

May 6, 1948

Funeral Services Held on Thurs. for Mrs. Otto Lilja

Funeral services were held at Augustana Lutheran church at 2:00 p. m., Thursday for Mrs. Otto Lilja, who passed away at the Britton hospital last Tuesday, after a long lingering illness at the age of 67 years. The Rev. Seburg of Webster officiated burial was made in the Groton cemetery.

Essie Olson Lilja was born December 19, 1880, at Rice Lake, Wis., where she was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, and has been an active member of Augustana church for fifty years, and was a member of the Happy Circle and the Missionary Society. She came to South Dakota in February of 1898.

In November of 1898 she was united in marriage to Otto F. Lilja at Britton, S. D., living on a farm near Groton until 1909, when they moved to their farm south of Claremont. There she resided until she moved to Claremont in the spring of 1928, and the past seventeen months were spent at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Randall Peterson near Groton. To this union five children were born. Surviving are one son, Hjalmer Lilja of Claremont; two daughters, Mrs. Randall Peterson (Esther) of Groton and Mrs. Earl Bisson (Harriet) of Claremont; five grandchildren, Randall Jr., and Marjorie Peterson, Mrs. Janice Flich, Betty Lilja and Dorothy Bisson, and one great grandson; four sisters, Mrs. Floyd Honey of Groton, Mrs. Harold Honey of Seattle, Wash., Mrs. Alvin Weiss of Ely, Minn., and Mrs. George Mireau of Rice Lake, Wis., besides a number of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, a son and one daughter.

Two solos, "In the Garden" and "Face to Face," were sung by Carl Green, accompanied by Mrs. Elvert Swanson. Pallbearers were Gunnar Carlson, Eric Davidson, J. A. Ackerson, Oscar Anderson, Rudolph Hillgren and Harry Quist. The Paetznick Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Lilja was a kind, loving and sympathetic wife and mother and was deeply loved by all of her acquaintances. Her high ideals in life gained for her the admiration of all who came in contact with her. The many friends of this highly esteemed pioneer extend sympathy to the bereaved in the loss of their loved one.