

The Saints



St. Louis in 1854

Volume 1, Part 1 of Trails to Two Cities

The Lives and Times of Our Immigrant Ancestors

by Greg Evans

The Saints

Volume 1, Part 1 of Trails to Two Cities
The Lives and Times of Our Immigrant Ancestors

Gregory Walter Evans
July 2020

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For Suzanne, Thomas, and Stephen



2011 Salt Lake City, UT



2012 Eccles, England



2014 Independence, MO



2012 St. Louis, MO



2012 Nauvoo, IL



2013 Brooklyn, NY



2019 Aunt Win in NY



2013 Whately, MA



Hosts and Cousins Mary and Ken



2012 Bad Urach with my 3rd cousins, Suzy's 4th cousin, and Hedwig



2019 Northampton, MA
Lt. William Clarke (1606-1690)
Carol's 8th Great-grandfather



2013 Greenfield, MA
Gary Sanderson at Old Tavern Farm
Carol's 5th Cousin 1X removed



Broadway, England
September 10, 2012
Geemah's 100th Wedding Anniversary

Exploring Our Family History with Family and Cousins

Preface

This book represents the culmination of thousands of hours of family history research that I began in earnest upon returning from a vacation to Park City, Utah, in May 2011. While in Utah, your mom and I visited the Family History Center operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. It renewed an interest I had had for years and it initiated a discussion with your mother about her family history.¹

I was already in possession of a treasure of family photographs, letters, and notes from my sister, Nancy, who had preserved these invaluable documents and taken extensive notes during interviews with our Aunt Alice at her home. After I registered with Ancestry.com, she put me in touch with Sally Stuart, wife of Cousin Joe's cousin Cameron Stewart. Sally was a cracker-jack amateur genealogist whose energy and excitement were an inspiration, especially her creative navigation through searchable on-line resources. Daily discoveries big and small gave me adrenaline rushes. I was hooked.

An unanticipated benefit of exploring family history has been deeply satisfying adventures. I have traveled with cousins, my sister, daughter, and wife to sites in England, Wales, Germany, Missouri, Illinois, Brooklyn, and Massachusetts. We've visited England's churches where your ancestors were baptized and married. We've walked through the Brooklyn neighborhoods in which they lived and Massachusetts and Missouri graveyards where their remains lie. I am very grateful for all the memories.

Our family tree is like a borderless jigsaw puzzle. I adopted the software *Family Tree Maker* to organize all the puzzle pieces in a structured database. Each piece represents a relative of any flavor (e.g., Great Uncle, Great-grandparent, 3rd-cousin twice removed, etc.). An individual's relationships (e.g., sibling, parent, child) are akin to a piece's unique shape. The information collected about the person's life story (e.g., occupations and residences over time) paints the puzzle's picture. The whole process was addicting.

As satisfying as it was to populate the family tree with yet one more ancestor or cousin, it seemed unlikely that anyone else would ever bother to examine the database. Thus began a creative phase of my new hobby: writing and self-publishing minibiographies of relatives about whom I had learned enough to merit preparing a narrative treatment of their lives.²

One thing led to another and before long I had self-published five books. My most recently completed one, *His Truth Is Marching On (HTIMO)*, is a 55,000 word historical biography of my father's eight great-grandparents. Each of them was converted and baptized by early Mormon missionaries into a fledgling movement that grew to become *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. Each one was among the tens of thousands of British "Saints" to emigrate from Great Britain. I set an ambitious goal: to document their lives and times. As historical biography is my favorite genre, it was satisfying to write a book of my own.

¹ As this book is a gift to my children, Suzanne, Thomas, and Stephen, I take the liberty of writing in the first person and addressing them in the second person.

² If you are reading these words, you have illustrated my point: books endure.

The “How Far Back?” Question

The first question I’m asked whenever I tell someone that I do family history is “How far back have you gone?” In order to answer that question I need some inputs:

1. Who is the *individual* you have in mind?
2. Are you interested in how far back in *years* or *numbers* of generations?
3. What *criteria* must a generation of ancestors meet to be included?

Question 1: The individual is the starting point for counting backward in time. Let’s call him or her the base individual and designate him or her as Generation 0.³

Question 2: The time spread of ancestral birthdates increases with successive generations. In your case, for example, the spread is five weeks for us, 7 years for our parents, 21 years for our grandparents, 35 years for our great-grandparents, and 43 years for our 2nd-great-grandparents. To convert a number of generations to years, I use an approximation: one generation equates to one-third of a century. Using this rule, three generations equates to 100 years. For a 30 year old person for whom I know six generations of his or her ancestors, I would calculate as follows: $2020 - 30 \text{ yrs.} - 6 \text{ gen.} \times 33 \frac{1}{3} \text{ yrs/gen.} = 1790$.

Question 3: How should I respond when I have disparate depths of knowledge along ancestral lines? Consider this hypothetical example. Suppose I know a line of my father’s ancestors 40 generations to Charlemagne, but I know nothing about my mother’s parents. If knowledge of one ancestor suffices to include a generation in the count, then my answer is 40 generations. If knowledge of *every* ancestor is required, my answer is 1 generation.

Another goal of Question 3 is to clarify the completeness of ancestral information required. In the previous example, if I just know my grandparents’ birth *countries*, but not their birth *years* or *names*, does it count toward a generation? There’s no right or wrong answer to this question, but it helps to define terms and ground rules to avoid misunderstandings.

Analysis of Our Family Tree

I have analyzed our family tree for seven individuals—you, your mom and me, and your grandparents. Table I’s left-most column assigns a birth year to each generation using the three generations per century rule. The entries in the “No. Gen” column represent the number of generations back relative to the base individual. Thus, the row with No. Gen=1 represents my generation, No. Gen=2 to your grandparents’ generation, and so forth.

Your family tree is populated with 648 ancestors in generations 1 to 12. The 100% entries in the column headed “You” indicate your tree is complete for the first five generations: your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, 2nd-great-grandparents, and 3rd-great-grandparents. Thus, if by “how far back?” you want an answer for which *every* ancestor in the generation is known, then my response is five generations.

³ The number of ancestors in generation N is 2 to the power of the generation number. For generation 0, $2^0 = 1$ —the base individual. For generation 1, $2^1 = 2$ —his or her parents.

My 50% rule: I use a less strict criterion: knowledge of at least 50% of a generation's ancestors is required. Our family tree is populated with names, birthdates, and birthplaces for 46 of your sixty-four 4th-great-grandparents (72%) and 67 of your one hundred and twenty eight 5th-great-grandparents (52%). Application of the 50% rule for your tree leads to an answer of 7 generations—back to the year 1753. The 50% rule is a reasonable compromise between 1 and all ancestors. (Sarah's tree meets the rule for 6 generations.)

Table I's percentages for the ancestors of your four grandparents vary significantly. Values decline more quickly for those of your grandmothers because their ancestors came from Germany and Ireland where records are harder to find. Your grandfathers' percentages decline slowly because records for their British ancestors are more readily accessible.

Some fun facts: Your mom has one great-grandparent who was born in New England: William Newton Sanderson. He was a 7th generation New Englander! His tree is more complete than is mine back 7 generations. Although he was but one of your 16 2nd-great-grandparents, his ancestors alone account for almost 40% of all the ancestors in your tree. Although Table I ends at generation 12, our family tree continues much further back in time. Your mom's father's Virginia line, through his grandmother Fannie Phillips, taps into a distinguished line in England that others have traced back 20 generations to the 1300's.

Accuracy: 20 generations? Really? How far back am I confident of our tree's accuracy? Ancestry.com has an automated feature called *Thru-lines* that can identify the nearest common ancestor of two individuals for whom common segments in their respective DNA are evidence they are related. For the tool to find a common ancestor, the individuals must have uploaded family trees. I think you'd be surprised at how many lines of our family tree I have confirmed with *Thru-lines*, including some back to your 5th-great-grandparents.⁴

Table I - How Far Back?

Birth Year*	No. Gen	You	No. Gen	Greg	Carol	No. Gen	Walter Evans	Arline Pillisch	Wm Edw. Sanderson	Peggy Wallace
TOTAL =		648		235	411		164	69	378	31
1587	12	2%	11	0%	5%	10	0%	0%	9%	0%
1620	11	6%	10	1%	11%	9	2%	0%	22%	0%
1653	10	8%	9	3%	13%	8	6%	0%	27%	0%
1687	9	14%	8	14%	14%	7	23%	5%	29%	0%
1720	8	34%	7	52%	17%	6	69%	34%	31%	3%
1753	7	52%	6	70%	33%	5	91%	50%	50%	16%
1787	6	72%	5	75%	69%	4	100%	63%	75%	63%
1820	5	100%	4	100%	100%	3	100%	100%	100%	100%
1853	4	100%	3	100%	100%	2	100%	100%	100%	100%
1887	3	100%	2	100%	100%	1	100%	100%	100%	100%
1920	2	100%	1	100%	100%	0				
1953	1	100%	0							
1987	0									

*** Birth year is an average @ 3 generations per 100 years**

Shading

< 50%

>= 50%

⁴ As of 2019, Ancestry.com's database has 15 million DNA samples and 34 million trees.

Table II - Your Ancestors – Past Five Generations

GENERATION 0: YOU									
				% English	34.375				
				% Welsh	9.375				
				% German	25				
				% Irish	31.25				
	Birth	Death	Age	Birthplace	% English	% Welsh	% German	% Irish	
GENERATION 1: PARENTS									
	Evans, Gregory Walter	1947		ST. LOUIS	37.5	12.5	50		
	Sanderson, Carol Ellen	1947		QUEENS	31.25	6.25		62.5	
GENERATION 2: GRANDPARENTS									
	Evans, Walter Richard	1920	1999	79	ST. LOUIS	75	25		
	Pillisch, Arline Adolphine	1920	2011	90	ST. LOUIS		100		
	Sanderson, William Edward Jr.	1919	1982	63	BROOKLYN	62.5	12.5	25	
	Wallace, Marguerite Ellen	1926	1996	70	BROOKLYN			100	
GENERATION 3: GREAT-GRANDPARENTS									
	Evans, Gomer Louis	1885	1934	48	ST. LOUIS	50	50		
	Burgess, Sybilla	1888	1968	80	ST. LOUIS	100			
**	Pillisch, Reinhold Valentine	1886	1978	92	ST. LOUIS		100		
**	Meyer, Olinda Dorothea	1887	1976	88	ST. LOUIS		100		
	Sanderson, William Edward Sr.	1889	1929	40	BUFFALO	50		50	
	Beatty, Mildred Virginia	1895	1985	90	BROOKLYN	75	25		
	Wallace, David Richard II	1906	1973	67	BROOKLYN			100	
	Brown, Theresa Marcella	1906	1989	83	BROOKLYN			100	
GENERATION 4: 2ND-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS									
**	Evans, Gomer Daniel	1859	1897	37	ST. LOUIS		100		
**	Knowles, Sarah Ellen	1855	1928	73	ST. LOUIS	100			
**	Burgess, Samuel Rostron	1851	1918	66	ST. LOUIS	100			
**	Allen, Eveline	1856	1936	79	UTAH	100			
*	Pillisch, Ferdinand	1858	1929	70	W. PRUSSIA		100		
*	Beck, Rosina Katherine	1860	1900	39	GERMANY		100		
*	Meyer, Carl Friederick	1843	1919	75	GERMANY		100		
*	Witte, Dorothea Caroline	1849	1929	79	GERMANY		100		
	Sanderson, William Newton	1848	1910	61	MASS.	100*			
*	Buchanan, Ellen	1859	1935	76	IRELAND			100	
*	Beatty, George Evans	1855	1933	77	INDIA	50*	50		
	Phillips, Fanny	1866	1934	68	VIRGINIA	100*			
**	Wallace, David Richard I	1880	1914	34	BROOKLYN			100	
*	Ryan, Ellen	1878	1962	83	IRELAND			100	
**	Brown, Dennis Francis	1869	1939	70	BROOKLYN			100	
**	Connell, Mary Ann	1869	1950	81	BROOKLYN			100	
** Second Generation Immigrant					* Approximate. Trace amounts of Irish, Welsh, and Scottish				
* First Generation Immigrant					** English ethnicity. He was born in Ireland to 100% English parents				
GENERATION 5: PATERNAL 3RD-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS									
*	Evans, Daniel	1831	1917	85	WALES				
*	Williams, Gwenllian	1821	1904	83	WALES				
*	Knowles, Joseph	1815	1880	65	IRELAND**				
*	Creer, Elizabeth	1819	1857	38	ENGLAND				
*	Burgess, Peter	1815	1865	49	ENGLAND				
*	Rostron, Mary	1821	1903	82	ENGLAND				
*	Allen, James X	1830	1911	81	ENGLAND				
*	Pidd, Elizabeth	1832	1918	86	ENGLAND				
	Pielisch, Gottfried	1810			W.PRUSSIA				
	Kirschstein, Ernestine	abt. 1820			W.PRUSSIA				
	Beck, Johann Christoph	1818	1896	78	GERMANY				
	Schafer, Catherine	1823	1890	66	GERMANY				
	Meyer, Karl	abt. 1815			GERMANY				
	Hubens, Wilhelmina	abt. 1815			GERMANY				
	Witte, Rudolph	abt. 1814			GERMANY				
	Lampe, Dorothea Louisa	1814			GERMANY				
GENERATION 5: MATERNAL 3RD-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS									
	Sanderson, William Wells	1816	1874	57	MASS.				
	Aldrich, M. B. Rachel	1819	1856	36	MASS.				
	Buchanan, William	abt. 1827			IRELAND				
	Lahey, Catherine	abt. 1834			IRELAND				
	Beatty, William Edwin	abt. 1825			ENGLAND				
	Evans, Mathida	abt. 1825			WALES				
	Phillips, John Theoderic	1827	1914	86	VIRGINIA				
	Smith, Emiline Agnes	1830	1900	70	VIRGINIA				
*	Wallace, David	1846	1890	44	IRELAND				
*	Ryan, Ellen	1853	1937	83	IRELAND				
	Ryan, John	1840	aft. 1906		IRELAND				
	O'Leary, Catherine	1843	1915	72	IRELAND				
*	Brown, George	1835	1900	64	IRELAND				
*	McLoughlin, Margaret	1840	1897	57	IRELAND				
*	Connell, Michael	1832	1895	63	IRELAND				
*	Delehanty, Ellen	1840	1910	70	IRELAND				

Trails to Two Cities: The Lives and Times of Our Immigrant Ancestors

Having written *His Truth Is Marching On* about my father's ancestors, I originally planned to follow it with a shorter book about my mom's ancestors. And, because my parents, grandparents, and I were all born in St. Louis, it would be about my hometown, too.⁵ Your mom was born in Queens, but she has deeper roots in Brooklyn, where her parents and three of her grandparents were born. When I realized that most of her great-grandparents, and all of mine, were immigrants or children of immigrants, the seeds were planted for a book about your 19th century immigrant ancestors and the two cities they settled in.

April 13, 1985: The miracle that is you became a possibility on April 13, 1985—the day your mother and I married. Later, at the miraculous moment of your conception, your development was set in motion. Your mom and I each contributed 50% of the DNA in your 23 chromosomes, each grandparent about 25%, each great-grandparent about 12.5%, etc.

One hundred and fifty years before our wedding, the DNA that encodes your genome was embedded in 32 gametes scattered across the globe in two states and six foreign countries. Your thirty-two 3rd-great-grandparents were living in Massachusetts, Virginia, Germany, Prussia, Wales, England, Ireland, and India in 1835.

And yet, by 1885, just 50 years later, and before any of your eight great-grandparents had been born, thirteen of their 16 parents were living in just two cities.⁶ Table II lists their birthplaces and other information and all of your other ancestors back five generations. It supports the computation of your ethnic mix based upon the ethnicities of your 32 3rd-great-grandparents. You are about 34% English, 31% Irish, 25% German, and 9% Welsh.

Trails to Two Cities: The Lives and Times of Our Immigrant Ancestors follows the trails taken between 1835 and 1885 by your ancestors to two of the most dynamic cities of that era: St. Louis and Brooklyn. They arrived during an age in which the United States was more welcoming to immigrants than it has become. Their labors laid the foundation for the American century into which you were born. They deserve your attention and gratitude because you are a product of their genes and our country is a product of their lives' labors.

The research that led me to write this book has been a labor of love. It gives me great pleasure to share the fruits of that labor with loved ones and especially you.

Dad
Los Altos, California
June 2020

⁵ I know of no one else in my extended family about whom that statement is true.

⁶ William N and Nellie Sanderson were living in Buffalo, New York, and would arrive in Brooklyn in 1894. Nellie Ryan was seven years old in 1885 and living in Ireland. She would immigrate to America in 1904. She was your last ancestor to “cross the pond.”

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The Saints



St. Louis 1859

***Volume 1, Part 1 of Trails to Two Cities
The Lives and Times of Our Immigrant Ancestors***

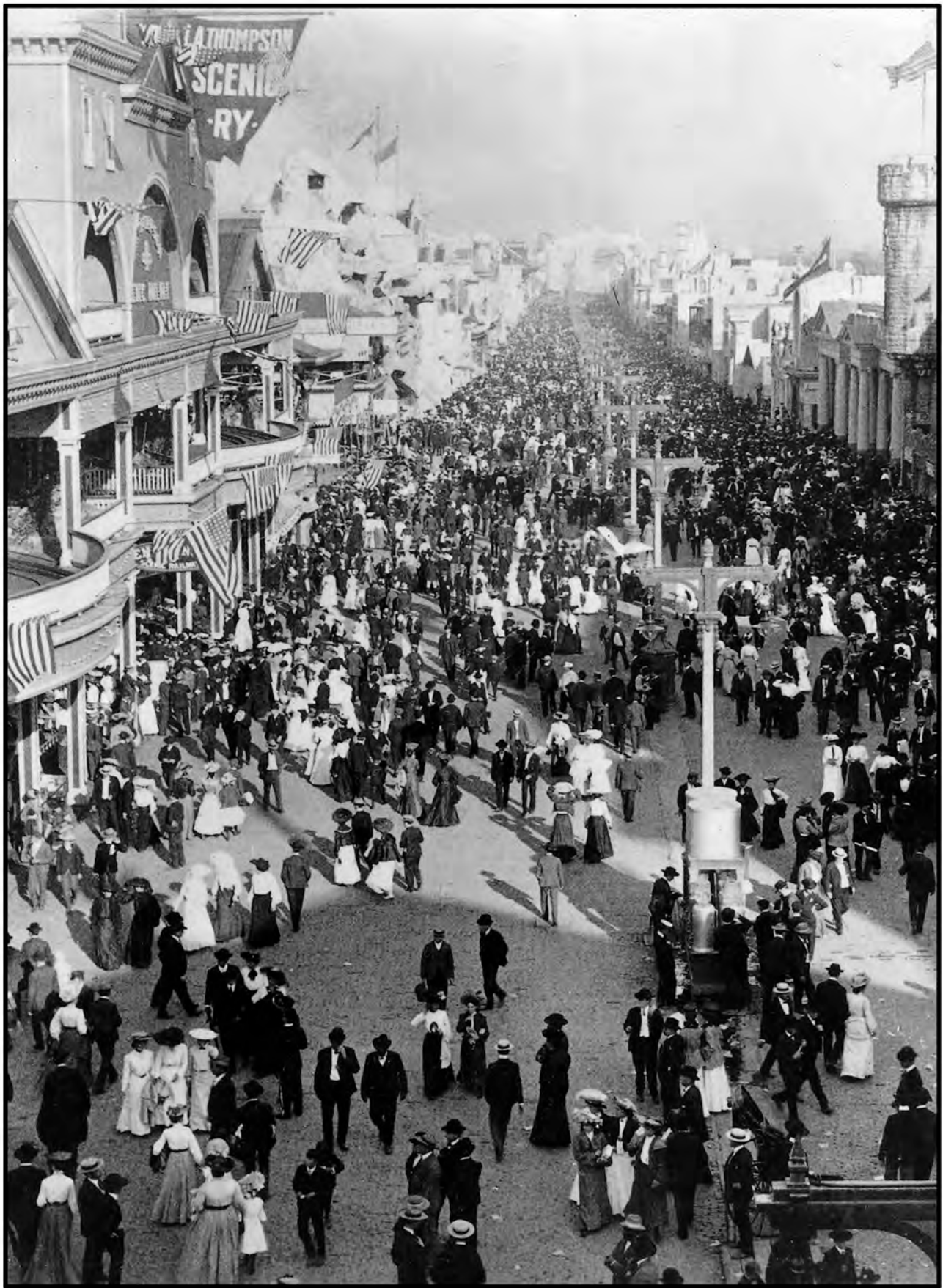


Plate 1 Louisiana Purchase Exposition Street Scene 1904

Meet Me in St. Louis

*Meet me in St. Louis, Louis,
Meet me at the fair,
Don't tell me the lights are shining
Any place but there,
We will dance the Hoochee Koochee,
I will be your tootsie wootsie,
If you will meet in St. Louis, Louis,
Meet me at the fair.*

Andrew B. Sterling, 1904

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Acknowledgments

I am indebted to these individuals for their contributions to Part 1, Volume 1 of this book and to *His Truth Is Marching On*.

Eveline Allen Burgess maintained the Burgess Journal from 1888 to 1918 and a New York trip journal from 1905 to 1909 during which she won and defended her United States Women's Chess Champion. She filled a scrapbook with newspaper articles and art. Her autobiography contains a remarkably candid account of her relationship with Samuel.

Eveline Alice Burgess, daughter of Samuel Allen Burgess and granddaughter of Samuel Rostron Burgess, was the family historian of her generation. She wrote several multi-page, typewritten biographical sketches and vividly captured her father's childhood memories.

Alice Evans Hallock shared with my sister, Nancy, her family knowledge plus her collection of Burgess journals, photographs, and correspondence. They are all treasures.

Sunnile and Elsie Hawkins shared what they knew (or thought they knew) about our Evans and Knowles ancestors in letters write to my parents, Uncle Sam, and Uncle Cedric.

Sallie Stuart, wife of Joe Evans's cousin Cameron Stuart, broke through several brick walls I hit back in 2011. She earned the nickname, *Super sleuth*, when she helped Nancy and me learn the identity of "Cousin Emily" in Samuel Burgess's Journal and much more.

Barbara Bernauer, Assistant Archivist of the *Community of Christ Church* was very accommodating of me during my two-day visit to Independence, Missouri, in 2014. She allowed me to take 400 photographs from family files and photocopy Ellen Goetz's books.

Ellen Goetz wrote a two-volume history (*Portal of Peace* and *The Blooming*) of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints (RLDS) in St. Louis. Members of our family are featured prominently as they were active members from its inception onward.

My sister **Nancy**'s love of family is a continuing inspiration to me. Volume 1 owes much to her. Last, but not least is **Carol**, your mom. She has supported me and encouraged me throughout, not once complaining about the time I spend in front of my computer screen.

In Memoriam

Walter Richard Evans (1920 – 1999)

Arline Pillisch Evans (1920 - 2011)

Gomer Louis Evans (1885 - 1934)

Sybilia Burgess Evans (1888 - 1968)

Gomer Dan Evans (1859 - 1897)

Sarah Knowles Evans (1855 - 1928)

Samuel Rostron Burgess (1851 – 1918)

Eveline Allen Burgess (1856 - 1936)

Volume 1: St. Louis

Part 1

Part 2

Volume 2: Brooklyn

Part 3

Part 4



Walter Richard Evans

b: 15 Jan 1920 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 10 Jul 1999 in Whittier, Los Angeles, California, USA
m: 11 Apr 1942 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA



Arline Adolphine Pillisch

b: 25 Mar 1920 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 09 Jan 2011 in Fullerton, Orange, California, USA



William Edward Sanderson Jr.

b: 14 May 1919 in Brooklyn, New York, USA
d: 24 Aug 1982 in Valley Stream, Nassau, New York, USA
m: 29 Aug 1946 in New York, New York, USA



Marguerite Ellen Wallace

b: 25 Jul 1926 in Brooklyn, New York
d: 22 Sep 1996 in Hawthorne, Westchester, New York, USA

Gregory Walter Evans

b: 16 Aug 1947 in St Louis, Missouri, USA

m: 13 Apr 1985 in Palo Alto, San Mateo, California, USA



Carol Ellen Sanderson

b: 07 Jul 1947 in Queens, New York



Suzanne Elizabeth Evans

b: 18 May 1986 in Palo Alto, San Mateo, California, USA

Thomas Gregory Evans

b: 23 Jun 1988 in Palo Alto, San Mateo, California, USA

Stephen Walter Evans

b: 04 Mar 1992 in Palo Alto, San Mateo, California, USA



Plate 2 Our Family Tree

Introduction

Were someone to ask you¹ “Where did your ancestors come from?” you would be justified in answering *St. Louis* and *Brooklyn* because most of your ancestors were living in one of these cities one hundred years before you were born. This book is about their lives and these cities against a backdrop of 19th century immigration.

The book is organized in two volumes, four parts, and eight chapters. Volume 1 (*Trails to St. Louis*) is about my ancestors and Volume 2 (*Trails to Brooklyn*) is about your mom’s ancestors. Each volume has a *Prologue* and *Epilogue* devoted to either St. Louis (Volume 1) or Brooklyn (Volume 2). Each volume is divided into two parts, each dedicated to the ancestors of one of your grandparents. Within each part are two chapters. Chapters are devoted to two of your sixteen great-great grandparents.

Volume 1, Part 1: The Saints

Pedigree charts showing the relationships between the principal people are placed at beginning of each part and each chapter as helpful references. Chapters proceed from paternal to maternal. Thus, Chapter 1’s first subject is my father’s paternal grandfather and Chapter 2’s final subject is my father’s maternal grandmother.

Each chapter proceeds chronologically, beginning with the early years of the man, continuing with the early years of the woman, and ending with their lives after their marriage. Thus, Chapter 1 begins with Gomer Evans’s early life, followed by Sarah Knowles’s early life, followed by their life as a couple. Dozens of full-page plates augment chapter text. Special circumstances drive deviations from this structure:

Part 1 Chapter 1 (Evans-Knowles) and Part 1 Chapter 2 (Burgess-Allen): These chapters omit descriptions of my great-great-grandparents’ emigrations from Wales and England because detailed treatments are found in *His Truth Is Marching On*.

Part 2 Chapter 2 (Burgess-Allen): I possess a wealth of original correspondence, autobiographies, journals, photographs, and scrapbooks from the Burgess family. This chapter is structured differently so as to let the subjects speak for themselves. In addition, this chapter devotes an entire section to Eveline Burgess’s United States Women’s Chess Championship. Her journals and letters were invaluable resources.

Appendices 1-2 contain reports produced from my Family Tree Maker database of family groups and three generations of the descendants of my great-grandparents. Appendix 3 depicts five generations of my family tree. Appendix 4 lists the names, birthdates, and causes of death of four generations of my ancestors.

¹ I write in the first person throughout this book. Wherever I write “you” or “your,” I am addressing my children: Suzy, Tom, and Steve.

Part 1 - The Saints



Gomer Dan Evans
b: 08 Jul 1859 in Blue Ridge, St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 03 Jan 1897 in New Haven, Franklin, Missouri, USA
m: 04 Dec 1879 in St Louis, Missouri, USA



Sarah Ellen Knowles
b: 29 Aug 1855 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 02 Nov 1928 in St Louis, Missouri, USA



Samuel Rostron Burgess
b: 26 Dec 1851 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 18 Jan 1918 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
m: 04 Jul 1876 in Montgomery City, Missouri, USA



Eveline Allen
b: 19 Sep 1856 in Ogden, Weber, Utah, USA
d: 10 Jul 1936 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA



Gomer Louis Evans
b: 26 Nov 1885 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 09 Sep 1934 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
m: 10 Sep 1912 in St Louis, Missouri, USA



Sybilla Burgess
b: 21 Jun 1888 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 11 Sep 1968 in St Louis, Missouri, USA



Walter Richard Evans
b: 15 Jan 1920 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 10 Jul 1999 in Whittier, Los Angeles, California, USA
m: 11 Apr 1942 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA

Plate 3 Walter Richard Evans's Tree - Part 1: The Saints

Part 2 - The Germans



Ferdinand Pillisch
b: 12 Oct 1858 in Sommerau Danzig-Westpr, Deutschland
d: 08 Aug 1929 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA
m: 19 Apr 1884 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA



Rosina Katharine (Rosa) Beck
b: 25 Oct 1860 in Urach, Reutlingen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany
d: 01 Feb 1900 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA



Charles Frederick (Fred) Meyer
b: 14 Jun 1843 in Germany
d: 02 Jan 1919 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
m: 24 Dec 1868 in St Louis, Missouri, USA



Dorothea C (Dora) Witte
b: 18 Oct 1849 in Westphalia, Germany
d: 19 May 1929 in St Louis, Missouri, USA



Reinhold Valentine (Reiny) Pillisch
b: 04 Feb 1886 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 25 Aug 1978 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
m: 22 May 1913 in St Louis, Missouri, USA



Olinda Dorothea Caroline Mina Meyer
b: 06 Nov 1887 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 02 Jun 1976 in St Louis, Missouri, USA



Arline Adolphine Pillisch
b: 25 Mar 1920 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 09 Jan 2011 in Fullerton, Orange, California, USA

Gregory Walter Evans

b: 16 Aug 1947 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
d:
m: 13 Apr 1985 in Palo Alto, San Mateo, California, USA

Randall Gomer Evans

b: 22 Nov 1944 in Schenectady, New York, USA
d:

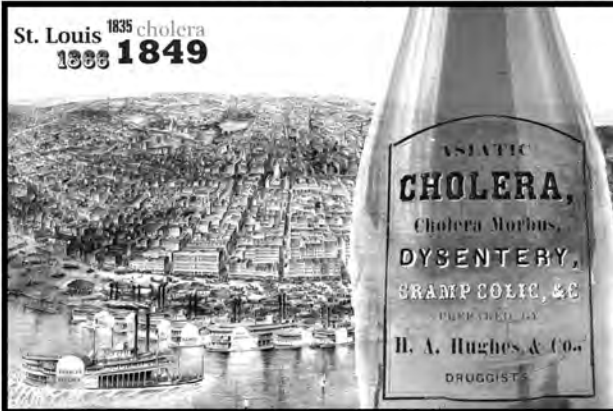
Nancy Arline Evans
b: 12 Jun 1952 in Whittier, Los Angeles, California, USA
d:

Gary Burgess Evans
b: 31 Mar 1954 in Whittier, Los Angeles, California, USA
d:

Plate 4 Arline A. Pillisch's Tree - Part 2: The Germans



St. Louis skyline in 1890 when it was known as the Fourth City



St. Louis ^{1835 cholera}
1849



1849 Disasters: Cholera killed 1 in 11 citizens

Destruction wrought by May 17 Great Fire



c. 1850: Steamboats lined up at waterfront



One of the clay mines in Gravois and Dry Hill



c. 1850: Unpaved streets were dust bowls in summer and mud quagmires in winter.

Plate 5: St. Louis Cityscapes in the mid-19th Century

Prologue: St. Louis

“St. Louis in the 1840s was a city in motion. It was becoming a melting-pot city, having grown 1500 percent and 550 percent in area in two decades, its sewage still running in open gutters; its water supply was untreated and delivery uncertain; its fire and police protection was largely voluntary and unprofessional; and its harbor was threatened with extinction by encroaching sand. To counter these liabilities the city was bursting with vitality; it was a promised land for a diligent, determined, intelligent, and self-disciplined people; it had achieved a commercial supremacy predicted by its early boosters and an industrial future was in the offing. To its residents, the thousands who came every year, and to visitors, it was an exciting place of unlimited opportunity.”²

The events chronicled in *Trails to St. Louis* took place between 1845 and 1925. As difficult as it may be for you to imagine today, St. Louis was during these years among the most important cities in the United States, and, by extension, the world. My goal in this Prologue is to provide some facts and figures to help you understand that assertion.

