

PETERS FAMILY HISTORY AS RELATED TO WM. F. BAGGERMAN BY HIS
UNCLE GEORGE A. PETERS IN ABOUT 1973, WITH ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY WFB

At the time this information was given to me Uncle George was residing at Clayton House, a retirement home far out on Clayton Road. For several years I called on him weekly at the home. Uncle George was about 91 years old at the time this information was given to me.

Francis Henry Peters was born Feb. 22, 1838 in Rothefeld^{*} (spelling may be incorrect), Germany. He died August 24, 1924 at the family home, 2236 St. Louis Ave, St. Louis, Mo. He came to the United States when he was about 14 or 16 years old. His parents never came to the U. S.

Frederick Peters was the oldest brother of Francis H. Peters. He came over first from Germany. The oldest sister was Kate Peters. She married a man whose name was also Peters. They settled in Bay, Missouri in Gasconade County. Her husband died and she married Simon Boeger (last name spelling may be incorrect). He owned the general store in Bay and was also a land owner. He was also a staunch Republican. He would be the postmaster at Bay during the period when there was a Republican administration. He also owned a flour mill at Bay, Missouri. Simon Boeger was the father of Louis Boeger who in later years built a large family home in about the 85XX block of Westmoreland in University City. I met the family about this time as they were active members at the University Methodist Church where I attended Sunday School for several years.

H. W. Peters was one of the strong early leaders in the Peters Shoe Co. and later in International Shoe Co. He was the father of Oliver Peters, the last member of the Peters family to be an officer of International Shoe Co., Ella Peters Laumann and Edwin Peters. H. W. Peters was the Kate Peters (don't have first name of her husband).

The brothers and sisters of Francis H. Peters were: Frederick Peters, it was with he who he had a grocery business with on Clinton Ave., near Fourteenth St., in St. Louis, Mo. (Note: The children of Frederick Peters were: Mrs. Henry Pauley whose family was I believe
* - correct spelling is "Rothenfelde"[^].

in North St. Louis and I believe had a drug store on Grand Ave. near the old Sportsmans Park.. Miss Meta Peters who lived in Bay, Missouri. and Mrs. Ernest Schultz, of St. Louis. The Schultz's were close to my parents and we made a vacation trip to Fish Creek, Wisconsin with them and also to Florida on several occasions. The three Schultz sons, Ernest, Jr., Harold and Fred live in St. Louis County as does their sister, Mrs. Francis Bates..)

Mrs. Charlotte Waldecker, (wife of Frank Waldecker), of Bay Missouri. Their two sons were Emil, recently a deputy sheriff in Gasconade County, and Francis, who had worked for the Phillips Oil Refinery in East St. Louis. There is also a daughter Clara who is married to ~~xxx~~ Robert Schnatmeier, of St. Charles. (Political note: Bob is the brother of Omar).

Mrs. August Toennis, lived in St. Louis and was in the printing business. Seldom was in contact with this branch of the family.

Louis B. Peters, lived in St. Louis and I remember he worked at the Peters Dry Goods Store in 14th St. when I was a small boy. His children were John Peters who worked at the dry good store as a young man then went to live in Arizona due to the health of his wife and daughter. The other child ~~xx~~ was Mrs. Emil (Edna) Click. The~~re~~ sons were Louis, Walter and Robert. They were about my age and we sometimes saw them at family parties etc.

One of Grandpa Peters brothers remained in Germany, name unknown to me.

Grandpa's father was in charge of a salt mine or similar operation for the government. Believe when Grandpa first came over he settled in Bay, Mo. and worked in the grocery store at that location. When he came to St. Louis he opened a grocery store. At ~~xxxxxx~~ Clinton Avenues he ^{opened} later/the Peters Dry Goods & Clothing Co. and then moved to 14th and Warren. Grandpa and Grandma lived above the store, it opened in 1881. The doctor recommended more exercist for Grandpa and he then built a home a 2236 St. Louis Ave. and he walked back and forth to the store.

The house on St. Louis Avenue was built in 1894. H. W. Petters and Grandpa's son, Fred worked as salesman for Chaflin Allen Shoe Co. The company was in near failing condition. Suppose through this contact Grandpa learned about the company, though there was another version that that grandpa and Mr. Allen were acquainted through church and soon bought the company. Taking a partner, it became Peters and Miller Shoe company. Miller got into personal debt and lost his interest in the company. H. W., Fred and Mr. Sudholt and several others ran the company. They were jobbers and the shoes were bought in the east. Fred had a meeting at the home on 14th and Warren regarding changing to a manufacturing operation. Those in the business accepted the idea and they started to manufacture in a small way, soon moving to a building on 11th and North Market. This building was on a corner across from a small park. Later they built a factory at 12th and North Market. It was a three story building. Machinery was operated by belt or rope drive. They enlarged ^G several times and finally extended to the corner of 12th and North Market (southeast corner). From this location they moved to the northeast corner of Jefferson and St. Louis and built this factory in about 1900. They also built a factory at Glasgow and North Market.

The name of Grandpa's first ^S wife was Torwagen (or Torwegen) and the children of this marriage were William, Fred and another child who died in early life. Fred was the power and business brains of the family. Another ~~xxx~~ ^{history} story in family and probably true was that Fred while attending a meeting of officers of shoe companies in St. Louis, was sitting across the table at a dinner, from Jackson Johnson and the two men conceived the idea of merging the companies which along with Peters Shoe Company, became International Shoe Company. The two men were said to have believed that the merger would work out because the companies were conducting about the same kind of business by the same kind of men and methods..

