

Peeking into the Past: MCKINLEY HEIGHTS

By Cara Jensen

Who has been living in your neighborhood, in your house? Are you hearing the echoes of ghostly cows? Impress friends, astound relatives, and show off at trivia night with your intimate historical knowledge of the McKinley Heights neighborhood!

44 Nicholson Place: Home of R.L. Downton, an English inventor who revolutionized the flour milling industry by inventing the wheat germ scalper in 1875. St. Louis was one of the major flour milling centers in the United States but lost its top Midwestern ranking to Minneapolis in 1890.

33 Nicholson Place: Home of John A. Scholten, a German-born daguerreian known for his early photographs of Civil War era St. Louis. Daguerreotypes are images made by the first practical method of photography. Each is one-of-a-kind, made directly in the camera on a silver plated copper sheet.

Ann/Gravois: Site of the Theodore Geders dairy – the area north of Ann between McNair and Jefferson was home to several dairy farms in the 1880s. Their milk might have been sent to the St. Louis Dairy, founded by J.C. Cabanne and located at 12th and Chestnut. St. Louis Dairy was the first dairy west of the Alleghenies to filter and pasteurize milk and the first in the country to use glass milk bottles.

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.