

Kansas City Times, Oct. 21, 1950

CASTLE "CASILL" OVERLOOKING KAW VALLEY
REFLECTS SUCCESS OF GERMAN PIONEER

Castle standing in Rosedale District Is Towered Structure Erected After Civil War by Anthony Phillip Sauer on 63-Acre Tract-- Owned by Descendants of Trader Who Gained Wealth in Many Ventures.

By E. B. DYKES BEACHY.

TEN years after Kansas was admitted to the Union as a state, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Phillip Sauer, Mid-West pioneers of foreign birth, had so much faith in the future of the new state that they erected their own castle on Kansas soil.

The 2-story brick building with a 4-story tower, built of Viennese design, is still standing in an excellent state of preservation at what is now 945 Shawnee road in Kansas City, Kansas. It is owned by descendants of a man who, for many years, was identified with the early growth of Greater Kansas City.

Sauer was born March 10, 1826, at Hessen-on-the-Rhine in Germany where he grew up and acquired a practical education. In his late teens he invested the few dollars he possessed in a stock of goods and sailed to Australia to become a merchant. He soon discovered that the outlook was not as promising as he had anticipated, so he decided to migrate to the United States as he had heard many times it was a country with a great future. In 1853 he landed in New York City.

Intigued with the growing metropolis he decided to go into the leather business. He opened a tannery and imported leather from Europe. It proved to be a highly successful business venture, which he managed for five years until his health failed. Leaving his business, he boarded a train and headed West in search of a healthful climate. In St. Louis he bought steamships and headed the Mississippi on his way to New Orleans and New

That New Town at Kaw's Mouth.

Along the water front he heard varied tales of the new town that had sprung up at the confluence of the Kaw and Missouri rivers. Leaving the boat business in charge of others, he journeyed by boat to the town of Kansas.

In present Kansas City, Kansas, he met and married a young widow, Mary Einhellig Messersmidt. She had been born in Bavaria, Germany, November 22, 1840; and, with her parents, Anthony and Mary Kaebaerl Einhellig, emigrated to the United States in 1848. For a few years they lived in Erie, Pa., then, in 1856, in search of a milder climate, they journeyed by rail to St. Louis and from there by boat to the town of Kansas, arriving in Kansas territory at the time of the sale of the Wyandotte and Delaware Indian lands.

Sauer engaged in pioneer freighting in the area of present Greater Kansas City. Both he and his wife saw much of the border warfare and the troubles that beset Kansas and Missouri during the Civil war. During the latter part of the war Sauer went to the Rocky mountains where he established wagon trains and engaged in freighting. He managed both the steamboat business and the freighting business until 1865, when he sold both and went farther west in search of health. For two years he wandered over Montana, Idaho and other Western territories, prospecting for gold and searching his way by general trading.

He then returned to Kansas where he established a tannery in New York City, one of the first in the West. It proved to be a profitable and successful busi-



Sauer's castle, built in 1871, still stands on a hilltop in Rosedale, at 945 Shawnee road. Playing beside the former lily pond, which was part of an elaborate garden, are Cynthia Townsend, 5 years old, and Thomas Townsend, 2. They are children of Mr. and Mrs. Thayer S. Townsend, jr., who live on the second floor of the castle—(Kansas City Star photograph).

ness venture; but, with the restlessness of the early day pioneers, he soon disposed of the tannery and went into the real estate business.

While buying and selling real estate he searched for a scenic, wooded landscape that looked like his native land. Finally, he decided on a spot on Shawnee road in Rosedale, because the site reminded him of the country that borders the Rhine. Planning to create a large fruit farm, he purchased sixty-three acres. Primarily, he wanted to raise grapes for the manufacture of wine.

"Castle" Cost \$20,000.

It is estimated that Sauer spent about \$60,000 improving the property and \$20,000 of that sum went into the erection of the brick "castle." This was at a time when the state, long

known as "Bleeding Kansas," was attempting to throw off that sobriquet. Few Kansans had enough money to build an ordinary house, let alone a castle and many families on the prairies were living in sod dug-outs. The 2-storied brick house with high ceilings was huge for a Kansas home. The tower made it appear larger and the place became known as "Sauer's castle," a name applied to this day. From the tower with its high windows the Sauer had an excellent view of the Missouri countryside and the Kaw river valley. On top of the tower is a "widow's walk" enclosed with a wrought-iron grill.

With the exception of the stones used for the foundation, all of the material for the castle was shipped by boat from St. Louis. A solid walnut stairway

with a rosewood rail runs from the basement to the floor of the tower. The floors are walnut, a wood that was used extensively at that time. Marble for the mantels was shipped from Italy, Vermont and Kentucky. Huge mirrors were ordered from Italy, crystal chandeliers from Austria and lace curtains from Brussels. Sauer sent to St. Louis for an Italian sculptor to carve the stone lions that still guard the main entrance to the castle. Sandstone goddesses were also carved, to be placed over the high arched windows. There were many works of art. All in all, the Kansas castle was a showplace inside and out.

While the workmen were building the home Sauer supervised the planting of vineyards and tunneled in from a cliff at the side to build wine cellars. Vine-covered arches led to the entrances of the cellars.

The gardens were the most elaborate Kansas had ever seen planted with shrubs of many unusual varieties and rare trees from many lands. All that remains of the gardens are one or two Russian mulberry trees and a large fish and lily pond in the front yard. A greenhouse, hewn out of solid rock, is now used as a chicken house. On the acreage three wells were dug which re-

leased mineral springs. Surrounding the property was a native stone wall over which wild roses grew in profusion.

Sing for Neighborhood Children.

A few people are living who remember the hot summer evenings when Anthony Sauer sat out on his lawn and entertained the neighborhood children by singing German folksongs. Others remember the parties given inside the "castle" by the Sauers for their seven children: Gus William, Anthony Philip, jr., Eva, who was twice married—first to William Van Fossan, then to John Perkins; Marie Antoinette, who married George McLain; Josephine Theresa, who married Thomas Kinney; Clara and Helen. All of the sons and sons-in-law aided in the early day development of Kansas City, Kansas.

Before the complete plans of the Sauers for the Kansas "castle" and the surrounding acreage were carried out, Mr. Sauer died on August 16, 1878. He was 52 years old. Various members of the family lived in the home for years. The estate has now dwindled to three acres and the house, which retains some of the original furniture, is rented to several families.

From the tower one may still view both the Missouri and Kansas landscapes, but the view today shows progress in both areas such as the Sauers could never have imagined when they surveyed the expanse of trees, rolling hills, the river, and the countryside in 1871.

Duplicate

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

HISTORY
OF
WYANDOTTE COUNTY
KANSAS
AND ITS PEOPLE

EDITED AND COMPILED BY
P E R L W . M O R G A N
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

ILLUSTRATED

VOL. II

THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
CHICAGO
1911

At the time of this writing Mr. Anderson is engaged in the erection of the Central Baptist church, which will be one of the finest church edifices not only in Kansas City, Kansas, but also one of the best in the entire west. He has also contracted for the central stone work for the new city hall and for the erection of other important buildings, and he has thus become, within a brief time, one of the leading contractors in stone architectural work in Wyandotte county. He is loyal to all civic responsibilities and is fully appreciative of the advantages and attractions of the land of his adoption. In politics he is a staunch advocate of the cause of the Republican party, and his religious faith is that of the Swedish Lutheran church. He is a careful, conscientious and reliable business man, and his ability and energy have gained to him prestige and success in the work of his chosen vocation.

ANTHONY PHILIP SAUER.—Many of the men who were prominent in the upbuilding of Kansas, coming here in pioneer days, were of foreign birth and breeding, Germany having contributed liberally of her stanch and sturdy young men. Among the number especial mention should be made in this volume of Anthony Philip Sauer, who was for many years identified with the growing prosperity of Kansas City. He was born March 10, 1826, at Hessen-on-the-Rhine, where he acquired a practical education. Inheriting the habits of industry, thrift and enterprise characteristic of his German forefathers, he began his business career when quite young, investing his money in a stock of merchandise, which he took to Australia, intending to there engaged in mercantile pursuits. Disappointed and discouraged with the outlook, he made an entire change of plans and immigrated to the United States, the land of great promise, landing in New York City in 1853.

Embarking in the leather business in that city, he remained there ten years, meeting with satisfactory success. His health failing, Mr. Sauer sold out his business in New York and came west in search of renewed vigor. Going to the Rocky Mountains, he, with his two sons, Gus William and Anthony P., Jr., were engaged in freighting during a part of the time the Civil war was in progress, operating a large train of teams. Subsequently locating in Kansas City, Kansas, Mr. Sauer established a tannery, and for a while was prosperously employed in the tanning and sale of leather. Disposing of his interests in that line, he embarked in the real estate business. About 1871 Mr. Sauer purchased sixty-three acres of land on the Shawnee Road, and in the improvement of the property invested about sixty thousand dollars, putting twenty thousand dollars into the spacious brick mansion which he erected. His intentions were to create a large fruit farm and to raise grapes for the manufacture of wine. Before his plans were all complete, however, he was called to the life above, his death occurring at his beautiful home August 16, 1878. He was a man of sterling integrity and worth, and adhered through life to the Catholic faith.

