

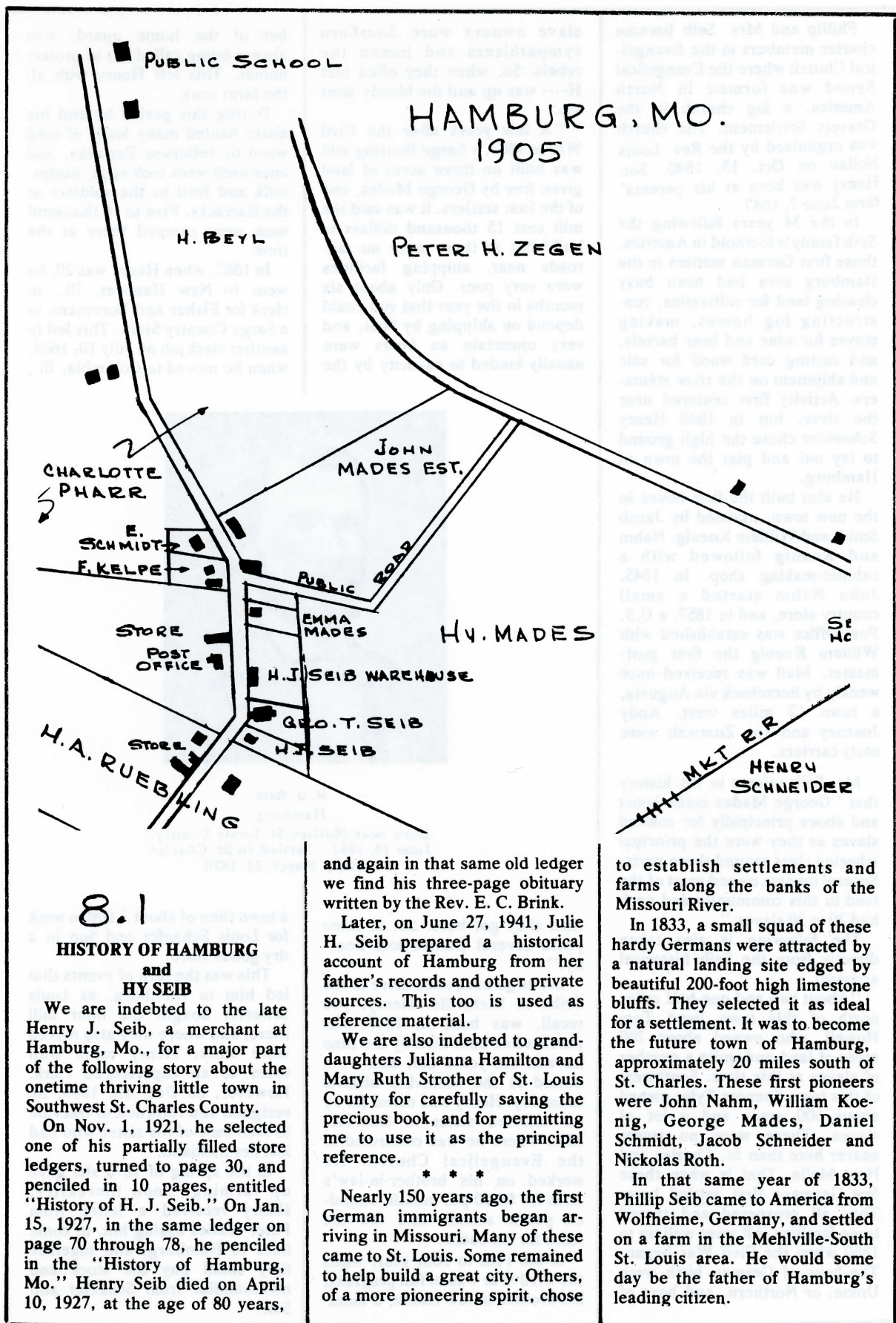
Chapter 8 The River Towns

Follow the Missouri River towns from Hamburg, to Defiance and Matson to Augusta, and across the river into Washington. Read about their early history, their first settlers, and the people living there today.

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8.1

**HISTORY OF HAMBURG
and
HY SEIB**

We are indebted to the late Henry J. Seib, a merchant at Hamburg, Mo., for a major part of the following story about the onetime thriving little town in Southwest St. Charles County.

On Nov. 1, 1921, he selected one of his partially filled store ledgers, turned to page 30, and penciled in 10 pages, entitled "History of H. J. Seib." On Jan. 15, 1927, in the same ledger on page 70 through 78, he penciled in the "History of Hamburg, Mo." Henry Seib died on April 10, 1927, at the age of 80 years,

and again in that same old ledger we find his three-page obituary written by the Rev. E. C. Brink.

Later, on June 27, 1941, Julie H. Seib prepared a historical account of Hamburg from her father's records and other private sources. This too is used as reference material.

We are also indebted to granddaughters Julianna Hamilton and Mary Ruth Strother of St. Louis County for carefully saving the precious book, and for permitting me to use it as the principal reference.

* * *

Nearly 150 years ago, the first German immigrants began arriving in Missouri. Many of these came to St. Louis. Some remained to help build a great city. Others, of a more pioneering spirit, chose

to establish settlements and farms along the banks of the Missouri River.

In 1833, a small squad of these hardy Germans were attracted by a natural landing site edged by beautiful 200-foot high limestone bluffs. They selected it as ideal for a settlement. It was to become the future town of Hamburg, approximately 20 miles south of St. Charles. These first pioneers were John Nahm, William Koenig, George Mades, Daniel Schmidt, Jacob Schneider and Nickolas Roth.

In that same year of 1833, Phillip Seib came to America from Wolfheime, Germany, and settled on a farm in the Mehlville-South St. Louis area. He would some day be the father of Hamburg's leading citizen.

8.1

Phillip and Mrs. Seib became charter members in the Evangelical Church where the Evangelical Synod was formed in North America, a log church in the Gravois Settlement. The church was organized by the Rev. Louis Nollau on Oct. 15, 1840. Son Henry was born at his parents' farm June 7, 1847.

In the 34 years following the Seib family's foothold in America, those first German settlers in the Hamburg area had been busy clearing land for cultivation, constructing log homes, making staves for wine and beer barrels, and cutting cord wood for sale and shipment on the river steamers. Activity first centered near the river, but in 1840 Henry Schneider chose the high ground to lay out and plat the town of Hamburg.

He also built the first house in the new town, assisted by Jacob Smith and William Koenig. Nahm and Koenig followed with a cabinet-making shop. In 1845, John Nahm started a small country store, and in 1857, a U.S. Post Office was established with William Koenig the first postmaster. Mail was received once weekly by horseback via Augusta, a town 12 miles west. Andy Joarney and Jim Zumwalt were early carriers.

Mr. Seib relates in his history that "George Mades made boots and shoes principally for colored slaves as they were the principal laboring class around these parts. Several owners owned most of the land in this community and each had 20 to 30 slaves."

The following is also taken directly from the Seib historical account:

"About two and one-half miles north of this town lived Tom Howell, who owned about 700 acres of land and quite a number of slaves at this time. Southwest of this town Spencer Tyler owned about 600 acres and a lot of slaves. There were no stores nearer here than St. Charles and New Melle. That is when these few Germans first settled here. They all prospered and reared large families. All went well up to 1860 when the Civil War began. The boys of German birth were Union, or Northern, and boys of

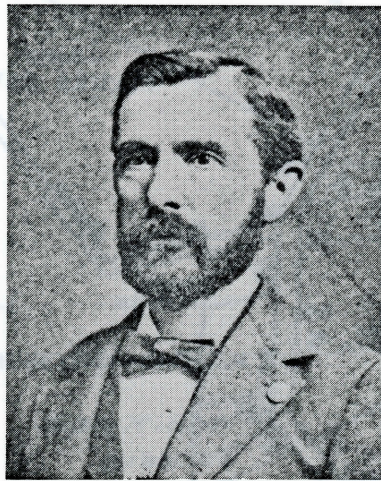
slave owners were Southern sympathizers and joined the rebels. So, when they often met H---- was up and the bloody shirt too.

"A few years after the Civil War in 1867, a Sarge flouring mill was built on three acres of land given free by George Mades, one of the first settlers. It was said the mill cost 15 thousand dollars to build but as there were no railroads near, shipping facilities were very poor. Only about six months in the year that you could depend on shipping by boat, and very uncertain as boats were usually loaded to capacity by the

ber of the home guard, was always being called out to protect homes. This left Henry with all the farm work.

During this period he and his sister hauled many loads of cord wood to Jefferson Barracks, and once each week took eggs, butter, milk and fruit to the soldiers' at the Barracks. Five to 10 thousand men were camped there at the time.

In 1867, when Henry was 20, he went to New Hanover, Ill., to clerk for Fisher and Doremann in a Sarge Country Store. This led to another clerk job on July 10, 1869, when he moved to Columbia, Ill.,



H. J. Seib
Hamburg.

Born near Matties, St. Louis County,
June 14, 1847. Settled in St. Charles
County March 22, 1870.

time they got here. So, in three years several parties lost heavily."

Let us go back once more to the Seibs in Mehlville. Henry, you recall, was born in 1847. His parents had both died by the time he was six years old, and were buried in the Mehlville historic cemetery. Henry was cared for by his married sister in Oakville, Mo., where he was confirmed in the Evangelical Church. He worked on his brother-in-law's farm for \$5.00 per month, attended public school, and fed the stock for his board.

In his 14th to 18th year, when the Civil War was in full progress, his brother-in-law Hantz, a mem-

a town then of about 3,000 to work for Louis Schaefer and Son in a dry goods store.

This was the turn of events that led him to Hamburg, as Louis Schaefer bought the flour mill there, and where they also moved store stock. Henry came with them as an experienced clerk. However, on Dec. 15, 1869, he resigned and returned to Oakville to take care of his sister who had lost her husband.

In the spring of 1870 she gave up farming. Soon thereafter, Henry received a letter from Peter Mades asking him to come back to Hamburg, and together they could buy the stock and merchandise from Schaefer and Son.

The store remained Seib and Mades until 1873 when the partners divided their stock. Each ended up with only \$700. Henry remained at the "old stand," and Pete opened a store in Mechanicsville, Mo., "now called Howell." Mr. Seib writes — "We had a struggling time during those three years to keep even, as all kinds of goods came lower in price from 10 to 15 per cent every year."

On Nov. 20, 1873, Henry married Miss Carrie Mades. For their home he purchased two acres with a log cabin 18 by 20 feet, plus an additional room 12 by 20 feet for their kitchen. "In stormy weather water would run down on the inside of the logs. Three years later I had the house weather boarded and plastered inside. We thought we had a Capitol House," wrote Seib.

By 1876, two children had been born in their log home, Theodore and Helina Charlotte.

In this period Mr. Seib records that he became "unwell and intended to quit business." He did close out most of his stock and went to St. Louis to be cured. In 1878, after his health had been restored, he had a two-story, 20 by 40 foot, building constructed for a general store on the first floor, and a public hall on the second.

Hamburg folks were now provided with a well-stocked store, and a public place for parties, dances, and town meetings.

In this period Mr. Seib also purchased the old Schaefer Mill. It had gone through hard times. Jacob Schneider of Cottleville had bought the mill earlier for \$4,000. When it was purchased by Hy Seib it had been idle for seven years to where it had become almost worthless. He first used it as a warehouse, then tore it down and used the area for seven building lots.

In 1881, Henry was appointed postmaster of Hamburg. In the same year he took John Mades in as a partner in the store, and within six years they doubled the size of the present building. The successful partnership was dissolved six years later. Mr. Seib writes, "In about 1893, J. Mades opened a gents furnishing goods store outside my store, and took

shoes, clothing, hats and caps out of our store with an agreement that I would not handle that kind of goods, and he not handle anything that I kept to sell. All went well."

This transaction paved the way for his son Theodore to go into business with his father when he became of age in 1893. In 1896, the business was incorporated under the name of H. J. Seib Grocery Co. for \$4,000. His son held eight shares, Mr. Wackher owned two shares, and Henry retained 30 shares.

In 1894, the M.K. & T. Railroad completed the tracks and built a station known as Miller's Station, or Miller's Switch, below the hill from Hamburg. Years before, in 1888, a great flood had shifted the river away from the bluff's edge. Towns such as Hamburg and Defiance could no longer depend on shipments of goods by steamboats. The railroad, however, once again created a link for daily mail and major transportation of goods with the outside world.

Mr. Seib notes the following, "Hamburg then had a boom, a good station, express and telegraph office. The H.J. Seib Grocery Co. built a grain elevator and bought grain near the tracks. Also near the station a hotel, saloon and several dwelling houses were added. The old town of Hamburg proper is on the hill about one-half mile from the station on the public highway. It revived and became a good country town."

Hamburg continued to progress into the 20th century. In 1908, the German and American Evangelical Church was constructed, and in 1912, a bank under the name of Farmer's Bank of Hamburg was organized. It opened with a capitol stock of \$10,000. The bank was first located near the rail station in "lower town," however, it was soon moved to the town proper, and Miller's Station was changed to Seib Station in honor of H. J. Seib, one of the largest shippers in that part of the county. Also in 1912, a garage and an automobile business was started by Sutton & Zeyen with success.

All went well until Jan. 19, 1919, when their building and \$9,000 worth of merchandise was

destroyed by a disastrous fire. Also the furniture of Modern Woodsman of A.M. and the Royal Neighbors, plus their banners and suits, were completely destroyed. The building was insured for only \$1,000, and the stock for \$2,000. Mr. Seib writes, "I thank the Lord, and my many friends who helped to save my dwelling house and other out-buildings. From then until now (Nov. 17, 1921) I have been out of active business, attending to things around my home and my farm in Darst Bottom."

Henry Seib turned over his business to his son Theodore and Louis E. Wackher. His other son, Henry, served as cashier of the bank for a period of time before going on to become a well known banker in Pine Lawn, Mo. Henry Sr. concludes his historical account of his own life, and of Hamburg, with brief descriptions of several touring trips he and Mrs. Mades enjoyed. He was bothered with lumbago and neuralgia. Therefore, we find him going often to Excelsior Springs, and other health resorts for treatment. His final reflections concerning the area are as follows:

"The first time I landed here in 1869, and looking over the old muddy Missouri River I thought I was at the end of the globe, or jumping off place. But now, having lived here 57 years, with good health and success I know it is the healthiest, and most romantic bluff, river, and sand scenery in Missouri. One can see five to six miles up and down the river. Steamboats can be seen when running, and looking across the river into St. Louis and Franklin counties at the beautiful bluffs, the botton farms, hill farms, and 1000-acre Howell Island in the middle of the river are sights unsurpassed."

After Mr. Seib's death on Jan. 15, 1927, the town of Hamburg continued until the 1940's. In the spring of 1941, Frieden's Evangelical Church was destroyed by lightning. The worst was yet to come. Railroad business dropped to almost zero. Then came the war, and the Hamburg area was chosen as the site for a huge powder plant.

In a short time Hamburg was a ghost town, with many of the

buildings removed entirely. Property owners, and farmers on long established farms were forced to vacate. Many had to wait years for a settlement. When you drive through Hamburg on Missouri Highway 94 on some delightful autumn day, remember the town that was.

No. 240 SEPT. 18, 1978



*The Ruebling Home -
Hamburg*

8.2

SLICED BREAD

Anyone born before the late 1930's should remember the bread knife and bread cutting board. Before 1929, and some years thereafter, these two items were used every day in every kitchen. Whether or not the housewife baked her own bread, or purchased it at the corner market, it all had to be sliced at home.

Now it is the exception, rather than the rule, to purchase a loaf of bread that has not been pre-sliced. We owe this modern convenience to one of our own native inventors in this southwest section of St. Charles County, who few people may remember. He was Theo. J. Yahn of Hamburg.

Theo. Yahn, a salesman for Papendick Bakery on 3516 North Florissant Avenue in St. Louis in the 1920's, was in a position to recognize the importance of the bread business if it could be sold

pre-sliced. So, his curious, inventive mind went to work to develop some kind of a machine that would automatically, and uniformly slice bread. Thus, in 1929 Mr. Yahn invented the first successful bread slicing machine. It was soon marketed under the name of Papendick Bread-slicing Machine.

