

Some Centenarians.

PENSION OFFICE RECORDS OF MEN WHO LIVED TO BE A HUNDRED AND OVER.

In the following compilation of facts, prepared for official use in the pension office, concerning twenty-five of the last surviving pensioners of the revolution, it will be seen that eighteen of them were 100 years old, or over.

William Williams, died in Connecticut, April 12, 1882, aged 101 years. Born in, and enlisted from Fairfield, Conn., in 1779; was present at the burning of Fairfield and Norwalk; employed principally as a minute man and on coast guard duty, watching and arresting Tories.

William Coggin, of Gordon County, Ga., was alive early in 1861, then 103 years of age. Born in Barnwell District, S. C., and enlisted from Camden District, 1781, into Gen. Sumter's brigade; was present at the siege of 96, and in various expeditions to Orangeburg, Four Holes, Wateree, Congaree, and in the battle of Rocky Mount.

John Saxton, of Fayette and Blackford Counties, Ind., probably died in the latter part of 1862, aged 101 years. Born in the city of New York; he had resided in Westchester, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, and removed in 1826 to Wheeler, in Steuben Counties, all in the State of New York. Entered the service at Scrub Oak, in Westchester County, and rendered service as a guard and scouting in that county, and with the French army, while in that vicinity. Removed to Indiana in 1839.

Elijah Denny, of Rockcastle County, Ky., died April 24, 1863, at the age of 101 years. Volunteered in Wilks County, N. C., in 1779, and was present at the siege of, and became, on the surrender of Charleston, S. C., a prisoner of war, but was paroled. Removed to Kentucky about 1802.

Amaziah Goodwin, of York County, Me., is presumed to have died in the latter part of 1863, when he would have been nearly 105 years old. Born in Somersworth, N. H., where he volunteered in 1773-7, and was engaged in various services at Portsmouth, N. H., at West Point and Stoney Point, N. Y. Was at the latter place at the time, or immediately after the treason of Gen. Arnold.

William Hutchings, of Penobscot, Hancock County, Me., died May 3d, 1863, aged 102 years. Enlisted at New Castle in 1780-1, and stationed at Cox's Head, near the mouth of the Kennebec River, to perform coast guard duty. At the anniversary of the national independence, on the 4th of July, 1865, he actively united with the citizens of Bangor and vicinity in the celebration of the day. (See the Bangor newspapers of that date for an interesting account of the same, and a biography of this patriot.)

Rufus Farnham, of Hanover, Plymouth County, Mass., died September 24, 1863, aged over 97 years. Born in Hampton, Ct., he entered the service as a waiter in 1776, his brother Zebadiah being a member of the same company. His activity and intelligence induced his appointment at the age of 13 as powder monkey on board the frigate *Providence*, his father being a lieutenant of marines on board the same vessel. On this cruise ten sail of the Jamaica fleet were captured off the Newfoundland banks. At one time he resided at Killingly, Ct., and subsequently removed to Providence, R. I., where he remained ten years, and most of the time next door neighbor to the Hon. Tristram Burges. From there he removed to Boston, retaining his residence in that city for forty years.

Alexander Maroney, of the State of New York, was alive in the early part of 1865, no record of his age. Was enlisted when very young by his father at Lake George, as a drummer. Has resided in Homer, Courtland County, and in Yates, Orleans County. A later residence was in Monroe County.

James Barham, of Green County, Mo., died January 8, 1865, aged 103 years. Enlisted from Southampton County, Va., and was present at the siege of Yorktown, Va., which was followed by the surrender of the army of Lord Cornwallis. Three years after the war he removed to North Carolina, and in 1813 to Logan, then to Callaway and to Twiggs Counties, all in Kentucky, and in 1846 to Missouri.

John Pettingell, of Henderson,

Jefferson County, New York, died April 23, 1861, aged over ninety-seven years. Entered the service in Windham County, Connecticut, commissioned in 1780, was engaged in coast guard duty and erecting forts at New London, Stamford County, Connecticut, at Horse Neck, Frog's Neck, and White Plains, in New York. Resided after the war in Norwich, Connecticut, Wethersfield, Vermont and Rome, Adams and Ellisburg, New York.

Benjamin Miller, of Laurens, Otsego County, New York, died September 24, 1863, aged over ninety-nine years. Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, removed to Brimfield, Massachusetts, 1770-1, and to Laurens, New York, about 1800. Enlisting from Brimfield in 1779, he was stationed at the arsenal in Springfield, Mass., in Albany and Westfield, New York; at the latter place while Gen. Arnold was in command (1780); then detailed to King's Ferry just prior to the treason of Arnold. When the British ship *Vulture* passed up the Hudson River, he, with others, were ordered with a field piece and two howitzers to Tyler's Point to attack said vessel. In the course of two hours she was towed out of gunshot.

