



“I AM A LOYAL CITIZEN OF UNITED STATES,”

FRANZ BUCKREUS' SEDITION IN 1918

By Gilbert Gia
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In May 1918 the administrator of Kern County Hospital was accused of sedition.¹ Franz Buckreus, 73, had been hospital steward for more than three decades – and for 16 of those years he was Coroner-Public Administrator; in May, however, Buckreus had spoken what he believed true, and Bakersfield would tolerate no criticism of the war.²

Blue-eyed, fair-haired Franz Buckreus arrived in the U.S. in July 1871 after service as a medic in the German army during the Franco-Prussian War.³ In New York, he became a barber.⁴ About 1873 he returned to Europe but came back in a few months,⁵ and shortly after that moved to Bakersfield. HE briefly worked for a barber before he set up his own tonsorial business on Chester Avenue.⁶

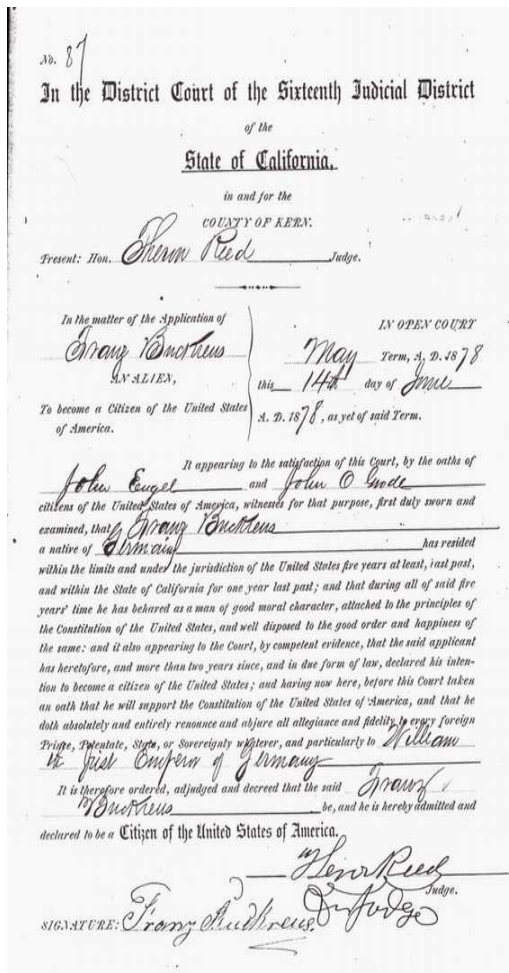
In November 1877 Buckreus killed a man. The tragedy began with a dispute between him and a French dressmaker named Mrs. Eitel who claimed he had not paid her. He denied it. What happened in the course of that day was a complete surprise; his first three years in Bakersfield had marked him as a reliable, solid citizen.

Eitel appeared in his barbershop to collect, and he “applied an opprobrious epithet to her.”⁷ She returned to her shop, and when John Wearner entered he found her crying. Wearner, who was also a barber, and also German, was as much respected as Buckreus. A newspaper wrote, “Both were well-know and esteemed as sober, industrious, quiet, peaceable citizens, regarded as the last persons to engage in a mortal affray.”⁸

Wearner made his way to Buckreus' barbershop, and there “high words and a quarrel speedily ensued.”⁹ Wearner left, but hours later in front of the post office, witnesses saw the two men shouting and then clinched together and struggling. Wearner knocked Buckreus to the ground, and as he tried to rise, Wearner struck him down again. Wearner then cinched his arm around Buckreus' neck and began punching him in the face. Buckreus cried out for help.

Witness observed Buckreus point a pistol over his shoulder and fire. The bullet missed Wearner's head and went through the wall of Burnaps's drug store across the street; but Wearner was oblivious to the shot and continued pounding Buckreus on the face. The encounter ended when Buckreus turned the muzzle against Wearner's abdomen and fired. John Wearner fell dead.

The coroner's jury ruled justifiable homicide. Some, however, did not understand how Buckreus could have been in such imminent danger of his life that he had to kill Wearner. The paper questioned Buckreus' concealed weapon: “If Frank had not had a pistol he could not have used one. He could have received some bruises about the face and head, no more, probably, than he now carries, and for the infliction of which, his assailant would have been held accountable to the proper authorities, and John Wearner would not have filled a bloody grave.”¹⁰



above: Buckreus' citizenship document

The community seems to have forgotten the killing. Seven years later Buckreus became a U.S. citizen,¹¹ and he was an exemplary one:¹² He sold his barber shop in 1883 when he was appointed steward of Kern County Hospital;¹³ He was elected president of the the Alerts volunteer fire team;¹⁴ When the Native Sons of the Golden West held a costume ball, Buckreus was on the prize committee with Christopher C. Cowgill, Hugh A. Blodget, Bertha Said, and Mrs. Orestes D. (Mary J.) Fish, all prominent Bakersfield people;¹⁵ And the Fourth of July celebration of 1888 was lead by Grand Marshal Franz Buckreus;¹⁶ Buckreus was a member of

the bicycle club (he called his bike Bismarck, Tom A. Baker called his Codfish);¹⁷ And 30 persons joined the new oratorio society that Franz Buckreus helped to found.¹⁸

