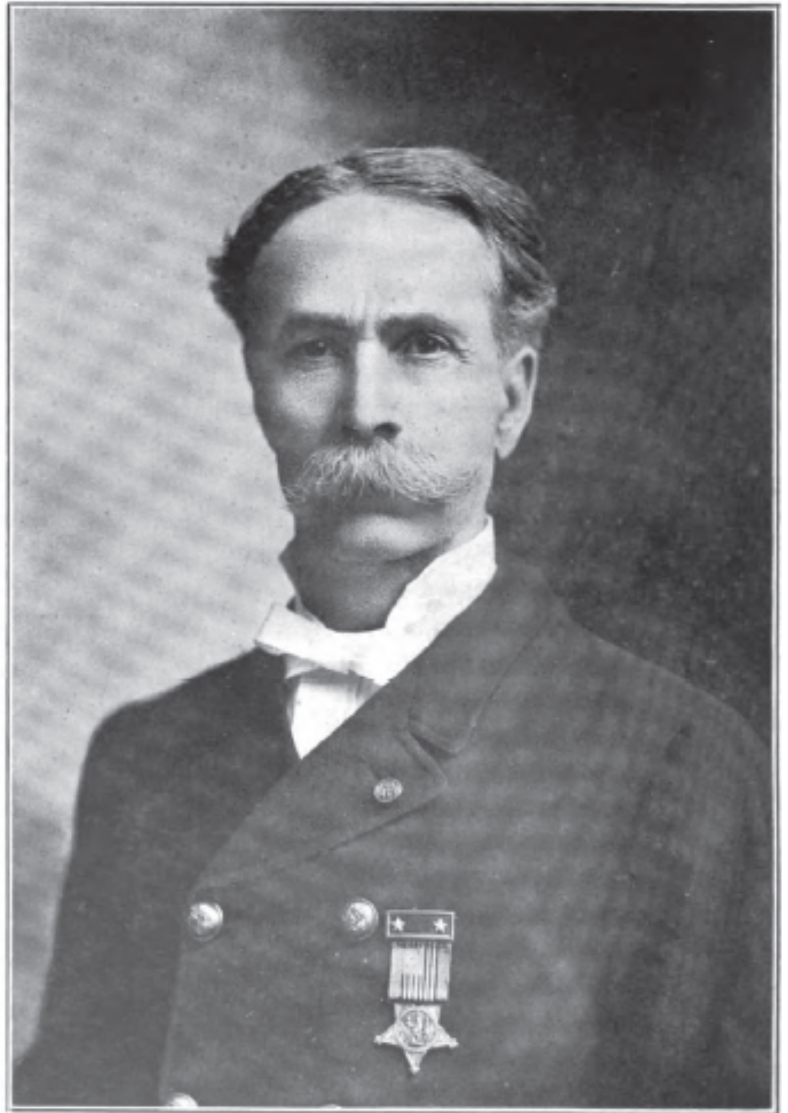


Ira Thomas Bronson 1902

Physician and surgeon, and supreme medical examiner of the Royal Tribe of Joseph, was born in Watertown, New York, July 21 [or 31], 1840, son of Dr. Jonathan and Lucinda (Countryman) Bronson. His father, who was also a practicing physician, was a native of New Hampshire, and an ardent abolitionist and prohibitionist. The latter's father was born in Connecticut and descended from Scotch and English ancestors who came to New England in the early Colonial days. Dr. Jonathan Bronson died in 1889 at the age of seventy-seven years. When the subject of this sketch was six years old he accompanied his parents to his father's old home in New Hampshire – Landaff, Grafton County – where his common school education was begun. In September, 1861, when the Civil War was in progress, after having been

debarred from enlistment in the Union Army twice by reason of physical disability, he joined the Fifth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry as a bugler, and with that command went to the front. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and at its first great battle, that of Fair Oaks, Virginia, June 1, 1862, he slung his bugle over his shoulder, possessed himself of a gun and until the close of the war served as a full-fledged soldier. When the retreat was ordered at Fair Oaks and Bugler Bronson was ordered to sound the command, he held his bugle in one hand and his rifle in the other, an incident vividly recalled by his colonel in a personal letter written a score of years later. In the memorable seven days' retreat, beginning July



IRA T. BRONSON, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.

1st following, he fought in all the engagements of the Second Corps, including the bloody battles of Savage Stanton, White Oak Swamp and Malvern Hill. In Howard's brigade, Sumner's corps, he participated in all the battles incident to the great Peninsular Campaign, following which came the second Bull Run and Antietam. In the latter battle he was so seriously wounded that he was laid up for three months. In the summer of 1863, after his return to active duty, he was sent home, as a sergeant, on recruiting service, rejoining the army just after the battle of the Wilderness and witnessing the remainder of that great campaign, including the battle of Cold Harbor. In October, 1864, he was commissioned first lieutenant of his company, but was detailed as acting quartermaster, in which capacity he acted until the close of the war. For many dreary months he assisted in the siege of Petersburg, Virginia, and participated in the closing victory at Appomattox, which ended the war. After peace was declared young Bronson returned home and entered the Newbury, Vermont, Seminary, to complete his academic studies. In 1869 he was graduated from Dartmouth Medical College, and January 1, 1870, located for practice at Newbury, Vermont. Three years later he removed to Sedalia, Missouri, where he has since been continuously engaged in his profession. Outside of his profession Dr. Bronson is perhaps best known as one of the chief originators and incorporators of the Royal Tribe of Joseph, a fraternal protective association, organized in Sedalia, 1894. Six months before its incorporation he was identified with it in formulating a plan of organization, and during its entire career has held the responsible post of supreme medical examiner. His interest in the cause of education is shown by the fact that for nine years he has been a member of the Board of Education of Sedalia, and its president most of that period. While a resident of Vermont and New Hampshire he had also held the office of superintendent of schools in the counties in which he resided. Though a staunch Republican, he has never sought political honors. In Grand Army circles he is prominent. He is a member of the Missouri Commandery of the Loyal Legion, was commander of the General George R. Smith Post, No. 53, G.A.R., of Sedalia, two terms, has been surgeon of the post several years, and for two years was medical director of the Department of Missouri. He always attends the national and department encampments. During the administrations of Presidents Arthur and Harrison he served as a member of the board of pension examiners for Pettis County, and now holds the same office through appointment by President McKinley. He is a Knight Templar in Masonry, and being a devout believer in fraternal protection, is identified also with the Knights of Pythias, the Maccabees and the Royal Arcanum. In religion he is a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Sedalia, of which he has been trustee many years. He has served as president of the Pettis County Medical Society, and is also identified with the American Medical Association, the Missouri State Medical and the Central District Medical societies. Dr. Bronson was married, in 1869, to Orpha Gleason, a native of

Barnet, Vermont, and a daughter of Samuel Gleason, deceased. They are the parents of four children: Karl Howard Bronson, A.M., M.D., - a graduate of the Missouri State University and of the Marion Sims Medical College, formerly in practice with his father, but now in Oregon, -- Emma Blanche, an accomplished musician ; Galena Maude and Ira Thomas Bronson, Jr. Dr. Bronson is regarded as a leader in his profession, keeping fully abreast of the best thought and advance in the science. Personally, he is a man of unquestioned probity, a public-spirited and useful citizen.

ADDENDUM:

He died in a coma on February 15, 1915 and was buried in the Sedalia Cemetery.