

Rudolph Bachmann

Rudolph Bachmann was born 14 May 1827 in Zurich, Switzerland. He was the son of Rudolph and Susan Bachmann. He immigrated to America before 1858, when he was naturalized as a citizen in the circuit court of Baraboo, Wisconsin, in 1858.¹ He was listed as a farmer in the 1862 test books for the Emigrant Savings Bank in New York. The Emigrant Savings Bank was established in 1850 by members of the Irish Emigrant Society to serve the thousands of Irish immigrants who fled to America following the infamous Potato Famine. Rudolph had two brothers and one sister back in Switzerland.²

Rudolph joined the Mormon Church in 1871 and was married to Maria Verena Meier in 1873 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory. On the 1880 census, he was a jeweler, living with his wife in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.³ He was a watchmaker in Silver Reef in 1884.⁴ Verena died in 1885 in Montana and was buried in the Logan City Cemetery, Cache, Utah Territory.⁵

Rudolph then moved to Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.⁶ He married Anne Bowman in 1888 in Logan, Cache, Utah Territory.⁷ They had seven children, five of whom died in infancy.⁸ The family lived in Salt Lake City, where Rudolph was an expressman.⁹ An expressman was responsible for packing, managing, and ensuring the safe delivery of a train's gold or currency, which was secured in the "express car".

In 1897, Rudolph testified in the district court in Salt Lake City in the murder trial of John Rice. Rudolph had known the deceased, Beutler, a long time and frequently moved his goods.¹⁰ Rice had tried to secure Beutler's address from Rudolph on the day before the murder. Rudolph (even though he could not read) asked for Rice's address, which he left with him on a scrap of paper. Two hours later, Rice came back for the paper, and Rudolph discovered that he had lied to him about why he wanted Rice's address.¹¹ In the end, Rice was dismissed for lack of evidence.¹²

Rudolph died of heart failure on 19 April 1900 in Salt Lake City and was buried in the Salt Lake Cemetery. Anne lived with her children in Salt Lake City and then moved to Franklin, Idaho, about 1825.¹³ She died 25 May 1935 in Franklin and was buried in the Whitney Cemetery.¹⁴

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, 2016
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¹ US Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1992.

² New York, Emigrant Savings Bank Records, 1850-1883.

³ United States Census, 1880.

⁴ US City Directories, 1822-1995.

⁵ Utah Cemetery Inventory, 1847-2000; US Cemetery Index from Selected States, 1847-2010.

⁶ *Deseret Evening News*, 5 March 1897, p. 2.

⁷ Utah County Marriages, 1887-1940.

⁸ *Familysearch.org*

⁹ US City Directories, 1822-1995.

¹⁰ *Deseret Evening News*, 6 March 1897, p. 8.

¹¹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 6 March 1897, p. 8.

¹² *Salt Lake Herald*, 9 May 1897, p. 5.

¹³ United States Census, 1900, 1920, 1930.

¹⁴ Idaho Death Certificates, 1911-1937.