Mr. Sauer married, in Kansas City, Kansas, Mary (Einhellig) Messersmidt, who was born in Bavaria, Germany, November 22, 1840, a daughter of Anthony and Mary (Kabaerl) Einhellig. Her parents emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1848, and after living

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in Erie, Pennsylvania, for a few years came, in 1856, to what is now Kansas City, Kansas, arriving here at the time of the sale of the Wyandotte and Delaware lands, journeying by rail from Pennsylvania to St. Louis, thence by boat to Kansas City. Here Mr. Einhellig died in 1855, aged fifty-six years, and his wife died in 1867, aged fifty-two years.

Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Sauer seven children were born, namely: Gus William; Anthony Philip, Jr.; Eva, who married first William Van Fossen, and is now the wife of Mr. Perkins, of Kansas City, Kansas; Marie Antoinette, wife of George McLain, of Kansas City, Kansas; Josephine Theresa, wife of Thomas Kinney; Clara, living at the old home; and Helen, who died in 1865, aged fourteen months. Mrs. Sauer married first, when she was but nineteen years old, George Messersmidt, a native of Germany, and of that marriage she became the mother of two children, namely: Anna, wife of Theodore Votigtle, a civil engineer; and Mary, wife of Luther Klotz, living in Germany.

WINFIELD S. FERGUSON, M. D., physician and surgeon of Kansas City, Kansas, has practiced his profession in this city for nearly a score of years and he is exceptionally well known among both fraternity and laity. Mr. Ferguson was born in Paducah, Kentucky, on the 28th of January, 1861, and is a son of Mason F. and Mary (Lagore) Ferguson, the former of whom was a native of the state of Kentucky and the latter of Ohio. The father was identified with agricultural pursuits in the vicinity of Paducah, Kentucky, until 1864, in which year he removed to the state of Kansas, settling on a farm near Glenwood, Leavenworth county. He married Miss Mary Lagore in 1844, and they became the parents of five children, three of whom are living at the present time. Mr. Ferguson was summoned to the life eternal in 1910, but his cherished and devoted wife survives and makes her home with the immediate subject of this review.

To the public schools of Bosar, Kansas, Dr. Ferguson is indebted for his preliminary educational training. When twenty-one years of age he left the home farm and was matriculated in Park College, Parkville, Missouri, in 1881. Subsequently he attended the Northwestern Medical College at St. Joseph, Missouri, and he was also a student in several other medical institutions, but did not graduate in any. However, he entered upon the practice of medicine at Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1887, but one year later he came to Kansas City, where he engaged in the real estate business. Meeting with financial reverses in 1893, he withdrew from that line of enterprise and again turned his attention to the general practice of medicine, in which he has now been engaged for nearly twenty years.

In November, 1884, was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Ferguson to Miss Bertha E. Gates, of Leavenworth, Kansas. To this union have been born five children, as follows: Winfield B., a graduate of the law department of the University of Kansas, and now engaged in the practice of his profession in this city; Myrtle May, who is now enrolled as a student in the Kansas University; Florence F., who at the age of fifteen years met with a fatal accident while at high school; Ruth Naomi, a graduate of the high school; and Walter S., who is a student in the public schools.

Myths, folklore surround old house

WYANDOTTE HERITAGE

By J. R. Russell
President
Wyandotte County Historical
Foundation

On old Shawnee Road there is a magnificent old 3-story solid brick mansion built about 1871 by a German businessman, Anton Phillip Sauer.

Generations have called this house the "Sauer Castle" or the old "haunted castle." The myths, legends, folklore and fables that have originated from the Sauer estate and family are almost too numerous to list. Here are just a few:

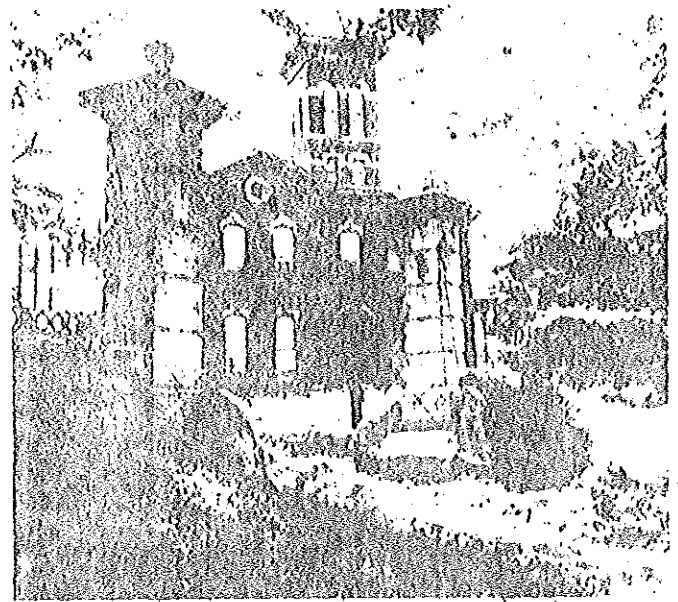
No one can explain why or how the name "castle" was ever tagged to the red brick mansion. The architecture is 18th Century German Gothic. It has no semblance to the medieval castles of England, France or Germany.

More than 75 years ago Maria Sauer used to walk around the top of the tower roof in late afternoon and at night apparently just looking over the grounds or relaxing. This third floor tower area came to be known as the "Widow's Walk." Perhaps many people mistook the dark clothed Mrs. Sauer for a ghost.

Many persons have said for years Mr. Sauer is buried on the property. The truth of the matter is when the last of the Sauer children, Baby Helen, died July 15, 1879, she was only 14 months old.

Maria Sauer, knowing Anton Sauer was on his death bed with tuberculosis and wouldn't live but a few more days, temporarily buried Helen in the family garden.

When Anton Sauer died Aug. 16, 1879, he was buried in famous old Union Cemetery, Kansas City, Mo., along with his baby, Helen.



The old "Sauer Castle" on Shawnee Road in Kansas City, Kansas.

There are no family members buried anywhere on the property.

Anton Sauer died in the master bedroom on the second floor. His health had been failing for years.

Sauer's oldest daughter, Eva Marie, from his second marriage, married a prominent Wyandotte County businessman and landowner, John S. Perkins, in 1907.

On May 20, 1930 Perkins, 73, took a handgun and shot himself. He was reportedly very despondent over his declining health.

Many people have believed for years there is a secret tunnel from the house to the Kaw River below. No one bothers to explain why or how such a tunnel was constructed.

Local historians state the confusion with the purported Quindaro Slave Tunnel is probably the true source of this myth. Also persons on Shawnee Road know the composition of the Shawnee hill is solid ledge rock and a tunnel is out of the question.

On the South side of the old Sauer Estate land is a small stone house built over

huge wine cellar. This property is now owned by Jim Pearson, an antique car collector.

The wine cellar is still intact and in perfect condition. For many years the Sauers stored food and goods in this wine cellar. It is about 35 feet long, 15 feet wide and 12 feet high.

There are no buried treasures. The widow Sauer used any and all Sauer treasures to educate, refine and cultivate her six daughters.

"Sauer Castle" was the dream, the work product of Anton Sauer. Today it stands as the legacy of this German genius and businessman.

As the Virginia "Monticello" stands as living proof of the genius of Thomas Jefferson, Sauer Castle remains today as ample evidence of Anton Sauer's genius, his abilities and accomplishments.

Anton Sauer was born on March 10, 1826 in Essen on the Rhine River in Northwest Germany not far from Belgium.

He was first married, family legend says, to a woman of German nobility. From this marriage the first five Sauer children were born. They were Anton Philip Sauer, Gustov O. L. Sauer, Julius J. Sauer, Emil Sauer and Johannah Sauer.

The first Mrs. Sauer, it is reported, died in New York City.

Family history tells us Anton Sauer came to Kansas City in early 1867. Sauer had several businesses and properties in early Kansas City, Mo. In the 1870 business directory for Kansas City, Mo., Anton Sauer is listed as part owner of the Crider-Sauer Grocers. In addition he is listed as the President of the German Savings Association.

He also had a seed importing business located around the site of the present Kansas City, Mo. City Market near Fourth and Walnut.

He also had an overland freight hauling business out of Kansas City to the southwest which he worked with his sons.

Family history tells he had a riverboat which floated the Missouri River from St. Louis to Kansas City bringing foods, seeds, fruits, flowers and plants, some of which were said to be unknown to our area.

In 1869 Sauer married a young (28 year-

old) German widow, Marie (Mary) Einhellig Messerschmidt, the widow of Grocer George Messerschmidt. Marie was said to be a great lady of culture and refinement and wealth.

The young Messerschmidt widow had two daughters, Anna and Maria Messerschmidt who would come to live with their mother and step-brothers and sisters in the "Rhine Castle on the Kaw."