In 1895 he moved to the new Kern County Hospital, a six-acre site at the northeast corner of 19th and Oak Streets. Buckreus not only managed the move, but he and the Chinese gardener also landscaped the grounds (some original trees still stand.) In 1911 Buckreus assisted in the hospital's expansion,¹⁹ and for the next 23 years he directed its growth and development.

When John F. Maio resigned as Kern County coroner-public administrator in October 1885, supervisors appointed Franz Buckreus. Voters elected him in November,²⁰ and he served in the job from 1885 to 1892, again from 1896 to 1903, and during those times he was steward of the hospital. As coroner, his name was associated with cases of murder, lynching, and mayhem. In June 1893, 23 year-old William Anthony, a native of Pennsylvania, died from an overdose of morphine given him by "a woman of the town;"²¹ In 1894 Buckreus brought in a body found lying in the foothills about eight miles northeast of Bakersfield;²² In 1894 Buckreus' name was in an ad in the *Los Angeles Times* that offered a reward for information about a trunk that had been mysteriously removed from Bakersfield;²³ In 1901 he investigated the lynching of Ah Sing on Bear Mountain;²⁴ and in 1901 Buckreus presided over the inquest of John F. O'Brien, son of Michael O'Brien who was proprietor of the Nugget saloon. Young O'Brien was found dead in his room with a half-empty bottle of sulphate of morphine. Coroner Buckreus discovered that O'Brien had been despondent over a misunderstanding with a woman, "whose character is not of the best."²⁵ In 1903 Buckreus quit the coroner-public administrator position after the State required a medical degree. The job loss did not affect his zeal for the truth. In 1905 he was particularly persistent in seeking information that might save a man from prison.²⁶

The *Los Angeles Times* sometimes called Buckreus a doctor.²⁷ He was not a licensed medical practitioner, but he was an astute health officer. Tuberculosis was prevalent in Kern County in 1896, and Buckreus blamed the contagion on eastern and foreign immigrants. He said, "I would not favorite quarantine to prevent such persons entering the state. I would

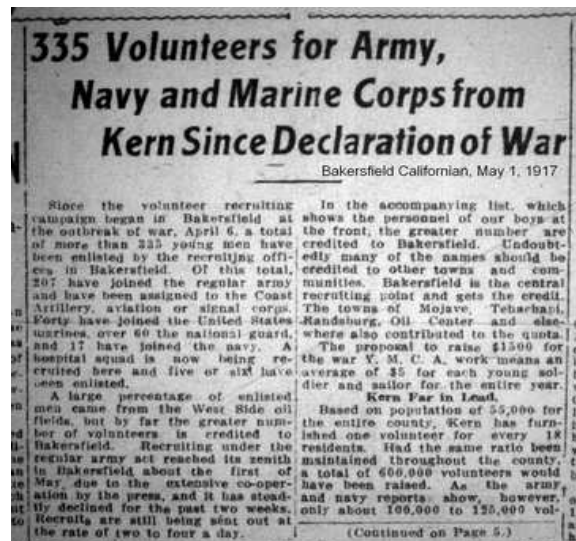
suggest as a remedy a state quarantine law, with state quarantine hospitals, whereby those patients could receive treatment and be isolated.”²⁸

What kind of hospital did Buckreus manage? As late as 1918 Kern County Hospital was not for the average citizen, rather it was “... to serve more adequately the needs of the sick poor of Kern county.”²⁹ A state report noted, “Premises were clean and in good condition. It is lighted by electricity, has a private water supply, and also an irrigating ditch, and four bathrooms and four water-closets. Three nurses are employed. The site consists of six acres of land, all tillable. Two acres are in orchard and one-and-one-half in garden. The hospital keeps two cows and 100 chickens.”³⁰ In 1909 the hospital was a two-story, framed building flanked by a one-story wing on each side, making up a frontage of 220 feet.³¹ In 1911 a 60-foot wing was added on the east side for a new surgical ward/operating room, and hospital capacity increased from 75 to 100 patients. About this time the building was updated with a new system of heating, lighting and ventilation. “The entire equipment bespeaks the oversight of a wise intelligence.”³²

