

# BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE QUARTERLY



Union Pacific tandem locomotives at Boonville with historic Katy Bridge over Missouri River in Background

## Who Was Mary?: A Detective Story

### *Boonslick Historical Society Spring Meeting*

Featuring Presentations on the Historic Katy Bridge and Railroad

VOL. 16 No. 1 — SPRING 2017

BOONSLICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY PERIODICAL



## Who Was Mary? — A Detective Story . . .

Retired University professor Kenneth Westhues provides a special treat for our readers this issue with his story (page 4) about a puzzling, poignant album composed by an unidentified teenage girl in Glasgow more than 150 years ago.

An original but differing version of this story titled “Who Was Mary?” was published in June 2016 in *The Glasgow Missourian* newspaper as a four-part series.

Our consolidated version is appropriately titled “Boone’s Lick History and the Examined Life: A Mysterious Civil War Album.” With apologies to Winston Churchill, we borrow his words to describe the story as “... a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma....”

In telling the story, Westhues, who grew up in Glasgow, reveals how he solved the mystery of indentifying the owner and author of the aged album, which came into his possession through an eBay purchase by his wife, Anne. The album is composed of hand-written entries by its author, the mysterious Mary, and entries from others about her, as well as illustrations pertinent to the content and times, the latter being the Civil War and its ravages on the Missouri River community of Glasgow.

In the best sense, it is an example of the historian as a detective, although Westhues is careful to identify himself as a historian avocationally, not academically. But he brings all the skills of historical methodology learned from long years as a professor of sociology at Waterloo University in Ontario, Canada, to the challenge of identifying the mysterious Mary, who was owner and author of the album.

He concludes his intriguing story with a narrative touching on his own life and his youthful years grow-

ing up in Glasgow. He recounts how the descendants of Mary were part of that time and to some degree shaped his own life. It is a suspenseful and rewarding tale. Westhues hopes it will encourage others to seek out the mysteries surrounding their own genealogical history.

Starting on page 10, we include information about the forthcoming Boonslick Historical Society spring

meeting, April 21, in Boonville and a membership dues reminder. Boonville photographer and Katy Bridge historian and Katy Railroad historian Raymond B. George from St. Charles will be the featured speakers at the spring meeting, which will be held at the new Boonville Visitor’s Center and Museum on Spring Street near the historical Boonville train station that was used by the Katy.

We also note here two other upcoming BHS meetings this year: the summer meeting, which will be held Sunday, July 16, beginning at 3 p.m. (tentative date), at Arrow Rock State Historic Site, and the annual fall banquet, which will be held Sunday, November 5, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the historic Hotel Freder-



**The Mysterious Mary**

ick in Boonville.

At the Arrow Rock meeting, Boonslick Historical Society board member Michael Dickey, who is administrator of Arrow Rock State Historic Site, will lead the program, which may include a tour of the Village of Arrow Rock with the assistance of the Friends of Arrow Rock organization.

Of special note is this year’s guest speaker for the fall meeting — well-known Missouri broadcaster and historian Bob Priddy, who is president of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

—Don B. Cullimore

*Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly* is published four times a year by the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

We encourage our members and others interested in history to contribute articles or other information of historical interest, including family histories, pertaining to the region. Please address all contributions and correspondence related to the periodical to the editor, Don B. Cullimore, 1 Lawrence Dr., Fayette, MO 65248, or email to: Don.cullimore40@gmail.com, phone: 660-248-1732. Editorial guidelines may be obtained from the editor. Publication deadlines are February 1 for the March (Spring) issue; May 1 for the June (Summer) issue; August 1 for the September (Fall) issue; and November 1 for the (Winter) December issue.

The Boonslick Historical Society was founded in 1937 and meets several times a year to enjoy programs about historical topics pertinent to the Boonslick area. Members of the Society have worked together over the years to publish historical books and brochures and to mark historic sites. They supported the founding of Boone's Lick State Historic Site, marked the sites of Cooper's Fort and Hanna Cole's Fort and have restored a George Caleb Bingham painting on loan to The Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art at Central Methodist University, Fayette.

**Membership dues** are \$15-Individual, \$25-Family, \$50-Sponsor, \$250-Patron, \$500-Life. The dues year is January through December. Receive our publication, *Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly*, and attend annual Society events highlighting the region's history. To become a member, send a check made out to the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

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# BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE QUARTERLY

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The finding of an album from the Civil War turns a university professor into a detective as he attempts to identify its owner, a young woman from Glasgow.

