

RAN WITH THE MACHINE.

Now He Retires from Service on Half Pay.

Isaac M. Burrough Was Once a Member of the Red Jackets.

Army Record and Career as Fire Fighter Alike Creditable.

One of the special features of today's celebration, though not down on the printed programme, is the retirement from active service of Charlestown's veteran fireman, Isaac M. Burrough.

Mr. Burrough retires by permission of the board of fire commissioners. He has reached the "ripe old age" of 57 years, this being his birthday.

Mr. Burrough was born in Philadelphia in 1834, and when but 12 years old, with his parents moved to Charlestown, which has since been his home.

A few years later he entered the Charlestown Navy Yard, where he served a five years' apprenticeship in the blacksmith shop.

He then entered the Fitchburg railroad's Charlestown blacksmith shop, where he is still employed.

Mr. Burrough's career in the fire extinguishing and life-saving line began in 1852, when he joined what was then known as the Red Jacket hose company.

When the war of the rebellion broke out, however, a fire of patriotism became kindled in young Burrough's heart which he made no attempt to extinguish. Later, when President Lincoln called for troops, he was among the first of the volunteers to enlist. He became a member of Sleeper's 10th Massachusetts Battery, which saw service under Generals Grant, Hancock, Hooker and Birney.

Billings' history of the war devotes nearly a chapter to a most daring act of Fireman Burrough.



ISAAC M. BURROUGH.

It was at the battle of Weldon railroad, after the Union forces had been defeated. Thirty-three of the battery's men had been taken prisoners by the rebels, when suddenly Burrough and a companion found themselves alone with their cannon on the field. Those of their forces who had not been captured or killed by the enemy had retreated to a safer territory.

A squad of the enemy under command of a sergeant approached the two, the sergeant shouting: "We'll take this gun, I reckon." "You take this first," sharply retorted Burrough, and with astonishing quickness he loaded the cannon with a charge of canister, and fired it into their midst. The confusion which this occasioned gave the two men time to retreat, and they escaped capture.

After the war Mr. Burrough again became a member of the Red Jacket hose company, remaining as such till the reorganization of the Charlestown fire department, when he was assigned to hook and ladder company No. 1. This was in the days of the old hand pumps.

Mr. Burrough remembers well the arrival of the news of the invention of the steam fire engine, and later, when the first trial was made with one in Boston, how they were ridiculed as impracticable and an expensive folly.

When Charlestown was annexed to Boston, in 1874, hook and ladder company No. 1 became No. 9, and up to today Mr. Burrough has remained an active member, missing hardly a call, never receiving a penny from the relief fund.

Above all, he has been remarkably lucky in that while he took part in several of the most important battles of the civil war, and since then has been engaged for more or less of his time in the dangerous occupation of fighting fire, he has never met with a severe accident.

Soon after the war Mr. Burrough was married, and as a result of this union has two children, Grace, who married Mr. George Wentworth, a well-known contractor and builder at Brighton, and George Stetson Burrough.

Mr. Burrough is a valued member of Post 11, G. A. R., of Charlestown, and also of Bunker Hill Lodge, Odd Fellows.

He resides at 28 Walker st., Charlestown. Chief Pope of the Charlestown department speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Burrough. According to the same authority Burrough has seen the day when, in the chief's own words, "the fellow who could stand up against him was a good one."

In the days of the old hand engines to be a good fighter was one of the principal requisites of a fireman, and there are not a few in Charlestown today who will remember some of the lively scrimmages in which "Ike," as he was then called, took a prominent part.

Going on the retired list, Mr. Burrough will receive half pay.