



William Langford Tamblyn

William Langford Tamblyn, was born in the town of Liscard, County of Cornwall, England, August 25, 1837, and died at West Baden, Indiana, December 14, 1897. With his parents he immigrated to the United States in 1847, and settled near Honesdale, in Wayne County, Pennsylvania. The son had obtained the rudiments of an education in the schools of his native town, and supplemented this by attendance at school for something like a year after the family settled in Pennsylvania. He was then put to work in Honesdale, in the meantime continuing a process of self-education which developed him into a capable and intelligent young man. He was still residing at Honesdale when the Civil War began, and soon after the beginning of hostilities enlisted in the Sixth Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, a regiment which became known as the "Pennsylvania Buck-tails." He was commissioned first lieutenant of Company A of this regiment, and soon afterward was assigned to duty as chief of the signal corps, then stationed at Washington. While serving in this capacity he was promoted to captain of a cavalry company, and later was in active service at Norfolk and Fortress Monroe, participating in various engagements, in one of which his horse was shot under him by a Confederate sharpshooter. He served for a time on the staff of General John A. Dix, and rose by successive promotions to the rank of colonel. He commanded a cavalry regiment, and at the close of the war conducted a campaign against the Indians in the Northwest, distinguishing himself for his bravery and gallant conduct in this perilous and trying warfare. There was much of the martial spirit in his nature; his figure was commanding, and his bearing and manner was always typical of the thorough soldier. After being mustered out of the Union Army with an enviable record as a commanding officer and soldier, he engaged in the manufacture and sale of lumber at Warren, Pennsylvania, in company with General Stone, who had been one of his comrades in arms. After a successful business career of several years in the East, he came west in 1871 and established himself in business at the old Pacific Stock Yards in St. Louis as a dealer in livestock. After the completion of the Eads Bridge and the establishment of the National Stock Yards in East St. Louis he transferred his business to the new stock yards, and was one of the first shippers of cattle from that market. In 1875 he became a member of the livestock commission firm of George Taylor & Co., with which he was identified until 1881, in which year he formed a partnership with Samuel Scaling, of St. Louis, thus establishing the livestock commission firm of Scaling & Tamblyn. In 1887 the business of this firm had grown to large proportions, and a branch establishment was instituted in Chicago, of which Colonel Tamblyn took charge, removing with his family to that city. The firm of Scaling & Tamblyn continued in existence until March 1, 1897, when it was dissolved, Colonel Tamblyn then associating with himself his two sons and continuing the business in which he had been engaged under the firm name of Tamblyn & Tamblyn, with Chicago as his place of residence, and business houses in Chicago, Kansas City and East St. Louis. The Chicago branch of the business was conducted under his personal supervision, while the business at Kansas City was managed by his son, George S. Tamblyn, and that in East St. Louis by Robert L. Tamblyn. The business of this firm had numerous ramifications, one feature of which was the maintenance of an extensive cattle ranch in the Indian Territory. In addition to

his livestock operations, Colonel Tamblyn was also president of the Planters' Cotton Seed Oil Company, at Alvarado, Texas, and was a large stockholder in the Brownwood Cotton Seed Oil Company, of Brownwood, Texas, at which place seventeen thousand head of cattle were fattened during the year 1895. He was a business man of wonderful activity and great executive ability, and was one of the most widely known of Western dealers in livestock. Politically he was always identified with the Republican party, and took an active interest in politics at various times, although he was never an office-holder or an office seeker. He was reared in the Episcopalian Church, but while a resident of St. Louis attended the Pilgrim Congregational Church, of which the members of his family were communicants. He was a firm believer in the Christian religion, and exemplified his belief by his upright conduct, strict rectitude and kindly acts in the affairs of every-day life. He was a member of the Masonic order, the Royal Arcanum, and the Legion of Honor, and was prominently identified also with veteran military organizations, being a member of Ransom Post, of the Grand Army of the Republic, of St. Louis. He was devotedly attached to the comrades of this post, and had, while living in St. Louis, expressed the desire that at his death he should be buried under its auspices and with the honors which it bestows upon its members. In compliance with this wish, his remains were brought to this city from West Baden, to which place he had gone previous to his death, hoping to derive some benefit from its healing waters, and his funeral took place from the residence of his son, Robert L. Tamblyn, Ransom Post conducting the obsequies. Colonel Tamblyn married, in 1862, Miss Jane Isabel Bigart, daughter of William Maxwell Bigart, a prosperous farmer of Honesdale, Pennsylvania. Their surviving children are William M. Tamblyn, of St. Louis; George S. Tamblyn, of Kansas City, and Robert L. Tamblyn, of St. Louis, previously mentioned as being associated with their father in business; Mary E. Tamblyn, now Mrs. Louis E. Herrick, of Chicago; Rebecca J., Isabel B. and Eugene A. Tamblyn.