

possible. He was called upon to mourn the loss of his second wife, who died September 16, 1903, leaving him very lonely in his old age.

The last project in which Mr. Cray took special interest was the building of the new Methodist church just across the street from his home in Lime Springs. This he watched closely day by day and was privileged to be present at its dedication in December, 1894. He was the largest contributor to its erection and thus helped make it possible to build such a fine church. After a useful and well spent life he passed to the home beyond February 21, 1906. Being a man of temperate habits, he always enjoyed good health. As a citizen he desired to do his whole duty and all who knew him appreciated the friendship of one who was upright in character and one who would value those things which are for the good of the community and all mankind. His nine children were all present at the funeral and all of them still live near the old home. It was a source of great satisfaction to him to see his children do well. His sons, when grown to manhood, began filling positions of responsibility and proved themselves worthy of such. Today the sons and grandsons of this honored pioneer are among the most highly respected business men of Howard county.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. PARKER.

Lieutenant William H. Parker, deceased, was for many years one of Lawler's foremost citizens, actively identified with mercantile and banking interests and at all times contributing through business and other channels to the upbuilding and developing of his section of the state. He was a native of New England, his birth having occurred in Weathersfield, Vermont, March 20, 1840. He came of Puritan ancestry. Butler's history of Groton, Massachusetts, and the genealogy of various Parkers' e. g. William Thornton Parker, give Captain James Parker as one of five brothers, founders of the American branch of the family. James was born, in 1617 and it is presumed he came from Wiltshire, England, some time prior to 1640 as she was in Groton at that time. He married Elizabeth Long of Charleston in 1643. He settled first at Woburn, then removed to Chelmsford and later to Groton, of which place he and Joseph were the original proprietors. James' tract was fifty acres. His house lot lying directly across the principal street near the center of town. He held many town offices and his name appears in the town records as a member of various committees of a public nature. Isaac, the grandfather of Lieutenant William H. Parker, (direct male line from James—Eleazer, Zachariah) fought in the Revolutionary war with the Connecticut militia. He was in Captain Experience Storr's company, Colonel Israel Putnam's regiment. His father, Dexter Parker was born at Weathersfield, Vermont, May 30, 1799, and married Esther Piper, January 24, 1824. He was for years prominently identified with the cotton weaving industry, serving as superintendent of mills in Lowell, Massachusetts, with twelve hundred operatives under his management. In May, 1844, he came west, settling on a farm at Rutland, Dane county, Wisconsin, about fifteen miles south of what is now Madison. The future capital city was then a hamlet of but four log cabins. Dexter Parker died in May, 1853, his early death due to the treatment given by physicians at that time for fever. The physician treating him for malaria, took blood from his system three times. Mr. Parker was a foremost citizen of his community, serving in various local offices. He was a county supervisor at time of his death.

Lieutenant William H. Parker was a boy of thirteen at the time of his father's death and all opportunity for education, thus far acquired in the country schools, ceased at this time. He was a constant reader, however, and through his reading, study and observation, became possessed of a good practical education and he was well informed on subjects of general interest. Following his father's death, he and his brother Amasa, under the guidance of their mother, worked the home farm and in the fall seasons operated a threshing machine. The mother passed away November 16, 1888, at the advanced age of ninety-one. Of the practical, capable, pioneer type, she was looked up to by her family and held in high esteem by a large circle of friends.

After the death of his young wife (nee Louisa Smith) Lieutenant Parker enlisted