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Quarterly

Spring 2026



All of the genealogy community mourns the loss of Ann Carter Fleming, who was a past president of the National Genealogical Society and St. Louis Genealogical Society, a teacher, lecturer, author, editor, and good friend. Read more about Ann and her contributions in this issue.

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St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly

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On the Cover

In this issue, we bid farewell to our good friend and mentor to many of us, Ann Carter Fleming. Ann's contributions to the world of genealogy and to StLGS were enormous, and she will be missed by everyone who knew her. Please read more about Ann in the article on page 8.

Features

- 6 ***St. Louis City/County Biographies Project***
- 7 ***Agnes Clare (Nelle) Soehngen, 1932–2020***
Article by Jane (Soehngen) Theissen for the
St. Louis City/County Biographies Project
- 8 ***In Memoriam: Ann Carter Fleming,
1947–2026***
Article by Viki Fagyal, Kathy Franke, and
Ruth Ann Hager
- 12 ***In Pursuit of Ancestors: What I Have Learned
About the Hunt***
Article by Jana Proske
- 16 ***U.S. Army Nurse: How One St. Louis Woman
Came to Serve in World War I***
Article by Martin Fischer
- 24 ***A Prominent Family of St. Louis, Missouri:
Marie Jacqueline Taylor***
Article by Shirley Wadell
- 29 ***A Tale of Three Brothers***
Article by Shirley Wadell

Correction from Winter 2025–2026:

We sincerely apologize to StLGS life member Jerry Pipes, author of "Sleuthing Through Time," for attributing his article to the wrong person; and to Stephen H. Mayfield, author of our City/County biography, for attributing it to the wrong person in last issue's Table of Contents and End of Year Index.

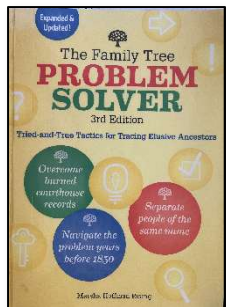
Departments

- 2 Book Reviews
- 5 Feature Articles in Other
Publications



BOOK REVIEWS

The Family Tree Problem Solver: Tried and True Tactics for Tracing Elusive Ancestors, Third Edition. By Marsha Hoffman Rising. Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2019. 270 pages. Softcover. \$25.00.



This book sets forth practical suggestions for locating genealogical records when the “usual” sources are not forthcoming. The first chapter of Rising’s book provides a step-by-step explanation of the research process and includes two case studies

to illustrate. Rising then discusses “ten common genealogical mistakes” that researchers often make in the course of hunting down their ancestors’ paper records. She reminds the reader not to jump to conclusions and to completely review all the information a record contains.

The next several chapters include sources to consider when unable to find one’s ancestors in the expected spots of census, court, land, and vital records. For example, when no will can be found, perhaps land, tax, or circuit court records could produce similar information. A case in point: For more than twenty years, I was unable to locate my ancestor and his family in the 1880 census of the city where I knew they were living based on a city directory. I could certainly have used Rising’s advice for how to find them.

The author provides a thorough grounding in the use of court records, what they are, how

and when they are created, and what can be found in them. This is an easily understood explanation of how and why a genealogist should seek out these records. I also found the chapter on replacing burned courthouse records to be extremely helpful. After briefly addressing the importance of understanding the disaster and history of the county, Rising offers recommendations for replacing the information located in lost birth, marriage, death, and other courthouse records.

Additional chapters address how to distinguish between individuals with the same name, finding pre-1850 records, accepting online family tree hints, analyzing records, and applying DNA test results to one’s research. Any genealogist facing a brick wall in their research will find this volume to be a helpful companion.

Reviewed by Jane Theissen
StLGS Quarterly co-editor

Over the Hills to Saint Louis’ Poverty Hill: A Short History of How Three City Institutions Served the Poor and Mentally Ill 1819–1923. By Joe Squillace, PH.D. Self-published. Monee, Illinois. 2025. 156 pages, no index. Softcover. \$9.99. Available at Amazon.com.

As the population of St. Louis grew during the nineteenth century, so did the number of people who were poor or mentally ill. Women, expected to follow high moral standards, posed another dilemma when they turned up pregnant or with “women’s complaints.”

How to deal with these citizens gave rise to three institutions that existed in proximity on

Book Reviews

the city's near-southside: the Poor House, the Insane Asylum, and the Female Hospital. The "highest elevation in the city of St. Louis," on which the three institutions were situated, came to be called "Poverty Hill."

Their checkered histories that intertwined social justice with big-city politics deserve a thoroughly researched and well-written story, which is only partially achieved here. The author, Dr. Squillace, is a social worker, and his knowledge of social issues in St. Louis has been broadened by what is obviously extensive research. However, his telling of the rise and fall of these three institutions is marred by a lack of careful editing and a disjointed narrative style that often moves suddenly from one subject to another without much transition. This problem becomes more noticeable as Dr. Squillace drops bits and pieces of quotes everywhere, often one right next to another, some with citations but many without.

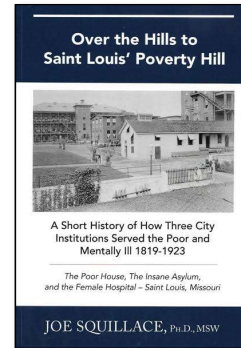
There is so much potential in this book; the story of these institutions is a part of the lives of many of our ancestors. Where the book shows strength is in following the history of each of the buildings, their residents, and staff, although these histories are not necessarily chronological. The author has gathered dozens of quotes from a variety of sources to illustrate the ups and downs of life in each institution. We are exposed to a variety of interesting points of view, learn a bit about what it might have been like to live in each place during its life span, and ponder, as we do today, how to separate politics from caring for those who may be unable to help themselves.

If your ancestors were residents at any of these places, you will want to know more about how care of the residents and the buildings that housed them was tossed back and forth between the city and county and the state of Missouri. You certainly will want to know about the people who might have shared time and space with your relatives, but this book is not indexed, nor are many of the

residents referred to by more than a first name. The book contains many sketches and photos, but only the photos and some of the sketches are sourced, so you may not be able to track them down if you want to see more.

It is worth looking at the book to gain an understanding of what these institutions were like in the history of St. Louis. Some of the stories are quite compelling, some incredibly sad, while others, like the Christmas dinner derived from killing the pigeons on the roof of the poor house, will make you chuckle. Keep in mind, however, that the quality is inconsistent. There are numerous spelling and grammar errors throughout. Words are capitalized randomly; parts of titles in the endnotes are in all caps for no apparent reason, and, most oddly, the last section of the book is called a "Prologue" and not an "Epilogue," which ends the narrative on a somewhat jarring note.

*Reviewed by Ilene Murray
StLGS publications director*



Scottish Baronial Families, 1250-1750. By David Dobson. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2024. 199 pages. Softcover. \$35.00.

David Dobson should be a familiar name to anyone with Scottish ancestry. He has published more than one hundred books on Scottish history and genealogy, with particular emphasis on Scottish immigrants to North America. *Scottish Baronial Families, 1250-1750*, a recent addition to Mr. Dobson's vast literary production, is better characterized as an historical work than a genealogical one. The introduction provides a brief history of the establishment and role of barons in Scottish government and society. The author then goes on to describe current sources for records

Book Reviews

created by many of the baronies, information that may be of use to genealogists researching Scottish ancestors.

The introduction then abruptly ends, changing to two translations of early land transactions, a bibliography consisting of eight entries, and a few sketches of Scottish castles. There is no further explanation of the author's purpose in compiling the information in this book, nor is there any clear indication of how the data were researched and verified. It almost seems as if a portion of the introduction was accidentally omitted from the final publication. Following the bibliography, there is a statement that "*The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland* is the main source of information re [sic] property transactions from around 1320." One presumes that this means most of the information in the text derives from this source. If so, it makes this compilation quite impressive, since the author states that the entries from 1320 to 1650 were written in Latin, with English language used only after 1650.

The remainder of the book is a series of records of baronial grants. The text is ordered alphabetically by the surname of the individual granted the title of baron. Entries include the full name of the individual, the date, the location of the barony, and the monarch who granted the title. Unfortunately, what most do not provide is a citation for the source of the information presented. Some also include additional material about the family history or presumed descendants with that surname, again often with no source citation to allow one to verify the information and sometimes with unclear connection to the baron. A typical example is:

CUNNINGHAM OF REIDHALL IN MIDLOTHIAN. William Cunningham was granted the Barony of Reidhall by King

Robert III in 1396, formerly held by Murdo Stewart. [A surname derived from a location in Ayrshire, examples date from the twelfth century] [John Cunningham, an explorer in Greenland and Labrador in 1606, while Janet Cunningham emigrated to East New Jersey in 1685]

The source for the information is provided in approximately ten percent of the entries, but even these are incomplete citations. For example:

DOUGLAS OF THE FOREST OF SELKIRK, ETTRICK AND TRAQUAIR. Were granted to Lord James Douglas, and formed into a free barony, by King Robert I around 1318. [The Douglas Book, Edinburgh, 1885]

Scottish Baronial Families, 1250-1750 succeeds as a historical compilation and represents a significant contribution to the genealogical record for those with ancestors from this period of Scottish history.

Reviewed by
Tom Hall, StLGS volunteer

We Need Book Reviewers!

Do you like to read genealogy and/or history books? Would you like to see new books as they are released from the publishers? Do you enjoy sharing your opinions with others? If so and if you also enjoy writing, please volunteer to be one of our book reviewers.

Publishers and authors frequently send us sample copies of new publications, and we are just waiting for volunteers to take them home, read them, and write a few paragraphs.

Reviews do not have to be long or complicated, just thorough and honest. You do not need to worry about formatting, font, etc.; we will handle that! However, you do need to be in the St. Louis area to work as a reviewer, since you will need to come by the office to pick up a book and return it.

Interested? Please send an email to StLGS librarian Judy Belford at library@stlgs.org. She will be happy to fill you in on the details you need to get started. Thank you!

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, Clark Family Branch, 1640 S. Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63131.

