

**Emma Burrows French**, born around 1885, and was a member of the Mohave tribe. On August 7, 1907, she married William French, a Salt River Maricopa who had been a student at Phoenix Indian School. The Frenches' first daughter was born July 22, 1908, but died ten months later of whooping cough and pneumonia. On December 4, 1909, Emma gave birth to a boy. However, he too died on April 13, 1911, of tuberculosis. By then, Emma herself was in the last stages of pulmonary tuberculosis. She died at Fort McDowell on May 14 and was buried, presumably near her children, in Rosedale Cemetery. **Cenotaph Garden.**



**26) Sotela Bracamonte** was born 1863 in Mexico to Juan Bracamonte and Jesus Celaya. The family later moved to Arizona. At the age of 17, Sotela became the fourth wife of Frederick Balsz, a prosperous butcher and land owner. At the time of their marriage (1879), he was 48 and had children older than his new wife. Sotela bore him 10 more.

The family donated land for a school so their children could receive an education. The Balsz School District is still well known in Phoenix.

Sotela was 36 years old when she died from heart disease on February 8, 1899. Her obituary found in the Spanish language newspaper "El Ocasional" described her as a "loving mother and model wife." Although Sotela's burial is unmarked, the family has an impressive monument in the **IOOF Cemetery B2 L1.**



**27) Anna Nelson Hanson** was born about 1867 in Sweden. How she came to the United States is not known, but she was living in Montana, when she married Hans J. Hanson, a carpenter, on August 6, 1898. The Hansons then moved to Phoenix, where their three daughters were born. Something seems to have gone wrong with the last birth in 1906. Anna, aged 40, suffered a cerebral embolism, which led to a stroke and paralysis. She died three weeks later, on November 8. **Buried in IOOF B7 L1 G5**

**Pioneer & Military Memorial Park**  
1317 W. Jefferson Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Check our website for additional  
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**Pioneers' Cemetery Association**  
P.O. Box 33192, Phoenix, AZ 85067  
[www.azhistcemeteries.org](http://www.azhistcemeteries.org)  
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# *Women and Children of Diverse Cultures at Pioneer & Military Memorial Park*



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**Arizona's written history has largely overlooked the role of the pioneer woman — even more so, the ethnic woman. Yet women contributed immeasurably to the settling of the Arizona Territory and Phoenix in particular. They persevered through great hardships and loss of children to create the society we see around us today. Here's to Arizona's pioneer women!**



**21) Antonia Martinez** was born September 28, 1884 in Arizona. Her parents, Apolonio Martinez and Rosaria Leon, were well-known farmers who owned property around Phoenix. When Antonia became the wife of Gilbert Blanco on November 11, 1905, she retained her maiden name. As was the tradition among the early Mexican population, she simply added “de Blanco,” to denote her new status as a married woman. Antonia died from pneumonia on November 9, 1906. There are no known children. **Buried in Rosedale G72**

**22) Magdalena Mendivil Donnelly** (cover) was born in Sonora, Mexico between 1832 and 1839. She and her three brothers moved north to Yuma around 1857, where she and George Kippen had three children beginning in 1860. Two of the children died as infants. Whether she and George were actually married is not clear, as he is known to have had a wife back East. George died in 1868 at Camp McDowell and was buried in the cemetery there, where his grave marker can still be seen.

Magdalena married wagon master Frank

Donnelly in 1871 and, while living in Yuma, they had three daughters. Frank, a veteran of the Civil War, eventually entered the Old Soldiers' Home at Sawtelle. He died in 1894 and is buried at the National Cemetery in Los Angeles.

Magdalena went to live with her son, John Kippen in Pinal County, where they operated a travelers' rest station. She died in Phoenix of pneumonia on February 11, 1905. **Buried in Rosedale North.**

**23) Harold and Theodore Holland** were the *second* set of twins born to Chinese parents Joseph and Yit Sen (Isabella) Holland. From the beginning, the health of the newborns was precarious. Theodore was three weeks old when he died of gastroenteritis on December 18, 1901. His brother Harold died May 10, 1902, of marasmus.



Gastroenteritis is infectious diarrhea and causes severe dehydration. The modern term for marasmus is “failure to thrive.” At the time the twins were born, the only options for feeding infants was mother's or cow's milk. Without electricity or refrigeration, food often spoiled. **Buried in Rosedale North.**

**24) Lillie Cook**, born 1880, was one of at least ten children born to Belt Cook and his wife Rebecca Hall. Belt Cook, a light-colored African American barber, moved his large family from Maryland to boomtowns in Nevada and California before they finally settled down in Phoenix. Lillie very likely had a decent education, but she didn't live long enough to marry. She died on April 28, 1902 of cerebral congestion, a catch-all

diagnosis that may have referred to a brain aneurysm or stroke. She was buried near other members of her family. There is no grave marker. **Buried in Rosedale North.**



**25) Daisy Ray Green**, daughter of Moses Green and Callie Williams, was born in Phoenix on February 11, 1894 and died June 25, 1902 of acute nephritis (kidney infection). Her obituary stated “she was a bright little child and was one of the first colored children born in Phoenix.” Actually, Daisy Ray's father Moses, born 1870, is believed to have been *the* first African American child born in Phoenix. Moses' mother, Mary Green, was born into slavery in Louisiana. After the Civil War, Mary worked in the Columbus Gray household as a domestic. **Buried in Rosedale North.**

**Rosa Santa Cruz O'Meara**, born 1876, was the daughter of a blacksmith who worked in mining camps throughout Arizona. Rosa married Edward O'Meara in 1899 and the couple had two children. However, when Edward became ill and had to be hospitalized, Rosa found work in Winkelman in order to support her children. While hanging clothes inside her small shack on July 31, 1909, she was accidentally caught in the crossfire of a fight between two men. Shots were fired and one bullet struck Rosa, killing her instantly. Rosa's sister had her body brought back to Phoenix for burial in Loosley Cemetery in an unknown location. **Cenotaph Garden.**