

and of the United States Law Association for Poweshiek County. He is an Elder and Trustee of the Presbyterian Church and until his election to the Bench was Superintendent of the Sunday-school. In politics he is a straight-out Republican and has served as Chairman of the Republican County Central Committee. Mrs. Lewis died April 10, 1893.

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Death Closes Distinguished Career of Judge W. R. Lewis

Dr. W. R. Lewis, of Montezuma, dean of the Poweshiek county bar, known and honored by lawyers the whole state over, loved by the people among whom he had lived and ministered for so many years, passed away at 10 o'clock Sunday night in the Montezuma hospital, where he had been taken Thursday morning following a fall while descending to his office from his living room above.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Presbyterian church in Montezuma.

Judge Lewis' relation to this county and the people in it was unique. He was 91 years old and the best of those 91 years had been spent in Poweshiek county. To few is given such a spontaneous evidence of appreciation that was afforded him on his month-long bereavement when the entire community of Montezuma and many from outside that community gathered to pay him honor.

His passing takes away a man of whom the whole county is proud. It is not only that he has succeeded and honored even as he has rejoiced in the little triumphs and sympathized with the misfortunes of his friends.



JUDGE W. R. LEWIS.

great lawyer and was honored as such but his everlasting memorial in the hearts of the people of Poweshiek county will be as Judge Lewis the man and the friend.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1927.

Funeral Of Judge Lewis

Impressive and beautiful services were held Wednesday afternoon.

DUE HONORS ARE PAID TO PIONEER JURIST
 Every County In This Judicial District Represented By Members Of The Bar

Funeral services for Judge W. R. Lewis were held from the Presbyterian church in Montezuma at 2:00 o'clock Wednesday afternoon and were very largely attended not only by Montezuma people but by friends from all over the county. Every county in this judicial district was represented by members of the bar. The Masonic Order, of which Judge Lewis had been a member for many years, attended in a body. It was an impressive and beautiful occasion.

The services were conducted by Rev. W. F. Vanderlip who paid an eloquent and beautiful tribute to the noble life which had just closed. Rev. A. H. Barker offered prayer. Music was furnished by a special choir and a solo was rendered by Miss Ardena Brown.

Services at the grave were conducted in accordance with the rites of the Masonic order.

The Poweshiek County Bar Association represented a specially beautiful floral tribute, representing an open Bible. The Mahaska and Jasper county bar association also sent floral offerings and the casket was heaped with the many flowers sent by sorrowing friends.

Pall bearers were J. G. Shifflett and W. C. Hayburn of Grinnell, F. R. Talbot and Harold J. Reed of Brooklyn, and R. J. Smith and Frank Deady of Montezuma. There were twelve honorary pall bearers, as follows: Col. C. J. Wilson, Washington; Judge H. W. Wagner, Sigourney; Judge D. W. Hamilton, Grinnell; Judge Henry Sitwold, Newton; O. P. Myers, Newton; J. A. Beavitt, Okaloosa; T. J. Bray, Okaloosa; Judge A. C. Lyon, Grinnell; Ed Morrison, Washington; John Malcom, Okaloosa; J. E. Patterson, Okaloosa; Judge B. W. Preston, Okaloosa.

The following obituary notice was read at the funeral.

Truly it may be said of this man, a prince and mighty man among us this day has fallen.

Just as truly however, should it be said that his wonderful work remains, although the workman has passed on.

Tennyson's word on Wellington wars aptly expresses a similar well fitting sentiment: "O, fallen at length, that tower of strength" not in Judge's life for battle against human foes, but in the struggle of 70 years ago and since. Again like his divine Master "he went about until 91 years of age and more, doing good, with the rarity of his many abilities. The detailed life record of the judge is left to others. Will state that a review of his life is practically the history of the beginnings and development of this community to the present time. Moreover such a narration makes truly interesting and romantic reading, aside from the chronology, revealing the judge's versatile and distinguished personality.

