he spoke right out. He was one of the most loyal friends we ever knew. No friend in need ever had to send for him—he came and he stayed until the end.

#### Faithful to Friends.

"We rather think that if Mr. Bealer could tell us what he would rather have remembered concerning him above all else, he would say his service to his country and his fidelity to his family, his comrades and his friends.

"We can think of nothing more appropriate with which to close this sketch and this tribute than these lines from a patriotic poem by James Montgomery. We think it expresses in beautiful cadence two of the dominating ideals and purposes of his life—love of country and love of home.

"There is a land of every land the pride,  
Beloved by Heaven o'er all the world beside,  
Where brighter suns dispense serene light,  
And milder moons imparadise the night;  
A land of beauty, virtue, valor, truth,  
Time-tutored age and love-exalted youth.

"Man through all ages of revolving time,  
Unchanging man, in every varying clime,  
Deems his own land of every land the pride,  
Beloved by Heaven o'er all the world beside,  
His home, the spot of earth supremely blessed,  
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest."

N FIRST AVENUE

THE FAIR

Extraordinary

10

SALES LADIES

At the

Co. A, 22, Iowa Infantry

File in Post 235 Cedar Rapids

ELMER J. C. BEALER

The extent and importance of the work which Elmer J. C. Bealer has handled has placed him with the leading contractors not only of Cedar Rapids but of the state. At the age of twelve years he was earning his living; today he is one of the prosperous citizens of Iowa, controlling and directing important industrial interests which require the employment of many men. Although practically his entire life has been spent on American soil he is of foreign birth, having first opened his eyes to the light of day in Bern, Switzerland, May 20, 1845. Four years later the father, John Ellis Bealer, brought his family to the new world and established his home in Cleveland, Ohio. Failing in his search for work at the stonemason's trade, after a week he prevailed upon upon the foreman of a company to employ him with the understanding that he was to be paid what he was worth. Such was his ability that at the end of the week he was given fifty cents more than was paid any other workman on the job. Steadily working his way upward, he eventually engaged in quarrying and bridge contracting at Newton Falls, Ohio, and in November, 1856, he arrived in Iowa City to take charge of the stone work at that place and the Capital quarry, ten miles up the river. His wife, who was formerly Mary E. Walker, and the children joined him at Iowa City on the 8th of January, 1857. Scarcely two months had passed, however, when on the 14th of March, at the age of thirty-seven years, Mrs. Bealer passed away. Following the sale of his business

to his son Elmer in 1867 the father removed with his family to a farm which he had purchased and improved. This farm the son purchased February 20, 1877, having in the previous year formed a partnership with his father in the stone business at North Liberty. In March, 1878, the partnership was dissolved and the father removed to Gage county, Nebraska, where he and his son purchased land two miles west of Odell. Death, however, soon terminated his labors there, for he was killed August 1, 1878, when fifty-two years of age. After losing his first wife he married Catherine Brigle. He had six children by his first marriage and four were born of the second union.

When Elmer J. C. Bealer lost his mother at the age of twelve years he began earning his own living, driving a team and doing a man's work in the employ of Doty & Madden, his compensation being his board and clothing and the privilege of attending school through the winter season. Some time afterward he worked through the summer at ten dollars per month upon a farm. In the spring of 1862 he entered upon contract work, digging a well, but soon afterward put aside all business and personal considerations, enlisting June 14th, when but seventeen years of age, as a member of Company A, Twenty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry. The regiment went into camp at Clinton in July and there he contracted measles, and a relapse caused him to remain at Iowa City from August until the 14th of September. He was both the first and last man in the regiment to whom medicine was issued, but in the meantime was never on the sick roll.

