

## OLD-TIME LEGISLATORS.

Veterans of 1850-'51 Reunite at the State Capital.

And Indulge in Reminiscences of By-gone Days.

Historical, Biographical, and Anecdotal.

(From the Indianapolis Sentinel.)

### Survivors of the Convention of 1850.

There was but a small gathering of visitors at the opening session of the reunion of the members of the Constitutional Convention of 1850 at English's Opera House, the meeting being simply for the purpose of organization. The spectators occupied the main auditorium, the stage being reserved for the members and the press. Hon. Wm. McKee Dunn, delegate to the Constitutional Convention from Jefferson County, called the meeting to order.

Hon. Geo. W. Carr, who was a delegate from the County of Lawrence to the State Constitutional Convention of 1850, and who was elected President of the convention by a vote almost unanimous, was called upon to preside over this meeting of the survivors of the convention.

Hon. William H. English, who was the principal Secretary of the Constitutional Convention, was unanimously elected Secretary of the meeting. The following members responded to their names:

Oliver P. Badger, delegate from Putnam County.

Cromwell W. Barbour, delegate from Vigo County.

Orville Besson, delegate from Wayne County. Horace P. Bidwell, delegate from Cass County. Alexander B. Conduit, delegate from Moran County.

William McKe Dunn, delegate from Jefferson County.

James B. Foley, delegate from Decatur County.

John A. Graham, delegate from Miami County.

Jefferson Helm, delegate from Rush County.

Thomas A. Hendricks, delegate from Shelby County.

William S. Holman, delegate from Dearborn County.

Phineas M. Kent, delegate from Floyd County.

Beattie McClelland, delegate from Randolph County.

Samuel Pepper, delegate from Crawford County.

James Keeney, delegate from Johnson County.

S. B. Taylor, delegate from Laporte County.

Henry G. Todd, delegate from Hendricks County.

George W. Carr, delegate from Lawrence County.

At the roll was called the Secretary announced the names of those who were certainly known to be dead, and it was found that the survivors aggregated but thirty-three out of a convention composed of about 150 members.

Upon conclusion of the roll-call, Hon. Oliver P. Badger, delegate from Putnam County in the Constitutional Convention, invoked the divine blessing, the members rising to their feet.

The secretary announced that he had letters from two of the members of the convention, and on motion they were read. The letters were from Christopher C. Graham and Gen. R. H. Milroy. A paper on "The Unwritten History of the Constitutional Convention," written by Hon. John I. Morrison, at one time before his death, was read by Mr. English, to whom it was present by a daughter of the writer.

The evening session of the reunion was more largely attended by spectators than was that of the afternoon, and the programme proved an interesting one, addresses being made by Vice President Hendricks on "The Constitution and Its Amendments"; Hon. William H. English on "The Personnel or the Convention"; Hon. William McKe Dunn, on the prominent features of the work of the convention; Hon. Oliver P. Badger of Put-in-County, on "The Constitutional Convention"; and in the middle biographical, and at the close humorous; and by Col. Taylor of Chicago, who as a member of the convention from Laporte County, and is still vigorous at the age of 84 years.

### SURVIVORS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF 1851.

Fifty members of the Legislature of 1851 are still living, and of these thirty-odd were in attendance at the reunion at English's Opera House. There was a fair audience of ladies and gentlemen, the proceeds being principally of social nature. The time of the session being spent in renewing acquaintance and in indulging in reminiscences of "ye olden time." The meeting was called to order by Judge Niblack and Hon. William H. English, Speaker of the first House under the new constitution, was called to preside, and Dr. Andrew J. H. was chosen Secretary.

The roll-call showed the following members present:

Senate—William E. Niblack, Knox, Daviess and Martin; Jose, H. Defrees, Elkhart; R. D. Hogan, Rush; J. A. Cavena, Washington. Beaman, Franklin; John Hunt, Lawrence; Madson now living in Arkansas; Ben Newland, Lawrence; John Withrow, Hendricks (now in California); Frank Emerson, Jackson and Scott; O. P. Davis, Park and Vermillion; Job Hatfield, Perry; James M. Seeth, Shelby; Total—12.

House—Wm. H. English, Scott; Isaac D. G. Nelson, Allen; Andrew J. Hay, Clark; William S. Holman, Dearborn; Michael Thompson, Delaware; Phineas M. Kent, Elkhart; Samuel Davis, Franklin; Andrew Humphreys, Greene; John H. Jefferson; Martin, Grim, Martin; Richard A. Donaldson, Miami; Michael D. Martin, Monroe; George W. McCollum, Steuben and DeKalb; Robert N. Hudson, Vigo; Calvin Cowgill, Wabash; Joseph M. Bulla, Wayne; Total—16.

