

Benjamin Franklin “Frank” Dewey Jr

Benjamin Franklin “Frank” Dewey was born 14 February 1856 in San Bernardino, California. He was the oldest of six children of Benjamin Franklin Dewey and Susan Elzira Smithson. His father had been called to colonize San Bernardino in 1855, and met his mother there. The family was living in Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, in 1860.¹ His father was a carpenter for the Salt Lake Temple. His parents divorced; his father remarried in 1869 and had two more children.

Frank’s mother remarried in 1875 in Bullionville, Lincoln, Nevada and had one more child, and his sister married the next year. It is not known if Frank was in the area also. In 1880, he was a quartz mill worker in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. His mother and two of his young step-brothers were also in Silver Reef, living in the home of his sister and her husband and two children.² His brother-in-law Evan Crane was the superintendent of the Leeds Mining Company.³

Frank married Maude Jeanette Hoskins on 8 May 1900 in Burbank, Los Angeles, California. Frank was 40 years old and Maude was 19.⁴ They took a wedding trip to Santa Barbara and returned to live with Maude’s widowed mother, next door to his mother’s home. Frank was a gold miner⁵, and his mother-in-law asked him why he didn’t set up an establishment of his own. He refused to answer, left the house in a huff, and went to his mother’s house to live. Maude continued to “visit” her mother. They had one son and were divorced in 1909. Maude was allowed \$15 a month to support their son.⁶

On the 1910 census, Frank was a teamster, still living in Burbank.⁷ Maude had remarried⁸ and had three more children. She divorced the second husband and was living with their son Alger in Burbank in 1920. She then married a third time.⁹ She died in 1944 in Burbank¹⁰ and was buried in the Grand View Memorial Park in Glendale.¹¹

Frank died 29 January 1929 in Burbank and was buried next to his son in the Grand View Memorial Park.

¹ United States Census, 1860.

² United States Census, 1880.

³ *Silver, Sinners and Saints*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 171.

⁴ California, County Marriages, 1850-1952.

⁵ United States Census, 1900.

⁶ Los Angeles Times, 11 June 1909, p. 18.

⁷ United States Census, 1910.

⁸ California, County Marriages, 1850-1952.

⁹ United States Census, 1900.

¹⁰ California Death Index, 1940-1997.

¹¹ *Findagrave.com*



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Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, 2017
Please email eyoung@youngzones.org for additions and corrections