

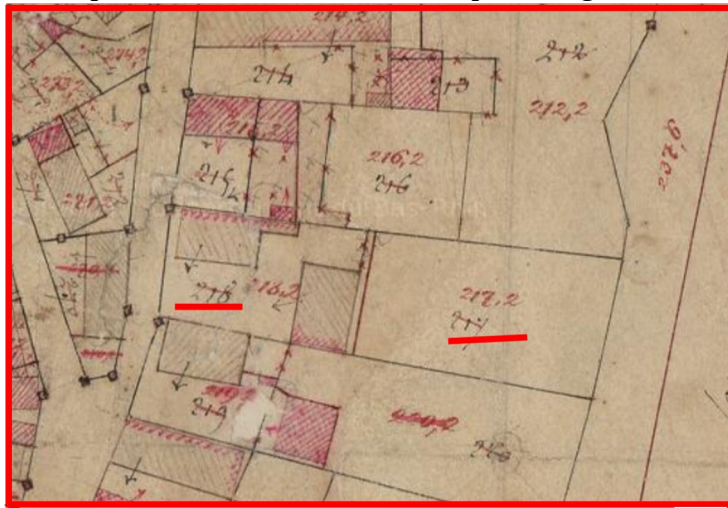
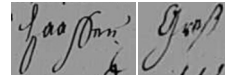
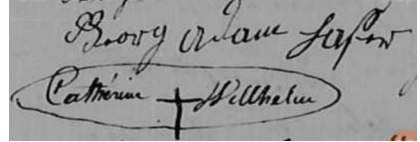
Mapping Joseph Haser (Haaser) from Soufflenhiem, Alsace to Allegheny Co., Pennsylvania
Todd Farmerie

I. Soufflenheim

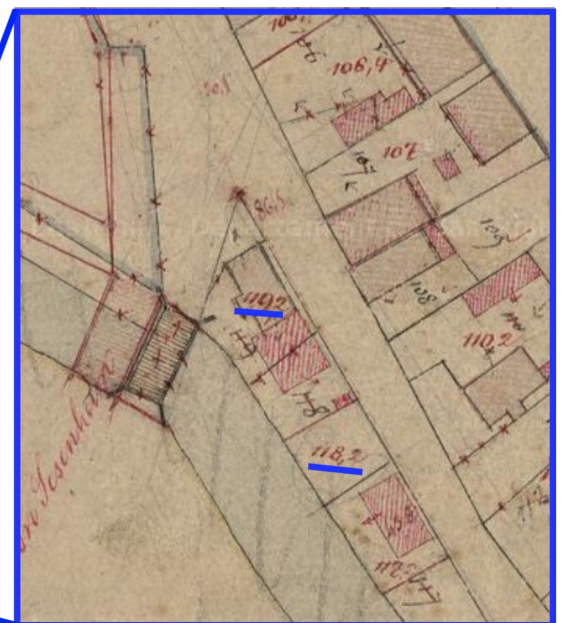
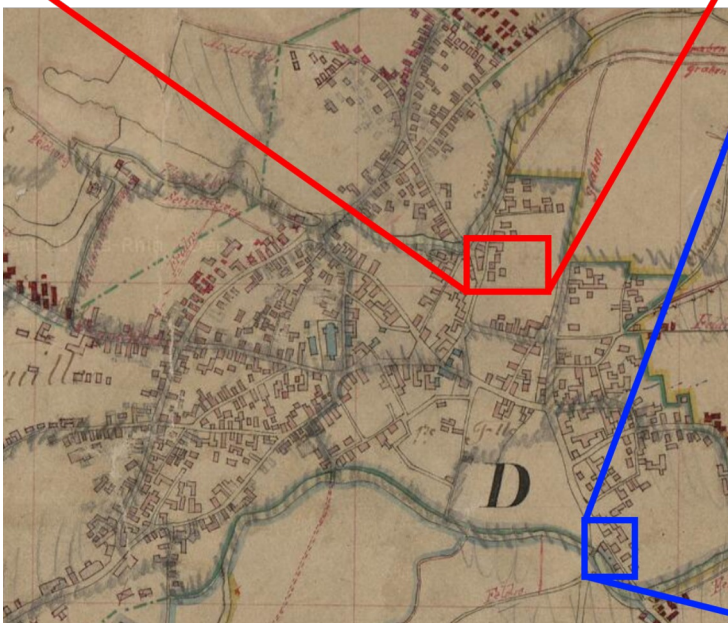
Pittsburgh-area immigrant Joseph Haaser was born in Soufflenheim, Alsace, on 19 March 1817, to town-native laborer and carter Georg Adam Haaser and Catherina Wilhelm, from neighboring Leutenheim. Adam belonged to the fifth generation of the Soufflenheim Haasers, first documented there in Soufflenheim in the 1690s, and had been born there in 1784, marrying Catharina in 1811. Their residences are given in birth and death records of the time, given as hosue numbers, but the meaning of these are uncertain, as there seemed to have been regular renumbering. They are first reported in house #103, but by the next year, their house was #122, their reported residence through September 1819, spanning at the time of Joseph's birth, but in December they were at #130 in the census. Their reported house number between 1825 and 1828 was house #206, and in 1829 it was #184. At this point the vital records ceased providing house numbers, but in the 1836 census they are found at

