

LARSON, Lorentz Gunnerius

September 1, 1840

Denmark

March 13, 1923

Mayfield Township, Yankton County

Viborg Enterprise -

March 21, 1923

LORENTZ LARSON PASSED AWAY ON MARCH 13, 1923

Came to America in 1873—
Filed on Homestead in
Mayfield Twp

TWO CHILDREN MOURN HIS DEATH

Funeral Services Were Held
Last Friday at Elim
Lutheran Church

Lorentz Gunnerius Larson was born in Asfjorden, near Tronhjem, Norway on Sept. 1, 1840. In 1863—60 years ago—he married Miss Karen Martha Syvertsen.

Believing that America could offer him a better future relative to the sustaining of his family, he with his wife and their children migrated to South Dakota territory in 1873. Their first stop was at Alsen. During the following year Mr. Larson filed on Homestead in Mayfield Twp. in northern Yankton Co. On this place he labored and lived the remaining years of his long life. As one of the foremost pioneers of these prairies he passed thru the many severe and trying days of the early settlers together with his faithful wife and their small children.

Interested in the moral and religious welfare of his respective community he was one of the few men who organized the Opdahl congregation, now known as the Salem congregation which is served by Rev. O. Brodland of Freeman S. D. Some time afterwards he was along in the organizing of the Trygstad congregation which, in after-years, became re-organized as the Elim congregation at which church the funeral service was held.

The marriage of Mr. Larson was blessed with seven children, four of whom died during infancy in Norway; a daughter, Laura Gustine, died at her parents home in 1908 in the bloom of her youth. Two years later, namely in 1910, Mr. Larson suffered a very severe blow when death claimed his beloved and very faithful wife.

The deceased was a man of strong physique. However, during the last three months he gradually withered away. On last Tuesday morning, the 13th inst., a few minutes after midnight's quiet hour the life of L. G. Larson had thus ebbed away. He lived to be 82½ years old.

The two children, Mrs. Marie Saglie and Mr. Leonard Larson and the foster-daughter, Mrs. Christine Strunk, and his three grand-children mourn the loss of a good father and grand-father.

The burial took place on last Friday, March 16th. Rev. L. A. Breen of Volin, S. D. a very close friend of the family and for ten years Mr. Larson's pastor, led the devotion at the house. At the Elim church Rev. L. A. Breen, using the Scandinavian language, gave the principal sermon; Rev. Peder Nordsletten of Irene, S. D. made a few closing remarks in the American language.

The Elim church Choir rendered an appropriate anthem while Miss Guine Christopherson, accompanied by Miss Eva Kelley sang a pretty solo which fitted the day.

The following neighbors of the departed for many years—acted as pall bearers: Helmer Christopherson, Erick Thorstensen, E. P. Engen, Richard Anderson, John Huff and Markus Johnson.

The old settlers, who thus helped to change the appearance of these open and barren stretches in southern South Dakota are rapidly leaving us and Lorentz Gunnerius Larson was one of them. Blessed be his memory!