Of this 1869 marriage Anton and Maria had five daughters of which four survived. They were Eva Marie born Feb. 26, 1870; Antoinette, born 1871; Josephine born Jan. 27, 1873; Clara born Feb. 28, 1876; and Helena born May, 1878.

When the Sauers finally moved into their Kaw Castle about November, 1872, it was to be a home for three sets of children—five of his, two of hers and five more of theirs by 1878.

Family legend has it that Sauer first constructed a huge barn to house the materials and the craftsmen who were brought here from St. Louis and the East Coast to help raise this monument to this German-American genius.

Outstanding building materials for this mansion were assembled.

It is believed the stone lions which guard the huge entrance to Sauer mansion were hand sculptured from sandstone in St. Louis. The lions it is said, were brought in from St. Louis by riverboat up the Missouri River and placed in wagons and pulled to the house by horse teams. St. Louis at that time was a major German-American immigrant city.

Over the approximately 8-foot tall glass windows of this house were handshaped stone lintels. Some of these have the sculptured faces, in bas relief, of women and other mythical figures.

The "German Fortress" had great wooden doors imported by Sauer. The huge double front doors are approximately five feet wide, 10 feet long and about five inches thick. The door key was more than nine inches long.

Upon entering the massive entrance hallway one is immediately struck by the height of the 12-foot interior ceiling. It startles the imagination. As you look carefully at the entrance floor, the framed

eye catches, beneath the dirt and wear, a tremendous 1870 innovation. On the solid wood floor Sauer had laid alternating dark walnut and medium light oak planks.

As you enter first floor rooms, each with 12-foot ceilings, you notice the beautiful Italian marble fireplaces with matching marble mantles. In 1870's this was the only heating element in the house.

Starting with very wide stairs in the basement and ending on the third floor is the 4-story continuous staircase. Two handcarved walnut spindles trim the outer side of each step from the basement to the third floor. This is all tied together with a continuous 4-story handcarved walnut top railing.

In each room there are huge windows. In the library and music room the windows are so big and wide one would think they are sliding doors because they go all the way to the floor.

On the North side of the property there were double iron gates at the double entrances. These gates and the stone wall entrances projected the impression of royalty and nobility the Sauers so prized and cultivated.

Family legend tells Czechoslovakian and Belgian crystal chandeliers were imported from a supplier in Vienna, Austria. It is said each one of these chandeliers had more than 600 pieces of individually cut crystals that sparkled magnificently as the candlelight danced through them.

The Sauer mansion is still strong in structure, but obviously declining in dignity. The sandstone lions show the decay of many decades. The iron gates are gone robbing the grand entranceway of some of its appearance of royalty.

For the past 26 years the Sauer "legacy" has been owned by Paul Berry. He has on several occasions forcefully ejected trespassers, vandals and looters. He has two vicious German Shepherd dogs to keep loiterers, looters and larcenists off the estate.

Gone are the Sauers, their descendants and heirs, but the people of Wyandotte County still have this masterpiece of Anton Sauer.

We've Got
'em All...

VALIANTS
DUSTERS
SCAMPS
ROAD RUNNERS
FURY SPORTS
FURY WAGONS
GRAND FURY'S
GRAND FURY WAGONS
CORDOBAS
NEWPORTS
NEWPORT CUSTOMS
NEW YORKERS
IMPERIALS
VOYAGERS
TRAIL DUSTERS
INTERNATIONAL SCOUTS
MEDIUM DUTY TRUCKS
4-WHEEL DRIVE PICKUPS

TREMENDOUS SELECTION
OF USED CARS, TRUCKS

Jack Miller
Chrysler-Plymouth
International
Hwy. 201, Lehigh, Pa.

SAUER'S DEATH NOTICE

THE WYANDOTTE HERALD

August 21, 1879 page 3 col. 2

" Mr. A. Sauer, who has been engaged in business in Kansas City for the past twenty years, and who has been a resident of Shawnee Township for the past six years, died of congestion on Sunday last.

Account 6

Lansing Leader

Sam Costello

Supplement to The Leader

Including
Wyandotte
and Clay-Platte
historical features

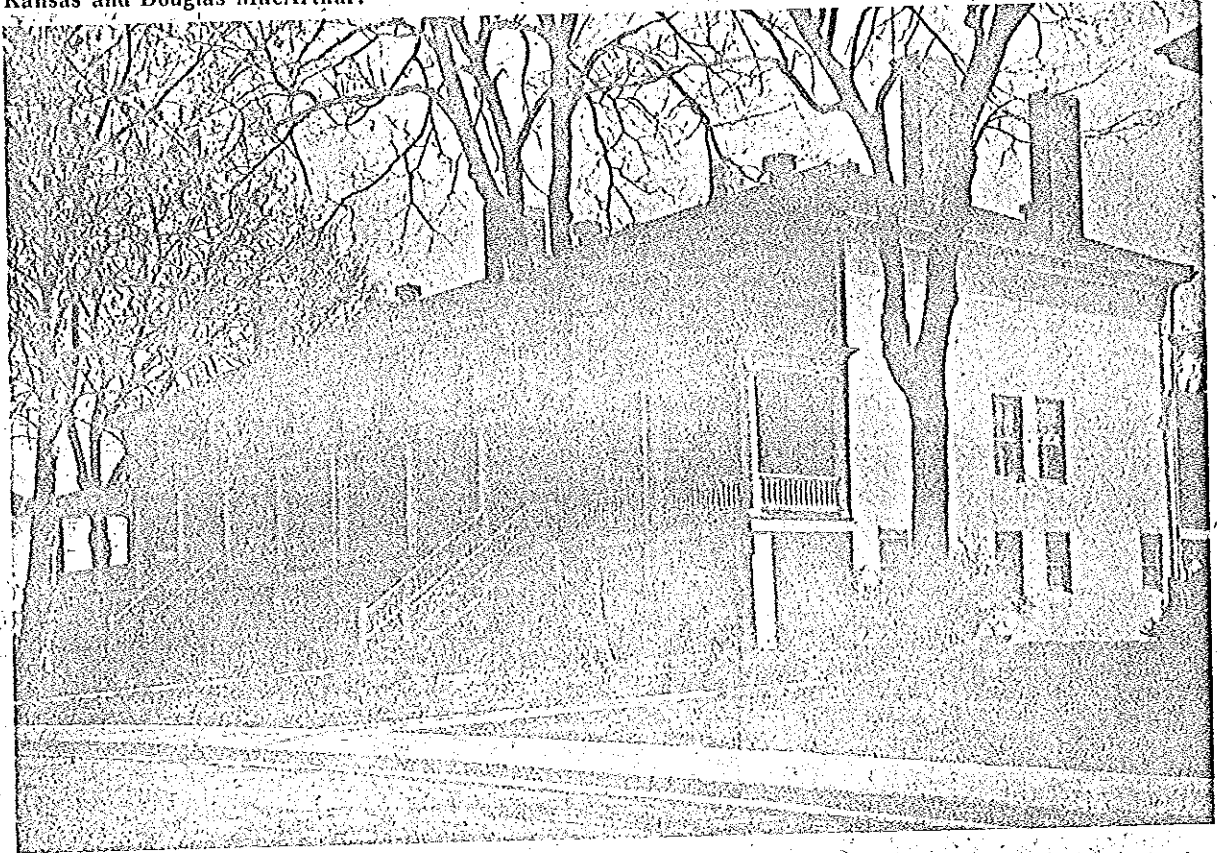
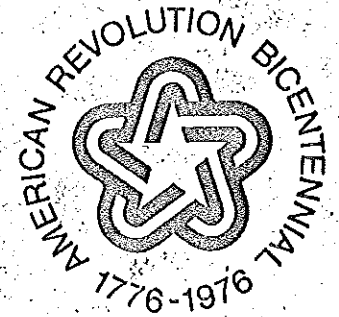
Heritage

The Magazine of Leavenworth County History

MID-AUGUST, 1976

Rookery played key role at Fort

The "Rookery", recognized by the Kansas Historical Society as the oldest building in Kansas, was built at Ft. Leavenworth in 1834, and housed, in its time, the first territorial Governor of Kansas and Douglas MacArthur.



Newspaper Room

Sauer family history traced



Mrs. Octavia Hinde Voegtli, 2105 S. 10th, widow of Ted Voegtli who was a grandson of Mrs. Maria Sauer, talks with J.R. Russell. Mrs. Voegtli is the first cousin of Russell's paternal grandmother, Mrs. Marion Hinde, Independence. She was the source of much information for Russell's articles on the Sauer family.

By J.R. Russell

The Sauer family history has it that Anton Phillip Sauer was born on March 10, 1826, in Esson, on the Rhine River in Northwest Germany.

Prior to coming to America, Anton Sauer went on a business venture in Australia. The Sauer grandchildren have some of his letters from Australia.

Anton Sauer's first marriage date is unknown, but, from this first union five children were born.

