

Death Ends Useful Life

1-31-1930
Funeral Services For Erik Erikson
Are Held From the Home
Thursday Afternoon.

ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF POWESHIEK COUNTY.

Occupied Homestead in Sheridan
Township For 37 Busy, Happy
Years.

Funeral services for Erik Erikson, 76, one of the pioneer residents of Poweshiek county who died at his home here Tuesday morning at 2:00 a. m. after a two days' illness, were held from the home at 1323 Elm street Thursday afternoon. The Rev. L. Wissler of the Chester Congregational church officiated, assisted by the Rev. S. L. Stenby of Clear Lake. After the services at the home the body was interred in the family lot at Hazelwood cemetery.

Erik Erikson, one of the pioneers of Poweshiek County was taken suddenly ill Sunday evening, January 27, 1930, and passed away Tuesday morning at 2:00 a. m. He had always enjoyed robust health and his sudden passing was unexpected.

Mr. Erikson was born in Stavanger, Norway, December 4, 1853. He came to Poweshiek county, Iowa at the age of eighteen and worked for farmers near Malcom for about six years. He was married to Caroline Ahrens, March 14, 1877. This young couple started a home on a farm, which they purchased with their savings, about 9 miles north of Malcom. A few years later this farm was sold and the homestead of 320 acres in Sheridan township was purchased. Thus they worked together for 37 years. Theirs was a Christian home in the highest and best sense. They lived for service to those around them and the up-building of their community. Into this home six children were born: Anna, the first born, died in infancy. The surviving children are Henry of Grinnell, Edward of Clarion, Mrs. Ella Frederickson of Chicago, Mrs. Paul Hewitt of Des Moines, and H. S. Evans of Adel, Iowa. One brother, Andrew Erikson of Brooklyn and two sisters, Mrs. Inger Larson of Grinnell and Mrs. Will Dee of Malcom also survive as do six grandchildren.

In 1908 Mr. and Mrs. Erikson retired to a small farm just east of Grinnell and a couple of years later to the family residence in Grinnell. Mrs. Erikson was called away on April 16, 1921. Since that time Mr. Erikson has walked his way alone. His children have often tried to persuade him to come to live with them but much as he loved them all he preferred to keep open the old home. He loved his church and Sunday School and wished to be near it. His last Sabbath he spent at its services. It is pleasant to note that, in answer to a hasty summons, the children were all present and received his loving recognition before he died.

Mr. Erikson was a deeply religious man. He was confirmed in the faith of the Lutheran church in childhood in Norway. In 1894, Mr. and Mrs. Erikson again professed their faith in the beliefs of this church and when the Lutheran church was formed in Grinnell in 1899, Mr. and Mrs. Erikson were among the charter members and Mr. Erikson was a trustee at the time of his death. To Mr. Erikson the principles of his religious faith were very real. He lived them in his daily life and in his death they were his comfort and support. He always found peace and joy in Divine worship and in the contemplation of the Life to come, into which he has now entered. While always generous in every good work he was successful in his business affairs much beyond the average. His friends sought his advice which was always kindly given and worth while. Mr. Erikson was an unusual man. His mind always seemed full of good will toward every one. Resentment was an unknown thing in his loving character and every man, woman and child in Grinnell and community is poorer because Mr. Erikson has gone. A host of his friends will testify that Grinnell and this community are better and happier because Mr. Erikson has lived here and that in his passing a noble Christian man has gone to his reward.