Top: Signature of Georg Adam Haser and mark of Catherine Willhelm from their 1811 Soufflenheim marriage record.

Bottom: Signatures (surnames only) from 1850 Leutenheim marriage record of Joseph Haaser (left) and Carolina Gress (right). (Archives d'Alsace)



#149. These differing house numbers are indicative of municipal renumbering rather than moves: when Adam's house was #122, Jean Eschenlauer's was #123; with Adam at #130 in the 1819 census, Eschenlauer was #131; and in 1836, Haaser and Eschenlauer were #149 and #150, respectively, indicating the same addresses throughout the period. Cadastre records show Adam to have been the owner of this property, D-218 on the town plan of that year (with the Eschelauers at D-215). Thus the house #122 of Joseph's birth was property D-218 of the 1836 plan, modern 4 Rue Gaenseck, Soufflenheim.



Map of Soufflenheim, 1836, showing the Haser family residences on Rue Gaensack, which Adam transferred to Joseph before the latter's immigration (red, D-218, with adjacent orchard D-217), and Rue de la Gare (blue, D-119, with orchard D-118). (Archives d'Alsace)



Adam Haser's properties in and around Soufflenheim: 1, 2. plots D-117 (orchard, 0.0705 hectare) and D-118 (house #149 and yard, 0.0495 ha) on Rue de Gaenseck in the village of Soufflenheim, the latter sold to son Joseph in 1852 and to Amand Burger in 1856, the former sold by Adam to Burger in 1861; 3. field D-1436, in the Gesäll district (0.143 ha), sold in 1862 to Xavier Kirchdoerfer; 4. field A-770, in Klein Suttin (0.118 ha), sold 1861 to Leon Burger; 5. field A-847, in Suttin (0.123 ha), sold 1856 to Pierre Wilhelm; 6. field B-461, in Biltz (0.237 ha), sold 1855 to Joseph Bastian; 7. field B-468, also in Biltz (0.142 ha), sold 1862 to Jacques Roth; 8. field C-181 in Hecklum in Lang Gewand (0.154 ha), sold in 1853 to Joseph Uhrig the younger; 9. field C-62, in Hinterin Langenzann (0.231 ha), sold in 1862 to Cretien Uhrig; 10. field C-376, in Bronnen Gewand (0.094 ha), sold in 1856 to Ann Barbara Daul. All of these were already owned by Adam in 1837; 11. field B-678, in Hungerfeld (0.085 ha), purchased 1844 from Joseph Haser the younger (a distant kinsman, not Adam's son of this name) and sold in 1845 to Gervais Babinger; 12, 13. plots D-119 (house #31 and yard, 0.021 ha) and D-118 (orchard, 0.023 ha) on Rue de la Gare, acquired in 1855 from Adam's third wife, Catharina Lehmann, widow of Johannes Schlosser, and transferred in 1862 to her son Marc Lehmann. (Archives d'Alsace)



Modern Soufflenheim, red flags showing former Haaser homes at 4 Rue Gaenseck (top) and 21 Rue de la Gare (Google Maps).



