

AN OLD PIONEER DIES

Niels Hemmingson Departed This Life Last Friday at 6 o'clock p. m.

Niels Hemmingson, one of the oldest and best known of the pioneers of this section of the state, died at St. Lukes Hospital Friday evening, April 23rd, 1915, after an illness of several months' duration. Mr. Hemmingson has been subject to paralytic strokes, the last attack which occurred about three weeks ago rendering him blind, dumb and helpless. Although he partially recovered from the attack when death finally came last Friday it was not unexpected, his son being at his bedside when the end came.

Niels Hemmingson was born at Moen Sjellen, Denmark, December 22nd, 1845, and came to America in 1866. The first fifteen years of his residence in this country were spent in the neighborhood of Manistee, Mich., where he worked in the lumber camps and saw mills. In 1882 he came to this state and located on a homestead in Griggs county, which has ever since been his home. Since acquiring his homestead he has secured a tree claim, and bought a quarter section, making a very productive and well managed farm.

In 1872 Mr. Hemmingson was married in Lanesboro, Minn., to Marie Skarie. Two years later Mrs. Hemmingson died leaving her husband a son, Walter, who for a number of years past has been managing the farm.

Mr. Hemmingson has at all times been active in public affairs. He helped to organize one of the first congregations in Griggs county, the first minister being Rev. Lundebj who was paid the munificent salary of \$50 a year. Mr. Hemmingson also was very active in local affairs, holding positions on both the township and school boards of Greenfield township, serving for twelve years as county commissioner of Griggs county and ending his third term as a member of the lower house of the state assembly in 1909.

In all his dealings both in his private affairs and as a public official Mr. Hemmingson was always incorruptibly honest. He always fought stubbornly for what he believed to be right, but he was always sincere in his conviction that his course was for the best of the majority. He was always a liberal contributor to the support of the church, to charity and to other institutions, among which were St. Lukes Hospital and Concordia College.

The remains were shipped from Fargo to Hannaford, where impressive funeral services were held by Rev. Thoreson and Rev. Sweger. Magnificent floral tributes testified to the respect in which he was held by the entire community. After the services in the Lutheran church the remains were taken back to the depot for shipment to Lanesboro, Minn., for interment in the family lot beside the resting place of his wife who preceeded him by so many years.