

John H. Peake

(17 Dec 1848 – 29 Nov 1905)

Peake. Suddenly on Wednesday, November 29, 1905 at 3:15 a.m., John H. Peake, beloved husband of Annie Peake, aged 56 years 11 months. Funeral service from the residence of his father-in-law, Mr. Richard Rothwell, No. 28 9th street northeast on Monday, December 4 at 2 o'clock p.m. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The Evening Star, November 29, 1905, p. 7

Death of J.H. Peake

Editor of Cody (Wyoming) Enterprise, and Prominent Mason

Mr. J.H. Peake, editor and proprietor of the Cody (Wyoming) Enterprise, died at his home in this city last night. Mr. Peake was for many years a resident of Washington, but for the past six years, had resided in Wyoming. He was member of M.M. Parker Lodge, No. 27, F.A.A.M., this city of Washington Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, and of the Old Guard and other local organizations. During his residence in Wyoming he served as mayor of Cody, and also as special court commissioner of Big Horn county of Wyoming.

Mr. Peake years ago engaged in newspaper work in Omaha, North Platte, Cheyenne, and other points in Nebraska and Wyoming and in Dakota territory before the two Dakota states were formed. He was one of the youngest soldiers in the civil war, having enlisted in Washington at the age of fifteen years, and served until the close of the war as a member of Company O, U.S. veteran volunteers. His wife, who is a daughter of Mr. Richard Rothwell of 28 9th street northeast, and his daughter, the wife of Mr. Charles D. Blaine, survive him. The funeral services will be in charge of M.M. Parker Lodge, F.A.A.M.

The Evening Star, December 2, 1905, p. 7

Funeral of J.H. Peake

Services Over His Remains Monday Afternoon

Masonic Fraternity and G.A.R. Post to be Represented--

Rev. W.L. Devriews to Officiate

J.H. Peake, formerly of the city, but for a number of years a resident of Cody, Wyo., where he established and was publishing the Cody Enterprise, died very suddenly at the residence of his father-in-law, Richard Rothwell, 28 9th street northeast, the morning of the 29th of November, as heretofore stated in The Star, Col. Peake was born in Portsmouth, Va., December 18, 1848, and was the eldest son of the late James T. Peak, one of the oldest residents of East Washington. Col. Peake was among the youngest volunteers in the civil war, having enlisted at the age of fourteen years, and served as an aid to General Custer. He was in the seven days fight in the Wilderness and afterward in Company G of the 40th United States Veteran Volunteers. He was honorably discharged at the end of the war, and went west, locating in Nebraska, where he owned and published in turn the North Platte Enterprise and the Lincoln Journal.

Relinquishing this work, he again returned to Washington as correspondent for several Nebraska and Colorado newspapers. At the earnest solicitation of Col. W.F. Cody, with whom he was closely associated he again went west, locating in Wyoming, where he established the Cody Enterprise and was elected a member of the city council. He also served as mayor of the city and was for several terms probate judge of the county, in which Cody is located.

Prominent in Fraternal Circles

Col. Peake was prominent in fraternal societies, as well as a prominent businessman and publisher. He was a director in the Basin Oil Company and several mining companies in Wyoming, and was a member of the Masonic fraternity in this city and Cody, being a charter member of M.M. Parker Lodge, No. 27, F.A.A.M. of Washington and a Royal Arch Mason on Knight Templar, affiliating with Washington Commandery, No. 1, of this city. He was also a member of Farragut Post, G.A.R., and a charter member of the Bear Tooth Lodge of Elks of Red Lodge, Mont.

Col. Peake was considered a "western publisher," for in great measure Cody owes its magnificent growth, from a small village to a hustling railroad town of probably 8,000 population, to his untiring work on a newspaper which boomed the town from the beginning. Cody has all the modern conveniences of a city, and the government is now spending several millions of dollars in irrigating the surrounding land and employing several thousands of men. The city council of Cody passed and forwarded resolutions of sympathy and condolence to Mrs. Peake and other members of Col. Peake's family in this city. The Cody Business Men's Club forwarded similar expressions of respect, and letters and telegrams of condolence have been received from men of prominence in business and political circles in Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Funeral Services

Col. Peake's funeral will take place Monday at 2 o'clock p.m. from 28 9th street northeast, under the direction of M.M. Parker Loge. The Rev. W.L. Devries of St. Mark's P.E. Church and Rev. E.B. Bagby of Ninth Street Christian Church will conduct the service. The Masonic fraternity and the G.A.R. will be represented and hosts of friends are expected to attend.

