



St. Louis Genealogical Society

Quarterly

Volume 58, Number 3

Fall 2025

PRINCE FROM THE RHINELAND, Larry Soehngen, and his page, Miss Joy Sharp, looking over the dancers on the ballroom floor before making up their minds to join the group.

Our Family Tree

GRANDMA'S POTATO SALAD
From Josephine Soehngen (1983)

- 5 pounds potatoes, boiled and sliced
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 6 hardboiled eggs, chopped
- 1 pound bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 jar pickle relish
- Miracle Whip to taste
- Salt and pepper to

How many ways can you tell your family story? We provide inspiring ideas inside this issue that we hope will spur you into sharing the fruits of all of your genealogy research in whatever creative way you can.

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St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly

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On the Cover

We have some great ideas to help you tell your family story. Jane Theissen's article on page 72 will get you started. Have fun!

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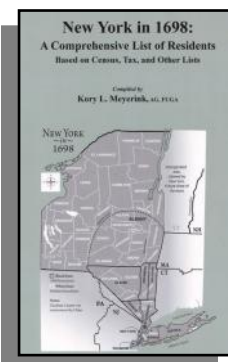


BOOK REVIEWS

New York in 1698: A Comprehensive List of Residents, Based on Census, Tax, and Other Lists. By Kory L. Meyerink. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2024. 94 pages. Softcover. \$59.95.

There may be other resources like this one in the genealogical universe, but if so, I have never encountered them. The author, Kory Meyerink, is an Accredited Genealogist (AG) and a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association (FUGA). This book is an attempt to document as many names as possible of the inhabitants of the New York colony in 1698. It succeeds marvelously.

In the book's introduction, Meyerink provides an excellent summary of the data sources on which the volume is based. In 1697, the governor of New York ordered a census to be taken of the colony. This was completed in 1698, but the original documents were destroyed in a fire in 1911. Fortunately, a summary report was presented by the governor soon after the census was finished. A publication including that report still exists, listing the total population in each of the ten counties in the colony and the numbers of men, women, children, and slaves—but no names. From this starting point, Meyerink has identified and extracted data from numerous other references to determine names



to attach to the numbers listed in the report. About half of the names can be identified from copies or published accounts of the census that were made before the 1911 fire. Other references used include a 1703 New York census, local census and other records, tax lists, church records, and soldier lists.

For each source used, Meyerink provides a clear explanation of how that record was created and the process used to assure that the record met the criteria for genealogical proof. Of course, not all of these records are from the census year 1698. Meyerink notes that records up to sixteen years before or after 1698 were included. It is possible that in some cases the named persons may not have lived in New York in 1698, but it is true that they lived in the colony close to that time. After this painstaking work, Meyerink identified potential names for ninety-six percent of the total number of men counted in the governor's summary report. Furthermore, names of approximately fifty percent of the women and forty percent of the children counted in the census were determined.

Most of the book consists of transcriptions of the names found in each reference Meyerink consulted, categorized by county. For each county, he provides a clear explanation of the sources used and the steps taken to ensure that the information presented is accurate. In most cases, additional information about each county is provided, along with a list of general references that can be used to research family history in each location. The data is presented

Book Reviews

in the same format as it was in the source used. Where references are unclear or misspellings appear to occur, explanations are provided to help the reader decide how to interpret the information.

The book concludes with a seventy-seven-page index of more than 10,000 names included in the volume. There are also helpful sections on general information sources for New York, a Dutch-English name translation table, and maps of the town boundaries in some of the counties. In the acknowledgements, Meyerink summarizes his work on this publication as a “labor of love” and relates how it began more than twenty years ago. One can only imagine the hours required to research, document, and compile the information contained in this outstanding reference. Whatever the number of hours, it will certainly be exceeded by the hours that it saves genealogical researchers seeking information on families in colonial New York.

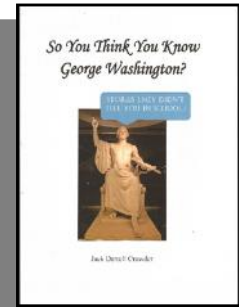
*Reviewed by Tom Hall
StLGS volunteer*

So You Think You Know George Washington? Stories They Didn't Tell You in School. By Jack Darrell Crowder. Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Company, 2023. 228 pages. Index, bibliography, images. Softcover. \$28.49.

This is one of several monographs about the Revolutionary War period in the United States that Crowder has written, all the more appropriate as we approach the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country in 2026.

I am always interested in learning new things about our founding fathers, and this book did not disappoint. Since the early 1800s, we have surrounded these men with all manner of fabrications to make them appear greater than the ordinary human beings they were. Crowder aims to clear away the underbrush, so to speak, and get us closer to the real man that George Washington was.

This work is divided into eighteen chapters addressing the many facets of the man, George Washington. Of course, Crowder covers the various phases of George's life, from a young man through his death. But he also discusses topics like Washington's religion, his emotions, his sense of humor, and his health. Nor does he shy away from more sensitive subjects, such as Washington's approach to slavery or the women in his life.



Spoiler alert: George's false teeth were not made of wood! But Crowder does explain their composition and what it took to maintain them throughout George's life. This section was an interesting dive into the dental and medical knowledge of the day.

I found this to be an engaging and well-researched volume, although some of the writing could have benefited from a good editor. Crowder helpfully includes eleven pages of endnotes, citing the works he used in his research, many of which are primary sources. A number of Washington's contemporaries are quoted in reference to our first president which provided a sense of “being there.”

It is apparent that the subject was a much more complicated man than we have been led to believe. This book will introduce you to the “real” George Washington and provide a clearer picture of what our founding fathers faced.

*Reviewed by Jane Theissen
StLGS Quarterly co-editor*

Storytelling for Genealogists: Turning Family Lineage into Family History. By Doug Tattershall. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2024. 84 pages. Softcover. \$18.95. (Also available as an ebook for \$12.50.)

Genealogists often talk about “putting the meat on the bones,” but what does that really

Book Reviews

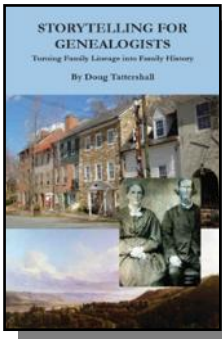
mean? How do we take all the names, dates, and places we have discovered and turn those ancestors into real human beings? How do we ensure that those people from our past, the heroes and even the villains, are not lost to time? The most enduring way is to write about them, and that is the focus of this slim volume whose author reminds us that “what we really want to know is our family story” and then proceeds to

explain just how we go about telling our stories to others.

Mr. Tattershall begins by discussing “How to Tell a Good Story,” using many examples, some tried-and-true genealogy methodology including timelines, and the same advice your high school English teacher probably gave you about narrative construction: the use of plot, theme, conflict, and character development.

Chapter Two, “The Stuff,” is a reminder of how many different records and techniques we have available to us as we begin to strategize our narrative. Mr. Tattershall explains how to conduct a good interview and how to use previously written material we might find in letters, diaries, newspapers, and published county histories. He continues by discussing how to put puzzle pieces together, a concept we frequently mention as we engage in our genealogy, and encouraging us to take a closer look at artifacts, “The Value of Things.”

Family histories do not all have to be written, and in Chapter Five, Mr. Tattershall explores alternative formats, such as audio and video. Finally, he gives us many examples to provide inspiration and suggests, again as our high school teachers did, that before we begin any project, we construct an outline to keep us focused. He concludes with this encouraging thought: “. . . your family history is a story worth telling, and, therefore, a story worth telling well.”



If you are ready to tell your family story, you will want to pick up a copy of *Storytelling for Genealogists* and read it from cover to cover. You will come away motivated and filled with ideas for how to begin.

*Reviewed by Ilene Murray
StLGS publications director*

In Memoriam, Robert “Bob” Moody

Robert Morgan “Bob” Moody died in March after a long struggle with cancer. Bob became part of the *StLGS Quarterly* team, where he helped as both a writer and an editor for many years. He and his wife Helen were regulars on our annual research trips to Salt Lake City, and his generosity in sharing his knowledge always added to our enjoyment of the trip.

Educator, grant writer, avid theatre buff, and a beloved member of the First Congregational Church of Webster

Groves, Bob made his presence known wherever he went. He served on Webster Groves Public Library committees and on the district's school board. He was a prolific storyteller, writer, and collector of family history. The Moody family lived for many generations in Webster Groves, and Bob had them traced into colonial New England and beyond. He especially delighted in sharing stories of his Salem, Massachusetts, ancestors who were involved in witchcraft trials!

Bob was a beacon of hope for those facing chronic debilitating illness and a constant source of optimism in the face of adversity. We will miss his ongoing contributions to the *Quarterly*, as well as his stories and his steadfast determination to keep going!



Feature Articles from Other Publications

Compiled by Mike Bridwell, Reference Librarian
History and Genealogy Department, St. Louis County Library

Article subtitles are included where available. A note has been inserted in brackets in order to clarify the content of the article if not evident from the title. These periodicals are available for your use in the Emerson Genealogy Center, now open in its new home at the Clark Family Branch, 1640 S. Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63131.

American Ancestors (New England Historic Genealogical Society)

Vol. 26, no. 2, Summer 2025

- Hunting for Genealogical Treasure at Home
- Bible Records, Family Registers & Much More: A New American Ancestors Database
- Finding Family History in Home Sources
- Cleverness, Candor & Sheer Fun: Mary Ingersoll's 1842 Letters from Washington, D.C.
- Researching the Life of Tom Little, from Enslavement to Self-Determination
- A New Chapter for the Leiden-American Pilgrim Museum

The Genealogist (American Society of Genealogists)

Vol. 39, no. 1, Spring 2025

- John Hugh of Maidstone, Vermont: Documenting an Account in the Vermont Historical Gazetteer
- Three Cary Brothers, Three Ohio Counties: Part One: Ohio Pioneers
- The French Origin and Ancestry of Dr. Claudius Levert of King William County, Virginia
- William Sisson of Virginia and Maryland

- Life of a Missionary Family: Eliza Barclay and Andrew Grey Moffatt
- The Maternal Ancestors of Lilly (Smith) Watson: From the Tabular Hills of Kirkbymoorside, Yorkshire, to the Plains of Ottawa County, Kansas

Kirkwood Historical Review (Kirkwood Historical Society)

Vol. 64, no. 2, July–Summer 2025

- Who Remembers Ziva Blackman?
- Mark Andy, Inc.
- How Enterprise Label Co. was Started

Missouri Historical Review (State Historical Society of Missouri)

Vol. 119, no. 4, July 2025

- Mathias Splitlog: Missouri's Indigenous Industrialist
- Favoring Neither North nor South: Missouri Neutralists and the 1861 Secession Crisis
- Protest in the Heartland: The Spring 1968 Incident at Southeast Missouri State College
- From the Stacks: Research Center—Kansas City: The Congressional Papers of William J. "Bill" Randall



St. Louis City/County Biographies Project: Honoring St. Louisans

Do you have ancestors who are part of St. Louis history? Do you know of St. Louisans who deserve to be remembered for their contributions to St. Louis City or County? Whether they did something newsworthy or were little-known outside their neighborhood, they played an important part in making St. Louis what it is today. We would love to help you share their stories.

St. Louis Genealogical Society has a feature on its website called St. Louis City/County Biographies that links to 300 biographies (and counting) of local citizens from the 1700s to those recently deceased. Biographies are brief (500 words or less) and can include a copyright-free photo or two.

