

## Peter and Theodore Welte

**Peter Welte** was born 12 August 1852<sup>1</sup> in Wurttemberg, Germany, son of Frank and Teresa Welte. He immigrated to America in 1871.<sup>2</sup> He was naturalized as a citizen in 1876 in Lincoln, Nevada.<sup>3</sup> He married Elizabeth “Lizzie” Kuhn in 1878 in Salt Lake City; they had seven children together, four of which died at a young age.

In 1880, Peter was a brewer in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, with his wife, son and brother Leo.<sup>4</sup> Peter and Leo operated a brewery.<sup>5</sup> Silver Reef was noted for its stock of wine and liquor, and Peter knew how to make a good beer.<sup>6</sup> The Welte brewery in Lager Bier Gulch sometimes hosted shooting matches with an entrance fee of \$3.<sup>7</sup> On May Day in 1882, the school festival was held at the brewery.<sup>8</sup> The brewery was run by Peter from 1878-1884, then by his brother Leo from 1884-1888, when it closed.<sup>9</sup>

Silver Reef celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in 1882 with a school parade with the Reef brass band. The crowd ended up at Welte’s Pavilion to engage in “giddy mazes” until the late hours.<sup>10</sup> Peter lived in Silver Reef until January 1886, when he went to Washington DC to acquire a passport to visit Germany. His passport application describes him as five feet seven inches tall, with gray eyes and very dark brown hair.<sup>11</sup> By March that same year, he was back in Salt Lake City, staying at the White House Hotel<sup>12</sup>, where he had stayed before.<sup>13</sup> In 1887, Peter was living in San Francisco.<sup>14</sup>

In 1891, he was involved in a suit on a promissory note to John G Williams. Williams was a constable and justice of the peace in Salt Lake City.<sup>15</sup> Peter was given fifteen days to answer the suit.<sup>16</sup> It finally was tried before the court in 1892 and a judgment rendered in favor of the plaintiff for \$796.80.<sup>17</sup>

Peter and Lizzie divorced before 1895. She remarried<sup>18</sup> and took their three surviving sons to live with her.<sup>19</sup> Peter was living in Eureka, Nevada<sup>20</sup>, when he married Mary Ann Rose in 1895 in Salt Lake City.<sup>21</sup> They had five daughters together. By 1900, they were living on Third South in Salt Lake City, where Peter was a brewer.<sup>22</sup> In 1904, one of their daughters was born in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho (all the other daughters were born in Salt Lake City).<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> US Passport Applications, 1795-1925.

<sup>2</sup> United States Census, 1910.

<sup>3</sup> US Passport Applications, 1795-1925.

<sup>4</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>5</sup> Saga of Three Towns, by Marietta M. Mariger, 1951, p. 97.

<sup>6</sup> Memories of Silver Reef, by Mark A. Pendleton, in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, October 1930, pp. 108, 115.

<sup>7</sup> Silver, Sinners and Saints, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 112.

<sup>8</sup> Washington County Historical Society website.

<sup>9</sup> *TavernTrove.com*

<sup>10</sup> *Silver Reef Miner*, July 1882.

<sup>11</sup> US Passport Applications, 1795-1925.

<sup>12</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 27 March 1886, pp. 1-2.

<sup>13</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 3 March 1882, p. 8; 5 October 1882, p. 5; 7 May 1885, p. 5.

<sup>14</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 23 September 1887, p. 5.

<sup>15</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 5 August 1890, p. 8; 26 August 1888, p. 5.

<sup>16</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 16 June 1891, p. 8.

<sup>17</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 19 October 1892, p. 8.

<sup>18</sup> Utah, County Marriages, 1887-1940.

<sup>19</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>20</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 31 July 1895, p. 8.

<sup>21</sup> Utah, County Marriages, 1887-1940; *Salt Lake Herald*, 31 July 1895, p. 8.

<sup>22</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>23</sup> Idaho Birth Index, 1861-1911.

Peter seemed to travel around. For instance, Peter Welte of Goldfield, Esmeralda, Nevada, was a guest at the McCormack House Hotel in Reno in 1908.<sup>24</sup> That year, the gold output at Goldfield was about \$4.8 million, and there were disputes over wages and workers stealing gold. This was the year that President Roosevelt ordered federal troops into Goldfield to control the situation, until a state police force was organized.<sup>25</sup>

In 1909, Peter is listed in the newspaper as owing 95 cents on back taxes.<sup>26</sup> He was living with his wife and three daughters in Eureka, Eureka, Nevada, in 1910. His occupation is listed as “living on own income”.<sup>27</sup> The family almost had a tragedy in 1911. The water pipe was frozen in the house, and Peter had brought home a gasoline torch to thaw out the pipe. He lit the torch and placed it on the table while he stepped into another room for a moment. Laura, their three-year old daughter, passed in front of the flame and caught her hair on fire. Her father instantly rushed in and smothered the blaze.<sup>28</sup>

Peter was very sick with lobar pneumonia of the right lung, and tuberculosis of the left lung and intestines for two weeks in 1917. His son William and his pregnant wife offered to care for him. Peter turned them down because she was expecting a baby; he did not want to be an additional burden. He died alone in a hotel room<sup>29</sup> on 15 March 1917 in Salt Lake City. His occupation on the death certificate was listed as “saloon man”. He was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.<sup>30</sup>

