

## Sam R. Davis Passes Away

5-6-1937

Another native Grinnellian who had risen to a position of honor, prosperity and usefulness, passed away at Rock Island, April 29 after an illness of several weeks.

Mr. Davis was born in 1874, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Davis, and at his death he was 53 years old.

After completing his studies in the Grinnell Schools he entered the employ of the Grinnell Herald in the early nineties. He was steady, clean, industrious and reliable. After serving several years he was in the employ of the Herald at Chariton, Iowa, and, about 1898 he began work as a printer in the headquarters of the M W A at Rock Island. His aptness caused his rapid advancement until he held the position of Special Auditor for the company. The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at four o'clock and burial was in that city. Mr. Davis was a nephew of Miss Lizzie Davis of this city.

The Rock Island Argus speaks of Mr. Davis as follows:

"Coming to Rock Island from Grinnell, Iowa, Mr. Davis had been connected with Modern Woodmen of America since 1898 in various capacities. From 1898 to 1903 he served in the printing department, and from 1903 to 1911 in the auditing department of the head clerk's office. From 1911 to 1915 he was in the correspondence department, after which he returned to the auditing department as assistant chief auditor and was promoted to the position of head clerk's special auditor on Aug. 1, 1921, and since had held that position.

Mr. Davis also took a keen and active interest in the work of the Foresters and uniformed rank of Modern Woodmen of America. From 1898 to 1903 he served as chief forester of Independence camp No. 26, of Rock Island, in which he held membership, and largely through experience obtained as a member of the Iowa national guard and the Illinois naval reserves, he was enabled to lead the Forester team of Camp 26 in winning highest honors, which it has done at practically every national encampment. In addition, Mr. Davis served as assistant chief quartermaster on the staff of the commanding general of the Foresters at national encampments from 1901 to 1912, and as chief paymaster from 1914 to 1925 with the rank of major general. During the World war he was in training at the officers training camp, Fort Sheridan, Chicago.

Mr. Davis was active in Masonic circles of the tri-cities. He was a member of six Masonic organizations and was past commander of Rock Island commandery, No. 18, Knights Templar; past excellent high priest of Rock Island chapter, No. 18, Royal Arch Masons, and past master of Trio lodge, No. 57, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He also held membership in Rock Island council, No. 20, Royal and Select Masters; Amoo grotto of Rock Island, and Kaaba temple. Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, in Davenport. He was also a charter member and fourth exalted ruler of the Rock Island Elk's lodge.

He was born March 17, 1874, in Grinnell, Iowa, where he was reared and educated. On Jan. 17, 1898, he was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Jane Potts, the ceremony taking place in Muscatine, Iowa. During his residence in Rock Island he was a member of the First Baptist church.

The survivors are the widow and one son, Harry Willis Davis of Rock Island; his mother-in-law, Mrs. Henry Potts of Rock Island, and three sisters and three brothers. The sisters are Miss Lena Davis, Santa Barbara, Calif.; Mrs. Benjamin C. Shepherd, Pomona, Calif., and Mrs. Oliver P. Kirby, Alamo, N. D., and the brothers are C. G. Davis, El Paso, Texas; Reece P. Davis, Superior, Wis., and Fred Davis, Miami, Fla.