

# Historic Sword Went Through Two Wars

Now Belongs To Oldest Son of Late  
E. A. Parrett

When the sword which his great-grandfather carried through the Revolutionary War was recently assigned to Charles Parrett of Elmer, Mo., it not only maintained its line of descent to eldest sons but also its historic connection with a military family.

The weapon was carried for seven years and five months in the Revolutionary War by this ancestor who was a cavalryman and colonel of Virginia regiment. He bequeathed it to his eldest son with the instruction that it be handed on to the oldest son in each succeeding generation. It fell to a grandson, William Henry Harrison Filley, who carried it through the Civil War as a first lieutenant. This was the weapon's last war service, and for more than 60 years thereafter it has filled an honored position of peace.

In 1868, the sword went from Filley to Joseph Parrett, father of E. A. Parrett of Macon county, now deceased. Joseph Parrett had served in the



Third Iowa Cavalry in the Civil War, with Filley. It descended to Joseph Parrett's eldest son, Hillis Parrett, who sent it on to Charles Parrett, eldest son of his brother, E. A. Parrett.

"It was loaned for a few years to the Odd Fellows lodge at Abingdon, Iowa," wrote Hillis Parrett in the letter which accompanied the sword. "When I became a Master Mason, in 1887, they had no sword at Kilwinning Lodge, No. 198, at Batavia, Iowa, so I got this sword from Abingdon and took it to Batavia, and for the past 40 years it has hung on the walls of the Kilwinning lodge room."

The blade is straight and extremely long, 32 inches. Swords in those days were issued to correspond to the height of the man, and should drop to within four inches of his left heel. This one was for a six-footer. The scabbard is missing, but the letter says the original one was of Morocco leather ornamented with brass. The handle of the saber is handsomely ornamented with brass.

The Macon county Parretts have preserved the military record of their forefathers, but they modestly refused to give the story and it was obtained from others. The saber rests in the hands of Charles Parrett who was a volunteer in the regular army and served all through the World War as a member of the Third Division, 18th Field Artillery, and was a member of the Army of Occupation. He and his brother, James Arthur, served together until the latter was wounded. Both men now employ themselves with the peaceful life of farmers.

At the close of the Rhine occupation, Charles returned to the farm four miles west of Elmer, Mo. He was married in April, 1929, to Miss Lois Richmond of Elmer.

The youngest of the four boys, Raymond C. Parrett, enlisted in the regular army at 18, and was two years in the Phillipines. He is now in the Aviation Corps stationed at San Francisco. Ralph Parrett is a druggist in Kansas City.

These sons of Mrs. E. A. Parrett are shown in the picture with their sister, Miss Mae Parrett, a stenographer. The owner of the sword is second from the left.