

From the Sturgis Weekly Record – January 22, 1909

### **John E. Hammon Passes Away**

John E. Hammon, who has been ill for a number of months, passed away at his home in Sturgis on Wednesday morning about 10 o'clock at the age of 52 years, from heart trouble. The deceased was born in Rochester, Ohio, on December 4th, 1857. He enlisted in the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, G Troop, in 1872, when a minor, serving as a private and later as a non-commissioned officer until 1879, when he was discharged to take the position of wagon master and then pack master at Fort Meade, serving in that capacity faithfully. He took part in the battle of 1876 against the Sioux, Crazy Horse being one of the chiefs and also in the Custer massacre. For a short period he left the service and entered into a business partnership with John Vener in Sturgis. In 1898 at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War Mr. Hammon received a commission as captain with Grigsby's rough riders and later on served in Cuba as packmaster after the war was over.

The deceased took an active part in a number of lodges, being a member in good standing of the I.O.O.F., A.F. & A.M., A.O.U.W., and F.O.E., and was also a member of the Sturgis Hook & Ladder Co.

The funeral services were held at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon from the residence in Sturgis and were in charge of the I.O.O.F., Rev. E.M. Cross conducting the services. Many turned out to pay their last respects to all that remained of an old friend and acquaintance. Besides the large number of friends and citizens attending the last rites, the following fraternal orders attended in a body: I.O.O.F., A.F. & A.M., A.O.U.W., and F.O.E., also the various companies of the Sturgis fire department and two troops of cavalry from Fort Meade in charge of the adjutant. The funeral cortege was headed by the F.O.E. band, which discoursed appropriate music on the way to the grave. Interment was made in Bear Butte Cemetery.

Mr. Hammon is survived by his wife and six children, Earl, Agnes, Hope, Mary, Lillian, and Victoria, all of whom have the sympathy of the community in their bereavement.