

OBITUARY

1-13-54
(Contributed)

William J. Hays, eldest son of Joseph T. and Maria Ludwig Hays, was born April 10, 1870 and departed this life Jan. 11, 1954 at the age of 83.

He grew up in the Sonora neighborhood, leaving school at an early age to work out on neighboring farms, where his industry and ability made him a valued employee.

In later years he enjoyed recalling many of the events centering around the social life of the times, his parents, five brothers and sisters, other young people of the community, the church and the school.

As a young man he attended and graduated from Iowa Business College of Des Moines, where he was particularly interested in the courses in mathematics and banking.

He chose, however, to be a farmer, with carpentering as perhaps his next main interest. He built many of the buildings on the several farms he later owned and followed this occupation for many years after his retirement to town.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1895, he was united in marriage to Katie Wolcott of the Sheridan community. To this union were born three children, Ansel, Gladys and Mable Ruth who died in infancy.

He applied his early learned habits of industry, thrift and foresight to the business of farming, first buying the home farm and later expanding as he was able.

In 1916 he decided to move to Grinnell, because of the health of his helpmate, and there he built a fine home for her and his family, later working at carpentering in many of the homes about the city and managing the business of his farms and acting

as a bank director for several years.

In 1933, because of adverse conditions, it became necessary to move back to the farm, where he and his helpmate again took up the work, until her decease in 1936, followed by that of his daughter, Gladys the next year.

He bravely and successfully carried on, applying the lifelong habits he had learned to the business of farming.

In 1940 he was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary Giel. They continued together on the farm for the next eight years, when he and his helpmate again took where he built a new home for the declining years of his companion and himself.

Again bereavement struck, and she was taken away within the next year. But he had learned to say with Job of old, "The Lord