

# The Goldberg Brothers: Arizona Pioneers

FLOYD S. FIERMAN

It took unusual courage — not to mention imagination and physical stamina — to pioneer in the American Southwest a century ago. All the more so, of course, for Jews, who risked not only life and limb, but their religious identity as well, in settling on that distant wilderness frontier. Yet Jews did come — the brothers Philip and Samuel H. Drachman, for instance<sup>1</sup> — and put down roots in the parched, but nonetheless promising soil of mid- and late nineteenth-century Arizona and New Mexico. These men, as the writer has had occasion to say elsewhere,<sup>2</sup> were not flat *tortillas*; they were spicy *jalapeños* giving flavor to the frontier. Consider, for example, an obituary notice which appeared in the *Phoenix Weekly Herald* during the fall of 1889:

For a time he engaged in placer and quartz mining and at different times was located in Sacramento, North Fork, Marysville and various mining camps. He made several fortunes and was burnt out more than once. In time he resumed the mercantile business and prosecuted the same at Los Angeles and San Bernardino. The latter has been his place and home for over thirty years.<sup>3</sup>

The particular *jalapeño* whose passing is reported here was the Jew Hyman Goldberg, whose story, as that of his brother Isaac, forms part — and no insignificant part — of the story of the American West, notably Arizona, as we shall see.

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<sup>1</sup> See *American Jewish Archives* [AJA], XVI (1964).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 136.

<sup>3</sup> *Weekly Herald* (Phoenix, Ariz.), November 1, 1889, 4:2.

## HYMAN GOLDBERG

Hyman Goldberg became the brother-in-law of Philip and Samuel H. Drachman when he married their sister, Augusta, at Los Angeles, California, in 1852. Like his in-laws, he stemmed from Piotrkow (Petrikov), in Russian Poland, where he had been born in 1815.<sup>4</sup> Both Polish and German were his native tongues, and Goldberg had also studied Hebrew as a language of prayer. After living for a time in Germany and in England, he emigrated in 1839, at the age of twenty-four, to the United States, where he apprenticed himself to a merchant tailor in New York. Soon enough, however, Goldberg's *Wanderlust* led him to New Orleans and then, via Mexico, to San Francisco. Eventually, he moved to San Bernardino, and it was from there that his various enterprises radiated.

Hyman Goldberg's marriage to Augusta Drachman resulted in the birth of four children: Aron; David, who married Rosa A. Solomon, the daughter of Isidor Elkan Solomon, of Solomonville, Arizona;<sup>5</sup> Amelie, who married Louis Migel; and Beckie, who became Mrs. Hugo Zeckendorf. Thus, through matrimony, a number of pioneer Arizona and New Mexico Jewish families — the Drachmans, the Solomon-Lesinsky-Freudenthal clan, and the Zeckendorf family — became united. At the outset, these families remained attached to their ancestral faith, and may also have been inclined to pool their capital in order to avail themselves of the opportunities which the frontier offered.

Originally, it is possible, Hyman Goldberg's brothers-in-law, Philip and Samuel H. Drachman, had been drawn to the West by letters from their friends and fellow immigrants, the Goldwaters. Yet, there may have been another, even more compelling attraction, which brought Philip to California in 1854 and Samuel some years later, in 1867. In a lengthy autobiography written for the

<sup>4</sup> The accuracy of birth dates presents a problem. Hyman is listed in the United States Census of August, 1870, at Arizona City (Yuma), as being fifty years of age. If he had been born in 1815, he would then have been fifty-five years of age instead of fifty. Piotrkow is the Polish name for what the Russians called Petrikov and the Germans Petrikau — a town twenty-eight miles southeast of Lodz.

<sup>5</sup> See Floyd S. Fierman, *Some Early Jewish Settlers on the Southwest Frontier* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1960).

Arizona Pioneers' Association, Mose Drachman, the son of Philip Drachman, claimed that his father had come to Arizona in 1863, and his uncle Samuel in 1867, and that the brothers had brought their sister Augusta to the United States. All the available evidence, however, documents the fact that Augusta had preceded her brothers to the West Coast by two years.<sup>6</sup> There, at Los Angeles, as we have noted, she married Hyman Goldberg in 1852. Conceivably, Hyman Goldberg had known Augusta in Russian Poland, where both of them had been born. Augusta, one of the rare women unafraid to migrate to America's undeveloped West to marry, was no child bride. She was already about twenty-four years old before Hyman was able to accumulate the funds for the costly passage across the ocean and across the continent. Thirteen years' residence in a country that welcomed the immigrant assuredly gave Hyman enough time to feel secure enough to marry.

