

January 6, 1944

VENERABLE GROTON RESIDENT IS DEAD

PNEUMONIA ATTACK FATAL TO
**W. I. ERWIN, 84, VETERAN
CITY BUSINESS MAN**

An attack of pneumonia was fatal to William Ira Erwin, veteran Groton business man, at the hospital in Aberdeen on the first day of the new year. He had been ill only since the preceding Tuesday, but his advanced years made it impossible for him to withstand the malady. His daughter, Mrs. Jane E. Umland, of Milwaukee, arrived at his bedside about ten minutes before the end.

The deceased had been a resident of Groton for almost sixty years coming here in the late 1880s from Southfield, Mich., a small town long since swallowed up by the fabulous growth of Detroit. He was born in Southfield on June 5th, 1860, but came to Groton in early manhood and became a part of the business life of the city upon arrival.

For a number of years he was in partnership with K. McKenzie, the partnership maintaining their offices in the rear of the Bank of Groton, now the Groton post office. Continuing in business he prospered and at times owned considerable farm property in the Groton area.

He was married to Miss Gabriella Martin at Martinsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1892, and two children were born to the union, John Martin, of Hermosa Beach, Calif., and Mrs. Jane E. Umland of Milwaukee, Wis., both of whom survive. His wife preceded him in death several years ago.

He had been in failing health for several years but was most disturbed by failing memory, a fact which led him to say to this writer a couple of years ago: "I have discovered a man can live too long." But he had no quarrel with life, always expressing his satisfaction over having come to South Dakota and despite the business reverses that came to him, he stoutly maintained: "We have a pretty good country right here."

He was a staunch member of the Presbyterian church throughout his entire life, serving the local church in various capacities and being a member of the board of directors of Huron college for a number of years. Blameless in his personal as well as business and official life, he was a fine example of the Christian citizenry which is the strength of our nation.

Funeral services were held for him at the Groton Presbyterian church, Monday at 2:00 p. m., with the Rev. H. W. Atkinson, its pastor, officiating and interment was in the family lot