Dwight Star and Herald.

DEVOTED TO LOCAL AND COUNTY INTERESTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

VOL. XXVII. DWIGHT, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILL., SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1892. NO. 17

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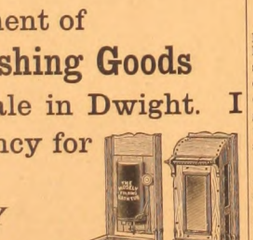

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THE GA-LORIOUS FOURTH.

It Was Celebrated in Dwight the Good Old Way.

A Large Crowd and a Large Time.

It's a good thing to be independent, especially on the Fourth of July. If the spirits of those profound old statesmen, John Hancock, Patrick Henry and the other signers of the Declaration of Independence, are in a position to look down on this land on the great national holiday, they would certainly do so with pride. The grand old flag is raised on this day in every hamlet in the country to do honor to their acts and the enthusiam shown in many ways is a guarantee of the good faith in which their acts are held. It is a great day—is the Fourth, and well it may be.

It was a great day in Dwight. We and our country cousins are in it when it comes to patriotism.

Early Monday morning young America disturbed the sleep of the just, and the old Americas might just as well get up, as there was no more sleep until the fire crackers and powder were burned up, and that would not be as long as the small boy's Fourth of July allowance held out. The merchants generally decorated their places of business and many of the private residences were in holiday attire. Early in the morning farmer's conveyances came from every direction, bringing the whole family from the little tot up. The young fellows came with their best girl prepared to enjoy themselves, even if the crops were not very good. Everything goes on the Fourth. Everybody celebrates if they don't lay up a cent. Firecrackers, popcorn, candy, gingerbread, pop, lemonade, etc., have to be provided and the platform dance patronized, no matter if the corn is in the hole. "Let her go Gallagher," says the kids, and they proceed to loosen up to the Fourth of July taste.

About ten o'clock the procession formed near the town house. The merchants display on wheels was very neatly laid away on the shelves, Miller Bros. being the only firm to turn out. Marshal McWilliams organized his forces about as follows:

Marshal of the day.
Pontiac cornet band.
President of the day and orator.
Prominent citizens in carriages.
Dwight fire department.
Miller Bros. wagon.
Carriage with colored quartette.
The golden chariot.
Ragmuffins.

The procession marched through the principal streets to the east side school house grounds where the speakers stand had been erected. Here the procession broke up and most of the crowd repaired to the beautiful shady grounds to listen to the oration, which was the best ever delivered in Dwight and which we publish in full:

President of the day introduced Mr. John I. Blair, the orator, with these appropriate remarks:

It seems hardly necessary for me to remind you of the fact that this is the 116th anniversary of our independence. We have with us to-day a gentleman who will tell you, no doubt, much of the glorious achievements of our republic during that period. Allow me to just say a word as an introduction. The fiscal year just closed is the most remarkable in the whole history of the country for the value of industrial productions, the volume of domestic exchanges and the extent of foreign commerce. The imports have been $33,000,000 or nearly twenty per cent greater than for the previous year. The exports have been over one billion, or over ten per cent greater than the year before, and the balance of trade in our favor is the enormous sum of $67,000,000. Railroad traffic, which is a test of commercial prosperity, have been greater than ever before. Prices of manufactures are better; iron, cotton and wool mills are being constructed everywhere, at the east, south and west. The promise of the crops are good in spite of the rains and floods.

I now introduce to you the Honorable John I. Blair:

Mr. Blair spoke as follows:

Fortunate is the nation that possesses a glorious past, and happy the people who mark its golden epoch by a day of jubilation!

Among all the nations of the earth the United States lead the vanguard of advanced civilization. To-day we enjoy the fullest measure of freedom, under the safeguards of the law, ever accorded to the human race.

Ancient republics were free only in name. The vast bulk of their populations were under a tyranny equalled nowadays only in the Russian Empire.

The modern republics are for the most part dominated by the military or the monied classes to a degree little realized by our citizens.

Even our cousins of Great Britian are hedged about by laws, traditions and customs which trench largely upon individual liberty.

Such being our exceptional condition, it is meet that a day in each year be set apart by our people in which to manifest our gratitude for the past and our confidence in the future.

It is fitting also that on this anniversary of our natal day as a free sovereign people, the history of our past should be reviewed and the illustrious example of our forefathers set before our youth for emulation and instruction.

This is the task assigned me to-day.

Little did the noble Genoese navigator, who, four centuries ago almost to the day, set sail in his crazy vessels from the little Andeulsian seaport of Palos, foresee the incredible results of his daring enterprise.

In an era replete with deeds of individual heroism, of high emprise against the Moor and Saracen, the adventure of Columbus stands preeminent. Others fought with terrible, but tangible foes; he faced the dread unknown.

