

Major A. C. Norris Lived A Perfect L

Eminent Citizen, Worthy Patriotic Amer Active Church Worker Passes Away.

Major Arthur C. Norris, who died at Greeley, Colorado, April 26, was born in Pittsfield, N. H., May 27, 1868. His parents were Moses L. and Anna (Joy) Norris who were born and raised at Pittsfield. In 1870 M. L. Norris with his family moved to Poweshiek County, locating on a farm a short distance east of Grinnell. At the end of one year he bought a farm in Rock Creek Township six miles southwest of town at \$10.00 an acre and here the family lived for nearly twenty years. They were regular attendants at the Baptist church and the Norris family was as well known in Grinnell for their regular Sabbath attendance as any family in this vicinity.

A. C. Norris attended college for a time and when his father bought the hardware business of A. P. Phillips in 1887 he engaged in that business with him and his brother C. B., and continued in it until the business was disposed of in 1898.

Mr. Norris was early identified with Company K in this city and at the time of the Spanish-American War he was captain of the company and took them to the Des Moines camp and later to camp at Jacksonville.

On his return from the war zone, he was mustered out with the rank of Major. He entered the employ of G. L. Miles as bookkeeper in his hardware store and remained there three years until advised by his physician to secure other work. In 1903 he entered the Grinnell post office as substitute clerk and a few months afterwards was given a regular appointment. He served in this position until the winter of 1911 at which time he was promoted by special election of the people from clerk in the postoffice to be Postmaster of the city of Grinnell. This selection was somewhat unique in character because it was the result of a special election held to determine the choice of Grinnell patrons for a postmaster and Major Norris easily distanced all competitors.

A change in the complexion of the administration at Washington caused his retirement from the post office in 1915 but he was the same spring elected Mayor of the city of Grinnell, serving two years, when he declined further honors.

He volunteered in the World War, but because of physical disablement was not accepted. In 1919-20 he was engaged in Red Cross work in the south, as Field Director at Camp Beauregard, Alexandria, Louisiana. An enthusiastic appreciation of his services in this capacity, written by Dr. Rogers, a medical officer of Camp Beauregard, was published in the Herald some years ago. The minister who conducted the burial services at Greeley, was also a worker at Camp Beauregard, and he paid high tribute to the efficient services rendered the disabled soldiers by Mr. Norris.

In 1920 he took up his residence in Greeley, Colorado, where he remained till his death. He was for a time deputy clerk of court at Greeley, and at his decease connected with the Horne Book Company of that city.

Mr. Norris was twice married. May 27, 1899, he was united in marriage with Nellie L. Rafferty of this place.

Two children were born to this marriage, Renna and Wendell. During a severe illness of Captain Norris with typhoid fever while in Jacksonville, in 1898, his wife visited him and cared for him until she herself was stricken with the same disease and started for her home, but was compelled to stop in St. Louis at a hospital where she died.

On June 4, 1901, Mr. Norris was united in marriage with Jennie Rafferty, a sister of his first wife, who survives him.

He is survived by his wife, two children, Wendell of Colorado Springs and Renna (Mrs. J. A. Whitford) of Mariette, Wis., his aged mother, Mrs. M. L. Norris, Sr., of Ft. Collins, Col., three brothers, Harry of Grinnell, Leavitt of Ft. Collins and Ernest of La Salle, Col., a sister, Gertrude (Mrs. W. G. Briggs) of Ft. Collins, and two grandchildren.

In early boyhood Mr. Norris became a member of the Baptist Church of Grinnell, and ever afterward in Grinnell and Greeley was an active participant in and supporter of all the activities of the church, giving un- stintedly his time and labor in the of-

He was a staunch supporter of fraternal organizations. In Grinnell he was a member of the Modern Woodmen, the Odd Fellows, Pastmaster of Hermon Lodge, A. F. and A. M., and Past Patron of the Eastern Star.

Guiding principles of his life were duty, honor, and self-respect. He never estimated the percentage of his Americanism. His was the citizenship that shrinks from all public honors, but never evades duty. Financial success passed him by, but if the friendships he made both in Grinnell and Greeley are to be taken into account his life was indeed rich beyond estimate. Flawless integrity, stainless honor and kindly tolerance marked all his dealings with his fellow men. He was a Christian gentleman, who never wavered in his loyalty to family, home, country, and his God.

There are few men who have lived in Grinnell who have enjoyed more honors from the people of his home town than Major Norris. He was recognized always as a young man clean in character, upright, and strictly honest. He was one in whom confidence could be placed and who was always worthy of trust. He was a Mason, an Odd Fellow, and a member of the Modern Woodmen and a member of the Eastern Star, and in all of these organizations he served in official capacities with dignity and honor.

Mr. Norris never had an enemy. Clean, square, courteous, generous, and more than willing to do his part, he won not only the admiration but the love and confidence of every citizen of this city. His death is a loss to any community and the memory of his manly character and sterling worth will long be remembered by the friends of his earlier years as well as by those who learned to respect his mature judgment.

His body was laid to rest under Masonic auspices at Linn Grove Cemetery, Greeley, in the same plot of ground with his father and older brother.