His social and spiritual values are also especially noteworthy. Before considering them reference should be made to his parents and their family as well as to his own. Born near Zanesville, O., Muskingum Co., O. His father was John M., his mother, Louisa L. Ramsey. Lewis, sturdy character of that state, who wrought well and nobly in that day. Judge was the oldest of ten children, and the last to survive. In 1845 in Burlington, Vermont, Judge was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Cutts, daughter of Edwin Cutts, Brandon, Ver., sister of M. E. Cutts, Okaloosa. The loss of his wife, April 10, 1892, left the Judge sorely bereaved and lonely to the end of his days. They had no children. In their place, he considered all of us of the community, his children, loving his neighbors and friends, all of them, like his father.

To continue the record of his life here, it remains true that he achieved much more than material results. For like his Master he often spoke of being a friend to everyone. "He called us friends." An ex-judge said of him: "I am certain that Judge Lewis does not have an enemy anywhere."

He was a simple, religious nature, rich, growing with years, informed through church association and fidel-

(Continued on Page 5)

Funeral Of Judge Lewis

(Continued from Page 1)

ly, reverently consecrated to his "dear Heavenly Father."

"Verily he was a righteous man" if need be, to his own hurt.

If Rev. E. B. Farrar has no other discovery to his credit, the fact that he persuaded Judge Lewis to follow Christ and his service, added great gifts for the honor of his Lord and the Kingdom. This was the minister here who temporarily filled the pulpit and happened to have his home where Judge Lewis lived at the time, and often pressed religious life and duty upon him.

Judge came from a very religious home. Some conceivably belonged to one church, some to another. This Christian heritage made itself felt in the Judge's outlook in feeling at home with any and all Christian people, while always loyal to the church and people of his choice.

What a glorious record he has engraved upon these walls. Elder for a half-century, Sunday School Superintendent for 12 years in the court house before the church was built, and every other kind of an official and performing every other variety of activity during all these years. Until his last illness he has always taught his Sunday School class. He was the best kind of friend to his pastor, and all of them, his dignified and humble participation during worship being one of the finest inspirations any minister could have. "Though dead, he will continue to speak to us." To sum up his life is nearly impossible. There is one word however, applying very fittingly and that is simplicity.

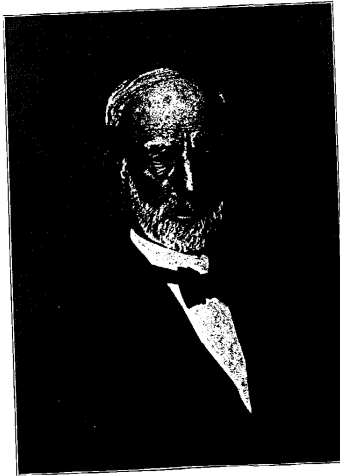
He had simplicity of faith in his loving Heavenly Father.

There were no false pretensions about him, he was out and out what he professed to be. His feet were planted firmly on the Rock of Ages, where no false pride nor foolish doubts could harm him. He is no more, for God took him, where he will forever be at home in his dear Father's house.

"Love, rest and home, Sweet, sweet home."

Relatives at the funeral are Dr. C. E. Van Voorhis, Prairie City, Ia., was his brother, they being nephews; Mrs. R. O. Williams and Gilbert Cutts, Lincoln, Neb., nieces and nephews, others known are Mrs. E. J. Lewis, Pennsylvania, Fla., sister-in-law, and her sons, O. E. Pensack and Harold, Portland, Oregon.

Still others living in Pennsylvania and Ohio are unknown here.



W. R. LEWIS

JUDGE W. R. LEWIS, our subject, one of the oldest attorneys in Poweshiek County, was Judge of the Courts for ten years. He is a mechanical genius and a charming conversationalist being popular with every one. He was elected Judge of the Circuit Court in 1880, and served until 1886, when the circuits were abolished and he was elected District Judge and served four years. His residence at Montezuma dates from April, 1857, and he has been a practicing attorney since 1866. Our subject was born near Zanesville, Muskingum County, Ohio, October 12, 1833. His father, John M. Lewis, a native of the same county, was born in 1811. The grandfather of our subject, Abel Lewis, who was born near White Sulphur Springs, Va., was a college graduate and came to Ohio in the eighteenth century. He was a Government Surveyor in Muskingum and Coshocton Counties, and took part in several of the Indian wars. He married and located in Zanesville, Ohio, was Clerk of the Court for years, and was the author of some mathematical works. He entered a large

JPE 610

tract of land, made a farm of it, moved there and ended his days. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was of an old Virginia family of Welsh descent.