Hyman's brother Isaac, who also traveled to the far reaches of America, had been born in 1841, according to the records of the Arizona Pioneers' Association, but that date seems incorrect. Senator Carl Hayden recognized the possibility of an error in those digits<sup>7</sup> and concluded, after competent calculation, that Isaac had been born in 1836, not 1841.<sup>8</sup>

A principle similar to the Mexican *compadre* and *comadre* tradition would appear to have motivated both Hyman and his bride. An ingrained family loyalty led Augusta Drachman to trouble herself about her brothers, and Hyman, reared in the same spirit, was apprehensive about his brother. It is certainly possible, then, that Hyman, whose integrity matched the gold and silver resources of the West, bears the responsibility for bringing his two brothers-in-law and his brother to the frontier. Not only could he have done so, but there is, in addition, little doubt that he could have arranged and subsidized the business agreement whereby Philip Drachman and Isaac Goldberg became business associates.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> *AJA*, XVI, 136-37, 148; "Reminiscences of Mose Drachman," Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, Tucson.

<sup>7</sup> Correspondence of Carl Hayden with Harry A. Drachman, July 11, 1945.

<sup>8</sup> *AJA*, XVI, 138, n. 9.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 138.

Like many alert enterprisers in the Arizona Territory, Hyman Goldberg swung a pickaxe, rode a burro, stood behind a counter, and engaged in placer and quartz mining. In 1868, he was working as a drover, leading a drove of cattle to Tucson. As a merchant, he was sensitive to new opportunities, so that, when gold was found in the Arroya de la Tenaja and the boom town of La Paz quickly developed into a community of five thousand residents, Hyman astutely collected gold dust as a merchant in La Paz. Ehrenberg, located on the Colorado River and a principal landing for freight to be shipped overland to Prescott, also arrested his attention. After all, though in 1870 Ehrenberg's 233 residents could not be compared to the 5,000 who lived in La Paz, these settlers did need merchandise not readily available to them. Nor did Hyman overlook Florence and her 218 people in 1870. It was Yuma, however, that beckoned and held him in the early days. Old Fort Yuma was located in the area, and the discovery of gold in California plus the necessity for a southern route gave the town a new importance. By 1870, more than 1,100 persons were living in Yuma.

To operate in many directions required, of course, a quick turnover in merchandise, and this, in turn, demanded a boom town economy. Miners had to be staked, new settlers had to be given credit, and they were all good for what they borrowed as long as the economy stood up and as long as they found the mineral they were seeking. When they did not, then the whole economy tumbled. This was the condition in which Hyman Goldberg found himself in 1878. He had overextended his resources and, to break the chain of debt, petitioned for bankruptcy in Yuma County on March 5, 1878.<sup>10</sup> Hyman, however, possessed great resuscitative power, and his economic sense never degenerated. He simply started all over again. Apparently his "backers," the distributors on the West Coast, were willing to speculate with him. A fortune could be made, but it presupposed a gambling mood. The distributors would take the risk with a man like Hyman, whom they held in high regard, and Hyman was always quick to foresee advantages. In 1881, three years after his bankruptcy, his inventory amounted to

<sup>10</sup> Hyman Goldberg, Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, Tucson, Ariz.; *Arizona Sentinel* (Yuma), March 23, 1878, 4:6.

\$15,000. How much he owed, or how much equity was his, we cannot determine, but we do know about the \$15,000 because of a series of disasters that befell him.

There was, in addition to the hazard of the rapid rise and fall of boom towns, the triple scourge of fire, building cave-in, and flash flood. A kerosene lamp could be knocked over by an inebriate or, inadvertently, by a would-be customer, causing the soft goods to go up in flames momentarily. The flash floods of the Southwest and the subsequent weakening of the adobe walls from which buildings were constructed could result in a cave-in, with the *vigas* killing the unsuspecting people below or just generally wrecking the building. Hyman Goldberg was the proprietor of a store at Harshaw<sup>11</sup> in the early 1880's, when he fell victim to the unexpected triple blow. In Harshaw, "about two-thirds of his stock was destroyed [by fire] and the balance was considerably damaged."<sup>12</sup> A Phoenix newspaper reported that the loss approximated \$15,000.<sup>13</sup> This unfortunate occurrence had been preceded a year earlier, in 1880, by the crumbling of a wall, involving a loss of \$600, and only a month before the fire, flood water had left Goldberg's store with damages amounting to \$1,000. His vicissitudes were not to end, however, for in May, 1885, four years later, Hyman was a spectator at another fire — this time in Phoenix. It leveled a whole business block.

