

CYRUS OLMSTEAD

Cyrus Olmstead obtained his given name legitimately, he being named for his uncle Cyrus Almeron Olmstead, born at Nichabotry, Iowa, 16 January, 1850, an older brother of Daniel Philip Olmstead II.

He married Elvira Seamons 11 January 1918, and by her has one son living (1987) who is the last of the male line of this branch of the Olmstead family, Daniel LeRoy Olmstead, currently residing in Utah with his wife Mildred.

Some photographs of "Uncle Cy" are scattered about. A poor copy of one appears here:



A better picture, taken when he was a boy, appears here, he being the boy standing behind his father Daniel Philip Olmstead.

Cyrus..... >



Cyrus was perapatetic, hard to settle down in one place, and traveling widely. He is remembered as a cowboy, riding his horse from Blackfoot to Idaho Falls to see his sister Mary Elizabeth. He is remembered as a miner in Arizona, and a letter exists written by his Father to preprimand him and admonish him to return to take care of his wife and small children. In that duty he failed, and never knew his children in their grown-up lives. Indeed his son Daniel LeRoy actively sought his father, and participated in the finding of his grave and placement of the marker on it.

THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF THE MISSING CHILD
OF DANIEL PHILIP AND MARY JANE OLMSTEAD

Many years ago, while his mother was yet living, the sixth child of this couple disappeared, and remained unlocated during the rest of his life. A strong effort was made during the lifetime of his sister Mary Elizabeth Olmstead Crowley, who was much concerned about him, to locate him or some information concerning his fate.

Nothing having been found, the task of finding him was committed to Ariel L. Crowley, son of Mary Elizabeth Olmstead, and after years of searching in which Daniel Leroy Olmstead, son, participated vigorously, the history of Cyrus Olmstead was at least partially revealed.

It is known that he lived for a time in Washington or Oregon. The United States refused to furnish any information about him in either place, and his life there remains unknown.

He removed to Yerington, Nevada, where traces were found in the memories of elderly people, sought out by the County Sheriff.

Here we begin to find something about him. Having been divorced by his first wife Elvira Seamons long before, he met and married a widow Louis Elizabeth Smith, and removed to Chloride, Arizona, where he became an employee of a copper mining company, working underground in lands nearby. In this labor he was known as "Blackie" Olmstead.

He continued there, and is well remembered by elderly people still (1987) living at Chloride. He took sick and died in the county hospital at Kingman 28 January 1974. His widow survived him and finally died also at the Kingman Hospital 13 April 1977.

Shortly before he took sick with his final illness, the home of Cyrus and his second wife, at Chloride was totally destroyed by fire in their absence. It was a humble house, and contained everything they owned. Kindly neighbors in the area rendered gracious assistance, and they managed to get by for a time, but it appears certain the deaths of Cyrus and his wife were expedited by this tragic loss. They were both buried in unmarked graves in the village cemetery at Chloride, at public expense, and their hospital bills were paid by the county. No relatives attended the services for Cyrus, but it is believed that a daughter of his wife by her first husband, from Fallon, Nevada, did attend the burial of her mother. All efforts to obtain information from the daughter have remained unsuccessful.

The graves being unmarked, it was at first uncertain exactly where the burial occurred, as many graves are unmarked in the Chloride Cemetery. However, by very good fortune, the man who dug the graves of Cyrus and his wife, and supervised interment, was yet living. His name is Gus Uhlenkott, of Chloride, and by avocation he is a maker of concrete items. He agreed to and did, make a suitable marker for the graves of Cyrus and his wife, and the same was installed by him at the instance of Ariel L. Crowley, Daniel Leroy Olmstead participating in the cost.

Set forth here is a photograph of the marker in place, as it stands in the Chloride Cemetery.

There were no children of the second marriage of Cyrus.

So endeth the tale of the missing son, and the reasons for his disappearance and failure to communicate with his family for so many years remain a mystery.



The marker was installed in March, 1973.