

November 27, 1947

Early Day Pioneer Passes Away Friday

Thomas Mitchell Blair passed away at the home of his son, Ed. M. Blair, last Friday morning, Nov. 21, 1947. He had been in ill health for several months and his passing was not unexpected.

Mr. Blair was born in Westby, Vernon County, Wisconsin, August 20, 1859, the son of John and Margaret Blair. With other members of the Blair family he moved to South Dakota in about 1880, where he homesteaded in the vicinity of what is now Stratford.

Later he moved northeast of Groton, where he continued farming interests until his death. He was one of the few remaining early day pioneers and his passing will be noted by the community at large.

Frank E. Blair, his oldest son, returned from Montana to be present at the funeral, as did Mrs. Mike Beehner, his daughter and Margie and Michael Beehner, his granddaughter and grandson, respectively, from Alamo, Texas.

He is survived by his widow, Augie Blair, Alamo, Texas; Frank E. Blair, Virginia City, Mont.; Ed. M. Blair, Groton, S. D., his sons, and Jennie Beehner, of Alamo, Texas, his daughter, besides ten grand-children and twelve great-grandchildren.

In about the year 1888 he was married to Augie Robinson, to which union four children were born, those named above and Margie Blair, who died as a young girl many years ago.

For several years Mr. Blair had spent his winters with his son, Frank, in Montana, and his summers here in Groton with his son, Ed., at whose home he passed away.

Mr. Blair was highly regarded in the community and his passing marks the gradual thinning of the ranks of a gallant band of early pioneers, whose contribution to the community can scarcely be measured.

Funeral services were held at the Paetznick Funeral Home, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1947, the Reverend L. C. Benson of the local Methodist church officiating. Interment was made at the Groton union cemetery.