

# Julius Albro Turrill

Julius Albro Turrill was born 11 September 1829 in Shoreham, Addison, Vermont. He was the son of Royal Turrill and Salome Hunt. His mother died when Julius was five years old and his father remarried. Julius had three full and three half siblings. Julius lived with his family in Shoreham until at least 1850.<sup>1</sup> We find him politically active in Le Sueur City, Minnesota, in 1855<sup>2</sup>, and as a farmer in Le Sueur County in 1860.<sup>3</sup> In 1863, he was elected chairman of the county commissioners in the first election held there.<sup>4</sup>

By 1870, Julius was a miner, living in White River, Nye, Nevada.<sup>5</sup> He was still mining in Lincoln, Nevada, in 1875.<sup>6</sup> By 1879, he had moved to Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, where he ran a grocery store on lower Main Street<sup>7</sup> and served on the fire committee after half of the town burned down.<sup>8</sup> He was considered a prominent merchant of Silver Reef<sup>9</sup>, advertising “gent’s clothing, fancy and staple groceries, choice brands of wines, liquors and cigars, California underwear and furnishings, saddlery and harness and teamsters’ supplies, as well as lumber, hay and grain.”<sup>10</sup> He often traveled to Salt Lake City for business.<sup>11</sup> Julius was one of the men who leased the community hall to the school board in 1881. He served as a school trustee and treasurer of the school board from 1884 to 1889.<sup>12</sup>

The Barbee & Walker mine and mill shut down in December 1882 and the mill was sold at a county auction in January 1883. By 1884, most of the mines and mills were idle or closed. Julius came into possession of the Leeds mill and mine tailings and arranged to start the pans in motion to extract the silver which remained in the tailings.<sup>13</sup> He was successful, turning out a bar of bullion valued at \$1200 every six days.<sup>14</sup>

In 1886, Julius was the vice president for the Silver Reef branch of the Loyal League of Utah. This was a Gentile group for self-defense against “Mormon priestcraft and polygamy”. The group opposed admission of Utah into the Union “until she had a republican government”.<sup>15</sup> Julius was also one of the anti-Mormon jurors in the famous case of Marshal William Thompson killing Edward Meeks Dalton when he went to arrest him for unlawful cohabitation.<sup>16</sup>

Julius died from the result of an accident at Silver Reef on 4 November 1889 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory. He was buried near his family in the Lake View Cemetery in Shoreham, Addison, Vermont.<sup>17</sup> He left an estate worth \$18,730.35.<sup>18</sup> The probate of his estate ran on for five

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<sup>1</sup> United States Census, 1840, 1850.

<sup>2</sup> A History of the Republican Party from its Organization to the Present Time, by Eugene Virgil Smalley, 1896, p. 150.

<sup>3</sup> United States Census, 1860.

<sup>4</sup> History of the Minnesota Valley: Including the Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota, by Neill & Bryant, 1882, p. 478.

<sup>5</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>6</sup> Nevada State Census, 1875.

<sup>7</sup> United States Census, 1880; *Silver Reef Miner*, 1 October 1879, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> *Silver, Sinners and Saints*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 127.

<sup>9</sup> *Salt Lake Evening Democrat*, 9 April 1885, p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> *Silver Reef Miner*, various from 1 October 1879, p. 1 through 28 October 1882.

<sup>11</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 16 September 1880, p. 3; 8 June 1881, p. 4; *Salt Lake Evening Democrat*, 11 April 1885, p. 4; 13 June 1889, p. 1.

<sup>12</sup> Minutes of the Silver Reef School Board.

<sup>13</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 18 March 1883, p. 11.

<sup>14</sup> *Engineering and Mining Journal*, 30 June 1883.

<sup>15</sup> *Deseret News*, 11 December 1886; *Salt Lake Herald*, 8 December 1886, p. 8.

<sup>16</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 9 January 1887, p. 8; 9 January 1887, p. 8.

