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JOHN G. HEATH

By the late WM. H. H. ALLISON¹

ON PAGES 13 and 162 of Vol. I, and again on page 119 of Vol. 2, of *Old Santa Fe*, occurs the name, John G. Heath, as one connected with a grant of land along the Rio Grande valley, a short distance above El Paso, Texas, soon after Mexico had gained her independence of Spain and had established herself in the roll of free governments. Thinking that perhaps some of the readers of the magazine would be pleased to know something more about this early American adventurer than the casual mention of his name, as being the grantee of a large tract of land from a sub-body politic that was soon afterward conveniently found without power to convey it; we feel at liberty to contribute for publication, some facts about his busy life, having seen him in our early boyhood days. During the last three years we have frequently had occasion to turn over and consult the tablets of our memory in regard to what we have known and heard of this truly unique character; for, in that time we have answered several letters from two different individuals, both desiring to do honor to the memory of John G. Heath, in the pages of history. One of these is the librarian of The State Historical Society of Missouri; the other Mr. Herman G. Kiel, a native of Gasconade County, Missouri, but now an official resident of Washington, D. C. It seems that after the lapse of almost one hundred years from the time of the sitting of its first constitutional convention, the state of Missouri desires to honor each individual member of that body of pioneer statesmen with a separate biography, the subject of this sketch being one of them. Mr.

1. With a letter under date of Albuquerque, June 5, 1915, the author (since deceased) sent this paper for publication in the former quarterly, *Old Santa Fe*. The author's foreword, therefore, is of that year, as is also his acknowledgment of indebtedness to Mr. Herman G. Kiel for many items which the latter had furnished from notes gathered from the early archives of St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, and Gasconade counties, Missouri.

Kiel is engaged in writing a history of his native county, and its pioneer settlers, and John G. Heath was one of these. One commendable trait seems to be strongly developed in each of these writers; in this, they are very anxious to be *shown*.

John G. Heath was born in the state of New York and was a nephew of General William Heath (1737-1814), of Revolutionary fame. At this time, it is next to the impossible to accurately state the date of his birth, or the exact location of his father's farm, on which it is supposed he grew to manhood. On this point it is sufficient to say; that, because of a certain early date when he purchased valuable property in the village of St. Charles, Louisiana, when it was yet a dependency of the Crown of Spain, he was probably born about the year 1776 or 1777. He received a liberal education in the Latin, Greek, and English classics, and in mathematics. Once in conversation with David Ross, who claimed to have been a native of the state of New York, where he was born in the year 1797, and who had come to Missouri in his early manhood, and who knew Heath well because of having had many business transactions with him; when the latter's name was incidentally brought into the discourse, said, "The public road lay directly between Heath's father's house and the home of my father, where I was born." Ross never claimed to have known Heath in New York, for the latter had, in all probability, left the ancestral home before the former was born; yet on coming together in Missouri, the fact was established as stated by him.

Just what year the subject of this sketch crossed the Mississippi River and took up his residence in the Province of Louisiana will probably never be known. Among the early records of deeds in St. Charles County, Missouri, appears one made by Robert A. Heath to John G. Heath, conveying a piece of property in that place for the sum of \$150. This instrument bears date July 1, 1800. It has been said that this Robert A. Heath was a brother to John G. Heath,

but this lacks confirmation. It is more than likely they were cousins.

The next we hear of Heath is in the year 1808, for in the spring of that year he, in company with one William Christie, came up the Missouri River, and manufactured salt at a salt spring fifteen miles west of where the City of Boonville now is, near the Lamine River, about nine miles above its mouth. This business was kept up for many years, at the rate of about eight or nine months in the year, returning to St. Louis annually about the first of November, in order to escape any danger from hostile Indians. At this business Heath grew rich, and was familiarly called "The Big Salt Man." Because of this early business, Heath, no doubt, made the first improvements on the south side of the Missouri River, and west of the Osage River. As the narrative progresses we always find him in the van.

On July 4, 1808, the people of the village of St. Charles, Missouri, and vicinity, assembled at that place to celebrate the anniversary of our independence as a nation. John G. Heath had been chosen to deliver the oration for the day. Colonel Timothy Kibby presided and introduced the speaker. This oration was reported for and published in Vol. I, No. 4, of the *Missouri Gazette*, of Tuesday, August 2, 1808. A part of this speech has been reproduced in a "Facsimile Reproduction of First Page of Early Issue of the *Missouri Gazette*, Oldest Newspaper in Missouri," on page 566 of a volume entitled, "The State of Missouri. A Biography. Edited by Walter Williams, for the State of Missouri, for the use of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904."