Waterways were the unchallenged highways of commerce until competition from railroads emerged in the 1860's. St. Louis, situated near the confluence of the three major rivers—the Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Ohio—whose combined watershed of five million square kilometers, equal to 60% of the entire area of the 48 contiguous states—was the country's most important inland port city. Scores of steamboats would line up on the St. Louis waterfront waiting for a turn for goods to be unloaded.

Chicago was St. Louis's rival in the Midwest. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 had created a water route via the Great Lakes and Hudson River connecting it to New York City. “The Erie Canal led to the preeminence of New York City and Chicago. The Erie Canal changed New York City because it was the main route from the Atlantic to the Great Lakes. This led traders and seamen to use the port of New York City more than other Eastern American ports such as Boston and Philadelphia. As New York grew, so did Brooklyn. The canal also led to the growth of Chicago. It practically built Chicago.”³

Industries gravitated to these port cities. Industrial firms required labor and so they became the fastest growing cities in the country. Immigrants provided much of the labor. In 1850 and 1860, 50% percent of St. Louisians and 40% of Brooklynites were foreign-born. By 1890 these percentages had declined to 33%, but the total numbers of immigrants in St. Louis had tripled from 35,000 in 1850 to more than 110,000 in 1890.

Between 1850 and 1870, St. Louis was one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. It doubled its population between 1850 and 1860 and doubled it again in the next decade—a growth rate of 7% a year for 20 years. Brooklyn tripled its population in the same period. The fastest growth occurred in Chicago, St. Louis's rival city in the Midwest. It doubled its population every 6 years—an average annual growth rate of

² Primm, James Neal. *Lion of the Valley*, p. 148

³ Jace Bower. <http://www.highpointhistoryseries.com/2014/01/13/>

12% a year for twenty years. In 1850 Chicago's population was less than half that of St. Louis and it ranked 24th among all cities. By comparison, St. Louis was 8th in population and Brooklyn's 7th. In 1870 Brooklyn was the 3rd most populous city at 420,000 citizens, St. Louis had risen to 4th (311K) followed by Chicago at 5th (299K). Only New York City and Philadelphia were more populous than Brooklyn, St. Louis, and Chicago.

Between 1870 and 1910, growth rates for all three cities slowed to 2% annually for St. Louis, 3.4% for Brooklyn, and 5.1% for Chicago. Despite its lower growth rate, St. Louis still ranked 4th ranked behind New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia. Brooklyn, its status reduced in 1898 to a NYC *Borough*, would have ranked 3rd as a city, making St. Louis 5th. St. Louis took great pride in ranking 4th, and often referred to itself as *The Fourth City*.

Population (1000's)				Rank in Population				Annual Growth Rate (%)			
	St. Louis	Brooklyn	Chicago		St. Louis	Brooklyn*	Chicago		St. Louis	Brooklyn	Chicago
1840	16	48	4	1840	24	7	92	1840			
1850	78	139	30	1850	8	7	24	1850	17.2	11.2	22.3
1860	161	279	112	1860	8	3	9	1860	7.5	7.2	14.1
1870	311	420	299	1870	4	3	5	1870	6.8	4.2	10.3
1880	351	599	503	1880	6	3	4	1880	1.2	3.6	5.3
1890	452	839	1,100	1890	5	4	2	1890	2.6	3.4	8.1
1900	575	1,167	1,699	1900	4	4	2	1900	2.4	3.4	4.4
1910	687	1,634	2,185	1910	4	3	2	1910	1.8	3.4	2.5
1920	773	2,018	2,702	1920	6	3	2	1920	1.2	2.1	2.1
* Rank in 1900,1910,1920 if it were a city.											

* Rank in 1900,1910,1920 if it were a city.

Table 1 Comparison of St. Louis, Brooklyn, and Chicago (1840 – 1920)

In the spring of 1848, St. Louis was well on its way to becoming the commercial metropolis of the entire river basin above New Orleans. Its population of 63,000 lived within a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile-wide strip along three miles of the Mississippi River. After gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada's foothills, in 1848, news spread rapidly worldwide. Men seeking their fortune came through St. Louis before continuing on to California.

1849 Disasters: Cholera and Fire

In December 1848, almost half its population had arrived since 1845. Many recent immigrants came from Germany and Holland—where cholera was raging. They huddled below deck across the Atlantic, arriving in New Orleans dehydrated. The Europeans rehydrated with contaminated water before transferring into cramped steamship quarters, disembarking on the St. Louis docks.

The city's investment in its infrastructure, especially sewage treatment, had failed to keep up with its population growth. Bacteria-laden diarrhea infected the city's water supply because citizens casually tilted their chamber pots out into the streets. Heavy storms washed the raw sewage into the city's numerous limestone caves and sinkholes.

The first eight cholera deaths came in January 1849. The disease quickly terrified St. Louis, but, after several hundred deaths, the epidemic stopped—at least temporarily. At 9 p.m. on May 17, a fire started on the steamship *White Cloud*. It quickly spread to 23

other steamers, then to huge piles of freight on the levies. A strong wind blew through the night, spreading the burning embers from building to building. Then the water supply failed, denying firefighters the means to douse the fire. Six buildings were blown up to stop the spread of the flames. By 8 a.m. the fire reduced 430 commercial buildings to ashes, decimating 14 city blocks; three fire fighters lost their lives. Property losses exceeded \$6 million and thousands lost their jobs.

The great fire's horror proved to be a mere distraction from the cholera epidemic that took off in its aftermath. By the end of June, about 100 people a day were dying. People wrote of finding five dead bodies in one house, of burying young mothers and of placing their children in an asylum. Estimates of the death toll for the 1849 epidemic varies, but the most common is 6,000—one in every 11 St. Louisans.⁴ Among the casualties was Sarah Knowles's grandmother (and your 4th-great-grandmother), Ellen Creer.

Immigrants: Germans and Mormons

The two countries sending the most people to the shores of America between 1840 and 1890 were Germany and Ireland. "In the middle half of the nineteenth century, more than one-half of the population of Ireland emigrated to the United States. So did an equal number of Germans. Most of them came because of civil unrest, severe unemployment or almost inconceivable hardships at home. This wave of immigration affected almost every city and almost every person in America."

"From 1820 to 1870, more than seven and a half million immigrants came to the United States — more than the entire population of the country in 1810. Nearly all of them came from northern and western Europe — about a third from Ireland and almost a third from Germany. Burgeoning companies were able to absorb all that wanted to work. Immigrants built canals and railroads. They became involved in every labor-intensive endeavor in the country. Much of the country was built on their backs."

"From 1845 to 1855, more than a million Germans fled to the United States to escape economic hardship. They also sought to escape the political unrest caused by riots, rebellion and a revolution in 1848. The Germans had little choice — few other places besides the United States allowed German immigration. Unlike the Irish, many Germans had enough money to journey to the Midwest in search of farmland and work."⁵

In *The Saints and St. Louis, 1831 – 1857: An Oasis of Tolerance and Security*, Stanley B. Kimball wrote, "St. Louis was the most important non-Mormon city in Church history. None of my dad's six England-born great-grandparents had any intention of making a home of St. Louis. Neither, in all likelihood, did his two Welsh great-grandparents, Daniel and Gwenllian Evans. Their intended destinations were Nauvoo, Illinois, (before 1845) and Salt Lake City, Utah (after 1845). Yet they all ended up in St. Louis. Although a simple, single explanation does not explain this result, several facts help account for it.

⁵ <https://www.ushistory.org/us/25f.asp>

St. Louis was a way station for *all* Mormon converts from Great Britain. For those taking the river route to Nauvoo from New Orleans, “when the newcomers reached St. Louis it was after a tiresome seven-day trip up the Mississippi. Then it was necessary for them to wait for some time till they could secure passage on yet another boat to sail upstream to Nauvoo, Illinois—their journey’s end. Often times these immigrants were completely drained of funds to continue the journey, and they would remain in St. Louis to work awhile. At times ice on the river would delay their departure.”⁶ St. Louis served a similar purpose for Utah-bound converts, who needed to secure passage on a Missouri River boat bound for Council Bluffs, Iowa—the starting point for the Mormon trail to Utah.

St. Louis: The Fourth City

Long overdue infrastructure investments followed the 1849 disasters. Civic pride was manifested in magnificent new buildings, educational institutions, and public spaces. Many of them built in the 60 years after 1849 are listed in Table 2. The city’s soaring status is reflected in national and international events it hosted: the Democratic National Conventions (1876, 1888), the Republican National Convention (1896), the World’s Fair (1904), and the 3rd Modern Summer Olympic Games (1908.) St. Louis took pride in its rank as the city with the fourth largest population in 1870—The Fourth City.

My purpose in this *Prologue to Volume 1: Trails to St. Louis* has been to establish the context for the descriptions of your ancestors’ lives found in Chapters 1 to 4. My dad’s four great-grandfathers and my mom’s two grandfathers were amongst the Mormon and German immigrants that contributed to the rise of St. Louis in the latter half of the 19th century. A listing of their names, initial destinations in America, year of arrival in St. Louis, and their initial occupation upon arrival conclude this *Prologue*:

Daniel Evans (St. Louis; arrived 1856), Gomer Evans’s father, had been a coal miner in Wales. Hundreds of commercial clay mines were operational in St. Louis.⁷ Daniel found work in the Gravois mines. Also finding work in the clay mines was Sarah Knowles’s father, *Joseph Knowles (Nauvoo, Illinois; arrived 1846)*. *Peter Burgess (Nauvoo, Illinois; arrived 1846)*, Samuel R. Burgess’s father, had been a porter in England. The St. Louis commercial waterfront afforded a porter many employment opportunities. My dad’s other great-grandfather, *James X Allen (Ogden, Utah Territory; arrived 1866)*, was a Union Army surgeon during the Civil War. After the war he moved his family from St. Joseph, Missouri, to St. Louis in order for him to attend St. Louis Medical College. My mom’s grandfather, *Fred Meyer (St. Louis; arrived 1860)* was a laborer from Hanover, Germany, who worked in a flourmill. *Ferdinand Pielisch (Cleveland, Ohio; arrived 1882)* was a blacksmith from West Prussia who worked in a chain-maker foundry.

⁶Ellen Goetz, *Portal of Peace, A Safe Harbor For The Saints in St. Louis From the Perspective of the Reorganization*, p.3

⁷ All the fire clay of the St. Louis quadrangle comes from a single bed known as the Cheltenham bed south of Forest Park. The districts that surround *Dogtown* and *The Hill* sit atop a deposit of high-quality refractory clay — clays that can withstand high temperatures. The clay is mined like coal from a depth generally less than 100 feet. Immigrant labor worked the mines, most prominently the Irish and Italians.

Table 2 Timeline for St. Louis 1840 – 1910

	Population	Event or Opening in St. Louis	Year	My Ancestor in St. Louis
1840	16,469		1846	Peter Burgess GGGF
			1846	Joseph Knowles GGGF
			1847	Elizabeth Creer GGGM
		Cholera Epidemic and Fire	1849	
1850	77,860		1850	Mary Rostron GGGM
		Iron Mountain Railroad	1852	
		Washington University	1853	
		Grand Opera House	1856	Daniel and Gwenllian Evans GGGP
		St. Louis Fire Department	1857	
		Streetcar begins operations	1859	
1860	160,773		1860	Dora Witte and Fred Meyer GGP
		Old County Courthouse	1864	
		Olympic Theatre	1866	James Allen and Elizabeth Pidd
1870	310,864	U.S. Customs House and Post Office	1873	
		Eads Bridge	1874	
		Democratic National Convention	1876	
		Forest Park	1876	
		Busch's Budweiser Beer	1876	
		City secedes from St. Louis County	1877	
		St. Louis Post-Dispatch	1878	
1880	350,518		1882	Ferdinand Pillisch GGF
			1883	Rosa Beck GGM
		Democratic National Convention	1888	
1890	451,770	Union Station	1894	
		Republican National Convention	1896	
1900	575,238	Central Library	1901	
		Sportsman's Park	1902	
		St. Louis World's Fair	1904	
		Summer Olympic Games	1904	
		Democratic National Convention	1904	
		St. Louis Coliseum	1908	
1910	687,029			

Between 1840 and 1890, one of every three immigrants was from Germany: 4.3 million out of 13.7 million.



Germans Emigrate in 1874

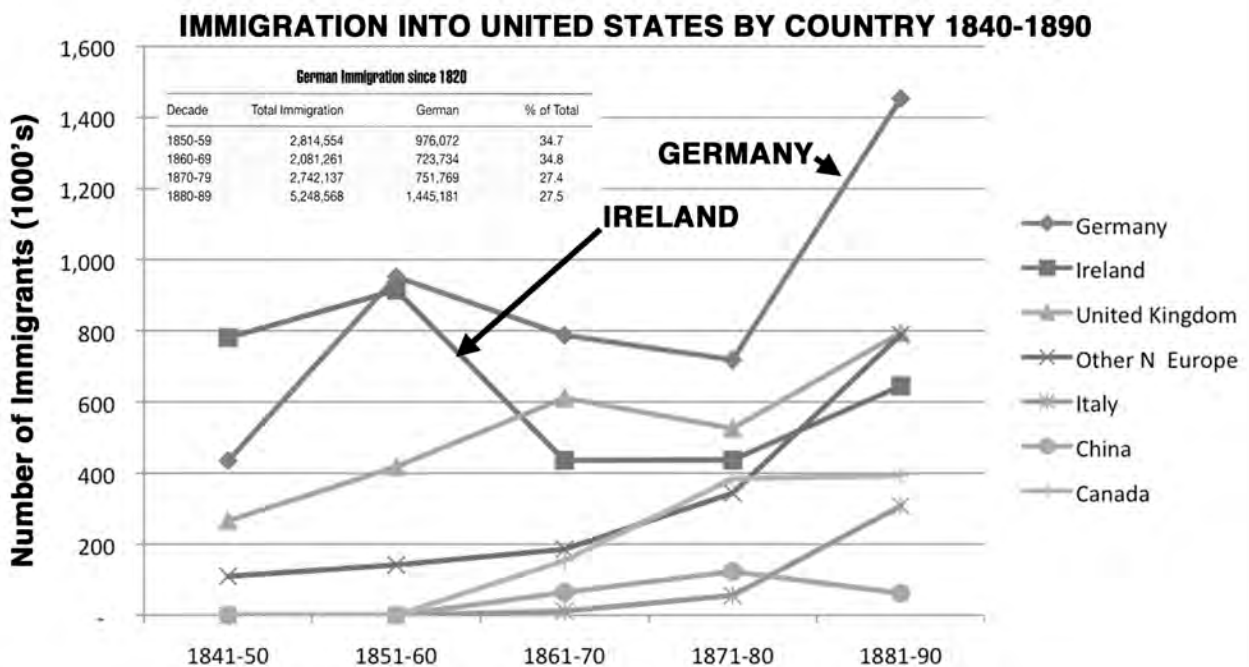


Plate 6 Immigration by Country of Origin 1840 -1890

1875 Opening of the Eads Bridge over the Mississippi River



Eads Bridge during its construction

March 28, 1871 In the afternoon quite a noise was made at the brick works by cannon and steam whistles in celebration of the event of having reached solid rock on the last abutment, the one on the Illinois shore.

Samuel Burgess Journal

1904 Louisiana Purchase Exhibition (St. Louis World's Fair)



Nov. 9 - Sam and I spent the whole day together at the Fair. It was so very enjoyable. It was such a treat to have Sam with me the whole day.

Nov. 19 - Sam and I took supper at the Tyrolean Alps. We were upstairs and saw Adolphus Busch come in with two German princes and ... President Frances. Great excitement and waving of hats during the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Nov. 26 - I went to the World's Fair with Sammy though it was rather cold. President Roosevelt with his wife and daughter were visiting the Fair ... making it a Gala Day.

Dec. 1 - Went to the fair early. ... Met Sam and had supper in the Tyrolean Alps. Were there 'til after 11P.M. ... then went on the Plaza to see the fireworks and see the lights go out on the Great Fair. We stayed there 'til the close and reached home about 1 A.M.

Dec. 2 - I feel so lonesome without the fair to go to, and to think that it is really over and I will never see it again is like having a funeral almost. Eveline Burgess Journal

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PART 1

THE SAINTS



ANCESTORS
OF
WALTER RICHARD EVANS

THE SAINTS

Parents

Grandparents

Great-Grandparents

**Gomer Louis
Evans**

b: 26 Nov 1885 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA
d: 09 Sep 1934 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

**Walter Richard
Evans**

b: 15 Jan 1920 in St Louis, St
Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 10 Jul 1999 in Whittier, Los
Angeles, California, USA

Sybilia Burgess

b: 21 Jun 1888 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA
d: 11 Sep 1968 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

**Gomer Dan
Evans**

b: 08 Jul 1859 in Blue Ridge, St
Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 03 Jan 1897 in New Haven,
Franklin, Missouri, USA

**Sarah Ellen
Knowles**

b: 29 Aug 1855 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA
d: 02 Nov 1928 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

**Samuel Rostron
Burgess**

b: 26 Dec 1851 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA
d: 18 Jan 1918 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

Eveline Allen

b: 19 Sep 1856 in Ogden,
Weber, Utah, USA
d: 10 Jul 1936 in
Independence, Jackson,
Missouri, USA

Daniel Evans

b: 14 Sep 1831 in Llanelly,
Carmarthenshire, Wales
d: 06 Mar 1917 in Boone,
Franklin, Missouri, USA

**Gwenllian
Williams**

b: May 1821 in Ystradfellte, B...
d: 03 May 1904 in Boone, Fr...

Joseph Knowles

b: 11 Jun 1815 in Cobh, Cork,
Ireland
d: 08 Sep 1880 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

Elizabeth Creer

b: 31 Mar 1819 in Preston,
Lancashire, England
d: Bet. 10 Nov 1857-Jul 1860 in
St Louis, Missouri, USA

Peter Burgess

b: 07 May 1815 in Barton,
Lancashire, England
d: 24 Feb 1865 in Salt Lake
City, Salt Lake, Utah, USA

**Mary Alice
Rostron**

b: 12 Oct 1821 in Tottington,...
d: 30 Nov 1903 in St Louis, S...

James X Allen

b: 19 Nov 1830 in Barnsley,
Yorkshire, England
d: 27 Dec 1911 in Ogden,
Weber, Utah, USA

Elizabeth Pidd

b: 28 Apr 1832 in Whaplode,
Lincolnshire, England
d: 10 Dec 1918 in Lamoni,
Decatur, Iowa, USA

Plate 8 Walter Evans Pedigree Chart

Part 1 – The Saints

Part 1 is entitled “The Saints” for a simple reason: all eight great-grandparents of my father became Latter Day Saints. LDS missionaries converted all eight of them in Great Britain in the mid -19th century. All were amongst the 50,000 British converts to emigrate on ships chartered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *His Truth Is Marching On* devotes a chapter to each one of them. In chronological order of their emigration they are:

Sep. 1842 — *Joseph Knowles* sailed on the *Sidney* to New Orleans. He spent the winter in St. Louis en route to Nauvoo, where he lived until 1846. He relocated to St. Louis where he met Elizabeth Creer. In 1848 they married. They had two children who survived their infancy: Joseph Isaac and *Sarah Ellen*.

Feb. 1845 — *Peter Burgess* was baptized in 1842. He sailed on the *Walpole* to New Orleans with his wife, Ann, and two children en route to Nauvoo. Ann and their son died in Nauvoo that summer. He relocated to St. Louis where he met Mary Rostron. They got married in 1851 and had four children: *Samuel*, Alice, Martha, and Peter.

Aug. 1847 — *Elizabeth Creer*, her mother Ellen, and four of her siblings sailed on the *Charlemagne* to New Orleans en route to St. Louis. Elizabeth and Joseph Knowles married in 1848. Her mother and two sisters died of cholera in the 1849 epidemic.

Jan. 1850 — *Mary Rostron* sailed on the *Argo* to New Orleans en route to St. Louis. Three siblings emigrated, too. She married the widower Peter Burgess in 1851.

Jan. 1853 — *James Allen* and *Elizabeth Pidd* met each other on the *Golconda* on their way to New Orleans en route to Utah. In 1854 they got married. They lived in Ogden where they had three daughters—Bertha, *Eveline*, and Sybil—before relocating to St. Joseph. James enlisted in the Union Army and was a surgeon during the Civil War. In 1866 the family relocated to St. Louis where James enrolled in its Medical College.

Feb. 1856 — *Daniel Evans* and *Gwenllian Williams* married in South Wales in 1853 where they had a daughter, Mary. They sailed with on the *Caravan* to New York en route to St. Louis where they had a daughter, Rachel, and a son, *Gomer Daniel*.

The four Saints who were my father’s *paternal* grandparents never made the trek to Utah. They settled in Southwest St. Louis’s clay mining district. All four Saints who were his *maternal* grandparents did cross the plains to Utah. However, they were repulsed by the practice of polygamy they found there and returned to settle in North St. Louis.

In the 1860’s they abandoned any affiliation with the dominant LDS church headquarter in Utah and joined a much smaller splinter organization that rejected the leadership of Brigham Young, but embraced the faith and practices of the Mormon Church’s founding prophet, Joseph Smith Jr. The account that follows summarizes this new church’s founding. Its elders and priests baptized my father’s great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents.

The Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints

In the aftermath of Joseph Smith Jr.'s assassination in 1844, Brigham Young emerged victorious in a competition to succeed Smith as President of the Latter-day Saints Church. When Nauvoo evacuated in 1846, although most residents followed Brigham Young to Utah, others scattered. Some of them moved downriver from Nauvoo, IL, to St. Louis, MO.

On August 28, 1852, in Salt Lake City, Brigham Young declared, "the Latter-day Saints have embraced the doctrine of a plurality of wives as a part of their religious faith." His declaration set off shock waves. Within a few weeks a new organization formed at Yellowstone, Wisconsin. It held conferences every six months for seven years. On April 6, 1860, at a conference in Amboy, Illinois, they elected a new president: 27-year-old Joseph Smith III, the son of the Latter-day Saint's founding prophet, Joseph Smith Jr.

They adopted the new name: *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*. It was nearly the same name used by the Utah-based *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, but omitted the "-" and used an upper case "D". They used this name until 1872, when they changed it to the *Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints*. More commonly, it became known as the *Reorganization* or simply the *RLDS Church*.⁸

Its President, Joseph Smith III, proved to be an effective manager and organizer. He did not disavow any of his father's revelations, but he did downplay those practices that were problematic for many Saints. Its church newspaper, *The True Latter Day Saints' Herald*, for example, in its first edition, condemned the Utah church's sanction of polygamy.

The Reorganized Church targeted a few, small, St. Louis LDS branches that had been organized in 1854, including two at Dry Hill and Blue Ridge. These two were comprised mainly of former Welsh and English coal miners. Although 99% of the thousands of St. Louis Saints had migrated to Utah by 1863, these few dozen miners had chosen to stay.

During its April 1864 conference, an RLDS elder reported, "In Blue Ridge we organized a Branch, and all of the Welsh who were following Brigham [Young], except one, renounced him and contended that they believed in the Reorganization."

The first conference of St. Louis's branches met in 1864 at Blue Ridge. Its minutes reported 61 members for the St. Louis RLDS Branch and 43 for the Blue Ridge branch. Thus, nearly half of the RLDS's 104 original members in St. Louis were coal miners.

One of the miners attending at Blue Ridge was Welshman Daniel Evans. He and his wife, Gwenllian, were baptized on 29 May 1864 and 22 June 1864. On 1 April 1865, another miner received his RLDS baptism —the English widower Joseph Knowles.

Another RLDS branch church met in North St. Louis. In March 1868, its members held meetings at *Mound Market Hall* at the corner of Broadway and Mound Streets. Three recently baptized adult members were the widow Mary Burgess (bap. 12 May 1867), James Allen and his wife, Elizabeth, (bap. 7 September 1867 and 3 March 1868.)

⁸ The RLDS changed its name in 2001 to *The Community of Christ Church*.

Part 1's focus is on four of the children of these six charter RLDS members. They are my father's paternal grandparents, Gomer Daniel Evans and Sarah Knowles Evans, and his maternal grandparents, Samuel Rostron Burgess and Eveline Allen Burgess.

Gomer Daniel Evans: Born in St. Louis's Dry Hill clay-mining district to a former Welsh coal miner, Gomer Evans, and his wife, Gwenllian. He lived his teenage years on the newly acquired family farm in Franklin County. In his 20's he became a locomotive engineer for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He died at age 37 in a railroad accident.

Sarah Ellen Knowles: She, too, was born in a St. Louis clay-mining district, the second child and only daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Creer Knowles. Elizabeth died, probably in childbirth, when Sarah was two. Her father and future parents-in-law met at the Dry Hill branch of the RLDS. Widowed at age 41, Sarah lived her remaining years with one or two of her sons.

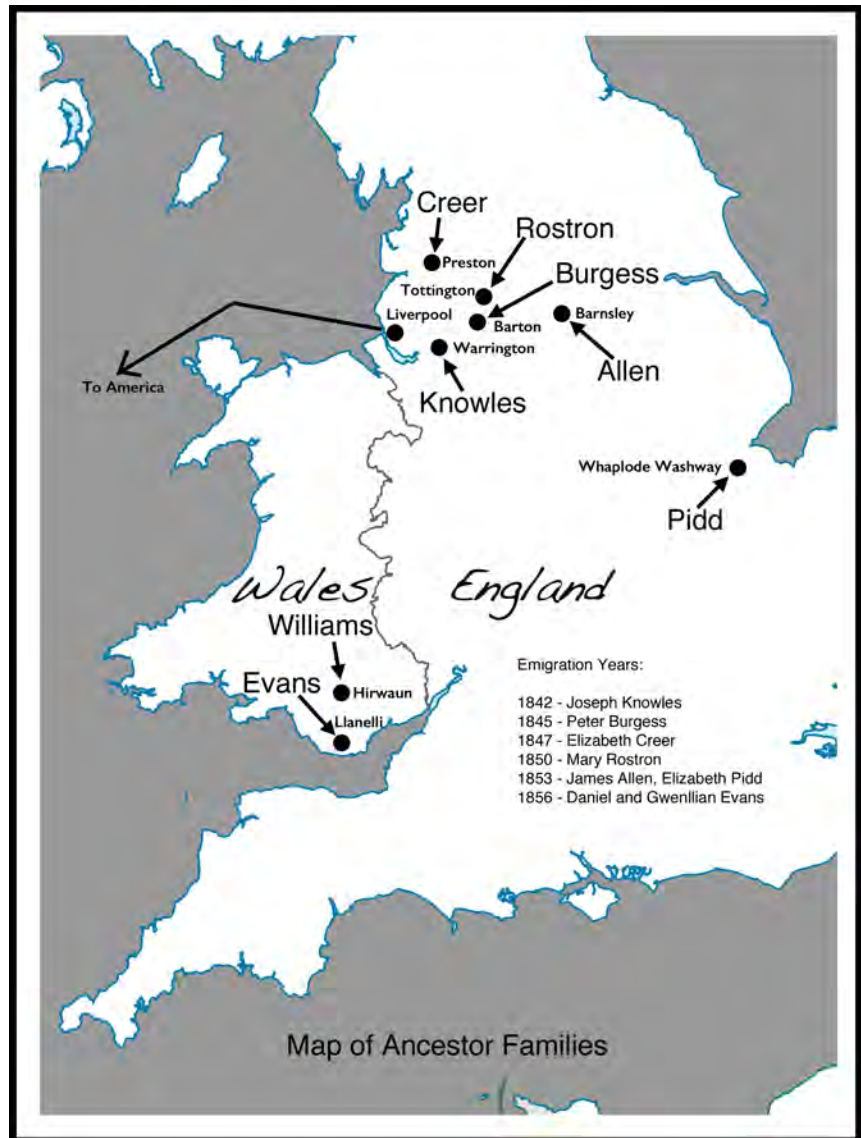


Figure 1 Map of Great Britain annotated by LDS Ancestors

Samuel Rostron Burgess:

Sam was the oldest of five children born to St. Louis merchants Peter and Mary Burgess. After his father died when Sam was ten years old, his self improvement drive led him to two mentors: his future father-in-law and his employer of 40 years. He was a renaissance man and the most remarkable of your ancestors of his generation. Uncle Sam was named after him.

Eveline Allen: Born near Ogden, Utah, to James and Elizabeth Allen, Eveline excelled in St. Louis schools, graduating first in her high school class. The achievement for which she is best known is winning the United States Women's Chess Championship, but she would probably prefer to be remembered for her life-long devotion to her faith and her family.

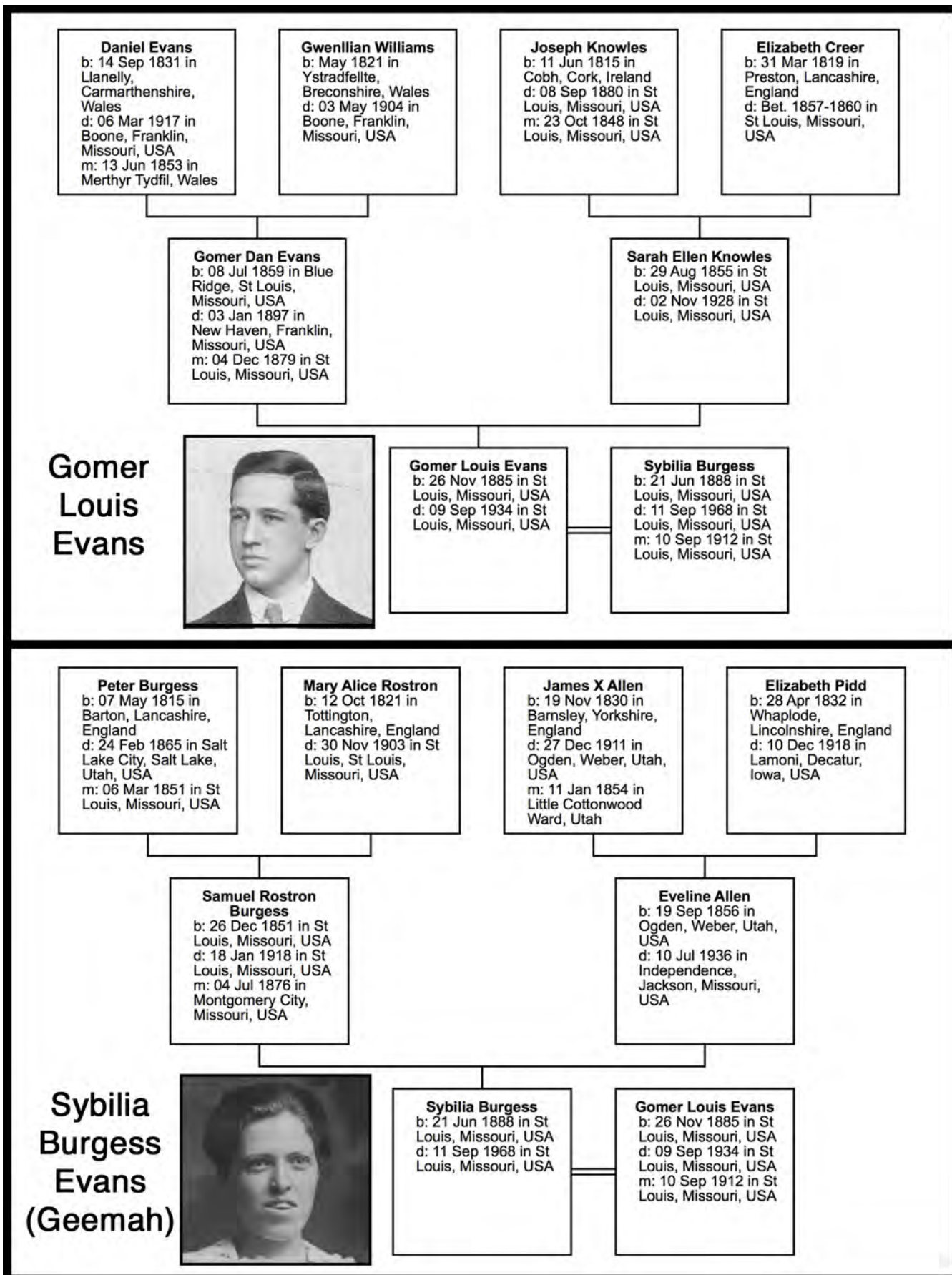


Plate 9 Family trees for Gomer Louis Evans and Sybilia Burgess

Chapter 1

Evans - Knowles



Ancestors of Gomer Louis Evans

**Pedigree Chart for
Gomer Louis Evans**

Daniel Evans

b: 14 Sep 1831 in Llanelly,
Carmarthenshire, Wales
d: 06 Mar 1917 in Boone, Franklin,
Missouri, USA
m: 13 Jun 1853 in Merthyr Tydfil,
Wales

Gomer Dan Evans

b: 08 Jul 1859 in Blue Ridge, St
Louis, Missouri, USA
d: 03 Jan 1897 in New Haven,
Franklin, Missouri, USA
m: 04 Dec 1879 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

Gwenllian Williams

b: May 1821 in Ystradfellte,
Breconshire, Wales
d: 03 May 1904 in Boone, Franklin,
Missouri, USA

Gomer Louis Evans

b: 26 Nov 1885 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA
d: 09 Sep 1934 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA
m: 10 Sep 1912 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

Joseph Knowles

b: 11 Jun 1815 in Cobh, Cork,
Ireland
d: 08 Sep 1880 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA
m: 23 Oct 1848 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

Sarah Ellen Knowles

b: 29 Aug 1855 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA
d: 02 Nov 1928 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

Elizabeth Creer

b: 31 Mar 1819 in Preston,
Lancashire, England
d: Bet. 10 Nov 1857-Jul 1860 in St
Louis, Missouri, USA

Plate 10 Gomer Evans Pedigree Chart

Gomer Daniel Evans

Daniel and Gwenllian Evans and their 22-month-old daughter, Mary Ann, sailed from Liverpool, England, in February 1856, arriving in New York harbor on March 27.⁹ They then travelled to one of the country's most productive mining regions — St. Louis, where hundreds of active coal and clay mining operations offered familiar work for a Welsh “collier” like Daniel Evans. The diggings lay in the area south of Forest Park now known as *Cheltenham*, but which, in 1856, was called *Blue Ridge*.