Believed to be living, but not present—John Crawford, Adams; William B. Beach (now living at Providence, R. I., Bo'ne); John Scudder, Daviess; Henry W. Barker, Dubois; Jacob Dice, Fountain; Zimri Reynolds, Grant; Samuel T. Wells, Jackson; Robert Huey, Jay; Francis F. Mayfield, Jefferson; Edward P. Hicks, Jenkintown; Frank Henry, Lawrence; John Lavery (now thought to be living in Nebraska); Morgan; Daniel C. Stover, Monroe; John D. Hinsdale, Orange; Milton Parker, Perry; D. C. Donahue, Put-in-County; Hiram H. Hart, Ripley; Thomas M. Smith, Spencer; Theophilus Chowning, Sullivan; Gilbert C. Mudgett, Steuben and DeKalb; Godlove O. Behn, Tippecanoe. Total members of House believed to be living—37.

Hon. W. H. English, on taking the chair at the evening session, said:

"I thank you for your assuring me the duty of presiding over this meeting, and I recognize that the selection is made, mainly, because I am the surviving presiding officer of the first Legislature held under the present Constitution."

I perform the duty with mingled feelings of pleasure and of pain, which I find it difficult to express—pleasure in meeting again comrades of that of a century ago, and pain at the realization of the fact that so many have passed away, and that the others must speedily follow. I have never so fully realized the shortness of life, the insignificance of all worldly honors and squalidities, as I have since the call for this reunion has developed that so many of my old comrades are dead.

"When I remember all

"The friends so link'd together

"I've seen around me fall,

"Like leaves in wintry weather,

"I feel like one

"Who treads alone

"Some banquet half deserted,

"Whose lights—e'er fled,

"With them—dearly dead."

And all but he departed?"

Of the little body of great men who formed the first Constitution of Indiana, in 1816, all have long since passed away, as have also, I believe, all the members of the first thirteen General Assemblies of the State.

I may be mistaken in this, but if there is a surviving member of any Legislature of this State, held prior to 1831, I do not know it, and I have made diligent inquiry to ascertain it.

The General Assembly which met in 1835 was the 20th that had been held up to that date, and the total of members elected would aggregate the number of 100, which would probably count all who survived on the 1st of January 1840. Even including all the Legislatures up to 1840, there are probably not over a dozen surviving of the thousand composing the twenty-five Legislatures which had then been held. Coming five years further on, to 1845, would probably not increase the number to over twenty-five.

You would doubtless like to know who these

venerable and patriotic survivors are. To state some of the personnel of the first General Assembly held under the present Constitution, and to give some account as to who are the survivors of the preceding Legislatures, will be the object of this address.

I have already said that I have not heard of any one being alive who was a member of any Legislature of this State held prior to 1831. There may be, of course, and one of my objects in making this address is to call out the facts as they exist.

1831-2.

I may be mistaken, but I think that Hon. Alexander C. Stevenson, who represented Put-in-County in the House of Representatives in 1831-2, is the only surviving member of that Legislature, and of all the Legislatures back to the organization of the state.

1832-3.

My father was a member of the Legislature of 1832-3 and died in 1833-4, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1833-4 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1834-5.

I now come to the General Assembly of 1834-5. I have not been able to find that any member of that Legislature survives except John C. Parker, then one of the Representatives from the County of Clarke.

1835-6.

My father was a member of the Legislature of 1835-6, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1835-6 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1836-7.

I now come to the Legislature of 1836-7. I have not been able to find that any member of that Legislature survives except John C. Parker, then one of the Representatives from the County of Clarke.

1837-8.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1837, and died in 1838-9, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1837-8 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1838-9.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1838, and died in 1839-40, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1838-9 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1839-40.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1839, and died in 1840-1, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1839-40 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1840-41.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1840, and died in 1841-2, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1840-41 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1841-2.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1841, and died in 1842-3, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1841-2 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1842-3.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1842, and died in 1843-4, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1842-3 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1843-4.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1843, and died in 1844-5, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1843-4 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1844-5.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1844, and died in 1845-6, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1844-5 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1845-6.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1845, and died in 1846-7, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1845-6 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1846-7.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1846, and died in 1847-8, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1846-7 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1847-8.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1847, and died in 1848-9, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1847-8 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1848-9.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1848, and died in 1849-50, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1848-9 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1849-50.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1849, and died in 1850-1, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1849-50 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1850-51.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1850, and died in 1851-2, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House of Marion County, and also about who were then members, but I have been unable to find that any of the Legislature of 1850-51 are now alive. Daniel M. Brady was a member of that Legislature from Wayne County, and was taking much interest in this reunion, but unfortunately he died since the call was issued, as did also Senator George B. Walker, of Cass County, and Representative Thomas S. Stanfield, of St. Joseph County, showing how rapidly these pioneers in the legislation of the State are passing away.

1851-2.

I find that my friend Thompson was returned to the next Legislature, which met in December 1851, and died in 1852-3, and I have often heard tales about him which belie his record in the old Court House