

THE HISTORY OF

OAKVILLE-MEHLVILLE

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

The area of St. Louis County located at the southern point where the Meramec and Mississippi Rivers meet has been settled since before the Louisiana Purchase. In 1789, Jean Baptiste D’Gamache completed his services as the surveyor and builder of “The King’s Highway,” a road extending from St. Louis south along the route of Lemay Ferry Road and continuing to New Madrid, Missouri. In payment for his services, Gamache was given an extensive land grant by the Spanish Government in the Carondelet Common Fields, and was the first permanent Anglo settler in the area. Gamache also ran a ferry across the Meramec River near Telegraph Road.

Another early settler was Phillip Fine, who established two ferries, one across the Mississippi and one across the Meramec. At one time his son, Benjamin Fine proposed to establish a river town and even filed plats, but his plans never were realized. A road in Oakville is named "Finestown" as a reminder of his idea.

During the 1840s and 1850s many settlers came to the area and began farming in the Carondelet Township. Samuel W. Forder purchased land in 1852 and built a log cabin, stone storage building, and a frame house. He married Anna Vista Conn and established a family whose descendants still live in the area. Forder’s legacy also lives on in the area through Forder Avenue, which was name ‘Forder Road’ in the section from Lemay Ferry to Telegraph in 1969.¹²³⁴



Figure 1- Pitzman's 1868 Map of St. Louis⁵

After the Civil War, many German immigrant families settled in the area, raising grain, fruit trees, vegetables, and livestock. Larger farms were divided into smaller tracts and homes were built as

land was passed down to children of the original settlers. In 1869, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet purchased a 57-acre farm on Forder Road and moved into a seven room frame house on the property. The farm house was used as a novitiate until 1880, when a brick building called “Old Nazareth” was built. For the next 85 years, the red brick Nazareth was devoted to the care of retired and infirm Sisters.⁶