In 1841, son Joseph was absent not just from the household, but the entire village, likely laboring in a neighboring community; he was back with his father in 1846. Joseph married at Leutenheim on 26 October 1850 to Caroline Gress, and both appear together with Adam on Rue Gaenseck in 1851. In 1852, Adam transferred the house, its yard and barn to Joseph, while retaining the adjacent orchard directly behind it. Adam would remarry in 1853 to Catharina Lehmann, widow of Johannes Schlosser, and he received from her a house (#31, D-119, modern 21 Rue de la Gare) and neighboring orchard (D-118) on the south end of the town, where he subsequently

lived. In the early 1850s Adam, then about 70 years old, began selling his fields, unloading one each in 1853 and 1855 and two in 1856, and the same year it was presumably he who directed the sale of his former Rue Gaenseck home, since owned by his son Joseph, who in 1854 had emigrated to America. Adam sold the adjoining orchard (lot D-217) and another plot in 1861, and the remainder of his land, including the house and orchard on Rue de la Gare, in 1862, dying the next year at Soufflenheim.

II. Emigration

Joseph and Caroline went overland to Le Havre embarked on the New York-based *Silas Greenman*, captained by Samuel Magna. Said to have been the largest ship ever built in Connecticut at the time it was launched in November 1848, it measured 146' 6" long, and 33' wide at the beam, requiring the Mystic River drawbridge to be widened to allow its passage to sea. Built by G. Greenman & Co. for the packet trade of the New York shipping line of Everett & Brown, she was 28' deep, with a 733 ton cargo capacity. It participated in the Atlantic triangular trade, taking cotton, flour and barrel staves from New Orleans to Liverpool or Le Havre, European manufactures, coal and immigrants to New York, and mostly European imports or ballast back to New Orleans. In the fall of 1854 after shipping a load of cotton, *Silas Greenman* departed Le Havre 11 November with merchandise and immigrants. Nine days out in the mid-Atlantic they met Le Havre-bound *St. Bernard* on 48°N latitude, 28°W longitude, but later became stalled for 19 days by strong gales west of the Grand Banks, and there on 7 December met two Liverpool-bound ships sailing from St. Johns, New Brunswick, *Burita* and *John Linn*, on 42°11'N 57°55'W. *Silas Greenman* was reported by a 19 December morning newspaper to be below New York, and there disembarked almost 500 passengers, recorded on 21 December rolls, with two having died at sea. Among these immigrants were at least two Soufflenheim families: 'Therese Daul' (i.e. Therese Windhauser, wife of Joseph Daul) and daughter Rosalie, who settled in New York City, their husband/father Joseph Daul having preceded them, and 'Joseph Hauser' and his wife Caroline. (The passenger immediately next to the Hasers, Andre Müller, may also be from Soufflenheim, but his too-common name prevents definitive identification.)



(Progress of ship *Silas Greenman* across Atlantic, November-December 1854. (Google Maps).

III. Duquesne

The Hasers went on to the Pittsburgh area, their first known residence being in the now-extinct borough of Duquesne. This historical municipality (not to be confused with a later Allegheny County borough of the same name, modern Duquesne city) occupied a narrow strip of mixed residential and industrial land along the Allegheny River, from just above Girty's Run downstream to what was then the eastern boundary of Allegheny City. Incorporated in 1849, it was legislated out of existence in 1868, with the downriver two-thirds annexed by Allegheny City (now Pittsburgh's North Side), while the northeastern third was joined with formerly-unincorporated Shaler township lands surrounding Girty's Run to create a new borough, Millvale.

The 1859 Directory of Pittsburgh, Allegheny City, and adjacent boroughs, lists 'Joseph Hauser' as a laborer in Duquesne, with address "Girty's run". Unfortunately, the 1860 census for Duquesne is unreadable, its pages faded to illegibility. Likewise vexing, directories were inconsistent in coverage of Duquesne, and we only next see 'Joseph Hauser' there in 1863, a laborer, his address now 20 Girty's run. His last Duquesne appearance is in 1864, as two doppelgangers: 'James Hauser', of Girty's run, and 'Joseph Haser', '20 Road north Butler plank road'.