Mr. Bealer was mustered into the United States service September 9, 1862, and from that time on his military

record is as follows: Left Iowa City for Davenport, September 14, 1862; arrived at St. Louis, September 18, 1862; left St. Louis, September 22, 1862; arrived at Raleigh, September 23, 1862; left Raleigh, December 20, 1862; arrived at West Plains, February 2, 1863; left West Plains, February 9, 1863; arrived at St. Genevieve, March 12, 1863; left St. Genevieve, March 27, 1863; arrived at Millikens Bend, April 3, 1863; left Millikens Bend, April 24, 1863; arrived at Richmond, April 25; left Richmond, April 26, arrived above Grand Gulf, April 29; marched during the night below Grand Gulf; went on board transports the morning of April 30; started down the river and landed at Hard Scrabble on the east side of the river; went into first battle, May 1, 1863; at Port Gibson and arrived at Willow Springs, May 7; battle at Richmond, May 10; battle of Jackson and evacuation, May 14; battle of Champion's Hill, May 16; battle of Black River, May 17; arrived at Vicksburg in the afternoon of May 19; took position in line in the rear of A. J. Smith's division, May 20; charge on Vicksburg, May 22, siege lasted until July 4; started for Jackson, July 5; arrived at Jackson, July 9, Jackson was evacuated by the Confederates, July 16; started back to Vicksburg, July 20; arrived at Vicksburg, July 26; went into camp on heights below Vicksburg and stayed there until the 14th of August; started down the river to New Orleans; went into camp at Carleton above New Orleans, August 15; camped at New Orleans until September 4; started for Brazier City, Louisiana, and went into camp in and about Brazier City until November 3; started up the Tash

country, November 3; marched to Opelussies; stayed two or three days and marched back to Brazier City; took cars for New Orleans; took ocean steamers at New Orleans, November 29; started for Brownsville, Texas; could not land on account of a storm; landed at Mustang Island, December 14; went into camp; then marched up Matagorda island the latter part of December; moved across the bay to DeCrows Point; then took steamers and went up the bay to old Indianola; camped there two or three weeks; then marched up to New Indianola and stayed there until March 19; then took steamers for Matagorda island, where they arrived the same day; went into camp and began building earthworks across the island; stayed in this camp until April 29; took steamers for New Orleans, where they arrived May 2; immediately took transports and went up Red river as far as Ford De Russey to reinforce Banks but found his army in retreat; General Lawle was ordered to take his brigade down the river to Blosavalio, where he was ordered to build a pontoon bridge, which he did out of steamers, placing them side by side, thirty-three in number, and made a crossing on the bow of these boats; stayed in this camp until all of the army had passed; then marched down the Rio to Morganza Bend, where they went into camp; lay there to June 7; then took transports; went down the river to Baton Rouge; arrived there on June 7; stayed in camp one month to July 7; took transports and went down the river to Algiers on the west side; opposite New Orleans; went into camp until July 16; then took transports on ocean steamers; arrived at Fortress Monroe on July 24; went up the James river to Bermuda Hundred and returned; went into Ben Butler's line of works and stayed until July 31; took steamers for Washington; arrived at

Washington, August 1; marched up Pennsylvania avenue and camped near the Baltimore & Ohio railway depot; then marched to Tannleytown, west of Washinton; then took up march for the Shenandoah valley to join General Sheridan's army; went into camp and the next day marched down the Shenandoah valley to Bolivar Heights, which is three miles from Harper's Ferry; formed a line of battle and went into camp; laying there about three weeks waiting for reinforcements; then marched up the valley to Berryville; went into camp; built temporary works; lay there until the night of September 18; took up march toward Winchester; fought the battle of Winchester on the 19th; fought the battle of Fisherhill on the 21st; followed the Confederates up the valley as far as Crawfordville; camped there about one week; then retreated down the valley to Cedar Creek; built earthworks and lay in camp until October 19, where they were attacked by Early the morning of the 19th; lay in camp until November 9, when they moved to Camp Russell, near Winchester; from Camp Russell they moved down the valley to about five miles below Winchester, which was a point where the railway had been in repair and operation; lay in this camp until January 7; then took cars and went to Baltimore; lay in camp there until the 16th; took ocean steamers at Baltimore; arrived at the mouth of the Savannah river, January 20; went up the Savannah river in lighters; arrived at Savannah on the same day; lay in camp about two months; took ocean steamers; went to Morehead City, North Carolina; to pen a base of supplies for Sherman's army; lay in this camp until May 9; took ocean steamers for Savannah; started from Savannah, Georgia, May 13; arrived at Augusta, Georgia, May 20; took up camp in South Carolina across the rive the same day; lay there until June 20, when they started to march

back to Savannah, Georgia, arriving there on June 26; lay in this camp about three weeks waiting for transports home; took ocean steamer for Baltimore, Maryland; arrived in Baltimore, July 17; took cars for Davenport, Iowa, where they arrived July 22; lay in camp until August 3, when they were mustered out of service; arrived at Iowa City, August 4, 1865, where they were once again citizens without a uniform.