Our biographies honor men and women who are famous, such as architect William Bernoudy and poet Sara Teasdale, to people you may recognize by name if you live in our area: Chouteau, Straub, Gannon, and Lackland. Most of our biographies, however, simply tell the stories of ordinary people who settled here and helped grow our community by working hard and raising families. Their descendants, or those who know about them, are ensuring their memories last.

On the St. Louis City/County Biographies page on our website <https://stlgs.org/research-2/community/st-louis-biographies>, you will find complete details on how and what to submit. Download a copy of the instruction flyer, and while you are there, take a few minutes to read about the lives of many other individuals who have called St. Louis home.

***"History is the essence of innumerable biographies."
Thomas Carlyle, 1838***



In 2026, the country will celebrate the 250th birthday of its founding.

Activities to commemorate this milestone will be taking place all around the country.

During 2026, the editors of the *Quarterly* would like to highlight the Patriot and Loyalist ancestors of our members.

We invite you to write a paragraph or two (or more!) in answer to this question:

What did your Revolutionary War ancestor do to support their side of the conflict?

They may have taken up arms, but there were so many other ways that they could have championed the war effort, as well.

Please send your responses to quarterly@stlgs.org

We look forward to hearing about these brave men and women.

Mary (Trcka) Hrebec, 1890–1968

By Judy Broleman
for the St. Louis City/County Biographies Project

Mary was born on 13 October 1890 to Laurentio Trcka and Maria Hrach. She was baptized as Mariam Trcka at St. John Nepomuk Church on 26 October 1890. Wenceslaus and Catharina Zika served as her sponsors.

Mary married Al Hrebec on 16 April 1913 at St. Wenceslaus in the priest's parlor. Their son, Warren, was born on 29 June 1914 and died on 19 May 1917 of spinal meningitis at age two years, eleven months. Burial for Warren was at Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery in an area set aside for young children. Their daughter, Bernice, was born on 20 November 1916.

Mary enjoyed fishing, playing cards, television, movies, baseball games, crocheting, and quilting. Her granddaughter Judy remembers as a young girl aged nine to thirteen being taken to Sportsmen's Park on the Grand Avenue streetcar to Ladies' Day baseball games of the St. Louis Browns and Cardinals. It was also a special treat to go downtown with Grandma to a movie, some shopping, and dinner.

After her husband Al's death in 1947, Mary went to work part-time as a bottle labeler for R. H. Tillson Company, located at 1318 S. Sixth Street, St. Louis. When her granddaughter Judy was about fifteen, Mary brought her into the business, working in the office typing up bills of lading and letters during her summer breaks. Mary had many good friends.

Mary told stories about Betty Grable coming to visit her aunts, Estelle and Rebecca Grable, who lived down the street at 4118 Juniata. Betty was known to say of the sisters, "They have coffee every day and there's sure to be something good to eat." The two-story house was constructed of brick and had a large, covered front porch.

Mary led a very active life, but by the early 1960s, she developed cataracts on both eyes and unfortunately, surgery was not successful. She wore very thick and heavy glasses but

would have been classified as legally blind. Mary was unable to enjoy her crocheting and her independence, and trips to movie theaters and baseball games were all gone. She lived upstairs from her daughter, Bernice, and had to move downstairs because she wasn't able to cook or take care of herself. There was fear that she would fall down the long flight of stairs. Without her eyesight, she gave up the will to live and slowly deteriorated. She was in Incarnate Word Hospital at Grand and Lafayette to build up her weakened condition when she choked to death on a small piece of food that lodged in her throat, and she was too weak to cough it up.

Her wake was at Kutis Funeral Home, 2906 Gravois, and her funeral Mass was from Holy Family Church, officiated by Father Franke. Fr. Ramatowski also came to the grave. Msgr. Joseph Bremerich came to the funeral home. Her pallbearers were Harry O'Brien, Leo Bierling, Victor Welling, Dick Charpentier, Henry Schweizer, and Joe Schweizer. Mary and her husband, Al, are buried in Resurrection Cemetery.



Movie star Betty Grable in 1956,
from Wikimedia Commons,
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/
wiki/File:Betty_Grable_1956.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Betty_Grable_1956.jpg)
photo in the public domain

Sharing Your Stories

By Jane Theissen

As genealogists, most of us have spent a great deal of time, money, and effort to track down our ancestors and compile a well-documented family tree. Indeed, it is our passion! In the process, we hope that at least one of our descendants will pick up the mantle, cherish our work as much as we do, and, just maybe, continue the hunt. We easily find ourselves bewildered and even hurt when no one else seems interested in the names, dates, and places we have collected.

But when you stop to think about it, a list of names, dates, and places of people you do not know is dry and boring. Why should anyone else care? If you want to pique the interest of your offspring, start sharing your stories. Children and grandchildren are often more interested in our stories than in our belongings. I have found this to be true in my own family, and it encouraged me to write about our ancestors in a way that would engage my family. Remember, if you do not pass the stories down to the next generation, they will be lost forever.

Of course, it is good to put them in writing, but that is not the only way to communicate the stories about your life. You could record an oral history. Just turn on a recording device and start talking. Maybe having some prompts to get you started would make it easier. Here are a few to get the ball rolling. Note that this is not an exhaustive list. Go with your gut, and share whatever you would like to pass along that comes to mind. Doubtless, you will think of other topics once you begin:

- Where were you born and raised?
- Tell us about your family of origin and where you fit in.
- How did your family celebrate major holidays—Christmas, Hanukah, Easter, etc.?
- How did you meet your spouse? What was your wedding like?
- What did you do for fun as a kid?
- What historical events had an impact on you and your family? What was that like for you?

- Share how you felt when each of your children was born.
- Where have you traveled, and what impressed you most about those places?

The St. Louis County Library's History and Genealogy Department on the second floor of the Clark Family Branch has a personal history recording studio which offers the option of recording video as well as audio. Imagine how much your grandchildren would enjoy seeing and listening to you tell your story when they are older. The staff at the library will help you get started. All you need to do is make an appointment (<https://www.slcl.org/library-services/memory-lab>).

If making a video or audio recording of yourself does not appeal to you, the written word works, too. Do not worry that you might not be a good writer. Your descendants are curious to know what you have to share; they are not looking for a polished English essay! They want to "hear" your voice. I know the process of getting started can stop you before you put pen to paper. The prompts above work here, too. Just grab a piece of paper and start writing.

And do not stop, once you have shared about *your* life. Your ancestors have stories, too, and undoubtedly you have uncovered more than a few during your research! Here are a few additional prompts about your ancestors:

- From where did they emigrate?
- What was that voyage like for them?
- How did they make their living?
- How did they maintain their culture in their new homeland?

If you do not know the answers, do some historical research. They did not live in a vacuum, after all. After checking the history books, look for first-person accounts of other immigrants who wrote about leaving their homeland and traveling for weeks or months in the steerage compartment of a ship crossing the Atlantic. While it's not *your* ancestor's story, their

Sharing Your Stories

experience might have been similar and maybe you can glean something from it.

Newspapers are also a great resource for finding family stories. Arriving ships posted lists of passengers in local newspapers. Real estate transactions, births, marriage licenses, tax lists, and social occasions were also covered in various papers. Small-town newspapers are especially fun to look through. I uncovered the reason my grandfather moved from Effingham, Illinois, to St. Louis, Missouri, and later returned to Effingham to marry his sweetheart. I learned about bowling and sharpshooting awards my uncle won. I even discovered a fifteen-plus-year pinochle tournament between two generations of Barlage relatives—fathers against sons—beginning in 1920! You never know what you might find.

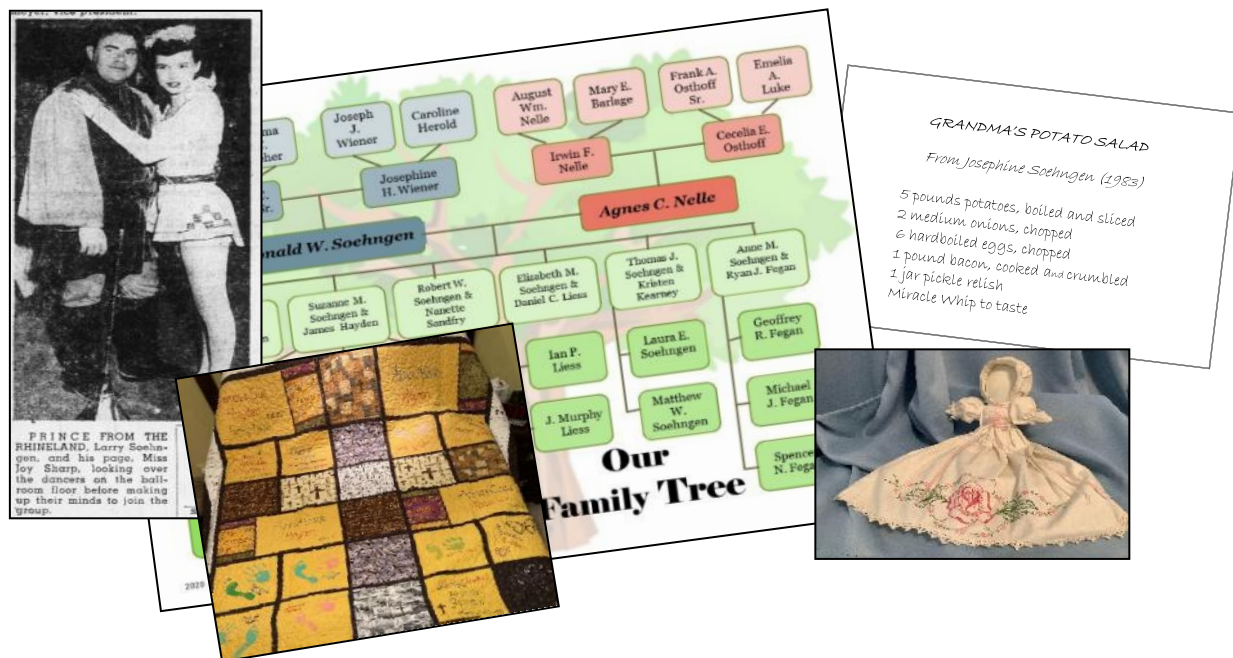
Oral and written stories are not the only way to pass on your legacy and that of your ancestors. Here are a few other ideas.

- Sew a family quilt or have one made.
- Needlepoint or embroider a wall hanging with a family theme.

- Create and frame a collection of your ancestors' signatures.
- Photograph your home or the area where you live(d), and attach a story about that place.
- Paint or draw a picture of one of your stories or of an ancestor or descendant.
- Create a photobook with family tree on the cover.
- Put together a book of family recipes, along with a story about each recipe. Sprinkle in family photos.
- Transfer old family movies to DVD or digital format, and share with family members.
- Make a photo collage using family photos.
- Scan photographs, and make copies for your family members

If you do not feel particularly craft-y, enlist the help of a family member or two. It might just kindle a desire on their part to know more!

Finally, a myriad of books and websites exist that can also help you share your story. Although I have not used all of these, here are just a few that I have discovered:



Newspaper article about my uncle; family tree, Grandma's potato salad recipe, a family quilt, a pillowcase doll from a pillowcase my great-grandmother embroidered.

