

January 20, 1949

Mrs. Bertha Wagener Passes Away Quietly

Mrs. Bertha Wagener, early pioneer of the Groton vicinity, passed away quietly Sunday evening, at the farm home where she had lived for sixty years. Eighty-one years old, her death was due to old age and complications.

The deceased, Miss Bertha Thielke before her marriage, was born August 29, 1867, at Hubbleton, Wis., the second of nine children. She married Richard Wagener in 1889 at Watertown, also in Wisconsin. The young couple came to Groton to live on the August Wagener farm, now occupied by the O. E. Ruden family, at which place her death occurred.

Mrs. Wagener, a victim of arthritis, sought medical treatment for several years, which was of no benefit, and since 1924 she has been unable to walk. Since then members of the Ruden family have cared for her. Mrs. Wagener was a member of the Methodist church.

There were no children born to this union, but a host of nieces and nephews felt a warm regard for the departed. Mrs. Wagener was affectionately called "Aunt Bert," not only by her 42 nieces and nephews, and 71 grand nieces and grand nephews, but by her neighbors and many friends. Throughout her long affliction she was uncomplaining.

Preceding her in death were her husband, who died in 1916; twin brothers, who died in infancy, and a sister, Mrs. Ellen Dauffenback of Watertown, Wis. Five sisters survive to mourn her passing. They are: Mrs. O. E. Ruden and Mrs. Augusta Kepke, both of Groton; Mrs. Minnie Gerbig of Watertown, Wis.; Mrs. Emma Hafenstein of Columbus, Wis., and Mrs. A. A. Kuehn of Cambria, Wis.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday at the Paetznick Funeral Home, at 2:30 p. m., with the Rev. Knight of Conde officiating. Musical numbers were furnished by the Misses Myrtle and Margaret Blader. Pall bearers were nephews of the deceased, Earl and Richard Ruden, Walter, Arthur and John Kepke, and Charles Lietz. Interment was in the family lot in Groton Union cemetery.

Attending the services from away were Mr. and Mrs. August Hafenstein of Columbus, Wis. and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Levers of Minneapolis.