

# Postville Herald

Postville, Iowa

Wednesday, July 18, 1935

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## **Taps Sounded for D. E. Harrington, Civil War Veteran**

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### **Was Last Survivor of Allamakee County's G.A.R. Was 91 Years Old**

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It is with a sorrow in which the entire community shares that we are called upon to announce the passing of the last surviving veteran of the Civil War, D. E. Harrington, who passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Alida Lange, of this city at 11 o'clock last Thursday forenoon, his demise following several weeks of failing health, his passing being due to no specific disease other than the frailties incident to age. Mr. Harrington was a man who enjoyed a wide acquaintance throughout northeastern Iowa due to his activities in band and orchestra work over a wide area, and his genial disposition won for

him the friendship of all who came within the circle of his acquaintance. He had been a resident of this city for many years, and he was admired and honored by us all, and his life's close marks the passing of the last surviving Civil War veteran in Allamakee county.

D'Estaing Harrington was born in Jefferson County, in New York State, on July 25, 1843, and passed at Postville, Iowa, on July 11, 1935, aged 91 years, 11 months and 16 days.

In his early boyhood, he moved with his parents to Iowa and located at National. Later they moved on a farm near Farmersburg. He received his early Christian training in the Methodist church, of which his parents were devout members.

At the age of eighteen years he enlisted in the Civil War in 1861, and served

through two enlistments; during the first enlistment as a private in Company C. 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment, U.S. Infantry, and in the second enlistment as a member of General Sherman's band, in which he served until the close of the war in 1865. It was with this military band that he began his musical career.

On December 8, 1867, he was united in marriage to Nancy Ann Burnham of Farmersburg, and they settled on a farm in Grand Meadow township. To this union six children were born, all of whom are living.

In 1887 he moved to Postville and has been a resident here continuously since that time. He possessed a great musical talent, and for years conducted various bands and orchestras throughout northeastern Iowa, and also conducted the Soldiers' Home Band at Marshalltown for some time. As a token of esteem and in recognition of his musical ability he was asked to direct the Postville High School Band in a concert at the city park on the occasion of his ninety-first birthday, and his many friends were delighted to see that his musical skill and enthusiasm were still retained in his old age.

His wife preceded him in death on January 3, 1916, and since then "Dad" – the name by which he is affectionately known, has made his home at the Soldier's Home at Marshalltown and with his children at Postville.

He had been a member of the Masonic fraternity for a period of sixty-eight years, having been initiated as a member of National Lodge No. 172, A. F. & A. M. on May 25, 1867. That lodge was later removed to Farmersburg in 1889, but he retained his membership in that lodge until death, a record of membership in one lodge that has few if any equals in the history of Iowa Masonry.

"Dad" was an honest and upright citizen in every respect and will be greatly missed in the community, for although old in years he was youthful in spirit, and had an unfailing interest in all the concerns of the town. He was always present at the various functions of the community until he was confined to his home through failing health in the late spring.

He leaves to mourn his loss six children – Adelaide Thoma, Alida Lange, Art, Fred and Cy, all of Postville, and Gussie

of Marshalltown – 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, who have the tenderest sympathy of all in their time of bereavement.

The funeral was held from the Postville Community Presbyterian church on Sunday afternoon, July 14, at two-thirty o'clock, conducted by Rev. R. F. Galloway, the Masonic fraternity and the American Legion, G. W. Hunt conducting the Masonic service for National Lodge. Interment was made in Postville cemetery.

The following out-of-town relatives and friends were in attendance at the funeral: Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Harrington and son Dean, Mrs. Bonnie Nichols and son David, of Marshalltown; Dewey Harris and son of Mason City; Ray, Luella, Grace and Caddie Burnham of Farmersburg; Marian Marsh and Gene Kinsley of McGregor; Addie Bryan of Chicago, Ill.; Blanche Comstock of Des Moines; Ben Marsh, Mrs. Germa and Will Tobiason of Decorah; Jos. Soukup of Ridgeway; Dorothy, Charlotte and Frieda Ann Mayer of Minneapolis, Minn.