My appreciation to Mrs. Laura Yahn Parsons of Defiance for use of the pictures, and an original Parts and Instruction Book. ~~XXXX~~

No. 246 Oct. 9, 1978

Note: Laura is the daughter of Mr. Yahn.



Theo J. Yahn's Bread Slicing Machine in 1929.

8.3

EARLY HISTORY OF DEFIANCE

The first inhabitants of the present Defiance area were, of course, the American Indians, as evidenced by the thousands of artifacts found in the vicinity. However, the first pioneering white man to settle here may have been David Darst, a Virginian. He came in 1798, just two years after Daniel Morgan Boone settle two miles away. David and his wife, Rosetta, had nine children, and one of their sons, Jacob, is remembered in history as a hero who died by the side of Col. Davy Crockett at the Alamo in 1836.

Original settlers here acquired all of their land through Spanish Land Grants, and when their abstracts are examined past history comes to life. Alexander and Comfort McCourtney sold their acreage to Isaac Van Bibber as early as 1810. Isaac Fulkerson, a Virginian whose father, James Fulkerson, came from Germany, acquired a large tract of land in 1814, and ever since the Fulkerson family have been prominent citizens in the Defiance community.

Prior to the Civil War such names as Anthony Watts, John Stump, Daniel Hays, Abraham Shobe, John Boyd, John Callaway, Dodson, Haines, Pitman, Collier, Ross, Estill, Cox, Roberts, Wallace and others. The majority of these folks were of English extraction and either Virginians or Kentuckians.

Thomas and Phoebe (Ward) Parsons, also Virginians, came in 1840, and in 1842 they built a beautiful two story brick home on the Defiance bluff, overlooking the great bluff range across the Missouri River. It is the oldest house in town today. The Parsons throughout three generations became extensive land holders and practically the entire town of Defiance was Parsons property at one time.

Hy. Meyer appeared on the scene in 1882. As time passed other settlers moved in and established farm homes. How-

ever, as late as 1892, when the Katy Railroad came past the village, farm-to-market roads were almost non-existent. The village needed a railroad station, but the Katy people insisted first on an adequate approach to the tracks. James Craig led the crusade and with a force of volunteers all requirements were met. The depot was built and the town was named "Defiance."

From then on the town developed. Aug Ruebling built the first store and a few other frame dwellings in 1893. These were built from lumber brought to a Darst Bottom landing by steamboat. Theo Fox became the first Postmaster in 1894. A blacksmith shop and a livery stable began operating, and Hy Diehl, rich built the first saloon. In 1896 Dr. T. L. Hardin began his medical career in Defiance, and within two years John Schiermeier had built a general store and grain elevator. The Sycamore School (later Walnut Grove) was started, and a Methodist Parsonage was added. A Town Hall came in 1905, St. Paul's E. and R. Church was built in 1906 and a bank followed in 1909.

Finally, in 1922 the strong Methodist following in Defiance built an impressive new church on the bluff overlooking the town. It was the second Pleasant Hill Methodist Church, replacing the historic 1856 church destroyed by windstorm in 1920.

Progress after the twenties practically ceased. The depression came, local businessmen could not compete, the bank closed, the elevator no longer processed the farmers' wheat, the railroad station closed, and Defiance experienced the same fate of thousands of other small towns throughout the nation. It appears, though, that the pendulum is swinging back, and progressive people once again are being lured back to the peaceful and charming small towns that are so much a part of our American heritage.

No. 134 JUN. 9, 1976

8.4

OSCAR FUHR

Mr. Paul Fuhr of Augusta came into New Melle last week to visit the store and to get acquainted. Paul, having been around a few decades, recalled many things that happened in the general area.

He especially mentioned that Oscar Fuhr, age 82, had passed away recently in Texas, and was buried there. He was a son of the late George Fuhr of Defiance. Their farm was located due east of Defiance near the Missouri River.

Paul recalled the baseball days of Oscar. He was a Major Leaguer. The big six foot six inch southpaw pitched for the Chicago Cubs, the Pittsburg Pirates and the Boston Red Sox. Paul remarked that Oscar was the best baseball player ever turned out by St. Charles County.

He got his start though on the Defiance ball diamond in the early 1900's when baseball in St. Charles County could almost be classed as Minor League in quality.

An article on Paul Fuhr himself, and his stories of the Augusta area, will appear in the C.B. News at some future date.

No. 71 APR. 14, 1975

8.3 & 8.4

8.5

DEFIANCE POSTMASTERS

The first American postal service was established in the colony of Massachusetts in 1639. However, in 1707 the English stepped in and controlled the postal service in the colonies until the Revolutionary War began. During that period, in 1737, Benjamin Franklin was appointed Postmaster of Philadelphia, and much of the system as we know it today was developed by him. When our Continental Congress was formed, Ben Franklin was elected to carry on as our Postmaster General. Mail stations then were called Posts, thus the name that prevails today.

At first all letters were sealed with wax, with a design to identify the sender, and the postage rate was paid by the recipient. In 1840 Roland Hill convinced the British Parliament to issue one cent stamps called "Penny Blacks." The sender could now prepay the postage.

Seven years later, in 1847, the U.S. issued its first gummed postage stamps, the \$.05 Franklin and \$.10 Washington. Slowly other denominations were issued, but these two continued in print until 1894. One year prior, on April 25, 1893, the Defiance Post Office was established, and August H. Ruebling was appointed the town's first postmaster. Within a year a problem ensued, and the Post Office was discontinued on May 4, 1894, only to be re-established on June 29, 1894, under Theo. E. Fox. The next year on April 22, R. E. L. Fulkerson took over and held the post until March 27, 1901, when John H. Schiermeier was appointed. He held the position for 13 years. Leslie L. Fulkerson followed on July 16, 1914, then Albert G. Ruebling on July 11, 1919.

On Oct. 22, 1920, Mr. Schiermeier was again appointed postmaster and served until his death in 1924. John Seitz served as acting postmaster from March 13, 1925, until the following month on April 25, when Erich H. Sander was appointed. Erich held the post until his retirement on March 31, 1970, 45 years later.

Erich and his wife Lillian (nee Beck) are enjoying their retirement days in Defiance. They have always been Defiance and Augusta folks. Erich's grandparents all immigrated to the area from Germany. His father, William Sander, worked at the famous Klondike Quarry for a number of years. It is located on the old Louis Sander farm. His father also helped build the Katy railroad in this section of the country. His wife was the former Emma Sehr of Augusta. The William Sander farm was located on one-time Fulkerson land in Darst Bottom, east of Defiance. Their children were Roy, Erich, Elihu, Lucille, Roland and Bill.

Postmaster Erich remembers the difficulties encountered getting mail to Defiance during severe floods. When trains were still carrying the mail, the diesels found it hard to plow through deep water flooding the tracks, so there were many delays. High water had little effect on the earlier steam engines. Again, when Highway 94 was under water, and the mail came by truck from St. Charles, Charley Picraux had to attach his motor to Erich's boat to bring the mail to and from the north side of Femme Osage Creek. Even during the war there were mail delivery problems because Erich had the only pass through the TNT area.

Upon Erich's retirement Dorothy M. Cork, Joyce M. Lancaster and Paul Dusenbery served in that order as officers in charge from 1970 to 1973. James Flaherty was appointed Postmaster Feb. 15, 1974, and served only until July 20, 1974, when M. B. Miller was appointed. The current postmaster is Lawrence F. Brockmann, having taken office Aug. 13, 1977. His clerk is Mary Schlueter who started in 1970.

Although Mr. Brockman makes his home in St. Ann, St. Louis County, his ancestors settled very early on a farm north of New Melle. The 1875 County Atlas records the E. F. and J. H. Brockmann farms due north of New Melle near the Dardenne Creek. His parents, Louis and Clara (Woehrmann) were both born and raised on the Brockmann, and nearby Woehrmann farms.

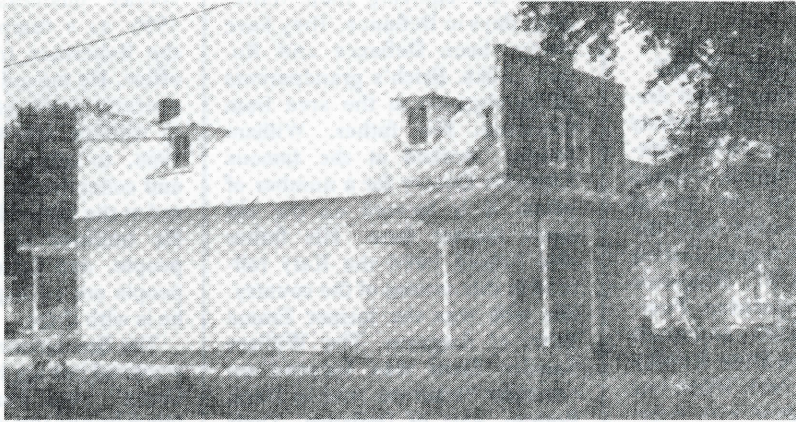
Lawrence started in the postal service business on Sept. 18, 1956, as a temporary "sub" at the Robertson (now Hazelwood) office. He moved along to vehicle operator main assistant in 1956, to window service technician in 1968, to supervisor of delivery and collection in 1975. All occurred at the same Hazelwood office. He believes in service to the people, and hopes the Defiance people are as happy with him as he is with them.

The Brockmanns are building a weekend oak log house at "Goose Creek" near Farmington. Lawrence brings the logs to Beumer's Sawmill in Matson for squaring off three sides. The remaining rounded side forms the exterior. Neoprene rubber is placed between the stacked logs to form a perfect airtight seal. At this writing the house should be under roof.

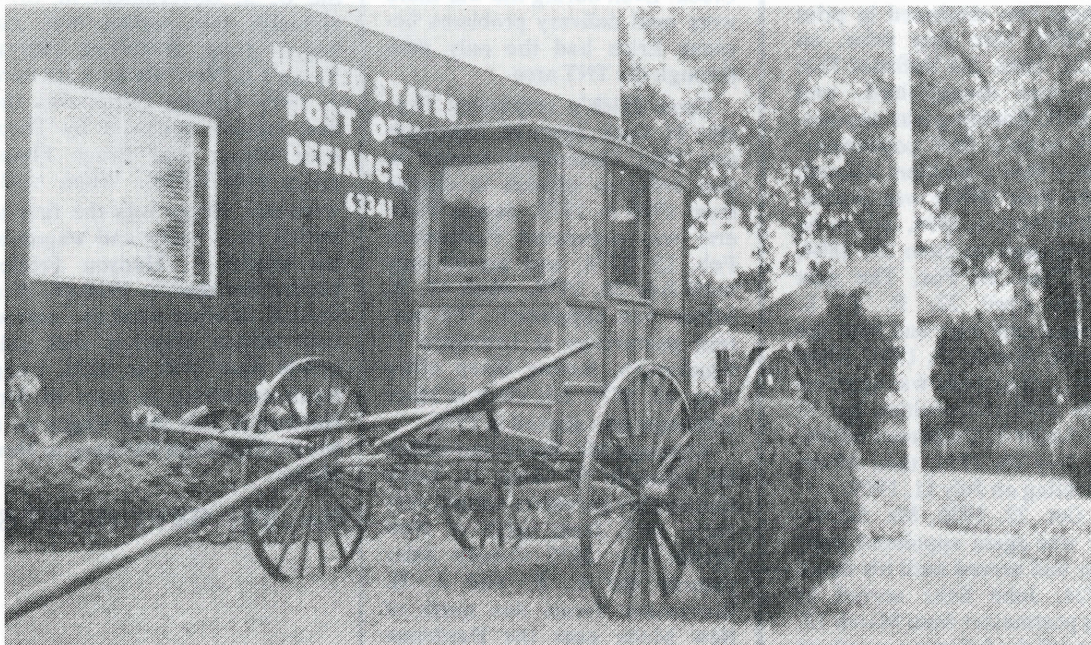
Lawrence and his wife Eloise have three children, Deborah (Mrs. Steve Dosenbach), Julia and Laurie, and one granddaughter, Ammy.

Before closing this article on Defiance postmasters something should be said about the Rural Free Delivery service. Rural Free Delivery (RFD) was authorized by the U. S. Government in 1896, although this service was not begun from Defiance (Rural Route 1 to New Melle) until Jan. 2, 1905. George Curtis was the first carrier, followed by Theodore Meyer and Bruce Fluesmeier (1907-1918). When roads were dry, Bruce was the first to switch from horse and wagon to his Model T. Hudson Fridley carried the mail in 1918-19, then Fred J. Hoefner used the narrow mail wagon pictured with this article from 1919 to 1938. I can recall crouching in front of Mr. Hoefner in this little wagon as a boy on trips from Defiance to New Melle.

No. 24 | SEPT. 11, 1978



*Schirmer & Son Store
later
Schlueter & Vogler*



This mail wagon was used by Fred J. Hoefner to deliver mail in the rural areas during the 1920's and 1930's. The wagon is now located at the Bushman Museum near St. Charles. It was turned over to the museum by Charles Picraux who once owned the wagon.

8.6

DEFIANCE FOLKS

Friday was a delightful day to cruise down through the Femme Osage Valley to visit the home town of Defiance, located on the west side of historic Darst Bottom. Across this expanse of rich Missouri River "gumbo" is that long range of bluffs in St. Louis County on the east side. To view the bluffs is excuse enough to drive the scenic stretch of Highway 94 occasionally. However, my main purpose was to do some visiting.

The first stop was the post office to see Postmaster Larry Brockmann. We had a long talk about his family who originally lived on a farm between New Melle and Wentzville. We also talked about the history of the local post office. Facilities in the past were not nearly so spacious and serviceable as they are today in the remodeled old Town Hall. A story on the Brockmanns will appear in the near future.

Our conversation concerning the post office prompted a visit to Erich and Lillian Sander. Before retirement, Erich had served his community as its postmaster for 45 years. His roots and lifelong residency are in Defiance, so I departed with a wealth of interesting notations, plus a couple of special photos. Now there was material for a second feature article.

Last week on a trip into St. Louis County we accidentally met Julie Anna Seib. It had been years. She and her sister Mary Ruth were daughters of the late Henry and Hilda (Thompson) Seib. Henry was a banker and a native of Hamburg, Mo., and Hilda was born and raised in the Thompson home on top of the hill behind the bank building in Defiance. We relived the past in the course of a brief hour, and learned that her sister has a history book on Hamburg. So, there is material for a third, and possibly, a fourth story.

I drove up the hill to see how Michael and Diane Crews were progressing on restoration of their "Thompson house." This

young couple are perfectionists, although Diane says, "It's not me, it's Michael."

The house, built in the early 1900's, will soon prove to be an outstanding example of how an old house can be completely modernized without any distraction from the beautifully restored 1900 charm.

A visit to Defiance would not be complete without seeing Mrs. Laura Parsons, especially if one is interested in history. Laura always has plenty of stories to tell, and material to back them up. Her father's invention (Theo. J. Yahn) of the Papendick bread-slicing machine in 1929, and the bundle of abstracts surrounding early settler Peter Fulkerson are stories about the Defiance and Hamburg areas that soon must be developed.

Elmer and Lucille Nadler have lived in the onetime Vogler home across from the post office since 1973. We sat on the front porch and reminisced. Elmer's paternal grandfather was John Nadler who raised 16 children in a log and frame home on Nadler Road off Hopewell Road, two miles northeast of New Melle, (Ref. "Nadler Homestead" Dec. 23, 1974 — Issue No. 63 of the Cracker Barrel News). Also reference Page 264 of "Historic Sites of St. Charles county." The description under the lower picture states that the original land grant in the name of David Edwards was dated 1809. It passed through the hands of Johnathan Bryan, a nephew of Daniel Boone, and in 1818 it became the property of the McWaters family.

The house was built by Wilford McWaters in the 1830's. The family, however, pictured in front of the home are the John Nadlers. According to information learned by James and Ellen McCabe (the home's present owners), John Nadler inherited the property in 1863 from the McWaters for so faithfully taking care of them in their old age.