War started in Europe in August 1914. By March 1917 the U.S. Secret Service was in Kern County gathering names of German residents. The *Californian* explained, “This step is being taken with a view to safeguarding the immense oil interests, the list comprising people who might be considered enemies in case of war.”³³ County officials cooperated in creating the lists.³⁴ In 1917 the *Maricopa Oil News* cautioned, “In these times it will be natural for many to imagine a lurking spy in every person of German birth or extraction. Let us guard against too much suspicion, and too careless speaking of the German people....it is needless to wound by taunting them with disloyalty or lack of loyalty to America because of ties to the old country that makes their hearts bleed. Either way, they decide.”³⁵ The plea for understanding didn’t last long. On April 6, 1917 the US declared war on Germany, and the next day residents of Maricopa formed the Maricopa Oil Field Protective Association.³⁶



In May 1917 the patriotic fervor increased. The US Army recruiting office on 19th Street enlisted 335 volunteers, and from a national perspective that number placed Kern County high on the list of patriotic communities. “Kern has furnished one volunteer for every 18 residents,” wrote the *Californian*. “Had the same ratio been maintained throughout the country, a total of 600,000 volunteers would have been raised. As the army and navy reports show, however, only about 100,000 to 125,000 volunteers have enlisted.”³⁷ The numbers suggest that Kern County's volunteer rate was five times greater than that of the rest of the country.



First notice of the draft came on May 18, 1917. "The day will be the eighth following the President's draft proclamation...All men of Kern County who have passed their 21st and not yet

reached their 31st birthday must register for the Army draft, whether they are citizens of the United States or are aliens."³⁸ The news didn't stop holiday plans. On May 19 Franz Buckreus, his niece Anna Buckreus, and 100 other vacationers departed from Santa Fe Station for a Yosemite holiday.³⁹ Within months, though, there was little doubt that Kern County was at war. In January 1918 shops in Bakersfield rationed the sale of flour;⁴⁰ A former civil engineer for the Kern County Land Company, Charles F. von Petersdorff, was arrested at Tucson, Arizona on charges of being an enemy spy;⁴¹ and German aliens in Kern County were instructed to register at Bakersfield.⁴² In July, 1917, 11 local residents were jailed as "draft slackers."⁴³

Patriotism and xenophobia were growing. Ex-President William Howard Taft spoke in February before the National Security League and explained that the greatest danger to America was the "whisperers who are overtly sowing sedition and pro-German propaganda,"⁴⁴ and the *Nation* called for suspension of civil liberties to simplify the conviction of those charged with sedition.⁴⁵ Balancing negative national news, thirty-two Bakersfield girls under the direction of Sergeant Alex Pullman, U.S.A., drilled three nights a week at Emerson School. "The sergeant is pleased over the interest shown and the progress made by the girls, who, he says are more apt at learning the drill movements than most men."⁴⁶



Also in May, Bakersfield hosted a seven-day Chautauqua of music, dance, lecture, and religious devotion, all “to serve war needs.”⁴⁷ William Jennings Bryan delivered a two-hour tent-lecture, and newspapers quoted him extensively. In his speech, “A Citizen's Duty,” Bryan said, “Our part as I see it is to stand, as one man, backing our government, our President, and Congress in anything they see fit to undertake while this war lasts.”⁴⁸ A military representative would also speak that week. The *Californian* advised, “Every relative of our soldiers should hear Dr. Bushnell tomorrow morning.”⁴⁹ Dr. J.C. Bushnell's talk was “With Our Armies In Europe.” In it he told of “our boys with Pershing and of conditions with our allies,”⁵⁰ but what newspapers did not mention were Bushnell's accusations that German soldiers had committed atrocities.

Bakersfield movie theaters, too, promoted the war. In May, the *Californian* wrote, “These are busy days for Uncle Sammy’s film industry. Every month brings important additions to the government’s important motion picture output. All of which is based on the picturization of the war. The Division of Films of the Committee on Public Information has just issued a prospectus of a new series of two-reel pictures to be issued under the general title “U.S.A. Service.” The first of the series, “When Your Soldier Is Hit,” will be issued in December, and the others will follow at half-monthly intervals. This initial picture illustrates the wonderful efficiency of the Medical Detachment and Field Hospital corps...”⁵¹ In May 1918 the Hippodrome screened the *German Curse in Russia*, a five-reel matinee displaying “deeds of heroism, the history-making revolution, and over all and through all, the unbelievably detestable German infamy and its intrigue.”⁵²



May 18, 1918, *Bakersfield Californian*

Maricopa trustees voted that seditious talk was punishable by six months in jail and \$500 fine.⁵³ A few days later, California suspended the teaching of German and threatened to withhold funds from districts not complying.⁵⁴ In June the National Security League (claiming 281 branches and 100,000 members) started a McCarthy-like campaign against German-Americans. According to Col. Charles E. Lydecker, chairman, “The presence of a large number of persons in the country who profess loyalty to the government, but who foster the traditions, maxims, speech, and principals of the enemy governments by suggestion, innuendo, and connivance amounting to conspiracy, are offensive to loyal workers and detrimental to a genuine spirit of patriotism.”⁵⁵

