

J. L. McIlrath, Former Mayor Dies Monday

H-R Nov 24, 1955

Succumbs To Heart
Attack; Longtime
Resident of Grinnell

James L. McIlrath, 84, former Grinnell mayor and prominent livestock auctioneer, died Monday afternoon following a heart attack.

He was just getting out of his car after returning from some errands when the fatal attack occurred.

Born in Hartwick on September 21st, 1871, he was married on June 3rd, 1892, to Lizzie A. Korns, who preceded him in death. On June 30th, 1946, he married Nellie Rowland Compton, a childhood friend.

An auctioneer in the Grinnell area for almost 60 years, he was widely known throughout Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas. For more than 25 years he was connected with the Omaha Land Bank, serving most of that time as secretary of the Grinnell-Marengo division of the Federal Farm Loan association.

For nearly 25 years, he was teacher of an adult Sunday School class at the First Methodist church in Grinnell.

In addition to his wife, seven children survive: Roy E. McIlrath, Chicago; Azel H. McIlrath, Cedar Rapids; Mrs. Harold V. Ellis, Marengo; Ellsworth and Howard McIlrath, Jacksonville, Fla.; Mrs. Ira Arthur Ames; and Arthur McIlrath, Spencer.



J. L. McIlrath

Also surviving are three sisters: Mrs. Agness Bennett, Santa Monica, Calif.; Mrs. Margaret Creamer, Hollywood, Fla.; and Mrs. Ella Warnick, Mitchell, S. D. A brother, Nathaniel McIlrath of Hartwick, also survives.

Other survivors include 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Five children preceded him in death.

Funeral services were conducted November 23rd from the Congregational church where he had been a member since moving to Grinnell from Hartwick in 1909.

The Rev. Leland W. Mann, minister of the First Congregational church, officiated at the services. Organ selections were provided by Norman Goodbrod.

Pallbearers were: Carl Child, Ross Coutts, A. B. Hamilton, R. S. Kinsey, H. G. Pearce, and F. W. Tomasek.

Interment was at Hartwick cemetery.