About half past two this morning, the much predicted enemy of peaceful and prosperous business visited us in the shape of a very disastrous and extensive conflagration. . . . The fire was first discovered and the alarm given by the occupants of the Bank Exchange hotel who discovered huge flames in the rear of Goldberg's store. . . .<sup>14</sup>

<sup>11</sup> "In December, 1873, David Tecumseh Harshaw was a cattleman in the San Pedro Valley where his cattle were roaming over the Chiricahua Indians' range. Indian Agent Thomas J. Jeffords asked Harshaw to remove his stock. Harshaw moved over into what is now Santa Cruz County at a location which the Mexicans then called, and still do, Durasno. . . . Here Harshaw located and developed mines. By 1880 there was a lively mining camp with several stores at Harshaw, but mining activity gradually died out and by 1909 there were only a few families still living in the once prosperous village." Boyd H. Granger, *Arizona Place Names* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1960), p. 318.

<sup>12</sup> *Arizona Weekly Star* (Tucson), August 11, 1881, 1:4.

<sup>13</sup> *Phoenix Herald*, August 12, 1881, 3:3.

<sup>14</sup> *Arizona Gazette* (Phoenix), May 28, 1885, 3:7.

Goldberg's merchandise and building loss was \$12,000. He had carried \$7,000 in insurance, but was still left with a deficit of \$5,000. Undaunted, he began anew; the *Arizona Gazette* reported a month later:

H. Goldberg has leased the Olympic hall, and will resume business by the 15th of next month. Aron Goldberg [his son] will leave for San Francisco in a few days to purchase a new and complete stock of goods. . . .<sup>15</sup>

The remarkable "H. Goldberg" was sixty-eight years old when he reopened his Phoenix store.

While Hyman Goldberg operated primarily as a merchant, he did not hold himself aloof from the "faster dollar" of mining. He was about sixty-three when, in 1880, only two years after his Yuma County bankruptcy, the mining spirit again enchanted him.

Our mercantile friend, H. Goldberg, yesterday showed us a beautiful specimen of ore taken from the Silver Queen mine, in the Texas Hill District,<sup>16</sup> of which he is one of the owners. The property is pronounced by experts to be very rich and will pay from the "grass roots" down. Mr. Goldberg expects on his next visit to California to make arrangements for working the property. This gentleman also owns a valuable mine in Tombstone and one in the Dragoon<sup>17</sup> mountains.<sup>18</sup>

One gains the impression that Hyman never engaged in business with his brother Isaac — except perhaps to stake him in his early days. Most of his business associations seem to have been with his sons Aron and David, but one wonders whether he had any dealings with another arch speculator, Isidor Elkan Solomon, David's father-in-law, or with the Zeckendorfs, who were also related to him through marriage.

That Hyman Goldberg was highly esteemed by his associates and fellow citizens is apparent in the documents which describe

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, June 4, 1885, 3:2.

<sup>16</sup> The Texas Hill district is in Yuma County. See Granger, p. 386.

<sup>17</sup> "The Dragoon mountains were so named because it was here that the 3rd U. S. Cavalry, known as Dragoons, was stationed. Their name came from the fact that they used heavy carbines, rather than the usual sabre and revolver associated with cavalry troops." The Dragoon mountains are in Cochise County. See Granger, p. 36.

<sup>18</sup> *Phoenix Herald*, September 3, 1880, 4:3.

him. Identified as an Odd Fellow, a Mason, a member of the Legion of Honor, and as a member of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, a national Jewish men's organization, he also achieved a measure of political prominence. From 1873 to 1874, he served as a member of the Yuma Town Council and was popular enough in 1874 to be elected from Yuma County to the lower house by an overwhelming majority. In a society where "might was right" and where it was commonplace for a man's tongue to become twisted so that an untruth could be justified by circumstances, Hyman Goldberg's integrity stands out like a gold vein in a quartz body. Not only does his obituary speak kindly of him — "Not many leave a character so spotless, beloved and respected wherever known"<sup>19</sup> — but there is also an episode which may be said to exemplify his character. During his Yuma residence, he once found himself surrounded by Apaches and was released by them only on condition that he supply them at a later date with provisions. We are told that when "the murderous savages" called a few days later at the store, he kept his word and delivered the provisions which he had promised. The story may be apocryphal, of course, but even if it is a legend, it does bespeak Goldberg's honesty. Such legends do not grow up about men of recreant character.

Hyman Goldberg was called to his Maker on October 30, 1889:

About a week ago he contracted a severe cold which in connection with his advanced age proved fatal. . . . Today the remains will be taken to San Bernardino where his wife and daughters are. . . .<sup>20</sup>

Sam Drachman, his brother-in-law, traveled from Tucson to Phoenix to attend the funeral.<sup>21</sup>

Augusta, Hyman Goldberg's widow, survived him by nearly two decades. She died in San Francisco on September 15, 1908,<sup>22</sup> at the age of seventy, and she, too, was buried in San Bernardino, California.

<sup>19</sup> *Arizona Daily Gazette* (Phoenix), October 31, 1889, 2:3.