The orator, before beginning his speech, used the time-honored formality: "Fellow Citizens," but a little further on, when he found himself well warmed up to the occasion, he exclaimed, "Fellow Citizens of Louisiana"; and in that exclamation he was perfectly right, for it was to be four years and five months, lacking but one day, before the Territory of Missouri was formed by act of congress. Consid-

ering that in all probability the remainder of the speech, not reproduced, was in all respects equal to the two columns appearing in the *reproduction* (and it is reasonable to so believe it was), then, probably at that time no other man living within the bounds of the Louisiana Purchase could have delivered an oration more eloquent, and in every way befitting the time and occasion. The country had recently been acquired by purchase, and attached to the domain of the United States; while many of its people had as recently severed their allegiance from two great nations beyond the Atlantic Ocean, both of which had lately possessed it, and, by the terms of the treaty, had conformed their allegiance to the United States. All these facts had been studiously considered, and the address made to fit them in every detail. The speaker disclosed the fact that he had known of Lindley Murray (1745-1826), and that he had cultivated a close acquaintance with the best English writers and speakers of the eighteenth century, and there have been none greater since.

Before proceeding further with the story of Heath, we propose to give a few items gleaned from this publication, the "oldest newspaper in Missouri." The name of the paper, *Missouri Gazette*, stands immediately over the third and parts each of the second and fourth columns, the latter being the last column; each initial letter being an italicized capital, followed by italics of the great primer variety. This sheet is No. 4, Vol. I, and bears date, Tuesday, August 2, 1808, and, being a weekly, leads us to believe that the first issue came from the press on Tuesday, July 12. At the head of the second column is the space reserved by the publisher on which is erected his *masthead*, using newspaper parlance. This standing notice reads as follows: "St. Louis, Louisiana. Printed by Joseph Charless, Printer to the Territory. Terms of Subscription to the Missouri Gazette, Three Dollars paid in Advance. Advertisements not exceeding a square will be inserted one week for one dollar, and fifty cents for every continuance, those of a greater

length in proportion. Advertisements sent to this office without specifying the time they are to be inserted, will be continued unto forbid, and charged accordingly." The word "unto" preceding the word "forbid" undoubtedly appears because of a typographical error. The first column is given over entirely to advertisements, headed with one reading as follows: "Cash given for bills of exchange on the government, Wilkinson & Price. St. Louis, July 12, 1808." And a second insertion of this card appears near the foot of the second column, showing conclusively that Uncle Sam had already established his credit in his newly acquired domain. Then there appears a list of unclaimed letters remaining in the post office at St. Louis, July 1, 1808, signed, "R. Easton, P. M." This card occupies two-thirds of the column, much more than necessary, owing to the manner in which the matter is displayed; after the caption appears the letter A in the middle of the column, under which are all the names beginning with that letter, and so on through the alphabet; many of the lines appearing almost blank. Then appears this announcement: "A variety of school books for sale at this office," and the same card appears again at the foot of column two. "Blanks Printed At this Office, On reasonable teams." stands at the foot of the first column. In the second column, just under the masthead, appears this announcement: "Sales at Auction." Then follows a list of miscellaneous articles, among which are listed, best cognac brandy that has been more than three years in cellar at this town, cloths, calicoes, Irish linen, saddlery, tobacco and hardware. The third and fourth columns are entirely taken up with Heath's oration, and at the foot of the latter, in a bracketed space, the reader is asked to "(See 4th Page)" All through Heath's discourse there is the frequent use of the "f" for the "s", and likewise the double "ff" for the double "ss", though these letters as we use them today, are frequently seen in their proper places. The only reason for the promiscuous use of these letters at that time, is the fact that they were slowly finding their