On the July 27, 1857, in Blue Ridge, Daniel and Gwenllian had their second daughter, Rachel, followed two years later, on July 8, 1859, also in Blue Ridge, by their third and last child, a son they named Gomer Daniel Evans.¹⁰

In Blue Ridge Daniel Evans joined a branch of the LDS Church—one recently organized by British and Welsh coal miners. These men had resisted Brigham Young's call to all St. Louis Saints to make the trek to the Utah desert. Instead, Daniel and the other branch members continued to work in the Blue Ridge coalmines.

In an 1864, a visitor, Henry Coerdon, came to an LDS Blue Ridge Branch meeting and told the assembled miners about a new organization that claimed to be the *true* Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Its leader was Joseph Smith III. This new church accepted Joseph Smith Jr.'s restored Gospel but rejected the Utah church's practice of polygamy. Many miners embraced Coerdon's appeal and formed the Blue Ridge branch of the *Reorganized* Church of Latter Day Saints (RLDS.)

Daniel was among the first to receive an RLDS baptism in May of 1864. His children were ages 10 (Mary Ann), age 6 (Rachel), and age 4 (Gomer.) Another Blue Ridge miner, a widower, Joseph Knowles, received an RLDS baptism in April 1865. His son, Joseph Isaac, was 15 years old and his daughter, Sarah Ellen, was nine years old. Fourteen years later, Gomer Daniel Evans and Sarah Ellen Knowles would marry.

In 1872, sixteen years after he had arrived in America, Daniel Evans purchased 120 acres of land in Franklin Township of Boone County, 70 miles southwest of St. Louis and a few miles from a small town named Sullivan. Daniel made the life-altering transition from miner to farmer when Gomer was 13 years old. By 1876 his farm's annual harvest was 100 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of wheat, and 20 bushels of oats. His farm animals included one mule, one horse, one cow, six hogs, and two sheep. Gomer surely spent his teenage years doing manual labor—building fences, plowing fields, planting and harvesting crops, and milking the cow.

⁹ Daniel Evans's granddaughter, Sunnile Hawkins, wrote on 16 Sep. 1978 to Cedric Evans and on 21 Jun 1, 1982, to Walter Evans—that Gomer Evans was “born at sea.” Ellen Goetz's *Portal of Peace* on page 49 repeated Sunnile's erroneous information: “A son was born to them as they crossed the ocean, who was named Gomer.”

¹⁰ According to ancient tradition, all Welsh people descend from Gomer, the son of Japheth the son of Noah and that they arrived in Britain 300 years after the flood.

In 1860 railroad service from St. Louis to Sullivan was established; perhaps it supported the transportation of Evans farm produce to the St. Louis market. More importantly to Gomer's future, the railroad may have enabled him to maintain a relationship with Sarah Knowles of the Dry Hill branch of the RLDS church.

Sarah Ellen Knowles

Sarah Ellen Knowles was born on 29 August 1855, four months after her father had received his baptism in the RLDS church. She was named for her two grandmothers—Sarah Knowles and Ellen Creer. Her baptism was the first to be recorded in the Dry Hill Branch minutes. However, over the course of their first two years of membership, Sarah Ellen's parents had a falling out with the church for reasons that are unknown. When Sarah was two years old, a sister, Jane, died at birth in 1857. Her sister's death was followed by her mother's death, perhaps due to complications associated with Jane's delivery. Widower Joseph Knowles was solely responsible for two-year old Sarah Ellen and her brother, seven-year-old Joseph Isaac.

In 1860, Sarah Ellen, her brother, and parents lived in Rock Hill, a nearby clay mining area. Her grandparents, John and Sarah Knowles, lived in St. Louis between 1860 and 1862. They may have been of some help to meeting their widower son's needs. Joseph's parents returned to Salt Lake City in 1862, but Joseph and his two children did not accompany them. Their next documented appearance is in the 1871 Dry Hill Branch church membership rolls. Sarah Ellen would have been 16 years old. Interestingly, Sarah's name appears on the rolls adjacent to that of 14-year old Rachel Evans, an older sister of Gomer, Sarah's future husband. Perhaps the Evans's were among the church families who helped the widower Joseph raise his children.

In 1872 Gomer Evans moved 70 miles to his family's farm near Sullivan. Despite the distance, Sarah's relationship with him grew over the next seven years.

Gomer Daniel Evans and Sarah Ellen Knowles

On 4 December 1879 Gomer Daniel Evans and Sarah Ellen Knowles got married. They moved into a residence on St. Louis Avenue, probably near the Mississippi water front in North St. Louis, not far from the St. Louis Branch of the RLDS church. Ten months after they wed, a daughter, Rachel, was born. Four sons followed—Joseph (b. 1883), Gomer Louis (b. 1885), Walter (b. 1888), and Daniel (b. 1892.)

In the 1880 US census Gomer Daniel listed his occupation as *laborer* and reported that he had been unemployed for the past 12 months. (Interestingly, the 1880 US census also included him as a member of his father's household in Franklin County.) Within a few years the couple moved 50 miles west to the Town of Washington on the south side of the Missouri River.¹¹ It was there that their first child, a son, Joseph Daniel Evans, was born in 1883. The following year the family moved to a St. Louis

¹¹ The 1897 fatal wreck that killed Gomer occurred 1.5 miles west of Washington.

residence on Atlantic Avenue. Gomer had become a locomotive engineer for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad.¹² By 1893 he and Sarah had bought a two-story brick home at 2734 Rutger Avenue, less than two miles southwest of Union Station.

1896 The Great Cyclone

The Evans home was directly in the path of the most disastrous storms of modern times, the *Great 1896 Cyclone at St. Louis*; it killed 400 and injured 1200 people. On the afternoon of May 27, the tornado, travelling from west to east, tore through South St. Louis with wind speeds in excess of 188 miles per hour. The Evans family was at home when the destructive winds arrived at 2734 Rutger Avenue. In 1979 Gomer and Sarah's granddaughter Sunnile Hawkins described events for Ellen Goetz, author of *Portal of Peace*, a history of the St. Louis RLDS church. She wrote:

"Rachel and Joe were standing at the kitchen window watching the storm. Sarah Ellen told them to get away from the window immediately, which they did just in time, for minutes later the whole back wall was blown out, along with their roof. Homes for blocks around were damaged; some of the neighbors were killed. The Evans family, however, were unhurt. Gomer Evans was to take his train out, but he stayed home with his family instead. The storm hit about 5 o'clock in the evening that May, in 1896."¹³

1897 A Fatal Wreck

The Evans family was very lucky in 1896, but it was less fortunate six months later. On January 2, 1897, a steady rain fell all day. At 1 am on the morning of January 3, three men—Gomer Evans (engineer), Henry Hankap (fireman), and John McQueen (brakeman) were asked to go out on train 128 pulling 13 cars. Evans told George H. Baird, a Missouri-Pacific brakeman who knew all three men, "it is a bad night and I prefer not to go." That was the last time Baird would see the three men.

They left Chamois at 1:00 a.m. and headed west along the Missouri River. By 2:30 a.m., the train was a half-mile east of New Haven. Baird described what happened:

"A dreary rain set in, the creeks were soon full, and the Osage River was overflowing, then the Gasconade, and finally the treacherous, muddy, and fearful Missouri. The roadbed was undermined by the river and when the engine struck it the whole thing slid out in the water. The thirteen cars piled up between the engine and the riverbank. The cruel waters of the Missouri rose and submerged the bodies before help arrived. When found Engineer Evans was sitting on his seat, a death grip on the throttle with his left hand, and his right hand on the window's armrest. Bro. Hankap and Brakeman McQueen were in their places on the left side of the engine, both cold in death, as if nothing had happened."¹⁴

¹² Gomer was the first, but hardly the last, Evans male to become an engineer.

¹³ Goetz, Ellen. *Portals of Peace*, p. 129

¹⁴ Baird, George. "A Fatal Wreck" in *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*

In his tribute to his three fallen colleagues in *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*, George H. Baird implied Gomer Evans shared his strong religious convictions with others.

"Gomer Evans was a good, kind-hearted man of the best character, a loving father and husband always ready to teach something to somebody or to learn something himself no matter how small it was, he was always ready to learn. He was well versed on all subjects and his "roundhouse lectures on religion" still ringing in the ears of all."¹⁵

1898 - 1928

Gomer untimely death at age 37 left his wife, Sarah, (age 41) impoverished. He had no life insurance, Sarah had a mortgage on their Rutger Avenue home, and had five children at home, ranging in age from 4 to 16 years. She petitioned the probate court judge for \$400, to be paid out of the estate's assets. The judge granted her request.

Her oldest son, Joseph Daniel, age 14, sacrificed his plans for higher education and did his best to support the family with income earned as an office boy for the *Citizen's Railway Company*.¹⁶ Her second-born son, Gomer Louis, age 11, continued his schooling. He would go on to get a full scholarship to Washington University where he would earn an engineering degree.

Sarah managed to keep up with her mortgage payments and keep her home on Rutger Avenue for over two decades, living with one or more of her children throughout that time. Sarah died at age 73 on November 2, 1928, of heart failure, at 7038 Nashville Avenue, next door to her son Gomer's family at 7048 Nashville.

1917 Death of Daniel Evans and the future of the Evans Farm

In February 1917, during a severe cold snap, Gomer's father, Daniel Evans, and his sister Rachel caught pneumonia and died within five days of each other. Father and daughter had worked on their farm for 45 years.

Sarah Evans inherited the farm; she hired Jim Barnett to become its tenant farmer. According to his grandson, Marvin, farm income derived primarily from the sale of chickens, eggs, and milk. It took several days of milking to fill a 5 gallon can whose contents would be run through a cream separator before it was delivered to the nearby Sullivan depot for shipment. In lieu of rent, Jim paid Sarah from the sale of half of the corn crop; the remainder of the crop was fed to the farm animals.

Sarah's children built a log cabin on the property where they could stay on family visits. Joe Evans enjoyed hunting in the woods and came often with a good friend. Gomer and Sybil Evans brought their children—Alice, Cedric, Sam, and Walter—throughout the 1920's and 1930's, especially during their summer vacations.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Joe retired 49 years later as general auditor of United Railways.



**Evans Farmhouse near Sullivan, Missouri
Gomer Dan Evans's home from 1872 to 1879**



**2734 Rutger Avenue -
the Evans home from
about 1893 to the 1920's.**



Sarah Knowles Evans



**Farm Cabin — built after 1918 for
the Evans children and grandchildren.**

Gomer Dan Evans and Sarah Knowles Evans Residences

Knowles Family Bible - 1855 Entry



Sarrah (sic) Ellen Our Daughter
Born in the year 1855 August 29th

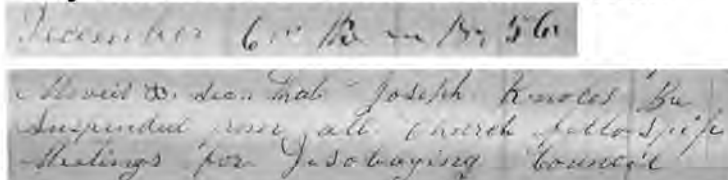
Dry Hill Branch Council Minutes - 1856



Dry Hill Branch - October 6th A.D. 1856

Joseph Knowles * 1 of the 70 Elder

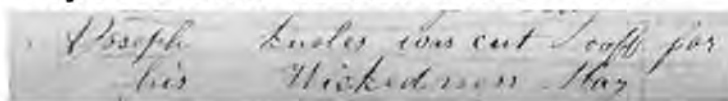
Dry Hill Branch Council Minutes - 1856



December 6 of the year 1856

Moved...that Joseph Knoles (sic) Be
Suspended from all Church fellowship
Meetings for Disobeying Council

Dry Hill Branch Council Minutes - 1857



Joseph Knoles (sic) was cut off for
his Wickedness May 21 1857

Knowles Family Bible - 1857 Entry



Jane Our Daughter was born
in the year 1857 November...
Died November...

1855 to 1857— Joseph and Elizabeth Knowles ¶

¶ In 1855 [Joseph and Elizabeth] were members in good standing of the recently founded Dry Hill Branch. On 29 August 1855, [Elizabeth] gave birth to a daughter, Sarrah (sic) Ellen Knowles, named for her grandmothers, Sarah Knowles and Ellen Creer. ¶

¶ The Knowles's standing in the Dry Hill Branch soured in 1856. The first indication that Joseph had fallen out of its good graces appeared in its December 1856 council minutes: 6 Dec 1856: Moved and seconded that Joseph Knoles (sic) be suspended from all church fellowship meetings for disobeying council. Within a year, both Joseph and Elizabeth were dropped from the church rolls. ¶

¶ Then, on 1 Mar 1857: Elders Allen and Gettings were appointed to visit Elder Knowles and request him to renew his covenant if he wishes to have standing in this church. ¶

¶ Then, on May 21, 1857: Joseph Knowles was cut off for his wickedness and, on October 2, 1857, Elizabeth Knoles (sic) was cut off for disobedience. ¶

¶ In November Elizabeth gave birth to a daughter, Jane. Shortly thereafter both mother and daughter died, leaving Joseph Isaac, age 7, and Sarah Ellen, age 2, to Joseph's care. ¶

1855 to 1857: Momentous Events for the Knowles Family

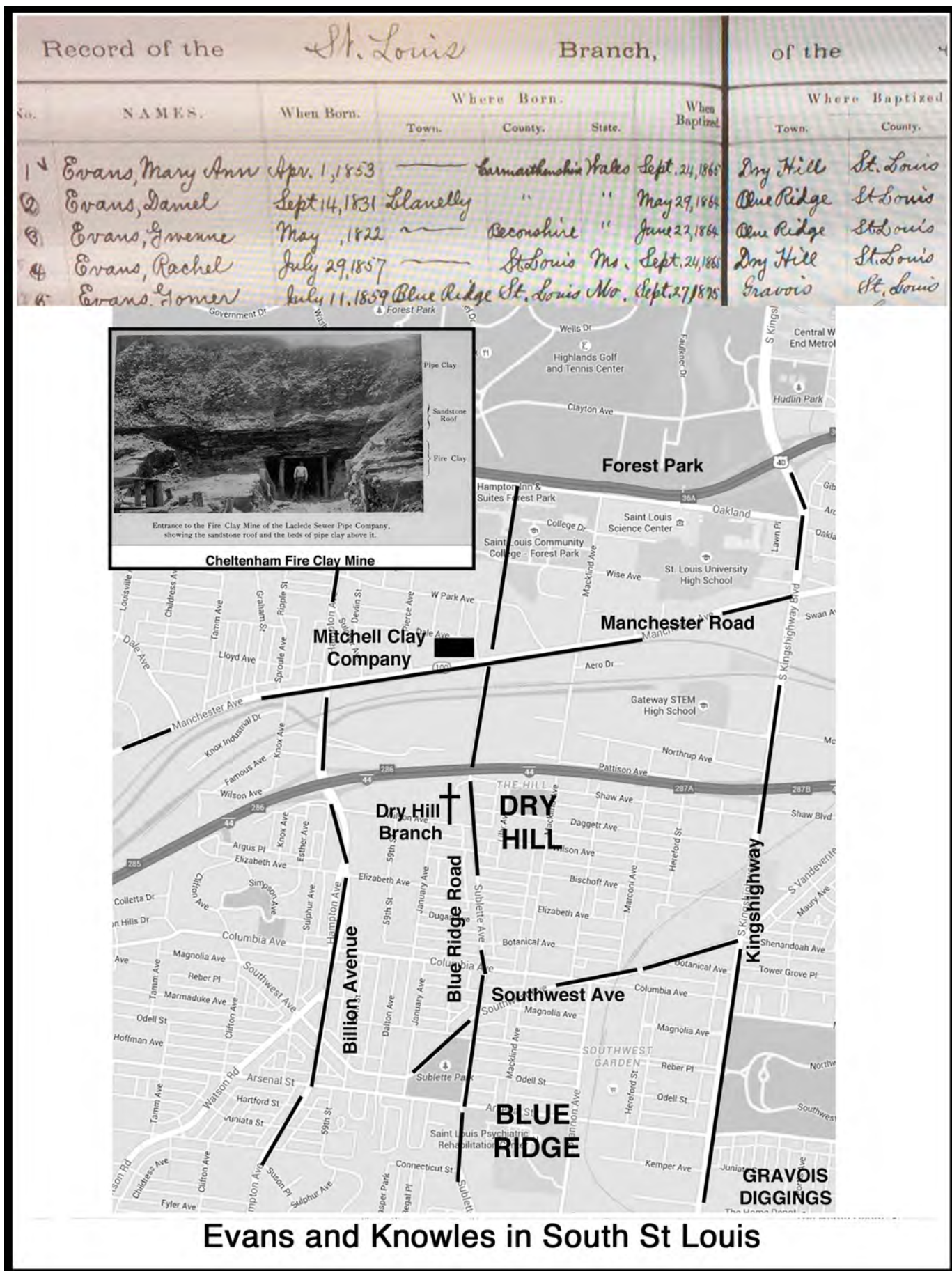


Plate 13 Evans and Knowles in South St. Louis

THE GREAT CYCLONE OF 1896



20 MINUTES OF TERROR | 255 KILLED | LAFAYETTE PARK IN RUINS

Just after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 1896, the thick, low clouds hanging over St. Louis began to swirl ominously and turn a greenish hue. The barometer dropped quickly, and rain began to fall in large droplets as people quickly rushed to take cover. Within moments, a tornado of tremendous proportions swept a wide path through St. Louis and crossed the Mississippi River into East St. Louis. The tornado, known as the Great Cyclone, cut a ten-mile swath of destruction that completely destroyed 311 buildings, heavily damaged 7,200 more and caused substantial harm to yet another 1,300. In a mere twenty minutes, 255 people were killed.

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported that "all over the city, bells were tolling for the dead." The Great Cyclone remains the single deadliest incident in St. Louis history.

Immediately after the storm clouds cleared, photographers from St. Louis, Chicago, and other cities rushed to the area with cameras in hand to document the destruction. Several studios published paperback booklets with photographs illustrating the carnage left in the wake of the 1896 tornado which served as souvenirs of the event. Numerous examples of these are preserved in the Special Collections Department of Central Library and form the basis of this exhibit.

Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly magazine showed the world the destruction caused by the tornado that struck St. Louis and East St. Louis on May 27, 1896. Just two weeks later, in the issue dated June 11, photographs and artist's renderings of the disaster were featured. This page highlights the destruction that occurred in the Lafayette Square neighborhood. The photographs were taken by Rosch Photography, a local St. Louis firm.

LESLIE'S WEEKLY.

407



MISSOURI AVENUE, LOOKING EAST, NEAR LAFAYETTE AVENUE.



HEAD OF LAFAYETTE AND JEFFERSON AVENUES, LOOKING NORTHWEST FROM MISSOURI AVENUE.

Rachel and Joe ... were standing at the kitchen window watching the storm. Sarah Ellen told them to get away from the window immediately, which they did just in time, for minutes later the whole back wall was blown out, along with their roof. Homes for blocks around were damaged; some of the neighbors were killed. The Evans family, however, were unhurt. Gomer Evans ... was to take his train out, but he stayed home with his family instead. The storm hit about 5 o'clock in the evening on 27 May 1896.

Evans home at 2734 Rutger St. was in the path of destruction.

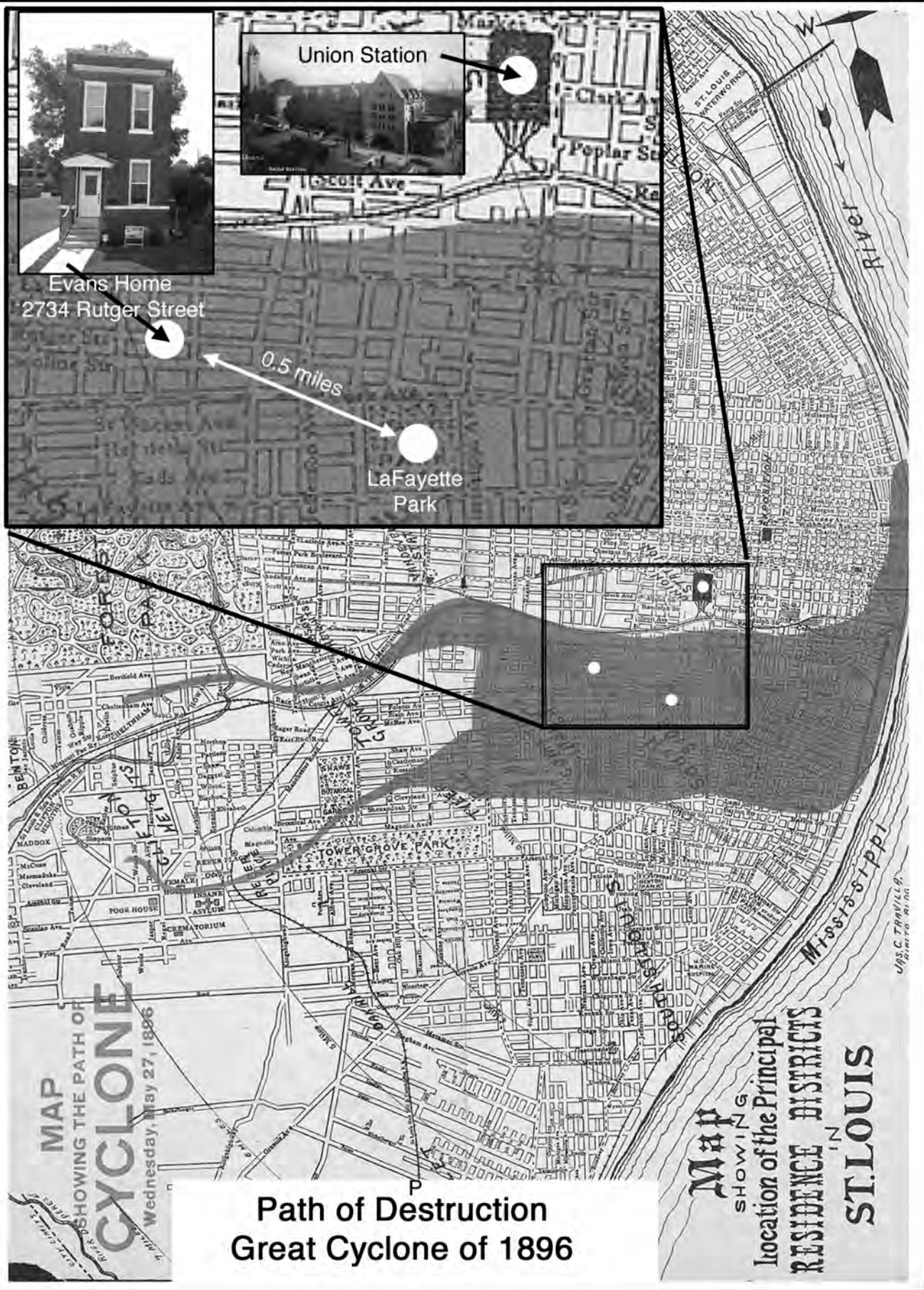


Plate 15 Path of Destruction - Great Cyclone of 1896

A Fatal Wreck.

Our Lodge is doing well, considering the dull times; our meetings are small but regular. The sad calamity

which befell us to start the new year with is still fresh to all of us and the very thought of it brings tears to the bravest eye. I refer to the death of Bro. Henry Hankup, his engineer, Gomer Evans (B. L. E.), and Brakeman John McQueen (O. R. C.). The accident happened January 3, at 2:30 a. m., on the Eastern Division of the Missouri Pacific Railway, one-half mile east of New Haven, Mo., on the bank of the Missouri River. All was over within a minute and no one left to tell the tale. The wreck was complete in every respect and most horrible in the extreme. No one apparently to blame, no one asks any questions, no one could answer if any were asked. No one says anything against the three men who died at their post and all that is said is of the best.

Brakeman McQueen was an extra man and this was his second trip with this crew. He was one of those jolly good fellows, always in good humor and full of fun. The engineers, I will speak of them as we here on the road always spoke of them. It was either "Evans and Hankup" or "Gomer and Henry."

Engine 757 was followed by Gomer and Henry (engine 753). I left Chamola, Saturday, January 2, at 6 a. m., with eighteen cars of Liverpool stock and we were expected to make a good run of it. While we were waiting for the conductor, Gomer and Henry came down the track from the depot with our orders. We had the usual amount of talk to go through, when they both left for the round house. They had not gone far when we started and overlooked them. Henry says: "If you can't get fifty miles an hour out of it (the train) you had better cut her off and put one on that can."

A Fatal Wreck

LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN'S MAGAZINE.

I says, "It says its no use in putting your 'kettle' on here because she's too 'logy.'" (We used to guy Gomer and Henry a great deal about the 753 being so "logy." We all laughed, said good by, and that was the last time that my engineer and I saw Gomer and Henry alive. The weather turned warm and a dreary rain set in, the creeks were soon full, and the Osage River was overflowing, then the Gasconade and finally the treacherous, muddy and fearful Missouri came tearing down the valley, washing out here and there and making its banks very spongy and weak. It was during this rain that our boys were called to go out on train 128. Gomer made the remark "that it was a bad night and he would rather not go." They left Chamola about 1 o'clock a. m., Sunday, January 3, and all went well until they struck the fatal spot half a mile east of New Haven, when the engine, without warning of any kind, plunged into the Missouri River with all its fury, causing certain steam pipes to break off and scald the three men to death, and before help could arrive the cruel waters of the Missouri rose and completely submerged them. There was no outward appearance of anything wrong forty-five minutes before, and the only way to figure it out is that the road bed was undermined by the river and when the engine struck it the whole thing slid out with the water. It was done so quickly and with such force that the engine was carried far enough out of the way to allow the thirteen cars that went down to pile up between her and the bank.

When found Engineer Evans was sitting on his seat, a death grip on the throttle with his left hand, and his right hand on the arm-rest in the window. Bro. Hankup and Brakeman McQueen were in their places on the left side of the engine, both cold in death, as if nothing had happened.

Gomer Evans was a good, kind-hearted man of the best character, a loving father and husband and was always ready to teach something to somebody or to learn something himself no matter how small it was, he was always ready to learn. He was well versed on all subjects and his "roundhouse lectures on religion" still ring in the ears of all.

Henry was a good, clean and economical fireman, a kind husband and father and was always ready for an argument. He thought everything that Gomer said and did was just right and they always seemed or appeared to me either as father and son or brothers.

They were always together while in Chamola. They slept in the same bed at the same time. Ate most of their lunch out of their buckets at the same time. Worked together on the same engine and finally died together.

Never did I see the loss of two engine men cause such sad feelings, so many tears and so little talk as did the loss of Gomer Evans and Henry Hankup.

One engineer said to me afterwards: we should be

better to one another, not think that we are a little smarter than someone else, do more to help one another along and then when the time comes for us to meet our Maker we can give one another up much more easily than otherwise.

The loss of these men has taught us all a lesson and I hope and pray that we will all take it to heart and prepare for the future.

St. Louis, Mo.

GEO. H. BAIRD.



FIGURE IN WHITE GAVE WARNING.

BUT THE TRAIN DASHED ON INTO
THE MISSOURI RIVER.
AND FOUR MEN WERE KILLED.

A Freight Wreck on the Missouri Pa-
cific Accompanied by a Ghost-
ly Manifestation.

The dead bodies of Gomer Evans, Henry Hankup and J. E. McQueen, victims of the Missouri Pacific freight wreck at New Haven, Mo., Sunday morning, were brought to this city in the evening and are now at their respective homes.

The men met a horrible death. Their flesh was cooked by escaping steam and they had been buried in the sand of the river bed beneath a mass of wreckage.

The wrecked train was an east-bound through stock train and was under charge of Conductor C. L. Lee and Engineer Gomer Evans. The wreck occurred at a point half a mile east of New Haven, Mo., at 2:30 o'clock Sunday morning.

A steady rain had fallen for thirty-six hours, causing a rapid rise in the Missouri River, along which the Missouri Pacific runs at this point. The current had undermined the road-bed and when the train reached this point the engine and the first thirteen cars plunged from the track into the river, carrying four men to instant death and inflicting serious injury on another.

Engineer EVANS, Fireman Hankup and Head Brakeman McQueen went down with the wreck.

Three men concealed in a car were also carried down. One was taken out dead. His name is unknown. Another, Wm. Douglas, got a broken leg and internal injuries. The third was unhurt.

Engineer EVANS and Fireman Hankup leave families. McQueen was unmarried. EVANS' life was insured for \$3,000.

One of the wrecked cars contained mules, one hogs, and another cattle. The others were loaded with miscellaneous freight.

Charles Koelling, the middle brakeman, claims that while the train was approaching Gasconade he saw a white figure on the track in front. It looked ghostly, he said, and just before the engine reached it, it dissolved and disappeared.

The vision so affected Koelling that he offered to buy Engineer EVANS' insurance policy.

Koelling said he felt the train would surely be wrecked.

Another freight train had passed over the track where the wreck occurred about an hour before, and a gang of section hands on a heavy handcar, who were patrolling the track, went over the place in safety but a few minutes prior to the accident.

Gomer Evans and Henry Hankup



St Louis Union Station c. 1896



Missouri Pacific Locomotive Engine c. 1900



Missouri River 0.5 mile east of New Haven, MO
(Tracks along the river bank gave way here.)

Estate of Gomer Evans, deceased.

