

A.P. Ellinwood

By Craig Braunschweig

Alexander P. "A.P." Ellinwood was born September 9th, 1833 in Peterboro, Madison County, New York. Alexander was the son of George W. Ellinwood and Hannah J. Alexander. Ellinwood went to New York Central College, McGrawville, New York where he graduated at the age of sixteen. As a young man of 25, he moved to Reedsburg. He married Hannah Cottington, daughter of Jesse Cottington who introduced hops to the Reedsburg area. Ellinwood was a teacher, principal in the Reedsburg School System. Ellinwood resigned his position to enlist in the American Civil War. In December of 1861, Ellinwood enlisted in the Northern Army Company A 19th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry; soon after he was elected the company's 2nd Lieutenant. He saw active duty during the Civil War from February 22, 1862, until the end of the war in 1864. Ellinwood took part in many skirmishes including the Peninsula Campaign and suffering much from malaria fever and the hardships of deprivation during the trials of the war. Ellinwood was offered many promotions during his time at war, rising to the rank of captain. He refused promotions beyond that so he could continue to fight with the boys of his beloved platoon with whom he had endured his entire time in battle.

After the war, A.P. Ellinwood returned to home life in Reedsburg. For more than 40 years he was identified with the Free Masonic order and was active in the work of the Grand Army of the Republic, which was a service group made up of Union Civil War Soldiers a lot like the American Legion or VFW today, was a past commander of H. A. Tator Post located in Reedsburg. The group was formed in 1880 and was in operation until 1942. The temperance cause always found Ellinwood a ready and able champion. The lively interest which he always

manifested in public affairs led to his being chosen for the execution of numerous official trusts. He was chairman of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors where he was a member for 20 years or more, Chairman of the village of Reedsburg, Reedsburg's second mayor, and then a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1877 and 1878 as a Republican. Ellinwood was one of the committees of five appointed by the county board to look into and take measures for the relief of the poor in Sauk County, and in erecting the county poor farm buildings that was South of Reedsburg until 2008 when the Sauk County Healthcare Center was moved to the Westside of Reedsburg, a work he took much pleasure in, as he was a friend of the indigent and helpless. He owned over 300 acres of land on Reedsburg's westside, including an area (because of its' wet conditions) known as "Ellinwood's Frog Pond". Ellinwood created the Reedsburg Fairground that was built-in 1872 that consisted of bleachers and a racetrack.

A.P. Ellinwood died on 06 February 1900. His body was escorted to the grave by many of his comrades of the 19th regiment, six of whom acted as pallbearers. Many comrades of his company were present, as well as members of H. A. Tator Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and of the Woman's Relief Corps, and a large concourse of friends. Mrs. Hannah Ellinwood remained in Reedsburg, residing in the home place, built-in 1872. Among many surviving relatives was a nephew, James Stone who was a prominent attorney in Reedsburg.

