

Mighels, Henry Rust

Born: 3 Nov. 1830

Location: Minot, Maine

Died: 27 May 1879

Location: Carson City

Inscription: Henry Rust Mighels Born at Minot, Maine Nov. 3, 1830

Died at Carson City, Nevada May 27, 1879 Aged 48 years 6 months

& 24 days *"Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him
And lies down to pleasant dreams"*

Section: 1A Row 9 Plot 26

Military Data:

From a letter written by Mighels May 23, 1862:

*"Well, like the lamented Johnny in the son, I "have gone for a soger."
At the instance of our never-to-be-too-much-esteemed and valued
friend, Joe McKibben, I was appointed an Assistant Adjutant
General with the rank of Captain and assigned to General Strugis'
staff. Joe suggested the matter to Strugis, Strugis made application
to the War Department. Latham rushed the matter up to the notice of
the President, Abe made the appointment, the Senate confirmed it,
and here I am with buttons all over me, a Captain in the "Grand
Army!"*

No records found in Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System

Census Data:

1870 Census – Ormsby Co. – Carson City

Mighels, H. R.

Age: 39

Place of Birth: Maine

Occupation: Editor

Wife: N. V. Sons: H. R., J. R., and P. V.

Other Sources:

From the Carson Daily Index Newspaper, May 30, 1885 under "Roll of Honor at Cemetery Today" – *Harry Mighels, Asst. Adjt. Genl. On the staff of Genl Strugis. Died May 27, 1879.*



Mighel's plot

See obituary next page

Mighels, Henry Rust

DEAD

The Morning Appeal, May 29, 1879

Henry R. Migels, editor and proprietor of the Morning Appeal, died at his residence on Tuesday night, at half-past eleven o'clock.

The writer of this, between whom and the deceased the strongest possible friendship existed for twenty-seven years, has solicited the privilege of using this column of the APPEAL in which briefly to sketch the life, and speak of the character of the man so many thousands loved, the leader so confidently followed, the friend so loyal, the enthusiast so wedded to noble connections, the hero in whose breast reigned a spirit which death alone could quench.

Mr. Mighels was born in Maine, November 3, 1830. Received an academic education. Removed with his parents to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1847. Studied medicine for a year with his father, and at the same time acquiring some knowledge of painting in oils, an art of which he was ever after very fond, and for which he had much talent. Started for California in August, 1850, tarrying at Nicaragua for a winter, where he kept a hotel in partnership with a fellow voyager. Thence to Panama, where, for two months, he was very sick with a tropical fever. Sailed thence to California in 1851, on the steamer Panama, paying his way by serving as assistant storekeeper. From his arrival until 1856, he was variously employed, laboring as a ditch-digger in Nevada, and as a sign and decorative painter in Downieville, Marysville, Bidwell's Bar and Oroville.

In the fall of 1856 he became assistant editor of the *Butte Record*. In 1857, for a time, was a local editor of the *Sacramento Bee*. Returned to *Butte Record*, in 1858, and was a candidate that year for Assembly, on the anti-Lecompton, or Broderick ticket. He was defeated after a spirited canvass, in which he spoke with a force and ability which gave a good earnest of the work of after years. In 1859 he was a writer on the *San Francisco National*. In 1860 the *Marysville Appeal* was established, and he was its first editor. It was independent politically, and was, under his editorship, brilliant, witty and able.

In 1860 he visited the East, and at the home of his mother, at Norway, Maine, met the lady who subsequently became his wife. He returned to California the same year. The events which immediately followed the Presidential election of that year controlled his career from that time till the end of life. He was an ardent Unionist, and his desire to enter the army was intense. As California presented no field for real service he went East early in 1862, and in May of that year in a letter to the writer of this, said:

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23, 1862

"Dear ____: I have been outrageously neglectful about writing to you. But so I have been with everybody else since coming here. And you know what whirlwind of excitement everything and everybody is in, hereabouts, and in fact all over the land -this side- so you will know how to understand my case.

