BRILL, FREDERICK LOUIS, born at Bilstein, Westphalia, Prussia, April 4, 1833; son of Heinrich and Vina Brill; married, (1) Isabella Roarke (1854-1884), a native of Ireland, at San Diego, California, November 22, 1875; children, Louis, Fredrick, and Cora, who married Alfred Franklin, Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, (2) Laura Copeland at Phoenix, A.T., December 3, 1885.

Attended public schools and took a collegiate course at Lippstadt; left Germany in 1849 and landed at New Orleans, Louisiana, where he learned the cigar maker's trade; moved to San Antonio, Texas, and established a cigar factory, 1850; sold out in 1852 and left for California via the Nicaragua route; caught the yellow fever at San Juan but, though very ill, made it on to San Francisco and thence to the placer mines in Mariposa County; moved to San Diego in 1855 where he engaged in stock raising; became an American citizen by naturalization in the District Court September 15, 1860; served as Deputy Sheriff and one term as City Trustee, 1862.

Obtained a contract to supply beef to the Army and left for Arizona with a drove of 700 head of cattle in the spring of 1865; acquired an interest with Henry Wickenburg in the Vulture Mine but sold out before the property was developed; took up a ranch on the Hassayampa River three miles below Wickenburg in 1866 where he planted the first large apple and peach orchard in the Territory.

Suffered serious losses from the hostile Apaches the first of which occurred on April 6, 1866, two days after his return from a trip to San Diego, California, where he had purchased 15 head of horses and mules, which the Indians promptly stole, consisting of a
BRILL, FREDERICK LOUIS

pair of buggy horses worth $350, 9 work horses worth $100 each, and 4 valuable mules; his herder, Ben Weaver, was killed by the Indians when these animals were driven off; In the fall of 1867 the Apaches got away with three of his milk cows and a bull from his pasture on the Hassayampa and in the spring of 1872 he lost 6 work horses to the Indians who stole them at Cullings Well.

In 1882 he began to acquire land on the Salt River Valley and engaged in general farming and stockraising; ultimately owned three fine ranches comprising 960 acres of irrigated lands, one tract of which (N.W. ¼, Section 4, T. 1 N.R. 3 E.) he platted in 1887 as Brill’s Addition to the City of Phoenix which is now bounded on the north by McDowell Road, on the East by 12th Street, on the South by Roosevelt Street and on the West by 7th Street; built a fine home on McDowell Road near 7th Street in 1884 but retained his legal residence in Wickenburg until 1893; Justice of the Peace at Wickenburg 1885-86 and 1889-92; died at Phoenix, Maricopa County, A. T., April 5, 1911, aged 78; buried, St. Francis Cemetery; Brill Street in Phoenix named for him.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

McFarland & Poole - Historical and Biographical Record of Arizona, Chicago, 1895, pp. 502-503.
Bensel Company - Phoenix Directory, 1892, p. 56.
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San Diego County Marriage Records, Book 8, p. 152.
Great Register of Maricopa County, 1876, 1882.
W.P.A. - Inventory of Maricopa County Archives, 1940, p. 365.
The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, April 6, 1911 9:1-2 (obituary).
The Arizona Democrat, Phoenix, April 5, 1911, 2:3 (obituary).
The Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, April 5, 1911, 4:4 (obituary).