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CHARLOTTE CONGER  
Kanabec County Times  
Mora, Minnesota  
Dec. 19, 1902

### PIONEER LADY PASSES AWAY

Mrs. A. J. Conger Expired Early Friday Morning  
Grand Old Lady Who is Mourned by All Who Knew Her

After several months of patient suffering, death, the only sure and perfect relief for oppressed humanity, came to the rescue, and the spirit of Mrs. A.J. Conger departed from its earthly abode and returned to the God who gave it. Peacefully and quietly she died, as she had lived. The immediate cause of her death which occurred at half past 5 o'clock Friday morning, was blood poisoning, superinduced by a carbuncle on the back of her neck.

Charlotte Pennington was born in the Province of New Brunswick, on Oct. 1st, 1832. She died at Mora, Minn., Dec. 19, 1902. She was the daughter of James and Mary Pennington, natives of the state of Maine, of good old Yankee stock. She, with her parents, emigrated to Minnesota and were the first white settlers in the territory, now forming Kanabec County. She taught the first school in Kanabec County and her biography forms a part of the early history of our county.

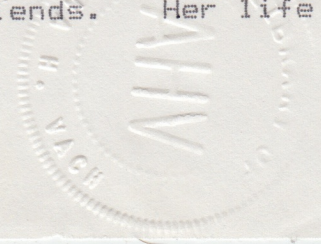
On January 18th, 1861, at Hudson, Wis., she was united in Marriage with A.J. Conger. They returned to Conger's knoll and spent their honeymoon upon the historical grounds where Mr. Conger had located a trading post, near the cool and limpid waters of Spring Brook, among the straight and lofty pines, where abounded the romantic and picturesque beauty of nature unadorned. She made this isolated home in the wilderness, one of happiness and contentment, also made kind friends that will cherish her sainted memory.

She with her husband at different times have resided in Afton, Wyoming (Mn.), Cambridge, Pine City and Milaca. In 1882, when the railroad was built through this county, they returned to the scenes of their early wedded life and erected the first building and opened for public patronage the first hotel and store in the village of Mora.

Her husband, A.J. Conger, one daughter, Mrs. J. A. Lawson, four brothers and two sisters survive her.

As a token of respect, business places were closed during funeral services.

Mrs. Conger was a woman of strong intellectual faculties, possessed of a kind, loving and obliging disposition, which made all her acquaintances true and faithful friends. Her life has



been an object lesson that has been a benefit to the community where she has lived, and her death, a loss all will realize and regret. Funeral services were held from the house Saturday afternoon, conducted by Rev. C. R. Oaten, pastor of the M.E. church. The following old settlers acted as pall bearers: T.B. Vickery, N.H. Danforth, J.C. Pope, C.E. Williams, Nels Halvorson and Andrew Larson. Her mortal remains were laid at rest in the Oakview cemetery at Mora.

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To our friends and neighbors, we wish to express our sincere thanks and grateful acknowledgment for their generous assistance, kind sympathy and condolence in our recent great bereavement and affliction.

A. J. Conger  
Mrs. J. A. Lawson, and other relatives

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Mrs. J.A. Lawson is Elizabeth (Libbie) Conger, adopted daughter and only child of A.J. and Charlotte Conger. (See Elizabeth (Conger) Lawson in A. J. Conger file)

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CHARLOTTE CONGER  
History of Kanabec County  
Page 104

#### EDUCATIONAL

The first school teacher was Charlotte Pennington, who started teaching in 1856 at Brunswick while this was still a territory.

On September 26, 1859, School District 1 was created, consisting of most of the southern part of the county. Eight pupils attended school this year (1859-60).

In the early years as a county, the County Auditor and Treasurer hired, and paid from the County funds, the school teachers and the school expenses. The qualifications as a teacher? Anyone literate and willing.

A new Superintendent of Schools, in 1874, immediately got busy to take the handling of school matters away from the County Officials who had been attending to this work, and organized a legal supervision of all branches. This was not too large a job -- there were only 3 schools.

In the following years, a 3-month term was taught in District 1 and a 6-month term in District No. 3 with a total attendance of 85. District No. 2 had difficulty in obtaining legal title to land for a school the first year. For the fall term of 1875,

there were three districts started, completely equipped with books, maps, etc., but no blackboards. By 1883, there were nine school districts and 6 school houses.

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Charlotte Conger is buried in the <sup>Oakwood</sup> ~~Oakdale~~ cemetery just northwest of Mora. Hers is a large marble tombstone on a large lot. There is a nice engraving on one of the four sides:

Charlotte Conger  
Died Dec. 19, 1902  
Aged 70 years  
Gone but Not Forgotten

A small rectangular marker, level with the ground, locates Charlotte's grave. And there are two unmarked graves beside hers.

In my opinion, Alvah J. probably intended that he, too, would be buried on this plot and his name would be inscribed on another face of the monument. There is no engraving on the other three sides. Alvah married again about 3 years after Charlotte was gone. According to Mrs. Kluge (granddaughter of Ira Conger) whom Harry and I interviewed in July of 1985, his second wife, Lizzie, was an ill-humored person who was not very kind to poor Alvah. His thirteen years of marriage to Lizzie were not all that happy. Lizzie outlived him and there is no record of where he is buried. Perhaps his is one of the two unmarked graves in the Conger plot, or perhaps the two graves are those of Burton and Augusta Newport. (See discussion of gravesites, Augusta Newport)

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Charlotte Pennington was 16 when Augusta was born. She probably helped raise Augusta and formed a close attachment to her. Certainly she was very supportive of Augusta all of the latter's life. Augusta and Burt, <sup>Newport</sup> were married in A.J. and Charlotte's home in Cambridge, Minn. When Burton became institutionalized, Augusta, Burt and Mollie moved to Mora where A.J. and Charlotte had the Conger House. Augusta worked at Conger House to support herself and the children. Mollie and Burt were boarders there. Augusta outlived Charlotte by only a few years.

Mrs. Kluge, who may not even have been born when Charlotte died, spoke very highly of her as a kind, generous, thoughtful person.



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sending it in case  
Dorothy Couder

AUGUSTA PENNINGTON NEWPORT  
Kanabec County Times  
Mora, Minnesota  
July 10, 1908; p 4, col 3

PIONEER OF MORA LAID TO REST

Mrs. A. M. Newport  
After a Lingering Illness  
Died Tuesday Afternoon

It becomes our sad duty this week to chronicle the death of one of Mora's oldest citizens, Mrs. A.M. Newport, which occurred Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Newport suffered from an attack of the lagrippe about a year ago and never fully recovered, but was confined to her bed only two weeks before Death came to relieve her from her suffering.

Augusta Melvina Pennington was born May 9, 1848 at Houlton, Maine. At the age of seven years she moved with her parents to Stillwater where she lived until she was married at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Conger at Cambridge, Minn., July 21st, 1875 to Burton Newport. Four children were born to them, three of whom survive her, Fred of Los Angeles, Mollie of this place and Chris of Spokane, Washington. Four brothers are also left to mourn her departure, William, Chas. and George of Afton, Minn., Albert of Pine City.

The funeral services will be held on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the late home of Mrs. Newport. Rev. C. W. Lawson will officiate.

The following old settlers will act as pall bearers and convey the remains to their last resting place in Oakwood cemetery: Nels Halvorson, Andrew Larson, T.B. Vickery, Andrew Erickson, C. E. Williams, I.C. Crusoe.

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