

Frederick “Fritz” Adolphy

Frederick “Fritz” Adolphy was born July 1815 in Prussia (now Germany).¹ He descended from a noble Russian family and was well educated, speaking several languages fluently. He was a professional soldier. He immigrated to America about 1848 and was later naturalized as a citizen in 1848. He was living in Sacramento, California in 1852.² In 1861 he took up arms with the Northern Army in the Civil War.³ After the war he decided to go into business in South St Louis, Missouri, opening a beer garden which became famous.⁴

His success was due to a unique service – using female barkeeps to serve beer. The city fathers disapproved and passed an ordinance that no woman should act as waitresses to serve beer. Fritz sought a lawyer who discovered a flaw in the ordinance. No one could prevent a daughter of the owner from serving her father’s guests. Fritz called his barkeeps together and went to Orphans’ Court, where he adopted 90 of them, from many different countries. The arrangement was beneficial to all involved.⁵

It seems that Fritz went wherever there was money to be made – in 1872 he came west to the Little Cottonwood precinct of Salt Lake City, Utah Territory area, where he was involved in the Mississippi Valley Mining & Tunneling Company of St Louis.⁶ He was the proprietor of the Philadelphia Brewery Saloon, shooting gallery and restaurant.⁷ One night, Bill Haws broke in the door of Fritz’s shooting gallery, but the night watchman persuaded him to leave. Later the two men met in front of the saloon where an exchange of bullets resulted in the death of Haws.⁸

By 1874, Fritz had married Bertha, ages 59 and 30 respectively, and she was as liable to drink as he was.⁹ It was said that when they were drunk they fought until they were sober.¹⁰ In 1874, Fritz was the proprietor of the California Brewery and the Fritz House Hotel in Alta, Salt Lake, Utah Territory. A stray bullet from a fight between Louis Morris and Joseph Ludwig resulted in Fritz being shot in the left foot.¹¹ In 1877, they were running a rifle and pistol gallery under the Eaves’ Hotel in Gayville, South Dakota.¹²

In 1879, Louis Marier of Salt Lake City sold Fritz a lot on Main Street in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, where Fritz was a miner.¹³ He sold the lot to Julius Sultan for \$150 in 1880.¹⁴ In 1882, his wife Bertha committed suicide due to depression and an overabundance of liquor.¹⁵ It is assumed she

¹ United States Census, 1880.

² California State Census, 1852.

³ Arizona Voter Registrations, 1866-1955; *Copper Era and Morenci Leader*, 3 September 1903, p. 1.

⁴ *Arizona Republic*, 28 June 1953, p. 15; *St Louis Post-Dispatch*, 23 August 1903, p. 19.

⁵ *Coconino Sun*, 12 September 1903, p. 2; *Arizona Daily Star*, 17 September 1903, p. 6; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 28 August 1903, p. 3; *Ogden Standard*, 28 August 1903, p. 7; *McFall Weekly Mirror*, 18 September 1903, p. 2; *St Louis Post-Dispatch*, 22 August 1903, p. 2; *Spokane Press*, 31 August 1903, p. 1; *Mitchell Capital*, 28 August 1903, p. 1 (and many more.)

⁶ *Intermountain Industry and Engineering*, 1922, 24:16; George R. Maxwell Vs. George Q. Cannon, 1873, p. 149.

⁷ *Salt Lake Telegram*, 28 August 1903, p. 10; *Deseret News*, 4 June 1872, p. 2; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 12 April 1872, p. 3.

⁸ *Pioche Record*, 10 November 1872, p. 2

⁹ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1 November 1874, p. 1.

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

¹¹ *Daily Ogden Junction*, 23 March 1874, p. 3; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 26 June 1875, p. 1; 3 January 1877, p. 4.

¹² *Black Hills Daily Times*, 19 May 1877, p. 4.

¹³ Washington County Records, Book S, pp. 10-11; United States Census, 1880.

¹⁴ Washington County Records, Book S, pp. 9-10, Historical Document DOC2976S58454.

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

was buried there. Fritz moved to Cochise, Arizona Territory and then Clifton, Graham, Arizona Territory, where he was a registered voter for the rest of his life.¹⁶ Clifton was a copper mining town.

Fritz and a Mr Gerhardt started the Mountain Brewery in Clifton¹⁷ where they sold beer, refrigerators, ice, cigars, singing canary birds, bird seed, cages etc. There was also a shooting gallery and a hennery where Fritz raised fancy pure-bred fowls.¹⁸ In 1891 a flood damaged the brewery and in 1899 the roof caught on fire but only resulted in the loss of 100 shingles.¹⁹ He remodeled and painted the saloon building in 1901.²⁰

Fritz fell ill and was under the care of Dr. Davis in nearby Morenci.²¹ As Fritz aged, William A "Billie" Hamilton watched over him in his declining health. Fritz died at age 88 on 23 July 1903 in Clifton and was buried in the Ward Canyon Cemetery. During his funeral, all the businesses and gambling resorts closed to honor the old resident.²² Billie inherited the entire estate, an estimated value of \$1,214, including the saloon located on the east bank of the San Francisco River.²³ (It was destroyed by fire in 1905.)²⁴ Fritz was known as a "peculiar old fellow, with little eccentricities" who was a mean drunk. However, he had a gentle heart and lost most of his fortune by helping others throughout his life.²⁵



(Image from *Copper Era and Morenci Leader*, 17 May 1900, p. 4)

¹⁶ Arizona, Territorial Census Records, 1864-1882; United States Census, 1900; Arizona Voter Registrations, 1866-1955.