American Ancestors (New England Historic Genealogical Society)

Vol. 26, no. 4, Winter 2026

- Mining for Treasure in Newspapers
- Using Newspapers to Search for What Slavery Had Stolen: Excerpts from *Last Seen*
- Researching Mortimer: How Newspapers Brought a Vermont Family Scandal to Light
- Stories and Clues in Yesterday's News
- The National Desertion Bureau Card Catalog: From Missing Husband Case Files to Family History Database
- Chronicling Vital Records in Early America

Kirkwood Historical Review (Kirkwood Historical Society)

Vol. 64, no. 4, Winter 2026

- The Amazing True and Continuing Story of the Northeast Corner of Kirkwood Road and Adams Avenue
- A Note About Dr. John Pitman
- Ron's Ramblings

Missouri Historical Review (State Historical Society of Missouri)

Vol. 120, no. 2, January 2026

- John C. Bush's Book of Travels--The Expedition Up the Missouri River, 1819-1820, Part 2: Fort Osage to Council Bluff
- "It's Been a Hell of a Ride"—An Interview with Gary Kremer
- African American Lives After the Civil War in Two Townships of Johnson County
- From the Stacks: Research Center—Rolla
 - Pioneer Doctor: William Hearst Bowles in Nineteenth Century Maries County

St. Clair County Genealogical Society Quarterly (Illinois)

Vol. 49, no. 1, 2026

- Conrad "Max" Flach and the Game That Made Him Famous
- Zion Evangelical Church Baptism Records, 1846-1849, Millstadt, Illinois
- School Land for I1N R10W (Near Dupo)
- St. Clair County School Teachers: 1883-1900
- Anchored in St. Louis: Unearthing Family History at the St. Louis Public Library
- Marriage Index, 1954 (Bride Surnames, A-Freeman)
- Chancery Case Files Index, 1870-1920, part seventeen

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, and include 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 about 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***



This year, the country will celebrate the 250th birthday of its founding.

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

Throughout 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.

Agnes Clare (Nelle) Soehngen, 1932–2020

By Jane Theissen

for the St. Louis City/County Biographies Project

Agnes Clare (Nelle) Soehngen, born 13 August 1932, was named for her cousin, Agnes Wernsing. The youngest of four children—three girls and a boy—Agnes Nelle was a child of the Depression. The family lived in Shrewsbury, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis, until her father, Irwin Nelle, lost his job in the economic downturn.

A carpenter by trade, Irwin moved his wife, Cecelia, and their children seven miles north to live with his sister in Wellston. Agnes remembered her childhood as a fun time spent riding bikes and playing paper dolls with her friends. Her bike was built by her brother, Jack, from scrap pieces he found. Many of her play clothes in those years were made from flour sacks by her mother.

Agnes was baptized at St. Michael Catholic Church in Shrewsbury, but after the family moved to Wellston, they attended Notre Dame de Lourdes. Agnes also attended grade school at that parish. She followed her sister, Joan, to Xavier High School. Agnes worked at Muellings grocery store to help pay the \$20 tuition. Joan was three years older, and they were close friends growing up and through adulthood.

Agnes's graduating class from Xavier consisted of thirty-five girls. Not being sure what she wanted to do after high school, Agnes followed some of her classmates to DePaul Nursing School, which proved to be the foundation of a rewarding career. She graduated from the program and received her Registered Nurse (RN) pin in 1954.

Agnes worked for several doctors in their offices before taking a job at DePaul Hospital in the labor and delivery department helping bring new babies into the world. A colleague said she was so good at what she did; she could have been a midwife, but she always deferred to the doctor in charge. Over the years, she worked at St. Mary's Hospital, Christian Northwest, and the new DePaul in Bridgeton.

On 23 June 1956, she married Donald William Soehngen in a ceremony at Notre Dame de Lourdes Church. Her family life was as rewarding as her professional life. She

and Don brought six children into the world—four girls and two boys—and raised them all to be successful with families of their own, including ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

After a long career, she and Don both retired in 1994 and spent the next several years traveling. Trips included visits to Italy, Paris, London, San Diego, Las Vegas, Florida, Arizona, and a Mississippi River cruise, among others. Golf and bowling with friends, along with lots of time spent with grandchildren, took up the rest of their time.

Having lost her parents, siblings, and many friends to death, and developing some health issues, Agnes began to slow down in her mid-eighties. The development of memory issues was especially frustrating for her. She died on 16 November 2020 at the age of eighty-eight and was buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in south St. Louis County.



*Agnes (Nelle) Soehngen
Photo in the collection of
Jane (Soehngen) Theissen; used with
permission*

In Memoriam: Ann Carter Fleming, 1947–2026

By Viki Fagyal, Kathy Franke, and Ruth Ann Abels Hager

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Ann Carter Fleming, past president and dedicated leader of the St. Louis Genealogical Society (StLGS) and the National Genealogical Society (NGS). Ann held numerous other titles and realized significant accomplishments in every genealogical organization she joined. During her many years of service, Ann was instrumental in supporting genealogy at the national, regional, and local levels.

One person alone cannot write the story of Ann Carter Fleming in the genealogical world. She was a mentor, teacher, lecturer, author, professional genealogist, an inspiration, a source of encouragement, and a friend. She created community wherever she went. She acted as the catalyst rather than the authority.



Ann Carter Fleming, 2026
Photo by Kris Fleming; used with permission

In her eulogy at Ann's funeral, StLGS co-president, Kathy Franke said, "When Kris [Ann's daughter] asked me to speak today, I was immediately honored and afraid, but I pictured Ann saying, 'You can do it.' So, I channeled the strength that she impressed upon people."

Ann served in many capacities for St. Louis Genealogical Society. From 1994 to 1995, she was corresponding secretary. She was director of projects from 2004 to 2005 and treasurer from 2009 to 2010. She was a

delegate at large for the board from 2002 to 2003 and again from 2010 to 2018.

But the most important role Ann played with StLGS was serving as president from 1996–1999. During her term as president, the University City Library, where the society had been housing its large book collection, informed StLGS that the 20,000 books needed to be removed. Ann negotiated a contract with St. Louis County Library (SLCL) to move the collection to SLCL Headquarters, enlarging its collection significantly and creating a destination genealogical research facility in St. Louis. She also helped broker the contract to move the National Genealogical Society's (NGS) library to St. Louis County Library, again growing the collection. This created a lending library for genealogists all over the United States.

Ann and her good friend Mary Berthold were like cohorts in crime. When Ann learned about a collection for sale, Mary bought it and gave it to the library, adding the Mary Berthold Collection to the library's growing genealogy resources. Julius Hunter, local CBS news anchor, found a donor to pay for the moving company to bring two truckloads of those books to County Library. Ann helped Julius Hunter write his family history, and he established the Julius K. Hunter and Friends African American Collection at St. Louis County Library. He then actively sought donations to expand that collection.

In 1998, Ann spearheaded the society's move from an office above a bowling alley at 9011 Manchester Road in Brentwood to the current 5,000-square-foot office, library, print room, technology office, and workspace "ballroom" in Maplewood. Ann was always proud to walk into the office and see every one of the twenty-eight computers occupied and being used for genealogical transcription or research. She was also instrumental in creating the finance committee for the society.

One of Ann's passions was educating others at all levels of genealogy. She encouraged each student to elevate their

In Memoriam: Ann Carter Fleming, 1947–2026

research to be the best it could be. Ann taught many courses and classes. She was top tier when it came to giving lectures.

Beyond teaching beginning genealogy classes for the society, she also taught for the St. Louis Community College and the Parkway School District Adult Education Department for many years. She introduced four-day intensive research institutes to the society. Ann provided lectures for general meetings and Family History Conferences for many years. She first attended then taught classes and later became a course coordinator at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR). Held one week each summer, the Institute at that time took place at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ann would walk around the room talking to the people in the audience before giving her lectures and sometimes tailor her talk to include the special needs of someone she met that day. Ann would greet someone who came into the office or meeting room, and she would help them do their genealogy. And her question to them was always, "What are your next steps?" This led to starting the Ask Louie program at StLGS.

As a board member and Family History Conference (FHC/Fair) chairperson, Ann raised the standards of the educational classes, Family History Conference, and institutes for the society. She served as chair in 1995 and was on the FHC planning committee until 2024. She suggested speakers and topics. She helped move the Family History Conference to Maryland Heights Community Center, making it more accessible to all of St. Louis and the surrounding area. She helped expand the number of speakers per day at the conference, and she facilitated bringing in a vendor to tape record lectures for attendees to purchase and take home to study. Ann herself recorded numerous lectures on the national and local levels.

From 1994 to 1998, Ann and her cousin Kay Freilich led weeklong research trips to the FamilySearch library in Salt Lake City. During the trips, they would teach a class for the

attendees or bring in experts from the library to teach special classes.

Ann was a member of eight other genealogical and historical societies besides StLGS. She also served on the Board of the Friends of Missouri State Archives for almost ten years and was a trustee on the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) board in 1997.

Ann received an Appreciation Award from StLGS in 1993, an Honorary Life Membership in 1996, a Certificate of Achievement in 2000, and the President's Citation in 2010.

Ann included her husband and children in the day-to-day life of genealogy, so much so that in 2019, StLGS awarded her daughter Kris a Special Recognition Award. Her son Steve was the Boy Scout troop leader of her grandsons, Cameron and Jackson. The scouts were enlisted for the job of loading dozens of boxes of books into cars at the office, unloading them at Maryland Heights Community Center for the Family History Conference in the morning, then reversing that process in the afternoon. And her husband Jim contributed notebooks and folders made from plastic produced at his factory to many StLGS special events. Jim, a poet and writer on his own, authored books about his family, which Ann edited for him.



*Ann and Jim Fleming, 2015
Photo in the collection of Ruth Ann Hager;
used with permission*

In Memoriam: Ann Carter Fleming, 1947–2026

Ann was a Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer. Each credential had to be renewed every five years by submitting a portfolio of work to the Board for Certification of Genealogists for approval. In 2008, NGS awarded her its highest honor, Fellow in the National Genealogical Society (FNGS), for her outstanding service to the society and her work in the field of genealogy.

