

# AN OLD NATIVE EL PASOAN DIES

## Mrs. Benancia Leahy, Born and Married in Concor- dia, Expires Here.

In the death of Mrs. Benancia Stevenson French Leahy at 7 o'clock Tuesday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John O'Keeffe at 1104 West Main street, one of the oldest native born El Pasoans passed away. Mrs. Leahy was born in Concordia, now East El Paso, 76 years ago, a granddaughter of Jacinto Escarata, one of the great grant holders of northern Mexico and a daughter of Hugh Stevenson, a noted early Texas settler. Her life was lived amid all the kaleidoscopic changes that have occurred in the progress and building up of the southwest from a wilderness to a civilized commonwealth.

### Friend of Benito Juarez.

Mrs. Leahy was a friend of Benito Juarez, who framed the Mexican Reform constitution and entertained the Mexican her during his residence at Juarez when that city was the capital of Mexico during the Maximilian intervention. With her husband, Capt. Albert H. French, chief justice of El Paso, she built the first church in this city, which still stands in the cemetery of Concordia.

The marriage of Benancia Stevenson and Capt. French occurred at the village of Concordia, in what is now East El Paso, on August 16, 1865. Capt. French was a veteran of the Union forces of the Civil war and the bride's father was a Confederate.

In 1880 Mrs. French married J. B. Leahy, who was then county judge of El Paso county. He died in 1895.

### Leaves Many Descendants.

Surviving descendants of Mrs. Leahy are three children and seven grand children. Mrs. Florence F. Dwyer, Mrs. John O'Keeffe, and William French, all of El Paso, are the daughters and son of the decedent.

The funeral will be held at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon from the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Interment will be made in Concordia cemetery.

## MRS. LEAHY'S BODY BURIED NEAR SPOT OF HER BIRTH

The funeral of Mrs. Benancia Stevenson French Leahy, the last of the pioneer family of Stevensons, was held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. Fr. F. C. Roy conducted the service. Burial was made in Concordia cemetery, the location where the aged woman was born and married, before it was a cemetery.

The death of Mrs. Leahy Tuesday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John O'Keeffe, marked the extinction of the Stevenson family, who were among the first of the Anglo-Saxon Texas settlers.

The pall bearers were George Griggs, Rector Dolan, J. J. Flores, H. Flores, Hugo Flores, and Samuel Dwyer.

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