

NORTHWEST PARK NAME IS CHANGED TO KILGOUR PARK

Civil War Hero Honored By
Park Board Monday
Evening

General William M. Kilgour, Sterling's Civil war hero, was honored by the park board Monday evening when, in response to the crusade started by The Gazette, Northwest park was originally named Kilgour park. No dedicatory services will be held at present. Within another year or two, however, the park board will be ready to start developing the new northwest pleasure ground and at that time it is expected that there will be dedicatory ceremonies in keeping with the occasion.

General Kilgour, for whom the park was named, died at Los Gatos, Calif., May 29, 1885, from wounds received during the Civil war. He was born near Carlisle, Cumberland county, Pa., June 12, 1828. In 1837 the family moved to Sterling, settling on the farm, a part of which is now Kilgour park. Here he obtained a common school education and afterward studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1856.

At the outbreak of the Civil war he was among the first to volunteer, enlisting with two law students from his office in Company B, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, the first to be raised in Illinois. He was commissioned second lieutenant and served with the regiment in engagements at West Glaze, Linn Creek, Springfield and Salem. During this period he also acted as judge advocate. His exposures on the field brought on a severe illness and he resigned his commission.

In the autumn of 1862, although only partially recovered from the fever which had stricken him down, he again volunteered and was made captain in the Seventy-fifth Illinois and, soon afterward, was made major. With this regiment he took part in the battle of Perryville, where he was severely wounded, a minie ball passing through his body. For a long time it was believed that the wound would prove fatal. It was not until 10 months later, however, that he was able to rejoin his command.

While absent, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. He reached it just in time to take part in the battle of Chicamauga. In the engagement about Chattanooga Colonel Kilgour, with his regiment, served in the movement, under General Hooker, in which the enemy was driven from Lookout mountain. He also bore his share in all the actions of the Atlanta campaign and, after its close, returned to Tennessee and was in the movement from Pulaski to Nashville, including the fierce engagement at Franklin and the crowning victory at Nashville. He was wounded three times and was breveted for gallantry the same number of times. At the close of the war, he was mustered out of service with the rank of Brevet Brigadier General of Volunteers.

On the reorganization of the regular army, which followed the end of the rebellion, General Kilgour was commissioned captain of the Forty-first infantry. He served in this capacity until he was retired, December 16, 1867, with the rank of colonel in the United States army.

On his retirement, General Kilgour resumed the practice of law in Sterling, but never fully recovered from the effect of his terrible wound at Perryville and was forced to go to California in search of health. Here death relieved him from his sufferings.

To Commissioner E. W. Pittman is entitled a great deal of credit for the naming of the park. Mr. Pittman led the drive for naming the park among the old timers and friends of General Kilgour. The park board passed the resolution naming the park unanimously.