Sharing Your Stories

To create photobooks and other items with photos on them:

- Shutterfly: <https://www.shutterfly.com>
- Mixbook: <https://www.mixbook.com>

To digitize old VHS, 8mm film, photos:

- Legacy Box: <https://legacybox.com>
- iMemories: <https://www.imemories.com>
- DigMypics: <https://www.digmypics.com>

To create family wall art:

- Just Like Wood: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/JustLikeWood> (ships from Ukraine)
- TeerrificGift: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/TeerrificGift>
- Use a computer program like Word or Canva

To write stories:

- StoryWorth: <https://www.storyworth.com>
- Remento: <https://www.remento.co/>



Fan chart created at StLGS; framed by the owner. Details for creating and purchasing fan charts are on our website.

More Ideas for You

Jane has given us lots of ideas in her essay, but we have even more. Here's an excerpt from a blog we posted in October 2022. (You can read the whole post at <https://stlgs.blogspot.com/2022/10/creative-ways-to-celebrate-family.html>)

One of the participants in our society's Facebook group shared a wonderful collage he made of his ancestors' signatures, framed and hung in a place of honor in his home. All it took was collecting the signatures from documents, mounting them on acid-free paper, and then having the final product attractively framed so it could be displayed.

With just a little bit of work, you can design and print a variety of attractive family trees. If you cannot design your own, StLGS can do one for you. We offer inexpensive, full-color fan charts suitable for framing. You can send or bring in a GEDCOM file for seven or nine generations, and we will do the rest. All the information you need for ordering is on our website. (See sample to the left.)

Grab some of those old family photos, and start organizing them into attractive books that can be handed down to family members with relatives and locations identified. Or take those photos and make other kinds of framed wall arrangements. We all know that photos sitting in boxes are likely doomed to oblivion! And, with websites like Shutterfly, Walgreens, or CVS photo-printing at our fingertips, the process is super-easy.

You can tell your family story in all kinds of media, only limited by your imagination. Think about migration maps for your ancestors, cookbooks with family recipes, or collages of family homes. Many cultures cherish story quilts, and they can be made even more meaningful by using fabrics worn by family members. Be sure to read the whole original blog post for many more ideas, and then your family hopes you will get started!

A Network of German Immigrant Families in St. Louis, 1855-1900

By Tom Nienhaus

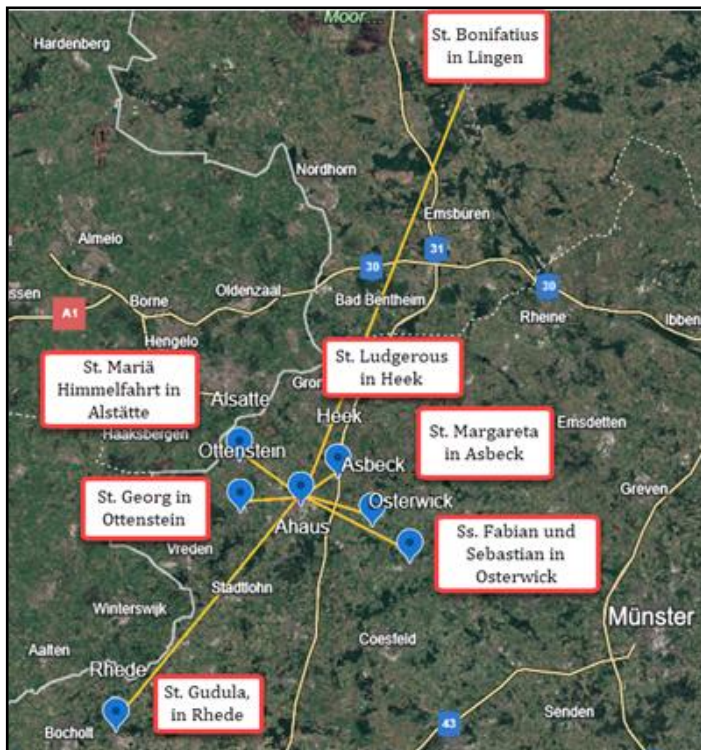
The surnames in this article were spelled in various ways in the records in which they were found. These variations have been maintained below.

Social networks are the center of our daily lives. We depend upon the same group of family and friends to share our joys and our grief, and we see them often at church and social events. Our ancestors were no different. A group of families from a small area in Germany immigrated to St. Louis, Missouri, and settled in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic parish between 1855 and 1900. Their interactions were frequently documented in the parish's records. Census records from the time period provided an indication of how closely they lived to one another. This study details the social network they carried with them from Germany to St. Louis.

We begin with a visualization of the geography from where these families emigrated in

Germany. For some of them, a social network may have existed in Germany due to their geographic proximity to each other in northwest Westphalia, Prussia, near the border with the Netherlands. Their German parishes were within a mere twenty kilometers (twelve-and-one-half miles) of each other using current-day roads. The diagram below uses the town of Ahaus as the central node since it is the largest town in a district of the same name. Family surnames are in bold. The German Catholic parishes and member families are:

- St. Mariä Himmelfahrt (The Assumption of St. Mary), Alstätte, Ahaus [Nienhaus, Löhring, Orthaus]
- St. Georg, Ottenstein, Ahaus [Koppers]
- St. Ludgerous, Heek, Borken [Festert]
- St. Bonifatius, Lingen, Lower-Saxony [Alfers]
- Ss. Fabian und Sebastian, Osterwick, Rosendahl [Börsting]



Church	Distance from Ahaus
St. Mariä Himmelfahrt	6 miles
St. Georg	4.7 miles
St. Gudula	25 miles
Ss. Fabian und Sebastian	8 miles
St. Margareta	8 miles
St. Ludgerous	6 miles
St. Bonifatius	39 miles

Distances from Ahaus as shown on Google Earth map

A Network of German Immigrant Families in St. Louis, 1855–1900

- St. Margareta, Asbeck, Legden, Borken [Börsting-Koppers]
- St. Gudula, Rhede, Borken [Böhing]

Additionally, it is likely that they were part of a chain migration from this area, given that some of the families were related by marriage from earlier generations (Loering, Orthaus, and Nienhaus). As immigrants in a new country, these families relied on each other for spiritual, emotional, financial, and material support, especially in difficult times.

The families worked, worshipped, celebrated, and grieved together, all living in proximity to one another in St. Louis. As they intermarried, their names recurred frequently as witnesses to weddings and as godparents to children, as documented in the parish records. Additionally, all of the men found initial employment as coopers when they arrived in St. Louis. They were likely helped in this endeavor by Gerhard Orthaus,¹ who appears to be the first person from the region in this chain of immigrants, arriving in St. Louis in 1852. Two other men from this cluster of families later became business partners (Nienhaus & Co., Heinrich Alferts & Gerhard Nienhaus)² in 1866.

Once the families were in St. Louis, nearly all of the marriages and baptisms were performed at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. As for most people of that time, the church

was a vital part of their social interaction, and meeting minutes were often published in one of the local German-language newspapers.³

The Families

The immigrant families are listed below with the details about their baptisms in Germany. Church names are listed in German as given in the records.

Alfers

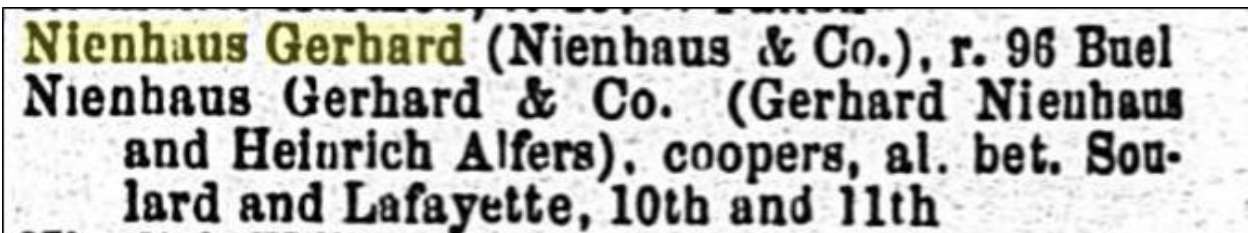
Bernard Henry Alferts was baptized on 19 February 1828 at St. Bonifatius in Lingen, Hanover, Prussia.⁴ Bernard married Christina Joanna Koppers on 8 May 1860 at Sts. Peter and Paul.⁵

Boeing / Böhing

A possible baptismal record for John Boeing (discrepancy of mother's name) noted the baptism took place on 21 May 1821 at St. Gudula, Rhede, Borken, Westphalia.⁶ He married Gertrude Koppers on 5 January 1859 at Sts. Peter and Paul.⁷ She was baptized on 30 October 1832 at St. Georg church in Ottenstein, Ahaus.⁸ Gertrude died on 11 September 1866 of cholera,⁹ and John remarried after her death.¹⁰

Boersting

Adolph Boersting married Maria Henrica Koppers at St. Margareta, Asbeck, Borken, Westphalia, on 25 August 1859.¹¹ Adolph was



"U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995," St. Louis, Missouri, Ancestry.com, 1866, Gerhard Nienhaus, p. 632, citing Edwards' Annual Director to the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Businesses, Business Firms, etc., etc. in the City of St. Louis for 1866.

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baptized on 28 April 1831 at Ss. Fabian und Sebastian, Osterwick, Rosendahl, Westphalia.¹² Maria Henrica Koppers was baptized on 8 April 1829 at St. Georg.¹³

Festert / Vestert

Three Festert siblings, Henry, Elisabeth, and Katherine, immigrated to St. Louis. All were baptized at St. Ludgerous church in Heek, Borken, Westphalia, Prussia.

Henry was baptized on 14 March 1845.¹⁴ His first wife, Anna Catherine Witte, was baptized at St. Ludgerous on 14 January 1840.¹⁵ The couple was married on 3 September 1867 in St. Louis.¹⁶

Elizabeth Festert was baptized on 24 December 1851¹⁷ and married Herman Hessling on 12 February 1878 in Missouri.¹⁸

Katherine was baptized on 26 April 1841.¹⁹ She married Gerhard Nienhaus (see Nienhaus family).

Koppers

The Koppers family originated in St. Georg parish in Ottenstein, Ahaus, Westphalia, Prussia.

Johann Theodore and Katherine (nee Terwei) Koppers arrived in Baltimore on 16 December 1856.²⁰ Their group of seven included two of their children; Katherine's parents, Johann Theodor and Maria Terwei; and Katherine's younger sister. They were on their way to St. Louis to join Katherine's brother, Joseph. Additional members of the Koppers family followed later.

Joseph Koppers was baptized on 24 October 1827 at St. Georg church²¹ and married Anna Nienhaus on 28 January 1858.²²

On 24 February 1836, Elizabeth Koppers was baptized at St. Georg²³ and married Gerhard Nienhaus (see Nienhaus family).

Christina Johanna Koppers was baptized on 13 October 1840 at St. Georg church²⁴ and married Bernard Henry Alfes on 8 May 1860 (See Alfes family).

Löhring / Loehring / Loering

Henry Löhring was baptized on 2 January 1821 at St. Mariä Himmelfahrt (The Assumption of St. Mary) in Alstätte, Ahaus, Westphalia, Prussia.²⁵ He and Gertrude Hilbert were married at Sts. Peter and Paul church on 6 January 1857.²⁶

Gertrude died 27 August 1871 of pericarditis.²⁷ After her death, Henry remarried.²⁸

Nienhaus

On 26 November 1835, Johanna (Anna) Nienhaus was baptized at St. Mariä Himmelfahrt, Alstätte, Ahaus, Westphalia, Prussia.²⁹ She married Joseph Koppers (see the Koppers family).