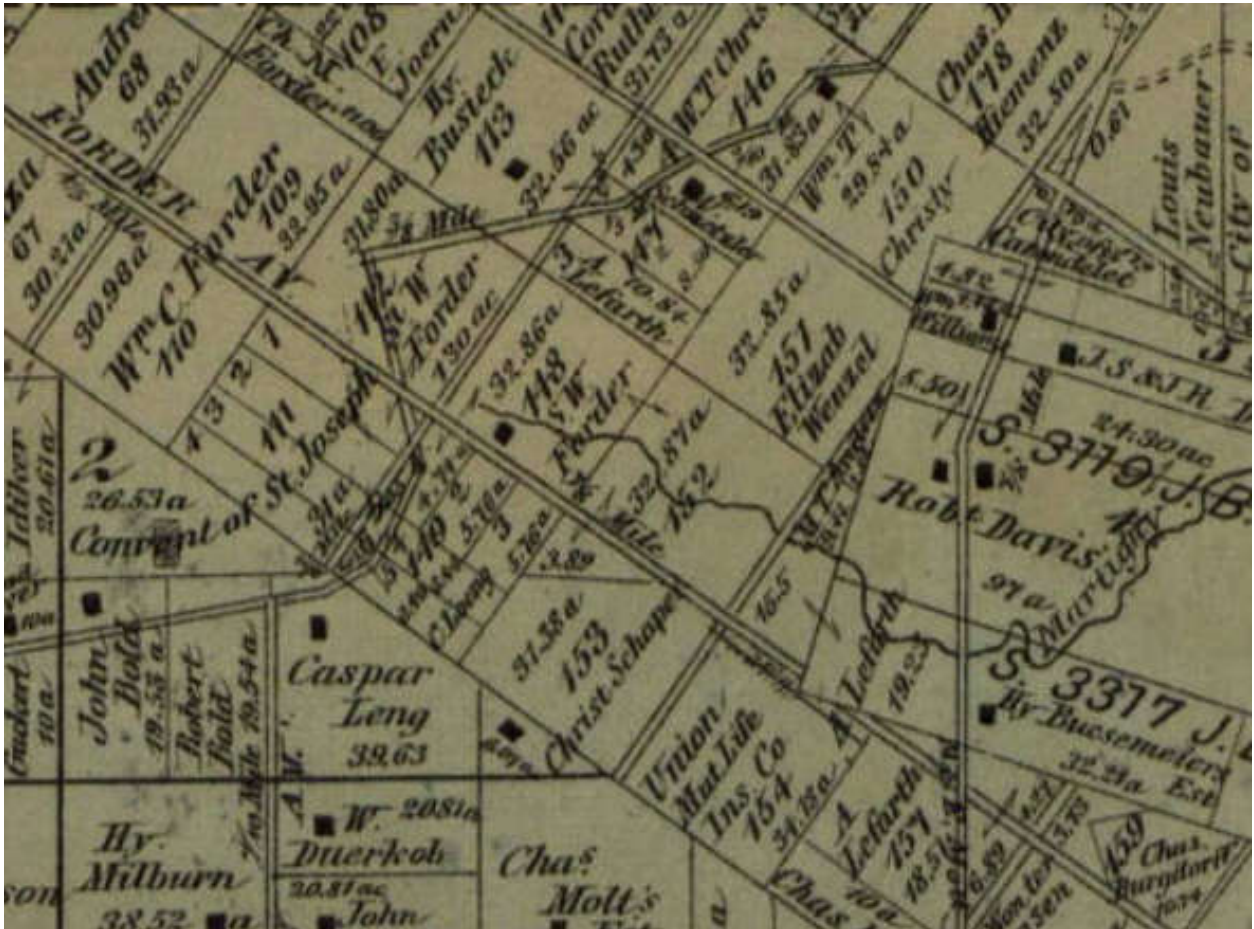


Figure 2 - Pitzman's 1878 Atlas of St. Louis County

Caspar Laeng (alternately written as Leng) immigrated from the part of Germany then known as France (Alsace) in 1845 with his wife Elizabeth (nee Franz) and their daughters Magdalena and Louisa. He purchased land off Forder Road and started farming. By 1860, two more daughters, Barbara and Mary, had joined the family.^{78 910} Through marriage, the Laeng daughters became woven into the Oakville-Mehlville region as Fuchs, Heimos, Teppe, Frenger, Brutcher, Vermillion, Bleitz, Rosier, where their descendants still reside. As found by their marriage and burial records, the extended Laeng family belonged to the Assumption (Mattese) Parish.¹¹

The land surrounding [redacted] continued to be farmed through the following decades and ownership remained in the boundary of the Laeng/SW Forder estates.



Figure 3 - 1893 Atlas of St. Louis County¹²



Figure 4 - 1909 Plat of St. Louis County¹³

According to St. Louis County records, the house at 628 Forder was built in 1933.¹⁴ Census records indicate no numbered houses along Forder Road, as is often the case in rural communities. The area was grouped under Lemay (rural route) in the city directories and since there were no house numbers registered in the 1930 or 1940 directories, we must look to more modern records and work our way back. [see the chain of ownership enclosed]

George C. Weber was probably the first owner of [redacted] looking at the sale of his house at 5525 S. Kingshighway in 1930 and his subsequent listing on Forder Ave. in the 1935 part of the 1940 Census (they ask where the person resided in 1935 and it listed 'same house' for the Webers).¹⁵

Koehler Agency Sells Bungalow.
The Erwin A. Koehler Agency reports the sale of a six-room bungalow at 5525 South Kingshighway for George C. Weber to Perry F. George.

George C. Weber, WWI veteran, musician and music instructor, married Hazel Faudi, a clerk at Morton Salt, in 1921. Their daughter Dorothy was born the next year, while George was teaching music, (22 Aug 1928 article below) residing at 5525 S. Kingshighway in 1930.¹⁶

WATERMAN SCHOOL HAS UNIQUE 'PIANO COURSE

Form playing, a short course of popular jazz piano playing for beginners or advanced pupils, is taught exclusively at the Waterman School. It is based on reading notes and consists in building up the melody of a piece, enabling one to play popular music with swing accent, and rhythm. Demonstrations of this method are given to those interested in learning the modern style of piano playing. There are three schools in St. Louis, located at 4610A Gravois, 3339 Michigan and 5937A Easton avenue, all under the management of George C. Weber. Instruction is given in piano, banjo, saxophone, violin, cornet, drums and other instruments.

