

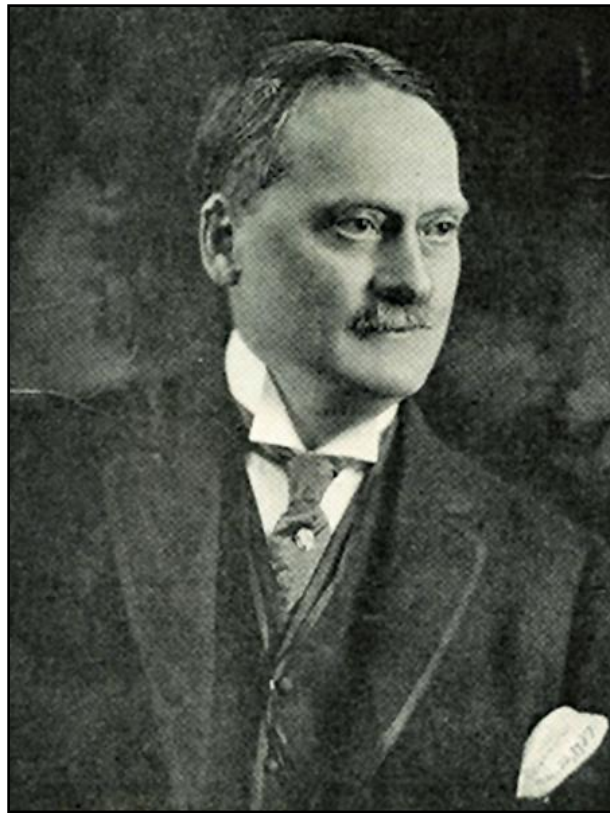


Volume 58 Number 1

St. Louis Genealogical Society

Quarterly

Spring 2025



Follow the career of Irish immigrant to St. Louis, Festus J. Wade, from teenage entrepreneur to prominent real estate broker, banker, and philanthropist. Largely forgotten now, Mr. Wade was a major player in the development of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century St. Louis.

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St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly

Spring 2025



On the Cover

Learn more about a largely-forgotten St. Louisan, who helped bring growth and glory to the city before and after the 1904 World's Fair. Real estate mogul, banker, and philanthropist, Festus J. Wade was a true example of "the American dream." Story begins on page 8.

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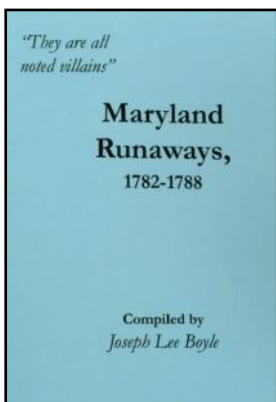
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Publications



M*aryland Runaways, 1782–1788.* Compiled by Joseph Lee Boyle. Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Publishing Co., 2024. 436 pages. Softbound. \$54.00.

Joseph Boyle has compiled another volume of genealogical information from advertisements posted in early colonial and post-colonial newspapers featuring runaway servants, slaves, apprentices, and escaping spouses. This is his fifth book in a series, and it



includes notices from the end of the American Revolution to the beginning of the newly independent country.

As he has done in all his previous books, the author begins with introductory material that explains most of what is to follow. He emphasizes that, as in most facets of genealogy research, spelling does not count. Often, the name of the same person is spelled multiple ways within the same ad or in separate ads for the same person. Some people used multiple names, further confusing their identities.

Mr. Boyle also points out that on 1 March 1780, Pennsylvania passed “the first extensive abolition legislation in the western hemisphere.” The act put a halt to importing slaves into Pennsylvania and declared that children born in the state were to be free, regardless of

their race. Although slavery was not declared illegal, enslaved people in Pennsylvania were emancipated. This new law encouraged runaways from other states to head for Pennsylvania, where many advertisements for them were posted in local newspapers. The author lists approximately two dozen newspapers in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia that he used to compile this volume.

All of Mr. Boyle’s books are fascinating, because they provide us with a snapshot of what life was like for lawbreakers of all varieties, from the downtrodden to the truly desperate, most of whom just wanted a better life. A consistent feature in all the volumes is the emphasis on minute details in the advertisements. One wonders how Henry Holland knew that “an Irish indentured servant lad” named David Dewlen, who was just a teenager, ran off wearing “a red-sailor made jacket, white lining, check shirt, patched with white linen on the back, a striped ticking pair of trousers, shirt and trousers very much worn and patched, a pair of old yarn stockings, a pair of black-grained shoes, with odd buckles, [and] a white wool hat.” (p. 277)

Most of the runaways in this edition appear to be enslaved and indentured men and women, although there are several escapees from prisons and a few women fleeing from bad marriages as well. They carry scars from smallpox, accidents with gunpowder and cannon balls, and consistent mistreatment.

Book Reviews

Some escaped with tools of their trades, such as blacksmith, carpenter, or seamstress. Some were just plain criminals: horse thieves, forgers, murderers, and bail jumpers. Although not intended to be read from cover to cover, this volume paints a grim picture of race and class discrimination that undoubtedly was the impetus for so many to risk their lives to be free.

The book is indexed, so if you had ancestors in this area of the country during this time period, you will definitely want to look here for possible information about them, both the men placing the ads and the runaways mentioned in them. And even if you do not find your own people, reading about the conditions endured by the runaways, and the lengths to which their “owners” went to get them back, is both terribly sad and eye-opening.

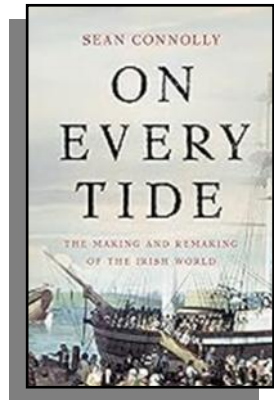
*Reviewed by Ilene Murray,
StLGS Publications Director*

On Every Tide: The Making and Remaking of the Irish World. By Sean Connolly. New York: Basic Books, 2022. 544 pages. Hardcover. \$25.00.

On Every Tide discusses the emigration of the Irish to the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand from the seventeenth century to the present day, addressing various time periods for each geographical area. The author considers how the arriving Irish were received in their new environs, how they did or did not fit into their new surroundings, and the contributions they subsequently made.

In America, for example, the newly arrived Irish were not immediately accepted. Stereotypes of the hard-drinking and fighting Irish were rife among the general American population, and many Irish individuals had to prove themselves worthy of note.

As a political organization, Tammany Hall assisted immigrants, particularly the Irish, and helped them rise in the political system. As a young man became better-liked and better-accepted, he began protecting and promoting others like himself, eventually becoming a ward leader in the organization. By the mid-1800s, such men eventually wielded sufficient political power in their cities to help their countrymen gain grudging acceptance into society.



In Australia, on the other hand, newly arrived Irish were more easily accepted. Many Irish had been sent to penal colonies in Australia and New Zealand for what we would now consider minor offenses. They were more readily welcomed by their new countrymen, many of whom had arrived in the same manner. Consequently, they had an easier time being accepted into Australian society than did their counterparts in America.

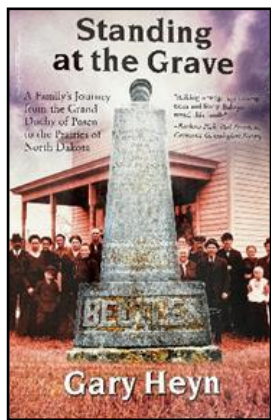
On Every Tide provides an exceptionally good look into what our ancestors faced as they made their way to new lands during a major migration era in global history. The book is a long read at more than 500 pages. I will admit that I read the North American pages more carefully than the others, but I learned something new from the Australia and New Zealand sections as well. I would recommend this book to those who want to gain a better understanding of the tensions and struggles our ancestors, especially our Irish forebears, faced as they became participating citizens of their new homelands.

*Reviewed by Kathy Dickey,
StLGS volunteer*

Book Reviews

Standing at the Grave: A Family's Journey from the Grand Duchy of Posen to the Prairies of North Dakota. By Gary Heyn. Minneapolis: Calumet Editions, 2023. 270 pages. Softcover. \$18.00.

This memoir shares the immigrant story of a “forgotten mother” and the children she raised. Mr. Heyn begins by noting that his ancestor, Anna Christina Schmidt, “whose contributions to the world were destined to remain anonymous,” was born just two months prior to



Victoria Alexandrina, the queen who would later have “the age she lived in named for her.” Drawing parallels between Anna and Victoria in the introduction, the author shows that Anna’s life, although less well-known, was no less important. Opening in 1793, the account that follows is based on facts

about his ancestors’ lives and, he explains, is part nonfiction and part fiction

Mr. Heyn has woven an engaging tale of his ancestors, putting the reader right in the middle of the action as children are born, farms are cultivated, festivals are celebrated, people die, and citizens leave for new worlds. Anna, the matriarch of this family, was born in 1840 in Gembitz Hauland, which was in Germany at the time but later became part of Poland. Anna, who we learn was a very strong woman, eventually gives birth to eleven children, many of whom leave the town where they were born to seek their fortunes in America. Each departure brings heartbreak to Anna as she watches her children travel down the path out of town, understanding that she likely would never see them again. The saga continues with the next generation, exploring the lives of Anna’s children both in the United States and at home in Germany.

The author pulls all the threads of the narrative together in the epilogue when he finds himself in Gembitz Hauland in 2019. Visiting the town where Anna and her family started and grew inspired him to share this story of a woman born on a subsistence farm in Poland and how she now lives on through her descendants on both sides of the Atlantic. Photographs of the family and homestead add to the story.

The author would have benefitted greatly from a good editor, since the narrative occasionally seems to jump between past and present tense in the same paragraph, which made it difficult to follow the story. However, I could envision many of my German ancestors in this time living the same sort of life that Anna and her family had and dealing with similar joys and heartaches. Those with ancestors in Europe during this period will find it an enlightening read.

*Reviewed by Jane Theissen,
StLGS Quarterly editor*

Book Reviews

If a review here piques your interest, you might want to check the publisher’s website for more complete information or to see what else might be available, especially that of Genealogical Publishing Company (www.genealogical.com) which donates many of the books reviewed here.

Many of our donated books are available at the Emerson History & Genealogy Center, Clark Family Branch, St. Louis County Library. Check to see if the book has been cataloged and if it can be borrowed, as some are reference only.

If you’re interested in reviewing books for the *Quarterly*, contact library@stlgs.org or stop by the office to see what is available for review!

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 History and Genealogy Center, now open in its new home at the Clark Family Branch, 1640 S. Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63131.

