

March 30, 1944

JOHN KNOLL KILLED IN GAS TRACTOR MISHAP

VICTIM DIES INSTANTLY AT HIS HOME WHEN STRUCK BY BELT FLYING OFF HAMMER MILL, THURSDAY AFTERNOON

John Knoll, highly respected farmer residing southeast of Groton, was instantly killed while operating a hammer mill, pulled by a gas tractor Thursday afternoon. His son, Milton, the only eye-witness of the tragic accident, was on his way to the machines when he saw the belt fly off the hammer mill and his father jump down from the wagon from which he was moving grain into the mill. The last thing Milton knew, he saw his father hurled against the steel wheels of the tractor by the belt. He hurried to the spot but his father was already dead when he reached there. A physician, called at once, said that death was instantaneous from the effects of a crushed chest and other injuries.

Ray Sampson, son-in-law of the deceased, was working at the mill, but his view was obscured and he knew nothing of the accident until it was all over.

The untimely death of John Knoll was met with much regret by neighbors and friends, who had known him as a fine, friendly man, a good husband and father, since the family moved here from the Andover vicinity about 11 years ago.

He was a native of Kankakee, Ill., where he was born in South Dakota as a young boy and has made his home near Groton since that time. He was born November 3, 1891, and was thus only 52 years old at his untimely death. He was married to Miss Elsie Roetelle and they had five children, three sons, and three daughters. Two of the children were born to the union, but the other three preceded her father in death.