legitimate places in English literature; and, not many years afterward, the pages of books and newspapers appeared more nearly as they do now. How are we to account for the frequent repetition of business cards in this issue of the paper when it is reasonable to suppose that Heath's speech occupied at least one-fourth of its entire space; and when we consider too, that allotted to the editorials, and the scissors and paste-pot contributions, commonly called *miscellany*? Let us suppose that inasmuch as the paper was a new venture, the first in that part of the Louisiana Purchase, business men had not acquired the habit of placing cards announcing their various occupations, and their goods and wares for sale to the general public. However, the weakness of the venture, like many others since, must have been noticeable from the first issue; for, before the year ended, in order to avoid complete failure the *Missouri Gazette* suffered itself to be taken over by *The St. Louis Republican*, now the *St. Louis Republic*, which dates its beginning from the year 1808. The copy from which the *impression* was taken bears the name in script, of Capt. S. Vrain, evidently meaning, as we would write it now, Capt. St. Vrain. This individual, no doubt, was an ancestor, or was collateral with the ancestors of the St. Vrains that became residents of New Mexico less than twenty years later, where their influence for good was keenly felt during the remaining years of the past century.

We have stated that Heath began the manufacture of salt at "Heath's Salt Lick," fifteen miles west of Booneville, Missouri, in the year 1808, and that he continued the business for many years, returning to St. Louis with the product of his labor late in the fall, so as to escape the possibility of coming in contact with unfriendly Indians that annually wintered near by. That John G. Heath was acquainted with Chiefs Quashgima, Keokuk, and Blundo, the latter being one-half of French blood, who governed the local Sac, or Sauk Indians during these years, there can be but little doubt; and that two of his Negro slaves had an opportunity

of becoming much better acquainted with them than their master ever wished to be, there can be less doubt; for, during the month of May, 1814, these two men, while in the forest chopping wood with which to keep their master's furnaces going, were surprised and carried away by the Indians. Heath and one Alexander Allison at the head of a small party of volunteers, went in pursuit of the savages, but their effort to regain possession of the Africans proved abortive. This tragedy, though bloodless and among the last to be perpetrated in that region by the Indians, furnished the text for many fireside stories for years afterwards. At that time Ma-ka-tac-mish-lia-kiac, later known as Black Hawk (1767-1838), and who later became a famous chief and leader of his tribe in Iowa and Illinois, was a warrior in the "Boone's Lick Country."

July 5, 1814, John G. Heath was married to Hattie McDonald, in St. Charles County, Territory of Missouri, the ceremony being performed by Daniel Colgan, a justice of the peace of that county. And in August of the same year he was elected a member of the legislature of the Territory of Missouri, for St. Charles County. This probably was the first assembly.

And now the scene changes. On January 23, 1816, that portion of the Territory of Missouri, which had been semi-officially known for more than a decade of years as the "Boone's Lick Country," was by act of legislature formed into Howard County, and the territorial laws extended over the same; and Hannah Cole's Fort, which was then where the city of Booneville now is, was designated as the temporary seat of justice; and there the first term of the circuit court was held, being on the second Monday (8th day), of July, 1816. The officers of this court were David Barton, judge; Gray Baynum, clerk; John G. Heath, circuit attorney; Nicholas S. Burkhart, sheriff. The latter, being a Virginian by birth, was beyond doubt collateral with the ancestry of our well-known citizen, Hon. Summers Burkhart, United States attorney for the District of New Mex-

ico. It was at this term of court the following named commissioners were appointed by the judge to select a permanent seat of justice for the new county: Benjamin Estill, David Jones, David Kincaid, William Head, and Stephen Cole; and eight days after, on the 16th of the same month, they came into court and reported that they had selected the town of Old Franklin, on the north side of the Missouri River, for the future county seat. William Head, one of the commissioners was of the ancestry of Hon. La Fayette Head, who was twice a member of the legislative assembly of New Mexico, being president of the council in the 8th assembly in the year 1858, and later the first lieutenant-governor of the state of Colorado. This the writer learned from a personal interview with Governor Head soon after his election. This noted place, from that time for several years, grew rapidly until it became the second town in size in the state, and immediately became the eastern terminus of the Santa Fe Trail, and there Heath, who always kept both his eyes keenly set for the perception of any business opening that might occur, opened a large general store, which business, according to tradition, was continued until about the year 1825.

