

HIS OTHER WIFE. SHE COMES ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK.

The Story of a Polk-Street Barber With Two Wives and Two Names.

Morris Gutman is a barber at 1646 Polk street. Morris is a good looking and more or less of a favorite among the fair sex. He is a favorite among two of the fair sex, that is certain, and a strong favorite at that. One of these is a woman named Mrs. Fischler, the other a woman named Mrs. Gutman. Both are married women and both have children. Both lay claim to Barber Morris Gutman as their husband. Both women came from New York City, Mrs. Gutman six years ago, Mrs. Fischler not six days ago. The barber has left the city for a few days. When he comes back – if he ever does – maybe he can clear up all this mystery and tell whose husband he is and how many wives he has.

A CHRONICLE reporter, not content to wait for the return of Mr. Gutman, interviewed Mesdames Fischler and Gutman yesterday. Mrs. Fischler claims to be wife No. 1. She came from New York by way of Panama, arriving here Sunday last. She is now living with her six-year-old son at 555-3/4 Natoma street.

“Morris Gutman’s real name,” said Mrs. Fischler, “is Morris Fischler. Seven years ago he and I were married in Austria. We came to New York city, where he got work as a barber. He had a little money and when he had saved a little more and had about enough to start up a shop on his own account, he suddenly left me, taking every cent with him he could raise and leaving me in a delicate condition and penniless. I never heard from him or of him till two months ago, when a friend who knew us both in Austria wrote to me from San Francisco, telling me that my husband was living here under the name of Gutman, and was married and had two children. Five months after he left me little Charlie was born. I made a meager living in New York by peddling. As soon as I heard that my husband was out here and that he owned a barber shop and was doing a good business I made up my mind to come here, and call him to an accounting. A charitable society in New York paid my fare on the boat, and here I am.”

“What are you going to do, now that you are here?”

“Indeed, I don’t know; I haven’t the slightest idea. I haven’t seen him yet. He went away when he found I was here.”

“Will you prosecute him for bigamy?”

“I don’t know.”

“Get a divorce?”

“I don’t know; I can’t tell. I have suffered greatly, but I don’t know what to do, I really don’t.”

In the rear of the barber shop at 1646 Polk street Mrs. Gutman was seen.

“Oh, I don’t know nothing; I don’t know nothing.” Was all she would say when the reporter inquired about her husband. She appeared to be in great mental stress and nearly heartbroken. She clutched at the cradle where the baby lay sleeping when mention was made of her husband’s former wife. Then she threw herself on the bed nearby and sobbed convulsively.

When Morris Fischler came here he went to work under the name of Gutman for Max Wiederspiel, in the barber shop of which Morris is now the proprietor. The woman who is now his second wife was then in New York. Max Wiederspiel is her uncle. Fischler had not been here six months before she came to live with her uncle. There was a short courtship; then she became Mrs. Gutman, a legal wife as she supposed. The uncle, it is said, made Gutman, or Fischler, a present of the barber shop on Polk street upon his wedding day. Then the uncle started another barber shop on Howard street, which he ran until a few months ago, when he sold out and came to work for his nephew by marriage.

A younger brother of Fischler, alias Gutman, keeps another barber shop in the city under the name of Joseph Gutman.

San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco, California, dated Sunday November 8, 1891, p. 20

A Faithless Barber.

Rose Fischler sues her husband for support.

Rose Fischler has sued her husband, Morris Fischler, for separate maintenance and support. They were married in Boroslow, Austria, in December, 1881, and a few months later moved to New York, where Fischler obtained employment as a barber. They lived happily together for a few months, when Fischler suddenly disappeared. His wife heard nothing of him until a short time ago, when she discovered that he was conducting a barber shop at 1646 Polk street in this city, where he also resides with a woman whom he had married. He had changed his name to Morris Goodman and his consort was known as Celia Goodman. Mrs. Fischler immediately came on from New York with a child, which was born shortly after the disappearance of the father. She declares in her complaint that her recreant husband is now in hiding and that the barber shop is in charge of his second wife and her uncle, Max P. Weiderspiel. She has also discovered that they have in their possession about \$3000 belonging to Fischler. The court is asked to decree that this money is community property and to compel Fischler to pay his wife \$100 a month.

The Morning Call, San Francisco, California, dated November 10, 1891, p. 4

MORE OF THE FISCHLERS.

Rose Fischler has petitioned the Superior Court for an order to compel her husband, Morris Fischler, alias "Goodman," a barber at 1646 Polk street, to pay her \$100 a month as maintenance pending her suit for divorce.

Mrs. Fischler's Domestic Troubles Aired in a Justice's Court.

