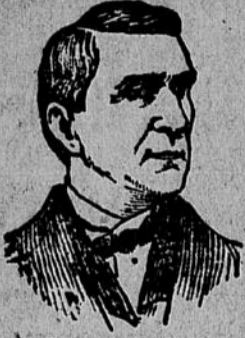


A PIONEER JOURNALIST.

The Late Erastus Brooks—His Career as a Writer, Politician and Journalist.

Mr. Brooks was born in Portland, Me., on Jan. 31, 1815. His father, James Brooks, commanded the Yankos, which sailed from Portland, and lost his life in the war of 1813-14. Mr. Brooks was a teacher at Haverhill academy, Massachusetts, was a printer by trade, and for forty-one years was editor and proprietor of The New York Express. Earlier he published The Gazette at Haverhill, edited



The Portland Advertiser in the Harrison campaign, and was selected to take the electoral vote to Washington. For a number of years he was a correspondent of New York and Boston journals at Washington, and he represented The Express there for seventeen successive sessions. In 1844 he married the youngest daughter of Chief Justice Cranch. The year before his marriage he spent in traveling in Europe. He was an old line Whig, was elected to the state senate in 1853-54, and was a member of the constitutional convention of 1865-67 and of the constitutional commission in 1871-72. He was the "American" candidate for governor in 1866 and led his ticket by 7,000 votes. In 1855-56 he engaged in a controversy with Archbishop Hughes on the church property question, which caused much excitement. He died on Nov. 25. A couple of incidents will illustrate the skill of Mr. Brooks in beating his journalistic rivals.

Early in the forties there was an important state election, and The Express made arrangements to get the result before its rivals. All the election returns in those days, when Thurlow Weed ran things generally, went to the office of his paper, The Albany Journal, for there was no telegraph to bring the news to New York. Mr. Brooks went to Albany with a force of printers, arranged with Mr. Weed to get his returns, and took type along with him. Mr. Brooks secured the latest returns, and when the steamboat left Albany in the evening he got on board with them. He did messengers from the other papers. But Mr. Brooks had transformed one of the staterooms into a printing office, and when the steamboat reached her wharf here had the returns in type ready to be put at once into the form. By this method he managed to have the extra Express on the street with all the news a couple of hours before any of his rivals, and so achieved a great news victory.

Again, in 1845, after Ezra Cornell had built his telegraph line from Albany to New York city, The Express made a remarkable "beat" over The Herald in securing the inaugural message of Governor Silas Wright. There was no railroad then, and eccentric James Gordon Bennett, who had a line of pony expresses from this city to Albany to bring down the legislative news, refused Mr. Cornell's offer to use the wires to get the message, preferring to trust to his ponies. The Brooks brothers promptly accepted Mr. Cornell's offer and got Governor Wright's message over it immediately after its delivery. The result was that The Herald's pony express with a copy of the message to be used in the morning would meet the express riders of the lively Evening Express delivering copies of the paper with the message printed in full. The Herald was badly beaten in a field peculiarly its own, and the hitherto unheard-of enterprise was the talk of the country for months.

Tilden at the Shrine of Beauty.
Some years ago, at the Fifth Avenue theatre, a distinguished party passed from the manager's box behind the scenes to congratulate Mary Anderson upon her success. The scene in the green room was very striking as the tall Kentucky beauty was formally presented by Henry Watterson to Samuel J. Tilden. Attired in an elaborate full dress suit, a jewel sparkling in his shirt front, his hair carefully combed, his face radiant with smiles, to which the dropping of one eyelid gave a quizzical deprecating expression, Mr. Tilden paid his compliments to the actress with all the grace and embarrassment of a French nobleman. The airiest nothings sparkled as he uttered them, the commonplace of admiration glowed with the fervor of his look and manner.
"What a handsome man Mr. Tilden is!" said Miss Anderson, as the party retired.
"Old!" she continued, in reply to an observation; "I never thought of his age. Why, his talk was as young as anybody's."—New York Mail and Express.

The Late Ex-Governor Phelps of Missouri.

