

William Brunk Sager

William B Sager was born about 1844 in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw, Michigan. He was the third of seven children of Abram Sager and Sarah Dwight. William's father was a medical doctor taught botany and zoology at the University of Michigan. He became the dean of the medical school at the university. William lived with his family in Ann Arbor¹ and graduated from Union High School in Ann Arbor in June 1862.² He studied at the University of Michigan from 1862-1863.

During the Civil War, William was a private and a sergeant in Company E of the 11th Cavalry Regiment of Ohio Volunteers, from 1863-1864.³ He returned to the University of Michigan, graduating in the class of 1866. He was elected a member of the Phi Chapter of the Fraternity of Psi Upsilon. On the 1870 census, he was a book keeper for a book merchant, living in Cheyenne, Laramie, Wyoming Territory.⁴ By 1875, he was working as a news dealer and postmaster in Ophir, Tooele, Utah Territory.⁵

On the 1880 census, William was a grocer, living in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.⁶ He lived in Silver Reef until 1887, running a general store and grocery.⁷ His business was located on Main Street in Silver Reef, and he advertised groceries, clothing, gent's furnishing goods, stationery, notions, hats, boot, shoes, tobacco, cigars, wines, and liquors.⁸ Another advertisement listed all wool underwear, a "nobby Cassimere suit", Strauss overalls, and Stetson hats.⁹

William died suddenly of an internal hemorrhage on 23 May 1887 in Baker City, Oregon.¹⁰ It is not known why he was in Oregon, since he was living in Silver Reef at the time. He was buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City.¹¹

¹ United States Census, 1850, 1860.

² *Michigan Argus*, 27 June 1862, p. 1.

³ General Catalogue of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity, 1888, p. 754; tombstone.

⁴ *Ibid*; United States Census, 1870.

⁵ Pacific Coast Business Directory for 1876-78.

⁶ United States Census, 1880.

⁷ *Silver Reef Miner*, 4 November 1882, p. 4; *Salt Lake Herald*, 26 May 1883, p. 8; 13 November 1884, p. 4; Business Directory, 1884, pp. 462, 716; Utah Directory for 1883-4, p. 277.

⁸ *Silver Reef Miner*, 17 March 1882, p. 2.

⁹ *Silver Reef Miner*, 4 November 1882, p. 4.

¹⁰ *Morning Oregonian*, 24 May 1887, p. 2; General Catalogue of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity, 1888, pp. 119, 754, 952; US Records of Headstones of Deceased Union Veterans, 1879-1903; *Findagrave.com*

¹¹ US Records of Headstones of Deceased Union Veterans, 1879-1903.

When You Want
All-wool underclothing, a nobby Cassimere
suit, Strauss overalls, Stetson hats, fresh
groceries, the best brands of tobacco and
choice cigars, ladies', gent's and children's
shoes, firstclass stationery, prime wines
and liquors, don't forget that you can find all
these lines of goods at **SAGER'S.**

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

W. B. Sager
Main Street,
SILVER REEF.....UTAH
.....DEALER IN.....
GROCERIES
CLOTHING,
Gents' Furnishing Goods
STATIONERY, NOTIONS,
Hats, Boots and Shoes
TOBACCO, CIGARS,
WINES AND LIQUORS

(Image from the *Silver Reef Miner*, 17 March 1882, p. 2)