

Grand Army of the Republic

HARRISON I. DAVIS

2015 will mark the 150th anniversary of the end of America's Civil War. Grinnell Historical Museum volunteers Karen Groves, Ann Igoe, Julie Young and Shane Estes have created biographies of men who were participants in a local project just after World War I to photograph Civil War veterans. The Nina Wayne Grau Studio photographed the Grinnell veterans in 1922. Over 200 Civil War veterans are buried in Hazelwood Cemetery, including most of the veterans photographed in 1922. Here is one of those portraits and biographies:

Harrison I. Davis was born in Chenango County, N.Y., on Feb. 19, 1840, and moved with his family to Bureau County, Ill., at age 12. He enlisted in Company K of the 93rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry in October 1862 and served nearly three full years, being discharged as a First Lieutenant.

The regiment served under General Grant in the Mississippi campaign, including at the siege of Vicksburg. The regiment was transferred to serve with General Sherman and participated in the Chattanooga campaign and Sherman's march to the sea, fighting in the Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga Creek, Allatoona Pass and Kennesaw Mountain battles. As a First Lieutenant Davis was in command of his company and various others as called upon during these campaigns.

Harrison Davis and Emily E.

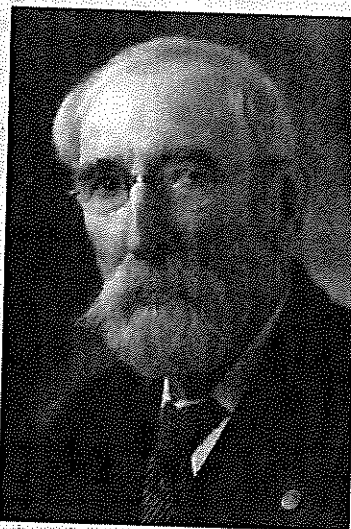
Trimble were married on Dec. 20, 1866, in Bureau County, Ill., and had six children. In 1866 the couple began farming in Sheridan Township, Poweshiek County, which

they continued until 1894. They moved to Grinnell in 1884 and resided at 1726 Fourth Ave.

In 1867 Davis was elected as the first township clerk of Sheridan Township. He also served on the school board and as trustee and member of the county board of supervisors and was a three-term member of Grinnell's city council

during the time the water plant and an ambitious program of street paving were being completed. He was a member of the Gordon Granger Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Civil War veterans.

Davis died Feb. 1, 1925, at the age of 85. He is buried in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.



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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1925.

"TAPS" SOUND FOR H. I. DAVIS

One of Grinnell's Civil War Veterans
And Honored Citizens
Passes On.

MILITARY FUNERAL
HELD THIS AFTERNOON.

Mr. Davis Had Lived A Useful Life In
This Community For
Many Years.

In the death of H. I. Davis which occurred Sunday morning at seven o'clock Grinnell and Poweshiek county have lost one of the early settlers in this section and one of our most distinctive and honored citizens. Since 1866 Mr. Davis has been a resident of Poweshiek County and since the middle 50's his home has been in Grinnell where he has been honored by membership on the City Council and on the School Board, each position at two different periods.

H. I. Davis was born in Chenango County, New York, February 19, 1840. At the age of twelve Mr. Davis' parents moved to Bureau County, Illinois, near Princeton. Here he lived until 1866 after which time he made his residence in Sheridan township and later in Grinnell city.

In 1862 Mr. Davis enlisted in Company K, 93d Illinois volunteers and served nearly three full years, being mustered out on the 23d of June, 1865. He took part in the Vicksburg campaign and when Sherman was later transferred to the east Tennessee dis-

trict of the war, the 304 followed him and Mr. Davis was a participant in nearly all the hard battles fought from Chattanooga till after the conquest at Atlanta. He was a young man of iron constitution and during all the three years of his service nearly all of which time he was on most hazardous and arduous duty he never missed a day from his mess and his company. He was commissioned Lieutenant and was mustered out in that rank. Among the severe battles in which he took part from Chattanooga to Atlanta were Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga Creek, Allatoona Pass and Kenesaw Mountain.