To the Hon. Leo. Rassieur,
Judge of the Probate Court.
The undersigned Sarah E. Evans, widow of the late Gomer Evans, deceased, respectfully represents: That at the time of the death of said deceased there were no grain, meat, vegetables, groceries, or other provisions on hand and provided for the subsistence of her family and herself, and that she has five children, viz: Rachel Evans, aged 17 years, Joseph D. Evans, aged 15 years, Homer L. Evans, aged 12 years, William H. Evans, aged 9 years, and Daniel Evans, aged 6 years, members of her family, who are altogether supported by her.

Wherefore, she prays that your honorable Court may make an allowance to her in lieu of provisions not on hand or aforesaid as provided by law, out of the assets of the estate of said deceased, and she believes that the sum of Four hundred dollars would be a reasonable allowance for that purpose.

Sarah E. Evans

State of Missouri,)
City of St. Louis,) Sarah Evans, being duly sworn,
on oath, says that the statements set forth in the foregoing petition are true to the best of her knowledge and belief.

Sarah E. Evans

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
this 9th day of April 1898.

My commission expires May 14/99 - Notary Public.

Sarah Evans's petition to judge for \$400.
Dated 9 April 1898. (Judge granted it.)

STATE OF MISSOURI,)
CITY OF ST. LOUIS.

On this March day of March A. D. 1897,
before me, Sarah E. Evans, Widow of Gomer Evans deceased within and for the
City of St. Louis, personally appeared Arthur Stith, Michael M. Mahon and
Arthur Babcock
who, being by me duly sworn, on their oaths, say, they are not interested, nor of kin to any person interested,
in the estate of Gomer Evans
late of the City of St. Louis, deceased, as heir or devise, and they will, to the best of their ability, view and
appraise the personal estate of said deceased, to them produced.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 15th day of March 1897 }
Sarah E. Evans } Arthur Stith
Widow of Gomer Evans deceased } Michael M. Mahon } Appraisers.
Arthur Babcock

(N. B.—The administrator or executor has authority to administer the above oath.)
THREE appraisers must be sworn.

Appraisal of the personal estate of Gomer Evans
late of the City of St. Louis, deceased.

Parlor		
1 Hand and stool	20"	4 Chair 15"
1 Bed Room	15"	2 Chair 30"
1 Bed Room	15"	1 table 15"
1 Bed Room	15"	4 Chair 30"
1 Bed Room	15"	5 Picture 25"
1 Bed Room	15"	2 Range 75"
1 Bed Room	15"	2 Chair 30"
Bed Room		
1 Walnut Bed & bedding	75"	1 Iron bed & bedding 5"
1 Bureau 75"	1 Lounge (old) 50"	1 Washbasin 15"
1 Chair 50"	1 Clock 15"	1 Carpet 15"
Kitchen		
1 Magnetic Range & utensils	25"	1 Gasoline Stove 50"
2 Coal Buckets 30"	1 Sewing machine	10"
1 Kitchen safe & contents	15"	1 Kitchen table 10"
1 Chest of drawers (old)	50"	1 Ice box 15"
1 Bench 25"	6 Chair 15"	
		\$ 253.10

Evans Estate for Parlor, Bedroom, Kitchen



Gomer L. Evans.

Plate 18 Gomer Louis Evans

Gomer Louis Evans

Gomer Louis Evans was 11 years old when his father drowned. After completing high school he was admitted to Washington University on a full scholarship. He became a Vice President of Wagner Electric.¹⁷ In 1934 a surgeon's errant knife during prostate surgery caused internal bleeding that killed him. He either had a large life insurance policy or a generous pension, as his widow was financially secure for life.

Gomer and Sybilia Evans

When Gomer attended college, he and his three brothers were friends of the three Burgess boys. All were members of the St. Louis RLDS Church. Gomer Evans's first visit¹⁸ to the Burgess home¹⁹ took place on Christmas Day 1905. The Burgess boys had two sisters: Florence and Sybilia, a high school junior and an academic star who was as sharp as a tack. Gomer was a college junior and running star on the track. After their graduations in 1907, his from Washington University's Engineering School, their courtship culminated with their wedding on September 10, 1912. They were blessed with four children: Alice Evans in 1913, Joseph Cedric Evans in 1915, Samuel Rostron Evans in 1918, and Walter Richard Evans in 1920.

Gomer and Sybilia Evans's Children: Alice, Cedric, Samuel, and Walter

Alice volunteered for the Army Wives Council, AA, and the Distaff Foundation. She married Duncan Hallock, a career soldier who retired as an Army Brigadier General. Cedric, Samuel, and Walter all earned engineering degrees. Cedric was the only son to embrace the RLDS faith—serving as the Sunday School Director in St. Louis, the presiding Elder in St. Louis, and a bishop²⁰ in Independence, MO. In WWII, Sam was Army Captain of the 1374th company, laying petroleum pipeline from Omaha Beach through France after D-Day. He had a 43-year career with Shell Oil in Houston, TX.

Walter Evans, and Arline Pillisch married on April 11, 1942, in St. Louis at the *Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church*. He became an engineer, following in the footsteps of his brothers, father, and grandfather. During World War II he designed remotely controlled gun turrets at General Electric's Schenectady Works—a control theory focus that led to his 1948 invention of the *root locus method*, *The Spirule Company*, and his world-wide renown in schools of engineering and industry. After moving to Whittier, California, Walter and Arline joined a congregational church. Their children's middle names—*Gomer, Walter, Arline, and Burgess*—all honor family.

¹⁷ Arthur Timmerman, grandfather of his son Sam's wife (my Aunt Betty) hired him.

¹⁸ Burgess, Samuel R. *Record of My Life*, Vol. 3, p. 127. (25 Dec 1905)

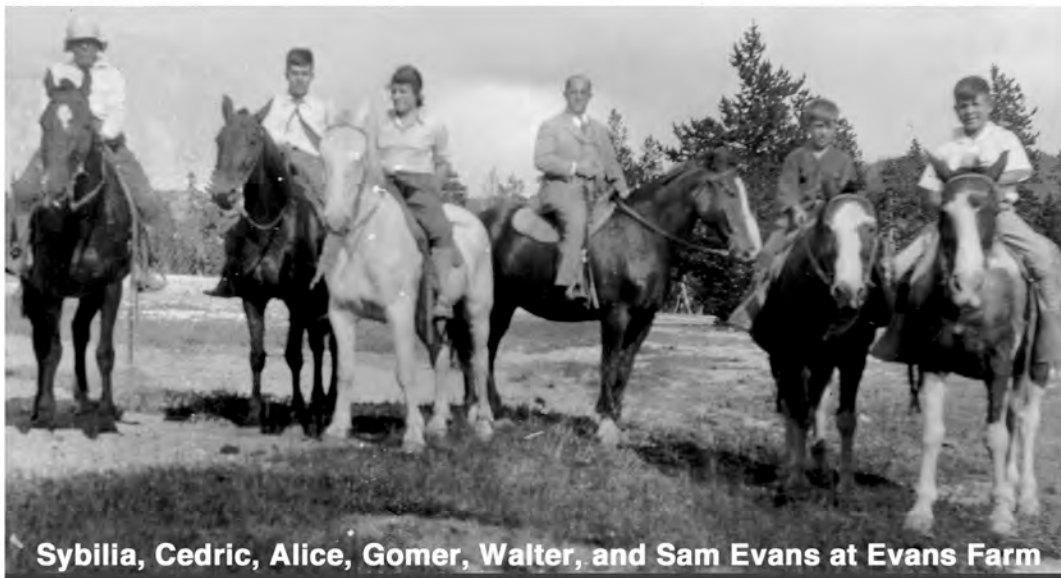
¹⁹ The Burgess family lived at 2933 Harper, in December 1905, but moved, in June 1906, to 5930 Etzel Ave., where Gomer was a dinner guest on 26 December 1906.

²⁰ As bishop, J. Cedric Evans was responsible for church's financial affairs.



DRIVING a horsey, my little boy?
 Seems that you driving must enjoy.
 Driving and driving, he's at it yet,
 So that short promises he can set.
 Drive the shopmen, make 'em work
 quick.
 Make all the sales kicks look mighty sick.

Mr. G. L. Evans.



Sybilla, Cedric, Alice, Gomer, Walter, and Sam Evans at Evans Farm



Cedric, Walter, Alice, Sam, Gomer, and Sybilla at the Great Salt Lake

Plate 19 The Gomer Louis Evans Family



Plate 20 Gomer Louis Evans with his Grandfather at the Farm

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Chapter 2

Burgess - Allen



Ancestors of Sybilia Burgess

**Pedigree Chart for
Sybilias Burgess**

Peter Burgess

b: 07 May 1815 in Barton,
Lancashire, England
d: 24 Feb 1865 in Salt Lake City,
Salt Lake, Utah, USA
m: 06 Mar 1851 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

Samuel Rostron Burgess

b: 26 Dec 1851 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA
d: 18 Jan 1918 in St Louis, Missouri,
USA
m: 04 Jul 1876 in Montgomery City,
Missouri, USA

Mary Alice Rostron

b: 12 Oct 1821 in Tottington,
Lancashire, England
d: 30 Nov 1903 in St Louis, St
Louis, Missouri, USA

Sybilias Burgess

b: 21 Jun 1888 in St Louis, Missouri,
USA
d: 11 Sep 1968 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA
m: 10 Sep 1912 in St Louis,
Missouri, USA

James X Allen

b: 19 Nov 1830 in Barnsley,
Yorkshire, England
d: 27 Dec 1911 in Ogden, Weber,
Utah, USA
m: 11 Jan 1854 in Little Cottonwood
Ward, Utah

Eveline Allen

b: 19 Sep 1856 in Ogden, Weber,
Utah, USA
d: 10 Jul 1936 in Independence,
Jackson, Missouri, USA

Elizabeth Pidd

b: 28 Apr 1832 in Whaplode,
Lincolnshire, England
d: 10 Dec 1918 in Lamoni, Decatur,
Iowa, USA

Samuel Rostron Burgess

Samuel Rostron Burgess was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 26, 1851, nine months after his parents' wedding. He was four years old when his parents crossed the plains to Salt Lake City. Ten years later they made a second trip. Upon their arrival, his father, Peter Burgess, became ill and died seven weeks later. Sam returned with his mother, Mary, sisters Alice and Martha, and brother Peter to St. Louis where Sam, at his mother's insistence, dropped out of school to help her in her dry goods store. Inasmuch as his mother's insistence that he work days at the store had disrupted his formal education, Samuel devoted his evenings to self-study—Latin, German, and mathematics.

On September 16, 1867, Samuel was baptized into the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints (RLDS). Among the lay leaders of his RLDS congregation was a physician, James X. Allen. In Dr. Allen, 15-year old Sam found a teacher to help him with his Latin studies. Sam began to visit Dr. Allen's home. Dr. Allen was married and father of three daughters: Bertha (12), Eveline (11), and Sybilia (9) and a son, Franklin.

In 1868, sixteen-year-old Sam devoted his days to working in the dry goods store, his evenings to self-study, and his weekends to church activities. Determined to become more independent of his mother, he decided to seek an entry-level position with Cantwell & Shorb Booksellers and Stationers (C&S). After trial period, he was hired at a wage of \$25 per month. He would remain in their employ for 40 years.

His mother learned of his interest in young Eveline by reading his journal. When Mary disapproved, Samuel and Eveline decided to elope, marrying on July 4, 1876.

He and Eveline maintained a journal for fifty years, from 1868 until 1918. Eveline made almost all of the journal entries after 1890. Sam's job as a buyer required him to make month-long trips to New York. Between 1895 and 1909, he and Eveline made 15 trips together, leaving in February and staying at the elegant St. Denis Hotel at Broadway and 11th Street. During their 1907 trip Eveline won the U.S. Women's Chess Championship in a best 4 out of 7 series of games.

In 1906 he bought a modern Victorian house and had a tennis court built in its backyard. He enjoyed music and sang in the choir. He also enjoyed theater and was in an actor's group. Eveline and the children affectionately called him "Papa".

Samuel died as result of a heart condition and having been struck by a car near 3756 Lindell Boulevard on Christmas Eve 1918. He appeared to be recovering, but died unexpectedly and peacefully. The day after he died on January 17, his daughter Sybilia gave birth to a son, naming him Samuel Rostron Evans after his grandfather.

Samuel Rostron Burgess made a considerable amount of money in real estate investment, but his son Samuel Allen may have mismanaged the funds after his father's death. His sister Sybilia's share of her inheritance was worth about \$2000.

— 1868 —

Retrospective.

Before actually beginning to write my journal from the date upon the fly-leaf Oct. 1st 1868. I devote a few pages of my book to a view of the past and also before opening my record state my reasons for writing it.

As I look back upon the time gone by, and glance over my past experiences, I notice therein many days sweet to my memory and many times of innocent association and pleasure; yet coupled with them there ^{are} a few sad sorrowful spells that partly darkened my future.

Born in St. Louis December 26th /57, I appeared before the world the child of loving parents by whom I have always been reared for and made comfortable. I've gotten in a large city; I have been bred therein and therefore have received of both the advantages and the ills of city life. In religion my parents had both been converted to the faith of the Church of S. D. & S. in England before crossing the ocean to America. continuing in this country still true to their belief they removed to Great Salt Lake City when I was about five years of age and

Retrospective (Abridged)

Before actually beginning to write my journal from the date upon the fly-leaf, Oct. 1st, 1868, I devote a few pages of my book to a view of the past. As I look back upon the time gone by, and glance over my experiences, I notice therein many days sweet to my memory and many times of innocent association and pleasure; yet coupled with them there are a few sad sorrowful spells that partly darkened my future.

Born in St. Louis, December 26th/51, I appeared before the world the child of loving parents by whom I have always been cared. Begotten in a large city, I have been bred therein and therefore have received of both the advantages and the ills of city life. In religion my parents had both been converted to the faith of the Church of L. D. S. in England before crossing the ocean, continuing in this country still true to their belief they removed to the Great Salt Lake when I was about five years of age. Soon however becoming estranged from the Church, they returned to St. Louis, where my father commenced at the freight covering business and my mother opened a retail Dry Goods Store. I was sent to school until I had attained the age of twelve years.

I was then again taken across the plains by my parents, who, more for the sake of selling goods than for the church, had determined to go to Utah. We arrived in Great Salt Lake City in September/64 and remained until the next spring. But during our short stay suffered the greatest loss I have yet experienced; the death of my Father. Well may I mourn his loss, for a child had never a better parent than I had.

In the spring my Mother with her family removed to St. Louis, establishing herself in the same business. For a month I attended school. After having been examined in common with the class, and been pronounced capable of entering the high school as a student, I ceased by studies and staid [sic] at home to assist mother in the store. Having passed my 16th birthday my mother's business being rather small, I began to wish for something independently for myself. This however did not suit my mother so I had to relinquish the idea. I then sought employment and after several weeks trial obtained a situation with the firm of Cantwell & Shorb Booksellers. My wages are twenty-five dollars per month. Such is our present situation.

As to religious belief I [am] a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints who believe in the doctrines of present revelation, restoration of the gospel at the present day, but not in the teachings of polygamy. As good Saints we attend the Sabbath School but never take an active part in spreading the work. If all be true I pray the Lord to forgive and bless me for I am far from being a perfect boy.

As I close my book I cannot help conjecturing of my future. I hope that in regard to this world's charms, it may always be a righteous life; that if every action were recorded here there would be few that I should be ashamed to acknowledge. And when the doings of my last day are written by another hand may it be said of me:

"He died contented with his lifetime's actions;

He expired happy in the thought of having well spent his time."

May
15th Friday

In the evening I called at Mr Thorp's and had the pleasure of listening to Miss Maria play several pieces of music on the cabinet organ.

16th Saturday

closed at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. John Burke and I walked around and had a little game of catch. In the evening I went to Thos. Burch's, where his brother Alfred gave a little social party to a few friends. Came home at about 12 o'clock.

17th Sunday

Attended Sunday school at the Le Banne St. hall, and also afternoon meeting. Went home with Eveline Allen to supper. While on our way to evening meeting mother met us on the corner of Le Banne & Ninth Sts and publicly scolded me. I came home after the first hymn was sung.

18th Monday

Was at M. & Co's in the evening. After closing the store I went over to Dr Allen's for a short while.

19th Tuesday

Was at home in the evening.

20th Wednesday

Came home and spent the evening in reading Dickens' "Barnaby Rudge".

21st Thursday

Was at M. & Co's in the evening.

22nd Friday

Attended choir practice in the evening at Mr Thorp's.

23rd Saturday

S. & B. closed at 3:00 P. M. today. I went up to Dr Allen's house (1019 Morgan St.), remained there until about 5:00 P. M., and went up to Mrs Bellamy's home Mrs. Lena Roberts, Henry Burch and I played several games of croquet. Spent the balance of the evening

May 15, 1874 to May 23, 1874 Daily Journal Entries

Samuel R Burgess Family History (Abridged)

By Eveline Alice Burgess, Granddaughter

We should act with as much energy as those who expect everything from themselves, and we should pray with as much earnestness as those who expect everything from God. (Charles Caleb Colton) — a favorite quotation of Samuel R. Burgess

In the early 1870's Samuel took up the practice of going to the Allen house where he availed himself of Latin lessons from Dr. Allen. He then would stay to discuss poetry and literature with Eveline. He often walked her home from church. It was on one of these walks that his mother, Mary, angrily confronted him. Samuel then found his mother and sisters had been reading his journal. On a trip with Eveline they made a spontaneous decision to elope on July 2 and were married on July 4, 1876. In spite of this he continued to help his mother financially after his marriage, and later the sisters, at least, became fast friends of his new family.

Samuel R. and Eveline Burgess settled in St. Louis and established their family. They moved from time to time to progressively larger homes downtown near the river as he prospered and their family grew. They finally arrived at Eveline's dream house at 5920 Etzel Avenue a mile north of Forest Park.

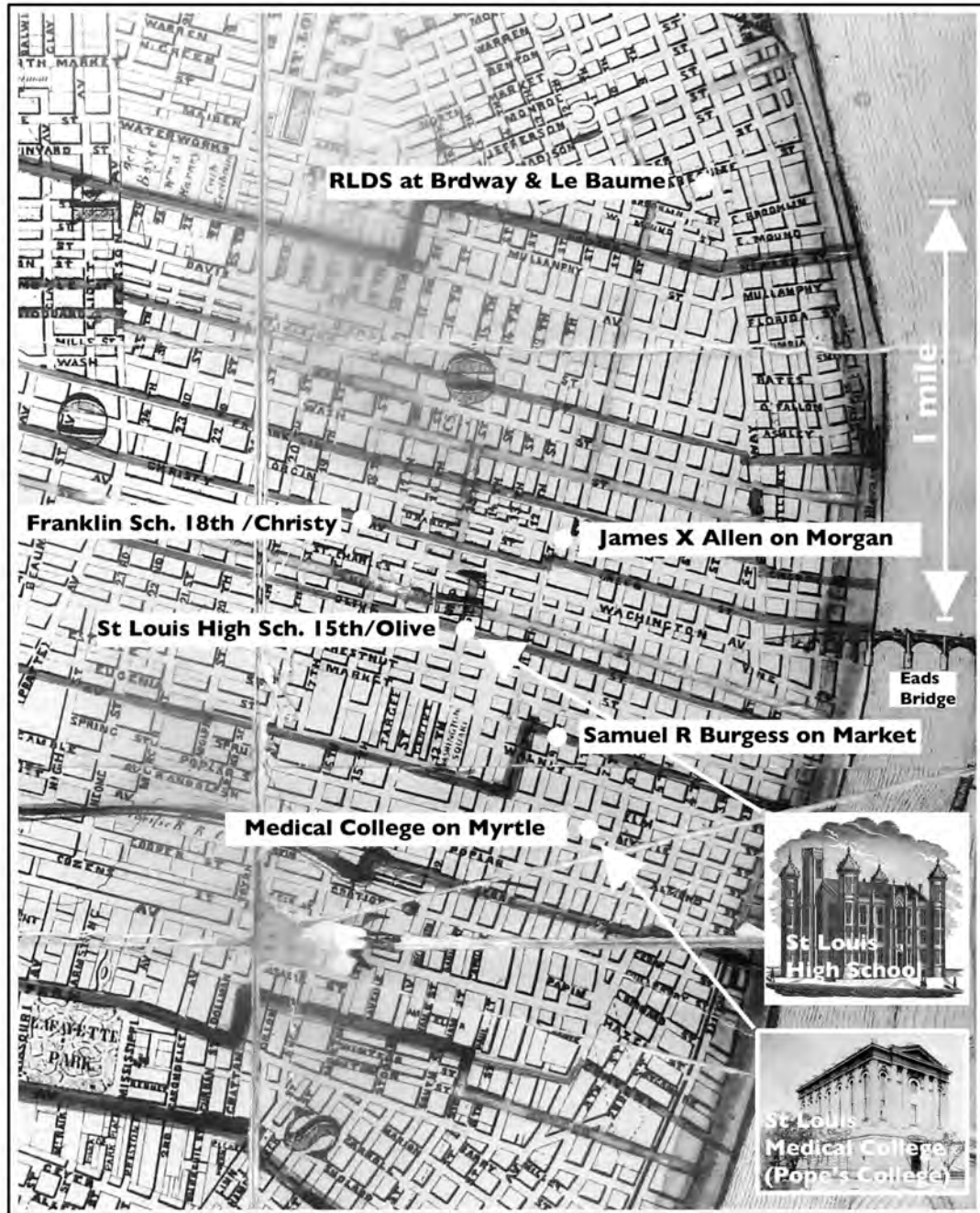
They had five children: Samuel Allen Burgess, born in September 15, 1877, Florence Burgess, born July 25, 1879, Arthur Pidd Burgess, born August 4, 1881, then Harold Burgess, born August 1, 1883. Last but not least came Sybilia Burgess, born June 21, 1888. Eveline had been told after Harold's birth that having further children was a risk to her health, but she was stubborn enough that no one was going to tell her what to do. For this the grandchildren of Sybilia Burgess Evans are grateful.

The Burgess family had a number of interests and apparently enjoyed a very close family life. Samuel R. gave the first public tennis courts to the City of St. Louis and when they finally moved to the Victorian mansion on Etzel, the back yard was paved to make a tennis court. The family was enthusiastic about music and drama. Drama groups that toured to the city fleshed out the cast with local bit actors and Samuel often played parts with many noted actors of the day.

It was not unusual for Samuel R. to surprise his boys at breakfast with the offer of an adventure. The family regularly took a summer trip up the Mississippi by steamer from St. Louis to Minneapolis. On at least one occasion Samuel R. playfully held one of children out the porthole until his wife was sufficiently frightened that she might lose a child in the river waters.

Christmas was in the English family fashion. The Christmas tree was not seen until Christmas morning, when "Father" Burgess stood on the stairs to the second floor and sang "Good Christian Men Rejoice" to get the children up. The family took early meals together, but the children were fed dinner early so that Mother and Father Burgess could dine alone in state.


Record of the		St. Louis			Branch,		of the		St. Louis	
NAMES.		When Born.	Where Born.			When Baptized.	Where Baptized.			
			Town.	County.	State.		Town.	County.	State.	
1	Burgess, Eveline A.	Sept. 19, 1886	Ogden	Weber	Utah	Mar. 3, 1868	St. Louis	Mo.	Mo.	
2	Burgess, Arthur Eld	Aug. 4, 1881	St. Louis	St. Louis	Mo.	Mar. 29, 1870	St. Louis	Mo.	Mo.	
3	Burgess, Florence	July 25, 1879.	"	"	"	Mar. 29, 1890	"	"	"	
4	Burgess, Samuel A.	Sept 15, 1877	"	"	"	" 29, "	"	"	"	



Burgess and Allen in North St Louis

Plate 24 Map of Burgess and Allen in North St. Louis

Burgess's home purchased in 1906 @ 5920 Etzel Avenue



Also sold house 5920 Etzel Avenue, a modern eight-room frame house on lot 60x200, and was sold to Samuel Burgess for account of A. L. Tebbitts. Mr. Burgess bought for a home.

One of England's Great Players Pays St. Louis a Visit.

Mr. F. J. Lee, the great English chess player, of London, is at present in this city. In his short stay here he has revived interest in the noble game by his brilliant playing at the St. Louis Chess Club, defeating the principal players of the city with apparent ease. Mr. Lee gave an exhibition of his ability at Mr. Samuel Burgess' home, on Harper street, on Friday evening, playing with the following gentlemen: Rev. R. D. Tompkins, George H. Harlow, J. W. O'Byrne, Thomas E. Lyons, M. DeVeaux, R. DeGraff, Samuel Burgess, Samuel Burgess, Jr., and Mrs. Samuel Burgess. Mr. Lee won six games, losing to Mr. Harlow and drawing with Mr. Lyons. Mr. Lee will leave for Memphis on Tuesday evening.

CHESS CLUB ELECTIONS.—The St. Louis Chess Club held its annual election of officers Thursday night, which resulted as follows: J. W. Nelson, President; J. McNair, First Vice President; Samuel R. Burgess, Second Vice President; Benjamin R. Foster, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee consists of A. H. Robbins, Dr. Otto Fink, S. A. Spencer, J. Holman, B. K. Foster and F. N. Rounds.

The John Boland Base Ball Club have reorganized with the following team: W. K. Morrison, pitcher and captain; H. J. Lindsey, catcher; H. K. Darst, first base; S. R. Burgess, second base; B. T. Rothmann, third base; G. H. Hastedt, short stop; F. J. Wielandy, left field; F. W. Rasswag, center field; W. H. Scott, right field. Send challenges to W. H. Scott, 610 Washington Avenue.



D. J. Hayden & Co. sold the two two-story six-room brick house 35x130 feet of ground, situate on the side of Howard street, between Twenty-ninth and Jefferson Avenue, numbered 2504 and 2506, the property of Joseph Foley, to Samuel R. Burgess for \$5,500.

JOHN A. WATKINS & CO.

John A. Watkins & Co. report the sale of the four three-room flats, 4211 and 4213 Kennerly Avenue. The property has a frontage of 40 feet on the north line of Kennerly Avenue by a depth of 142 feet. The property is renting for \$804 per annum, and was owned by Mr. Frank M. Donnelly and wife and was sold to S. R. Burgess and wife, who bought for an investment.

Plate 25 Burgess home purchased in 1906 at 5920 Etzel Avenue

Year	Event
1841	Marriage of Peter Burgess and Ann Margaret Esplins
1845	Peter Burgess w/Ann, Elizabeth, William sail on <i>Walpole</i>
1850	Mary Rostron sails from England on <i>Argo</i>
1851	Marriage of Peter Burgess and Mary Rostron
1851	Birth Samuel Rostron Burgess (SRB)
1853	Birth of Mary Alice Burgess
1855	Burgess family travels to Utah with John Hindley Co.
1855	Birth of Martha Maria Burgess
1856	Birth of Eveline Allen in Ogden, Utah
1858	Birth of Peter Howard Burgess
1864	Burgess family travels to Utah with John D. Chase Co.
1865	Death of SRB's father, Peter Burgess
1867	SRB's baptism in LDS Church
1867	SRB's employment with Cantwell and Shorb (C&S)
1868	Beginning of Burgess Journal
1869	SRB's arrival in Nebraska City, NE
1870	SRB's resignation from Nebraska City LDS
1876	Marriage of Samuel Rostron Burgess and Eveline Allen
1877	Birth of Samuel Allen Burgess
1879	Birth of Florence Burgess
1881	Samuel Roston's first performance in McCullough Drama Club
1881	Birth of Arthur Pidd Burgess
1881	SRB's first trip to New York City for Shorb and Boland
1883	Birth of Harold Cantwell Burgess
1883	SRB's resignation from McCullough Drama Club
1885	SRB's first trip with Eveline to New York City
1888	Birth of Sybilias Burgess
1903	Death SRB's mother, Mary Rostron Burgess
1904	Marriage of Arthur Pidd Burgess and Elizabeth Jane McKee
1906	SRB purchases Victorian house at 5920 Etzel Avenue
1907	Eveline becomes United States Women's Chess Champion
1908	Eveline makes sole defense her title versus Natalie Nixdorff
1909	SRB retires from Shorb and Boland Stationery Co.
1910	Marriage of Harold Cantwell Burgess and Bertha Francis Bailey
1912	Marriage of Sybilias Burgess and Gomer Louis Evans
1915	Marriage of Samuel Allen Burgess and Alice Mae Chase
1917	Samuel's heart weakens and hit by auto on Christmas Eve
1918	Death of Samuel Rostron Burgess
1936	Death of Eveline Allen Burgess

Plate 26 Burgess Family Time Line from 1841 to 1936

1881 with Eveline,
Florence, Samuel,
and Arthur



1905 with Sybil



1915

We regret to note in the last edition of the American Chess Bulletin the death of Samuel R. Burgess, of St. Louis. Mr. Burgess was born December 26, 1851, in St. Louis and has resided in that city all his life. He has been playing chess for over thirty years and was one of the strongest players in the West. He possessed a fine chess library and for many years kept scrap books of the best games, illustrating the various openings. We strongly recommend all players who wish to become able exponents of the game to follow Mr. Burgess' example in keeping scrap books. There is no better way of studying the opening of the game than by keeping scrap books and keeping them well posted on the modern innovations of the many variations of the opening.

1918

Samuel Rostron Burgess

BLACK-NINE PIECES.
K on K 4; Kt's on K 2 and K B 3; Bs on Q and K Kt 5; Ps on Q Kt 3, Q B 2, K B 6 and K R 4.



K on K R 8; Q on K Kt 7; Rs on Q 2 and B 4; Kts on Q 4 and K B 4; Bs on Q B 6 and K B 8; Ps on Q Kt 5, K B 2 and K R 4.

WHITE-ELEVEN PIECES.

White to play and mate in two moves.

Problem No. 43—By A. H. Robbins, St. Louis, Sunday, September 10, 1899.

BLACK.

K on Q Kt 6, Ps on Q R 5, Q R 7, Q Kt 5, Q 2 and Q 6—six pieces.



The correct solution to problem No. 43 follows:

1. R R sq; K B 7. 2. Kt K 3 ch; K Kt 6.
1. B Q sq, mate.
1. R R sq; K B 7. 2. Kt K 3 ch; K x P.
1. R Q sq, mate.
1. R R sq; K B 5. 2. R R 4; K Kt 4.
3. B x P, mate.
1. R R sq; K B 5. 2. R R 4; K Kt 6.
3. B Q sq, mate.
1. R R sq; K B 5. 2. R R 4; K Q 5.
3. B B 3, mate.
1. R R sq; K B 5. 2. R R 4; K Q 4.
3. B B 3, mate.
1. R R sq; K x R. 2. R R 4; K Kt 4.
3. B x P, mate.
1. R R sq; K x R. 2. R R 4; K Kt 6.
3. B Q sq, mate.
1. R R sq; K x R. 2. R R 4; P Kt 6.
3. B x P, mate.

Correct solutions were received from Sam-
R. Burgess, Wm. Dargemann, St. Louis;
"Newsboy Glen," Boonville, Mo.; C. K. Sit-
ton, Louisiana, Mo.; J. W. Withey, Spring-
field, Mo.; and J. H. Hill, Tex.

BLACK-TWELVE PIECES.

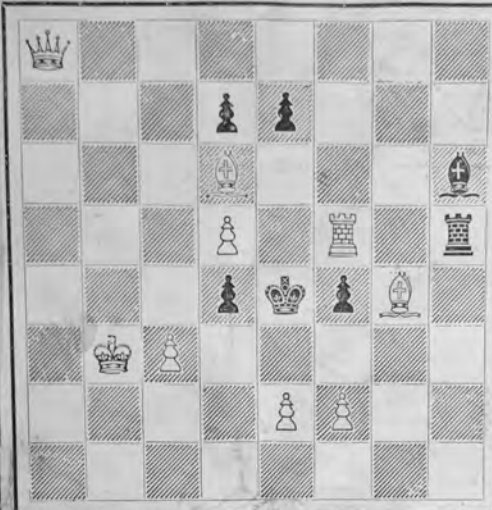
K on K Kt 2; Q on Q R 8; Rs on Q R 7;
Bs on Q Kt 6 and K R; Ps on Q Kt 6, K 3,
K 4, K 6, K B 6, and K R 6.



