BJERKAAS, Knudt

August 16, 1846
Norway
September 1, 1934
west of Center Point

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FUNERAL HELD FOR AGED FATHER

Knudt Bjerkaas Rites Were Held Last Tuesday, Sept. 4th, at Meldahl Luth. Church

Funeral services were held at the Meldahl Lutheran church Tuesday morning, Sept. 4th, 1934 for Knudt Bjerkaas. He died at his home located about 2 miles west of Center Point, early Saturday morning, September 1st. The funeral services conducted by thel ocal pastor E. O. Urness first included a short devotional service at the home, consisting of portions of scriptures and hymn singing. During the service at the church a mixed quartette consisting of thep astor, H. B. Munkvold, Marie Brunsvig and Esther Bak sang the hymn, "Take Me as I Am," in the Norwegian language. A feew ladies from the choir sang a selection entitled, "There is a Home Eternal." Pastor Urness delivered the sermon based on Revelation 3.1-6. Pastor J. Leverson was also present and gave a few remarks in the American language based on 2 Cor. 5. 1-8. The speaker also stated it was at the Bjerkaas homestead that he together with his family, in route to their destination many years ago, were hospitably taken care of during a cold winter night. Besides the floral tributes money was given in memoriam to the Ebenezer Home for the aged, Minneapolis, and the Bethesda Home for the aged at Beresford. The following served as pallbearers: Clarence, Arthur, Bert and Sidney Knutson; Arnold Bjerkaas and Julius Eli (all grandchildren of the deceased). Mr. Arnold Burke, Yankton served as the undertaker.

Mr. Bjerkaas had lived with his son Anton and Helma Bjerkaas, a grand-child on the homestead and was well taken care fo by them since the death of Mrs. Bjerkaas in 1920. His health became especially poor the last two weeks before death, and he was not able to take much nourishment. His most earnest desire was to die and death came to him very peacefully.

OBITUARY

Knudt Bjerkaas was born in Ödal, Norway, August 16, 1846. He was united in marriage to Johanna Evjudalen in 1872. In 1876, Mr. and Mrs. Bjerkaas came to the United States and first settled near La Crosse Wisconsin. They were there only one year, however and then came to Turner County, South Dakota where the deceased together with the family decided to continue to live. Six children were born namely: Hans (who died Oct. 5, 1897); Arnt (Arnt Knutson), Ole, Iver, Anton and Betsey (Mrs. Andrew Retsel). Of these only Anton is unmarried and they live near the home place. A sister, Mrs. Annie Munkvold, lives at Sioux City, Ia. There are eleven grandchildren living.

Mr. Bjerkaas lived to become 88 years and 15 days of age. He experienced many years indeed of joy and sorrow. His wife died November 11, 1920, after having shared with her husband faithfully the many duties of everyday life. The family were members of the Meldahl Lutheran Church. Blessed be the memory of another pioneer laid to rest.