Nicholas G. Vedder, of Glenville, Schenectady County, N. Y., died sometime in 1862, then over 100 years of age. Born in Schenectady and enrolled in 1777-8; was employed in patrolling that region of the country, guarding prisoners, in garrison duties at Fort Paris, in Stone Arabia, and at Fort Plank. Also in watching and arresting Tories. Was in the party detailed to oppose Brandt when Canajoharie, N. Y., was destroyed, and when Major Ross and Walter Butler made their attack on Johnstown. Also detailed, with others, including a party of Oneida Indians, to capture Joseph Bettis, a celebrated spy. Was in the skirmish in Beaver Dam when a party of Tories, with their baggage, were captured.

Daniel Waldo, of Onondaga, N. Y., died July 30, 1864, aged 102 years. Born in Windham, Conn., he entered the service from that place in 1779. Was employed in erecting a fort in New London, which the soldiers significantly called "Fort Nonsense"; subsequently marched to Horse Neck, N. Y., where he was engaged in guard and scouting duties. While on guard at the quarters of Col. Well, was, with him and twenty others, captured by the Cow-boys, and confined, December, 1779, in the notorious sugar-house in New York City. For over sixty years was a regular Presbyterian clergyman, and resided some time in Suffield, Conn., and thence removed in 1835 to Wayne county, N. Y. Was elected February 21, 1856, Chaplain to the House of Representatives immediately after the close of the protracted contest for Speaker, which resulted in the election of N. P. Banks. While at the capital of the nation he occasionally officiated in the churches of the city, being then over ninety-three years old.

Samuel Downing, of Edinburg, Saratoga county, N. Y., died February 18, 1865, over ninety-nine years old. Enlisted in the Continental line from Hallstown, N. H., in 1870, and was discharged at Newburg in 1783.

Lemuel Cook, of Clarendon, Orleans County, N. Y., died May 20, 1866, aged 104 years. Born in and enlisted from Wallingford, Conn., in 1775 as a waiter to his father, who was captain of the company, and subsequently major of the regiment. Passing by water to New York City, thence to Oyster Pond Island, near the east end of Long Island, and to Shelter Island, and thence to Harlem, up the Hudson River to Lake George, Ticonderoga, Crown Point, and Isle-aux-Noir, at the latter place joining the army under Gen. Montgomery; the fort at St. John's was captured. In 1781 he rendered, on his subsequent enlistment, services on the banks of the Hudson river, near Croton river, Bedford, and West Point. He was at King's Bridge at the time of the battle of Long Island, which was followed by the evacuation of the city of New York, and at the capture of Trenton by our army, with a considerable body of Hessian troops. In 1833, he states that he resided thirteen years in Connecticut, and thirty-seven years in Niagara County, in the State of New York. He originally received a pension under the first act (1818), of Congress for revolutionary soldiers, which was claimed to have been

forfeited by the "indigent law" of

May 1, 1820, but he afterwards obtained another pension under the more general law of June 7, 1832. When, on the 11th of May, 1819, writing from Lewiston, N. Y., relative to his former pension, he states that he had "lost all of my personal property and buildings by the enemy during the late war (1812), and was kept away by them for fifteen months." "On being made acquainted with the Act of May 1, 1820, I formed the resolution not to apply for the benefit of its provisions, but to persevere in my laborious occupation, and endeavor by dint of exertion to support myself and family, still entertaining the hope my claim on the Government for property destroyed by the enemy would be paid."

Daniel F. Bakeman, of Freedom, Cattaraugus County, New York, died April 5, 1839, at the age of 109 years. In his petition to Congress for a pension, he claimed to have rendered four years' service during the latter part of the war, and to have enlisted into the militia under Captain Van Arnum, of Colonel Willett's regiment.

George Roberts of Buncombe County, N. C., died January 1, 1864, aged 103 years, enlisted from Wilks County, N. C., in 1777, and was stationed at Old Store and Hanging Rock; at the latter place occurred a conflict with Tories and the British, and another while he was at Charlotte. He rendered services on the Catawba River, and at Charleston, S. C., and was in the battle at Ninety-six and Guilford. Prior to 1830, he resided in Iredell County.