They were Anton Phillip Sauer Jr., Gustav O.L. Sauer, Julius J. Sauer, Emil Sauer and Johanna Sauer.

The listing of names is made by family suggestion, not documentation.

In the 1867 City Directory for the new city called Kansas City, Mo., Gus O.L. Sauer, Anton's son, is listed as Dively, a clerk in a wholesale grocery firm. He is the only Sauer listed in the directory.

In the same Directory George Messerschmidt is listed as the owner of a retail grocery and bakery store at 15th and Grand Ave., which was probably closer to

the edge of town at that time.

In the 1870 City Directory, Gus O.L. Sauer, is again listed as a grocery clerk, but this time it is with the firm of Crider and Sauer, Wholesale Groceries.

The firm is listed as doing \$480,000 worth of grocery business in 1869.

Also in the 1870 Directory, Anton Sauer is listed as president of the German American Savings, 823 Main, a newly formed association.

Mrs. Maria Sauer was first married to a George Messerschmidt. They had two daughters, Maria and Anna Messerschmidt whose histories are known but are not listed in this Sauer epic.

The famous old Union Cemetery in Kansas City, Mo., has records showing Mrs. Mary Einhellig Messerschmidt purchased a double burial lot there Aug. 19, 1868.

George Messerschmidt's gravestone has the death date Aug. 18, 1868.

George Messerschmidt's gravestone has the death date Aug. 18, 1868. The date is verified by newspaper stories.

From the old Catholic Cathedral records in Kansas City, Mo., it is determined that Maria Messerschmidt Sauer and Anton Sauer's first child, Eva Maria Sauer, was born Feb. 26, 1870.

However, neither church, nor city, nor Jackson County marriage records tells the date Anton Sauer actually married Maria Messerschmidt, the widow.

With propriety as a minimum guideline, subtracting 10 months from the birth of the first child, Eva Sauer, Feb. 26, 1870 and the date of widowhood known, Aug. 1868, it appears the Sauer-Messerschmidt marriage was between March and May, 1869. No written record has been found.

Sauer and Marie Einhellig Messerschmidt had five daughters who grew to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

maturity.

They were Eva Marie—born Feb. 1870; Antionette, Jan. 17, 1871, Josephine, 1873; Clare, Feb. 28, 1876; and Helena, May 1879.

In a land title affidavit given by Mrs. Marie Sauer about 1909, she stated under oath the Sauer family had lived continuously at the Shawnee Road Estate since Nov. 29, 1872.

The first Sauer article said Anton Sauer died of tuberculosis in the second floor master bedroom on Friday night, Aug. 16, 1879.

Baby Helena had died some 30 days earlier. They were buried side by side in Old Union Cemetery in the Sauer family plot in the southeast corner.

For Maria Einhellig Messerschmidt Sauer, this would be her second widowhood in only 11 years, 1868-1879.

Very little is known about Anton Phillip Sauer. The will and lawsuit mentioned previously report Julius was a Colorado resident. Family history indicates Julius was killed in a train wreck there.

Gus O.L. Sauer was unquestionably the pillar of the Sauer family after his father's

death. The public records of Kansas City, Mo., indicate he married Maria Heinecke Dec. 14, 1873, and he and his family lived directly across the street from Old St. Vincent's Church, Kansas City, Mo.

However, in Anton's will, Gus was given the grocery and seed importing business called Sauer & Company, located at the old City Market, Kansas City, Mo.

Gus was to account annually to Maria as executrix of the estate for Anton's share of this business. Unquestionably, this helped feed and support the surviving daughters and widow in addition to providing them with a source of continuing income for their support.

Numerous promissory notes are on file between Maria, the widow, and Gus. The estate papers are in the Probate Court of Wyandotte County.

Emil Sauer died in 1875 of tuberculosis. He was buried in Old Union Cemetery and the headstone gives his age as 23.

Johanna Sauer was the only daughter by Anton's first wife. In Anton's 1879 will, Johanna is listed as being married to Rudolph Bang, St. Louis, Mo.

In 1903, some 24 years after Anton Sauer's death, Mrs. Sauer made a settlement with

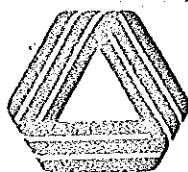
PROGRESS

GROW WITH US

During
America's Bicentennial

SAVE WITH TRUST

*"Earn the Maximum Rate on
Your Insured Savings"*



CORONADO

FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN
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287-2220



Johanna Bang, St. Louis, Mo., for her undivided one-fifth share of the Sauer Estate and lands containing some 60 acres at a reported value of \$18,000 cash, making the Shawnee Road Estate roughly valued at about \$90,000.

In 1920 Mrs. Josephine Sauer Kinney filed a lawsuit to Quiet Title to the Sauer lands.

Included in the lawsuit is an affidavit from Mrs. Eva Sauer Perkins which recites Mrs. Johanna Sauer Bang was a widow living with her two children at 4328 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.

Of the four Sauer girls reared in the Shawnee Rd. Castle the following is known.

Eva Sauer, the oldest Sauer daughter was sent to Mount Saint Mary Academy, Leavenworth, for schooling with the Sisters of Charity.

The probate records of the Sauer estate contain a Sept. 11, 1886 money receipt from Sister Johanna Brunner for \$115 for one term's room, board and tuition at Saint Mary.

On May 9, 1888, Eva married William C. Van Fossen at the Sauer Castle.

Family history has it this marriage failed in 18 months. However, of this youthful union, one daughter was born—Helen Van Fossen Wilson.

In 1907 Eva married John S. Perkins. At the time of this marriage the widower had six grown daughters.

From her marriage to John Perkins, Eva Sauer had three children. One of these children, John Harrison Perkins, had an infant daughter who tragically drowned in the swimming pool on the west side of the mansion.

On May 17, 1955, Mrs. Eva Marie Sauer Van Fossen Perkins, 85, died.

On Eva Sauer's side of the Sauer burial stone at Union Cemetery the incorrect birth date of "1880" has been inscribed. According to Catholic Cathedral Records, Kansas City, Mo., she was born Feb. 26, 1870.

Antionette Sauer, the second Sauer daughter, married a very popular and prominent Shawnee Township, George McLean. They moved to Victory, Colo. Antionette and George McLean had five children.

Josephine Sauer, the third daughter, married Thomas B. Kenney, Jr. Kenney was a mortgage banker. The couple had one son.

After Mr. Kenney's death, Josephine moved to St. Paul, Minn., with her son Bernard Kinney. She died March 20, 1967, at the age of 94, the last surviving daughter of Anton and Maria Sauer. She is buried in Union Cemetery in the Sauer family plot near her husband Thomas.

Clara Sauer, the last of the Sauer daughters, suffered a fall when she was a young child. A serious back or spine injury resulted.

It wasn't until July 12, 1975, this was verified.

At this date a family portrait of Mrs. Marie Sauer and her six daughters was received from a New York Sauer family descendent.

J. Louis Browne, a Kansas City, Kansas photographer, noted the ages of the Sauer girls as definitely in their late teens. From the picture it is evident Clara's posture is very poor. Clara never married. Always in frail health, she lived with her mother, Maria. Later she lived with Mrs. Helen Van Fossen Wilson.

On Saturday, Oct. 16, 1926, Clara, 49, died while visiting her sister Antoinette McLean in Denver, Colo. She was only 49. Her funeral services were at Holy Name Catholic Church, Rosedale. She was buried in Union Cemetery.

The Sauer genealogy is filled with many old Wyandotte County family names—Van Fossens, Gruendels, Perkins, McLeans, Kenneys, Wilsons and the Voegtles.

These old Wyandotte County families, the Sauer neighbors, their friends, the children and grandchildren of the neighborhood remember the Sauers, their parties and their life style.

Kansas City Times
Nov. 29, 1937

GREAT MANSIONS FADE
**MANY PIONEER HOUSES NOW HAVE
A NEW ROLE.**

**Estates of Early-Day Wyandotte
Citizens Are Converted Into In-
stitutions—Few Occupied by
Original Families.**

Gone are the days of the houses with the double piazzas, the back porch cistern, the fireplace in every room heating system, 15-foot ceilings, full length windows, sliding doors and huge hallways.

Big estates within the city limits of Kansas City, Kansas, have faded. Yet anyone who can recall when Franz Lehar came out with the Merry Widow Waltz in 1905 does not have to call upon his imagination to recreate a picture of the mansions and estates which were once a part of that city. Like feudal castles were these old homes in their day. They were furnished magnificently and were the scene of many gay affairs. Their owners were the responsible, in many cases, for the early growth of Kansas City.

REVIEW THE PAST.

Kansas City, Kansas, has many persons who have been living in that city long enough to have been married there and are now observing golden wedding anniversaries. On Sundays and holidays they find pleasure in driving through the districts in which they once played as boys and girls.

