

"On Fame's eternal camping-ground their silent tents are spread, and Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead."

# MEMORIAL

Comrade John M. Whitehead, of Lincoln Post No. 1,  
Department of Kansas, G. A. R.

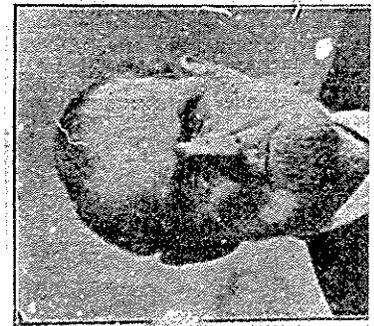
Comrade John M. Whitehead was born March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1823,  
at Wayne County, in the State of Indiana.  
He enlisted as a soldier in the war for the preservation of the Union from the organized slaveholders'  
rebellion, at ~~Camp~~ as ~~Chaplain~~ 15<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry, on the  
29<sup>th</sup> day of June, A. D. 1862, and was honorably discharged therefrom  
on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June, A. D. 1864, at Camp \_\_\_\_\_,  
in the State of \_\_\_\_\_,  
and died on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, A. D. 1909, at Topeka  
in the State of Kansas, and was buried in the Topeka Cemetery,  
in Shawnee County, in the State of \_\_\_\_\_,  
Comrade \_\_\_\_\_ joined Lincoln Post No. 1 on the  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1

The Rev. Mr. Whitehead came to Topeka in 1858 after having done extensive evangelistic work in Chicago, all of Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. Shortly after coming to Kansas he became state missionary and organized churches. For eight years he has been retired from active church work, but all the while has been one of the main supporters of the first Baptist church of Topeka.

Fifty-one years ago yesterday a little band of Baptists held their first services here in a dwelling house belonging to Joseph Miller that stood where the Coburn building now stands. The congregation grew as the little town flourished and the faithful little band of worshippers erected a second story to the building at 211 Kansas avenue occupied by Charles E. Warden, Jeweler.

In 1872 because of increase in membership they worshipped in the so-called

Rev. J. M. Whitehead, who has been a Baptist minister for the past 65 years and who is well known in Topeka, died yesterday morning at his home, 913 West Tenth street, of heart failure, the age completed. He leaves one son, two daughters and two brothers. His wife has been dead for about ten years. The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the First Baptist church. He was a member of the Masons, having joined that order some time prior to his death. Whitehead was born in Wayne and a member of the Lincoln Post No. 1.



**HONOR PAID  
A FAITHFUL  
CHURCHMAN**  
Rev. J. M. Whitehead 85

## REV. J. M. WHITEHEAD'S DEATH BROUGHT TO CLOSE HIS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AS MINISTER

# HONOR PAID A FAITHFUL CHURCHMAN

Rev. J. M. Whitehead 85  
Years Old.

He is Still an Active  
Worker.

## A DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY

First Baptist Church 51  
Years Old.

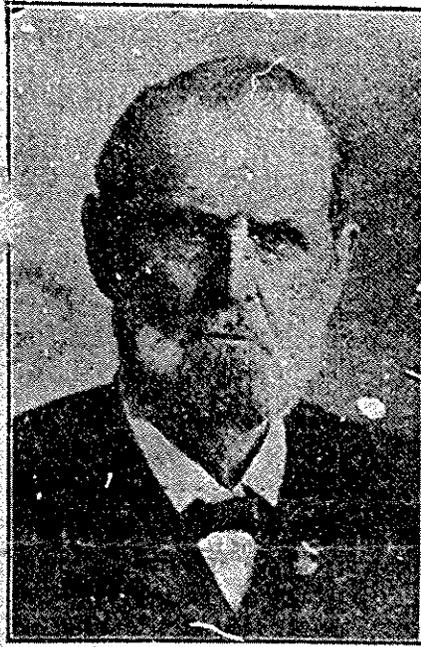
Members Celebrate the  
Two Events.

Seated under a canopy of American flags at a table in the Sunday school room of the First Baptist church and facing no less than three hundred friends who gathered to do him homage, the Rev. John M. Whitehead, one of the oldest members of the congregation, with hair almost white and a kindly light in his eyes, watched the flickering lights of eighty-five little candles that were imbedded in the icing of a large birthday cake.

Yesterday was the fifty-first anniversary of the First Baptist church in Topeka and the eighty-fifth birth anniversary of the Rev. Mr. Whitehead is today. So the oldest members of the congregation suggested that both anniversaries be celebrated at the same time and the younger members make the plans.

Tables were arranged to accommodate three hundred members of the church. They were arranged about a table where the guests of honor were to be seated. The Rev. Whitehead in the center, Robert Stone, toastmaster, on the right and the Rev. Thomas S. Young, pastor, at the left.

After the luncheon was served by the ladies of the church the Rev. Mr. White-



REV. J. M. WHITEHEAD,  
The Oldest Member of the First Baptist Church.

head was presented with a Morris chair upholstered in leather with foot stool to match. In making the presentation talk the Rev. Mr. Young said: "On the fifty-first anniversary of our church we delight in doing honor to our friend, Brother Whitehead. Tomorrow he will be eighty-five years old and still a young man. Gladstone chopped wood when he was seventy-three years old, but not even Gladstone was more youthful and vigorous than our loved brother whom we feast with tonight.

"He has been the father in Israel to this church. He has always given it his wisest counsel, his sympathy and his constant support. He has accomplished for us marvelous things. His presence has ever been a source of blessing and a benediction.