John's son Louis (Elmer's father) worked out on farms in the late 1800's before renting the farm he finally was able to purchase in 1928.

The original owner of the "Louis Nadler Farm" on High-

way 94 near the Femme Osage Creek was Spencer Tyler, who passed it on to Joe Tyler. The large frame house was built by either F. W. Braucksecker, or the Brakensieks, of New Melle in 1883.

Elmer's maternal grandparents were Julius and Minnie (Staake) Heuman, who had purchased the house from Joe Tyler. When Louis and Meta Heuman were married in 1904, they honeymooned at the St. Louis World's Fair, and settled down to farming on the rented Heuman farm, which someday would be their own.

The Nadler farm was located midway between Hamburg and Defiance, so their trading was divided equally between the Seib & Walker General Store in Hamburg, and Schiermeier's General Store in Defiance. Elmer remembers that his father paid the yearly store bills always on New Year's Day, despite snow or rain. He believed it was a good omen. If the roads were dry they would take their 1913 Studebaker. If muddy, the horse and buggy were used. If the snow was too deep, the sled was brought out. When the bill was paid, each merchant would hand his father a box of cigars, and he would get a generous bag full of candy. Elmer has a brother Vernon, and a sister Leoda (Mrs. "Piedy" Fridley of Chicago).

No. 237 SEPT. 4, 1978

8.7

MEET OTTMER AND ALBERTA NADLER

High on a bluff above Highway 94 between Matson and Defiance is the stately white, two-story frame home of Ottmer and Alberta Nadler. It was built by Charles F. Knapel in 1894. (See Page 304 of "Historic Sites of St. Charles County.")

Today the home is still as much of a show place as it must have been at the turn of the century. It is a joy to go through. We stopped to visit the Nadlers Sunday, roamed through the beautiful high ceiling rooms, admired the family heirloom, furnishings, gazed thoughtfully out across Ottmer's rich farm lands in David Darst's Bottom, and beyond to the range of Missouri River Bluffs on the east side. We sat around the kitchen table, sipped hot coffee, munched on Alberta's delicious Christmas cookies, and talked about a variety of subjects.

One subject in particular concerned their giant pecan tree. On July 15, 1969, the Nadlers were awarded a plaque and certificate by the St. Charles County Court and St. Charles Soil and Water Conservation District for having preserved the largest pecan tree in St. Charles County. The County champion trees as of 1969 are listed below:

Oak — Felix Saale (on the Louis Sanders place near Augusta), Cir. 20'8", Ht. 70'.

Elm — Rolla Andrae (Daniel Boone Home), Cir. 17'3", Ht. 75'.

Maple — Nicholas Turngate, Cir. 14'1", Ht. 52'.

Pecan — Ottmer Nadler, Cir. 15'6", Ht. 125'.

Walnut — J. Robert Meyer in St. Charles, Cir. 11'1", Ht. 60'.

Cottonwood — Richard Preis, Cir. 17'6", Ht. 135'.

Sycamore — Walt Knoerns-child (on farm between Augusta and Schluesburg), Cir. 17'7", Ht. 60'.

No. 203 JAN. 4, 1978

8.8

MEET

WALTER KAMPHOEFNER

The Kamphoefner name rings familiar within the triangle of New Melle, Defiance and Augusta, and none is more proud of one's family heritage than young Walter Kamphoefner, son of Fred and Alma (Dieckich) Kamphoefner of Defiance.

Perhaps the interesting German ancestral heritage Walter inherited inspired him to become a student of history. Sometime during his first eight grades at the Augusta Lutneran School, and throughout his years at St. Paul's College in Concordia, Mo. he developed a keen appreciation for the trials and tribulations of our pioneering forefathers, for their successes and failures, and for the groundwork that was laid in every field of endeavor, so that we today may have a better way of life.

Walter went on to earn both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in History at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and now at 28 he is striving for his PhD. Walter has just returned from a year's stay in Germany, preparing for his final thesis, and at last we had the opportunity to visit. During his stay in "the old country" Walter was privileged to devote considerable time in Wester Kappeln (formerly part of Prussia), and in Melle (formerly part of Hanover), and in the larger city of Osnabruck, midway between Wester Kappeln and Melle. (Settlers from Osnabruck founded Washington, Mo.) Hundreds of our ancestors immigrated from these three communities in northern Germany to Port St. Louis in the 1830's, and many of these selected their homesites along the Missouri River, and inland.

Among these were Walter's great-grandparents, the Kamphoefners, Groenemans, Dieckichs and Griewes. His portfolio included their baptismal records, their departure records, and a book, some one and one-half inches thick, containing a listing of all immigrants, 1830 to 1850, who sailed to America from the

Wester Kappeln area. Those that came illegally are listed separately from those granted a bona fide passport. Nearly one third slipped across the border to escape the authorities, to escape the iron rule of the Kaiser, and to find freedom in a new world. Is it any wonder why so many young Germans joined the Union Army to fight against slavery.

Most of those who boarded a sailboat illegally, according to Mr. Kamphoefner, were the eldest sons destined to spend long years in the King's Army. Later these same sons would send for their parents, brothers and sisters.

The direct Kamphoefner line, starting with the grandparents, were Earnest, Fritz, and Earnest again. Earnest and Fritz were blacksmiths, and their homes in New Melle still stand. Earnest was a member of the early New Melle Town Board. On the Groeneman side we can list Lydia, Henry, Henry H. and even Adolph and Mary (Bierbaum), the G.G.G. grandparents.

Excerpts from the account of Henry H. Groeneman in the "Portrait and Biographical Record" published in 1875 are as follows: "Henry H. G. was born in Germany in 1823 and came to America with his parents, Adolph and Mary, in 1834, and settled in Femme Osage Township near the place where the famous hunter, Daniel Boone, lived. He walked four miles to the nearest School which held classes three days each week, three months during the year. He helped his father on the farm until age 28 when he purchased his own farm of 80 acres. As years passed he acquired up to 350 acres."

No. 150 Oct. 27, 1976

8.7 & 8.8

8.9

PROFILE — ORA JOHNSON

If you would ask Ora Johnson of Defiance what special things he has done in his long life time he would probably reply, "Oh, a little of everything." When visiting him recently it was soon apparent that he really did do a little of everything throughout his active 89 years, and it was also apparent that he had always observed keenly what others were doing as well. Best of all though is his ability to recall the past without a moment's hesitation.

We reminisced a long time over happenings in the old home town. He enjoyed the opportunity to talk about his younger days, as he worked over a sizable "chaw" of Red Man (his favorite, however, is Union Standard), and I thoroughly enjoyed his rapid, chronological responses.

Ora was born in 1887 in the Mechanicsville neighborhood. His birthplace and boyhood home was the 160-acre farm his father, John F. Johnson, inherited from his father, Hy. Johnson.

Henry came as a 19 year old immigrant from England on a sailing vessel in the early 1800's after a stormy voyage, and settled on the aforementioned farm he had acquired for twenty-five cents per acre at the St. Chales Land Office. Henry died in his nineties on Jan. 2, 1918.

Ora's father, John, was born in 1860 and continued on the same farm throughout his lifetime of 90 years. He died in 1950.

Ora stayed on the farm until the later years. As a boy he attended Bacon School, dividing his nine years there equally among three teachers, namely; Ella May Castilo, Constance Watson, and Ervin Maschinery.

As a young man, Ora "worked out" on neighboring farms, spending considerable time on the John B. Hays place in the Femme Osage area. (Ref. Cracker Barrel News Issue No. 132 & 133). His salary was then \$13 per month. For several years he

was with a threshing outfit in Weldon Spring, owned by Hy. Dickman and Julius Welker. Ora can describe in detail those colorful "threshing days" when wood fired steam engines and "bundle grabbing" separators were in use.

In 1910 he moved to St. Louis and worked as a vegetable "huckster," selling his produce out of a horse drawn vegetable wagon. Returning home in 1910 he planted several acres of corn, only to watch a freak April snowstorm turn the foliage completely yellow. He thought his entire crop was dead but it came back to give him the best corn he had ever produced.

Young Mr. Johnson married Miss Talitha Welker on Jan. 2, 1911. They remained a devoted couple for 52 years, until Mrs. Johnson's death in 1963. The Johnsons' first car was purchased in 1925. It was a Model "T," and Ora continued driving his various automobiles for 44 years. In questioning him on accidents he replied, "No, I never had an accident." Then after a pause he said, "I'll take that back. I hit a chicken once but didn't kill it, just tore out a bunch of feathers."

Mr. Johnson is one of many elderly people who have worked hard from childhood to a period in life far beyond the accepted retirement age of 65, and still found it difficult to collect Social Security. He collects a limited sum now, but in order to qualify it was necessary several years ago to serve as a clerk in Sam Picroux store at the "Crossroads." In so doing, however, he added another job to that list of "A little of everything."

Today, Mr. Johnson lives alone, but comfortable, in the one time Frank Boone home, which had been moved into Defiance a few years ago from Darst Bottom. Mr. Boone was a direct descendant of our first pioneer.

Ora has a son, Orville; two daughters, Dorothy Corvey (wife of Rev. Larkin Corvey), and Elizabeth Egbert. He has four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Neil, a fifth grandchild, was killed a few years ago in an unfortunate cave-in when he was working for the water company.

During our old town reminiscing, Ora remembered when Defiance had only three homes, the Parson's Place, George Kel-



ORA JOHNSON

ler's Store where the Cork home stood, and John Laur's home. Regardless of the occupation he named them off in order as follows: Mail Carriers — George Curtis, Theo Meyer, Bruce Fluesmeier, Hud Fridley, Fritz Hoefner, Charlie Picraux, and now Marvin Hollander. Blacksmiths were Dick Litke and John Laur. The Auctioneer was John Lowery. Saloon Keepers were George Grumpe, George Anderson and Henry Dietrich. Early storekeepers were George L. D. Keller, Mr. Hunter, Lee Fulkerson, Charley Sietz, John H. Schiermeier, and August Ruebling. Ora, a life long member of Pleasant Hill Methodist Church, named its preachers as the Reverends Garvin, Utters, Trotter, Hardaway, Corvey, Davis, Dalton and now Lester Zacker.

The late hour closed out our visit, however, Mr. Johnson still has many more stories to tell of the Defiance community.

No. 239 Nov. 6, 1978

8.10

Wm. Clyde Koelling

We pause to mourn the passing of a good friend, a well known citizen of Defiance, foreman on the M.K.&T. railroad, a carpenter by trade, a fine Christian gentleman and a natural born athlete. William Clyde Koelling, age 60 years, died December 18 following an illness of one year.

Mr. Koelling was a son of the late Charles and Hulda Koelling of Defiance. As a boy Clyde showed a strong desire for perfection in whatever he did, and he was gifted with good coordination and athletic ability.

His attendance at school, for example, must be some kind of a record. He walked nearly two miles each school day to and from the Walnut Grove school located in the heart of Missouri River gumbo bottom land from Grade 1 to Grade 8 without missing a single school day, and not once was he even tardy. This

perfect record carried on through his four years at Francis Howell high school. The school was eight miles from his home, roads were bad, and Model A's were not always dependable.

Clyde loved to fish and hunt. He was a crack shot with rifle or shotgun, and his records at shooting clay birds are well known. He won many trophies at this sport of kings, was a charter member and treasurer of the Daniel Boone Gun Club, and a good friend of our New Melle born national trap shooting champion Bill Fienup (see Cracker Barrel News Issue No. 83 dated May 12, 1975). In recent months Clyde developed cancer, and after surgery was performed on his arms, he competed in a shooting match and broke 49 out of 50 clay birds.

In baseball too, Clyde was an outstanding athlete. He could play any position well but excelled most around shortstop and second base. Cardinal scouts encouraged him to begin his major league career at Johnson City, Tenn., but circumstances prevented him from accepting the offer.

When World War II broke out young Mr. Koelling was ready, and he remained in service for five years. He saw more action than he cared to remember. When the war ended he was with General Patton's Army at the Rhine crossing.

Horseshoe pitching was another favorite sport. For a half century Clyde perfected his skill at throwing ringers, starting first in the backyard of the Koelling home where his dad and brothers, Roy and Landon, gave him plenty of competition. Later in organized league play he was a Class A performer in the St. Charles-Warren County Horseshoe Pitching League. For many years Clyde was a member of both the Masonic and Moose Lodges, and in 1972 he won the Moose state horseshoe pitching championship at the St. Charles fair.

More important though to him was his family and his friends. It was a rewarding experience to reflect upon the life of Clyde Koelling with his wife, the former Miss Elvera (Tootie) Moraty, whose home was in St. Charles. Other survivors include their daughter, Mary Lou Kaiser, one grandchild, his brother Landon, and many other relatives and friends.

In discussing Clyde's activities in Gen. Patton's army, it was interesting to learn that Lawrence Koelling, a cousin of Clyde's, also from Defiance, is a second cousin to the late great General George Patton.

This led to other interesting bits of family history. One rather unusual coincidence concerns the three Sarahs who were all born on August 10. They are Sarah Hodge, grandmother of both Clyde and Lawrence; Sarah Fitz, Lawrence's mother, and Sarah Tuepker Koelling, his daughter-in-law.

No. 115 DEC. 29, 1975

Leland Fulkerson

Leland Fulkerson, a retired farmer of Defiance, died at the age of 81 years. He passed away at his home December 25, 1975. Leland was a son of the late Judge and Mrs. R. E. L. Fulkerson. He grew up on his parents' farm at the intersection of Highway 94 and County Rd. "F", two miles north of Defiance. Here Leland became as much attached to riding horses as his father, and his expertise at training fine horses paid off handsome dividends, not only in money, but in the pleasure of winning a host of blue ribbons at all the local fairs. For years he followed the practice of personally riding his entry to each Fair, regardless of the distance.

Leland married Miss Olinda Buenemann of Defiance in 1921. The young couple then moved to a farm in Darst Bottoms, near the Walnut Grove school which they both attended during their grade school days. After 38 years of farm life in Darst Bottoms, Leland and Olinda moved into town when he retired at age 65. He was an active Masonic member for 57 years.

Mr. Fulkerson is survived by his wife Olinda, four children, Mary Reinwald, Lois Hopkins, Wallace and Robert L.; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; four sisters, Pauline of St. Charles, and Myrtle Workman, Lucille Pittman and Ruby Durst of California.

Services were held from the Pitman/Thilking Funeral Home in Augusta, and burial was in St. Paul's U.C. of C. church cemetery in Defiance.

No. 115 DEC. 29, 1975

8.9 & 8.10

THE PARSON'S PAPERS

This column last May touched briefly on the historical significance of Tom Parson's three story brick home in Defiance that was built in 1842, and on William Ward Parson's brick home one mile northwest of Defiance that was built in 1856. Both homes were built by their faithful slaves, and both are shown on pages 302 and 303 in the new book "Historical Sites of St. Charles County."

Tom Parsons was born in Hardy County, Virginia, and settled along the Missouri River in Femme Osage Township in 1840 as a farmer and stock raiser. His son, William Ward Parsons, then 16 years old, came along with his parents. Both father and son prospered during this early pioneering period and amassed extensive land holdings. Both owned a number of slaves, and records indicate they were kind, understanding masters.

In 1869 a grandson, William Lee, was born, followed later by three great-grandsons. All have lived in the Tom Parsons home, and now we find a great-great-grandson, Lowell D. Parsons, occupying the home with his family.

Ever since Lowell was a small boy he was curious about a metal strong box high up in the attic that no one before him bothered to open. Finally one day not too long ago he decided to pry it open. Being somewhat of an historian, he was thrilled to find it full of various papers his great-great-grandfather and great-grandfather had stored there over 100 years ago. He graciously permitted me to go through them.

As mentioned before, Thomas and his son were able to purchase several large parcels of land. One would expect then to find surveys and deeds, and there were a number of these in the box. There was a survey by Lewis Howell of 295 acres in the Missouri Bottom dated March 16, 1841. Another, by Surveyor A. Krekel, was made on March 15, 1844 for 136 acres originally belonging to Isaac Van Bibber. Van Bibber was one of

the very earliest settlers in the area from Virginia. There was still another survey of 400 arpens of Van Bibber land in Darst Bottom by County Surveyor Joseph Savage on May 22, 1845. The chainmen, interesting enough, at this time were Abraham S. Matson and Thomas G. Boone. The most historical survey found in the metal box, however, was made by Nathan Boone. It is now on display at the Boone Home on Highway F.