Gerhard was also baptized at St. Mariä Himmelfahrt on 24 July 1832.³⁰ He married Elizabeth Koppers on 16 April 1861.³¹ After Elizabeth died, Gerhard married Katherine Festert on 1 February 1868.³²

Orthaus

On 4 April 1823, Johann Gerhard was baptized at St. Mariä Himmelfahrt (The Assumption of St. Mary) in Alstätte, Ahaus, Westphalia, Prussia.³³ At the age of thirty-five, Gerhard married Johanna Gehring on 16 December 1858.³⁴

After Gerhard's death on 20 August 1873 from cholera,³⁵ Joanna (Anna) remarried.³⁶

From this synopsis, it is easy to understand that the connections between these families in Germany continued to broaden and strengthen after they moved to St. Louis.

Where Families Lived in St. Louis

After arriving in Missouri, this group of immigrants settled in the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul in the Soulard area of St. Louis. Based on census records, their addresses were:

- The Gerhard Nienhaus family, 1709 Buel (also named South 10th Street)³⁷

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- The J. Koppers family, 1904 South 7th Street³⁸
- The Henry Loering family, 1935 South 11th Street³⁹
- The Henry Festert family, 1109 Allen Avenue⁴⁰
- The John Orthaus family, 1010 Geyer Avenue⁴¹
- The Herman Hessling family, 1919 South 8th Street⁴²
- The Henry Alfes family, 1904 South 7th Street⁴³

To understand the proximity of their homes, they are marked below on pages of 1909 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for the local area.⁴⁴ The maps have been arranged to align the streets as best as possible. Addresses above are from census records. In addition to

their proximity to one another, the families all lived within walking distance of the church, underscoring the impact that the parish had on their daily lives. Unfortunately, not all families were located in these records.

The following is a sample of the existing and growing connections documented in Sts. Peter and Paul parish records in 1858 and 1859 as found in marriages and baptisms:

- 28 January 1858: Johanna (Anna) Nienhaus married Joseph Koppers.⁴⁵ Gerhard Nienhaus and Christina Koppers were the witnesses.
- 16 December 1858: Marriage of Johann Gerhard Orthaus and Johanna Gehring.⁴⁶ Witnesses were Herman Orthaus and Gertrude (nee Hilbert) Loering.



Immigrant family residences relative to Sts. Peter and Paul Church

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- 1 January 1859: Gertrude Koppers married John H. Böehing⁴⁷ (Boeing), a cooper. Witnesses were Bernard Tüker(?) and Gerhard Nienhaus.
- 30 September 1859: Birth of Anna Catherine Elisabeth Orthaus⁴⁸ to Gerhard and Joanna Gerhing. Godparents were Henrich Löring and Wilhelmina Orthaus.
- 8 November 1859: Bernard Nienhaus⁴⁹ born to Gerhard and Elizabeth Koppers Nienhaus. Godparents Henry Löhring and Catherine (nee Terwei) Koppers (mother of Elizabeth Nienhaus) were on hand to witness the event.
- 10 December 1859: Catherine Gertrude Böhing⁵⁰ born to John Böhing and Gertrude Koppers. Her godparents were Johann Koppers and Gertrude Böhing.

In 1872, the Koppers, Alferts, and Boersting families moved from St. Louis to Doniphan County, Kansas. Henry Alferts's obituary revealed his thoughts on the move: "realizing the difficulty of properly raising a family in a large city he moved from St. Louis to Doniphan County, Kansas, where he purchased a farm."⁵¹ Doniphan County lies about three hundred miles west of St. Louis. Of the eleven Alferts children, three had died in St. Louis. I suspect an escape from the deadly diseases that were so prevalent in the city factored into the relocation to a more rural area. The extent to which they maintained contact with their Missouri relations after this is unknown.

While not all immigrants to the United States came as part of a migration chain, they all developed relationships based on their mutual backgrounds and similar needs for social, spiritual, and economic support in a place with which they were likely unfamiliar. For those who were part of such a chain, the relationships that existed prior to emigration were strengthened in the new country, as the experiences of these families demonstrate.

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. "United States Germans to America Index, 1850–1897," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/>), Joh. B. Orthaus, 8 November 1852, citing National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) NAID identifier 1746067, National Archives, College Park, Maryland.

2. "Edwards' Annual Director to the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Businesses, Business Firms, etc., etc. in the City of St. Louis for 1866" (St. Louis: Edwards, Greenough & Deved, 1866), 632, "Gerhard Nienhaus"; imaged, "U.S., City Directories, 1822–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com), image 309 of 523.

3. "Ein erfolgreiches Fest, War der Bazar der Str. Peter und Paul's-Gemeinde" [A successful celebration, The bazaar of the Sts. Peter and Paul's parish], *Westliche Post* (St. Louis, Missouri), 18 October 1900, p. 5, col. 5; imaged, *Newspapers.com* (<https://Newspapers.com>), 18 October 1900, p. 5, col. 5.

4. Parish Records, St. Bonifatius, Lingen, Alstadt, Osnabrück, Deutschland, KB0098, Taufen (Baptism) F006-2, 1809–1830, digital image, *Matricula Online* (<https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>), Bernard Henry Alvers [sic], 19 February 1828, Tauf-1828_098.

5. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Bernard Henry Alferts and Christina Koppers, 8 May 1860; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 849 of 1149.

6. Parish Records, St. Gudula, Rhede, Borken, Westphalia, Deutschland, KB011 Taufen (Baptism), 1808–1836, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Johannes Böing, 21 May 1821, T_086.

7. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, John H. Böehing and Gertrude Koppers, 1 January 1859; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 836 of 1149.

8. Parish Records, St. Georg, Ottenstein, Münster, Deutschland, KB003_1 Taufen (Baptism), 1808–1841, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Gertrudis Koppers, 20 October 1831, T_014.

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9. "Register of Deaths, 1850–1909," St. Louis, Missouri, Gertrude Boeing, 11 September 1866; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 008200184, image 208 of 420.

10. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, John Böehing and Josephine Broeckling, 5 March 1867; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 935 of 1149.

11. Parish Records, St. Margareta, Asbeck, Münster, Deutschland, KB004_3 Heiraten (Marriage), 1829–1881, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Adolph Boersting and Maria Henrica Koppers, 25 August 1859, H_030.

12. Parish Records, SS. Fabian und Sebastian, Osterwick, Münster, Deutschland, KB014 Taufen (Baptism), 1822–1869, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Adolph Boersting, 28 April 1831, T_030.

13. Parish Records, St. Georg, Ottenstein, Münster, Deutschland, KB003_1 Taufen (Baptism), 1808–1841, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Maria Henrina Koppers, 8 April 1829, T_012.

14. Parish Records, St. Ludgerous, Heek, Münster, Deutschland, KB007 Taufen (Baptism), 1845–1875, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Johann Heinrich Vestert, 14 March 1845, T_004.

15. Parish Records, St. Ludgerous, Heek, Münster, Deutschland, KB_004 Taufen (Baptism), 1822–1844, digital image, *Matricula Online*, (Anna) Maria Catherina Witte, 14 January 1840, T_082.

16. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Henry Festert and Catherine Witte, 3 September 1867; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 944 of 1149.

17. Parish Records, St. Ludgerous, Heek, Münster, Deutschland, KB007 Taufen (Baptism), 1822–1844, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Anna Maria Elisabeth Festert, 24 December 1851, T_034.

18. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Herman Hessling and Elisabeth Festert, 12 February 1878; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 1050 of 1149.

19. Parish Records, St. Ludgerous, Heek, Münster, Deutschland, KB_004 Taufen (Baptism), 1822–1844, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Anna Catherina (Katherine) Festert, 26 April 1841, T_089.

20. Manifest, S.S. *Maryland*, 16 December 1856, np, line 114, Theodor Koppers, age 40; imaged, "Maryland, Baltimore Passenger Lists, 1820–

1948," image 407 of 799, *FamilySearch*; citing *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving in Baltimore, 1820–1891*, microfilm publication M0255, roll 11, Feb. 5, 1855–June 22, 1858; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

21. Parish Records, St. Georg, Ottenstein, Ahaus, Westphalia, Deutschland, KB_003_1 Taufen (Baptism), 1808–1841, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Johann Joseph Koppers, 24 October 1827, T_012.

22. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Joseph Koppers and Johanna (Anna) Nienhaus, 28 January 1858; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 828 of 1149.

23. Parish Records, St. Georg, Ottenstein, Ahaus, Westphalia, Deutschland, KB004 Taufen (Baptism), 1841, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Elisabeth Koppers, 24 February 1836, T_015.

24. Parish Records, St. Georg, Ottenstein, Münster, Deutschland, KB004 Taufen (Baptism), 1840–1901, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Christina Koppers, 13 October 1840, T_008.

25. Parish Records, St. Mariä Himmelfahrt, Alstätte, Münster, Deutschland, KB012_1 Taufen (Baptism), 1817–1926, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Bernard Hermann Henrich Löring, 2 January 1821, T_008.

26. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Henry Loehring and Gertrude Hilbert, 6 January 1857; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 808 of 1149.

27. "Register of Deaths, 1850–1909," St. Louis, Missouri, Gertrude Lohring, 27 August 1871; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 008492013, image 261 of 351.

28. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Henry Loehring and Elizabeth Boeger, 18 July 1872; imaged *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 1020 of 1149.

29. Parish Records, St. Mariä Himmelfahrt, Alstätte, Münster, Deutschland, KB_013, Taufen (Baptism), 1822–1857, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Joanna Nienhaus, 26 November 1835, T_079.

30. Parish Records, St. Mariä Himmelfahrt, Alstätte, Münster, Deutschland, KB_013 Taufen (Baptism), 1822–1857, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Gerhard Heinrich Nienhaus, 24 July 1832, T_063.

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31. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Gerhard Nienhaus and Elizabeth Koppers, 16 April 1861; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 813 of 1149.

32. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Gerhard Nienhaus and Katherine Festert, 1 February 1868; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 948 of 1149.

33. Parish Records, St. Mariä Himmelfahrt, Alstätte, Münster, Deutschland, KB_013 Taufen (Baptism), 1822 to 1857, digital image, *Matricula Online*, Johann Gerhard Orthaus, 3 April 1823, T_010.

34. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Gerhard Orthaus and Johanna Gehring, 16 December 1858; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 835 of 1149.

35. "Register of Deaths, 1850–1909," St. Louis, Missouri, Gerhard Orthaus, 20 August 1873; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 008492015, image 115 of 319.

36. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Anna Orthaus and Herman Henry Volmer, 20 January 1874; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 1029 of 1149.

37. "Edwards' Thirteenth Annual Director to the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Business, Business Firms, Manufacturing Establishments, Etc., in the City of Saint Louis, for 1871" (Southern Publishing Co., 1871), 496, "Gerhard Nienhaus"; image 475 of 857, *Missouri Digital Heritage* (www.sos.mo.gov/mdh), St. Louis Mercantile Library - Directories, Gazetteers, Rosters and Guides.

38. "Edwards' Thirteenth Annual Director [varying subtitles] in the City of Saint Louis for 1871," 751, "J. Koppers"; image 724 of 857, *Missouri Digital Heritage*.

39. "Edwards' Thirteenth Annual Director [varying subtitles] in the City of Saint Louis for 1871," 417, "Henry Loehring"; image 411 of 857, *Missouri Digital Heritage*.

40. "Edwards' Thirteenth Annual Director [varying subtitles] in the City of Saint Louis for 1871," 233, "Henry Festest" [sic]; image 239 of 857, *Missouri Digital Heritage*.

