

Frederick Grambs

Frederick Grambs (also spelled Grambss) was born about 1823 in Fischback, Bavaria, Germany. His parents were Johann Grambs and Margaretta Niederman. He had three known brothers; all four of them immigrated to America. Frederick was naturalized in 1844 in New York City, with his brother John as witness.¹ Frederick served in the First Regiment of the New York volunteers as a musician with the rank of captain in 1846.²

Frederick went to California in 1847³ and was in Marysville, Yuba, California in 1851.⁴ He was a professor of music and a community leader in the expression and appreciation of German music and dance. He actively promoted concerts for the community. Editorials in the Marysville Herald proclaimed his weekly musical series as an outstanding success.⁵

In 1851, Frederick and two other musicians appeared at the California Exchange. They were fine musicians and far above the ordinary saloon orchestras.⁶ Frederick became the leader of the Marysville *Liederkrantz Verein* (a singing society), in 1856, and continued until the society was united with the *Turn Verein* (a German social society) in 1866.⁷ The *Liederkrantz* was the most publicly active club of German and held an annual ball during the holiday season.⁸

Frederick married Margaretta M Hurst in 1857 in Marysville, Yuba, California.⁹ They did not have any children. He was a professor of music, teaching piano, forte, organ, melodeon, and singing.¹⁰ In 1858, he helped form the Marysville Choral Harmonic Society¹¹ which performed annual concerts.¹² He served as director and pianist of that society.¹³ He also served on the Committee on Church Organs for the State Agricultural Fair in Marysville, Yuba, California in 1858.¹⁴ He hosted the Gift Ball and Concert and other benefit balls.¹⁵

In 1860, Frederick and Margaret were living in Marysville City 3rd Ward, Yuba, California, with three young people, one of which was Margaret's niece.¹⁶ Frederick continued his involvement with music, performing in the Grand Concert at the Marysville Theater in 1863.¹⁷ By 1864, they had moved to

¹ US Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1992; New York Petitions for Naturalization, 1794-1906.

² Unindexed Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1812-1855.

³ *The Montana Post*, 5 August 1865, p. 3.

⁴ California State Census, 1852.

⁵ *Marysville Herald*, 26 April 1851, p. 3; 3 April 1857, p. 2; *Democrat*, 14 December 1858, p. 2; 27 October 1859, p. 2; *Express*, 24 February 1859, p. 2.

⁶ History of Yuba County, 1879, by William Henry Chamberlain and Harry Lorenz Wells.

⁷ Yuba City California History, Chapter XVIII: Societies of Marysville.

⁸ *Express*, 4 January 1858, p. 2; 29 December 1859, p. 2; History of Yuba County, California, 1879, p. 63.

⁹ California County Marriages, 1850-1952.

¹⁰ *Marysville Daily Herald*, 6 October 1857; 21 November 1857.

¹¹ *Marysville Daily Appeal*, Number 83, April 1863.

¹² *Democrat*, 14 December 1858, p. 2; 27 October 1859, p. 2; *Express*, 24 February 1859, p. 2; *Marysville Herald*, 26 April 1851, p. 3; 3 April 1857, p. 2; and others.

¹³ Yuba City California History, Chapter XVIII: Societies of Marysville.

¹⁴ Transactions: The California State Agricultural Society, 1858, p. 133.

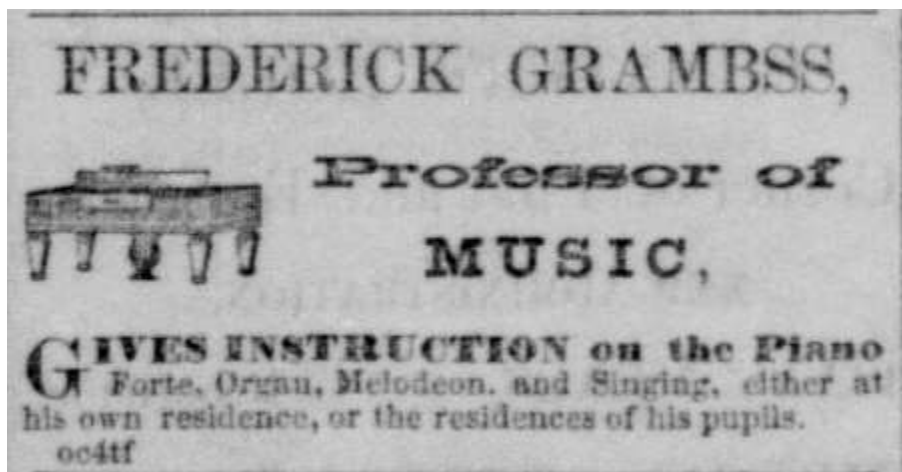
¹⁵ Die Deutschen von Marysville: The Germans of Marysville, 1850-60, by Carole C Terry, p. 22.

