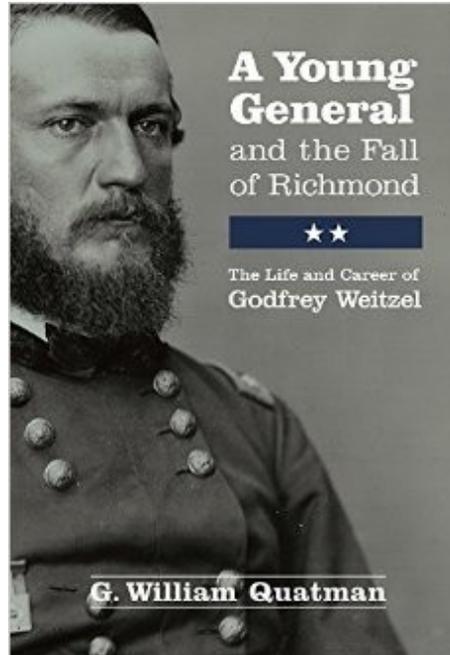


January 2016

William Quatman to Discuss *A Young General and the Fall of Richmond: The Life and Career of Godfrey Weitzel*

On **Thursday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will host **G. William Quatman** for a discussion of his book titled *A Young General and the Fall of Richmond: The Life and Career of Godfrey Weitzel*. A free light reception will precede the lecture at 6:00 p.m.

Despite his military achievements and his association with many of the great names of American history, Godfrey Weitzel (1835–1884) is perhaps the least known of all the Union generals. After graduating from West Point, Weitzel, a German immigrant from Cincinnati, was assigned to the Army Corps of Engineers in New Orleans. The secession of Louisiana in 1861, with its key port city of New Orleans, was the first of a long and unlikely series of events that propelled the young Weitzel to the center of many of the Civil War's key battles and brought him into the orbit of such well-known personages as Lee, Beauregard, Butler, Farragut, Porter, Grant, and Lincoln. Weitzel quickly rose through the ranks and was promoted to brigadier general and, eventually to major general and commander of Twenty-Fifth Corps, the Union Army's only all-black corps. After fighting in numerous campaigns in Louisiana and Virginia, on April 3, 1865, Weitzel marched his troops into Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, capturing the city for the Union and precipitating the eventual collapse of the Southern states' rebellion. Copies of Quatman's book will be available for purchase and signing.



To make a reservation for this **free** program email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8010. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

Are you connected to the National Archives at Kansas City?



Due to the increased costs of printing and postage the National Archives will rarely send information through U.S. postal mail. We encourage our patrons to use electronic mail and social media to connect with us. Our Facebook address is www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. In addition, you can tweet us via Twitter @KCArchives or #KCArchives.



All information about upcoming events and programs is emailed to patrons through our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred address to kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8000. By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about upcoming exhibitions, special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.



Inside This Issue

CONNECT WITH THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES 1

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP 2

HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE STACKS 3-4

Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives
400 West Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108

- JANUARY 21 - 6:30 P.M.
AUTHOR LECTURE: *A YOUNG GENERAL AND THE FALL OF RICHMOND* BY WILLIAM QUATMAN
- JANUARY 25 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: GERMAN-RUSSIAN ANCESTRY WITH MIKE MEISINGER

Gems for Genealogists

Tracing German-Russian Genealogy Workshop

Understanding immigration along with the various customs and nuances that define individuals and their culture can often be one of the most important and challenging aspects of family history research. The following information relates to tracing German-Russian immigration to the United States. The National Archives at Kansas City will host a workshop on this topic in late January, additional details are below.

Catherine the Great's 1763 manifesto inviting emigration to Russia prompted 27,000 Germans to found 100 colonies on the Lower Volga. Catherine's grandson Alexander I modified and reissued the manifesto in 1804, triggering a second wave of Germans to establish colonies in South Russia. By 1897, more than 1,800,000 ethnic Germans resided in the Russian Empire, maintaining their German language, religion, and customs.

The Russian government repealed the earlier manifestos in 1871, terminating the colonists' special privileges. In 1874, institution of compulsory military service set off a mass exodus of German-

Russians to North and South America, continuing until the Bolshevik Revolution. Between 1874 and 1914, approximately 115,000 German-Russians immigrated to the United States, settling primarily in Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, Oregon, and California. Another 150,000 settled in Canada.