Ann served as vice-president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) from 2002 to 2004, as Member-at-Large 2008 to 2010, and as a board member from 1999 to 2006 and 2008 to 2011.

Ann's significant ongoing commitment to genealogy included the multiple times she chaired an annual national conference. She co-chaired the 1997 Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, conference and chaired the 1998 Denver, Colorado, conference, the 2008 Kansas City, Missouri, conference, and the 2015 and 2019 St. Charles, Missouri, conferences.

During the years she was not the chair, she took on other responsibilities such as program chair. Often, her cousin Kay Freilich shared conference duties, and Ann and Kay were sometimes referred to as the "conference cousins." In 1999, she and Kay co-chaired the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in St. Louis.



*Mary Berthold, Kay Freilich, Ann, and Ruth Ann Hager, 2009, Raleigh, North Carolina
Photo in the collection of Ruth Ann Hager;
used with permission*

In 2005 at the Nashville, Tennessee, NGS conference, a group from StLGS attended together. NGS planned to honor Mary Berthold, so Ann planned a surprise party for Mary. Trying to surprise Mary was difficult, if not impossible. The group wanted to find a way to be sure she was surprised. They even planned how to get the supplies to Nashville, and the co-planners told Mary they were planning a surprise party for Ann. So of course, Mary went out and bought a whole setup of supplies for that party! So, yes, for once Mary was totally amazed.



Mary's surprise party, Nashville, 2005: Left to right, front: LaDonna Gardner, Ruth Ann Hager, Darlene Chambers, Joan Beach, Pat Stamm

*Standing: Joyce Loving, Pam Sayre, Mary Berthold, Cindy Jacob, Celia Tate, Ann
Photo in the collection of Ruth Ann Hager;
used with permission*

Ann was a prolific author and editor. She wrote twenty-one articles for the *StLGS Quarterly*. The *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, a peer-reviewed scholarly journal, published four of her articles. She authored, edited, or compiled ten books and one map. These works include:

In Memoriam: Ann Carter Fleming, 1947–2026

- ❖ *Jacob Aloysius Dorf and Florence Claudine Maxwell: A Family History and Scrapbook* (1991)
- ❖ *Research in Missouri* (1999)
- ❖ *Stowers and Glascock Families An American Saga: Ancestry of James Evans Stowers Jr. and Virginia Ann (Glascock) Stowers* (2003)
- ❖ *The Organized Family Historian* (2004)
- ❖ *The Faron Family: A Journey From Gruey Les-Surance, & LaChapelle, France to Creve Coeur, Missouri* (2004), compiled by Genevieve Faron Dierberg and Ann Carter Fleming
- ❖ *St. Louis City/County Cemetery Map* (2007), compiled by Mary Berthold and Ann Carter Fleming
- ❖ *St. Louis Family History Research Guide* (2008)
- ❖ *1940 Census & Its People* (2011), monograph by Ann Carter Fleming and Patricia Walls Stamm
- ❖ *Call Them Americans* (2013), James Dallas Fleming, author, and Ann Carter Fleming, editor
- ❖ *War of 1812 in Missouri, Set of Volumes 1 and 2* (2019), compiled by Robert E. Parkin; edited by Ann Fleming, Ruth Ann Hager, and Ilene Murray
- ❖ *Sweet Memories, Mavens, Mentors, & Matriarchs* (2019), James Dallas Fleming, author, and Ann Carter Fleming, editor

A fond memory that many people have of Ann is when she would say, “We should go to lunch,” and the next thing you knew you had a

new responsibility, one that maybe you did not think you could handle, but Ann saw a need and recognized a skill in you. She would personally remove roadblocks to set you up for success. She was always collaborating and matching people with needs to advance genealogy and improve the process for others.

Ann was a real force in the genealogical world. Both her family and members of the genealogy community received heartfelt tributes from all over the country as news of Ann’s death became public. They included such comments as, “Ann Fleming was the most important leader of NGS in the last twenty-five years.” St. Louis Genealogical Society wholeheartedly agrees; she was also one of the most important leaders in the history of St. Louis Genealogical Society.

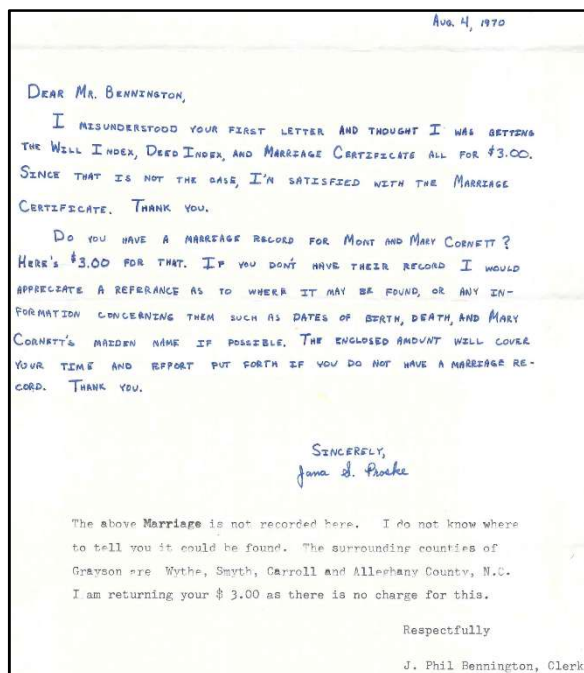


Ann served as a writer and editor for this journal for many years. She contributed ideas for content and layout and was instrumental in creating some of the special issues and monographs the society produced. Her eagle-eyed proofreading skills helped us to publish the high-quality professional journal our members expect. She instilled in us the need for style sheets and consistency, well-written source citations, and best practices for genealogical writing. All of us on the Quarterly staff will forever miss her guidance and input. We send our very sincere condolences to her family and friends.

In Pursuit of Ancestors: What I Have Learned About the Hunt

By Jana Proske

My aunt Eula took me to the Oklahoma State Historical Society when I was eleven years old. I was awed by the grandeur of the building. She discerned my interest in family history and fed it. We found information on our Cornett family in Virginia that day. Aunt Eula, my mother's aunt, never had children, but she had an impact. Here is an example of the early research she engendered:



Letter from the author to a county clerk, 1970; original in the author's possession

At about the same time, I found a piece of graph paper in my father's desk drawer with my father's brief family tree that he had sketched on it (see "Silesia in a Drawer" in *St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 41, No.1, Spring 2009). But it was not until college that I began to pursue my Proske line. Little did I realize as a dorky sophomore in high school that studying German would be a boon to my research. Knowing the language of my ancestors got me a foot in the door and often kept it open. In college, I obtained a short book about a Proske via inter-library loan and

quizzed my German teacher about it. It was in the public domain, so I copied it. If your ancestors were German and you did not have the opportunity to learn the language, one good online resource for translation is *Dict.cc English-German Dictionary* (<https://dict.cc/>).

Related to the good fortune of learning German was the fact that my mother dropped an "n" from my first name. When pregnant with me, she saw the name "Janna" in a newspaper. She went with "Jana" instead, which was lucky for me, because European foreheads would have wrinkled in puzzlement, had "Janna" emailed them. "Jana" is pronounced "yah-nuh" in German, Polish, and Czech. It is a common name in those countries and made correspondence a bit easier.

After college, I got a job in a public library. I would go to a branch that had West German phone books, look up Proskes, and write them in German, asking for information about their forebears. (Not until two decades later did I find one fairly closely related to me. Stay tuned.) They would nearly always reply. While working in the library, I decided to pursue a master's degree in library science (MLS). This was definitely a boon to my hobby. But you don't have to *become* a librarian—just *ask* one for help. Librarians are eagerly waiting for your questions.

Some Lessons Learned

Having my interest fed, learning a foreign language, my "one-n" name, and becoming a librarian were great, but I have learned many other things in the past forty-five-plus years about pursuing this hobby:

- Church secretaries can be wonderful people. I emailed one in Sibiu, Romania. She looked up my Proskes in the church records and emailed me the information. A secretary at a Lutheran church in St. Louis did the same thing.
- New information appears all the time. The cemetery records for the Old Bethlehem Lutheran cemetery in St. Louis were

In Pursuit of Ancestors

supposedly lost, according to one account. A few years later, I decided to look one more time and—*voilà!*—they had been found in the attic of the cemetery caretaker's building and put online. I struck gold.

- Surname spelling variations abound: Proske, Prosske, Proßke, Proschke, Pruske, Pruschke, Proska, Prosky, Proski, Proskey, Broschke, Brosky, Broska, Broschka . . . Typing only one spelling into a search box can limit your findings.
- You may not have to pay for online resources. I have never subscribed to any genealogical database. *FamilySearch*, *Find a Grave*, and the library editions of *Ancestry* and *Newspapers.com* have been my “go-to” sources. Others, such as *Chronicling America*, *Fold3*, the *Immigrant Ship Transcribers Guild* (<https://www.immigrantships.net/>), and for Missourians, the state death certificate database (<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/Records/Archives/ArchivesMvc/>), have also been helpful.
- City directories are a great way to track where your family lived and what they did for a living. Proskes peaked in St. Louis in 1937. The Missouri Historical Society Library and Research Center has hard copies of the directories. They are also available online at the St. Louis Mercantile Library (<https://digital.library.ums1.edu/node/210090>). In the German lands, the directories are *Adressbücher*. See (<https://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/>) and (<https://wiki.genealogy.net/Portal:Adressbuch>).

Dreams can come true. In the early 1980s I dreamed of going to my ancestral town. A Google search led to that dream being realized. Here is the genesis of the story:

In 2003, my German cousin, Joachim, and his friend came to the U.S. and stopped in St. Louis to see me. He invited me to come to Germany. In 2005, I went, and he drove me to our ancestral town in Poland. My dream came true!

A CHANCE MEETING

The next child of Gottlieb and Rosina, as they would have been called, was **Gottlob Thomas Proske**.