All honor to his memory; he wrote the prologue to a new era in the world's history.

Little did our mother country, a century later, anticipate the stupendous consequences of that religious intolerence that made men brave the storms of the western ocean in frail ships and desert the fertile shores of their native land for the barren coast of New England.

Rocked in the "cradle of the rude, imperious surge," this stubborn crew persisted among hardships that to less rugged natures had proven fatal. Famine and fever and hostile savages thinned their ranks, but their spirits never flagged, their determination never faltered.

Behold the wondrous power of a sentiment! The Pilgrim fathers gave up comfort for hardship, security for danger, peace for strife. And why? Simply to maintain the principle that every man has a right to worship God as he pleases. Liberty of conscience was their battle cry. On that rockbound coast they builded broad and deep the foundations of a Temple of Refuge for the oppressed of all nations, and high above its ample gates they wrote its name in golden letters and called it "Freedom!"

They subdued the wilderness as they conquered the fierce Indian, and their children drank in the spirit of liberty even at their mothers' breasts.

Worthy sons of heroic sires, their descendants prized the guerdon that their fathers won; and when oppression followed them even across the Atlantic they dared defend their inheritance with the sword.

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Thus did these undaunted men, one hundred and sixteen years ago to-day, answer the demands of Great Britain. On that day they "sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat." Through seven long years, from Concord and Lexington to Yorktown, amidst untold privation and defeat, their courage rose sublime. Imagine, if you can, the dauntless daring of the Continental soldier; his patient endurance; his stubborn resistance; his indomitable spirit!

It is related that at Valley Forge a British officer accompanying a flag of truce, was asked by a young American to share his scanty meal. The dinner consisted solely of potatoes roasted in the ashes, and was served on a rickety pine table in a hut with only a dirt floor. The bitter wind whistled sharply through the cracks between the logs. All the surroundings were mean and cheerless. The American apologized for his scanty hospitality, and stated as a reason therefor that he had received no pay for more than two years. The Englishman expressed his surprise that the other would continue to serve so poora paymaster. To this his host replied that he did not serve for pay; he fought to please the mistress of his heart. "I see her frequently," he continued, "and she commends my course and incites me to further action. Last night she stood at my side as I lay in this hut wrapped in my blanket. She was clad in radiant white, a halo round her head, and her eyes suffused with a divine sympathy. She placed a wreath of laurel upon my brow; with her beauteous lips she pressed my forehead, and while pered in my listening ear: 'Well done, my lover!' Would you not serve such a mistress?"

"Truly," replied the officer, "but may I ask who is the courageous maiden who dares to wander alone at midnight through this camp of armed men? Would you mind telling me her name?"

The American, rising to his full height, to make his answer more impressive, his face beaming with enthusiasm, responded: "What is her name? I'll tell you what her name is. Her name is Liberty."

This was the animating spirit of the soldiers of the Revolution. Armies of such men may be annihilated—they cannot be conquered.

Victory crowned their efforts; and to their eternal glory be it said, they embodied the principles for which they fought in a written constitution, by which the blessings of freedom are secured to all of our citizens alike, from the highest to the lowest.

The first written compact of government known to history was penned on the Mayflower and signed by its crew, ere Plymouth Rock was sighted. This early did the colonists recognize the true principle that all governments rest solely upon the consent of the governed. This principle was carried out by our constitution, aptly characterized by Mr. Gladstone as the "grandest instrument ever struck off at one time by the brain and purpose of man." It was the crowning glory of the Revolution. It stands today the supreme law of our land. It is our charter of liberties—our great charter—our precious heritage, written in the blood of our Revolutionary sires.

Let us glance at it briefly and see wherefore we may justly call it precious.

For the first time in the world's history a nation is born which is to be governered for the people and by the people. The executive, the legislative and the judicial departments are separated and made independent and co-equal.

Hereditary titles and offices are abolished.

The writ of habeas corpus is preserved.

The military is made subservient to the civil power.

Life, liberty and property can be taken only by due process of law.

All persons accused of crime are guaranteed a speedy and public trial, by impartial juries. They have a right to be confronted by the witnesses against them, to have compulsorp process for their own witnesses, and to have the assistance of counsel for their defense.

These are some of the inestimable rights secured by our constitution to citizens of these United States.

In our day and generation, so accustomed have we become to view these rights as a matter of course, that we fail to estimate them at their true value.

How fare the citizens of other lands?

Passing by Russia—that despotism tempered only by assassination—where a man may be banished to the horrors of Siberian exile without trial and without even knowing his offense or the name of his accuser, we find even in the boasted republic of France the jury trial only recently established. We find that the accused may be confined solitary for days, subjected to rigid examination and his every word and action used against him. In England it is only within the last fifty years that the accused has been allowed counsel for his defense, only within the last decade that an appeal has been permitted in criminal cases, and even to-day, before a prejudiced judge, a trial by jury is a farce.