From these directory listings, Joseph Hauser lived on a road near Girty's Run, north of Butler Plank Road, and with enough housing for a number of 20. An 1851 map gives a limited view of the area. One can see Girty's Run flowing past the Poorhouse and Stewart and Co. Steam Mill and into the Allegheny River near the northern boundary of Duquesne with Shaler Township, while the stream is crossed by the 'Plank Road' and Pennsylvania Canal running parallel to the Allegheny River. This map has insufficient detail, with just a single house and an inn visible in the relevant area, and is too early given the area's rapid development. The next available map is of Allegheny County in 1862, at the time Joseph Hauser was resident in Duquesne. A Pittsburgh-
vicinity inset gives our first detailed view of the relevant area, showing a number of new structures.

The Butler Plank Road is seen angling southwest to northeast, just inland of the Pennsylvania Canal. A number of larger new buildings appear along this road just below Girty's Run, but these are industrial structures associated with Stewart & Lawrence Rolling Mill, Joseph's likely employer. Another string of new buildings appears between the Canal and Allegheny River, near the ferry's arrival point, but these are south of the Plank Road, while Joseph was north of it. Thus attention is drawn to the new road heading inland from the Butler Plank Road, paralleling Girty's Run. This has an indistinct long string of structures on its north side, of sufficient length to reach 20 (and more). This would seem to be the



Detail from Map of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, 1851. (Library of Congress). Top: Allegheny River near Pittsburgh, the old borough of Duquesne is in yellow, along the river; Bottom: magnified view of Girty's Run area, that would become Millvale: Duquesne borough is yellow, Shaler township is blue.

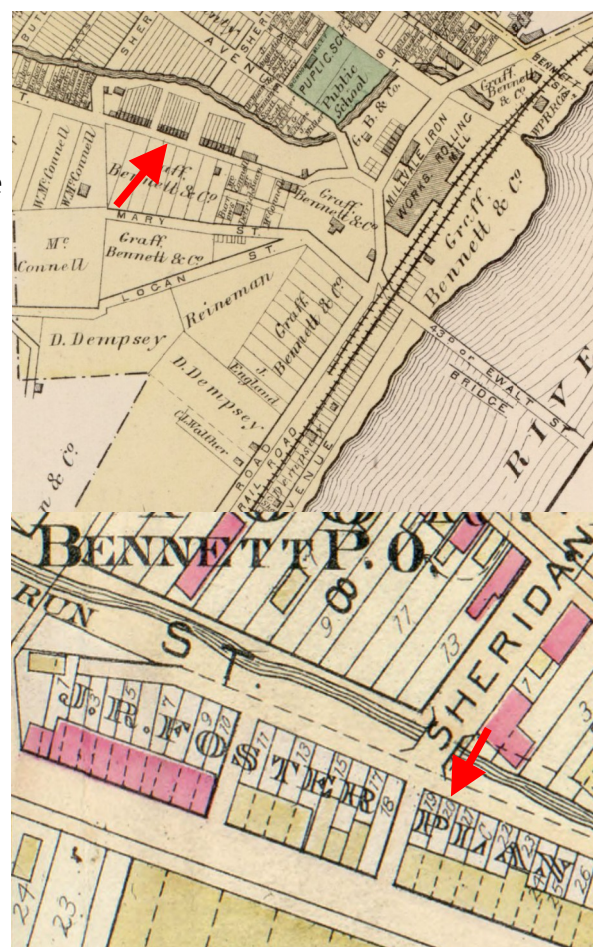


Detail from Map of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, 1862. (Library of Congress). Left: Girty's Run area from full county map; Right: from Pittsburgh area inset. Arrows: row-houses along road parallel to Girty's Run.

