JOHNSON, Andrew Sr.

April 21, 1840
Denmark
December 11, 1930

Viborg Enterprise - December 17, 1930

PIONEER IS LAID TO REST ON SATURDAY

Long and Eventful Life Of Andrew Johnson Sr. Comes To Close

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 13, for Andrew Johnson Sr., first at the home and then at the Bethania Lutheran church.

The short service at the home consisted of a duet by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Christensen followed by a short scripture reading and prayer by Rev. E. M. Nielsen.

At the church the services began with a song, "When My Soul Reaches Home," by the choir. Rev. H. C. Jersild preached the sermon from Romans 6-23 which brought out very forecfully how badly off we humans all would be were it not for the saving grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The men's quartette sang "Rock of Ages" and after the prayer led by Rev. Jersild the choir sang "Nearer My God, To Thee."

A view of the remains concluded the services within the church with Mr. Roy Nelson, undertaker from Viborg, in charge.

The long funeral procession then wended its way to the beautiful Bethania cemetery west of town where th burial rites were conducted by Rev. Jersild.

Obituary

Andrew Johnson was born at Faaborg, Eyn, Denmark, April 21st, 1840. He grew up in a comparatively large family. Early in life he learned the tailoring trade, which he followed for some years. At the age of 23, when the war broke out between Denmark and Germany, he did his part as a soldier with honor. Up to the time of his death he received a pension as a veteran, which Mr. Johnson termed a Christmas gift from the State of Denmark.

He was united in marriage to Anne Jorgensen in Denmark; but hoping to better economic conditions for himself and family, he set sail, in the fall of the year 1869, with his brother George and a neighbor, Rasmus Conrad, for the land of opportunity, the United States. After landing they traveled West until they came to Wisconsin. Here they built their homes. The following Spring he sent for his wife and infant son George. Four years later in 1873, he followed Rasmus Conrad to the Dakota Territory. Andrew Johnson was a pioneer along with the first railroad, at the time when buffalos and Indians were here aplenty. He settled near Wakonda, S. D., where he lived a couple of years, then moved down near Vermillion, S. D., where they lost a baby girl. 1879 he moved into Turner County, S. D., and homesteaded the quarter and timber claim now owned by his son Carl. In spite of drought and grasshoppers he became one of the most prosperous farmers in said county. In 1889 he and his wife paid a visit to the old home in Denmark. On returning, he brought back with him a little bit of his father land in the form of grass seed, scrubs and trees which he planted on the old homestead.