41. "Edwards' Thirteenth Annual Director [varying subtitles] in the City of Saint Louis for

1871," 509, "John Orthaus"; image 488 of 857, *Missouri Digital Heritage*.

42. "Edwards' Thirteenth Annual Director [varying subtitles] in the City of Saint Louis for 1871," 319, "Herman Hessling"; image 325 of 857, *Missouri Digital Heritage*.

43. "Edwards' Thirteenth Annual Director [varying subtitles] in the City of Saint Louis for 1871," 72, "Henry Alfes"; image 78 of 857, *Missouri Digital Heritage*.

44. "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Saint Louis, Independent City, Missouri," Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, (https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4164sm.g4164sm_g04858190904/?st=gallery/), 1909, vol. 4, images 12, 13, 26, and 27 of 115.

45. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Joseph Koppers and Johanna (Anna) Nienhaus, 28 January 1858; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 828 of 1149.

46. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, Johann Gerhard Orthaus and Johanna Gehring, 16 December 1858; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 835 of 1149.

47. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, marriage, John H. Böehing and Gertrude Koppers, 1 January 1859; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856198, image 836 of 1149.

48. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, baptism, Anna Catherine Elisabeth Orthaus, 30 September 1859; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856196, image 41 of 1232.

49. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, baptism, Bernard Henricus Nienhaus, 8 November 1859; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856196, image 44 of 1232.

50. "Church records, 1849–1993," Catholic Church, SS. Peter and Paul, baptism, Catherine Gertrude Bohing, 10 December 1859; imaged, *FamilySearch*, citing FHL film 007856196, image 46 of 1232.

51. "Obituaries," *The Axtell Anchor* (Kansas), 21 February 1896, p. 2, col. 2, Bernard Henry Alfes; imaged, Newspapers.com.

Dr. Peter Edward Austin—Civil War Surgeon

By Shirley Wadell

On the StLGS website is a page of lost-and-found photos,¹ two of which are of Peter Edward Austin at different stages of his life, taken by photography studios in St. Louis, Missouri. The first photo is a cabinet card, embossed with the photography studio's name, "Strauss," on the front. On the reverse, the notation reads: "Dr. Peter Austin my grandfather's brother. Signed E. S. B." This picture depicts an older Dr. Austin and, based on subsequent research, was likely taken sometime between 1880 and the turn of the century.

The other photograph is a smaller image which could be a carte de visite, the same size as a calling card and similar to a business card of today. This photograph is marked with an ornamental script noting the name and address of the photography studio: "J. A. Scholten, Photographer, 301 & 303 North Fifth Street, corner of Olive, entrance 509 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri."

On the back is written: "Dr. Peter Austin, Grandm. Floyd was attended by this dr. when her last child was born."

Subsequent research has revealed that Dr. Peter Austin was recorded on the 1860 census for Carroll County, Missouri, living next door to John Floyd and his wife, Mary. Mary might be the person referred to as "Grandmother Floyd," because Mary E. (Bowdry) Floyd had her last child, named John after his father, in 1864 in Missouri.² Dr. Austin appears to be between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five in this picture, which could have been taken between 1860 and 1870.

Coincidentally, two men by the name of Dr. Peter Austin lived in Carrollton, Missouri, during the latter nineteenth century. The first was Dr. Peter E. Austin,³ the son of Dr. Peter Lucillius Austin and Sarah Susan "Sallie" (Leftwich) Austin.⁴ The other was Dr. Peter W. Austin. On *Ancestry.com*, I found a picture of Peter W. Austin,⁵ who is clearly not the same man as in the two photographs I was researching, so I focused on Peter E. Austin.



Dr. Peter E. Austin was recorded on several census records beginning in 1850. On the census in Carrollton for that year, Peter was sixteen years old, listed as a farmer and attending school. The household also included Sarah Austin, age fifty; John A., age twenty-nine, a farmer; William L., twenty-seven; Robert A., fourteen and attending school; and Lucy J., eighteen.⁶ Howel L. Heston, a thirty-seven-year-old farmer; Howel's wife, Esther; and their son, Howel L. Jr., nine months old, were also in the household. Sarah Austin's husband, Dr. Peter Lucillius Austin, had died in Bedford, Virginia, by 1835,⁷ and in 1842, the family moved to Carroll County, Missouri.⁸

At twenty-five years of age, Peter E. Austin was recorded on the 1860 U.S. census in Sugartree, Carroll County, in the household of his brother, John Austin, age forty, a farmer who owned real estate valued at \$5,600 and

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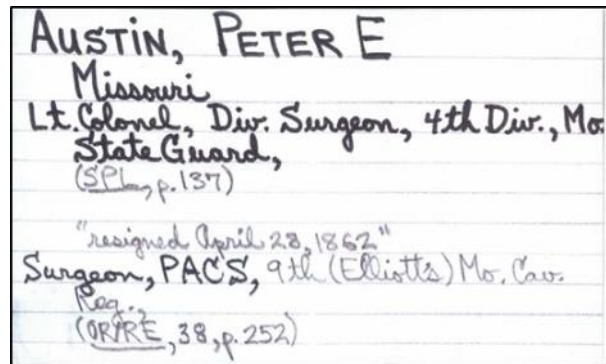
personal property at \$7,484. Also in the household were John's wife, Frances, age twenty-five; and their three young children: Mary, age four; Sallie, age three; and Peter, one year, eight months old. John and Peter's widowed mother, Sarah Austin, age sixty-one, was also living with them.⁹

During the Civil War, Lt. Colonel Peter E. Austin served as a surgeon in the 4th Division, Missouri State Guard and in the 9th (Elliott's) Missouri Cavalry Regiment.¹⁰ According to his obituary, he was a member of the Confederate army under Colonel Joseph Shelby. He resigned on 28 April 1862.¹¹

On the 1870 Sugartree, Carroll County, Missouri census, P. E. Austin, thirty-five-years old and a physician, held \$3,000 worth of real estate and \$2,000 of personal property. He was living in the household of W. P. Ewing, a twenty-seven-year-old farmer; W. P.'s twenty-four-year-old wife, R. K.; and their daughter Eva, three years old. Also in the same residence were five other individuals, four farm hands and a servant.¹²

Dr. P. E. Austin, age forty-three, single, was recorded on the 1880 Beatty, Carroll County, census as the head of household, with the dual occupations of physician and farmer. Living with him were his brother-in-law, Christopher Price, age fifty-five; his nephew, Thomas Price, age twenty; and another brother-in-law, W. W. Thomason, age seventy-five. In addition, there were five other individuals living in this household, four listed as farm hands and one as the cook.¹³

The 1900 Carroll County census recorded that physician P. E. Austin, age sixty-six, was born in August 1833 in Virginia and owned his house mortgage-free. He was the head of the household. Living with him were E. E. Heston, his older sister, born in April 1824 in Virginia, and her twenty-two-year-old daughter, Mary, born in July 1877 in Missouri, along with Cora George, age twenty-eight, listed as a servant, and Cora's six-year-old son, V. P. George.¹⁴



From FamilySearch.org, U.S. Confederate Officers Card Index, 1861-1865

Given his prominence in Missouri, it is not surprising that there were several obituaries for Dr. Peter E. Austin in various newspapers. *The Columbia Herald Statesmen* described Dr. Austin as an "angel of mercy" who spent his time caring for the less fortunate and was loved and respected by all.¹⁵ A brief death announcement in the *Chariton Courier* provided further information about Dr. Austin's life. He had been a resident of Carroll County for many years and died on a Saturday at approximately sixty-eight years of age. This obituary confirms Dr. Austin's service as a surgeon in the American Civil War with the Confederate Army under General Joe O. Shelby.¹⁶ Dr. Austin's obituary published in the *Plattsburg Leader* noted that "Dr. Peter E. Austin [was] one of Carroll county's oldest and wealthiest citizens..."¹⁷

On 1 May 1902, the *Bates County Democrat* published an article entitled "A Letter from Joe Shelby," noting that this original document had supposedly been found by Dr. C. S. Austin (Peter's nephew) among old correspondence and papers of the late doctor. The letter, written by his commanding officer, General Joe O. Shelby, was dated 17 April 1863 and reported that Dr. P. E. Austin resigned his commission as surgeon of Elliott's Regiment of the Missouri Cavalry, General Shelby's Brigade on 31 May 1865.¹⁸

Dr. Peter Edward Austin—Civil War Surgeon

Another letter relating to Dr. Austin was found in *The Index*, a Hermitage, Missouri, newspaper, dated 7 April 1927. It was entitled “An Old Letter—Good Advice Given Boys 77 Years Ago When Leaving for California Gold Fields.” Mrs. Sallie (Leftwich) Austin, the mother of Dr. Peter E. Austin and author of this letter, wrote it seventy-seven years prior to its publication in this periodical, giving advice to her three boys—John A., William L., and Dr. Peter E.—when they allegedly left for the California gold rush. The letter contains a good deal of motherly advice and reminds her sons to present themselves in a gentlemanly way, to not drink or swear, and to show the world they had been raised properly. Sallie signed her letter, “MOTHER.”¹⁹ I was unable to find any record of their exploits in California, and by 1860, all three men were back in Carroll County.

Dr. Peter Edward Austin was buried in Austin Cemetery, Carroll County, Missouri, beside his mother. His large headstone reflects his prominent status in the community.

If you are interested in claiming the original photographs of Dr. Peter Edward Austin, please email Ilene Murray, publications director of the St. Louis Genealogical Society, at publications@stlgs.org, or call the StLGS office at 314-647-8547.

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. St. Louis Genealogical Society, “Lost and Found Photos” (<https://stlgs.org/research-2/publications/photos/lost-found-photos>), Peter Austin.

2. 1870 U.S. census, Carroll County, Missouri, population schedule, Sugartree Bottom, p. 12 (handwritten), dwelling 80, family 80, John A. Floid [sic] in the household of John H. Floid [sic]; imaged, *Ancestry*, citing National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm publication T132.

3. “Directory of Deceased American Physicians, 1804–1929,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com>); death, Peter Austin, 7 December 1901, Carrollton, Missouri.

4. “North America, Family Histories, 1500–2000,” *Lineage Book, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, vol. 75 (Washington,

D.C.: Press of Judd & Detweiler, Inc., 1924), p. 85, Peter Austin (1791–1835) and wife Sarah Leftwich (1799–1881), ancestors of Mrs. Bertha Ringo Child, no. 74241; image 92 of 418, *Ancestry*.

5. Peter W. Austin, in Raunig-Finnerty Family Tree, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/14327258/person/99293521/facts), created by “Bartbunny.”

6. 1850 U.S. census, Carroll County, Missouri, population schedule, district 18, p. 4 (stamped), dwelling 37, family 37, Peter E. Austin in the household of Howel L. Heston; imaged, *Ancestry*, citing National Archives microfilm publication M432.

7. “U.S. War of 1812, Pension Application Files Index, 1812–1815,” database and images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1133/records/88513); image of index card for widow Sally Austin’s pensions, service of Peter Austin (Cornet, Capt. James Leftwick’s Co., Virginia Militia), image 827 of 849; citing Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files, 1960–1960, microfilm publication M313, roll 3; NARA, Washington, D.C.

8. “A Good Man Gone To Rest,” *Lexington Intelligencer* (Lexington, Missouri), 15 March 1902, p. 1, col. 1, obituary, Rev. R. A. Austin; imaged, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/>).

