

February 28, 1929

WM. AVES DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

FLU AND ITS COMPLICATIONS
CLAIM LIFE OF ESTEEMED
GROTON MAN

(Contributed.)

William M. Aves was born in the state of New York, November 2, 1861. While very young he moved with his parents to Sebawa, Mich., where he grew to manhood. The lure of the west called him to South Dakota, and he located in Groton in the spring of 1884.

Here he met Etta Rathbun and they were married in the fall of 1889. To this union one child was born, Charles, who passed away when about seven years of age. However, they were privileged to have three other children in their home, Edith, Troy, now Mrs. George Riggs, a niece of Mrs. Aves, and Kenneth and Edward Aves, nephews of Mr. Aves, all living in or near Groton.

Shortly after coming to Groton, Mr. Aves and James Bond, now of Andover, bought the old skating rink, conducting a livery business therein very successfully for ten years, when Mr. Aves sold out his interest. He and Mrs. Aves then moved to a farm which they had previously purchased. After a few years he sold the farm, securing the one now owned by Harry Gillette. During the land boom of 1901 he again sold, but reserved enough land for the building of the home where they have since resided.

After this Mr. Aves continued to farm to quite an extent, always taking a keen interest in all farm activities. He also capably served his township as assessor for 19 or 20 years. About four years ago poor health forced him to give up active work, a circumstance which was hard to meet for a man who was always so thoroughly taken up with his work. Shortly after Christmas he had an attack of the flu, which, in his condition, proved too much for him and he passed away at his home Sunday morning, Feb. 24.

Thus, another pioneer of South Dakota has gone to his reward, and a kind friend, a good neighbor and a respected citizen has been taken from among us. Mr. Aves was a man who had a very retiring nature and only those who were intimately acquainted with him can know how devoted he was to his life companion and to his home.

Mr. Aves has been a member of the Woodman lodge in Groton for the past 27 years.