

I. W. BARNUM DEAD.

One of the Fathers of Our Town Dies
in Brooklyn at the Age of
Eighty Years.

The telegraphic dispatches announce the death of I. W. Barnum in the city of Brooklyn.

The announcement carries the memory back to territorial days and the infancy of our village of Sanborn, when Mr. Barnum was a potent factor in the development of this then new section of country. His temperament was optimistic and his favorite theme "The Golden Northwest," of which he never tired speaking or writing.

In 1880 Mr. Barnum platted in section 15 an addition to the original town of Sanborn laid out by Louis L. Lenham and Adam Gallinger.

Beside this portion of the townsite, Mr. Barnum owned three sections of land near the village and another section at Bismarck, and town lots in Jamestown and various Northern Pacific towns. He also owned considerable property in the then booming city of Omaha.

At one time all this property was of considerable value; but the old gentleman failed to let go at the right time. It depreciated to such an extent that much of it was sold for taxes. A few years ago, after it escaped Mr. Barnum's possession, it took a rise, and is again considered valuable. His town property did not depreciate on account of the removal of the church, as the telegraphic dispatches state. On the contrary, the depreciation occurred before the removal. The town ceased to grow churchward, so it was removed to a more central site.

Mr. Barnum was an enthusiastic boomer of Sanborn. His faith in its future was unbounded. His optimistic nature could see no limit to its possibilities. He sang its praises everywhere and without ceasing.

On his plat was reserved a large and slightly square of ground for the Congregational church and parsonage. A Congregational college also figured in his plans; and during the exciting times of removing the territorial capitol from Yankton and its final location at Bismarck, he actually believed that it might be secured for Sanborn. His faith was so great that he backed it up with offers of lands and money, and the rise of ground at the west end of town he always designated as "Capitol Hill."

One, talking with him in those days, noting his enthusiastic manner and gazing into his kindling eyes, could almost see in imagination the majestic dome of the capitol, the stately buildings and beautifully laid out grounds and crowding students of the Congregational college, all permanently located on Capitol Hill.

And the little Congregational church—an accomplished fact—the apple of his eye. How proud he was of it! We cannot better show in what endearing remembrance he held it than to quote from a personal letter which we received not long since, written after he began his fight to regain a portion of this property; it will also give some insight into the manner of man he was:

" . . . I have all along watched with great interest every reference to my dear little 'Central Congregational church in your Enterprise. . . . I named our 'Sanborn Central' after our 'Brooklyn Central.' Thank the Lord for His goodness! Bless the Lord. Oh my soul! May that dear little Sanborn church remain a faithful witness for the Master long after we are all dead and gone."

In 1881 Mr. Barnum caused the transplanting of boxelder trees along the streets of his addition, one in front of each lot, and today many of these trees are standing, let us hope, as a lasting monument to the memory of our old-time benefactor.

Isaac W. Barnum died soon after the last suit was decided against him, broken hearted, at the age of 80 years. His was a strenuous life. May he rest in peace.