In Germany, in Italy and in France, compulsory military service demands the best years of every male citizen's life.

In England and nearly all of Continental Europe it is no unusual thing to find the imbecile and the vicious, by accident of birth, occupying high places in the state; while legions of standing armies and mammoth navies absorb the sustenance of the bread-winners.

Compare our own condition with that of the most favored nations, and we may well bless the minds that conceived our great charter, and the wise hands that made it effective.

What lesson does this story teach us?

It is that it is the duty of every citizen of the United States to study the history of the infancy of our nation, to learn well the principles of our free government and sacredly to preserve our rights for our posterity.

We are among the richest and most powerful of nations. Our fair domain stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and embraces between its northern and southern boundaries soil of surpassing fertility and inexhaustible mineral wealth. All this we received from our forefathers. But more precious far than material wealth is our heritage of liberty.

Eternal vigilance is its price.

It is worth any sacrifice, any toil.

As long as its spirit shall animate our hearts and direct our purpose, so long shall we preserve our proud position among nations.

The sun that rises on its decadence will illumine with its setting rays our downfall and disgrace.

The national character is but the aggregation of the traits of individuals, and in proportion as the units are each self reliant and independent, so is the mass free.

Every man who obtains the mastery over himself contributes his mite to the common good. Whoever is a slave to his appetites is unworthy to be a citizen of a free state. Those of us who have come to this town for a high purpose will leave it better men and more worthy citizens.

It is necessary, moreover, for us all to understand what is meant by liberty. Liberty is not license. The rainbow chaser has no place in our politics. The golden rule of sociology is so to use one's own as not to injure another's. Every man has a right to all the fruits of his own toil without let or hindrance, so long as he does not interfere with the exercise of the same right by others.

True freedom recognizes the exception as fully as the rule. While every man should insist always upon all his rights, so also should he rigidly observe all the rights of his fellow man.

This is the path our ancestors blazed. If we keep upon that plain road, our movement shall ever be a forward one. But "Emulation hath a thousand sons, that one by one pursue. If you give way or bedge aside from the direct forthright, like an entered tide they all rush by and leave you hindmost."

Nothing in the universe stands still. If we are not becoming better we are getting worse. Contemplation of past achievements is useless; we must actively strive to emulate them.

Let us then with every recurrence of this day pledge ourselves to follow in the footsteps of those daring souls who first made the Fourth of July a date memorable in the chronology of history.

After the speech the crowd went here and there,some picnieced on the grounds, others patronized the hotels, restaurants, stands and the Eastern Star dining hall was an attraction. Others witnessed the games.

A base ball game was played in the afternoon between the Dwight and Campus clubs, resulting in a victory for Dwight by a score of 7 to 4.

As far as we could learn the games resulted as follows:

100 yard foot race—Will Thompson first, gold medal: Tom Perry, second,$5.

200 yard foot race—Clarence Rabe, first, $4; Lou Richards, second, $2.

Boys race—Walter Perry, first, gold medal; Charles Lower, second $2.

Hop, step and jump—Clarence Rabe, first, $3; Will Thompson, second, $2.

Horse race—Huburt (Nevada), first, $8; Butterfield (Gardner), second, $5. There were five entries.

The first prize in the ragmuffins was awarded to the "coon" quartette, and the second to the golden chariot.

The fireworks were displayed in McWilliams pasture north of town, and were very good and witnessed by a large crowd.

CRACKERS.

The "coons" made fun for the boys and raked in the $10.

The boys in the chariot made a fine display, and a great many thought they should have had first money. They got $5.

The Pontiac band did themselves proud.

The platform dance was well patronized.

There was no wheels on the grounds this year, except individually.

The Eastern Star played a star engagement and cleared about $50.

The firemen's dance at Miller Bros. store was a grand success. It was so crowded that the boys run the platform dance in the evening, and raked in sheckels by the score. We understand they cleared about $250, enough to uniform themselves in good shape. Good for the boys.

The dance music was pronounced fine.

The vocal music at the grounds was very fine.

John I. Blair is an orator from Ora-torville.

The firemen made a run and connection after the parade and squirted water over the crowd a little.

The fire department wish to return thanks to those who helped to make their ball a success by purchasing tickets. Especially do they feel indebted to the ladies of the Eastern Star, Miller Bros. and Mr. Seigert.

Two boys, McCarty and Thompson, were around where the fireworks were put off Tuesday, and it proved a case of "didn't know 'twas loaded." They lit some of the pieces that they thought had been shot off, and were quite badly burned by an unexpected explosion.

Miller Bros. gave away 500 fans from their wagon.