The scene changes again to St. Charles County, and there is found among the old records of that county, an instrument by which John G. Heath conveys property valued at \$3,000 to Robert A. Heath, and on the same day, September 22, 1818, an agreement is entered into whereby they became joint owners of all their property; and in the following year, on April 27, 1819, these two gave bond in the sum of \$1,000, as agents of Rene Dodier of near St. Charles. And again the scene changes to the other side of the Missouri River, in Franklin County, and here is found in the circuit court records of that county the following entry: "Edward Bates and John G. Heath, licensed attorneys and counselors at law, were admitted to practice in this court, and Edward Bates was received as deputy circuit attorney in place of Joshua Barton, circuit attorney, absent." This

term of court was held at the town of Newport, Monday, July 12, 1819, and probably was the first term after the organization of the county, which took place on the 11th day of December of the previous year. At this term of court, one David Shelton was indighted and arraigned for "stabbing." Heath defended the accused before a jury of twelve "good and true men taken from the body of the county," and such were his powers of eloquence before the jury that his client got off with a fine of one dollar and three months' imprisonment in the county jail. This was doing fairly well, considering the fact that he was opposed by probably the best lawyer then living west of the Mississippi river, and who later served as attorney-general in President Lincoln's cabinet, Edward Bates (1793-1869).

And now the scene changes again, this time farther up the Missouri River, where Heath becomes joint owner of a tract of land on Big Island. We here quote from "History of Gasconade County, Missouri," pages 633-634: "One of the earliest purchases of land in this county was that by Robert A. and John G. Heath, of 160 acres of land on Big Island, opposite Cote Sans Dessein, of Joseph Rassene who claimed preference to purchase by reason of actual habitation and cultivation, agreeable to several acts of congress, which preference he transferred to Robert A. and John G. Heath, December 21, 1818, for \$300. This preference Joseph Rassene (or Rassein) acquired by marrying the widow of Jean Baptiste Paraw. The Big Island was situated at the mouth of Osage River, opposite Cote Sans Dessein." The details of this early transaction reveal the fact that Uncle Sam was taking care of the acquired rights of his French subjects, that had vested in them before the treaty of April 30, 1803.

By act of congress, approved March 6, 1820, the people of the Territory of Missouri, then organized into fifteen counties, were authorized to hold an election on the first Monday and the two succeeding days of May, 1820, to elect delegates to a constitutional convention to be held in

St. Louis, then the territorial seat of government, on June 12, of that year. John G. Heath was elected to represent Franklin County. This body of state-makers, consisting of forty-one members (all of whom were slave-owners), convened on the day appointed, and continued in session five weeks, during which time they drafted a fundamental law, that, with a very few amendments, served the people of Missouri for forty-five years. This fundamental law was never submitted to a vote of the people for its adoption or rejection, but took effect from and after its adoption by the convention. This omission was probably owing to the fact that the enabling act did not require it to be thus submitted; and again the eagerness to get into the union, and the short time they had in getting the constitution before congress at its first session; with the hardships and slowness of travel over almost impassable roads to the national capital; all these together sufficiently excused the convention for the lack of the usual courtesy extended the sovereign people on such occasions. And a further proof of the fact that the people were very anxious to secure their sovereignty as a state, all state officers and members of the first legislature were chosen at an election held on the fourth Monday and the two following days, being the 28th, 29th, and 30th of August, 1820. At this election John G. Heath was chosen a member of the lower house for Franklin County.

The first legislature met early in the month of November, and, on the 25th of that month an act was passed creating Gasconade County out of the western part of Franklin County, and by that act Heath became a resident of the newly created county. And in the further organization of this municipality Heath was again in the van. Being a well-trained disciple of Euclid (fl. 300 B. C.) he was appointed county surveyor, an office he seems to have held for nearly twelve years, beginning in January, 1821, and continuing until July 27, 1833. One of his first acts as a civil engineer was to lay out and plat the town of Gasconade, conveying

the fifty acres of land on which the plat was made, jointly with Robert A. Heath, to the county for the sum of \$10. This place, situate at the mouth of Gasconade River, immediately became the county seat. Heath here kept a general merchandise store, and was granted a license for keeping a ferry over the river. The first term of the circuit court, beginning July 23, 1821, was held at Heath's house. Nels Willson and John G. Heath were enrolled as practicing attorneys and the latter was appointed circuit attorney. Gasconade, that now has probably not more than twenty inhabitants, at one time in competition with other towns, came within two votes of being made the capital of Missouri. It is a station on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and was the scene of the wreck known as the Gasconade Bridge Disaster of Nov. 1, 1855, which the writer well remembers. Whether Heath was a member of any subsequent legislature will probably never be known; for, since the destruction by fire of the state building at Jefferson City in the year 1837, when many of the records of the earlier legislatures were almost entirely destroyed, it has been impossible to make lists of members that could be relied upon as absolutely correct.

