

William Albert Hartman and Minnie Viroca Burgess

William Albert Hartman was born 8 July 1844 in Berlin, Prussia, Germany.¹ He was the son of Emery Hartman and Ludvike Wilkeng.² He immigrated to America and was an assayer, living in Eureka, Lander, Nevada, in 1870.³ On the 1880 census he was a miner, living in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.⁴

Minnie Viroca Burgess was born 4 July 1858 in Santa Clara, Washington, Utah Territory. She was Native American, and at age five went to live with Melancthon Wheeler Burgess and Margaret Jane McIntire, after the big flood of 1862. Weeks of continuous rain and snow in the high elevations in December 1861 were followed by a record amount of rain in January 1862 which contributed to a flood extending from the Columbia River down to San Diego and inland to Idaho and Utah Territories.⁵

Minnie was baptized into the Mormon Church in 1867⁶, and was living with the Burgess family in St George, Washington, Utah Territory, on the 1870 census. At that point, she could not read or write.⁷ Melancthon and Margaret adopted her on 10 July 1890. Albert and Minnie married about 1881 in Utah Territory. They had three children, all born in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. Minnie died in 1888 in Silver Reef and was buried in the Leeds Cemetery.

In 1893, Albert married Mrs. Cora Keate Williams, a Native American, in 1893 in St George, Washington, Utah Territory. They had no children.⁸ Cora died in 1898 in Washington County and was buried in the St George Cemetery.⁹ Albert was an ore miner, living with his three children in Leeds, Washington, Utah, in 1900.¹⁰

Albert was probably one of the twenty-two men trapped in a cave-in at the Apex Mine near St George, Utah. They were getting ready for lunch and were near the exits when the earth gave way. Boulders and dirt pinned the cage but they were felt their way in the dark and crawled to the old mine shaft and climbed the ladders to the 185-foot level, where they signaled their situation and ropes were let down to pull them to the surface. Not a single man was hurt -- if it had been a half-hour earlier, they would not have escaped.¹¹

Albert died of miner's consumption (contracted at Silver Reef) on 11 October 1908 in Leeds, Utah. He was buried in the Leeds Cemetery.¹²

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, 2016
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¹ United States Census, 1900; Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.

² *Familysearch.org*

³ United States Census, 1870.

⁴ United States Census, 1880.

⁵ *Wikipedia*: Great Flood of 1862.

⁶ *Familysearch.org*

⁷ United States Census, 1870.

⁸ Utah Marriages, 1887-1935; Utah County Marriages, 1887-1940.

⁹ US Cemetery Index from Selected States, 1847-2010; *Findagrave.com*

¹⁰ United States Census, 1900.

¹¹ *Iron County Record*, 26 May 1905, p. 1.

¹² Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.