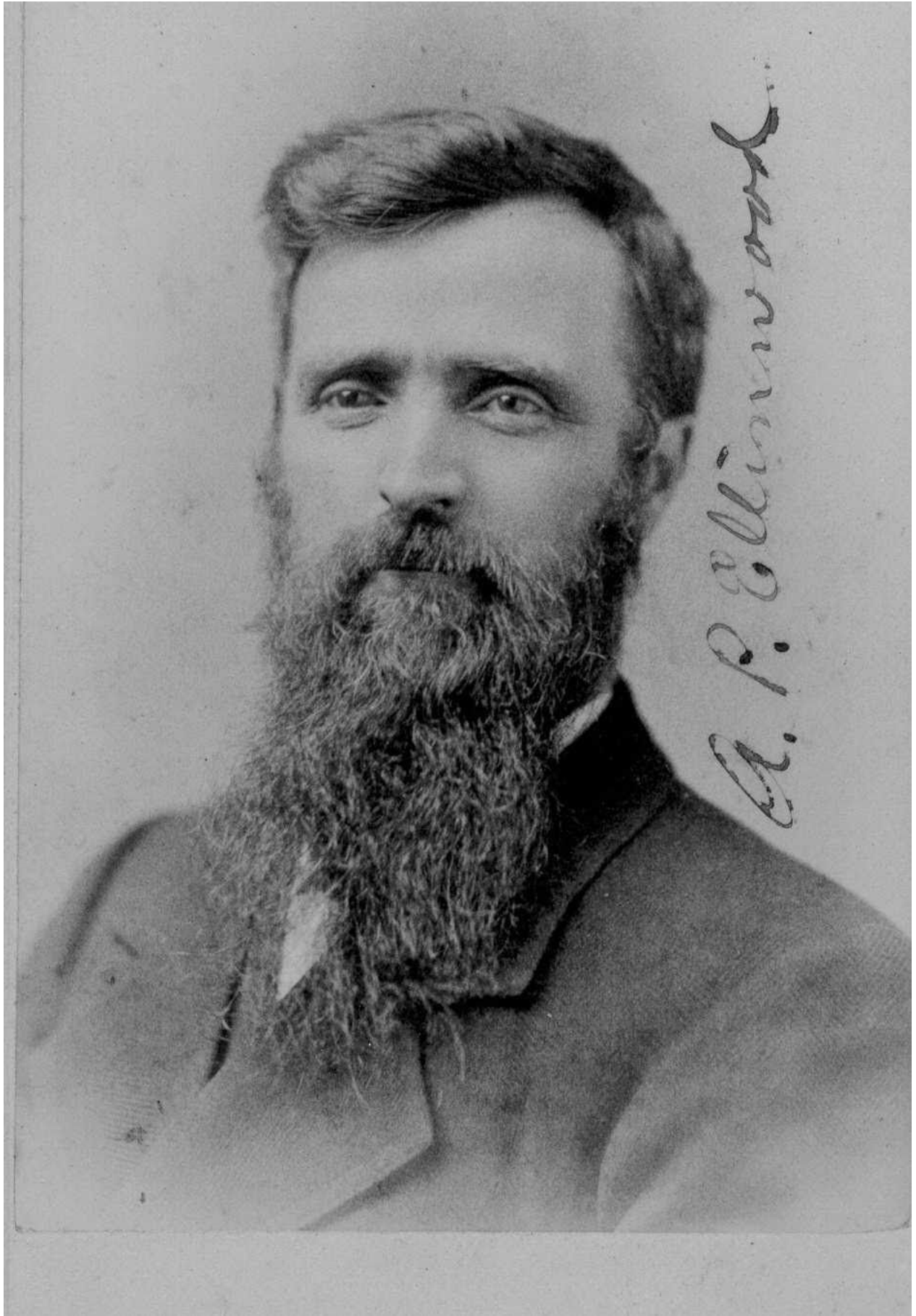
Anna Louise Stone was the 28-year-old daughter of James and Minnie Stone. She was a 1902 graduate of Reedsburg High School and a 1906 Graduate of the University of Wisconsin. She taught high school at Florence, Wisconsin until failing health caused her to return home. There was a brief happy marriage to James R. Semple. Anna died on November 3, 1913. Her father James Stone was a lawyer, Superintendent of Reedsburg Schools, and Assistant Secretary

of State, and a strong proponent of establishing the Sauk County Teacher's college on Reedsburg's westside. Stone donated land for the college, which had other names over the years of 1911 to 1969. The Reedsburg Campus of Madison College now fills that niche.

Anna Stone Memorial Park was dedicated on March 23, 1915. James and Minnie Stone gave this parkland to the people of Reedsburg as a playground for children and a memorial to Anna Stone and A.P. Ellinwood located on the Westside of Reedsburg. In Reedsburg, there are three streets named in A.P. Ellinwood's honor, Alexander Ave, Preston Ave. and Ellinwood Ave all located on the west side of Reedsburg.



A. P. Pillsbury



A. R. Ellimwood

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