

# MRS. FRANCES HOWLAND, WIDOW OF SHALEM COLONY FOUNDER, IS DEAD; COLONY WAS NOTABLE

By G. A. MARTIN.

**M**R. FRANCES HOWLAND, a resident of El Paso since 1908, died at her home, 1019 East Rio Grande street at 7 o'clock Wednesday night. She was taken suddenly ill shortly after noon Wednesday.

Prior to coming to El Paso, Mrs. Howland had been a resident of Las Cruces, N. M., for a number of years. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. W. B. Williams, of Los Angeles. There are two grandchildren, Justine, five, and William, two.

## Widow Of Shalem Founder.

Mrs. Howland was the widow of A. M. Howland, one of the founders of Shalem colony, north of Las Cruces. Her husband died in El Paso several years ago. The daughter, now Mrs. W. B. Williams, of Los Angeles, was the former, Miss Justine Newbrough, daughter of Mrs. Howland by her first marriage. She was well known in El Paso before her wedding and removal to California.

Dr. J. B. Newbrough, Mrs. Howland's first husband, was the originator and founder of the colony, but he was aided by Mr. Howland and on the death of the founder, Mr. Howland succeeded him as head of the colony.

Shalem colony was one of the most famous undertakings of a philanthropic nature in the United States. It was founded in 1884.

The colony was for the rearing and development of orphan children, under a method advocated by the founder, and several hundred thousand dollars were spent in the work before it failed.

## Buildings Yet Standing.

Several large buildings were erected on the tract of land secured for the colony and they are still standing, in a bad state of repair, however.

Orphan children from New York, Boston and other eastern cities were brought to the colony and an attempt was made to rear them as vegetarians after the manner of the primitive peoples found in America when Columbus came. The children were therefore provided with no more clothes than absolutely essential, the theory of Dr. Newbrough being that too many clothes were the cause of most of the ailments of the human race and that people should live as nearly like the originals of the human race as possible.

## Claimed Inspiration.

Dr. Newbrough, like the founder of the Mormon church, claimed to have inspiration for his cult, and he wrote and published a Bible. Copies of the publication are in existence in a number of libraries of the southwest.

The title of this book was "Oahspe," and it was first published by Dr. Newbrough, a New York dentist, in 1882.

Many followers were gained after the publication of the book and in 1883 a convention was held in New York to organize a new religious sect, the object of which was to follow the teachings of Dr. Newbrough.

## Boston Man Aids.

When it was decided to found a colony for foundlings and orphans,

A. M. Howland, a wealthy retired wool merchant of Boston, became interested with Dr. Newbrough, and furnished much of the money for its establishment. In August, 1884, Dr. Newbrough selected the site of the colony, a mile and a half west of Dona Ana in Dona Ana county, New Mexico, and in October of that year, he came out with his family and the first of his workers. Ten foundlings were brought out at first and others later.

In April, 1891, Dr. Newbrough died and Mr. Howland, who had become deeply interested in the work, took it up.

## Colony Disbands.

When he had exhausted most of his fortune, he found homes for the children and petitioned the court to restore his title to the property. He had been trustee up to that time. Title was restored to him in 1891 and he sold the property for \$50,000.

The colony was represented in a legal way during its existence by Herbert B. Holt, of Las Cruces.

Several years after the death of Dr. Newbrough, Mrs. Newbrough was married to Mr. Howland and they continued to live at the colony until the lands were sold when they moved to El Paso. Mr. Howland died here several years ago.

Mrs. Williams was called from Los Angeles by the illness of her mother and was with her when she passed away.

Funeral services for Mrs. Howland will be held at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning at Simmons-Hartford chapel. Burial will be in Evergreen cemetery.