9. 1860 U.S. census, Carroll County, Missouri, population schedule, Sugar Tree Bottom, p. 117 (handwritten), dwelling 883, family 7, Peter E. Austin in the household of John Austin; imaged, *Ancestry*, citing NARA microfilm publication M653.

10. “United States, Confederate Officers Card Index, 1861–1865,” database and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:73FC-KJN2>); image 251, entry for Peter E Austin, Missouri.

11. “U.S., Confederate Officers Card Index, 1861–1865,” Peter E. Austin, Missouri.

12. 1870 U.S. census, Carroll County, Missouri, population schedule, Sugartree Bottom, p. 8 (handwritten), dwelling 54, family 54, P. E. Austin in the household of W. P. Ewing; imaged, *Ancestry*, citing NARA microfilm publication T132.

13. 1880 U.S. census, Carroll County, Missouri, population schedule, Beatty, enumeration district (ED) p. 14B (handwritten), dwelling 114, family 118, P. E. Austin; imaged, *Ancestry*, citing NARA microfilm publication T9.

14. 1900 U.S. census, Carroll County, Missouri, population schedule, Carrollton City, ED 2, p. 14A (stamped), dwelling 53, family 53, P. E. Austin;

Dr. Peter Edward Austin—Civil War Surgeon

imaged, *Ancestry*; citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

15. "Local Flashes," *Columbia Herald-Statesman* (Missouri), 20 December 1901, p. 6, col. 4, death, Dr. Peter E. Austin; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

16. "Local "Border County Notes, Carrollton," *Chariton Courier* (Chariton, Missouri), 20 December 1901, p. 3, col. 1, death, Dr. Peter E. Austin; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

17. "One of the Pioneers," *Plattsburg Leader* (Plattsburg, Missouri), 13 December 1901, p. 7, col. 1, death, Dr. Peter E. Austin; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

18. "A Letter from Joe Shelby," *Bates County Democrat* (Butler, Missouri), 1 May 1902, p. 2, col. 4; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

19. "An Old Letter—Good Advice Given Boys 77 Years Ago When Leaving for California Gold Fields," *The Index* (Hermitage, Missouri), 7 April 1927, p. 1, col. 4; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

About the Author

Shirley Wadell began researching her family history in 1989 and has been a member of StLGS and other genealogical societies for several years. She takes a special interest in photography and documenting graveyards. Shirley has written numerous articles for the *StLGS Quarterly* and for the St. Louis City/County Biographies Project on our website with an emphasis on reconnecting lost photos and heirlooms with their families.



Medical Care During the Civil War

Dr. Peter Austin's job as a surgeon during the Civil War would have been extraordinarily difficult for many reasons. Medical knowledge was limited, sanitary conditions were appalling, and there were no antibiotics or other means to prevent infection. A soldier was just as likely to die from an injury or illness as by being killed in battle.

During the war's early months, the general belief was that the war would be over quickly, so no long-term plan was in place to treat sick or wounded soldiers. However, it did not take long to realize that medical care was imperative. Union general George McClellan appointed the first medical director of the Union army, a surgeon named Charles S. Tripler, in August 1861, and he immediately called on surgeons to travel with the armies and create hospitals where the wounded could be treated. In reality, though, many men were treated on the field in the open or in small, crowded tents. Confederate president Jefferson Davis appointed David C. DeLeon to be his surgeon general, but DeLeon badly bungled his job and was replaced by Samuel Preston Moore.

Soldiers crammed together in camps lived in squalid conditions. Thousands of men brought germs from home, leading to epidemics of what we consider childhood diseases: chicken pox, mumps, measles, and whooping cough. Soldiers in the south encountered malaria, dysentery, typhoid fever, and cholera. Treatment for any of those illnesses was often limited to whiskey, coffee, tobacco, and, if available, quinine.

As the war progressed, nurses were enlisted, and transportation to hospitals improved, but wounded soldiers continued to face infection, amputation, and possible gangrene. Doctors did have chloroform and ether to use as anesthetics, but they rarely sterilized their equipment or washed their hands. Most amputees survived surgery but then died of infection. Learn more in "Medicine in the American Civil War," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicine_in_the_American_Civil_War#cite_note-6.

Spotlight on Ask Louie!

By Jane Theissen

On the home page of the St. Louis Genealogical Society's website is a gold button that reads, "Genealogy Question? Ask Louie." I recently had the opportunity to ask the volunteers who staff the "Ask Louie" desk, April Webb and Debbie Benoit, a few questions about what they do, and here's what they told me...

What is "Ask Louie" all about? Is it only for StLGS members?

Ask Louie is a service of the St. Louis Genealogical Society, an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization where volunteers offer advice and suggestions about where to locate genealogical records in St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

The service is available to anyone. We use the resources available in the office and on our website, along with private databases, to answer incoming queries.

Who sits behind the "Ask Louie" desk?

April Webb, who is a retired teacher and former employee at the St. Louis County Library Special Collections department; and Debbie Benoit, who is a retired lawyer and experienced genealogy researcher.

What types of questions does "Ask Louie" get?

Just about anything. We get questions about cemeteries, church records, civil court records, immigration records, birth and death records of ancestors, obituaries, house history, historical information, city directories, etc. We get questions from people (both local and out of town) who have St. Louis ancestors and want information about their relatives but don't know where to



look. Some people who live out of town plan a stop at the office when they come to visit in St. Louis to continue their research.

How can "Ask Louie" help a researcher?

To answer their questions, we help them locate the materials they need. Often, we also prepare a research plan to direct their future research. Additionally, we point them to other locations that might have the information they seek, such as the Missouri Historical Society, the St. Louis County Library, the St. Louis Public Library, appropriate Missouri government or other government agencies, church repositories, etc.

What is involved in answering an "Ask Louie" question?

We usually start by determining what information the person is trying to find. We discuss the question to get as many ideas of sources as possible. If we have an answer for them, we will send them the information they requested. If we cannot answer the question itself, we will try to provide suggestions of other places where the person might be able to look for a solution.

Spotlight on Ask Louie!

Can you share a couple of the more interesting questions or requests for assistance that you have received?

We have helped many people locate baptism records from local Catholic churches. The records of the Archdiocese of St. Louis are digitized on *FamilySearch*, but they are difficult to search because they must be searched through the catalog link and are organized by parish. We often have to figure out where a family was living at a certain time and then locate the Catholic churches closest to that residence. We will then look through those records on *FamilySearch* for the baptism information.

Many do not know that all Missouri death certificates from 1910 to 1974 are available for viewing on the Missouri Digital Heritage website (<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesmvc/deathcertificates>). We regularly help people find information about their ancestors by looking at these death certificates.

About once a month, we get an email from someone who is applying for dual citizenship, and they are looking for a birth record or baptism record, or immigration record for their ancestor.

We will frequently use the city directories that are in the office here to locate where an ancestor lived or where their business was located.

How does someone “Ask Louie” a question?

They can send us an email or use the button on the homepage of the St. Louis Genealogical Society website (<https://stlgs.org/>). They can also

contact us by letter, by phone, or by coming into the office when we are open (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon).

If someone is interested in volunteering to answer questions for “Ask Louie,” what should they do?

They should call and talk with Marilyn Brennan, who is the volunteer coordinator for the St. Louis Genealogical Society (314-647-8547).

“Ask Louie’s” purpose is to support genealogy research by giving researchers some direction in “breaking through a brick wall,” by being another set of eyes on one’s research, by answering a question that helps make sense of a record, or by making suggestions for further research. The “Ask Louie” desk is staffed by volunteers who will happily do what they can to support your research but will not do your research for you!

Perplexed about your genealogical research? Give “Ask Louie” a try today.

The StLGS website has all the information you need to contact the Ask Louie team and to formulate good questions. Get started at: <https://stlgs.org/home/ask-louie>.

There you will find guidelines for using the service and information you should include in your request. The more specific the information you can provide, the more likely we will be able to help you.

Toward the bottom of the Ask Louie page are links to two items that will help you formulate your query: a free, downloadable PDF called “Researching in St. Louis” and a page on “How to Ask a Good Question” with suggestions for focusing on your goal and narrowing down what you know and what you still need to know. We look forward to hearing from you!

Clay School in St. Louis and the Hummel Family

Submitted by (the late) Donald G. Hummel;
updated and edited by Ilene Murray

John Edward Hummel, born on 17 November 1893 in St. Louis City,¹ attended Clay School, located at 3820 North 14th Street, where he graduated as an eighth grader in 1909. According to his son Don, he went on to marry Katherine Meierhoefer, serve in the U.S. Army during World War I, raise two sons, John Daniel and Donald George, serve as president of the North St. Louis Real Estate Salesmen, and work in sales at Hartwig and Dischinger Realty Company until he died on 31 August 1974.² He and his family lived in north St. Louis for five generations.³

Clay School was built in 1905 by noted St. Louis architect William Ittner and still retains many of its original and quite lovely features. Located in the Hyde Park neighborhood, just west of Interstate 70 and the Mississippi River, it currently is called the Clay Academy of Exploration and Civics and serves students in pre-kindergarten through 5th grade.⁴

Don Hummel was sorting through his late father's papers several years ago and came upon a list, written by his father, of the graduating eighth graders from 17 June 1909 at Clay School. He thought they would be of interest to others, and he also wrote a short family history to accompany the list. We are copying John Hummel's information as he wrote it, alphabetized in two columns separated by gender. What follows the list is Don Hummel's family history that he hoped would be published in the *StLGS Quarterly* along with the list.

Adele Bender	Arth Blumer
Eulah Blackburn	Geo. Brinkmeyer
Beat. Clendenen	Al Driller
Cath. Dooley	Russ Gregory
Ida Ebinger	Wm. Hartmann
Elsa Hauber	Jno Hummel
Clara Haynes	Fred Koehler
Jennie Gortan	Everett Lindsley
Ethel Helmkamp	Irv Lohrum
Cornelia Kock	Rob Meyer

Marie Morris	Edgar Mueller
Annie Mehlberg	Chas Mueller
Genevieve Maxey	Jno Ralfs
Edna Sax	Elmer Reed
Laura Schaaless	Ner [?] Wesley
Martha Schingle	Rudolp [sic] Wild
Estelle Voelker	
Ella Walsh	
Irine Weiss	
Cath. Williams	

Please note that none of the following information is authenticated, but we hope it may provide those interested with some clues to follow in their own research.

John E. Hummel was the great-grandson of John Hummel, who was born in Germany, probably Bavaria, in 1812 and immigrated to the U.S. in the 1840s. The best available information indicates that he brought with him his wife, Barbara, née Schmidt, and their two sons, Edward and William. This John Hummel was listed in several St. Louis city directories as either a laborer or a stonemason. The family resided at several locations, all in the Hyde Park region of North St. Louis. A daughter, Kate, was born in March 1856. Barbara died in 1877 and John in 1889; both are buried in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis.

Kate Hummel married John Herr in 1879. The Herrs had four children. Three daughters were living in 1910: Silvia, Mabel, and Virginia. Kate died in 1929 and is also buried at Calvary.

William married Appolonia Horne in 1884 at St. Augustine Catholic Church. The couple had four children: Appolonia, who married a Huber; William J.; Loretta, who married a Kissel; and Ophelia, who married a Pollvogt. William died in 1923 and joined the family buried at Calvary.