Mr. Davis was married December 20, 1866 to Miss Emily E. Trimble in Bureau County, Illinois, and she at once took up her home with him in Sheridan township.

Mr. Davis was a hard working and thrifty farmer and in all that he did he prospered. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis in Sheridan township, five of whom are now living and four were present at the funeral.

In 1870 Mr. Davis was elected member of the County Board, a position for which he was well qualified and which he filled with eminent satisfaction to the people. In the middle 80's Mr. and Mrs. Davis moved to Grinnell to take advantage of the school opportunities. The six children all graduated from the Grinnell High School and the family was recognized as one of character and worth. In the middle 90's Mr. Davis was elected to a position on the School Board and gave his strength and time to the cause of education in which he was much interested. In the 90's he served on the Council which established the water plant and the original sewer system in 1894 and 1895.

After he had served two terms as member of the Council he retired from office but was at once elected a member of the School Board which position he held until he voluntarily retired.

However, Mr. Davis was of the type whose services the people constantly demand and soon after he was re-elected

to the City Council and gave the same devoted care to the city business that he had given to both the city and the district in the years that had passed.

Mr. Davis was a man of pronounced convictions, an uncompromising Republican in politics, and an earnest admirer of Lincoln for whom he cast his first presidential vote and of Roosevelt and the long line of able Republican presidents who have served the country since 1860.

In manner, Mr. Davis was mild but outspoken and fearless in his demand for honesty in government and political fairness in party spirit.

The last years of his life have been spent in quiet at home, though he has been a frequent visitor at the Elks Club of which he was a member. Few men have attained more prominence than Mr. Davis in a local community and few have served their people better than has Mr. Davis. Straightforward, uncompromising honesty was a settled habit. Fearlessness in conviction, determination in action and unswerving loyalty to his country and his flag were characteristics for which his old friends will remember Harrison I. Davis.

Mr. Davis' death was the result of a stroke which he suffered about four weeks ago following his long life of robust health and strength. In just a few days more he would have been eighty-five years of age. Named after the Whig candidate for president in 1840, the Whig's nickname was given to him by his friends and during all these years the familiar figure of Mr. Davis has been known by his nickname "Tip" and when the years have merged into the long eternity, to his old friends who held him in admiration and who esteemed him for his manly and worthy qualities, he will be known, familiarly and lovingly, as "Tip" Davis.

To mourn his loss, there remain his wife and five children: Harry L. Davis, Darline Preston, Wilbur Davis, Glenn Davis and Mrs. Edith Bonham.

Funeral services were held from the home at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. They were of a military character and were conducted by Rev. C. A. Carver, commander of Post-Tenants, Post of the American Legion. Members of the Legion post were pall bearers and a Legion ceremonial was used at the interment service in Hazelwood cemetery. Music was furnished by the Denver Male Quartet, made up of the C. A. Carver, Cecil Myers, Howard Perkins and D. M. Peck. The following acted as pall bearers: Harold Evans, James Ford, Ott Hanz, Ralph Tomney, Leslie Swift and Ed Johnston.

HARRISON I. DAVIS.

POP 664

Shortly after the Civil war Harrison I. Davis arrived in Poweshiek county and for nearly forty-five years he has been connected with the development of the county. He was a valiant soldier for the Union when the life of the republic was assailed and he has been a patriotic, energetic and progressive citizen. A successful business man, he now enjoys in peace and comfort the rewards of many years of application.

He was born in Chenango county, New York, February 19, 1840, and is a son of Isaac and Phebe (Gray) Davis. The father was a native of New York state, while the mother's family were from Massachusetts. Isaac Davis was a mechanic but turned his attention to farming and in 1852 took up his residence in Bureau county, Illinois. In 1866 he came to Poweshiek county, Iowa, and settled on a farm in section 23, Sheridan township, where he continued until his death, which occurred July 2, 1878. Politically he was originally



H. I. DAVIS

an old line whig but after the organization of the republican party gave to it his support. The mother died at Grinnell, May 25, 1898, on the ninety-second anniversary of her birth.