<sup>20</sup> *Weekly Herald* (Phoenix), November 1, 1889, 4:2.

<sup>21</sup> *Arizona Daily Citizen* (Tucson), November 2, 1889, 4:3.

<sup>22</sup> *Arizona Star* (Phoenix), September 16, 1908, 3:5.

## ISAAC GOLDBERG

The partnership into which Isaac Goldberg and Philip Drachman entered during the 1860's was presumably brought about through Hyman Goldberg's marriage to Philip's sister. Hyman was their *patrón*, and this was all the stimulation that the two men required. The country was bursting with opportunities. Arizona was a young maiden seeking a marriage proposal. During the 1850's, New Mexico — which then included present-day Arizona — was dotted with forts manned by seventeen hundred men. These men had to be supplied, and the federal government spent three million dollars annually on these installations.<sup>23</sup> By the mid-1850's, there was a strong demand for regular mail and passenger service to the gold fields in California. The southern route was victorious, so that El Paso and Tucson achieved a new prominence.

Arizona's potential suitors were scarcely reticent. Subsequent to their move from San Bernardino to La Paz, and then after La Paz's mines had been worked out, Isaac Goldberg and Philip Drachman transferred their energies to Tucson and Prescott.<sup>24</sup> They stood over a counter, but, as they realized, mineral strikes meant that merchandise would sell more quickly, if it could be carried to the consumer. Isaac Goldberg, however — like his brother Hyman — was not satisfied to support himself either as a sedentary or as a mobile merchant. The glitter of the gold in the drywasher opened his eyes instead of blinding him, and so he, too, became a prospector — to the extent that he won the sobriquet of *Lomo de Oro*.<sup>25</sup> Isaac was more than an investor who staked the miner; he was a man unafraid of the rigors of exploration:

A party of enterprising citizens, under command of Mr. Goldberg, alias *Lomo de Oro*, determined to explore Cañada del Oro which, although at a distance of less than fifty miles from Tucson, was, up to this time, entirely unknown beyond a distance of four miles from its mouth. . . . At all events

<sup>23</sup> Erna Fergusson, *Our Southwest* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1946), p. 104.

<sup>24</sup> See *AJA*, XVI, 138, 141.

<sup>25</sup> This sobriquet is a Spanish play on the name Goldberg. The German "berg" — "hill" — is "*Lomo*" in Spanish. Thus, Goldberg — "Gold hill" — is *Lomo de Oro*, "hill of gold"; *Weekly Arizonian* (Tucson), September 25, 1869, 2:1.

it was our intention to be back on time to issue a paper on the 18th, but the guide having lost himself and us among the hills we were obliged to wander at random for three days before discovering an outlet. . . . This journey although attended with considerable hardship has been productive of useful information regarding this section of the territory. Quarz [*sic*] lodes, bearing gold and silver, exist at various points in the cañon. . . .<sup>26</sup>

Isaac's mercurial character and the public nature of his various speculations in 1870 caused considerable comment in the Old Pueblo of Tucson.<sup>27</sup>

Mr. Goldberg returned from Prescott on Wednesday. His presence at that town about contract time [government bids] created quite a sensation; the inhabitants flocking to see the Tucson elephant. . . . [He] quieted their fears by assuring them that he did not . . . [have] the purpose of taking that advantage which his affairs at the South warranted, but [was there] simply in the capacity of one willing to speculate to their interests. The character of his bids has not disproved his avowal.<sup>28</sup>

Goldberg had interests above the ground and over the ground, but it was what lay in the ground that enchanted him. Sometimes he became the venturesome prospector; at other times, as in 1871, he responded as a supplier. He had a nose for business and an eye for gold.

Some 23 miles southward [from Tucson] are quite extensive placer diggings, which Mr. Goldberg informs us are worked by some seventy men, and the prospect seems so encouraging that he intends to stake out a stock of goods for his own profit and the miners' convenience. He showed us about an ounce of very clean placer gold, brought in on Monday; also some buttons of gold melted out of quartz found in the same vicinity.<sup>29</sup>

Shortly after this, however, the hub of the many-spoked Goldberg-Drachman wheel ran out of grease, and the year 1872 found the two

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> Granger, p. 285: "In May, 1864, Gov. John Goodwin declared Tucson a municipality, which was tantamount to its corporation. In 1867, by a majority of a single vote, Tucson became the Territorial Capital, but in 1877 the capital was moved back to Prescott. In 1879 thousands of people flocking to the Tombstone District had their effect on the economy of Tucson, which began to emerge from being a tiny sleepy village into its life as a city."

<sup>28</sup> *Weekly Arizonian* (Tucson), February 12, 1870, 3:2.

