

Birth: Jun. 20, 1842  
Chambersburg  
Franklin County  
Pennsylvania, USA

Death: Jan. 8, 1929  
Rock Falls  
Whiteside County  
Illinois, USA

John Kadel, veteran of the Grand Army, former mayor, alderman and civic leader of Rock Falls, passed away this morning at his home as a result of shock and injuries resulting from a fall at his home last Friday.

Though past 86 years of age, Mr. Kadel enjoyed good health with the exception on rheumatism which kept him confined to his home much of the time during the winter seasons in recent years. He was feeling better than he had been at many other times in the midwinter and was able to attend the New Year's dinner at the Methodist church and enjoyed meeting many of his friends there. On Friday, while walking across the floor of a room in his home he lost his balance momentarily and fell fracturing a bone of his left hip. The shock proved too great for him to overcome with the handicap of his advanced years.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, Jan 10 at his late residence, 710 First Avenue in Rock Falls. Dr. E. C. Harris, pastor of St John's Lutheran church and an old friend of Mr. Kadel, will be in charge of the services, and will be assisted by Rev. J. O. Crawford, pastor of the Rock Falls Methodist church, of which Mr. Kadel was one of its oldest members. Interment will be in the family burial plot in the Rock Falls cemetery.

Mr. Kadel was born June 19, 1842 near Chambersburg, PA. where he spent his youth and obtained his education. At the outbreak of the Civil War he rallied to the call to the colors and enlisted in the 21st Pennsylvania cavalry. His musical ability was recognized by the regimental officers and he was made a chief bugler of the regiment on Feb. 9, 1864. He served throughout the war and participated in several of its major engagements. He mustered out at Lynchburg, VA.

Returning to Chambersburg he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Rebecca Neff, May 15, 1866. They made their home in that city until 1875, when they came to Rock Falls, and Mr. Kadel began his long career as one of the most valued employees of Keystone Manufacturing Co. With the exception of a few years during which he occupied a similar position for the Sterling Manufacturing Co, he served as forge tool maker for the Keystone for nearly 40 years. He retired nearly 20 years ago.

Not long after he came to Rock Falls he organized the Keystone Band of which he was the leader for 21 years. He developed the organization into one of the largest and best bands in this section of the United States and in a contest held in Dixon, in which bands from all over Illinois participated, the Keystone Band won first place as the best band in Illinois.

Later, after the Spanish-American War, Mr. Kadel was called upon to lead the Sixth Regiment Band I.N.G. in 1896, and he repeatedly led the band during regimental encampments at Springfield.

During the ministry of Dr. N. H. G. Fife as pastor of the Sterling Presbyterian church some 35 years ago, Mr. Kadel was solo cornetist for the church, the late G. M. Robinson, then being organist. Mr. Kadel led the singing for several years, his cornet taking the place of a

choir leader.

But he was not consumed with his music alone, and his civic spirit found many means of expression in various ways. He served as alderman for several terms and was accorded the chief honor at the disposal of his fellow citizens, who chose him for mayor. He was ever interested in the young people and served many years as chairman of the board of education. A member of the Methodist church most of his life, he served faithfully and efficiently on the official board of the church until his years curtailed his activities.

Mr. Kadel was a member of the Rock Falls Lodge No 936 A.F. and A.M., and of Sterling Lodge No. 1218 B.P.O.E.; and he also retained his membership in the Modern Woodman of America, of which he was one of the earliest members when the order was founded at Fulton of the county. He was also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mrs. Kadel passed away in January eight years ago. A daughter, Ethel Ann died at the age of two years, and a son, Harry L. Kadel, preceded him in death in September 1927. Only one son survives, John A. Kadel, Jr. vice president of the First National Bank of Rock Falls.

Mr. Kadel also leaves a sister, Mrs. Catherine Stahl of Rock Falls, and a brother, Peter Kadel of Chicago, Four brothers and two sisters preceded him in death: George Kadel of Chambersburg, PA; Benjamin Kadel, Portland, Oregon; William and Adam Kadel of Rock Falls; Mrs., Charlotte Deyhart of Fayetteville, PA, and Mrs. Mollie Brown of Rock Falls.

Besides other relatives he also leaves a multitude of friends. During the more than half a century he lived in the community, Mr. Kadel did his part well as a public spirited citizen, a public official, a promotor of musical and educational development and a faithful Christian gentleman. He will be missed as only a few men in each generation are missed in the communities it has been the privilege to serve.

Obituary Sterling

Note: Bugler/C Co L 21st PA; Co V & 82nd Inf - Civil War

Burial:

[Coloma Township Cemetery](#)

Rock Falls

Whiteside County

Illinois, USA

Plot: Sec 15 Lot 02 Grv 06

Created by: [sandy](#)

Record added: Oct 02, 2012

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