The father of our subject married and located on a part of the old homestead five and one-half miles from Zanesville, and later located in New Castle, Coshocton County, where he engaged in mercantile business under the firm name of Thornhill, Berry & Lewis. In the year 1851 he went to California by the way of Panama, and spent two years prospecting for gold and mining, being fairly successful, when he returned to New Castle, Ohio, and retired from business. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has held several official positions. In politics he is a straight out-and-out, uncompromising Republican, lending all his influence and energy to the success of the party. The mother of our subject, Louisa A. Ramey, was born in Muskingum County a daughter of Sanford Ramey, a native of Virginia, a very early settler in Ohio, and of German descent. The mother died in 1886, having been the parent of ten children, six of whom, four girls and two boys, are living, both the latter living in Montezuma.

Our subject, the eldest of the ten, lived in Muskingum County until he had reached his tenth year, and then removed to Coshocton, attending school there six months in the year for four or five years, the remainder of the time being spent in his father's store. Later he put in considerable time on the farm. He then studied surveying and read law in New Castle, then worked at surveying several years and then came West, stopping in Southport, Peoria County, Ill. There he worked as a carpenter and on the farm for a month, and during the winter taught school at Southport, Peoria County. In the following spring he came to Montezuma, then a town of from four to five hundred people. Here he remained, doing hard work as a carpenter and performing such other jobs as offered, until the fall of 1857, when he was made Principal of the public schools. During his administration he assisted in forming the Teachers' Institute and he graded the Montezuma schools. In 1862, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools and before his term expired was elected

Clerk of the County and District Courts. The latter position he held one term and then resigned to enter the practice of law, which he had previously studied. At this time he formed a partnership with Hon. M. E. Cutts, ex-Member of Congress, in the mill business, conducted it successfully for a time and then sold out. He was Deputy Treasurer under Mr. Bates for one year and a member and Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors for two years.

Coming to Iowa in 1866, our subject was admitted to the Bar and began to practice, being associated for a while with Hon. D. H. Emery, and later with C. R. Clark, both of these partnerships being of brief duration. In the fall of 1880 he was nominated and elected Judge of the Circuit Court, embracing Poweshiek, Jefferson, Washington, Keokuk, Mahaska, Marion and Jasper Counties, succeeding Judge Blanchard, the first Circuit Judge. After serving four years, the district was divided into circuits and he was elected Judge of the First Circuit, taking in Jefferson, Washington, Keokuk and Poweshiek Counties, and upon the abolition of the Circuit Court in 1886, he was made one of the three Judges for the district. After his retirement from the Bench he was general manager during the year 1891 for the Hawkeye Electric Manufacturing Co., with headquarters at Davenport. In the fall of 1891, he resumed his law practice in Montezuma.

In 1888 the Judge was one of the organizers of the Montz Electric Light and Power Company, superintended the putting in of the plant and has been Superintendent since that time. He was Superintendent of the putting up of the electric light works at Bloomfield and Sigourney. He assisted in surveying the route for the Grinnell & Montezuma Railroad. A map of the county which he made caused him to be out of pocket \$1,200. His office is a most attractive one and located on Main Street. Our subject was married in Burlington, Vt. in 1865, to Miss Mary E., daughter of Edwin Cutts, of Brandon, Vt. Judge Lewis has been elected a member of the City Council a number of times and sat in the first Council of the City. He is a member of the Knights-Templar, Iowa Legion, Ancient Order of United Workmen,

"He is a man of great legal ability and while on the bench was a warm friend of the young practitioner. He never permitted a young lawyer to sacrifice his client's interest if a word or suggestion from the court could help him. His decisions were rarely reversed. No district or circuit judge has a better record in the supreme court than Judge Lewis. So unerring were his views, especially in equity cases, that the attorneys in his court learned it was next to useless to appeal as he was nearly always sustained. He was slow in deciding but his work never had to be done a second time. As special counsel for the county in the famous cases against the Rowes and against the bondsmen of the defaulting treasurer he earned new laurels."