And now we come to, or near the period when Heath, having grown wealthy, and being still ambitious in his desire to make further conquests and state building, became interested in a colonization scheme in the Rio Grande Valley, in the Province of New Mexico. At first we thought Heath reached Santa Fé over the plains, probably in a caravan conducted by Captain William Becknell; but, on further inquiry we are now justified in saying that he went to Texas in company with Stephen F. Austin (1793-1836), who succeeded his father, Moses Austin in the inheritance of his great wealth in Missouri, and his colonization scheme in Texas, early in the year 1823. The Austins came to Missouri from Durham, Connecticut, *via* Virginia, early in the nineteenth century, and immediately invested largely in the Territorial Bank of St. Louis, and the lead mines at Potosi

and Herculaneum; the father being a charter member of the bank. Heath was well acquainted with both father and son; and there is a tradition to this day in central Missouri that John G. Heath went to Texas about the year 1823, and settled at or near San Jacinto, and was connected with a land grant at Bracito, on the Rio Grande.

One often pauses to consider what manner of spirit possesses and impels men to travel long distances over stretches of country apparently almost destitute of anything that might appeal to one's comfort, and at the same time incurring many dangers from hostile bands of savages; leaving behind them many millions of acres of the richest of lands that have never been disturbed by the plow. It is the spirit of adventure; the spirit of conquest; the spirit that impels one to attempt to succeed where perhaps another has failed in his first venture. It was this spirit that caused John G. Heath, though possessed of ample wealth, and numerous friends that were ever ready to confer upon him any official honor that he might ask of them, to quit one of the greatest states in natural resources in the world, and desire to begin life anew in a strange land and among a foreign and strange people.

When John G. Heath bid farewell to the paternal manse in the state of New York, and started on his journey to St. Louis, Louisiana, he, of course, had some vague ideas of conquest, but they were all more of a patriotic nature than otherwise. In all that can be learned of him he seems never to have been in any way associated with Burr and Blannerhassett (1756-1836 and 1764-1831), in their conspiracy to seize and conquer Louisiana, and erect an empire rivaling the United States. The desire of the people of the slave-holding states for additional territory in which to exploit African slavery, began to take root about the year 1820, the year the elder Austin took us his residence in Texas, and there was never lacking the necessary nourishment to continue their growth until they were so firmly rooted as to be able to wrest the province of Texas from

the Republic of Mexico. And the spirit of conquest soon thereafter resulted in the reduction of the territory of the Republic of Mexico so as to reduce it to its present size; Heath himself, because of advanced age, taking no active part.

That John G. Heath remained several years in Texas and Mexico there is little doubt. We are not able to say whether he made a second trip to Mexico; but we do know that he, in his itinerary of that country, was at one time in Vera Cruz; for, at the beginning of the Mexican War he made the assertion that "General Scott will never take Vera Cruz. The place is too strongly fortified. I have seen the fortifications myself. They are too strongly built to be reduced by any artillery the general is able to bring against them." We are strongly of the opinion that Heath made a second trip to Mexico, the latter being at some period between the years 1837 and 1845; and for two reasons: first, he retired from the manufacture of salt, where he had carried on the business for many years in Cooper County, in the month of August, 1837. This we know from tradition, and also from a copy of *The Booneville Observer*, of that date, which came into our hands as far back as the year 1866. In that paper appeared an advertisement, filling about as much space as a square, directed "To All to Whom It may Concern," informing them that he was about to "retire forever from the manufacture of salt," his object being to "square" himself with the world, and that he might be the more able to do so with the *world*, every person that had received credit at his hands, was most courteously asked to pay up without further notice. That "ad" surely displayed the humorous vein in Heath's personality, and we are sorry we are unable to quote it from beginning to end.

The second reason for believing Heath made a second trip to Mexico is, that had he gone to Vera Cruz as early as the year 1823 or 1824, he would not have seen those powerfully built fortifications that he thought were sufficiently strong to resist successfully Scott's heaviest artillery. In

addition to his great wealth, Heath was abundantly prepared to travel and sojourn in Mexico, because of his knowledge of both the Spanish and French languages, having learned these in St. Louis and St. Charles, and it has been said that he was always ready for a conversation in Latin. He, no doubt, spent considerable time "seeing" Mexico's principal seaport, as well as other of her larger cities, including her capital.

