

AMELUNG, OTTO

OTTO AMELUNG.

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Winners of the West, 11/30/38, 3-6.

Rescued Boy from Indians and After Fifty years ' Separation Meets Him in Cincinnati.**** (A clipping from the Cincinnati Inquirer obtained in 1912.)

Fifty years ago Colonel Guido Ilges, now weigh tmaster and for many years connected with local German newspapers, was a soldier in Arizona. One day it fell a part of his duty to rescue a small boy from the Apache Indians. Later he adopted the boy until his uncle was found in Germany, where Colonel Ilges took him.

Yesterday a tall man of distinctly military bearing, knocked at the door of Colonel Ilges' home, 1211 Claystreet. The stranger proved to be the man who had been rescued when a boy by Colonel Ilges and his name is Ernst Amelung, now employed as interpreter in the War Department of the United States.

.*. This is the way Colonel Ilges told the story:

"While stationed at Camp Grant, Arizona Territory and Capt. of the 32d Infantry, a party composed of Otto Amelung, his wife and three infant children, together with a number of Mexicans, were surprised on the way to our fort by Apache Indians and all of the party killed with the exception of the two Amelung boys, who were carried away to the mountains by Indians.

"All of the machinery of the Government was set in motion when two years later it was learned that one of the boys still was held as captive, the other having frozen to death during the

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PRECEDING WINTER. We could reach no agreement with the Apaches for Amelung's release until finally an Apache girl was stolen by the Pima Indians. An Apache chief came to our fort and offered to give us the white boy if we could return the Apache girl or secure her liberty from the Pimas.

"We bought her liberty for \$30 and sent word that we would be ready to effect the trade the next afternoon. Never will I forget the two or three hundred Apaches as they rode up near our fort with the white boy in front of their leaders. A detachment of men followed me leading the Apache girl and the trade was made.

"Little Ernest was such a cute boy that he became a favorite at the post. I adopted him and sent him to San Francisco to live with an aunt of mine until I could locate his relatives. After several years I found that he had an uncle near Frankfurt, Germany and I took him over there.

"Ernest was educated in Germany, but at the age of 22 he wanted to come back to America. He located in San Antonio in 1882 and later moved to Houston, where he took the civil service examination and was given a place in the Navy Department. All of the time he was looking for me, wondering where his old foster dad could be found.

"Since that time he has been transferred to the War Department and while going through some rusty old records a week ~~or~~ or so ago found that I had gone to Cincinnati. Last week he was called to Chicago, and in returning came through Cincinnati, to look me up and he found me sure".