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) was formed in 1974 as *"an international organization dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and dissemination of information related to the history, cultural heritage, and genealogy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants."* The AHSGR International Headquarters, Museum, and Library, located in Lincoln, Nebraska, and the AHSGR web site, AHSGR.ORG, offer a wide range of genealogical and historical information.

On **Monday, January 25 at 10:00 am** the National Archives will host **Mike Meisinger** who will offer instruction on learning more about researching this unique immigrant group, particularly through on-line resources. To make a reservation for this **free** workshop email kansascity.archives@nara.gov or call 816-268-8000. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events

Meisinger has been researching his German-Russian ancestors for over 40 years. He is currently the AHSGR board of directors Vice President and Village Coordinator for Messer and Neu Messer. (More information about Village Coordinators will be shared at this workshop.) Meisinger is half German-Russian; the other side of his family tree includes two Patriot Ancestors. In addition, Meisinger is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. An article on his ancestral research was published in the Missouri State Genealogy Association Journal, (Vol. XXXII, No. 4 - 2012).



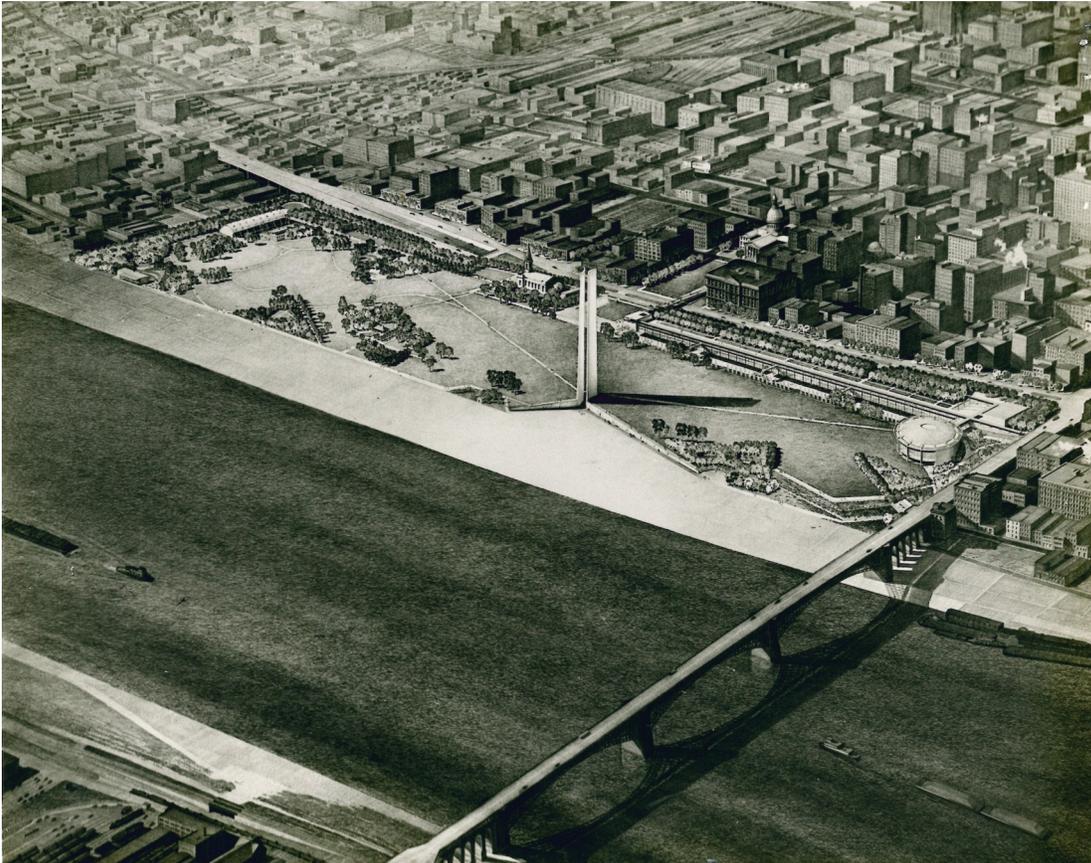
Above: The family of Johannes Pfeifer and Cecelia Rupp-Pfeifer, and their children, ca. 1910. Image courtesy of Terry Needham, AHSGR member.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Designing for the Future: The Arch at 50

The purpose of the Memorial is not only to commemorate the past but also, and especially, to keep alive in the present and in the future the daring and untrammelled spirit that inspired Thomas Jefferson and his aides to offer men of all nations new opportunities under democracy by consummating the Louisiana Purchase; the spirit that moved pioneers and heroes of thought and action from all the world to press westward with a constructive energy and courage scarcely equaled in history; the spirit that conceived and made possible the territorial integrity and national greatness of the United States of America.
– Architectural Competition Book for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, 1947

These words provide a brief insight into the planning and process by which a group of Saint Louisians undertook with the construction of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JNEM), known informally as The Arch.



