



Private Edmund J. Pickett

**Edmund J. Pickett** was the eldest son of Irish native, **Richard Pickett**. He was born in 1844 in Saranac. When young, he worked on his father's farm and later in log-driving and lumbering. On September 1, 1864, at 20 years old, he enlisted in Plattsburgh as a private in Co. A of the 16<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry Regiment to serve for one year. He mustered out at the end of the war, less than a year later, on May 31, 1865, and returned to Saranac and the lumber business.

As part of his duties he "drove river" on the Saranac until the fall of 1867. He then started a mercantile business at "Pickett's Corners" in Saranac, and lived there until he died. In 1872, he started a wheelwright business with his brother-in-law **William Grogan**, a blacksmith, and until 1887, built more than half of the wagons in the Town of Saranac.

In October of 1866, he was married to **Katie Nash**, the eldest daughter of **Patrick Nash** of Saranac, who was

also an Irish immigrant.

Before he died, both his legs had to be amputated after an episode of gangrene, but because of his robust personality, he refused to succumb to what many considered to be a great misfortune to this physically active man. When he did die, it was of heart trouble on September 14, 1908, he was one of the most respected and influential members of the 600-citizen community of Saranac. During his lifetime, he had served in many public offices, including two terms as postmaster during the Cleveland presidency. He also served as president of the Clinton County Veterans Association and was on the staff of the National and Department Commanders.

The funeral services were celebrated by Rev. Father Bachand of Redford assisted by a male quartette from Plattsburgh with Miss Wilson at the piano. The service was most impressive in its character while the many floral tributes, attested the esteem in which he was held. The Plattsburgh Council Knights of Columbus were present as were the members of J. S. Stone Post G.A.R. to honor their commander of the last ten years. Interment was at Cadyville, nearly two hundred teams of horses being in line to the last resting place. Thus a most loyal friend, a good neighbor and honorable man has gone to his long rest, while the bereaved wife and family are assured of the earnest sympathy of the entire community.