A deed, dated Dec. 6, 1824, was for the purchase of 171 acres by Isaac Fulkerson on the courthouse steps for \$35 plus back taxes. A second deed on Aug. 18, 1844, was for a \$737 purchase. A third from John Stump was drawn up April 14, 1845. A fourth deed dated Nov. 24, 1845 was acquired from David and Mary Board. Here Thomas paid \$11 per acre for 173 acres bounded by lands belonging to David H. Darst and John W. Boone.

Although Tom Parsons was considered to be "well to do," there were apparently times when he ran short of cash, as is evident by a note concerning money he borrowed from Daniel Hays in 1849. (See reference to the Daniel Hays home on page 257 of the Historic Site book.) On one of the papers he talks about paying in "good Virginia money." Included also are many old tax bills, one of which dates back to 1828.

Thomas Parsons was a blacksmith, as well as a farmer, and there are records of work he did for Mrs. Boone, Thomas Montequé, and others, as early as 1842. (See the Montequé home on page 303 in the Historic Site book.) These records show that he made door hinges for \$1, five quarry wedges for 50 cents, a new corn knife for \$1, two pounds of spikes for 25 cents, and so on. Note too, a list of 19th century basics appearing on a Jan. 11, 1845 sale bill — 50 lbs. sugar for \$2.75, 30 lbs. coffee for \$2.40, 20 bu. oats for \$4, six yards calico for 75 cents, two lbs. gun powder for 75 cents, two lbs. lead for 10 cents, and one half gallon brandy for 38 cents.

Not many men living in rural areas prior to the Civil War purchased stock certificates. However, Tom Parsons filed a

few of his away from the North Missouri Railroad Company. They bear the date of Jan. 27, 1858.

Thomas and his son, William Ward, owned many slaves. One "Bill of Sale," which is typical of others, reads as follows: "Know all men by these present that I, William Fisher of the County of Hardy, State of Virginia, have sold to Thomas Parsons of the county and state aforesaid two Negroes to wit George and Liza for the sum of seven hundred and twenty five dollars to me in hand paid the receipt whereof I do acknowledge to have bargain sold and delivered the above named Negroes and their increase to him and his heirs forever, and I do forever warrant and defend the said Negroes from me my heirs or assigns or against the claim of any person or persons whatsoever claiming under me my heirs or assigns I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 14th day of January 1834.

Such a transaction is difficult for us to understand in our more enlightened age, but we must remember that this was a totally accepted practice in the South then, and many of the slaves accepted this as a way of life, especially if they had master like the Parsons. This closeness between slave and master is borne out in a letter written by a slave to Master William. It reads verbatim as follows:

"July 24, 1859 — Dear master William I send my best respect to you and your family tell my sister ann and brother John that I would like to hear from them and give them my best love and tell them that I am well and are doing very well at this time and I hav enjoyed good health since I hav been to the cuntry I am still single yet but I do not know how long it will be as I am among a great maney prety girls I do not think I will be single very mutch longer my master that I belong to know he bought eight blacks when he bought me and two are dead I am selling wood for my master I like the busines very well and ever now and then I drop a few cord in for my self this is a great place for meatings I hav not herd one sermon preatched since I hav been down hear there are

25 blacks living with me I hav got to be a driver since I come to this contry Stepney that use to belong to Mr. North is living with me giv my best love to Mr. Hinkles folks last year the weter was so high that we did not raise aney corn and very near the case this season write me a leter as soon as you get this and direct it to Joseph Morris Columbia Arcansas Shicott co I have not time or else I would giv beter satisfaction you must be sure and write to me giv my best love to my wife in particular and tell her that I am single yet Aimus left St. Louis before I did and I hav not herd from him since your Dear friend George Mathis Giv stepneys best respects to Mr. Hinkles folks tell master Scott Parsons to not be in a hurray about getting married for I have got him a wife all reader picked out and tell master jacob that I would like to hear from him whether he has got a wife yet or not if he is not I hav got one picked out for him."

It is true that all sentences run together, and spelling is sometimes incorrect. However, it shows that the man was quite well trained for his day, and it shows too that the Parsons family then may have encouraged the advancement of their slaves.

Typhoid fever was a dreaded disease before the days of modern vaccines, drugs, and sanitation laws. On Oct. 3, 1852 Tom Parsons jotted down in his own good handwriting: "A Cure For Typhoid Fever" — "Give a full dose Tpical, follow with fifteen grains Calomel. In two hours after taking the Calomel give a large spoon full oil with thirty drops turpentine. In six or eight hours after the medicine is done operating repeat the Calomel and oil as before, only add two grains Tpical to the Calomel, in about the same length of time give the third dose. If the tongue has not cleaned off and the fever should not be broke after the third dose of Calomel keep the bowels open with oil and turpentine. This is for a grown person. A child one to three years old one fourth the quantity. If diorea should come on take one half grain opium and three grains Calomel every three hours until it stops the purging. After the

purging is stopped more than six hours give a tea spoon full of oil every hour till the bowels are moved."

A long inventory list of personal belongings appears, where-in values are unbelievably low by today's standards, and on May 25, 1850 Thomas Parsons prepared a will. It reads in part — "I, Thomas Parsons, direct that my body be decently intered in the northeast corner of my yard where I now live and that my funeral be conducted in a manner corresponding to my estate and situation in life. I bequeath to my beloved wife Phoeby one black man named William to be hers during her lifetime, also three horses, six cows, 20 sheep of her choice, etc., etc...." The will continues by bequeathing slaves, and various items to each of his sons, and adds, quote "I bequeath to my daughter Jane Elizabeth one black girl named Sarah and the heirs of her body, etc., etc."

William Ward Parsons in later years left sales bills for items bought from Fritz Tieman Dry Goods, Grocery, Hardware, and Queensware — Augusta 1890; from Albert Lutz — Wagons, Plows, Horseshoeing — Hamburg 1891; from Augusta Anchor Milling Co. — Mfg. of Flour, Meal and Feed STuff, and signed by Christ Arensburg; from Seib and Mades, dealers in Milwaukee — Self Binders and Mowers — Hamburg; and from Huning and Thro in St. Charles in 1889.

There are a number of interesting river steamer shipping invoices with beautiful engravings of steamboats. One, for instance, reads — "Regular Missouri Weekly — St. Louis and Rochepport Packet-Matson 9-13-1891 — W. L. Parsons — 13 rugs Frt. \$2.40 — Received payment by S. H. Teckemeier." Among the papers was even a tattered group of some 145 favorite song sheets dating from 1875.

Finally, there were three Bank of Defiance Certificates made out to William Lee Parsons for \$100 each on Nov. 1, 1911, and signed by Frank Nichols — Cashier, and R. E. L. Fulkerson — President.

Thus the contents of that strong box hidden away in the attic for decades in the stately Tom Parsons home in Defiance, overlooking the beautiful range of Missouri River Bluffs, have been briefly reviewed. The box has saved for posterity an historical treasure for present and future family descendents, and for countless others who feel the need to preserve the heritage of pioneering years in "This Land of Ours."

No. 162 FEB. 16, 1977

Defiance Historic Sites

The town of Defiance, Missouri was not laid out until 1892. It is one of the newer towns in St. Charles County. However, some of the county's very early settlers established their homes in the area. Two in particular were Thomas and Phoebe (Ward) Parsons, who came to the Defiance area in 1840 from Hardy County, Virginia.

This week I visited with Mrs. Laura Parsons, wife of the late Lee Parsons, a great-grandson of the pioneering couple. Laura is a dedicated historian, and she is especially well versed on history in the Defiance area. She is an authority too on Daniel Boone, and his descendants. At present, time does not permit the coverage of Defiance history in depth as it should be, but a number of historic sites should be considered as possible candidates for the Historic Site book.

Tom Parsons Home

This imposing three story brick home on the hill in Defiance overlooking the beautiful Missouri River Bluffs, was built for Tom and Phoebe (Ward) Parsons in 1842 by slave labor.

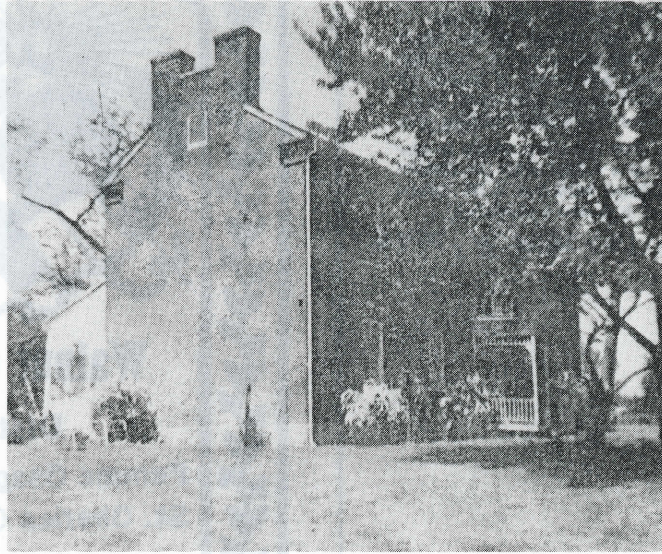
Bricks for the home were made on the site and remains of the kiln, plus fragments of bricks are visible today. Mr. Parsons was born in Virginia and came to St. Charles County in 1840 as a farmer and stock raiser.

The Tom Parson Home has remained in the family for five generations, with Lowell D. Parsons and his family the present occupants.

William Ward Parsons Farm Home

The large farm home, brick and frame, is located one mile northwest of Defiance. It was built here in 1856 for William Ward and Marie E. (Livergood) Parsons. An interesting feature of the two story farm home was the open stairway in the rear as the only means of entering the upstairs bedrooms. Mr. Parsons came to Missouri from Virginia in 1840 as a boy of 13 with his parents Tom and Phoebe Parsons.

Although he was only forty-nine years old when he died, he was a highly successful farmer, and became a large land owner. His son, William Lee Parsons, carried on in the same extensive farming tradition. Their lands at one time covered an entire section. Wm. Lee, by the way, was one of twelve charter members of the first Pleasant Hill Meth-

**Tom Parsons Home**

odist Church south of Defiance, where he served as a Steward.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

This 76 year old frame church stands on the bluff overlooking the town of Defiance. It was built by Herman Hinderstmann, a young carpenter on the Callaway, who later became one of the leading craftsmen in the county. An addition was constructed by the well known carpenter, Martin Thompson.

Aug. Ruebling General Store

Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Ruebling came to Defiance in 1893 and immediately contracted for construction of a two story frame building to serve as a general store, post-office, and home. It remained a general store for a half century. Today the building serves only as a residence. With assistance from Mr. Parkinson Craig, the Rueblings built other buildings to establish a community. Lumber for these first buildings was shipped by steamboat on the Missouri River and hauled by wagons across Darst Bottom.

J. H. Schiermeier and Son General Store

In 1898 John H. Schiermeier came to Defiance from Matson, Mo. and built a general store in the south part of town, where he continued as a merchant until 1924. The store was sold to Schlueter and Vogler in 1925. It has recently been opened at the Defiance Trading Post.

Henry Dietrich Saloon

The first saloon in Defiance was a frame building built in 1893 by Henry Dietrich. Although it has changed hands several times it is still operated as a tavern.

Defiance Town Hall

The Defiance Town Hall was constructed in 1905 for social gatherings, dances, plays, etc. on the first floor and meeting rooms on the second floor. The first executive board was composed of R.E.L. Fulkerson, president; J.H. Schiermeier, vice president; W.L. Parsons, secretary; and Dr. T. L. Hardin, treasurer. Today it serves as the Defiance Post Office.

Joe Tyler Place

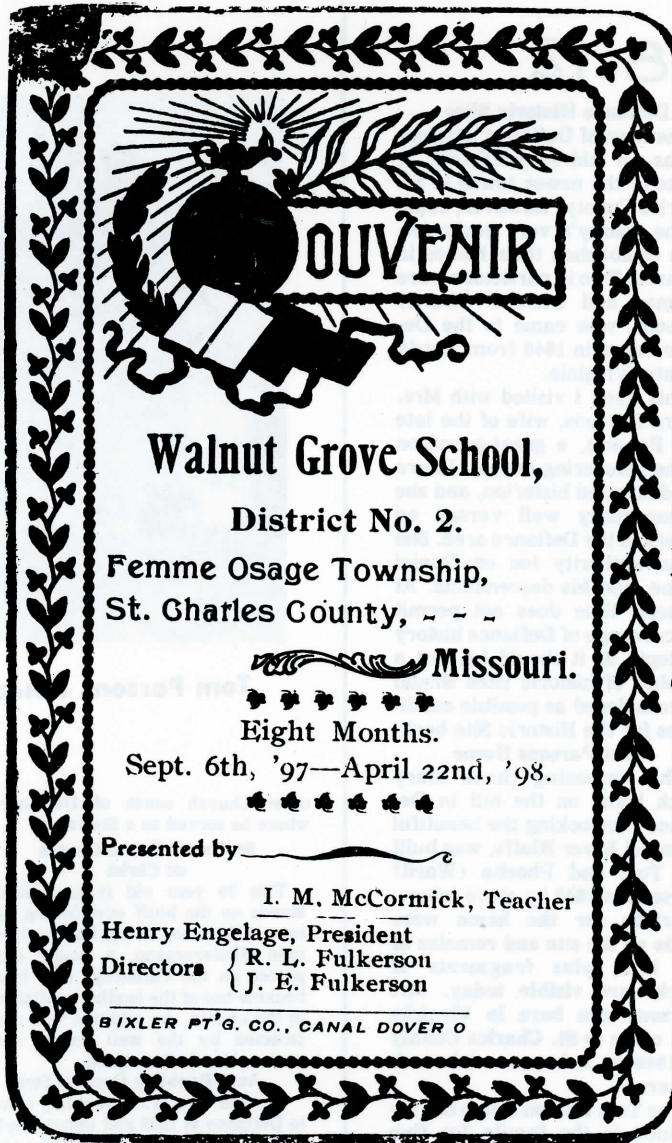
The Tyler farm home on Highway 94 north of Defiance, was built possibly in the 1870's, and sold to Julius Heuman in 1893. Later it became the home of the Louis Nadler family.

No. 132 MAY 3, 1976

Walnut Grove School

The Walnut Grove one room school house, (named first the Sycamore School) was built in Darst Bottom one mile southeast of Defiance in 1898. It was located in the exact center of the school district, although the largest percentage of pupils, by far, came from the town itself. In recent years the actual building was moved into the town where it continued as a school until the district consolidated with the R-III School District. It is now a residence.

No. 132 MAY 3, 1976



Walnut Grove School Souvenir

Names of Pupils

GIRLS

Ethel Baird	Mabel Clark
Ollie Taylor	Viola Taylor
Vida Taylor	Clara Engelage
Clara Thornhill	Bertha Hehlman
Clara Hehlmann	Kittie Fulkerson
Myrtle Felkerson	Nellie Fulkerson
Dalie Riske	Hedwig Riske
Elsie Riske	Hilda Fuhr
Olinde Fuhr	Tresa Schennigmann
Delia Liemkuehler	

BOYS

Montie Livergood	Perty Baird
Frank Schennigmann	J. E. Fulkerson
Henry Schennigmann	Leslie Fulkerson
Ben Schennigmann	Lehman Fulkerson
Noah Schennigmann	Gustav Engelage
Herman Engelage	Oswald Engelage
Elwood Craig	Walter Riske
Oscar Hehlmann	Marvin Taylor
Lewis Taylor	Wm. Liemkuehler
Clarence Thornhill	Edwin Hunter

picnic-like day for all, and undoubtedly a profitable day for the Beckers.