Following his retirement from the bench Judge Lewis during the year 1891 acted as general manager for the Hawkeye Electric Manufacturing Company, with headquarters at Davenport, but in the fall of 1891 again took up his abode in Montezuma and has since been actively associated with the work of the courts and at seventy-five years of age has a large and lucrative law practice, doing as much court work as he ever did in his younger days. In addition he has proved his worth in the management of commercial interests. He was one of the organizers of the Montezuma Electric Light & Power Company, superintended the construction of the plant and took up the management of the business. He also superintended the erection and installation of the electric light works at Bloomfield and at Sigourney and assisted in surveying the route for the Grinnell & Montezuma Railroad. He made and published the first map of Poweshiek county and at all times has been closely associated with the growth and progress of the county not alone by reason of his connection with industrial and commercial affairs or with the legal profession but also because he has been the champion of every project and measure which he deemed of value in the public life of the community. He was again called to office in the fall of 1897, when he was nominated by acclamation for the state senate at the republican convention of the twelfth senatorial district, comprising Poweshiek and Keokuk counties. The election showed that he was the popular candidate and for four years he remained a member of the upper house. He gave careful consideration to each question which came up for settlement and left the impress of his individuality and ability upon the laws enacted during that period.

In 1865, in Burlington, Vermont, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Cutts, a daughter of Edwin Cutts, of Brandon, Vermont, and a sister of M. E. Cutts, of Oskaloosa. The marriage relation between them was always of a most ideal character and the deepest grief in the life of Judge Lewis came to him in the death of his wife on the 10th of April, 1893.

Fraternally Judge Lewis is connected with Masonry as a Knight Templar and belongs also to the Iowa Legion, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and to the Iowa State Bar Association. He has never faltered in his stalwart support of the republican party and its principles and has served as chairman of the county central committee. He was a member of the first city council of Montezuma and while important political interests relative to the work of the courts and to the law-making body of the state have claimed his attention he has never considered himself above the duties connected with the management of local interests. A lifelong member of the Presbyterian church, he has served as

elder and trustee and for a number of years was superintendent of the Sunday school, in which position he continued until his election to the bench. He is today one of the oldest residents of Montezuma in years of continuous connection with the city, and among the men of Poweshiek county who have been long in public service the record of none has been more constant in honor, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation.

With the work of framing as well as interpreting the laws of Iowa Judge W. R. Lewis has been closely associated, serving at different times as a member of the upper house of the state legislature and as judge of the circuit and district courts. Aside from this he has won a wide and enviable reputation as a learned lawyer, seldom, if ever, at fault in the application of a legal principle. For more

than a half century he has been a resident of Poweshiek county, having come here in the days of his early manhood, his birth having occurred near Zanesville, Muskingum county, Ohio, on the 12th of October, 1835. He was, therefore, about twenty-two years of age when he arrived in Poweshiek county and nine years later was admitted to the bar.

He comes of Welsh and German ancestry. His father, John M. Lewis, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, his natal year being 1811. He was a son of Abel Lewis, who was born near White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, and was a college graduate. In the later part of the eighteenth century he removed to Ohio and became a government surveyor in Muskingum and Coshocton counties. He took part in several of the Indian wars and was closely associated with many of the events which led to the reclamation of Ohio for the purpose of civilization. Following his marriage he established his home in Zanesville and there served as clerk of the court for four years. He was also the author of some mathematical works. Entering a large tract of land, he became interested in agricultural pursuits, took up his abode on his farm and spent the residue of his days there. For many years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his entire life was the exemplification of his Christian belief.

