

DEATH TAKES HARRY SMITH OHIO EDITOR

Hold Last Rites For Civic Leader, Publisher Of Gazette 58 Years

CLEVELAND, Ohio—Hundreds of friends, including many political leaders as well as civic leaders, attended funeral services for the veteran editor, Harry Clay Smith, at Antioch Baptist church Saturday.

Death came to the editor of "The Gazette," a weekly he had published for 58 years, while he sat at his desk at his home, 2322 East Thirtieth street, preparing the edition for the current week.

Cerebral hemorrhage was given as the cause of his death. He was 78 years old.

Known throughout the country for his authorship of the Ohio Civil Rights Bill and the Ohio Mob Law, Smith had always been known as a champion of Negro rights. He had served in the state legislature for three terms and was considered one of Ohio's oldest statesmen.

A stormy petrel in the political field, Smith first came into national prominence when he opposed the late Marcus A. Hanna, United States senator, on political policy. Subsequently, he became a candidate for the City Council in the Eleventh Ward opposing Former Councilman Thomas W. Fleming, a close political friend of Hanna, in one of the bitterest political campaigns in the history of Cleveland. He was defeated by Fleming in a landslide.

Smith ran twice for secretary of state, being defeated both times, overwhelmingly. Counted among his closest friends were the late Senator John P. Green, Editor Wendell P. Dabney of the Cincinnati Union, Mrs. Mabel Jackson, a veteran socialite, and Miss Violet Ullmer, a German-American tenant of one of his properties.

Born in Clarksburg, W. Va., he was brought to Cleveland when only two years old. He was a graduate of old Central high school and counted among his classmates some of Cleveland's leading white citizens. Smith was the first member of the Race to hold the position of deputy oil inspector. At the time of his death he was serving as a member of Draft Board No. 13.

Smith accumulated considerable property. Whether he left a will or not is still a question among his friends, although it is reported that Miss Ullmer has been named the beneficiary.

Dr. Wade H. McKinney, pastor of Antioch church, officiated at the funeral, assisted by Rev. Horace C. Bailey, a lifelong friend of the deceased.