American Ancestors (New England Historic Genealogical Society)

Vol. 25, no. 3, Fall 2024

- Finding Revolutionary War Patriots in Your Family Tree
- Revolutionary War Lineage Societies: Connecting with the Founding Generation
- The Last Soldier and Widow to Receive Revolutionary War Pensions
- Northern Liberty: How Four Enslaved Women Found a Haven in New Bedford, Massachusetts
- 1623
- Introducing Plymouth County, Massachusetts Freeperson Families in 1790

The Genealogist (American Society of Genealogists)

Vol. 38, no. 2, Fall 2024

- The English Ancestry of Deacon John Doane of Plymouth and Eastham, Massachusetts
- Agnes, Wife of Thomas Throckmorton, MP
- Etienne Belumeau De La Vincendiere, Planter Refugee from Saint Domingue: French Origins and American Descendants
- Mark Penkevell, Catholic Priest, Jesuit Novice, Apostate, and Curate at Blisland in Cornwall
- The Parentage of Ann Inskeep, Wife of John Hussey of New Castle, Delaware
- The English Ancestry of Ellis Barron of Watertown, Massachusetts, Part II
- Mickeys of Delaware and Pennsylvania

Kirkwood Historical Review (Kirkwood Historical Society)

Vol. 63, no. 3, Fall 2024

- W. W. Keysor School
- Disturbing Times: Benjamin Gratz Brown
- Homage to This Fall Season

Kirkwood Historical Review (Kirkwood Historical Society)

Vol. 63, no. 4, Winter 2025

- RADM Courtney Shands, Kirkwood Hero
- George R. Robinson Elementary School
- In Memoriam: Vincent C. Weber Jr.

Missouri Historical Review (State Historical Society of Missouri)

Vol. 119, no. 2, January 2025

- The Missouri Scenic Rivers System and the Origins of the Property Rights Movement
- Journal of a Bombing Mission: B-24 "Blue-D," Italy, 1945, Part 2
- "That's the Pioneer Spirit We Inherited": The Herschends, the Ozarks, and the Rise of Silver Dollar City
- From the Stacks: Research Center—Kansas City: Establishing the Jewish Education Council, 1966–1968

NGS Magazine (National Genealogical Society)

Vol. 50, no. 4, December 2024

- The Genealogical Value of Tax Records
- Expanded Free Access to New Jersey Ratables
- Using Early Ohio Tax Records
- Records of Tax Delinquency
- Taxation During the American Revolution
- DAR and Revolutionary War Supply Taxes
- Irish Tax Records, Part 1: Tithe Applotment Books



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

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

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

Our biographies honor men and women who are famous, such as architect William Bernoudy and poet Sara Teasdale, to people you may recognize by name if you live in our city: 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 of our website <https://stlgs.org/research-2/community/st-louis-biographies>, you will find complete details on how and what to submit. Download a copy of the instruction flyer, and while you are there, take a few minutes to read about the lives of many other individuals who have called St. Louis home.

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

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) and DNA:
Tools for Unlocking Your Past**

St. Louis Genealogical Society
53rd Annual Family History Conference

www.stlgs.org/events/family-history-conference

This StLGS event took place on
Saturday, 3 May 2025 with presenters
Steve Little from the National
Genealogical Society, Josh Brewster
from Family TreeDNA, and Josiah
Schmidt from the Emerson Genealogy
Center.

**Registration is still open to view all 7
recordings and speaker resources!**

Featured Speaker:
Steve Little, AI Program Director for NGS

Jessie Belle Coffee, 1893-1987

By Cindy Finnegan
for the St. Louis City/County Biographies Project

Jessie Belle Coffee was born 17 April 1893 in St. Ferdinand, St. Louis County, Missouri. She was the third of five children born to Daniel H. Coffee and his wife, Anna Jane Martin. After the Civil War, Daniel's family had come to Missouri from Kentucky and Anna's from Tennessee. All of the family members were farmers at that time, and everyone labored to make ends meet. Their sister, Bertha, died of tuberculosis at the age of twenty-seven in 1914 and their only brother, John, was struck and killed by lightning in 1919 at the age of seventeen. The remaining three sisters, Tillie, Addie, and Jessie, were lifelong companions.

Jessie was almost eighteen when she married Joseph Anton "Tony" Webb, age twenty-one. In the 1920 federal census, the couple were farmers, living on Missouri River Bottom Road with daughter, Loraine, age seven, and son, Bob, age four. Jessie's younger sister, Tillie, and her family, were neighbors on one side and her parents, Dan and Anny Coffee, lived on the other.

It was during the early 1920s that Jessie's father decided to try mining in Bethalto, Illinois, and the family went along to help him make a go of it. The mine was successful until accidents involving employees and lawsuits resulted in bankruptcy, and the family returned to Creve Coeur, Missouri. In 1923, Tillie's husband died and, in 1927, Jessie's husband, Tony, was killed in an accident while saving his livestock from a flood along the Missouri River.

Jessie moved her family to Wellston, Missouri, to ensure her children were well-raised and educated. She and Loraine worked at a dime-store in the area where Loraine met Bill Finnegan. In 1930, Loraine and Bill married and began their family of five children.

Jessie's son Bob graduated from Normandy High School and was employed and living with Jessie when World War II erupted. He joined the service and married Faye Mueller. The couple settled in California to raise their two sons.



Jessie Coffee Webb

*Photo in the collection of Cindy Finnegan,
used with permission*

Jessie never remarried but remained a companion to her long-time friend, Claire Johnson.

Resourceful and strong-willed, she labored as a cashier, cook, and rooming house operator for a number of years. She retired from her position in the cafeteria at St. Louis's General Motors plant and continued to supplement her income by facilitating wagering in various sports. She was frugal and would scold a person for not picking up a penny from the ground as "enough pennies found make a dollar." It was this thinking that enabled her to assist her family over the years with the promise that a loan would be repaid.

Jessie passed away on 14 August 1987 at the age of ninety-four and was survived by her daughter, seven grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren. Her family still holds fond memories of gatherings at her apartment on Union, of being encouraged to take some of the old, hard candy from the dish on her table, and the Flintstone glass she used for her nightly "sleeping medicine." She is well remembered as a woman who loved and persevered.

Written by Cindy Finnegan
September 2019

Festus J. Wade: His Life and Legacy

By Paul L. Davies

Festus J. Wade was born on 14 October 1859 in Limerick City, Ireland, the youngest child of Thomas R. Wade and Catherine McDonough.¹ Prior to his birth, the family lived in Catherine's family home, the Inn of Glentane, located in County Galway. In addition to being an "ale house" and store, the Inn of Glentane served as a post office beginning in 1806 while under the occupancy of the family.² With its location on what was then the main road from Dublin to Galway, the inn was a key stopping point for stagecoaches where horses could be changed and travellers could stop for food and lodging.



Inn of Glentane, photographed by the author and used with permission.

The inn itself has a rich history. Theobald Wolfe Tone, the founder of Irish republicanism and leader of the United Irishmen, stated in his biography that an important meeting of the United Irishmen took place in 1792 at the Inn of Glentane.³ Wolfe Tone would later be captured and sentenced to be executed for his role in the Irish Rebellion of 1798, a major uprising against British rule in Ireland.⁴

In addition to running the Inn of Glentane, Festus J. Wade's parents and grandparents were also tenants of the surrounding land that was farmed throughout their occupancy. Events in Ireland can explain why the family ended up in St. Louis. The people of Ireland

suffered devastation during "The Great Hunger" from 1845 to 1852, when the potato crop was infected by blight. Previously, the Irish population lived under appalling conditions, their diet consisting of potatoes as the main staple. With widespread dependency on the potato, survival was reliant upon the success of each year's harvest. Approximately one million people died in Ireland from starvation and disease after successive years of crop failures, leaving the population with little to eat. Many survivors left Ireland out of desperation, most heading to America. The population of Ballymacward, where the Wade family lived, declined by almost forty percent during this period.⁵ Many of those who died were buried in makeshift graves in fields or in mass graves.

By the mid-1850s, the Wades had lost their tenancy, a fate suffered by many tenants who were being evicted by their landlords. Thomas and Catherine Wade moved to Tallanstown in County Louth, where two of their children were baptized in 1855⁶ and 1857.⁷ Two years later, Festus was born in Limerick City. At the time, the family was making immediate plans to immigrate to America. One of Festus's uncles had previously relocated to America and returned to Ireland to help the family make the journey.

Arriving in America

Just four months old, Festus J. Wade arrived, with his parents and four siblings, in New York aboard the *Prinz Albert* on 22 February 1860.⁸ Having survived the three thousand-mile journey across the Atlantic Ocean, they travelled another thousand miles over land to reach St. Louis, Missouri. Like many Irish migrants at this time, they found themselves settling on the north side of the city, in the "Kerry Patch" neighborhood.⁹

The early days in St. Louis were difficult for the Wade family. The 1860 U.S. census lists Thomas R. Wade working as a laborer, with a personal estate of sixty dollars. His four children were all under the age of eight.¹⁰ Just

Festus J. Wade: His Life and Legacy

four weeks after this census was recorded, the youngest daughter, Catherine Mary Wade, died.¹¹ The cause of her death was recorded as diarrhea. She was just four years of age. Despite the hardships and grief endured during these early years in America, the family's outlook would change as a result of the exploits of their youngest child, Festus.



Festus J. Wade, Strauss Photo Studios, photo from the St. Louis Public Library, used with permission.

Chasing the American Dream

Anyone looking for an example of someone who lived the "American Dream," would surely consider Festus J. Wade a great contender. From humble beginnings, Festus embarked on a wide variety of jobs as a child, shaping and developing his business acumen from an early age. He attended public school until the age of ten¹² and then began selling newspapers on the streets of St. Louis.¹³ A job as a cash boy in a local store then followed. By the age of eleven, he was starting to show his business ingenuity. While attending a picnic, he noticed numerous apples on the ground in a nearby orchard that, if left, would rot. He realized that the apples would be worth one dollar a barrel if he could get them to town. He was friendly with a local German grocer with whom he soon struck a deal. The grocer

agreed to loan Festus three dollars and the use of the grocer's cart and obstinate horse, the condition being that Festus would return the horse a week later, cured of its stubbornness. With the loan, he purchased the apples, along with some barrels, and began to transfer the apples to town. Through his shrewd dealings and vision, he made a profit of three dollars. In a 1927 article in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, he recalled

On the way in, the horse got so balky I thought I'd never make it. So, I unhitched him and drove on a horseback ride until he was tired out. That cured him for a little while, and whenever he got balky again, I did the same thing over. By the end of the week, I had cured the horse of his balkiness and sold the six barrels of apples. So I was able to keep my agreement with the German by returning a good horse and repaying the loan, with a profit for myself.¹⁴

Another newspaper article, published in 1921, gave further details of his employment as a teenager.

