

# Herman E Freudenthal

Herman E Freudenthal was born 28 February 1862 in San Juan, Sacramento, California.<sup>1</sup> He was the fourth of five children of Henry Freudenthal and Louisa Hurst, a Jewish<sup>2</sup> family from Germany. The family moved to Virginia City, Storey, Nevada in 1864, to Meadow Lake in 1866, to Reno in 1868, later in 1868 to White Pine County, Nevada, and then to Pioche, Lincoln, Nevada, in 1871. He attended the public schools of these various places until he was thirteen years old, and then began assisting his father in the bakery and restaurant.<sup>3</sup> He lived in Lincoln, Nevada in 1875.<sup>4</sup>

By 1880, he was a store clerk, living in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.<sup>5</sup> He worked with his aunt, Mrs. Margaret Grambs, at the Cosmopolitan Restaurant. He worked for a year in construction work for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. He returned to Pioche in 1883, working at the Record Office and learning the art of printing. In 1890, he was elected county assessor of Lincoln county.<sup>6</sup> He was granted a leave of absence in 1891<sup>7</sup>, but held that office for ten years, four of which he was also county sheriff.<sup>8</sup> In 1894, he was awarded the contract for public-land surveys within the Uinta Indian Reservation.<sup>9</sup> In 1896, he was appointed by the Nevada Commission to take charge of the Nevada mineral exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition.<sup>10</sup>

In 1897, a veterinary surgeon named Engelke and his driver “Canadian Joe” Edmiston stopped at Pahrump, Nevada, on their way north. They were joined John Hancock, Mrs. Winnifred Myers, and her young son. On the third day out, Hancock proposed to Myers that they kill Engelke and Edmiston for their money. That night Hancock struck the men on the head with an axe and shot them with a pistol. The bodies were hauled away and piled with rocks. The murderers burned their own wagon, soiled their clothes, threw away the doctor’s medical equipment, and rode to Utah. Hancock was arrested for burglary in Los Angeles two years later. Myers confessed her part in the murder and sent Sheriff Freudenthal of Lincoln County a map to the bodies. Hancock served eight years in San Quentin, then was brought to Pioche by deputy sheriff Freudenthal, and sentenced and hanged for the murders.<sup>11</sup>

Herman married Annie E. Harville Jolley in 1896 in Pioche. They had no children. On the 1900 census, he was the Lincoln County assessor, living with his wife and sister-in-law (and next door to his brother) in Pioche, Lincoln, Nevada.<sup>12</sup> He resigned as county assessor, with two more years to fill, because of his election as state senator in that year.<sup>13</sup> He served as an Independent member of the Nevada State Senate until 1904.<sup>14</sup> He proposed a bill to refund the county bonds to save \$325,000, but it was defeated because “any bill that would save the county that much money must have a steal

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<sup>1</sup> A History of the State of Nevada: Its Resources and People, by Thomas Wren, 1904, pp. 446.

<sup>2</sup> Jews in Nevada: A History, by John P. Marschall, 2008, p. 145.

<sup>3</sup> A History of the State of Nevada: Its Resources and People, by Thomas Wren, 1904, pp. 446-7.

<sup>4</sup> Nevada State Census, 1875.

<sup>5</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>6</sup> A History of the State of Nevada: Its Resources and People, by Thomas Wren, 1904, pp. 446-7.

<sup>7</sup> The Journal of the Senate, 1891, pp. 18, 40, 51.

<sup>8</sup> A History of the State of Nevada: Its Resources and People, by Thomas Wren, 1904, pp. 446-7.

<sup>9</sup> Annual Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office to the Secretary of the Interior, 1904, p. 410.

<sup>10</sup> A History of the State of Nevada: Its Resources and People, by Thomas Wren, 1904, pp. 446-7.

<sup>11</sup> The History of Nevada, Vol 2, 1918, p. 946.

