Doctor Alexander B. Ward, came to Fairbank from Ohio almost 160 years ago and during his practice here from 1855 to 1879 made many calls with his carriage in both hot and cold weather for miles around.

The esteemed Dr. A. B. Ward M D, departed this life March 31 at 8:35 AM. He was born in 1832 at New Lisbon, Columbus County, Ohio. At the age of 15 years, he moved to Akron, Summit County, Ohio.

During his residence in Akron, while quite young, the Doctor commenced the study of medicine. He attended the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He then returned to Ohio where he practiced until he moved to Center Point, Iowa, remaining at Center Point between one and two years.

Diligent in business, warmhearted and generous, he soon gathered around him a host of sincere friends and an extensive practice. The funeral was largely attended, the stores were all closed. Consumption was the disease from which he suffered so long.

Griffy Benjamin Ward, son of Dr. A. B. and Mariah Jane Ward, was born at Center Point, Iowa, February 28th, 1856, and died at his home in Fairbank at 2:20 A. M. Saturday morning January 27, 1923. A few weeks after his birth Griffy, with his parents, came to Fairbank. Here he grew to manhood going thru the local school, which was then held in the “little red brick schoolhouse” that stood where the park now is. He attended High School at Independence, riding back and forth on his black pony, Gyp. He also attended Cornell College, after which he taught school several terms near Fairbank. He entered medical school at the University of Michigan, persevering in his studies until his graduation from that institution in June 1880.

Just before he graduated he was married to Ella Berry of Wyandot County, Ohio, and on receiving his diploma came with his wife to Fairbank where, he assumed the practice of medicine in the place of his father, who had died shortly before. He had a special aptitude for surgery. In order to better fit himself for this work he completed post graduate courses at the New York Post Graduate Medical School. Dr. Ward possessed by nature, a powerful physique, but many years of hard work and constant study began to tell on the strength of his later years.

Dr. Ward was stricken with an attack of angina pectoris, a form of heart disease, and while downtown on Friday afternoon friends had to call a taxi and he was taken home. His two sons, Dr. Dell of Oelwein and Dr. Loraine of Fairbank, were called and did everything possible for him, but all to no avail and he passed away a little after two o’clock the next morning. There remains too deeply mourn his death, his devoted wife and six sons. Prof. Artel of Delphos, Iowa. Dr. Dell and Golding of Oelwein, Dr. Loraine of Fairbank, Wendell of Oelwein and Claire of Fairbank. He also leaves a half-sister, Mrs. Mary Brasharee of Marion, Ohio, two half-brothers having preceded him in death some years ago, the church was far too small to accommodate the large number who came to show their last tribute to one who had always stood four square.

*Taken from Griffy's obit, Independence Conservative 7 February 1923.*
Iowa troops about to return home, 150 years ago.

This will be the last installment of what the men from the Fairbank area did during the Civil War 1861 to 1865. By March of 1865 the rebellion was practically suppressed and most of the Iowa regiments were moving back to safe quarters to await their mustering out and being sent home.

The 3rd, 4th, 9th and the 11th Infantry Regiment, after taking part in “Sherman’s March to the Sea” in December, 1864, participated in the battle of Columbia, South Carolina and continued on the march to Richmond, Virginia and then on to Washington, DC where they marched with many other Iowa regiments in the “Grand Review” parade, May 23, which lasted two days. After the Grand Review the Iowa regiments were mustered out.

The troops of the First Iowa Cavalry were awaiting being mustered out of Federal Service, but on February 12, 1865 the regiment received orders to go to Memphis Tennessee and from there to be transported by steam ship to Alexandria, Louisiana. At Alexandria the First Calvary was assigned to the division commanded by Major General George Armstrong Custer. General Custer’s leadership style did not fit well with the Iowa volunteers and almost resulted into a full mutiny by the First Calvary, to them Custer was considered a “Vain Dandy”.

The Fourth Iowa Cavalry Regiment, in January, of 1865 was combined with other regiments into a large Calvary Corps, anticipating being used to make a second pass through the south similar to what Sherman had done the month before. After arriving in Atlanta on the 9th of May and with the war being nearly over, the fourth was ordered to stay in Atlanta performing garrison duty till they were mustered out.

The Sixth Calvary regiment was in winter quarters at Fort Randall. It was the troops belief that the Indians had realized that the war of the rebellion was almost over and that the government could send any number of troops to suppress further outbreaks so they remained comparatively quiet. In August of 1865 the sixth was replaced by regular army troops and was mustered out.

The Seventh Cavalry regiment mustered out in May of 1865

The 12th Infantry participated in the battle of Spanish Fort on Mobile Bay then returned to Selma Alabama where it performed garrison duty the remainder of the summer before being mustered out.