Son George was born around the time of the Weber's move to the Forder Avenue house in 1933 and by 1940, father George had opened his own typewriter repair business. Hazel, his wife, daughter Dorothy, listed as a high school junior, and George Jr., a first grader, also lived at [redacted].¹⁷

George C. Weber was injured in 1947 by a dozing driver, and at the age of 55, was listed as an elderly man by the newspapers.¹⁸

Dozing Driver's Auto Injures Two

Losing control of his automobile, a dozing driver struck two persons yesterday and ended up in a dime store window.

Police quoted 20-year-old Claude Randall, 5109 Washington blvd., as saying he dozed while driving on Grand blvd. near Gravois av. Swerving across a street intersection, the auto hit a boy on a bicycle and an elderly man, knocked over a fire hydrant and an electric signal standard and smashed through the plate glass window of the S. S. Kresge Co. store, at 3556 S. Grand.

"I guess I fell asleep," commented Randall as he survey the wreckage. He told officers he had worked all night.

Struck by Randall's car, police said, were 16-year-old Clarence B. Kremer, 3741 Louisiana av., and George C. Weber, 55, of Lemay. Both sustained cuts and bruises and were released from City Hospital after treatment.

The Webers continued to live at [redacted] where George attended Mehlville school where he was listed as, "Likes baseball, quiet in school, but outside, look out!".¹⁹ Dorothy had married Everett Schultheis and they set up their own household. George married Patricia Dee Bigham on 23 August 1952: (see enclosed marriage application)



Patricia Dee Bigham, G. J. Weber Married

MISS PATRICIA DEE BIGHAM and George J. Weber were married at Kingshighway Methodist Church by the Rev. Harris R. Runion the afternoon of Aug. 23. Guests remained for a reception given at the church by the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bigham, who live on Lemay Ferry road.

Miss Anne Engelhardt of Fredericktown, Mo., was maid of honor and Miss Dorothy Chambliss was bridesmaid. They wore blue embroidered organdy dresses and carried colonial bouquets of yellow and white daisies. The bride was in a gown of white embroidered organdy over taffeta. The strap-

less bodice was covered with a long-sleeved jacket and the skirt was full and ankle-length. She wore a fingertip illusion veil secured to a juliet cap and carried a white Bible adorned with a white orchid and a shower of stephanotis.

Mr. Weber, son of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Weber of Forder road, Lemay, was attended by Alfred L. Marty, best man, and the bride's brother, Kimzey Bigham, Vernon Wiethop and David Anderson, ushers.

UNWANTED HAIR

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20

George C. Weber died at the age of 70 on 5 Mar 1963 due to complications of pneumonia.²¹


WEBER, GEORGE C., [redacted] rd., Tues., Mar. 5, 1963, beloved husband of Hazel Weber (nee Faudi), dear father of Mrs. Dorothy Schultheis and George J. Weber, dear brother of Mrs. John R. Hall, dear father-in-law, brother-in-law, grandfather, uncle, nephew and cousin.
Funeral from KRISGSHAUSER'S SOUTH, 4228 S. Kingshighway, Fri., March 8, 3 p.m. Interment Parklawn. A member of World War 1, Veterans Barracks 77. In state after 6 p.m. Wed.

Hazel Weber continued to live at [redacted] into the 1970s but moved out shortly after, as James E. Petre was listed as owner in 1976.²² She passed away in 1982. The Weber family had lived at [redacted] for close to 40 years.

WEBER, HAZEL T. (nee Faudi), Dec. 15, 1982, dear wife of the late George C. Weber, dear mother of Dorothy Schultheis and George J. Weber, dear mother-in-law of Patricia D. Weber and Everett P. Schultheis, dear grandmother, great-grandmother, sister-in-law, aunt, great-aunt and friend.

