July 28, 1914

August

A. W. KRUEGER DIES

Seldom has this community been shocked as it was last Thursday when the news came that A. W. Krueger was dead. He had been out at Hot Springs for a couple of months taking treatment for cancer. While it was generally thought that his days were numbered, owing to the dread disease, the report that after submitting to treatment he was gaining strength and was likely to be home soon, caused the message that he had answered the final summons to come as a shock to his relatives and friends.

Mr. Krueger was possessed of an extraordinary personality, and was one of the most widely known citizens of our state.

Coming to America from his native home in Germany in his youth, his career affords a splendid example of the possibilities of this country to one filled with ambition, and with a clear vision of what American opportunity offers. He made his home first in Wisconsin, later in Minnesota and North Dakota, and came to this vicinity just as the James River Valley was being opened a third of a century ago. He was closely identified with the growth of this country through all the years. Receiving a limited education in his native land, he augmented the acquirement by attending the English speaking schools of this country. Probably through this was developed an attachment for and fidelity to our public school system seldom exceeded by native or foreign born citizens. Though probably the heaviest taxpayer in the north half of the state among those whose occupation was exclusively farming, no one ever heard him utter a word against taxation for the maintenance of our public schools. For many years he had been a member of the Board of Education, of which he was president at the time of his death. For a number of years he had been president of the State Horticultural Society; he had been a member of the State Fair Board and a number of times had been appointed to represent the state at various conventions and conferences.

August William Krueger was born in Gross Woelwitz, Kr. Flatow, West Prussia, Germany, on Dec. 23rd, 1851. He came to America in the spring of 1868, remaining for one year in the state of Wisconsin. He then moved to Greenwood Prairie, Minn., working on a farm in the summer months and attending public school during the winter. A few years later he moved to Elgin, Minn., where he purchased a small farm. In the spring of 1880 he journeyed with some friends to North Dakota. After remaining there a short time he came southward to Brown County, where he took a homestead. On Sept. 28th, 1881 he was united in marriage to Augusta Erdmann. This union was blessed with six children, a daughter having died in infancy.

He is survived by a widow, three sons and two daughters—Paul, Arthur, Frederick, Bertha (Mrs. Charles R. Hatch of Wessington Springs) and Lydia—and three sisters and other relatives who reside in Germany.

Mr. Krueger has certainly left a strong impression upon his generation. A man of the finest ideals, his vision rested on the future years, and nothing could change him when once his mind was fixed on a given line of principles. That he was intensely respected by his neighbors, was evidenced by the splendid endorsement frequently given him at the primary elections, and it need not be told that he was respected by those with whom he differed politically. That he was not one of the foremost men of our state in an official capacity was due to the fact that he was too purposeful and intense to become an opportunist for a single hour.

The high esteem in which Mr. Krueger was held was apparent in the enormous attendance at the funeral, which was without question the largest ever held in Groton. From all parts of the county, and from adjoining counties as well, friends assembled to pay him the last tribute.

Funeral services were held at the home and at the Presbyterian Church, Sunday afternoon, Rev. Graef of James and Rev. A. Senne of this city officiating. Interment was at the Groton Union Cemetery.