

OLSEN, Christian

January 9, 1844
Denmark
September, 1932
Sioux Falls

Viborg Enterprise -
September 14, 1932

PIONEER RANKS THINNING OUT; CH. OLSEN BURIED

Funeral Services Were Held Here Sunday for One of Last Survivors

Funeral services were held from the Baptist church Sunday for Chris Olson, one of the last of the early homesteaders who came from Denmark to settle in this section of the state. He passed on at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Nels Andrews, Sioux Falls on Wednesday and he was laid to rest in the Baptist cemetery here.

Mr. Olson was active until the end despite his 88 years. Only last winter he successfully recovered from an attack of pneumonia which at his age proved his rugged physical condition despite the many hardships of the pioneer years. He was ill only a short time as the result of a heart attack.

The many relatives and friends who gathered for the funeral services waited until a heavy rain stopped before proceeding to the grave for the final rites. The funeral sermon was delivered by Dr. C. E. Peters, who was a friend of the departed. H. M. Anderson assisted at the service giving the Scripture reading and prayer in Danish. Music was furnished by the Baptist choir which sang, "Now My Latest Sun Has Set," Saviour I Rest In Thee," and "Abide With Me."

Dr. Peters paid tribute as he stood over the bier of the pioneer which was heaped high with floral wreaths to his keenness of mind and his generosity, and affirmed his belief in immortality of the soul for those who have "fought the good fight" and "kept the faith."

The following obituary very modestly tells briefly of the history of one who helped make this part of the state one of the most prosperous of land empires of history:

Christian Olsen was born in Bakken, Hormested Sogn, Denmark, on January the 9th, 1844. He grew to manhood in Denmark but in 1869 he came to America settling in the city of Chicago.

On the 8th day of May 1872 he was united in marriage to Elsie Maria Nelsen. To this union were born ten children, five of whom together with the mother have passed on before. Those who are left to mourn the loss of their father are: Mrs. N. C. Andrews, Frank M. and Arthur R. of Sioux Falls, Nels of Viborg and Victor A. of Santa Ana, California. There are eleven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In the Spring of 1873 Mr. Olsen with his family, consisting of Wife and one child, came to Dakota Territory where he took up a homestead in Daneville township about four miles southeast of the present city of Viborg. Here he reared his family and with all the early settlers he endured the hardships of Pioneer days. There were the chill storms of winter, the recurring plagues of grasshoppers and the battle with disease which so frequently invaded the home of the early settlers.

Mr. Olsen died in Sioux Falls on Sept 7th, 1932, at the ripe age of 88 years and 8 months. He was one of the last survivors of the early Pioneers. He was always thrifty and a good business man and withal scrupulously honest. He leaves both a fine material and spiritual heritage for his children. A man of keen intelligence, he was also generous and big hearted. His home was frequently a bourn of refuge to the stranger from the homeland who had braved the stormy ocean to better his condition in the land of promise. He was a good citizen, a kind husband and father and a true and loyal friend. He was a kind and helpful and considerate neighbor. Numberless friends regret his going. An entire community sympathizes with the bereaved family.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks to all who showed their sympathy and kindness during the burial of our dear father. We wish to extend special words of gratitude to Dr. C. E. Peters the choir and to those who sent floral offerings.

—The Children and Their Families