

Civil War Veteran Came To Merrill As Logger In '83

George W. Langley was born at Battle Creek, Mich., May 24, 1848. The parents were Asa and Augusta Thayer Langley, who operated a farm near Battle Creek. The family moved to Green Lake County, Wis., while Mr. Langley was a boy and he received his education in district schools, and later worked for White & Anthony of Berlin, for whom he drove beef cattle to Ontonagon and the Lake Superior country, and it was on one of these trips that he enlisted when 15 years of age in the 16th Michigan infantry. All through 22 engagements of Grant's campaign of the wilderness, Mr. Langley fought for the Union cause, until he was wounded in the battle at Hatch's Run in Virginia, Feb. 6, 1863. He had served under Colonel Welch and under Captain Berry.

His wound was in his left arm and he was laid up a year and a half, resulting in his honorable discharge from the army. He had served as a private and during his army career he had seen General U. S. Grant, President Abraham Lincoln and other prominent Union leaders.

Following his army career, Mr. Langley grew up into the logging and lumber industry and was promoted to superintendent of the Brooks & Ross Lumber yard at Schofield, Wis., which position he left in 1883 to come to Merrill where he, together with William Schofield, erected a planing and shingle mill near the Champagne Lumber company's sawmill. This firm did custom and commission business and Mr. Langley was associated with the firm for five years when he sold out his share to his partner. Mr. Langley then entered the general timber and logging business which he continued for over 20 years. In partnership with Nathan Alderson, he farmed the firm of Langley & Alderson, operating two stores for loggers' equipment, one in the Masonic Temple block and another in a building located on the south side of Main street. This firm logged in Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas counties and contracted with and sold logs to all of the large lumbering firms in the Wisconsin Valley, includ-



OLD GRANDFATHER DAM—This dam was built the Grandfather Falls Paper Co., under the supervision of John O'Day. It was replaced but ten years ago by the flume dam built by the Wausau Public Service Co.

ing the Bradley company, the Wintons, Mortenson & Stone, and others. In all, this firm put in from \$90,000,000 to 1,000,000,000 feet of logs, most of the logging being of the railroad type, although the firm also did some river and team logging.

Mr. Langley built eight miles of railroad for the old Wisconsin Central Railroad company, near Duluth, and 18 miles of railroad for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. He built 30 miles of state roads, one-half of which construction was on Trunk Highway 19. The firm of Langley & Alderson supplied not only its own men with woods equipment but also supplied the crews of other loggers. After the dissolution of the firm about 25 years ago, Mr. Langley continued logging and construction work and it was during this period

that he engaged in highway construction work.

Mr. Langley was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic in earlier years and was a 32nd degree Mason, holding his membership in the Wisconsin Consistory and Tripoli Shrine.

George W. Langley, then the last surviving Civil War veteran in Merrill, passed away January 9, 1945.

In 1872, Frank White built the first bridge across the Wisconsin river at the same place where the old iron bridge stood at the foot of Park street, a block below the present steel and concrete structure which carries Highway 51. It was a wooden bridge, but far better than the ferry service that was the only means of crossing before that.

A Hard Trip

Our cousin, Ida Nelson, who teaches school in the Junior High school, will remember this trip as well as we do.

We had a small calf down home and we wanted to take it out to Uncle Frank's at French Ridge. We started out shortly after noon, one leading the calf and the other pushing it—we pushed and we pulled, we pulled and we pushed, hour after hour for the full seven and one half miles, arriving at our destination, as we remember, about eight o'clock in the evening.

The first city election in Merrill after its incorporation was held March 6, 1883.



I SAY, CLEM » » » »

DO YOU REMEMBER

WHEN

FOWLERS

Started Business in Merrill?

IT WAS IN 1898

IN 1898 MR. CHARLES FOWLER ENTERED INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH J. T. DRINKER AT THEIR PRESENT LOCATION. BEFORE THAT MR. FOWLER HAD BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE DRUGSTORE OWNED BY CHARLES W. MORWAY. A YEAR AND A HALF LATER HE PURCHASED DRINKER'S INTEREST IN THE STORE.

TODAY, 49 YEARS LATER

WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE FACT THAT FOWLERS IS ONE OF MERRILL'S OLDEST AND MOST RELIABLE DRUGSTORES AND THAT WE HAVE SUSTAINED ITS REPUTATION FOR PROMPT AND CORDIAL SERVICE.

Fowler's Drug Store

FOR OVER 49 YEARS MERRILL'S LEADING DRUG STORE