There were sensational revelations made in a suit heard by Justice of the Peace Brittan yesterday. The action was one in which Max Weiderspiel, a barber of 1646 Polk street, sought to recover \$299 damages from Rosa Fischler for alleged malicious prosecution.

Weiderspiel testified that Rosa Fischler had caused his arrest three weeks ago on a charge of threats to kill and then allowed the case to be dismissed. He denied positively that he had ever threatened Rosa, but admitted that he had shoved the woman out of the barber shop because she was making a scene and wanted to "blackmail Morris Goodman," the husband of his niece.

Rosa Fischler, who has brought suit against Goodman in the Superior Court for maintenance, claims that his real name is Fischler and that he married her in Borrowlow[*sic*], Austria, ten years ago. The story of her search for her husband and how she found him in San Francisco the husband of another woman was told in the CHRONICLE about two months ago. She repeated the story of her sufferings yesterday amid sobs and tears. She exhibited her marriage certificate, written in Hebrew, and said that Fischler deserted her six years ago and went to New York. She followed him, but until one year ago was unable to trace him. About that time she met a friend of her childhood, who told her that while in San Francisco he had met her recreant husband in this city, that he was married again and that he went by the name of Morris Goodman. She came to this city on September 20th and sought Goodman at his shop on Polk street. Goodman, or Fischler, became alarmed, and after a consultation with Mrs. Goodman offered to give Mrs. Fischler \$500 if she would leave the city and give up the Austrian marriage certificate. Being in destitute circumstances, with a child to support, she consented to the proposition and furnished Goodman with a copy of the marriage certificate, she retaining the original document for future use. She failed to leave the city, however, and demanded her husband's lost affection. Then, she claims, Weiderspiel, who was scraping chins in Goodman's employ, took a hand in the game and told her if she didn't quit he would kill her.

The closing testimony in the case will be heard next Thursday, when Goodman, or Fischler, will be on hand to testify.

TWO LIVING WIVES.

Morris Guttman, Alias Fischler, Finds Himself in a Bad Fix.

Morris Guttman, a Polk-street barber, who once upon a time lived under the name of Morris Fischler, is in rather hot water.

It seems that he married a little fraulein in Germany about seven years ago and then emigrated to New York, where he plied his trade and lived frugally until he had about \$2000. He then suddenly disappeared, and soon afterward a little girl was born to the deserted wife.

She supported herself and the child and also managed to save a little money, all the time watching for a clew[sic] to her husband's whereabouts. Finally she heard that he was in San Francisco, and came on to find that the report was true, but that he had in the meantime taken to himself another wife.

Fischler, or Guttman, on seeing her saw breakers ahead and gave her \$500, but hearing that she intended to prosecute he fled. He returned a few days ago and was arrested on a charge of felony, the charge of bigamy being barred by the statute of limitation.

San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco, California, dated December 10, 1891, p. 10

Behind the Bars at Last.

Morris Fischler, or Guttman, has been arrested on a charge of open and notorious adultery preferred against him by his wife, Rose Fischler, who has been on his trail ever since he deserted her in New York four years ago. He came to this city and took unto himself a second wife without the formality of a divorce from the firsts. He also adopted the name of Guttman. Rose Fischler, the first wife, lately appeared upon the scene and caused her husband's arrest. As the charge of bigamy is barred by the Statute of Limitations Fischler was arrested on the charge of adultery. He is out on \$100 bail pending trial.

San Francisco Call, San Francisco, California, Vol. 71, No. 87, dated February 25, 1892

The demurrer to the complaint of Rose Fischler for a divorce from Morris Fischler, alias Goodman, was overruled by Judge Garber yesterday.

San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco, California, dated April 1, 1892

ARRESTED FOR PERJURY.

The Charges Against a Barber With Too Many Wives.

Morris Fischler, alias Goodman, is held in the city prison for perjury. Fischler is the bigamous barber whose wife came here from Austria about a year ago and found him

living as the husband of another woman. She began a suit for divorce and criminal proceedings against Fischler for adultery. On March 28th Fischler wept before Notary Public F.C. Mosbach and swore to an answer to the complaint for divorce, setting forth that he had never married the woman who claims to be his first wife and that he never lived with her. This affidavit constitutes the alleged perjury.

The Morning Call, San Francisco, California, dated April 14, 1892, p. 2

GOODMAN'S NEMESIS.

A Hard and Long Struggle Against Fate by Rose Fischler.

Rose Fischler has had an uphill struggle against fate if all is true that was said yesterday before Judge Garber in her action against Morris Fischler, alias Goodman, alias Gutman, to have it declared that he is her husband, that he contribute to the support of herself and child and that his belongings be declared community property.

This case in its various phases has been presented on several occasions to the public, first when the long-lost husband was discovered, then in connection with a criminal prosecution, next with a case in the Justices' Court and again when the complaint in the present action was filed.