¹⁷ *Arizona Republic*, 28 June 1953, p. 15; *Clifton Clarion*, 7 September 1887, p. 3.

¹⁸ *Clifton Clarion*, 5 May 1886, p. 3; 26 June 1889, p. 3; 14 August 1889, p. 3; 21 August 1889, p. 3.

¹⁹ *Arizona Weekly Citizen*, 7 March 1891, p. 3; *Copper Era and Morenci Leader*, 14 December 1899, p. 6.

²⁰ *Copper Era and Morenci Leader*, 9 May 1901, p. 3; 4 April 1919, p.3.

²¹ *Copper Era and Morenci Leader*, 31 May 1900, p. 6.

²² *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.

²³ *Findagrave.com*; *Arizona Republic*, 28 June 1953, p. 15; Arizona, Wills and Probate Records, 1803-1995.

²⁴ *Copper Era and Morenci Leader*, 2 November 1905, p. 3.

²⁵ *Salt Lake Telegram*, 28 August 1903, p. 10.

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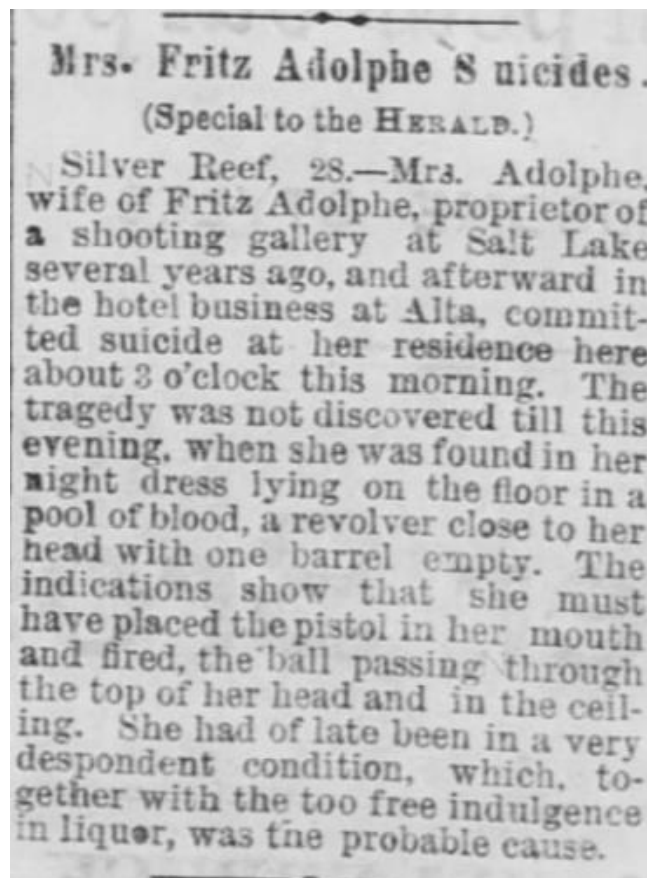
(Images from *Clifton Clarion*, 21 August 1889, p. 3 and 8 July 1885, p. 4)

BERTHA

Bertha was born about 1844 in Prussia. Nothing is known of her emigration to America nor how she came to the Utah Territory. Bertha married Frederick "Fritz" Adolphy about 1874 in Utah Territory. Fritz was age 59 and Bertha was 30. They had no children. Bertha was as liable to drink as Fritz.²⁶ It was said that when they were drunk, they fought until they were sober.²⁷

Fritz and Bertha were living in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, in 1880, where he worked as a miner. He had purchased a lot on Main Street in 1879 which he sold a year later. Bertha committed suicide at their residence in Silver Reef about three o'clock in the morning. She was found in her night dress, lying on the floor, a revolver close to her head with one-barrel empty. She had been in a very despondent condition, together with too much liquor as the probable cause.²⁸ It is presumed that she was buried in Silver Reef.

Fritz moved to Clifton, Graham, Arizona Territory and continued keeping a saloon and associated businesses. He died in 1903 and was buried in the Ward Canyon Cemetery there.



Salt Lake Herald, 1 March 1882, p. 8

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, November 2019
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²⁶ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1 November 1874, p. 1.

²⁷ *Salt Lake Telegram*, 28 August 1903, p. 10.

²⁸ *Salt Lake Herald*, 1 March 1882, p. 8.