That was the atmosphere in Kern County in May 1918 when five Kern County hospital nurses walked off the job, and the hospital's steward tendered his resignation.⁵⁶ The *Bakersfield*

Californian noted it briefly but drew no conclusions, adding only that Franz Buckreus "...had proven himself to be an official of the highest type, faithful, conscientious and intelligent in the discharge of his duties, and there will be genuine regret over his retirement at this time." ⁵⁷



Franz Buckreus, *Bakersfield Californian*, March 18, 1908⁵⁸

On the morning of the walkout, Franz and Anna Buckreus were having breakfast at the hospital with nurses when Mr. Buckreus opined that a Chautauqua speaker had been hired by the government "to tell lies about the Germans."⁵⁹ According to the nurses, Buckreus insisted that German soldiers did not commit atrocities and did not have Belgian women in the trenches.⁶⁰ After breakfast five nurses⁶¹ went to Judge Flournoy and filed a disturbing the peace complaint against the Buckreuses. District Attorney Jess Dorsey examined the charges, Judge Flournoy issued warrants, and the Buckreuses were arrested. J. M. "Jack" Jameson and Dr. Augustus F. Schaefer posted their bail, \$4000.⁶² Attorneys Calvin V. Anderson and Fredric E. Borton asked Judge Flournoy for a continuance to familiarize themselves with the case,⁶³ and Deputy District Attorney Wesley Grijalva raised no objection. The specific charges against Franz and Anna Buckreus were "willfully and maliciously disturbing the peace and quiet for this complainant and by tumultuous and offensive conduct."⁶⁴ During this time a government

office called the Colby Bureau⁶⁵ learned about the case and told the U.S. War Department.⁶⁶ It escalated the charges to sedition.

Days later President Woodrow Wilson signed the sedition bill giving the government wide latitude to punish Americans who uttered "disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language" either in word or print about the U.S. government, its flag, or its armed forces during wartime.⁶⁷

In an open letter to the people of Kern County, Franz Buckreus wrote,

"In the humiliating position I am in, I want to tell you that I am a loyal citizen of United States. I love my country, and my flag. I have been true to them in my heart in this war. I asked you not to judge me because I was a soldier in the Army of the country where I was born. When I owed allegiance to Germany in my youth, I gave it. But I have owed allegiance to America for 45 years, and I am loyal to this country. I am an old man of seventy-three years of age, and somewhat infirm. My offense is that I have not been willing to believe all that has been said of the people of my native land, and sometimes I have disputed such statements. I have given offense by doing so, but I did not mean to be disloyal. I have been true to this country ever since I became a citizen of it. The flag is always over the hospital and also flags are in the corridors. I am poor but I have bought a \$1000 [war] bond of each issue, \$3000 at all. I have done it to help America in the war. For forty years some of you have known me. I tried to be a good citizen here and do my duty. I have done my best. Please believe me that in my heart I have no disloyalty when I have disputed the truth of statements about the people where I was born. Now I ask you not to judge me harshly. I have meant no offense and I would give my life today for this country to prove my loyalty."⁶⁸

That day, California Governor William D. Stevens was in town and spoke at the Bakersfield Opera House to the Parent-Teachers' Association and the State Convention of Congresses of Mothers. The *Californian* summarized,

“The governor feels very strongly on the subject of the Germans in America and says that while he has the highest regard for the citizen, even if foreign-born, who is loyal to our government, but any person, no matter what his nationality, who is not loyal to our cause and to the United States is a traitor and should be put out. To quote his most expressive words, 'Any man born in Germany or anywhere else, uttering words of sedition and disloyalty, no matter to what lodge or association he belongs, I.W.W.,⁶⁹ or what not, is a traitor and should be put where the dogs don't bite.' At this point an interruption came from the audience by a voice saying that these characters should be taken halfway across the ocean and put out to walk the remainder of the distance. The governor answered, 'Make sure that they have to walk on the bottom, and not the top.' ”

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The next day the Buckreuses moved out of county hospital and into the Southern Hotel.⁷¹

On May 28 their attorneys entered pleas of not guilty and asked Judge Flournoy for a trial date. Flournoy calendared it for June 6,⁷² but that day the Buckreuses were charged with violation of the Espionage Act and bound over to Federal Grand Jury in Fresno. Bail of \$2500 was provided for each,⁷³ and they left for Southern California pending the trial. The next session of the Federal Grand Jury was to start November 11, 1918,⁷⁴ but it probably did not take place. On that day WWI ended.