A lifelong friendship with Grover goes back to grammar school days at Walnut Grove. This one room school house was located one and one-half miles from Defiance in Missouri River Bottom rich farm land country. Everyone except Grover himself, and a few other kids from nearby farms, had to trudge down the railroad tracks and through the gumbo, rain or shine, or in zero weather. Despite this, the attendance records were almost perfect. As I recall, Marie Hoefner had a perfect attendance in all of her eight years in grammar school. Here it was in 1918 that Grover Becker, Buddy Schneider, Bill Sander, Florence Jacobsen and myself started the first grade. Not a new boy or girl came into the class throughout the entire eight years, and none of the original five left. We graduated together, and received our diplomas in St. Charles from Superintendent B. H. Jolly in 1926.

No. 109 Nov. 10, 1975

8.14

GROVER BECKER'S SALE

The size of Grover Becker's Sale sign was almost directly proportional to the size of the crowd at his sale in Defiance last Saturday. The weather was delightful, as was the drive down "F" through the Femme Osage Valley, across those two landmark iron bridges spanning the Femme Osage on "F", and around the bend on the Defiance Road, and on to a right turn on the Howell Road. I had forgotten the beautiful views from the Howell Road as it winds along the high country west of the Missouri River valley to John Taylor's homeplace.

Well, it was the "Taylor Place" during boyhood days when Virdon and Lucille Taylor were Pleasant Hill Sunday School friends. Later it became the farm home of the Grover Becker family. Also forgotten was that magnificent view of the Missouri River Bluffs far across on the east side.

Never had so many automobiles invaded that territory. Balmy weather, an endless list of items for sale, the familiar cry of the auctioneer ringing loud and clear over the big crowd, the hot coffee, cold drinks, roast beef sandwiches, homemade pie, and friends everywhere to visit, knitted together a very pleasant

8.13 & 8.14

8.15

FLORIDA DIARY

During these cold, snowy days it is more convenient to rummage through one's personal files for a story than to search elsewhere. One item that I would like to share with readers is a penciled diary of my father's trip to Florida in 1918, nearly 60 years ago, to see his son, Landon, who was in Army training for World War I duty at Camp Johnston in Jacksonville, Fla. My father was a merchant then in Defiance, and his trip partner was Henry Diederich, proprietor of the Defiance Saloon. Impressions, and often amusing expressions, are briefly recorded as follows.

"We departed at 12:50 p.m. on Feb. 21, 1918. Conductor Day was on the Katy. At St. Charles we noticed nothing of interest except that the river was full of floating ice, and we could not have crossed by boat if we had intended to do so. Our train stopped under the Wabash Bridge and into the Car Shops yards, for what purpose I did not find out. Upon arriving at Union Station we checked our grips, bought some maps and sleeping car tickets to Atlanta. After that we took a rest and refreshments, consisting of a ham sandwich and a whiskey, then a beer and another ham sandwich, then checked in at Hotel Barnum. The weather was zero outdoors, however, our room was so hot we had little use for cover.

We pulled out of St. Louis at 8:23 a.m. The trip through Illinois and Indiana was of no particular interest. There were some coal mines, some fine farming lands, some dead orchards, swamps, and all kinds of scrubby brush land. We came nearly getting acquainted with a pretty young woman across the isle but were afraid of the man next to her. It was plainly evident she wanted company. We stopped at Evansville and had refreshments at George Schnarre's place. After leaving there we crossed the great Ohio River and rolled into Henderson, Ky. where a big sign read — "We want you to come to Henderson — Free lights, free

water, free taxes." We supposed they intended to also say Free Whiskey, as we noticed several large distilleries. I have often heard that Kentucky is noted for its bluegrass, fine horses and pretty girls. I cannot understand where the bluegrass would come in as we passed through nothing but swamps and yellow clay hills that would not even raise cow-peas. Horses I did not see, but oh my, the reputation as to the girls is OK. The platform was so full of beauties at one stop we were almost tempted to leave the train. At Nashville we had a fine supper although it cost us 75 cents each. After that we crawled into our berth (my first experience). I did not sleep much, however, as the space was too small for two. Diederich either had me crushed against the wall or was lying on top of me. In the morning we made the acquaintance of Robert Johnson, a Rand Shoe Drummer. He talked me into buying six pairs of men's shoes from him.

The slow train through Georgia gave me a long look at Kennesaw Mountain and the Confederate Cemetery where 20,000 boys were buried after the battle on this mountain. Near Atlanta I noticed the way they cultivated the cotton fields to keep from washing gullies. They plow so that every 15 or 20 feet a ridge curves all around the lowest depression, and then the cotton rows are curved around with the ridges in every conceivable way. We saw one yoke of oxen hitched to a wagon, one goat with a kid, a few cattle, but I don't remember seeing any hogs.

We arrived in Macon at 4:30 p.m. where again we noticed those beautiful southern girls. It was the prettiest and busiest town of all thus far, and hundreds of boys in khaki mingling with the civilians makes quite an impression. The ride through the country though is the same monotonous appearance of second growth pine, here and there a Negro hut, no stock, no chickens, and I wondered how towns like Macon could be so prosperous. We passed through hundreds of miles of flat land and not one foot of it was in cultivation. The only industry we could

see in this southern part of Georgia was pine trees being tapped for turpentine.

When we arrived in Jacksonville all my thoughts were centered on seeing my son, and he finally bobbed up at the station in his soldier togs. I was sure glad to see him. We engaged a room at the Burbridge Hotel at \$4 per day and visited for a long time. The next day we took a train to Pablo Beach on the banks of the Atlantic, and this sight, aside from the object of our visit, was repayment of the expense of our journey. Just the view of the ocean, the waves, the beach, the bathing are things we read about daily. If you have never seen them before, and suddenly behold yourself in the midst of them, they are too impressive to describe, and I venture to say the sight will not be erased from my memory the balance of my life. Back in Jacksonville we were surprised at the beauty of the streets and old southern homes. We had good meals at 30 cents to 40 cents and we noticed three hotels about the size of the Jefferson in St. Louis."

The diary continues in detail with impressions of Jacksonville and the sprawling Army Camp there. They leave for home the next day and soon arrive back in Atlanta where they tried in vain to find something to eat. He writes — "Atlanta may have, and doubtless has, its fine streets, homes, etc., but here is what impressed itself more forcibly on my memory as we came back through. The first thing I saw was a sign reading 'Sensations Meat Shop.' This large frame had not been painted in 20 years and had blown crooked like Mr. Parson's sheep barn. Right along by it came the Public Gabage wagon, and right behind this outfit came a rock wagon, with a negro driver using a regular reed rocking chair for his seat. I said to myself, this closes the account for Atlanta. That I was astonished at Chattanooga is no comparison. I expected to find a town about like St. Charles, and instead we are in a town that has St. Louis skinned! While I am writing this we are in our rooms at the Read House, a hotel as large and more swell than

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the Planters in St. Louis." Being a Civil War enthusiast he goes on to describe his impressions of the battle fields around Chattanooga, and writes his notes while sitting in General Grant's chair. Before leaving the battlefield he mentions that he pulled up two little pine trees to plant in his yard (there were no restrictions in those days). One is still growing on the old home grounds in Defiance.

No. 158 JAN. 10, 1977

8.16

DEFIANCE SENIOR CITIZEN

It is about 12 miles from New Melle to Defiance either way. That is, one can take "F" and wind down through the Femme Osage valley, pass the Boone home and turn right on "94", or one can take "D" to the Cross Roads, and turn right on "DD" to "94." Both are beautiful drives. This time I chose the later route, over the roller coaster blacktop.

The Defiance area really begins at Highway 94, and if we project ourselves back several years we can say that the area around the "F" intersection is Judge R. E. L. Fulkerson territory. Then roll down the Fulkerson Hill to where the road parallels the MKT tracks on the left — Engelage's age old pecan grove on the right. A bit farther, and at the edge of town, is that same lane snaking up hill to Parson's place. In town I turned right at Sander's home, climbed up the steep hill, passed the stucco Pleasant Hill Methodist Church, and pulled up in front of Mrs. Eliza Bueneman's home she and her husband built in 1919. Before going inside to visit, it's just natural to pause for a moment and absorb the beauty of those "mountain appearing" Missouri River bluffs far beyond the flat bottom land.

Mrs. Bueneman, who was Miss Eliza Miller before her marriage to Oscar R. Bueneman in 1910, was born in 1884, and at the age of 91 years she is the oldest living

citizen in Defiance. She is hale and hearty, does all of her own housework, reads a lot, keeps up with today's progress, and instantly recalls the past. Both she and Mr. Bueneman were leading Defiance community citizens when the town flourished prior to the Great Depression.

Eliza met Oscar at the Howell School in 1906 (an excellent school supported principally by the estate of Francis Howell). Mr. Bueneman had received his education earlier at Central Wesleyan College in Fayette, and was teaching school in New Melle in 1906. Eliza went on to teach at the Richmond school on County Road F, west of Defiance. Mr. Bueneman also taught for sometime at Orchard Farm after leaving New Melle.

During this same period the Defiance Bank was being formed. It had been started in 1907 by Dr. Frank Nichols. Small banks could be established then with capital of \$10,000 or more. Finally, as opportunity arose, Mr. O. R. Bueneman was named Cashier, and his wife was named Asst. Cashier. For many years they operated the bank successfully until the Depression caused all operations to cease. The building however, still stands in the center of town. Mr. Bueneman passed away 12 years ago.

There are many interesting stories surrounding the Defiance community, and our charming senior citizen from the town she dearly loves can recall most of them. When another opportunity arises more Defiance history will be told.

No. 97 AUG. 18, 1975

8.15 & 8.16

8.17

CHARLES PICRAUX

It was not until late in 1973 when we moved back into the country that I renewed my acquaintance with Charlie Picraux. Some 40 years earlier he had taken over the Defiance to New Melle mail carrying route, replacing Fred Hoefner of Defiance, who had the route when my father was Postmaster there. Charlie carried the mail for 38 years, except for a brief period when he served his country in the U.S. Army.

We talked at length about the early mail carrying days, and about the narrow, single horse drawn mail cart used by Mr. Hoefner. It was a thrill to learn that the cart was still well preserved and tucked away in Charlie's barn. (It is now believed to be in the Bushnell Museum along Interstate 70 between St. Charles and Wentzville.)

Friends who have known Charlie remember him for different reasons. Many, of course, remember the great skill he acquired in pitching horse shoes. His ringer percentage was phenomenal, and for years he has been considered the horse shoe pitching champion of St. Charles County. The second C.B. News issue, dated October 29, 1973, tabulates the 1973 Championship Tourney results.

Along with his zest for life, and a keen interest in the world about him, he had a most congenial personality. Whatever he did, or wherever he went, his presence was felt. After retiring a few years ago he continued active, dividing his time between his three farms, the farm at Dutzow, Lonesome Acres or Highway D, and the farm on the Old Colony Road, where he recently constructed a five acre lake. Charlie found time, too, to serve as Secretary in the Masonic Lodge, a position he held continuously for 20 years, and to be a faithful member of his church.

Mr. Picraux loved the soil and what it produced, and was convinced he had the champion sycamore tree in the state. He also enjoyed talking about local

area history. On occasion he would bring various items into the store for eventual display. Once he brought in a box of items from Fritz Kamphoefner's old blacksmith shop in New Melle.

Recently he found a hand written receipt concerning each of our fathers, which reads as follows — "Defiance, Mo. Feb. 25, 1919 — Received of Charles P. Picraux for implements (1 low wagon \$48.00, 1 wagon double tree \$3.00, 1 wagon neck yoke \$1.00) Total \$52.00 — Paid in full — J. H. Schiermeier & son."

Those were the days when the Picraux family supplied the area with fresh home grown strawberries. Possibly that low wagon was used by the boys and their father during many years of harvest.

Charles Joseph Picraux is dead at age 68, the result of an unfortunate tractor accident on his farm. We have all lost a dear friend, and the county has lost a fine citizen. Most of all our sympathy is extended to his devoted wife Lucinda (nee McElhiney), his mother, Mrs. Louise M. Picraux, and his two brothers, John of St. Louis and Samuel of Defiance. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, January 12 from the Pitman Chapel in Wentzville.

No. 66 JAN. 13, 1975

8.17

8.18

PROFILE
WALTER DIEDERICH

Everyone in the Defiance, Matson and Augusta area knows Walter Diederich. He is a pleasant conversationalist with plenty of stories to tell.

Walter was born 83 years ago on Dec. 31, 1895, on the Centennial Diederich farm where he still resides. His present home was built by Earl Sutton in the early 1900's. The original family home, built in 1856, was torn down in the 1970's. Neither is his father's fine barn standing. It burned five years ago, destroying his animals and farm equipment. The oak timbered barn, put together entirely with wooden pins, was built when the first home was built.

We examined a large, framed picture showing the pleasing character of the home place, with the family posing on the front lawn. There is his sister Alma, Walter is sitting on his mother's lap (Louise, nee Wildschuetz), his father Charles Diederich, and his brothers Gene and Dan. Also in the picture are two workmen believed to be Brakensiek boys.

Grandfather Jacob Diederich, born in 1829, was confined to the boiler room throughout his long journey across the Atlantic when he immigrated to America. The remains of his primitive home are across from the old Heuman place on Highway F. Jacob, who had a reputation for making excellent honey beer, died in 1915.

Walter grew up to be a strong, handsome young man, and wanted in the worst way to play baseball. As a kid he could have easily made the Defiance team. Team members, including "Hog" Boehmer, who almost made the big leagues, encouraged him to play but his mother was afraid he would get hurt. So, without any regrets, Walter went on to become a successful farmer.

I was intrigued with the story of how he met his wife Dora Greiwe. On a particular day, over 60 years ago, Dora was to take the Katy from Defiance to St. Louis. The train, however, failed to appear due to heavy snow. She was waiting in my father's store when

Walter walked in and noticed this "mighty good looking girl," a stranger to him. Right then he remarked to Fred Hilker, standing nearby, "Someday she will be my wife."

Later, when they became acquainted, he would call on her at the Greiwe home along the Callaway Fork Road in his fancy buggy. The buggy was equipped with side curtains and electric lights. Folks often mistook it for a Model T coming down a dark road. It was drawn by his team of fast Missouri mules. Walter remembered that he was usually home and unhitched within 20 minutes after bidding her good night.

Walter and Dora were married at Christ Lutheran Church in Augusta on Dec. 5, 1917, the same day he reported for World War I duty in the Army. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1967, and Dora died Dec. 11, 1976. Their children are Louise (Mrs. Dan Kemner of Augusta), Alma (Mrs. Fred

Kamphoefner of Defiance), and Mary Belle, who lives with her father. Mary Belle, by the way, has been the organist at Christ Church for 30 years, and has placed flowers on the altar every Sunday for the past 18 years. The fourth daughter is Carolyn (Mrs. Robert Kemner of Augusta).

Mr. Diederich has been in the hospital several times, and once in 1945 he was given three days to live. Now, 33 years later, he may have slowed up some, but he is still a pretty good man and very alert.

Upon leaving, he showed me his "history tree" where he has hung many antique tools he once used. Included is a pair of mule shoes as a remembrance of his courting days in the buggy.

No. 233 AUG. 9, 1978



WALTER & DORA DIEDERICH

8.18



SCHIERMEIER STORE IN MATSON
8.19

EARLY HISTORY OF MATSON

Matson, a small village of some 65 residents, in the SW corner of St. Charles County on Highway 94, may have been appropriately named Boone, Mo. The earliest history records that Daniel Morgan Boone settled here in 1796. Three years later, in 1799, his father, Daniel Boone, led a group of Kentuckians into the Femme Osage area and Daniel built a log cabin just a few hundred feet behind the present town and settled on this farm, it being a Spanish Land Grant of 1000 arpens (845 acres). The following year Daniel was made a Syndic, or Judge, of the Femme Osage Township. The Missouri River at that time came close to the edge of the present Highway 94, and Daniel's huge canoe, with housing over the cargo, was a familiar sight.

In the late 1830's Abraham S. Matson, who at age three came to Missouri in 1816 with his parents from Bourbon County, Ky., purchased the original Daniel Boone Claim. He soon built a stately home a short distance from the Boone cabin. Here two sons were born: Squire William H. and Richard C. Matson. William distinguished himself as a Confederate soldier in the Civil War, participating in more than 30 major battles. Later he be-

came a Justice of Peace of Femme Osage Township. Both brothers, in fact, became influential citizens in the area, and the town received its name from Richard C. Matson.