One day in late June of 2000 I typed Proske into a google.com searchbox. In the hit list was *Augenoptik Proske*, an eyeglass shop in Braunschweig, Germany. I clicked on *Kontakt* and typed my usual spiel: *Hallo! Ich heiße Jana Proske Bruzael. Meine Proske Vorfahren waren aus Muensterberg, Schlesien. Sind Ihre Vorfahren auch aus Schlesien? Vielleicht koennen wir Information austauschen. (Entschuldigen Sie mir, bitte, mein Grammatik ist nicht so gut.)* On July 6, I received a reply:

Hallo,
My name is Joachim Proske. I got your e-mail from my brother. My grandfather was from Bad Landeck (Ladek-Zdroj) near Glatz (Kłodzko), 30 km from Muensterberg (Ziębice). I have no more information about my ancestors.
Yours, Joachim

I recalled a line in Theodore Louis Proske's diary about a Karl Proske who was a furrier in Landeck. I replied, telling Joachim about this Karl. He replied:

Hallo Jana,
I suppose I am related to you!!
My grandfather Karl Proske geb. 11.11.1856 in Landeck (?) gest. 12.02.1916 in Landeck and buried there, became a furrier too (like his father? Karl Gottlob). Enclosed you will find a photo of his house and shop in Landeck. I have many questions. Please tell me your place in the family tree? How did you get all the information of your ancestors? When did they go to USA? I would like to hear from you.
Greetings, yours
Joachim Proske

The problem was, Joachim's grandfather and the Karl mentioned in the diary were a generation apart. The names, location, and occupation were the same, so we were 95% sure they were father and son, but we needed documentation. Joachim wrote to an archive and obtained a copy of his grandfather's marriage record. One day I got an email with “100%” in the subject line:

Dear 100%-Cousine Jana,
We got it! Today I got a letter from Parafia Ewangelicko-Augsburska Wąbrzych with the document: Trauungsbescheinigung—Carl Proske-Marie Neumann. You will find it in the appendix. It shows that Carl Proske is the son of Carl Gottlob Proske. Now it is in evidence, that we are related.
Herzliche Gruesse von Deinem 100%-Cousin Joachim and Karin

Joachim and my deceased father were 4th cousins. He told his friends his great-grandfather “came to visit me in the Internet.” Joachim's great-great-grandfather—the elder Karl's father—was Gottlob Thomas Proske. He grew up in Münsterberg and became a *Weisgerbermeister* (Master Tanner). His marriage record is translated:

22 June 1824 Bachelor Gottlob Pruske [yes, there were spelling variations; the scribe wrote it the way he heard it.] citizen master dyer here, 2nd son of the deceased citizen butcher and Evangelical church-deputy Gottlieb Pruske, 30 years old, to Miss Johanne Pfützer, only daughter of Carl Gottlieb Pfützer—master furrier and Evangelical church-deputy, 17 years old.
(Gary Horlacher)

Excerpt from Getting Ahead, Getting Along, Getting by: Proskes in Europe and North America, by the author; p. 89

Facebook can be useful. I joined a Silesian genealogy group; I can now see what is happening in my ancestral town (Münsterberg, Silesia—today, Ziębice, Poland) and talk with people there. I made friends with Jana Proskeová in the Czech Republic, who sent me her ancestral line. I came in contact with a Proske from New York who is now living and working in Germany, and he checked out my family history book from a library there. A Pole from Ziębice, Poland, who lived in Canada bought a copy of my book. There is a group called *Ahnenforschung in Polnischen Archiven* (Ancestor Research in Polish Archives). For a small fee, someone will do archival research.

In Pursuit of Ancestors

Newspapers

Newspapers can be a goldmine. *Newspapers.com* is likely available at home via your local library website, as are other databases. *Chronicling America* is excellent (see the recent article in the *St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 58, No. 2, Summer, 2025). I found many letters to the editor that my great-grandfather wrote to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in the *Proquest* database at the St. Louis County Library (www.slcl.org/resources/historical-st-louis-post-dispatch). I also found Proske entries in my ancestral town's newspaper. They were even indexed by name (www.gross-wartenberg.de/mindex.php).

Recently, I did a Google search for: "Troppau Zeitungen," the ancestral town of a Proske in Munich. A site appeared that yielded 127 Proske hits in the town newspaper. I was thrilled!



Example of a German newspaper article, 1837; public domain

More Hints for Success

Plotting concentrations of the surname on a map can be revealing. I have a map on my wall with underlined towns and villages in which I have found a Proske in Silesia. Other hints include:

- Hiring a professional is challenging and costly. Cyndi's List (cyndislist.com) is great, but even so, it is hard to assess competence, especially when dealing with overseas researchers. When I first hired a professional in 1997, the going rate was \$20 an hour; now it is at least \$60. Checking the exchange rate is helpful. For my Silesian research, I try to hire Poles, because paying in Euros is more expensive than paying in zlotys, the local Polish currency.
- NEVER GIVE UP! From 1997 to December 2025, I was staring at a brick wall. Then the records I needed to break through it were found and posted online ... another two generations back!!
- Read footnotes and bibliographies. Sometimes, priceless information is buried in a footnote. I once found a juicy tidbit in a church history which led to a plethora of Proskes. Footnotes and bibliographies can lead to untapped sources. Be sure not to skip them!
- I have learned that genealogy—like any good hobby—is about playing. I get online and play. Recently, I typed "Proske" into a Google search box and found someone in Munich who is really interested in her roots. I helped her reach back three generations further on her line. It was great fun, and we are still working together.
- You can write a 700-page history of your family, but you are never finished. There is always one more generation to discover.

Some Final Thoughts

READ! I have learned more history and geography by doing genealogy than I learned in school. Reading puts ancestors in context, makes their lives more interesting, and helps

In Pursuit of Ancestors

us understand them. For example, *Albion's Seed* by David Hackett Fischer helped me understand why my maternal great-grandfather was so violent. He came from a violent culture in Northumberland, England.

Did your grandmother bake or fry? That could be a clue to where in England your people came from. There is a reason why Boston's beans are baked, and Fischer will tell you why. The book's premise is that there were four groups from England who settled in what became the United States. Extensive reading gives clues about where to do research. Also, town chronicles can be goldmines. If you live in Missouri, MOBIUS is a wonderful resource. It is a consortium of Missouri libraries. If your local library is a member, you can request books (<https://searchmobius.org/search/>).

Another great resource for locating libraries that have a book you might need is WorldCat (<https://search.worldcat.org/>). You can likely request it via inter-library loan at your local library. Just ask the librarian.

Finally, I have learned that decisions matter. What we think are minor decisions can have major and long-ranging consequences. My great-great-grandfather's brother made the decision to come to the U.S. Then he decided to write a letter to his kid brother urging him to come. He did. They both settled in St. Louis, Missouri. On 14 June 1863, my great-great-grandfather's friend invited him to a picnic. Certainly, his attendance did not seem to be a major decision in his life. My ancestor decided to go, and while there, he met a young woman. They got married—and here I am!

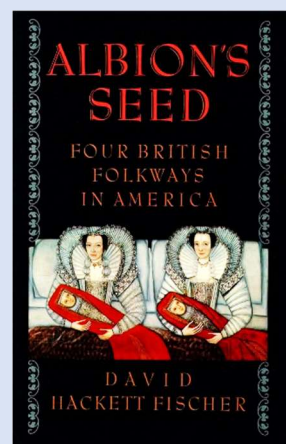
A commonplace decision such as inviting someone to a picnic can have major ramifications. Like Aunt Eula, Johann Julius Proske, my ancestor's older brother, never married. But it was *his* decision to come to St. Louis that made him the indirect progenitor of many people. I live in St. Louis today, in part, because he made a decision to come here in 1855. Genealogy is, to a great degree, the study of the things that happen to make you, you!

Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America

This classic cultural history volume, written by David Hackett Fischer in 1989, is one you might want to add to your library if you have British ancestors. The author traces four migration patterns from the British Isles to what would become the United States and explains in great detail how these immigrants shaped the new country.

In particular, he discusses:

- ★ Puritans from East Anglia and how they developed New England
- ★ Cavaliers and indentured servants from the south of England and their influence on the southern U.S.
- ★ Quakers from the North Midlands who settled the Middle Atlantic and Midwest
- ★ Those from the Borderlands of North England and southern Scotland (Scots-Irish) who settled in the back country of the American colonies and helped define the frontier and the movement west.



U.S. Army Nurse: How One St. Louis Woman Came to Serve in World War I

By Martin Fischer

One of the interesting and inspiring people on my family tree was my first cousin twice-removed, Flora Kober (1882–1957).¹ She never married. Instead, she built a life of service to others, especially children. Flora was part of a large group of cousins on the paternal side of my family tree whose parents immigrated to St. Louis, Missouri, from Kempen, Posen, Prussia (today Kępno, Poland), mostly in the 1860s.

Flora Kober was born in St. Louis in 1882, one of at least six children—all born in St. Louis—of Louis Kober and his wife, Minnie (née Seelig). In 1888, when Flora was five years old, her mother died of gastroenteritis.² Her father struggled to care for the children and make a living. In 1890, Flora, now seven years old, along with her younger brother Aaron, also called Arthur, age five, were sent to live and learn in the Cleveland Jewish Orphan Asylum in Ohio.³ The so-called “inmates” of the asylum were not limited to orphans. Many difficult family or financial situations led to Jewish children being placed there, even if they were not from Cleveland or not orphans.

In 1897, Flora, age fifteen, graduated from the Cleveland Jewish Orphan Asylum.⁴ After graduation, Flora returned to her hometown of St. Louis. In the 1900 U.S. census, she was listed as living with her widowed father and three of her siblings at 1709A Goode Avenue in St. Louis. Her father, Louis, worked as a cigar maker. Flora’s older brother Samuel was a clerk in the post office. Her older sister Carrie was a saleswoman. No occupation was listed for seventeen-year-old Flora. Her younger brother Arthur, fifteen, had also returned from the Cleveland orphanage and was listed as attending school.⁵

Fortunately, Flora Kober’s eight years in the orphanage did not prevent her from getting an education that led to a long, successful career in nursing and social service.

The orphanage experience may have even contributed to her desire to be of service to others. In 1905, Flora was a member of the first graduating class from the Jewish Hospital Nursing School in St. Louis,⁶ and she started working as a nurse at Jewish Hospital.

