

Glimpses of Our Past

Blaine, United States Senator, ran against Democrat Grover Cleveland, Governor of New York. On October 31, 1884, a mounted group of Blaine supporters, led by MAJ L. C. Whiton rode in a New York City parade in honor of Sen. Blaine.

Grover Cleveland prevailed in the election, becoming the 22nd President of the United States. When it was learned that New York City Democrats were organizing a mounted group of Cleveland supporters to attend the inauguration using its name, the Republicans filed for incorporation as "City Troop New York Hussars" in December 1884. The trustees named for the first year were William C. Banning, Cyrus W. Field Jr., Leonard Paulson Jr., Lindsay C. Ivory, and Louis Claude Whiton. The purpose stated on the incorporation papers was "military drill" and it was filed under the "provisions of 'An act for the incorporation of societies of clubs for certain social and creative purposes,' passed by the Legislature on April 11, 1865."

So who were these fellows?

William Calvin Banning was born in 1848 in Lyme, Connecticut. His father, William Joshua Banning was a portrait painter. William, however, became a businessman, connected with the firm of F. E. Atteaux & Co., Boston, which manufactured dyestuffs and chemicals. He died in 1904, of apoplexy, following a bath in the surf in Long Beach, NY. At the time of death, he was a member of the Union League, New York Athletic, and Wool clubs. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn NY.

Cyrus W. Field Jr. was born in 1857 in Field house, Gramercy Park, Manhattan, his father being the projector of the Atlantic telegraph cable. He was privately educated until entering Williams College in 1875; graduating four years later. He entered the brokerage business in 1880, his father bought him a seat in the New York Stock Exchange. He continued with that profession until 1891. In 1892, he became US consul at Brunswick Germany. In 1894, on his return home from Germany, he stopped in England, where he developed a cold. His condition worsened and upon return to New York, it was discovered that he had tuberculosis. He died that year, a Free Mason, member of St. Anthony's Club, the YMCA, a Museum of Natural History and Metropolitan Museum of Art. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery, North Adams MA.

Leonard Paulson Jr. was born in 1846 in New York, NY, the son of a merchant tailor. He was a dealer in cotton yarns, associated with the firm of Buckingham & Paulson, est. in 1877, to the time of his death in 1915, when the firm was known as Paulson, Linkroum & Co. He was a member of the Sons of the Revolution, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Masons and the Founders and Patriots. Leonard Paulson is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn NY.

Lindsay C. Ivory Little is known about Lindsay C. Ivory. He was born in 1851 in New York. He was a freight agent for the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railway Co. and an amateur photographer. He died in 1937 in Stamford CT.

Louis Claude Whiton was born in 1857, the son of Augustus S. Whiton. His father was a civil engineer who became General Superintendent of the Erie Railroad and later engaged in the steel and iron rail business. Louis chose a different path, earning an A.B. degree from the University of the City of New York and an LL.B. degree from Columbia University in 1880. He was a specialist in corporation law and one of the organizers of the United States Title Corporation. Louis C. Whiton died in 1944 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn NY.

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