At 14 he decided to become a carpenter; after working three months at this trade he became convinced he wasn't adapted to it. Then he drove a cart. At 15 he worked as gate keeper at the St. Louis fair. When the gates closed for the season he found employment in a safe manufactory; later he became the driver of an ice wagon. When 17 he made up his mind to become his own boss and began the manufacture of cider, and failed in this venture. Undaunted he became a clerk and paymaster for a contractor on the Wabash railway. His next job was driving a sprinkling wagon, followed up as the driver of a street car.¹⁵

In 1876, Festus was hired as the driver of a Mound City horse car that took riders to the Fairground in north St. Louis. These cars were owned by a businessman and railway contractor named John Scullin.¹⁶ In the future, John would have significant involvement with Fes-

Festus J. Wade: His Life and Legacy

tus through business dealings and later through the marriages of their children.

Festus returned to Fairground in 1879 as a gatekeeper employed by the St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association, located at what is now Fairground Park. Rather than being a step backwards, Festus was quickly appointed as a clerk in the Fairground office.¹⁷ His talents must have been quickly spotted, because in the same year, he was named its secretary while he was also studying part-time at the Bryant and Strattan business school.¹⁸

Learning By Doing

The Fairground was giving him ample opportunities to explore business concepts while learning from mistakes he made along the way. On one occasion, he hired a professional swimmer to stage a swimming exhibition. After successful advertising drew a crowd to the event, a sudden storm ended the show.

At one point, Festus created a guidebook for the St. Louis Zoological Garden located at the Fairground to sell to visitors. He incurred considerable setup costs of \$300, which he covered from his own pocket. The guidebook listed the animals, described their enclosures, and includ-

ed some illustrations. However, zoo visitors were not willing to pay extra for his guidebook after having just paid the cost of the entrance fee. Undeterred and now in significant debt, he realized it would be more profitable to sell advertising space in his guide and then give it away for free to the public. This approach worked, and he was then able to pay off the debt and earn a small profit.¹⁹

On 28 August 1883, Festus married Catherine Virginia Kennedy at St. Bridget of Erin Church²⁰ in St. Louis's Kerry Patch neighborhood, just a short walk down Carr Street from the Wade family home. Festus and Catherine would have four children together: Stella, born in 1886;²¹ Marie, born in 1887;²² Florence, born in 1889;²³ and Festus J. Wade Jr., who was born in 1899.²⁴

Real Estate Dealings

By the mid-1880s, Festus J. Wade had entered the real estate world in collaboration with Lorenzo E. Anderson, a man of the same age, whose mother had emigrated from Ireland in the 1850s.²⁵ Lorenzo was born in New York,²⁶ but at three, he and his mother had



Fairground Park, St. Louis, 1913. Postcard in the public domain.

Festus J. Wade: His Life and Legacy

moved to St. Louis after the death of his father. Festus and Lorenzo formed a business partnership that would last their entire lives. The real estate entities they created were numerous and included L. E. Anderson & Company, Anderson Wade Realty Co., Mississippi Valley Realty Co., and Hammett-Anderson-Wade Real Estate Co. The latter was formed with another prominent St. Louis real estate businessman, Benjamin F. Hammett. Together, these men contributed to the transformation of the St. Louis skyline by purchasing land and erecting high-rise buildings.

Some of the real estate deals in which Anderson and Wade were involved extended beyond St. Louis. In 1906, an organization headed by Festus purchased 1 Wall Street in New York City for \$700,000 and erected the eighteen-story Chimney Building on the site. The building was sold in 1920 for \$1,200,000, described by Wade as the highest figure ever paid at the time for real estate anywhere in the world. It was reported that the group of twenty St. Louisans participating in the deal each earned a profit of \$45,000 (which included rent earned since the original purchase).²⁷

In 1891, Festus J. Wade formed Columbia Realty Co. with Anderson and Hammett.²⁸ The group then erected the third incarnation of The Planter's Hotel on the southeast corner of Eighth and Locust Streets in St. Louis. It was built in the hope that St. Louis would host the Columbian Exposition in 1893, but the event was awarded to Chicago. By 1899, Hammett had been replaced in the company by David R. Francis, the ex-mayor of St. Louis and former governor of Missouri.²⁹

On 1 July 1898, Festus, in his capacity as president of the Anderson-Wade Realty Company, replied to a letter from Pierre Chouteau III, descendant of Pierre Laclède Liguest, the founder of St. Louis. In the letter, Pierre asked Festus to join the planning committee that was to organize a centenary celebration of the Louisiana Purchase, intended to take place in St. Louis in 1903. The Louisiana Purchase

was the United States of America's 1803 acquisition of the territory of Louisiana from the French First Republic for \$15 million. The area stretched from the Mississippi River across middle-America, including land encompassing parts of fifteen current U.S. states and two Canadian provinces, and nearly doubled the size of this country. Festus accepted the offer.

Once planning was underway, the celebration was delayed by a year and would later be called the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. David R. Francis, business partner of Festus at Columbia Realty Company, was appointed president of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, and Festus was appointed a director and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, vice chairman of the Agriculture Committee, and a member of the Souvenir Gold Dollars Committee.³⁰ In addition, he served on the advisory committee for the Irish Industrial Exhibition.

Festus the Banker and the World's Fair

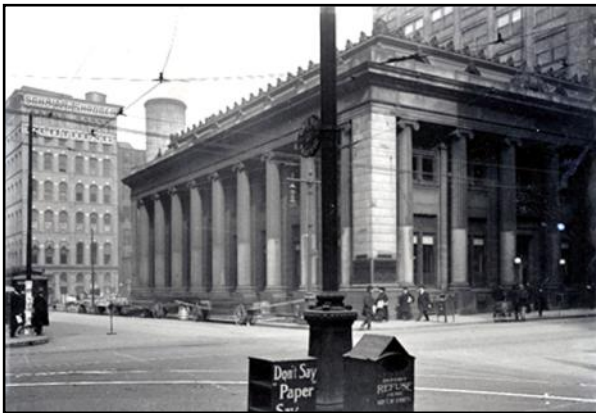
During the planning stages of the St. Louis World's Fair, Festus and Lorenzo made the move into the banking world with the financial support of fellow St. Louis businessmen, including John Scullin, the man Festus had worked for as a driver when he was a teenager. On 16 November 1899, the Mercantile Trust Company was incorporated with a cash capital of \$750,000 and a cash surplus of \$800,000. The stockholders appointed Festus J. Wade its president, Lorenzo E. Anderson its second vice president, and John Scullin one of its directors.³¹

One of the issues identified in planning the World's Fair was a shortage of hotels to cater to the huge number of guests anticipated. Festus was tasked with delivering a luxury hotel within a year. The Hotel Realty Company was incorporated on 24 January 1903, with capital stock of \$600,000 divided into six hundred shares of \$100 each.³² The largest shareholder was Festus J. Wade, who was appointed its president. Within a month of incorporation, the Hotel Re-

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alty Company secured a ninety-nine-year lease agreement for the proposed site on Twelfth Street (now Tucker Boulevard), between Locust and St. Charles Streets. The proposed hotel would be named after founding father and third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson. Prior to designing the Jefferson Hotel, Festus and the architects visited hotels across America for inspiration. They aimed to design a facility that offered a standard of luxury to rival the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City.

Hotel Jefferson was completed in April 1904 and opened to overnight guests on the eve of the World's Fair. Early the following morning, trumpets proclaimed the start of the



Mercantile Trust Building, downtown St. Louis. Photo from the St. Louis Public Library. Used with permission.

procession of the United States Senate party as it departed from the Hotel Jefferson for the Fair at Forest Park. At the opening of the event, the U.S. Secretary of War and future U.S. president, William H. Taft, gave the principal speech in front of more than 150,000 people. The next morning, William H. Taft was entertained for breakfast at the Hotel Jefferson.

Taft was already well-acquainted with Festus. In 1902, Taft was the governor-general of the Philippines. While he was in negotiations with the Vatican over the purchase of the "friar

lands" in the Philippines, Taft travelled to Rome in 1902 to meet Pope Leo XIII and propose the acquisition. Festus would be appointed to join Taft in these negotiations.³³ The two men formed a close, personal friendship over the years, with Festus staying at Taft's home when he had to visit Washington.³⁴

The World's Fair was a resounding success, with approximately twenty million visitors attending.³⁵ At the Fair's closing ceremony, Festus Wade was tasked with presenting an award to David R. Francis, the man responsible for successfully delivering the Fair. During the years leading up to the Fair, the Mercantile Trust Company, of which Festus was president, had become one of the strongest corporations in the west. Its headquarters had been moved from the Columbia building to the newly built Mercantile Trust Building, located on Locust at Eighth Street.

With Festus's business prominence having been established, the Wade family was often featured in high society articles published in the St. Louis press. Festus built a ballroom in the basement of the family home for his eldest daughter, Stella, to host debut parties. In 1904, she was selected as queen of the Veiled Prophet Parade and Ball. A year later, she married the youngest son of John Scullin.

The Federal Reserve and World War I

In addition to the Mercantile Trust Company, Festus Wade created the Mercantile National Bank and was appointed its president.³⁶ The establishment of a national bank offered key advantages over a trust company and presented new business opportunities. A national bank could be a depository for funds from national, state, county, and city governments. A national bank could also issue its own bank notes. For this reason, U.S. bank notes issued by the Mercantile National Bank included the signature of Festus J. Wade.³⁷

The Federal Reserve Act, which created the Federal Reserve System, came into being

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under President Woodrow Wilson in December 1913.³⁸ Festus played a role in its creation, serving as a member of the Currency Commission that drafted the act as well as being involved in meetings directly with President Wilson. During this time, Festus acted as an advisor to U.S. Secretary of the Treasury William G. McAdoo, who was the son-in-law of President Wilson. Festus's involvement was responsible for the location of one of the twelve regional Federal Reserve Banks in St. Louis and another for Missouri in Kansas City. In June 1914, members of the banks of the St. Louis eighth district of the Federal Reserve met and elected Festus J. Wade chairman.

