

# George V. Griggs, Known As Count Of La Mesilla, Dies

## Well Known Pioneer To Be Buried Friday In Family Plot.

(Special to The Times)

Las Cruces, N. M., Nov. 2.—Another interesting and productive career, that of George V. Griggs who for many years had been known as "The Count of Old Mesilla," ended in a hospital here today.

Mr. Griggs died following an illness of several weeks. He was 78.

A lover of good music and good books, the Count early in his life became interested in the history of his home, La Mesilla, one of the first seats of government in the Southwest.

As a result of that interest he began the collection of many Southwestern relics which later he assembled and placed in a museum building in La Mesilla. He also wrote two books, "The History of the Mesilla Valley" and "Mines of Chihuahua."

### Features Billy The Kid.

Featured in his museum collections were relics of Billy the Kid's life and escapades, furniture supposed to have been used by Empress Carlota and Maximilian during their reign in Mexico, rare old books and musical scores, and old weapons and other articles brought to the Southwest by the earliest settlers.

His trim-cut Van Dyke beard and high white collar and his manner of wearing his clothes brought him the title of the "Count of Old Mesilla" from his Mesilla and Las Cruces friends.

He owned the famous Corn Exchange Hotel building at Mesilla.

### A Mexican Governor.

Mr. Griggs was reported to have been the first Anglo child born in Las Cruces. Although he was an American citizen, he had the distinction of having been governor of Lower California, Mexico.

Because of his love for fine music Mr. Griggs seldom missed a Symphony Orchestra concert in El Paso.

The "Count" will be buried in the family plot in the old Mesilla Cemetery following funeral services at 9 a. m. Friday in St. Albion's Catholic Church at Mesilla.

He is survived by two brothers, Alfred and Gustave, who are expected to inherit his valuable collection of antiques and relics and the old building in which they are housed. The building once was a part of the old Mesilla capitol when the town was capital of Arizona.