

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Tribune undertakes to print one brief Pioneer biography each issue this year. Both living persons and dead will be given space. No matter of the 60's and 70's is excluded. All the Editor asks is a good photograph and facts for an article.



W. L. Roney

W. L. Roney was born in Tenn. in 1839. His parents moved to Iowa in 1842, going up the Mississippi by boat. Two years later they moved across the river into Illinois. The first day they were in the state, while camping for dinner, allowing the oxen to eat by the roadside, some Mormons undertook to teach them their doctrines. Joseph Smith had just been shot. The statement that it was as great a crime to kill Smith as it was to kill Christ brought on a fight which Mr. Roney remembers yet, altho he was but five years old. Mr. Roney received his education in the public schools of Illinois.

In 1858 the family concluded to go to southern Missouri. In three years the father and sons had succeeded in clearing off 60 acres of land.

When the war broke out the place where the Roncys lived was about equally Union and Rebel. Altho the Roncys were Jackson democrats they joined the band of Unionists and later were forced to abandon the country. They went to Jefferson in 1861. Here Mr. Roney enlisted in the army. He served three years and ten months under Fremont, Halleck and Dodge, in the states of Missouri and Arkansas. He was in battles of Lone Jack, Big Blue, Mine Creek, Moro and Westport. Was never wounded.

After the war he came to Leavenworth, August 10, 1865. In 1868 he married Miss Juliet Robinson who had come to Kansas in 1857. The marriage took place on the farm of an Indian named Johnnyesko where the Robinsons were living and caring for the stage coach teams between Leavenworth and the village of Kansas City.

Mr. and Mrs. Roney claim to have lived longer in Kans. than any other people in McPherson county. She has been a Kansan for 52 years and he 44 years.

Shortly after they were married they moved to Butler county and took up a homestead. Mrs. Roney held down the farm while Mr. Roney followed the work on the Santa Fe thru the state hauling supplies. Newton was then the shipping point for Texas cattle. One time seven murders were committed there in a day. At Dodge City he became the first drayman of the town.

In 1872 he discovered he could make more money hunting buffalo, so he worked at that one summer making \$20.00 a day. This easy money accounts for the rapid disappearance of the American bison. Mr. Roney hauled the lumber from Newton to Hutchinson to build the first country store on that townsite. C. C. Hutchinson had a small land office there prior to this. He laid out the town and sold lots and lands for the Santa Fe.

In 1883 Mr. Roney got the western Kansas fever and sold his homestead and took a preemption in Greenly county. Three years later he abandoned this and moved to Topeka.

He landed in Marquette in 1891 where he has since lived. He is perhaps the best known man in this part of the county. He has been a staunch Republican since the war, and has twice been a candidate for Probate Judge. He is a Notary Public and an enthusiastic G. A. R. man. Few men have a better memory of political events than he.

Mr. and Mrs. Roney have five sons and four daughters, all living and all married except three sons.

They have found life a hard struggle and are now enjoying their declining years in the nicest home they have ever had. May they live many more years in the peace and quiet of this home so generously provided by their children.

The president's Cabinet is as follows:—Secretary of State, P. C. Knox; Secretary of War, J. M. Dickinson; Secretary of Navy, Geo. Von L. Meyer; Secretary of Treasury, Franklin Mac Veagh; Secretary of Interior, R. A. Ballinger; Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson; Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Charles Nagel; attorney general, Geo. Wickersham; Postmaster general Frank H. Hitchcock; Mr. Wilson is the only hold-over member.

The basket ball contest Saturday night was a hot affair. The teams on either side were so enthusiastic that the two professors had some difficulty keeping them from kicking over the dashboard. The score was so close that the result of the game was uncertain until the last minute. In the first half Marquette was three to the good. This lead was maintained during the second half, the score being 19 to 22. It was a good game, well matched and snappy.