

# BERTHOLD, FERDINAND

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BERTHOLD, FERDINAND, born in Rhein, Prussia, in 1834;  
son of John C. and Wilhelmina Berthold ; \_\_\_\_\_  
was his common law wife; son, Edward.

Came to the United States with his parents in 1850 and  
lived with them at Gray Summit, Franklin County, Missouri, until  
he was naturalised as an American citizen, at age 22, in Circuit  
Court of that County on April 19, 1856; he left his home shortly  
afterwards for California and in 1863 went from there to Sonora,  
Mexico; on December 15, 1865, he joined with Mark Aldrich, John  
H. Archibald, Jarvis Jackson, John Montgomery, Juan Lopez, Eugenio .  
Ruiz and Hampton (Nigger) Brown in locating farms in the San  
Pedro Valley near the Overland Stage Station at Tres Alamos  
whine they took out an irrigation ditch; listed there in the  
1870 Census as a farmer, property valued at \$800, that he es-  
tablished a store is shown by an advertisement printed in the  
Tucson Arizona Citizen of August 16, 1873:

FERD. BERTHOLD,

Tres Alamos, Arizona,

DEALER IN GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

Have constantly on hand a well  
selected stock of

DRY GOODS , GROCERIES , PROVISIONS

LIQUORS, TOBACCO, and CIGARS, Etc., Etc.

Which I offer for sale at lowest possible  
prims. I have also HAY and GRAIN on hand to supply  
the traveling public. Also a most excellent well of  
water to accomodate the public.

On November 1, 1873, the Arizona Citizen stated:

We have not definite reports of the corn and bean crop in all parts of this county. Ferd Berthold gives 500,000 pounds as the approximate amount of corn in San Pedro valley. Potatoes, cabbages, beets, onions, carrots and some other vegetables are of good quality and quite a large crop of each--particularly of potatoes.

On January 11, 1874, he filed upon a homestead in Section 6, Township 16 South, Range 20 East near Tres Alamos; at the time of his death he had an interest in the Tres Alamos irrigation ditch and had also taken out another ditch to divert water from the San Pedro River to irrigate a tract of land 8 miles north of there.

The following references to him appeared in the Arizona Citizen in 1875:

June 12 -- LETTER FROM COL . HODGE. SIERRA BONITA RANCH, MAY 28, 1875.

EDITOR CITIZEN : . . . The settlement at Tres Alamos now numbers about 100 men, forty-seven women, and fifty-six children. The leading men in the settlement are Hon. John Montgomery, J. H. Carroll, F. Berthold, H. Kimberlain, and Thomas Dunbar. The four first named are successful farmers, and Mr. Dunbar and his amiable wife keep the station where with good food and a clean bed the wayfarer forgets for the time that he is away off in Arizona on the borders of civilization. To all these mentioned, as well as all others whom I met in the settlement, I am under obligations for attention and kind hospitality.

Ferd Berthold came in from the San Pedro on Wednesday. He reports the crops in his section looking very well, and says he will raise about 200,000 pounds of barley, for which he has already been offered a fair price.....

July 31 -- Ferd Berthold who was in from San Pedro this week, says rain falls nearly all the time out there; that last week it fell every night and some times very heavy, too.

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His death was reported in a letter to the Probate Judge of Pima County dated at Ymuris, Sonora, Mexico, on August 18th, 1876, which reads:

We the undersigned Americans, temporarily resident in this town hereby notify you that Ferd Berthold of San Pedro died this morning at this place, without having made any disposition of his property. He, left here one wagon with 1 set of harness and one trunk with a little clothing, some letters and photograph, 40 dollars in greenbacks & 7 dollars in coin, all of which property is now in charge of Frank Lang, who makes the necessary disbursements for burial expenses &c.

Mr. Berthold's boy is in charge of Mr. John Montgomery of San Pedro, who is here with his whole family.

In order to enable you to enter into correspondence with deceased's family we have examined his last letter and find that he has a brother living as follows: F. W. Berthold, Melrose, Missouri.

Yours respectfully,

John A. Spring  
M. J. Brien  
Frank Lang  
John Montgomery

The Probate Court records show that \$2,013 was derived from the sale of his livestock, barley and corn crops and other personal property; the real estate was sold for \$1,350 of which mention was made in the Tucson Arizona Star of January 10, 1878:

R. H. Huffaker and C. M. Hooker have secured the ground belonging to the Berthold estate on the San Pedro, and will begin at once to put in a crop of grain. The ground is very valuable for raising produce and we have no doubt these two gentlemen will meet with ample reward for their labor.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Probate Court of Pima County - Docket No. 129.  
District Court of Cochise County - Grijalba vs. Dunbar,  
December term, 1889 (Suit over water rights).  
Farish, T. E. - History of Arizona, 1916, Vol. 4, p. 247-248.  
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, March 4, 1871, 4:1; August 16, 3:3  
and November 1, 1873, 2:1; June 12, 1:1 and 3:3 and July  
31, 1875, 3:4.  
The Arizona Star, Tucson, ~~January 10, 1878, 3:3.~~

Berthold,

Weekly Arizona Star, 1/10/78, 7-4.

R.V. Kuffaker and C.M. Hecker have secured  
the ground belonging to the Berthold estate  
on the San Pedro.

## WANTED

1. Obituaries in Tucson Star or Citizen about August 25, 1876, and additional prior references to him in both newspapers.

2. He probably sold his store at Tres Alamos to Thomas Dunbar about 1874, Please look in the newspapers for an early advertisement by Dunbar.