Harrison I. Davis received his early education in the common schools of New York and Illinois and began his business career by working upon an Illinois farm. Just as he was fairly started, the country was overshadowed by the great rebellion, and, like thousands of patriotic young men, he offered his services in support of the stars and stripes. He became a member of Company K, Ninety-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, enlisting at Princeton, Bureau county, Illinois. The regiment served under General Grant in the Mississippi campaign and also at Vicksburg, and after the fall of that city was transferred to the Fifteenth Army Corps under General Sherman. Mr. Davis enlisted as a private but was made lieutenant, serving in that capacity until hos-

ilities ceased. He participated in Sherman's march to the sea and also in the grand review at Washington, serving in all for two years and eleven months. He took part in the Vicksburg campaign and the battles of Chattanooga and Champion's Hill, his company losing fifty per cent of its number and his regiment one-third. The official record of the regiment shows that Lieutenant Davis was kept busily employed. He was in command of the company from May 16, 1863, to July 4, 1863, during the battles and siege of Vicksburg. On November 1, 1863, he was assigned to command Company I, serving in this capacity until November 21, and on November 25 he was assigned to Company F in the battle of Missionary Ridge. In this engagement Adjutant H. G. Hicks was severely wounded and Lieutenant Davis was assigned to duty as acting adjutant of the regiment, serving in this capacity until April 19, 1864, when he was assigned to command Company H, guarding a railroad bridge at Lime Stone Creek, between Huntsville and Decatur, Alabama. At Savannah, Georgia, December 29, 1864, he was detailed to command the Division Escort Company at the headquarters of the Third Division, Fifteenth Army Corps. He was in command of his company through the Carolina campaign until April 26, 1864, and at Raleigh, North Carolina, April 28, 1864, was detailed to act as regimental quartermaster, serving in this capacity on the march to Richmond, Virginia, and Washington, D. C. When the Ninety-third Illinois Regiment was mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky, June 23, 1865, the books and records of the regiment were placed in charge of Lieutenant Davis and he delivered them to the chief mustering officer at Chicago. Lieutenant Colonel Nick C. Boswell of the Ninety-third Illinois Regiment concludes a notation of Lieutenant Davis with the following highly commendatory words: "In all the many responsible positions Lieutenant Harrison I. Davis was called upon to fill during his service in the army he everywhere and at all times proved himself to be an officer of marked ability. In battle prompt and brave; on the march active and attentive to duty; at all times a cheerful, pleasant gentleman, who did not fail to win the esteem of all associates."

After laying aside the uniform and accoutrements of war, Mr. Davis applied himself to farming in Poweshiek county, Iowa, until 1894. He removed to Grinnell in 1884 and has ever since made his home in this city. In addition to his farming interests he associated with H. E. Roberts in the conduct

of a grain elevator and lumberyard at Ripley, Iowa, from 1896 to 1909, the business proving highly profitable.

On the 20th of December, 1866, Mr. Davis was united in marriage to Miss Emily E. Trimble, of Princeton, Illinois, a daughter of Mathew and Lydia (Thatcher) Trimble, both of whom were natives of Clinton county, Ohio. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis, namely: Dwight E., who is now deceased; Harry L., who is married and is now engaged in the grocery business at Oskaloosa; Darline, who attended the Conservatory of Music at Grinnell and married V. G. Preston, now engaged in the clothing business at Grinnell; Mark G., deceased; Glen T., now engaged in farming at Butte, Nebraska; Edith, who married William Mores, who is engaged in the clothing business at Manhattan, Montana; Buren T., deceased; and Wilbur C., a graduate of Grinnell College, who is now at Butte, Montana.

Mr. Davis is a valued member of Gordan Granger Post, No. 64, G. A. R., and his wife is a member of the Christian church. Politically, he is an earnest adherent of the republican party, being known as a "stand pat" republican and he has always taken great interest in politics. He was the first township clerk of Sheridan township, being elected in 1867, also served as trustee and member of the county board of supervisors, and was a member of the city council of Grinnell for three terms. He has through life represented advanced lines of thought and effort and has generally been found in the thick of the battle. He has never shirked responsibility and having once entered upon any undertaking he has almost invariably carried it through to a successful conclusion. He belongs to that class of men who are natural leaders, and of him it may truly be said that in the course of a long and useful life he has always attempted to perform his duty.