K on K R 8; Q on K Kt 7; Rs on Q 2 and B 4; Kts on Q 4 and K B 4; Bs on Q B 6 and K B 8; Ps on Q Kt 5, K B 2 and K R 4.

PROBLEM No. 2336.

By GEO. J. SLATER.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play, and mate in two moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 2336.

WHITE.

1. K to B 2nd
2. Mates accordingly.

BLACK.

Any move.

NOTE.—Many correspondents propose a solution by 1. Q to R 6th, failing to observe Black's reply of 1. P to K 4th.

No. 106

BLACK.



WHITE.
White to mate in three moves.

Problem No. 106

1. Q—K 4, K X B; 2. Q—K 5, K X R; 3. Q—B 3, mate.

1.. Q—Q 5; 2. Q X Q, K X B; 3. Q—Kt 2, mate.

1.. Kt—Kt 6; 2. Q—B 2, etc.

1.. Q X P; 2. Q—Kt sq. ch., etc.

1.. Q—Q 6; 2. R—Kt 2 ch., K X B; 3. Q—Kt 4, mate.

The special Thanksgiving number of The In-
definite, read at Religio Friday night, was es-
pecially fine. Nearly every bit of it was original
contributions of Religians; two brethren carried
off prizes, R. Archibald and Will Trowbridge.
Sr. E. Burgess' reading was very much enjoyed.
A collection was taken up at the meeting, a
subscription paper has also been circulated, pro-
ceeds for the "Translation Fund."

Nov 30/05
ETTA HATCHCOCK

2306 Dickson St., Nov. 27.

Problem No. 756.

By CECIL A. L. BULL, TWICKENHAM.
First prize three-mover, in the Birmingham
News tourney.

Black—Ten pieces.



White—Six pieces.

White to play and mate in three moves.

1st Pawn to Bishop's 5th
Blk Plays P to K 7
2nd White plays 2 x Pawn
P x 2nd then
3rd Blk to Kt 2nd mate
or black 2nd K x R
+ 3rd Queen to Kt 5th mate
if black for 1st plays
Kt to Queen 6th
white plays Rook to
Queen Bishop's 4th
2nd Blk K x R
+ Queen to Bishop 6th
mate
if blk for 1st plays
Bish to Kt 2nd white
plays R check
Blk x R—Queen to Kt 5th
8 mates

BLACK-SIX PIECES.
K on K 4; R on Q Kt 4; Kt on K Kt 2;
Ps on K 3, K B 2 and K B 2.



WHITE—SIX PIECES.
K on K R 8; Q on K Kt 7; Rs on Q 2 and B 4; Kts on Q 4 and K B 4; Bs on Q B 6 and K B 8; Ps on Q Kt 5, K B 2 and K R 4.

Some of the Chess Games Saved in the Scrapbook

Plate 28 Some of S R Burgess's Chess Games in the Scrapbook



Emanuel Lasker
(December 24, 1868
– January 11, 1941)
was a German
chess player,
mathematician,
and philosopher
who was World
Chess Champion
for 27 years,
from 1894 to 1921,
the longest reign
of any officially
recognised World
Chess Champion
in history.

In his prime, Lasker
was one of the most
dominant champions,
and he is still generally
regarded as one of the
strongest players ever.

Lasker's Chess Magazine,
Morton Building
Room 1120
116 Nassau Street
Telephone, 2271 John,
New York.

Mr. S. R. Burgess
420 North 4th St.
St. Louis
Mo.

Nov 15 1905

Dear Sir:

My terms for a game by
correspondence for purposes of instructions
are five dollars. My opponent has choice
of move, opening and time limit, and I
shall reply as a rule by return mail
answering all relevant questions asked or
giving a brief comment upon the position
where necessary.

Yours Very Truly
Emanuel Lasker.

At the same time I beg to acknowledge receipt
of \$3.00 as subscription to the magazine
for the issues of Nov 1905 to Oct 1906.

Yours very Truly E. L.

In 1905 Samuel R Burgess engaged the world's greatest chess player in a chess game by correspondence. He received this reply from Emanuel Lasker:

Dear Sir:

My terms for game by correspondence for purposes of instructions are five dollars. My opponent has choice of move, opening and time limit, and I shall reply as a rule by return mail answering all relevant questions asked or giving a brief comment upon position where necessary,

Yours Very Truly,
Emanuel Lasker

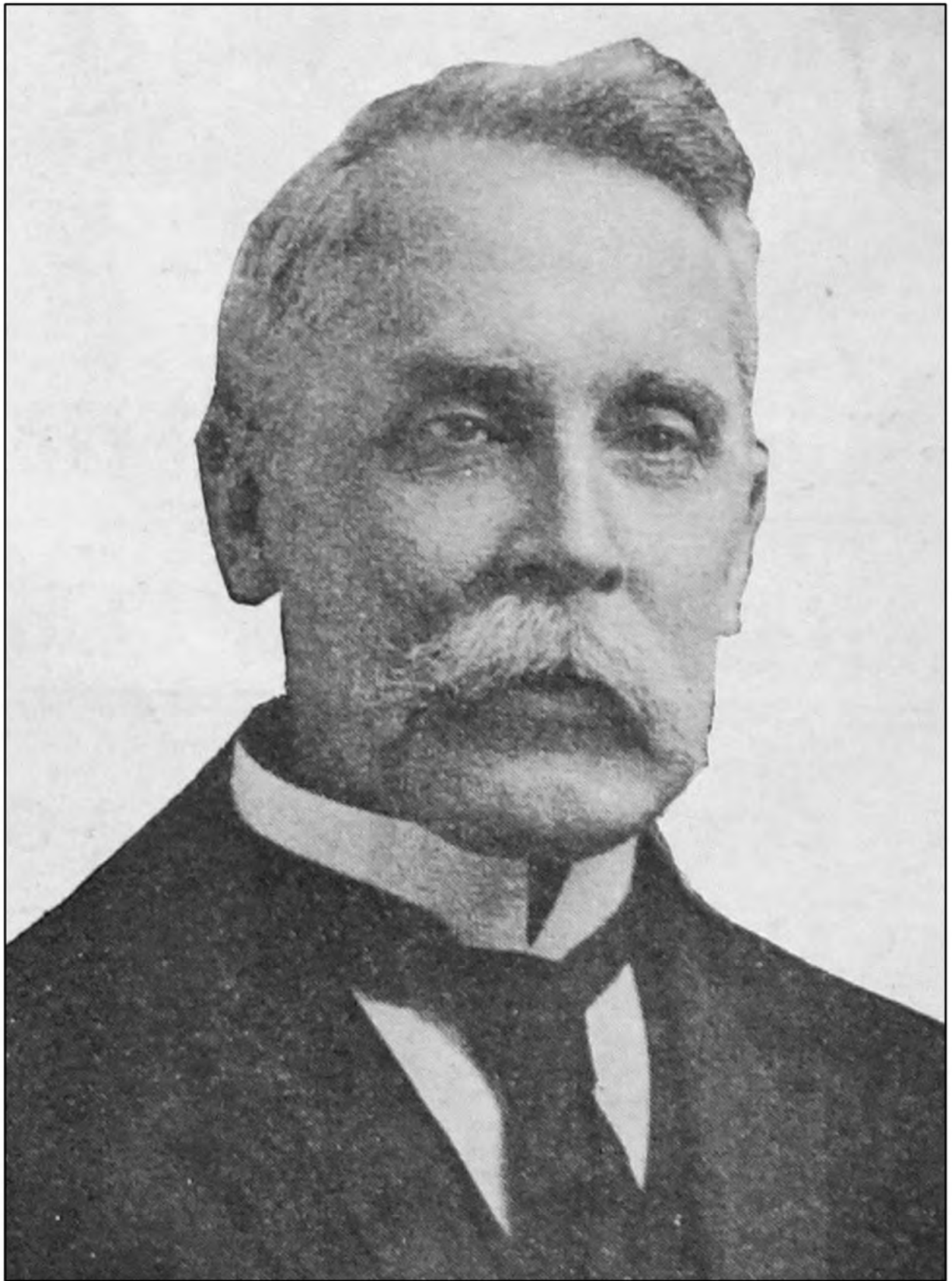


Plate 30 Photo of Samuel Rostron Burgess Published in 1918

Conclusion of a Son's Tribute to his Father

Published in *Saint's Herald*, January 30, 1918

Among the very last words that he spoke were to repeat several times the thought of a book recently read: "He ever lives to intercede for us." His passing was exceedingly peaceful. We never knew just when he left, but the sunrise found him gone. Truly is it written: "He giveth his beloved sleep," and also "I have fought a good fight, I finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me that day; and not to me only, but to all of them also that love his appearing." SAB

SAMUEL R. BURGESS DIED WEALTHY

Published in *Geyer's Stationary*, February 7, 1918

Samuel R Burgess the Nester of the stationary business, who, as noted in a recent issue of *Geyer's Stationery*, died at his home in St. Louis on the morning of January 18. He was a product of the west, having been born in St. Louis in 1851, and that city was the scene of his activities for more than half a century.

He entered the employee *Cantwell & Shorb* in 1868 when 17 years of age, and continued in the service of that firm and its successors, *Shorb & Boland* and *John L. Boland*, until 1888, when the *John L. Boland Book & Stationary Company* was incorporated, of which company he became secretary and continued in that capacity until 1910, when the business was absorbed by the *Blackwell-Wielandy Book & Stationary Company*.

In the passing of Mr. Burgess, or "Sam" as he was popularly addressed, we mourn the loss of probably the most versatile man the trade has known. Highly gifted by nature, trained and cultivated by reading and application, he mastered every phase of the business, and whether as office boy, traveling salesman or buyer, he excelled. His recreations were chess and the drama, in both of which he participated with credit and success. He was of a most amiable disposition, never violently antagonizing anybody and beloved of everybody whose privilege it was to know him. He acquired a competence and his family is well provided for.

Published in *Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 14, 1918

We regret to note in the last edition of the *American Chess Bulletin* the death of Samuel R. Burgess of St. Louis. Mr. Burgess was born December 26, 1851, in St. Louis and has resided in that city all his life. He has been playing chess for over thirty years and was one of the strongest players in the West. He possessed a fine chess library and for many years kept scrap books of the best games, illustrating the various openings. We strongly recommend all players who wish to become able exponents of the game to follow Mr. Burgess's example in keeping scrap books. There is no better way of studying the opening of the game than by keeping scrap books and keeping them well posted on the modern variations of the opening.

SEVEN HURT IN ACCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HEAVY RAIN

Seven persons were injured last night in as many accidents, all due, it is believed, to the blinding rain which prevented drivers of cars from seeing pedestrians.

Samuel Burgess, 65 years old, 532 Etzel avenue, was struck by the automobile of Dr. M. J. Hopkins, 3756 Lindell boulevard, when he was crossing Kingshighway at Page. He suffered several bruises.

A machine driven by Elmer Lutz, 3224 A Theodosia, in which Lutz and John Boerm Jr. was riding, crashed into a trolley post at Union and Vernon avenues. Young Boerm, whose father, a florist, lives at 1832 Delmar boulevard, was cut about the face and arms and the car was wrecked.

Gilbert Weber, 57, a lumber inspector, 6871 Romaine place, was seriously injured when struck by a grocery truck at Hamilton avenue and Delmar boulevard. The driver, Clarence M. Reikemper, was not arrested, the injured man stating the accident was unavoidable.

Clinton C. Middleton, 83, 5367 Cote Brilliante avenue, was seriously injured when knocked down by a Union car.

Mrs. Dora Porter, 3625 Delmar avenue, was taken to her home, suffering internal injuries, after she had been struck by an auto truck at Delmar and Hamilton avenues.

Mrs. E. H. Trump, 5940 Cates avenue, while crossing Clara and Etzel in a machine, struck Michael Kavanaugh, 54 years old, 5614 Etzel avenue, knocking him down. Kavanaugh's right leg was fractured.

Mrs. Lyda Loberdure, Maplewood, while waiting for a Taylor car at Manchester avenue and Kingshighway, was struck by a machine driven by William Kammermeyer, 2441 South Thirteenth street. She was taken to Barnes Hospital, suffering internal injuries.

BURGESS.—On Friday, Jan. 18, 1918, at 7 a. m., Samuel R. Burgess, aged 65 years, dearly beloved husband of Eveline Burgess (nee Allen), and dear father of Samuel, Arthur, Harold and Florence Burgess and Mrs. G. L. Evans, and brother of P. H. and Martha Burgess and Mrs. M. A. Molyneux. Funeral Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 2 p. m., from residence, 5920 Etzel avenue, to Bellefontaine Cemetery. Motor. Funeral private. Please omit flowers. (1)

BURGESS.—On Friday, January 18, 1918, at 7 a. m., Samuel R. Burgess, aged 65 years, dearly beloved husband of Eveline Burgess (nee Allen) and dear father of Samuel, Arthur, Harold and Florence Burgess and Mrs. G. L. Evans and brother of P. H. and Martha Burgess and Mrs. M. A. Molyneux. Funeral Tuesday, January 22, at 2 p. m., from residence, 5920 Etzel avenue, to Bellefontaine Cemetery. Funeral private. Please omit flowers. Motor.

BURGESS FUNERAL TODAY

The funeral of Samuel R. Burgess, who died Friday of heart failure at his home, 5920 Etzel avenue, will be held at 2 p. m. today from the home to Bellefontaine Cemetery. He died while confined to his bed from an injury to his knee, suffered Dec. 24, when he was struck, at Kingshighway and Page boulevard, by an automobile owned and driven by Dr. Milton J. Hopkins, 3756 Lindell boulevard. He absolved Dr. Hopkins from blame in a statement to the police.

Burgess was 65 years old, and a native of St. Louis. He was secretary of the Roland Book and Stationery Co. and a widely known chess player. He is survived by his wife and five children.

Pat D. [unclear] Jan 24, 1918.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR SAMUEL R.

The funeral of Samuel R. Burgess, who died at his home, 5920 Etzel avenue, Friday morning, will be held at 2 o'clock today afternoon. Burial will be in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Burgess was born in St. Louis December 29, 1851. Nearly fifty years ago he entered the employ of Cantwell & Shorb, book sellers and wholesale stationers. He remained with the company through all its changes, and when the firm finally became incorporated as the John L. Roland Book and Stationery Company Burgess was made secretary of the concern. He held this position until the company dissolved in 1909. At that time he retired from active business and devoted his entire interest to his real estate holdings in St. Louis. In 1876 he married Miss Eveline Allen, daughter of Dr. James X. Allen. He is survived by his widow and five sons and daughters.

Burgess was an enthusiastic chess player. At one time he was president of the West End Chess Club and vice president of the St. Louis Chess Club. He was a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints for fifty years.

SAMUEL R. BURGESS

The funeral of Samuel R. Burgess who died at his home, 5920 Etzel avenue, Friday morning, was held privately from the residence at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Burial was at the Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Mr. Burgess was born in St. Louis

cember 26, 1851. Nearly fifty years ago he entered the employ of Cantwell & Shorb, book sellers and wholesale stationers. He remained with the company through all its changes, and when the firm finally became incorporated as the John L. Roland Book and Stationery Co., Mr. Burgess was made secretary of the concern. He held this position until the company dissolved in 1909. At that time he retired from active business and devoted his

entire interests to his real estate holdings in St. Louis. In 1876 he married Miss Eveline Allen, daughter of Dr. James X. Allen. He is survived by his widow and five sons and daughters.

Mr. Burgess was an enthusiastic chess player. One time he was president of the West End Chess Club and vice president of the St. Louis Chess Club. He was a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints for fifty years.

S. R. Burgess preceded him in charge of J. R. O. the music. Many which he was held Dewey, acted as a Cemetery.

WIXOM.—Jasper Woodford County, Mo., by William A. 1871. To this unit of whom preceded

Globe Democrat, 1918
Saints Herald, Jan 31, 1918
BURGESS.—Samuel R. Burgess was born at Saint Louis, Missouri, December 26, 1851; baptized September 16, 1867, by Mark H. Forscutt; married Eveline Allen July 4, 1876; died January 18, 1918, in Saint Louis, leaving his wife, 5 children, 7 grandchildren, a brother and 2 sisters, besides a host of friends, to mourn him and wait the day of meeting. While he made many trips east and west, his whole life has centered in Saint Louis and the church in that place. The

service was private, from his home; sermon by R. Archibald.

Death of S. R. Burgess.

With much regret we note the death by heart disease of Samuel R. Burgess, in his 67th year, on Friday, January 18, at his residence, 5920 Etzel avenue. For very many years he was identified with every chess enterprise, having been president of the St. Louis Chess Club and also of the West End Chess Club, contributing liberally to both clubs.

He learned the game forty years ago and played it only for pleasure. He kept a record of the results of all his games. He played with 400 different persons. Among his opponents were Albert Blair, Wm. Brown, R. H. Colby, Wm. Duncan, Bishop Fitzgerald, Leman P. George, Prof. Jacques Gummer, R. R. Hutchinson, Father Gross of Colorado, Mrs. Natalie Nixdorf of New York, Prof.

C. M. Woodward, George H. Wolbrecht and his wife, who enjoys the distinction of being the lady chess champion of the United States. On the day before his death he played eleven games with R. B. Gibler, and the highest number of games he contested against any one player was 300 against F. H. Koser.

He won second prize in a handicap tournament of the Office Men's Club in 1907 and in 1910 the silver cup trophy offered by the West End Chess Club.

On October 1, 1908, Mr. Burgess commenced the diary of his chess experiences, in which he wrote: "And when the doings of my last day are written by another hand I may it be said of me: 'He died contented with his lifetime's actions; he expired happy in the thought of having well spent his time.'"

He died as he had lived, happy and contented, having lived an honorable life, with his family, consisting of his widow, three sons and two daughters, may well be proud.

Following is one of the games preserved by him, played December 1, 1904, in St. Louis at Pontine on the closing day of the great Louisiana Purchase Exposition:
S. R. Burgess (white) vs. J. T. Downman (black).

CHOCOLATE PLANO			
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P-K4	P-K4	11 P-P	P-KK4
2 Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3	12 Q-Rxch	R-Q2
3 B-B4	B-B4	13 Q-Exch	Kt-K5
4 Castles	Kt-R3	14 B-K2	Q-K3
5 P-Q4	P-Q4	15 Kt-K4	K-B3
6 P-K3	P-K3	16 Kt-B4	Q-B3
7 P-Kt1	P-Kt1	17 Kt-Q3	R-P
8 R-Kch	B-K3	18 Kt-Q3	R-P
9 Kt-K5	Q-Q5	19 Kt-R	Resigns.
10 Kt-B	P-Kt1		

*The correct reply is BxP.

Our dear father, Bro. S. R. Burgess, met with an auto accident on Christmas Eve, from which he was supposed to be recovering. He was also supposed to have practically recovered from his heart trouble of last Spring. But there was a mistake somewhere, for on the morning of the 18th, without any warning, he quietly slipped away from us, leaving an aching vacancy in our existence. We understand that there was a memorial service at Sunday School on the 20th which was beautiful. So was the service at the house on the 22nd, with Elder R. Archibald as the speaker.

Saints Herald, Feb 2, 1918

Saint's A LIFE WELL

Fifty years ago a boy of his diary, but before doing view of his past life and the perspective" with the following

As I close my book this evening to-morrow, I cannot help confessing that I have lived a life of which I am ashamed to acknowledge.

Sampling of Published Death Notices for S. R. Burgess

Plate 31 Sampling of Published Death Notices for S. R. Burgess

Death of S. R. Burgess of St. Louis

Published in the *American Chess Bulletin* in April 1918

It is with the deepest regret that we learn through Mrs. Samuel R. Burgess of St. Louis, of the death of her husband on January 18 last. Besides enjoying the unique distinction being the husband of America's champion women player, Mr. Burgess had long been personally known as one of Caissa's²¹ staunches pillars in Missouri and, moreover, was not an unfamiliar figure in the chess centers of the East.

Samuel R. Burgess had been playing chess for over 30 years and has been identified with practically every chess venture in this city. He had been president of the *St. Louis Chess Club* besides serving as vice president for many years. He had also been president of the *West End Chess Club*, and supported liberally both clubs. He was a member of the *Office Men's Chess Club* and won second place in a tournament there in 1890. In 1910 he won the silver cup token offered by the *West End Chess Club*. He took part in many chess tournaments in this city, finishing many times among the prizewinners. He had also been instrumental in bringing many chess masters to St. Louis and entertained them at his home with evenings devoted to the royal game.

Mr. Burgess subscribed to nearly all the leading chess publications, including *Lascar's Magazine* and the *American Chess Bulletin*. He has also purchased many other newspapers of the country, including the *Brooklyn Eagle*, the *Baltimore News*, and the *New Orleans Times-Democrat*. Naturally, he always followed closely the chess column of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. He possessed a considerable chess library and made at an early date a critical study of the openings. Besides the regular chess volumes, he kept a scrapbook of the best games, illustrating each opening, and also made numerous pen and ink notes.

He had kept his own chess record carefully, especially the last fifteen years, and had played with all the masters who have visited St. Louis in the past 30 years. In fact he played with over 400 different players in the Middle West, including Edward Schrader, George H Wolbrecht, Max Judd, and the Haller's. The largest number of games with any one player was 800, with F. H Kezer.

The day before his death he played eleven games with R. B. Gibson, despite the fact that he was confined to his bed at the time. In a recent handicap tournament at the *St. Louis Chess Club* he tied for first place with Edward Schrader.

One of the last problems Mr. Burgess solved before his demise was the jointly composed two- mover by J. J. O'Keefe and N. S. Smith—Number 1211 in January *Bulletin*. It had also appeared in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* and only ten out of twenty-two solvers succeeded in mastering it. As many as three wrong keys were suggested by some of the best solvers. Mr. Burgess received the prize for the most complete solution and analysis.

²¹ Caissa is the "patron goddess" of chess players.

**Four Generations
of "Allen" Women**

**Sybilla
Burgess**

(grand-daughter
James Allen)

**Elizabeth
Pidd**

(wife
James Allen)

**Eveline
Allen**

(daughter
James Allen)

**Alice
Evans**

(great- granddaughter
James Allen)

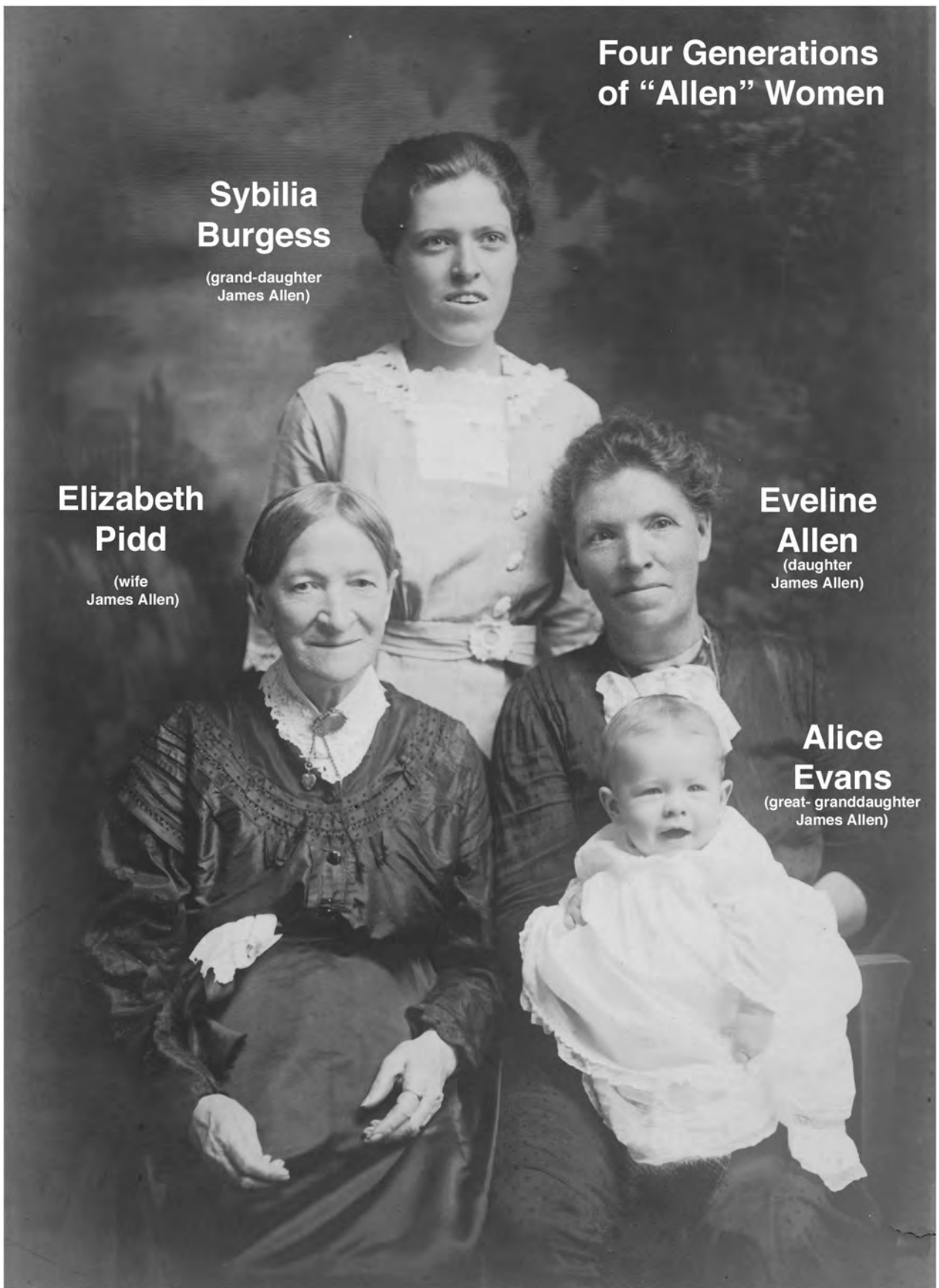


Plate 32 Four Generations of Allen Women

Eveline Allen Burgess

"Mrs. Burgess is a plain, straightforward, sensible, clear-headed woman, absolutely without any pretense or desire for notoriety. She is a delightful companion and a devoted mother."

So wrote C.P. Johnson in 1912 in *Notable Women of St. Louis*. It need also be said that she was a woman of considerable accomplishment in what was a male-dominated society, and at the same time was a very loving mother.

The *West End Chess Club* was organized in 1907. It was a courtesy of the club to elect its two women members, Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. Hewitt, alternatively to the office of vice-president. Mrs. Burgess played a very conservative [chess] game, as differing from an aggressive one. She was very deliberate, rarely ever making a false move.

She enjoyed singing, especially songs by Gilbert and Sullivan, although one of her granddaughters reported she was not a very good singer. She really sang out on church hymns such as "Marching to Zion."

Eveline was a devoted life-long member of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints (RLDS), making annual pilgrimages, each April, to the church's general conferences. Accompanying her on occasion to the events was her mother, her sister Sybilia Zenor, her son Samuel Allen, or her daughter Florence Marie.

In her autobiography she wrote that she believed the *Book of Mormon* was divinely inspired and accurate historically. She was especially proud of her son, Samuel Allen Burgess when he became President of Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa, Associate Editor of *The Saints' Herald*, and Church Historian in Independence, Missouri.

In 1923, five years after her husband death, Eveline, having served 51 years as a Sunday School teacher in St. Louis, moved to Lamoni and lived with her older sister, Bertha Greer. After Bertha died in 1930 her younger sister, Sybilia Zenor, moved in.

In 1931, Eveline prepared her will. Regarding the disposition of all her chess possessions, she declared, "All the above [chess] trophies and articles I do give and bequeath to Samuel Allen Burgess in trust, nevertheless ... the first granddaughter ... to play with such interest and skill as to give reasonable hopes of her maintaining the honors I have received ... then all my chess possessions shall be given to her."

As for her five grandsons and three granddaughters, she declared, "as each of my grandsons reaches the age twenty-one years, if he can truthfully say he has never used intoxicating liquors, or tobacco in any form, and that he has not used profane language" and "as each of my granddaughters reaches the [same] age, "provided she has the ability to make her own clothes, do plain cooking and keep an orderly, clean house ... each [one] shall be given the sum of Five Hundred Dollars."

She died in 1936. It is not known which if any of the eligible grandchildren collected.

Eveline Allen Burgess's Autobiography (Abridged)
By Eveline Burgess(Undated)

Baptism

In the winter of 1868 I was baptized in the river at the foot of North Market Street; the ice was broken on the river and our clothes froze to us as we walked out. The severe cold did not detract from the great joy I felt at that time and I can still recall how wonderful the angel message seemed to me. I felt sure in my own mind that everybody would join the church if they could only hear the marvelous message. I once tried to tell my schoolmates and others the "glad tidings" but a rude awakening was in store for me, and that the Gospel was a matter of ridicule to those who had heard Joseph Smith and I soon curbed my desire to tell others the "glad tidings."

My Faith

I always remained enthusiastic over the *Book of Mormon* story that an enlightened and educated people have lived on this continent. Even today, after many years in the church, the *Book of Mormon* and the proofs by late archaeology of its truth seem one of the most miraculous proofs of the Gospel restored. Every church member should read that book and with it the *Book of Mormon* proven by archaeology.

Healings? O yes many have occurred in my family and, when told, outsiders have been met with "O well, perhaps the child would have got well anyway" or "most likely you were not as sick as the Doctor said."

Music Lessons

How happy I was when my father said I should take music lessons— how eager I was to play "exercises" for anyone who would listen. When I could play Sunday School music and was asked to play, I had visions and daydreams of some day being a great musician or singer; needless to say these dreams were never realized.

I have confessed my ambition to be a musician so it is not surprising that I early joined the choir. ... Since taking organ lessons it had been my aim to learn to read music at sight, in order that I might someday play the organ in church and Sunday school. I did not expect to be elected "organist" but to be ready to act as substitute.

Samuel R Burgess

One evening in my seventeenth year, my sister, having a severe cold, did not go with me to choir practice and, being alone, I hurried out, as soon as practice is over, and started walking rapidly towards home. I had not reached the first corner when a voice near me said "Why such a hurry, may I walk home with you?" It was the teacher of the class of young women in the Sunday School, the best male singer in the choir —the one man I would at least have expected.

With a toss of my head I was about to make some silly, would-be witty, refusal; some of the “boys” and often walked us, but this was a man dignified, scholarly, and rather awe-inspiring, so I said quietly “O that is not necessary, it is only a few blocks”. “But I am going over this way tonight ...”

Why go into detail over a walk home from choir? Because it led to the happiest of marriages. I never entirely got over the feeling that he was a very superior man.

Maintaining Appearances

Early in our married life, I discovered that he thought I was very “good”, and, while it was comforting and flattering to be so well thought of by a man of such high intellect, it was a great responsibility and kept me busy all the days of my life to live up to (or try to) his opinion of me and not let him discover the truth about my faults. Deceitful? you may say, but I did really try to be what I wanted him to think me.

Caring for Children

People often pity young mother and “don’t see how you manage with so many children.” I well remember the surprise of one of such “friends” who had said “children never pay for their raising” when I replied “Well mine do; they pay every day as they go along in the pleasure they give me and their father” and they did. But mine were such wonderful children, it was wonderful that they have been given me—and every step in their growth and development was a pleasure.

Sickness? Yes, and sometimes I have been for days and nights without rest only as I slept or dozed in a chair by the bed, but I was blessed with a feeling that they would recover, and when praying for them my Faith was always strong enough to help me to be cheerful.

