

Tribute Is Paid to Gen. Squier by Home Town

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The woman to whom Bingay referred was Mrs. Mary Squier Parker, sister and closest friend of the bachelor General until his death in 1934. Mrs. Parker was introduced at the dedication.

Opened Club to Public

After purchasing property known as the Mill Pond, then a village dump, converting it into a park and building a clubhouse with wide, screened verandas, Gen. Squier opened it to the public without restriction.

On his death he left the property—there are 80 acres in the club grounds—to his sister, who had served as president and general manager of the General Squier Club, as it is now called. Mrs. Parker gave it to Lapeer County in 1935, and the County erected the memorial dedicated Sunday.

Gen. Squier, born here March 21, 1865, finished the eighth grade in school and went to work in an Imlay City store at 14. But he wanted more education and came back to Dryden after two years and completed the tenth grade, then the highest in the school here. He then went to Lapeer, where he happened upon notice of a test for candidates for West Point to be held at Port Huron. He took the test and outranked all of the other 31 applicants.

Taught Winter Term

Without funds for necessary clothing and supplies, he returned here to teach a winter term in the nearby Terry School, living with his sister and arising at 4 a. m. on winter mornings to walk the four miles through snow drifts to the school. He completed his studies at West Point in 1887, standing seventh in his class, and in 1903 obtained his Doctor of Philosophy from Johns Hopkins University.

After service in the Spanish-American War, Gen. Squier rose to be chief signal officer of the Army in the World War. Because of his numerous inventions and scientific contributions, particularly in field of communications, he was distinguished as the only American soldier to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

He had been assigned to work with the Wright brothers in development of aviation, and in 1908 became the first person in history to ride as an airplane passenger, going aloft with one of the brothers.

Gen. Squier retired in 1923 and returned to Dryden, where he spent his years in the service which won him distinction not only as the village's most famous son and greatest soldier, but also as a good citizen and the best of neighbors.

Clipped By:



peteferrara

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