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Descendant Of Wyandot Tribe Dies

(Transcriptions are presented without changes except to improve readability.)

Miss Helena (Lena) Gros Conley, 94, of 1704 N. 3rd, one of the last surviving direct descendents here of the Wyandot Indian tribe which came here from Ohio in 1843, died last night at her home.

It is believed she suffered a heart attack.

One-sixteenth Wyandot, Miss Conley was a great-great-granddaughter of Chief Tarhe, a Wyandot and distinguished head of that tribe and the Huron confederacy.

She was a sister of the late Miss Lida [Lyda] Burton Conley, first Indian woman lawyer admitted to practice law before the Kansas State bar and the Federal supreme court. She died May 28, 1946.

Helena Conley was born Sept. 10, 1864, on a farm near the old Nearman station in suburban Wyandotte county. She was the third of four children, all girls, of the late Eliza Burton Zane and Andrew Serenes Conley.

The father, who died Nov. 23, 1885, was born in New York. His wife, who died July 9, 1879, was born in Ohio. The couple was married in Cincinnati and came here in the early 1840s.

The mother was a member of the Wyandot Indian tribe which came here from Zanesfield, Ohio. The Wyandots bought land from the Delaware Indians and later the direct descendents were assigned their holdings in the Wyandot land by the federal government.

Eliza Burton Zane was 17 when she received her 65-acre land grant and it comprised a farm where her four daughters were born. That farm later was "taken by the river" as the Missouri river eroded farm land on its south bank. For that reason the four sisters abandoned their residence on the farm about 1890.

They moved into Kansas City, Kansas to live in a home formerly owned by Miss Sarah Zane, an aunt, who willed them her property at 1712 N. 3rd. It originally was part of Sarah Zane's Wyandot land grant.

Helena Conley attended school at district No. 18 in rural Wyandotte county and later attended Park College, Parkville, Mo. To get to Park college she had to row across the Missouri river in the family rowboat each day.

At one time Helena went to the Wyandot Indian reservation in Oklahoma where she was an instructor and served as a matron for girls. As a young woman at Nearman she attended Six Mile Methodist Church and was secretary of the Sunday School. She later was a member of the Seventh Streeth Methodist Church.