

Missouri, The Center State 1821-1915 Volume IV

CHARLES WASHINGTON RUBEY

Charles Washington Rubey was for many years a financial leader of Lebanon, exercising great influence upon local conditions. Of the city in which he resided he was a pioneer and was closely associated with its development from its foundation until his death. He erected the first building there and as the years passed on contributed to further development and progress by the conduct of important business enterprises and by his faithful performance of official duties. He proved himself a man of more than ordinary business ability, not only making good use of his opportunities but also creating opportunities where none existed before. He was born on his father's farm at Pleasant Green, Cooper County, Missouri on December 7 1836, and was a son of Erban E. and Catherine (Cockrell) Rubey. The family was founded in Missouri in the early '20's by the grandfather of our subject, Thomas Rubey, who with his son Erban E. located in Cooper County. They were Kentucky farmers and became pioneers in the then unsettled district of this state.

Charles W. Rubey acquired his education in the country schools of Cooper County, completing his education with a course in Jones Commercial College of St. Louis, Missouri, which he attended in 1854. He was reared on his father's farm and after his business college course was employed for one year as a clerk in the general store of Jonathan Kirkbride at Pleasant Green. In remuneration for his services he received board and lodging and six dollars and twenty-five cents in cash per month. In 1855 he went with Leroy D. Roberts, also of Linn Creek to Nevada Missouri and there they established a general merchandise business under the firm name of Roberts and Ruby. The latter sold his interest in 1859 and went to St. Louis where he engaged in the family grocery business. In December 1860 he located in Lebanon, Laclede county, and with C B Churchill formed the firm Churchill & Rubey, engaging in the mercantile business. In 1862, Mr. Churchill sold his share in the business to Josiah Ivey, the firm becoming Rubey & Ivey. This partnership continued with mutual satisfaction for over 25 years, both partners proving themselves able merchants and gaining in prosperity and prestige. In 1869 Capt. Rubey and his partner purchased the land on which the present city of Lebanon is located. They with John S. Phelps, R W Fyan, Henry C Young, T A Sherwood and Mrs. M L Harrison formed the Lebanon Town Company. The land previously mentioned was destined for town site purposes and the Frisco Railway Company was given one-half interest in the property in consideration of their surveying and platting the town and locating their station and yards in the new town, which was about three-quarters of a mile southwest from the old town. MR. Ivey was made the selling agent of the lots and he and Mr. Rubey erected the first building in the new settlement. In 1887 Rubey & Ivey retired from business after 25 years of successful and mutually profitable connection.

In 1889 Capt. Rubey organized the Laclede County Bank of Lebanon and was elected cashier of the institution, filling that position until 1905, when he organized the State Bank of Lebanon, of which he became the president, the new organization acquiring the interests of the Laclede State Bank. The State Bank of Lebanon has a capital of \$30,000 and a surplus of \$20,000. The undivided profits have now reached \$6,000 and deposits are in excess of \$350,000. It is one of the best managed and most profitable country banks in the state and its present standing is largely attributable to the efforts and business ability of Mr. Rubey, who from 1905 until the fall of 1910 had associated with him as cashier his son, Hon. Thomas L. Rubey, member of congress from the 16th District. Mr. Rubey continued as the president until his demise and throughout his entire business career his record was ever such as would bear the closest investigation and scrutiny.

In 1858 Cap. Rubey married Miss Mary J. Nebit of Paris, Missouri, who died in 1863, leaving one son, Hon. Thomas L Rubey, of Lebanon, an elder sister of whom died in infancy. Mr. Rubey married again in September 1865, his union with Miss Lizzie L. Duvall, of Lebanon, who died in

1905. In 1907, he married Mrs. Agnes O'Hearne, nee Daughterty of Los Angeles California. She is a leader in the social life of Lebanon, active in charitable work and a devout Catholic.

Captain Rubey had a distinguished military record to his credit-hence his title. In the spring of 1861 he enlisted in the Home Guards, serving until November 1863, when he was commissioned captain of Company L, Sixteenth Missouri Cavalry, and served until mustered out on June 30 1865. He was wounded at Newtonia during the Price raid in 1864 and for about two months was confined to a hospital. He was very prominent in G. A. R. circles and at the time of his death was serving as commander of George G. Meade Post, No. 48 and was elected in 1912 department commander for Missouri. He was always a republican but in 1912 voted for Colonel Roosevelt. During the years 1879 to 1886 inclusive he served as circuit clerk and recorder of Laclede County, distinguishing himself by the faithful discharge of his duties. He as a member of the fortieth general assembly, ably representing his constituency and participating in legislation which was of far-reaching import as regards the state and his section. He was particularly active during the session as a member of the committee on banks and banking. Fraternally he was a member of the Masonic order, belonging to Laclede Lodge, No. 83, AF & AM.

Captain Rubey was one of the most influential men in his section of the state. He was a gentleman of the old school, kind, courteous, affable and always approachable. He was one of the active factors in the building up of Lebanon and Laclede county and as a banker was considered as one of the most successful in the smaller cities of the state. He placed his reputation and honor above mere material gains, was always considerate of the interest of others and was ever ready to make sacrifices in order to promote the general well-being of his community. Capt. Rubey was in the 78 year of his age at the time of his demise. Over his record there fell no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. He was never content to choose the second best, but held to the highest standards in business, in politics and in fact, in every relation of life. The deepest sorrow was felt on every hand when the news of his demise was received. He passed away in 1914, leaving behind him the fruits of a successful business career, but more than that the untarnished name which is rather to be chosen than great riches.