

first railroad from Heilbrun to Stuttgart, passing through Lauffen, completely upsetting the order of things and throwing many workmen out of employment. Many of these hard working people, some in the prime of life, sold their little properties and moved to the United States of America, where they did their best as humble citizens and thrifty farmers and workmen to assist in the building up of this, the greatest nation in the world. It was during this period that father had the greatest struggles of his life to pass through, and had mother died, I am sure he would have sold out also and emigrated to America and perhaps one of his boys would have become one of the millionaires that are so plentiful in the North. As it was, he walked through and became one of the foremost citizens and councilors in Lauffen, bought real estate, accumulated considerable money and used his talents to the general good.

In the year 1863, having already completed my apprenticeship and become a master journeyman workman, entitled to travel and receive master's wages, I left home and traveled on foot a distance of twenty miles until I reached Mannheim, on the River Main, which empties into the Rhine and from there took a steamboat for Mainz, where my sister, Wilhelmina, lived with my mother's sister, whose husband was well-to-do and influential, and through whose good wishes I gained entrance into the society of many good families, societies and clubs, which added a great deal to my education and future welfare. These fifteen months were as happy days as any young man ever experienced, besides when I left I had not only a big trunk of clothing, but also a well filled purse. I returned home only strong enough to pass the muster for call for military service, and having drawn a high number which released me from military duty, I received a free pass to travel as a master workman all over Germany and in foreign lands without molestation, and to receive the master's wages which my experience, skill and training entitled me. After some time spent in wandering from place to place, I went to Stuttgart, the capital of Württemberg, where I remained until news of the assassination of the

President of the United States and the election of Grant and the name of Frank Etheridge, who had left the state of Arkansas on account of the KKK, who were after him for not enlisting during the war, but I found him to be an honest, upright man and his wife a very estimable lady, who looked upon me more as a relative than a stranger. I soon made the acquaintance of the young set of Pineville, all of whom were as jolly and full of life as any people I had ever met. Being somewhat of that disposition myself, I joined in their pleasures and made myself one of them. I learned their ways. Some of them being good I adopted and others I passed up as uncertain. By this time my knowledge was fairly good of English, having been thrown altogether with English-speaking people so that I conversed very well with my new friends.

It was in the summer of 1868 that I took the fever which came near getting the best of me. I fought it with all my might, but it downed me every time. Mr. Etheridge and his wife did all they could to help me, but the fever still lingered until finally I decided to change climate, and having fully made up my mind, I carried out the plans. I left for New Orleans on the steamer Frolic and from thence took a boat to St. Louis in the hot month of July and with a high fever and no one to care for me. Often I think of my rashness to go traveling in such a condition, my friends of Pineville begging me to remain and pointing out the dangers that would surely confront me. Never will I forget the misery I was in when I arrived at Memphis. No appetite and so weak I could hardly walk. Nor can I forget the night between Memphis and Cairo I was attacked by two roustabouts who were in the act of robbing me and perhaps pitching my body into the river, but in my weak condition I discovered their intentions and gave the alarm, when my assailants quickly withdrew.

After an eight-day trip we reached St. Louis, where I found relatives and friends and stayed with them for a month or so until I got stronger, and finally after several months fully regained my health and was myself again.

Politics was getting very exciting, and being against Grant and

time I had a good beginning, but realized that it was quite a jump from tradesman to merchant. New responsibilities accumulated, but as unacquainted as I was with merchandising, success seemed to come and every year I put aside some money for a rainy day. Six children came to us, which added greater responsibilities, and how to school them during and after reconstruction days was a problem. There was little money for public schools, so the citizens had to raise sufficient funds to keep the schools going for six to eight months each year. John L. Walker, Jimmy Waters, W. J. Calvit, J. W. Pearce, D. F. Huddle, H. H. White and Professor Wespy were thorough and scholarly and all became noted leaders and educators. Their influence is felt to this day. In those early days we had the Episcopal and Catholic churches, and later came the Methodist and then the Baptist churches and of which were well attended and contributed to the well being of those who were spiritual-minded. The preachers who ministered to their congregations were all Godly men who had the confidence of the people. There were Ogden, Burford, McCoy, Duncan, Minard, Keener, Shepherd, Harper, Waynn, Beard, Ware, all my good friends, councilors—their good works will continue on forever.

I kept store just 30 years and was in every way successful, for when I started I had \$500.00 in cash and my house paid for and at the end of 30 years I was worth at least \$100,000, all well invested in real estate and stocks in different enterprises.

