

Jerome F Jacobs

Jerome F Jacobs was born 12 January 1853 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon Territory.¹ He was the oldest of four children of Hyrum Smith Jacobs and Nancy Ann Olds. On the 1860 census, the family was living in Portland.² They moved to New York in 1864, where Jerome completed his education and studied civil engineering. He went to Colorado in 1868 and worked in that field. He moved to Utah Territory in 1871 and followed civil engineering and the liquor business for ten years.³

On the 1880 census, he was a saloon keeper in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. His brother Martin was working as a miner there.⁴ In 1881, Jerome went to Nevada and then returned to Utah.⁵ He was the “well-known A No. 1 mixologist, will preside over the destinies of the bar and gladden the hearts of those who partake” at The Capital saloon. It opened for business in August with a free fine lunch.⁶ The next year, he presided at the bar at the Pacific Sample Rooms, which sold “only the finest liquors and cigars”.⁷

Jerome was one of the first to move to Eagle City, Ada, Idaho.⁸ In 1885, he sold his Martin mine to some Salt Lake City investors for \$55,000. This sale drove up the cost of the lots in the area to double the value.⁹ He then moved to the Wood River Valley in Blaine, Idaho. He married Elizabeth Josephine Wheeler in 1887 in Ketchum, Blaine, Idaho.¹⁰ They moved to Fairhaven, Washington, for a short time.¹¹

In 1892, they moved to Wallace, Shoshone, Idaho, where he conducted a popular resort known as Jerome’s Place.¹² He became a member of the Wallace Hilarity Club, organized by the prominent business men in Wallace. They held annual outings in Missoula, Montana, fishing and camping.¹³ One year, Jerome tried to retrieve his reputation as a fisherman. He went down the river to the lake and came back with the finest lot of trout that has been seen this season. However, a little boy soon showed up for full payment on the fish. Jerome claimed he had hired the boy to help carry the fish, but the boy explained that he had been fishing for three days for Jerome and wanted his full pay.¹⁴

Jerome displayed a curiosity that brought a lot of attention. It was a fir log, about two feet in diameter, in which was embedded a set of deer antlers. The wood had grown around the antlers, the section having been found 32 feet above the ground. It was unknown how the antlers became embedded so

¹ Idaho Death Certificates, 1911-1937; Early Oregonians Index, 1800-1860; An Illustrated History of North Idaho, 2012, pp. 1075-1076.

² United States Census, 1860.

³ An Illustrated History of North Idaho, 2012, pp. 1075-1076.

⁴ United States Census, 1880.

⁵ An Illustrated History of North Idaho, 2012, pp. 1075-1076.

⁶ *Salt Lake Herald*, 20 August 1881, p. 8.

⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 19 September 1882, p. 8.

⁸ An Illustrated History of North Idaho, 2012, pp. 1075-1076.

⁹ *Salt Lake Evening Democrat*, 12 August 1885, p. 4.

¹⁰ Idaho Marriages, 1878-1898; Idaho Select Marriages, 1878-1898; Idaho Marriage Index, 1842-1964, 1975-1996; *Salt Lake Herald*, 25 February 1887, p. 8.

¹¹ An Illustrated History of North Idaho, 2012, pp. 1075-1076.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ *Anaconda Standard*, 13 August 1896, p. 10; 30 June 1898, p. 12; 16 August 1904, p. 12; 28 August 1904, p. 13.

¹⁴ *Anaconda Standard*, 27 July 1898, p. 12.

high in the tree.¹⁵ On the 1900 census, Jerome was a saloon man, living with his wife in Wallace.¹⁶ That year he sent a box of cigars bearing the name "Hilarity Club" to the Anaconda Standard newspaper office.¹⁷ He bred dogs and showed a cocker spaniel in the largest dog show in the history of the Portland Kennel Club.¹⁸ He was a member of the Elks in the Coeur d'Alene Lodge at Wallace.¹⁹

In March 1907, a new Sunday rest law was approved. That July, Jerome was arrested for breaking the law by keeping his saloon open on Sunday. His sentence was one hour in the county jail, a fine of \$30 and costs. His lawyer claimed the law unconstitutional and void because it conflicted with section 16 of article 3 of the state constitution. The case went to the supreme court of Idaho, and the sheriff of Shoshone County appeared with Jerome at the court to determine whether he was being unlawfully imprisoned. The case would determine the validity of the law. The motion to quash the writ of habeas corpus was sustained and he was remanded to the custody of the sheriff of Shoshone County.²⁰

Jerome married Mildred Hines in 1912 in Boise, Ada, Idaho.²¹ He died 18 February 1918 in Boise and was buried in the Morris Hill Cemetery.²²

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, 2017
Please email eyoung@youngzones.org for additions and corrections

¹⁵ *Anaconda Standard*, 22 December 1898, p. 12.

¹⁶ United States Census, 1900.

¹⁷ *Anaconda Standard*, 30 December 1900, p. 22.

¹⁸ American Kennel Club Stud Book, 1901, Vol 17, p. 763; *Oregon Daily Journal*, 20 April 1904, p. 9.

¹⁹ *Oregon Daily Journal*, 4 August 1902, p. 7.

²⁰ *East Oregonian*, 1 July 1907, p. 7; Report of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of the Idaho, 1908, Vol 13, p. 720; *Pacific Reporter*, 1908, Vol 92, p. 1004; *Montana Plaindealer*, 31 July 1908, p. 2.

²¹ Idaho, County Marriages, 1864-1950.

²² Idaho Death Certificates, 1911-1937; Idaho Death Index, 1890-1964.