¹⁶ United States Census, 1860.

¹⁷ *Democrat*, 1 October 1858, p. 2; 27 October 1858, p. 2.

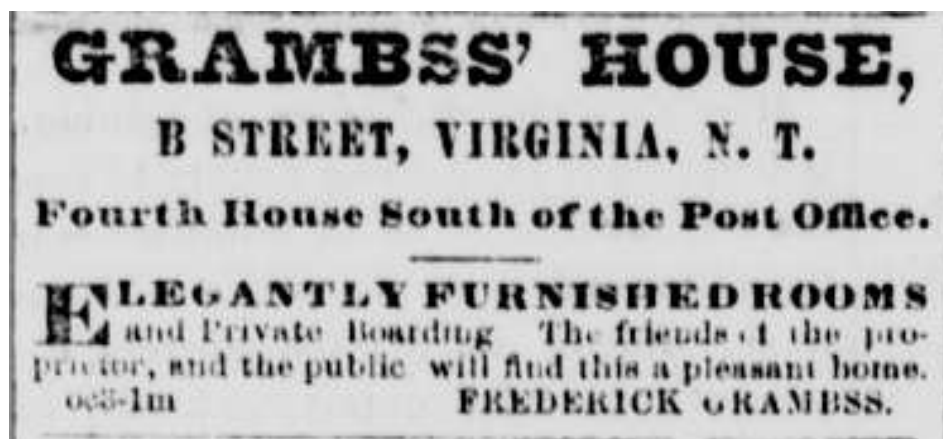
Nevada, where he was the leader of the Germania Singing Society and had a business called the Grambs House on B Street in Virginia City.¹⁸

Frederick had been in Montana just a few weeks when he died in 1865. He was a “celebrated musician of California” and local musicians played the “Dead March” at the head of the funeral procession.¹⁹



FREDERICK GRAMBSS,
Professor of
MUSIC,
GIVES INSTRUCTION on the Piano
Forte, Organ, Melodeon, and Singing, either at
his own residence, or the residences of his pupils.
oc4tf

(image from *Marysville Daily Herald*, 6 October 1857)



GRAMBSS' HOUSE,
B STREET, VIRGINIA, N. T.
Fourth House South of the Post Office.
ELEGANTLY FURNISHED ROOMS
and Private Boarding. The friends of the pro-
prietor, and the public will find this a pleasant home.
oc3-1m **FREDERICK GRAMBSS.**

(Image from *Marysville Daily Appeal*, 20 October 1863)

¹⁸ Mercantile Guide and Directory for Gold Hill, Silver City, and American City, 1864-5, p. 32.

¹⁹ *The Montana Post*, 5 August 1865, p. 3.

Thursday Evening, April 9th.

GRAND
Vocal and Instrumental Concert.

MARTIN SIMONSEN,
The World-renowned Violinist, and
Mme. FANNY SIMONSEN,
The Great Prima Donna!

(Formerly of the Grand Opera of Paris.) The Best
Operatic Ballad Singer in the country.

Be glad to announce to the public of Marysville,
that they will give a

GRAND CONCERT!

On which occasion they will be assisted by

HERR ZIROM!

The wonderful and only performer on the "Emelynka"[†]

—AND—

PROF. GRAMBSS,

PRICES OF ADMISSION :

Dress Circle and Parquette,.....\$1 00
Gallery..... 50 cents

Tickets for sale at H. Wagner's and Randal & Co's
Book Stores, S. R. Rosenthal's Western corner Cigar
Store, and at the Ticket Office.

Doors open at 7 o'clock. Performance commen-
ces at 8 o'clock.

Friday Evening, April 10th, 1863, positively the
last Concert in Marysville of Madame and Mr. Martin
Simonsen. ap8-3t

(Image from *Marysville Daily Appeal*, 8 April 1863)