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Miss Freeman lived in the large house beside Grozier Park - See preceding page

- January 13, 1962 -

Miss Phebe Freeman Dies At 96; Taught School Here For Forty-six Years

Funeral services for Miss Phebe Elizabeth Freeman were conducted yesterday afternoon at the Provincetown Methodist Church by the Rev. Gilman L. Lane, pastor, followed by interment in Provincetown Cemetery. Miss Freeman, who was 96, died on January 13 in Chappaqua, N. Y., where she resided with her niece, Mrs. John Callahan of 23 Orchard Ridge Road. Miss Freeman had taught at Provincetown High School for 46 years, a record believed without equal on Cape Cod.

Born in San Francisco on August 20, 1865, Miss Freeman was a daughter of Calvin and Elizabeth Moqre Freeman. When her father, a sea captain from Sandwich, died, her mother returned to Provincetown with Miss Freeman, then 9, and two other children. Mrs. Freeman who was also in ill health, died shortly after her return East and the children went to live with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Adams. Mr. Adams served as a Provincetown Selectman for 25 years and was one of the men instrumental in building the Town Hall.

Miss Freeman attended school here and later graduated from Salem Normal School, after which she began the teaching career which was to continue until her retirement in 1934. At that time she was honored at a dinner and party at which she was presented with a gift of money, a candelabrum and by the Provincetown Alumni Association with a framed resolution. Miss Freeman had also served as a president of the Barnstable County Teachers Association and during her years of teaching continued her own education with many supplemental courses, including study in Europe.

There is hardly a family in Provincetown that does not have someone who was taught by Miss Phebe Freeman.

For 46 years, from 1888 until her retirement in 1934, Miss Freeman taught at Provincetown High School. Mostly she taught languages; French and German and Latin, but there was really no subject she could not teach and in the early years of her career, when teaching was less specialized, she taught everything. Teaching was her whole life and she devoted herself unselfishly to her pupils.

An old friend remembers her as a "thoroughly good woman, whom everyone loved, who thought of everyone but herself." Miss Freeman was also described as an understanding person, who exuded confidence and who helped everyone.

Completely self-reliant and capable, Miss Freeman ran a guest house at 165 Commercial Street until she was 90, caring for everything herself, including climbing ladders to replace light bulbs and painting the porch. In her 90th year, Miss Freeman was injured in an auto accident, and was hospitalized for three months. Unfazed by her experience she learned to walk all over again and it was only since last September that her health began to fail. She was an avid reader and in the last few years an equally avid fan of professional basketball, rooting for her favorite team, the New York Knickerbockers, whose games she would watch on television. Miss Freeman was also a proficient painter in oils.

A life-long member of the Methodist Church, Miss Freeman had been a great worker for the old Centenary Church and had also been superintendent of the Sunday School there for many years.

She was a direct Mayflower descendant of Edmund Freeman, a lieutenant governor of the Plymouth Colony and served for many years as secretary of the Pilgrim Memorial Association. She also was one of the early members of the Research Club which founded the Historical Museum.

Surviving in addition to Mrs. Callahan are several other nieces and nephews.