

STURGIS WEEKLY RECORD – September 14, 1917

PETER EIXENBERGER DIES SUDDENLY NEAR SYKES, MONT.

Peter Eixenberger died very suddenly Tuesday afternoon about 4:30 o'clock near his home at Sykes, Montana, death being due to heart failure. He had been feeling pretty good that day, and in the afternoon was digging potatoes on his ranch. He quit about 4 o'clock and started to walk over to his son, Frank's ranch which adjoins his and where his wife was visiting with Mrs. Frank Eixenberger. When within a couple of hundred yards from the house he was seen coming by the two women who noticed him fall while going down a hill. They immediately went to his assistance but found him dead on their arrival. His remains were brought to Sturgis for burial and arrived here in auto about 11 o'clock Wednesday night and taken to the Anderson undertaking rooms where they remained until the funeral which took place yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock at St. Martin's chapel, the services being conducted by Rev. Fr. Columban. Interment was made in the Catholic cemetery. The pallbearers were M. J. Kerper, Joe Meyer, John Meyers, John Kelly, Frank J. Murphy, and James Lodge.

The news of the death of Mr. Eixenberger cast a gloom over the entire community, and will also be a great surprise to his many friends in the Upper Hills towns. He was one of the best and most well known musicians that ever entered the Black Hills. He served about ten years in the army being a member of the Seventh Cavalry band and was stationed at Fort Meade most of that time as a sergeant of the band.

Deceased was born in Munchen, Bavaria, Germany, on June 12, 1860, and came to the United States in July, 1876*, since which time he has continually resided in the Hills, but the past fifteen months, which he put in on his ranch near Sykes, Mont.

In November, 1885, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Achenbach. To this union eight children were born: Frank of Sykes, Mont; Mrs. John Kellar of Sioux Falls, S.D.; Peter, Jr., Gladys, Arthur, Clarence, Carl, and Joseph of Sturgis. All were present at the funeral but Mrs. John Kellar, who will arrive here tomorrow.

The bereaved family have the sympathy of their many friends in this, their great hour of sorrow.

* - Something is wrong with these dates. The Battle of the Little Big Horn was on June 25 and 26, 1876. Eixenberger wasn't at the actual battle but was on detached service from June 14, 1876, at Yellowstone Depot, Montana Territory. He was obviously in the U.S. before July, 1876. In fact, he was enlisted on November 15, 1875, in New York City by Lt. John Babcock. According to the given birth date he would have been 15 years old at the time of his enlistment. Although many soldiers lied about their age to join the army, these dates seem to require more research.