John's older son, Edward Hummel, was born in Bavaria in 1841. We've found no information on his early years in St. Louis. He appears in city directories as a tobacconist in

Clay School in St. Louis and the Hummel Family

1868 and 1870 and as a paperhanger in 1871 and 1873. By 1875, he had started his own wallpaper business and opened a store at 3606 North Broadway. He married Margaret Tighe at St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church in 1865. They had four children: Addison, Ellen, John Wendel, and Maud; but only John Wendel grew to maturity and married. Both Edward and his wife, Margaret, died in 1910 and are buried at Calvary.

John Wendel Hummel was born in 1870. He joined his father in the wallpaper business. In 1893, he married Mary Alice O'Connor of Louisville, Kentucky, and they had three children: John Edward, Jeanette, and Corrine. John Wendel died at the young age of thirty-five, and he is interred with his parents. Jeanette Hummel did not marry, remaining home with her mother.

Corrine Hummel married Joseph McLaughlin in 1922 at Holy Name Catholic Church. Joseph died in 1942, Corrine in 1950. Their daughter Mary Helen married Arthur Lindemann in 1952 at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church. They went on to have five children: Jerrold, Dennis, William, James, and Kathleen, all born in the 1950s and early '60s. Arthur died in 1986 and is buried in New Bethlehem Cemetery, St. Louis County.

June 17, 1909
Clay School Grad.

Adelle Bender	Wm. Hartmann
Enlah Blackburn	Joe Hummel
Bev. Clenderson	Fred Koehler
Cath. Dooling	Everett Lindsey
Joe Ehinger	Dr. Lohman
Elmer Hauber	Robt Meyer
Clara Haynes	Eggar Mueller
Jennie Garton	Chas Mueller
Esther Helmkamp	Joe Ralps
Cornelia Kock	Elmer Ruck
Marie Morris	Nov Wenzel
Amie Mehlberg	Russel Wild
Genevieve Moyer	
E. Anna Sax	
Laura Scheele	
Martha Schingle	
Estelle Vaeltner	
Ella Walsh	
Irma Weiss	
Cath. Williams	
Arch Blumer	
Geo. Brinkmeyer	
Al Driller	
Russ Gregory	

Original handwritten list of eighth graders at Clay School in 1909 written by John Edward Hummel

Below, Clay School, photo from the American Architect and Building News, vol. XCIL, no. 1664, 16 November 1907, public domain



End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. Find a Grave (<https://findagrave.com>), memorial no. 48348551, John Edward Hummel (1893–1974); citing Calvary Cemetery and Mausoleum, St. Louis, Missouri, created by T.V.F.T.H.
2. Find a Grave, memorial no. 48348551, John Edward Hummel.
3. Letter and article submitted to St. Louis Genealogical Society, 1 October 2008, by Donald G. Hummel.
4. "Clay Academy of Exploration and Civics," (2023), *Navigate STL Schools*, (<https://navigatestlschools.org/schools/clay-academy-of-exploration-and-civics/>).

Another Lost Photo: Joseph F. Abele

By Shirley Wadell

A photograph of a young Joseph F. Abele in the possession of the St. Louis Genealogical Society prompted research into his identity in the hope that the photo might be claimed by family members. This black-and-white image measures seven inches by eleven inches. At the bottom of the photo, in Joseph's handwriting, is written, "Sincerely yours, Joe Abele." This clean-cut young man has slicked-back, dark hair, and dark eyes. He is dressed in a light-colored suit with a vest, a white dress shirt and a large polka-dotted tie. Joseph appears to be between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. This same picture also appears in the Roosevelt High School (St. Louis) yearbook for 1931.¹

The U.S. 1920 census for St. Louis, Missouri,² noted that thirty-two-year-old Joseph Abele and his wife, Carrie, age twenty-five, were living at 3164 Iowa Avenue, a two-family flat, in St. Louis. Their three children, Joseph, age six (our subject); Loretta, age five; and one-year-old George, are also listed. The father's occupation is listed as a shoe cutter at a shoe company.

Joseph's wife, twenty-five-year-old Caroline "Carrie" (Wachtel) Abele, died on 21 July 1920 at Koch Hospital in St. Louis of pulmonary tuberculosis. On her death certificate, her parents are listed as Frank Wachtel and Carrie (Blaha) Wachtel. Information for this document was taken from Koch Hospital records.³ Carrie left behind her husband and three small children.

On 10 April 1930, the Abele family appeared on the U.S. census showing the elder Joseph Abele, age forty-five, as widowed and working as a shoe cutter at Boyd Welsa. He was living with his three teenage children—Joseph, sixteen; Rosetta, fifteen; and George, eleven—at 2627 McNair Avenue, a two-family flat.⁴

The *St. Louis Globe Democrat* dated 21 May 1937 noted that young Joseph F. Abele, residing at 2921 Lemp Street in St. Louis, and Mildred G. Gilbert, living at 2627 S. Eleventh



Street in St. Louis, had obtained a marriage license.⁵ They were wed on 29 May 1937 in St. Louis by Rev. H. F. Carl Haas.⁶

In 1940, twenty-five year old Joseph Abele and his wife, Mildred, who was twenty-two, were renting at 1906 Arsenal Street for \$20 a month. Joseph was an inspector at a hat company, working fifty-two weeks and making \$950 annually. Mildred gave this information to the enumerator.⁷

Joseph Frank Abele completed his World War II draft card on 16 October 1940. On it, he reported he was twenty-seven years old and had been born on 20 June 1913 in St. Louis. He listed his employer as the International Hat Company, located at 2528 Texas Street, and his residence as 1906 Arsenal Street in St. Louis. Mildred Abele was listed as his wife. Joseph was described as being five feet, six inches tall and weighing one hundred and thirty-three pounds. He signed his name Joseph Frank Abele.⁸

The 1950 U.S. census enumerated Joseph F. Abele, thirty-four and head of the household, living with his wife, Mildred G., age thirty-two, and their son, Joseph G., age six. Joseph was working forty-eight hours a week at a brewing plant. They resided at 8227 Idaho in St. Louis.⁹

Another Lost Photo: Joseph F. Abele

Joseph F. Abele died on 25 October 1987, and his obituary appeared in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on 27 October 1987. He was buried in Lakewood Park Cemetery.

ABELE, JOSEPH F., Sun., Oct 25, 1987, beloved husband of Georgia Mildred Abele (nee Gilbert), dearest father of Joseph G. Abele, dear father-in-law of Toni L. Abele, dearest grandfather of Christopher S. and Nicole R. Abele, dear brother of George Abele and Loretta Petrovich. Our dear brother-in-law, uncle, great uncle, cousin and friend. . . .¹⁰

If you are interested in claiming this photo of Joseph Abele, email Ilene Murray, StLGS publications director, at publications@stlgs.org, or call the office at 314-647-8547.

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. Roosevelt High School, "Bwana 1931," (yearbook), senior photo, Joseph Abele, St. Louis, Missouri, p. 62; imaged, "U.S. School Yearbooks, 1900–2016," *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com).
2. 1920 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis city, ward 10, enumeration district (E.D.) 182, p. 7A (penned), dwelling 114, family 182, Joseph Abele; imaged, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 952.
3. "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910–1972," certificate 25391-2, Carrie Abele (1920); imaged, *Missouri State Archives*, (https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1920/1920_00027304.PDF).
4. 1930 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis city, ward 9, E.D. 96-405, p. 9B (penned), dwelling 117, family 222, Joseph Abele; imaged, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 1232.
5. "Marriage Licenses," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 21 May 1937, p. 30, col. 4; imaged, *Newspapers.com* (<https://newspapers.com>).
6. "Missouri, County Marriage, Naturalization, and Court Records, 1800–1991," *FamilySearch.com* (<https://familysearch.org>), Joseph F. Abele, 20 May

1937, citing "Marriage, St. Louis, Missouri, United States," Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, FHL microfilm 7,513,768.

7. 1940 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis city, ward 28, E.D. 96-223A, p. 5B (penned), Visited no. 112, Joseph Abele; imaged, *Ancestry.com*; citing NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 2190.

8. "U.S. World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947," images, *Ancestry.com*, Joseph Frank Abele, serial no. 2257, selective service board 9, St. Louis, Missouri; citing *WWII Draft registration cards for Missouri, 10/16/1940–03/31/1947*, National Archives, St. Louis, Missouri.

9. 1950 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis city, p. 5, E.D. 96-843, Visited no. 40, Joseph F. Abele [sic]; imaged, *Ancestry.com*; citing NARA microfilm publication T628, roll 122.

10. "Funeral Notices," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 27 October 1987, p. 4B, col. 3, Joseph F. Abele; imaged, *Proquest.com* (<https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/october-27-1987-page-20-76/docview/1911882864/se-2>).



Please Note: The St. Louis Genealogical Society does not actively solicit old photographs or other family heirlooms. If you come across articles of this type, please attempt to locate the family on your own. As a volunteer organization, we have no one who can be in charge of these items. If, however, you have tried to locate the appropriate family members and cannot, we welcome the donations, knowing they will be safe with us and hoping they will find their rightful homes.

Hold the Fort!

By Judith Ann McClung Toler

Transcribed and edited by Ilene Murray

This article was the very first one submitted to the brand-new St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly, following an introduction and some background information written by founder Dorothy Amburgey Griffith: volume 1, issue 1, March 1968, pages 3–8. Although not directly about St. Louis, it gives us a picture of the area encompassing what is today Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri. We get a vivid picture of what that area of the emerging country was like as the American Revolution raged in the colonies, many Native American tribes reacted to the onslaught of white settlers, and the harsh conditions of settling on the frontier became a reality for many of our ancestors. As written in the original, “Mrs. Toler is corresponding secretary of the St. Louis Genealogical Society after serving in its first year as treasurer. She is an elementary school teacher and a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints. She has been doing family research for more than five years.”

There was no explanation of which Fort Jefferson Mrs. Toler was referring to in her article, and we have since discovered that there were several of them. Using the dates and information provided in her article, we have narrowed this Fort Jefferson to the one founded by General George Rogers Clark in the Illinois Territory, just south of today's Cairo, Illinois. (See the map on page 93.)

For the most part, we have left the punctuation, spelling, and grammar as Mrs. Toler submitted them. We have edited only where not doing so would be confusing, especially in the bibliography, because there was no separation of sources or consistent punctuation in the original. We have also added images to enhance the article.

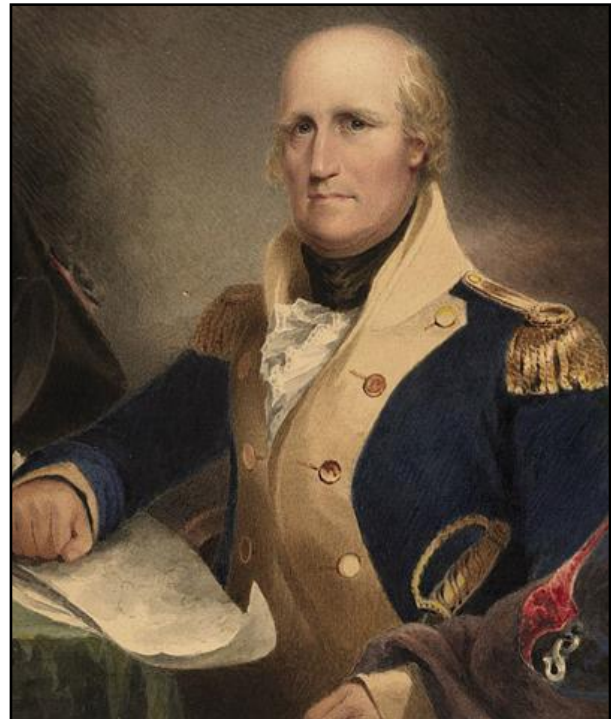


One warm autumn day, James Garlack took his nine-year-old brother beyond the clearing around Fort Jefferson to gather grapes. The Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians had harried the little troop so it was impossible to store food for the coming winter. Meat

was hard to come by, too, because even the soldiers could not go far from home.

