

February 18, 1976

Mrs. Joe Williams

Services for Mrs. Joe (Frances) Williams, 80, of 308, Eighth Avenue, S.W., Aberdeen, were held at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at the First Presbyterian Church in Groton with the Rev. Robert Carey officiating.

Burial was in the Groton Union Cemetery.

Mrs. Williams died Tuesday, Feb. 10, at St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen of a sudden heart attack after only the briefest and slightest illness.

Mrs. Ben Anderson, organist, accompanied the church choir as they sang, "Art Thou Weary, Heavy Laden" and "Still, Still With Thee."

Casketbearers were Ben Anderson, Gilbert Erdmann, Randall Hall Jr., Robert Johnson, Otho Rix and Jay Swisher.

Born in Groton July 17, 1895, Frances Neff Miller lived most of her life here. Her parents were Grace Neff Miller and William Bates Miller who had come west from Pennsylvania in 1883 and eventually became president of the First National Bank of Groton. She attended school in Groton, graduating with a class of seventeen students. After a first year at Huron College, she went to Milwaukee Downer College for two years where she took additional private lessons in piano and voice. She graduated from Northwestern University Music School with a certificate in public school music.

After World War I, she married Joseph Julian Williams, and they had two children: Robert Neff Williams, now of New York City, and Elizabeth Anne Williams, now Mrs. Donald D. Dunning of San Diego. Her late husband was for many years associated with the Groton First National Bank and later had his own real estate business in Groton. He died in 1958.

Mrs. Williams was a charter member of the Groton Chapter of the PEO Sisterhood, which last year celebrated her 50-year association with the local chapter. She also belonged to the Order of the Eastern Star for a half century during which she was past matron and a past grand officer. The Merifu Club of Groton, which is still active, was first organized in her home in 1921. All of her life was involved with the First Presbyterian Church of Groton, with the earlier "Thimble Bee" and Inter-United Presbyterian Women of which she was secretary for many years. But she was especially involved with the music of the church and community.