John G. Heath was a man of fine business qualifications, and was always ready to engage in any enterprise where a legitimate gain was likely to be obtained; and, in most instances he was a man of excellent poise. Yet he was not wholly without occasional eccentricities; for, on one occasion while sojourning in Mexico, he was charged with having impersonated a Roman Catholic priest, and was seized and cast into prison. His free use of the Latin idiom when in the company of Latin scholars probably lured him on in making the pretense, which at first was not thought of. However, he suffered but little, if any, because of the "trifling incident," as he termed it, and was soon afterwards restored to his liberty. And on another occasion while there he became so over-generous as to scatter handfuls of silver coins among the poor people that chanced to be near him. How many years after this prodigal freak was enacted by Heath until Governor Manuel Armijo performed a like stunt in the city of Chihuahua during the Mexican War, while on his hurried journey to the City of Mexico, will probably never be known; and to determine this, it would be necessary to find whether Heath made a second trip to Mexico, and during which trip it was that he was so generous with his money. The motive that actuated Heath's generosity has never been clearly understood, but it has been surmised that the fear of bodily injury was entirely wanting. Not so with Governor Armijo, who was threatened with great violence because of his refusing to defend Santa Fé against General Kearny's invading army.

Heath brought home from Mexico, seeds of a fine variety of the clingstone peach, which he successfully propagated; and at this time there are but few orchards in Missouri without the Heath peach, and for many years nursery-men have advertised and sold them in many other parts of the country.

After Heath returned from Mexico, following the failure of his land grant venture, he moved his family to Cooper County, and again began the manufacture of salt, at the same place where he and William Christie had first begun the business in the year 1808, and there he continued until August, 1837, as already stated, when he announced that he had "blown out the fires forever." During these years, Heath planted another furnace several miles west of the original one at another salt spring, and there he carried on the business with such success as to give his name to Heath's Creek, and Heath's Creek Township, in both Pettis and Saline counties. The decline in the price of salt, because of its importation from beyond the seas to New Orleans and other points of entry, free of freight charges, (being carried as ship ballast), was the prime reason for the "blowing out forever" of the fires under Heath's salt kettles.

Many times has the story been told that Heath died without having first revealed where he had secretly hid a coffee pot full of gold coins, in the bluff opposite his salt furnaces; but those understanding him best believed that he terminated this savings-bank transaction when he moved back to his former home on the Gasconade River. However, Heath was addicted to making occasional deposits of coins in unusual places; for, on one occasion my father, who for several years was one of Heath's foremen about the furnaces, on his way to the works one morning after a heavy rain had fallen during the night, discovered a partly uncovered keg of silver coins, that had been buried in a small arroyo a quarter of a mile from the furnaces. On his arrival at the furnaces my father informed Heath of his discovery and that he might find a more secure location in

which to make his cache in the future. Heath's reply was: "I am glad you have called my attention to that matter. I will have the keg brought in"; and calling two of his slaves, he charged them to take a yoke of oxen and a cart and bring the money to the furnaces. It is not likely that Heath ever lost any money because of his "sand bank deposits," for these probably only awaited his annual trips to St. Louis, where he did his principal business in a mercantile way. After his return to his former home, Heath became a member of the county court of Gasconade County. After the year 1840, the county records fail to disclose the fact that Heath was any longer a slave owner.

John G. Heath as a scholar excelled most of his associates; as a lawyer and state builder he stood fairly well; and as a business man he was in the front rank. As a conversationalist he excelled most men, serious or humorous, as the varying occasion seemed to require, never becoming tiresome; as a husband and father he was loving and kind-hearted. He strictly attended to whatever business he had in hand. His habits and personal desires were largely those of most men; and only did he excel at the dinner table when his favorite viands, consisting of buttermilk, the flesh of the sand-hill crane (*Grus Mexicana*), and the flesh of a young grown dog (*Canis familiaris*), were served. And for these innocent eccentricities he made no apologies other than that they were strictly his own, and that he took no delight in urging others to accept them as their own. He was independent in thought and deed, and was free to allow the same in behalf of all others.

Such was the life of John G. Heath, the scholar, the lawyer, the manufacturer, the merchant, the farmer, the would-be owner of a baronial estate, with thousands of dependents to wait upon his call. He succeeded in all but the last far beyond the average of men, notwithstanding his occasional eccentricities. His death occurred at about his 80th year, in August, 1848; and his burial place is on the bluff opposite to, and not more than a half mile from, where his salt furnaces were first built.