

# MOOHRMANN, THEODORE

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MOOHRMANN, THEODORE, born in Mecklenburg, Germany, 1826; probably one of a group of Germans whom Julius Froebel met in the Santa Cruz Valley in July 1854, and who had joined with Don Manuel Gandara, Governoref Sonora, "in making an attempt to establish here a civilized population, in spite of the Apaches"; attended a meeting at Tubac on February 27, 1858, and signed a petition to Congress relative to conditions in the Gadsden Purchase; listed U. S. Census, September, 1860, at Tubac, age 34, occupation, Merchant, property valued at \$6,000; served as Postmaster at Tubac, Dona Ana County, New Mexico, from January 2, 1861, to February 14, 1863, when the office was discontinued.

The following testimony was given by Charles H. Meyer of Tucson in connection with an Indian depredation claim of Charles D. Poston:

Sometime about the middle of August, 1861, a Mexican came down from Tubac to Tucson, having been sent by Theodore Moohrmann who kept a store there, with a letter to Granville Oury, asking him to get a party of men and come up there as he and the people were afraid that the town would be looted by a band of Mexicans coming up on the road from Sonora. Granville Oury started right out and he got about 14 men together, and asked them to get their horses and arms. The whole party started out about five o'clock and travelled all night during a fearful thunder storm; we got to Tubac just between daylight and sun rise; we all went up to Moohrmann's house, and he had a Mexican and a woman there; they started a big fire for us to dry and got us our breakfast.

Then Granville Oury who acted as Captain sent a man whose name was John Clark up to the river about a mile and a half from Tubac, just to ascertain what was going on on the road. In less than an hour, Clark came back and reported to Oury that there was a large party of Mexicans with a lot of burros with pack saddles on them coming towards the creek.

Then Oury, the Captain, says "Come boys get your guns and let us go down to the river and stop them fellows." Well,

when we got down to the banks of the river, the Mexicans came right to the other bank. There was a big black looking fellow among them, and the Captain Oury told him, "You go back; if you try to cross that creek, we will kill you." The Mexicans then turned around and talked to the crowd that was with them, and they all turned around and went up the bank of the creek.

"Then Oury detailed three men to act as a guard to see what they were going to do. The balance of us went back to Moohrmann's store, and talked the thing over. Finally they came to the conclusion, that they would send an express down to Tucson to get all the teams that they could get there and come up to Tubac and move the parties and the goods. A Mexican was sent on horseback with a message to a man by the name of Ramon Pacheco; he being the only man that had any large teams.

"The man left, and we stayed there at the store. Oury got one of the men, I think John Davis, to notify the Mexican families to get ready to move. In the mean time one of the men who had been on guard came back, and told us that the whole Mexican gang was in camp right below Tumacacori, that is about two miles above Tubac.

"The wagons came in the third day in the afternoon from Tucson. The store of Moohrmann was emptied out and put on the wagons, all they would hold, and some of the traps and bedding of the Mexican families. The next morning we completed the loading of the wagons, but left a great deal of stuff in Moohrmann's store, two tons of flour, we could not get on, we had to leave there. We started off, knowing that the Mexicans were on the other side of the creek. We rode slowly, and this side of Tubac, on the rising ground where we could watch the place, we stayed for awhile to see what they would do.

"The Mexicans came across the creek with a whole train of burros, and they turned around on the eastern side of the store house and stopped in front of it. It was but a little while until we saw some of the Mexicans come out packing things out, and Oury says, "Come let's go, its no use for us to stay here, we might get into trouble yet", Just about when we were leaving, we saw three Mexicans driving a bunch, of hogs, then we came home.

"On the 27th of February, 1862, Captain Hunter of the Confederate Army came here with about 75 thugs. He took command here and confiscated all the provisions, clothing,

everything he could get hold of, throw people out of the houses.

"I had a particular friend in the gang by the name of Lieut. Pope who came to me the next day, Saturday evening, and says to me "The Captain sent me for you to come up on the plaza and help raise the Confederate flag at nine o'clock in the morning." I told the Lieut., "You give my compliments to the Captain, and tell him that we had already raised a flag and didn't need any other."

"The next morning about 10 o'clock the same Lieutenant came to me and says "You will have to very careful how you talk, the first cluck you or any of you fellows make they will hang some of you." I paid no attention to it at all, and time went along.

"Moorhmann then keeping a store down on Third Street, and he boarded with us. Sometime in the latter end of March, this same Lieut. Pope came to me, he says that Hunter had given the order to have Moorhmann arrested that night, and I asked him why, and he said that he had communicated with the Union troops at Yuma and he was going to hang him.

"I went right down to Moorhmann's store, and told him what was going to happen to him. He gathered up what cash he had; locked up the store; gave me the key and when we got up to my house, he gave me sufficient money to get a good horse and saddle; and he got out of the country.

"The next day in the afternoon Hunter came personally, he says, "What's become of Moorhmann? "Why" says I, "I am not keeping Moorhmann." He demanded the key of the store and I went down to the store with him. Hunter had a hostile feeling toward me and I got out of the country; went to the Cerro Colorado."

Died at Arivaca, Pima County, A.T., February 2, 1866; Mortimer R. Platt, a lawyer of Tucson, was executor of his estate which was willed to his mother, Sofia Moorhmann, in Germany and appraised at \$9,815.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- . Froebel, J. - Seven Years Travel in Central America, Northern Mexico and the Far West of the United States, London, 1859, pp. 495, 497, 501.
- U.S. Post Office Department - Appointment records.
- U.S. Court of Claims - Indian Depredation Docket No. 3254 (testimony of Charles H. Meyers).
- Probate Court of Pima County, A.T., - Docket No. 14.