They usually start at old Everett school at 410 Everett avenue and work out toward Fifth street and Quindaro boulevard, reminiscing as they go. This intersection was probably as magnificent as any in the history of the city. Two blocks east is the site of the home of southern architecture of Col. D. M. Edgerton for whom Edgerton park is named. Colonel Edgerton headed the Interstate Rapid Transit Railway company, capitalized at \$600,000, chartered to build the original elevated railroad between the two Kansas Cities.

The Edgerton home, fifteen rooms for a family of four, now is Douglass hospital. Although in need of paint it still retains much of its old dignity. The servants' quarters, built separately from the house, now are occupied by hospital attendants. This old mansion later became the home of William H. Craddock, mayor of Kansas City, Kansas, from 1901 to '03.

FOWLER MANSION RAZED.

With a pair of field glasses, the Edgertons and the Craddocks could look south and probably tell what the Fowlers were doing at their mansion. This house was torn down in recent years, creating a site for Northeast junior high school. Fowler brothers established their packing plant in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1881. Their home was built in the same period.

By looking west with field glasses the Edgertons and Craddocks could see the mansion of James McGrew, lieutenant governor of Kansas from 1865 to '67. The home at No. 8 McGrew Grove was built during the winter of '73 and the spring of '74 and is in excellent repair. It is occupied now by Mrs. Grace T. Clark, a daughter of the late governor.

The old brick edifice bespeaks the building design of the period. It has the original furnishings purchased from Robert Keith when his company was located at Leavenworth. Mr. McGrew operated a grocery at the foot of Nebraska avenue, and later established a packing plant in Kansas City.

Across from McGrew Grove is the old homestead of Martin Stewart. An example of Stewart holdings may be obtained from the size of his father's farm, which was north of Quindaro boulevard between Ninth street and Twelfth street, including what is now Parkwood park and the Parkwood residential addition. The Stewart home at Fifth and Quindaro boulevard was built in 1887 and was one of the first homes to be heated by hot water. It now is the Institutional Christian church.

A block west of the Stewart home, on the southwest corner of Sixth and Quindaro, is a limestone wall and two stone piers at the head of the stone steps which lead up to the old Russ Garrett home. In the spring of 1847 when Quindaro boulevard was known as the Leavenworth wagon road

Thomas J. Barker purchased the Garrett home for \$14,000. The house was built in 1870. Today E. D. Barker, a son, his wife and two children live in the Garrett home. In the spring of 1874, the year of the grasshopper plague, was covered with three inches of hoppers, so the story goes.

PART OF BIG ESTATE.

The Barker home was part of a huge estate which extended diagonally from the site of the house to Seventh street and Parallel avenue, a corner where Wyandotte County relief headquarters is housed. The estate was known as Barker's grove.

Overlooking the Fairfax Industrial district from its lofty perch at 3500 North Twelfth street, across from the Kansas City, Kansas, municipal water and light plant, is one of the oldest homes in Wyandotte County. It now is occupied by K. L. Browne, a retired banker, and his wife, Mrs. Kate V. Browne.

The only other family to live in this stately home erected in 1869, was that of Joseph Gruendel, a cooper who planted huge vineyards on what now is the Fairfax golf course. Mr. Gruendel noticed that the sun shone favorably on this spot along the Missouri river—like Charlemagne noticed the traditional spot at Johannisberg on the Rhine. Gruendel made wine from the products of his vineyard. When Kansas adopted prohibition in the '80s he was forced to abandon the industry. Gruendel, and his brother, who was a stone mason, built the home. Many of the oak beams are as hard as the day they were erected.

The St. John's Orphanage building at 720 North Fourth street was one of the most magnificent of early Kansas City, Kansas, homes. It was erected by James A. Cruise a half century ago. Later it was occupied by John B. Scroggs, who married the widow of Mr. Cruise, and her daughter Emma Cruise, the late wife of E. McFadden, a Kansas City lawyer, and Della Cruise, the widow of Robert E. Melling, president of the Wyandotte Coal and Lime company, and a son, Maurice Cruise. Mr. Scroggs was a pioneer of the Wyandotte bar.


BALLROOM ON THIRD FLOOR.

The home consisted of twelve rooms on the first and second floors, each of which was finished in a different type of wood, and the third floor was a dance floor, where the Merry Widow Waltz had many a rendition. There was a fireplace in every room.

Overlooking the Kaw river from the bluff between Argentine and Rosedale is Sauer castle, erected by Anthony Philip Sauer shortly after 1871. Mr. Sauer is commonly accredited with having founded the old city of Rosedale. The original estate comprised sixty-three acres on Shawnee road and \$60,000 was spent in improving the property, \$20,000 of which was put into the mansion. Mrs. Eva Sauer Perkins, a daughter of Anthony P. Sauer, lives at the castle.

George L. Kroh, a Wyandotte County nurseryman, who later owned three large factories and who came to Wyandotte County in 1870, purchased a residence from the Armstrong family, part of which was built in 1868. By reason of additions in 1884 it became one of the outstanding homes of its era. It was later the home of the Peter W. Goebel family. Mr. Goebel was a Kansas City, Kansas, banker. The home is at 424 North Fifteenth street.

Another of the historic residences of Wyandotte County is that of Elisha Sertor, who settled in 1837, Quindaro in 1837 and fought in the Battle of Westport. The Sertor place on the Leavenworth road was built more than sixty years ago. It is a brick house. The brick was molded and baked on the site.



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AGE BUILDING, KNC

Kansas City Kansan, April 23, 1972

DISPLAYS, PROGRAM KEY ROSEDALE EVENT TODAY

ex Centennial celebrations - Rosedale - 1972

By BERNARD J. MCDONALD, Kansas Staff Writer, consented to allow her pictures, maps and research material to be displayed. Today is "Rosedale Day," proclaimed by Mayor Richard F. Walsh to mark 100 years since the townsite was platted and 50 years since it was annexed by Kansas City, Kan.

The proclamation, given by Mrs. Margaret W. Landis, Rosedale historian, presented today as part of an open house at Bell Memorial Center, 36th and Rainbow Blvd. Hours are 2 to 5 p.m. Displays will be by the Urban Renewal Agency, Frisco Railroad, schools, churches, police and fire departments, the University of Kansas Medical Center and Rosedale Businessmen's Assn. The proclamation reads in part: "... The citizens of the Rosedale area have given their cooperation and support by their continued efforts to better the working and living conditions of the combined cities which comprise the city of Kansas... We are all proud of the heritage and ideals of the early settlers of Rosedale and wish to commend them on their efforts to build an even greater combined city and to help them cherish the historical background and honor the sturdy faith and courage of their forefathers..."

A 2 p.m. program will include remarks by Mayor Walsh and a welcoming address by James Wischart, president of the Rosedale Optimist Club, who also will present a community service award. Entertainment will be by the Madrigals, Rosedale High singing group. Rosedale was platted 100 years ago by James G. Brown and Abraham Grandstaff, owners of the townsite. The oldest building still in use as intended is Whitmore School, 1412 Southwest Blvd., built in 1899 and named after a Professor Whitmore.

Mrs. Landis will display her compilations of historical data about Rosedale. Her grandfather was an early settler in the "City of Roses." William Todd, Rosedale High principal and Optimists community relations chairman, said:

"The Optimists have undertaken this project to provide the community an opportunity to examine some of the past, present and future. Mrs. Landis is a very valuable resource for the history of our community and has graciously

Rosedale founding

for pictures see paper

doctor who knew the value of roads. He gave the land for Southwest Blvd. and helped locate the road from the old Indian Shawnee Mission buildings to Argentine. He brought a farm in 1864 that later comprised the north part of Rosedale. In clearing the farm, he cut timber into sawlogs and hauled them to the west bottoms. Eleanor Bell Memorial Hospital on a hill in Rosedale was another gift of Bell. The University of Kansas Medical Center is its outgrowth. Dr. Bell died in 1913 and is buried in DeSoto, Kansas.

A landmark for years in Rosedaye was the Geyser Mineral Springs, 301 S. Rosedale, discovered accidentally by coal miners.

The Kansas Rolling Mill Co., largest manufacturer in Kansas from 1875 to 1883, had 11 heating furnaces that consumed 12 carloads of coal daily.

A short distance from the mill and from Turkey Creek, a 20-inch vein of coal was struck at 330 feet by Rosedale Coal & Mining Co. Then began a "coal rush" as other firms started digging.

John Baum, a truck farmer in the East Bottoms, and a relative, Henry Ackerman, financed a shaft on S. Rosedale Ave. on the north side of Turkey Creek. Their efforts yielded no coal but spurted flaming gas and water.

When it was learned the water contained medical properties, the owners capped the geyser. Later Jacob Baum bought the springs. W. Forrest Brown organized a new company to operate the Geyser Mineral Springs and Baths. In 1928 J. H. Johnson was owner. The bath home was demolished to make way for I-35 highway.

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information on formation of towns in Wyandotte
County.