<sup>12</sup> United States Census, 1900; U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995.

<sup>13</sup> A History of the State of Nevada: Its Resources and People, by Thomas Wren, 1904, pp. 446-7.

<sup>14</sup> Nevada Legislature, Nevada Legislators, 1861-Current.

in it somewhere". He also aided in incorporating most of the old Pioche mines under the name of the Manhattan Mining Company, which later became the Nevada-Utah M&S Corporation.<sup>15</sup>

During this time, he also worked as the right-of-way agent for the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad in Nevada, and as the manager of the *Lincoln County Record* newspaper. He resigned from the newspaper to take up other interests.<sup>16</sup> For the next seven years, he was an employee of the Nevada-Utah Mines and Smelters Corporation.<sup>17</sup> He affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and was a charter member of Pioche Lodge and is a member of De Lamar Lodge.<sup>18</sup> In 1908, he compiled a map of Lincoln County, Nevada, from official surveys. It showed relief, range and township, towns, railroads, proposed railroads, wagon roads and springs.<sup>19</sup>

On the 1910 census, he was a mining accountant, living with his wife (and next door to his brother) in Pioche, Lincoln, Nevada.<sup>20</sup> When a bill passed to outlaw gambling, then the next legislature succumbed to pressure from gamblers, former senator Herman wrote that changes in the law were a "return to formal disgraceful condition in this State".<sup>21</sup> In 1911, he was involved with the Caliente Pioche Railroad Company.<sup>22</sup> Annie died in 1915 in Los Angeles<sup>23</sup> and was buried there.

Herman was listed as a notary public in 1916<sup>24</sup> and was a member of the American Protective League in Pioche. The League was founded in 1917 as an organization of private citizens who worked with federal law enforcement agencies during World War I to identify suspected German sympathizers.<sup>25</sup> In 1920, Herman was an accountant, living with two nephews and three female cousins in Pioche, Lincoln, Nevada.<sup>26</sup>

Herman died of acute heart disease on 18 January 1926 in Pioche, Nevada, and was buried in Los Angeles, California.<sup>27</sup> During his life, he was connected with many of the most important interests of the city of Pioche and of Lincoln County, Nevada. He was a businessman, a journalist, public official, and legislator. "He is genial and whole-souled, with the happy faculty of winning friends, and his popularity is shown by the fact that he has again and again held office in a community whose political complexion is the opposite of his own" (he was a Republican).<sup>28</sup> In the Pioche Historical Museum, there are wonderful large portraits of Herman and Annie.

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<sup>15</sup> The History of Nevada, Vol 2, 1918, p. 947.

<sup>16</sup> A History of the State of Nevada: Its Resources and People, by Thomas Wren, 1904, pp. 446-7.

<sup>17</sup> Nevada-Utah Mines and Smelters Corporation records, 1905-1912.

<sup>18</sup> A History of the State of Nevada: Its Resources and People, by Thomas Wren, 1904, pp. 446-7.

<sup>19</sup> [digital.library.unlv.edu](http://digital.library.unlv.edu)

<sup>20</sup> United States Census, 1910.

<sup>21</sup> Jews in Nevada: A History, by John P. Marschall, 2008, p. 145.

<sup>22</sup> Appendix to Journals of Senate and Assembly, Vol 1, 1913, p. 13.

<sup>23</sup> California Death Index, 1904-1939.

<sup>24</sup> *Pioche Record*, 19 February 1916, p. 2).

<sup>25</sup> *Wikipedia*: American Protective League.

<sup>26</sup> United States Census, 1920.

<sup>27</sup> Nevada Death Records, 1911-1965.

<sup>28</sup> A History of the State of Nevada: Its Resources and People, by Thomas Wren, 1904, pp. 446-7.



*H. E. Freudenthal*

Herman E Freudenthal (image from A History of the State of Nevada:  
Its Resources and People, by Thomas Wren, 1904, p. 446a).