location of '20 Girty's Run road', north of the Butler Plank Road. For more detail on this row of structures, an 1872 atlas of Pittsburgh proves helpful. The new, rapidly-growing borough of Millvale had seen many changes in the eight years since Joseph Haser was last seen in Duquesne, but the relevant structures are again shown, with more precision. Again flanking Girty's Run and by this time named Staunton St., the parallel road is lined on the north by three blocks of row-houses, with 29 shown. Placement of the exact residence is more problematic among these row-houses, likely constructed by the mill operators to house their workers; one of these would have been Joseph's residence. If the 20 Girty's Run address arose from standard street numbering, the direction is unknown, as is whether numbers would have been reserved for vacant lots or non-residence structures. However, an alternative numbering scheme was sometimes used in directories. These row-houses were built upon an underlying plan dividing a larger property, and an 1897 map shows property 20 on this J.R. Foster Plan as the second east of Sheridan Street on Stanton Avenue. If we provisionally accept this as the address of 20 Girty's Run, it would correspond to modern 230 Stanton Ave. This block of row-house has been torn down and replaced, but those west of Sheridan still stand, and give an indication of what the Haser residence would have looked like.

IV. Shaler Township

Joseph Haser's disappearance from Duquesne after 1864 coincided with a change from factory labor to farming. From 1865, the inventory for the estate of Christopher Farmerie of Shaler Township, Allegheny



Detail from G. H. Hopkins & Co. maps. Top: Atlas of the cities of Pittsburgh, Allegheny, and the adjoining boroughs, 1872, riverfront Millvale, from 'Millvale and Etna' panel. Bottom: Northwest Vicinity of Pittsburgh, 1897, Plate 19: 'Part of Boro of Millvale, Shaler and Reserve Townships'. (Historic Pittsburgh Map Collection) '.



Images of surviving row-houses in Millvale, as seen from Stanton Avenue (top) and Farragut Street (bottom). (Google Maps)

County, shows Haser paying rent for use of the estate's farmland. Just a mile from Duquesne, this area was still primarily agricultural at the time, used for growing vegetables to be supplied to the nearby cities of Allegheny and Pittsburgh.

The land farmed by Joseph Haser was a part of almost 100 acres purchased by Johannes Firmerÿ (John Farmerie), consisting of a narrow stretch of bottom-land along the Allegheny River, a steep climb of bluffs paralleling the waterfront, then flat farmland gently sloping down to the northwest, where a stream and road passed below a hill too steep to be farmed. This was partitioned among his eight children, creating strips from the river up the bluff and across the top-land. A central one of these went to son Christopher, who sold the riverfront portion of his land when it was cut off from the rest by construction of the Pennsylvania Canal, and he also sold a small triangle on the northwestern hill for a Jewish cemetery. On his death, his brother-in-law Jacob Vilsack completed an ongoing purchase of the northern half of Christopher's strip, with the remainder of the top-land, down the bluff to the canal going to Christopher's daughter Crescentia ('Nancy') Farmerie, under the guardianship of her aunt Elizabeth (Yerkins) Farmerie, to whom the property was passed by Nancy's will following her 1874 death.



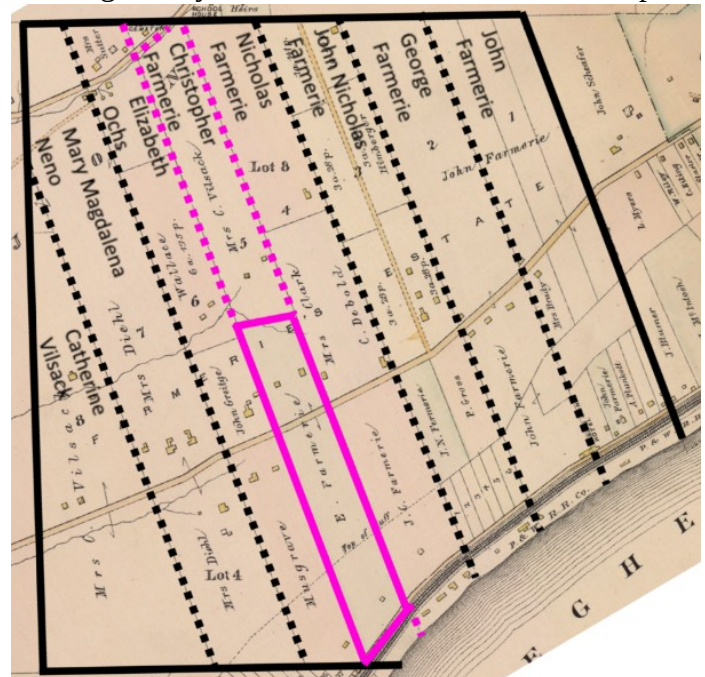
Detail from Map of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, 1862. (Library of Congress), showing the Farmerie land, on a part of which Haser farmed. Girty's Run is on the left and bottom, with the northernmost part of Duquesne at the bottom (green, with orange being Shaler Twp.) Approximate boundary of original Farmerie plot, on which Haser would live, indicated.



