

September 22, 1949

William James Kelly

William James Kelly, son of William Kelly and Mary Jane Orr, was born April 6, 1873, at Stewartstown, County Tyrone, Uster, in Northern Ireland. He passed away at Aberdeen, South Dakota, on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 1949, at the age of 76 years, 5 months, and 1 day. When he was a boy, he was confirmed in and became a member of the Episcopal church of Ireland.

Mr. Kelly left Ireland in 1894 when he was twenty-one years of age and



W. J. Kelly

came to the United States to make his home. He went first to the home of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. McCormick, at Geneva, Ill. For several years he rented a farm at St. Charles, Ill. On April 30, 1898, he

was married at Geneva to Miss Hannah Elizabeth Creighton of Cookstown, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. She had come to Toronto, Canada, to make her home. Through correspondence with their home folks, they learned the addresses of each other here, and they met again in this country.

In 1901 Mr. and Mrs. Kelly came to Claremont, South Dakota, and settled on their own farm, where they have lived for forty-eight years. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, six of whom are still living: Robert of Claremont; William of Golva, North Dakota; Herbert of Sioux Falls; Mae of Fairfield, Conn.; Annabel Kludt of Claremont, and Ruth Naudain of Huntington, Long Island. Hugh Kelly and Julia Kurth preceded their father in death.

Mr. Kelly is survived by his wife, his six children, six grandchildren: Allen and Maribeth Kelly of Sioux Falls; Dale, Eunice, Janice, and Doreen Kurth of Brampton, North Dakota; one sister in Aberdeen, Mrs. Isabel Muller, and one sister in Ireland, Mrs. Ella Hamilton, who lives on the home place there.

On July 25, 1948, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary when their children held open house at the farm home for all their relatives, friends and neighbors. Mr. Kelly served his community for fifteen years as a member of the Board of Education.