

APRIL 23, 1942

DAY II

MAYO HARRIS REACHES END OF LONG TRAIL

Head of Harris Clan Dies
At Advanced Age
of 82.

For many years Mayo Harris has been going up and down the streets of Grinnell, greeting his friends, interested and active far beyond the ordinary capacities of a man of his years. It is hard for his friends to realize that he is gone and that the Harris home, a center of hospitality and good cheer for so many years, will not be there any more.

N. Mayo Harris was born in Deep River township, Poweshiek county, on Nov. 24, 1859, the son of Thomas and (Mayo)

Harris. He lived practically all of his long life within the confines of the county where he was born. He was 82 years old when he died on Thursday, Feb. 16, in Washington, D. C., where he had been visiting his daughters, Mrs.



N. MAYO HARRIS

Ralph Wiltamuch and Mrs. W. J. McNeil.

In Cyclone Class.

Young Mayo grew up on his father's farm, attended country schools and at the age of 17 entered Iowa College at Grinnell, which he attended three years. This year marks the sixtieth an-

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Harris --

niversary of the class of 1882, the cyclone class, of which he was a member. He had received an invitation to his class reunion shortly preceding his death.

After leaving college he became a partner in the grain and lumber business of T. Harris & Co., of which his father was the head. For about two years he managed a branch yard at Vandalia, Mo., and then returned to Montezuma and assumed charge of the business at that point. He continued in that position for 29 years, being assisted by his brother-in-law, John McDonald. In 1910 he sold out his grain and lumber interests to O. C. King & Co., of Quill Lake, Canada, retaining only branches which had been established at Clarendon and Barnes City. He was president for a time of the Thornburg bank at Thornburg, Iowa, and at one time had extensive land holdings in Minnesota and Texas.

In 1902 he moved to Grinnell, which was his home until his death. He practically retired from active business at that time.

A Charming Bride.

When Mr. Harris moved back to Montezuma after his stay in Missouri he brought with him a charming bride. He was married on Oct. 5, 1881, to Miss Effie Daniel, of Mexico, Mo., a daughter of Andrew B. and Matilda (Greenwade) Daniel, both of whom were born in Kentucky. This was the beginning of a perfect companionship which continued uninterrupted until the death of Mrs. Harris on Dec. 21, 1940. Mr. and Mrs. Harris enjoyed 61 years of uninterrupted happiness and

the home which they established was ideal in its gracious hospitality. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1931 and of late years their recurring anniversaries have been occasions for royal gatherings of the Harris clan. No one who was privileged to attend one of these reunions will ever forget the atmosphere of friendship and geniality which distinguished them. As their children grew up their spacious home on West street became more and more a rallying place for young people, and they were always welcome.

Four Children.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris were blessed with four children, all of whom were present at the funeral services last Monday. They are, in order of age, Harry M. Harris, of Indianapolis, Ind., Elizabeth (Mrs. W. H. Ellis), of Los Angeles, Calif., Pearl (Mrs. Ralph Wiltamuth), of Washington, D. C., and Olga (Mrs. W. J. McNeil), also of Washington.

There are eight surviving grandchildren, Lieutenant H. Mayo Harris, U. S. N., John Huntington Harris, of Washington, D. C., Captain Harris Wiltamuth, U. S. A., Richard Daniel Wiltamuth, U. S. A., W. J. McNeil, U. S. Naval Academy, Edwin Evan McNeil and Olga Patricia McNeil of Washington, D. C., and George Mayo Russell, of Los Angeles. Three of the grandchildren whom he loved so devotedly preceded Mr. Harris in death; Edward Daniel Harris, Betty Jane Russell, and W. Lathrop Harris.

There are four great grandchildren, Allis Hardie Harris and Lauren Ford Harris, grandchildren of H. M. Harris, William Harold Knight, grandson of Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis, and Nicholas John Wiltamuth, grandson of Mrs. Pearl Wiltamuth.

A Star Pitcher.

For the past thirty years Mr. and Mrs. Harris have made it their custom to spend their winters in Florida, headquartering at St. Petersburg, where they were prominent members of the winter colony. Mr. Harris was especially proud of his membership in the Three Quarter Century Club, an organization of young old men who played many a hectic game of soft ball. He was a star pitcher on one of the teams. The league was written up in The

Saturday Evening Post and the American magazine, in both of which Mayo's picture appeared. He was also active in the Lawn Bowling Club, which made a practice of carrying out the old game of bowling on the green. In this sport, also, Mr. Harris was adept. He retained his bodily vigor to an unusual degree and was a great lover of games of all sorts.