"To the guest of honor," he said, "we came together tonight to show to you our love and gratitude for the staunch support you have always given that which is most dear to our hearts. We ask you not to count the candles on the cake for we would prefer to reduce the number if it would so affect the years."

With a voice that filled the large room the Rev. Mr. Whitehead slightly bent and feeble rose to thank his friends. A streamer of bunting touched his white hair and feeling it on his temple he looked at it, caressed it in his gentle way and then smiled into the flame of candles that adorned the cake. "I want to thank you all," he began. He hesitated, then added, "the candles will burn out with the years, but the old flag will float in the breeze forever."

Then he told little stories of his work; how he had built a church at every place he had had a call; how co-operation of the laymen and the pastor was the success of the work that had been done the past fifty-one years and that what he had done was simply his duty.

The Rev. Mr. Whitehead came to Topeka in 1888 after having done extensive evangelistic work in Chicago, all of Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. Shortly after coming to Kansas he became state missionary and organized churches. For eight years he has been retired from active church work, but all the while has been one of the main supporters of the First Baptist church of Topeka.

Fifty-one years ago yesterday a little band of Baptists held their first services here in a dwelling house belonging to Joseph Miller that stood where the Columbian building now stands. The congregation grew as the little town flourished and the faithful little band of worshippers erected a second story to the building at 611 Kansas avenue occupied by Charles E. Wardin, jeweler.

In 1872 because of increase in membership they worshipped in the so-called Red, White and Blue building that stood where the Cremerle building now stands. The next change was made to a new church that was built on the present site in 1874. Two years later it was dedicated and this was used for worship until the membership grew to such proportions that the present building was erected three years ago at a cost of \$57,000.

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# REV. J. M. WHITEHEAD'S DEATH BROUGHT TO CLOSE HIS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AS MINISTER

Rev. J. M. Whitehead, who has been a Baptist minister for the past 65 years and who is well known in Topeka, died yesterday morning at his home, 913 West Tenth street, of heart failure at the age 86 years. He had a stroke of paralysis several months ago and since then has been a sufferer from rheumatism. Rev. Mr. Whitehead was a strong and powerfully built man and has been preaching the gospel until within a few months of his death.

Rev. Mr. Whitehead was born in Wayne county, Indiana, March 16, 1823. He re-

When the new Baptist church was erected in Topeka, he was instrumental in collecting the money and aiding in every way possible to see that the building was completed.

He leaves one son, two daughters and two brothers. His wife has been dead for about ten years. The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the First Baptist church. He was a member of the Masons, having joined that order some time prior to 1861 and a member of the Lincoln Post. The G. A. R. will have charge of the services at the grave.

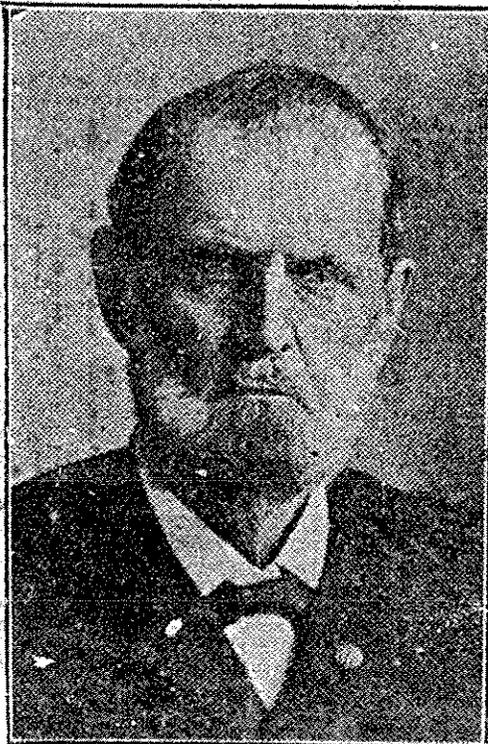
Just before adjourning for the evening recess the House Monday night adopted a resolution of sympathy to the family of Rev. J. M. Whitehead, who died Sunday morning. Rev. Mr. Whitehead was chaplain of the House for several sessions and also served in the same capacity in the Senate. He was a chaplain in the army and served with distinction. He rescued wounded men from a battlefield when the commanding officer had ordered all soldiers from the field and for this act was awarded a gold medal by Congress. The resolution was offered by Representative Robert Stone of Shawnee county and was adopted unanimously. It reads as follows:

"Whereas, the Rev. J. M. Whitehead, a distinguished soldier of the Grand Army of the Republic, and, for three consecutive sessions a chaplain of this House, died in his home at Topeka, Kan., this morning; now be it

"Resolved, by the House of Representatives that the state of Kansas in his decease has parted with a great, moral and patriotic soul;

"That the sympathies of this body be extended to his family and immediate friends, and,

"That this resolution be spread upon the journal of the House and a copy of the same transmitted to his relatives."



**REV. J. M. WHITEHEAD**  
Who Died at the Age of 86 Years.

ceived his early education in that place and at the age of 16, joined the Baptist church. He early showed a preference for the ministry and in the year of 1844 entered this field of work. At one town he held a number of protracted meetings which was perhaps the greatest even in his life of church work, for in four of the meetings, over four hundred people united in baptism. It showed what influence he had over the people and what a great character he really was. He has been a resident of Topeka for the past 19 years and is well liked by all of those with whom he has come in touch. For a number of years he preached at Silver Lake before retiring from the ministry.

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