Three were sick with Diphtheria during an epidemic of that dread disease before the discovery of anti-toxin. Several of my friends lost one or more children. I had prayed and felt that assurance; they all recovered – though one night I thought the youngest was going to leave us and the Doctor refused to come out late in the night, but he was an old man and had shaken his head over the boy’s condition in the afternoon. The baby ate breakfast the next morning and was soon as well as the others.

One skeptical friend said “O, it just happened that yours got well.” I know two in our neighborhood died in a few days almost before the parents realized the danger—another friend lost three children in two weeks and still another lost two in a few days— perhaps it “just happened” that mine lived but I prefer to believe that we were especially blessed. I don’t know why mine lived. I did all I could for them and believe my prayers were answered.

The Life of Eveline Allen Burgess (Abridged)

by Samuel Allen Burgess

EVELINE BURGESS NEE ALLEN was born the 19th of September, 1856, near Ogden, Utah. About 1861 the family returned to the states. They settled in St. Joseph, Missouri. About 1866 the family removed to St. Louis, Missouri, where they were soon affiliated with the [RLDS] church. Eveline Allen was baptized in March, 1868.

She attended the St. Louis schools and graduated in June, 1875, from Central High School. She then engaged in giving some piano lessons until her marriage on the Fourth of July, 1876, to Samuel R. Burgess.

She was always greatly interested in the work of the church and took an active part after the rest of her family joined and became active in 1891. She taught a Sunday School class in Zion's Hope Sunday School in St. Louis for about 40 years. She was Treasurer of the Sunday School. She was a charter member of the St. Louis Mite Society, believed to be the first Mite Society in the church. She served from 1907 to 1916 on the Executive Board of the Daughters of Zion and was active in establishing the Children's Home in Lamoni, Iowa. She served as General President of the Women's Auxiliary for Social Service from 1914 to 1916. She helped the work of the church financially and liberally.

She was a member of the *West End Chess Club* in St. Louis and usually finished near the top—more than once winning the club championship. Her home was ever an hospitable one; entertaining of the local people was a regular feature, and also entertaining people from out of town. Her home was also open to missionaries of the church, many of whom made their headquarters at her home while she and her husband were both living. She took a very keen interest in everything that concerned civic St. Louis and especially the work of the church.

She always held a very warm place in her heart for St. Louis, where she had resided until all of her living children were married and has established their own homes. When she removed to Lamoni, she requested that her name be continued on the St. Louis record. It is therefore her wish to be recognized as having been a member of the St. Louis Branch [of the Reorganized Church] for over 67 years.

Her generosity extended not only to the church, but through all her life to those who were poor. She took a great delight at Christmas time in making up parcels for others and in Lamoni, especially for those in the Saints' Home. She gave gifts even through the depression [when] she had received no income of her own. Her desire was always to do good for others.

As to the hereafter, she always expressed the most confident hope and declared that she wished the hymn sung at her funeral, "Joyfully, Joyfully, Onward I Move", and she wished it sung joyfully and not in a funereal manner. She felt assured that what we call death is only a greater life. She passed away at 1:37 a.m. on July 10, 1936.



Eveline Allen Burgess
United States Women's Chess Champion 1907-



Eliza Campbell Foote
President, Women's Chess Club of New York



Samuel Allen Burgess
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Rostron Burgess



Hermann Helms
Editor and Publisher *American Chess Bulletin*
Member of the United States Chess Hall of Fame

Eveline Burgess, United States Women's Chess Champion

In 1912, when an interviewer²² asked Eveline Allen Burgess, "When did you start playing chess?" she replied that could not remember. She went on to say that her father, James X Allen, was very fond of the game—that he devoted much of his leisure time to it. He insisted that she play a game with him during her school lunch hour. Often she would have to run back to school to be on time, she said.

When and where might she have had to run? In 1866, when Eveline was ten years old, the Allen's moved to St. Louis from St Joseph, Missouri. At age 10 she would have had to run seven blocks west on Christy Avenue from her North St. Louis home on Morgan Street to Franklin Elementary on 18th Street. A few years later she would have had to run four blocks southwest to St. Louis High School at 15th and Olive. Eveline was excellent student of more than chess; she graduated first in her class.

After Eveline Allen married Samuel R. Burgess, she did not play chess for seven years. In 1883 her 16-year old brother, Franklin, became a boarder.²³ He had learned the game, perhaps from his father, as Eveline had. He challenged his sister to a game. While she felt that she did not "even remember the moves," she asked her husband to bring home a set of chessman from his employer's bookstore. The next day she played 17 games with her brother, losing only the first game. Franklin never asked her to play with him again. Her husband, however, was a different story.

Samuel Burgess, realizing the possibilities for entertainment and mental stimulus, undertook a serious study of chess.²⁴ He read and re-read chess primers, becoming as enthusiastic as was his father-in-law about the game. It was after Samuel became interested that local players assembled to form the "North St. Louis Chess Club." Eveline became its only woman member. She played against five men, and often eight, winning first prize three times and second prize once, in four of its tourneys.

Beginning in 1898, Eveline accompanied Samuel every February for a month-long business trip to New York City.²⁵ They always stayed at the elegant St Denis Hotel at 11th Street and Broadway. In 1894 a group of thirty women, under the leadership of Miss Eliza Foote, had formed the "Women's Chess Club of New York." Initially its meetings took place in members' homes, but, by November of 1905, they met at the recently opened Martha Washington Hotel at 5th Avenue and 29th Street—about a mile north of the St Denis Hotel.²⁶ Eveline became a club member.

²² Mrs. C. P. Johnson. This page draws on Sketch #28 of *Notable Women of St. Louis*.

²³ Their parents had divorced in 1877. In 1883 Franklin lived with his mother and Aunt Bertha in Pleasanton, Iowa. His father, James X Allen, had remarried in Utah.

²⁴ Samuel's mother took him out of school when he was 14. He began a practice of self-study—a discipline that served him well as he applied himself to the game.

²⁵ Samuel Burgess was a buyer for the John L. Boland Book and Stationery Company.

²⁶ The Martha Washington Hotel's 416 rooms were reserved for women exclusively. It has been rebranded several times. As of 2016 it was the Redbury New York Hotel.

1906

Women to Play Chess.

Special to The Journal.

New York, May 5.—For the first time in the history of chess in this country women will hold a national tournament, to be known as the First American Woman's Chess Congress, next week. It will be formally opened in the parlors of the Hotel Martha Washington, this city, Monday morning. Most of the ten competitors are members of the Women's Chess club of this city. Mrs. Frank W. Lynn, of Chicago, who has entered for the championship tournament is considered to have the best chance of capturing that distinction. Mrs. S. R. Burgess, a well-known woman player of St. Louis, is also expected.

The Hotel Martha Washington would enjoy a long history with women's chess in New York. As a women-only hotel – the first one in New York dedicated solely to women – and moderately priced, it was the ideal venue.



Rotarian George C. Brown,
Managing Director of the
Hotel
Martha Washington
 (Woman's Hotel)
 29 East 29th St., (near Fifth Ave.)
 NEW YORK

Extends a cordial invitation to the wives, daughters and women friends of fellow Rotarians to stop at his hotel when visiting the metropolis unaccompanied.

There are 500 spacious rooms. Rates \$1.50 per day and up. For parties of five or more a large room at \$1.00 per day per person. A special feature is our excellent Table d'hôte luncheon at 40 cents; dinner at 50 cents.

Comfort, Convenience and Protection, all important to the woman traveler in the metropolis, are found at the Martha Washington in their highest degree.

1907

Also in 1907 while in Brooklyn with he husband, timed partly to observe the Anglo-American cable match on Feb. 22-23, Mrs. S. R. Burgess of St. Louis took the opportunity to challenge Mrs. Frey to a title match. Their spouses arranged the terms and the match started fairly quickly. This match, played at the Hotel Martha Washington from March 2-9 and refereed by Prof. Rice, was the first time Mrs. Burgess played using a clock. That fact didn't prevent her from winning convincingly +4=1-1. Other than one French Defense, all the games were Queen Gambit Declined.

Below is the first game, the French Defense and the only one won by Mary Grace Frey; and the third game, won by Eveline Burgess and deemed the best of the match.

Mrs. Burgess vs. Mrs. Frey

0-1 | Match Game / Hotel Martha Washington

1. d4 e6 2. c4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3
 c6 5. e3 Nbd7 6. c5 Ne4 7. Qc2
 Ndf6 8. Bd3 Nxc3 9. bxc3 b6 10.
 cxb6 axb6 11. Ne5 Qc7 12. Rb1 Bd7
 13. c4 Bd6 14. cxd5 exd5 15. Nxd7
 Kxd7 16. g3 h6 17. O-O Rhc8 18.
 Bf5+ Ke7 19. Bxc8 Rxc8 20. Qb3 b5
 21. Bd2 Qd7 22. Bb4 Bxb4 23.
 Qxb4+ Ke8 24. Kg2 h5 25. f3 g5
 26. h3 Ra8 27. a3 Ra4 28. Qb2 Qd6
 29. Ra1 h4 30. f4 Ne4 31. gxh4
 gxh4 32. Kf3 Qg6 33. Rg1 Ng3 34.
 Qg2 Qh5+ 0-1



Mrs. Burgess vs. Mrs. Frey

1-0 | Match Game / Hotel Martha Washington

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3
 c6 5. e3 Bb4 6. Bd2 O-O 7. Bd3
 dxc4 8. Bxc4 Nbd7 9. a3 Nb6 10.
 Bd3 Bxc3 11. Bxc3 Nbd5 12. Qc2
 Re8 13. Bd2 Ne7 14. Ne5 Ng6 15.
 h4 Qc7 16. f4 Nf8 17. g4 N6d7 18.
 g5 f5 19. gxf6 Nxf6 20. O-O-O
 N6d7 21. h5 Nxe5 22. fxe5 Re7 23.
 Rdg1 h6 24. Bb4 Rf7 25. Bg6 Nxc6
 26. hxg6 Rd7 27. Rf1 Qd8 28. Rf8+
 Qxf8 29. Bxf8 Kxf8 30. Qc5+ Ke8
 31. Rf1 Kd8 32. Qf8+ Kc7 33. Rf7
 Rb8 34. Rxd7+ Bxd7 35. Qxg7 h5
 36. Qh7 Rf8 37. g7 Rf1+ 38. Kd2
 Rf2+ 39. Kc3 Black resigns 1-0

1906 First United States Women's Chess Champion is Ms. Mary Frey

In May 1906 the club held the First American Women's Chess Conference. It sent invitations to all women chess players in the United States who had any standing. Four of these women were invited to participate in a championship tournament, the winner to become the first United States Women's Chess Champion.

Eveline Burgess had established a reputation as a superb player. She was one of the four selected to compete for the title.²⁷ However, she declined the invitation, citing her mother's ill health.²⁸ Hence, only three women participated in the tourney: Ms. Mary Frey of Newark, Ms. Anna Lynn of Chicago, and Mrs. M. Wilkinson-Robertshaw of New York City. Although Ms. Lynn was favored to win, in her two games with Ms. Frey, she only managed one draw. Mrs. M. Wilkinson-Robertshaw lost all her games.

Ms. Mary Frey thus became the first United States Women's Chess Champion. Born Mary Grace Rogers, she had grown up in a chess playing family headed by the Rev. Edson Rogers. A graduate of Smith College, Mary moved to Newark after marrying Mr. Charles Frey, who, in 1906, was President of the New Jersey Chess Association.²⁹

1907 Eveline Burgess Challenges and Defeats Mary Frey

In February 1907 Eveline accompanied Sam, as usual,³⁰ on his annual trip to New York City as the principal buyer for the *John L. Boland Book and Stationary Company*. On February 22 they went to the Brooklyn Chess Club to support fellow St. Louisan George H. Wolbrecht as he competed in the Anglo-American Cable Chess Match.³¹

After the match they met up with Hermann Helms, founder and publisher of the *American Chess Bulletin* and a chess reporter for the *New York Times*.³² The Burgesses told Helms that Eveline wished to challenge Mary Frey in a title match while the Burgesses were visiting New York. Ms. Frey lived nearby in Newark.

Helms said he would ask Ms. Frey and get back to them, which, three days later, he did. She would accept Eveline's challenge. On February 28, Helms met with the two women's husbands at the Manhattan Chess Club and reached an agreement on rules. The first winner of four games was to be the champion. Players would be required to make at least 20 moves per hour. Each game was to be played in one sitting, the first game in two days time in the afternoon at the Martha Washington Hotel.

²⁷ Her reputation had been established by first place finishes in St. Louis tourneys.

²⁸ No evidence for her mother's ill health is found in any May 1906 journal entries.

²⁹ Mary Frey died four years later on January 20, 1910. She was 48 years old.

³⁰ Since 1898 she had accompanied her husband for ten consecutive years.

³¹ Between 1896 and 1911, these matches were annual chess games between teams from the United States and Great Britain, all conducted over transatlantic cable.

³² Helms reported for the *Times* for over 50 years until 1962 and publish the *Bulletin* until his death in 1963. He was inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame in 1988.

At 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 2, 1907, Eveline and Samuel left the St Denis for the one-mile trip north on Broadway to the Hotel Martha Washington on 29th Street. Four hours into the game, as Eveline later recorded in her journal, “I weakened and made a bad move, losing the game at once.” Two days later she won two games, and took a 2 to 1 lead in the match.³³ Then despite two nights of poor sleep, Eveline took game 4 on March 6. That evening, in hopes of getting a better night’s sleep, she switched to another room at the hotel. The next day she managed to get a draw.

The sixth game, played on Saturday, March 9, proved decisive. Mary Frey resigned after her 40th move. Eveline was presented with a gold pin to commemorate her win. Congratulatory telegrams began to arrive that evening. Bouquets and boxes of flowers from friends and family appeared at the St Denis Hotel. Four days later, after she and Samuel had returned from New York to St. Louis, Eveline concluded her final 1907 New York journal entry with “more letters and congratulations.”

1908 Eveline Accepts a Challenge and Defeats Ms. Natalie Nixdorff

Eveline’s New York journal entry for Monday, February 17, 1908, reads, in part, “In the afternoon a Mrs. Nixdorff came to play chess and I won all three games.” The next day Eveline went to the Women’s Chess Club and defeated three other women—Mrs. Benjamin, Mrs. Slade, and Miss Monk—in four games. After these games Mr. Hermann Helms appeared and asked her whether she would be willing to accept a challenge to her title by Ms. Natalie Nixdorff. Eveline readily agreed. Helms made arrangements for the match to begin in just two days.

Mrs. Nixdorff, born Natalie Meysonberg in Germany in 1853, had moved to St. Louis at age two. She had eight brothers and four sisters. Her father taught all his boys to play chess, but Natalie was the only girl interested in learning the game. One brother organized a chess club at the St. Louis Mercantile Library. Two other brothers were active in chess clubs as adults. In 1878 she married Charles Nixdorff, owner of the St. Louis Chain Works.³⁴ After he died in 1897, she lived with her son in New York.³⁵

On the February 20, Eveline met Natalie at the Martha Washington Hotel to play the first two games of the match. Hartwig Cassel, co-publisher with Helms of the *American Chess Bulletin*, was referee. Eveline won both games and took a 2-0 lead. Ms. Nixdorff came back the next day, however, and took the third game on her 43rd move.³⁶ The *New York Sun* reported on the game as if it were an epic struggle:

³³ An analyst expressed the opinion that the third game was the best in the match.

³⁴ Charles Nixdorff partnered with his main competitor Franz Krein to form the Nixdorff-Krein Company in 1884. Ferdinand Pillisch worked there as a chain maker. Pillisch was my mom’s paternal grandfather. Refer to the “Pillisch-Beck” chapter.

³⁵ Natalie had a son, Charles E. Nixdorff Jr.—a New York lawyer. She lived with him at 320 W. 83rd Street—the same street number one block south of Suzy’s apartment.

³⁶ This game was Natalie Nixdorff’s only win in the eight games she played Eveline.

The champion ... adopted her favorite queen's gambit, which Mrs. Nixdorff of Boston, profiting by her experience in the first game, declined. The challenger went astray on her fifth move ... and she appeared to have a hopeless struggle on her hands. However, her courage did not fail her and after avoiding a severe onslaught ... she became aggressive. At this critical stage Mrs. Burgess made a couple of unnecessarily cautious moves and she awoke suddenly to the fact that her opponent held the key to the position. The white pieces were hemmed in such way that to avoid a mate Mrs. Burgess was obliged to sacrifice a rook and a pawn. Mrs. Nixdorff followed up her advantage and eventually forced a mate. Eveline simply attributed her loss to "careless play."

Sunday was Washington's Birthday. Eveline accompanied Sam on his business rounds, attended church in Brooklyn, and caught up on her correspondence. She and Natalie met on Monday morning for their fourth game. Eveline wrote in her journal, "won by a close shave and had a spell of heart failure after it was over." The next morning she won the game and the match and was awarded a gold medal.

1909 The Burgess's Final Trip to New York

In February the Burgesses made their final New York trip (the 17th for Sam, the 14th for Eveline.) Having received no challenges, her 1909 New York chess games were purely recreational. One newspaper, *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, found her New York visit newsworthy. "MRS S. R. BURGESS IS HERE" read the uppercase headline. "Mrs. S. R. Burgess of St. Louis, United States Women's Chess Champion, was a visitor at the last meeting of the Women's Chess Club of New York, held at the Hotel Martha Washington. Mrs. Burgess has received no challenges for the title and does not expect to play serious chess during her sojourn in this city."³⁷

On March 31, 1909, within days of their return to St. Louis, Samuel Burgess retired from the John L. Boland Company after 40 years of employment. Eveline wrote, "He does not know just what he will undertake for the future as he has made no plans."

1912 Plans for a 2nd Women's Chess Congress. A Challenger Emerges

In February 1912, a New York newspaper reported "an inquiry has been dispatched to Mrs. S. R Burgess ... to accommodate the time and convenience of Mrs. Burgess to enable her to participate in the proposed tournament, in case she consents to place her title in competition."³⁸ Events and fate would delay the tournament for years. However, a challenger emerged in May 1912 when Ms. Natalie Nixdorff won the Women's Chess Club of New York's annual club championship. Her victory initiated a process, its goal being a chess match in which a challenger would play Eveline Burgess, the winner to be the recognized as the U.S. Women's Chess Champion.³⁹

³⁷ *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 14 February 1909, page 17.

³⁸ *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 15 February 1912, page 23

³⁹ The narrative is based on sixteen letters (a total of 40 pages) that I photographed at the *Community of Christ* archives and about ten New York newspaper articles.

May 1913 A Polite Exchange of Letters for an October 1913 Match

In 1913 Natalie Nixdorff wrote two letters to Eveline, one in March and one in May, asking her to set a date on which she would be willing to defend her title in St. Louis. The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* reported on May 12 that “negotiations were underway.”

Eveline’s first-born son, Samuel Allen Burgess, was concerned from the outset that the negotiation would be stressful for his mother. Moreover, as he had a law degree, he believed he could protect her interests. Thus, Samuel Allen prepared a response dated May 20 to Ms. Nixdorff for his mother’s consideration. It expressed her willingness to play a match but her unwillingness to set a date until detailed arrangements were mutually agreed to a month before the start of the match.

In addition, Eveline asked Ms. Nixdorff to pick someone in St. Louis to represent her.⁴⁰ She expected Ms. Nixdorff to appoint her brother, T.A. Meysenberg. Moreover, due to her mother’s ill health and prospect of a hot St. Louis summer, she wrote that October was the earliest month she would agree to play. Natalie responded on May 31 with a cordial, handwritten letter with responsive suggestions for match arrangements. She wrote that Hermann Helms “is going to try to arrange this for me from a distance.” (Recall that Helms arranged Eveline’s 1907 and 1908 matches.)

September 1913 Eveline’s Conditions for an October Match are Not Met

The two women could not agree on what question would need to be answered first. Ms. Nixdorff insisted that Eveline set an exact date first, i.e., the “details” were of secondary importance, an opinion seconded by Hermann Helms in a September 18 letter. Eveline insisted agreement on arrangements took priority. Moreover, she insisted that the arrangements would need to allow for a last minute postponement were Eveline to need to travel to Iowa if her 82-year-old mother were to fall ill.⁴¹

March 1914 Another Opportunity for a Match is Missed

Hermann Helms and Eveline exchanged letters. Helms gently urged her to commit to a date. Eveline refused to commit, giving no reason. Months went by without any communication. Eveline did not meet Ms. Nixdorff’s request for a specific date and Ms. Nixdorff did not meet Eveline’s request to be approached by a representative in St. Louis. The chess negotiation had reached a stalemate.

Then the Women’s Chess Club of New York exploded a bombshell.

⁴⁰ Eveline knew that T.A. Meysenberg lived in St. Louis and was a member of its chess community. It is not known why she did not chose him to represent her.

⁴¹ Her mother, Elizabeth Anderson, 82 years old, lived in Lamoni, Iowa with her husband, James, on property shared with her daughter, Dr. Bertha Greer. Illness was on Eveline’s mind in September 1913. Her daughter-in-law Bertha was very ill and staying at the Burgess home all month. Eveline feared the illness might kill her.

1914



c. 1914 NY Women's Chess Club

Women's Championship Tournament May Be Revived After Lapse of Nine Years.

WILL BEGIN JANUARY 11

At a meeting of the Women's Chess Club, to be held under the chairmanship of the president, Miss Eliza Campbell Foot, next Tuesday afternoon the club in all likelihood will conclude arrangements for holding a second American women's chess congress to decide the championship of America. It is intended to hold the women's congress, beginning on Monday, January 11. The first similar contest was held in 1906, when the late Mrs. Charles P. Frey won the first prize and the championship title. The year following Mrs. S. R. Burgess of St. Louis beat Mrs. Frey in a set match and one year later Mrs. C. E. Nixdorff, who challenged the holder, was beaten in a match by Mrs. Burgess. All attempts on the part of Mrs. Nixdorff to get Mrs. Burgess to play a return match failed, and so the directors of the local club are most anxious to have a congress arranged to settle the championship question. Of course in addition to the championship tournament some minor contests will be played, and it is the intention of the management to put up liberal prizes.

Nov 15, 1914 NY Sun - Women's Chess Club of New York sets date for tournament

ST. LOUIS CHESS EXPERT EXPLAINS

Mrs. Burgess Says She Must Be Defeated Before She Loses Her Title of Woman Champion.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.]

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Sunday.—Mrs. S. R. Burgess, of St. Louis, who won the woman's chess championship of the United States from Mrs. C. P. Frey in New York in 1907 and has held it ever since, tonight admitted that she had withdrawn from the Women's Chess Club, of New York because of the New York club's proposed championship tournament. She claims the tourney was decided on without consultation with her, and that as the title holder, willing to meet all challengers, no tournament for the title would be valid without her consent.

Mrs. Burgess said to-night:—"My position is that the women's chess club of New York has no right to call a tournament and declare the winner of that tournament the champion of the United States. I grant that the winner might be the champion of the New York club, but she would have to play and defeat me before she would have the slightest claim on the title.

"I understand that the New York club has said that there seems no chance to get Mrs. Natalie Nixdorff and me together. The facts are that I once defeated Mrs. Nixdorff soon after winning the title, and when she challenged me again I immediately accepted. Twice during 1913 arrangements were made to play the game.

"I insisted only that the arrangements of the game, scene of play, referee, trophy, &c., be attended to by Mrs. Nixdorff, and that as soon as that was done the date of the match could be fixed, thirty days later. Mrs. Nixdorff insisted that I should first set the date and notify her two months in advance. Nobody, however, made any arrangements for the match.

"I am and always have been willing to defend my title, but I insist that some arrangements must be made for the match before a date can be set."

Nov 20, 1914 NY Herald - Eveline Burgess resigns from Women's Chess Club of NY

Nov. 1914 - Women's Chess Club of New York Takes Action

November 1914 Women's Chess Club of New York Makes an Announcement

On November 15, 1914, the Women's Chess Club of New York announced in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* that a 2nd Women's Chess Congress would meet on January 11. Eveline Burgess would be invited to participate in a championship match. The winner would be crowned the United States Women's Chess Champion.

Eveline was livid. She submitted her resignation in protest for the club's unilateral action. She was especially angry by articles in newspapers that accused her of forfeiting the title by failing to defend it. In a letter dated November 25 to his mom, Samuel suggested she consider suing the *New York Sun* for libel. Furthermore, he told his mom that if Father (i.e., Samuel Rostron) would not take action, he would.

Ten days later, in an extraordinary 5-page long, single spaced typewritten letter, the Burgesses submitted a list of objections to the club's proposed "championship match" planned for the 2nd Women's Chess Congress. The letter, dated December 4, 1914, was written by Samuel Allen Burgess, but was to be signed by Eveline. It was addressed to Miss Elizabeth Foote, president of the club since its founding 20 years earlier in 1894. Unless Eveline, as reigning United States Champion, agreed to the rules for the match, the letter asserted, the winner would merely be a club champion and not a U. S. champion. Under the present circumstances, Eveline would resign her club membership so as to retain the opportunity to defend her title against whoever won the match planned for the 2nd Women's Chess Congress.⁴²

December 1914 Fate Intervenes. The 2nd Women's Congress is Postponed

On Sunday, December 6, 1914, two days after the Burgess's five -page protest letter was presumably sent, tragedy struck. While crossing 7th Avenue near Carnegie Hall, a hit and run driver struck and killed Eliza Foote and struck nearly a fatal blow to the Women's Chess Club of New York. Miss Foote had been the prime impetus for the creation and growth of the club. As Libby Lackman explained in the *N. Y. Times*, "in order to swell the membership, she took it upon herself not only to persuade non-chess players to learn the game but taught them herself." On December 20, 1914, the *Herald Tribune* reported that in light of Miss Foote's untimely death, the 2nd Women's Chess Congress would be postponed until 1916.

On December 14, Hermann Helms wrote yet again to Eveline. He expressed his sympathy for Mrs. Nixdorff's priority that a date be agreed to first, assuring Eveline that her interests would be fairly addressed once the date was set. Acknowledging Miss Foote's death and that the negotiation had entered a "controversial stage" he recommended "we rest on our oars" for the time being. That same week, Eveline vented in a second and third (7-page) letter to Ben Foster, Chess Editor for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, her grievances and frustration. She wrote, "I will not begin

⁴² Recall that the first United States Women's Chess Champion had been crowned at the First American Women's Chess Congress in May 1906.

another useless correspondence with Mrs. Nixdorff, and [I] deny her right to demand any date or the forfeit of the title." In this letter she expressly sought his counsel, concluding with it with, "I will do whatever you think best."⁴³

March 1915 "We consider the proposed match indefinitely postponed"

In two 1915 letters, dated March 8th and 10th and addressed to Eveline, Hermann Helms sought with all the diplomacy and earnestness he could muster to get his client and Eveline to the chess table for a championship match. To one letter he attached two-page, single-spaced contractual-like document spelling out proposed terms and conditions of a match. He encourage Eveline to mark it up as she saw fit, writing "you [may] simply substitute any clause that may suit you better."

The Burgesses rejected his proposal. Samuel responded to Helms on behalf his mother, on March 27, in a double-spaced typewritten letter only fifteen lines long. "It would appear almost useless to try to arrive at a mutual agreement ... if you will kindly look up my recent letter (about March 1st), you will see that we consider the match indefinitely postponed for reasons therein stated."

The March 27, 1915, letter was the Burgess's final word. Three years had elapsed since Eveline had accepted Natalie Nixdorff's challenge. Eveline never accepted another challenge to her title, but hers would not be the final word on the issue.

April 1915 Natalie Nixdorff Claims the title of U.S. Women's Chess Champion

Two weeks after the Burgess's declared the challenge match indefinitely postponed, the Women's Chess Club of New York held its annual club championship match. The winner was none other than Natalie Nixdorff. It did not take long for her to make her claim to Eveline's title. Under the banner headline "Mrs. Natalie Nixdorff Claims Women's Chess Championship of the United States," the *New York Tribune* reported on April 11. She deserved the title, she had written the *Tribune*, "inasmuch as she failed in all her attempts of get Mrs. Burgess, of St. Louis, the champion, to play her a match for the title. Mrs. Nixdorff, in claiming the title, states that she is ready to defend the title 'against all comers at any time.'" However, no "comers" ever came forth, as no organization ever supported her claim.

July 1921 A New United States Women's Chess Champion is Crowned

The Women's Chess Club of New York continued to hold a club championship match annually. Natalie Nixdorff won in 1916 and 1917. Of the 14 games she played in the 1917 matches, she won 12, tied 1, and lost one. Her only loss was to a Mrs. Seamon. Seamon and Nixdorff traded off victories, Mrs. Seamon winning in 1920 and 1922.

⁴³ Eveline had vented to Mr. Foster in May 1914, too. The candor shown in her three letters to Foster suggest to me that he was a trusted confidant. She concluded one letter with, "Thank you in advance for anything you might do for me in the matter."

In June 1921, the 2nd Women's Chess Congress, originally planned to take place in 1915, took place in June and July of 1921 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Three women competed in the championship round—Mrs. Natalie Nixdorff, Ms. W. I. Seamon, and Mrs. Arthur C. Forbes. The winner would be recognized as the United States Chess Champion. It is not known whether or not the reigning Champion, Eveline Burgess, now three years a widow and 65 years old, was invited. Mrs. Natalie Nixdorff went through the tournament without a defeat and was awarded a gold medal by the vice-president of the United States Chess Association. Thirteen years after her unsuccessful 1908 challenge of Eveline Burgess, Natalie Nixdorff realized her goal.

Author Comments

The stark contrast between the ease with which 1907 and 1908 chess matches were agreed to and the failure to achieve closure in three years of long-distant negotiation begs for comment. The voluminous correspondence from 1912 to 1915 tells a sad, but compelling story. Conspicuous by his absence is Eveline's husband, Samuel R. Burgess, who had negotiated the 1907 and 1908 matches with Hermann Helms. If Samuel R. advised his wife, there is no evidence of it. Her son, Samuel A. Burgess, who sought to protect Eveline, contributed an unhelpful legalistic mindset, making her seem unreasonable whereas Natalie Nixdorff and Hermann Helms appear to be fair minded and transparent. I feel that justice was served by her 1921 victory and that it secured for her the title United States Women's Chess Champion.

Selected Excerpts from Eveline Burgess's "New York Trips" Journal

Beginning in 1905, Eveline Burgess kept a detailed journal dedicated to her annual trips to New York with her husband. What follows are selected excerpts from her New York journal, all of which I selected based upon their relevance to chess.

1907 Eveline's Successful Challenge Against Mrs. Clarence P. Frey

Feb 10 Sun We left St. Louis on the 1 P.M train for New York.

Feb 11 Mon We went to the St. Denis and secured Room 311.

Feb 22 Fri [We] then [went] over to Brooklyn to see the International chess match. There we met Mr. Wolbecht of St. Louis - also Mr. Helms of the *Brooklyn Eagle* and other notable chess people.

Feb 25 Sun I came back to the hotel ... Sam made a lot of calls on business ... Mr. Helms stating that Mrs. Frey was willing to play a chess match.

Feb 28 Thur This was a big day ... had dinner with two heads of firms - both millionaires I am told. ... Sam went to the Manhattan chess club to meet Mr. Helms and Mr. Frey to arrange for my coming chess match with Mrs. Frey.

Mar 2 Sat At 2 o'clock Sam and I started for the Martha Washington Hotel where I was to begin a match with Mrs. Frey for the Chess Championship. There were present, besides ourselves, Mr. and Mrs. Frey, Mr. Helms, Mr. Rice, Mr. Cassel⁴⁴, and Mrs. Parker also Mrs. VerPlank. By an oversight in Mrs. Frey's play I had the exchange but almost at the close of the four hours play I weakened and made a bad move, losing the game at once. Returned to our hotel at 6:40 P.M.

