

GOLDBERG, ISAAC

GOLDBERG, ISAAC, born at Petrokov, Russian 001
Poland, April 1, 1836; married Amelia Lazarus at San Bernardino
California, November 1870; children, Arthur, Aaron, Emma
(Mrs. Arthur Ashley) and Ann (Mrs. Abraham Ancter).

Came to California about 1854 and was naturalized as an
American citizen in the District Court at Los Angeles on
September 5, 1859; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864,
at La Paz, occupation - Merchant, resident in Arizona 6 months;
in 1894 he wrote his personal experiences for the Society of
Arizona Pioneers in which he stated 'what induced him to leave
San Bernardino, California, for Arizona:

One day in 1863, a Mexican -- Don Quarez by name, brought
from La Paz, on the Colorado River, a chunk of gold valued at
\$1,000. It looked like the hand of a human being. He brought
besides this "rich and rare" specimen, 50 ounces of smaller
nuggets, all of them pure gold. Then came a period of memor-
able excitement. Everybody wanted to go to the promised
"diggings." From San Bernardino to La Paz, the freight-charge
was fifteen cents per pound, and when I arrived there, flour
cost \$30 to \$40 a hundred. People had little to eat besides
mesquite beans and river fish.

I sold empty dry-goods boxes to get back my freight ex-
penses. Those boxes were used for coffins, furniture, and other
purposes. Every evening, the miners and gamblers would spread
their blankets upon the streets, and play card-games for the
nuggets which were daily found in abundance by those who
searched the adjacent "placers." Water for drinking and culi-
nary purposes was sold at \$1 the ten-gallon-kegful.

Having heard of the discovery of gold at Rich Hill near
the Weaver diggings he left La Paz in July, 1864, with a friend
named Burnett but they lost their way and nearly died of thirst
before they reached Wickenburg; went on to Weaver and from there
to Prescott late in August; in Prescott he opened a saloon of
which he gave the following description:

My bar-room paraphernalia consisted simply of two bottles and a cup on the rude counter which concealed sundry barrels of whiskey. My bar-keeper-- a brave man indeed--was a deserted soldier with an abbreviated or chawed-off nose. I paid him \$100 a month--in addition to board--and could really well afford to do so, for I had neither rent nor license hanging over me, and got 50¢ for each dram retailed. One dollar greenbacks were then worth only 45¢, but I had no reason to complain of that fact, or the scarcity of their appearance.

From Prescott he went via Weaver to Tucson which he found to be:

A some-time deserted city, with the buildings mostly in ruins; but nevertheless, I opened a business there, for there was a good indication of an early return of prosperity.

That he at first prospered after his arrival in ~~Tucson~~ Tucson in 1865 is indicated by the following quotations from the Tucson Arizonian:

October 30, 1869 - Mr. I. Goldberg has made up his mind that, being a good-looking man, there could not possibly be any inconsistency about the matter suppose he were to have one of the prettiest habitations in town. Thus reasoning he set a dozen of Mexicans to work plastering and painting. The result is that the rough looking adobe of two weeks ago reminds one of a newly fledged goldfinch.

December 4, 1869 - The everlasting "Lomo de Oro" has purchased the Sweetwater station from H. C. Fitzgerald and is about to send thither a stock of merchandise adapted to Indian trade. We are pleased to see that though a straight forward man, in the person of Mr. Fitzgerald, has ceased trading with those ignorant but friendly (Pima) Indians, another not less honest and humane is about to take his place. By-the-way, if some unexpected success does not suddenly overflow the pockets of Mr. Goldberg, and cause him to retire from business, it is a difficult matter to attempt to decide when or where his speculative career will come to a standstill.

January 1, 1870 - Mr. Goldberg has put a buggy upon the mail route from Tucson to Florence, which arrangement proves very advantageous to the many who have business connections at both places and have to pay the expense connected therewith. And so the arrangement furnished protection to the driver as well as pocket money to "Lomo de Oro."

January 22, 1870 - Mr. Goldberg left on Monday for Prescott . . . His sudden exit leads us to judge that there is a (Government) contract "scared up" somewhere, and that he is dodging around to get a shot. 603

February 12, 1870 - Mr. Goldberg returned from Prescott on Wednesday.... A modest-looking business man making no pretensions to fashion or foppery, with no other ornament about his person than a heavy gold chain suspended from his vest... The train of Goldberg & Company left for Yuma last week.

After arriving in Tucson in 1865 he formed a business partnership with Philip Drachman which lasted until the early seventies when it was dissolved because of losses from Indian depredations; as the surviving partner he filed a claim (on which there was no recovery) against the Federal Government for property taken by Apache at Canada del Oro and on January 16, 1893, testified that:

In 1870, he was, with his partner, Philip Drachman, engaged in merchandizing and mail contracting. In March of that year he sent out to a camp that was cutting hay near Old Camp Grant, three or four wagons loaded with coffee, sugar, bacon, tobacco, and "everything that was necessary," to the value of O * \$4,000 00
 Clothing to about the value of * * * * * 1,500 00
 Guns and ammunition of about the value of 150 00
 Shovels, scythes, axes, and picks to the value of 100 00
 10,000 pounds of barley, worth 5 cents per pound 500 00
 The wagons were drawn by oxen, of which they lost 12 yoke, which were then worth at that place \$75.00 Per yoke * 900 00
\$7,150 00

About the same time claimants lost, at Florence, Arizona, 6 horses from a corral, 4 that had been kept at the corral and two which the stage driver had driven in the night of the depredation.

Two of these horses were worth \$150.00 each 300 00
 and 4 of them were worth \$100.00 each 400 00
 Total loss \$7,850 00

Claimant knows he loaded the wagons at Tucson to go to Old Camp Grant. He knows the destruction of the train was reported to him, and that Angel Ortez, the wagonmaster, was reported killed by the Indians at the time the train was destroyed.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Tucson, occupation - Merchant, property valued at \$7,500; Barter's Tucson City Directory, 1881, lists him as a Merchant at 102 Main Street; Charter Member, Society of Arizona Pioneers at Tucson, January 31, 1884; in the early nineties he met with an accident which caused him to be lame for the rest of his life so he retired from business and went to live at San Bernardino, California; died In San Francisco, California, June 20, 1904, aged 66; buried Salem Cemetary, San Francisco.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Society of Arizona Pioneers, Tucson - Membership book.
Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, Tucson - Goldberg manuscript.
U. S. Court of Claims - Indian Depredation Docket No. 6946
The Weekly Arizonian, Tucson, January 24, June 5 and 12, October 30 and December 4, 1869; January 1 and 22, February 12, November 19 and December 10, 1870.
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, November 30, 1872; October 25, 1873; May 22, 1878, and August 18, 1899.