

[Smith, Frances A. Harris]

Mrs. Frances H. Smith, 81, Dies in Perry

Mrs. Frances A. Harris Smith, longtime Victor resident and newspaperwoman, died at the Thayer Nursing Home in Perry Monday afternoon after a long period of ill health. She was 81.

Mrs. Smith moved to Perry two years ago from Victor. This was her girlhood home and her sisters, Miss Mildred Harris and Mrs. Blanche H. McDowell, both resided there.

She entered Warsaw Hospital in January for treatment. She had been a resident of the Nursing Home for about four weeks.

She was a skilled newspaper woman and her passing brings to a close a man and wife newspaper team which was somewhat unique. She was the widow of Carl D. Smith, who died April 28, 1952, and together they had published the Victor Herald, the Ontario County Times-Journal, the Clifton Springs Press and Holcomb Review during various stages of their newspaper career.

They retired from active newspaper work in April, 1947, when they sold The Herald and The Times-Journal to William J. Mitchell and Clarence J. Webster.

Mrs. Smith's interest in newspaper work did not lapse, however. She contributed to the newspapers frequently and also took a deep interest in the well being of the newspaper properties.

It was characteristic of her thoroughness and conscientiousness that she should write her own obituary. Three years ago she enclosed the following facts to the editor of this newspaper:

Frances Agnes Harris was born in the town of Warsaw, Wyoming County, N.Y., Aug. 5, 1876, the third daughter of Franklin B. and Mary A. Taaffe Harris.

She attended West Perry district school, Perry High school, and the Rochester Business University, now the Rochester Business Institute.

She began to write for newspapers before she was 12 years old, and after a few years as associate editor of the Perry (N.Y.) Record, she purchased the Wyoming (N.Y.) Reporter in 1906. On May 11, 1910, she was married to Carl D. Smith, editor and publisher of the Victor (N.Y.) herald and of the East Bloomfield and Holcomb Review. She was later associated with her husband in publishing the Clifton Springs Press and the Ontario County Times-Journal of Canandaigua.

While president of Unity Club of Victor, she was Ontario County chairman and later district chairman of the Seventh District of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs.

She was also a member of the Chautauqua Woman's Club. She was on the first board of trustees of the Victor Free Library and became president of the Board, serving in that capacity until 1956. She had been a trustee and

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treasurer of the Victor Universalist church and president of the Victor Historical society.

As area correspondent for the Associated Press, she wrote articles that spanned the continent.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith retired from newspaper work in 1947. On April 28, 1952, Mr. Smith died.

A prayer service will be held for Mrs. Smith at the Cotton funeral home in Victor Thursday afternoon and burial will be in Boughton Hill Cemetery [in Victor].

Only survivors are her two sisters, nieces and nephews.

*The Enterprise*, Shortsville NY, Wed. 2 Apr 1958

Transcribed on 14 Oct 2014 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[Smith, Frances A. Harris]

MRS. CARL D. SMITH

Mrs. Frances A. Harris Smith, 81, died in Thayer Nursing Home Monday, March 31, 1958, where she had been a patient for four weeks.

She was born in the town of Warsaw, one of seven children of Frank B. and Mary A. Harris. During the last year of Mr. Harris' life the family moved to Perry.

Mrs. Smith, a newspaper woman for more than 40 years, began her career on the Perry Record and later became editor and owner of the Wyoming Reporter. On May 11, 1910 she married Carol D. Smith, editor and publisher of the Victor Herald and became associated with him as editor of the Herald, Clifton Springs Press and Ontario County Times at Canandaigua. Mr. and Mrs. Smith retired in 1947. Mr. Smith died April 28, 1952. Two years ago, Mrs. Smith came to Perry to make her home.

She was Victor area correspondent for the Democrat and Chronicle for several years and Associated Press correspondent many years. She was a past treasurer of the Victor Universalist Church, past district chairman of the Seventh District, New York State Federation of Women's Clubs and president of the Victor Free Library and Victor Historical Society.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Blanche H. MacDowell and Miss Mildred L. Harris of Perry and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held today, Thursday, at 2 p.m. at the Cotton Funeral Home, 26 Maple St., Victor. Rev. Percy F. Asher will officiate and burial will be in Boughton Hill Cemetery at Victor.

*Perry Herald, Perry NY, Thu. 3 Apr 1958*

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