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DATA & HISTORICAL RECORDS

OF

WYANDOTTE COUNTY
KANSAS

AS COMPILED

BY

RUDOLPH M. BARBIER ¹⁶⁰

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KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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as revealing the Patriotic desire, hopes and ambitions. The document in part reads as follows: "The Wyandot Indians having become efficiently advanced in Civilization and being desirous of becoming citizens, it is hereby agreed and stipulated, that their organization and relations with the United States as an Indian Tribe shall be dissolved and terminated, etc." (9)

In December 1856 O. H. Basset as surveyor, staked out a town site on what is now known as the ruins of old Quindaro, about 2 miles northeast from old Wyandot, now 27th Street, just south of the Missouri River in Wyandot County. This town was built as a Port of Entry for free State people. The largest hotel in the county was built there and they published a newspaper called "Chin-Do-Wan" meaning (leader) and it was edited by John M. Walden, who later became Bishop of Cincinnati for the Methodist Church. No copies of this newspaper are known to exist. The frequent raids of Guerrillas made this town untenable and finally the town was abandoned. (10)

In 1857 the village of Wyandot was formed and described as: Commencing at Eastern boundary of the territory of Kansas, where the same is intersected by the second standard parallel, thence west along said parallel line to the northeast corner of section 4, township 11, range 25, thence to the southwest corner of section 9 township and range aforesaid east to

the middle of the Kansas river thence to the middle of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held June 12, 1858., they opened it four avenues each 100 feet wide and named them Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska and Washington. Also Front, Second and Third and Fourth Streets, and in 1853 it was incorporated as the Inhabitants of the town of Wyandotte. On January 29th., 1859 the Legislature passed an act officially creating the City. James R. Parr was the first Mayor of Wyandotte. (11)

On January 29th., 1859, Wyandotte County was formed by a State Legislature act from territories previously belonging to Leavenworth and Johnson Counties., stipulating in the act the following limits and the village of Wyandotte to be the County Seat. Commencing at a point in the middle of the channel of the Missouri River, where the North line of the Delaware reserve intersects the Same: running thence west on said reserve line between range 22 and 23, thence south on said range line to the south boundary of Leavenworth county, thence eastwardly on said boundary to the main channel of the Missouri, thence Northwardly with the said main channel to the place beginning, also the portion of Johnson County lying north of the township line between township 11 and 12 east of range 23. (12)

An election was held on February 22nd., 1859 and County Commissioners rented rooms from S. D. Donald at 3rd. St. and Nebraska Avenue for the County Offices. (13)

In 1872 they moved the County Offices to lot 46 block 93 on Nebraska a frame building purchased from Issiah Walker and (14) later to Cooks' three story building on the south side of Minnesota east of 3rd. Street. On May 9, 1882 the population having increased to 20,000 the County Commissioners passed a resolution to purchase the Northwest corner at 7th & Minnesota for a new Courthouse site (15) and on May 10, 1882 the site was purchased for \$6,000 (16). In 1883 a new Courthouse was built on this site and was the seat of the Government for 44 years. (17)

The Kansas City-town-company was formed in 1868. the town-site was situated on the original landing place of the Wyandot Indians situated upon parts of fractional section No. 11, 10, and 14. Township 11 south of range 25 east, lying North of the old bed of Turkey Creek east of the Kansas River, South of the Missouri River and bounded on the East by the Missouri state line. It was surveyed by John McGee on April 24th., 1869 and recorded May 3, 1869. (18)

Arnourdale was laid out in June 1880 by the Kaw Valley and Bridge Company and was incorporated as a city in 1882. The first elec-

tion was held on May 5th., 1882. Frank Patterson was elected Mayor. The boundary was as follows: Embracing the southeast quarter of section 15 and part of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 22 all in the township 11, south range 25 east, north bank of the Kansas River 1 1/2 miles from its mouth. (19)

On March 6th., 1886 Governor E. B. Allen, by a certificate of the county clerk of Wyandotte County, dated February 16th., 1886 petitioning for the consolidation of the city of Arnourdale with a population of 1,582. The City of Wyandotte with a population of 12,086 and the city of Kansas with a population of 3,000, neither of which was a city of the first class, proclaimed these towns consolidated as one, under the name of Kansas City and set April 6th., 1886 for a special election which was held, and Thomas Hannon was elected Mayor. (20)

On July 12, 1926 the corner stone of the present County Courthouse was laid. The population of the County was 133,897. This Courthouse is the pride of Wyandotte County, upon its wall is inscribed the inscription "The Gateway of Kansas." It was built at the cost of over \$1,000,000. Fronts 320 feet on 7th Street with a depth of 155 feet. The building is six stories high. It is built of Bedford

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SAUER CASTLE
by
Mrs. William McDonald

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PRESENTED TO
KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY

Daughters of Colonial Wars
in the
State of Kansas

KANSAS

STATEHOOD.....January 29, 1861
STATE FLOWER.....Sunflower
STATE BIRD.....Meadowlark

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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My many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Voegtli for much of the historical data in this article and to Mr. Voegtli, grandson of Mr. Sauer whose mother was Anna of the beautiful voice, of whom I have many blessed memories.

Written by MRS. WILLIAM McDONALD ⁴⁻¹⁰

for the

"Know Your State" entry for
Kansas Chapter of Daughters of Colonial Wars

Mrs. William McDonald, Historian
Kansas Chapter, D. C. W.
February 1964

S A U E R C A S T L E

THIS IS THE STORY OF A HOUSE.

A house built almost a century ago, and of the people who lived in that house, and of the man who built it. For these people had a part in the history of Kansas City, Kansas. A part of the culture and of the business world that went into the making of the State of Kansas. A part of Kansas, like the house, that will endure for generations to come.

Sauer Castle that overlooks the Kaw River in Kansas as the old home overlooked the Rhine River in the homeland.

Anthony Phillip Sauer was born March 10, 1826, in Esson on the Rhine River. When a young man, he went first to Australia to make his fortune, but not liking it there, he came to New York in 1853.

He was married twice. He and his first wife were the parents of four sons and one daughter. The sons were Anthony, Gustave, Julius and Emil. The daughter was Johannah. After the death of his first wife in New York, he came to Kansas City thinking it might be a good business venture. Here he met Mrs. Mary Enkellig Messersmith, a young widow with two daughters.

Mrs. Messersmith was born November 22, 1840, in Bavaria. Her parents were Anthony and Mary Kabaerl Einhellig. In 1848 she came to America with her parents, who settled in Erie, Pennsylvania. They came to St. Louis in 1856. She later came by boat to Kansas City, arriving about the time the Wyandotte and Delaware Indians were selling their land. She and Mr. Messersmith bought a home near Fifth and Main Street. They were the parents of two daughters, Anna and Mary. After her husband's death, Mrs. Messersmith continued to live in the home, and she enrolled the two girls in St. Theresa academy. She was quite wealthy, and the two girls had also been left money by their father. She met Mr. Sauer in 1867, and they were married in 1868.

Before his marriage, Mr. Sauer had been looking for a place to build a home; and now, with a wife and seven children, he began to look in earnest for a home. However, he had a dream in mind and was not easily satisfied. His wife's brother-in-law was in the real estate business in Kansas City, Kansas. He lived in a large stone house in that part of Wyandotte called Quindaro. Time and again, he found a beautiful tract of good land for Mr. Sauer that would be easy to cultivate, but each time Mr. Sauer would say, "No, not that land; find me a place with beauty." "Find it on a hill, find it with a view, for there and only there will I build my home." About this time, Chief Big Knife and his wife decided to sell a great part of their land that had been deeded to them by the Government. This land was on the rough land high on the bluffs

overlooking the Kaw Valley and the Kaw River. On a faint hope, Mr. Gruendel took Mr. Sauer to look at this tree-covered hill. This trip took all day by horseback, and Mr. Gruendel had grumbled to his wife that he thought it was wasted effort. But Mr. Sauer had found his heart's desire, and he bought this large tract of land at once. He spent days walking and riding over this wild Indian land, that for the most part had known only the moccasined feet of the Kansas Indians, "The children of the Southwind."

He wanted to find the spot for his home that would have the most beautiful view. It was hard to decide, for this land was on one of the most beautiful areas of the city. He finally decided just where it would be. He would build a tall tower on this home that would give him a better view. The place he chose looked out over the Kaw River where he could see the double curve in the river which was like a huge "S".

He knew he would build this home like a castle, where from the tower he could see the country for miles around. How well he planned, for from the tower he could not only see the curve in the river, but could look far to the east and see the joining of the Kaw with the Missouri River. This meeting of the rivers is a beautiful and peaceful sight, not a loud and boisterous mating, but a quiet and serene handclasp. The Missouri---large and handsome---and the Kaw---quiet and beautiful---are both very well mannered; only when man defiles them to great extent must they, in very righteous anger, rise up and spew the refuse back upon the land.

Perhaps Mr. Sauer listened to the old Indian legend too, that where the rivers meet there were currents of air that would prevent a tornado from wrecking this home he was to build, for even then Kansas was known and feared for these fierce winds that tore the land apart.

