



1882

1982

A 100 Year Look At  
Grafton, North Dakota

# Early Company C

## ORGANIZED

The third militia company organized in the territory of Dakota in 1885 was Company C, First Dakota Infantry Regiment, at Grafton. The first officers were: D. W. Yorkey, Captain; W. A. Gunn, 1st Lieutenant, W. C. Treumann, 2nd Lieutenant, and Charles Barnes, 1st Sergeant. When North Dakota became a state, Company C retained the same name and place in the First Infantry Regiment.

In 1887, the Company attended the territorial encampment at Huron and won first prize for rifle shooting.

In 1891, Captain Yorkey and Lieutenant Gunn both died and W. C. Treumann became Captain, and later major with J. H. Fraine promoted to Captain. These two men will always be remembered as the backbone of Company C in its early years and both participated in the Philippine action.

## ERECTED ARMORY

In 1892 the company erected an armory on the northeast corner of Hill Avenue and 7th Street, at a cost of \$3,000 with the citizens of Grafton contributing \$1,200 of the amount. Fifty by 140 feet in size, the building provided a splendid drill hall and a place for holding entertainments of various kinds.

The Company was called in 1887 during an outbreak of the Turtle Mountain Indians, and again in 1888 to preserve order at the time of the Collins murder trial. (The murder took place in Minto but the trial was held at the opera house in Grafton.)

## SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

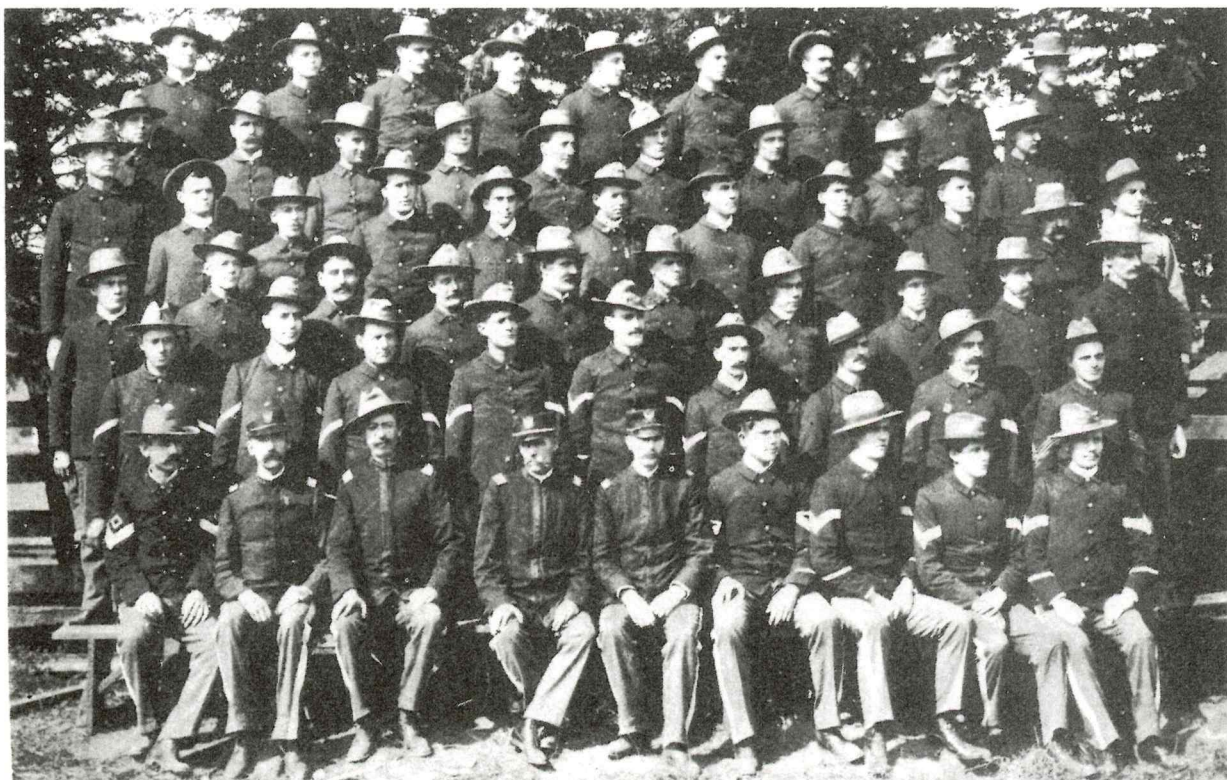
At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, the Company was called upon on the 26th of April, 1898; recruited to war strength with new members coming from the surrounding villages and towns; and in May departed to Camp Briggs, near Fargo to spend three and one half weeks drilling.

