

Horace Charles (H. C.) Lounsberry

1889 – 1969

Horace Charles Lounsberry was born in Story County, Iowa on April 6, 1889 to John Harvey Lounsberry & Roxie Fuller Danskin. The family lived on a farm three miles north of Colo, Iowa. His mother & one brother died in a tragic horse & buggy accident when Horace was 11 yrs of age and prior to that his only sister had also died at a young age. After the death of his mother, he continued to live on the farm with his father & the four remaining brothers. When he was about 19 years old, he moved to a farm near Carlisle, Warren County, Iowa. He married Alice M Elmore in June 1881. Three children were born to this union: son John Edwin (born August 1914 – lived only 14 days), daughter Frances Myrtle (b 1915), and son Robert Horace (b 1918).

They continued to live on the farm near Carlisle until 1919 when they sold the farm in Warren County and returned to Colo where they purchased the lumber and grain business on Main Street. They built a house on the west side of town and Frances & Robert attended school in Colo.

The U.S. Stock Market Crash of 1929 forced the Lounsberry Lumber and Grain Company of Colo into receivership. They remained in the house in Colo and Horace worked at any job available. He put together a small crew of carpenters from his former employees in the lumberyard and they also were able to do masonry and cement work. They worked 14 hours a day, six days a week for about 50 cents per hour.

In 1931, he began looking for farmland to acquire. He had decided that by investing in land, at least you could raise food to feed your family. He exchanged his debt free property in Colo and assumed the mortgage on some farmland in northern Story County with run down buildings and fences and with fields that needed drainage tile. In 1933 he moved his family from the modern home in town to the farm.

In 1944, he & Alice moved to nearby Nevada, Iowa, but he continued to be involved in the farming operation. He also served on the Story County Board of Supervisors through those years and was active in the Masonic Lodge. He attended the Methodist Church in Nevada. After Alice died, he married her sister Edna Elmore in 1964.

He died on April 20, 1969, in Nevada, Iowa, of lung cancer diagnosed a few months earlier. He was 80 years of age.

Survivors included his wife, Edna G Lounsberry, son Robert & wife Muriel, daughter Frances & husband Lee Lowenberg, and several grandchildren.

Interment in the Colo Cemetery, Colo, Story County, IA.