The site was found and here began the building of the home that was to endure for generations. A home not casually bought, but each detail was to be perfect, and a thing of beauty. First to be built was the large barn, and this was built better than most houses of the day. Then a large wooden building on the order of a barracks, or apartment building, which was to house the many workmen who were needed to build the house. They would have to live here, for this house and buildings would require many skilled workmen, and many would come from far away to work with the different woods and carvings that would go into this house. Later, the barn would hold the massive stone lions that were to guard the doors of this mansion---lions sculptured by hand by an Italian sculptor in St. Louis, and the carved stone lintels over the windows, many with the faces of women carved on them. These lions and stone work were brought down the river by boat from St. Louis to Kaw Point, then by heavy wagon along the old Shawnee trail to the site. This required a great deal of planning, but no task daunted Mr. Sauer, for he was a man of many talents and knew just how things should be done.

Mr. Sauer was a man very advanced in his ideas of a modern home, and this was one of the first homes in this area to have running water piped into the house. Also, bath rooms were installed in this house. These were rooms as big as our bedrooms of today, and the tubs were huge marble affairs that would frighten anyone to get into. Many visitors looking at them would no doubt hesitate, and then take a quick sponge at the marble wash basin, and marvel at the running water. Here in these bathrooms were quantities of pure linen towels--huck towels for the body, beautifully embroidered and hand fringed, almost a yard wide, and finer, linen damask towels for the face and hands. A large, hydraulic engine was to pump the water from a large spring into the house.

In the building of the house, the first thing was the sub basement; this was for the heating plant that would be installed later. Then a very large basement almost three feet thick, with rock quarried from the land. Into this basement was built a large fruit closet with many racks and shelves to hold all the fruits and jellies that this large family would require. This basement also contained the laundry and the ironing room. There were huge, cement tubs built into the wall, and water piped into this room, and a long table used for ironing, where more than one servant could iron the heavy linens and huge linen table cloths. There, also, were several ironing boards. These were long, narrow boards more than eight feet long to accommodate the long dresses and slips worn by the women of that day. Long shelves were built into the walls to hold all this linen, and it could be sorted and taken upstairs as needed. Here, too, in this laundry room was a huge gas-heated and hand-operated mangle, an unusual labor-saving device in homes in those days. Certainly, it would take a master mind to think of all these ideas.

Large brick ovens were built in the yard to bake the many loaves of breads and dozens of coffee cakes, cookies, and rolls for the family and servants. Three times a week, these ovens were in use, and many recipes came from the old country. The cupboards in the kitchen held the many spices, raisins, and dried fruits that went into these bakings.

And now the house was started and built. It took almost two years before the last piece of furniture was placed and the last picture was hung. It was finished in 1871.

This was indeed a castle, and a fortress, for it stood not too far from the old Shawnee Indian trace that was part of the old Santa Fe trail, and many immigrant wagons passed here on their way westward. Here, along the trail, came many men soured by the last war, aimless and not too particular how their money came to them. Many Indians passed here on their ponies, for Chief Big Knife still lived on part of his land in a log cabin less than one-half mile from the Sauer home. Many Indians sought the council of Big Knife, and brought their problems to him. Most of their problems were caused by the white man's whiskey, and the white man's unfair-

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Castle,
Mrs. Wm. McDonald,
Feb. 1964

ness in dealing with them.

Here, too, came the squaws with their children, walking while the men rode, and when the bread was baking could not resist coming to the door and begging this bread the white squaws baked. They were never turned away, for Mrs. Sauer was a kindly soul and liked by all. If the Indian women wondered why the white man needed such a large place to live in, only their eyes asked the question. Or did their aching hearts echo the old refrain:

"We hold no title deeds to land or home.
Children of this ancient land
Reach dusky arms from out the grave,
And hold in mortmain still their old estates."

You entered the house by two great doors almost as tall and as wide as the large hall. To the right was the parlor with windows coming almost to the floor and hanging at these windows the most beautiful hand-made lace curtains from France. In this parlor was a fireplace with a heavily carved marble mantel piece that had been carved and brought from abroad. Beyond the parlor, the music room—and here the fireplace and mantel matched the one in the parlor. In this music room was the grand piano. The furniture in these rooms was a fine as any in the old homes in Europe, for it had all been brought from Vienna. There were marble-topped tables, chairs upholstered in velvet and satin, and a darling love seat with two matching chairs. In the wide dining room beyond was the beautiful table that would seat more than two dozen people, huge hand-carved side boards with marble tops, chairs upholstered in needle point. It was frail-looking, but very sturdy, for the furniture, like the house, was selected to endure. In one wall of the dining room and built into the wall under the staircase in a niche just for it was a large clock brought from France. There was a large gallery built out from this room with wrought-iron railings around it.

To the west of the hall was the library. Here, also, was a matching fireplace, and rows and rows of shelves for books, for the whole family liked to read. Many of the books were in Italian, French, and, of course, German. There were many books on horticulture, for Mr. Sauer had a knowledge of this subject that could not be surpassed. The library opened out onto another gallery where one could step out through a French window, and watch the wonderful sunsets or enjoy the breeze that always came to this high hill no matter how hot the day. Heavy chandeliers of cut crystal hung from all the ceilings, and beautiful rugs covered floors that were beautifully laid and highly polished. Mr. Sauer had a man from the east come and lay these floors, and they were laid with light and dark wood alternating.

Dominating all the downstairs was the staircase, truly a thing of beauty. The spindles were hand-carved, and time would never dim the beauty of this lovely thing.

Mr. and Mrs. Sauer were devout Catholics and many religious paintings hung on the walls. Many of these were life size. Mr. Sauer had bought them in Mexico, but they were painted by Spanish artists. A very large canvas hung at the bottom of the staircase and a beautiful one hung over the parlor mantel. Several large canvases were in the dining room and library. French porcelain vases were on the mantel and a very large porcelain vase that revolved on a stand stood on the floor by the fireplace. In a space between the parlor and music room was a mirror with a wide gold frame almost six inches deep. This was so heavy it had a special marble stand to rest on.

The back part of the house had another large gallery, and here a small stairway led up to the servants' quarters. The servants were never allowed to use the staircase in the hall.

On the second floor were the bedrooms. Six large rooms and a master bedroom. Each room had a beautifully carved door and huge keys almost five inches long. The bedrooms were finished in solid walnut furniture marble-topped, and the beds with high-carved headboards. Here, too, the rooms had lovely lace curtains at the windows, and expensive rugs covered the floor. Here was a small maid's room with an intricate system of wires that rang small bells, so that she could tell from which room she was being summoned.

The master bedroom contained a poster bed, with the posts almost as thick as small trees. This room had heavy solid furniture with some of the pieces hand-carved and inlaid with gold and mother of pearl.

The third floor was the servants' quarters, and here was a small school room with separate desks for each child, for it was too far for the younger children to go to any school.

Mr. and Mrs. Sauer were the parents of five daughters born to them in this castle on the Kaw River. Josephine, Antoinette, Eva, Clara, and baby Helen. Both parents saw to it that their children were well educated. Special tutors were hired for them, and teachers skilled in all the arts. All the children had an excellent musical education, and were taught to speak several languages. After they were old enough, they were sent to schools of higher learning. Josephine and Antoinette were sent to the Sacred Heart Academy in St. Joseph, Missouri. Eva went to a school in Kansas City, Missouri, and boarded during the week with a family there.

These daughters and step-daughters were also taught to sew, and to embroider, and each stitch was small and perfect.

Anna had a very beautiful voice and could have gone very far with it, and though she had voice training, this lovely voice was only for family and friends. Eva was an artist, and also was given special training in this talent.

When all the family were gathered around the piano it was a lovely sight, and they were often asked by guests to play and sing.

The young children in this household were always given their dinner early, and taken upstairs by the nursemaid, and often Mr. and Mrs. Sauer dined alone at the large table in the dining room and were served almost like royalty. The table was always covered with a heavy damask cloth that came almost to the floor, the crystal chandelier was always lit, and large silver candle sticks were always on the table. There were flowers, winter and summer, on this table, gathered from the large greenhouse on the grounds. The china was beautiful and of eggshell thinness, so transparent it cast a mother-of-pearl shadow on the linen. The silver was very heavy, the knives large and ornate. The glassware was also imported and many antique pieces of glass graced the table.

Here indeed was a castle, and the lord and lady of the manor cultured, refined, and worthy of that castle. When the large iron gates were closed and locked and the heavy shutters fastened against the wilderness, the heavy doors closed against the night and the stone lions on guard outside, the home was secure and safe.

Now that the home was furnished, Mr. Sauer turned his attention to the yard and outbuildings. In addition to the barn and the building for the many workers on his estate, he built a large greenhouse. Here, on this ground that just a few short years before had known the feel of moccasined feet, he grew every kind of exotic flower and tropical plant that he could crowd into it. It was so remarkable that many people from Kansas City, Missouri, used to drive out just to see this greenhouse. Many specimens were unknown to them, and even to the ordinary florist.