John M. Lewis, the father of Judge Lewis, married Louisa A. Ramey and settled upon a part of the old homestead, five and a half miles from Zanesville. Subsequently he took up his abode at New Castle, Coshocton county, Ohio, and engaged in merchandising as a member of the firm of Thornhill, Derry & Lewis. The discovery of gold, however, attracted him to California in 1851, the journey to the coast being made by way of the isthmus of Panama. He spent two years in prospecting and mining, in which he was fairly successful. He then returned to New Castle and soon afterward retired from business. He, too, belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, and his political allegiance was given to the republican party. His wife was born in Muskingum county, a daughter of Sanford Ramey, a native of Virginia and of German descent. He became one of the early settlers of Ohio and his daughter Louisa was born and reared in that state. Her death occurred in 1886.

Judge Lewis, the eldest in a family of ten children, spent the first ten years of his life in his native county and then removed with his parents to Coshocton county, Ohio. For four or five years he attended school during the winter months, the remainder of the year being spent in assisting his father in the same. He was also at intervals engaged in farm work and took up the study of surveying. He read law in New Castle and while thus engaged followed the profession of surveying for several years. In 1856 he took the first step in the removal which brought him eventually to Iowa. In that year he became a resident of Southport, Peoria county, Illinois, where he worked at the carpenter's trade and also spent a month in farm labor. During the winter he taught school at Southport and in the spring of 1857 he came to Montezuma, then a little village of four or five hundred inhabitants. Since that time he has continuously resided in Poweshiek county and has made for himself a high and enviable position in the regard of his fellowmen. Through the summer months he worked at carpentering or at other employment which he could secure and his evening hours were devoted to the farther study of law. He

POP
238

there soon qualified for admission to the bar but he determined not to seek admission until he felt that he could give his entire attention to law practice. He recognized the fact that to do this he must have a certain amount of capital to tide him over that initial period in the life of every lawyer when he must spend some time in waiting for clients.

In the fall of 1857 Judge Lewis secured the position of principal of the public schools and did splendid work as one of the early educators of Poweshiek county. While active in that capacity he was largely instrumental in organizing the teachers' institute and he also graded the schools of Montezuma. This work alone would entitle him to the lasting gratitude of his fellow townsmen. In 1862 he was elected county superintendent of schools and before the expiration of his term was chosen by popular suffrage for the office of clerk of the county and district courts. In the latter position he served acceptably for a term, after which he resigned to form a partnership with Hon. M. E. Cutts, former member of congress, to conduct a milling business, which was carried on successfully for a great period, after which he sold out. For a year he occupied the position of deputy treasurer and for two years as a member of the county board of supervisors served as its chairman. He has ever regarded a public office as a public trust and it is well known that no public trust reposed in Judge Lewis has ever been betrayed in the slightest degree. Capable, diligent and loyal, he won the confidence and good-will of the public through his devotion to duty in the offices which he was called upon to fill in the earlier years of his residence here.

At length, feeling that the time was ripe when he might give his attention to his profession, in 1866 he applied for and secured admission to the bar and entered upon active practice, being associated for a time with the Hon. D. H. Emery, while later he became a partner of C. R. Clark. He won success because he wisely and conscientiously used the talents with which nature endowed him. An analytical mind enabled him to bring a trend of reasoning to its logical conclusion and to accurately apply the principles of law to the points at issue. His successful handling of cases early in his legal career awakened public confidence and brought him an increased clientage. In the fall of 1880 he was honored with election to the circuit court bench for the district embracing Poweshiek, Jefferson, Washington, Keokuk, Mahaska, Marion and Jasper counties, becoming the second circuit judge, his predecessor having been Judge Blanchard. After filling the position for four years the district was divided and he was elected judge of the first circuit, which included Jefferson, Washington, Keokuk and Poweshiek counties. He continued upon that bench until 1886, when, upon the abolishment of the circuit court, he was made one of the three judges for the district. There was keen strife for the office and Judge Lewis was not re-nominated by his party at the time but in response to the unanimous wish of his constituents he permitted his name to be used as an independent candidate and was elected by a sweeping majority. There was a prevailing belief that his defeat in the convention was due to unfair means and this contributed to his success at the polls. He retired from the bench in 1890, after a judicial service of ten years, and resumed the practice of law in Montezuma. A contemporary biographer has said of him: