

Historical Significance of the Jacob Waltz Gravesite

One of the most intriguing legends of the Old West is the mystery of Jacob Waltz and his gold mine. Over the decades, there have been many articles and books written about the Superstition Mountains and the *Dutchman's Lost Mine*.

The legend begins with Jacob Waltz born circa 1810 near Württemberg, Germany and emigrating to America circa 1839. In 1861, Waltz was granted American citizenship in Los Angeles, California. He was panning for gold in California in the early 1860s and later mining in the Arizona Bradshaw Mountains and the Vulture Mine between 1863-1868.

After his 1868 move to Phoenix, Waltz homesteaded and farmed 160 acres. Local residents believed he had a secret gold mine, a mine so rich that one man could work it. Stories were told about his paying for goods in gold nuggets and precious ore. He was known to disappear from Phoenix during the cooler winter months. People tried to follow him only to lose the trail or be confronted by Waltz with a rifle on his way to the Superstition Mountains.

Waltz was recorded in the 1880 Federal Census living in Phoenix at the age of 70, eking out a living by raising cattle and chickens. He died October 25, 1891, at the age of 81, and was buried in the Pioneer Cemetery now known as the Pioneer and Military Memorial Park (PMMP).

After Waltz's death, the *Dutchman's Lost Mine* legend was spread by a story in the *San Francisco Chronicle* dated January 1895. The National Wire Service published the story and, ever since that time, the search for the legendary *Dutchman's Lost Mine* has drawn interest and brought many people to the Superstition Mountains looking for the mine.

The *Dutchman's Lost Mine* still intrigues, but the only person who knows the real story rests in the Loosley Cemetery at PMMP.



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