

Peeking into the Past: LAFAYETTE SQUARE

By Cara Jensen

So you think all of the famous ghosts of Lafayette Square have been interviewed? In a historically exclusive neighborhood that has once again attained notoriety, these narratives are but a drop in the bucket filling the well of memory in Lafayette Square.

1738 Park Place & 1827 Kennett Place & 2008 Rutger: Homes of Theodore, William, and Thomas Pullis, partners in the Mississippi Iron Works, one of the earliest and most important architectural iron



works in St. Louis. Works by the foundry, originally known as T.R. Pullis & Bros., can be seen today as ornamental roof designs in Tower Grove Park, and the cast iron building fronts of Laclede's Landing. After William Pullis' death, his widow Jane lived with the Deloges at 5 Benton Place.



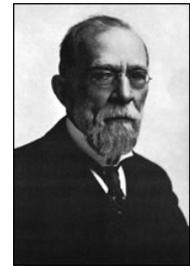
1455 Chouteau: Home of Jacob Tamm, proprietor of the St. Louis Woodenware Works. His daughter Helen, and sons John, Edward, Max, and Theodore went on to found the Tamm Bros. Glue Factory. The house was the largest on the block, and housed the family of six along with five servants and a coachman.

1616 Park Avenue: Home of Dr. Josie Johnson, graduate of the Homeopathic Medical College of Missouri, which granted its first degree to women in 1874. In 1883, Dr. Josie Johnson became one of nine faculty members of the Women's Medical College of St. Louis. (pictured here) In 1880, the widowed doctor scandalously lived at the house on Park Avenue with her 13 year old daughter Ella and boarder George Hitchcock, whom she later married.



1918 LaSalle: Home of Charles Balmer, a prolific composer and music publisher who used the nom de plume of Henry Werner. After arriving in St. Louis from Germany, he opened a music store at 1004 Olive St. with his brother-in-law C. Henry Weber, which is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He served as the organist at Christ Church in St. Louis for 46 years and was chosen to conduct the music for Abraham Lincoln's funeral in Springfield, Illinois in 1865.

1761 Missouri: Home of Professor Calvin Woodward, the first Dean of Engineering at Washington University. He was President of the St. Louis Board of Education for three terms and was a proponent of the manual training movement, the precursor to modern vocational training. He opened the Manual Training School for Boys in 1879, and was regarded as the "Father of Manual Training in the United States".



Cara Jensen is the founder of Sherlock Homes, a historical research company. She is the past president of the Shaw Neighborhood Improvement Association, serves on the Grand South Grand House Tour committee, and is active in the 8th Ward Independent Democratic Association. Contact Cara Jensen at 773-2881 or carajensen@sherlock-homes.us for information about your historic property.