

## Biography of George W. Carpenter

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GENERAL GEORGE W. CARPENTER, whose portrait appears on another page, is an old settler of South Dakota, and a well-known and prosperous citizen of Watertown, South Dakota. He was born in Erie county, New York, July 26, 1833.

Mr. Carpenter's father, George W. Carpenter, was born in Pompey, near Syracuse, New York, in the year 1800, and moved with his parents to Erie county, New York, when about ten years of age. His father, Jeremiah Carpenter, was a native of New York, and a soldier in both the Revolutionary war and the War of 1812. He is a descendant of one of three brothers who came from Germany in an early day and located on Long Island, their names then being "Zimmerman," the German word for "carpenter." Our subject's mother, Anna Foot, was a native of New York. Her father, who was of French descent, died when she was quite small.

Mr. Carpenter is the seventh child in the order of birth of a family of ten children, nine of whom grew to maturity, and one died at the age of ten years. He was reared in his native county and educated in the public schools of his district. February 13, 1858, he was united in marriage to Miss Ermina E. Watson. Mrs. Carpenter was born in Darien, Genesee county, New York, March 17, 1840, the daughter and only child of Milton and Marilla Watson, natives of Massachusetts and Vermont, respectively. After his marriage, Mr. Carpenter located in the village of Marilla, a town named in honor of his wife's mother, and there engaged in business until 1861, when he enlisted in Company C, Twenty-first New York Volunteer Infantry, as a private for three months, and served about six months. On his return, he was given a permit by the government to recruit for the One Hundred and Sixteenth New York Volunteer Infantry, and was appointed first lieutenant of Company I of the regiment. When he went out, in October of the same year, he was appointed captain of Company I. In December, 1864, he was appointed major of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Regiment, and served in that capacity until the close of the war in 1865. Mr. Carpenter participated in the following principal battles: The first battle of Bull Run; the siege of Port Hudson; Coxie's Plantation, or Donaldsonville, where he was slightly wounded; Winchester, Virginia, Fisher's Hill, Cedar Creek, where he was again wounded in the leg by a shell, and was taken to Winchester about thirty days, and was then sent home on a furlough for sixty days, and later went to the hospital at Annapolis, Maryland. He again joined the regiment in March, 1865, and was ordered to Washington on guard duty, and was there at the time of the assassination of President Lincoln. He was on provost duty at the Grand Review, and was field officer of the day during the second day of that celebration. He was mustered out at Buffalo, New York, July 8, 1865.

After the close of hostilities, Mr. Carpenter went west and located in Fillmore county, Minnesota, in July, 1865, and there engaged in farming until 1878. During that time he served the citizens of the county in the capacity of justice of the peace, dividing his time between the duties of that office and his farm interests. He made a specialty of hop raising, and in 1871 shipped nine car loads of hops,

valued at \$12,000, to Chicago, and they were all burned in the fire of that year. In 1878 he moved to Codington county, South Dakota, and located on a farm two and a half miles south of what is now Watertown, being one of the first to locate in the county. Soon after he was elected surveyor of the county, and helped to lay out the town of Watertown and several other towns in the state, and did surveying on government land. He is now surveyor of three counties, Codington, Hamlin and Deuel, and at one time was surveyor of Clark county. He also surveyed the Great Northern railroad, being thus engaged three years, and was chief engineer of the Duluth, Watertown & Pacific railroad, which was surveyed from the northern line of the state to Watertown. He has been connected with the state militia for ten years, and held the office of quartermaster general of South Dakota, until 1897. He was department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic during the year 1894; has been connected with that body since 1868; is now a member of the National Encampment, and is also a prominent Mason.

Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter are the parents of eleven children, of whom we have the following record: Eva E., wife of George R. Williams, of Watertown; Kattie M., wife of Elmer McDowell, of Watertown; Osceola, at home; Capitola, a teacher; Edna M., now attending school; J. C., the youngest, now attending school; Libbie and Lillie, twins, both deceased; George W., deceased; Glezen F., deceased; and Estella, deceased.