

A TRIPLE TRAGEDY FOR THE OLSEN FAMILY

Safford's initial burial place, one of early 1870s vintage, was located at the present southeast corner of 7th and 2nd Avenue. The next Safford burial grounds were near the northern base of the present Safford Cemetery where evidence of some 20 graves may be found including that of Gus Branch which is marked by a marble stone. This worthy pioneer left green Arkansas in 1877 with other LDS converts for the brown and dusty West.

It was on a rainy and dreary Jun 1884 day however, in this second Safford cemetery that Charles Olsen prepared to dig a grave for his beloved daughter, Rosa, who suddenly died of Typhoid fever or perhaps malaria. But on observing water running into sunken graves, the **lone star area pioneer** reached a decision to inter his loved one on the hill overlooking the base burial place. He tenderly laid to rest his daughter in the area now known as the Safford cemetery.

The devoted and downcast father left his daughter's grave with tears mingling with dust and slowly wended his way to his home and family. He and his wife, Eveline, had no intimation whatsoever that a torrent of tragedy was to again engulf the Olsen family by striking down two other daughters: Logene and Louise, with the illness similar to the one which cost Rosa her life.

Called to the bedside of the fevered girls was early Safford doctor J B Grossbeck and his assistant, Berryman Quinn, who for many the year, carefully weighed quinine and calumet on delicate scales for the benefit of the sick. But their administrations and efforts towards helping the stricken sisters were in vain with Logene passing away 34 days after Rosa's

departure and Louise dying only one day and a few hours after Logene had succumbed to the deadly illness. So once again a father nearly frantic with grief journeyed to the hilltop cemetery and in a common grave laid to rest daughters Logene and Louise alongside their sister Rosa.

Little did the Olsen family know land records indicated the land which the present Safford cemetery occupies was probated in 1880 to W.D. Jefferson. Later in 1897 this cemetery land was acquired by the territory of Arizona.



Attached is a photo of the Charles C Olson Cemetery Plot as it appears today in the present

day cemetery. Buried in this plot are the remains of Rosa, aged 18, Logene aged 20 and Louise aged 16. Rosa was the first person buried in the present day Safford Cemetery.



Charles C Olsen Cemetery Plot

This article was submitted by the great granddaughter of Charles C and Eveline Olsen: Jennie Lou Olsen Woolsey