

# Louis Jacobs

Louis Jacobs was born 29 August 1861 in Thorn, West Prussia.<sup>1</sup> He was the second of five children of Hyman Solomon Jacobs and Rosalia Engler. His father immigrated to California in 1848 and became a miner. He returned to Prussia and married Louis' mother. He returned to Nevada by 1867 and was living in Pioche in 1869<sup>2</sup> and Eureka in 1870<sup>3</sup>. His family immigrated to join him in 1873.

They were living in Lincoln, Nevada in 1876<sup>4</sup> when a Mr Shepherd of Leeds, Utah Territory, 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 the ore (Louis' brother Adolph 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.<sup>5</sup>

Louis' father recognized a boom in the making, and immediately dismantled his Pioche store and moved his entire mercantile operation to Silver Reef. It was the first shop on the new Main Street.<sup>6</sup> Louis must have gone with him, for we find him living with and clerking in his "cousin" Julius Sultan's (his sister married Julius' brother) grocery store in Silver Reef.<sup>7</sup> Louis Jacobs had an enviable reputation in business and a host of friends and admirers. People were known to smile with pleasure as they recalled the young courteous clerk who knew their wants and sold merchandise that pleased them. His motto was "yours for trade" and he knew how to get it. He had an understanding mind and heart and was often appealed to for aid and advice. Jacobs and Sultan's delivery wagon was drawn by a fine span of bays and used as a hearse, with Louis as the driver at many funerals.<sup>8</sup>

In 1888, Peter Harrison of the Harrison House Hotel became so indebted that he put Louis in charge of his holdings, including the hotel, and left town. There was a court case of Peter Harrison vs. Louis Jacobs which was dismissed for want of prosecution in 1889.<sup>9</sup> Louis sold the hotel furniture to local people and paid off Pete's debts. Today the piano from the hotel is on display at the Daughters of Utah Pioneers museum in St. George, Washington, Utah.<sup>10</sup>

Most of Louis' family had moved to East Helena, Lewis and Clark, Montana, in 1886.<sup>11</sup> In 1893, Louis opened a dry goods and notions store in the Willes building on West Main Street in Salina, Sevier,

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<sup>1</sup> Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.

<sup>2</sup> Progressive Men of the State of Montana, p. 238.

<sup>3</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>4</sup> His father was a voter in Lincoln, Nevada (Silver, Sinners and Saints, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 4).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, pp. 26-7.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid; Naming Silver Reef, in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol 5, 1932, p. 31; Silver Reef Personalities Legends, by Mark A. Pendleton, 1940, p. 1.

<sup>7</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>8</sup> Silver Reef Personalities Legends, by Mark A. Pendleton, 1940, p. 11B; Memories of Silver Reef, in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 1930, p. 114.

<sup>9</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 24 September 1889, p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 8 September 1889, p. 7; Silver, Sinners and Saints, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 147.

<sup>11</sup> *Anaconda Standard* [Montana], 22 October 1901, p. 8.

Utah.<sup>12</sup> He was listed as a merchant in Salina on the 1900 census.<sup>13</sup> He was recognized as one of the leading men in building up trade in Salina, carrying a stock of general merchandise, including clothing, shoes, furnishings, dress goods, and groceries. He bought everything the farmers had for sale and gave good prices, and was always willing to make a “square deal”.<sup>14</sup> He was the principal shipper of rock salt (he owned a salt pit near Redmond<sup>15</sup>) and purchased grain and seed.<sup>16</sup>

Louis was a stockholder in the Sevier Consolidated Mining company.<sup>17</sup> In 1902, when the Krotki Mercantile Establishment of Richfield, Sevier, Utah, closed its doors, he was the assignee for the firm.<sup>18</sup> When a fire from an exploding gasoline lamp damaged many of the businesses in Salina, Louis began rebuilding at once, working out of W. H. Rex’s store with the small portion of his stock saved from the fire.<sup>19</sup> His business was valued at \$10,000.<sup>20</sup> The next year, Rex sold his stock goods to Louis as well as a lease on his building.<sup>21</sup>

Louis never married. He was a member of the B’nai Brith lodge of Salt Lake City,<sup>22</sup> the Lions Club in Richfield,<sup>23</sup> and a delegate to the state Republican Convention.<sup>24</sup> He drove a Metz roadster and was known for speeding down Main Street in Richfield.<sup>25</sup> He continued living in Salina, working as a merchant<sup>26</sup>, until his death of natural causes on 11 April 1933 in Salina. He was buried in Helena, Lewis and Clark, Montana.<sup>27</sup> His business was sold through an administrator’s sale, including the building and realty.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 11 March 1893, p. 3.

<sup>13</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>14</sup> *Richfield Reaper*, 17 December 1908, p. 9.

<sup>15</sup> [thediggings.com/mines/](http://thediggings.com/mines/); [mindat.org](http://mindat.org); [us-mining.com/Utah/sevier-county](http://us-mining.com/Utah/sevier-county)

<sup>16</sup> *Richfield Reaper*, 7 April 1910, p. 1.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *Deseret Evening News*, 16 January 1902, p. 1; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 17 January 1902, p. 7.

<sup>19</sup> *Richfield Reaper*, 12 July 1906, p. 4.

<sup>20</sup> *Richfield Reaper*, 5 July 1906, p. 1.

<sup>21</sup> *Richfield Reaper*, 11 April 1907, p. 4.

<sup>22</sup> *Salt Lake Telegram*, 12 April 1933, p. 5.

<sup>23</sup> *Richfield Reaper*, 3 April 1924, p. 4.

<sup>24</sup> *Richfield Reaper*, 5 September 1912, p. 1.

<sup>25</sup> *Richfield Reaper*, 3 June 1916, p. 5.

<sup>26</sup> United States Census, 1910, 1920, 1930.

<sup>27</sup> Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 12 April 1933, p. 11; *Salt Lake Telegram*, 12 April 1933, p. 5.

<sup>28</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 2 July 1933, p. 8.



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(Image from the *Richfield Reaper*, 28 June 1928, p. 7)