

(La Crosse) p. 3 THE

THE PIONEERS ARE PASSING

John Paul Gross, a Veteran of the Civil War, Passed Away Friday Evening.

Hon. Suel Briggs died at his home in the town of Holland, at 5 o'clock Friday morning, Oct. 27. He has been ill beyond recovery since August last and falling for some time before that. Indeed Mr. Briggs began breaking down after the death of his wife, something more than a year ago. As he had no children he was quite alone in the world except for the friendly interest of neighbors and the brotherly affection of his old friend and constant companion E. R. La Fleur who feels the bereavement as deeply as though he had been in fact brother in blood to the deceased. Mr. Briggs was a steady old-fashioned Republican and Mr. La Fleur one of the stoutest Democrats in Wisconsin. This in no wise interfered with their friendship and perhaps had the contrary effect. They long ago gave up trying to convince each other and enjoyed their differences of opinion as they did other divergent characteristics.

Suel Briggs was born in Erie county, N. Y., April 7, 1821, and was therefore at his death 72 years and six months old. He came to Wisconsin in 1842 and settled at Janesville when the town consisted of a blacksmith shop and tavern. After remaining there one year he went back to his New York home and until 1856 was variously engaged attending school, teaching and in business. In 1846 he married Phoebe Ballou, a descendant of Moses Ballou, the eminent clergyman and author.

In 1858 Mr. Briggs came to Wisconsin a second time and settled in the town of Holland, La Crosse county, where he began farming. He was elected town clerk, justice of the peace, superintendent of schools and supervisor, serving a term as chairman of the board. He also taught school a good deal of the time winters. The winter of 1859-60, he spent in the city and studied law in the office of Cobb, Messers & McKenney. After being admitted to the bar he returned to his farm. In 1877 he was elected to the legislature, receiving 154 of the 185 votes of his town. From 1887 up to quite recent years he has served consecutively as justice of the peace except in 1869. All the time he has worked his farm, lived in comfort and gradually accumulated a moderate property. In a quiet way his life has been active and well spent. The funeral will be held at his residence in Holland at 2 p. m., Sunday.

John Paul Gross.

The death of John Paul Gross, residing at 397 Rose street, occurred at 9:05 o'clock last evening. Deceased had been ill for several weeks with typhus fever, and during that time was able

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