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Pioneer Builder Dies

A man whose life and deeds have been indissolubly linked with the development and progress of Griggs county is lost to the people in the death of Halvor P. Hammer. No single man, probably, has had larger or more far-reaching contacts with the people of this section in which he played such a large part as a builder. His death is widely mourned and his passing takes from the community a man whose life has been closely woven into its fabric.

Mr. Hammer well typified and glorified a kind of pioneer to which this country will be forever indebted. It was through the vision of him and his kind that this land has been transformed from the unbroken wilderness and prairie into its present state. In doing so he created a large personal fortune, but that was only incidental to his interest in the work in which he led.



HALVOR P. HAMMER

His life has been one such as of which story books tell. A poor and penniless Norse immigrant he selected the new Northwest, with many others of his kind, as a place to make his home and fortune. He succeeded admirably in attaining the goal to which he aspired. From homesteading and farming he branched out into various phases of business, and his success was for years a by-word over a large territory. Late years and a depression robbed him of the fruits of earlier toil, but not of the pride and memory of ac-

complishment while it was being created.

Though his business connection included practically all kinds found within the county, his first and foremost business of farming held his greatest interest. In it he excelled to a great degree and his efforts won him state and national recognition.

All that H. P. Hammer accomplished during the unusually full years which comprised his span of life was made in spite of early handicaps of poverty, lack of education and want of opportunity, except that which his own ingenuity and resource created for himself. He was in every sense a self-made man, and one to whom many with far more auspicious beginnings looked often for advice and help.

In his business dealings he made an enviable reputation for his honesty and integrity. In his prosperous years he was ever ready to aid the deserving, and many have been helped through his efforts.

In his passing the city and county has lost a man whose activity and influence have made for him a permanent place in its history. It is a niche such as few of its citizens will occupy, whether that occupancy is considered in the light of the living or in the place reserved for its honored and revered dead.

Leading Figure In History Of Griggs Is Dead

Hundreds Pay Tribute Monday To H. P. Hammer at Rites Held In City

Resided Here 50 Years

Was Outstanding In Various Fields Of Activity In This Section

Hundreds of friends and neighbors of Halvor P. Hammer, paid tribute to a dominant figure in the development of Cooperstown, Griggs county and central North Dakota Monday afternoon as funeral services were held for one who had served as leader in this section for half a century.

The services were held in the Cooperstown Lutheran church where so many gathered that scores were turned away. Rev. I. O. Jacobson officiated.

Mr. Hammer died at his home here 8 o'clock last Friday morning as the result of two paralytic strokes suffered earlier in the week.

Been Here 50 Years

Since the spring of 1882—fifty years ago when Mr. Hammer settled on a homestead near Lee post-office, then located about 20 miles north of the present site of Cooperstown—has the name of H. P. Hammer been a vital part of the history of this section.

Engaging in farming at that point for four years, Mr. Hammer moved to Cooperstown in 1886 and purchased the livery stable from the Green Mountain Stock Ranching company and also a meat market from Julius Retzlaff.

These ventures were the beginning of a long and varied business career that saw Mr. Hammer active in the general mercantile business, banking, real estate, farming, stock-raising and other activities.

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