

C RATER, ERNEST ELWOOD  
March 28, 1881-July 4, 1901

The funeral of Ernest E. Crater was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday last at the Congregational church of this place, and was attended by a large number of friends and acquaintances of the young man. Dr. Elmer E. Smiley, president of the state university, came to Wheatland to preach the funeral sermon, and his discourse was particularly touching and impressive. There were many beautiful floral offerings, a number having been sent by friends in Laramie, and at other points. The deceased while attending the university was private secretary to President Smiley, and it was with the greatest of praise that Dr. Smiley spoke of the high character and ability of the young man.

Ernest Elwood Crater was born at Lake Henry, Kingsbury county, South Dakota, on March 28, 1881, being a little over 20 years of age at the time of his tragic death. He lived the greatest part of his life in his native state. After securing a fair common school education, he spent three years at Yankton college, graduating a year ago from the academic department of that institution. He then followed his parents to Wyoming and attended the state university at Laramie during the greater part of the school year, leaving before its close to accept the position of bookkeeper for the Wheatland Mercantile company.

Ernest was always very active and quick, both physically and intellectually, and of a mirthful, sunny and obliging disposition. Wherever he was, he had a host of friends. We have abundant evidence that we are not alone in Wheatland in mourning his seemingly, untimely death. Besides his sorrowing parents, he leaves a devoted sister of an age to be a companion to him and a younger brother and sister.