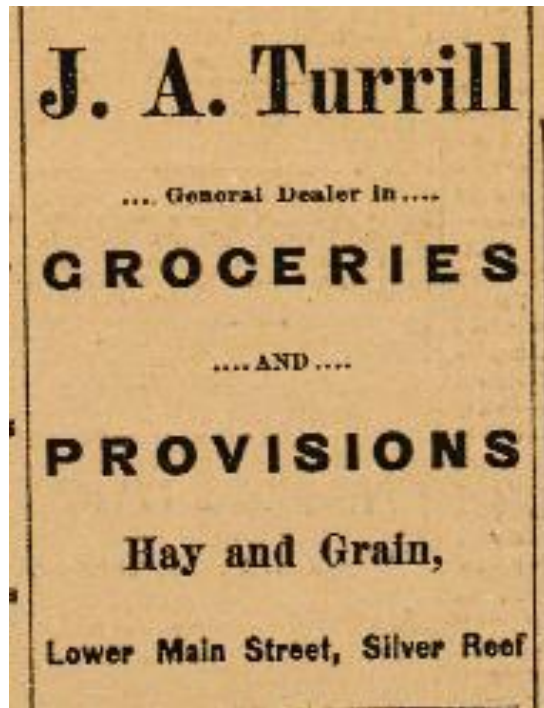
<sup>17</sup> *Findagrave.com*

<sup>18</sup> Utah Wills and Probate Records, 1800-1985.

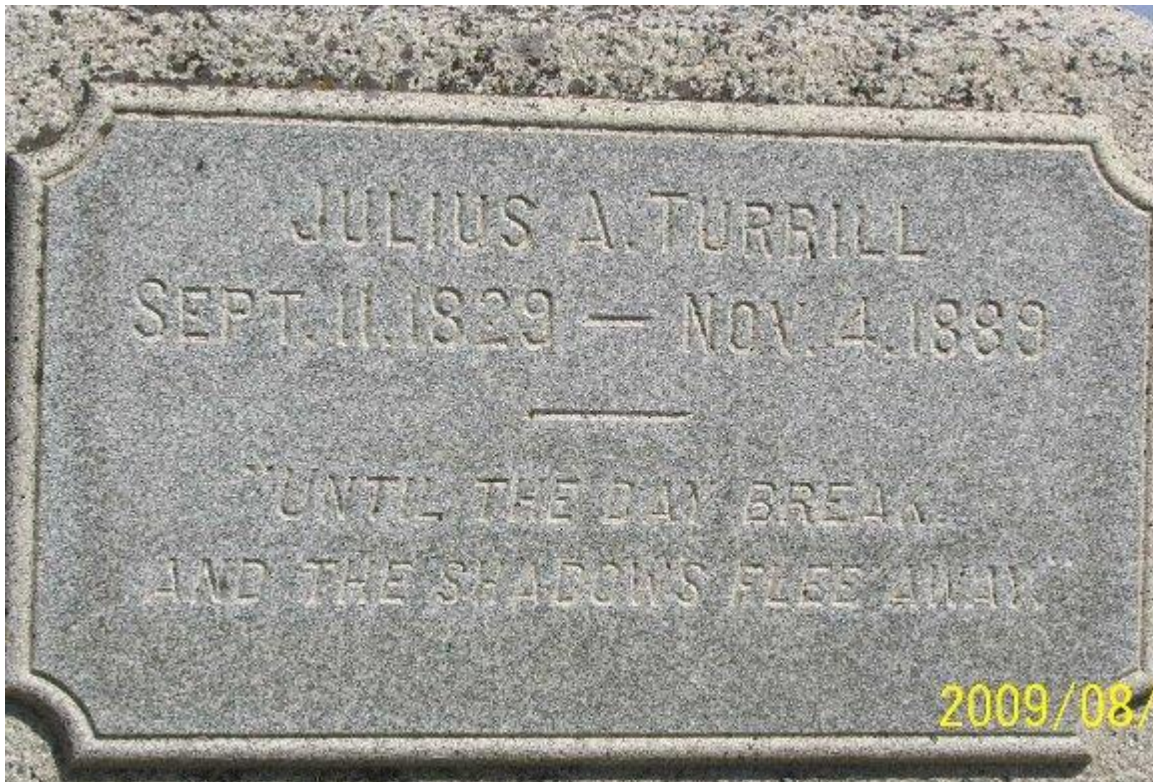
years, with his half-brother Clayton as administrator. Annual payments were made to his younger sister Martha until her death in 1907.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 19 November 1889, p. 5; 14 October 1890, p. 5; *Deseret Evening News*, 22 September 1904, p. 11; Utah Wills & Probate Records, 1800-1985.



(Image from the *Silver Reef Miner*, 30 September 1882, p. 4)



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)