MELLEM, Nels E.

May 25, 1855
Norway
February 3, 1941
Spring Valley Township

Viborg Enterprise - February 20, 1941

N. E. MELLEM DIES

PIONEER CENTER POINT RESIDENT BURIED FEB. 6th

Nels E. Mellem

Funeral services were held at the Meldal Lutheran church on on Thursday, Feb. 6 for Nels E. Mellem, pioneer resident of the Center Point community. Rev. J. M. Johnson officiated, and pall bearers were Martin Durham, Andrew Retsel, Anton Bjerkaas, Iver Bjerkaas, Arnt Knutson and Ole Bjerkaas.

Mr. Mellem died at his home on Feb. 3. At the time of his death he was 85 years, 8 months and 9 days of age.

Nels E. Mellem was born in Opdal, Norway, May 25, 1855. He was baptized and confirmed at the same place.

He was married to Inger Bjerkaas in 1877, and in 1879 they emigrated to America, arriving in Yankton.

He, as many other pioneers, secured work on the railroad which at that time was being built thru this part of the country. He later took a homesead in Spring Valley township, Turner county.

Here he and Mrs. Mellem endured the early pioneer hardships and raised their family. Their first house was a rock cellar.

Mr. Mellem was a life-long member of the Meldal church, in which he took an active interest. He was the first Sunday school teacher in the congregation, and continued this work for over 25 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife who passed away in December, 1925. He leaves to mourn his passing six children, twelve grandchildren and six great-grand children.

The children are: Erick Mellem, Irene; Arnt Mellem, Yankton; Mrs. Chris Brandser (Mary), Viborg; Mrs. Amund Pederson (Ida) Centerville; Severin Mellem and Mrs. Clara Johnson, both on the home place.

One brother, Ole, resides at Kalispell, Mont. Two other brothers preceded him in death, as did one brother and four sisters in his native Norway.