By the summer of 1914, the American cotton industry was experiencing an economic shock due to the drop in European demand for cotton caused by the outbreak of World War I. The crisis was compounded by a bumper cotton harvest in America that year. With low demand and high supply, prices began to tumble. The yearly average per pound price obtained by producers for lint cotton dropped from 12.48 cents in 1913 to 7.33 cents in 1914.³⁹ Farmers sought financial assistance from the national government. Treasury Secretary McAdoo supported a plan devised by Festus which would provide loans to be administered by members of the Federal Reserve Board. A fund of \$135,000,000 was created for the "Wade Plan" to help stabilize the cotton industry.⁴⁰

During World War I, Festus put his efforts into raising funds for two areas. First, he was appointed chairman of the Missouri War Savings Committee, established to promote the sale of U.S. government-issued Liberty Bonds which would raise funds for the war effort. In St. Louis, a War Saving statue was erected at Twelfth & Olive Streets. Its unveiling included a patriotic speech by Festus on 11 April 1918. The statue was designed to last only for the period of the war and was made from a waterproof plaster coated with a bronze paint. Within the pedestal of the statue was a booth

where Liberty Bonds and war savings stamps were sold.⁴¹ Newspapers from the time show numerous large advertisements by Festus promoting the sale of Liberty Loans. He implored the citizens of Missouri to support the war effort as part of their civic duty. In addition, Festus's daughter, Florence, headed the Women's Liberty Loan Committee of the St. Louis Federal Reserve District.⁴²

Festus also set about raising funds for the Red Cross during World War I and was appointed to champion the program in St. Louis. Large sums were raised for the Red Cross, with Festus making a personal donation of \$50,000, the largest single contribution received in St. Louis.⁴³

Festus was also chairman of the American Bankers Association, working for the United States Chamber of Commerce. Established in 1912, the Chamber was formed under then-Secretary of Commerce, William Howard Taft, and remains the largest lobbying group in the United States. Its creation was due to Taft's belief that the "government needed to deal with a group that could speak with authority for the interests of business"⁴⁴ In this role, Festus and a group of American bankers were tasked with identifying ways to improve the world economy after World War I, and Festus attended a conference in Paris in 1920 to assess the economic options available to the United States.

After Festus returned from Paris, he proposed the "Wade Plan," making his view clear:

I am forced to the conclusion the United States has not done its full duty to its allies since the armistice . . . I cannot emphasize too strongly that I would want to put the cancellation of the debt entirely on a business basis aside of charity, and let me add this: Such action upon the part of the people of the United States would prove to all the world, as we all know in America, that the people of the United States never want war, and the friendships it would create throughout the world by such action at

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this juncture would, in my judgement, be worth a great deal more than the \$10,000,000,000 debt cancelled.⁴⁵

His proposal was made under the condition that allies would do the same for other allied nations. It was his belief that this action would result in the restoration and stabilization of foreign exchanges and that writing off the debt would be a greater benefit to the nation. If European economies recovered quickly, they would buy increased quantities of American goods. The profits and productivity gained, and the goodwill created, would be greater for the United States than any return of debt from war loans. Ultimately, the plan was rejected. Allied debt remained and economies struggled around the world.

On 25 September 1920, an article entitled "What Sort of Man Is Festus J. Wade?" appeared in a St. Louis newspaper. Its author was recorded only as "An Irishman." There had been criticism of Festus from fellow Irish after he proposed that allied debt should be forgiven after World War I. The reason for this resentment was that England would be one of the biggest beneficiaries of such action. The author of the article stated that he believed such criticism from fellow Irishmen hurt Festus immensely and that, in his position, Festus could not fulfill his role in the banking world and also be a vocal advocate for an Irish nationalist cause.

What people may not have known about Festus was that Wade family members who remained in Ireland had a growing nationalist reputation. Festus's uncle had been a long-time proponent of home rule in Ireland. The children of two of his cousins were, at the time of the article, serving as officers in the Irish Republican Army. In fact, the home of one cousin was housing one of the most wanted men in Ireland. Even prior to this, Festus had a cousin, Joe Wade, who served with Boer forces in the Anglo Boer War (1899–1902) during which he earned great renown for his involve-

ment in fighting a guerrilla war against the British Army.⁴⁶ When Joe Wade could not return to Ireland, he came to St. Louis, where Festus gifted him a new home on Arco Avenue and provided him employment as a clerk at Mercantile Trust Company.

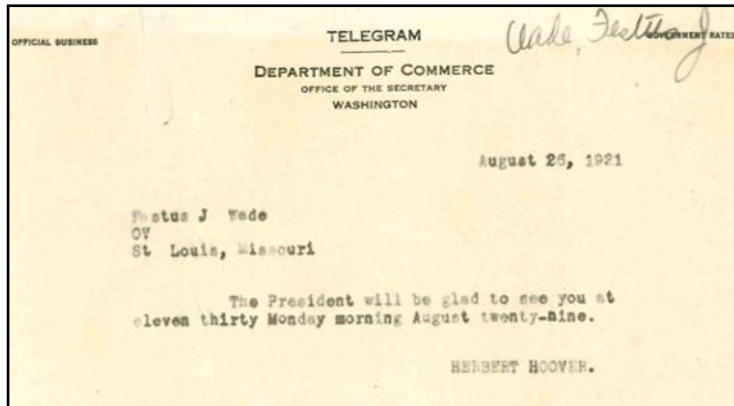
Because the author of "What Sort of Man Is Festus J. Wade?" wrote anonymously and clearly knew Festus, his praise and celebration of Festus's character can understandably be viewed with some cynicism. However, the author made a statement similar to many claims about the wealth accumulated by Festus throughout his life:

It is common habit to estimate Wade as a rich man. He is anything but rich, as we count men rich nowadays. He may be worth \$250,000, which is less than many of his employees are worth. Wade does not care for wealth. Had he cared for it he could be worth millions. He likes to do things. He is proud of his Mercantile Trust, proud that a poor Irish boy, a poor drawer of water, should be able to build the biggest bank west of the Mississippi. He is intensely proud of his officers and employees.⁴⁷

The End of Festus's Life

On 28 September 1927, Festus J. Wade died at the age of sixty-seven.⁴⁸ He had been suffering from throat cancer and in August had been operated on at his home on Lindell Boulevard. Despite appearing to be on the road to recovery, he developed pneumonia and passed away. More than 2,000 mourners attended his funeral at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, and there were 200 honorary pallbearers.⁴⁹ The previous year, Festus had hosted the Roman Catholic contingency from Rome for the cathedral's consecration. He had also raised funds for the cathedral's original construction. The funeral service was conducted by his long-time friend, Archbishop Glennon, who had been at Festus's bedside when he died.

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Telegram from Herbert Hoover to Festus Wade inviting him to meet with the president in August 1921. Photo from St. Louis Public Library. Used with permission.

Obituaries about Festus Wade highlighted his achievements in banking and his generosity to charitable causes. One of the many tributes made to Festus was from soon-to-be U.S. President Herbert Hoover: "Every citizen of St. Louis and the country at large will deeply regret the death of Mr. Wade. He has been one of St. Louis's most constructive citizens, always willing to undertake service in the public interest, and he contributed greatly to the up building of St. Louis and to the rest of the country."⁵⁰

Probably the most poignant praise for Festus J. Wade did not come from a politician or business figure. It came from John Mayer, a doorman at Mercantile Trust Company. When talking to a reporter, John burst into tears sobbing when asked his thoughts on Festus. After a few minutes, he regained his composure. "As God as my judge, I can tell you that this world has never seen Festus Wade's superior as a good and kindly man." He went on to tell the reporter about the earlier death of Sam, an African American porter who had also worked for Mercantile Trust Company. Festus turned up at Sam's home to express his personal sympathies to the family. The family sat alongside Festus and asked if he wasn't Sam's boss. Mr. Wade replied simply, "No, I was not his boss. We

worked together." John continued his story. "I know that Mr. Wade personally handled Sam's small estate for the widow and saw to it that a mortgage on her humble home was cleared."⁵¹

On 30 September 1927, Festus J. Wade was buried in a plot he had purchased in 1891 with his friend and life-long business partner Lorenzo Anderson at Calvary Cemetery and Mausoleum in St. Louis. The two families now share the large plot as well as an impressive grave monument inscribed with both the Wade and Anderson names.⁵²

The Legacy of Festus Wade

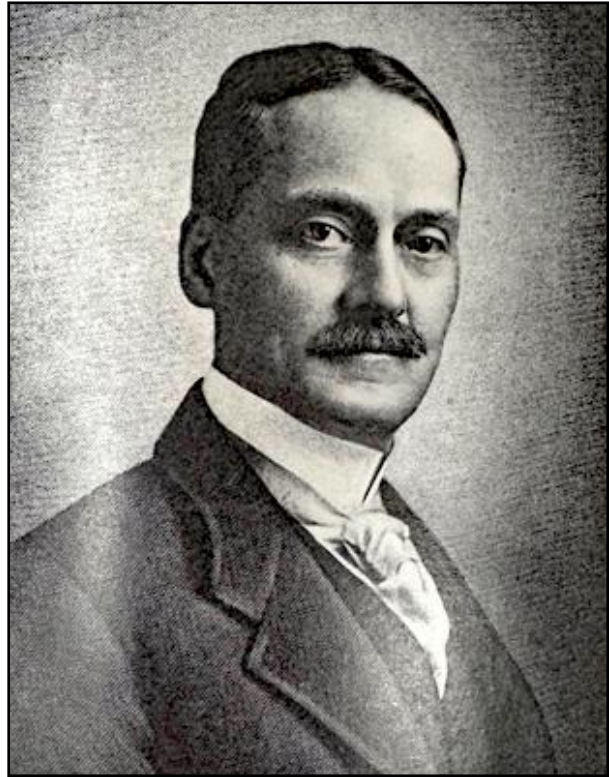
After Festus's death, the reported value of his estate surprised those who presumed Festus had made millions for himself from all his business deals. Wealth generation had never been the driving force in his life. His estate, valued at less than one million dollars, was left to his wife and four children. One of the most successful bankers in the West had not been a millionaire. He left none of his estate to charity but explained in his will: "I leave nothing of charity or philanthropy in this, my will, because I have distributed more than 10 per cent of my income for charitable and philanthropic purposes."⁵³

His personal accounts and numerous newspaper articles support this claim. The beneficiaries of his generosity in St. Louis during his lifetime were numerous and varied. A few of those include the Boy Scouts, Young Men's Christian Association, Knights of Columbus, Red Cross, Irish White Cross, Community Fund, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Convent and Asylum of the House of the Good Shepherd, Little Sisters of the Poor, Jewish Federated Charities, Rev. Timothy Dempsey's Home, Layman's Retreat League, Franciscan Monastery, St. Joseph's Hospital, Mt. Carmel Convent, Central Institute for the Deaf, Police Relief Fund,

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American Legion, the Sisters of St. Mary, Webster College, Salvation Army, and both St. Mary's and St. Anthony's Hospitals. His charity was not just monetary. He also gave much of his time, serving on the executive committee of several charities.