When the country no longer needed his aid Mr. Bealer joined his father, who was getting out stone for the public library building at Iowa City and worked at teaming in that connection until the spring of 1867. In the fall of 1866, however, he took his first contract for cut stone and in the following spring began business for himself, furnishing both the building and cut stone from the Capital quarry in Johnson county. He advanced steadily and surely in his business career and in the spring of 1873 secured a twenty-five thousand dollar contract of macadamizing the streets of Iowa City, while the following year the contract was awarded him for building ten bridges in Johnson county at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars. He was actively engaged in bridge building until 1878, the year of his removal to Cedar Rapids, where he has since made his home. In 1880 he graded and macadamized the Oak Hill cemetery. No other bridge builder of Iowa has been awarded so many contracts for work along that line.

When he began contracting in Cedar Rapids in March, 1881, he had a capital of but one hundred dollars. He was fortunate in securing a contract amounting to one hundred and two thousand dollars on the construction of the St. Louis, Hannibal & Keokuk Railroad, outbidding three other competitors, who had failed to complete the work. Undaunted by the failure of his predecessors, he successfully accomplished the task and

thereby won the reputation of being one of the leading contractors of his part of the country. He next graded and macadamized the addition to Oak Hill cemetery and in 1883 laid the foundation for the Masonic library. In the same year he secured the contract to build a bridge across the Shell river near Northwood for the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad and in 1884 he built a bridge across the Cedar river near Cedar Bluffs on the Clinton division of the same road. In 1884 he opened the Cedar Valley quarry, from which he made his first shipment on the 29th of November of that year. He owns one of the finest quarries in the state and has shipped therefrom more than seventy thousand carloads. The quarry stone is more than one hundred and sixteen feet in thickness. The quarry was opened in the right bank of the Cedar River and has been carried downward over an area three hundred feet long and one hundred and twenty-five feet wide until the bottom of the quarry is about sixty feet below the water level of the adjacent river. To operate his quarry Mr. Bealer has secured the latest and best improved machinery and employs the most up-to-date methods in taking out the stone. The state geologist said: "In many respects this is one of the most notable and interesting quarries in the entire state and is more thoroughly and extensively equipped with labor-saving machinery for taking out and handling stone than any other within the limits of Iowa." When invention has improved upon old methods or machinery these are discarded until there is comparatively little expenditure of time and labor in detaching great blocks of stone from the native ledge until car after car is loaded, ready for distant markets, and Mr. Bealer is today conducting one of the largest and most important quarrying and contracting enterprises of the middle

west/ Success has attended his efforts from the beginning of his residence in Cedar Rapids and he has become a factor in the successful management of several enterprises including the Cedar Rapids Canning Company, of which he is now president; the Citizens National Bank, of which he is a stockholder and director; and the Merchants National Bank, of which he was formerly a director.

Mr. Bealer was joined in wedlock October 27, 1867, to Mrs. Mary C. Erb, who was born in Winchester, Virginia, June 20, 1842. She was left a widow in 1864, when her first husband, Benjamin Erb, passed away, leaving a son, L. L. Erb, who is now serving as foreman of the Bealer quarries in Cedar Valley. Mrs. Bealer bore the maiden name of Mary C. Stephens and at the age of fifteen came to the west, her parents having died prior to that time. She is gifted in her intellectual attainments and her attractive social qualities render her popular. Mr. and Mrs. Bealer are now parents of three children: Orpha D., who was born February 22, 1870, and is now the wife of John M. Grimm, a lawyer of Cedar Rapids; Millard Y., born September 10, 1874, who is superintendent of his father's quarries; and Jessie G., born June 9, 1877.