The entire population of Grafton and the countryside turned out to bid "the boys" farewell and God Speed, at the depot in Grafton. From Fargo the regiment departed for San Francisco, with Company C and three other companies under the command of Major Fraine via the Great Northern Railroad.

They arrived in San Francisco on May 31, 1898, and boarded a transport for the Philippines.

A stop was made at Honolulu in July before arrival on Manila Bay, July 31. By August 12, they were in the trenches and participated in a number of battles and engagements including the battle of Manila. On August 16, Private John Buckley, while on duty on the lines on the south side of Manila, was killed by a rifle shot. He was the first to be killed from Company C and the fifth man to be buried in the new American Cemetery at Paco. On March 2, 1899, another death occurred in Company C, that of Frank Upham, who died of a long and painful disease.

May 12, 1899, was a sad one for Company C, when four of its members were killed in action near Paete. The second battalion was advancing along the road under the command of Major Fraine, with the sharpshooters ahead under Lieutenant Thomas



**MEMBERS OF COMPANY C, FIRST NORTH DAKOTA UNITED STATES VOLUNTEERS**

(From a negative taken at San Francisco en route home from Manila Photo by Ball & Rindahl, Grafton.)

Henry Bernard, Lorin C. Nelson, F. W. Ridgeway, A. Schell, W. E. Ebbighausen, Oscar Johnson, John Gant, Joe A. Cook, Andrew Tweeton, Wm. Truelock, Thos. J. Blekberg, Garret Keefe, Perry D. Ball, Rob't Givins, Chas. Heine, A. P. Rasch, F. W. Warren, T. J. Beleskhaeck, Fred Johnson, Ernest Stuart, Alb Barrows, T. Sletteland, W. Kerr, M. Mohn, J. H. Thompson, Levi Thompson, C. J. Hanson, D. B. Ingersoll, M. A. Rosen, S. G. Quist, J. A. Lobsinger, J. A. Cook, Arthur Elston, Ed Johnson, C. J. Wegeant, J. Z. Venne, G. Durban, O. O. Berg, W. F. Gert Heggen, L. C. Nelson, H. W. Junkin, A. E. Romer, Sv. Lowe, Geo. Kerr, Harris Shumway, C. C. Carincross, Don McIntyre, Pettinger, J. M. McLean, Lt. W. A. Mickley (D Co.), Lt. C. J. Foley, Capt. J. H. Johnson, Lt. T. H. Tharalson, Ralph Crow, O. D. Foley, Ole Manderud, Thos. Swiggum.



Surrounded by an honor guard of members of the local GAR Post, veterans of the Civil War, in white helmets, the boys of Company C were given a send off at the time of their departure for the Philippine War. The entire population of Grafton congregated at the depot on May 2, 1898.

