

Fritz and Bertha Adolphy

Fritz Adolphy was born July 1815 in Prussia (now Germany).¹ He descended from a noble Russian family and spoke many languages.² He immigrated to American about 1840³ and was naturalized as a citizen in May 1854 in Missouri.⁴ He owned a beer garden in St. Louis which became famous. He employed 90 female barkeepers, and the city fathers didn't approve of the practice. They passed an ordinance preventing women from serving beer. Fritz consulted a lawyer who discovered a flaw in the law – daughters were exempt. Fritz called all his waitresses together and took them to the Orphans' Court, where he adopted all 90 of them as his daughters. They served their foster father for many years at a good profit. The range of their nationalities was broad.⁵

By 1852, Fritz was living in Sacramento, California.⁶ Fritz was a soldier and joined the northern forces.⁷ In 1868, he was living in Omaha, Nebraska.⁸ He operated a shooting gallery in Alta, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, in 1872. His night watchman was shot by Bill Haws, a former mine foreman. More shots were exchanged, and Haws was killed.⁹ Fritz lived in Alta and operated a hotel and restaurant in Salt Lake City in 1874.¹⁰

In 1879, Louis Marier of Salt Lake City sold Fritz a lot on Main Street in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.¹¹ On the 1880 census, he was a miner, living with his wife Bertha in Silver Reef.¹² He sold his lot on Main Street to Julius Sultan for \$150 on 18 September 1880.¹³ Fritz and Bertha did not have a peaceful relationship. They often got drunk and then fought until both were sober.¹⁴ Bertha committed suicide in her home in Silver Reef about 3 o'clock in the morning. She was found in her night dress, lying in a pool of blood, a revolver close by. She had been despondent and under the influence of liquor.¹⁵

Fritz quickly moved to Tombstone, Cochise, Arizona Territory.¹⁶ He was registered as a voter in Graham, Arizona Territory, until his death.¹⁷ In 1885, he owned a beer garden, restaurant, and shooting gallery in Clifton, Graham, Arizona Territory. His brewery was "the wonder of the mining camp".¹⁸ Clifton was a copper mining town. In 1889, Fritz's Mountain Brewery also advertised fine singing canary birds, bird seed and bird cages for sale. He improved his hennery and raised pure

¹ United States Census, 1900.

² Coconino Sun, 12 September 1903, p. 2.

³ United States Census, 1900.

⁴ Arizona Voter Registrations, 1866-1955.

⁵ Salt Lake Tribune, 28 August 1903, p. 3; Ogden Standard, 28 August 1903, p. 7; St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 3 August 1903, p. 19; 22 August 1903, p. 2; McFall Weekly Mirror, 18 September 1903, p. 2; Coconino Sun, 12 September 1903, p. 2; Salt Lake Telegram, 28 August 1903, p. 10.

⁶ California State Census, 1852.

⁷ Coconino Sun, 12 September 1903, p. 2.

⁸ US City Directories, 1822-1995.

⁹ The Pioche Record, 10 November 1872, p. 2; Salt Lake Telegram, 28 August 1903, p. 10.

¹⁰ US City Directories, 1822-1995; Salt Lake Tribune, 26 July 1875, p. 1; Salt Lake Herald, 1 March 1882, p. 8.

¹¹ Washington County Records, Book S pp. 10-11.

¹² United States Census, 1880.

¹³ Washington County Records, Book S, pp. 9-10, Historical Document DOC2976558454.

¹⁴ Salt Lake Telegram, 28 August 1903, p. 10.

¹⁵ Salt Lake Herald, 1 March 1882, p. 8.

¹⁶ Arizona Territorial Census Records, 1864-1882.

¹⁷ Arizona Voter Registrations, 1866-1955.

¹⁸ Clifton Clarion, 9 September 1885, p. 3; Coconino Sun, 12 September 1903, p. 2.

bred fowls in fancy breeds.¹⁹ In 1891 the town was flooded (a frequent event) and he almost lost his brewery. In 1899, he almost lost the brewery to a fire.²⁰

On the 1900 census, he was listed as a saloon keeper, living in Clifton.²¹ He fell ill and was under the care of Dr. Davis in nearby Morenci.²² He died 25 August 1903 in Clifton, at age 88.²³ He had lived long enough in Clifton to be considered an old resident, and during his funeral all the businesses and gambling resorts closed.²⁴ He was buried in the Clifton Cemetery.²⁵

¹⁹ Clifton Clarion, 12 June 1889 through 28 August 1889, p. 3.

²⁰ Arizona Weekly Citizen, 7 March 1891, p. 3; Copper Era and Morenci Leader, 14 December 1899, p. 6.

²¹ United States Census, 1900.

²² Copper Era and Morenci Leader, 31 May 1900, p. 6.

²³ Arizona Wills and Probate Records, 1803-1995.

²⁴ Salt Lake Tribune, 28 August 1903, p. 3; St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 3 August 1903, p. 19; McFall Weekly Mirror, 18 September 1903, p. 2.

²⁵ *Findagrave.com*

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(Image from *The Clifton Clarion*, 21 August 1889, p. 3)



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)

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