Mar 4 Mon I felt miserable but received some [...] in the morning mail from B.A.G. [Bertha A. Greer] and began taking it at once. I went to the Martha Washington Hotel about 10 A.M. to meet Mrs. Frey. We played two games. I won both. There were several ladies and [...] also Mr. Helms, Mr. Cassel, and some newspapermen, who wanted to photograph us, but Mrs. Frey refused, [and] so I stood by her.

Mar 5 Tue Slept very poorly – late breakfast - retired early.

Mar 6 Wed Had a very poor night's sleep, but rose early. The fourth game of the match was played today and I won. Mr. Helms was present to keep score.

7 Mar Thur I had room 315 last night so as to get a good sleep and I slept until 7:05 this morning.

8 Mar Fri Woke feeling very poorly today, but went to play chess with Mrs. Frey – succeeded in making a draw.

9 Mar Sat Slept well. Went at 9 AM to play Mrs. Frey – won the game and the match. Was presented with a gold souvenir pin to commemorate the event – [a] number of newspapermen and photographers were present. I did some shopping and returned to the hotel. Two large boxes of flowers were received. They are lovely. I wrote letters and cards to Harold, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Waltz, Florence, Mr. Colby, Mother, Mrs. Bradshaw, Grace Anderson, B. A. G., Martha, Father, and Maria.

10 Mar Sun Sam hired a cab to take us to the Hotel Endicott to meet Mr. Helms's family – we spent a very pleasant evening, returning to the Hotel at 11:50.

11 Mar Mon I was congratulated by Mr. Sember – Kahle – Allen – Kolb – Pfeffer – Staten and others. All had taken great interest in my winning the chess match. Mr. Sember having left word if I called to let him know he had sent flowers to the hotel – a wonderful basket nearly as long as a washtub – the most beautiful I ever saw. From there to Mr. Helms and was again congratulated ...

Next did some shopping and returned to pack my trunks (having bought another trunk.) On returning to the hotel was astonished too see flowers from Mr. Sember on behalf of G. Borgfeldt and Co. A fine cake came from Mr. Levy - congratulations and telegrams and messages too numerous to mention.

⁴⁴ Hartwig Cassel: Publisher of *American Chess Bulletin* with Hermann Helms.

12 Mar Tue Reached Washington this morning and were met by [my son] Harold - had a hard time to get some one to leave the big basket of flowers with - finally left it at a corner fruit stand ... we were shown through the White House by Mr. Young ... next went to the top of the Washington Monument ... 3:15 returned to the depot - got the flowers and started for home.

Mar 13 Wed Reached St. Louis two hours late were met by S. A., Arthur, and Martha - at home saw the rest of the family looking well - baby Willard is bigger and sweeter than ever. More letters and congratulations.

1908 Eveline Burgess's Defense of her Title Against Mrs. Natalie Nixdorff

Feb 8 Sat Left home about noon with S.A. to meet Sam at Union Station. Going to New York again!

Feb 17 Mon In the afternoon a Mrs. Nixdorff came to play chess and I won all three games.

Feb 18 Tue Went to the Women's Chess Club ... then Mr. Helms came and Mrs. Nixdorff said she wanted to challenge me for the championship - so Mr. Helms arranged for us to play Thursday afternoon at 2 P.M. Retired early.

Feb 20 Thur Mr. Cassel was referee. I won the white men and then won two games.

Feb 21 Fri I went to the Martha Washington Hotel to play the third game ... with Mrs. Nixdorff. After winning the exchange, I, by careless play, lost the game.

Feb 24 Sun I played the 4th game of the match with Mrs. Nixdorff and won by a close shave. Had a spell of heart failure after it was over.

Feb 25 Tue Went to the Hotel Martha Washington to play the 5th game in the match with Mrs. Nixdorff. I won. This gives me 4 wins and the championship for the ensuing year. ... Received first telegram of congratulation from S.A. (Samuel Allen)

Feb 26 Tue I received telegrams of congratulations. ... Sam and I went to the Metropolitan Opera House to hear Caruso in *La traviata*. It was fine, but such a crowd we could not get tickets until Sam bought some from a "shark" ...

Mar 2 Sun Started for home on the noon train.



Age 15



Age 45



Age 75

MRS. BURGESS CHESS CHAMPION

Defeats Mrs. Frey And Gets Gold And Enamel Chessboard.

New York, March 9.—Mrs. S. Burgess, of St. Louis, won the woman's chess championship of the United States today by defeating Mrs. C. P. Frey, of Newark, N. J., in the sixth game of a series at the Hotel Martha Washington, in this city.

Mrs. Burgess' score for the series was 4½ points to Mrs. Frey's 1½.

A souvenir chess board in gold and enamel was presented to Mrs. Burgess in recognition of her victory. It was reported that Mrs. Lynn, of Chicago, will now challenge Mrs. Burgess.

Mrs. Burgess said she would be prepared to accept any challenge next fall, but the games would have to be played in St. Louis.

New York City 1907

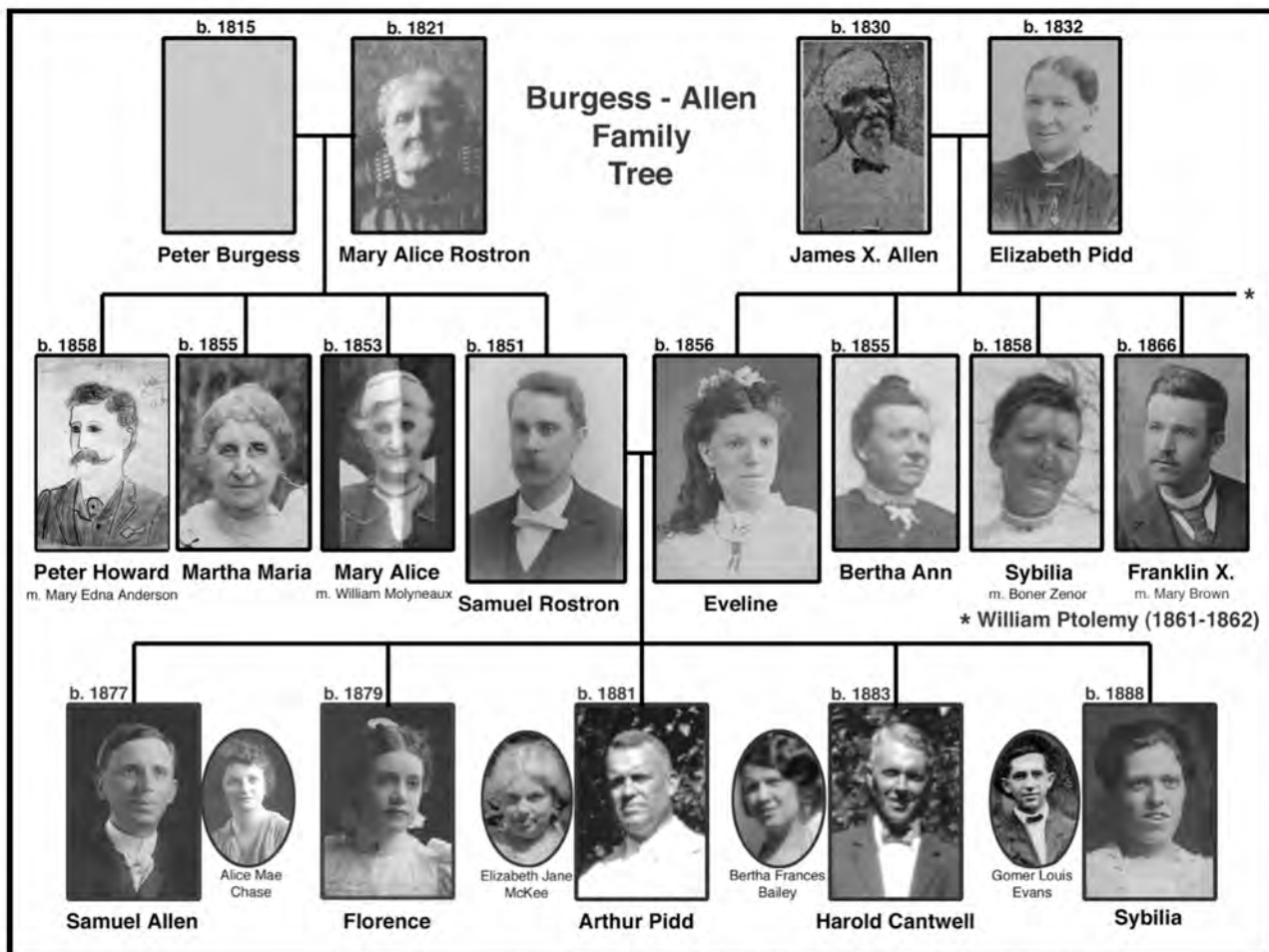
MRS. EVELINE A. BURGESS DIES.

Lamoni, Ia., Woman Formerly Was National Chess Champion.

Mrs. Eveline Allen Burgess, 79 years old, Lamoni, Ia., died at the Independence sanitarium today as the result of injuries suffered when she fell at her home a week ago. She was the mother of Samuel A. Burgess, 707 Proctor place, Independence, church historian for the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She held the national women's chess championship from 1906 until 1920. She leaves two other sons, Arthur P. Burgess, St. Louis, and H. C. Burgess, Chicago; a daughter, Mrs. Sybilla Evans, St. Louis; a sister, Mrs. Sybilla Zenor, Lamoni, Ia., and a brother, Frank X. Allen, Del Rio, Tex. Funeral services will be at 10 o'clock Saturday at the Samuel A. Burgess residence at Independence. Burial will be at St. Louis.

Independence 1936

Eveline Allen Burgess



Alice Evans
(1913 - 1999)



Joseph Cedric Evans
(1915 - 1993)



Samuel Rostron Evans
(1918 - 2006)



Walter Richard Evans
(1920 - 1999)

Children of Gomer and Sybil Evans

Burgess - Allen Family Tree

Samuel Rostron Burgess's Siblings

Mary Alice Burgess (1853-1940)

Named *Mary Alice*, she became simply *Alice*. In 1874 she married Will Molyneaux. They had a son, Howard, and a daughter, Martha Alice. Will, Alice, and their children would often celebrate the holidays with Sam and Eveline Burgess. Alice, like her sister Martha, remained close to her brother's family. The presence of the two "Aunties" is often mentioned in their journal. They were guests for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day celebrations. Alice accompanied Eveline to the General Conference of the RLDS church.

Martha Maria Burgess (1855-1925)

Martha lived with her mother. Martha became an integral part of her brother Sam's family and was affectionately called "Aunt Mattie" by the children. Whenever Eveline traveled to the annual RLDS General Conferences in Iowa or to New York with Sam, it was Martha that provided the childcare and kept house. When an automobile struck Sam in 1917, it was Martha who volunteered for the all-night vigil at his bedside.

Peter Howard Burgess (1858-1945)

Peter was the baby in the family. If Mary spoiled any of her children, it was undoubtedly Peter. Peter's could not hold a job. He married 24 -year-old Mary Edna Anderson in 1887. They had a son, Peter Howard "King" Burgess Jr. King got into trouble with the law. In 1920 he served a 6-month sentence in the Pittsburg, Oklahoma penitentiary.

Eveline Allen Burgess's Siblings

Dr. Bertha Allen Greer (1855 – 1930)

In 1874, at age 18, Bertha Allen married 27-year-old Alexander Dill Greer in St. Louis. In 1896 Bertha Allen roomed at her sister Eveline's home and attended the Homeopathic College, where, at age 42, she received her degree. In 1902 Bertha and Alex bought a house in Lamoni, Iowa. Eveline would send her children to stay with her sister for weeks at a time. Bertha delivered many Lamoni babies, but never had children herself.

Sybilia Allen Zenor (1858 – 1955)

Sybilia Allen married Theopolis Boner Zenor in 1878. She named her four children after her mother, Elizabeth, her sister Bertha, her sister Eveline, and her husband, Boner. Two children died young—Bertha at age 11 months and Eveline at age sixteen. In 1889 the Zenor's moved to Brock, Nebraska. Later they moved further up the Missouri River to Knox County, Iowa. Although Sybilia's life was not an easy one, she was a loving and caring person with a happy countenance in contrast with those of her serious sisters.

Franklin X Allen (1866 - 1937)

At age 23 Franklin married 18-year-old Mary Brown. The couple settled in Kansas City, Kansas. Mary had two children—Ralph in 1889 and Bertha Budge in 1892— before the marriage ended in divorce. Franklin X Allen worked as a piano salesman. (He added X to his name to honor his father.) In 1897 Franklin remarried to a 19-year-old Alma Mae Porter. By 1918 the Allen's had moved to Del Rio, Texas, on the Rio Grande River.

Sybilia Burgess's Siblings

Samuel Allen Burgess (1877-1950)

"Dear Auntie may your life be blest with friendship love and happiness. May all your friends prove true, and cheer you all the journey through."

Samuel Allen Burgess, age 9. Addressed to his Aunt Bertha 10 Dec. 1886

Sam was filled with the spirit. An 1890 journal entry by his father reads: "Have received several good letters from Sammy. He is just full of the church and his desire to convert those dear to him to its teachings. I trust he will get his heart's desire if it be right."

Sam told his daughter Eveline that he had found some truth in every religion, but his studies had shown more truth in this church. He did not press her to join the RLDS church, advising her, "if she found more truth elsewhere, she was welcome to leave."

He attended Washington University, graduating in June 1900. In December 1901 Sam was ordained to the office of "teacher" in the church. Eighteen months after becoming a teacher in the church, he graduated from the Law School of Washington University. In 1902 he and his brother Arthur passed the bar and they received their L.L.B degrees in the same ceremony. The graduation program listed both as "Honor Graduates."

In 1910, at age 32, Sam was single and lived at home with his parents and his sisters Florence (age 30) and Sybilia (age 21). His two brothers had married and moved out. Two years later, in 1912, Sam officiated for Sybilia's marriage to Gomer Evans.

In June 1913, Sam accepted an invitation to become president of Graceland College. He continued to live at 5920 Etzel Avenue. In April 1914, Sam was ordained a High Priest in the church. Now nearly 38 years old, he was waiting for the right girl to enter his life. Unbeknownst to him, a young woman in Lamoni already had her eye on him.

Alice Mae Chase from Lamoni, Iowa, daughter of active RLDS church members, had attended both the University of Utah and Cornell University before receiving a Bachelor of Arts from Cornell in June 1914. She, like Sam, had grandparents who had been baptized LDS and emigrated from England on a Mormon ship. Although fifteen years separated them in age, in 1914 the two became engaged and agreed upon a June 1915 date for their wedding.

In Lamoni, Sam and Alice had two daughters: Eveline Alice (b. 1919) and Florence Marie (b. 1920). Both daughters were active in the RLDS church for their entire adult lives. After his tenure as Graceland president ended, Samuel and Alice moved to Independence, Missouri.

Samuel lost all hearing and became stone deaf. However, he continued to serve as an RLDS historian. Samuel died at age 73 in 1950.

Florence Marie Burgess (1879-1920)

Florence Marie Burgess was born on July 25, 1879, the second child of Samuel and Eveline Burgess. From the outset she displayed gifts of writing and musicianship, and excelled in school. Her parents started her on music lessons when she was six years old, and by age ten she so enjoyed practicing the piano that her father bought a new one.

Her senior year high school marks were in the high 90's with 99's in final exams of all subjects: Latin, French, English, Literature, Shakespeare, and Advanced Mathematics.

Her mother wrote in her journal on June 18, 1897 on the day of her graduation: *Florence graduated from the St. Louis High School – the exercises were held at the Exposition Music Hall and she having the highest rank in her class was chosen Valedictorian.*

Two years later she wrote in her diary that a Miss Ernst said to her brother Sammy, *"Yes, we were proud of Florence. I'm sorry her health broke down the way it did."*

And upon her death twenty years later, Sammy wrote this tribute about his ill-fated sister in the Burgess journal:

"Florence passed away from this world and us at 9 p.m. She has been suffering for over twenty years as only those with nervous disorders suffer. She was a faithful member of the St. Louis choir and we believe a charter member. Her chief concern was the church and its music. She was intensely loyal to church and family and her friends.

She was in fact a girl and woman of wonderful natural ability as a musician and as a writer, both of stories and letters. But her ill health and nervous condition prevented her doing as much in quantity as she would have desired. The quality of her work was very high and her desires even higher. She was a strong and beautiful character with ideals of beauty and harmony, though physical disability prevented their full display here.

Our prayers had been daily for her complete healing, that her talents and ability might be utilized even more fully for the service of the church. But it has not been.

Monday night, shortly before her passing though seemingly unconscious, mother thought he heard her murmur 'Papa.'

So closes a beautiful life, with its possibilities for service here. She opens up a life beyond, where physical restrictions shall not be and soon we hope to see her again renewed, resurrected with a body without pain. Much more might be written. We think of her much and miss her greatly. May her rest and [You] be complete."

Arthur Pidd Burgess (1881-1945)

[The maid, Belle] was explaining to Sammy [Age 4 ½], in answer to his question, that God made everything. "Yes," said Sammy [Age 2 ½], "but you can't see him." Little Arthur, who has been listening, remarks, "I can, if I get up on my high chair."

Arthur [2 ½], asked his father to carry him on his shoulder, which he did. Curious if Arthur had fallen asleep, Samuel asked his son Sammy [4 ½] whether Arthur was asleep or awake. Sammy held back a pace or two so he could see and then remarked, "Arthur is awake." Arthur's retort was as sudden as it was surprising, "I ain't a wake. I's a boy!"

If only Arthur had drawn a picture of what he could see from the vantage point of his high chair. When his father Samuel went in 1903 to the Chicago World's Fair, he found his son's schoolwork on exhibit in the St. Louis room. The miniature illustrations he made that embellish his answers on a personality questionnaire are incredibly detailed.

Arthur Pidd Burgess was the third of five children born to Samuel and Eveline Burgess. His older sister and brother set a high bar in school. Arthur may have experienced pressure to succeed by parents who expected their children to work hard and play hard. While no records exist of his academic standing in high school, his mother took pride in the fact that when he graduated in a class of 123 scholars from St. Louis High School in June 1899, he was chosen as one of the "orators."

Upon graduation from high school, Arthur was six feet tall and 150 lbs. Three years later, Arthur passed the bar and graduated with honors and an L.L.B. degree from Washington University's Law School in 1902 in the same ceremony as his brother Sam.

Arthur loved traveling by train and one of his first jobs would be with the railroad working as a soliciting agent. When Arthur was 18, he and his brother Sammy took a two-week railroad trip to Philadelphia, Washington DC, and New York City. They called it "the trip of a lifetime" and said they had had "the time of their lives."

In July 21, 1902 Arthur made another railroad trip— a "brief excursion trip to St Joseph, Missouri—accompanying a "Mr. Dawson." Lost in time is the identity of Dawson, but not forgotten is the identity of an 18 year-old St Joseph-born girl he almost certainly visited: Elizabeth "Nanie" McKee. On the very next New Year's Eve, Samuel, Eveline, and their children all made the trip to St Joseph, Missouri, to attend Arthur and Nanie's wedding on 1 January 1904 in the St Joseph LDS church. It was the first family wedding.

Arthur's 1910 US census occupation was that of "soliciting agent" for the railroad. When he registered for the draft in 1918 he was working at the St. Louis law firm of Boyle and Priest, and in 1920 and 1930 he stated his occupation was "lawyer" and "attorney." After his father died and his mother moved to Iowa to live with his aunt, Arthur's family moved into his parents' home on Etzel Avenue. One day in 1945 he fell from either a ladder or the roof onto the porch and suffered internal injuries that claimed his life.

Harold Cantwell Burgess (1883-1971)

The fourth child of Samuel and Eveline Burgess, Harold was born almost two years to the day after his brother Arthur. He was not the scholar that his older siblings were; perhaps he was more of a free spirit? In any event, his sister Florence made note in September 1898, when Harold was only 15 years old, that he was attending *Jones Commercial College*. Its president, Jonathon Jones, advertized his college as “imparting a thorough business education in the shortest period of time, and for the least sum of money.” He was only 5’4” and 108 lbs.

In the spring of 1901, when he would have been graduating had he gone to high school, his mother reported Harold was working and making \$75 a month in income. Shortly thereafter his job required him to move away from home and Harold settled in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Harold became a big man. Between his 16th and 18th birthdays, he shot up from 5’7” and 122 lbs to 6’1” and 160 lbs. By age 58 he was a solid 200 lbs.

In 1905 Harold had begun a two-year program at Bliss Electrical School in Takoma Park, Maryland, near Washington D.C. Harold received the schools’ gold medal for “best scholarship” when he graduated on June 18, 1907, just one day after his sister Sybilia graduated from high school. The Burgesses invited 42 young people into their home to help celebrate Harold’s homecoming, his and Sybilia’s graduation, and the graduation from Washington University of a family friend: Gomer Evans.

At age 25, Harold married Bertha Francis Bailey in March 1909. He listed his occupation as “engineer” for an electric railroad company.

In 1912, Harold gave up his job with the railroad, put down \$2000 toward the purchase of a \$6200 farm, and prepared for a move to Lamoni, Iowa. Life on the farm did not last long. Harold became a manager for the Lamoni Electric Company. By 1930 the family moved to Independence, Missouri. Harold got a job as an engineer for the “street railway.”

After the war, Harold and Bertha returned to Independence. Harold and Bertha continued as active RLDS church members in Independence. His brother Sam and wife Alice May lived two short blocks away. Harold had a stint as Director of Music.

A consequence of Harold’s decision to leave St. Louis in 1914 was to deprive his many nieces and nephews of memories of their Uncle Harold. As the youngest son in a rather high-pressure household of academic strivers, Harold may have been the most laid-back. After all, he took five “gap years” after high school. He made a go at farming. He loved music.

Harold died in 1971 at age 88. His wife Bertha lived 18 more years until age 100.

Sybilia Burgess

Aug 6, 1892: At "Mite Society" picnic at Forest Park, I and baby Sybil got upset in the lake - Sybil nearly drowned - I was very sick after. Eveline Allen Journal

Sybilia Burgess, the last of the five Burgess children, was born on June 21, 1888.

She excelled in school, earning straight A's at Yeatman High School—graduating 2nd in its class of 1907. According to her mother's journal, Sybilia finished "a fraction" behind the winner of the Washington University scholarship. In 1908 and 1909 she took classes in English history at Washington University, but never earned a degree. Between 1930 and 1936, she took eight classes at St. Louis Community Training School in subjects such as *The Principles of Teaching* and *The Life of Christ*. In 1937, at age 49, she returned to school, taking General Psychology and Greek classes.

In December 1900 Sybil was baptized into the RLDS church, pleasing her mother immensely. Although she continued to attend its church services, she wondered why its exotic teachings appealed to its members. She would never embrace its beliefs as her mother had. She rejoiced wherever she found *truth*—be it in Verse 13, Chapter 15, of the *Gospel of John* or Scene 4, Act III, of *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. In a letter to her son Walter, dated 1 July 1959, she wrote, "*I often wonder just what is the appeal to people in the L. D. S. faith. It seems to me that it is the unusual that attracts them. It does have so many exotic claims. To me, Truth and Value, wherever found and however expressed is the goal. The medium is of no consequence whatsoever. When Jesus said, 'greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend,'⁴⁵ he made a most worthy observation; so did Shakespeare when one of his characters said, 'A friend will bear a friend's infirmities.'*"^{46 47}

She was a very intelligent woman. An example of her keen mind is found in a 1945 letter to her son Sam.⁴⁸ "*Is Art fixed?*" you ask. That is something like asking, "*Is Religion fixed?*" "Art may be "*fixed*" but our appreciation of it changes. Religion is "*fixed*" too perhaps, but our understanding grows. That is like asking, Does a tree make a "*noise*" when it falls in the forest even though no one is there to hear it? The question has to do with the viewpoint; it is subjective or it is objective. We look at a thing "*subjectively*" when we consider it as it affects us; it is "*objective*" if we look at the phenomena taking place on its own, so to speak. I guess that we don't view things objectively very often, though a scientific experiment is fundamentally objective. "*Is it many things?*" you say. "No," I should answer to that. To say that Art is many things is to indulge in loose thinking. We should define our terms so that they mean something in themselves and not a little of this and a little of that."

⁴⁵ John 15:13: Greater love hath no man than that a man lay down his life for his friends.

⁴⁶ Julius Caesar, Act 4, Scene 3: A friend should bear his friend's infirmities.

⁴⁷ Evans, Sybilia Burgess. Letter to Walter Evans, (1 July 1959)

⁴⁸ They exchanged letters when he was in Europe toward the end of World War II.

In a July 26, 1961, letter to her son Walter, she remarked on family traits:

*"There is high emotion on my side of the family, I know. High tempers too. My own father was the mildest of men, but I understand that Grandpa Allen was a real "snorter." Grandpa Allen left in a fit of anger when they lived in Pleasanton and went out west. The divorce followed. This, however, is not to be a scandal sheet; it is only to say that my brother Sam and I stopped off in Ogden on our western trip and stayed over a day or two with Grandpa Allen and his wife there. Well, she was a most kindly and friendly little thing and treated us as if we were her own. However, I can see, - or could see, - that her life with Grandpa was not overly easy. He was even after all those years somewhat on the "little woman, when do we eat?" type. (Grandma Allen was inclined to be rather tart. So-o-o.)"*⁴⁹

Her mother, Eveline, called her "Dolly." When she became a grandparent, her first grandchild, David, called her "Geemah." The name stuck. She loved all twelve of her grandchildren and they responded in kind. Grandsons David Hallock, Bruce Hallock, John Evans, and Don Evans shared some of their fond memories of Geemah.

David wrote, "During the war year 1944 she began taking whatever grandchildren she could muster to the farm for a couple of weeks in the summer. This would be an echo of the family togetherness that she learned from her father. This began with David, Barbara, John, and then Joe when he came along. Later all the cousins enjoyed trips to the farm, an experience that has bonded them more than the ordinary, especially given the way in which we are all scattered across the country. At night the Geemah, storyteller without peer, would regale the children with ghost stories."⁵⁰

Bruce recalled her ability to charm him: "I am not sure how she did it, what was her magic, but she could organize an eleven year old unlike anyone else to pitch in and help. She had magic all right, love that oozed out of every pore, a soft kind voice, with a hint of laughter that spoke to you as in a song."

John wrote of Geemah's cooking prowess: "The meals were really good. Geemah's breakfasts were hot biscuits, eggs, and bacon. Lunches were sandwiches, pop, and a sweet. Dinner was a hot meal at dusk. Our chores included gathering wood for it. Geemah could work magic with that wood stove."

Don wrote her impact on his values: "On the farm we rode horses, we played ball, we milked cows, we plowed fields, we shot BB guns, we shot fireworks, we laughed and we all learned enduring values that shaped our lives for the better. We were all privileged and blessed to have such a life changing experience."

Sybilia Burgess Evans died in 1968 in St. Louis. She was 80 years old.

⁴⁹ Evans, Sybilia Burgess. Letter to Walter and Arline Evans, (26 July 1961)

⁵⁰ Hallock, David. A Narrative of the Family History of Sybilia Burgess Evans

Sybilias Burgess



Plate 39 Sybilias Burgess

St. Louis, Mo.
April 18th, 1945.

Dear Sammy,

The interesting variety of "souvenirs" came yesterday. They were delayed a few days because of being mislaid out to God's place. The chance of ad-

was missed a view, and I had a very good one and liked.

"Is Art fixed?" you ask. That is something like asking, Is Religion fixed? Art may be "fixed", but our appreciation of it changes. Religion is "fixed" too perhaps, but our understanding grows. That is like asking, Does a tree make a "noise" when it falls in the forest even though no one is there to hear it? The question has to do with the view-point; it is subjective or it is objective. We look at a thing "subjectively" when we consider it as it affects us; it is "objective" if we look at the phenomenon as taking place on its own, so to speak. I guess that we do not view things objectively very often, though a scientific experiment is fundamentally "objective".

"Is it many things?" you say. "No," I should answer to that. To say that Art is many things is to indulge in loose thinking. We should define our terms so that they mean something in themselves and not a little of this and a little of that.

"Is it the power to emotionally impress another?" I'd say that it was, definitely. Our power to impress

word from you.

Spring is really here, though it is chilly to-day, - and we are glad of it. The yard is pretty and green, and we have some flowers.

Love and kisses and all good
wishes to Sammy-dam

*from
Mother.*

April 1945

Excerpt from letter to Sam
overseas during WWII



c. 1943
with grandson John

Sybilia Evans



c. 1955 at swimming
hole on the farm



c. 1946 with Sam, Cedric,
Alice, and Walter



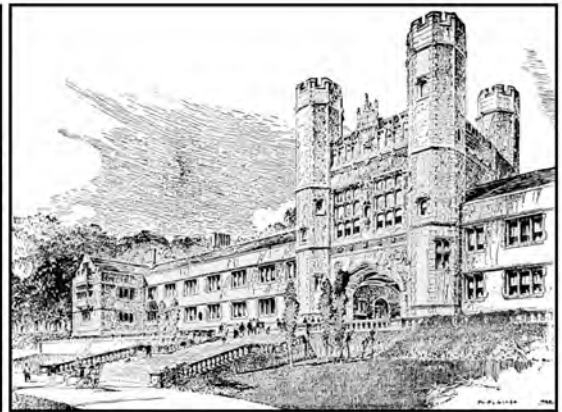
c. 1946 with son, Walter



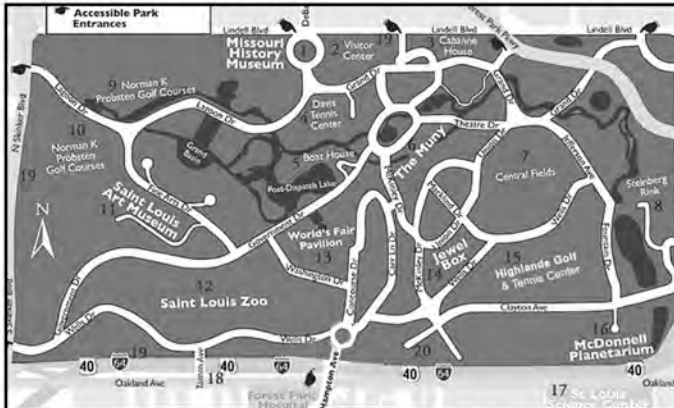
The Arch



The Cardinals



Washington University in St. Louis



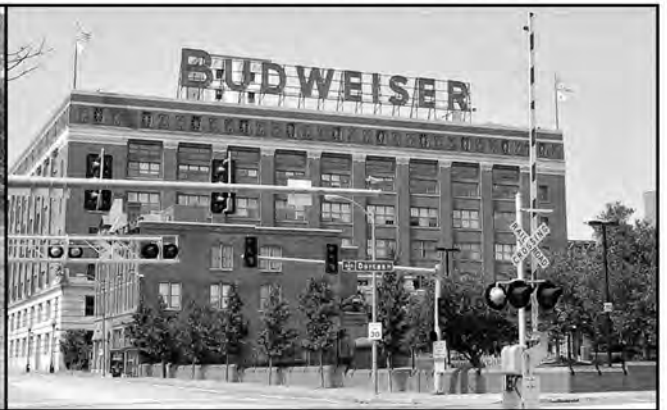
Forest Park



The MUNY - Meet Me in St. Louis



The St. Louis Zoo



Anheuser - Busch Brewery



Central Library Main Reading Room



Ted Drewes



World Chess Hall of Fame

Plate 41 St. Louis Today - My Ten Best List

Epilogue: St. Louis

In 1920, when both of my parents were born, the City of St. Louis was in its prime. Its population of three quarters of a million was double what it had been 40 years earlier when Ferdinand Pillisch arrived from West Prussia and tenfold what it had been 70 years earlier when Dad's great-grandparents arrived from Great Britain.

