

## JOHN H. AVERY 1902-1903

Major John H. Avery, engaged in the real estate and insurance business in Hot Springs and also the president of the Superior Bathhouse Company, was born in Dundaff, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1841. He was a lad of but five years when in 1846 his parents removed to Connecticut, and for ten years he resided in New England, the family home being established in Onarga, Illinois, in 1856. There he was living when he attained his majority. He had acquired a common school education, and on the 10th of August, 1861, before he was yet twenty years of age, he enlisted as a private in Company M of the Ninth Illinois Cavalry for service in defense of the Union during the Civil war. He was on duty largely in Tennessee and participated in the battle of the Cumberland. He was altogether in fifty-six skirmishes and battles, including some of the most hotly contested engagements of the war, but was never wounded nor taken prisoner, nor was he in a hospital, and never lost a day's service. Within a year after his enlistment he was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant and later became first lieutenant, while at a subsequent period he was advanced to the rank of captain and was made major by brevet by the president of the United States in recognition of distinguished service. During the last two years of the war he was staff officer of the Fifth Division of the Cavalry Corps, acting first as aide-de-camp and subsequently as assistant adjutant general. He thus served until November 30, 1865, and when the country no longer needed his aid he received an honorable discharge, returning to his home with a most creditable military record. Major Avery again became a resident of Illinois and for eight years was connected with the internal revenue service. He came to Arkansas in 1872, settling at Forest City, where he engaged in merchandising and also became proprietor of a hotel. He likewise conducted an insurance business and was thus active in the affairs of Forest City until 1890, when he came to Hot Springs and here opened a real estate and insurance office, which he has since conducted, having gained a large clientage in those fields. He is also interested in the Superior Bathhouse, being the largest stockholder in the enterprise and the president of the company. This is one of the important enterprises of the city, as Hot Springs owes its development in large measure to its medicinal waters. Mr. Avery served for four years as postmaster under Presidents Roosevelt and Taft, and has always manifested a most

progressive attitude concerning everything relating to the public welfare. He is likewise a stockholder and a director in the Arkansas National Bank, and whatever he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion. On the 8th of February, 1872. Mr. Avery was married to Miss Emma B. Johnson, and to them were born three children: Elise, the wife of William F. Lake, now associated with Major Avery in business; Lyman J., who died at the age of thirty years, at which time he was serving as teller of the Arkansas National Bank, and Eunice, who died at the age of eighteen years, following her graduation from high school. In politics Major Avery has always been a stalwart republican, giving unfaltering allegiance to the party. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and is also a Knights Templar Mason and member of the Mystic Shrine, having served as eminent commander of the Knights Templar Commandery. He likewise belongs to the Loyal Legion and to Canby Post, No. 5, G. A. R. He served as department commander for two terms and is now commander of the

local post. He proudly wears the little bronze button that proclaims him a representative of the Grand Army of the Republic, having loyally stood by the Union cause through that crisis whereby national perpetuity was established. Hot Springs has long classed him with her representative men, and his efforts have been a direct and beneficial element in her growth and progress. Major Avery is now nearing the eightieth milestone on life's journey, but in spirit and interest seems yet in his prime and is still an active factor in the world's work.

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