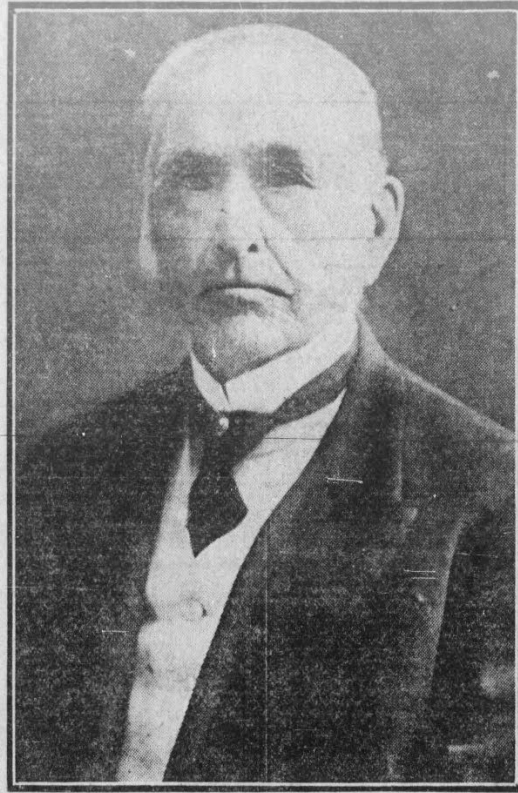


Name of Joel B. Bassett Is Prominent
in Development History of Minneapolis



Joel B. Bassett.

(From the Saturday Evening Tribune.)

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 4.—(Special.)—The funeral of Joel B. Bassett will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 p. m. Interment will be in Rosedale cemetery, this city. The services will be held in the chapel of Peck and Chase, 1215 South Figueroa street.

The name of Joel B. Bassett, a pioneer resident of Minnesota, who died in California, is prominent in the records of the development of Minneapolis. Although past 95 years old he kept abreast of the times and his counsel was found valuable by many of the younger builders of the city. News of Mr. Bassett's death came late yesterday from Los Angeles, where he had been living. The message, from William L. Bassett to L. P. Dolliff of the L. P. Dolliff Lumber company, who was Mr. Bassett's business representative, gave few details of the passing of the early settler.

Mr. Bassett came to St. Anthony from Maine in 1851, when, it is said, Colonel Stevens was the only white settler on the south side of the Mississippi. Mr. Bassett settled on a homestead on the north side, Bassett's creek running through the center of his land. Mr. Dolliff, a close friend and business associate for 20 years, says that Mr. Bassett was full of reminiscences of the early days, and his favorite story was regarding his selection of a homestead in the now heart of Minneapolis. "I was driving on Tenth street with him one day," said Mr. Dolliff, "and when we came to the intersection of Park avenue, Mr. Bassett said: 'I came and looked over this spot years ago and thought of taking it for a homestead, but concluded it was too sandy for a farm and went over on the creek.'"

Old Minneapolis Days.

"He was also fond of telling about a party of friends coming from Boston. After they arrived, Mr. Bassett said he took them one night after dark for a call on Colonel Stevens. They crossed from the East side in a boat and followed a cow path which circled around a slough where the Nicollet hotel now stands. The mosquitoes were thick and the party started to run. One, a fat man, was left behind, and after proceeding some distance, one of the party halted and called for him. Going back they found he had fallen shoulder deep into the slough and the others rescued him with great difficulty."

Mr. Bassett was born in New Hampshire of old Quaker stock. When young he went to Maine, where he engaged in his first business venture, and later came to Minneapolis. He was the first probate judge of Hennepin county and acquired the title "Judge" Bassett. Later he became Indian agent and was known as "Major" Bassett. It was Mr. Bassett who made the treaty under the terms of which the White Earth reservation was purchased for the Indians; it was he who superintended the removal of the Indians to the reservation, built their houses and a grist mill, and had much of the land plowed.

He was an enthusiastic supporter of the old Friends church, which formerly stood at Hennepin and Fourth street where the Webb block now stands.

Introduces Band Saw.

He engaged in many business enterprises. One of his early ventures was the building of a saw mill on the Mississippi at the mouth of Bassett's creek, operating heavily in the Rum river valley under the firm name of J. B. Bassett and company. Later he built a water-power station on the site of what afterwards became the west side pumping station. This he sold to the city in 1878 for \$18,000, transferring his mill to a new site where he was associated with Isaac Gilpatrick. In 1892 he rebuilt the mill and installed the first band saw used in Minneapolis. He was one of the founders of the Columbia Mill company which later was merged into the Consolidated Milling company, of which concern he was a stockholder. He was active in business and political affairs and is said to have been most aggressive. Formerly a close friend of Thomas Lowry, Mr. Bassett opposed the former's scheme of bonding the city for street railway purposes, and the two became estranged. For some years he was president of the old board of trade.

Favors Electric Lines.

According to Mr. Dolliff, Mr. Bassett wrote him only a few years ago to take out a charter for building an electric line from Minneapolis to Duluth. This was not done but within a year a Minneapolis-Duluth line had been organized.

Mr. Bassett was a personal friend of Caleb D. Dorr, another old settler, now in the South. Had Mr. Bassett lived he would have been 96 years old the coming March. He had resided for 10 years in Los Angeles, but made summer visits to Minneapolis until three years ago.