Col. Peake's wife and one daughter, Mrs. C.D. Blaine of Cody Wyo., survive him. The latter was notified of her father's death and is expected to arrive in time to attend the services. Three brothers and one sister survive him. The latter are: W.C. Peake, contractor, and M.F. and C.P. Peake, who are employed in the government printing office, and Mrs. James F. Anderson, who resides on 9th street northwest. The interment will be in Congressional cemetery.

The Evening Star, December 4, 1905, p. 6

Funeral services over the remains of the late J.H. Peake took place this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the residence of his father-in-law, Mr. Richard Rothwell, 28 9th street northeast. The services were conducted by Rev. W.L. Davries, rector of St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church, and Rev. E.B. Bagby, pastor of the Ninth Street Christian Church, Mrs. C.D. Blaine, daughter of the deceased, arrived this morning from her home in Cody, Wyoming, and was present at the funeral. The pallbearers were chosen from Myron M. Parker Lodge, No. 27, of the Masonic fraternity, and Farragut Post, Grand Army of the Republic. They were Messrs. G.E. Lederer, S.F. Entirten, Dr. A.K. Lind, R.W. Bowen, E.S. Christ and J. Eldredge Burns. During the services at the house the Masonic quartet sang "Abide With Me," "Lead, Kindly Light," and at the close of the service, "Nearer, My God to Thee." Many large and beautiful floral tributes were sent by the friends of the deceased, by the city council of Cody, Wyo. of which the deceased was a member some years ago. The Business Men's Club of Cody also sent a large anchor of roses. The interment was in Congressional Cemetery. The services at the grave were conducted first by the representatives of Parker Lodge, and later by Farragut Post, G.A.R.

Source ??

Soldier and Editor Won Fame in Peace

John H. Peake, Who Died Here, Achieved Honors as Well in War--

Launched Many Newspapers Upon Successful Career-- Came to this City When a Boy

By the death of John H. Peake, the famous soldier, scout, organizer, and editor, Washington has lost a citizen famous throughout the country. During his notable career he made his home in eight different States and founded five newspapers which survive him.

At the age of fourteen he came to this city with his father from Portsmouth, Va. In the early sixties, while a mere boy, he enlisted as a drummer in General Custer's cavalry, and served for two years in the civil war. He was wounded in the battle of the Wilderness and was continued to the hospital for three months after which he was honorably discharged from the service, but reenlisted as a volunteer in Company G, United States Veteran Infantry.

At the close of the war he went to North Platte, Neb., then a village of only 200 inhabitants, where he founded his first paper. Today his paper is read by over 35,000. Mr. Peake later sold his paper at North Platte, and started a sheet in Lincoln.

He returned to Washington shortly after his Lincoln adventure in the journalistic field, and accepted a position as division chief in the Interior Department, but his health began to fail and he resigned. Later he established a newspaper at Deadwood, S.D., in the Black Hills. He soon disposed of the Deadwood paper and began the Cheyenne Leader, which is today one of the leading journals of the West.

His health failed to improve, and he again returned to the East. He commenced business in Washington, but his health would not permit him to keep it up. He returned to the West, and started a newspaper in Cody, Wyo., the town famous as the namesake of "Buffalo Bill," who was a friend of Mr. Peake's. Six years ago Cody was a town of sixteen inhabitants; today, through the efforts of Colonel Cody and his Eastern newspaper assistant, it has grown to 3,000.

Mr. Peake came East in October for the last time, a victim of heart trouble. He was a member of Farragut Post, G.A.R.; Parker Blue Lodge, F.A.A.M.; Washington Chapter, Washington Commandery, No. 1; Bear Tooth Lodge, B.P.O.E.; Red Lodge, Montana, F.A.A.M.; Cody Business Men's Club, and the Shoshone Tribe, I.O.R.M.

The funeral will be conducted by Parker Blue Lodge. It will be held from the home of his father-in-law, Richard Rothwell, 28 Ninth street northeast. Interment will be at Congressional Cemetery. He is survived by a widow and daughter.