PIONEER OF '49 GONE.

Death of John L. Hildreth Yesterday Afternoon.

A HERO OF THE EARLY DAYS.

His Life Was Full of Adventure, as With All Pioneers—Three Separate Fortunes Were Acquired—His Memory Will Be Revered By All Who Had the Pleasure of His Acquaintance.

John L. Hildreth, familiarly known as "Uncle John," is dead, having departed this life a few minutes after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon at his residence, 726 Water street.

About three months ago Mrs. Hildreth died and since that time Uncle John has declined but continued at his work till last Monday and then took to his bed. He retained consciousness all the while and half an hour before got up while the bed was made. He had suffered from an attack of grip for a year but his death was greatly accelerated by the loss of his faithful helpmeet and the partner of his life's joys and sorrows.

Five children are living, namely, W. H., D. L., J. P. and Miss Ruby Hildreth and Mrs. Worship Clough.

The funeral will take place from the Central Christian church at 10 a. m. tomorrow, being in charge of the Masonic fraternity, of which Uncle John was an old and esteemed member, being for 20 years a member of Lodge No. 17.

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY.

Interesting Facts About a Long and Eventful Life.

Uncle John was known to almost everybody in Pueblo and his death will cause universal regret. He was a fine looking man physically, of great courage and strength and his innate honesty of purpose and sterling integrity made of him a friend of all who knew him. He had all the qualities that go to make a devoted and protecting husband and father and a firm and true friend. Although not possessed of a polished education his personality and character was of just the kind that built up the great west and in his death the once great American desert loses one of the pioneer heroes who left their peaceful homes in the east to plow the pathway that led to its reclamation and settlement. He was one of the few who plunged into this comparatively unknown wilderness, braved all the dangers and trials of the great trans-continental march to California in 1849 and helped to found the great Golden state.

Mr. Hildreth was born March 8, 1824, in Bourbon county, Kentucky, but the family moved to Missouri and when the gold fever broke out in California the Hildreth family started in a prairie schooner for the Golden Gates as part of a "train" of enthusiasts. They had the usual number of brushes with the Indians but nothing out of the ordinary incidents of such a trip was experienced till the train got into Utah. Joseph Smith, afterwards chief prophet of the Mormon church, became their guide but they suspected treachery on his part, having good grounds as they thought for it, and dispensed with his services in a few days. Brigham Young then gave them an Indian guide, and their suspicions being still aroused, they kept the man bound hand and foot in a wagon for four days. Their progress was necessarily slow, and one day they determined to camp and rest for about sixteen hours. One family in the party named Oatman were not satisfied with this arrangement and they pushed on alone expecting to rest and join another party thought to be ahead. They evidently reached their new friends but the Hildreth party the next day came across evidences of a horrible atrocity. The whole party had been butchered and their wagons were still burning. This was what is known in history as the Mountain Meadow massacre, in which of 25 people only one child escaped. He was a little boy who had been thrown over a cliff with the expectation that death would be instantaneous, but he lived to tell the horrible story of Mormon butchery, and not Indian, as the murderers would have had believed. The night before the massacre the Indian guide of the Hildreth party escaped.

Mr. Hildreth, Sr., and his two sons, then strapping young men, went to mining and made good sized fortunes. The two boys turned their attention to the cattle business and bought a ranch on the San Joaquin river, twelve miles from Fresno. One brother died and John continued the business. In 1858 John returned to Missouri and at Hannibal married Miss Angeline Simms, and the couple went back to California. They lived there a number of years and went into Texas. After living a year in San Antonio, Mr. Hildreth bought 5,000 head of cattle and started for California again. They came through Pueblo and at Canon City a member of the family was taken sick. The party camped and the invalid was brought to Pueblo for treatment. Since that time the home of the family has been in Pueblo.

