

Aged Pioneer Of Romness Is Laid To Rest

Mrs. Gilbert Olson Passed
Away At Home Last
Thursday

Came To Griggs In '80

Deceased Was Prominent In
Community For Half
A Century 1932

Death entered the last of the Romness early pioneer homes last Thursday evening and called away Mrs. Gilbert Olson, 87 year old lady who had played a prominent part in the upbuilding of that community.

Long suffering from ill health, Mrs. Olson was taken sick with influenza on January 4 and this together with old age resulted in her passing away 6 o'clock last Thursday evening.

Funeral Monday

Funeral services were held Monday at the Ringsaker Lutheran church in Romness township, the church of which she was a charter member and an active worker as long as her health permitted. Rev. S. T. Nelson, Aneta, spoke in the English language and Rev. Ovrebo, also of Aneta, gave an eulogy in Norwegian.

Following the rites, the body was borne to its final resting place in the Ringsaker cemetery by six grandsons, Gilman, Garfield, Sidney, Alvin and Howard Olson and Leonard Hilstad.

Maria Kajsa Anderson Punland was born at Gunnarskog, Hovelsrud in Eda Sogn, Warmland, Sweden on November 11, 1845. She spent her childhood there and was confirmed in the fall of 1862.

Came To U. S. In 1874

She left for America during June, 1874, and made her home temporarily at Lansing, Iowa. At Osage, Iowa, on March 20, 1879, she married Gilbert Olson.

In the spring of the following year, they started for Dakota territory by means of the covered wagon and finally came to Griggs county after a long and perilous journey. They filed on a homestead in Romness township and lived at the homestead until 1898 when they moved to their present farm.

Hardships typical of the pioneer life of the early days in the Dakotas also tested her courage. As examples there stand out the autumns of 1880, '81 and '82 when her husband walked to Portland, Hillsboro, and Mayville to work during threshing. Mrs. Olson remained in the dug-out home to take care of the work there and care for the two children.

Epidemic Sweeps Community

In the fall of 1882 she dug 100 bushels of potatoes and carried them on her back into the cellar. The same fall an epidemic of diphtheria swept the neighborhood and among the deaths were those of this pioneer lady's eldest sons.

On the same day on which a daughter was born, her three year old son passed away.

Her work in the Ringsaker church included the organization of the Ladies Aid. She was one of the three women that kept that organization active during the latter part of the last century, the other two being Mrs. Anne Overby and Mrs. John N. Johnson.

In the summer of 1916 she underwent a serious operation which was later followed by a stroke and left her in poor health.

She leaves her widower and five children. They are Mrs. Anna Hilstad, Henry Olson, Albert Olson, Mrs. Clara Midstokke, all residents of Romness, and Mrs. Gena Hogenson of Cooperstown.

Alex Osmundson Of Binford Dies

Alex Osmundson, 78, of Binford, N. D., died Thursday in his farm home in Willow township, Griggs county, following a heart attack. Born in Scott county, Minn., Feb. 5, 1867, he married Gurine Larson, April 27, 1913. He was a member of the town board for a number of years.

Besides Mrs. Osmundson, he leaves a son, Allen of Binford; three daughters, Mrs. Melvin Reinhart of Aneta, N. D., and Mrs. Olaf Fors and Mrs. Vernon Peterson, both of Binford, and a brother, Ole, of Binford.

Funeral services will be at 2 p. m. (MWT) today in West Prairie church north of Jessie, N. D., with Rev. Marcus Tufte-land officiating. The body is at the S. J. Quam funeral home in Cooperstown, N. D.