The Manchester of the West.

The above title has been awarded to Rockford, Ill. A recent visit to that busy city fully convinced us that she is entitled to the honor. Ten years ago Rockford was a city of 20,000 inhabitants; to-day nearly 35,000 people are in its borders. Millions of dollars are invested in almost every conceivable manufactory, and the untiring enterprise and energy displayed is a surety of success. In addition to her manufacturing interests, she has been struck with the sky-scraper boom, and several beautiful and imposing structures have been built and others are in process of erection. Another feature of the beauty of Rockford is its private residences. There is no city in the west that can compare with it. A fine system of electric railways reach every part of the city and the suburbs. The streets are most of them paved and are kept clean, and afford handsome drives. The public parks are beautiful. The magnificent Rock river is spanned with three iron bridges for public use, and three railroad bridges. Recently $100,000 has been appropriated for a government building, which will soon be erected, and occupied by the post-office, etc. Col. Tom Lawler, whom most every G. A. R. man in the country has met, and who is one of the most popular men in the state, is the post-master.

A great source of amusement is the racing association park, in which in held yearly twe or three meetings. The best stock in the country is represented. T. D. Reber, one of Rockford's popular and enterprising young men, is president of the association.

The base ball park is another source of amusement. Rockford has one of the best clubs in the 2-I league, and their games are well patronized. Jas. McKee is the president and seldom talks through his hat.

While there we called at the Keeley institute which is located on north Main street in a handsomely furnished building formerly occupied for commercial purposes. We found there Dr. Mayhew, the physician in charge. He is an excellent physician and well versed in all that pertains to the great Keeley treatment, and withall a pleasant and entertaining gentleman. Mr. Livingston, formerly of Dwight, is now manager of the institute, and is well pleased with the location, and greatly interested in his business. We think Mr. Livingston is a success. The Rockford branch has graduated over 200 patients and is well patronized and very successful. There are lots of club buttons to be seen on the streets.

The New Assessment.

Through the courtesy of Assessor Kelagher we are enabled to give the following figures and facts to our readers regarding the assessed valuation of property in Dwight township and village:

Village 1892	$ 226,300
Outside	220,920
Village, 1891	114,970
Increase in Village	111,330
Increased outside about	3,000
No. of dogs assessed in Vil. 82	82
Per. property in Village 1892	$3,957
" " " " 1891	51,134
Increase	$ 32,823
Personal property ontside 1892	36,920
" " " 1891	35,123
Increase	$ 1,797

It will be seen that the increase in village property is nearly double that of one year ago, and this amount is nearly covered by the new improvements. The valuation of the old property has increased very little—not near as much in proportion as the actual value of property has increased, if what people ask for it is anything to go by.

Of the $226,300 assessed valuation the Leslie E. Keeley Co. and its members are assessed $72,100, or almost one third of the entire amount. This is just what the STAR AND HERALD has mantained when advocating public improvements, that the company would pay at least one-third of the taxes the coming year, and therefore the extra tax would be no burden on the majority of the people.

The Leslie E. Keeley Co. is now paying one-third of the taxes and in another year will undoubtedly pay nearly, if not quite, half, as the opera house will be finished, and other important improvements will be made by them right along.

It will also be noticed that there is 82 dogs assessed. As one man remarked "there are more than 82 on the street every night howling around." It would be a good idea for the marshals to get a list of the taxed dogs, and make it hot for the untaxed. Anyone that has a dog that they care for should be willing to pay $1 a year for his protection.

The personal property in the village has increased $32,823, and that outside $1,797.

The assessing this year has been no snap, on account of the number of transfers—183 in all—and the opening of Renfrew addition.

Mr. Kelagher has his books finished and ready to send to the county clerk.

Col. Morgan.

We are in receipt of the San Francisco Daily Call, in which an article appears in relation to the Board of Railroad Commissioners of California, employing Col. R. P. Morgan to investigate in reference to what would be just and equitable rates of freights and fares in that state, taking into consideration, of course, operating expenses, etc. We are always pleased to hear of the prominence and success of our people, and Col. Morgan is no exception. It is but natural that the board should employ him, as he is probably the most competent man in expert railroad matters in this country. If the colonel secures the commission it will necessitate his remaining in California for several months, at least. His many friends here wish him success.

Gone and Done It.

The following appeared in a recent issue of the Chicago Tribune. The groom is well known in Dwight, having spent several weeks here about a year ago, and has made several visits here since his departure. We join Mr. Osmun's many friends here in wishing the newly wedded couple a happy and prosperous voyage through life:

OSMUN-STUART—June 29, Mr. D. C. Osmun, Jr., and Miss Emma B. Stuart, at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Walter S. Jones, in the Cambridge Flats, by the Rev. S. J. McPherson.