Back in Bakersfield, county supervisors struggled to staff the hospital. Matron Isabel Park had resigned. County Physician Thaddeus G. McNamara stood before the supervisors and recommended they consolidate the positions of county physician, assistant county physician, and

hospital superintendent. After offering that advice, McNamara said he could not accept such a position, and he, too, tendered his resignation, as did assistant physician Dr. Clarence S. Compton. Dr. James P. Hall accepted the hospital job.⁷⁵

On June 18, F.B.I. agent "P. Webster" filed a report on the charge of pro-German utterances against the Buckreuses. In his report, Webster identified American Protective League agent "No. 224," but most of Webster's report dealt with an APL member known as "A-6" who had interviewed a Mrs. Griem in San Francisco. "A-6" had known the Buckreuses well although had not seen them for about a year.

Wrote Webster,

"Referring to A.P.L. #224's report made at Bakersfield on the 21 ult.⁷⁶ the following is report was made by A.P.L. member A-6: 'I interviewed Mrs. Griem whose address is given as 1310 Larkin St., but who I found at the Children's Hospital, where she is a professional nurse. Mrs. Griem is not able to corroborate the statements made in the affidavit quoted in said report of A.P.L. #224, as she was not in Bakersfield at the time these statements were made. She knows Mr. and Miss BUCKREUS, however, and stated that she knows them to be very strongly pro-German. She cannot recall any specific statements made by either of them reflecting on the Government of the United States or the flag, and all she really seems to know is that these people are pro-German.

I [A-6] may add that I have know BUCKREUS myself for more than thirty years; that he always enjoyed the highest reputation as a very upright man and good citizen. There is no question, however, that he is a German, a very enthusiastic one,⁷⁷ and I should say needed watching. I have not seen him since the commencement of the European war.' Copy furnished to US Attorney at S.F., Bakersfield, Los Angeles."⁷⁸

File 138-F
 Sent to: San Francisco Date: June 18, 1918 June 17, 1918
 In re: FRANZ & ANNA BUCKREUS
 Pro-German utterances

STATEMENT OF WITNESSES COLLECTED NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED AT
 At San Francisco, Calif.

Referring to A. P. L. #224's report made at Bakersfield on
 the 21st ult. in above entitled matter, the following is report made
 by A.P. L. member A-6:-

"I interviewed Mrs. Griem whose address is given as 1310
 Larkin St., but who I found at the Childrens Hospital, where she is a
 professional nurse.

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 war."

U.S. ATTY S.F.
 BAKERSFIELD
 LOS ANGELES

above: Webster's FBI Report

On July 13, 1918 the Federal Grand Jury for the Northern Division, Fresno, indicted the Buckreuses on charges of sedition. The two were then in Long Beach and remained at freedom under \$5,000 bonds. "It was stated here [in Fresno] today that the trial may be held before Judge Trippet in the United States District Court here in November or may be transferred to Los Angeles and set up for an earlier date."⁷⁹

Members of the American Protective League are not known today, but a similar group was at work here during that time, and its members were prominent citizens. On August 31, 1918, nine haystacks (equaling 250 tons of hay) were set afire near Rosedale on ranches of the Jewett family and the Kern County Land Company. "Local officials believe that the fires were started by enemy agents or in protest by sympathizers with, or member of, an organization recently prosecuted by the Federal government. At a meeting of the Kern Council of Defense, Judge J.W. Mahon, chairman, stated that "... ways and means will be devised for combating the alleged pro-German menace."⁸⁰ The group was the Committee of One Hundred. In May 1918 it

was formed to protect warehouses, crops, and other property. Named members were Fred H. Hall, Calvin V. Anderson, David T. Saine, and Charles H. Stone.⁸¹ In September, Judge Mahon approved the organization. “Its membership now embraces over 300 citizens representing all sections of the county, and it has done a vast deal of important work, cooperating both with Federal and local officials.”⁸²

What was the disposition of charges against Franz and Anna Buckreus? Newspapers mentioned nothing of the outcome. San Francisco city directories from 1918 show that the Buckreuses lived there.⁸³ Franz did not work again after he left Kern County Hospital; Anna Buckreus remained working as a nurse.⁸⁴

On May 11, 1924, 73 year-old Franz Buckreus died at home in San Francisco.⁸⁵ His obituary appeared on page one of the *Bakersfield Californian*. It read, “For the past several years the deceased has resided in San Francisco with his niece, Miss Anna Buckreus, his only relative in this country. Among the old-time people of Kern County, Mr. Buckreus had many lifetime friends who will regret to learn of his passing.”⁸⁶ The paper did not mention sedition.