A 1907 social note in *The Post-Telegraph* newspaper in Princeton, Missouri, identified Flora as an associate nurse at Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.⁷ In 1908, she returned to Cleveland to work as a nurse at the Cleveland Jewish Orphan Asylum, where years before she had resided.⁸ In 1910, she came back to her hometown to work as a visiting nurse for the United Jewish Educational and Charitable Associations in St. Louis. According to an article in *The Jewish Voice*, Flora Kober, who had been serving as a visiting nurse for just over a month, “teaches the necessity of cleanliness from an hygienic standpoint. She teaches that keeping windows open in winter is not a crime, and that the baby will not catch cold under proper regulations, and that all these matters tend towards bringing about a healthier condition for their children and themselves.”⁹

The 1910 U.S. census listed Flora as a hospital nurse living with her brother Samuel and his wife, Myra, at 4232a West Belle Place in St. Louis.¹⁰ A 1912 annual report from the coalition of Jewish charities in St. Louis noted that as a visiting nurse, Flora had made 248 visits to sixty-eight families and had taken two patients to the hospital in 1911.¹¹ The following year, the Jewish charities reported that Flora had made 2,800 calls among 450 families during 1912.¹²

The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* published a large photo of Flora on 3 April 1915, along with an article noting that she had been associated with Jewish charities in St. Louis for the past five years and would soon leave for Philadelphia, where she planned to visit a

U.S. Army Nurse: How One St. Louis Woman Came to Serve in World War I

brother before proceeding to New York to begin her journey to the World War I European war zone.¹³

But six days after that photo appeared in the *Globe-Democrat*, *The Modern View*, a Jewish newspaper in St. Louis, noted that the *Globe-Democrat* report about her planned departure for Europe was premature.¹⁴

Indeed, the *Globe-Democrat* was wrong in predicting both when she would leave St. Louis and where she would be stationed. In fact, Flora continued to work for the coalition of Jewish charities in St. Louis for more than two additional years.



Flora Kober, 3 April 1915, St. Louis Globe-Democrat

In November 1916, *The Modern View* contained an article about the “beautiful new Jewish Shelter Home for Children,” located at 2236 Tower Grove Avenue between Cleveland and Shenandoah avenues in St. Louis. It

identified Flora Kober as the matron in charge. It stated that Miss Flora Kober,

has no light task in the care of 36 children that are at present sheltered, educated and watched over in the institution. The children range in age from 3 to 15 years. They are . . . not eligible (for) the Jewish Orphan Asylum in Cleveland. About half the wards are children of fathers who have deserted their families, leaving the mothers unable to provide for their young ones. The other children are the offspring of divorced parents or where one or the other of the parent is sick, mentally deficient, or destitute, or the home otherwise wrecked.¹⁵

The 1917 St. Louis city directory listed Flora as a St. Louis resident and identified her as the superintendent of the Jewish Shelter Home for Children in St. Louis. Her residence was listed at the same address as the children’s home; she was living in the same building where she helped care for children.¹⁶

Six months later, *The Modern View* related that “Miss Flora Kober expects to leave with the Washington University Hospital Unit when it is called to France.”¹⁷ The following week, on 11 May 1917, *The Jewish Voice* reported that Flora had resigned her position at the Jewish Shelter Home for Children to prepare for her departure to France.¹⁸

World War I started on 28 July 1914, but the U.S. did not declare war until 6 April 1917. Two weeks following that declaration, the first haphazard steps were taken to organize doctors and nurses from Washington University to set up a base hospital for entry into the war.¹⁹ The initial order had come via wire from the U.S. surgeon general to a doctor at Washington University. Before the Army Medical Corps could implement any type of organization, however, the American Red Cross entered the scene. Base Hospital 21, from Washington University, was one of the first six units organized by the Red Cross for the war.

U.S. Army Nurse: How One St. Louis Woman Came to Serve in World War I

Flora Goes to War

Flora Kober became an enlisted member of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps.²⁰ She and the rest of Base Hospital 21 left St. Louis by train on 17 May 1917.²¹ The group then sailed from New York City on 19 May 1917 aboard the *SS St. Paul*²² and arrived in Liverpool, England, on 28 May 1917.²³ The process of organizing and equipping the unit had taken place so quickly that many of the doctors and nurses in the unit lacked U.S. passports. Flora was among those who had to file an Emergency Passport Application at the U.S. Embassy in London, England. The application said she had left the U.S. on 19 May 1917 and was temporarily residing in the Waldorf Hotel, in London.²⁴ Twelve days later, she took the oath of allegiance for the passport at the U.S. Embassy in London.

By 12 June 1917, Flora was based in Rouen, France, in Normandy province, where Base Hospital 21 was located on the site of a horse racetrack.²⁵ In September 1917, *The Jewish Voice* published a short item regarding a letter from Flora received by her brother, Samuel Kober, in St. Louis. "Miss Kober is in active service as nurse in back of the British lines. She sends kindest regards to all of her friends here [in St. Louis]."²⁶



Flora's passport photo, London, 1917



Flora Kober, aboard the SS St. Paul (standing, back row center) with fellow nurses from Washington University Base Hospital No. 21, sailing in May 1917 from New York City to Liverpool, England. (Photo provided to the author by Steven Ziskind, the author's third cousin and a grand-nephew of Flora Kober.)

A report in *The Modern View* on the same day noted that . . .

In her letter she states that having two days off, she and Miss [Mae] Auerbach attended services at the Synagogue in Rouen, France. The Rabbi informed the congregation that Miss Kober and Miss Auerbach were the only Jewish nurses in active service in the unit, and a great many of them asked after various relatives that they had in different sections of the United States. However, none of them had any acquaintances in St. Louis. Miss Kober states she is feeling well, and from the drift of the letter, it is clear that she is doing considerable good work.²⁷

U.S. Army Nurse: How One St. Louis Woman Came to Serve in World War I

Flora's time in France was not all work and no play. *The Jewish Voice* of 1 March 1918 noted that Flora Kober and "her *confrere*" (colleague), Mae Auerbach, who had also resided at the Cleveland Jewish Orphan Asylum as a child, had a ten-day furlough from their nursing duties in Rouen, France, and planned to take in Paris.²⁹

On 6 September 1918, *The Modern View* published a long article based on additional letters Flora had written to her brother Samuel. "The letters were written while on a brief leave of absence from her arduous duties and do not touch on the grim features of her work or of the war," the article reported. Flora commented on the people from various countries they had met in their travels and how knowing French was often not necessary because so many Europeans spoke English.



Flora Kober (seated) with May [Mae] Auerbach (standing left) and Lena Fabick. All three were graduates of the Jewish Hospital School for Nurses in St. Louis. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 20 December 1917.

She also remarked about the agriculture in France, noting the lack of cornfields, which she said are very common in the U.S., and the apparent absence of weeds in the farm fields in France. "Am sure when our dear country is centuries old, as France is, our weeds will disappear like over here," she predicted.³⁰

Flora commented in one of her letters on the difference between Red Cross and U.S. Army nurses. "I supposed you know I am in the army and not the Red Cross," Flora wrote to her brother.

There is quite a distinction between Red Cross nurses and army nurses. Our pay comes from the army, and we are held under strict regulations in every way.

The Red Cross nurse has a different uniform, may go home when she wants, or after the time she signed up for, but she does not receive any service stripes. We are not permitted to wear anything with a Red Cross except on our caps.

We pin our collars and waists with the insignias of the caduceus with A.N.C. (Army Nurse Corps) as a monogram over same or with our U.S. pin.³¹

Despite her apparent enthusiasm for carrying out her duties as expressed in her letters, Flora was not immune to the physical and emotional burdens of caring for wounded and sick soldiers. On 8 November 1918, *The Modern View* posted this brief notice: "Miss Flora Kober, who is a U.S. Army nurse in France, has been in what is known as the 'Sick Sisters' Hospital,' in France, three weeks, having been worn out from a long term of night duty. She is well again and back in service, we are glad to say."³²

Her return to those arduous duties was short-lived. World War I ended on 11 November 1918, but Flora and her fellow medical staff at Base Hospital No. 21 would not return home for several months. "On

U.S. Army Nurse: How One St. Louis Woman Came to Serve in World War I

January 22, 1919, the last of the [Base Hospital No. 21] patients were transferred or discharged and the hospital demobilized. Stores were turned in, tents taken down and all hospital and medical equipment accounted for to the British Government," according to *Activities of Base Hospital 21*, a booklet published in 1919 by the St. Louis Chapter of the American Red Cross.³³



*Flora Kober, The Modern View,
6 September 1918*

Following demobilization, the Washington University Unit No. 21 was being housed at Hotel Le Grand in Carnac, a seaside resort town in Brittany in northwest France. The unit had passed inspection and was expecting orders any day to sail for home, according to a letter Flora had sent her brother Samuel, a *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* article reported.⁴³ The *SS Mobile*, carrying most of Washington University Unit No. 21, sailed from Brest, France, on 13 April 1919 and arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey, ten days later.³⁵

Again, the newspaper documented Flora's travels:

We are happy to report that Miss Flora Kober, who served two years in France as a United States Army nurse, arrived Wednesday on the steamer 'Mobile' in New York. She is expected in St. Louis within a week, and a warm welcome awaits her here.

