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Birthday Surprise

Jeremiah Sawdy of the Villa Tract was greatly surprised on the seventeenth of March to find at about 10:00 oclock, forty or more folks gathered in his yard to wish him a happy birthday. They were members of the G.A.R. Post and Relief Corps, this being the third occasion these various organizations helped him to celebrate the day of his birth and promise to do so every year. Some of the number were costumed characteristic of the day, Mrs. W. F. Howard carrying off the prize in her white dress with green ribbons around her neck, her hair slicked back tight like the "Irish Biddy" and her white stockings with green shamrocks painted on them brought back memories of "old Ireland" to those from the green isle. Mrs. Sawdy and Mrs. Keller baked lovely birthday cakes which added to the dinners that each one brought for picnic style. Four of the color bearers of the Relief Corps bore the large new flag that Jeremiah, Jr. sent from Bakersfield, around the side of the house and up to the front steps where Mr. Sawdy was sitting and presented it to him while Mrs. Kitty Ellis, in a few well chosen words expressed the sentiment of the givers.

It was such a surprise and delight to the brave man who had fought for the colors that he was completely overcome and could not say a word, which was unusual for this active man.

On departing the guests were all presented with a litle pot of shamrock as a souvenir of the pleasant occasion.

Mr. Sawdy celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday and is hail and hearty. He is loved by the members of the G.A.R. and acts as senior vice for them in the local organization, having lived here for eight or nine years.

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