

ceived orders to report to headquarters to serve in the capacity of orderly. The duty of an orderly is to carry dispatches and orders, verbal or written, sent out by the commanding officer. I was well acquainted in the community. I knew all the dignitaries of the Dakota territory and it was the custom for the people when they visited Sioux City to call upon the general. I was usually first greeted by these men when they came to visit the general and was requested by him to introduce them, so the orderly became a convenience at headquarters and in favor with the general.

It was the universal custom in those days when making a new acquaintance or renewing an old one to ask all out to take a drink. In order to keep a vow previously taken, never to imbibe too freely, I was often obliged to ask to be excused.

General Cook was of small stature, dark complexion, very black hair, which he wore long enough to hang down in back. He was a perfect gentlemen in demeanor, a good fellow, a constant friend, and a man highly appreciated.

The troops in the vicinity at that time consisted of the Sioux City cavalry, of which I was a member, one company, - Capt. Maynard's, - of Vermillion, S. D., a like company at Yankton commanded by Capt. Tripp, - the same party who figured in the militia at Sioux City. There were also three companies of Iowa infantry at Ft. Randall commanded by Lieut. Col. Pattee. The colonel was a brother-in-law of war Governor Kirkwood.

The general set about at once to make himself familiar with