

# Mary Stanton, Early School Teacher, Dies

Mary Irene Stanton, 86, who taught many of El Paso's leaders during her 35 years in the public schools, died suddenly Saturday evening in her home at 3808 Nations Avenue.

Miss Stanton was alone at time of death. Her body was discovered on a couch by a neighbor, who became worried when Miss Stanton's newspaper was left in the yard.

She is survived by four nephews, Stanton E. White, Elbert Stanton.  
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Marvin Stanton, all of El Paso, and Herbert Stanton of Los Angeles. Funeral arrangements were pending Saturday night with Koster and Maxon Chapel.

Born in Athens, Ga., she came to El Paso in 1884. She was a sister to M. W. Stanton and C. Q. Stanton, prominent El Paso pioneers.

She taught in the first high school in El Paso, which then was located in the old Elks Building. She organized the first commercial department for El Paso high schools. She was proud of never having missed a day in her years of teaching.

By donating her personal library of books, she was instrumental in helping El Paso Public Library open. A plaque in honor of this service to the community has hung in the Library for many years.

# Death Takes Founder of E. P. Public Library

Funeral services for Miss Mary Irene Stanton, El Paso teacher 35 years and founder of the Public Library, who died  $\frac{1}{2}$  Saturday, will be held at 2 p. m. tomorrow at the graveside in Evergreen Cemetery. Rev. Robert E. Goodrich Jr. will officiate. Burial will be under the direction of the Koster and Maxon Funeral Home.

Miss Stanton was 84. She is survived by four nephews, Stanton E. White, Elbert Stanton and Marvin Stanton, all of El Paso; and Herbert Stanton of Los Angeles.

Born in Athens, Ga., Miss Stanton came to El Paso in 1884. She taught first at the Central School, El Paso's first brick schoolhouse. Her later teaching was done at El Paso High School and in private classes.

## First Commercial Course

After studying in Gregg's School in Chicago, Miss Stanton began a commercial course at the high school, the first such course to be taught in the Public Schools.

In 1894 Miss Stanton moved her collection of more than 600 books to a room in the Sheldon Building where the Hilton Hotel now stands. She opened the collection to high school students, leaving the room key with the elevator operator.

Other citizens became interested in the prospect of a municipal library, and the El Paso Public Library Assn. was formed the following year, with Miss Stanton as president.

## Books in City Hall

The books were housed in the City Hall after 1899. Miss Stanton contributed much of her income to the support of the library.

The present library building, financed by a Carnegie endowment, was opened in April, 1904. A bronze tablet commemorating Miss Stanton's work was hung in the building.

In addition to teaching and assisting with the library, Miss Stanton was an active writer. Her work included poetry, plays, nature books and advertising.