<sup>29</sup> *Arizona Citizen* (Tucson), April 15, 1871, 3:2.

men declaring themselves bankrupt.<sup>30</sup> Undismayed, they mended the wheel, and soon finding grease enough to rub on the hub, began to roll again. Isaac Goldberg was more diversified than heretofore; he was now a freighter, a contractor, a retailer, a well-digger for water, and a prospector.

The newspapers of the day followed Isaac Goldberg, just as a saloonkeeper followed the boom town. The *Arizona Miner* of 1879 announced:

Isaac Goldberg tackled us yesterday, and, reaching his hand as high as he could denote the size of it, he whispered that he had the biggest thing outside of Comstock barring nothing. . . . After getting down behind a pile of adobes he told us (under a pledge of eternal secrecy) that last week he, and Jesus Bandurraga and another, went out after something they had been hunting for years — and they found it, do you understand (as Sammy says), found it after all these years, and friend Goldberg says he don't care for nothing now and he's a rich man. It's copper and silver and just reeking with wealth and "within twenty miles of Edinboro Town."<sup>31</sup>

Apparently Isaac Goldberg cried "bonanza" too often, for the newspaper reporter comments: "Now what are you going to make out of a fellow like that? He's so excited we actually believe he has got it and that it's 'way up.' We hope he has."<sup>32</sup>

Since nothing further is heard of this exploration, we can only assume that once again Isaac Goldberg had failed. Nonetheless, the irrepressible adventurer continued his quest for wealth in the earth. The *Arizona Daily Citizen* of 1886 details:

Messrs. W. A. McDermott and I. Goldberg have made a mining discovery that bids fair to create a big excitement in this section and lead to the formation of a big mining company to operate on it. About sixteen miles northwest of Tucson, on the eastern slope of the Tucson mountains, they have located three claims, the Goldberg, Pioneer and Leadville. The ledge is all of six feet in width and the poorest samples, taken from across its entire width, assayed today 133 ounces of silver, 1-½ ounces gold, and 60 per cent copper. The ledge was known to exist there fourteen years ago, but it was not the class of ore then wanted, and its discoverer died

<sup>30</sup> See *AJA*, XVI, 145.

<sup>31</sup> *Arizona Citizen* (Tucson), January 18, 1879, 3:4.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

with the secret of its exact location, several years ago. Quite recently it was rediscovered by a Mexican and Mr. Goldberg, and it was located yesterday by the above named parties. . . . Messrs. McDermott and Goldberg, with a force of men and a complete mining outfit, will start tomorrow morning to open up the claims. It promises to be the most important discovery ever made in the Tucson mountains.<sup>33</sup>

How, one wonders, were these claims to be financed? A clue is disclosed in a news item: "An interest has been sold to Mr. Chan Tin Wo, the only naturalized native of China in Pima County."<sup>34</sup> The indefatigable Isaac Goldberg, having exhausted all his other financiers in both funds and patience, had found a new source of revenue in the naive naturalized Chan Tin Wo. Yet Chan Tin Wo, too, was destined to lose his investment. The patient burro returned to Tucson with only his passenger on his back, and his passenger had only calloused hands to show for his efforts.

In an article which Isaac wrote for the Society of Arizona Pioneers in June, 1894, he reminisced from San Bernardino, California, that it was originally a gold find that had induced him to come to Arizona:

One day in 1863, a Mexican — Don Juan Quarez by name — brought from La Paz, Arizona, on the Colorado River, a chunk of gold valued at \$1,000. It looked exactly 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 memorable excitement. Everybody wanted to go to the promised "diggings". . . .<sup>35</sup>

He also refers to another discovery:

Another "diggin's" was discovered in '64, known as "Viver's [Weaver's] diggings." Accompanied by a friend named Burnett, I went there shortly after hearing the news.<sup>36</sup>

One wonders whether Isaac Goldberg ever did make a strike, and the *Tombstone Epitaph* of 1882 affords a hint. It relates that

<sup>33</sup> *Arizona Daily Citizen* (Tucson), July 22, 1886, 4:5.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> Isaac Goldberg, "An Old Timer's Experiences in Arizona, A Story of the Pioneer Days of Isaac Goldberg," written for the Society of Arizona Pioneers, June, 1894.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

fifteen years earlier, in 1867, Isaac Goldberg and P. W. Dooner and others had made a prospecting trip to the Santa Catalinas<sup>37</sup> after "fabulous gold mines which were supposed to exist somewhere among the summit peaks of that rocky and almost inaccessible range." The party lost its way and in its uncertain wanderings discovered a huge ledge of very rich copper ore. At that time, however, copper mines were not thought to be very valuable — with the result that little attention was paid to the accidental discovery and the exact location was not accurately observed. The party made its way out of the mountains, and its members considered themselves fortunate that they had returned in safety. Could this have been the Goldberg exploration in the Cañada del Oro to which the *Weekly Arizonian* had referred in 1869? The dates are different, of course, but the reporter of 1882 may have been in error. Whether he was or was not, is irrelevant, however, for in 1882, with copper having assumed importance in the Arizonian economy, Isaac Goldberg attempted to find the lost ledge. Once again he exchanged the buckboard for the burro:

They were more fortunate this time, and succeeded in rediscovering the bonanza, which is but a thousand feet from the mountain stream . . . and but fifteen miles in a straight line from Tucson, although eighty miles by the only feasible trail. The ledge was located by Isaac Goldberg, Andrew Cronley and James Lee and Samuel Hughes in an extension. The croppings brought in were very rich, and average specimens gave by assay over thirty per cent copper. . . . Old miners who have heard the particulars of the find and have seen the ore say that it is the most important discovery ever made in the vicinity of Tucson, and its value to the owners beyond computation. . . .<sup>38</sup>

We can conclude, then, that all his prospecting brought Isaac Goldberg at least this one discovery — but how profitable was the lode?

<sup>37</sup> The Santa Catalina mountains are in Pima County. Granger, p. 280: "In 1697 Fr. Kino visited a now-vanished Papago rancheria near what is today Tucson, and called the place Santa Catalina Cuitchibaque. . . . Lt. John G. Parke in 1854 referred to the range as the Santa Catarina Mountains, whereas Lt. N. Michler in the same year called them the Sierra de Santa Catarina. The name continued in use, sometimes given as Santa Catrina, at least until 1880. Gradually, however, the name Santa Catalina came into use."

<sup>38</sup> *Tombstone Epitaph*, January 10, 1882, 3-4 (From the *Citizen*, January 6, 1882).

To this question the sources supply no answer. Had it been of great consequence, would not Isaac have dropped his other interests and focused his attention on it? This, however, he did not do.<sup>39</sup>

There were other natural resources of interest to Isaac Goldberg. "White gold" was — it still is — just as precious in the Southwest as yellow gold. That white gold is water. The Old Pueblo had, in 1876, become the village of Tucson, and the people of the village needed water. Alert to this need, Isaac Goldberg became a member of a company which sought to sink an artesian well. The *Arizona Citizen* comments:

Nearly a year ago, we noted the fact that Messrs. McCoy, Goldberg and perhaps others had in contemplation the sinking of an artesian well in Tucson, that the village authorities had encouraged the project; that the machinery had been sent for. . . . We visited the works Thursday morning and interviewed Mr. James Sproal, director of the work and interested party with W. W. McCoy, I. Goldberg and Charles T. Etchells of Tucson. . . . At the time of our visit, the depth of eighty-two feet six inches had been reached and rather rapid progress had been made. . . .<sup>40</sup>

In order to meet the government commitments that he and Philip Drachman had contracted themselves to perform and also to be assured of a regular flow of merchandise for their retail stores, Isaac Goldberg had to arrange for his own transportation facilities. Government contracts, of course, were all too often replete with problems and conflicts. During the 1880's, Goldberg and Drachman found themselves embroiled in a dispute with the government, and the case dragged on to its dismissal in 1903.<sup>41</sup>

Each endeavor, however, presented its own peculiar difficulties.

<sup>39</sup> Isaac Goldberg was engaged in additional prospecting: "Colonel David Taylor, Gov. A. P. K. Safford, Thomas Ewing, C. E. Curtis, J. A. Meredith, M. W. Stewart, I. Goldberg, and P. Lazarus formed themselves into an unincorporated company for the purpose of placer mining [gold] in Cañon del Oro, north of Tucson near the Old Camp Grant road." (*Arizona Citizen* [Tucson], September 5, 1874, 3:3). Goldberg had been in this area in 1869, but had abandoned it. Goldberg was still prospecting in 1890: "Isaac Goldberg was in town last Monday. His latest rich mine is about six miles this side of Dudleyville and the ore looks well and is said to assay way up" (*Weekly Arizona Enterprise* [Florence], May 3, 1890, 3:1).

<sup>40</sup> *Arizona Citizen* (Tucson), June 5, 1875, 3:2; *Ibid.*, January 8, 1876, 3:2.

<sup>41</sup> *AJA*, XVI, 143-45.

