

## George Morris Dies Yesterday

74-16 - 1936

George H. Morris, 92 years of age, passed away last evening at 7:30 at his home on Spring street. Funeral services will be held Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 from Herrick Chapel, conducted by Rev. Robert Inglis. Burial will be at Chester cemetery. An obituary notice will be ready for the next issue of this paper.

## Life Story Of The Late 44R Geo. H. Morris

2-4-36

George Huntley Morris, second son of Hart N. and Susan (Miles) Morris, one of a family of six children, was born at Ames, Montgomery County, New York, Dec. 27, 1843.

The Morris family moved from New York to a new farm ten miles south of Princeton, Bureau Co., Ill., in September, 1850, making the journey 300 miles to Buffalo by the Erie Canal, thence to Chicago by the Lakes steambait, and again by canal to LaSalle, and the rest of the way by stage to their destination where they lived for four years in a log house.

His education was in the district school and at Dover Academy.

In February, 1868, he moved to a new farm on the virgin prairie six miles northwest of Grinnell, Iowa, making that trip of 200 miles by horseback, bringing four horses, riding one, leading another, and allowing the others to follow. There being no bridge at Darwinport the horses were put on the cars to cross the Mississippi as the ice was breaking up in the river.

The greater part of his life was spent on his farm in Chester township except three years in Louisiana in the early 90's. In the fall of 1920 he moved with his family to Grinnell where the remainder of his life was passed.

While at school at Dover he was converted and soon after united with the Arispe Congregational Church, transferring his membership to the Congregational church of Grinnell in the fall of 1868. When the Newburg church was formed in 1880, he became a

member, and was its treasurer, clerk, and was afterwards trustee until his removal to Grinnell.

He was united in marriage November 20, 1883, with Mary Odel Rickard of Chester Center who died February 9, 1929, at the same in Grinnell. His children are Clara H. and Thebe McDaniel of Grinnell, and Moresas of near Newburg, and one daughter, Mary Warren who died early in life many years ago.

Several severe accidents happened to him about 1917 which made necessary his retirement from active life but he always felt a great interest in local and public affairs. He was prominent in temperance work and in driving out saloons from Newburg in the early eighties. His life was a busy one until his injuries were such that they required his retirement from the more active pursuits of life.

He passed away Sunday evening, February 16, 1936.

In addition to the relatives at Toledo, Grinnell and Chester, including six grandchildren, he is survived by two brothers, Norman F. Morris of Tiskilwa, Ill., and Henry Morris of Pontana, Ill., and a cousin, Mrs. Mamie Williams of Washburn, North Dakota.

Funeral services were held from Herrick chapel Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 conducted by Rev. Robert Inglis, pastor of the Congregational church. Elbert M. Smith presided at the organ and Mrs. Margery Bouma sang, "At Evening Time Let Their De Light" and "My Saviour First of All." Interment was in the Chester cemetery.

Pall bearers were E. J. Ochock, Charles Dexter, J. N. Hart-

STER, GRINNELL, IOWA.

and D. A. Malachy, Henry Rickard and Mr. Strand.

### A MINE OF INFORMATION.

*Jack* Mr. Harrington is a quiet man, but like other quiet men we have met, he knows a lot more than he lets on. He and the Herald-Register man sometimes meet over a festive afternoon cup of coffee and on such occasions it is always a pleasure to talk to Mr. Harrington, especially when something has happened which opens the way to reminiscences of old time people and things.

The other day it was the death of George H. Morris that paved the way. Mr. Harrington had known him shore way back in the early days and recalls him, not as the bent, crippled old man whom we all remember, but as an active and hustling farmer, interested in politics and influential in the Chester community. He remembers how on election nights Mr. Morris used to wait for the Chester returns to be completed, take them in his pocket and ride furiously on horseback to Grinnell to bring the news. Then he would wait until all the returns were in, which would probably be the next day, as Jackson township was presumably as slow then as it is now, and ride back to Chester again with the news of how the county had gone. That was in the eighties, before the day of telephones and automobiles.

Year after year he did this and the interest in politics which he displayed at that time stayed with him all his life long. When he was able he never missed a political rally or speech and he loved to go on barnstorming tours over the county occasionally indulged in by candidates during the campaigns.

He and his brother came to Poweshiek county soon after the Civil War, when land was cheap. They picked up a farm at next to nothing an acre. Both of them wanted their houses to face south and so they divided their land so that each had a farm a mile long but very much narrower, but each had what he wanted and each was satisfied. For many years they were active and influential farmers in the Chester community. The brother died a number of years ago.