Tharalson of Company C. A line of insurgent in-trenchments was discovered about 125 yards ahead and Tharalson, under the directions of Major Fraine, sent Corporal Isadore Driscoll with a squad consisting of Wagoner P. W. Tompkins, and Privates Thomas Sletteland, A. C. Almen and W. G. Lamb off to the right and ahead to locate the enemy, while the sharpshooters were deployed to the rear of a stone fence. As they were getting under cover, they were discovered by the enemy and

bullets flew in both directions for a few minutes. Hearing nothing from Corporal Driscoll and his squad, Lieutenant Tharalson became anxious and with two men, started to find them, crossing an open area in full view of the enemy. Fortunately, they were unharmed and found Private Sletteland, with mortally wounded Peter Tompkins, whom he had protected from the enemy after they had killed Corporal Driscoll, and Privates Almen and Lamb. Tompkins died about two hours later and when their bodies were



The soldier seated on the box is reading something of importance to those around him. These men of Company C are on a beach somewhere in the Philippines. A closer look at the background reveals the presence of a ship.

removed, their comrades found the bodies of three dead insurgents.

After serving nearly a full year in the "thickest of the fray," amid the torrid heat, deadly malaria, and the swamps and jungles of Luzon, the North Dakota Regiment was ordered home and left Manila on July 31, 1899, the anniversary of their arrival. They steamed into San Francisco and were greeted by a North Dakota delegation including D. C. Moore of Grafton. They were mustered out at the Presido, September 25, and left for home the next day by special train of the Northern Pacific, arriving in Grafton on Monday morning, October 2, seventeen months after their departure.

### THE WELCOME HOME

Weeks before their arrival home the citizens of Grafton had begun preparations for the event. Public meetings were held and plans arranged for the welcome on an elaborate scale. By popular subscription, the sale of badges and public contributions from the city and county, ample funds were provided, sufficient to pay for the transportation of the entire company from San Francisco, to provide expenses for the reception on their return, including a banquet, and for a suitable monument for the heroes whose lives were lost. The general arrangements were placed in the hands of J. L. Cashel, D. W. Driscoll, D. C. Moore, H. G. Sprague, W. C. Leistikow, Jos. Deschenes, B. A. Provoost, Judge Swiggum, and Mrs. H. A. Ball. The work of decorating the city for the reception went on for days and most homes and businesses were draped with bunting, flags, sheaves of golden grain, potted plants and flowers in profusion.

