

1909 Memorial Day spiced by mishap

"Decoration day, May 30th, comes this year on Sunday and the members of the local G.A.R. are arranging to hold their memorial service on Monday. On Sunday Rev. Collins will deliver a memorial sermon and the annual memorial address is to be made by Ira C. Batman."

Bloomington Telephone

May 18, 1909.

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The little item on the front page of the *Telephone* was a prelude to one of Bloomington's more memorable Decoration Days. On page 593 of the *Histories of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana*, there is a formal photograph of Batman, who looked every bit the prosperous professional

Looking back

5-25-1909

By Rose H. McIlveen

man at the turn of the century. A graduate of Indiana University 100 years ago, he read law in the office of Bloomington attorneys Buskirk & Duncan. His career also included stints as a state legislator and an IU Trustee.

According to the "Program for

Decoration Exercises" printed in the June 1 edition of the *Telephone*, Batman was to share the holiday spotlight with the City Band, the Rev. Collins, M.T. Poling and a quartet. The participants — including veterans and school children — assembled at the G.A.R. Hall at 1:30 p.m. They were all shepherded west on Kirkwood Avenue to Rose Hill Cemetery by Chief Marshal Frank Woodward, Assistant Marshall Newton Jeffries and Master of Ceremonies William Bailey.

The parade, which included some carriages, must have taken a considerable time to assemble and get

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