Detail from G. H. Hopkins & Co. Atlas of the County of Allegheny, Penna., 1876, Plate 56: 'Shaler and West Bellevue'.

The farm's tenant through 1864 was Jean Firmery's nephew Christopher Sheno, replaced from 1865 by Joseph Haser, who thus effectively became tenant of Elizabeth Farmerie, whose youngest son later married Joseph's daughter. Joseph Haser was still renting Farmerie farmland at the time of the final account of Christopher's estate in 1867, and still farming in Shaler in 1870, when the census sequentially enumerates eleven geographically-adjacent households: 1) Peter Gross, 2) Leopold Myers, 3) John Shafer, 4) Conrad Nauman, 5) John Stewart, 6) Joseph Hauser, 7) Christopher Strife, 8) Benjamin Musgrave, 9) Jacob Diehl, 10) Peter Kiel, and 11) Magdaline Deihl. Unlike in 1860 and 1880 when the enumerator's path is unclear, the 1870 households

align with surviving maps if one takes into account documented property transfers, progressing westward along Friday Road, through the Farmerie partitions. The map of this area closest in time, from 1876, omits many of the houses, and misidentifies the owners of several partitions (misplacing that of Nicholas – “N. Farmaries Hrs” – to the location of Christopher’s, and mislabelling that of John Nicholas as “Hrs. of J^b Farmarie”). It only helps in affirming the final stretch of names in the enumerator’s path, showing B[enjamin] Musgrave next to J[acob] P Deihl, then across the street that bisects the original Farmerie top-land (modern Friday Road in Shaler Twp.) the homes of P[eter] Kiel and M[agdalena] Deihl. A better indication of the area is given by an 1886 atlas, with a detailed map on



Detail from G. H. Hopkins & Co., Atlas of the Vicinity of the Cities Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 1886, Plate 9, 'Shaler Township'. (Historic Pittsburgh Map Collection) Original Farmerie plot is divided by dashed black lines to show the original partition. Christopher Farmerie's share is pink, the solid line enclosing the portion remaining when Haser rented the farmable top-land.

Agerman, had been sold, then partitioned and inherited by Elizabeth (Brown) Musgrave and her husband Benjamin, who appear next in the census. Last comes that of Magdalena (Farmerie) Neno, sold to Brown then acquired by Magdalena Diehl. This lot, as we have seen, included the last three in the census string, her son Jacob and long-time (since at least 1862) tenant Peter Kiel, as well as herself. The extended correlation between the 1870 census and 1886 map indicates a consistent path of

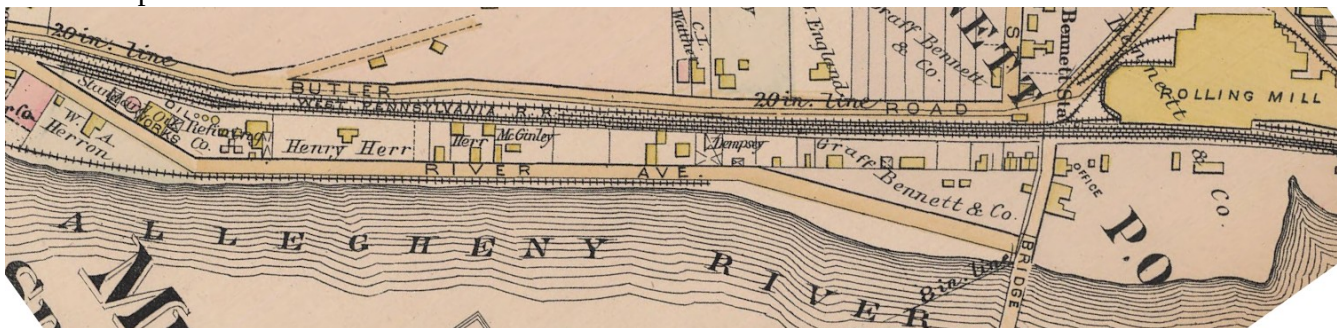
enumeration, allowing the two structures on Christopher's strip to be matched with the two census households. Given the order of enumeration, the Haser-occupied house would be the more easterly, next to that later occupied in 1886 by Christine (Farmerie) Clark. Now substantially redeveloped, the former Haser residence is the site of a small-business complex and parking lot at 419 Friday Road, Shaler Twp.

