

CONTZEN, FREDERICK (FRITZ)

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CONTZEN, FREDERICK (FRITZ), born at Sternbruch, Waldeck, Germany, February 27, 1831; son of Philipp Contzen, Chief Forester for the Prince of Waldeck, and Augusta (Steinmetz) Contzen; married (1) Mariana Ferrier at Tucson, August 20, who died September 30, 1861; and (2) Olympia Maria Margarita Ferrer (1846-1937), at San Xavier Mission, January 9, 1862; sons, Louis and Philip.

Sailed from Antwerp, Belgium, and landed, age 14, at Galveston, Texas, with his elder brother, Julius, July, 1845; became a citizen of the United States as a resident of Texas upon the admission of that State into the Union, December 29, 1845; Enrolled November 10 at San Antonio and mustered in at Fort Inge, Texas, November 20, 1850, as Private, captain (Big Foot) Wallace's Company, Texas Mounted Volunteers; served in campaigns against the Comanche Indians; honorably discharged at Fort Inge, Texas, September 23, 1851; his brother, Julius, was a soldier in the same company.

At Indianola, Texas, on October 18, 1854, he was employed by Major W.H. Emory of the U.S. Boundary Commission, who was organizing a party to run and mark the boundary between the United States and Mexico according to the Gadsden Treaty of December 30, 1853; his duties were to work with Maurice von Hippel, the Principal Assistant Surveyor, and Charles Weiss, the Assistant Surveyor, both of whom were Germans; he remained with them until June 30, 1855, when the party completed the location of the international line from the Rio Grande River to the 111th meridian near what is now Nogales, Arizona.

His brother, Julius, who was a graduate in forestry at the University of Giessen, came to the Gadsden Purchase in 1854 with a party organized at San Antonio, Texas, by A.B. Gray to survey a route for the

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Texas Western Railroad, of which Peter R. Brady was a member; they met up in a store at Tubutama, Sonora, when Julius said, Well, Fritz, I am happy to see you again. I thought you were killed long ago. " They were together when attacked by Apaches while en route to Hermosillo, Sonora, late in 1855, of whom they killed ten; was seriously wounded in the left leg and Julius died two years later at their ranch near San Xavier as the result of eighteen wounds received in that fight.

Assisted in raising the first American flag when Mexican troops evacuated Tucson, March 10, 1856; listed U. S. Census, July, 1860, at Tucson, property valued at \$1500; on October 20, 1861, a band of Apaches raided his ranch at Puntos de Agua, 3 miles above San Xavier, and drove off 376 cows, 11 horses, 3 mules, and a blooded stallion; William H. Kirkland was with him that day and they killed a number of the Indians; the U.S. Court of Claims denied his claim because the Apaches at that time were "not in amity with the United States"; bought grain, forage and horses from the Papago Indians which he sold to the Overland Stage line; Captain J.M. Box traveled through the Santa Cruz valley about 1861 and says of Contzen and his wife;

"This is one of the few places in Arizona where a traveler may find a good, old-fashioned meal of ham and eggs, butter and milk."

Was arrested by order of Colonel J.H. Carleton and examined before a board of officers at Tucson, June 7, 1862; ordered to be confined at Fort Yuma on suspicion of sympathy for the confederacy; left Tucson with other political prisoners under guard June 10, and arrived at Fort Yuma June 22; upon taking the oath of allegiance was released

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from imprisonment, August 3, 1862; served as military express messenger riding alone at night through the Apache-infested region between Tucson and the Gila River; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, at Tucson, occupation, Expressman, property valued at \$450.

Was sub-contractor under Louis Zeckendorf for U.S. mail contracts between Tucson and Prescott, and also from Tucson to Tubac and Sasabe; when the mail carriers were killed by the Apaches, he would carry the mail himself; listed, U.S. Census, July, 1870, at Tucson, occupation, U.S. Mail Contractor, property valued at \$6,000.

Was one of six Americans in the party which attacked the Arivaipa Apache rancheria near old Fort Grant when 108 Indians were killed, April 30, 1871; went with his wife to Germany via Panama in September, 1873, to arrange for the education of their son, Philip, and remained there until 1880; located the San Xavier mine near Twin Buttes and the Young American mine near Silver Bell; listed, Barter's Tucson City Directory, 1881, as Capitalist, residence on Meyer Street between Congress and Cushing streets; member, Arizona Pioneers Historical Society; died at Tucson, Pima County, A.T., May 2, 1909, aged 78; interment in the Andrew Cronley Plot, Catholic Cemetery, Tucson.

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- The National Archives - War Department records.
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- General Accounting Office - Old files.
- U.S. Court of Claims - Docket 3358, Petition, July 18, 1891.
- Probate Court of Pima County, Arizona - Docket No. 2202.
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- The Tucson Citizen, May 3, 1909. (obituary).