

## DEATH OF R. E. WATKINS

2-20-1919

### Claremont Loses One of its Pioneer Residents.

Claremont lost one of its pioneers, town builders and best loved citizens in the passing of Reuben Ellsworth Watkins. He was a native of Michigan, born at the village of Portland in 1865. He died on the 8th day of February, 1919.

He came to South Dakota over thirty years ago and worked on farms near Groton and this place. Was married about 25 years ago to Miss Carrie Boe, daughter of Jorgen Boe. He engaged in farming in Detroit township a number of years, finally selling and coming to town. He built a large barn and kept a bunch of stock around him, running mostly to horses, a great favorite with him.

Reuben was robust in mind and body. He was the champion wrestler and boxer of the community in his palmy days. He was scarcely ever sick a day. In the last few months, however, his health failed rapidly and the end proved a great relief from suffering.

The funeral was held Tuesday at the M. E. church. Rev. J. R. Krins preached the sermon. The abundance of flowers supplied by friends and the great outpouring of people filling the church to overflowing, testified to the esteem in which he was held. At the close of the funeral at the church, the local lodge of Workmen took charge and conveyed the body to its last resting place in the Groton cemetery.

Reuben Watkins was a man of rough exterior, but his heart was pure gold. In the struggle of life no man can say he ever struck a foul blow or took an undue advantage. His word was like his bond and he was the soul of generosity. Being very much devoted to his family, they were likewise attached to him. It was indeed a sad parting.

Besides his devoted wife, the children left are: Mabel, Maude, Cora, Earnest, Ellsworth and Roy.—Claremont New Era.