Shortly after the capture of the City of Mobile, the 21st Infantry was transported to Lakeport, Louisiana and then to Baton Rouge, Louisiana where they remained until their term of service was up and were mustered out later in the summer.

The 27th Iowa, from New Orleans embarked on an ocean steamship, Emperor City, and was conveyed to Dauphin Island, Alabama to engaged in the siege of Fort Blakely, then returned to Montgomery, Alabama where it went into camp until July of 1865

The 38th Iowa Infantry participated in the siege of Fort Blakely, then was transported to Galveston, Texas and on August 29, 1865 was mustered out of service

The 37th Iowa and the 47th Iowa Infantry Regiments performed garrison duty and were mustered out later in the year.
Charles H. Wright

The subject of this sketch, a leading farmer and representative citizen of Oran Township, is one of the brave men who in the days when treason was rife and the enemies of the Federal Union threatened its disruption, responded to the call of the government and gave his services to its defense.

Charles H. Wright was born January 7, 1841, in Oneida County, New York, being the fifth of eight children whose parents were William and Ann (Clark) Wright, both natives of Yorkshire, England. In May, 1854, he started on the journey to Iowa, traveling by the way of Rockford and Freeport, crossing the Mississippi river at Galena and proceeding onward until arriving at Fairbank, in the state of his destination, where he decided to locate. The town of Fairbank at that time was a mere frontier hamlet of four families, the county of Buchanan in the main being but sparsely settled. Mr. Wright purchased sixty acres of land and took up a homestead of eighty nearby, on which he erected a log building, sixteen by twenty feet in size, which answered the purposes of a dwelling until replaced by a larger and much more comfortable edifice some years later.

Young Wright remained at home, assisting with the cultivation of the farm, until August, 1862, when he exchanged the implements of husbandry for the death-dealing weapons of warfare. Enlisting on the 15th of that month in Company C, 27th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, he spent some time at Dubuque drilling, thence accompanied his regiment to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and later went via Prairie du Chien, Madison, Wisconsin, and Chicago, to Cairo, Illinois, where the command embarked for Memphis, Tennessee. Shortly after arriving at that city the 27th joined Grant’s army and the first duty that fell to the regiment was the guarding of the railroad bridge at Tallahassee, Georgia, subsequently being sent to Jackson, Tennessee, to guard the Jackson & Memphis railroad. In the summer of 1863 Mr. Wright’s regiment was ordered to Helena, Arkansas, where it joined the forces under General Steel, which soon afterwards captured Little Rock. Returning to Memphis, the subject spent three months doing picket duty, which time extended into the winter of 1864, the coldest on record. During the months of December, January and February of that year the weather became so intensely severe that many soldiers had their hands and feet frozen while on duty, a few being permanently disabled. In the spring of 1864 the 27th Iowa was ordered to Vicksburg, where it joined the army under General Sherman and from there marched to Meridian, Mississippi, where many miles of railroad were destroyed and thirteen locomotives captured. Returning to Vicksburg, the regiment was detached from Sherman’s command to form part of the force under General Banks for the Red River campaign. In the latter expedition Mr. Wright’s regiment was in A. J. Smith’s division and saw much active service, participating in a number of battles and skirmishes and experiencing its full share of the suffering and disaster which mark the history of that movement. Later the 27th took part in the battle of Tupelo, Mississippi, after which it was ordered to join General Sherman at Atlanta, but the order being countermanded, the regiment with others went to St. Louis to head off the Confederate force under General Price, marching seven hundred and twenty miles without change of clothing and without much time to rest. The object being accomplished, the command went to Nashville to operate against General Hood, who was moving against that city, and in the bloody battle which occurred there and the similar engagement at Franklin the 27th bore a conspicuous and gallant part. At New Orleans, Dauphin Island, Spanish Fort, Fort Blakely and many other places, marching in all thirteen thousand miles and under all circumstances acquitting himself as became a brave and gallant defender of the Union. While on the ill-starred Red River campaign, he was shot through the right thigh, a painful and dangerous wound, but he recovered in due season and from that time until the close of the war was always ready to go where duty called.

Mr. Wright was honorably discharged at Clinton, Iowa, August 8, 1865, after three years of faithful service. Mr. Wright takes an active interest in military matters and is well posted on the history of the United States, being especially familiar with facts connected with the late Civil War, in which he bore such an honorable part. He organized Fairbank Post No. 367, Grand Army of the Republic, served as its commander for eight years, besides filling all the other offices, and is still one of the most conspicuous and influential members. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge at the above place.

Condensed from, 1910 History of Fayette County
Our Web Site
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iafhs

Membership:
All residents of the Fairbank area and friends of historic preservation are invited to participate in the meetings and events and to become members.
Membership is: Annual - $10, Lifetime - $100

If you would like to become a member send a check for the appropriate amount, fill out and mail this portion to:

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