

BRUNCKOW, FREDERICK

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BRUNCKOW, FREDERICK, born in Berlin, Prussia, about 1820 of a Russian father and a German mother; received a classical education at the University of Westphalia at Munster and attended the Royal Mining Academy at Freiburg in Saxony; Charles D. Poston wrote a tribute to him in 1880 from which the following is taken;

With the enthusiastic students of German-Prussia he engaged in the revolution of 1848 and upon the failure of these aspirations emigrated to the United States in 1850. Landing in New York he wended his way down the Mississippi, working on a steam boat as a deck hand.

In 1856 he was working near New Braunfels, Texas, as a shingle-maker at two dollars and a half a week with board, when he was solicited to join the General Exploring and Mining Company then being outfitted in Texas for Arizona. He gladly accepted a more congenial field of operations and accompanied the expedition to El Paso, where the 4th of July, 1856, was celebrated, and arrived in Tucson at the feast of San Augustine, in August of the same year. The company established its headquarters at Tubac in the autumn of 1856 and commenced exploration of the adjacent mountains for mineral deposits.

Mr. Brunckow was accomplished in social education, spoke English, German and French fluently. As a mining engineer he was a remarkable adept with a blow pipe, and his German colleagues highly appreciated his instructive knowledge in the value and quality of the ores submitted to his inspection. He was a keen sportsman, fond of the chase, and added to his accomplishments the pleasing quality of being an excellent dresser of wild game. The mustang horses frequently formed a favorite dinner at Tubac.

In 1856, Brunckow, Ehrenberg, Moehrmann and other engineers and employees of the company were called to New York to give information about the mines of Arizona, and from realization of the results of their enterprise and hardships were enabled to transfer the festivities of Tubac to Delmonicos, where the pioneers unfolded to the capitalists of Gotham the wonders of the Arizona mines. Brunckow returned to Arizona in 1859 and entered upon the development of the Brunckow mines in what is now called the Tombstone District.

Listed, U.S. Census, August 28, 1860, at San Pedro Silver Mines, age 40, born in Prussia, occupation Mining Engineer, property valued at \$12,000; in September, 1860, he was with J. C. Moss, the Williams Brothers,

BRUNCKOW, FREDERICK

-2-

William M. and James, all three of whom were from Pennsylvania, and a number of Mexicans at his mining camp about a mile east of the San Pedro River in the vicinity of what was later known as the Tombstone mining district; William M. Williams went one day to Fort Buchanan for supplies and returned to the camp late at night; of what he found there Raphael Pumpelly says:

"In hunting for matches he stumbled over a man lying on the floor. Stooping down he put his hand in a pool of blood. In the dark he made his way into another room and, in his excitement, fell over another body. Not finding matches he mounted his horse and hurried to the Fort, distracted by the uncertainty as to whether his brother was one of the dead.

"He reached the Fort at daybreak. A number of soldiers and H. C. Grosvenor, who happened to be at the Fort, returned to the mine with him. They found that the bodies in the house were the brother and the other American. The mining engineer, Brunckow, was missing, but after a long search he was found in the bottom of a shaft, where he lay dead with a long rock drill through his body.

"The Mexicans were gone. They had killed the Americans and, after robbing the house, had escaped to Sonora with the horses."

Poston, in 1884, said, "We laid our fingertips on the Tombstone mines, when Brunckow and his companions were assassinated there".

BRUNCKOW, FREDERICK

-3-

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