The boys were working quickly when a curdling cry went up behind them. In panic, the boys dropped the grapes as they sprang for the doors of the fort. A heartrending cry was heard as the smaller brother was caught and tomahawked. James fell into Mary's arms as his mother rushed to meet her boys. She had heard the cries but couldn't believe only one would return to her. The Indians fought and withdrew as the fortifiers fired their weapons into the forest.

Everywhere men were fighting, Americans for their independence, Indians for their land, the British to retain their colonies. Along the eastern seaboard, British troops were succeeding in cutting off the southern colonies and even Virginia was being threatened. In-



George Rogers Clark, painted by James B. Longacre in 1825; from Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:George_Rogers_Clark.jpg, image in the public domain

Hold the Fort!

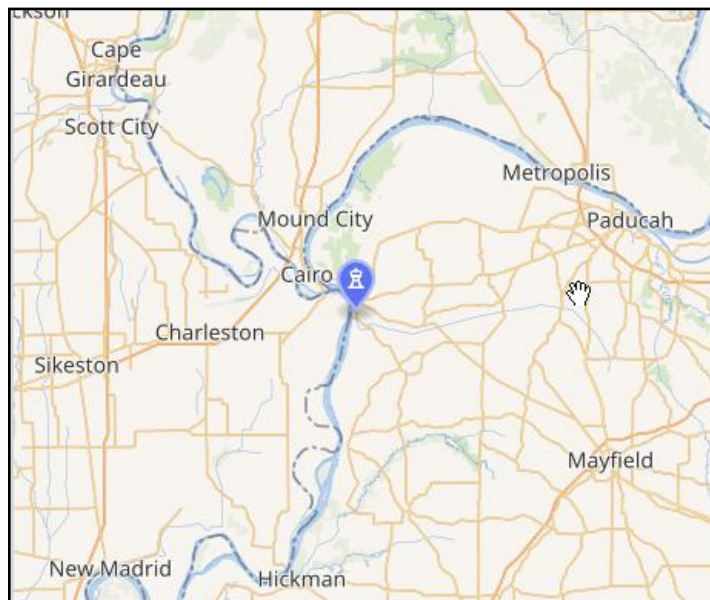
trigues involved the British, Spanish and western Americans; the British were constantly stirring up the Indians against the little forts in Kentucky. George Rogers Clark, who had conceived and was executing his brilliant plan for taking the back country from the English, received neither the recruits nor supplies he had been promised. When he should have pushed on to take Detroit, he was forced to recall his troops and concentrate them south of the mouth of the Ohio River,

In order to convince the Virginians a new fort was practical and necessary, Clark wrote to Governor Thomas Jefferson in September 1779, stating such a bulwark "would Immediately become the Key of the whole Trade of the Western Countrey [*sic*] and well Situated for the Indian deportment in General Beside Many Salutary effects it would Rendr [*sic*] during the War by Awing our Enemies the Chickasaws and the English posts on the Mississippi."

Clark and a few men departed from Brownsville in Pennsylvania on May 12, 1778, floating upon the Monongahela River in ordinary flatboats, stopping at Fort Pitt and

Wheeling to take on supplies. The party arrived early in June at the "Falls of the Ohio," (where Louisville now stands). He constructed a temporary fort on Corn Island and set about recruiting soldiers, families, and provisions for a move to the Mississippi River.

The means to this end were stated in a letter from John Todd Jr. to Governor Jefferson, dated June 2, 1780: "On Consulting with Col. Clark we found it impracticable to maintain so many petty forts in the Illinois with so few men and concluded it better to draw them all to one post. The Land at the Junction of the Ohio & Mississippi was judged best Situated for the purpose as it should command the Trade of an extensive Country on both sides of each River & might serve as a Check to any Incroachments [*sic*] from our present Allies the Spaniards whose growing power might justly put us upon our guard. . . . The Expenses in erecting this new post & Victualing the men would have been obstacles unermountable [*sic*] without a Settlement Contiguous to the Garrison to support it whose adventurers would assist the Soldiers in the heavy Work of



Location of Fort Jefferson on the Mississippi River. Map uploaded to Wikimedia Commons, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Jefferson_\(Kentucky\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Jefferson_(Kentucky)), public domain.

Hold the Fort!

Building their fortifications. I therefore granted to a certain Number of Families four Hundred Acres to each family at a price to be Settled by the General Assembly with Commissions for civil & militia offices & the Necessary Instructions. . . . When Col. Clark left the falls his Officers & Men to the Amount perhaps of 120 were well Cloathed [*sic*] except in the article of Linens. . . . Mr Isaac Bowman with 7 or 8 men & one family set off from Kaskaskia the 15th of Novr last in a Batteau [boat] attended by another Batteau with 12 Men & 3 or 4 families in it bound to the falls of the Ohio. . . . Bowmans Batteau fell into the Hands of the Chickasaw Indians & the other arrived in March or April at the French Lick on Cumberland with the Account that Bowman and all the men except one Riddle were killed & taken."

Peter and John Hildebrand, Pioneers

Peter Hildebrand of Monongahela County, Pennsylvania, was one of those who joined Clark to establish the new post to be known as Fort Jefferson. Perhaps, it was to join his pioneer relative, John Hildebrand (either his father or uncle), that Peter accepted the proposition of 400 acres to take his family into the wilderness, Chickasaw territory. In 1770, John Hildebrand had taken his family down the Ohio River in a flatboat, which they had built themselves. They ascended the Mississippi to Ste. Genevieve where, in order to satisfy Spanish law, they took the oath of allegiance to "His Catholic Majesty." John settled his family inland on Big River at the mouth of Saline Creek, becoming the first American pioneers of what became Jefferson County in Missouri. Pierre Chouteau testified "that John Hildebrand inhabited and cultivated the land claimed in 1774, that he found him still inhabiting and cultivating the said land in 1780, when deponent, by order of the Lieut. Governor went out on the premises to warn said Hildebrand to abandon same on account of Indian depreda-

tions. This order was obeyed by Hildebrand as well as all the inhabitants of Meramec." John moved his family down river to Natchez, where he had a couple of married daughters.

During the spring of 1780, troops were moving in many directions on the American continent. British troops from north and south were ordered to move simultaneously to capture all villages from New Orleans to St. Louis in order to cut off Spanish aid to the Americans. They employed Indians to attack St. Louis. It was at this time that Chouteau was sent to warn John Hildebrand's family.

Building Fort Jefferson

On April 14, Clark set out from Louisville for the purpose of building Fort Jefferson at "Iron Banks," five miles below the mouth of the Ohio. The flotilla arrived at its destination six days later, The settlers barely had time enough to build a fortification before undergoing a severe siege. They managed to plant a few crops during the summer but were in constant fear of attack. Even though their hold on the land was only tentative (in fact, they had failed to obtain the ordered concession from the Indians), the spirit of democracy and desire for recognition prompted them to petition Virginia for creation of a new county. James Pigot, Ezekial Johnson, Henry Smith, Joseph Hunter, and Mark Iles signed this petition. Many others signed similar petitions during 1780 and three new counties were formed as part of Virginia: Fayette, Jefferson, and Lincoln, the mother counties of Kentucky,

Clark was called upon to defend other Kentucky and Illinois forts and, during his absence, Fort Jefferson came under attack by a force of Chickasaw and Choctaw led by Colbert, a Scotchman. The attack continued for six days and nights. The defenders already had sent a letter to the Falls of the Ohio, stating they were eating their last buffalo meat and hardtack. Many were very, very ill; many had died. The crops were destroyed and lost. Even

Hold the Fort!

fresh water was scarce. Only about half of the garrison's thirty men, under Captain Robert George, were able to fight. Those able to hold a gun were fighting for the lives of themselves and their families. Somehow, a soldier had managed to get past the Indians and, when it seemed all was lost supplies of food, water and even ammunition almost exhausted, reinforcements arrived from Kaskaskia.

After this narrow escape, few families could be induced to remain in the settlement. Some went down river; others went to the Illinois country, comprising the first large group of Americans to settle in Illinois.

John Hildebrand and David Hix (Hicks), soldiers under Clark, settled on the east side of Kaskaskia, near the mouth of Nine-Mile Creek. Because of his cultivation of land in Illinois prior to 1788, Hildebrand was entitled to a grant.

Peter Hildebrand obtained a Spanish settlement grant in 1782 and went to Upper Louisiana, where he located on the southern bank of Big River, about ten or twelve miles above its mouth at the Meramec. Peter's son, Abram, was born there that year, and a daughter, Elizabeth, was born there in February 1784. In August of '84, Hildebrand was shot by Indians. He had gone out on horseback to hunt with his gun and a tomahawk. He was two miles below his cabin when attacked. His horse returned with its saddle so one of his elder sons was sent to Morgan's Lick for help.

James Hildebrand, son of Peter who escaped in 1780 when Moses was slain, did not go to Spanish territory with his father. He remained in Illinois and married. Then, about 1790, while moving to Upper Louisiana, the family's boat was attacked by Shawnees, and everyone was killed.

While Fort Jefferson was being abandoned, Clark was in Richmond. Richard Harrison wrote to him of the situation: "From the accounts we have had from Fort Jefferson, that place Being allmoast [*sic*] destitute of Men and Officers, occasioned by the Chief of them turn-

ing Merchants, and others Going down the River, I have thought it my duty to Repair to that poast [*sic*] Immediately . . . what few that is there when I go down I will do all in my power to Incourage them in order to Keep the place for I Shall always be of the Oppinion that Somewhere about there will be one of the first places in this state in a very few Years."

Despite Harrison's efforts and Colonel Clark's hopes, this fort was abandoned in 1780.

Pay abstract of militia under Capt. George Oins lists these men under his command:

Mark Ker	Joseph Ford	Henry Ker
Edward Wilson	Robert Ford	Conrad Ker
John Wilson	Andrew McMeans	James Young
Joseph Hunter	James McMeans	John Young
Enoch Springer	Jonas Ker	Samuel Cooper
Michael Wolf	Edmund Smith	Anthony Phelps
John Phister	Jacob Croats	Peter Hellebrant
Nicholas Nedinger	Jacob Shilling	John M. Cormack
Moses McCan	John Aldar	Robert Craten
Henry Steward	Daniel Merridith	George Phelps
James Barnet	John Hutsill	Charles King
Francis Cimblet	William Hutsill	James King
Daniel Graffen	John Burk	John Johnston
James Wiley	Joshua Archer	William Reid

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More About Fort Jefferson

Located on the Mississippi River, just south of Wickliffe in Ballard County, Kentucky, Fort Jefferson was doomed from the start. George Rogers Clark intended to build a fort that would protect the mouth of the Ohio and help him consolidate forces that were spread out along the rivers. However, even though Thomas Jefferson told him the land must be purchased from the Native Americans (mistakenly calling them Cherokees, who were further east), Clark did not follow orders, and in 1779, he built the fort on the hunting grounds of the Chickasaws.

Retaliation followed as the Native Americans strove to get their land back. Fort Jefferson was in use until 1781, when the Chickasaws finally drove the settlers out.



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