Well, like the lamented Johnny in the son, I "have gone for a soger." At the instance of our never-to-be-too-much-esteemed and valued friend, Joe McKibben, I was appointed an Assistant Adjutant General with the rank of Captain and assigned to General Strugis' staff. Joe suggested the matter to Sturgis, Sturgis made application to the War Department. Latham rushed the matter up to the notice of the President, Abe made the appointment, the Senate confirmed it, and here I am with buttons all over me, a Captain in the "Grand Army!" I am very lucky. Sturgis is a thorough soldier – of the old army – and one of the bravest and best fellows living. My position and our mutual feeling of friendship and congeniality makes me his confidential adviser, friend and companion. I joined his command at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where Halleck had sent him about six weeks ago."

His career in the army was marked by the abilities occasioned by wounds received in battle, in November (or October) 1864.

Mr. Mighels returned to San Francisco in April, 1865, and upon a telegram from the late A. W. Nighingill, his staunch friend, came to Carson to edit the APPEAL. In the sketch already alluded to he said, "The history of that paper is my own, since that time."

Mighels, Henry Rust

DEAD (continued)

The Morning Appeal, May 29, 1879

After a few months of this employment, he became part owner of the APPEAL, and finally its sole proprietor-as he had from the beginning been its sole edit.

August 20, 1866, he was married to Miss Verrill; and to her, and the four children born to them, he was passionately devoted, making his wife his partner and confidential adviser in all his affairs, whether of politics or business.

From 1866 to 1878 inclusive, his great force of mind and his political sagacity, which grew with every contest, until he became a consummate organizer and leader of men and of opinion, were enlisted in the cause of the Republican party. In the election of the United State Senate of Nye in 1867, Stewart in 1869, Jones in 1873, Sharon in 1875 and Jones again in 1879, his strong will, ready resources, and powerful person influence were elements of commanding importance. In 1868 he was chosen State Printer. In 1876 he was elected from Ormsby County to the Assembly, of which body he was chose Speaker by acclamation. This unusual tribute was well bestowed, for in the Speaker's chair, he instantly and as if by intuition, brought to its duties the same brilliant rapidity of intellectual processes, and the same strong sense and spirit of control, which he had shown in other places. At the end of a session at which his rulings were uniformly sustained, he was presented with different testimonials by the two parties and the attaches.

In 1878 he was the nominee of the Republican party for Lieutenant Governor. He was the leader of the party in the canvass, and his grand enthusiasm carried all before it except that by reason of treachery within the party he was himself defeated. This undeserved and unnatural blow from those who should have been strong in his support was not sufficient to break or diminish his spirit. The session showed that it did not impair his influence. He organized and led a very powerful movement in that body, for the regulation of freights and fare on the railroads of the State. Though the measure did not succeed, the marvelous exhibition of pluck, will and organization, made by our friend called forth every resource of his antagonists to prevent it.

Mr. Mighels was a writer of great versatility. In his writings will be found vehement appeal, subtle arguments, fierce invective, and crushing irony when foes were to be dealt with, while in the presence of nature, he was full of sweetest poetry, and at the call of human sufferings and wrongs as gentle and kindly as mercy itself.

The limits of this notice do not permit anything like an analysis of his character. But all who knew him will bear witness to the truth that he was tender and brave, loyal and true.

His lion heart has ceased to beat. His generous hand lies still in death. His fiery spirit no more inhabits the pleasant earth which he loved so well. His presence will no longer inspire his fellows in Nevada when the political battle rages. His home will be no more graced with his royal presence, but there will dear memories of hi linger to soften the frief which is now too deep to be touched by human sympathy, and to inspire his fatherless boys with a desire to emulate the virtues of their sire.

It seems like harshly and unkindly leaving him alone in his coffin for me to pause. But grief should be private. Therefore, dear friend, tender father, proud and loving husband, incorruptible citizen, sterling patriot, brave soldier, dauntless leader, wise thinker, farewell, you did not go

“ ___ like the quarry slave at night.

Scourged to his dungeon, but ___

Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch

About him, and llies down to pleasant dreams.”

G.