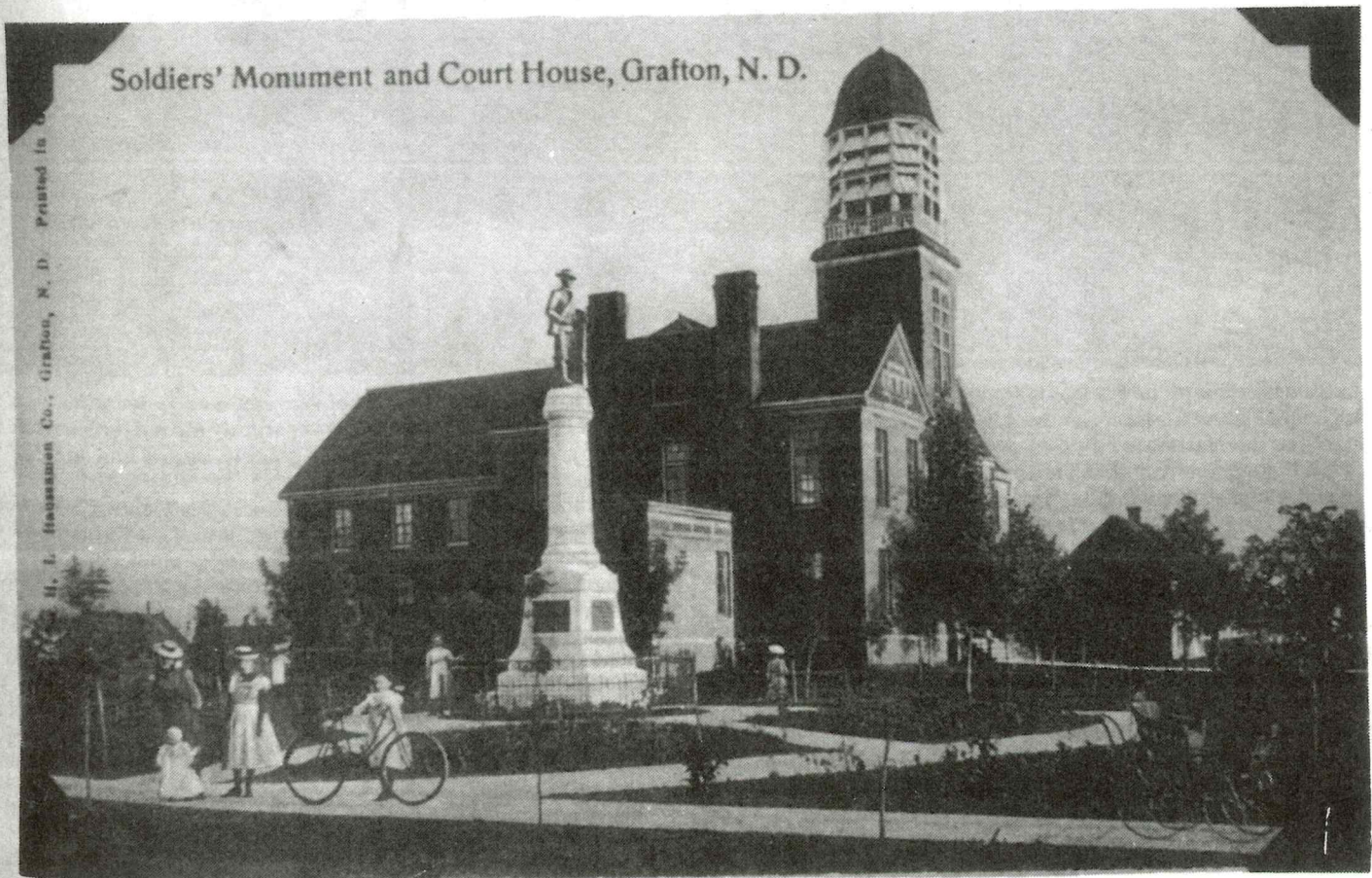
At early dawn, the city was astir and people began to arrive from the surrounding country. Excursion trains arrived from Pembina, Neche and Walhalla, and an estimated 20,000 people visited the city on the day. Just before 10 a.m. the train arrived and the assembled crowd sent up cheer after cheer, that seemed to blow away the clouds that threatened rain in the early morning, and the sun shown on the happy reunion. Words cannot portray the scenes of the next half hour when fathers and mothers greeted

sons, brothers and those for whose safety they had been in fear of for nearly a year and a half. A procession was formed and the returned soldiers were escorted to the G.A.R. hall, where they were feasted and received more congratulations and welcomes from friends by the thousands.

At 11 a.m. a band concert was given on Hill Avenue under the direction of Frank DeJudge, with bands from Park River, Mandt, Vesleyville, Minto, Hoople and Grafton participating. The next great feature was the parade at 1:30 under the command of Charles Jacobson. Arriving in front of the residence of Col. Treumann at the head of Cooper Avenue, a large flag and staff were presented to Col. Treumann and the officers of the company from the residents of the First Ward. Major Fraine, representing Col. Truemann responded. The parade then reformed and proceeded to the speakers reviewing stand on the corner of Fifth and Hill, where the exercises of the day took place with J. L. Cashel presiding.

In the evening a grand banquet was held in the armory for the returned volunteers, their relatives and friends and the old veterans of the Civil War. D. C. Moore was in charge of this event, the ladies had worked for weeks on decorations and three hundred and fifty guests were served. The band played, there were addresses and presentations and after a tribute and cheers for the ladies of Grafton who had worked so hard, the banquet came to a close. Closing the days program was a fine display of fireworks. Early accounts of this event claim it to be one of the most memorable in the history of the city.

