

5-22-1909
D. W. NORRIS, DEAD.

This community was shocked Wednesday afternoon to learn that D. W. Norris had suddenly collapsed while in his own doorway among the flowers he loved so well and died within a few minutes.

Mr. Norris has not been in good health for some time. About three weeks ago he was seized with an acute attack of indigestion and has been confined to his bed most of the time since. However, he was recovering from this attack and able to be up and about.

On Tuesday Mr. Norris accompanied his wife to Marshalltown and visited his son and went to the Cartwright farm near Marshalltown. Feeling much stronger Wednesday morning he left Mrs. Norris in Marshalltown and returned home. After spending a few hours about town and in his office he walked home, ate his lunch and was out directing his hired man in his work in the door yard when the summons came.

Funeral services occur at 2 o'clock this afternoon at the home. The following order of exercises has been arranged for:

Exercises in charge of Prof. L. F. Parker; short addresses, by Judge John T. Scott on Mr. Norris the man; by Judge W. R. Lewis on Mr. Norris the lawyer; by Hon. J. P. Lyman on Mr. Norris the citizen; Music under direction of E. B. Brande. The directors of the banks of the city and the attorneys of the city are to attend in a body and official committees from the Masonic order and the order of Knights of Pythias. The Pall bearers will be Dr. S. A. Cravath, H. F. Lanphere, T. C. Cessna, John Goodfellow, Albert Burroughs and J. H. P. Robinson.

Mr. Norris will be missed in Poweshiek county. His life has been one of ceaseless activity. He literally worked himself to death. During the past few years the signs of an approaching nervous breakdown have been apparent. The members of his family have seen it and have tried to induce him to rest, but the physical machinery had been geared to such high tension that rest was impossible. If his attention was once distracted from his law office, Mr. Norris at once threw himself into something else with equal energy. He took up the cultivation of flowers as a recreation. He developed it until it became a serious business. In his beds are now over 200 varieties of roses. In his tulip bed are 2,500 bulbs. This is but a sample of the intensity with which he went about the work of his every day life.

Mr. Norris was 58 years of age. He was born in the Blue Ridge mountains of Maryland on Sept. 1, 1848. When he was still a boy, his father moved west, settling near Galesburg, Ill., and a few years later came to Iowa and took up a homestead four miles north of Chester Center. Mr. Norris was then 15 years of age. He spent his boyhood on the farm and then came to Iowa college, graduating in the class of 1872. From college he went to Marshalltown as superintendent of schools and from there to Tama, where he met Mrs. Norris, then Lizzie Gifford, a teacher in the primary school. Soon after, he entered the employ of a Chicago law firm as a clerk and while serving in that capacity was married, in December of 1874. In 1876 his father died and he left the law office to take charge of the farm, but the next year came to Grinnell to enter the office of C. W. H. Beyer as law clerk. Soon after, he entered upon the practice of law, his first partner being J. E. Dodge, now on the Wisconsin supreme bench. Later the firm was known under the name of Norris & Dunn and Norris & Preston, and then Mr. Norris practiced alone for several years until his son.

P. G. Norris, graduated from the Harvard law school and entered the office with him. Since that time, P. G. Norris has looked after most of the legal business of the firm, while Mr. Norris has occupied himself with the care of his farms, in the operation of five of which he was actively concerned.

Though never a seeker after public office, Mr. Norris was a member of the city council for ten consecutive years prior to 1894 and was also one of the school board elected to construct the new High school. At the time of the vacancy in the Iowa legislature caused by the death of Representative Harris, of Montezuma, Mr. Norris was a candidate for the place, but was persuaded to withdraw on account of his failing health.

In politics Mr. Norris was a democrat up to 1890, and with Joel Stewart was the leader of that party in Poweshiek county. At the time of the free silver agitation he left the democratic ranks and has been an active worker in the republican party since that time. He was a warm friend of Governor Cummins and was active in the campaign which led to the nomination of Mr. Cummins for a third term.