In August, 1875, for instance, a Goldberg train was almost inundated by a cloudburst:

I. Goldberg's train arrived at Gila City Station, July 27, and while there a water-spout burst and came nearly carrying away his wagons laden with 47,629 pounds of freight, including Nash and Co.'s quartz mill. S. H. Hovey, wagonmaster, writes that the water came up to the wagon beds, but did not damage the goods, and by getting the mules upon knolls, he saved them all, but the "spout" detained him two days.<sup>42</sup>

Three years later I. Goldberg was not so fortunate:

Mr. I. Goldberg's train loaded with government freight from this city, while passing over a bridge at Tres Alamos,<sup>43</sup> lost 1,000 pounds of flour entire, and 5,000 pounds was [*sic*] badly damaged. The bridge gave way. Such a loss would fall heavily upon Mr. Goldberg and there is a legal question as to whether the county is not responsible for the safety of the bridges along the public highway. . . .<sup>44</sup>

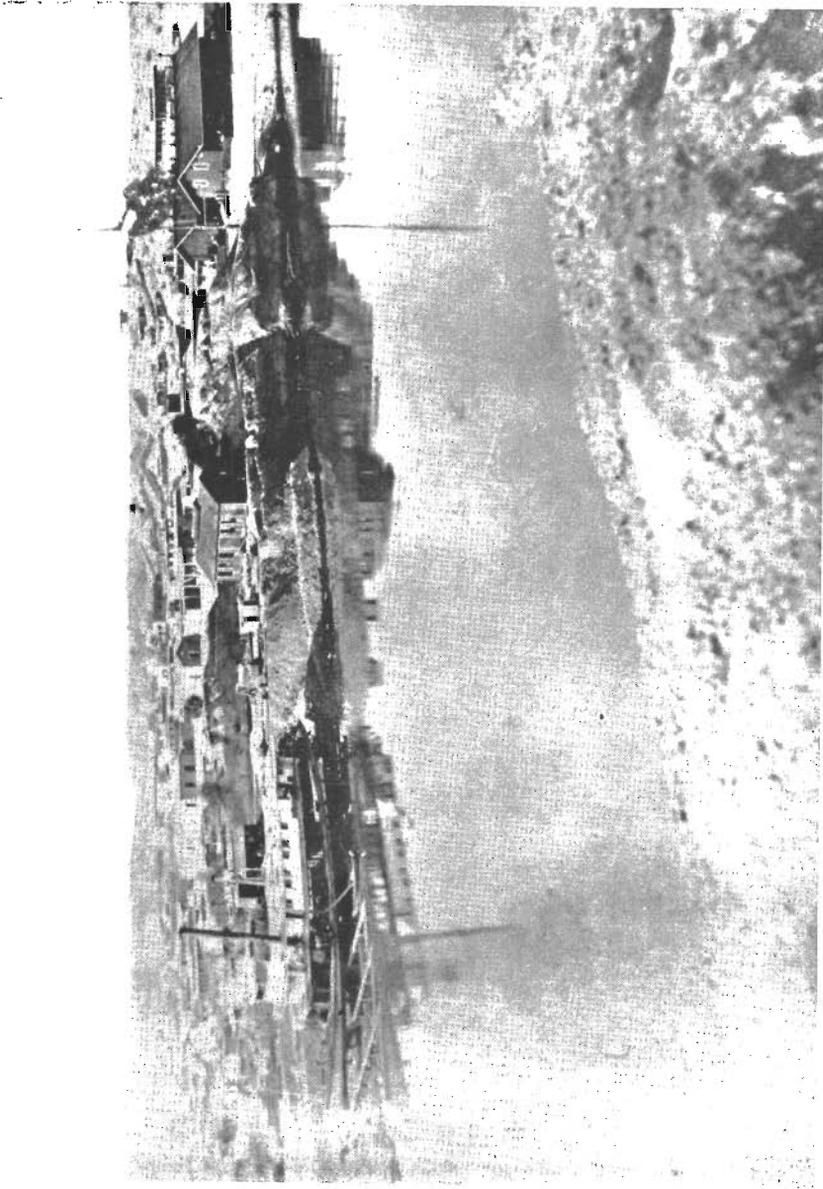
With all Goldberg's absorption in the life of the frontier, he was still attached to the religion of his fathers. A daughter and a son were born to him and his wife Amelia in Arizona.<sup>45</sup> Their daughter's birth date was October 24, 1873, and their son first saw the Arizona sun on May 22, 1878. Jewish life involves no special religious services for the naming of a female child, but it does require a special ritual, a circumcision ceremony, for a male child, and the officiant must be ritually acceptable. No compromise in the case of circumcision can be acceptable to the traditional Jew, but at the time there may have been in Tucson no one proficient enough to turn back the foreskin. According to Jewish law, the circumcision must be performed on the eighth day or shortly afterwards. Of necessity, in the case of Isaac Goldberg's son, it could not be performed until long after the eighth day, and it is in this light that we

<sup>42</sup> *Arizona Citizen* (Tucson), August 7, 1875, 3:3.

<sup>43</sup> "Three Cottonwoods" is located in Cochise County. Before there was a stage station at this location, it was known as Rio de Tres Alamos. See Granger, p. 55.

