

RYE, Knut J.

January 18, 1848

Norway

March 12, 1923

Viborg Enterprise - March 28, 1923

YANKTON COUNTY PIONEER PASSED MARCH 12, 1923

**Was One of First Settlers
in Turkey Valley
Township**

**SUFFERED STROKE
SUMMER OF 1918**

**Funeral Services Held Last
Wednesday, March 14,
Meldahl Church**

One by one they are leaving us, the old settlers. Mindful of what they have accomplished in the building up of the homes and the communities around here and like wise of their toils and hardships it is with emotional feelings to see them go and thus put them to rest.

One of the very first settlers in the Turkey Valley township was Knut J. Rye, the object of this brief sketch. He was born in Meldahl, Norway, on January 18th, 1849. In that respective part of the Old Country he spent the days of his boyhood and the first part of his youth. In 1872, 23 years old, he migrated to U. S. A. and arrived at Ishpeming, Mich., where he stayed two years. He then moved westward and came to Yankton county in Dakota Territory where he lived the remainder of his life which were more than 48 years.

Knut Rye was married three times. Miss Lisbet Bak he wedded on June 29th, 1882. After eleven years of wedded life she passed away on August 3rd, 1893. This marriage was blessed with eight children, five of whom are living namely, Anna now Mrs. Noble of Cordova, Alaska; Joseph, Ida, now Mrs. Floyd Rudd of Sioux Falls, S. D.; Marie and Martin. Enoch and Lewie left this world as infants. Ella, as an adult.

On November 27th, 1895, Mr. Rye married as his second wife, Miss Ida O. Vognild. After five years of married life she suddenly died on May 11th, 1900. Three boys were born during this union, William, as the first one, lived to be only ten months the other two are Ole and Levi.

On October 5th, 1902, Mr. Rye married Miss Beret Grammo as his third wife. This marriage covered almost ten years when on March 18th, 1912 she, too, exchanged at death this world for that of another.

During the summer of 1918 Mr. Rye suffered a stroke of paralysis on his right side. However, he recovered somewhat, but his health gradually pined away from that time. During the night of March 8th he became the victim again of a paralytic stroke, this time it seized his left side and brought about the end of his life which occurred on March 12th at 2:30 A. M. He thus lived to be some over 70 years old.

As a tribute to his memory we will mention the fact that Mr. Knut Rye was a member of one of the three families who in 1879 organized the Meldahl congregation.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, March 14th. In spite of a cold and snowy day there were many present at his burial to show their token of gratitude and respect. Mr. Andrew Grudt, a good friend of the departed, led the devotion at the home. At the Meldahl church Rev. Peder Nordsletten was ably assisted by Mr. John O. Johnson of Beresford and Mr. K. O. Lokken of Irene. They spoke in the Norse and American language respectively. The Meldahl church choir sang two fitting songs at the service.

As pall-bearers the four Bak brothers: Rasmus, Even, Ole and Mekkel and also Andrew Grudt and P. C. Nelson. Blessed be the memory of Knut J. Rye.—Tri-County News.