In 1892 the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad came through Matson. Richard Matson was instrumental in persuading the MKT people to build a station, water tank and coat chute in town in exchange for a portion of his land as right-of-way.

The railroad precipitated construction of a few frame homes, a blacksmith set up his shop, and John H. Schiermeier established a General Store and Post Office. In 1898 the store was sold to Louis Haupt. At the turn of the century the town showed some promise of further growth. However, despite historic beginnings, Matson failed to gain sufficient momentum to carry it through the depression years, and through the more recent loss of their railroad station. One distinction remains, though, that reminds countless young men of Matson's historic beginning, in that it is the starting point of the official Boy Scouts of America 20 mile "Daniel Boone Trail."

No. 134 JUN. 9, 1976

NOTE ON DANIEL BOONE

Reaching ~~back still farther~~ into the past is an item concerning our local national hero, Daniel Boone. In the February 1977 National Geographic article "Audubon On The Wing," Audubon is quoted as saying that the aged Daniel Boone taught him the trick of "barking off squirrels" — killing them cleanly by the concussion of a deliberate near-miss. Daniel was only 62 when he came to Missouri and built his log cabin near the river, one-quarter mile west of the present town of Matson. Is it possible that the celebrated ornithologist, and master painter of "The Birds of America" visited the famous pioneer and together roamed the Femme Osage valley, and paddled up and down the river's edge in search of game, and new found birds to paint?

No. 162 FEB. 23, 1977

*Note: Only the Schiermeier family in photo can be identified.
 Starting 5th from left -
 Landon
 Arlie
 John H.
 Elizabeth*

8.20

PROFILE — CARL SCHNAATH

A pleasant hour was spent this week with another fine gentleman of our area who is old enough to have experienced the inconveniences, and hard life of a Missouri 19th century farmer, and young enough in mind and body to enjoy talking about the days that were.

Carl Louis Schnaath, originally from the farming areas of Augusta and Defiance, and who now resides with his son in Gilmore, was born 88 years ago on March 3, 1888, on a farm near Augusta. His parents were Richard and Wilhimina (Schaeffer) Schmaath. His grandfather came to America from Germany in the late 1840's and somehow "drifted" into Augusta where he acquired a farm four miles west of town. He married a local U.S. born girl by the name of Charlotte Brinkmeyer, whose brother was a well known blacksmith in Augusta. Thus we have the start of the Schnaath family in America.

We sat at the kitchen table in the home of Carl's son-in-law and daughter, Herman and Madaline Klocke on Oberhellmann Road, and talked about a variety of subjects. The home, incidently, is the historic farm home of F. W. Oberhellmann for whom the road is named.

Mr. Schnaath is a likeable, kind faced man, of slight build, and I envied his heavy crop of neatly combed graying hair.

Carl's happy boyhood and teenage days on the farm suddenly became much harder in 1906 when his father, at age 46, was killed by an MKT train near Nona, Mo. Strong winds and high weeds, affecting both sound and vision, contributed to the cause of accident.

Five years later, on April 12, 1911, Carl married Miss Caroline Gausmann of Augusta in the E. & R. Church there where he had been baptized and confirmed. They lived on the old Linnenbringer farm, next to the Boone Home on Highway F from 1914 to 1921, then moved back to the Augusta area. Their six children are Esther Meroney of Baltimore, Md., Herbert of Gilmore, Norman

of Nona, Vera Borgmann of Labordia, and Madaline Klocke of Foristell/New Melle. In 1961 the Schnaaths celebrated their Golden Wedding, and five years later Mrs. Schnaath passed away.

In discussing his wife, Carl remarked that her father, Herman Gausmann, operated the Cooper Shop in Augusta where most of the area's wine barrels were made. Staves for exceptionally large barrels, of course, had to be assembled in the wine cellars. Some can be seen today.

We talked about the historic homes in Augusta, and the brick yard in the Public Square which supplied brick for all brick homes there. We talked about Defiance where he traded regularly in my father's store. Here he bought his Columbia Osborn Binder, his John Deer Dian Mower, and his Case "3 horse" Plow. In quizzing Mr. Schnaath about any unusual happenings on the farm he simply summed it up by relating a recent dream. In his subconscious mind he simultaneously had separate teams of horses and mules hitched up to a mower, a binder, a plow, and a hayrake. Next to this array of cumbersome farm machinery and animal power stood a modern combine. With this vivid picture before him he woke up and exclaimed out loud — "By

George, I lived too soon."

Carl Schnaath, 88-year old grandson of one of our early German immigrant pioneer farmers, has no particular rules for his good health except perhaps, moderation. He has worked hard but he always takes things in stride. Right now he is looking forward to posing for a fifth generation picture. The expected great-great-grandson is on the way.

During the writing of this article I checked the book published in 1895 entitled "Portrait and Biographical Record." There on page 420 was the biographical sketch of Carl's grandfather, Charles Schnaath. He is thereby numbered among the early pioneers of St. Charles County. He was born in 1810 in Germany, one of a family of 12 children, immigrated to America, worked first for \$5 per month and finally saved enough to buy a 124-acre farm, married Charlotte Brinkmeyer in 1852, raised four children, was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and an ardent Republican politically. He was 85 years old when the book was published and was in the best of health.

No. 141 AUG. 18, 1976



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schnaath on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, April 12, 1961.

8.21

PROFILE — ARTHUR BERG

Arthur Berg of Augusta, hale and hardy at age 82, was sitting on a picnic bench in Schluesburg a few weeks ago when I saw him for the first time since I was a kid. He was a ball player then and a good one. He was big and strong, with a powerful arm, and a dangerous bat. We talked for a half hour about baseball, his favorite subject, when he played the outfield for 16 years with the Augusta, Defiance and Dutzow teams, and at one time reluctantly turned down an offer to play minor league ball with Omaha.

Sunday I visited with Mr. Berg again. This time at his birthplace and lifetime farm home high above Highway 94, three and one-half miles east of Augusta. He lives alone since his wife, Erna, passed away in 1974, after a happy marriage of 52 years.

Mr. Berg has an interesting family background, as well as an interesting homeplace, and fortunately a cousin, Thomas Berg, with assistance from Erna, extensively researched the family history. Their work is published in the book entitled "The Berg Family in America 1833-1970," by Thomas Berg, December 1971. The following historical accounts of Arthur's direct descendants have been taken from this book.

Our subject's family history is traced back to his great-great-grandfather Heinrich Berg of Hesse-Darmstadt. He was born in Germany around 1770, and lived most of his life near the small town of Lauterbach, north of the Rhine. Apparently he was a blacksmith.

These were violent times in central Europe. First came the French Revolution, and a series of wars for many years. Hesse-Darmstadt was overrun several times by French armies. There is even a possibility that Heinrich served as a soldier against Napoleon Bonapart. Hesse-Darmstadt is remembered in our American history as the area

supplying Hessian troops to the British during the American Revolutionary War.

Great-grandfather George Berg, one of Heinrich's six children, was born in 1806, probably at Lauterbach, at the time his country was in alliance with Napoleon. George was married to Elizabeth Wahl-Todt in 1830. Of their 11 children, five died as infants, and three died in their late teens. Those that survived to have families of their own were Henry, John and Gottlieb.

John, Arthur's grandfather, was born Nov. 24, 1834. He came to America with his parents sometime between 1836 and 1840, and settled in what was to become Warren County. The family was poor, and most of John's education came at his mother's knee. John grew up, worked several years for a large slave owner, and became a farmer in Warren County along the Missouri River. From his first marriage to Mary Schacter there were two children, Herman, born in 1857, and Emma. John served as a volunteer in the Missouri Home Guard during the Civil War, and once narrowly escaped being killed by Southern Bushwhackers. Mary died in 1866 and was buried in Augusta. After her death, John purchased a large tract of Missouri River bottom land in St. Charles County, where he built a six-room frame house at the time he married Louise Beimdicht. Of their three children, two died as infants. Louise died in 1872. John then married a third time, and to Louise's younger sister, Emilie. To this marriage there were seven children born.

In 1882, and for some years before, the river had taken much of John's farm. Finally he was forced to move to higher ground. Instead of building a new home he decided to dismantle his present home, carefully mark each major piece, and re-assemble it on top of a distant high knoll, where he could survey his remaining bottom lands. It stands there today in a beautiful setting and in splendid condition. One year later, John decided to sign over the farm to his son, Herman, and move with the rest of his family to Ne-

braska.

Sometime before, in 1882, Herman had married Miss Louise Engelage of Augusta. They had four children: Oscar, Hilda, Selma and Arthur. Arthur was born July 22, 1894, married Miss Erna Wissmann December 14, 1922, and continued to live on the homeplace where their four children were born and raised. The children are Marion, Melvin, Ellen and Leona. Arthur's father died in 1952.

We sat at the dining room table, talked about this past family history and the hard times experienced by his forefathers, talked more about baseball, then toured the fine 110 year old home. Visible in the rooms are the tongue and grooved molded ceilings, walls, and some doors that were so prevalent in the late 1800's. All doors have porcelain knobs. Brick lines the exterior walls and are boxed in with rough sawed boards and faced with clapboards. Windows have the 10 inch by 14 inch antique glass panes. Roof rafters are all four inch by four inch and pinned together with wooden pegs.

The cellar foundation walls are of 18-inch thick stone, with built in stone ledges to store cans and jars. Caps on the stone foundation are of one-inch by 12-inch hand hewn timbers. The stone was quarried from a neighboring hill-side across from the Klondike Hill.

It is of interest that the particular knoll on which the house rests is completely free of natural stone, whereas, the adjoining hills are of solid limestone. Noticeable too in many places are the Roman numeral markings Grandfather John Berg used in re-assembling his home. Roman numerals were a standard method of marking stones and wood because of the simple straight cuts that could be made with a chisel.

The household has the touch of a meticulous housekeeper, and the spacious exterior that of a yardman, and Art does it all. Even when he was in his 70's he could throw a baseball as hard as the young fellows. Arthur

Berg, retired farmer, a fine gentleman, member of Christ Lutheran Church in Augusta, and a strong Cardinal fan, anticipates a trip to Busch Stadium Tuesday to see if those Cubs are for real.

No. 180 JUL. 29, 1977

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8.22

AUGUSTA TOUR

Much has been written about Augusta, the picturesque Missouri River bluff town in St. Charles County's southwest corner. Aristocratic High Germans, migrating to America from the Rhineland, fell in love with the beautiful hill country and adopted it as their new home. German educators, musicians, skilled craftsmen and wine makers started in 1835 to disembark at Augusta Bend from paddle wheel steamers they had boarded at New Orleans, their port of entry. A generation earlier, however, Leonard Harold, a Pennsylvania Dutchman, settled here and laid out the original town in 1836. It grew rapidly, and before the 19th century closed it was necessary to include Harold's addition, the Knornschild's Addition, and three smaller additions.

Mr. Harold's layout appears in the 1875 St. Charles County Atlas, and the 1905 County Plat Book shows these additions. Reference page 285 of "Historical Sites of St. Charles County" shows a reproduction of the map.

A visit was made this week to the home of Mrs. Edwin Haupt and Miss Erna Haferkamp in Augusta. They are both lifelong residents here, and Erna especially is a true historian of the town she dearly loves. Her knowledge of first settlers, their homes, habits and businesses is incredible. After lunch she accompanied me on an extended tour of pre-1900 Augusta, first named Mount Pleasant, and without her the following detailed "Augusta Tour" could not have been written.

Now, before you proceed slowly past each of the historic sites with me it would be helpful to have a copy of Malcolm Drummond's Site Book handy for added interest. Note too that each site is numbered consecutively for orientation and for anyone who wishes to prepare a guide map.

Let us begin then at Koppenn Road, the west entrance off Highway 94, and stop at the City

Cemetery (1) where gravestones date back to the 1840's. Two are of particular interest. A high stone near the road marks the grave of John Fuhr, the town's leading musician, teacher of vocal and instrumental music throughout his lifetime, and founder of the famed "Augusta Harmonieverein" in 1856. He was born in Hessen Deutschland in 1820 and died in 1891. Another large stone farther back is that of George Muench, first of a long line of prominent Muench descendants in Augusta and Dutzow, and the first and leading wine producer in the area. Mr. Muench was born in Hessen Darmstadt in 1801 and died in 1879.

Next to the cemetery is Gustav Muhm's modest frame home (2). It was the birthplace of Dr. Oscar Muhm, a very successful MD in the New Melle area. (Ref. "The Country Doctor" in Cracker Barrel News Issue No. 71, dated Feb. 17, 1975.)

Proceeding and setting back to right is (3) Leonard Harold's two-story log home completed about 1830. Undoubtedly the original town was sketched in this house. Mr. Harold distinguished himself in the War of 1812, received a land grant in 1821 for his services from President Monroe which later became the town site, and was one of few slave holders in a community not sympathetic to slavery.

A brick addition to the home was directed by Christian Knornschild in 1854. Cross over the "Mill Stream" and immediately on the right stood the Schaaf Mill (4). (See page 121 in the Pictorial Rural History of St. Charles County by Dr. Stephen Livingston.) Perhaps you may want to visit the "Old Mill Craft Shop" just ahead. As you enter the city limits the road name changes to Jackson St., and at the top of the hill on SE corner of Jackson and Walnut Streets (5) is the Gerhardt Ostroff home with its high rock foundation.

Proceeding on Jackson to Chestnut we arrive at (6) the Haupt home mentioned earlier. Although it was built in 1902 by Berthold Mallinckrodt, its style is typically 19th century. A comfortable corner front porch, Sharon mould room ceilings, suspended

brick flues, and very interesting wood graining on doors and trim, combine to give this home the pleasant atmosphere of days long ago. Such characteristics and countless others are prevalent throughout the tour. The early Mallinckrodt's were cousins of the founders of Mallinckrodt Chemical Co. World headquarters for this company in St. Louis. Louis Haupt, an early Matson merchant, purchased the home in later years. Before continuing on Jackson notice the sign reading "Ivydene Breads" — Sour Dough. It is an interesting place to visit.

View the Herman Wolff home (7) on SW corner of Jackson and Fifth. It is enclosed by an iron fence. Here the widow Wolff established a boarding home. Depot Agent Patterson lived here, as did several school teachers. It was also the stopping off place for drummers, and the office of Dr. Carl Schmidt.

Now turn right on High Street and pass Miller Hy Schaaf's home (8) on top of hill. Son William Schaaf was the next owner. His beautiful flower garden is still remembered. The home across from Schaaf's was built of material from the first Public School. It is the school site (9).

Directly ahead on the NW corner of Webster and High Street is the William Sehr red brick home (10). It is an early "split level" with the kitchen on lower level, overlooking a beautiful valley to the NW. A new city park is planned for this area, and the restored small brick home would be an ideal Information Center.

You have now arrived at the show place of Augusta, "The Mount Pleasant Winery" (11) where the Georg Muench home stands, where he first planted his vineyard in 1860, and where he built his cellars and winery in 1881. It is currently in full operation, in splendid condition, and open to the public.

Turn around, take a right on Webster, and see the (12) frame home Gustav Koch built on the NW corner of Main and Webster in 1840. Refer to page 295 of the Site book and note Gustav sitting contentedly on the front porch. Just beyond is (13) the small

unpainted frame house Georg Muench built for his hired hand in 1860. A later owner was Miss Evelyn Koch who taught in Augusta schools for 39 years.

Turn left on Main, go down the hill, and note (14) a small frame home above the high terrace on left. It was built by John Gaussmann in 1860.

Next door, and on corner of Main and Public is the (15) remains of Herman Damann's General Store. Jim Anderson, a Spanish American War Veteran, once lived here, and still later the stone, brick and frame dwelling became the residence of Robert and Mrs. Parks. Mrs. Parks was Augusta's busy midwife.

Turn right on Public, roll down hill to the Katy tracks, glance to right where the depot once stood, and stop in front of the (16) old Sander Hotel and Mindrup Saloon. Imagine what a busy place this was prior to the great flood of 1872 before the Missouri River changed its course away from the very edge of this section of town. The building was erected in 1849, and 35 years later the river town became a railroad town.

