

AGED PRAIRIE HOME MAN FOUND DEAD

ABRAM RITCHIE, 86, DIES AT
OLD HOMESTEAD

Found In Water Tank But Death
Was From Natural Cause,
Is Belief

Abram Ritchie, aged citizen of Prairie Home, was found dead by neighbors in a water tank shortly after noon last Thursday at the home of his grandson, Lee Ritchie, with whom he has lived for the last seven years. The County Coroner was summoned at once and after holding an inquest, decided that death had been due to natural causes, probably an apoplectic stroke or heart failure that came upon him as he was seated on the side of the tank. There was not much water in the tank at the time. Lee Ritchie and his family happened to be away from home for the day.

Funeral services were held at the Baptist Church Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock and were in charge of the Rev. E. H. Michalkowsky. Burial followed at New Salem Cemetery by the side of his parents who died many years ago.

Abram Ritchie was born September 15, 1841, three miles northwest of Prairie Home and at the time of his death on June 7, was 86 years, 8 months and 22 days old. He was the fifth child of Jacob Ritchie and wife who came in the early days from Virginia and settled in Cooper county on the farm which has been owned continuously by members of the Ritchie family for over one hundred years, first by Jacob Ritchie, then his son Abram, and now by Lee Ritchie, greatgrandson of the original owner.

In 1863 Mr. Ritchie was married to Mary Ellen Wood and to them were born three children, two of whom survive. They are Jacob Ritchie, of Eldon, and Mrs. Mary Ellen (Mamie) Hawkins, of Tonasket, Wash. Andrew A. Ritchie, the second son, died on Oct. 24, 1924. Mrs. Ritchie died in 1869, fifty-eight years ago. Mr. Ritchie never married again. He is survived also by four brothers and two sisters—Elias, of Bell Plain, Kans.; Rev. Phillip and Tom, of Siloam Springs, Ark.; the former a retired Baptist minister; Robert, of Liberty Center, Iowa; Miss Sallie, of Jamestown, R. F. D.; and Mrs. Catherine Fain, Fortuna. He also leaves several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In 1864 he became a member of the Walnut Grove Christian Church where his membership remained until death. He lived a quiet unostentatious life, was a good neighbor, an industrious, successful farmer, and an honest and upright citizen.

The following from a distance attended the funeral: Jake Ritchie, Eldon; Mrs. Catherine Fain and daughter; Miss Birdie Fortuna; Mr. and Mrs. David Devine and child, Latham; Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Fain, Miss Sallie Ritchie, Jamestown, R. F. D.; Geo. Ross, Mrs. Leslie Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hornbeck, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Hornbeck, all of Boonville.