John Brooks, of Robeson County, N. C., was alive in the early part of 1831, and would be then 103 years old. Was drafted from that part of Bladen County which is now Robeson County, and was in the expedition to Wilmington, Charleston, and in the battle of Bettie's Bridge and Camden, when he was taken and kept a prisoner until the close of the war.

Moses Jones, of Orange County, N. C., was alive in the early part of 1861, then ninety-nine years of age. Born in and enlisted from Granville County in 1780. Was present at the siege of Yorktown, which was followed by the surrender of the army under Lord Cornwallis.

John Gray, of Brookfield, Noble County, O. Died March 28, 1863, aged 105 years. Born in and entered the service from Fairfax County, Va., in 1781; he marched to Fredericksburg, Williamsburg and Richmond, where discharged, after three months' service. Re-entered in June of the same year, and discharged in October, without leaving Fairfax County. Removed to Ohio in 1795, and has lived in Noble County since 1819.

Jared Farrand, of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Died probably early in 1862, at the age of 102 years. Born in Norwich, Ct., he subsequently resided in Essex, Chittenden County, Vt. Entering the service at Bennington, 1777, in Warner's Regiment of Green Mountain Boys, was engaged in erecting forts, scouting and guarding the frontier, watching Tories and Indians. Was in the battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777. Removed to Cuyahoga County, O., in 1834.

Peter Bashaw, of White's Creek, Davidson County, Tenn. Died May 20, 1864, aged over 101 years. Born in Fauquier County, Va., he removed to Davidson County, Tenn., in 1809. Enlisted in 1780, marched to Hillsboro, N. C., joining the army under Gen. Morgan. Accompanied the prisoners taken at the battle of Cowpens, to Charlotte, N. C.; joined the army at Richmond, Va., under Gen. Lafayette, and soon after, the army under Gen. Washington, for the siege of Yorktown, which place surrendered with the forces under Lord Cornwallis. Detailed with others to guard the prisoners sent to Winchester, Va.

Jonas Gates, of Turnbridge, Orange County, Vt., died Jan. 14, 1864, aged 101 years. Born in and enlisted from Barre, Mass., in 1781; was stationed at West Point, N. Y.; has also resided in the towns of Chelsea and Randolph, Vt.

Mathew Seary, of Martinsville, Henry County, Va., was alive early in 1861, then 93 years of age. Born in and enlisted from Amelia County in 1780; he was stationed on the James River at Chuckituck Mills, Sleeping Hole Ferry, Suffolk, Pitch Landing, &c. Removed in 1787 to Pittsylvania County, Va.

Nathaniel Ames, of Dane county, Wis., died Aug. 17, 1863, aged 102 years. Born in Scituate, R. I.; he entered the service at Fort Gris-

wold, Ct., under Ledyard, and again in 1777 at Stonington. When at West Point, N. Y., and Morristown, N. J., was employed in scouting parties, and was at Orangetown when Maj. Andre was hung. Has resided in Waterford and Coeymans, N. Y., and in 1832 removed to, or was living in, Steuben, Oneida co., N. Y., and was a minister of the gospel. In 1844, went to Racine county, Wis., to live with his children.

The oldest marriage of a pensioner longest surviving and remaining a widow of a revolutionary soldier was probably Amy Spaulding, of Sullivan county, N. H., who died in 1859, or early in 1861. She was the widow of and married to Ebenezer Spaulding, January 16, 1777, he being an inhabitant of Camden, now Washington, and she of Lempster, both in New Hampshire. Spaulding enlisted and left his residence for Cambridge, Mass., on the 19th or 20th of April, 1775, and was present in the battle of Bunker Hill in the following June. His subsequent service was in response to the urgent call for men to oppose the progress of the army under Gen. Burgoyne, and as he did not return home until after his surrender, may have been an active participant in that engagement and victory over those invaders.

Here we have one pensioner who died at the age of 100, five who were 101, four who were 102, two who were 103, one aged 104, two who were 105, two 106, and one who lived to be 109.—*Correspondence Cincinnati Gaz.*

New Instructions as to the Time for Tree-Planting.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
General Land Office,
Washington, D. C.,
June 30, 1873.

Registers and Receivers, U. S. Land Offices.—GENTLEMEN:—I have received numerous letters requesting a modification of the instructions issued by this office April 21, 1873, under the act of Congress approved March 3, 1873, entitled "An act to encourage the growth of timber on western prairies."