Buckreus descendent Kathy A. O'Brien wrote, “The cause of death listed on the death certificate is 'chronic myocarditis' and a contributory factor of 'senile arterial changes.' It will be interesting to see if the court records bring any insight into Franz's mental acuity in 1918. Perhaps he was suffering from early stage Alzheimer's, or the trial may have broken the health of the man who dedicated his life to improving the health of the citizens of Kern County.”⁸⁷

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¹ A definition of sedition is giving verbal aid and comfort to an enemy country

²WWI ushered social conformity and governmental centralization into American society. Within commerce, the Railway Administration Act gave de facto control of the railroads — the major source of transportation — to the Federal government. The War Labor Board, the War Industries Board, and a slate of other government agencies centralized commerce in the name of supporting the war effort. Fuel rationing, the draft, price controls, [and rationing] — these and many other measures thrust the federal government deeply into the economic lives of the average American. [Wendy McElroy, *World War I and the Suppression of Dissent, Part 1*. April 2002 <http://www.fff.org/freedom/fd0204f.asp>]

³Buckreus was born Nov 30, 1845 in Oberfranken, Bavaria, Germany. His biography noted he graduated from schools of surgery in Germany. (*Memorial and Biographical History of the Counties of Fresno, Tulare, and Kern, California*. Lewis Pub. Co., 1892, pp. 415-416.) The biography also said he was in the sanitary service, a medical arm of the German Army. The Franco-Prussian War was 1870-1.

⁴ *History of Kern County California with Biographical Sketches*. Wallace M. Morgan, Historic Record Co., Los Angeles, CA. 1914.

⁵Manifest of ship Holsatia. Arrived in New York Apr 10, 1874 from Hamburg and Havre: Franz Buckreuss [double "s"], 30, citizen of US, barber. (US National Archives. archives.gov). Buckreus was not a US citizen at this time.

⁶He was in Bakersfield by Mar 1875. *Kern County Californian*, Jun 30, 1883: "Baths! Baths! Electric and Sulphur Hot and cold Baths under Arlington Hotel. Franz Buckreus, Prop'r"

⁷Nov 8, 1877. W.H. Boyd document collection (Jack Maguire Local History Room, Kern Co Library). Source not noted and this researcher could not find it on microfilm. The source is almost assuredly the *Southern Californian*, *Kern County Weekly Courier*, or, less likely, from the *Kern County Democrat*.)

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹Kern County 16th District Court. Naturalization document from Buckreus descendent Kathy A. O'Brien.

¹²On Jul 4, 1885 Franz Buckreus and E. Palmes ran a footrace from Palmes' saloon to the county hospital. "Buckreus gave Palmes (a very large man) a head start to the Court House corner, " but Palmes won the race, and the \$5 bet. (Lynn Hay Rudy, database of Bakersfield newspaper citations.)

¹³The hospital was on G Street between 13th and 14th.

¹⁴May 7, 1887 (Lynn Hay Rudy, database of Bakersfield newspaper citations.)

¹⁵ *Ibid.*; (Jan 7, 1888)

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Daily Californian*, May 6, 1891. On Sep 24, 1891 eight member of the the bicycle club took a Sunday ride, and afterward an award was given. It was called the "royal scroll of court plaster." Chairmen for the presentation were W. E. Houghton, Tom Baker, B. Packard, Alex Mills (Jr), C. J. Burke, G. W. Price, C. C. White., and Franz Buckreus. (*Ibid.*)

¹⁸ *Daily Californian*, Mar 23, 1894. An oratorio society is a community of avocational singers who share a passion for choral music.

¹⁹ *History of Kern County California with Biographical Sketches*. Wallace M. Morgan, Historic Record Co., Los Angeles, CA 1914.

²⁰ *Buckreus was elected in 1887, 1894, 1895-1898; and 1909-1906*. He probably profited from his friendship with Jacob Niederaur, the furniture manufacturer, cemetery sexton, and first mortician in Kern County. Niederaur was born in Bryan, Williams County, Ohio on Jun 15, 1841, served in the Civil War, and came to California in 1868. (*Ohio/ Historical Biographical*. F.A. Battey, Chicago, 1882); Upon his death in 1903, Buckreus became the Niederaur estate executor and guardian of the Niederaur children. In Mar 1904 Buckreus sold the funeral business at 1712 Chester Avenue to Morton and Connelly. (*Bakersfield Californian*, May 12, 1924.) The furniture business, valued at \$70,000, went to George C. Haberfelde. (*History of Kern County California with Biographical Sketches*. Wallace M. Morgan, Historic Record Co., Los Angeles, CA 1914.)

