

November 11, 1948

J. A. Donovan, Pioneer Farmer Laid to Rest Fri.

Funeral services for Joseph A. Donovan, pioneer farmer of the Groton vicinity, who passed away at St. Luke's hospital in Aberdeen early Wednesday morning, Nov. 3, at the age of 83 years, following an illness of several weeks' duration, were conducted Friday morning at 10:00 o'clock at St. John's Catholic church in Groton. The Rev. Fr. Thos. J. Shanley officiated. Music was rendered by the Presentation Sisters of Aberdeen and interment was in the Groton Catholic cemetery.

Active pallbearers were: Edwin S. Abeln, Joseph Abeln, George Koehler, Harry Johnson, Randall Peterson and Lawrence Rohwer, and the honorary pallbearers were: A. T. Ansdan, Wm. Messing, Wilbur Rix, William Blair, Albert Schmidt, Jack Johnson and Guy Herron.

Born in Almont, Mich., July 23, 1865 Mr. Donovan came to South Dakota at the age of 21, arriving at James, then one of the bigger towns, going from there to Bates and Scotland community, where he was employed for several years. In 1904 he was united in marriage with Anna Drummey at Lapeer, Mich. They returned to Groton to make their home on a farm northeast of town, where they resided until their respective deaths.

Mr. Donovan was active in township and school affairs; resigned as chairman from the Board of Directors of the Groton Farmers Elevator company last June, having been a charter member since its origin. He was a member of the board of directors and vice president of the Groton-Ferney Mutual Telephone company at the time of his demise.

Mr. Donovan was preceded in death by his wife and one son, Phillip. Left to mourn his passing are four daughters: Mrs. Wm. Koehler, Groton; Miss Irene Donovan, Chicago; Mrs. Arden Rix, Groton; Mrs. Alice Bell, Chicago, and one son, Jerrold Donovan, at home. Also Gordon Froehle, who has made his home with the Donovan family; eleven grandchildren and two sisters, Mrs. Walter A. Fisher of Miami Beach, Fla., and Mrs. Louis Slay of Detroit, Mich.

The departed was a kind and devoted husband and father, and was loved by all who knew him. His high ideals in life gained for him the fellowship and respect of all who came in contact with him. The many friends of the highly esteemed pioneer extend deep sympathy to the family in the loss of their loved one.