

PIONEER RESIDENT SUCCUMBS TUESDAY

DEATH TAKES WILLIAM F. CRAIG,
FOR 59 YEARS A RESIDENT
OF THE COMMUNITY

William Frederick Craig, a resident of the Groton neighborhood for 59 years, died quite unexpectedly at his home here Tuesday morning, following an illness of about five months. He had visited with members of his family early in the evening, Monday, remarking that he felt "about the same," and was loathe to have them leave, declaring it was not tiring to him to converse with them. Later in the evening a sudden sinking spell presaged the end and death came shortly after eight o'clock Tuesday morning.

He was a native of Melrose, Wis., born July 17, 1869, but came with his family to the James neighborhood in 1882. He thus spent his entire adult life in this community and often in jesting mood, boasting that he was one of the few that attended college in Groton, referring to the Groton collegiate institute, which was operated by the Presbyterian church here in the early eighties.

Later he attended the Northern Normal and Industrial school in Aberdeen and taught rural schools in the James vicinity for three years, before beginning farming operations in earnest. He was married to Miss Ida Mae Van Riper on September 27, 1894 and three sons and three daughters were born to the union, all of whom survive except one daughter, Florence, who died in 1908.

The family acquired a farm in Riverside in 1903 which was their home until 1920, when the deceased retired from farming and purchased the present home in Groton. After moving to Groton Mr. Craig took active interest in his farms, but about ten years ago took over the management of the Groton Farmers Elevator company in which position he continued until late last summer when failing health prompted his resignation.

He was active in the life of the city, being a member of the board of education for a long period of years. A life-long and loyal member of the Presbyterian church he was trustee and elder in the organization almost the entire period of his residence in the Groton neighborhood.

Surviving him are three sons, Chester, Bennie and Clarence, all of Groton; two daughters, Mrs. Gilbert Erdmann of Groton and Mrs. Eugene Miller of Sioux Falls, as well as a foster daughter, Mrs. Leon Nixon, a niece, who was taken into the Craig home as an infant, the mother dying in childbirth. His wife preceded him in