Also, he built a stable and a carriage house where he kept his buggies, and a "surrey with the fringe on top." A tool shed was built under the shelter of the porch. This was a model of precision, for here was a tool for any kind of work, a place for that tool, and every tool in place, and in perfect condition. Farther from the barn were the cow barns, pig pens, and chicken houses. These buildings were of stone, for wild animals still were in the woods nearby.

Nearer to the house and where a cool spring could run through it in a trough was the milk house. The large crocks of milk were brought here and left for the heavy cream to rise. Many jars of butter and huge cheeses were kept in this spring house. Mrs. Sauer had never got over her love for whipped cream in her coffee, and silver bowls of this sweet whipped cream were always on the table, and at the coffee hours.

Not too far away was the smoke house where, winter and summer, hung hams, bacon, and sausage of every kind, for a special man was hired at butchering to make these stuffed meats

and head cheeses. It seemed as if there was always a faint smell of hickory wood smoke around this building.

The vineyard that had been planted was beginning to bear, and the wine cellar was built next. This took a great many stone masons. Away toward the south and near a ravine, the ground was tunneled out and the vault begun. It was perhaps fifty feet long and thirty-five feet wide with a high-vaulted ceiling. The long tunnel was also of rock and vaulted ceilings so that none of it would collapse. Large racks were built into the cellar to hold the many kegs of wine. A smaller wine cellar was built near the house, also with a vaulted ceiling, but the top of this was leveled off and a small cottage built on this level place. This house was for the man in charge of the wines and grapes, for every kind of grape that would grow in this part of the country was planted in this vineyard. They seemed to take kindly to this Kansas soil, and Mr. Sauer liked to experiment with wines made from different grapes. From this small cottage a door opened out onto another level place, and stone steps also led up to this small garden or summer dining area. Here was lovely garden furniture, small chairs for the children to sit and relax away from the travelers on the old trail. If you had to rip out sewing that was not perfect, it was not so hard sitting here with the fragrance of flowers and the songs of many birds for company. Mrs. Sauer was a loving mother but a firm one, and everything must be done right.

Around the house were rock terraces and they were planted with many kinds of flowers and shrubs. These resembled the gardens around the old home so many miles away. Trees and shrubs that no one had seen before in this land grew and flourished here. Tall evergreens and stately linden trees were planted in the yard. In the front yard was a large fountain where the water played around carved faces and sprayed high in the air. This water was also piped from these springs that never ceased to flow. Now many weary travelers on that long trek across the plains must have remembered that clear, cold water gushing high into the air.

Mr. Sauer was a man of many diversified business interests. He owned a steamboat, the "Minnie," that hauled passengers and freight from St. Louis to Kansas City. He used to watch it coming down the river from the tall tower on his house. The vineyard was very successful, and his grapes were always in demand by the wineries in Kansas City.

He also had a freight line from Kansas City to the west, following the Santa Fe Trail. He hauled much freight on these lines and his son, Emil, was in charge of this part of the business, but Mr. Sauer made many trips himself, as wagon master.

Another of his business ventures was a seed-importing house, which was close to what is now the city market. Here one could buy the many different seeds for field and gardens from all over the world, and also from other states in the

union. The son Gustave was in charge of this business, but as this was the beginning of some of the "lean years," men were reluctant to put much money into new crops and new ventures so this business did not do too well. This later became a fruit importing business, and still has a place at the market.

Perhaps Mr. Sauer's best love was his vineyards, and his orchards on the home place. He sold many grapes, and much fruit was sold here, as well as young trees and plants.

He had many workers who came from different countries to work for him, and many families in both Kansas and Missouri trace back to these immigrants who were always given a chance in this new land. At one time, he had a large group of Russian men who came to him still wearing high fur hats and fur-lined greatcoats in the middle of summer. The children were scared to death of these fierce-looking men, and gave them a wide berth. They did their own cooking, and in the evening when the work was done, they would dance and sing in the huge barn. With their high boots pounding on the floor, it made quite a noise. They were a happy group and very good workers.

The children had their trials with some of the teachers, and one, a music teacher from France, stood out in their memory; as she was too old-maidish, as they said, and they could learn nothing from her.

Time was running out, though, for this gifted man who had built an empire on this Kansas land. He knew that the dread scourge of tuberculosis would some day claim him. He did all he could to prevent the things that would bring on the terrible spells of coughing. In the summer he always wore a mask over his nose to prevent any pollen from the flowers getting into the nose and lungs. This was made of pure gold mesh, very finely woven, and winter and summer he wore chest protectors of heavy felt. These were almost one-half inch thick, and he had them made in Europe to his measurements. He felt this heavy felt would protect his lungs from the many changes in climate in this western land.

Nothing helped, and ten years after his marriage this man who had brought so much beauty and promise to rough forest land died. He died in the lovely master bedroom on a hot August night, and through the open windows came a sweet, flower-laden breeze to speed the soul of this man who had created so much beauty here on earth on that far journey.

Baby Helen had sickened and died just a month before this, and Mrs. Sauer, knowing how much he loved this last child, had the tiny coffin buried in the garden to await the death of the father that would come so soon. Father and daughter were buried side by side on the same day in Union Cemetary.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Sauer continued to live in the home, continuing the education of her children.

She could not keep up the large orchard and vineyard, however, and gradually sold parts of the great amount of land. Different sections were sold as residential areas. Two of these were Sauer Highlands and Kinney Heights.

After the flood of 1903, many people in the valley decided to build on this high hill, and it is now a very large residential area.

Mrs. Sauer continued to live in the old home until her death in 1921.

The old castle still stands sturdy and strong, but Father Time has taken some toll of this old monarch. Age, however, can never take away the memories. Alien hands unlock the great doors, and alien feet climb the mahogany stairs, but if time takes away, it also gives, and it has given dignity and faded beauty to the old home.

The beautiful voice of the singer is stilled, but in its place there comes to the old house the song of the church bells far away in the valley, clear and true, undimmed by the sounds of progress and industry. The old house does not mind the industry; she was present at its birth, and is only happy at its sturdy growth.

The hands of the painter are folded in rest, and the paints and brushes no longer exist, but changing seasons still paint the hillsides in colors of green and gold.

Gone are the soft footsteps of the Indians, and the sound of the immigrant wagons, but hundreds of their descendents rush by day and night, brightly colored and with flashing lights on a paved road that would amaze the pioneers.

Just below the old house and on the banks of the river where the Indians fished, great engines roar by on silver rails so fast they have no time for beauty, hauling their loads of freight, and sometimes their whistles sound like a merry salute to the old house on the hill.

High overhead great birds fly by, their huge wings almost touching the old tower as they, too, carry on the commerce of these large cities facing the rivers.

The linden trees still drip their honeyed fragrance on the air, and lean a little closer to the old house, for they grew up with the old house, and sometimes whisper, "Remember, Remember." Like the old house, they are sturdy too, and greet the spring each year.

The old house seems at times to draw into itself, but it is only waiting for the night and fairyland. Surely the builder who searched for beauty could never imagine such a sight.

As the purple dusk settles over the valley, the last rays

of the setting sun shed a golden light on the huge skyscrapers across the river and turn it into an enchanted land, sparkling white and gold and seeming to float into the sky.

And then, as the old house watches, light after light comes on in a great blossoming of every color, as far away as eye can see a million lights. They are reflected in the rivers and even glow in the heavens. Far, far to the west, north, east, and south. To the far east tall television towers, like giant, sparkling golden Christmas trees with red lights on top, reach up to touch the stars. To the west and south, the turnpike, like a twisting, golden dragon, seems forever swallowing the swiftly moving lights.

The huge birds of the day turn into huge-winged fireflies and light up the sky with colors of red, green, and gold, then swoop away to more lights far away.

Oh, yes, you seeker of beauty, you chose your homesite well, for this is still the most beautiful place of all.

FAMILY BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Mary Messersmith, step-daughter of Mr. Sauer, married Ludwig Klutz. He was a mining engineer and came to Argentine, Kansas, in the interest of the smelters. Mary traveled over the world with her husband in his work. She spoke several languages. They made their home in Germany.

Anna married Mr. Theodore Voegtli, a civil engineer. Their home was in Kansas City, Kansas, near the old home. They were the parents of one son, Theodore Voegtli, Jr. Anna also spoke several languages.

The five daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Sauer, born in Sauer Castle: Josephine married Mr. Kinney; Antoinette married George McLean; Clara never married; Helen died in childhood; and Eva married first William Van Fossen, second John Perkins.

Johannah, daughter of Mr. Sauer and his first wife, married Otto Bang.

Josephine Sauer Kinney, daughter of Anthony Phillip Sauer and Marie Enkellig Sauer, died March 15, 1967, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Funeral services were held March 17 in St. Paul, and the body brought to Kansas City, Missouri, for burial in the family lot in Union Cemetary at ten o'clock Monday, March 20, 1967. She was 94 years old and the last of the five daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Sauer. She is survived by one son, Bernard Kinney, of St. Paul, Minnesota.