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the Age of Nearly 94.

ON SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 7

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Than a Week.

DECEASE OF A PROMINENT MAN

Madison, fourth President of the United States.

Mr. Harris grew to manhood in Virginia, and his family removed to Clark county, Ohio, in 1833. There he engaged with one James Foley, to assist in driving cattle from Ohio to Lancaster, Pa. This experience led him to come to the prairies of Illinois, where he bought cattle to be driven east. In this occupation he got acquainted with Illinois lands, and made his first land purchase, an 80 acre tract, about a mile east of the present city of Springfield. Later he sold that, and in 1835 bought 160 acres now lying in the west edge of Champaign county. This was the beginning of his land buying. He continued in the cattle business, buying, grazing and driving them eastward to market, till

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Who Was an Active Influence in This
Community for Upwards of Sev-
enty Years.

Died at his home on the 500 block,
West Church street, Champaign, on
Sunday, May 7, 1905, at 5:20 a. m.,
Benjamin Franklin Harris, in the 94th
year of his age.

Mr. Harris had been but a short
time sick. Throughout the past win-
ter he had been in his usual health.
In the latter days of April, he took a
cold which seemed to affect his lungs,
and on Sunday, April 30, he took to
his bed. Pneumonic symptoms began
to develop, and by the middle of the
week his condition was found to be
alarming. The seriousness of his
case increased, until both sides of the
lungs became involved, and he passed
away peacefully at the hour already
stated.

Mr. Harris was born near Winches-
ter, Va., Dec. 15, 1811. His father
was William Hickman Harris, whose
father Benjamin Harris and two
brothers came to America about 1728
and settled on the east coast of Mary-
land. His mother was Elizabeth
Payne, a cousin of Dolly Payne, who
became Dolly Madison, wife of James

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driving them eastward to market, till
in 1841 he had accumulated consider-
able means and had become the owner
of 500 acres of land in the western
part of this county. On June 22, of
that year, in the log house which still
stands on the Harris farm, near the
Sangamon river, he was married to
Elizabeth Sage of Circleville, O.

From that time onward, he devoted
himself to farming and live stock,
and to the last day of his life, there
was not a year in which he was not
in the cattle market, a seller and a
buyer. For more than 72 years he
was engaged in this line of trade and
no man in the business, east or west,
was more widely known. He was a
buyer and feeder here before there
was any such thing as a Chicago cat-
tle market. Chicago in fact had less
than 5,000 inhabitants when he began
operations in live stock on these wild
prairies. In later years he fed and
marketed in Chicago, the heaviest 100
head of cattle ever marketed in the
country by any one feeder, and, so
far as the records show, in the world.
Of this achievement he was always
especially proud, and cattlemen every-
where to this day refer to it as an
astonishing thing.

In his early life on these prairies social and religious privileges were very few. The first religious service ever held in the west part of this county was held in his log house on the Sangamon, the distinguished Peter Cartwright being the preacher. Later he built a church on his own lands, and his house was for many years the home and shelter of all the itinerant preachers coming through this section. He was a Methodist from his early manhood days, and always a reliable and liberal contributor to the support of the church.

In politics he was originally a Whig and later, and till his death, a Republican. He was never a politician, but he was a radical supporter of the doctrines of his party, and personally knew nearly all the early Republican workers in the state. He was a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, whom he frequently entertained at his home. At the polls in this city in 1904, just after he had cast his ballot for Theodore Roosevelt, he stated to the gentlemen around the polling place

that he had just then cast his nineteenth vote for a President of the United States. His first was cast for Henry Clay in 1832.

It is worth noting that he brought the first sawmill into the county, the first mowing machine, the first double-seated carriage and the first reed organ or melodeon. The old house on the Harris farm is finished in Walnut sawed out by his sawmill. The story of his early hardships and triumphs would fill columns. He frequently marketed wheat from his Champaign county farm in St. Louis and Chicago, with ox teams, the round trip requiring about twenty days, and the price realized being about 30¢ a bushel.

In 1863 he removed to Champaign and occupied the house in which he spent the rest of his days.

In 1865 he organized the First Na-

to business, he never abandoned interest therein, and his judgment and decision in business affairs were as unerring and almost as prompt as they ever had been.

Surviving him are his wife and two of the nine children who were born to him, Mr. H. H. Harris and Mrs. Rachel Phillippt. He had nine brothers and sisters and of these, but one, Mrs. Jane Smith of Florence, Col., is living. She is about 80 years old. It is a notable fact that, of his family, representatives of five generations have lived in this city.

The funeral services occurred at the Harris home, Tuesday at 2 p. m., conducted by Dr. H. H. Oneal, former pastor of the local First Methodist church, assisted by Rev. Chris Galeener, pastor of the church. Interment was in the family lot in Mt. Hope cemetery.

The honorary pallbearers: Henry Swannell, J. B. Weeks, I. N. Wade, J. W. Davidson, G. W. Gere and A. S. Nelson.

Active pallbearers, gentlemen connected with the First National bank, to-wit: G. A. Turell, J. H. Ellwood, W. R. Hidy, J. F. Rankin, Clark Gibson and Charles A. Wright.

Obituary.—Mary Jane Heath, wife of Dr. F. Harris, died at the family residence in this city, March 23, her age at her death being 58 years, 1 month and 23 days. She was born in Ross county, Ohio, January 30, 1824; was married to Dr. F. Harris, May 7, 1847, and lived in western part of this county, on the homestead, for sixteen years, and from there removed to this city. She united with the M. E. church in 1849, and for thirty-four years has been a faithful member and consistent christian. The greater part of this time she was an earnest worker in the Sunday-school, continuing in the work until her health failed. For the past two years she has been suffering with consumption, which disease caused her death. The past year she has been confined to the house and her room. During the past two years of her suffering she was patient and bore her affliction with christian fortitude. She never murmured or became impatient. More than a year ago, fully realizing her condition she arranged her worldly affairs, and seemed to be resigned to the will of Providence, and often talked about her situation and prospects of a more convenient

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In 1863 he removed to Champaign and occupied the house in which he spent the rest of his days.

In 1865 he organized the First National bank of Champaign, and served continuously as its president till his death. His farming and live stock operations he conducted from his home in the city. Success marked all his enterprises from his youth up. While for the last 30 or 35 years of his life he found himself under little necessity to devote himself rigidly

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1883.