In short Rose Fischler, the mother of a sturdy and lively boy of about 6 years, claims to have married Fischler, as he was known to her, in Austria, in December, 1881, and lived together some three years, when in 1884 they came to New York and lived there some six months. But he deserted her, and soon after his sudden leave-taking the boy in question was born. For six years the husband and father remained absent and she struggled against adversity to support herself and the babe.

No tidings were received from the absent until about 11 months ago, when she ascertained that he was in this city conducting a barber-shop at 1646 Polk street under the name of Goodman and that he had married again. Charitable people interested themselves in her behalf and they furnished her with the means to come to San Francisco. She came, but on arrival he had unseated himself and made over the shop to Mrs. Celia Goodman and his uncle, M. P. Wiederspiel, who threatened her with death if she did not leave and cease pretending herself to be the wife of Fischler or Goodman and passing the child off as his. Then commenced all the litigation.

Fischler's defense is not one calculated to bring much credit on him. He denies of course all her allegations and repudiates the alias "Goodman," but explains that he assumed the name of "Gutman," which was that of an uncle who had befriended him after arrival in America. He poses as a philanthropist on a small scale, because the plaintiff was paid \$500 in September, 1891, as a sort of compromise for any claim she might have upon him.

He flatly repudiates the marriage with Rose on the ground first, that he was at the time in the military service of the Emperor of Austria, and consequently could not have married, and secondly, that if pretended to have been married the marriage is null because

he is a Hebrew, and whatever marriage ceremony was performed was not in accordance with the laws of Austria for people of his faith.

Fischer[*sic*] went even further on this score while on the witness-stand, and attacked the chastity of the young woman, declaring that she harassed him with her attentions, and that his relations with her in the little Austrian provincial town were as meretricious as those which she had with many others. These cold-blooded statements aroused all the chivalry in Mr. H. H. Lowenthal, the counsel for the plaintiff, and he warned the fellow that the lady had no brother or friend to champion her character, and he had better be careful in his statements.

The trial proceeded until a late hour, when a continuance was taken for the purpose of sending East for information regarding the arrival of the plaintiff from Bremen, the identity of the people who had befriended her in her search for the long-missing husband, and lastly for corroborative proof regarding the Austrian laws with reference to marriage prescriptions pleaded in defense.

San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco, California, dated April 14, 1892, p. 10

Fischler's Two Wives.

One of them suing the much-married barber for maintenance

The trial of the suit of Mrs. Rose Fischler against Morris Fischler, alias Morris Goodman, for maintenance for herself and son was begun in Judge Garber's court yesterday. The plaintiff alleged that she was married to the defendant in December, 1881, in Borolow, Austria. They both came to this country in 1884 and settled in New York, where they lived for a time. Fischler suddenly disappeared, and when his wife next heard of him he was again married and established in this city as a barber at 1646 Polk street under the name of Morris Goodman.

Fischler denies the marriage and says that he was in the army at the time, and the Austrian law prohibited him from entering the marital state. He admits, however, that he was intimate with the girl in her native land. It was shown that he took care to avoid her on her arrival here, and that she received \$500 to sign an affidavit which was not translated to her denying her previously alleged relation to Fischler. The case was continued until Wednesday next.

A DESERTED WIFE.

The Queer Defense Made by Her Alleged Husband.

Judge Garber yesterday took under advisement the application of Mrs. Rose Fischler for an order compelling her husband, Morris Fischler, to support herself and her child. This is the case in which, as will be remembered, the parties were married in Austria in 1881, and three years afterward emigrated to America, the husband then deserting his wife in New York and coming to this city. After a time some charitable people furnished her with money to follow the runaway, whom she found conducting a barber-shop on Polk street and married again.

Fischler, in his defense to the action instituted against him, alleges that the plaintiff is not his wife in the eye of the law, as the ceremony performed between them was illegal. He was at the time serving his term of enlistment in the Austrian army, and could not contract a valid marriage, he says, until he should have completed his time of service. Further than this, he alleges that to make the marriage legal the plaintiff and himself, both being Hebrews, should have obtained a license from the court of the district in which they lived, which was not done.

It is with these problems that Judge Garber is now struggling.

A Faithless Husband.

Rose Fischler yesterday secured a divorce from Morris Fischler because of his desertion. They were married in Austria in 1881, and three years later Fischler started for America. He promised to send for his family, but never did so. The wife finally heard of his being in this city, and managed to get here. She found Fischler conducting a barber-shop under the name of Guthman and married to another woman, by whom he had three children. She caused his arrest, and brought a suit for separate maintenance and support. This suit Fischler successfully opposed, but to her action for divorce he made no defense.