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NECROLOGY

JAMES ARTHUR CARRUTH

James Arthur Carruth, active in New Mexico affairs for the past half century, distantly related to former President Calvin Coolidge and intimate friend of Vice-president Charles Curtis, passed away gently Friday morning, April 11, 1930, at his home on Don Gaspar avenue, with his wife and son at his beside when the last summons came.

Mr. Carruth came of English ancestry. He was born in Cherry Valley, Oswego county, New York, on June 1, 1851, the eldest of five children. His father was the Rev. James H. Carruth, a Presbyterian minister, born in 1807 at Phillipston, Mass., a graduate of Yale and of Auburn Theological Seminary. In addition to filling several pulpits, he was also prominent in the educational field as professor in various colleges. In 1856, he moved with his family to Ossawatimie, Kansas, where he came in contact with John Brown and other celebrities of pre-Civil War days.

Mr. Carruth attended school in the university town of Lawrence, Kansas, and there was apprenticed in the printing trade which was also followed by two of his brothers. He had worked in printing offices at Junction City, Emporia, and Topeka before coming to Las Vegas in 1881 where he established a printing office, book bindery, and stationery business. As a Republican he was active in politics, held the office of public printer in 1887 and 1888, was member of the board of education and postmaster of East Las Vegas. He was publisher of the Las Vegas Record and other newspapers and periodicals. In 1903, Mr. Carruth left New Mexico for Berkeley, California, where he was associated for five years with his brothers in the printing business. The southwest drew him back and he located in Santa Fe in 1908, employed for a time by A. J. Loomis in the Eagle printing office, and later with Frank Staplin in the State Record office. For the past four years Mr. Carruth was superintendent of the printery of the Museum of New Mex-

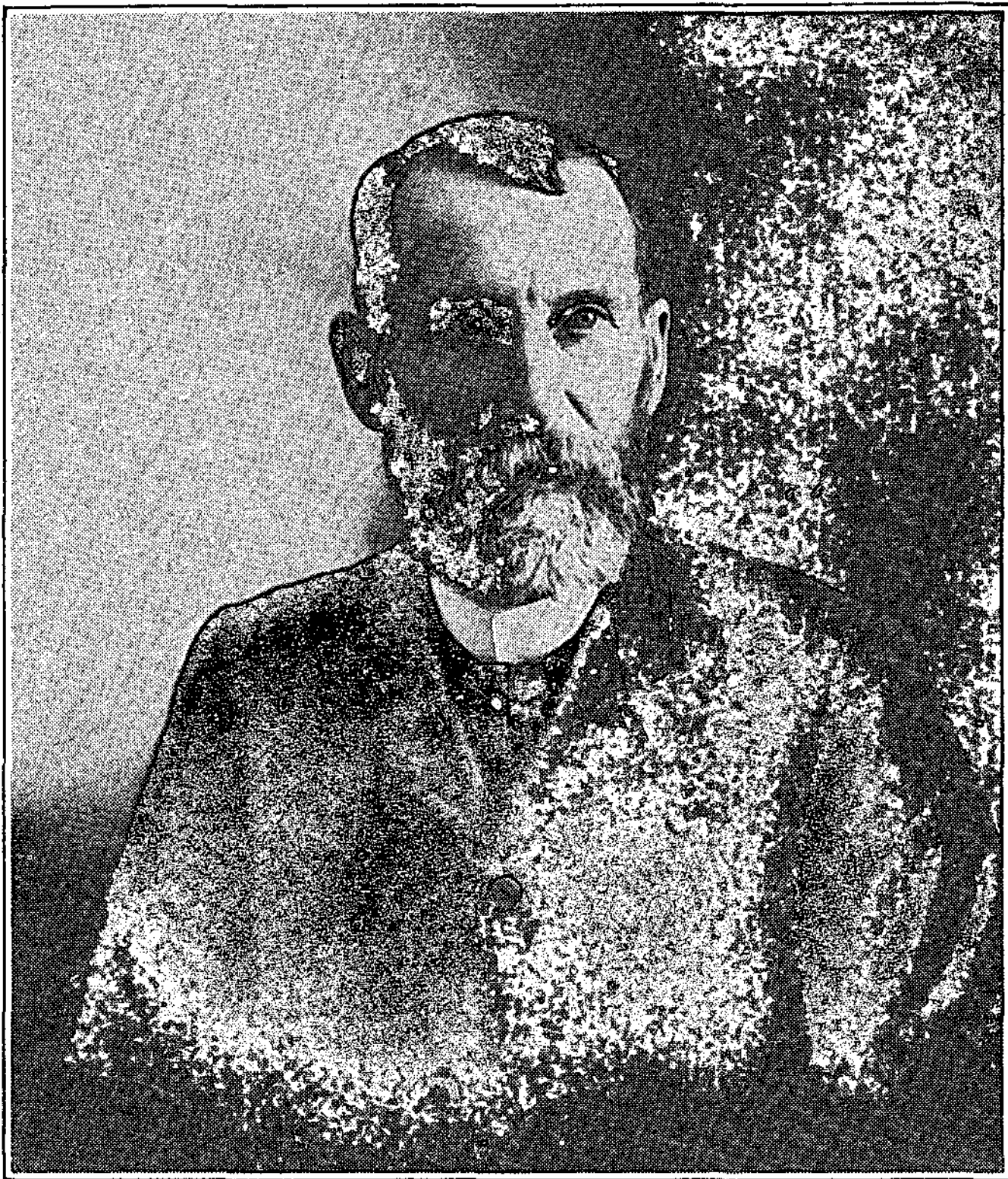
ico and School of American Research which prints the New Mexico Historical Review, and despite his advanced age was mentally alert and physically active until two weeks before his death, ascribing his excellent health to the fact that he was a total abstainer from spirituous liquors and tobacco. Carruth was a member of the A. O. U. W., a Mason, and interested himself in civic affairs.

