

His 'Blind' Eye Was Good

Col S. T. Busey Wounded in Civil War.

to the Editor,

Sir: The new bank building to rise on the historic corner at the southwest intersection of Main and Race streets recalls many of the business leaders who were, in one period, active in that locale.

There was Col. Sameul T. Busey, one of the founders of the bank in 1868 and the grandfather of Mrs. Jane Tawney Klassen, executive vice-president of the bank to-day.

Colonel Busey, as he was universally known, was a Civil War veteran, as were so many of his generation. He commanded the 6th Illinois Volunteer Infantry and for his meritorious service was advanced to the rank of a brevet brigadier-general.

At the Battle of Fort Blakely, Col. Busey was wounded when a shell exploded in his face. It was at first thought he had lost the sight of his right eye. While any wound in the area of the eyes is most serious, the sight of the eye was not injured in the least. However, the muscles of the eye-lid were paralysed and Col. Busey was never able to raise his eye-lid thereafter, even though he lived for more than 45 years.

He adopted, as those who recall him, the habits of a man blind in one eye. Many people considered he was a man with sight in only one eye. However, his injured eye was preserved in toto and

Col. Busey used it for many years for close reading. He deftly raised his eye-lid with a finger and held the lid aloft while he read his mail, the newspapers, an abstract of title, and other close work.

"My blind eye is my good eye", he told me on one occasion. I recall him sitting in the rear room of the bank, holding up his eye-lid while he perused detailed work before him.

When he had finished his work, he lifted his finger and the eye-lid, like a curtain, fell into place and Col. Busey walked into the bank and out upon the street, to all appearances, a man with sight in only one eye. He tilted his head as men do who have just one eye.

He lived for 45 years after his wound in the Civil War and met death in 1909 in the waters of Mantrap Lake, Minn., with his niece, the late Annie McClain.

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