

E. E. Gearhart Is Claimed By Death Sunday Afternoon

E. E. Gearhart, 82, former Shelby county sheriff, and one of the best known men of the community, died Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock in Wilson Memorial hospital where he had been a patient for the past six weeks for treatment for a broken hip. Complications from that injury caused his death.

Although 82 years of age he had been in the best of health until he slipped and fell on the icy pavement on December 19th while walking down South Main avenue to his home on South Miami avenue where he had resided for the past seven years with his son and daughter-in-law, Private and Mrs. Robert M. Gearhart, Private Gearhart is now in overseas service.

Edwin Ellsworth Gearhart was a native of Shelby county and spent his entire life here. He served Shelby county as sheriff for two terms, serving from 1911 to 1915.

In earlier years he was a farmer, and for some time during his middle life he conducted a butcher shop both in Sidney and in Port Jefferson.

He moved to Porth Jefferson from his farm home when he accepted a traveling position with the Champion Machine company

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out of Springfield. Later he opened a meat market in Port Jefferson, disposing of it to open a market in Sidney on North Ohio avenue which he operated for several years and during that time the family home was in Parkwood. He was a salesman of fruit trees here for a nursery company immediately before entering the sheriff's office, elected on the Democratic ticket.

He was proud that a number of years later one of his sons, Clifford A. Gearhart, had followed him into that same office and that another son, Robert M. Gearhart served there as one of his deputies.

Until retiring seven years ago and coming to live with his son, he followed the vocation of farming again. During the different years he farmed he resided in Salem, Perry and Washington townships and always was active in community welfare there. In Washington township he has served as a trustee.

E. E. Gearhart was known as a fine man, and as one who would give of his best in whatever capacity he served. He was an ardent Democrat politically.

Born on March 23, 1853, he was a son of James Francis and Elizabeth Ellen Miller Gearhart, one of seven children. Two sisters survive, Miss Lucy Gearhart and Mrs. Ben Foster of Sidney. Preceding him were three brothers and one sister, Harry, Earl, William Gearhart, and Mrs. Gussie Dunson.

He was united in marriage with Miss Emma Viola Ailes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Huffman Moses Ailes. She preceded him in death, passing away seven years ago this month, a few months after they moved into Sidney from their farm.

They were the parents of five sons, three of whom survive, Clifford Ailes Gearhart, who was called to Sidney by the serious illness of his father from Compton, Calif.; Homer Francis Gearhart, Toledo; Private Robert Milton Gearhart, with the military police escort guard in the European theater of war since May, and in the U. S. service two years.

Preceding him in death with his wife were two sons, Harley Gearhart and Bert Gearhart.

There are 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren in his family circle.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday morning at 9:30 o'clock from the Holy Angels church and interment will be made in Glen cemetery at Port Jefferson.

Friends may call at the Cromes funeral home at any time after Tuesday noon.