

LUTE HARRIS DIES

Former Well Known Grinnellite
Suicides While With His Wife Visit-
ing Their Son In Chicago

Many old time friends of L. C. Harris were much pained to learn from the Chicago papers that he had committed suicide while visiting in Chicago, by jumping in the canal. Mr. Harris was born in Grinnell where everybody called him "Lute", and was one of Grinnell's brilliant and most highly esteemed young men. He spent three years in Grinnell College but did not graduate because his eyesight proved too poor to continue the close work.

He was the winning interstate orator in 1880 in the old interstate oratorical contest, speaking in the state contest against Robert Cousins of Cornell and in the interstate contest against Dick Yates, later governor of Illinois, who was second in that contest. The next year he spent working in the foundry at the Header Works and the next year took a law course in S. U. I.

He afterwards located in La Moure, North Dakota with Sam H. Moer. He later removed to Duluth where the partnership of Towne, Harris and Moer was formed and Duluth has been his home ever since.

Referring to the death of L. C. Harris, which occurred last week. His death recalls to quite a few of the old timers here the character and ability of the man who in a moment of agony and fear that a longer life would inflict upon his family more care and assistance than he was willing to allow them to give, threw himself into a canal and so ended it all.

Mr. Harris was the son of Dr. E. H. and Mrs. Rachel Hamlin Harris, who were married in Warren, Lee County, Iowa, in 1854 and moved to Grinnell soon after the town was founded. "Lute," as all of the boys knew him, grew up here and was always recognized as a steady, careful industrious boy and young man of upright character and high ambitions. He was a great reader and also for a local town a great baseball player. He was a member of the old O K nine in the days of its glory and was one of the best.

The writer had quite a talk with A. L. Child the day his death was announced here, over this young man. He and Arthur Child were warm intimate friends as all old timers know. Both were singers and in the earlier days, sang many a time together in public as well as in private in a male quartette. Mr. Child early started to learn the business of a photographer while Mr. Harris went to college. The photograph gallery which was conducted by C. L. Walker and also by A. L. Child at different times in the '70s and '80s was the gathering place of quite a company of young men of mutual interests who enjoyed music and reading and discussion of questions of science and of lives.

Mr. Child was one of the group and they were congenial men who used to gather there. In fact, on the night of the cyclone, a number of young men were in Mr. Child's gallery at the time the storm broke.

Mr. Harris, in the fall of 1879, entered the home oratorical contest in which a speaker was selected to represent Grinnell college in the State Oratorical Contest. Mr. Harris, according to Mr. Child, went into this contest because he was urged by friends to do so and especially by Mr. Child, who was an enthusiastic and warm hearted friend of Mr. Harris. Mr. Harris finally chose for his subject, "Edgar Allan Poe" and in a dramatic and striking manner, with a rich penetrating voice, won first place against at least one other fine speaker, Henry Asa Phelps. Soon after, he went to Oskaloosa, where the State contest was held, under the auspices of Oskaloosa college—not Penn. There he went up against Robert Cousins from Cornell, but won first place. Mrs. Haines tells us that she and Mr. Haines went to Oskaloosa to hear Mr.

LUTE SPEAK.

It was understood here in Grinnell, especially among the students, that during the winter before the contest was held in Ohio somewhere, that Mr. Harris, lived, ate, slept, and moved with his subject, "Edgar Allan Poe."

That he consulted practically every available authority and talked the matter over with educated Grinnell people to fit himself for the final show down against six mid-west winners in state contests. When finished, his oration was a polished production. There probably was not an unnecessary word in it. It had been pruned and polished until it was a gem of literary style and at the same time fitted well to the oratorical delivery of a man with a wonderful voice and intelligent expression. At the interstate contest he went up against Dick Yates, son of Governor Yates, himself afterwards Governor of Illinois and a man of unusual talent. Harris won first place. When he returned to Grinnell in April or May, 1880, from Ohio, the winner, a great reception was given him here and he became at once in Grinnell the foremost student in the college. Poor eyesight caused him to quit college at the close of the year and the year '80 and '81 was spent working in the foundry of the old Header Works and in the fall of 1881 he entered the law department of S. U. I., graduating in the one year course in

With Sam Moore, a bright and attractive young Grinnell man who was a warm friend, they went to Le Moure, N. D., and engaged in practice. After two or three years in this new country they moved over to Duluth and formed a partnership with Ike Towne, who afterwards represented his district in Congress, but who was a firm believer in the cause of free silver and went down to defeat on the money issue, either in 1896 or 1898, because his district was a gold standard district.

Mr. Harris married a Grinnell student, Miss Hannah Knapp, an exceedingly popular and attractive young woman and to many of the young men the wonder was that a man of Mr. Harris' reticent character should be attracted by the bright and jolly soul which dominated the young lady. Mr. Harris was essentially a man of thought, somewhat inclined to keep his mind within his own affairs. The young lady was especially popular, but the quiet and dominating character of Mr. Harris was sufficient to attract her pride and win her heart.

She was a daughter of Judge Knapp of Keosauqua. They have reared a fine family who are all doing well.

Mr. Harris was in Duluth when he suicided and not in Chicago as stated last week.