Grandpa's second wife was Eliza Knollenberg, who was born in St. Louis near the location of an early Indian mound, probably on or near Mound Street. She was the mother of Charles, Emma (my mother), Martha, Frank and George. Two children Arthur and Clara died while in their "teen years. Both I believe died of tuberculosis. All lived in the St. Louis area throughout most of their lives.

FURTHER NOTES ON THE SHOE BUSINESS: My Uncle Fred Peters and Henry W. Peters started their working careers as salesmen for Chaflin, Allen Shoe Co. In this way Grandpa came to know about the shoe business. Grandpa had the dry goods business at the time, and was the source of his investment capital needed to go into the shoe business. Chaflin, Allen was in financial difficulty. To buy out and start the new business probably Charles Zelle, a Mr. Drees came in too to help supply capital. The business was re-named Peters & Miller Shoe Co. Miller soon dropped out, probably due to personal financial problems. Grandpa ^{vice} was ~~xxx~~-president of the new company and H. W. Peters was president. He was another powerful personality in the family and I believe added much to the success of the new company and later International Shoe Co. Grandpa was the largest stock holder. The company started as a jobber, buying their stock from eastern manufacturers.

In 1916 Grandpa and Grandma Peters celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and Grandpa's 78th birthday. At the anniversary celebration each of the children (which included my mother, Emma Louise) were given 300 shares of common and 200 shares of preferred stock in International Shoe Company.

While in the state senate campaign I called on Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rau who lived on Randolph Street (across from the park) in St. Charles. Mrs. Rau told me that Emma ~~nee~~ (nee Knollenberg) Bucher, born March 27, 1857 was her grandmother and that her grandmother and my grandmother (Eliza Knollenberg Peters) were sisters.

MY UNCLES, AUNTS AND COUSINS ON THE PETERS SIDE OF THE FAMILY:

William and Kate Peters, last home on about 86xx Westmoreland Ave.,
University City, Mo. Their children were ~~XXXXXX~~^{Mabel}/Peters Wreeden, Nellie
Peters Harms. Her husband Emil during his lifetime owned the Peter Hauptman
Tobacco Co, and Ruth/^{Peters}McCarthy. Her husband John for many years owned a
large Ford Agency near Delmar and Skinker, in St. Louis.

Frederick and Lottie (may be incorrect) Peters, last home on Westminster
Place near Skinker, St. Louis. Their children were Edgar, Raymond and
Frederick. Frederick was the colorful son after so so success in various
enterprises^s in St. Louis such as a large auto garage, in what is now the
Cook Paint Co. bldg. on Manchester near Kingshighway, went to Florida and
became know as the "Potato King". I remember meeting him in the late 30's
or early 40's on a rare visit to St. Louis from Florida. Don't know the
size of his potato farming operation, but he said for crop dusting he
operated a fleet of eight airplanes and to do the selling on the commodities
market spent about \$8000. per month in telephone charges.

Charles and Kate Peters , last home on Westminster Place near Skinker,
St. Louis. Their children were Claribel Peters Rodewald, Grace Peters
Dehelendorf and Elizabeth Peters Scheu. Uncle Charlie was widowed in
later life and remarried Ollie Brueggeman. She was always the life of the
frequent family parties. She had been active in Republican politics and
had a fairly high position in the city or state in the Harding campaign.

Emma Louis (Peters) Baggerman - My mother, married to William J. Baggerman,
believe marriage year was 1912.

Martha (Peters) Urbach - Her husband was Ferdinand Urbach. He was a theology
professor at the University of Dubuque, (Iowa). Their only child was Walter
F. Urbach. He was a university teacher all his life and completed his career
as a full professor of English at the Massachusetts (Boston). He was one of
the favorite persons of my life and my "model". He was a true intellectual
and gave me many political concepts as a small boy. Especially remember the
then "far out" "Nation" magazine at his study. He even told us about the
possibility of space travel in the 1920's. He was cheerful and had a marvelous
sense of humor and was loved by all.

Frank and Nora Peters - Their last family home was 6814 Waterman Ave., University City. Their children were Ralph (wife Phoebe) who had a position of considerable importance with Eastman Kodak in Rochester, N. Y, and the twins Francis A. (Bud) Peters and Elinor (Peters) Schaeper. Bud was about the age of my brother Fred and myself. We were always close friends as well as cousins. He and his sister and Fred and myself attended John Burroughs School usually went around together weekends and had a real "ball" at College Camp (Lake Geneva, Wisc.) where our families and many of the large "Peters Clan" spent many weeks of many summers. Bud died in his late twenties of epilipsy.

George A. and Elsa Peters - - As this is written they both live at Clayton House, a nursing home on Clayton Road near Woods Mill Road. Uncle George is now about 93 years old. Aunt Elsa had a serious stroke about four years ago and has been a complete invalid since then. Uncle George worked for Peters Shoe Co. as a young man and was known as the frail or sickly member of the entire family--he has outlived all the others any most of his nephews and nieces. As a young man and soon after his marriage he went to the dryer climate of Idaho and started a large apple orchard. This operation was near the town of Weiser. It was not successful, but has even until now given him a stock of stories about life in the earlier west.

COMPLETED TRANSCRIBING THE ABOVE
FAMILY HISTORY AND COMMENTS ON
JULY 15, 1975