

Negro Group

Beanne

5-25-39

Add... George W. Harris

During the Aldermanic term of Mr. Harris, from 1920 to 1924, he was influential in the following achievements;

1. Establishment of Public Markets,
Fifth Ave. at 134 St.
Lenox Ave. at 140 St.
Eighth Ave. 139-145 St.
2. The securing of additional colored policemen, firemen, clerks, and artisans in municipal service.
3. Led the campaign for the employment of colored doctors, and Nurses on the staff of Harlem Hospital after an investigation of gross discrimination under Commissioner of Accounts David Hirshfield.
4. Initiated the petition for the 369th Armory in the Board of Aldermen which resulted in the petitioning of that the State Board of Armory. ^{P. 5}
- 5.... Construction of the Municipal Bath House, 134 St. 4th Ave.

From 1906 to 1910, and intermittently from 1910 to 1915, he was the press agent of Booker T. Washington.

He came to New York in 1910, and secured employment with the New York Age, and although his name did not appear in the paper, all of the editorial work fell on his shoulders. He continued in that capacity until 1910 when he bought a third interest in the Amsterdam News. He became the editor of that journal and continued in that capacity until 1913 when he sold his interest and set up the New York News. He was owner-editor of that journal until 1936 when it passed out of existence.

Mr. Harris has always had a warm feeling for politics

and newspaper work. His journalistic career began well before he went to College, and at Harvard he majored in, Government English and Law.

He is at present a captain in the 369th Infantry, New York National Guards, and has been, for ten years, the secretary of Association of Trade and Commerce which acts as a clearinghouse for a number of civic and benevolent organizations in Harlem.

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From interview with Mr. Harris
5/24/39

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Biographical Sketch of Geo. W Harris

(This assignment consists of factual material only
Mr. Harris has promised me an interview on 5-24-39, on the basis
on which I'll be able to fill in the story.)

Born, August 1, 1884, Topeka Kansas

Editor and Publisher

Parents,

William Harris,
Laura Ellen Bryant

Married,

Agnes Herbert, June 5, 1912
Elizabeth Flanagan, June 28, 1918

Education

Topeka Public School
Topeka High School
Tufts College, Boston, Mass. 1902-1904
Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass., 1904-1907
Harvard Law School, 1907-1908
A.B. Harvard

Editor, Amsterdam News, N.Y., 1910-1913

Editor and Publisher, New York News, 1913-1936

Politics, Republican

Elected Alderman from the 21st District on an

insurgent Republican ticket in 1920. Served until 1924.

Philosophically, While a personal friend of Booker T. Washington, an ardent follower of Du Bois's young progressives.