

January 4, 1916

✓
JOHN McKIVER

Aged Pioneer Passes Peacefully at
1-4-16 Ripe Age.

John McKiver passed away at his home, south of Groton, Friday morning. He had been very feeble for several years and some sickness had at various times caused friends considerable worry, but a strong constitution bore him up. For that reason the end was not entirely unexpected. He had been very ill about a year ago and at that time he was not expected to live, but with the coming of warm weather in the spring he rallied and was in fairly good health throughout the summer. He celebrated his ninetyeth birthday in July and a large number of friends gathered at his home to assist him at that time.

However, his condition was such that he was unable to withstand any great strain and taking on a cold some time since an attack of the grip followed. This he was unable to throw off and he passed away as above recorded.

John McKiver's was a life well worthy of imitation. He was one of the hardy pioneers both of this country and in Toronto, Canada, where he settled on first coming to America. Here he was forced to clear his land before it was ready for the plow, and this involved hardship of which the present generation, and particularly that portion of it resident on the plains, knows nothing. He was one of the truly serious men responsible for the material progress which has been made on this continent since it was settled.

Born July 12, 1826, near Thurso, Caithnesshire, Scotland, where he grew to manhood, he was married in 1848 to Mary Thompson. He came from Scotland to Canada with his wife and family in 1856 and continued to reside there until the spring of 1883 when, with the family he came to South Dakota, settling on the homestead in Hanson township where he continued to reside and where he and his beloved wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Dec. 23, 1898. Mrs. McKiver was called home in March, 1906.

Cheery in disposition, strong and upright in character, for over sixty years he had been a member of the Presbyterian church. He passed away peacefully at the old homestead on the morning of Dec. 31st, 1915, aged 90 years, 5 months and 19 days, leaving five sons and four daughters to mourn

his loss: John McKiver, Jr., of Marshall, Mich.; D. P. McKiver, Minneapolis, Minn.; Angus McKiver, of Groton; T. G. McKiver, who resides on the old homestead; Wm. McKiver, on a farm near James; Mrs. Margaret Hoag, Ortley, S. D.; Mrs. W. J. Clark, Gem township; Mrs. W. R. Preston, Mrs. F. A. Rapp. There are also thirty grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, one great, great, grandchild. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Presbyterian church, Rev. Drysdale of Mellette, officiating.