Farmerie partitioner	Property transfer	1850 Census	1862 Map	1870 Census	1872 Map	1886 Atlas
Magdalena (Farmerie) Neno	sold > William Gates > Christian Seibert > Magdalena Diehl	Christian Siebert	Peter Kiel	Magdalena Diehl Peter Kiel Jacob Diehl	M Diehl Peter Kiel J. P. Diehl	Mrs Diehl
Elizabeth (Farmerie) Ochs Agerman	sold > Robert Brown, partitioned to Elizabeth (Brown) Musgrave sold > Herman Miller > John Miller > John Greitge	Robert Brown	R. Brown estate	Benjamin Musgrave	B. Musgrave H. Miller	Musgrave John Greitge
Christopher Farmerie	inherited by Nancy Farmerie, willed to Elizabeth (Yerkins) Farmerie	Christopher Farmerie	S. Farmerie estate	Christopher Streiff Joseph Haser	N. Farmeries Hrs	E. Farmerie
Nicholas Farmerie	partitioned among children, including Christine (Farmerie) Clark, Elizabeth (Farmerie) Diebold, and John C. Farmerie	Nicholas Farmerie	N. Farmerie	John Stewart Conrad Neuman John Shafer Leopold Myers		J. C. Farmerie Mrs Clark C. Debold
John Nicholas Farmerie	partitioned among children, including Nancy (Farmerie) Gross and John N. Farmerie	John Nicholas Farmerie			Hrs of J ^b Farmerie Peter Gross	J. N. Farmerie P. Gross

Identification of Haser house in 1870, using details of partition and sale, order of names in censuses, and those given on surviving maps. (Image is 1886 map rotated 90°).

V. Widow Caroline (Gress) Haser

Joseph Haser is last seen in the 1870 census and left neither deeds nor probate records. His residence fell outside the catchment area for Pittsburgh city directories, and only Pittsburgh proper had death records this early (he is not the Joseph Francis Houser who died there in 1879). He was out of the picture by 1880, when his widow Caroline (Gress) Haser and her son appear in Millvale with her new husband, Johannes/John Hohl, an immigrant from Lampertsloch, Bas-Rhin. The residence is not described in the census, but in the directory of that year a 'John Hold' resided at 7 River Ave., Millvale. This was the road parallel to the Butler Plank Road, between the defunct canal – filled in and replaced with rail tracks – and the Allegheny River. It is impossible to determine which of the many structures along that road, as seen on an 1886 map, represents #7. Within a few years, this entire area between Butler Road and the river was cleared to create an expanded rail complex, in recent times turned into a riverfront park and marina.



Detail from G. H. Hopkins & Co., Atlas of the Vicinity of the Cities Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 1886, Plate 8, 'Reserve, Millvale, Spring Garden', showing River Avenue. (Historic Pittsburgh Map Collection)

John Hohl, Caroline's new husband, was a confectioner on Grant Ave., Millvale, in 1883 and 1884. This was probably the same address as occupied by her son, Joseph C. Haser, who had a Grant street address from 1881, in 1886 explicitly 45 Grant. The earliest map showing Grant Ave. street numbers, from 1906, has nothing as low as 45, indicating a renumbering had taken place. However, the 1886