Later, on October 13, 1900, a monument to the members of Company C, and to those who gave their lives in the Philippines was unveiled on the court house square. The statue was erected in the very center of what was 6th Street, which was vacated when the decision was made to put up the memorial. The statue bears the names of the men who lost their lives along with these two inscriptions: "Sacred to the memory of the men who gave up their lives in defense of their country," and the famous remark of General Lawton, commander of the American forces in the Philippines: "You can't stampede the First North Dakota."

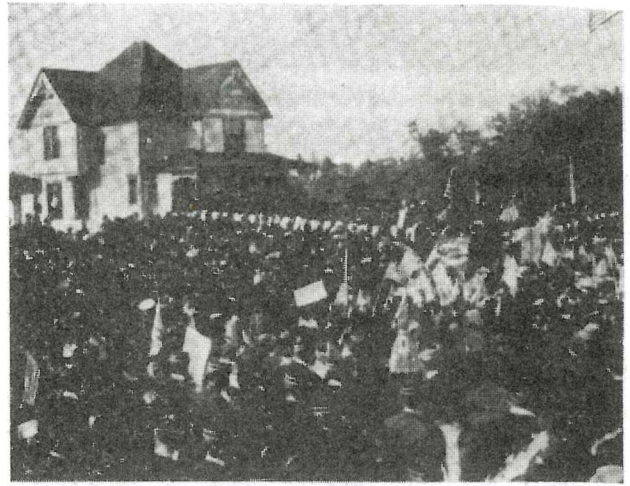


A post script to this story occurred in 1930 when the flag pole that was erected at the head of Cooper Avenue in 1899, in honor of Col. W. C. Treumann and the members of Company C who participated in the battles of the Philippines, was moved to a site south of the armory on Hill Avenue. E. O. Southard, who was a veteran of the Civil War, was largely responsible for the erection of this flag pole on Cooper Avenue. In the ball of the pole was placed a brief history of the events commemorated.