Miss Mae Auerbach, who also served with Miss Kober, we are sorry to say, is now in a convalescent hospital in France, having had pneumonia, and was not able to return.³⁶

Miss Auerbach eventually recovered and was later mentioned in a social note, published by *The Jewish Voice*, regarding a visit to Kansas City.³⁷

After arriving in New York City, Flora Kober spent a week in Philadelphia visiting one of her brothers before arriving back in St. Louis on 11 May 1919.³⁸

When the 1920 U.S. census was enumerated, Flora Kober, age thirty-six, was listed as living in St. Louis at 5789 Westminster Place with her brother Samuel Kober; Samuel's wife, Myra; and Myra's mother. Flora's occupation was listed as trained nurse.³⁹ It is unclear whether Flora was able to resume her work as a nurse in St. Louis after her war service, but in 1923, she took a position in New York City. She had been hired to oversee social service work as head of the children's department at Bellevue Hospital in New York.⁴⁰

Flora's entry in the 1925 New York City directory simply listed her as a nurse at Bellevue Hospital, without any other residence specified, suggesting that she may have been living in the hospital where she worked.⁴¹ However, in the 1925 New York State census, a "Flo Kober," whose occupation was noted as social services, was listed as a lodger living with a married couple about seven miles north of the hospital in the Harlem neighborhood.⁴² I was unable to find her in the 1930 U.S. census. However, in the 1931 city directory, she was listed as a nurse living at 136 West 75th Street in Manhattan, New York City, located five miles away from Bellevue Hospital.⁴³

The 1940 and 1950 censuses also suggested Flora continued to work at Bellevue Hospital at least until 1950. In the 1940 census, she was still living at the same location

U.S. Army Nurse: How One St. Louis Woman Came to Serve in World War I

as shown in the 1931 city directory, and her employment was listed as social services in a hospital.⁴⁴ By the time of the 1950 census, she had moved nearby to 138 West 74th Street in Manhattan, and her employment was listed as social worker in a hospital in New York City.⁴⁵



*Flora Kober photographed later in life.
(Photo provided to the author by Steven Ziskind, the author's third cousin, who was a grand-nephew of Flora Kober.)*

In the years that followed, Flora occasionally returned to St. Louis to visit relatives. We also know that Flora returned to St. Louis at least once after her retirement. In May 1955, the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* noted that Flora would be honored at the Jewish Hospital School of Nursing's 50th anniversary celebration. She was one of two guests of honor who had graduated from the nursing school in 1905.⁴⁶

The following day, the *Globe-Democrat* reported on the speech Flora gave at the dinner-dance held in her honor. "A picture of a green probationer who within a few weeks was caring for private patients in 12 rooms on two floors, and who was not allowed to use the elevator except in emergency, was painted by Miss Flora Kober of New York," the newspaper reported.

"Student nurses lived in the basement, cleaned patients' rooms, were allowed no men visitors—but had the finest kind of instruction,' Miss Kober declared. Now retired, she went into medical social service at a staff member's suggestion and for many years headed Bellevue Hospital's social service."⁴⁷

Flora Kober died in New York City in 1957 at age seventy-five. She is buried in Mount Sinai Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the same cemetery lot where her brother Arthur Kober is buried with his wife.⁴⁸

About the Author

Martin Fischer, a retired *Chicago Tribune* copy editor, works part-time as a professional genealogist and volunteers as vice president of publicity for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. He was born in St. Louis, where he lived in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood as a young child and later in the Dogtown-Hi-Pointe area of the city. He graduated from Southwest High School and Washington University in St. Louis. His paternal ancestors emigrated from Prussia to St. Louis in the 1860s. Martin's great-grandparents and their descendants owned a mom-and-pop dry goods store in the Carondelet neighborhood from 1870 until the 1950s.

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. "United States, Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917–1940"; digital image, *FamilySearch.org* (www.familysearch.org), Flora Kober, 21 May 1919.

2. "Missouri, U.S., Death Records, 1850–1931," Minnie Kober, 26 May 1888; digital image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com); citing *Missouri Death Records*, Missouri State Archives; Jefferson City, Missouri.

3. "For Humanity's Sake. Meeting of Two Jewish Boards of Charity," *Cleveland Plain Dealer* (Cleveland, Ohio) indexed as *The Evening Post*,

U.S. Army Nurse: How One St. Louis Woman Came to Serve in World War I

14 April 1890, p. 8, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://newspapers.com>).

4. "Large Class. It Was Graduated Yesterday at the Jewish Orphan Asylum," *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* (Ohio), 11 July 1897, p. 3, col. 4; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

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27. "Locals," *The Jewish Voice* (St. Louis), 14 September 1917, p. 2, col. 5; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

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30. "Jewish nurse writes from France," *The Modern View* (St. Louis), 6 September 1918, p. 65, col. 1; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

31. "Jewish nurse writes from France," *The Modern View*.

32. "Miss Flora Kober . . ." *The Modern View* (St. Louis), 8 November 1918, p. 19, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

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35. "U.S. Army WWI Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1918–1919," Incoming, Mobile, 27 July 1919; Flora Kober, line 30; digital image, *Fold3.com* (www.fold3.com).

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48. *Find a Grave*, database with images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142999442/flora-kober>), "Flora Kober" (1882–1957), memorial created by "Crypt Tonight"; citing Mount Sinai Cemetery, Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co., Pennsylvania.

A Prominent Family of St. Louis, Missouri:

Marie Jacqueline Taylor

By Shirley Wadell

Researching the people in family photographs can occasionally reveal remarkable and unexpected bits of history. Such was the case with a picture of a little girl, Marie Jacqueline Taylor, ten years old, found on the St. Louis Genealogical Society's "Lost and Found" web page for unclaimed photographs.¹ The deeper my research went on Marie Jacqueline and her family, the more amazed I became at what I found.

This cabinet card photograph (see below) was taken at Studio Genelli, Hulbert Brothers, proprietors, at 923 Olive Street in St. Louis. The studio was known to specialize in portraits of children. The image is described as "Marie Jacqueline Taylor (or Tayln), ten years old," and appears to have been taken sometime around 1889–1890.



Marie's Family Background

I found the family in the 1880 U.S. census living in Saint Ferdinand [Florissant], St Louis, Missouri. One-year-old Marie was enumerated with her parents—Mortimer Taylor, age thirty-one, head of the household; and May "Mae" Taylor, age twenty-four, his wife. Also living with them were Mary L. Taylor, age sixty-one, a widow, mother-in-law;

Elise M. Kennerly, age eighty-two, a widow, grandmother-in-law; William F. Taylor, age thirty-five, a brother-in-law; Julian C. Taylor, age thirteen, son of William F. Taylor, a nephew; and three servants—Eliza Lambes, age twenty, cook; James Rosa, age fifty-two, laborer; and Lee Sharp, age ten, laborer.² Mortimer's occupation was recorded as a representative elected to the state legislature in 1878. He had received a Bachelor of Law degree in June 1870 and opened his own office in St. Louis in January 1871.³

During May's single days, she fielded multiple marriage proposals, but she finally gave her heart to a young Southerner, Mortimer Taylor, of the same surname but not related. Mortimer Frederick Taylor and May Larned Taylor married in St. Louis in 1875. Archbishop Ryan performed the ceremony.⁴ Marie Jacqueline was their only child.⁵ Remarkably, I discovered that young Marie Jacqueline Taylor was destined to become royalty!

An 1890 article (image on the next page) published in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated* provided a sketch of Mrs. Mortimer Taylor along with an article detailing the beauty and many talents of this young socialite. She was known as a fine horsewoman, being partial to dapple grays. She was also recognized as a crack shot, often bringing in more game than the men. May was also an amateur artist specializing in flowers and had won numerous blue ribbons for her artistic work at the St. Louis Fair.

The article noted that four generations of women on the maternal side of the family were living in this same household—May, her mother (Mrs. Mary Taylor), her grandmother (Mrs. Elise Kennerly), and her daughter (Marie Jacqueline). The author pointed out that Mrs. Kennerly had recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday. Marie was nine years old at the time the article appeared in Frank Leslie's publication and was reported to already have the "polished manners of a society belle."⁶

A Prominent Family of St. Louis, Missouri: Marie Jacqueline Taylor

388

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER.

[JANUARY 4, 1890.]

A YOUNG MATRON OF ST. LOUIS.

MRS. MORTIMER TAYLOR is one of the most beautiful of the many beautiful young matrons in St. Louis, and is the wife of a prominent young lawyer who has rapidly climbed Fortune's ladder. She is tall and finely formed, her chief beauty lying in her exquisite coloring. Her large, expressive eyes are as blue as corn-flowers, her skin as fair as a Provence rose, and her hair of vivid gold. Her hair tresses are usually of black tulle and jet, as she wears lace brings out the alabaster whiteness and perfect contour of her neck and arms, and the red gold of her hair.

In the household on Morgan Street, she is one of a family group composed of four generations, which could not fail to interest the most casual observer. First in the quartette is Mrs. Taylor's grandmother, Mrs. James Kennerly, a charming old lady, who recently celebrated her sixtieth birthday, and is the only survivor of the early days of St. Louis. Her father, Dr. Pierre Antoine Saugrain, sent out to America by the French Government for the purpose of geological research, fell in love, while on the long ocean voyage, with the lovely daughter of a family of French exiles, and a god-daughter of Louis XVI. Toward the close of the eighteenth century, Dr. Saugrain brought his fair young wife and children to the Spanish settlement on the banks of the Mississippi, and purchased an old Spanish fort for the family residence, and there beautiful Elise Marie Saugrain lived with her parents during a period of change and strife, when three different flags floated in rapid succession over the massive stone walls, namely, the Spanish, French, and American colors. All strangers of distinction were entertained by the French family, among others the gallant Lafayette and his suite, and their home was used as a "strong house" for the early settlers when threatened by an Indian invasion. It was not until Miss Saugrain met Captain James Kennerly that the little French beauty learned to speak English, and this is why she has never quite lost the pretty accent which lends an added piquancy to her reminiscences of days long gone by. Mrs. Kennerly has a wonderful constitution, and is the most active member of the household, and seldom great interest in the events of the day.

Mrs. William C. Taylor, the widowed mother of Mrs. Taylor, is extremely fine looking, her features still retaining something of the beauty of her girlhood. Mrs. Mortimer Taylor, the third figure in this group, was Miss May Taylor, the only daughter of a wealthy capitalist, and a beautiful young creature, the petted darling of her father's love and a reigning belle in society. She refused many brilliant offers from the proudest circle of her native city, and gave her heart and hand to a handsome young Southerner of the same name as on, but bound by no ties of kindred.

Last, but not least, is little Marie Taylor, their only child, aged nine, who somewhat resembles her mother, and has the same red-gold hair and perfect coloring. The little girl has the polished manners of a society belle, and takes her part with perfect ease in the lavish hospitality of her father's home.