Festus J. Wade's legacy has faded over the ninety-seven years that have passed since his death, his contributions to St. Louis all but forgotten. The Wade School at 2030 South Vandeventer was built in 1929 and named in his honor.⁵⁴ Its name has since been changed. Many of the buildings for which he was responsible in St. Louis have been torn down and replaced. The house in which he lived at 4551 Lindell Boulevard met the same fate after it was purchased by the Catholic Archdiocese. The Hotel Jefferson still stands, as does the Mercantile Trust Building. There is a Wade Avenue just south of Forest Park, and Festus's final home, 4532 Lindell Boulevard, remains, although it now houses a nail bar and spa. With his legacy waning, I hope that articles and books about Festus J. Wade will perpetuate the memory of his life.



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End Notes

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Preparing for a Heritage Tour to Germany

By Tom Nienhaus

After spending countless hours researching your family history and wondering what life was like for your ancestors who decided to leave the old country for America, you may ponder taking a heritage vacation to tour your ancestral lands. I recently decided to make that trip to Germany and explore where my forebears lived, worked, celebrated, and worshipped. It proved to be a fulfilling family heritage journey and a wonderful cultural experience, and it included the opportunity to meet several distant cousins.

The German immigrants to St. Louis in my family were part of my second great-grandparents' generation. The group included twelve people and arrived around the mid-1850s. Here are the steps I followed in preparation for my journey to Germany.

Assess Your Research

A trip like this is expensive, so it is important to have your research in order in advance. Having names, dates, and locations of your ancestors complete and organized is a must. When considering whether to visit a town, determine the probability that your research is correct for that person's town of origin.

Finding the hometown and church your ancestors attended gives you a physical place to visit. It is necessary to know the name and location of each hometown prior to your visit abroad. This information can be found using records in the United States, although not all records that you investigate will include such detail. For example, some U.S. churches I searched documented the name of the couple's parents in the marriage records. I found that once I had the parents' names, I was able to search for them and sometimes find their marriage record in a German church, which provided the town of origin. After doing that for many of my ancestors, I was confident that I had the correct town in those cases.

For other ancestors, I had parents' names but could not locate couples with the exact first names. Perhaps this was due to the tradition of using the middle name as the given name or switching between them. For some, I only had birth years from headstones or census records which had conflicts in the date of birth. I could find records that partially matched, but I could not be 100 percent certain that I had found the correct people. In cases like that, you may decide to omit a town as a destination, as I did in one case. I decided that if I had greater than a fifty percent probability of finding the correct church and town, I would visit the location to see what more I could learn.

To do the research, I took advantage of St. Louis County Library's resources for Catholic¹ and German Evangelical² churches, as well as the lists of clergy on the St. Louis Genealogical Society's website.

- <https://stlgs.org/research-2/congregations/clergy-by-name>
- <https://stlgs.org/research-2/congregations/congregation-index>

The library's guides include a cross reference of the church books to the FamilySearch Library microfilm numbers, which accelerated my discoveries.

Create a List of Emigrants (Auswanderers)

Many, but not all, German towns have local *Heimattmuseums* (hometown museums) that chronicle the town history. Many also have a network of archivists, usually volunteers, who research the civil and church records. Plan on visiting the archives and museums. Sharing information about your family with archivists prior to your arrival gives them a starting point to look for records about your family.

Preparing for a Heritage Tour to Germany

I organized my list by the location where the ancestor had lived. I structured the details on a spreadsheet with their name, year of departure for America, birthdate, a URL for the person's information in FamilySearch or Ancestry.com, what information I was seeking, a general note on the parents of the *Auswanderer*, and information on their passage to America (ship, date, and port of departure). I also included a brief history of what they did on arrival in America. (See below for sample headings.) This list helps keep track of information of importance to your trip and also helps your tour guide, should you choose to use one, to send the relevant information to the archivist.

Auswanderer	Emigration Date	Notes	Taufen	URL Notes	URLs	Information Sought
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Select a Tour Guide or Prepare Your Own Itinerary

You can use a genealogical travel service or plan your own trip to the local city archives in the towns you plan to visit. A custom tour is more expensive but can be worth the money. The trade-off is the time and effort required to find local archivists across multiple towns, establish contact, and arrange meeting times and dates that fit into an itinerary with the logistics of travel, versus the cost of hiring a company to do that work for you. You can locate many genealogy tour guides on the internet or in publications like *German Life*. We chose to use a travel guide,³ settling on an initial itinerary after several video conference calls and email exchanges.

Our considerations in deciding to select a private tour guide included the fact that we did not possess a list of local archivists with whom to make contact, that we did not speak the language and thus required an interpreter, and that we were unfamiliar with the best means of transportation between towns. It was a much

better trip because we had a native German handle the logistics of establishing an itinerary, selecting local hotels, and arranging contact with archivists. A tour guide also provides historical narrative and conversation during the journey which we found preferable to reading from a guide book.

As a less expensive option, you can create a DIY (Do-It-Yourself) itinerary. This requires you to determine if there is a local archive in each location you want to visit. If found, you will need to establish communication with an archivist in each locale and set up an appointment to meet with them once you have finalized an itinerary. Archivists may not speak English, so try to write in both German and English and let the archivist choose the language in which to respond. Exchange email as well as mobile phone numbers, anticipating last-minute alterations to meeting times. Without a guide, you will also be responsible for determining and booking your own in-country hotels and transportation methods between towns.

Share your Auswanderer List with Local German Archivists

You can determine if there is a local archive online by searching for the term "*stadtarchiv*" followed by the name of the town. Some towns we visited did not have local archivists, so we settled on visiting the churches and the town squares in those cities, stopping in the *Rathaus* (city hall) to look for records. Be sure to ask about transcriptions of the handwritten church books and civil records. These are usually not the records that you might come across through internet searches. The archivists are generally happy to photocopy the pages of books and documents relating to your ancestors.

If the *Auswanderer* left Germany without permission, there may be no record of their departure in local archives, in which case the archivists welcome your research to add to

Preparing for a Heritage Tour to Germany

their knowledge. Many archivists are retired from their professional lives and work for the love of what they are doing. Some are not fluent in English, so it helps to have an interpreter if you are not conversant in German. Having a modicum of ability to speak German, especially knowing numbers, helps in genealogy discussions with dates.

If property records exist, the archivist may be able to locate where your ancestors lived or even locate the house, if it is still standing. The archivist may also be able to obtain other information that is not available on the internet, such as property records, wills, and photos of the town as it was when your ancestor lived there, allowing you to photograph surviving structures. We were able to visit an ancestral home, and it was a fascinating experience.

Plan to spend several hours with the archivists to learn about the history of the town and visit the *Heimat* museum. You may also be given tours of the local church your ancestors attended and perhaps even climb into the belfry!

Be Prepared to Tell the Stories of the Immigrants After Their Arrival

Be prepared to share with the archivists the story of your ancestors in America, what their occupations were, who they married, what church they attended, and how many children they had. Just as you are interested in your family's history before they left Germany, the archivists are interested in what happened to them after leaving their hometown. You may discover the reason for their departure in the process.

Prepare for Small Gift Exchanges

You will want to share your contact information with the archivists. Exchanging business cards is a great way to do this, so even if you're retired, spend the money to have some cards printed up with your contact information. Bring along some empty file folders to store copies of printed information you may

receive from the archivists. Note that their paper size of A11 is slightly taller and a bit narrower than our 8-1/2 x 11-inch paper.

Be prepared to exchange gifts such as pins (the kind you can find in airport gift shops). We live in Indianapolis, so we exchanged Indy 500 (Indianapolis 500 Raceway) pins. Many archivists were gracious in gifting books about the town to us, and some exchanged pins of local coats-of-arms. After visiting the *Heimat* museums and churches, be sure to contribute a small cash donation in appreciation for the tour. We found that some churches had booklets describing the church and its history for a small donation (usually three to five euros), although they are not always available in English.

Show your gratitude for the archivists' time and interest by taking them out to dinner at the local town *Biergarten* or restaurant. In addition to expressing your thanks, this time spent together will provide an avenue to continue learning about your ancestors.

Enjoy your Journey Back into Time— Be Prepared for Pleasant Surprises!

One local archivist arranged a visit to the farm where my ancestor was a tenant farmer. The family now living there invited us into their home for a conversation over beer, while allowing us to take photos of the meeting and of their farm. Another surprise was the chance to meet distant cousins. In my case, one cousin was part of the local archivist team, while another was a church custodian.

Lessons Learned

Before leaving for the trip, I already had a well-prepared document on my family genealogy and had communicated my family heritage information to the archivists. To travel light, I only took my iPhone, leaving my MacBook behind. In hindsight, having a larger display, such as a computer or an iPad, would have been useful when viewing family trees. Although I brought a journal for taking notes,

Preparing for a Heritage Tour to Germany

sometimes in the fast-moving conversation and the excitement of discovery, I was unable to keep up my notes during our excursions. I then spent time catching up in the evenings at the hotel. Nor was I prepared for the size and weight of the gifted books we received and had to carry home.

I have since become a member of the research network of the archivists, and we continue to trade information on discoveries in the U.S. and those made in Germany.

Editor's Note

If you had ancestors in the northeast of France, you may want to read about another heritage trip written by StLGS member Joan Koechig and posted in our weekly blog, StLGS News Flash, in February 2025. You can read Joan's essay at <https://stlgs.blogspot.com/2025/02/visiting-ancestral-town-in-france.html>.

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. Christine Human Hughes, compiler, *Guide to St. Louis Catholic Archdiocesan Parish Records*, revised edition (St. Louis, Missouri: St. Louis County Library, 2015).

2. *Guide to German Evangelical congregations related to the United Church of Christ in St. Louis City and County*, revised edition (St. Louis, Missouri: History and Genealogy, St. Louis County Library, 2018).

3. *Research and Travel*, (2024) (<https://www.research-and-travel.de/>).



Schwerin Castle, Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany. Image from Wikimedia Creative Commons, submitted by Moahim, 6 August 2018, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2018_-_Schweriner_Schloss_-_1.jpg

Laura “Lollie” Whittemore, First Love of Charles M. Russell, “Cowboy Artist”

By Shirley Wadell

Sometimes researching a lost photograph uncovers an unexpected bit of broader history. Such was the case with a black-and-white image that found its way to the St. Louis Genealogical Society. We hope to find a family member who might wish to claim this beautiful photo.

On the back of this picture, written in cursive, is the notation, “Lollie Edgar, St. Louis, Strauss Photo, 1818 Franklin Ave, St. Louis, Missouri.” A likely time frame for the photograph is 1880–1885, and Lollie appears to be between thirteen and sixteen years old, suggesting a possible birth year between 1864 and 1869. Lollie has dark hair, an oval face with puffy cheeks, and dark eyes. Her clothing consists of a shirt with a white Peter Pan collar and a large dark bow tied around her neck. Several big white buttons adorn the front of her frock. She has a sweet, innocent expression.

