Hyman Solomon Jacobs

Hyman Jacobs was born in May 1829 in Dubejenskey, in Russian Poland. He came to America in 1848 and peddled dry goods in the smaller towns of New York for three years. He operated a store in Drytown, Amador, California, and St Louis, Sierra, California. On the 1850 census, he was a miner, living in Rough and Ready, Yuba, California. The town was founded in 1849, mostly populated by Southern sympathizers who didn’t want California Territory to become a state. They declared secession from the Union in April 1850 to avoid mining taxes, but rejoined the Union a few months later when the neighboring town of Nevada City refused to serve liquor to “foreigners”.

In 1852, he was a miner living in Calaveras, California. He returned to West Prussia, Germany in 1859 and married Rosalia Engler. They had five children. For the next eight years, he operated an elevator and grain business. He returned to Nevada in 1867 and conducted a general merchandise business at Belmont for two years. In 1869, he went to Pioche, Nevada, with the same business. He became a naturalized citizen in 1865 in Boston.

On the 1870 census, Hyman was living in Eureka, Lander, Nevada. By 1872, he had a merchandise business with Louis Sultan (who became his son-in-law in 1875). His family immigrated and joined him in 1873. Jacobs & Sultan were general merchants in both Bullionville and Pioche, Nevada. They were paid $1,430.57 for incidental expenses in the Indian service. Hyman was on the list of registered voters in Lincoln, Nevada in 1876.

In 1876, a Mr Shepherd of Leeds carried sandstone samples to Pioche and convinced Hyman they contained silver. Hyman sent the samples to Charles Hoffman and Professor Louis Janin in California. A favorable silver assay was obtained, so Hoffman and Janin journeyed to Pioche to investigate. Hyman took them to Silver Reef, where samples were collected and brought back to Pioche. Here, A H Emanuel assayed (Adolph, Hyman’s son, worked for Emanuel and prepared the samples). Hoffman and Janin were so amazed at the results that they asked Emanuel’s’ permission to use his laboratory to conduct their own assays. Their results duplicated those of Emanuel.

Hyman recognized a boon in the making, and immediately dismantled his Pioche store and moved his entire mercantile operation to Silver Reef. Hyman helped Hoffman obtain financial backing and helped organize the Leeds Mining Company. When people chose to live in tents, huts, and rock dugouts, rather than purchase land in Bonanza Flats from William T Barbee, Hyman named the new

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1 Progressive Men of Montana, p. 238.
2 United States Census, 1850.
3 The Great Republic of Rough and Ready, by Arthur Winfield Knight.
4 California State Census, 1852.
5 Familysearch.org.
6 Progressive Men of the State of Montana, p. 238.
8 Nevada Compiled Census Index, 1860-1910.
9 House Documents, Vol 211, 1875, p. 64.
10 US and Canada Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s.
13 Silver, Sinners and Saints, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 47.
town Silver Reef, after the four sandstone reefs that surrounded the town.\textsuperscript{16} He negotiated the sale of the Leeds claim to Charles Hoffman for $40,000. He also purchased the Maggie Mill at Bullionville, Nevada, for Hoffman. Hoffman moved the mill machinery and building to Silver Reef and was the first to treat sandstone ores.\textsuperscript{17}

Hoffman was generous, and said to Hyman, “Raise the price of powder and fuse; mark up the price of candles two dollars a box. You may need the money. The Leeds Company is producing big.”\textsuperscript{18} Hyman was an agent for the Leeds Mining Company to sell lots in the new town site.\textsuperscript{19} When the great fire burned down his business in 1879, he and Louis Sultan opened their warehouse just west of the former business site.\textsuperscript{20} Their delivery wagon was drawn by a fine span of bays. It was also used as a hearse, driven by Louis Jacobs, Hyman’s son.\textsuperscript{21}

On the 1880 census, Hyman was a general merchant, living with his wife and three children back in Pioche, Lincoln, Nevada.\textsuperscript{22} Julius Sultan was the successor to Jacobs & Sultan in Silver Reef.\textsuperscript{23} In 1886, the family left Nevada and moved to East Helena, Lewis and Clark, Montana.\textsuperscript{24} He operated a mercantile store there until his death.\textsuperscript{25} On the 1900 census, he was a merchant, living with his wife, their daughter and her family, in Lewis and Clark, Montana.\textsuperscript{26}

Hyman died of heart trouble after an illness of two weeks\textsuperscript{27} on 20 October 1901 in Helena.\textsuperscript{28} Rosalia died 1904 in Montana.\textsuperscript{29} They are both buried in the Home of Peace Cemetery in Helena.\textsuperscript{30} Hyman was an active member of the Jewish Church and “one of the most respected, influential and progressive citizens of East Helena”.\textsuperscript{31}

\textsuperscript{16} Silver, Sinners and Saints, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 43.
\textsuperscript{17} Ibid, p. 127.
\textsuperscript{18} Naming Silver Reef, in Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol 5, 1932, pp. 29-30.
\textsuperscript{19} Salt Lake Herald, 24 November 1876.
\textsuperscript{20} Silver, Sinners and Saints, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 127.
\textsuperscript{21} Memories of Silver Reef, in Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol 3, No 4, 1930, p. 114.
\textsuperscript{22} United States Census, 1880.
\textsuperscript{23} Silver Reef Miner, 5 November 1881, p. 1.
\textsuperscript{24} Anaconda Standard [Montana], 22 October 1901, p. 8.
\textsuperscript{25} Progressive Men of the State of Montana, p. 238.
\textsuperscript{26} United States Census, 1900.
\textsuperscript{27} Anaconda Standard [Montana], 22 October 1901, p. 8.
\textsuperscript{28} Findagrave.com
\textsuperscript{29} Montana, County Births and Deaths, 1840-2004.
\textsuperscript{30} Findagrave.com
\textsuperscript{31} Progressive Men of the State of Montana, p. 238).
IN MEMORY
OF
HENRY JACOBS
BORN 1828
DIED NOV 28TH 1882

(Image from Findagrave.com)

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