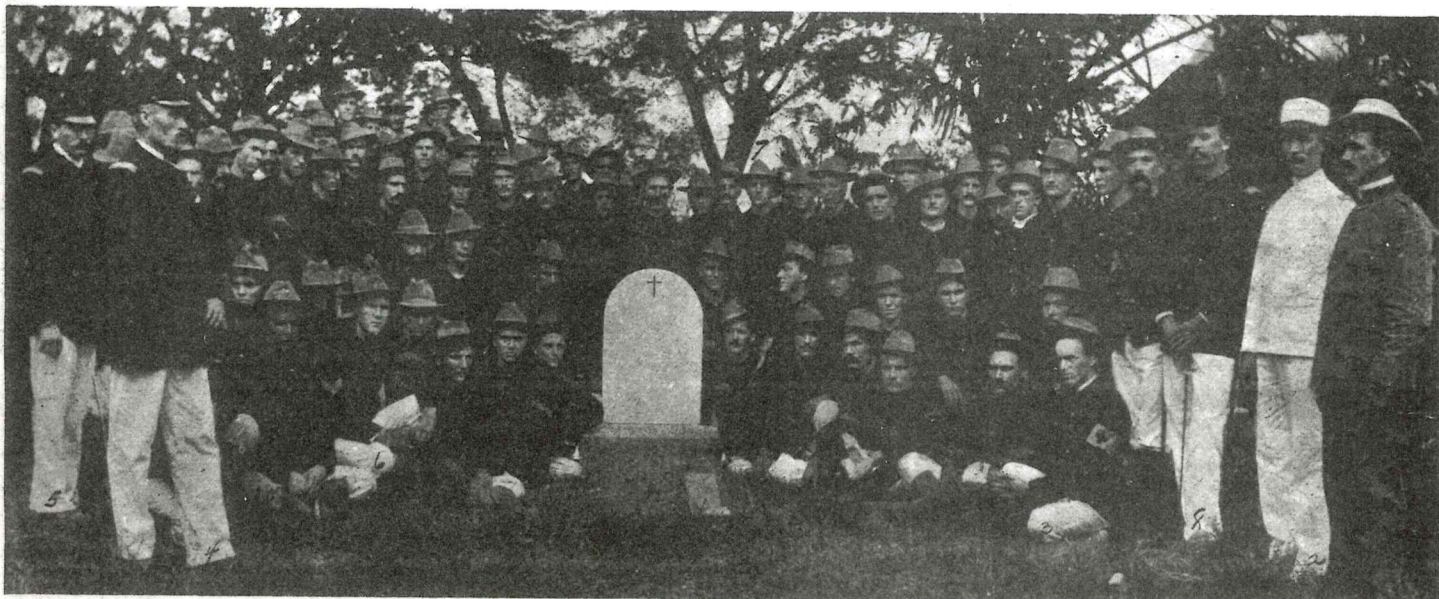
Home Again

First Armory built in 1892. Razed in 1955.



At the flag presentation

On October 2, 1899, Company C returned to a heroes welcome when they arrived in Grafton. Pictured on the left is the Armory on the corner of Hill Avenue and 7th Street, decorated and ready for the festivities. At the north end of Cooper Avenue a crowd is assembled for the flag presentation ceremony. The house in the background in the picture above is still standing on the west side of the avenue.



This familiar picture is that of Company C, first North Dakota Regiment United States Volunteers in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.

At the very doorstep of the United States, the Cubans were tyrannized and subjected to terrorism by the Spaniards and their generals.

The American battleship Maine was blown up while visiting in Havana Harbor. A little over two months later, the Spanish government declared war on the United States.

Admiral Dewey was ordered to the Philippines with his squadron where he destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay. He then waited for land troops to be brought over from the mainland which brought Company C into active combat. "Remember The Maine" was the slogan used during the war.

Latter day historians have cast a cloud over the sinking of the Maine, suggesting that Americans scuttled the ship to stir up the sentiment necessary to wage a war just as Franklin Delano Roosevelt was later accused of knowing in advance of the attack on Pearl Harbor and suffered it to take place in order to imbue the

American people with spirit of vengeance and a fever for war. "A day of infamy" he called it. He apparently did not foresee that the infamy could reach across the Pacific Ocean and tarnish his name.

Company C, 1st North Dakota Infantry is pictured assembled by the grave of comrade John Buckley who was killed at Fort Malate. Among those standing in the foreground are Col. W. C. Treuman and Major J. H. Fraine who is wearing the white uniform. Standing beside him is the only negro in the company, Jack Grant.

Included in the picture are Charles T. Weagant, Charlie Hanson and his brother-in-law Charlie Wentz. Standing at the extreme left is T. H. Tharalson, brother-in-law of Jim Hall. Next to him in one of the three Johnsons in Company C. Eddie, Fred or Oscar. The one with the Red Cross band on his arm is Donald McIntyre, brother of Mrs. Henry (Annie) Jaster. No matter what the manipulators may have done, those who answered the call of duty, did so with honor and fidelity.

(Courtesy of Kate Ledwich McFarland, Script by Kenneth Colter)

# John H. Fraine

One of the greatest names in the military records of the state will be that of John Fraine, lawyer, soldier, public official, lawmaker and citizen.

Born in Worksop, Notts, England, on April 2, 1861, he came to America as a mere youth, first settling in New England until he came to Grafton in 1885. He read law at the same time working on farms and in factories, and in 1891 was admitted to the North Dakota bar. In 1893 he joined O. E. Sauter in a law practice in Grafton.