Mrs. Mortimer Taylor is the finest "whip" in the city, and is, besides, a famous horsewoman. Her seat in the saddle is thoroughly English, and she rides the most unmanageable steed with a cool daring which is incredible. She invariably purchases her own horses, and is partial to English breeds of which



REPRESENTATIVE SOCIETY LADIES OF WESTERN CITIES—MRS. MORTIMER TAYLOR, OF ST. LOUIS.

Article regarding Mrs. May Taylor found in Frank Leslie's Illustrated. Public domain

Mortimer's infidelity led to the couple's divorce in the late 1890s. The divorce was finalized in 1898,⁷ and May Taylor was granted a dispensation by the Pope which allowed her to marry a second time. Her wedding to Dr. Frederick E. Clark, a physician from Staten Island, New York, took place on 4 May 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Clark resided in New York, along with May's daughter, Marie.⁸

May's Mother, Mary Kennerly

May was the only daughter of William Coleman Taylor and Mary Larned Kennerly. William and Mary were married on 13 October 1841 in St. Louis.⁹ During his lifetime, William had purchased numerous

tracts of land in St. Louis, making him very wealthy. However, following the "Panic of 1873," his fortune began to diminish, and he was unable to pay the taxes on his properties. He died on 18 January 1880 at the City Hospital in St. Louis at the age of sixty-two.¹⁰

A year later, an article in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* provided details of a court case brought by the St. Louis city tax collector against William's heirs regarding a lien on two different real estate properties listed on Seventeenth Street in the city, for non-payment of taxes. The land was auctioned off to the highest bidder.¹¹

Mary's parents were James Hancock Kennerly and Elise Marie Saugrain. James and

A Prominent Family of St. Louis, Missouri: Marie Jacqueline Taylor

Elise were married on 10 June 1817, also in St. Louis.¹² Elise's father, Dr. Pierre Antoine Saugrain, a noted scientist, had been sent to America by the French government. Along the way, he met and fell in love with a beautiful young girl named Rosalie G. Michau. They married, and Dr. Saugrain later brought his family to a Spanish settlement near the Mississippi River, purchasing an old Spanish fort as their residence. While they lived there, flags from three different countries flew over this fort—Spanish, French, and American.¹³

The Baroness Avezzano

Following the divorce of her parents, Marie Jacqueline Taylor moved to the East Coast with her mother. In 1901, Marie was married to an Italian, Baron Romano Avezzano, who was serving in Washington, D.C., when they met. The wedding was announced in several American papers. The *Minneapolis Journal* dated 28 August 1901 carried an article entitled "Wedded to an Italian Diplomat—Baroness Abezzanno [sic] En Route to Japan to Join Her Husband."¹⁴ By then, cards had been sent out to announce the wedding of Miss Jacqueline Marie Taylor to Baron Romano Avezzano of Naples, Italy.

The ceremony had originally been planned for October of that year, but the Baron received a new diplomatic assignment to China in the spring and had to depart immediately. The nuptials took place on 4 May 1901 at St. Leo's Church in New York with only the bride's family attending. The paper added, "The bride is a very handsome young woman, talented and accomplished. She belongs to one of the oldest and most aristocratic families of St. Louis. . . ."¹⁵ The newly wedded Baroness soon sailed with her father from San Francisco, California, to Japan where they met her husband.¹⁶

Two years later, while onboard the *Campania* in 1903, Marie's father, Mortimer, became seriously ill, suffering from chronic indigestion and heart disease. Two months

prior, he had travelled abroad in hopes that it might improve his health, but it did not do any good. When the ship docked in New York, he was immediately transported by ambulance to a hospital¹⁷ where he died on 19 July 1903.¹⁸

In 1916, Marie traveled on the S.S. *La Touraine* from Bordeaux, France. The passenger list notes her name as Jacqueline Romano Avezzano and her husband as Baron Romano, Italian Consulate, living in Bordeaux, France. She was five feet, seven inches tall, with brown hair and black eyes. Her final destination was New York where she would visit her mother, Mrs. Clark, on Staten Island.¹⁹

In December 1919, she traveled again to the United States, this time with her husband and their daughter. Baron Avezzano, "a diplomat of ripe experience," had been assigned as the new Italian ambassador.²⁰



"New Italian Ambassador to U.S. and Family," Akron Evening Times (Akron, Ohio), 1 December 1919, p. 1, col. 4-5, Newspapers.com

A Prominent Family of St. Louis, Missouri: Marie Jacqueline Taylor

Baroness Marie Jacqueline Taylor Avezzano died at her home in Paris on 10 October 1923.²¹ At this time, her husband was the Italian ambassador to France. An article in the *St. Louis Star and Times* provided details of her death, noting that she died of peritonitis following an operation. She and the Baron had one daughter, Yolanda, who was twenty years old at the time of her mother's passing. The family had most recently visited St. Louis in May 1920 but had lived primarily in New York, Paris, and Rome due to her husband's occupation.²²

Her father was still ambassador to France when Yolanda Avezzano, daughter of Romano and Marie Jaqueline (Taylor) Avezzano, married. Like her mother, Yolanda married into royalty when, on 13 January 1927, she and Viscount Alain Obert de Thieusies, counselor of the Belgian embassy in Paris, were wed.²³

In 1944, Yolanda traveled on S.S. *Queen Mary* from Greenock, Scotland, to New York. On the passenger list, the year of her birth was noted as 1907; she had been born in Pekin, China, and her occupation was given as "diplomat."²⁴

If you are interested in claiming the original picture of Jacqueline Marie Taylor, please email Ilene Murray, publications director of the St. Louis Genealogical Society, or call the society office at 314-647-8547.



Yolanda Avezzano, daughter of Romano and Marie Jaqueline (Taylor) Avezzano. The Washington Post, 10 October 1920, p. 2.

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. Lost and Found Photos, *St. Louis Genealogical Society* (<https://stlgs.org/research-2/publications/photos/lost-found-photos>).
2. 1880 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Ferdinand, p. 45 (handwritten), enumeration district (ED) 180, family 381, Mortmer [sic] Taylor; imaged, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>), citing National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm publication T9.
3. *The Bench and Bar of St. Louis, Kansas City, Jefferson City, and other Missouri Cities: Biographical Sketches* (St. Louis and Chicago: American Biographical Publishing Company, 1884), "Mortimer F. Taylor," pp. 346–7; imaged, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/benchbarofstloui00amer/page/n733/mode/2up>), images 734 and 736 of 1034.
4. "Taylor Must Pay Big Alimony," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (Missouri), 24 March 1898, p. 7, col. 1; imaged, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com>).
5. 1880 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, St. Ferdinand, *Ancestry*. Mortmer [sic] Taylor.
6. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, "A Young Matron of St. Louis," no. 1790, vol. XLIX, for the week ending January 4, 1890, p. 388; imaged, *HaithiTrust.org* (<https://hathitrust.org>).
7. "Taylor Must Pay Big Alimony," *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.
8. "In Society," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (Missouri), 8 May 1898, p. 46, col. 1; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.
9. "U.S., French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1695–1954," marriage, William C. Taylor and Mary L. Kennerly, 13 October 1841, St. Louis, Missouri; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing Drouin Collection, Gabriel Drouin, comp., Montreal, Quebec, Canada: Institut G  n  alogique Drouin.
10. "Death of Wm. C. Taylor," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (Missouri), 19 January 1880, p. 8, col. 1; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.
11. "Sheriff's Sale," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (Missouri), 4 October 1881, p. 12, col. 1; imaged *Newspapers.com*.

A Prominent Family of St. Louis, Missouri: Marie Jacqueline Taylor

12. Sophie Radford de Meissner, *Old Naval Days Sketches from the Life of Rear Admiral William Radford U.S.N.*, p. 16, marriage, James Kennerly and Elise Marie Saugrain; imaged, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/oldnavaldayssket00meisrich/page/16/mode/2up>), image 28 of 446.

13. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, "A Young Matron of St. Louis," p. 388, *HaithiTrust.org*.

14. "Wedded an Italian Diplomat," *Minneapolis Journal* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), 28 August 1901, p. 6, col. 3; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

15. "Baron Avezzano Weds Privately," *The Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland), 26 August 1901, p. 8, col. 7; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

16. "Wedded an Italian Diplomat," *Minneapolis Journal*, 28 August 1901.

17. "Lawyer Ill on Steamship," *New York Times* (New York), 19 July 1903, p. 1, col. 4; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

18. "Death of Mortimer F. Taylor," *New York Tribune* (New York), 20 July 1903, p. 1, col. 4; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

19. "New York, U.S. Arriving Passengers and Crew List (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957," Jacqueline Romano Avezzano, 3 June 1916; imaged, *Ancestry*.

20. "New Italian Ambassador to U.S. and Family," *Akron Evening Times* (Akron, Ohio), 1 December 1919, p. 1, col. 4–5; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

21. "Paris, France, Births, Marriage and Deaths, 1555–1929" death, Marie Jacqueline Taylor, 10 October 1923, Paris, France; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing Archives de Paris, Paris, France. Actes de naissance, de mariage et de décès. [Record is in French.]

22. "Baroness Avezzano, Once Jacqueline Taylor, Is Dead," *St. Louis Star and Times* (St. Louis, Missouri), 11 October 1923, p. 5, col. 1; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

23. "Avezzano's Daughter Weds," *San Francisco Examiner* (California), 13 January 1927, p. 6, col. 1; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

24. "New York, U.S. Arriving Passengers and Crew List (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957," Yolanda R. A. Obert De Thieusies, 11 July 1944; imaged, *Ancestry*.



Advertisement from Gould's St. Louis Directory, for 1880 (St. Louis, Mo.: David B. Gould, 1880); imaged, UMSL Digital Library (<https://dl.mospace.umsl.edu/umsl/islandora/object/umsl%3A19502#page/16/mode/1up> : accessed 24 June 2026),

A Tale of Three Brothers

By Shirley Wadell

StlGS received a photograph of three young boys, which has now been returned to a family member, but before that occurred, I was able to research the image of Herman, Paul, and Loby Reim. From the way the boys are dressed, this picture was likely taken in the early 1900s.