²¹ *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 4, 1893, p 16

²² *Los Angeles Times*, Jul 7, 1894

²³ *Los Angeles Times*, Aug 23, 1894

²⁴ *San Francisco Chronicle*, Jul 10 1901

²⁵ *Los Angeles Times*, Jul 19, 1901

²⁶ *Los Angeles Times*, Dec 23, 1905

²⁷ *Los Angeles Times*, Aug 11, 1900

²⁸ *Daily Californian*, Aug 7, 1896

²⁹ *Bakersfield Californian*, Jun 7, 1918

³⁰ First Biennial Report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections. Of the State of California from Jul 1, 1903 to Jun 30, 1904. Sacramento, Sup of State Printing. 1905. In 1905, 62 males and one female resided at the hospital.

³¹ *History of Kern County California with Biographical Sketches*. Wallace M. Morgan, Historic Record Co., Los Angeles, CA 1914.

³² *Ibid*. The hospital did not escape controversy. In 1911 a patient who was well-known in Bakersfield, sat down in a hospital bathtub, slit his wrists with a broken light bulb, and electrocuted himself. (*San Francisco Call*, May 24, 1911)

³³ *Bakersfield Californian* Mar 3, 1917

³⁴ *Bakersfield Californian*, Mar 3, 1917. Similar citizen groups were formed during WWII. See "Kern Oil Field Protection Against Sabotage Praised," *Bakersfield Californian*, Aug 5, 1942, p 7, c 2-3

³⁵ *Maricopa Oil News*, Apr 7, 1917. months earlier, President Woodrow Wilson criticized foreigners by denouncing hyphenated-Americans. (*Morning Echo*, Jul 14, 1916); Bakersfield Mayor George Hay calmed fears of foreign-born residents when he said, "...no citizens of any foreign power, resident in Bakersfield, need fear any invasion of his personal property rights so long as he goes peaceably about his business..." (*Morning Echo*, Apr 18, 1917, p 1, c1-2)

³⁶ *Bakersfield Californian*, Apr 14, 1917, pg 1, col 5 (Wm Harland Boyd collection, Maguire Room, Beale Library)

"All citizens are considered members. If you know of anything which you consider a menace to the peace and safety of our community, submit same in writing at once to Maricopa Oil Field Protective Association. All communications will be held strict confidential. Anonymous letters can not be considered."

³⁷ *Bakersfield Californian*, May 1, 1917. By June 1, the volunteer program had failed to attract necessary manpower. That caused the war department to establish a "red-hot campaign throughout the county... Thousands of boys and young men will flock to the colors in the next five days, as has never been known in previous history." (*Morning Echo*, Jun 1, 1917). The US Army opened a recruiting office in Bakersfield several months earlier. "Bakersfield has been one of the best recruiting points in California, more men enlisting here than in Fresno. At times the number of recruits obtained here has exceeded that in Los Angeles." (*Bakersfield Californian*, Mar 20, 1916, p1, c1)

³⁸ *Morning Echo*, May 18, 1917

³⁹ *Los Angeles Times*, May 20, 1917. Anna Fransiska Buckreus, born in 1864 in Germany, arrived in New York in 1908, destination Bakersfield. She was nurse and X-ray operator at the hospital. (Vitals: 1920 US Census. Information from Kathy A. O'Brien)

⁴⁰ *Bakersfield Californian*, Jan 29, 1918. Hochheimer's, a major department store, announced that its grocery department would begin selling equal amount of substitute flour for each purchase of white flour. See also Jan 30, pg 1. Substitute flours included corn grits, cornmeal, corn flour, edible cornstarch, barley flour, oatmeal, rice flour, buckwheat flour, potato flour, sweet potato flour, and soya bean flour. (*The Bride's Cook Book*, Pacific Coast Pub Co, Inc, San Francisco, CA, 1917, p 18)

⁴¹ *Bakersfield Californian*, Jan 14, 1918. Von Petersdorff admitted that he had accepted money from a German agent to investigate oil deposits in Mexico. Von Petersdorff was a friend of German-speaking Henry A. Jastro, Chairman of the Kern County Board of Supervisors. Jastro's wealth, political position, and membership on war-time cattle boards probably shielded him against accusations.

⁴² *Bakersfield Californian*, Jan 24, 1918, p 4. The definition of German aliens did not include females. See also Jan 26, 1918, p 8.

⁴³ *Morning Echo*, Jul 7, 1917, p 8, c3

⁴⁴ *San Francisco Chronicle*, Feb 22, 1918. To instill patriotism, the National Security League advocated for Federal control of education.

⁴⁵ *The Nation* (Washington DC), May 11, 1918

⁴⁶ *Bakersfield Californian* May 14, 1918

⁴⁷ *Bakersfield Californian*, May 11, 1918

⁴⁸ *Bakersfield Californian*, May 16, 1918

⁴⁹ *Bakersfield Californian*, May 14, 1918

⁵⁰ *Ibid*.