Ex-Governor John S. Phelps, who died recently in the Sister's hospital at St. Louis, was in his seventies, and had been one of the most important citizens of his adopted state. He came to Missouri from the east in 1837 and settled in Springfield, in the southwestern portion of the state, and was elected to the legislature in 1840 and to congress in 1844. He served eighteen years in congress and for seven terms was chairman of the ways and means committee. He left congress in 1858 to enter the Union army as colonel of a Missouri regiment which was employed in the hump guard service. In 1870 he was elected governor of Missouri as a Democrat and served four years. He was governor during the big strike of 1877.



Mr. George Francis Train informs us that he is to live and endure 300 years.

A Pleasant Idiosyncrasy.
Mr. Gorham, of the Agassiz museum at Providence, is said to indulge in the "pleasant idiosyncrasy" of keeping loose in his bedroom several full grown rattlesnakes which he has tamed and of which he makes pets. He sometimes honors his most cherished friends by admitting them to his apartment, and it is usually found that one visit is all that they are anxious to make. Mr. Gorham is said to be a natural snake charmer and to have the power of calling snakes from their coverts by whistling.—Chicago Times.

Information concerning lands, lots, and business chances in Griggs County, can be obtained from the COURIER office.



THE ARGUMENT

In the above engraving of Cooperstown it will be seen, that the waving wheat fields, chevron upon the village green—that the suburban villas, are not as yet in case—that the city is immersed in an illimitable sea of pure air, resting upon a basis of vegetable loam, of unparalleled extent, and fertility—that air and earth are shimmering continually in a proxym of mutual admiration. But for the necessary curtailment of the horizon in the illustration the honest farmers might be seen to approach the great rural trading point, from the Mouse river, on the north, to the main line of the Northern Pacific,

on the south; from the United States on the east, to where the foot hills of the great western watershed commence to pitch and roll—

Some in rags,
And some in tags,
And some in velvet gowns.

With a population of less than 1,000 souls, draining the trade of 1,600 square miles of richness, populated by an honest, industrious and thrifty people, it is not to be wondered at that its churches, banks, elevators, stores, hotels, newspapers, horse markets, lumber yards, coal and wood depots, architects, ministers, lawyers, doctors, milliners, dress-makers, blacksmiths, machine warehouses, are the best in the world.

In 1895 Nine Thousand Tons of wheat was marketed at this point at such a price that had the receipts been equally distributed to the people of the county, \$100 in cash would have been given to every man, woman and child. So rich and vast is the country that centres at this point, if one-half of the arable land should be cultivated to wheat, the yield at 20 bushels per acre, by close mathematical calculation would be in excess of 175,000 tons.

In addition to the cultivation of cereals, the surrounding farmers are raising horses, cattle, pigs and poultry for which they find a ready market. As a grazing country the only draw back is the exceeding fertility of the soil, for it requires moral courage in the husbandman

to graze land that by tickling with a plow will "laugh with a harvest" and that breaks a cast iron binder all up the first season. Cattle fatten at the straw stack, while barley in sixty days converts the lean "razor back" into a shapeless ball of lard. The finest breeds of Percheron and Clydesdale horses are carefully cultivated, and thrive upon the native grasses better than the best timothy or red top.

The horse, cattle and hog market of Cooperstown is a revelation to easterners.

The very best of land can be had at \$5 per acre in the vicinity of Cooperstown, while the city offers the best inducements to enterprising business men.

THE SUNDAY ARGUMENT

Mr. Gorham, of the Agassiz museum at Providence, is said to indulge in the "pleasant idiosyncrasy" of keeping loose in his bedroom several full grown rattlesnakes which he has tamed and of which he makes pets. He sometimes honors his most cherished friends by admitting them to his apartment, and it is usually found that one visit is all that they are anxious to make. Mr. Gorham is said to be a natural snake charmer and to have the power of calling snakes from their coverts by whistling.—Chicago Times.

Mr. George Francis Train informs us that he is to live and endure 300 years.

An improved farm of 506 acres within sight of three elevators will be sold very cheap. Every acre is first-class wheat land, except some excellent meadow. An improved farm of 320 acres—all good wheat land—cheap for cash. A magnificent improved tract of 520 acres adjoining a live town can be had at a bargain.

F. H. ADAMS.