Above: An aerial view of a proposed design that was not selected for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, Region II (Midwest Region) Omaha, NE; National Parks and Memorials Central Classified Files, 1936-52, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. National Archives Identifier 4709017.

competition – they had been whittled down from over a 100 submissions received in the first phase. The teams included not only preliminary design details, but also information about those on the design team including birth details, marriage and family status, education, professional associations, teaching, awards, and military service. Additional information included the team member's previous work projects.

The selected winner of the design competition was known as Team E, led by Finnish-born architect Eero Saarinen, who was a partner in his father's architectural firm Saarinen, Saarinen, and Associates, based near Detroit, Michigan. The Saarinen team included five individuals, four men and one woman. Their team was the only group to include a woman, a sculptress and writer named Lily Swann Saarinen, the wife of Eero Saarinen. Lily Swann Saarinen was also a professional skier having been a reserve competitor on the United States Olympic team in 1936. (Note: this was not Saarinen's first winning design competition, in 1940 he worked with Charles Eames on the "Tulip Chair" design, later manufactured by the Knoll furniture company. Saarinen had attended school with the Eames couple, Ray and Charles.)

beginnings of establishing the Arch, its grounds, and museum date back to an Executive Order issued in 1935. Yet, in reality the project began in 1933 by a group of civic minded citizens in St. Louis, Missouri, led by Luther Ely Smith, a local attorney. The Association's goal was to create a landmark that signified the ideals of opportunity and westward expansion – further perpetuating the American fascination with the West and in essence proving that the "Show-me" spirit was alive and existed in Missouri.

As a part of the planning and construction process the JNEM Association hosted a design competition in 1947 in order to solicit professional architects to submit design proposals for the to-be-built memorial. Half a dozen teams of architects from across the United States submitted designs for review in the final stage of the

(Continued on next page.)

(continued from page 3.)

All combined, Team E had an impressive list of experience among education and projects; two were architects, one was a landscape architect, and another was an interior designer. Their credentials included three who had attended either Harvard or Yale and another who had studied at the Pennsylvania School of Fine Arts; their clients included General Motors, Lincoln Motor Company, IBM Corporation, Detroit Civic Center, Antioch College, Drake University, Stephens College, Rock Island Railroad, and numerous government projects at the Federal and local levels.

The Saarinen team won a \$40,000.00 cash prize for their "Gateway Arch" design in 1948, approximately half a million dollars in 2016 currency. Smith noted in a solicitation letter to the supporters of the memorial project that "the work of the winner of this contest will stand down the ages with the notable and beautiful buildings of civilization – with the Acropolis, with the forum of Rome."

While the Arch fulfilled Smith's dream of a memorial, he died of a heart attack in 1951 before it was finished. Saarinen would go on to design Dulles International Airport and the TWA Flight Center at John F. Kennedy Airport, both of which showcase similar design curves as the Arch, the catenary or u-shape. Ironically, Saarinen also died prior to project completion, in 1961 of a brain tumor. Saarinen's business partners, Kevin Roche and John Dinkeloo, oversaw completion of the Arch after his death. The Gateway Arch project would not actually begin construction until 1963, with completion in 1965.

Today the Arch continues to signify Westward expansion and most recently downtown revitalization. In late 2015, the city of Saint Louis celebrated the 50th anniversary of the memorial with a renovation of the grounds in a public-private partnership with the National Park Service. The highlight of the two-year renovation project will include the Park Over the Highway, a new green space area located atop U.S. Interstate 44 that will allow visitors to walk the park from the river front to downtown. One can only surmise that Luther Ely Smith would be proud. The National Archives at Kansas City holds many records related to the National Park Service. For more information visit www.archives.gov/research.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather. The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives



Above: Front page of the St. Louis Star-Times with architect Eero Saarinen and Luther Ely Smith examining a model of Saarinen's winning design for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, Region II (Midwest Region) Omaha, NE; National Parks and Memorials Central Classified Files, 1936-52, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. National Archives Identifier 4709017.

