

Section: Mahaffie family; Mahaffie operations within Western Trails

Application: the only direct reference found thus far, to stagecoach operations at Mahaffie in newspaper of the time and place – use to illustrate operation at Mahaffie as well as perils faced by drivers.

Source: Olathe Mirror
20th century newspaper account from Frank or William has more details on this story including name of driver

Olathe Mirror
Thursday, October 11 1866
page 3, column 3

A very serious accident occurred on last Saturday night at Mahaffie's tavern, as the stage was starting out.

The driver alighting, was in the act of putting down one of the curtains when the horses became frightened, started for the gate leading from the yard. The driver in attempting to stop them was suddenly thrown against the gate post, the stage, running over him, breaking one thigh, and one arm, and injuring him to such an extent that he has since died. None of the passengers were hurt.

- 1.) What do you think the newspaper's purpose was in reporting this incident?
- 2.) Do you think this was a common occurrence? Why or why not?