Near by rock ruins once supported a thriving Frederick Wencker general store (17). When the river boats no longer came Wencker moved to "Sharp Corner." The old concrete foundation was the site of Ernest Nadler and Ernest Moritz Distillery (18). Return up hill on Public, turn right on Main, and pass (19) the home of musician John Fuhr high above the rock wall where he had a commanding view of the Missouri River far below. The second owner was Hy Rugge, a Civil War Veteran who lived to be 101 years old. Not one day did the kindly old gentleman, with a distinctive white beard, fail to raise the U. S. flag. Mr. Rugge was born near Copenhagen, Denmark.

Take a left on to Washington. The split level house on right corner (20) was the Schieffer place. Note the ornamental sheeting below the second floor porch with fancy trim work.

On the SW corner of High and Washington is the (21) Goldstein modest white frame home, and opposite on the NW corner is the

oldest house in town (22). Here lived pharmacist Ferris, the only English speaking resident at one time in Augusta. The first Postmaster of Augusta lived in the two-story home (23) on the NE corner. Nearby stands an old dead tree. Under its spreading branches slaves were once bought and sold.

Continue on Washington one block to Fifth. The 19th century brick home (24) on corner was built by Herman Limberg. His son-in-law later turned it into a saloon. Turn right on Fifth to Lower Street, disregard certain scenes, but notice particularly the frame home (25) built close to street Matilda and Louise Damann lived here in the late 1800's. Both were spinsters. Fraulein Tilla was a school teacher for 37 years and her sister was the housekeeper. As they grew older each worried what would happen when one or the other died. Their worries were in vain as Matilda died at age 82, and her older sister died a few hours later from grief at age 84.

The two story frame home (26) near the High Street and Lower Street intersection was built in the late 1800's. It has a deep cellar for storing medical drugs. Across from Damann's home is (27) Simon Stock's three story home. Mr. Stock came from Germany in 1856, worked as a carpenter in Augusta, dealt in mules and horses for the Government during the Civil War, became a merchant in Femme Osage, and was interested in early Augusta progress where he purchased many original lots.

On the corner of Lower and Main is the Widener and Baare Store (28). Turn around at Main, go back on Lower to the (29) brick Herman Limberg Hotel. Across is Dr. Gerling's frame home (30) partially hidden behind two large spruce trees. On the corner of Lower and Walnut is Augusta's first Post Office building (31). Earlier the Post Office was located in Wencker's store.

Turn left on Walnut and continue to the block between Washington and Jefferson where five old homes make up a very attractive section. The William Koch home is on the right (32). A son and grandson of the Kochs

were graduates of West Point, and another son and grandson were dentists. Opposite is Wilbert Holt's home (33). Mr. Holt is an authentic village blacksmith who is now well in his 80's. Carl Wencker's home (34), with the interesting pointed tower, follows.

In 1861 the Ebenezer Evangelical and Reformed Church (36) was erected on the corner of Public and Walnut. Services only in German prevailed here until 1904. Turning left now off Walnut to Chestnut we come upon a fine two story house (37) built by Dr. Wieland's widow. It is located on the SE corner of. Edw. Haferkamp purchased it in the late 1800's and it is Erna's birthplace. Office space was rented to Doctors Schmidt, Muhm, Rickoff, Koch and Schnitker. On the SW corner is the Louis Oetting place (38) with the impressive steep sloping black roof.

Turn right off Chestnut to Jackson and right again on to Walnut. On the NW corner was Charles Fritz Tieman's General Store (39). Mr. Tieman later became the owner of the Fritz Tieman Charter Oak Stove Co. in St. Louis. His store in Augusta is now the Fuhr IGA store. Next door is Fritz Tieman's large brick home (40), now owned by Mrs. Calvin Clay. Her husband was a prominent local doctor, as was Dr. Clay's father. Across the street is Wilbert Holt's much publicized blacksmith shop. It has changed very little since it was founded by Gerhardt Ostroff in the 1880's. Continue on and pass the Wine Hall (41) on the left and the White House Tavern, formerly the William Koch Furniture Store (42). Next is Dr. Hampson Clay, Sr.'s office on the corner of Ferry and Walnut, a white brick building (43), and then appears Dr. Clay's three story white frame home (44). The Clays were a professional family. Three sons were M.D.'s, one son a dentist, one daughter an RN, and three daughters were teachers.

Proceed on Walnut to Jefferson. Turn right off Jefferson to Locust and then to Lower which dead-ends at Sharp Corner. The Wenker Store on right later became the Arthur Haferkamp

Store, and now it is the Wilson Antique Shop (45). On the corner of Lower and Park Avenue is the old Arensburg Hotel (46), and across the street is George Groupe's Saloon (47). Ahead, at the end of Lower Street, is the Arensburg home (48). A son, Oscar Arensburg, went on to become an executive with RCA in San Francisco and Seattle. Frank Besse later set up a shoe repair shop in the home. Here he also pursued his hobby of collecting antique clocks, and hundreds were always on display.

The three 19th century homes on Park Avenue are the Charley Giesmann home (49), the Riske home (50), and the Herman Haferkamp home (51) built in 1878. Straight ahead from the end of Park Avenue stands the Borbein home on the bluff edge just outside the city limits. From

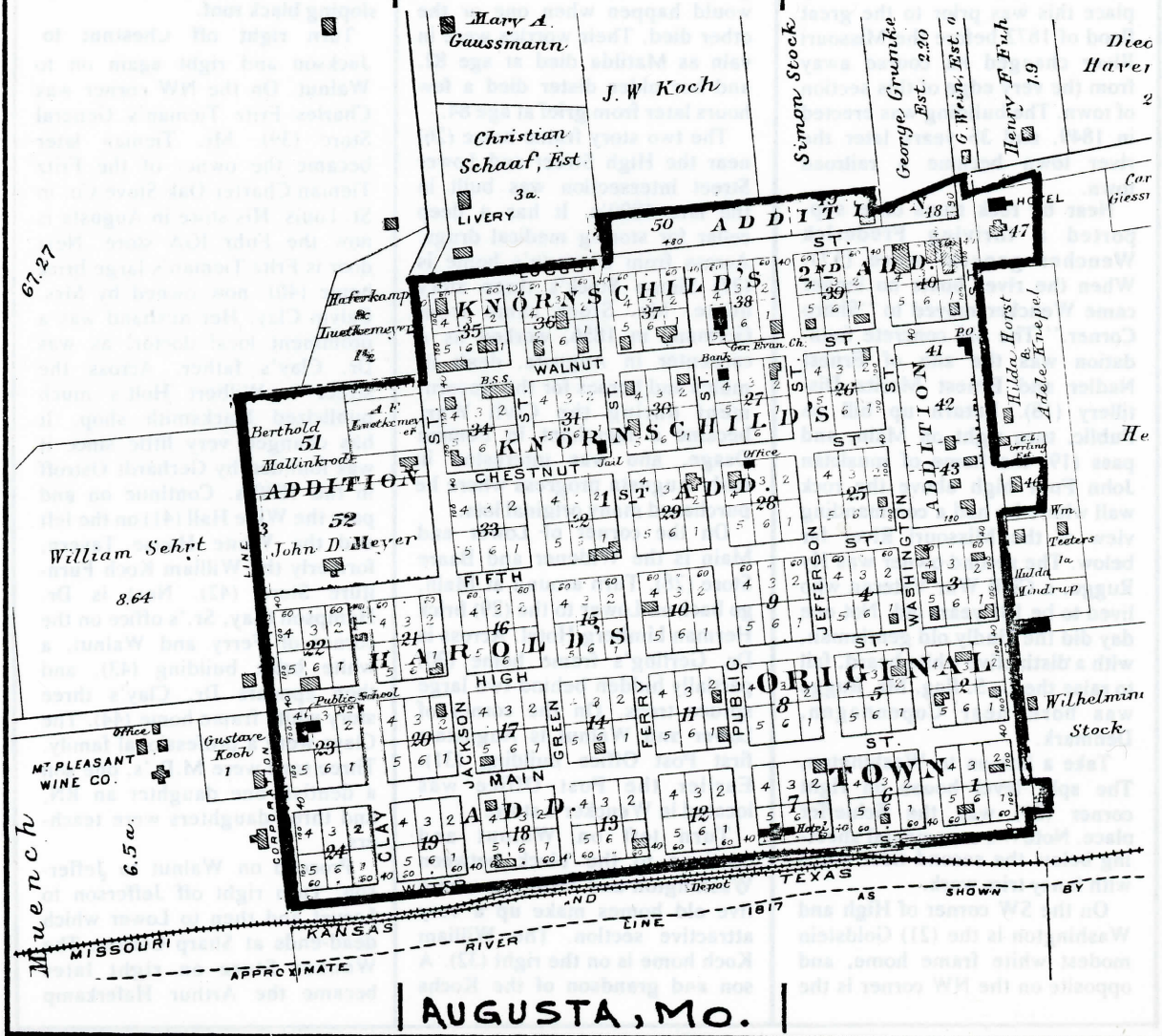
the front porch the view is breathtaking. Long ago Ernest Robyn, a retired St. Louis lawyer, named it "Die Burg" (The Mountain). The Augusta Resale Store is next door.

For over 100 years Augusta community folks have enjoyed many wonderful picnics, political rallies, and all sorts of social affairs at the Harmonie Verein Park, and in the hall that was constructed in 1860, and German bands for decades have entertained crowds around the bandstand. The historic site (52) is located at the corner of Park Avenue and Church Street.

It is time now to leave the Augusta city limits and exit via Church Street to Highway 94. Upon leaving though, notice the Adam Ruebling home (53), the second house on left. On the right is the Bueneman home (54) which

has a deep wine cellar, and then another Riske home (55). Photogenic, and beautifully located, is Christ Lutheran Church and Cemetery. The brick church was built in 1872, replacing a log church of 1860. It is Historic Site No. 56, and it completed the "Augusta Tour." Spring has come once again to the charming town of Augusta, and a most delightful time of the year to become acquainted with the heritage left us by stalwart German pioneers.

No. 169 APR. 6, 1977



8.23

**PROFILE
ERNA HAFERKAMP**

It only requires a glance at an old map of Augusta, Mo., to recognize the importance of two early families, the Knoernchilds and Haferkamps, to the town's 19th century history. Their names spread boldly across their lands that nearly encircled the German settlement, once known as Mount Pleasant.

Miss Erna Haferkamp, daughter of Edward W. Haferkamp and Bertha Knoernchild, was born Oct. 23, 1903, in Augusta. Erna is a retired registered nurse, and a natural historian, however, she would much prefer having a brief story of her beloved home town, and her family precedes anything said about herself.

The town of Augusta is one of the "little Rhineland" cities along the Missouri River bluffs in old Femme Osage Township in St. Charles County. It was laid out by Leonard Harold, a Pennsylvania Dutchman, in 1836. One year before, in 1835, Erna's great-grandparents, John Herman and Helena (nee Sephus) Haferkamp, sailed into Port Baltimore from Hanover, Germany, with their family. They were with the first group of German immigrants led to America by Frederick Muench, who later became a famous wine maker in the area.

One member of the family was Herman Henry Conrad Haferkamp, who had been born in Hanover on April 7, 1834. He was destined to become Erna's grandfather. The Haferkamps settled first in Pennsylvania, but soon migrated into Missouri and established a permanent home on a farm near Harold's tiny new town.

Herman grew up on the farm and obtained an education in both English and German in Augusta in the first public school opened in St. Charles County. The school was taught by Conrad Mallinckrodt.

Herman was 22 years old when the temperance laws were being enforced in the state in 1856.

Young German men could no longer enjoy themselves around the wine table, and Herman may have helped a number of his friends pitch a tent on the Missouri River during an ice blockade to enjoy their wine uninterrupted. It was here where 13 men, on Jan. 13, 1856, organized the "Augusta Harmonie Verein."

Grandfather Haferkamp was a successful vineyardist and winemaker. He had also acquired some 700 acres of farm land. His first wife, Regina Rother, Erna's grandmother, died leaving five young children. His second of three wives also died. In all, including still births, Herman was the father of 21 children.

Erna's father, Edward W. Haferkamp, contributed much to the community of Augusta as a business man. He was married to Bertha Knoernchild. The two families welded into a large group of progressive men and women.

Before proceeding, however, we must first go back to the Kasper Heinrich Schaaf tread mill, east of the Emmaus Home near Marthasville, in Warren County. Hy Schaaf was born near Melle, Germany, in 1801. Upon coming to America he became a miller in St. Charles (1833-1839). In 1840 he built the mill in Warren County. The five-story rock mill, powered first by horses, then by oxen because it was cheaper, and finally by steam in 1844, was a marvel in its day.

In 1860 the mill was turned over to his son-in-law, Herman Bierbaum, and Hy Schaaf went on to build the Augusta Anchor Mills, the town's first mill. Aug Luetkemeyer, related to the Schaafs, took over the mill in the late 1800's. He soon formed a partnership with Edward W. Haferkamp.

In 1902, at the time when new machinery had been installed, and when the mill was filled to capacity, it burned. There was no insurance to cover the loss, only memories, and Erna remembers many stories told by her parents. She related how the wheat was brought in by local farmers, how housewives in long black dresses and bonnets stood in line with their sack of wheat waiting for it to be ground into flour, and how the two partners flipped coins to

see who should carry on. She remembered too how her father scraped the bottom of the barrel for flour for his wife the evening before the fire. Erna still has some of that flour in a mason jar.

Also, without hesitation, she recited the following slogan:

"Whenever you want flour look for the Anchor Brand. In Augusta on the Missouri River a mill doth stand. Haferkamp and Luetkemeyer, as millers will be known, to furnish you with flour of wheat that is home grown."

The mill was rebuilt by Luetkemeyer, but in 1928 it again burned down.

After the 1902 fire, Edward found work at the historic Frederick Wencker store, the town's warehouse and general headquarters for all trading. He became its owner in 1917, and went into partnership with Neinhauser (son of Theo Neinhauser of Femme Osage) in 1936. In 1938 Harold Hueffmeier installed a meat counter, and it became the Augusta Merc. Co.

The store burned in 1941 when Edward Haferkamp was about to retire. His son Arthur rebuilt it as a self-service IGA store in 1941, and continued until 1966.

Erna's mother, Bertha, was a daughter of Henry and Sophie (nee Brehm) Knoernchild of Tiefengrein, Germany, in Bavaria. The Knoernchilds came to America in 1865 when Bertha was 17 years old, and settled in Augusta. The Knoernchilds have a long family history that must be told in a future article. It is time to talk about Miss Haferkamp herself.

Our nurse, traveler, and self-styled historian, attended elementary and high school in Augusta, and graduated from high school in Columbia, Mo. She remained in Columbia to attend the School of Nursing at the University of Missouri. After serving eight months in a Kansas City hospital she graduated from the University of Missouri as an R.N. on her birthday, Oct. 23, 1926.

Upon receiving her R.N. degree she served as a staff nurse at the University of Missouri hospital, did private duty three years in St. Charles, and was a nurse for Dr. Schmidt in Marthasville from 1930 to 1935. After recover-

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ing from a serious automobile accident, she did relief nursing at the German Protestant Hospital in St. Louis County, was on the Deaconess Staff, 1939-44, and with St. Francis Hospital in Washington, Mo., for several years.

From 1965 to 1970 she was a camp nurse during the summers and a nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital in St. Louis during the winters. She was a resident in St. Charles from 1973-76 when recovering from a long illness. It was time to relax and do some traveling.

In 1974 she boarded a Greyhound bus bound for Chicago, Minneapolis, Winnipeg, Jasper National Park, Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, and St. Louis. Thanks to her grandfather, she has cousins by the dozens all over the country, and she visited them all.

Upon returning, she immediately enrolled at Lindenwood College in a German refresher course to better prepare herself for a Church Heritage tour to the sites of the Reformation in Switzerland and Germany in 1975. While there she lingered a few days after the scheduled tour to stay in her grandfather's house in Hanover.

It was also an opportunity to visit the Knoernchild family's Lutheran Church in Hanover. Her cousin, Walter, still lives near there in the original home place. The beautiful church was built by Roman Catholics in 1440. Feudal lords once worshiped there, which accounts for many precious inlaid gold pieces that still remain.

