

William Owens

Jan. 3, 1853 – June 28, 1915

Former Resident of Monticello Dies at Dixon, South Dakota

Word was received here yesterday of the death of Wm. Owens, of Dixon, S. D., which occurred at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Otis M. Burch, nee Lillian Owens,

Prior to his removal to Monroe and subsequently to South Dakota, Mr. Owens made his home in Monticello for a number of years, and many friends in this vicinity will be deeply grieved to learn of his death.

William Owens was born in Ontario, Canada, Jan. 3, 1853. He was fifth in order of birth of a family of twelve children born to Wm. Owens and Jane Byrnes Owens, both natives of the county of Wexford, Ireland.

The deceased removed with his parents when a child to the town of York, Green county, Wis., receiving a common school education such as was afforded by the schools of those days.

At the age of twenty-two years he was married to Mrs. Martha J. Byrnes, who preceded him in death twelve years ago.

The deceased was engaged in agricultural pursuits during the greater part of his life. He was prominent in political circles and for many years held offices of various kinds in the communities where he resided. Practically all of his life was spent in Green county, Wis., where he acquired a large circle of friends, being known by the greater portion of the people of the county. In the fall of 1911 he moved to Dixon, Gregory county, South Dakota, where he resided until the time of his death, which occurred at 2:30 p. m. on June 28, 1915.

The deceased was a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge and also of the Modern Woodmen of America.

In early manhood he was converted to the Christian faith and became an active worker for the cause of Christ. He was always a close student of the Bible and obtained a remarkable amount of knowledge from the Great Book. He was an earnest and sincere worker in the church wherever he held membership and greatly enjoyed active work in the Sunday school and other departments of the church. At the time of his death he was superintendent of the Sunday school at Dixon, S. D. He lived a consistent Christian life and to his friends, just prior to his death, he expressed no fear of the life to come, but had a desire that if it was the Master's will, he wished to live to do more work in the interest of the cause of Christ.

The deceased had been in failing health for the past two years, a patient sufferer during that time with stomach and bowel trouble. On May 2nd, of the present year, he was confined to his bed with serious illness which resulted in his death at the age of 62 years, 6 months and 25 days.

The deceased leaves to mourn his loss three sons, Ernest E. of Gregory, S. D., Fred L. of Wayside, Neb., and Oliver G. of Polo, Ill., and one daughter, Lillian Owens Burch, of Dixon, S. D., together with four step children, W. J. Byrnes, of Canton, S. D., Mrs. T. C. Peterson, of Chicago, Ill., Geo. W. Byrnes, of Montrose, S. D., and Mrs. George Bray, of Kimball, S. D. Besides the children and step-children he leaves nine grandchildren.

The deceased expressed a desire to be placed beside his wife in the cemetery at Belleville, Wis., which desire is to be carried out, burial to take place Friday morning, July 2nd, 1915.