Rev. Luther C. Benson

The Rev. Luther C. Benson, retired Methodist minister, died at a Mitchell hospital Jan. 19, after a prolonged illness.

The Rev. Mr. Benson was born Nov. 2, 1882 on a farm near Statesville, N. C. In 1893 he moved to Mecklenburg where he was hired as a farm helper until he became of age. His schooling in early life was rather hit and miss as the farm work was all important and he averaged only about three months of school each year.

In 1903 he started school regularly and by 1915 had completed grade, high school, college and ministerial preparation training at Hamline University.

On Feb. 11, 1907, he was married to Anna Brantsag at Glenwood, Minn. He was admitted into the Minnesota annual conference of the Methodist church in 1915 and in 1917 was ordained an elder in the church.

The Rev. Mr. Benson served several churches in Minnesota before coming to South Dakota in 1923. He served at Geddes church for one year before coming to Groton in 1929. He remained in Groton until his retirement in 1948 and ever since after purchasing a home here. He served not only the Groton church but also the Andover, Bath and Bristol churches during the period.

Services were held at the local Methodist Church at 2:00 p. m., Monday, with the Rev. Robert Nielsen officiating. Misses Myrtle and Margaret Blader sang several hymns accompanied by Mrs. Robert Wegner at the organ.

Burial was in the Groton cemetery. Pall bearers were Rev. Hartung, Hecla; Rev. Harley Thompson, and Rev. Claire Mitchell, Aberdeen; Rev. Sidney Gist, Britton; Rev. Arthur Gustin, Webster and Rev. Emery Anderson, Doland.

Surviving are his wife, Anna; three daughters, Mrs. Louise Erickson, Hector, Minn.; Mrs. Eleanor Gadway, Portland, Ore., and Mrs. Joyce Sundling, Groton; one son, Robert, Maitland, Fla.; one sister, Mrs. T. O. Reece, Alabama; 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.