Erna made a second trip to Europe in 1976, with the University of Missouri alumni. They toured Munich, the Rhine River country and Belgium.

At present, Erna is living with her sister, Mrs. Regina Haupt, in Augusta. Regina's husband, Edward, died in November, 1976. They had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May, 1975.

Miss Erna Haferkamp has a remarkable memory for historical dates, for family ties, and for the early history of Augusta. Events that had occurred decades ago,

described in detail, flow from her lips as if they happened recently. She contributed much valuable information to the book "Historic Sites of St. Charles County," however, she should be encouraged to prepare her own historical account of the people she has known, and of the town she loves so much.

No. 236 AUG. 28, 1978

8.24

PAUL FUHR

On April 14, 1975, Mr. Paul Fuhr of Augusta came into the Cracker Barrel. It was my good fortune to meet this interesting man for the first time. We talked about the history of Augusta, and he knew it well. He also could tell a few stories about the New Melle area. We talked too about baseball because one Oscar Fuhr of Defiance was one of the finest baseball players ever turned out in St. Charles County.

Another opportunity to be with Mr. Fuhr came a few months later when I was busy collecting historical material for the book "Historic Sites of St. Charles County." On two occasions Paul and Miss Erna Haferkamp accompanied Mr. Drummond and me on extensive drives up and down every street in Augusta, and to all the old farm places in the vicinity. What Erna didn't know, Paul did, and vice versa. It was a most pleasant experience. Certainly this fine historical book is a better book because of the contributions made by Erna and Paul Fuhr.

Now, at age 84, Mr. Fuhr is dead. He was a good friend, a fine Christian gentleman, and one who had a deep appreciation for the heritage left to us by our forefathers. His family and many friends will miss him, but all are the richer for his presence.

Mr. Fuhr died Dec. 30 at St. Francis Hospital. The funeral was conducted Monday, Jan. 2, at Christ Lutheran Church in Augusta by the Rev. Frank Starr.

No. 203 JAN. 4, 1978

8.23 & 8.24

8.25

THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Since 1839 the tiny town of Washington, Mo., has grown into a sizable, progressive city with fine stores, churches, factories, and all of the other attributes that mold a community into a sound operating unit. Most residents across the Missouri River in the southwest corner of St. Charles County are well acquainted with the City of Washington in Franklin County as we view it today. However, only a few, perhaps including the writer, are acquainted with its early history. A few weeks ago I was privileged to meet Roger Langendoerfer, a young banking executive with the Franklin County Mercantile Bank. Roger is extremely interested in the history of his town, and wants to see as many of its historical landmarks saved and/or restored as is possible. In discussing Washington with him I too became interested in its history and borrowed a small book from his library, entitled "Early History of Washington, Mo. — 1839-1939," by Eleanor B. McClure, Chairman, Committee on History-Washington Centennial Commission. The book was printed by the Washington Missourian. Mrs. McClure and her committee of 15 people have done a thorough job in compiling the town's early history. The following is a brief "Book Review" account of the book:

"About the time Daniel Boone was settling down in our own Femme Osage Valley in 1795, and crossing the river frequently into Franklin County to hunt in the Indian infested hill country, another pioneer by the name of William Hughes was settling down on DuBois Creek, near present day Washington. Next came John Long, a Revolutionary War veteran. He became a large land holder, and part of his grant is included in Washington's original townsite. John Sullins came in 1799, and Kinkaid Caldwell in 1803. A number of others followed soon thereafter, including John Colter, the famous Indian Scout and explorer. Not long

before coming to the Washington area Colter had been a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and was credited with the discovery of Yellowstone Park.

"William G. Owens and his wife Lucinda are recognized as the founders of Washington. They located in the little town of New Port in 1818. Mr. Owens became active in local politics, and was named the circuit clerk when the first county court was held on Jan. 22, 1821. He was also the first Postmaster of New Port. The County Seat was moved to Union in 1826. Mr. and Mrs. Owens then moved to Union, and William became one of the commissioners for the new four room log court house there. After 1829 regular river packets came up the Missouri from St. Louis and Mr. Owens was instrumental in developing a good natural landing at what is now Washington. The New Port landing was poor and inaccessible, and Union was an inland village. Proceedings of the county court records that John Caldwell had been licensed to operate a ferry at "Washington Landing" in 1822. Mr. Caldwell is therefore credited with having given the future city its name.

"In 1828, William Owens purchased considerable land near the landing site, and 50 of his acres were selected for the original townsite. The first lots were sold July 4, 1829, and there is ample evidence that William Owens, prior to his death in 1834, had surveyed and platted the original town. The Franklin County Atlas of 1878 states that "Washington was laid off on the property of Lucinda Owens in 1839.

"History records that Charles Eberius built the first store in 1832, and that he and his brother built the first house. Bernard Fricke built the second. The Eberius store was located on the south side of Front Street, between Jefferson and Market, and the home was at the corner of Main and Jefferson streets. The town grew slowly, with scarcely more than a dozen houses, mostly of log construction, scattered along the river hillside prior to 1840. The first two settlers in the village were Germans, and it continued to be almost an entirely German community throughout

the 19th century.

"One only need to consider many of our very small towns today that have experienced almost zero growth since the early days when they were first founded to realize the prevailing struggle to move a town steadily forward. Washington was no exception. It suffered its first setback on Nov. 16, 1834, when William Owens was murdered on his way home. Then in 1836 the plat of a new town, named Bassora, was filed. It had been planned rather expertly on an adjoining parcel of land, and it caused Washington to remain at a standstill, temporarily at least. The post office established in Washington on April 13, 1837, was moved to Bassora in November. Other businesses and residents sprang up in the new town. However, by 1840 it had lost its appeal. The post office was moved back and Bassora was incorporated into Washington. Today Siegel Avenue connects Third Street of the original town with Second Street in Bassora. Also at this time Lucinda Owens, in settling her husband's estate, aided in resolving certain differences associated with lots and streets. Thus, Washington finally became firmly established, and she is remembered as having carried out her husband's project to completion.

"The town continued to develop. Dan Gale, Washington's first lawyer, purchased the Eberius brick home, and the store was purchased by John T. Gregory. Andrew Cochran operated his ferry and little store at the river bank, and A. W. Krueger established the first drug store at the foot of Jefferson Street. Jeweler and gunsmith, Ed Reichard located at the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets, and Daniel Hammerstein, the first shoemaker, lived in a log cabin at Main and Lafayette. Godfrey Beyreis, the first carpenter, had built a little frame house south of Second on Jefferson Street. Joseph Hardin's log cabin stood near the site of the post office at Second and Lafayette Streets. Dr. Jacobs was the first doctor, and Dr. Elijah McLean, who became a wealthy landowner, laid out numerous additions in the west-

8.25

ern part of town.

"Washington was incorporated as a city Feb. 15, 1841. Andrew Cochran was made chairman of the trustees; John Mense became the clerk; and Joseph Harden served as constable, collector and assessor.

"The devastating flood of 1844 brought hardship to the Washington area. This brought on an epidemic of cholera and fevers. German immigrants poured into the Missouri Valley in 1848, and many settled in Washington. The Pacific Railroad was constructed in the same year. Adding also to the prosperity in Washington was the river boat era, which was at its peak between 1848 and 1858 when 60 to 70 regular packets steamed up and down the Missouri River with valuable cargo.

"After 1850 there was a veritable building boom. Millions of bricks came out of the Heining, Stumpe and Hollmann brick yards. Two large hotels, the Washington House and the Gregory House were built, plus many smaller inns, stores and residences. The quaint old buildings lining Front, Main and Jefferson streets were erected at that time. The first city hall was completed in 1851. The brick building was also used for the public school.

"The Christian background of its people began to strongly assert itself as churches, one by one, dotted the landscape. Steeples that can be seen for miles rose up to dominate the skyline. The St. Francis Borgia Church on Main and Elm Streets was completed in 1846. The congregation was formed in 1833. St. Peter's Evangelical Church, organized in 1844, was built in 1868 on Fifth and Market Streets. The Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Church, formed in 1862, built their stately brick church on Jefferson Street in 1882. The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1850. The old building that stands at Second and Market Streets was called the First Presbyterian Church of Washington." The present church was erected on Fourth Street in 1916. The First Methodist Church is believed to have been organized in 1855. The present building, erected in 1858-59, is still in use

today although there have been many improvements and additions. It is interesting to note that Federal troops occupied the building in 1863-64.

"The Civil War had little effect on Washington, although there are a number of interesting encounters. "Price's Raid" in 1864 was the most exciting. It lasted only one day but much damage was inflicted by the raiders, and two citizens were killed.

"Following the Civil War, Washington enjoyed a long period of continued prosperity. Small, short lived factories manufactured such articles as apple peelers, twine shears, kitchen utensils, toilet soap, matches, rope, wagons, sewer pipes, tiles, inkwells, guns, etc., most of which were for local use. Two of the 19th century industries, however, reached international fame — the Zither Factory, founded by Franz Schwartzter in 1866, a young Austrian, turned out more than 3000 of these popular musical instruments and sold them to all parts of the world. In 1872 Henry Tibbe, an immigrant from Holland, and his son Anton, began manufacturing corn cob pipes, which was later to become the Missouri Meerscham Company."

Mrs. McClure's book, of course, elaborates more fully on the subjects touched upon in this brief review of Washington's early history. Her fine work has certainly given me a deeper appreciation of the interesting historical beginning of our neighbor across the river. May this brief review help others in the same manner.

No. 204 JAN. 11, 1978

Cracker Barrel News

8.26

The Hinkle Place

By Bill Schiermeier

On a cold day in January after a heavy snowfall, a young couple drove to our home deep in the woods. They were Sue Schoenberg, a recent New Melle resident from St. Louis county, and her friend, Fred Thatcher, St. Louis, and Labadie. They had come to "plow us out," and to visit.

It was really an opportunity to get re-acquainted with the Thatcher family, because many years ago we had purchased a homesite from Fred's grandfather who had developed a subdivision in the Ferguson area, called Black Oaks.

The conversation soon drifted to Labadie, Missouri, where Fred had purchased a large home built by Miles Parsons Hinkle in 1854. My enthusiasm to see the home and area was quickened after listening to Fred's and Sue's glowing report.

Last week Jean and I made the trip to Labadie. The trip led us into Washington, and East over old Highway 100 for five miles along the scenic Missouri river bluffs. We then dropped down into the tiny village of Boles, passed under the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and up again to the bluffs. Fred was on a tractor mowing the long right-of-way to the Hinkle Home.

It was soon apparent why this place is something special, and why Mr. Hinkle chose this particular site to build his pre-Civil War home. Early families of English descent settled along the Missouri river bluffs. They were attracted by the panoramic views of rich bottom lands stretching along the wide Missouri to the east or west, depending on what side of the river they chose, and the heavily-forested lands on the bluff side where trees were found growing in fertile loess soils several feet deep. Loess was deposited by winds onto the bluffs eons ago from the dry river beds.

None of these early English aristocrats found a more appropriate location to establish an estate than did Miles Hinkle. His original 1,800 acres, secured as a Spanish Land Grant, was divided rather equally between the bottom lands, and the bluffs. He then positioned his spacious two story, L shaped brick home near the bluff's edge.

The bottom land below is nearly 110 feet straight down. Consequently, one is afforded a splendid long view from any window, or porch.

We ascended immediately to the front porch roof where the view is most outstanding, and where I at last became oriented. There across the river was Augusta. We could even distinguish the Winery, and the Klondyke Quarry, four miles away. Far to the right was the Labadie electric power plant on land that was once a part of the Hinkle estate.

The brick home is very similar in design to Parson's farm home in Defiance. It rests on an expertly cut limestone foundation. Bricks, fired on the site, were laid up carefully by slave labor. Ceilings are all ten feet high. All interior wood work, that is, the chair rails, base board, long ascending stairway and rails, and mantles above the four large fireplaces, are walnut. Closets in the rooms are wide, and extend to the ceiling. They, too, are walnut. Sub-floor joists are full 2-inch by 12-inch oak and cypress, and all exterior wood is either cedar or cypress.

A two-level porch extends across the rear. The open stairway to the second porch floor leads to the back bedrooms. From this level, Mr. Hinkle could view his acres and acres of fruit trees. Orchards, tended by slaves, became the principal source of income throughout the area when it was learned that loess soils were ideal for growing fruit trees. When slavery days were over, the beautiful orchards were left untended. Today they have completely dis-

appeared.

Slave quarters, too, that once dotted the countryside, are gone. Original owners of neighboring estates, who operated much as the Hinkles did, bear such names as Ming, Wilkinson, Davis, Davison, Brown, and Bibb. To the rear of the home is a brick smoke house, and a deep, domed ceiling root cellar where the winter's supply of potatoes, apples, and other supplies were stored.

Fred generally refers to the estate as the James F. Hinkle Place. James was a son of Miles Hinkle, whose greatest love apparently was for the cowboy life in New Mexico. In 1885 he landed on a cattle ranch near Colorado City, Texas. In the same year he drifted to New Mexico, where he remained for several years. In 1937 James published a small book entitled "Early Days of a Cowboy on the Pacos." He devotes 34 pages to his life as a cowboy, and only one page to his political career as Territorial Legislator, Mayor of Roswell, N. M., State Senator of N. M., and Governor of the State of New Mexico in 1923 and 1924.

It is not known how long the Governor owned the Hinkle estate. However, it remained in the Hinkle family 110 years, from 1854 to 1964. a granddaughter, Nellie Omohundro, still lives in Labadie, and I regret not having the opportunity to visit with her, who I was told, is a most interesting lady.

In 1964 John Bowlin bought the place, and completed extensive restoration work. Fred became the next owner three years ago. Now Fred has sold it to F. Carl "Skip" Schumacher, president of the Hickey-Mitchell Company in St. Louis. Skip is excited about spending many happy hours at the historic place.

The area has many small family cemeteries. These old burial grounds always piece together important historical links. The Hinkle cemetery is located a few hundred feet from

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the home, on the bluff's edge. Here are the graves of Miles Parsons Hinkle, his children (some died very young,) and one John Miles Stump 1815/1875.

Upon leaving, Fred and Sue escorted us over to Everett Koch's farm nearby. We again drove under the tracks, passed the Boles Station, first called the Augusta Station. In this vicinity German farmers from Augusta crossed the river by ferry boat and bought out many Virginians after the Civil War.

Everett's grandparents were among the early German settlers. Everett's 100 acre farm where he lives today, is where he was born and raised. There is plenty local history stored in his inquisitive mind, and if time permitted he could have entertained us for hours. His Grandfather, John G. Vogt, built the present Koch home in 1900. A very old log home stands next door and John Vogt had told his grandson it was there when he arrived on a mule in the late 1800's. The cabin is now used as a workshop, and a storage place for old farm tools Everett has purchased at numerous auctions. Mr. Koch's paternal grandfather was Ernst, and his father was Gustave.

We talked about farming practices in earlier days. One thing Everett especially remembered was hauling unshocked fodder out into the pen to fatten two-year-old steers, then letting the pigs come in to clean up what the steers left. He stated that Helmich was the first blacksmith in Boles in the 1970's, followed by Adolph Koenig. The town's first storekeeper was Davis, and there was the Henderson Saloon. Most people in the Boles area years ago were Methodists, and Everett pointed out the old Methodist church across the road built in 1856. Special places for slaves in the upper balcony can still be seen.

Also across the way in a small patch of woods is the site where the Johnson Academy stood. He recalled that Dr. Muench of Augusta was educated here in the 1870's, and his neighbor Squire Jones "married everybody" around here." We talked also about the 30 foot deep loess soil, and Fred mentioned that the only rock, other than building stones, he ever found on the Hinkle Farm was an Indian arrow head. So our first Americans were enjoying this magnifi-



cent bluff country before the Virginians came. Roaming through the log cabin before departing was fun for us all.

On our way home we stopped to visit with Crosby Brown, who is well-known for his restoration work in the locality, and for preserving countless artifacts. We marveled at the setting high above the river, and made a short tour of restored Fort Charette. Hours could be spent here, and I am looking forward to a return visit.

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