September 5, 1940

MRS. WM. CRAIG DIES ON FRIDAY

LAST RITES HELD ON SUNDAY FOR HIGHLY ESTEEMED GROTON WOMAN

A capacity audience came to the Presbyterian church last Sunday afternoon to pay its tribute of affection and esteem to a highly respected friend and neighbor, Mrs. William Craig, who died on Friday morning, August 30, after a brief illness at her home. The formal funeral service in the church was preceded by a prayer service at the home, the Rev. H. W. Atkinson, pastor of the church officiating.

The Rev. Mr. Atkinson had preached his initial sermon as pastor of the church the same morning, an occasion which Mrs. Craig had looked forward to with pleasant anticipation. An inscrutable Providence had ordained that he should also preach his first funeral sermon the same day—and for one of the oldest members of his congregation. He spoke with sincerity and earnestness but withal simplicity and commended his hearers to the consideration of the serious business that is life—and death.

Beautiful vocal music was contributed by the Misses Irene Anderson and Betty Peterson, with organ accompaniment by Mrs. Chas. E. Adams, who also played incidental music during the service. An abundance of lovely flowers were banked high above and around the casket, an evidence of the high esteem in which the late neighbor and friend was held in the community. The body, borne to the grave by six nephews, Elwin, Frankie, Kenneth, Floyd, Cornelius, Jr., and Wilmont Van Riper, was laid to rest in the family lot in the Groton cemetery.

Relatives from out-of-town attending the funeral service included: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Miller, Austin, Minn.; Mrs. Fred Menninga, Winnebago, Minn.; Mrs. Beatrice Van Riper, Winona, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Fischer, Taylor, Wis.; Messrs. and Mmes. George Mickelson and Edward Mickelson, Mr. Stewart Mickelson, Mrs. Harry Mickelson, Mr. Robert Mickelson and Miss Leora Currier, all of Selby; Mr. and Mrs. Leon Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Skinner, Mr. and Mrs. Wilmont Van Riper, all of Aberdeen and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dennert of Columbia.

Mrs. Craig was born, Ida Mae Van Riper, near Mindora, Wis., May 7, 1876 and spent her girlhood in that community. She came to South Dakota in 1893 and was married to William F. Craig at Groton on September 29 the following year. To this union was born three sons, Chester, Benjamin and Clarence, and three daughters, Florence, Estella and Dorothy, all of whom survive except Florence, who preceded her mother in death in 1908. Surviving, in addition to the children above mentioned, are her husband and thirteen grandchildren, one grandchild having preceded her in death on October 25, 1939.

Mrs. Craig was above all else a mother. Not content with raising her own family of six children, she took into her home Lucille, the infant daughter of her husbands' sister, Mrs. William Gallaugher, who died in giving that daughter birth, and raised her to womanhood. Later as her children acquired homes and families of their own she was indefatiguable in her ministrations in time of illness in her widened family circle.

She also found time to take an active part in church activities, being a member of the Thimble Bee and Woman's Missionary society. Also she was an ardent temperance worker and a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union throughout her adult life.

By fortunate coincidence, perhaps, she had recently returned from an extended vacation tour with her husband to points in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota and delighted to tell her friends of the great enjoyment she found in visiting places in those states where forbears of the family had lived—and how glad she was to return to her home on the Dakota prairie, where she had done her lifework.

Mrs. Wm. Craig was a fine type of American mother, and she was a good neighbor and steadfast friend.