Uncle John bought a ranch on Turkey creek from Charley Hobson for $5,000 and settled down. The herd of cattle were later on driven down the Big Sandy, which is about where the Missouri Pacific enters Kansas. Misfortune after misfortune then began to overtake the family. Mr. Hildreth rented his Turkey creek farm and the tenant went into the sheep raising business. This was a cattle country in those days and the cattlemen were bitterly opposed to sheep growing, as the latter animals trod down and destroyed more grass than they ate. The cattlemen were up in arms at once when they learned the intention of the Hildreth tenant and one night every building on the ranch was burned, the Mexican herder killed and the sheep scattered. Indians were numerous on the Big Sandy and Mr. Hildreth built stone huts all over his range for the protection of the herders. Many of them stand to this day and are in use. The redskins, however, were very daring and within a year or two had driven off or killed most of the cattle. Uncle John finally sold his depleted herd and lived in the city for a while.

City life here was then too inactive for him and selling his ranch to T. J. Livesey for $1,500 he collected together what money he could, and, leaving his family, started again for California in 1876, traveling most of the way by railroad. Not a word was heard from him for a year and he was given up for dead, but one bright summer day he showed up again with the largest herd of bronchos even driven into the state, there being about 2,000 animals. This speculation did not pan out as well as anticipated and in 1881, when G. Q. Richmond was mayor and Tom Griffin marshal, Uncle John was appointed on the police force, to which he was attached either as policeman or jailer till his death.

As might be expected, Uncle John has had numerous adventures with the crafty Indian and ferocious wild beasts. He spoke the Mexican lingo fluently, was conversant with several Indian dialects and was more at home in camp than anywhere else. When in California the first time he bought two five year old Indian boys, one a Digger and the other a Navajoe, for a steer and a butcher knife. The youngsters were raised to manhood, but the Navajoe died in California. The Digger was brought to Pueblo and was a dependent of Uncle John till about four years ago. He was known as "Major Cuff," and delighted to bedeck himself with a plug hat and fasten medals, beer chips and brass buttons on his breast. Major, however, was subject to epileptic fits and one morning was found dead in bed.

An incident in Uncle John's life that will interest Pueblo people occurred soon after he first reached here. A cinnamon bear walked into his camp just north of the present court house, being first seen as he claimed over the hill on which the Thatcher residence is situated. Uncle John and one of his men lariated the animal, held it securely from each side with their ropes and after the people of the town had had a chance to see the fun they killed it.

Uncle John amassed three separate fortunes in his life, being worth $250,000 in his young days, but died comparatively poor, having only the house in which he lived.

During the life of Brigham Young, the prophet and Uncle John were personal friends and at the Turkey creek ranch the great Mormon was twice a guest.

MASONIC NOTICE.

A special communication of Pueblo lodge No. 17, A. F. and A. M., will be held at their hall in the Hobson block, Santa Fe avenue, at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, February 20, for the purpose of attending the funeral of our deceased brother, John L. Hildreth. A fraternal request to attend is hereby extended to members of Nos. 31, 95 and all sojourning Masons in the city.

C. W. KESSLER, W. M.

ONLY THREE DAYS.

Then the Slaughter of the Siegel Dry Goods Stock Will Cease.

Nathaniel Dunning's slaughter of the Siegel dry goods stock will continue three days longer and then it will cease.

Such prices on fine dress goods, millinery, laces, hosiery, blankets, comforts, underwear, cloaks, etc., were never made by any firm in this city and probably never will be again.

On Wednesday evening the great sale will close and the goods that are left will be moved by Mr. Dunning into his Picnic store.

Ladies who want to buy goods for less than the manufacturer's price in the east can do so at this sale for three days.

Half price, third price and quarter price will take any of the Siegel stock and all kinds of nice new staple goods are being sold at actual wholesale price without one cent of freight added.

GENTLEMEN.

Should buy their neckwear, hats, underwear and furnishing goods of the Haberdasher, 221 Santa Fe avenue.

A JUMPING DOG.

A Leap of Three Stories Fails to Hurt Him.

A cur dog belonging to Fred Dickson's boys had an unusual experience yesterday afternoon, either having leaped or been thrown from the third story window of the Stockgrowers bank building. The animal struck some wires in his descent and landed on his feet. He bounced about a foot and then trotted off limping. Mr. Dickson lives in the building and the boys say that the dog jumped out of the window while they were playing with him.