

the journal of the Senate and that the secretary be directed to send an engrossed copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

ED M. SMITH,  
LLOYD THURSTON,  
C. J. FULTON.

Senator Goodwin spoke as follows:

Just a word in regard to Senator Hager. I did not know Mr. Hager when he was in the Senate, nor at the time he was in Congress. I first came in contact with him during the presidential campaign in 1912. Those were stirring times, if you will remember. The great Republican party was divided and while we differed with Mr. Hager we always respected his opinion, as he was very earnest in what he thought.

Mr. Hager at that time was not a young man, in fact he was over sixty years of age.

When the war came on Mr. Hager took a large part in the City of Des Moines, in heading all the public welfare and bond drives. Not only at that time was he in great demand here, but after the war he was chairman of the drive for public welfare.

A year or so before he died he headed one of the large drives which raised a quarter of a million dollars. This would not be a hard matter for a young man, but they were arduous times for a man of that age, and I feel that I should acknowledge it and express the gratitude which the people of Des Moines and the State of Iowa feel for him.

Senator Smith spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND SENATORS—The resolutions just read concerning the life of Alva C. Hager indicate that he was born in the state of New York and came to Iowa when a boy. After completing his course at the State University of Iowa he moved to Greenfield, Adair county, and was there engaged in the practice of law.

It is rather peculiar, I think, that the counties of Adair and Madison, while bound together in the senatorial district, never have been united by railroad, and I am compelled to say that I never, to my recollection, met Mr. Hager.

He was active in public life while he was yet a boy, and his services in the Iowa Senate and also in the halls of the national Congress were meritorious.

I think it is proper at this time that you who were permitted to be associated with him in this body should have the opportunity of commenting on the life and service of Alva C. Hager.

I move, Mr. President, that these resolutions be adopted, that they be engrossed and a copy thereof sent to the widow of Mr. Hager.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously.

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JAMES ELERICK

MR. PRESIDENT—Your committee named to prepare a fitting memorial to commemorate the service of Captain James Elerick to this state and this nation reports as follows:

Captain James Elerick was born April 6, 1836, in Belmont county, Ohio, and died August 7, 1922, at Monrovia, California.

The parents of James Elerick were pioneers of Iowa. They came to the state in 1849, settling in Van Buren county at a place near where Douds, a little village on the Des Moines river, now stands. Here the boy of thirteen developed the strength of character and those qualities which afterward assured him of leadership among those with whom his lot was cast. Here he received the narrow training afforded by a country district school. Here was his home until a few years ago, when, having no cares and no family ties to prevent the change, he took up his abode with his daughter and only living child, Mrs. George Seimon, residing at Hinkley, California.

The life of Captain Elerick embraced that period of dissension which threatened the dissolution of the Union. In those days of trial, discouragement and disaster, he bore a courageous part. Like the great majority of the young men of the time who had breathed the free air of Iowa, he responded with fervor to Lincoln's call for troops. On July 17, 1861, at Knoxville, Illinois, when he was in the employment of a milling company, he enlisted in Company A, 59th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. In December, 1862, he was promoted to its captaincy. He served for a time on the staff of Major General T. Wood. For more than four years he was in active service. To follow him through all the vicissitudes of the war would be to tell a story of wondrous interest. He took part in twenty-seven battles. A mere list of the important engagements alone is impressive. He was at Pea Ridge, Corinth, Storm River, Perryville, Liberty Gap, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, where he was twice wounded, Mission Ridge, Rocky Ford, Resaca, Burnt Hickory, Kenesaw Mountain, Rough Station, Jonesborough, Atlanta, Franklin and Nashville. In that mighty struggle he shared the honor of that lowly host, the common soldiers, by whose heroic efforts the final victories were won and the Union preserved. On Christmas Day, December 25, 1865, at San Antonio, Texas, he received an honorable discharge from the army, a gift that meant his sword was no longer needed. Willingly he returned to the paths of peace and cheerfully took up anew the duties of a private citizen.

In 1880, Captain Elerick was chosen to represent Van Buren county as a member of the House in the Nineteenth General Assembly. In 1889, he was elected sheriff, an office he continued to hold for four years. In 1903 and again in 1905, he was sent to the Senate from the district composed of the counties of Jefferson and Van Buren, serving in the Thirtieth and Thirty-first General Assemblies and in the regular and the extra sessions of the Thirty-second General Assembly. He was a careful and painstaking legislator, appreciated for his conservatism, good judgment and wise counsel. He was watchful of the interests of his constituents, but guarded always the interests of that larger constituency he recognized as his in the people of the state.

In private as in public, Captain Elerick stood foursquare to the world. Modesty cloaked his virtues, which were not absent but only concealed. His heart was warm and ready in need and in secret to do kind acts. His honesty was unquestioned. His word required no discount. In

all the relations of life he so carried himself as to command universal respect. As a soldier, as a husband and father, as a friend, as a neighbor, as a private citizen, and as a public official, he was true to the trusts which rested upon him.

Captain Elerick rests beside his wife in Zion Lutheran cemetery near Douds, Iowa.

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved*, That the Senate of the Fortieth General Assembly recognizes that in the death of Captain James Elerick there has been lost one who in the flush of his young manhood dedicated his strength, even life itself, to the preservation of the Union, and afterward in public office was a faithful servant of the state.

*Be It Also Resolved*, That this memorial be spread upon the journal and that an engrossed copy be transmitted by the secretary to the daughter of the deceased.

C. J. FULTON,  
FRANK SHANE,  
JNO. R. PRICE.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously.

Senator Fulton spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—I believe Senator Newberry is the only member of this body who had an intimate acquaintance with Captain James Elerick. I knew him but slightly as he was not a resident of my county.

Captain Elerick was a native of Ohio, but came to this state in his youth. He was one of our pioneers.

In his early manhood, as many of the boys in southeastern Iowa did, he went over into Illinois to improve his prospects. While there Lincoln called for troops and he enlisted in the Army of the Union. In little more than a year he was promoted to the Captaincy of his company. He was in many battles, from that of Pea Ridge to the siege of Atlanta and the capture of Franklin and Nashville. After more than four years of service he was mustered out. I need not say that with this record he was a faithful soldier.

Captain Elerick was a republican in politics. He could not well have been anything else reared as he was in the anti-slavery and free soil sentiment in southeastern Iowa, and after that long service in the army.

On his discharge from the army he returned to the neighborhood in which the greater part of his life was spent. There he was a good neighbor, diligent in his business and faithful to his friends. While there he was selected to serve his county as sheriff. He performed his duty in that office as efficiently as he performed his duties in the army.

Later Captain Elerick was chosen to represent the second district composed of Jefferson and Van Buren counties in this senate. He was not at all brilliant, but he was a safe and sound counsellor. He could be depended upon to act always in the direction he thought was for the best interests of his district and of the state. If he had any prejudices, he was able to overcome them. He was honest in his convictions.

I wish I were able to pay him a more worthy tribute. I hope that I may emulate his virtues and prove as true to the trusts reposed in me as he was true to the trusts reposed in him.