

The following biography is from "*Compendium of History and Biography of Carver and Hennepin Counties, Minnesota.*" Edited by Maj. R.J. Holcombe and William H. Bingham. Published in Chicago by Henry Taylor & Company, 1915.

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CHARLES G. HALGREN.

The useful life of this prominent citizen and successful businessman of Watertown, which extended over seventy years, fifty-four of which were passed in Carver county, except the time of the Indian uprising and the Civil war, ended on May 15, 1910, his death closing a career of unusual constancy of purpose and fidelity to duty.

Charles G. Halgren was born in Sweden February 2, 1840, and at the age of fourteen came to the United States with his parents, Swan and Christine Halgren. They located in Illinois, and the mother died of cholera in Chicago soon afterward. The father in 1857 came to Carver county and pre-empted 160 acres of land just below the village of Watertown, and there passed the rest of his life, dying at about the age of seventy years. By his first marriage he was the father of six children. Charles G. Solomon A., a retired merchant at Detroit, Minnesota. Charlotte C. is the widow of Charles Metzger, late of the Minneapolis police force. John died as the result of service during the Civil War. William died of an accidental gun shot wound in his young manhood. Frank was a mail clerk on the Great Northern railroad for several years, and died at about thirty-five. Mr. Halgren's second wife he married in Illinois, who died at Watertown in old age. Their children are David, a resident of California, and Huldah, wife of B. P. Washburn, of Minneapolis. Emma was wife of Wm. Williams and died a young woman.

Charles G. Halgren as a boy entered a printing office at Fulton, Illinois, and in the summer of 1857 he and his sister joined their father at Watertown. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Ninth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged at Fort Snelling August 24, 1865, after a service of peculiar interest, great activity and numerous adventures, once being held up with a number of his comrades and robbed.

For a short time he was associated with I.I. Lewis in merchandising at Watertown. He then engaged in silver mining at Clancy, Montana, for three years and for one year was similarly occupied at Ketcham, Idaho. Returning to Watertown he bought a drug store, which he conducted for a number of years, being also postmaster for several years. In 1881 he was elected to the state legislature as a Republican, and was twice re-elected. He was later defeated for the senate. It was largely through his influence and that of a few other men that Carver county became Republican after having long been a Democratic stronghold.

Mr. Halgren was a Freemason for nearly fifty years. He was a charter member of Watertown Lodge No. 50, serving several terms as its Worshipful Master and was its secretary at death. The lodge officiated at his funeral, Rev. J. S. Montgomery preaching an eloquent sermon. The Minneapolis Commercial club and other organizations adopted resolutions of respect strongly commendatory of his excellence as a man and citizen and the serviceableness of his busy life.

On June 14, 1869, Mr. Halgren was married by Rev. D. B. Knickerbocker, pastor of Gethsemane Episcopal church, Minneapolis, to Miss Lovina Cunningham, daughter of Luther and Elizabeth (Leighton) Cunningham, the former of Scotch nativity and the latter born in the United States of English parents. Mrs. Halgren was born in Maine February 13, 1848, and came direct from that state to Delano, Wright county, Minnesota, where her father preempted land in 1856. He converted 320 acres from its wild condition into one of the best farms in its neighborhood, thereon passing nearly fifty years.

At the Indian uprising in 1862 Mr. Cunningham opened his farm gate and left everything to the mercy of the savages, himself going to Minneapolis to enlist to fight against them and his family taking a boat down the river to the stockade at Greenwood, now Rockford. There a body of men was organized to join those from Minneapolis. Mr. Cunningham was one of the first to volunteer against the Indians, and remained in service until the outbreak was suppressed. His wife soon had preparations made for the comfort of her family, who were well provided for during their three months absence from the farm. When they returned they found all stock and poultry in good condition having suffered no loss, although a neighbor's family, the Dustins, living three miles distant, were all killed. Some years ago the Cunninghams sold their property in Minnesota and moved to Bellingham, Washington, where the father died in 1895, the mother then returning to Watertown where she died August 10, 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. Halgren were parents of four children. Harry A., an eminent surgeon at Watertown. Guy E., a druggist, optician and jeweler at Watertown. Lottie Elizabeth is the wife of Dr. E. E. Shrader, of Watertown, and Arthur C. a partner of his brother Guy. Mrs. Halgren, as also her sister-in-law, Mrs. Metzger, are members of Loring Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, in Minneapolis.