

were valuable. When the first Republican state convention was held in Iowa on February 22, 1856, he represented his part of the state. To the very last he always took a patriotic interest in public affairs.

Therefore, It is Resolved by the Senate, That the character and service of George W. Henderson must always be respected; that his life is an example of private virtue and public service to be universally emulated; that his early labor as pioneer merits our gratitude; that we recognize in him an honored soldier who sleeps now in a hallowed grave within the bosom of the state which he helped to make so great; that his duty as citizen and statesman was always well done; that his long life as neighbor, benefactor, and friend gives just pride to our people; that love attends his memory and future generations shall call him blessed.

F. C. GILCHRIST,
E. W. CLARK,
O. E. GUNDERSON,

Committee.

Senator Gilchrist spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT: I desire the Senate to consider for a moment the life, service and character of George W. Henderson, who was a member of this Senate so many years ago that few of you knew him. He served here and sat in the seat which I now occupy, representing the Fiftieth Senatorial district, when that district was first formed in the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth extra General Assemblies, being the Assembly which codified the Code in 1897.

Senators, few of you remember him personally, so I will take a moment to call to your memory who he was. George W. Henderson was born of a family of sturdy pioneers. They came from North Carolina and Kentucky, and went with the great trek which brought Abraham Lincoln to Indiana and later to Illinois. He was born during the administration of Andrew Jackson, when we were in strife about the policy of the banks, and of nullification, and of all those subjects which occupied political attention in that day. He was born in 1833. He lived clear through until nearly the close of the Coolidge administration, just a few days before the election in 1927.

He was a most remarkable man. He was one of the first of the pioneers who came over into Iowa, as a boy across the Mississippi River. If you could have heard him talk and tell of his first sight of the river, of the life and hardships of the pioneers, it would have interested and instructed you amazingly.

He told the story about when he, as a boy of about fourteen years of age, was present at Iowa City during the legislature which proposed the admission of Iowa to the Union. He had been out that spring to the western and northwestern side of what was then the territory of Iowa. A question arose as to what the territory up there was used for; it might be a great American desert, and it was the intelligence which he brought back to Iowa City, to the politicians and statesmen, previous to the adoption of our constitution, and previous to the admission of Iowa into the Union, which led to the adoption of Statehood offered in '45 under the present geographical lines.

As a workman, he helped to bring into the State of Iowa across the ice of the Mississippi River, the first locomotive engine that ever rolled over the prairies of this great State. He served as a soldier during the war of the Rebellion, three years and nine months; was engaged as a scout and soldier, being allied with the troops on the Indian frontier. He later moved to Mason City, which was then known as Masonic Grove, and ran a grist mill and the old settlers tell of his many exploits. He was a member of the Board of Supervisors of Cerro Gordo county. He took land near Spirit Lake and traded or disposed of his interest to one of the sturdy pioneers who afterwards suffered in the massacre at that place. He was a member of the first Republican State Convention that was ever held in Iowa, representing at that time a large share of the territory in northwestern Iowa, and he held many local offices. He died peacefully in 1927, upon the farm which his industry had brought to his family.

I sincerely wish you might have known this man; that you might have had the privilege of hearing him talk and of looking into his eyes and noting the wonderful character which actuated his motives; which drove him through these ninety-four years of his human life and experience.

“So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, that moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.”

The resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

On motion of Senator Wilson of Polk, the memorial session adjourned.