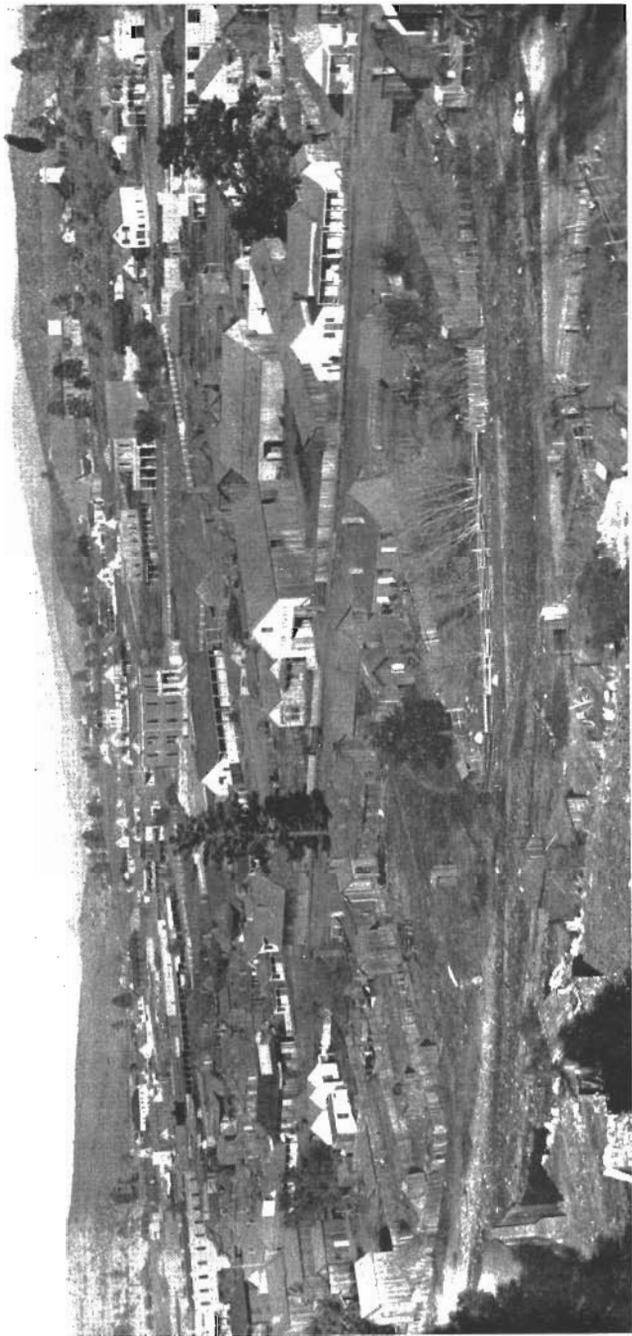
<sup>44</sup> *Arizona Star* (Tucson), October 24, 1878, 3:1.

<sup>45</sup> Isaac Goldberg's wife was Amelia Lazarus. Their children were Arthur, Aron, Emma (Mrs. Arthur Ashe), and Ann (Mrs. Abe Ancter): Correspondence with Yndia S. Moore, Historical Secretary, Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, Tucson, Arizona, December 28, 1961.



*Courtesy, Arizona Historical Foundation, Phoenix, Arizona*

Yuma in 1876  
(see pp. 6, 8-9)



*Courtesy, Arizona Historical Foundation, Phoenix, Arizona*

Prescott in the 1880's  
(see pp. 6, 10)

can interpret a newspaper account of 1878. Five months after the birth of his son, Isaac, probably at his wife's urging, planned to take his whole family to San Francisco, where a person ritually fit could read the prayers and perform the ceremony:

Mr. Isaac Goldberg expects to leave with his family on Monday next, by private conveyance for Yuma, thence by rail for San Francisco. He goes to the great city of the West to have certain Jewish rites performed for his children.<sup>46</sup>

The saga of Isaac Goldberg closes with an obituary notice in the *Arizona Daily Citizen* of June, 1902. He had died in San Francisco on June 20, 1902, after a lingering illness.<sup>47</sup> The question that has been asked — “Did he ever make a vast fortune?” — seems to be answered in the lines of the printed newspaper: “. . . later the tide of fortune seemed to be against him, but for all that Isaac Goldberg was an Arizona pioneer, who did much for the early development of the territory.”

<sup>46</sup> *Arizona Citizen* (Tucson), October 19, 1878, 3:4. See Floyd S. Fierman, *The Impact of the Frontier on a Jewish Family: The Bibos* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1961), p. 13. Michael Goldwater arranged his buying trips to San Francisco so that he could attend Jewish Holy Day Services during that same period.

<sup>47</sup> Files of the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, Tucson, Arizona.

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