Since age brought him the right of franchise Mr. Bealer has voted with the republican party and is known as a leader in its local ranks. He served as a member of the general assembly during the twenty-ninth, thirtieth and thirty-first sessions and was the author of the bill known as house file, No. 155, which passed both the house and senate without a dissenting vote--a record unequalled in the history of Iowa legislation. This bill provided for the erection of monuments and tablets in the Vicksburg National

Military park to mark the positions occupied by Iowa brigades, regiments and batteries to commemorate the valor and services of Iowa soldiers in the campaign and siege of Vicksburg. In an interesting speech Mr. Bealer presented the matter to the house, saying that seventy per cent of the "boys in blue" from Iowa were in the siege of Vicksburg and making a report of the number of men killed and wounded in the various military movements there. In this connection he said: "This was the cost of life for the preservation of the Union. Sixteen thousand six hundred of these are buried at Vicksburg National cemetery, which will be within the park that our appropriation is intended to adorn. The park will be the greatest the world has ever seen for the reason that it is proposed to reproduce the Confederate and Federal works as they were during the siege and mount the guns identically as they were during the war. Ought not this great state of Iowa, with its broad, fertile fields, its manufacturing establishments, its enormous wealth, its culture and refinement, pay a fit tribute of respect and love to the memory of her fallen heroes on that southern field of carnage? Ought she not to give liberally, that enduring monuments may mark the deeds of valor and heroism; monuments which in all time to come will foster in the hearts and minds of rising generations a proper measure of patriotism and fidelity to the sacred principle of the republic; monuments which will speak more eloquently than mortal tongue of the patriotism, appreciation and gratitude of Iowa citizenship? Iowa was the first to land on Mississippi soil in the Vicksburg campaign; she was first in the throes of battle, and hers were the only troops that succeeded in breaking the Confederate line entering the works. Iowa has always held a proud position in

national affairs and has occupied a unique position in point of education and morals. Ought she not to add new laurels to her past and present greatness by showing to the world, in this unique and substantial manner, her gratitude to those brave boys who left behind them all that was near and dear on earth, to suffer for the country and the country's cause; the pangs and agonies of cruel war, and who, amidst the boom of cannon and the roar of musketry, laid their lives upon their country's altar?"

As one would imagine, Mr. Belaer is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and has served as commander of T. Z. Cook Post, No. 235, of Cedar Rapids. He also belongs to Crescent Lodge, No. 25, F. & A. M. He has been actively interested in various affairs of a public and semi-public character. He served as trustee and was chairman of the building committee of the Old Ladies' Home and in March, 1898, was elected a school director for three years and became chairman of the finance and building committees. For six years he remained on the school board, during which period he built and remodeled more than half of the school-houses in Cedar Rapids. He was the only Protestant member of the building committee of Mercy Hospital (and is still serving as one of its directors.) He is a stalwart champion of any cause which he espouses and he can argue intelligently or speak entertainingly upon many questions vital to the city and state. He stands at all times as the champion of progress and advancement and his patriotic citizenship has been manifest in legislative halls as well as on the battlefields of the south. He gives generously and unostentatiously where aid is needed and the entire course of his life has been marked by honorable principles, fruitful of good results not only for himself but for his fellowmen.

Corporal E. J. C. Bealer  
for  
Department Commander

Headquarters T. Z. Cook Post, G. A. R., Dept. of Iowa  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Comrades, Department of Iowa, G. A. R.:

With long personal acquaintance and a full knowledge of his ability and fitness for the great and honorable office of Department Commander, we present you the name of

**CORPORAL E. J. C. BEALER**

of T. Z. Cook Post 235, Cedar Rapids. Comrade Bealer is an Iowa soldier. In 1862, as a boy of seventeen years, he enlisted at Iowa City in Company A, 22d Infantry, served with his company and regiment in all its campaigns and battles, taking part in the desperate and bloody charge on Ft. Beauregard, Vicksburg, May 22, 1863; in the Red River campaign; with his regiment in the Shenandoah Valley in the spectacular Battle of Cedar Creek, where the gallant Phil Sheridan turned defeat into a glorious victory, returning home before he was twenty-one years old; having served full three years.