Mr. Carruth was twice married, death taking his first wife by whom he had two children, Charles A. Carruth, for many years a resident of Santa Fe, but of late years living with his wife at French, N. M., and Elsie, wife of F. W. Roeding, living at Berkeley, Calif. Mr. Carruth later married Miss Clara H. Gerlinger of Burlington, Iowa, who survives him. His three brothers, Dr. William Herbert Carruth, professor emeritus of the department of literature at Stanford university, California, and Albert and Walter Carruth of Berkeley, California, died within the past two years.

Mr. Carruth endeared himself to many by his gentleness—he was always considerate of others—his loyalty and unselfishness. For many years he was deeply interested in mining development and made a special study of New Mexico mineral resources. He loved the classics, was a wide reader of history, scholarly, and one of the old-time all around printers who in this age of specialization have become such a rarity. His vivid reminiscences of turbulent days in New Mexico that followed the coming of the railroads were always entertaining. The day after his arrival in Las Vegas, a lynching took place in which four outlaws were hanged, one from each arm of a windmill that stood in the old town. It was Mr. Carruth who set up and distributed placards now historical, and of which the original hangs in the First National bank, warning a dozen outlaws and notorious frontier characters to leave Las Vegas before 10 o'clock that same evening. Tradition has it that the dust of the vacating thugs could be seen for miles along the Santa Fe trail on the way to Santa Fe that afternoon.

The stately phrases of the Apostolic Blessing, "The Lord bless thee and keep thee," and the majestic "Thanatopsis," "So live that when thy summons come," concluded the beautiful Masonic funeral services over the mortal remains of James A. Carruth at Fairview cemetery, Sunday afternoon, April 13, 1930.

At the Rising funeral chapel on East Palace avenue, relatives and friends, including the members of Montezuma lodge, A. F. & A. M., had gathered previously for the last tribute to the deceased. The Rev. David Reiter of the First Presbyterian church read the comforting words of the funeral service and led in fervent prayer. The floral tributes were many and appropriate; the attendance large. It was a perfect, sunny afternoon, a Palm Sunday such as only Santa Fe knows. In the cemetery, trees were beginning to leaf out and the first blossoms of spring proclaimed nature's resurrection. The stillness was broken only by caroling of birds and the low voices of the mourners. The following were the active pallbearers: Leslie Gillett, Owen Wood, Fred Muller, T. J. Holderman, Charles E. Linney, and Herman C. Martin. The honorary pallbearers were Governor Richard C. Dillon, Paul A. F. Walter, Henry Woodruff, Dr. E. L. Hewett, H. S. Kaune, Col. George W. Prichard, Lansing B. Bloom, Charles E. Doll, Frank Staplin, J. C. McConvery, Dr. C. O. Harrison, and R. W. Birdseye. —P. A. F. W.



HENRY WOODRUFF

Curator of the New Mexico Historical Society for
Forty Years—1890 to 1930