Mr. Harris was a Republican in politics and served his party as county chairman and as a delegate to state and county conventions. He also served during his young manhood as city clerk of Montezuma and deputy county auditor. He was affiliated with the Methodist church and was very fond of his associations in the Elks lodge, where he spent much time when in Grinnell. He was also a Knight of Pythias.

"I'll Be Seeing You."

As one reviews the happenings of this colorful and active life, words which were often on Mr. Harris' lips come readily to mind. As he was leaving a friend, he was accustomed to say, "So Long. I'll be seeing you." If he were here now, we believe that these are the words which he would use in bidding his friends farewell. They convey the casual, but sincere friendliness of the man; a friendliness which those who knew him well will always remember.

N. MAYO HARRIS IS BURIED HERE TODAY AT 2 P.M.

April 20 1942
All The Children Are Present At Funeral Services.

N. Mayo Harris, who for years has been the exemplar in Grinnell of the art of growing old gracefully and the patriarch of a united and devoted family, passed away last Thursday in Washington, D. C., where he had been visiting his daughter Olga, Mrs. J. W. McNeil, for a month. He was 82 years old.

Funeral services were held at 2 o'clock this afternoon in charge of Rev. C. D. Loose from the commodious home on West street which had been opened for the occasion. Honorary pall bearers were Walter Harris of Williamsburg, J. Ross McDonald of Montezuma, C. A. Blair, A. L. Burgett, W. S. Kearney, C. K. Needham and A. C. Rinefort. Active pall bearers were George Hiser, Shelton L. Beatty, Will Laymiller, Dave Sutherland and Ed McNeil, both of Montezuma and Warden Stoaks. Burial was in Hazelwood cemetery.

All the five children were here for the funeral, including Harry Harris and Mrs. Harris of Indianapolis, Mrs. W. Hays Ellis of Los Angeles, Mrs. Ralph Wiltamuth of Washington, D. C. and her son Richard of Scott Field, Ill., and Mrs. W. J. McNeil, also of Washington.

Others present from out of town were Mrs. Ada Wiltamuth Fehlman of Moline, Ill., Mrs. John A. Brooks of Evanston, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harris and grand daughter Mary Charlotte Harris of Williamsburg.

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N. M. HARRIS.

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N. M. Harris who for many years has been known as one of the prominent business men of Poweshiek county but is now living practically retired at Grinnell, is a native of this county, and was born in Deep River township November 4, 1859. He is a son of Thomas and Maria (Mayo) Harris, record of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Reared upon his father's farm, he acquired his early education in the district schools and at the age of seventeen entered Iowa College which he attended for three years. After leaving college he became a partner in the grain and lumber business of T. Harris & Company, of which his father was the head. For about two years he managed a branch concern at Vandalia, Missouri, and then returned to Montezuma and assumed charge of the business at that point, continuing in this position for twenty-nine years and being assisted in the discharge of his responsibilities by John McDonald, his brother-in-law. In 1910 he severed his connection with the grain and lumber business, closing out his interests to O. C. King & Company, of Quill Lake, Canada, but retaining the business which had been established at Barnes City and Clarendon, Iowa. He

is president of the Thornburg Bank of Thornburg, Keokuk county, Iowa, and is also an extensive landowner of Minnesota and Texas.

In 1881 Mr. Harris was united in marriage to Miss Effie Daniel, of Mexico, Missouri, a daughter of Andrew B. and Matilda (Greenwade) Daniel, both of whom were born in Kentucky. Four children came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Harris, namely: Harry Mayo, who graduated from Iowa College in 1908 with the degree of A. B. and is now assistant cashier of the Citizens National Bank of Grinnell; Bessie B., who is living at home; Pearl M., who is now a student in the sophomore class of Iowa College; and Effie Olga, now attending the public schools.

In politics Mr. Harris is in full sympathy with the progressive element of the republican party. He has never sought political honors but he has served most acceptably as city clerk of Montezuma and as deputy county auditor. He has filled the office of chairman of the republican county committee and has often been selected as a delegate to county and state conventions. His voice is always in behalf of honest government. No man represents more clearly and ably the advanced ideas as to the application of business methods in the affairs of county, state and nation. Fraternally he is connected with Montezuma Lodge, No. 238, K. P., and he and his estimable wife are sincere members of the Methodist church. Since 1902 he has made his home in Grinnell. A member of one of the most respected families of the county, he worthily represents the name, and now in the prime of life, financially independent and happy in his family and friends, he is accorded the respect and confidence of all who know him.