

Mary P. MacMillan

(10 Jul 1846 – 16 Aug 1948)

Macmillan, Mary Parks. On Monday, August 16, 1948 at her residence, 207 A st. n.e., Mary Parks Macmillan, beloved mother of Miss Julia T. Macmillan. Friends may call at the Lee Funeral Home, 4th st. and Mass. Ave. n.e., where services will be held on Thursday, August 19, at 11 a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery. Please omit flowers.

The Evening Star, August 17, 1948. p. A14

Mrs. Mary Macmillan Dies at 102; Recalled Life in the Old West

Mrs. Mary Parks Macmillan, a centenarian who recalled her life as a bride in the Old West, died yesterday at her home, 207 A street N.E. She was 102.

Mrs. Macmillan was the widow of Flavius Macmillan, former Middle Western newspaper publisher, who died more than 45 years ago. She lived here with a daughter, Miss Julia T. Macmillan, retired instructor of premedical zoology at George Washington University.

Was Newspaperwoman

A newspaperwoman during the 1870s, Mrs. Macmillan helped her husband in publishing newspapers in Kansas and Nebraska. Mr. Macmillan's first paper was the News of Republican, Nebr. Mrs. Macmillan's daughter said it was widely quoted in the East. Mrs. Macmillan worked as a copyreader, proofreader and typesetter.

She was born July 10, 1846, in Summit Township, Wis., and was a granddaughter of Maj. Warham Parks, a Revolutionary War officer.

She went west to visit a sister in Kansas in 18872, making part of the trip by stagecoach, her daughter said. She met her future husband in Crocker City, Kansas and they were married there.

Slept on Buffalo Hides

As a bride, she often recalled, her experiences including using for blankets the hides of buffalo "men folk" of the villages used to kill in great numbers on the prairies.

Mrs. Macmillan's recollection of the great grasshopper swarm of the late 1800s remained vivid until very recently, her daughter said. She frequently described how the insects even came into her home to eat her curtains because they were green.

Indian disturbances, prairie fires and other incidents of her pioneer life often were topics of her mother.