

January 20, 1955

William C. Funk Dies After Long Illness

Another one of Groton's early pioneers quietly passed away at his home Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1955, after a long illness of poor health that became more pronounced in the past several months. He was preceded in death by his wife on Dec. 17, 1953. Mr. Funk was 81 years of age. The deceased will be sadly missed by his family, and his memory will be cherished by all who knew him—his former business associates, friends, and his children and three grandchildren.

William C. Funk was born on May 14, 1874, at Fox Lake, Wis., as the oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Funk. At the age of seven, he accompanied his parents to Groton, where the father started a harness and farm equipment business that remained in the family name for over 75 years.

Mr. Funk attended the local schools and was one of the class of six, to be the first graduating class from the Groton high school in the year of 1900. He also received a course in business education at Sioux Falls. There he met Maude Ward, who later became his wife. To this union three children were born, Mrs. Henry (Evelyn) Marten of Salem, S. D., Ward of Boston, Mass., and one child died in infancy.

The deceased was one of Groton's early pioneers, having operated his business enterprise in his own name, alone or with a partner, for over 30 years. His place of business, as farm equipment developed, has been a landmark in Groton known by all. The Presbyterian church had been very close to him since he became a member forty years ago. He devoted many years to service on its board of trustees, also as treasurer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Funk were faithful attendants the time which they were physically able to do so. Mr. Funk has been a faithful Mason during his