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Ervin, Harry Clay Sr. (1860 - 1914)

Dean Nelson

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ERVIN, HARRY CLAY SR.

File No. B343

Harry Clay Ervin Sr. was born in Philadelphia, Pa. November 27, 1860, son of Alexander and Elizabeth (McBride) Ervin.

Alexander and Elizabeth Ervin were natives of Pa. Alexander's parents were of Scottish ancestry and Elizabeth McBride's parents of Irish ancestry.

Harry Ervin Sr. attended public school and graduated from high school in Philadelphia. He became interested in the milling business and worked for John S. Wesley for seven years.

John Wesley was a flour merchant of Philadelphia.

In 1887 he entered the employ of George Tileston, who was erecting a mill at Saint Cloud. The mill was not completed when Harry arrived here so he was transferred to Mr. Tileston's Mill at Faribault for seven months. He then returned to Saint Cloud and managed Mr. Tileston's Mill until 1901.

Mr. Tileston died in that year and Mr. Ervin became manager of all Tileston's Mills. He held this position for one year and then purchased the Wesley Carter Mill on Seventh Avenue North and established the Saint Cloud City Mill.

He managed this firm successfully and erected a modern and efficient elevator and a splendid office building.

Harry Ervin Sr. died November 15, 1914. Two months after his death the Tileston Mill, of which he was first manager, was consumed by flames.

Harry Ervin Sr. married Mary Jeanette Sappington April 25, 1883 in Philadelphia.

Mary (Sappington) Ervin was the daughter of Thomas and Francis Sappington. She was born in Philadelphia May 16, 1861. Mary attended grade and High schools in Philadelphia. Her father, Thomas Sappington was a boot and shoe merchant in Philadelphia.

Harry and Mary (Sappington) Ervin were married in Philadelphia

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before their trip to Minnesota with Mr. Tileston.

There were two sons born in Philadelphia. Thomas Sappington Ervin, and Harry Clay Ervin Junior.

In Minnesota there were two more children born. Frances Ervin now Mrs. L. F. Cary and Kingsley Ervin. There are ten grandchildren.

Harry Ervin Jr. became interested in the milling business and after a High school and University education entered his fathers mill to be taught the business.

He has been manager of the H. C. Ervin Milling Company for the past several years, with the milling interests of his father he is a very capable and industrious manager.

Mrs. H. C. Ervin Sr. is living at 723 Fifth Avenue South, Saint Cloud. She is a member of the library board and very active in social and welfare work. Her son H. C. Jr. and daughter Mrs. L. F. Cary both live in Saint Cloud. Thomas Ervin and Kingsley Ervin are residents of Minneapolis.

Interviewed: Mrs. H. C. Ervin Sr.
Date: July 2, 1936
By: Dean Nelson

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE HARRY CLAY ERVIN SR. BIOGRAPHY

DEATH RECORD BOOK G. PAGE 11 LINE 372

Harry Clay Ervin Born in Philidelphia November 27, 1860

Died at St. Cloud, Minnesota November 15, 1914

Age 53 years 11 months and 19 days