Herman, Paul, and "Loby" Reim, circa 1903

I found the three boys on the 1900 U.S. census in St. Louis, Missouri, with the rest of their family. Their parents were listed as Gottlob Reim, who was employed as a day laborer, and his wife, Catherine, a midwife. The couple had been married for twenty years, and Katherine had given birth to ten children, but only five were still living: seventeen-year-old Bertha, twelve-year-old Freda, eight-year-old Herman, six-year-old Gottlob, and three-month-old Paul. The family was living at 3800 Broadway in a home they owned free of a mortgage.

According to the census, Gottlob Sr. had immigrated to the United States in 1879 and was a naturalized citizen. Katherine had arrived in 1880.¹ A marriage record for Gottlob Reim and Katherine Paule dated 19 September 1880 in St. Louis, Missouri, indicated the ceremony was performed by a justice of the peace.²

On 21 May 1903, the youngest boy, Paul, died of pneumonia. He was buried at Concordia Cemetery, where his parents were later interred.³

Paul's death record showing he died of pneumonia, image from Ancestry

By 1910, the elder Gottlob was working as a florist in a nursery. In addition to their four children, their niece, Pauline Illig, fourteen years old, was also living with them.⁴ Pauline's mother and Katherine were sisters.

Gottlob A. Reim, according to his Missouri death record, died on 12 November 1921 at the age of seventy.⁵ His wife, Katharine (Paule) Reim, passed away from heat exhaustion at age eighty on 13 July 1936.⁶

Herman Reim

Herman's WWI draft card, dated 5 June 1917, listed him as twenty-five years old, born on 31 July 1891 in St. Louis, Missouri, and residing at 2922 Wyoming in St. Louis. He gave his occupation as a baker, self-employed.⁷ By this time, Herman had married his first

A Tale of Three Brothers

cousin, Pauline Illig, the same cousin who had been living with the Reim family at the time of the 1910 census. A marriage record for this couple has not been located. On the census three years later, it was noted Herman owned and ran a bakery shop and owned his home at 2815 Keokuk Street free of a mortgage. It also noted that Pauline, his wife, had immigrated to the United States in 1907. The couple had a two-year-old daughter named Grace.⁸

In 1930, Herman was a wallpaper business proprietor, still living in the same neighborhood although two blocks away at 3010 Keokuk Street. He and Pauline now had two children, Grace, age twelve, and Robert, age nine. The census for that year recorded that Herman was not a veteran.⁹

Ten years later, the family was still living together, with Herman managing his own business decorating homes. He resided at 5530 Walsh Street with his wife, Pauline, and their children, Grace, twenty-two years old and working as a clerk, and Robert, who was nineteen and working as an artist.¹⁰ Herman completed his WWII draft registration card on 25 April 1942.¹¹ Under his physical description, it was noted that he had a dog bite on his left arm. By 1950, Herman, now fifty-eight years old, was still self-employed, working part-time as a paper hanger.¹²

A photograph appeared in a 1954 issue of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* with the caption, "Reunion After 48 years,"¹³ which detailed the arrival to St. Louis of Mrs. Emma Scheib at Lambert-St. Louis Field from Nuremberg, Germany. Emma was Pauline (Illig) Reim's sister. They had been separated forty-eight years before Pauline was brought to the United States by a relative.

Herman Reim died on 21 April 1980. He was a retired St. Louis contractor and decorator. At the time of his death, he was living at Cedarcraft Nursing Home in Valley Park, Missouri. His wife, son, and daughter survived him.¹⁴ His wife, Pauline, followed him in death two years later on 20 September 1982. She was buried next to her husband at Our Redeemer Cemetery in Affton, Missouri.¹⁵



From *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 8 June 1954

Gottlieb "Loby" Reim

The birth of Gottlieb Reim was recorded in the St. Louis City Register of Births on 30 May 1894. His parents were noted as "Gottlieb and Kath" Reim living at 3520 South Broadway.¹⁶ Although given the name "Gottlieb" Reim at his birth, he was later known as George Andrew Reim.

At the age of twenty-three, George completed his WWI draft card. He reported that he was married and was a baker for the Benish Restaurant Company. He and his wife lived at 3816 South Broadway in St. Louis. He was a tall, slender young man, with blue eyes and light brown hair.¹⁷ George and Mary C. Boecher were married prior to this, but no marriage record has been found. Three years later, the couple had moved to 1741 Dolman with their two-year-old son, George.¹⁸

By 1930, their family had grown and George owned their home at 3450 South Jefferson Avenue. The census from that year indicated that George had been twenty-one years old and his wife, Mary, was twenty when they wed, suggesting 1915 as a likely year for their marriage.

Their children included: son George, twelve; son Melvin, nine; daughter Jeannette, eight; and daughter Catherine, two. His widowed mother, Catherine, age seventy-four, was renting from him for \$35 a month.¹⁹

A Tale of Three Brothers

At the age of forty-six, George was employed as a bridge worker, living with his wife, Mary, and three of their children, Melvin, age nineteen; Jeannette, age eighteen; and Kathryn/Catherine, age twelve. The family had moved into the house next door, 3448 South Jefferson, and his son George Jr. and wife Maxine were living in the family's former residence.²⁰

The bridge work that George was engaged in must not have lasted very long because when completing his WWII draft card two years later, George listed his employer as Colonial Baking Company. He signed his name as "George Andrew Reim."²¹

Eight years later, George, age fifty-five, was enumerated on the 1950 census (the last currently available to researchers) with his wife, Mary, and their daughter Kathryn, now twenty-two years old. George had progressed in his occupation and was now foreman for a wholesale bakery. The family had moved from South Broadway to 4301 Gravois Road.²²

If you are interested in a high-quality digital image of this photo, please email Ilene Murray, publications director of the St. Louis Genealogical Society, at publications@stlgs.org, or call the St. Louis Genealogical Society office at 314-647-8547.

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. 1900 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis City, p. 8B (handwritten), enumeration district (ED) 147, dwelling 130, family 167, Gottlob Reim; imaged, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com>), citing National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), microfilm publication T623.

2. "Missouri, U.S., Marriage Records 1805–2002," Gottlob Reim and Catherine Paule (1880), St. Louis, Missouri, p. 114, item 4; imaged, *Ancestry*, citing "Missouri Marriage Records," Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, microfilm.

3. "Missouri, U.S., Death Records, 1850–1931," Paul Reim, 21 May 1903, St. Louis, Missouri; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, Missouri death records, microfilm.

4. 1910 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, Carondelet, p. 5B (handwritten), enumeration district (ED) 107, dwelling 94, family 94, Gottlob Reim; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing NARA microfilm publication T624.

5. "Missouri Death Certificates 1910–1973," Gottlob A. Rein [sic], 12 November 1921, St. Louis, Missouri; imaged, *Missouri Digital Heritage* (<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/Archives/Archive.sMvc/DeathCertificates>).

6. "Missouri, U.S., Death Certificates 1910–1969," Katherine Reim, 13 July 1936, St. Louis, Missouri; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing Missouri Office of the Secretary of State, Jefferson City, Missouri death certificates.

7. "U.S. WWI Draft Registration Cards 1917–1918," Herman T. Reim, 5 June 1917, St. Louis, Missouri; database, *Ancestry*; citing United States, Selective Service System, *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, Washington, D.C.: NARA microfilm publication M1509.

8. 1920 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis City, p. 3B (handwritten), enumeration district (ED) 210, dwelling 51, family 73, Herman Reim; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing NARA microfilm publication T625.

9. 1930 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis City, p. 15A (handwritten), enumeration district (ED) 96-451, dwelling 269, family 419, Herman T. Reim; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing NARA microfilm publication T626.

10. 1940 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis City, p. 12B (handwritten), enumeration district (ED) 96-630, family 288, Herman T. Reim; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing NARA microfilm publication T627.

11. "U.S. WWII Draft Registration Cards, 1942," Herman T. Reim, 25 April 1942, St. Louis, Missouri; database, *Ancestry*; citing NARA record group number 147.

12. 1950 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis, p. 74 (handwritten), enumeration district (ED) 96-801, dwelling 145, Herman T. Reim, image, *Ancestry*, citing Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1913–1/1/1972, *Population Schedules for the 1950 Census, 1950–1950*, Washington, DC.

13. "Reunion After 48 Years," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (Missouri), 8 June 1954, p. 33 cols. 2–3; imaged, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com>).

A Tale of Three Brothers

14. "Herman T. Reim Funeral; Retired Area Contractor," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (Missouri), 23 April 1980, p. 38, cols. 3 and 7; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

15. "Obituaries: Pauline Reim; Was Active in Church Work," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (Missouri), 21 September 1982, p. 5B, cols. 4-5; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

16. "Missouri, U.S., Birth registers, 1847-2002," Gattlieb [sic] Reim, 30 May 1894; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing "Missouri birth records," Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, microfilm.

17. "U.S. WWI Draft Registration Cards 1917-1918," George Reim, 5 June 1917, St. Louis, Missouri; database, *Ancestry*; citing United States, Selective Service System. *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*, Washington, D.C.: NARA microfilm publication M1509.

18. 1920 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis City, p. 13A (handwritten), enumeration district (ED) 140, dwelling 155, family 307, George Reim; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing NARA microfilm publication T625.

19. 1930 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis City, p. 8B (handwritten), enumeration district (ED) 96-427, dwelling 92, family 184, George Reim; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing NARA, microfilm publication T626.

20. 1940 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis City, p. 1A (handwritten), enumeration district (ED) 96-219, dwelling 9, George A. Reim Sr.; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing NARA Microfilm publication, T627.

21. "U.S. WWII Draft Registration Cards, 1942," George Andrew Reim, 25 April 1942, St. Louis, Missouri; database, *Ancestry*; citing NARA record group number 147.

22. 1950 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis City, p. 9 (handwritten), dwelling 91, George A. Reim; imaged, *Ancestry*; citing Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1913-1/1/1972, *Population Schedules for the 1950 Census, 1950-1950*, Washington, DC.

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