I have held different offices during this time which were honorary, but carried great responsibilities, such as councilman, police juror, mayor, member of school board, etc., and held commissions under Governors Wiltz, McEnry, Nicholls, Foster, Heard, Blanchard, Sanders, Pleasant, Hall, Parker, Fuqua and Simpson. As Pineville lost much business when the H. C. A. & N. R. R. was built through the hill sections north of Pineville, I went in with other citizens of Pineville and assisted in the upbuilding of Alexandria, and at the present writing I am a director in the following companies: Rapides Bank, Rapides Hotel, Alexandria Land & Improvement Company, Alexandria & Pineville Building & Loan Association, Alexandria &

in general as best I could. Last year I attended the encampment of Knights Templars at Saratoga, N. Y., and then visited many states, but the trip was most too strenuous. This has been so far a very cold winter, having ice almost every night. The money panic, which started in October, is just now over, January, 1908, but left the industrial centers in an unsettled condition, and as this is a presidential year, it is hard to forecast the future. I am tired in body and mind and must stop writing.

January 23, 1909. Since writing last, I will add that the year 1908 was very eventful. Among our responsible business men who passed away were John M. Barrett, J. M. Nugent and John Kramer, who were real men and leaders. In the spring we had much cold weather and plenty of ice and planting was late. The potato crop was medium and the price as low as 50 cents a bushel. Then came the highest water ever known, registering on the government gauge 42 1-2 feet, and it looked for a while as if the traffic bridge would be destroyed. The highest water was on the 11th day of July, and then from the 20th to the 10th or 15th of July it rained in torrents, which caused the cotton bolls to fall off, and then came the boll weevil, so that the crop for Rapides parish was about one-tenth, or 5,000 bales.

On the 21st of July we took the steamer at New Orleans for New York, and then after a week's stay, going to Atlantic City for a month or more. This was the best summer resort I had yet found. Good hotels, plenty of amusements and a cosmopolitan crowd of people, so that time passed away rapidly and pleasantly. I did not care for Philadelphia, for outside the navy yard, park and historic buildings the city seemed uninviting. Some of the Hardtners, settled in Chester county during the colonial days and were enumerated in the first census taken in the year 1790. We next went to Buffalo, Albany, Niagara Falls, and through Canada to Detroit and Cincinnati, and returned home about the 20th of September. The election for president passed off quietly, Taft being elected and business in general improved. I have been trying to make up my mind to sell my home and move over to Alexandria, but have not been able to

finders and brethren; thence to several towns in south Louisiana on a business mission for others. In March I spent some time in Hot Springs, Ark., where I took the baths and drank the hot water, being much benefited from the treatment. I then visited several cities in Texas and stopped off at Palestine to see my brother, August, and family, who were overjoyed at seeing me after so many years.

I had now visited all of the states in the Union and Canada and the desire came to make a tour of the world by easy stages. Accordingly, in June, 1911, I went over to Los Angeles and San Francisco and thence to Monterey, stopping at the famous Del Monte Hotel; thence to Santa Cruz, Big Trees, Los Carlos, San Jose, Santa Clara, and thence to Alameda, where I visited my sister, Carolyn, for three weeks, and then in company with my niece, Carrie, we boarded a great steamer for Honolulu, the trip being made in five and one-half days. We met several nice people on the boat and were invited to the homes of many good friends on the island. The people in general were hospitable and I profited much by my stay in their midst. On August 2 we took a steamer for the island of Hawaii, where the living volcano, Manua Loa, 13,675 feet high, and the boiling pit, Halemauwan, is found 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. There is a crater called Kilauea and is a solid lake of fire eight miles in circumference, the largest in the world, with burning sulphur piled all around. I saw the burning pit during the day, but at night it was awe-inspiring, terrifying and frightful to behold—a scene never to be forgotten. After spending several days in the farming districts, where cane is the chief crop and the laborers Chinese, we returned to Honolulu, where we saw the Pearl Harbor; Punch Bowl, a hill rising 500 feet above the sea; Diamond Head, a crater 760 feet high; Nuamer Pali, a picturesque precipice; Forts Shafter and Derussie; a burial cave up on the side of a mountain, and wound up by taking a surf boat and shooting the waves. The museum is filled with Hawaiian and Polynesian curios.

Returning to San Francisco, we found Carrie's father, Professor Eickhoff, very ill and a month later he died. He was a fine scholar, a great educator, and