Some preliminary research indicated that “Lollie” could be a nickname for Laura and that the Lollie Edgar in the photo might be the young woman believed to have been the first serious love of Charles M. Russell, the famed American “Old West” artist. This fact was confirmed on a website detailing the women who influenced Russell’s art and life.¹

Charles M. Russell (also was known as C. M. Russell, Charlie Russell, and “Kid” Russell) was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on 19 March 1864 and died in Great Falls, Montana, on 24 October 1926. Often referred to as the “cowboy artist,” he is well-known for his paintings of the American old west.² But how and where did Charlie and Lollie meet?

At the age of sixteen, in approximately 1880, Charlie left school and traveled to Montana to work on a sheep ranch. At about the same time, Lollie and her parents, also having left Missouri, were living on a ranch in Deer Lodge, Montana, where, in the 1 July 1880 *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, Edgar was



Laura “Lollie” Edgar, photo in the collection of StLGS, used with permission.

described as a wool grower.³ The ranch is apparently where Charlie and Lollie met and fell in love. The relationship was discouraged by Lollie’s parents, however, to the extent that Lollie’s father moved his family back to St. Louis in 1884. But Charlie’s love for Lollie did not diminish, and he executed three paintings with her as the subject. The first, painted in 1890, was called “Girl in Pink.” The second, “Lolly,” was painted in approximately 1892. The third artistic endeavor inspired by his muse was entitled “The Capture of Laura Edgar” and was a fantasy portraying Lollie being captured by Indians, a painting completed in 1894. (See page 24.) When Lollie and her family returned to St. Louis, her romance with Charlie ended. She went on to marry Robert Blackwell Whittemore Jr. on 23 April 1890 in

Laura “Lollie” Whittemore, First Love of Charles M. Russell, “Cowboy Artist”

St. Louis.⁴ Charles Russell married Nancy Cooper in 1896.⁵

Lollie Edgar’s Early Life

The U.S. federal census in 1880 for Deer Lodge, Montana, listed Lollie as Laura Edgar, age eleven, born in Missouri, living with her parents, W. B. (William Boyce) Edgar, age thirty-five, born in Missouri, occupation sheep husbandry; and his wife, Elizabeth Edgar, age thirty-two, born in Missouri.⁶ Other household members included William Hopkins, age twenty-one, a sheep herder, who was possibly Elizabeth’s brother.

Further searching showed another 1880 federal census enumeration for Lollie. This one, dated 11 November, was in St. Louis, just a few months after the one in Montana. Here, she appeared as an eleven-year-old, living with her uncle, William R. Pye, age sixty-one, widowed, and a merchant. Also in the household were her mother, Elizabeth H. Edgar, age thirty-two, the married niece of William R. Pye; Elizabeth’s sisters, Fanny P. Hopkins, age twenty-nine, and Lulu H. (Louisa Hopkins) Chapman, age twenty-six; Lulu’s husband, Benjamin G. Chapman, age thirty; and three servants. They lived at 2929 Pine Street.⁷ Elizabeth’s husband was not listed living at this residence.

Ten years prior, William B. Edgar, his wife and daughter Laura were listed on the U.S. 1870 federal census living in Carondelet, a neighborhood in St. Louis, with Edward Rice and his wife, Fanny. William’s occupation was a “cotton factorist.” In addition, three others resided in this house: Rhoda Deacon, a cook; Thomas Dates, a laborer; and Catharine Lyons, a nurse.⁸

Laura as an Adult

Laura Edgar married Robert B. Whittemore Jr. on 23 April 1890 in St. Louis,⁹ Both Laura and Robert were from there. Ten years later, in 1900, the Whittemore family was renting a house in St. Louis. The 1900 federal census shows Robert B. Whittemore Jr., age thirty-seven, and his wife, Laura E. Whittemore, age thirty, had six children: Edgar, age nine; Katherine, age seven; Bettie, age five; Robert B., age three; Eunice, age two; and Wayman, age four months.¹⁰ The census showed Robert working as an insurance agent, and the Whittemore family was living at 5750 Vernon.¹¹

Laura and her husband had moved to 4389 West Pine Boulevard by 1920 where they were renting a house. Robert continued to work as an insurance agent, and their grown children all resided with them. Edgar



*"The Capture of Laura Edgar"
by Charles Russell
Oil painting, 1894
Image in the public domain*

Laura “Lollie” Whittemore, First Love of Charles M. Russell, “Cowboy Artist”

was twenty-eight years old, Katherine was twenty-seven, Robert B., was twenty-three, Eunice B. was twenty-one, and Wayman was nineteen years of age. Their daughter Betty was twenty-five and was married to M. Scott Gardner, age thirty-three.¹²

In April 1940, Robert B. Whittemore, age seventy-seven, an insurance agent, and his wife, Laura, age seventy-one, were enumerated at a home they owned at 7 Black Creek Lane in Ladue. Their forty-year-old son, Wayman and his wife, Mary, age thirty, along with Mazzie Leamon, a maid, were also living there. Robert had worked fifty-two weeks in the previous year but also had other sources of income. Their home was valued at \$17,500. Living next door was their daughter, Betty W. Gardner, her husband, M. Scott Gardner, and their fourteen-year-old son, M. Scott Jr.¹³

Robert died on 15 October 1944. His obituary appeared in the following day's *St. Louis Star and Times*:

R. B. WHITTEMORE—Robert Blackwell Whittemore, 81-year-old insurance broker, died yesterday at this home, 7 Black Creek lane, Ladue, after an illness of several months. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Laura E. Whittemore; three sons, Edgar and Robert B., both of St. Louis, and Lt. Wayman, U.S.N.R., stationed at Pensacola, Fla., and three daughters, Mrs. Bryant F. Winston, and Mrs. M. Scott Gardner, both of St. Louis, and Mrs. John Francis Brown, Providence, R.I.¹⁴

According to Robert's Missouri death record, the cause of his death was prostate cancer. He was still living at 7 Black Creek Lane, and the informant was his son, Robert B. Whittemore. The elder Robert's parents are recorded on his death certificate as Robert B. Whittemore, born in Astoria, Long Island, New York, and Katherine Levering, born in Springfield, Illinois.¹⁵

Laura appeared on the 1950 U.S. census taken in April, living with her son, Robert

Whittemore [sic], a widower, age fifty-four, and his twenty-two-year-old daughter Ann at the home in Ladue. He worked as a purchasing agent for an aircraft company.¹⁶

Laura's obituary in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* was published on 8 August 1950:

LAURA EDGAR WHITTEMORE FUNERAL HERE TOMORROW – Funeral services for Laura Edgar Whittemore, widow of Robert B. Whittemore, St. Louis insurance broker, will be at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning at the Lupton undertaking establishment, 7233 Delmar boulevard, University city. Services will be private. Burial will be in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Mrs. Whittemore, 82 years old, died Sunday of a heart ailment at the home of a son, Robert B. Whittemore, at Long Island, Va., where she had made her home since last spring. She formerly lived at 7 Black Creek lane, Ladue. Surviving also are two other sons, Edgar Whittemore, 5736 McPherson avenue, and Wayman Whittemore, East Aurora, N.Y.; three daughters, Mrs. Bryant F. Winston, 934 Audubon drive, Clayton; Mrs. M. Scott Gardner, 5 Black Creek lane, Ladue; and Mrs. John Francis Brown, Providence, R.I.; and two sisters, Mrs. Joseph Pulitzer, wife of the editor of the *Post-Dispatch*, and Mrs. Gerard B. Allen, 4632 Maryland avenue.¹⁷

A similar obituary appeared in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* on the same day.¹⁸ Laura's Virginia death record, dated 6 August 1950, noted her cause of death as congestive heart failure and arteriosclerosis together with hypertensive heart disease.¹⁹ She died at Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg. Her parents were listed as William B. Edgar and Elizabeth Hopkins.

If you are interested in claiming the original photograph of Laura “Lollie” (Edgar) Whittemore, please email Ilene Murray, publications director of the St. Louis Genealogical

Laura “Lollie” Whittemore, First Love of Charles M. Russell, “Cowboy Artist”

Society, at publications@stlgs.org or call the society office at 314-647-8547.

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. “Art Gallery: The Women in Charles M. Russell’s Life and Art,” *Cowboys and Indians* (www.cowboysindians.com/2018/08/art-gallery-the-women-in-charles-m-russells-life-art/).

2. “Charles Marion Russell,” *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Marion_Russell).

3. “Local News,” *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, Diamond City, Montana,, 1 July 1880, p. 3, col. 2, Mr. William Edgar; imaged, *Newspapers.com* (<https://newspapers.com>).

4. St. Louis (city) Recorder, Marriage Records, v. 39, p. 366, no. 35793, Robert B. Whittemore and Laura Edgar, 23 April 1890; imaged, “Missouri, County Marriage, Naturalization, and Court Records, 1800–1991,” *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org>), image 190; citing Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

5. “Charles Marion Russell,” biography, Norman Rockwell Museum, *Illustration History* (<https://illustrationhistory.org/artists/charles-marion-russell>).

6. 1880 U.S. census, Deer Lodge County, Montana, population schedule, Deer Lodge, E.D. 12, p. 177A (stamped), family 63, Laura Edgar in the household of W. B. Edgar; imaged *Ancestry.com* (<https://ancestry.com>); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, no roll number.

7. 1880 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, E.D. 350, p. 9 (penned), p. 291A (stamped), dwelling 50, family 56, Laura Edgar in the household of William R. Pye; imaged, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication T9, no roll number.

8. 1870 U.S. census, St. Louis County, Missouri, population schedule, Carondelet township, p. 111 (penned), dwelling 775, family 833, Laura Edgar in the household of Edward Rice; imaged, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication M593, no roll number.

9. St. Louis (city) Recorder, Marriage Records, v. 39, p. 366, no. 35793, Robert B. Whittemore and Laura Edgar, 23 April 1890.

10. 1900 U.S. census, St. Louis County, Missouri, population schedule, E.D. 128, St. Ferdinand township, p. 16 (penned), dwelling 277, family 297, Laura E. Whittemore in the household of Robert B. Whittemore Jr.; imaged, *Ancestry.com*; citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 888.

11. 1910 U.S. census, City of St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, Ward 28, E.D. 445, p. 11A (penned), dwelling 198, family 212, Laura E. Whittemore in the household of Robert B. Whittemore; imaged, *Ancestry.com*; citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 823.