Major J. H. Fraine, First North Dakota U. S. Volunteer

An early member of Company C, he was a major in command of the 2nd battalion during the Spanish-American War, serving 17 months in the Philippines. In June of 1916, he was the colonel in charge of the regiment when Company C and the First North Dakota Infantry was called on for duty at the Mexican border. By World War I Company C was a part of the 164th Infantry and Colonel Fraine was in service from July 1917 to July 1919, part of the time spent with the Army of Occupation in Germany.

Fraine served in the state legislature from 1908 to 1914, when he was elected lieutenant governor, and in 1916 was a candidate for governor.

While living in Grafton, Fraine was active in all of the local Masonic bodies, also serving as an officer on the state level.

Fraine was married to Marion Robinson, in Waterbury, Conn., on December 15, 1881. She was the daughter of an early New England family. They had one son, John R. Fraine, who like his father, earned a distinguished military record.

Since 1922 the Fraines made their home in Minneapolis, where he was an attorney for the Veteran's Bureau. Mrs. Fraine died in 1941, and Mr. Fraine in May of 1943 with the rank of Brigadier General.

## W. C. Treumann

Born in Holstein, Germany, on December 14, 1862, Treumann came to America as a small child with his father and sister about 1873. They first lived in Ohio, then Indiana and then settled in LeSueur, Minnesota where he grew to manhood.

In 1881 he came to Grand Forks and thence to Grafton in 1884 where he became deputy register of deeds and later owned and operated a general real estate and abstract business, some times alone or with partners. The business known as the Treumann Abstract Company, on the 600 block, west side of Hill Avenue, was a well known business in Grafton for many years.

When Company C was formed Treumann was elected 2nd Lieutenant, and upon the death of D. W. Yorkey, he became Captain, later Major and then Lieutenant Colonel. He commanded the two battalions North Dakota provided for the Spanish-American War in the Philippines with great ability and



Lieut.-Col. W. C. Treumann, First North Dakota U.S. Volunteer

earned fame not only for himself but also for the troops.

In November 1888 he married Elizabeth Baird, a native of Canada. Five children were born to them, but only one son, W. K. Treumann survived. Two accounts written in the Grafton News and Times in 1904 give notice of the deaths of two small daughters of scarlet fever. Ten year old Edith died on Sunday, May 29, and the following Thursday, June 2, three year old Edith, known to her parents as "Little Sunshine," also died of scarlet fever. Treumann served on the school board for several terms, on the first board of trustees of the State School, a position he held for nine years, and elected to the post of County Auditor for two terms. He gave a great deal of his time and talent to Masonry and was a charter member of the Grafton Chapter. While in the Philippines he helped establish a Masonic Lodge there.

In 1901 the Treumanns purchased from C. A. M. Spencer the beautiful home on the bend of the Park River at the north end of Cooper Avenue, which they called Elmwood, and is presently the home of the Luther Williamson family. For many years a foot bridge gave access to the property from Cooper Avenue.

After a prolonged illness, Mr. Treumann died on May 16, 1937. His wife died in 1938. They are buried in Crescent Cemetery.



### Hymeneal

The marriage arranged between Miss Lizzie Baird and Will C. Treumann, was performed Thursday, Nov. 29, by the Rev. H. H. Brownlee, at the residence of the groom, in the presence of a number of their many friends. Both Mr. Treumann and the lady are so well known to the people of Grafton that any extended remarks about them personally would be superfluous. Mr. Treumann, has been brought into contact officially, with most of the citizens of Walsh County, in his capacity of Deputy Register of Deeds, and has hosts of friends. The lady has been, until recently, connected with the News and Times of Grafton. After the ceremony, a reception was held, at which a large number of the friends of the newly married couple offered their congratulations. Among those present were Messrs. John Connolly, Walker, Fraser, Yorkey, Gunn, W. Connolly and Brown. Thursday was a most important Thanksgiving for Will, and it is to be hoped that he felt a proper sense of gratitude for the gift conferred upon him of a most estimable helpmate. The Herald joins the majority in wishing the couple all possible joy and prosperity in their new venture.