

July 24, 1941

HARRIS RITES HELD HERE ON WEDNESDAY

George Harris, pioneer settler of the Groton vicinity, died in Aberdeen on Sunday morning, July 20, at the ripe age of 80 years. He had been ill since late in the winter but it was only about three weeks ago that a paralytic stroke broke down the sturdy body that was a heritage of the hardy Scotch stock from which he sprang.

He was born in Perthshire, Scotland, February 27th, 1861 and came with his family to America at the age of sixteen, settling in Whitehall, Wis. He resided there until 1882 when he came to Groton with the early homestead rush. The Groton community remained his home continuously since that time.

He was married to Miss Viola Jones on Thanksgiving day in 1886 and four daughters and a son were born to the union, all of whom survive except Mary, who died several years ago. The couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1936 and about three years later his wife died — on August 5th, 1939.

Surviving him are three daughters, Mrs. A. W. Bonnell, Aberdeen; Mrs. Frank Bolin, St. Louis, Mo., and Mrs. Frank Niven, Chicago, and a son, David, of St. Louis, Mo. Other survivors are a sister, Mrs. E. J. Kidder, Whitehall, Wis., and five brothers, Frank and Sam of Groton; Peter of Portland, Ore.; William of Warner, and Jack of Okaton.

The funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon from the Paetznick Funeral Home in Groton at 2:30 o'clock, with the Rev. L. C. Benson officiating and interment was in the Groton Union cemetery.

With the passing of George Harris the community lost one of its most original and picturesque personalities. He was one of those persons cast in a mold never duplicated. He never made what is usually understood as success in life, yet if contentment and tranquility of soul are success, he was a success.

His most outstanding characteristic was that he was forever himself. He made no pretense of being anything but just himself and his approach of a millionaire or a street bum were the same. To him they were both alike—just human beings.