

## AGUIRRE, Mrs. Mary E.

The sad intelligence was received yesterday morning of Mrs. Mary E. Aguirre's death at San Jose resulting from the injuries received by her in the wreck of a Southern Pacific train on the tenth, which was at that time noted in the Star as carrying Marshal Ben Daniels and a number of Chinese. The deceased was in a Pullman and received fatal internal injuries. As soon as word was received here of her misfortune, N. W. Bernard, her brother, left immediately for San Jose. He was near her bedside when she passed away....

Mrs. Aguirre was one of the pioneer women of New Mexico and Arizona, coming to Las Cruces on the Rio Grande in 1863 with her husband, Epifanio Aguirre, from Westport, Missouri, the place of her home. This was the year previous to the territorial organization of Arizona. Her husband was a native of New Mexico, where he was a large freighting contractor having done extensive freighting from the end of the railroad to Arizona and New Mexico. He was counted one of the brightest business men in the Southwest. The father of the deceased woman was connected with Aguirre in the business and in this way he became acquainted with his future bride.

In 1868 her husband returning from a visit to his brother Pedro in Altar, Sonora, was killed by the Apaches near Sasabi, 65 miles south of Tucson, leaving a wife and two sons Pedro and Stephen to mourn his loss. Mrs. Aguirre came to the Territory in 1864 and took charge of the public school at Tres Alamos on the San Pedro, thirty miles east of this city. She taught the first public school at that place. Owing to the frequency of the Apache raids on the San Pedro, her brother, N. W. Bernard, insisted on her coming to Tucson where she became one of the teachers of the schools here which had been in operation for four years. She proved to be one of the most efficient teachers for several years. Later she became one of the corps of teachers of the preparatory department of the University. She was there for several years as teacher of Spanish. She leaves two sons to survive her, Pedro and Steve Aguirre, and two brothers, N. W. Bernard and Allen C. Bernard. Pedro Aguirre, her brother-in-law, is one of the leading stock men of this county located at Buenor Ayres. His sister, Mrs. N. C. Samaneigo lives in this city. Steve Aguirre is in Chihuahua, Allen Bernard is in La Bheca, and Pedro Aguirre is in the city....

----Arizona Daily Star, May 25, 1906, 5:2

Not for many years has there been so large a funeral as that of Mrs. Mary Aguirre which took place yesterday afternoon.... Rev. H. B. Long of the Congregational church conducted the ceremonies. The pall bearers were John W. Bogan, George Pusch, Sidney R. De Long, E. N. Fish, Henry Drachman and Thomas Conlon....

----Arizona Daily Star, May 29, 1906, 5:2

AGUIRRE, Mary B.

Mrs. Mary B. Aguirre, of this city, one of the pioneer women of the Southwest, and one of the chief factors in the establishment of the excellent public school system in this city, died this morning at San Jose, Cal. At her bedside when she passed away was her brother, N. W. Bernard.

Death was due to injuries sustained in the wreck of a Southern Pacific train near San Jose on May 10. This was the train carrying the Chinese whom United States Marshal Daniels was taking to San Francisco for deportation.

Two sons, Pedro J. Aguirre, of Cerro Prieto, and Steve Aguirre, of Chihuahua, survive their mother. The husband and father was killed thirty six years ago at Sasabe in a battle with Apache Indians. Mrs. Aguirre was 62 years old and had resided in New Mexico and Arizona for forty three years.

An intimate friend of the Aguirre family was Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia. A telegram was sent to him at Washington this forenoon, informing him of Mrs. Aguirre's death. Senator Elkins came to the Southwest more than forty years ago with Mr. and Mrs. Aguirre. He located at Las Cruces, N. M., and practiced law there for a number of years.

No woman in the Southwest was better known than Mrs. Aguirre. She was a recognized authority on the history of New Mexico, Arizona and Sonora. She had traveled considerably and contributed mapapers on Southwestern history at meetings of the pioneers.

Mrs. Aguirre had not been in very good health for some time. Nevertheless, while she was rather delicate she was able to travel alone, and was enroute to San Jose to spend the summer when she sustained the injuries which caused her death.

In a letter to her son, Pedro, Mrs. Aguirre, describing the wreck, stated that she was in one of the Pullmans. The car left the track and turned over on its side. Mrs. Aguirre was hurled against a seat. As she fell, another woman fell on top of her. Mrs. Aguirre sustained internal injuries and her right arm was rendered useless.

As soon as it was learned that Mrs. Aguirre had been injured, her brother, N. W. Bernard, left for San Jose and was with his sister continually until the time of her death. In a letter to Pedro Aguirre, soon after the accident Mr. Bernard stated that Mrs. Aguirre's condition was very critical. San Jose physicians stated that she might live perhaps six months or a year, or she might pass away suddenly....

Pedro Aguirre intended to go to San Jose, but was advised not to, as it was feared his presence would have excited his mother. Mr. Aguirre was at the time in Sonora. He is connected with the Black Mountain Mining Company at Cerro Prieto and had just returned from Durango and Sinoloa, where he had been to procure laborers to work in the mines. He decided to come to Tucson and arrived here yesterday....

Messages were immediately sent to the other son, Steve Aguirre, who is with the Greene Gold-Silver Company in Chihuahua, and to Hon. A. C. Bernard, a brother....

It was in 1863 that Mrs. Aguirre first came to the Southwest. With her husband, Epifanio Aguirre, together with Stephen B. Elkins and Governor Goodwin, who established the Arizona Territorial government, she journeyed by stage from Westport, Mo., to Santa Fe. Louis Zeckendorf, who now resides in New York was also a member of the party.

Six years later Mr. and Mrs. Aguirre came to Arizona.

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The Apaches were committing depredations and killing ranchmen in the country then, and Mr. Aguirre was among the settlers who went out to fight them. In a battle at Sasabe he was killed by an Indian bullet.

Mrs. Aguirre was for a number of years a teacher in the public schools and also in the University. She took a great interest in the public school system and aided greatly in its establishment.

----Tucson Citizen, May 24, 1906, 5:3

.... Among the telegrams was one from Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia. The telegram is as follows: "We are shocked and deeply grieved over the sad news. Your mother was one of the best and noblest women in the world and the entire family have our affections and heartfelt sympathy. S. B. Elkins."

A telegram was also received from General Luis Torres, of Hermosillo. He, like other pioneers of Sonora, Arizona and New Mexico, knew Mrs. Aguirre very well.

----Tucson Citizen, May 25, 1906, 4:4