

ELLA MAE MAHAFFIE

Teacher – Kansas City, Kansas Public School System

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OLD MAHAFFIE STAGE COACH STOP. This stately farmhouse was the childhood home of the late Miss Ella Mahaffie. It is located one-fourth mile east of Olathe on old Highway 50 and was the first stagecoach stop on the Santa Fe Trail. West of Westport.

Prominent Figure In Education Dies

Miss Ella Mahaffie An Olathe Pioneer

Funeral services for Miss Ella M. Mahaffie were held at the Julien Funeral Home in Olathe, yesterday, with Dr. E. Russell Lynn, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Kansas City, Kansas officiating. Mrs. Margaret Fell sang "Beyond the Sunset" and "The Glory Song" accompan-



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ied by Mr. Hans Feil at the organ. Interment was in the family lot in the Olathe cemetery.

Half a century as a thorough, exacting and enlightened teacher in the public schools of Kansas is the record of Miss Ella Mahaffie, 1036 North 24 street, Kansas City, Kansas, who died June 23, in Bethany hospital, after an illness of six months.

As a girl in her teens, Miss Mahaffie began her teaching career in a country school in Johnson County, Kansas, about 1887. From 1889 to 1907 she taught the third and later the seventh grade at Central school in Olathe. In 1907 she entered the public school system of Kansas City, Kansas, teaching at the Riverview and Whittier schools. From 1913 until her retirement in 1939, she was principal of Park school.

Continued Study

Throughout her long teaching career, Miss Mahaffie continued to study in the summer at Chicago University, Columbia University, Duke University and the Universities of Colorado and Kansas. She also studied a number of summers at the Kansas City, Kansas University.

She traveled widely in the United States and Canada, and spent the summers of 1911 and 1912 in Europe. In 1913 she was appointed a member of the Kansas State Board of Education. She served as president of the Elementary Principals Club and the Administrative club of Kansas City, Kansas, and chairman of the State Department of the Elementary Teachers club. In 1940 she was made an honorary member of

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Miss Ella Mahaffie

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Delta Kappa Gamma, an organization for teachers.

Miss Mahaffie was the last surviving child of the eight sons and daughters of J. B. (Beatty) Mahaffie and Lucinda Henderson Mahaffie who settled in 1857 in Johnson County. In 1858 her parents bought 160 acres of land a mile northeast of the courthouse square in Olathe on the Santa Fe Trail and settled there. Many incidents of the border warfare which preceded the admission of Kansas to the union as a state and many incidents during the civil war were experienced by them.

The first Mahaffie home was a frame house hauled to the farm from Olathe by four yoke of oxen. Miss Mahaffie's father bought the 160 acre farm from the estate of a soldier of the war of 1812 for \$400, and \$1.25 per acre paid to the United States Government.

The first night the Mahaffie family spent in their first home, they took in five dollars from travelers who paid well for the privilege of sleeping on the floor. Many covered wagon made camp at night along the draw on the Mahaffie place.

Home A Stagecoach Stop

In 1865 Miss Mahaffie's father built a story and a half stone house in which she was born 88 years ago on August 9, 1869. The first stagecoach station on the Santa Fe Trail after leaving Westport, Missouri, today this same house, enlarged to a two story stone and frame house, is still standing on the north side of the old Kansas City road.

During Olathe's centennial last September sixth Miss Mahaffie, a small, pretty white-haired wo-

man with gentle and dignified manners returned to her girlhood home as the guest of its present occupants, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ford, who farm the Charles E. Allen farm. This historic home was open to the public on a house tour for the benefit of the Olathe Community hospital that one day the 1957 centennial. Unable to walk without crutches or a walker for the last several years, Miss Mahaffie permitted herself to be carried on a chair into the house for the occasion. Here surrounded by devoted relatives, she enjoyed heartwarming reunions with former pupils and friends whose friendship stretched over four generations in some instances.

In talking about the history of the house, Miss Mahaffie recalled that in spite of Ample Help, she could never recall her mother's hands ever being idle. Even if she sat down to rest, her knitting needles were busy making stockings for the children.

The farm was a self-sustaining unit with its smoke house, orchard, bee hives, and flower and vegetable gardens. The herb garden provided seasonings and medicine. The ice house was filled in winter with ice cut and hauled from Indian creek. Everything not raised on the farm was hauled by wagon from Westport or Leavenworth.

During her Olathe residence, Miss Mahaffie was a charter member of the Young Women's Culture class organized in 1897 and was its president in 1900-1901. She was also a member of the First Presbyterian church of Olathe. She took her letter to the First Presbyterian church of Kansas City, Kansas, when she moved there.

As a member of the Church's Vesper Circle she served in her later years on the telephone committee, the only church work she could do from her home. During her active years, Miss Mahaffie was president of the Women's Dining club of Kansas City, Missouri.

Miss Mahaffie and Miss Della Irving a former Kansas City, Missouri teacher, lived together. In addition to Miss Irving of the home, Miss Mahaffie is survived by three nephews, Charles D. Mahaffie and Beatty Mahaffie, both of Washington, D. C.; Murke Mahaffie, Trenton, Mo.; three nieces, Mrs. M. H. Mahin, Los Angeles; Mrs. Mary Franklin, Bedford, Ind. and Mrs. Stanley Maynard, San Antonio; four grandnieces, Mrs. Charles B. Lockwood, 613 east 42 Terrace, Kansas City North; Mrs. John E. Reilly, 608 west 63 street, Kansas City, Mrs. Ralph McElwain, Cameron, Mo. and Mrs. Laura Murphy, Hobart, Okla.; four grandnephews, Sam L. Allen, Oklahoma City; George Henry Thompson, Omaha, Charles Mahaffie, Jr., Washington, D. C. and Leonard Julien, Riverside, Calif.

Funeral services were under the direction of the Julien Funeral Home.