⁵¹ *Bakersfield Californian*, Nov 26, 1918

⁵²*Bakersfield Californian*, May 15, 18, 1918

⁵³*Bakersfield Californian*, May 17, 1918

⁵⁴*Bakersfield Californian*, May 21, 1918, see also *Los Angeles Times*, May 22, 1918

⁵⁵*Los Angeles Times*, June 3, 1918

⁵⁶*Bakersfield Californian*, May 22, 1918. Several days before the walkout Franz Buckreus presented his resignation to the Kern County Board of Supervisors. The day of the walkout Buckreus submitted his notice again. On May 23 Anna Buckreus was dropped from county payroll.

⁵⁷*Bakersfield Californian*, May 20, 1918

⁵⁸A series of sketches of Bakersfield and its people appeared in *See America First*. The series is in the collection of New York State University.

⁵⁹*Bakersfield Californian*, May 22, 1918.

⁶⁰Ibid. Also noted in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 7, 1918

⁶¹Misses Laura Gow, Lillie McIntyre, Josephine Melvin, Helen Avent, Minnie German (*Bakersfield Californian*, May 22, 1918)

⁶²May 23, 1918. In the 1910 US Census his name is written "Schafer." He was from Germany.

⁶³May 23, 1918

⁶⁴May 23, 1918. In the 1920 US Census, Anna Buckreus was 44 yrs old, single, born in Germany, emigr. 1908, and naturalized 1915.

⁶⁵The Colby Bureau might have been a State of California office to assist returning servicemen secure farms.

⁶⁶*Bakersfield Californian*, May 22, 1918

⁶⁷*Los Angeles Times*, May 26, 1918; *The Nation* (Washington DC) issue of Nov 9, 1918 expressed fear that "the courts will construe talks and speeches as interferences with the prosecution of the war, although they could only be so construed by the most far-fetched reasoning." The US Supreme Court upheld the Sedition Act in *Debs v. US*. The US Congress repealed the Sedition Act on December 13, 1920, and subsequent Supreme Court decisions (such as *Brandenburg v. Ohio* in 1969) make it unlikely that a similar law would be considered constitutional today." (*Wikipedia*)

⁶⁸May 23, 1918

⁶⁹*International Workers of the World* was a national union. The IWW lumber strike of 1917 led to the eight-hour day and vastly improved working conditions in the Pacific Northwest. (*Wiki.com*)

⁷⁰May 24, 1918

⁷¹Ibid.

⁷²*Bakersfield Californian*, May 28, 1918

⁷³\$2500 is about \$50000 today. J.A. Hughes of Bakersfield posted part of the bond.

⁷⁴*Fresno Morning Republican*, Oct 24, 1918, p12

⁷⁵*Bakersfield Californian*, Jun 7, 1918

⁷⁶The term "A.P.L #224" identified the A.P.L. member in Bakersfield. Webster's report said the Bakersfield report was dated "the 21 ult. " That was May 21, 1918, one day before the walk out.

⁷⁷Franz Buckreus was vice-president of Bakersfield's *Germania Maennerchor*. The group presented a choral program of German Christmas music on Dec 29, 1908. (program announcement in scrapbook "Antique Bakersfield." Vault. Jack Maguire Local History Room, Kern County Library, Bakersfield)

⁷⁸Federal Bureau of Investigation, American Protection League File 130-F, June 18, 1918

⁷⁹*Bakersfield Californian*, Jul 13, 1918. "Three other men residing in Kern County were indicted by the Grand Jury. They were Joe B. Walker, charged with having refused to buy Thrift Stamps; Davis H. Rathburn of Taft, alleged to have made statements against President Wilson; and Ernest D. Fisher, who is charged with having attempted to hire Negroes to fight against United States. Walker's bond was fixed at \$1000 while the bonds of Rathburn and Fisher were fixed at \$5,000 each." Ibid.

⁸⁰*Los Angeles Times*, Sep 1, 1918

⁸¹*Los Angeles Times*, Sep 21, 1918

⁸²Ibid.

⁸³The 1920 directory listed him as a widower.

⁸⁴1918-9 San Francisco City Directory. " In 1922 Anna was employed as a nurse for the Aetna Insurance Company. A year after Franz Buckreus died she was joined by her sisters Barbara and Augusta from Germany. Neither of her sisters' occupations were listed in the directories. Augusta died in 1947, Anna in 1959 and Barbara in 1960. None of the four married." (Email to author from Kathy A. O'Brien)

⁸⁵His remains were interred at San Francisco City Cemetery.

⁸⁶*Bakersfield Californian*, May 12, 1924

⁸⁷Email to the author, 2009. As of 10-21-09 Federal agencies had not replied to inquires about the trial.