

July 10, 1924

GROTON'S OLDEST PIONEER IS DEAD

S. S. MELLEN, FIRST CITIZEN,
PASSES AWAY LAST WED-
NESDAY NIGHT

S. S. Mellen, an aged pioneer of this city, and who, with the late J. Wilson, enjoyed the distinction of being the first men to settle in the immediate vicinity of Groton, passed into the Great Beyond Wednesday evening following an illness which confined him to his room two weeks prior to his death.

Mr. Mellen also enjoyed the distinction of being one of the oldest living members of Groton Masonic lodge, having been one of the charter members of the organization, and identified with the fraternity for the past fifty years. While confined to his room during his late illness Grand Master Pettigrew presented Mr. Mellen with a medal carrying with it the honors attendant upon his long membership with the fraternity.

The deceased was born at Lyndon, Wis., January 19, 1850. On January 2, 1876, he was married to Miss Sarah Hill, at Retreat, Wis., and five years later they joined the band of hardy pioneers who blazed a trail across the prairies' trackless wastes and came to Groton, arriving here in the spring of 1881, Mr. Mellen being one of the first men to enter the area of what is now Groton.

As the city grew with an onward rush of incoming pioneers, Mr. Mellen, a blacksmith by trade, set up his shop and attended the needs of those who came after him. He followed this vocation for several years and finally sold his business because of ill health.

Mr. Mellen also took an active interest in the public life of the county and city which he helped settle. During his residence in Brown county he served the people as register on deeds for two terms, and has been connected with the public life of Groton in various capacities, being police justice at the time of his death. In

have learned from life the lessons he daily lived until the time of his death.

Other than his home life, Masonry was the joy of his existence. From its teachings he derived much of the splendor which marked his conduct toward his fellow man. His regime in the different offices of Groton

lodge was marked by progress of a noteworthy character. He became a charter member of the local organization by demit from LaBelle Lodge No. 84, at Viroqua, Wis., and was the seventh Worshipful Master in 1886 and 1887. He was junior warden in 1885, 1891 and 1893; secretary in 1899, 1900, 1904, 1910, 1918 to the time of his death in 1924. He occupied the chair of senior deacon in 1906; junior deacon in 1892; senior steward in 1888; and tiler under dispensation in 1889 and 1903.

The funeral was held from the home last Saturday afternoon, conducted by the Masons, and he was laid to rest in Groton attended by the representatives of this organization.

Mr. Mellen leaves to mourn his loss his aged wife and three children; two boys and one girl. The daughter is Mrs. Robert Hughes, of Groton, and the sons are Binone Mellen of Rygate, Mont., and Forrest Mellen, of Frederick.