12. 1920 U.S. census, City of St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, Ward 23, E.D. 452, p. 7B (penned), dwelling 83, family 121, Laura Whittemore in the household of Robert B. Whittemore; imaged, *Ancestry.com*; citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 959.

13. 1940 U.S. census, St. Louis County, Missouri, population schedule, E.D. 95-58, Ladue, p. 11A (penned), visited no. 207, Laura E. Whittemore in the household of Robert B. Whittemore; imaged, *Ancestry.com*; citing NARA microfilm T627, roll 2148.

14. Obituaries, *St. Louis Star and Times*, 16 October 1944, p. 18, col. 2, R. B. Whittemore; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

15. “Death Certificates, 1910–1972,” Robert B. Whittemore, 1944, *Missouri Digital Heritage* (https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1944/1944_00035377.PDF).

16. 1950 U.S. census, St. Louis County, Missouri, population schedule, E.D. 95-141, Ladue, p. 17 (penned), dwelling 146, Laura Whittemore in the household of Robert Whittemore; imaged, *Ancestry.com*; citing NARA microfilm T628, roll 6190.

17. “Laura Edgar Whittemore Funeral Here Tomorrow,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 8 August 1950, p. 15, col. 5; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

18. “R. B. Whittemore’s Widow Dies at 82,” *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 8 August 1950, p. 4, col. 3; imaged, *Newspapers.com*.

19. “Virginia, U.S., Death Records, 1912–2014,” certificate no. 17534, Laura Edgar Whittemore, 6 August 1950; imaged, *Ancestry.com*; citing *Virginia, Deaths, 1912–2014*, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond.

Cousins, Cameras, and Beyond

By Jana Proske

Blue or brown eyes, red or brown hair. Geneticists have determined which physical traits are recessive and which are dominant. But what about hobbies and interests? Can they be inherited? Can they skip generations and pop out in, say, fourth cousins?

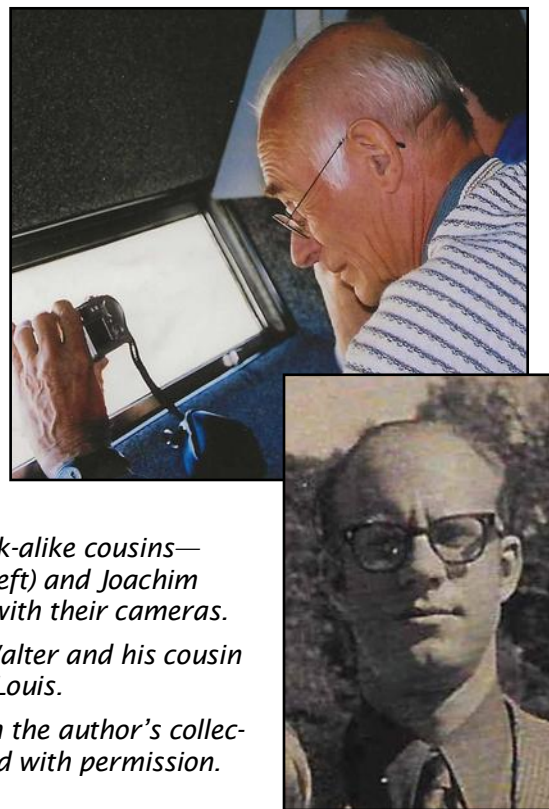
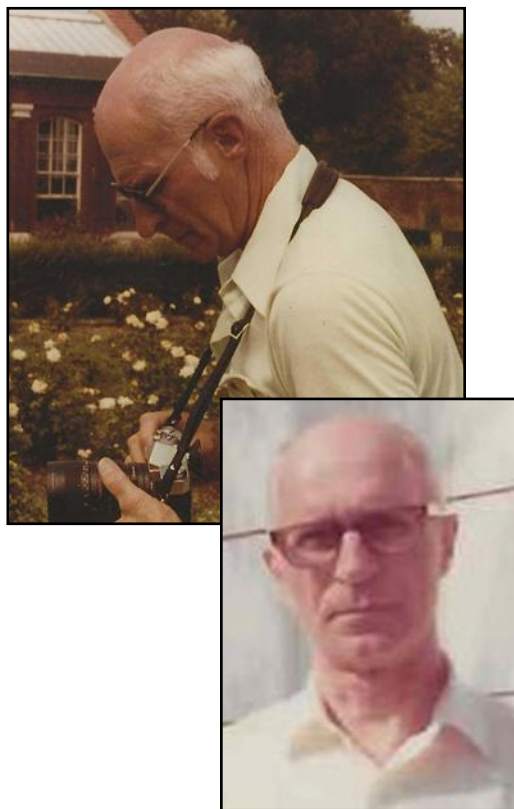
As a result of typing “Proske” into a Google search box in 2000, I discovered my father’s fourth cousin in Germany. Not only did my father, Walter Proske, and his cousin, Joachim Proske, resemble one another—they were also both photography buffs. This was not overly surprising because many people are interested in photography. What was notable is that they both collected old cameras. What are the odds that fourth cousins would zoom in on the same aspect of their hobby—the historic? Coincidence? Maybe.

Then there was Ed. Edward Otto Proske was my father’s half-first cousin, once removed.

Both were radio men. Walter was the radio man on board a U.S. Navy minesweeper in World War II and later he had fun with CB radios. Ed held a ham radio license for seventy-five years and played tuba and bass fiddle; Walter played violin and cello. Both men repaired stringed instruments. Ed was ten years older than Walter. To my knowledge, these men never met as adults.

Ed’s son, Edward Louis Proske, was Walter’s half-second cousin. They shared two hobbies: bee-keeping and gardening. They never met. Walter’s grandfather, Louis Herman Proske, was also a gardener. If the penchant for invention can be a genetic trait, it is also hanging on the Proske family tree. Three Proskes patented their ideas—two half-brothers and their German cousin.

Are hobbies, interests, and occupations repeated in your family? If so, you may be in-



Top: Look-alike cousins—Walter (left) and Joachim Proske, with their cameras.

Below: Walter and his cousin Edward Louis.

Photos in the author’s collection; used with permission.

Cousins, Cameras, and Beyond

terested in a field which studies this phenomenon: "Behavioral genetics." (It is also sometimes called "Psychogenetics.")

Behavioral genetics is "the study of the influence of an organism's genetic composition on its behavior. . . ." ¹ The Institute for Behavioral Genetics at the University of Colorado-Boulder is only one of several research organizations devoted to this topic. A survey of more than 2,200 users of the genealogy resource *FindMyPast.com* discovered "as many as seventeen percent [of Britons] find they are actually choosing family trades without realising it." ² This is not a definitive study, but scholars are delving into this topic as shown in this excerpt from the abstract of a scholarly article:

The findings suggest that interests cannot easily be considered as a byproduct of the interactions between personality genotypes and the environmental influences but rather as an internal regulation of behavior with an [*sic*] own genetic basis. ³

Do you and your second cousin twice-removed have the same hobby? Did your great-grandfather collect coins and so do you? And did you both—unwittingly—concentrate on the same type of coins? Half dollars, maybe? Then in addition to taking a look at your family tree to see if there are other overlaps in interests, you may also want to read more about this topic. (See the short bibliography in the next column.) More importantly, have fun with your hobby—especially if it is genealogy. If you are really lucky, someone on your tree may have been interested in your family histo-

ry before you. Maybe your great-grandfather's brother collected information on your family and produced a priceless little book. In the Proske family, it was Uncle Theodore who produced his "black book" (it was bound in black leather) of invaluable biographical data. May you be so lucky!

Read All About It

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3. C. Kandler, W. Bleidorn, R. Riemann, A. Angleitner, F. M. Spinath (2011), "The genetic links between the big five personality traits and general interest domains," *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 37(12), 1633–43 (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0146167211414275>).



The Boston Evening Transcript: A “New” Genealogical Resource

By Judy Belford

The *Boston Evening Transcript* was a daily afternoon newspaper in Boston, Massachusetts, published for more than a century from 24 July 1830 to 30 April 1941. In 1876, at the suggestion of Oliver Wendell Holmes, the *Boston Evening Transcript* began a Department of Notes and Queries, taking requests from readers across the country who were looking for genealogical information. By 1894, the queries became so numerous that a separate section was devoted to them. This section appeared, sometimes twice a week, at other times daily, until 1941 when the *Transcript* stopped publication. A wealth of genealogical material was printed: queries, answers, copies of gravestone inscriptions, abstracts of probate records and deed books, and even completed genealogies.

Locally, the St. Louis Public Library had a collection of newspaper articles that had been clipped and pasted on various types and weights of paper. The material was deteriorating rapidly when it was given to the St. Louis Genealogical Society (StLGS) in the 1980s. Our volunteers, using a cut-and-paste process, assembled the articles alphabetically into 6,462 pages based on the most prominent name in each article. They then created a separate, every-name index.

These pages were stored in three-ring looseleaf binders at the StLGS office for many years. Unfortunately, some previous researchers enjoyed the pages so much they took them home. As a result, nineteen pages are missing from the collection. In 1998, all the available pages plus the index were bound into twenty-one volumes. The books are available for review in the Reference Room at the StLGS office, and also at the St. Louis County Library.

Microfilm copies of the actual articles are available at the St. Louis Public Library. Note that the microfilm is in chronological order, not alphabetical.

The *Boston Transcripts* have been a favorite tool for thousands of researchers over the years. In my own research, I found some entries to be accurate and others that proved to be guesswork. Still, it is interesting to look back into genealogical research in a time before the internet.



“Genealogical” page, Boston Evening Transcript, 15 November 1915.

Heirlooms Looking for a Home: Butkiss/Briggs and Fisbeck Families

By Shirley Wadell

St. Louis Genealogical Society (StLGS) has received a box of family keepsakes from Michael “Mike” Daniel Briggs. Having no descendants to claim these family heirlooms, he decided to give them to the organization in hopes of locating a family member who would be interested in claiming them.

Most of the items in this collection were owned by Wilmeth May (Fisbeck) Butkiss/Briggs (1908–1995);¹ her mother, Wilhelmina “Minnie” (Briggs) Fisbeck (1882–1941);² or Minnie’s aunt, Esther Noe (Briggs) Creswick (1888–1964).³ These objects include journals, Bibles, scrapbooks, a keepsake book of college notations from friends, a photo album, story and poem books, a hymn book, and a funeral book. As you can see in the photo below, most of these objects are either crumbling or in stages of deterioration.

Two of Minnie’s scrapbooks contain her 1902–1903 and 1919–1936 handwritten journals. In addition, there are obituaries, newspaper articles, comic strips, and other bits and pieces. Both scrapbooks are in poor condition.

