

John Hart, Last Man of G. A. R. in Findlay To Celebrate His Hundredth Birthday Sunday

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By MARGARET DENNIS
JOHN HART, Hancock County's only Civil War veteran, will be 100 years old Sunday.

"Time is kinda wearing me down," he admitted, at the same time boasting that he hadn't been under a doctor's care for two years.

"Anyone as old as you are knows better what he needs than I do," his doctor told him the last time he visited him.

A native of Hancock county, Mr. Hart enlisted with the 21st regiment when he was 19 years old and after serving two years he came home, only to re-enlist with the 100-day men.

While still with the 21st regiment he participated in the memorable battle of Stone River, 30 miles from Nashville, Tenn., and, had it not been for a severe illness of typhoid fever would have been with General Sherman on the historic march to the sea.

Officially Dead

So serious was this illness that Mr. Hart was reported dead. It wasn't until 20 years or more later when applying for a pension that Mr. Hart found himself to be officially dead, and the war department discovered he was very much alive.

Mr. Hart was married on Oct. 1, 1868 to Eliza Jane Taylor, who died Feb. 1, 1921. They went to housekeeping in a log cabin on his farm in Liberty township. After three years he built a large brick house near Chase's crossing where the family resided until they moved to Findlay in 1894.

He served 21 years as trustee of Liberty township, resigning when he moved to the city. He served as a member of the city council and was a member of the board of review for 10 years.

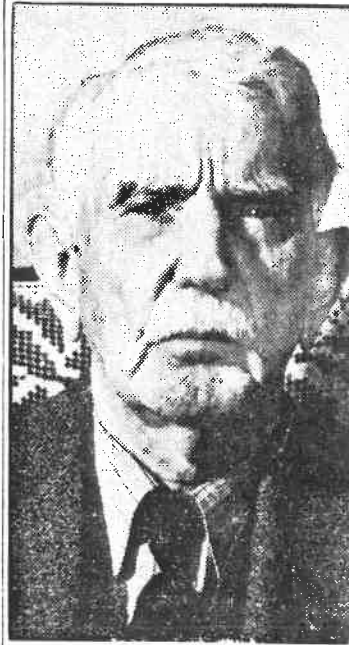
For 50 years he has been affiliated with the First Presbyterian church.

For more than 20 years Mr. Hart has been quartermaster of Stoker Post, No. 54, G. A. R., sending his reports to state headquarters yearly.

"I told them they ought to just chuck that stuff in the wastebasket," he said in speaking of his reports. But he's proud of them.

"They always sent them back

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JOHN HART

if there are mistakes in the reports," he explained, "but I never got any back!"

This year his report contained only his own name. The only

Sons of Veterans Radio Program To Honor John Hart

JOHN HART, Findlay Civil War veteran who will be 100 years old Sunday, will be honored in a radio program given by Stoker Camp No. 9, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at 4:35 o'clock Sunday afternoon over station WFIN.

C. N. Edie, secretary-treasurer of the camp, will act as the announcer and will review briefly the life of the veteran.

The program also will consist of vocal numbers by the Weaver's Memories Male quartet and fife and drum selections by four members of Company I, 3rd Regiment, Ohio State Guard.

The quartet will sing a medley of Civil War songs and Mr. Hart's favorite song, "Faith of Our Fathers." The guardsmen will play several Civil War tunes.

Members of the quartet will be Jesse Hanna, Russell W. Barnhart, George Glick and J. William Maxwell while the fife and drum music will be by Don Alspach and Jeff Jones, fife; Tony Wolfe, snare drum, and Jack Fritzlan, bass.

The Sons of Union Veterans' next class of candidates will be known as the Comrade Hart class. All male descendants of Civil War veterans, either paternal or maternal, are eligible

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other member of the post, John Reed, died last spring.

Memory Is Vivid

Mr. Hart's memories of the past are more vivid than his experiences of more recent date. He loves to talk of the Civil War days. Without hesitation he can name his comrades and the companies to which they belonged.

He is much concerned over the present world conflict. "War is terrible," he says. "I know. I've been through it all. The Old Scratch himself couldn't make it any worse," thus putting a little different wording to the memorable sentiment of General Sherman concerning war.

As he talks his eyes twinkle and he chuckles over some humorous remark or past experience. He has a keen sense of humor which is one of his outstanding qualities, and which perhaps has helped him reach the century-mark of life.

He attributes no particular reason for his long life. He says he never smoked, "although at election time I always had a hatful of stogies." He says, too, that he never drank intoxicating liquors.

He reads the newspapers, listens to the radio, and talks. He never tires of fighting the Civil War over with any one who will listen to him.

He arises at 7 a. m. and retires about 10:30 p. m., catching a little extra sleep with occasional naps throughout the day. In the summer time he putters around out doors.

Family Dinner Planned

There'll be a family dinner Sunday, served by Mrs. E. A. Bunts, his daughter, who lives with him. Three birthday cakes and a turkey, the gift of Mrs. A. F. Blake, o. the Tiffin road, will be among the culinary attractions of the dinner.

Having bought turkeys for these family birthday dinners for a number of years from Mrs. Blake, she had always told Mr. Hart that when he was 100 years old she would give him a turkey. She did not forget her promise.

Included in the group around the table with Mr. Hart will be Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bunts and their son, Fred, of Saginaw, Mich., who has enlisted in the air corps and is awaiting call; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hart, and son, Robert and his daughter, Barbara Kay; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hart and daughter Donna; Mrs. Helen Rogers and daughter Sue and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Rogers, of Atlanta, Ga. Mr. Rogers has enlisted in the navy and is awaiting call.