

(Handwritten date: Monday, March 20, 1939)

LEW ELLINGHAM FUNERAL RITES TO BE TUESDAY

Founder of Decatur Daily Democrat Dies at Fort Wayne

Lewis G. Ellingham, 71, founder of the Decatur Daily Democrat, postmaster of Fort Wayne and a resident of that city for 23 years, widely known Democratic leader and a former secretary of state, died Saturday night at 11:30 o'clock at his home, 1301 West Wayne street, Fort Wayne, of a weakened heart, ravaged by two weeks' illness of bronchial pneumonia.

Mr. Ellingham's condition was thought to be improved, when he took a turn for the worse Saturday and death came suddenly.

Funeral services for the former postmaster, publisher, political and civic leader will be held Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock at the home. Rev. George William Allison, pastor of the First Presbyterian church will officiate and Very Rev. James McNeal Wheatley, rector of Trinity Episcopal church, will offer a prayer.

Active pall bearers will be State Senator Alfred H. Randall, Maurice P. O'Connor, Samuel D. Jackson, Guy Colerick, Stanley P. Stanley of Auburn and Frank Roberts.

Honorary pall bearers will be George Crittenberger of Anderson, president of the Indiana Democratic Editorial association, John Heller, publisher of The Decatur Democrat, Burt New of Washington, James I. Farley of Auburn, Herman Conter of Decatur, Charles :M. Niezer, Henry Beadell, William J. Vesey, Frank E. Bohn, Samuel E. Mulholland, Dr. H. O. Bruggeman, and Edward M. Wilson.

Burial will be in the Fountain Park Cemetery at Winchester, where Mrs. Ellingham is buried.

Mr. Ellingham came to Decatur in 1896, from Winchester, where he published a weekly newspaper, and purchased the old Decatur Democrat, then a weekly newspaper. His previous newspaper experience was as an office boy in the Bluffton Banner, and as publisher of the Geneva Herald, which he published when only 19 years of age.

In 1903, Mr. Ellingham, associated with John H. Heller, founded the Decatur Daily Democrat, continuing as publisher of this paper until 1916.

It was said from Decatur that Mr. Ellingham was elected secretary of state in 1910 and again in 1912, serving four years in that high office. In 1916, he, with Edward G. Hoffman, purchased the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette. A few years later, he purchased Mr. Hoffman's interest and continued as publisher of that paper until he was appointed postmaster.

Mr. Ellingham was born in Wells county, February 12, 1868. He received his education in the Bluffton public schools and from boyhood had the ambition and desire to enter the newspaper and publishing business.

Active in politics for nearly 50 years, Mr. Ellingham received many political honors in addition to the secretary of state here. He served as district chairman of the old eighth district and for many years was an influential leader in the Democratic party. He

attended nearly every Democratic national convention over a 40-year period and in 1924 was a chairman of the rules committee at the New York convention, also serving as a delegate at large from Indiana. In the 1928 convention at Houston (column cut off)

He was one of the early presidents of the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association and took an active part in the affairs of that organization. He still remained a member of the association.

During his residence at Decatur, he and his family were socially prominent. As a citizen and newspaper publisher, he was an active and constructive force in social, civic and industrial affairs. He was one of the organizers and first president of the old Decatur Commercial club, conceived years ago by public spirited men to promote the welfare of Decatur and community.

Mr. Ellingham always considered a visit to Decatur as "coming back home" and his friends in this city were legion.

On January 2, 1905, Mr. Ellingham was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Miller, daughter of Col. M. B. Miller of Winchester. Mrs. Ellingham preceded him in death a few years ago.

Surviving children are Mrs. James Ewing Bond, formerly Miss Winifred Ellingham, and Miller Ellingham.

Mr. Ellingham was a member of the First Presbyterian church, Fort Wayne, and the Masonic lodge of Fort Wayne.

LOCAL MASONS TO ATTEND

Earl B. Adams, secretary of Decatur lodge 571 of the F. and A. M. today named the following members to represent the lodge at the Ellingham funeral services: Daniel Sprang, Lewis C. Helm, John W. Tyndall, Cal E. Peterson, H. L. Conter, John H. Heller, Dan Tyndall, A. Leigh Bowen, Isador Bernstein, Charles K. Bell, A. W. Haggard, David E. Smith, Arthur D. Suttles, Roy Archbold, Earl B. Adams.

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, March 22, 1939)

HENRY SMITH SR. DIES AT HESSEN CASSEL HOME

(Photo) Henry Smith Sr., 65, well-known farmer of Hessel Cassel and lifelong resident there, died unexpectedly at 3 a.m. today at his home. Dr. Walter E. Kruse, Allen County Coroner, is to determine cause of death which is believed to be heart disease.

Mr. Smith was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Hessen Cassel, the Holy Name Society of the church and Catholic Benevolent League of Indiana.

Surviving are the widow, Catherine; three daughters, Mrs. Clarence Harber, of Yoder; Mrs. Joseph Maldeney, of Washington Township, and Mrs. Albert Till; a son, Henry, Jr.; two brothers, John, of Hessen Cassel, and William of this city; a sister, Mrs. Catherine Harber, of this city and 11 grandchildren. The body was taken to Julian Schone's Funeral Home.

Adams County Historical Society 1939 Scrapbook, Image 015

Transcribed by Karin King