It is claimed that parties making entries under the first section of the act are entitled, by its terms, to three years to complete the planting of the prescribed area with trees, and that they should not be limited to one year in the regulations. While it is true that the act does not specifically mention any particular time within which the planting shall be done by parties making entries under the first section, the 4th section clearly limits the time for planting, by a homestead claimant, to one year from the date of entry, as it requires him to show at the end of the third year that he has had the trees which he is required to plant under cultivation for two years. This he cannot do, unless the trees are planted within one year from the date of entry. Congress thus fixed a time for homestead claimants under the 4th section, and as no time was fixed, in the case of parties making entries under the 1st section, I adopted, in entries of that class, the time which Congress considered reasonable and proper to allow homestead claimants, and limited them to one year. A different construction might have been reached by separating the 1st and 2d sections of the act from the other portions thereof, but considering the whole act, I did not feel authorized to give parties making entries under the 1st section more than Congress granted to homestead settlers by the 4th section. Admitting that this act is ambiguous, and that there is room for a difference of opinion on the point under consideration, I cannot conclude that Congress intended to make a discrimination against settlers under the homestead law, who, through poverty, privation and toil are rendering an essential and valuable service to the commonwealth by making their homes upon wild lands, and reducing them to cultivation, and thereby adding to the productive area and resources of the country, and in favor of men who have the means to appropriate lands for speculative purposes, and who, when they take them under the 1st section of the act, are not required to reside upon or improve upon them further than may be necessary to the planting and cultivation of the requisite quantity of timber.

If any discrimination is to be made I think it should be in favor of the poor man, who seeks a home

for himself and family upon the public domain, and who is, by the homestead law, required to build his house, and make his actual residence upon his land within six months from the date of his entry, and who has, therefore, about all he can do during the first year of his settlement to provide for the comfort of his family and comply with the provisions of the homestead law without being required to plant trees.

The law will have to be much plainer in its requirements than it is now, before I can consent to establish a rule which would be so obviously unjust to the homestead settler, and so clearly in the interest of speculation.

It is also claimed that parties are not limited to one entry, but may make as many as they please. Here again the act is somewhat obscure, but it would be as manifestly contrary to the principles embodied in the general legislation in relation to the public domain, as well as a sound public policy, to allow an individual to appropriate indefinite and unlimited quantities of the public land, that I cannot conclude that it was the intention of Congress to allow any person to take more than one quarter-section under the provisions of the act, and I have therefore decided that an individual cannot be allowed to make more than one entry, and that such individual cannot take more than one technical quarter section.

In arriving at these conclusions I am, I confess, not absolutely certain that the language of the act will not authorize, or at least admit, a different construction, but to allow three years for planting trees, and then permit an indefinite and unlimited number of entries by the same person, would be to aid in a speculative monopoly of the public domain by parties having no intention of complying with the requirements of the law as to tree culture.

I cannot think that Congress intended any such results to flow from the act referred to, and, therefore, I shall adhere to the regulations which I have issued, and limit parties to one year in which to complete their planting, and to one entry under the act, until Congress, by further legislation, authorizes or requires a modification of the rule.

WILLIS DRUMMOND,
Commissioner.

— A New Jersey railroad conductor, who had been employed seventeen years, was caught, the other day, taking his first dollar.

— A commodious hearse has been turned over to the people of Watertown, N. J., for the conveyance of inebriates to the lock-up.

— A lady writer says that the present is the age of sensible dress for women. What will they say when the foolish age comes round again?

— The venerable ex-Justice Nelson has been ill lately, but is now again going about his home at Cooperstown, N. Y., showing wonderful vigor for an octogenarian.

— The great beauty of buying mosaic jewelry abroad is, that if you break it you have to send it all the way back again to have it repaired, and mosaic breaks very easily.

— In order to allay the consternation which this announcement has excited, says the *Commercial Advertiser*, we are authorized to state that the orchestra will play during the entire reading.

A Clay County, (Ky.) auctioneer pulled out a revolver and announced: "If any man goes frolicking around while this sale is going on, I shall interrupt his career. Put them shot-guns over by the fence an' leave 'em thar!"

— Clerical presumption.—Coal-Mine Overlooker (to curate).—"I can assure you, sir, these 'ere colliers, now they're in full work, can make their ten an' twelve shillin' a day!" Curate.—"Dear me! Ah! It's actually more than I get!" Overlooker.—"More than you get! Why its more than I get!"—*Punch.*

— Meeting a friend yesterday, and thinking of men and their affairs, we remarked, casually, as follows: "How is it you have no enemies?" With hesitation, he said: "Years ago a friend, a lady, repeated to me, with a feeling that laid siege to my very soul, these few lines:

"Whatever slips your lips,
Three things observe with care;
Of whom you speak, to whom you speak,
And where you had best not where."