A book of college reminiscences from friends has several handwritten verses addressing Minnie Briggs. For example:

8 July 1902
Quincy, Ill.



Minnie is your name
single is your station
happy be the little man
that makes the alternation.
Your friend George E. Hoffmann

This keepsake book is from Minnie Briggs’s years at Gem City Business College (GCBC), Quincy, Illinois, from 1901 to 1904.

There are several books which were gifted to these women as well. A children’s novel is entitled *The Water Babies, A Fairy Tale for a Land Baby* (1892), by Charles Kingsley. Inside the book is written “Miss Minnie Briggs, with best wishes from Jo Main, teacher, 1893–4” and “Miss Wilmeth Fisbeck.” *Abide with Me* (1906) by H. F. Lyte, contains religious poems with colorful illustrations. Written inside the book: “To Mrs. Noe from Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Jackson, Xmas 1906.” *A Wish for You* includes poetry by Shakespeare, Tennyson, Longfellow, and others, with an inscription which reads, “A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 1911, to Aunt Persila.” Another book in this collection, *The Greatest Thing in the World* (1890) by Henry Drummond, is in poor condition.

Additionally, there are two Bibles. One is dated 1873 with an inscription, “Presented to her by her mother for learning 12 golden texts, and the golden text for the quarter endings—Christmas Day 1892.” The other is dated 1869 and is in poor condition. It has Esther Noe’s name and address written inside. Tucked in this Bible are two loose pages of handwritten birth and death dates for family members. Other books in this collection are *Methodist Hymns*, embossed with Esther Noe’s name on the front, and Mrs. Minnie Fisbeck’s funeral guest book, which includes information on her funeral and visitors’ signatures.

Also in this box is John William Fisbeck’s leather wallet, embossed with his name and containing his “True American Identification” card showing his residence to be

Heirlooms Looking for a Home: Butkiss/Briggs and Fisbeck Families

3439 Wisconsin in St. Louis, Missouri. Another item is a small purse protecting a lock of hair that contains no identification.

Michael D. Briggs, who mailed this box of heirlooms to StLGS, was the son of Michael John Butkiss⁴ and Wilmeth May (Fisbeck) Butkiss.⁵ Michael J. and Wilmeth were married on 21 June 1941 in Wayne County, Michigan.⁶ Both had previously been married and divorced. There were no children from either of those prior marriages.

Michael John Butkiss was born on 10 June 1901 in Brooklyn, New York, and died on 17 January 1993 in Bellevue, Washington, at the age of ninety-one. Wilmeth May (Fisbeck) Butkiss was born on 7 January 1908 in St. Louis, and died on 4 July 1995 in Bellevue, at the age of eighty-seven. In May 1953, Michael J. moved his family to California from Detroit, Michigan, opening "Paints, Wall Paper, Draperies and Equipment Rental," located at 307 North Citrus Avenue in Covina, California. On 19 December 1958, the family changed their surname from



John W. and Minnie Fisbeck

Butkiss to Briggs.⁷ By 1982, the family was living in Bellevue, Washington.

Wilmeth's parents were John William Fisbeck (1885–1962)⁸ and Wilhelmina Mae "Minnie" Fisbeck (1882–1941).⁹ The surname Fisbeck is sometimes spelled Fischbeck and/or Fishbeck. Minnie's Missouri death record noted that she was born on 30 January 1882 in Beverly, Illinois, and that she died on 19 January 1941.¹⁰ Her parents were listed as Thomas Briggs and Georgina Noe. Minnie's husband, John W., was the informant, living at 3445 McKean Avenue. She was buried at Sunset Burial Park in Affton.¹¹

If anyone is interested in claiming this box of family heirlooms for the Butkiss/Briggs and Fisbeck families, 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.



Wilmeth (Fisbeck) Briggs

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. *Find a Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/11026955/)

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wilmeth-may-briggs), "Wilmeth May Fisbeck Briggs" (1908–1995) memorial created by Carolyn Farnum with gravestone image by "Mary D"; citing Sunset Hills Memorial Park Cemetery, Bellevue, King County, Washington.

2. *Find a Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/134025399/wilhelmina-mae-fisbeck), "Wilhelmina Mae 'Minnie' Briggs Fisbeck" (1883–1941) memorial and gravestone image created by "frankseyffardt"; citing Sunset Memorial Park and Mausoleum, Affton, St. Louis County, Missouri.

3. *Find a Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/27469735/esther-noe-creswick), "Esther Noe Briggs Creswick" (1888–1964) memorial created by DL James with and gravestone image created by Deana Van Voorhis Wolff; citing Oakwood Cemetery, Alton, Madison County, Illinois.

4. *Find a Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/11026954/michael-john-briggs), "Michael John Briggs" (1901–1993) memorial created by Carolyn Farnum with gravestone image by "Mary D"; citing Sunset Hills Memorial Park Cemetery, Bellevue, King County, Washington.

5. *Find a Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/11026955/wilmeth-may-briggs), "Wilmeth May Fisbeck Briggs" (1908–1995) memorial created by Carolyn Farnum with gravestone image by "Mary D"; citing Sunset Hills Memorial Park Cemetery, Bellevue, King County, Washington.

6. "Michigan, U.S. Marriage Records, 1867–1952," database with images, *Ancestry.com*, marriage license no. 247911, Michael J. Butkiss and Wilmeth Fisbeck (1941); citing "Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867–1952," 82 Wayne 246600–249899, Michigan Department of Community Health, Division of Vital Records and Health Statistics; Lansing.

7. Superior Court of Los Angeles, California, Name Change for Michael John Butkiss, his wife, Wilmeth May Butkiss, and their son, Michael Daniel Butkiss, changing their surname to BRIGGS (1958). This document was included in the box of heirlooms.

8. *Find a Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/134025337/

www.findagrave.com/memorial/134025337/ john-william-fisbeck), John William Fisbeck (1885–1962) memorial and gravestone image created by frankseyffardt; citing Sunset Memorial Park and Mausoleum, Affton, St. Louis County, Missouri.

9. *Find a Grave*, imaged gravestone for "Wilhelmina Mae 'Minnie' Briggs Fisbeck" (1883–1941).

10. "Deaths," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 20 January 1941, p. 17, col. 3, Minnie Fisbeck; imaged, *Newspapers.com* (www.newspapers.com).

11. *Find a Grave*, imaged gravestone for "Wilhelmina Mae 'Minnie' Briggs Fisbeck" (1883–1941).



More of the heirloom collection from the Butkiss/Briggs-Fisbeck families.

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

New Members

The following members joined between 1 January and 31 March 2025.

Welcome!

Lisa Aloisi	Brightwaters, NY	Ann Hymel	Perrysburg, OH
Philip Aschoff	Buffalo Grove, IL	Kellie Johnson	Canton, OH
Joan Aslin	Florissant, MO	Margaret Kenaga	Damascus, OR
Laura Dierberg Ayers	Ballwin, MO	David Kersting	Chesterfield, MO
James Balogh	St Louis, MO	Thomas Kraft	Lake St Louis, MO
Thomas Barrett	Columbia, IL	Kevin Kruger	St. Louis, MO
Clifford Bischoff	Florissant, MO	David Krygiel	St. Louis, MO
Carol Brickman	Florissant, MO	Brenda Lang	Gardner, KS
Mark Brune	Wentzville, MO	Kevin Langford	Ellisville, MO
Sue Burford	St Louis, MO	Rachel Lynch	St. Peters, MO
Laurie Burian	O'Fallon, MO	Lisa Matocq	Sacramento, CA
Nancy Butters	Lexington, MA	Kathleen McFarland	Florissant, MO
Theodore Bynum	Vacaville, CA	Katie McGovern	New London, MO
Cynthia Calloway	Eureka, MO	David Meek	Phoenix, AZ
Michele Chapman	St. Louis, MO	Don Meyer	Covington, KY
Jennifer Coile	Hollister, CA	Laurie Miller	St. Louis, MO
Lisa Cole	Kansas City, MO	Julia Miller	St. Louis, MO
Jim Combs	Vancouver, WA	Marsha Mulherin	St. Louis, MO
James C. Cooper	Kirkwood, MO	Jeanine Oberg	Morrison, MO
Michael Copple	St. Louis, MO	Jim Petzel	Wentzville, MO
Dan Creech	St. Louis, MO	Brian Price	Fulton, MO
Pat Casey Daley	Murfreesboro, TN	Karen Rader	Chesterfield, MO
Cheri Dryer	Liberty, MO	Joanne Reed	Jefferson City, MO
Linda Duffield	Orcas, WA	Lynn Reznicek	St. Louis, MO
Amanda Eiting	Hillsboro, MO	Marcia Riley	Saint Paul, MN
Mary Judith Estes	Fenton, MO	Katherine Riley	St. Louis, MO
Lynn Field	Holland, MI	Mary Ringwald	Norfolk, VA
Wendy Fischer	Wayzata, MI	Tim Roberts	St. Louis, MO
Joseph Flaig	Fairfax Station, VA	Catherine Rotter	Greenwood Village, CA
Patricia Flood	St. Louis, MO	Mel Rueppel	Salem, OR
Erin Garcia	Austin, TX	John Scott	Tucson, AZ
Carole Goggin	Rolla, MO	Deborah Sellmeyer	St. Peters, MO
Kim Gordon-Moore	Columbia, IL	Lena Seng	Spanish Fork, UT
John Hamilton	Chesterfield, MO	Randal Shasserre	Springfield, IL
Joe Harl	St. Louis, MO	Chelsea Shea	Arnold, MO
Tom Heinze	Roswell, GA	Andrew Trevor Smith	Saint Charles, MO
Kathy Henley	Marlborough, NH	Lucinda Stein	Waukee, IA
Michael Higginbotham	Festus, MO	Jennie Sunna Wesley	Chapel, FL
Jonelle Hilleary	Alexandria, VA	William Trelc	Greenville, TX
Brent Hillsman	Schell City, MO	Jill and David VonGruben	Wildwood, MO
Diana Holder	Imperial, MO	Amy Wallerstein	Chesterfield, MO
Judith Holtz-Hall	St. Louis, MO	Rebecca Waters	Des Moines, IA
Regina Huck	Poplar Bluff, MO	Eva Weiss	Granite City, IL
John Hughes	St. Louis, MO	Leanne Wiese	Santa Clara, CA
Mary Hutchinson	O'Fallon, MO	Niccole Winistoerfer	Overland Park, KS

Mission Statement

The St. Louis Genealogical Society promotes family history research by providing educational and research opportunities, offering community services in related fields, and collecting, preserving, and publishing genealogical and historical records.

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