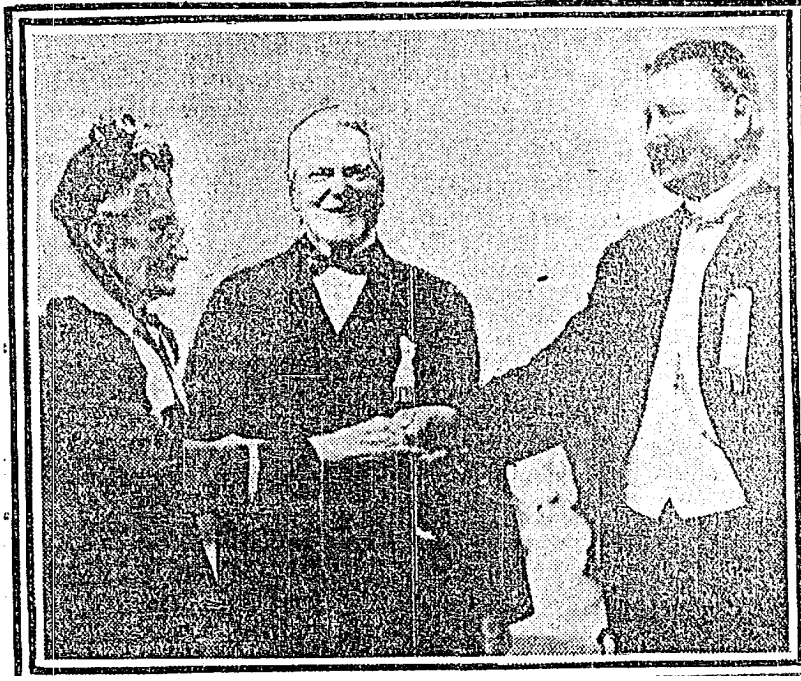


Pioneers Gather in Sharpshooters' Park and Talk Over "Old Times."



Louis Isbell, 84.

J. Kitson, 64.

Sophronia A. Hampton, 79. C.C.P. Holden, 77. Alex. Bearbien, 82.



J.C. Sinclair, 68. Fernando Jones, 86. George Sinclair, 70.

OLD SETTLERS ATTEND PICNIC.

Meet and Talk Over Their Experiences in the Early Days in Chicago.

WIN PRIZES FOR DANCING

Annual Outing Draws Nearly 10,000 Persons to Sharpshooters' Park.

"I'm getting blasé," admitted Fernando Jones at the thirtieth annual Old Settlers' picnic at Sharpshooters' park yesterday. "Sh!" whispered Alexander Beaubien, 82 years old, to Mrs. Sophronia A. Hampton, 79 years old, "he means he's getting old." Mr. Jones straightened up indignantly. "Nothing of the sort," said he. "Mrs. Hampton, shall we finish that quadrille we were dancing sixty years ago at the old Lake street tavern?" Then he led his white-haired partner off towards the dancing pavilion.

Talk Over the Old Times.

Near the group, Mrs. Margaret A. Roberts, who came to Chicago in 1830, was arguing with Charles C. C. P. Holden, who arrived in the same year, about the location of the first courthouse.

"I ought to know," said Mrs. Roberts, "because I used to play 'I spy' around the yard."

"Well, I used to steal apples in old man Kinzle's yard," rejoined Mr. Holden, "and that was next door to the courthouse."

It was the largest reunion on record of the pioneers who made Chicago. There were nearly 10,000 persons at the park. The majority, of course, were of the second, third, and fourth generations.

Arrive in Invalid Chairs.

Every veteran wore a badge bearing the date on which he or she came to Chicago. The pioneers sat under the trees, exchanging stories of the early days. Some arrived in invalid chairs, on crutches, or led by their sons and daughters, but none admitted needing assistance.

There were games, which were supposed to be open to old and young, but it was the children who took part in them. Little Clifford Beaubien, grandson of Alexander Beaubien, the oldest man on the grounds, won the first prize in the running race for boys between 7 and 10 years of age.

Bouquets for Oldest Dancers.

Bouquets were given as prizes to the oldest couple on the dancing floor. When the award was made in favor of Val Kistner, 85 years old, and his partner, Mrs. Henrietta Delfsten, 86 years old, there was one man who was indignant. He was Albert Weston.

"They put me down for 68, when I am 86," he said. "I don't care for the prize, but it is a shame to make me out so young."

Fernando Jones and the Sinclair brothers, James, 68 years old, and George, 70 years old, were holding a little reunion by themselves in one corner of the grounds. All three of the men, together with William H. Gale, who was not present, came to Chicago on the brig Illinois.

Until dusk the pioneers gossiped and chatted over the old times when the fort at the head of the river was the principal building in Chicago.

Gold Medals Are Awarded.

In the evening the medals for the oldest settlers and the oldest couples were awarded. Keen rivalry marked the competition for these honors and it was even charged that some were trying to stretch their ages. All who had won prizes for age in previous reunions were debarred from the contest. This excluded Fernando Jones, Alexander Beaubien, and several of the oldest pioneers, who had won medals before.

The judges finally decided that the credit for being the oldest settler on the grounds belonged to William Horner, 1437 Wrightwood avenue. He has resided in Chicago since March, 1833. Eight gold medals were awarded.