

James Wickersham, 86

1983

James Samuel Wickersham, son of Sarah Brewster and Robert G. Wickersham was born July 22, 1896 near Defiance. He graduated from the Defiance public school. On May 16, 1914, he married Gladys Knauss at Defiance and to this union four children were born.

During World War I, he served in the U.S. Army for 14 months. He has spent most of his life in the grocery business, moving to Irwin in 1921 and operating his own business from 1929 until his retirement in 1961.

He was very active in community affairs, he has been Local and County Commander of the American Legion, 50 year member and Past Master of Sardius Masonic Lodge No. 444 of Irwin and the Order of the Eastern Star, served on the Irwin Town Council, the Irwin Chamber of Commerce, Shelby co. Draft Board during World War II, Board of Trustees of the Myrtue Memorial hospital and an active member of the Irwin Church of Christ.

He died on Monday, May 31, 1983 at the rowley Masonic Home in Perry at the age of 86 years, 10 months and 9 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, George Wickersham; four sisters, Bessie Shoup, Virgie Eitmiller, Mattie Harness and Florence Thompson. Survivors include his wife Gladys of Perry; three sons, George of Tacoma, Wash.; Robert of Cedar Rapids and Donald of Des Moines; one daughter, Leila, Mrs Dale Halling of Perry. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Friday, June 3, 1983 at the Irwin Church of Christ with Rev. Marty Burgus of Wakefield, Neb., officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill cemetery with Allen Birks, Donald Ferry, Wilbur Wetzell, Normal Richards, Gaylord Heilesen and Peter Steenhusen serving as casketbearers.

Burmeister Funeral Home of Harlan, handled funeral services.