

Struggle, by Cyrus K. Huey, veteran of 54th and 58th Regiments, Volunteer Indiana Infantry, Union Army,
War between the States, 1861-1865

"Cold hands, striving, writhing, grip and hold the ale of steel which spears the wheel.
Cold hearts, loneliness. The cold hands trapped between cold steel. The axle and the wheel.
The hands are smashed. Blood and bone drip upon the frozen ground.
The hands are gone. Bloody stumps cannot hold the axle or the wheel of glittering blue cold steel.
The wheel spins. Many fall, bodiless, nerves and blood and shattered flesh. They fall to Hell."

Cyrus K. Huey, 1842-1909, interred in Hopkins Cemetery, Nodaway County, Missouri, participated in engagements at Yagos Pass, Chickasaw Bluffs, Arkansas Post, Port Gibson, Hankinson's Ferry, Raymond, Jackson, Champlain Hills, Siege of Vicksburg, and Sherman's March to the Sea. He was wounded with a bayonet passing thru his abdomen and left for dead on the battlefield. The following day, after being found alive among corpses, he recovered. Upon his passing 45 years later, his obituary affirmed "his life is highly commended by all that knew him."

Struggle was read during Veteran's Day Observance at the State of Iowa Historical Society Museum, Des Moines, Iowa, November 2018, on the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice of World War I. Thanks to Virginia Petersen (mother – Mary Jane (Huey) Hall, born 1891 in Pickering, MO), for the sharing of her grandfather's free verse poem, ***Struggle***.

"We give thanks for the veterans of all our wars and military campaigns waged to uphold the values of equality and freedom. As we observe Veteran's Day we pray that we will uphold and be worthy of the price that thousands of veterans have paid for our freedom" – Virginia Petersen, 2018.

