

Fourth of July in 1910

This article tells the story of how the little Village of Plain celebrated the Fourth of July one hundred years ago. *Home News, Spring Green, Sauk County, Wisconsin, Thursday, July 7, 1910*

PLAIN.

The celebration at Plain drew a large number who enjoyed the day in the beautiful grove east of town. The parade formed in front of the town hall, headed by the Spring Green band. Following this was a float carrying about twenty-five young ladies, who sang "America" and "The Star Spangled Banner," their well-trained voices blending in harmony with the beautiful day. On this float was also seated venerable Adolph Borgett, the only survivor of the civil war who was present that day. Mr. Borgett was clothed in his army uniform and bore a bayoneted musket. During the war Mr. Borgett was a cannoneer and at the battle of Pea Ridge was severely wounded, a large part of his jaw being shot away. The parade also contained several fun-making features: There were three well-broken teams of goats driven by Hiram Schoenmann, Roman Schreiner and Clarence Diehl, a ragamuffin band and a team consisting of a horse and an ox drawing a buggy. Appropriate addresses were delivered by Rev. Father Pesch and Anton Beck.

Both addresses were excellent and were much enjoyed by all. In the race program were introduced two brand new features—a goat race and a race between an ox and a horse. The following were winners: Egg race, John McKune 1st, Henry Jordan 2d; fat men's race, John Alt 1st, Fred Schoenmann 2d; free-for-all race, John Dischler 1st, Tom Bindl 2d, Tony Brickl 3d; young men's race, Andrew Alt 1st, Mert Prouty 2d, P. H. Fowler 3d; young ladies' race, Annie Aron 1st, Elsie Kreul 2d. In the ox and horse race Alois Gruber won with the ox, beating Fred Schreiner's horse. The goat race was a tie; drivers, Clarence Diehl, Hiram Schoenmann and Roman Schreiner. John T. Rhuland hauled the largest load, sixty people, to the grounds. The day was ideal and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Civil War Sesquicentennial Anniversary

The above news article mentions Adolph Borgett a civil war veteran riding on a float. Since this year is the Sesquicentennial Anniversary (150 years) of the Civil War, it is fitting that we mention a little about the Battle of Pea Ridge, which Mr. Borgett a cannoneer was severely injured.

Below is a brief summary of this battle found on the web.

http://americanhistory.about.com/od/civilwarbattles/p/cwbattle_pearl.htm

The Battle of Pea Ridge was fought March 7-8, 1862, and was an early engagement of the American Civil War.

Union

Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis
10,500 men

Confederate

Major General Earl Van Dorn
16,000 men

On the night of March 6, Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn set out to outflank the Union position near Pea Ridge, dividing his army into two columns. Learning of Van Dorn's approach, the Federals marched north to meet his advance on March 7. This movement compounded by the killing of two generals, Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch and Brig. Gen. James McQueen McIntosh, and the capture of their ranking colonel halted the Rebel attack. Van Dorn led a second column to meet the Federals in the Elkhorn Tavern and Tanyard area. By nightfall, the Confederates controlled Elkhorn Tavern and Telegraph Road. The next day, Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, having regrouped and consolidated his army, counterattacked near the tavern and, by successfully employing his artillery, slowly forced the Rebels back. Running short of ammunition, Van Dorn abandoned the battlefield. The Union controlled Missouri for the next two years.

The Battle of Pea Ridge cost the Confederates approximately 2,000 casualties, while the Union suffered 203 killed, 980 wounded, and 201 missing. The victory effectively secured Missouri for the Union cause and ended the Confederate threat to the state. Pressing on, Curtis succeeded in taking Helena, AR in July. The Battle of Pea Ridge was one of the few battles where Confederate troops possessed a significant numerical advantage over the Union.

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