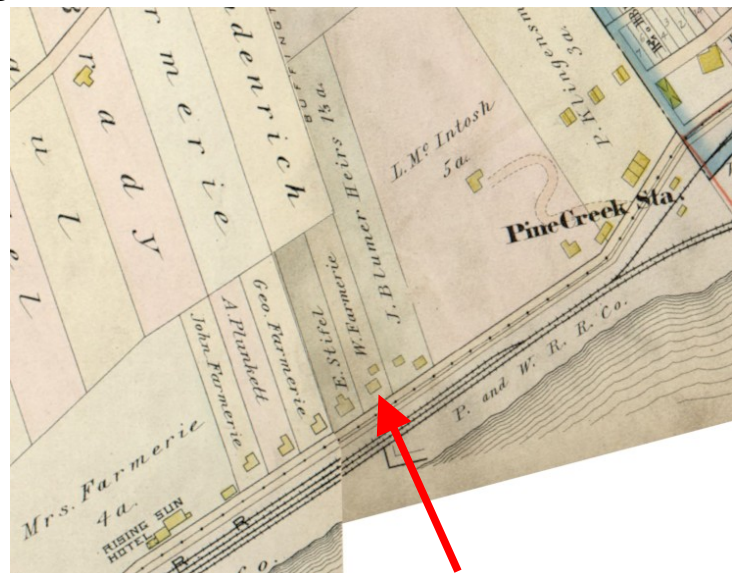
Top and bottom left: Detail from G. H. Hopkins & Co., Atlas of the Vicinity of the Cities Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 1886, Plate 8, 'Reserve, Millvale, Spring Garden'. (Historic Pittsburgh Map Collection). Arrow points to (then) 45 Grant Ave., with relevant neighbors underlined; Bottom right: Modern 205 Grant Ave. (Google Maps).



Millvale map names two Grant Ave. business owners who prove informative: H. A. Ocenirt and J. A. Englehart, matching 1886 directory entries of Henry Ochsenhirt, butcher at 39 Grant, and John A. Engelhardt, shoemaker at 51 Grant. Extrapolating between these, we identify 45 Grant as a brick structure diagonally across from the Millvale Town Hall, labeled property 11 on the 1886 map, and corresponding to modern 205 Grant Ave.

The 1885 directory gives John and his son Frank a 'Butler rd, Shaler' address. While it can only be guessed, the most likely site of this residence is the home of John's step-daughter, Caroline's daughter Mary Teresa (Haser) Farmerie. Her husband Wilson Farmerie had been granted as a partition of his father's estate a small property on the Butler Plank Road between Millvale and Etna, running from the bluffs to the Allegheny River, being the southeastern corner of the original Farmerie plot. It was a short distance upriver from the family's hotel, The Rising Sun, and next to the property of Christopher and Elizabeth (Farmerie) Strieff, formerly neighbors of the Hasers on Friday Rd. This was the last instance of John in the directories, though it is unclear if his later absence reflects inconsistent

coverage of the area by the directories, or his death. That his son was back in Millvale the next year but he was not favors the latter, his death removing the direct link of Frank with the Farmerie/Haser household. Caroline likely remained with her daughter through the time of her 6 April 1900 death, her funeral commencing there. All of the properties along this stretch of Butler Road below the bluff would later be cleared for the road's expansion, of what now the route of the East Ohio Street expressway along the north shore of the Allegheny River, below Lampher Reservoir.



Detail from G. H. Hopkins & Co., Northern Vicinity of Pittsburgh, 1897, spliced from Plate 20: 'Part of Millvale Boro and Shaler Twp.' and Plate 21: 'Parts of Etna Boro and Shaler Twp.' Blue border on left is Etna Borough. (Historic Pittsburgh Map Collection)

Obituary of Caroline [Gress Haser] Hohl, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 9 April 1900, p. 5

HOHL—On Thursday, April 6, 1900, at 7:45 p. m., Mrs. **CAROLINE HOHL**, mother of Mrs. W. H. Farmerie and Joseph C. Haser, aged 88 years. Funeral this morning at 8:30 o'clock from the residence of her son-in-law, W. H. Farmerie, Butler plank road, Shaler township. Requiem high mass at 9 a. m. at St. Anthony's church, Millvale.