



Fortieth Encampment

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L. A. B.
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Grouping of veterans taken in front of
Old First Minnesota Headquarters
40th National G.A.R. Encampment, Mpls

74821



Sweet Mills

2698-A



General view of "Old First Minnesota" Headquarters

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*A Brackett Tent with war relics
"Old First Minnesota" Headquarters*

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The "Mass
"Old First Minn" Headquarters

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Secretary R. A. Plummer at his desk
 "Old First Minnesota Headquarters"



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FIRST MINNESOTA'S GLORY RECALLED

Loving Tribute Paid Heroes Living and Dead at Last Night's Meeting.

Tribute upon tribute was paid to the famous First Minnesota at an entertainment given at the Printers' Exchange on Fourth street N last evening. The hall was crowded with veterans of the famous regiment, their wives, children and friends, who listened to an exceptionally interesting program of patriotic music, saw rare stereopticon views, illustrating the early history of the regiment, and heard speeches that lauded the glory of the battle-scarred regiment.

The evening was one of pleasure, and yet there was present an indefinable air of sadness, for it was felt that it was probably one of the last times that so many members of the First Minnesota would meet. George A. Brackett who, from the time the First met at Fort Snelling, has ever been an ardent supporter and liberal entertainer of the regiment, showed his continued interest in the organization by planning the affair and carrying it to a successful conclusion.

Maginnis' Tribute to Colville.

The meeting was presided over by Major Martin Maginnis, who with deep emotion paid tribute to Colonel William Colville as "that old lion of the regiment who had faced death so often that death was afraid of him, and not daring to make an open attack, took him away by stealth at night."

Senator W. D. Washburn spoke of the regiment as having the strongest hold of all on the hearts of the people of the state, not because the men of the other regiments were not as brave or as true, but because it was the first born of the state, and therefore the dearest. Then in a reminiscent mood he spoke of the scenes at the departure from Fort Snelling in '61, of the cheers and tears that followed them.

"But how glad, how glad I am to look in the faces, the same old faces that marched away that day. And I know that we are moving on—on to the great encampment of eternity; what there is in store is unknown. I rest assured, however, that when the great and good God makes His accounting the heroes and patriots will occupy front seats."



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Pivotal Charge at Gettysburg.

John B. Gillfillan described graphically scenes at the opening of the war; how at a moment's notice two cordons of citizen soldiery, one clad in blue the other in gray were stretched from the Atlantic to the Missouri. Then turning to the regiment of all regiments—the dearest in Minnesota, he said that as the stand of the Spartan band at Thermopole glorified the history of Greece, so the charge of the First Minnesota at Gettysburg glorified the name of Minnesota.

That charge was the pivot of the battle of Gettysburg upon which the issue of success turned. And Gettysburg determined the result of the war.

Cadet Band Warmly Greeted.

Patriotic music, which was greeted with sparkling eye and quickened pulse by the veterans was interspersed throughout the program. Mrs. Mand Ulmer-Jones sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" in an impressive manner. Gustav Holmgren of Chicago gave Schubert's "Grenadier." "The G. A. R." was rendered by Miss Alice Gatchell. A pretty incident of the meeting was when the boys of the Journal Cadet band entered the hall playing a patriotic air. They were given an enthusiastic ovation by the veterans.

Another interesting feature of the occasion was a collection of stereopticon views, compiled from rare old photographs collected by Mr. Brackett, showing early scenes about Minneapolis, pictures of the First Minnesota in camp and portraits of many of its officers.

One of the photographs taken in '55 showed Minneapolis as an Indian village at the foot of Nicollet avenue. A portrait of Old Bess, an Indian squaw known to early settlers, was recognized by many of the veterans.

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