Ominous trends for the future of the city were already apparent. The City of St. Louis had begun to pay a price for its 1876 decision to secede from the County of St. Louis. Whereas the city's population had experienced a 12% increase between 1910 and 1920, the population west of the city limits in Kirkwood, Maplewood, Webster Groves, Richmond Heights, University City, and Clayton had doubled in the same decade, thanks, in part, to the completion of a transportation infrastructure—street car lines and railroad stations.

When the city had voted in 1876 to secede, its tax base was ten-fold that of the county. One hundred fifty years later, however, the population of the city was what it had been in 1870—310,000. During the same period the county population increased from 25,000 to 1,000,000. Denied the revenue it might have realized from the county's larger tax base, the city was less capable of investing in its own future.

The city had taken pride in its status as the fourth most populous city in 1870, 1900, and 1910, referring to itself as *The Fourth City* behind the big three: New York City, Chicago, and Philadelphia. Between 1900 and 1920 St. Louis's population grew a respectable 35%, yet it dropped to sixth rank among all cities. What had happened? *The 1825 opening of the Erie Canal had created a navigable waterway from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic.* Lake Michigan's Chicago was the first Midwest city to benefit.

Population (1000's)				Rank in Population				Annual Growth Rate (%)			
	St. Louis	Brooklyn	Chicago		St. Louis	Brooklyn*	Chicago		St. Louis	Brooklyn	Chicago
1840	16	48	4	1840	24	7	92	1840			
1850	78	139	30	1850	8	7	24	1850	17.2	11.2	22.3
1860	161	279	112	1860	8	3	9	1860	7.5	7.2	14.1
1870	311	420	299	1870	4	3	5	1870	6.8	4.2	10.3
1880	351	599	503	1880	6	3	4	1880	1.2	3.6	5.3
1890	452	839	1,100	1890	5	4	2	1890	2.6	3.4	8.1
1900	575	1,167	1,699	1900	4	4	2	1900	2.4	3.4	4.4
1910	687	1,634	2,185	1910	4	3	2	1910	1.8	3.4	2.5
1920	773	2,018	2,702	1920	6	3	2	1920	1.2	2.1	2.1
* Rank in 1900,1910,1920 if it were a city.											
Population (1000's)				Rank in Population				Annual Growth Rate (%)			
	St. Louis	Brooklyn	Chicago		St. Louis	Brooklyn	Chicago		St. Louis	Brooklyn	Chicago
1920	773	2,018	2,702	1920	6	3	2	1920			
1930	822	2,560	3,376	1930	7	3	2	1930	0.6	2.4	2.3
1940	816	2,698	3,397	1940	8	3	2	1940	(0.1)	0.5	0.1
1950	857	2,738	3,621	1950	8	3	2	1950	0.5	0.1	0.6
1960	750	2,627	3,550	1960	10	3	2	1960	(1.3)	(0.4)	(0.2)
1970	622	2,602	3,367	1970	18	4	2	1970	(1.9)	(0.1)	(0.5)
1980	453	2,231	3,005	1980	26	4	2	1980	(3.1)	(1.5)	(1.1)
1990	397	2,301	2,784	1990	34	4	3	1990	(1.3)	0.3	(0.8)
2000	348	2,465	2,896	2000	50	4	3	2000	(1.3)	0.7	0.4
2010	319	2,505	2,696	2010	64	4	3	2010	(0.9)	0.2	(0.7)

Table 3 Comparison of St. Louis, Brooklyn, and Chicago from 1840 to 2010.

By 1920 Lake Erie's two manufacturing behemoths—Detroit and Cleveland—had populations greater than that of St. Louis, whose rank would drop to 10th in 1960 and to 50th in 2000. The population of the City of St. Louis in 2020 is about 300,000, or about what it and Chicago were 1870 when Chicago drew even with it. Today Chicago's population is about 2,700,000—nine times what it had been in 1870.

What else accounts for the divergent fates of Chicago and St. Louis? These two cities had competed fiercely in the middle of the 19th century to become the preeminent city in the American Midwest. I believe two words answer the question: *railroads* and *race*. With respect to the impact of railroads, Troy Anstine's cogent analysis, in his thesis *Second Place: Competition Between St. Louis and Chicago*, concluded:

"The timing of the railroad boom could not have been any more perfect for Chicago or any worse for St. Louis. Events in the middle of the century and the decline of river trade caused St. Louis to lose its spot as the key gateway city of the Midwest. St. Louis continued to expand in size and influence into the twentieth century, but the declining importance of St. Louis's river network and the poor timing of its railroad system paved the way for Chicago's expansion. St. Louis's northern rival profited from St. Louis's misfortune on multiple occasions without experiencing many lasting disruptions its trade network. By the end of the nineteenth century, Chicago had surpassed St. Louis in both size and economic importance, and there was little St. Louis could do but be content with second place."⁵¹

With respect to race, in *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States*, Walter Johnson explores St. Louis's troubled racial relations.⁵² In her New York Times book review of it, Jennifer Szalai wrote:

"One of Johnson's arguments is that racism and inequality don't just course through the city's history but were built into its architecture and even its physical landscape. Located at the juncture of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, St. Louis was where the Southern system of slavery met the push for western expansion. ... St. Louis emerges as a place of firsts: one of the first recorded lynchings, in 1836; the first city to pass a residential segregation ordinance by popular referendum, in 1916. Dred Scott filed his freedom suit in St. Louis; Chief Justice Roger Taney ruled against him, deciding that black men 'had no rights that the white man was bound to respect.'"⁵³

Missouri's history of racial tensions in the 1850's drove railroad investors, i.e., the wealthy capitalists in the Northeast, away from St. Louis and to Chicago. Although Missouri did not secede in the Civil War, skirmishes occurred there nonetheless. It was in part due to their fear of racial warfare that Northern politicians decided to build the transcontinental railroad on a northern route—one that benefited Chicago.

⁵¹ Troy Anstine, *Second Place: Competition Between St. Louis and Chicago, 1764-1900*, a thesis presented for the degree of Master of Arts, Northwest Missouri State University Marysville, Missouri, April 2015.

⁵² Walter Johnson, *The Broken Heart of America*, Basic Books, 2020.

⁵³ Jennifer Szalai, New York Times Book Review, May 6, 2020

St. Louis may have lost its competition with Chicago to become the #1 center of commerce and the transportation hub of the Midwest, but there is one category in which St. Louis can assert it is indeed #1. According to the FBI, among cities with a population greater than 250,000, St. Louis had the most homicides per capita for five consecutive years—2014 to 2018. For cities less than 500,000 in population, it was #1 or #2 between 2009 and 2018, trading off with New Orleans for the top spot.

When cities are ranked on average rates between 1990 and 2018, New Orleans at 54 homicides per 100,000 ranked #1. Tied for second at 47 homicides per 100,000 were St. Louis and Detroit. By comparison, Chicago's rate (22.7) was less than half that of St. Louis. New York City's rate (10.3) was less than a quarter that of St. Louis.

The most dangerous area of St. Louis lies in Old North St. Louis—the neighborhood where the Burgess's, Allen's, and Pillisch's lived for many years. When I visited the city to do research, I planned to drive past their former addresses. Mary Biskup advised against it. I accepted her advice and viewed them with Google's street view.

Ken graciously took me on a tour of downtown. Magnificent buildings built during a more prosperous era remain. Some of them are listed in the *Prologue*, including the Old County Courthouse (1864), U. S. Customs House and Post Office (1873), Central Library (1901), and Palace of Fine Arts (1904). Their interiors are well preserved. I could appreciate the city's glory days just walking through their ornate corridors. Outside, however, there were few cars and little foot traffic. Street parking was easy to come by. Undeveloped tracts of land downtown made the city feel hollowed out.

As a proud, third-generation son of St. Louis,⁵⁴ I conclude this *Epilogue to Trails to St. Louis* on a more positive note than the city's homicide rate and quiet downtown. It gives me pleasure to visit because the people are friendly and my roots are deep.

My boyhood hero was baseball great Stan Musial. During my last visit, Cousin Ken and I soaked up team history at the Cardinal's Hall of Fame Museum. St. Louis is not only a great baseball town, it is also the official chess capital of the United States, a recognition made more special for me by the Burgess's association with the game.

My family's history with Washington University enriches the experience of visiting its beautiful campus. The world-class genealogical resources at the Central and County libraries always make visiting them worthwhile. It gives me pleasure to simply drive by homes where my parents and grandparents once lived. The city's art and history museums are gems, and admission is free. And then there are childhood memories that feel more vivid when I am there: attending my first baseball game (Cards vs. Phillies) at Sportsman's Park, visiting the family farm, and celebrating my 21st birthday with my mom's parents, Aunt Eleanor, and Uncle Elmer. Digging still deeper: sneaking a Toll House cookie from a tin in Grandma's bedroom and seeing *Wizard of Oz* on a hot summer's night at the *MUNY*. Yes, I hold out hope that St. Louis will regain stature among American cities, but for me personally, it has never lost it.

⁵⁴ Yes, I know I've lived in California since 1948. It's a point of personal pride.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - Descendants of Gomer and Sarah Evans

Outline Descendant Report for Gomer Dan Evans

- 1 Gomer Dan Evans b: 08 Jul 1859 in Blue Ridge, St Louis, Missouri, USA; RLDS Membership records, d: 03 Jan 1897 in New Haven, Franklin, Missouri, USA
- 2 Rachel Evans b: 03 Oct 1880 in St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 17 Aug 1936 in Jefferson, Missouri, USA; Died at home 1612 Bellevue Avenue, Richmond Heights, Mo. - No will
- 3 Sunnile (Maud) Hawkins b: 05 Nov 1903 in Illinois, USA, d: 09 Apr 1984 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 3 Russell S. Hawkins b: 28 Apr 1905 in Illinois, USA, d: 13 Nov 1979 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA; Obit
- 3 Elsie L. Hawkins b: 11 Sep 1907 in Illinois, USA, d: 12 May 2001 in Farmington, St Francois, Missouri, USA
- 3 Gomer W. Hawkins b: 02 Mar 1911 in Illinois, USA, d: Jul 1992 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 2 Joseph Daniel Evans b: 31 Jan 1883 in Washington, Missouri, USA, d: 27 May 1954 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA; Heart Disease
- 3 Infant Evans b: 24 Jan 1933 in St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 24 Jan 1933 in St Louis, Missouri, USA; Mother and Infant died in childbirth
- 2 Gomer Louis Evans b: 26 Nov 1885 in St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 09 Sep 1934 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 3 Alice Evans b: 23 Dec 1913 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 30 Jul 1999 in Washington City, District Of Columbia, District of Columbia, USA
- 4 David Duncan Hallock Sr. b: 22 Sep 1938 in Panama City, Panama, Panama, d: 07 Mar 2012 in Bartow, Polk, Florida, USA
- 4 Barbara Alice Hallock b: 18 Jun 1941 ; Find a grave, d: 12 Dec 1967 ; find a grave
- 4 Bruce Evans Hallock b: 01 Jul 1945 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 3 Joseph Cedric Evans Sr. b: 18 Jun 1915 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 21 Jun 1993 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA
- 4 John Fairbanks Evans b: 20 Jun 1942 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 4 Joseph Cedric Evans Jr. b: 05 Aug 1944 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 3 Samuel Rostron Evans b: 19 Jan 1918 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 04 Jan 2006 in Spring, Harris, Texas, USA
- 4 Richard Arthur Evans b: 31 May 1944 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 4 Donald Louis Evans b: 27 Jul 1946 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA
- 4 Peggy Lynn Evans b: 20 Sep 1949 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA
- 3 Walter Richard Evans b: 15 Jan 1920 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 10 Jul 1999 in Whittier, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 4 Randall Gomer Evans b: 22 Nov 1944 in Schenectady, New York, USA|
- 4 Gregory Walter Evans b: 16 Aug 1947 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 4 Nancy Arline Evans b: 12 Jun 1952 in Whittier, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 4 Gary Burgess Evans b: 31 Mar 1954 in Whittier, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 2 Walter Henry Evans b: 12 Oct 1888 in St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 29 Aug 1941 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA; Died in Manchester Nursing Home
- 2 Daniel Robert Evans b: 15 Apr 1892 in St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 21 Apr 1949 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA; Died at home at 7038 Nashville.- colon cancer
- 3 Margaret Anne (Peggy) Evans b: 20 Oct 1920 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 01 Jan 1957 in Orlando, Orange, Florida, USA
- 4 Peggy Evans Moore b: 20 Sep 1947
- 4 Eugene Overton Moore III b: 06 Dec 1948
- 3 Daniel Robert Evans b: 30 Nov 1922 in St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 06 Jul 1974 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 4 Daniel Robert Evans Jr. b: 30 Aug 1949 in St Louis, Missouri, USA; Birth Certificate

Family Group Sheet for Gomer Dan Evans








Husband:		Gomer Dan Evans	
	b:	08 Jul 1859 in Blue Ridge, St Louis, Missouri, USA; RLDS Membership records	
	d:	03 Jan 1897 in New Haven, Franklin, Missouri, USA	
	m:	04 Dec 1879 in St Louis, Missouri, USA; Wm Still of LDS church presided	
	Father:	Daniel Evans	
	Mother:	Gwenllian Williams	
Wife:		Sarah Ellen Knowles	
	b:	29 Aug 1855 in St Louis, Missouri, USA	
	d:	02 Nov 1928 in St Louis, Missouri, USA; Died at 7038 Nashville of Heart Failure	
	Father:	Joseph Knowles	
	Mother:	Elizabeth Creer	
Children:			
1 F	Name:	Rachel Evans	
	b:	03 Oct 1880 in St Louis, Missouri, USA	
	d:	17 Aug 1936 in Jefferson, Missouri, USA; Died at home 1612 Bellevue Avenue, Richmond Heights, Mo. - No will	
	m:	1901	
	Spouse:	Sidney Hawkins	
2 M	Name:	Joseph Daniel Evans	
	b:	31 Jan 1883 in Washington, Missouri, USA	
	d:	27 May 1954 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA; Heart Disease	
	m:	1932 in St Louis, Missouri, USA	
	Spouse:	Caroline Louise Spreen	
3 M	Name:	Gomer Louis Evans	
	b:	26 Nov 1885 in St Louis, Missouri, USA	
	d:	09 Sep 1934 in St Louis, Missouri, USA	
	m:	10 Sep 1912 in St Louis, Missouri, USA	
	Spouse:	Sybilia Burgess	
4 M	Name:	Walter Henry Evans	
	b:	12 Oct 1888 in St Louis, Missouri, USA	
	d:	29 Aug 1941 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA; Died in Manchester Nursing Home	
5 M	Name:	Daniel Robert Evans	
	b:	15 Apr 1892 in St Louis, Missouri, USA	
	d:	21 Apr 1949 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA; Died at home at 7038 Nashville.- colon cancer	
	m:	1919; Met coming home from WWI	
	Spouse:	Emma Helen Theresa Cammerzell	
Notes:			

Appendix 2 - Descendants of Samuel and Eveline Burgess

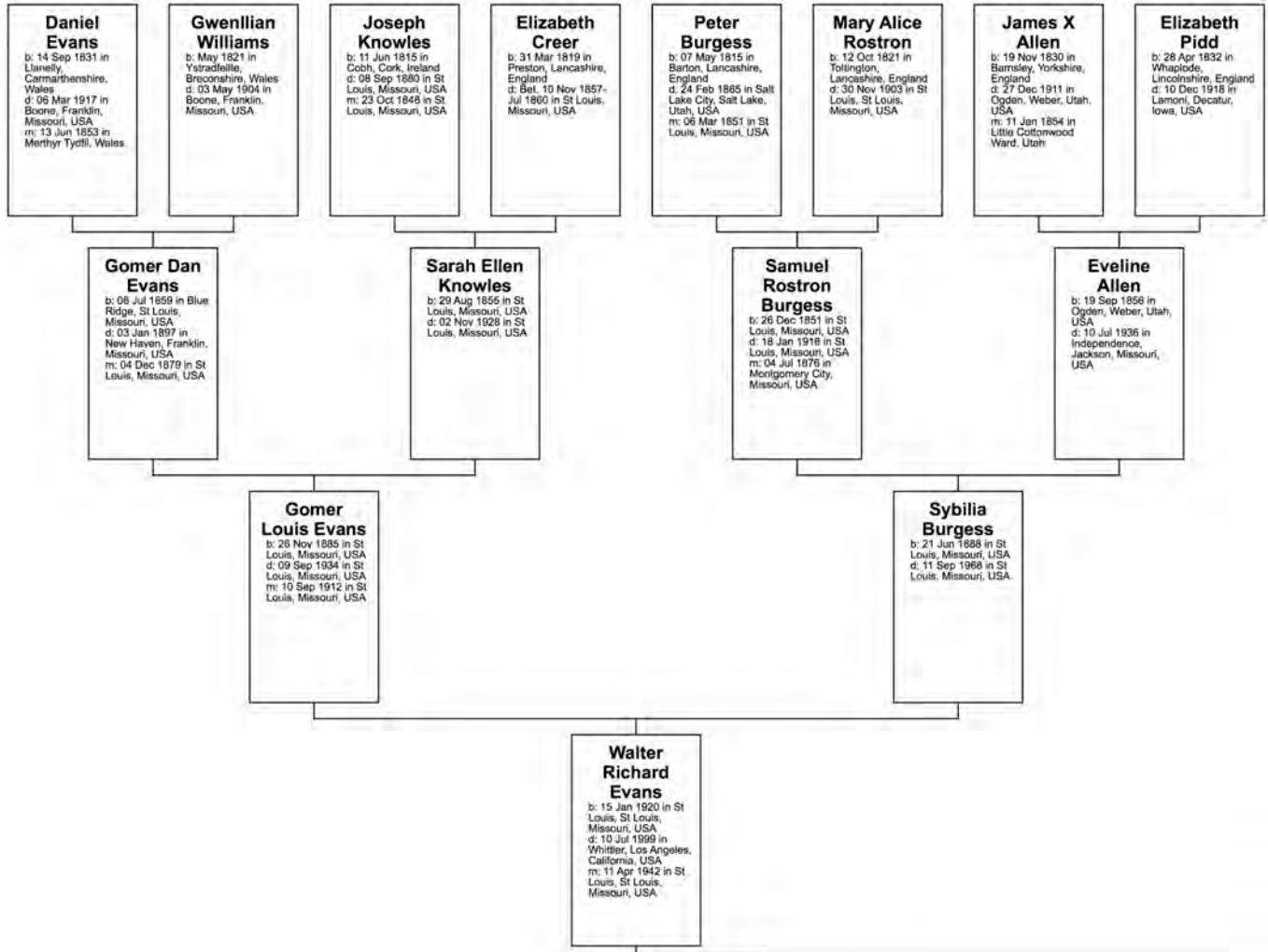
Outline Descendant Report for Samuel Rostron Burgess

- 1 Samuel Rostron Burgess b: 26 Dec 1851 in St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 18 Jan 1918 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 2 Samuel Allen Burgess b: 15 Sep 1877 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA; Home address: 1008 N 18th St, St. Louis, MO, d: 25 Nov 1950 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA
- 3 Eveline Alice Burgess b: 13 Mar 1919 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 05 Jun 1993 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA
- 3 Florence Marie Burgess b: 18 Oct 1920 in Lamoni, Decatur, Iowa, USA, d: 22 Nov 2006 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA
- 4 Danielle Belcher b: 16 Feb 1948 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA; Bets guess on date, d: Bef. 2006 ; Per: Father Daniel's OBIT
- 4 Alice C Belcher b: 30 Mar 1949 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA
- 4 Samuel W Belcher b: 06 Jan 1951 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA
- 4 Dr. Charles W. Belcher b: 15 Sep 1954 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA
- 4 Hadley Burgess Belcher b: 28 Dec 1956 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA
- 2 Florence Burgess b: 25 Jul 1879 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 12 Apr 1920 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 2 Arthur Pidd Burgess J.D. b: 04 Aug 1881 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 01 Sep 1945 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 3 Infant Son Burgess b: 11 Mar 1905 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 11 Mar 1905 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA; Died on the day of his birth
- 3 Arthur Willard Burgess b: 17 May 1906 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 03 Jun 1974 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 4 Robert Arthur Burgess b: 06 Dec 1939 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 19 May 2011 in St Peters, St Charles, Missouri, USA
- 4 Elizabeth (Betty) Burgess b: Abt. 1943 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 3 Elizabeth Euphrosyme (Phroso) Burgess b: 02 Nov 1907 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 16 Mar 1988 in Florissant, St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 3 Archibald Rostron Burgess b: 25 Feb 1912 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 05 Aug 1981 in College Station, Brazos, Texas, USA
- 4 Deborah Jane Burgess b: 10 Nov 1952 in Brazos, Texas, USA
- 2 Harold Cantwell Burgess b: 01 Aug 1883 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 09 Dec 1971 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA
- 3 Infant Daughter Burgess b: 07 Jan 1912 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 07 Jan 1912 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 3 Robert Harold Burgess b: 23 Oct 1916 in Lamoni, Decatur, Iowa, USA, d: 09 Dec 1990 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA
- 4 Barry Robert Burgess b: 02 Oct 1946 in Chicago, Cook, Illinois, USA
- 4 John Harold Burgess b: 25 Nov 1949
- 2 Sybilias Burgess b: 21 Jun 1888 in St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 11 Sep 1968 in St Louis, Missouri, USA; RLDS records give data as Sept 8.
- 3 Alice Evans b: 23 Dec 1913 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 30 Jul 1999 in Washington City, District Of Columbia, District of Columbia, USA
- 4 David Duncan Hallock Sr. b: 22 Sep 1938 in Panama City, Panama, Panama, d: 07 Mar 2012 in Bartow, Polk, Florida, USA
- 4 Barbara Alice Hallock b: 18 Jun 1941 ; Find a grave, d: 12 Dec 1967 ; find a grave
- 4 Bruce Evans Hallock b: 01 Jul 1945 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 3 Joseph Cedric Evans Sr. b: 18 Jun 1915 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 21 Jun 1993 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA
- 4 John Fairbanks Evans b: 20 Jun 1942 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 4 Joseph Cedric Evans Jr. b: 05 Aug 1944 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 3 Samuel Rostron Evans b: 19 Jan 1918 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 04 Jan 2006 in Spring, Harris, Texas, USA
- 4 Richard Arthur Evans b: 31 May 1944 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 4 Donald Louis Evans b: 27 Jul 1946 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA
- 4 Peggy Lynn Evans b: 20 Sep 1949 in Houston, Harris, Texas, USA
- 3 Walter Richard Evans b: 15 Jan 1920 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA, d: 10 Jul 1999 in Whittier, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 4 Randall Gomer Evans b: 22 Nov 1944 in Schenectady, New York, USA
- 4 Gregory Walter Evans b: 16 Aug 1947 in St Louis, Missouri, USA
- 4 Nancy Arline Evans b: 12 Jun 1952 in Whittier, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 4 Gary Burgess Evans b: 31 Mar 1954 in Whittier, Los Angeles, California, USA

Family Group Sheet for Samuel Rostron Burgess

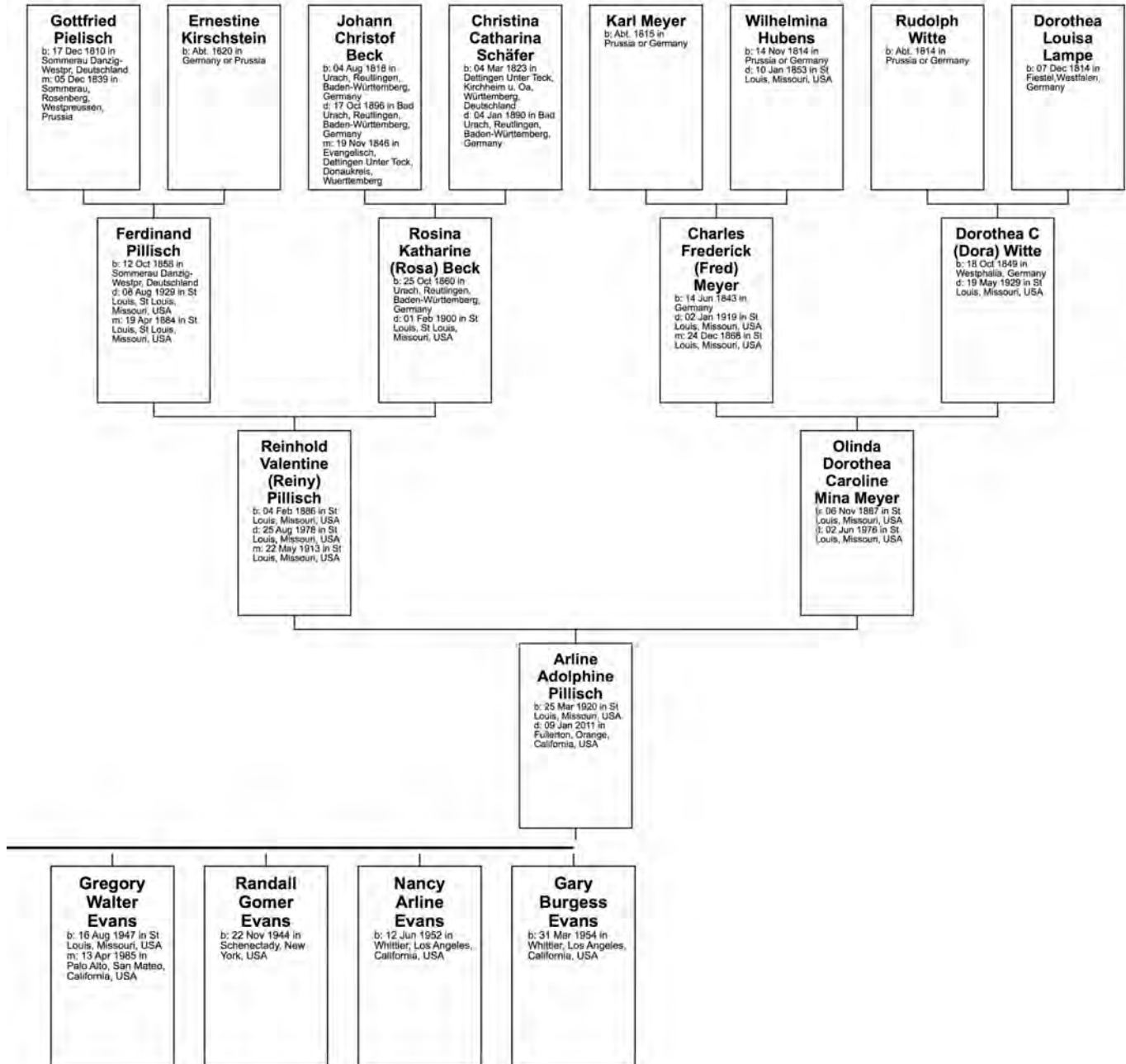
Husband:		Samuel Rostron Burgess		
	b:	26 Dec 1851 in St Louis, Missouri, USA		
	d:	18 Jan 1918 in St Louis, Missouri, USA		
	m:	04 Jul 1876 in Montgomery City, Missouri, USA		
	Father:	Peter Burgess		
	Mother:	Mary Alice Rostron		
Wife:		Eveline Allen		
	b:	19 Sep 1856 in Ogden, Weber, Utah, USA; Near Ogden Utah on Death Certificate		
	d:	10 Jul 1936 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA		
	Father:	James X Allen		
	Mother:	Elizabeth Pidd		
Children:				
1 M	Name:	Samuel Allen Burgess		
	b:	15 Sep 1877 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA; Home address: 1008 N 18th St, St. Louis, MO		
	d:	25 Nov 1950 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA		
	m:	15 Jun 1916 in Lamoni, Decatur, Iowa, USA		
	Spouse:	Alice Mae Chase		
2 F	Name:	Florence Burgess		
	b:	25 Jul 1879 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA		
	d:	12 Apr 1920 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA		
3 M	Name:	Arthur Pidd Burgess J.D.		
	b:	04 Aug 1881 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA		
	d:	01 Sep 1945 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA		
	m:	01 Jan 1904 in St Joseph, Andrew, Missouri, USA		
	Spouse:	Elizabeth "Nanie" Jane McKee		
4 M	Name:	Harold Cantwell Burgess		
	b:	01 Aug 1883 in St Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA		
	d:	09 Dec 1971 in Independence, Jackson, Missouri, USA		
	m:	07 Mar 1909 in Lamoni, Decatur, Iowa, USA		
	Spouse:	Bertha Francis Bailey		
5 F	Name:	Sybilia Burgess		
	b:	21 Jun 1888 in St Louis, Missouri, USA		
	d:	11 Sep 1968 in St Louis, Missouri, USA; RLDS records give data as Sept 8.		
	m:	10 Sep 1912 in St Louis, Missouri, USA		
	Spouse:	Gomer Louis Evans		
Notes:				

My Family Tree



Appendix 3 – My Family Tree

My Sibings, Parents, Grandparents, Great-grandparents, and 2nd-Great-grandparents



Appendix 4 - List of Ancestors of Greg Evans with Causes of Death

Name	Date of Birth	Age	Cause of Death
Parents			
Evans, Walter Richard	January 15, 1920	79	* Septic shock, stroke @ 60 yr
Pillisch, Arline Adolphine	March 25, 1920	90	* Sepsis, pneumonia, dementia
Grandparents			
Burgess, Sybil	21 Jun 1888	80	Stroke, colon cancer
Evans, Gomer Louis	26 Nov 1885	48	* Hemorrhage (surgeon's error)
Meyer, Olinda Dorothea	06 Nov 1887	88	* Atherosclerosis
Pillisch, Reinhold Valentine	04 Feb 1886	92	* Atherosclerosis
Great-grandfathers			
Burgess, Samuel Rostron	26 Dec 1851	66	* Heart failure, traffic accident
Evans, Gomer Dan	08 Jul 1859	37	* Drowned (train accident)
Meyer, Charles Frederick	14 Jun 1843	75	* Acute bronchitis, senility
Pillisch, Ferdinand	12 Oct 1858	70	* Paralysis of the insane
Great-grandmothers			
Allen, Eveline	19 Sep 1856	79	* Stroke
Beck, Rosina Katharine	25 Oct 1860	39	* Pneumonia
Knowles, Sarah Ellen	29 Aug 1855	73	* Acute dilation of heart
Witte, Dorothea C.	18 Oct 1849	79	* Chronic myocarditis
2nd-great-grandfathers			
Allen, James X	19 Nov 1830	81	* Angina pectoris
Beck, Johann Christof	04 Aug 1818	78	
Burgess, Peter	07 May 1815	49	"his last disease, lasting for 7 wks"
Evans, Daniel	14 Sep 1831	85	* Pneumonia
Knowles, Joseph	11 Jun 1815	65	Died in an asylum
Meyer, Karl	Abt. 1815	-	
Pielisch, Gottfried	17 Dec 1810	-	
Witte, Rudolph	Abt. 1814	-	
2nd-great-grandmothers			
Creer, Elizabeth	31 Mar 1819	38	Probable complication in childbirth
Hubens, Wilhelmina	14 Nov 1814	-	
Kirschstein, Ernestine	Abt. 1820	-	
Lampe, Dorothea Louisa	07 Dec 1814	-	
Pidd, Elizabeth	28 Apr 1832	86	"Ten years of heart trouble"
Rostron, Mary Alice	12 Oct 1821	82	"After an illness of 7 years"
Schaeffer, Christina Catharina	04 Mar 1823	66	
Williams, Gwenllian	May 1821	83	"She had been afflicted for years"

* Based upon death certificate

Notes

Also by the Author

Samuel R. Burgess, Record of My Life (Editor) 2012

Saints, Seekers, Settlers, Spirits 2014

Voices of the Past (Editor) 2014

The James Burgess Journal (Editor) 2015

His Truth Is Marching On 2015