

Early Pioneer Woman Resident Of El Paso Dies

Mrs. Elizabeth May, 90, credited with having been the first American woman to reach Franklin, as the town of El Paso was known when she arrived here in the early '50s, died at her home at Palms Court, 329 West Missouri street, yesterday morning.

Mrs. May had been critically ill for the past several days, and last Thursday members of the family were told that her death was only a matter of hours. She died shortly after her daughter, Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Andreas, was buried in the family plot in Evergreen cemetery.

Born in Westphalia, Bavaria, in 1839, Mrs. May came to this country, and while only a girl of 15, left St. Louis with her aunt and a cousin, Mrs. J. B. Tays, for New Orleans. The small party then started westward, traveling overland from San Antonio by stagecoach. Captain Henry Skillman was the stagecoach driver.

Mrs. May often related to her grandchildren tales of the perilous journey to Franklin (now El Paso), and told of the Indians encountered on the trail.

Funeral services will be held in the St. Genevieve's Catholic church in Las Cruces at 9:30 o'clock this morning, under the direction of the Hartford mortuary.

Mrs. May is survived by four grandsons, Godfrey, Herman, Vincent and John Andreas; three daughters, Mrs. Mary Seligman, Las Cruces; Mrs. Adelia Forwood, and Miss Ormeda May, and one son, Vincent May.

Pioneer El Paso Woman Is Buried Today In Cruces

Funeral services for Mrs. Elizabeth May, 90, were held in Las Cruces Saturday morning under the direction of the Hartford mortuary.

Mrs. May is credited with having been the first American woman to reach Franklin, as El Paso was then known. She reached here in the early '50s. She died at her home in Palms Court, 329 West Missouri street, Friday morning.

Mrs. May died shortly after her daughter, Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Andreas, was buried in the family plot in Evergreen cemetery.

She was born in Westphalia, Bavaria, in 1839. She came to the United States when a young girl and when she was only 15 she came to Franklin from San Antonio by stage coach.

Mrs. May is survived by four grandsons, Godfrey, Herman, Vincent and John Andreas; three daughters, Mrs. Mary Seligman, Las Cruces; Mrs. Adelia Forwood and Miss Ormeda May, and one son, Vincent May.