In 1901 he was elected to the Iowa legislature and was recognized as one of the most active business members of the house. One of his first and most important acts was the introduction of a bill asking and securing an appropriation of \$150,000 for the erection of monuments and markers in the Vicksburg National Park, to commemorate the thirty-two Iowa organizations which took part in the siege and capture. To his persistent hard work as a member of the Vicksburg Park Commission are the Iowa veterans indebted for the splendid monuments and tablets that mark the places where they fought and where many of them gave their lives in 1863, and especially are they indebted to him for the magnificent Iowa monument, recognized by all as the most beautiful and artistic monument in the

park. At the same session he presented the original bill providing for the publication of the Iowa Soldiers' Poster, which failed of passage in the senate, but was brought up in 1907 and passed, receiving his hearty support. At the same session he presented and secured the passage of the soldiers' preference law, giving veterans the preference in official appointments.

In 1916 he was appointed by the governor as a member of the executive committee of the Vicksburg National Jubilee Association for which the congress was asked and had made an appropriation of \$150,000 for the entertainment of the veterans who took part in that great campaign. In 1917, in company with other comrades, he went before the legislature and secured an appropriation of \$40,000 to pay the transportation of the veterans to the reunion and return and largely to his influence and work are the Iowa veterans indebted for the splendid and delightful trip to the old battle ground in October, 1917.

As an employer of labor — and he has been a large employer — it has been a part of his religion: "all things being equal," veterans first. He has always been an active Grand Army man and no worthy veteran ever appealed to him for aid that did not receive it, and at once.

Therefore, comrades, it is with perfect assurance that Corporal Bealer, who served as our Post Commander three terms, will prove a worthy successor to the many able comrades who have filled that office, that we present him as a candidate for Department Commander of the Grand Army of Iowa for 1918.

Adopted by a unanimous rising vote.

D. W. KING, Commander  
J. C. STODDARD, Adj.

Department of Iowa  
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name Bealer, Elmer J C

War

Residence 2111 Fifth Ave , Cedar Rapids, Ia Battles, etc.

Occupation Bridge builder Nearest relatives

Date birth May 20, 1845 Place Bern, Switzerland

Father John Ellis Nativity

Date death 11 S 1928 Place Cedar Rapids, Ia  
Cause Oak Hill Cemetery Place burial "

Mother Mary E. Walker Nativity

War record

Corp. A 22 Iowa Inf.  
Rank Company Regiment State Organisation

Wife Mrs. Mary C. Erb, nee Stephens  
m. Oct 26, 1867 d. 1922

Age 17 Res. Iowa City

Children  
Orpha L (John M) Grimm  
Willard Y Lipton, Iowa  
Jesse Gale

Enlisted 14 Je 1862  
Date Place

From. 8th Corp 1 My. 1864 ...

From. 5th Corp 25 Ja 1865

Must. Cut 25 J1 1865, Savannah, Ga.

Sources The Iowa Department of the Grand  
Army of the Republic. / Roster Ia. Soldiers  
Cedar Rapids Gaz Sept 12, 1923

Discharged

Date

Place

Department of Iowa  
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name Bealer, Elmer J

C Record Membership and Dues Paid

Offices of honor in G. A. R.

Department Commander Post  
#235 in 1918.

Jr Vice Commander

Post name T.Z. Cook Post No 235(281) Place Cedar Rapids Date Joined 7 Ap '88

Member-at-Large

Year Date Paid Amount

Obituary in Cedar Rapids  
Eve. Gazette S.12, 1928

Suspended

Died

Year Date Paid Amount Year Date Paid Amount

A Monument has been erected in Vicksburg National Park in honor of the Iowa Soldiers. Mr. Bealer introduced into the Iowa legislature the bill to appropriate \$150,000 for for the erection of this great memorial.

Came to America at an early age. In 1862 he enlisted in army. Was at the siege of Vicksburg, in the campaigns along the Red River and in the Shenandoah Valley, and in the spectacular battle of Cedar Creek. Was in the service 3 yrs. In 1901 was elected to the Iowa legislature and served for three sessions & helped pass legislation in the interest of the veterans including bill for monument. In 1916 was a member of the executive committee of the Vicksburg National Jubilee Association and rendered valuable service.