

From the Daily Deadwood Pioneer Times – February 24, 1928

ANOTHER PIONEER RESIDENT OF THE BLACK HILLS DIED

Death came to Jan Moller*, one of the old time residents of the Black Hills country, early yesterday morning, the summons being sudden and with but little warning. Mr. Moller, who for the past four years had been making his home with his stepson, William Nelson of Stewart Street, had retired the evening before in his usual state of health, he having been for a number of years a suffered [*sic*] from a catarrhal trouble, and it was this disease which resulted in his death.

During the morning hours, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, whose rooms are above those which had been occupied by the deceased, heard him moving about as though preparing to build a fire. When they arose and went downstairs about an hour afterward, and not hearing him stirring in his room, they opened the door and found his [*sic*] sitting in the large easy chair which it had been his custom to occupy during the day, dead. The end, apparently, had come quickly and painlessly, as there were no evidences of a struggle.

Jans Moller was born in Norway** 82 years ago, and came to the United States during his young manhood, finally drifting to the west. He enlisted in the Seventh United States Cavalry in 1877*** [*sic*], serving two enlistments with that famous regiment, and was with it when it had numerous engagements with the hostile Indians of the northwest and southwest, and his record as a soldier was a splendid one, leaving the regiment on both of his discharges with non-commissioned officer's rank and bearing two "Excellent" discharges, the highest issued by the United States Army.

After his last enlistment had expired he settled in the country near where Aladdin, Wyo. now stands, and cultivated a farm there until four years ago, when he came to Deadwood to make his home with his stepson, Mr. Nelson. Besides his stepson and the latter's wife, he leaves a brother living at Belle Fourche and other relatives to mourn for him, who will have the sympathy of many with them in their bereavement.

He was a good man and a patriotic citizen. Funeral services will be held for him Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock; interment will be in the cemetery on Mount Moriah, where he will be laid at rest beside his wife, who had preceded him to the grave on January 11th of the present year. The services conducted by Rev. Hartung of the Methodist church, will be held in the funeral parlors of Schulte & Son.

The pallbearers will be Bramble Lawler, Ole Peterson, Henry Goslin, John Neavill, Jens Andersen, and William Mueller****.

*I am spelling his name here as it was printed in the newspaper. Elsewhere on this website, I use the spelling 'Mollar', as that is the way his name appears on his headstone.

** Other sources indicate his country of birth as Denmark.

*** He actually enlisted on January 15, 1872. He was discharged in 1877. If he had indeed enlisted in 1877, he would have missed the Little Big Horn battle which occurred in June of 1876, and where he was wounded in the thigh.

**** Speculation on my part but this may be his brother from Belle Fourche mentioned in the obituary. Mollar's name is spelled differently in several sources.