



Lee Schiff

Occupation: Clerk, Militia Member

Born: 1862?

Birthplace: New York

Death: ?

Lee Schiff was a clerk and a militia member in Leadville. Schiff was born around 1862 in New York to parents of German origin. It is not clear when Schiff made his first appearance in Leadville, however, he was listed as a resident in the city as early as 1882. Schiff's first noted residence in Leadville was at 323 Harrison Avenue.¹

In 1884, Schiff was listed as a boarder at 124 West Ninth Street.² Schiff lived with the Monheimers and worked as a head clerk at Monheimer Bros. located at 321 Harrison Avenue.³ In the same year, a man came into Monheimer's store with the intention of causing a commotion. After a short exchange of words, the man struck Schiff and broke his nose. To add insult to injury, a local newspaper commented that Schiff was "getting along nicely but will probably always be in possession of his antagonist's autograph."⁴

Among his activities in Leadville, Schiff was a soldier of Horace Tabor's Light Calvary. The militia was an auxiliary police force with the aim of protecting Tabor's mining assets. In late 1883, Schiff was noted for his possible candidacy as a first lieutenant.⁵ Schiff was listed as a Sargent in Tabor's militia in February of 1884.⁶ During that time, the "army" was composed of about 40 men.

Schiff was a frequent participant in Leadville's Jewish culture. In March 1884, Schiff attended a local Jewish festival with Max Monheimer and Ed Powell.⁷ In October of the same year, Schiff appeared at Leadville's Simchat Torah gathering. Schiff was listed at the festival as a bachelor.⁸

In 1886, Schiff resided at 111 West Fourth Street with Fred Butler.⁹ In 1887, Schiff changed residences and moved to 37 Clarendon Block (300-308 Harrison Avenue).¹⁰ In his last known years in Leadville, he worked for Daniels, Fisher & Smith, a large dry goods store. Schiff's whereabouts or doings succeeding these events is not known.

¹ Corbett, TB and Ballenger, JH. "Corbet, and Ballenger's Third Annual City Directory: Containing A Complete List Of The Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms Etc. In The City Of Leadville For 1882". Corbet and Ballenger Publishers. 1882.

² "Colorado State Census, 1885," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8WN-W2Q> : 1 April 2016), Lee Schiff in entry for J H Monheimer, 1885; citing NARA microfilm publication M158 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 498,507.

³ Corbett, TB and Ballenger, JH. "Corbet, and Ballenger's Fifth Annual City Directory: Containing A Complete List Of The Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms Etc. In The City Of Leadville For 1884". Corbet and Ballenger Publishers. 1884.

⁴ "Another Broken Nose." Leadville Daily Herald. Leadville, CO; USA. January 24, 1884.

⁵ "Militia Musings." Carbonate Chronicle. Leadville, CO; USA. December 22, 1883.

⁶ "A Bright Outlook for the Future of the Third Battalion." Carbonate Chronicle. Leadville, CO; USA. February 23, 1884.

⁷ "Jewish Festival." Leadville Daily Herald. Leadville, CO; USA. March 12, 1884.

⁸ "The Law's Holiday." Leadville Daily Herald. Leadville, CO; USA. October 11, 1884.

⁹ Corbett, TB and Ballenger, JH. "Corbet, and Ballenger's Seventh Annual City Directory: Containing A Complete List Of The Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms Etc. In The City Of Leadville For 1886". Corbet and Ballenger Publishers. 1886.

¹⁰ Corbett, TB and Ballenger, JH. "Corbet, and Ballenger's Eighth Annual City Directory: Containing A Complete List Of The Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms Etc. In The City Of Leadville For 1887". Corbet and Ballenger Publishers. 1887.