

J. T. Steele, Cooper County Teacher 53 Years Ago, Tells of Local Changes

J. T. Steele of Webb City, Mo., who was born two and one-half miles southwest of Boonville 80 years ago, and a brother of the late Charles E. Steele who died recently at Blackwater, spoke of many changes in Boonville and Cooper county as he stepped for a short time at the Daily News office last Friday.

Steele is a brother of John T. Steele and Mrs. Meggie Toler of West Boonville; Mrs. Georgia Rennisson, Boonville; Mrs. Frances Toler, Columbia; and William H. Steele, who resides on the Steele home place purchased 73 years ago.

He is one of Cooper's county's ~~eldest~~ school teachers, retiring in 1886, he became an undertaker at Pilot Grove and later moved to

California, then to Joplin. For the past 40 years he has resided in Webb City. He was among the first undertakers to become licensed in Cooper county, he said.

Steele was a "great chum" of Walter Williams, former dean of the School of Journalism and president of the University of Missouri. He said the late Walter Williams offered a prize to the school presenting the six best specimens of handwriting.

Washington school at which Steele was then the teacher won the prize—a dictionary worth \$12. "That dictionary," Steele said this morning "was worth more to the school than some libraries of today." He taught school at Washington, Concord and Crab Orchard.

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Mrs. Mary Stephens Dies at 82 Years

KANSAS CITY — Mrs. Mary French Stephens, 82 years old, died at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at the home of a son, Clinton F. Stephens, 3520 Bales avenue, Kansas City, after a long illness.

Funeral services were held at 4 o'clock Thursday at the Forster chapel; burial in Elmwood cemetery.

The daughter of Martha and John R. French, member of a pioneer Cooper County family, Mrs. Stephens had lived in Missouri all her life. Her mother Martha J. French, was a member of the Reavis family, which was prominent in early Missouri history.

Mrs. Stephens was the widow of Joseph F. Stephens, a druggist at Bunceton, Mo., many years. Mr. Stephens died about 15 years ago. She was a sister of the late Mrs. Adelia Delora French Nelson, widow of Wyan Nelson, grain man, who died in October, 1937.

Her four brothers, Clinton French, Joseph French, Andrew French and A. G. French, all now deceased, were members of the Board of Trade and active grain men here.

Mrs. Stephens had been a resident of Independence 30 years, before she moved to the home of a son. She had been ill the last six years.

Mrs. Stephens is survived also by another son, A. J. Stephens, 2617 Linwood boulevard; six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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Funeral Services for Mrs. Renfrow

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the Highland Presbyterian Church for Mrs. J. P. Renfrow. Mrs. Renfrow died Monday morning in Boonville following an operation for cancer of the stomach.

She is survived by her husband; two daughters, Mrs. Bogue of Independence, Mo., and Mrs. Pennington of Kansas City; two sons, Jimmy Renfrow of Independence and Alex Renfrow of Kansas City.

The Rev. Mr. Ricketts of Prairie Home conducted the services. Albert Hornbeck of Prairie Home had charge of the funeral. Burial was in the Clayton cemetery.