

# Mrs. Emma Thompson, N. M. Pioneer, Dies

Funeral services were pending in El Paso today for Mrs. Emma Thompson, New Mexico and El Paso pioneer, who died yesterday in an Alamogordo hospital.

She was 92.

Mrs. Thompson, born Emmaline Sarah Blazer at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, March 30, 1868, was a daughter of Dr. J. H. Blazer, who owned a mill and trading post at Mescalero and was an influential figure in early New Mexico. She grew up amid the hazards of the Apache and Lincoln County wars.

Joined 1st Cavalry

Dr. Blazer gave up his dental practice in Iowa to join the 1st Iowa Cavalry at the outbreak of the Civil War. Discharged for disability, he became sutler to his regiment and learned to handle supplies. In 1865 he set up a freight line from Shreveport to Dallas, and later to El Paso, with a string of 10 six-mule wagons. In 1866 he loaded his wagon train with Chihuahua corn and started for Ft. Sumner, N. M., but the Tularosa coun-

try fascinated him and on his return trip he traded his outfit for an interest in the sawmill later known as Blazer's Mill.

Made Chief a Friend

Life was precarious in the heart of the Apache country, but Dr. Blazer made friends with the Mescalero chief, Santana.

In 1877 he sent for his family, and soon his son, married daughter and 11-year-old Emma were on the road. They traveled by railroad, on train and "ambulance" to what was then called South Fork—now Mescalero.

The Apache campaign were in full swing.

The Lincoln County War featuring the fabulous Billy the Kid, was about to break out. The Blazer children had ringside seats for some of the most dramatic episodes in frontier history.

Educated at Convent

Emma Blazer grew up into a calm, cheerful young woman. She was educated by several governesses

and had a year of formal schooling at a Las Cruces convent before coming back to Iowa for high school.

Back at Mescalero, she became the first teacher of the new school for American children.

Before she was 20 Emma was married to a young man from Indiana, Dr. Howard Thompson, who was the agency physician. She made a home for him at the agency until 1890, when he opened an office in El Paso.

For the next 40 years—until Dr. Thompson's death in 1930—they were active in El Paso affairs. Both were workers in the First Baptist Church.

Served on School Board

Dr. Thompson served on the School Board. The town was rough and ready then, but Dr. and Mrs. Thompson never compromised with the forces of evil, as represented by gamblers and sporting characters.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Thompson lived for a while in Indiana but never gave up her little house at Mescalero, and eventually returned to the mountains. Part of the year she would spend with her niece, Mrs. Lucy LeMin, in El Paso. Her house was a museum of pictures and relics of the early days.

List of Survivors

During her last years Mrs. Thompson supervised the editing of her husband's memoirs, titled "Builders of El Paso."

Survivors include three nephews, Paul Blazer of Mescalero, Herbert Hedges of Ojai, Calif., and Noel Blazer of California, and three nieces, Mrs. Lou Goebel of Alamogordo, Mrs. Lucy LeMin of El Paso and Mrs. Paul Jette of Corpus Christ.

Harding and Orr is in charge of funeral arrangements.