**Theodore Welte** was born 17 December 1857 in Germany<sup>31</sup>, son of Frank and Terresa Welte. He went by the nickname of Leo. He immigrated to America in 1880<sup>32</sup> and lived in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, with his brother. They were brewers; Leo ran the Welte Brewery from 1884-1888, when it closed.<sup>33</sup>

In 1887, he married Alice Harriet Hemenway in St George, Washington, Utah Territory.<sup>34</sup> They had four children. About 1892, the family moved to Nevada. In 1900, Leo and his family lived in Lincoln, Nevada, where he was a quartz miner.<sup>35</sup> By 1907, they had moved to Los Angeles, California.<sup>36</sup> Leo died 28 October 1910 and was buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, Los Angeles, California.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> *Reno Gazette-Journal*, 3 August 1908, p. 5.

<sup>25</sup> *Wikipedia*: Goldfield, Nevada.

<sup>26</sup> *Salt Lake Republican*, 9 December 1909, p. 23.

<sup>27</sup> United States Census, 1910.

<sup>28</sup> *Reno Gazette-Journal*, 2 March 1911, p. 7.

<sup>29</sup> *Familysearch.org*

<sup>30</sup> Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949; Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946.

<sup>31</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

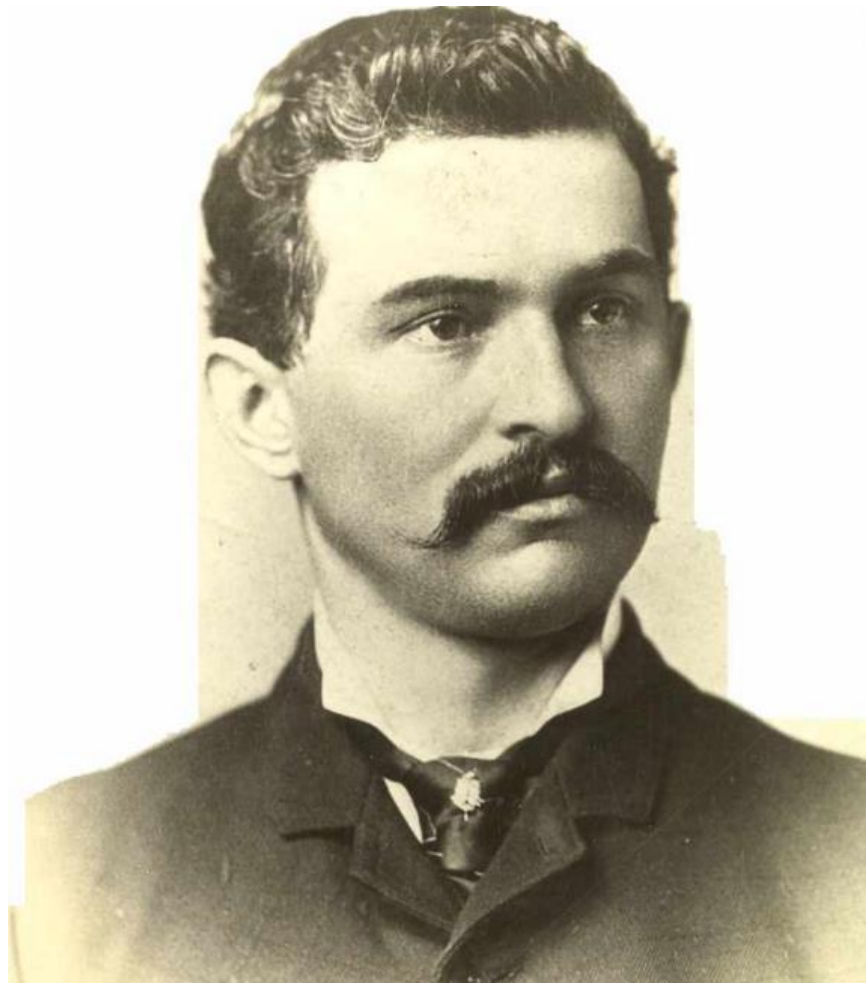
<sup>33</sup> *TavernTrove.com*

<sup>34</sup> Utah Marriages, 1887-1935; Utah County Marriages 1887-1940.

<sup>35</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>36</sup> Los Angeles City Directory 1907, 1909; United States Census, 1910.

<sup>37</sup> *Find-a-grave*



Peter Welte (image from *Familysearch.org*)



Arrow indicates the corner of the Welte brewery in Silver Reef, Utah  
(Image from the Washington County Historical Society website)

**Welte's Brewery**  
Silver Reef, Utah.

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I AM NOW PREPARED TO SUPPLY  
the Trade, Families, and the public generally, with a Choice Article of Beer, by the Keg, Quart or Bottle. Beer delivered free to any part of Silver Reef and adjacent vicinities.

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The Dancing Pavillon at the Brewery is at all times at the service of the public for the purposes of social recreation.  
No improper characters tolerated.

PETER WELTE.

(Image from *The Silver Reef Miner*, 5 November 1881)