Funeral from FEY Funeral Home, 4100 Lemay Ferry Rd., South of Lindbergh, Mon., Dec. 20, 11 a.m. Interment Park Lawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers contributions may be given to St. John's United Church of Christ of Mehlville or St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Oakville. IN PARLOR AFTER 2 P.M., SUN.

MAHAR



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James E. Petre was the shop teacher at Oakville High School and lived at [redacted] during the mid-1970s.²³

The residence was put up for sale in 1977:²⁴

[redacted]

road since 1995.

- 1 St. Louis County Department of Planning. *Oakville Community Area Study Update*. 1998. www.stlouisco.com.
- 2 *St. Louis County Government*, www.stlouisco.com/Portals/8/docs/Document%20Library/parks/PDFs/HBC/landmarks/Lemay-landmark.
- 3 "Community News", *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 19 Mar 1969, newspapers.com.
- 4 "Oakville Missouri - Parks Recreation Schools History Landmarks Community Information |." *St Louis Missouri Information* aboutstlouis.com/local/communities/oakville-missouri.
- 5 Pitzman, Julius. *Map of the County of St. Louis, MO*. 1868.
- 6 "Nazareth Living Center Honors Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet - Mehlville, MO Patch." *Mehlville-Oakville, MO Patch*, patch.com/missouri/mehlville-oakville/nazareth-living-center-honors-sisters-of-st-joseph-of-1bc4f12a1b.
- 7 *U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s. Mississippi*; Year: 1845; Page Number: 20. Ancestry.com.
- 8 1850 US Federal Census. *Carondelet, St Louis, Missouri*; Roll: M432_414; Page: 305A; Image: 88. Ancestry.com.
- 9 1860 US Federal Census. *Carondelet, St Louis, Missouri*; Roll: M653_656; Page: 672; Image: 208; Family History Library Film: 803656. Ancestry.com.
- 10 1870 US Federal Census. *Carondelet, St Louis, Missouri*; Roll: M593_808; Page: 97A; Image: 264835; Family History Library Film: 55230. Ancestry.com.
- 11 "Parish History." Assumption Parish (Mattese), www.assumptionstl.org/.
- 12 Johnson, Berkley E. *An Atlas of St. Louis County in the State of Missouri*. C.R. Black, 1893. St Louis University Libraries Digital Collections. cdm.slu.edu/cdm/ref/collection/speccoll/id/1528.
- 13 "Carondelet Township", *Platbook of St. Louis County Missouri*. Northwest Publishing Company, 1909. historicmapworks.com.
- 14 "628 Forder Road." *Real Estate Information, St. Louis County Government*, revenue.stlouisco.com/ias/.
- 15 *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 20 Apr 1930, p.75. newspapers.com.
- 16 1930 US Federal Census. *St Louis, St Louis (Independent City), Missouri*; Roll: 1240; Page: 22A; Enumeration District: 0578; Image: 423.0; FHL microfilm: 2340975. Ancestry.com.
- 17 1940 US Federal Census. *Lemay, St Louis, Missouri*; Roll: T627_2151; Page: 9A; Enumeration District: 95-183, Ancestry.com.
- 18 *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 14 Oct 1947, p.19. newspapers.com.
- 19 George Weber, "Mehlville High School 1949". *U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2012, Ancestry.com*.
- 20 *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 14 Sep 1952, p.78. newspapers.com.
- 21 *George C. Weber, Certificate of Death*. 5 Mar 1963. Missouri State Archives.
- 22 *Haines Criss-Cross Directory*. Haines & Co, 1976.
- 23 Senior High School Faculty "Oakville Tiger Paw 1972". *U.S. School Yearbooks, 1880-2012, Ancestry.com*.
- 24 *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 1977. newspapers.com.
- 25 *Haines Criss-Cross Directory*. Haines & Co, 1981, 1985.
- 26 Personal communication.