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The Historic Katy Bridge and Railroad are the highlights of the BHS Program. And previews of the summer program is offered. Wayne Lammers's period photo captures a Katy train entering the bridge.

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Cover photo of tandem Union Pacific Railroad locomotives at Boonville with the historic Katy Bridge over the Missouri River. Photo by Wayne Lammers.



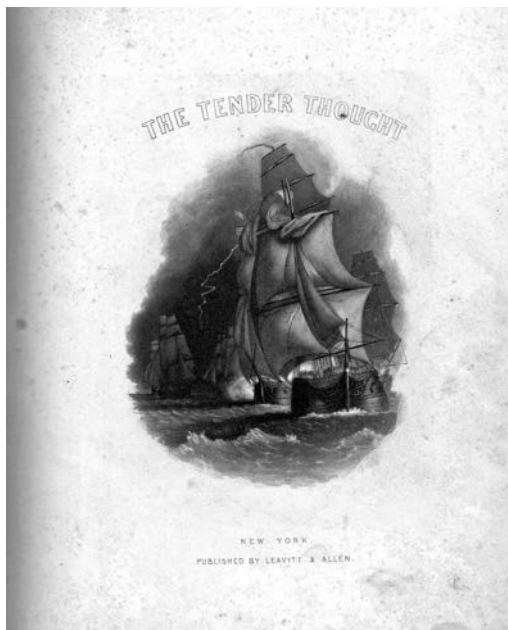
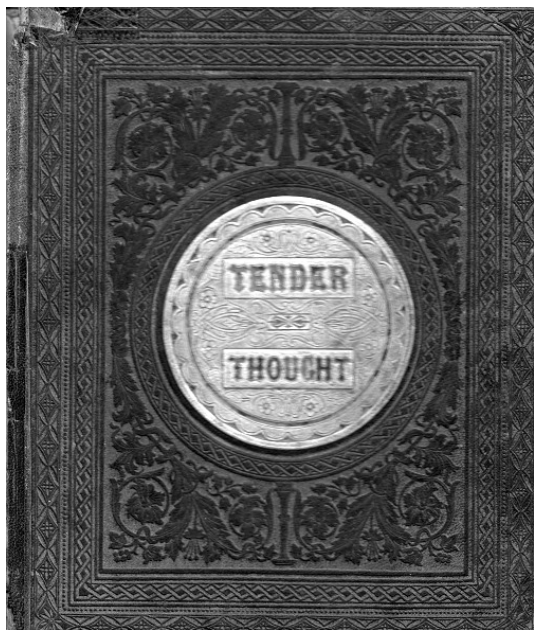
## Boone's Lick History and the Examined Life: A Mysterious Album from the Civil War

By Kenneth Westhues

This article is not addressed to professional historians so much as to everyday citizens with roots in the Boone's Lick, amateurs who are drawn to its history but have no more degrees in this field than I do. My basic message is this: you can study and write history, too. It's a fun kind of puzzle solving. Yes, you have to follow rules of evidence, but that's part of the fun. Doing history doesn't cost much. If you have an internet connection, you do not even have to leave home. Your reward at the end is deeper understanding of this corner of the world and how it relates to you.

To get this message across, I summarize below a small but exciting project of Boone's Lick history that I completed last year. I do not tell the story here in detail. I did that already in a four-part series in *The Glasgow Missourian* of June 17, 2016. Here I condense the story and recount events after its publication to make a more basic point about the pleasure and value of historical research.

"Everyman his own historian." I learned this adage from the late Gilman Ostrander, a professor decades ago at the University of Missouri. He moved in later life to the University of Waterloo in Canada, where I knew him as a colleague in the Faculty of Arts. Perceptive but humble, he had a clear-eyed, democratic outlook on history. It was not for him an academic specialty. It was the key to an examined life – what Socrates said is the only kind worth living. — *Kenneth Westhues*



**Album cover: embossed Morocco leather, and title page showing a ship at sea.** All illustrations are from the album and are courtesy of the author.

### Who Was Mary?

Knowing my interest in anything and everything about my hometown, my wife Anne has often, over the years, looked on eBay for Glasgow artifacts she could turn into gifts for me. That was how I came into possession of a curious, puzzling antiques-

A native of Glasgow, Kenneth Westhues is professor emeritus of sociology at Waterloo University in Ontario, Canada.

ian treasure: an album of autographs, news, and kind sentiments written during the Civil War. The seller said in the eBay blurb that it was from Glasgow, Missouri, and seemed to have belonged to someone named Mary.

A more intriguing gift I never received. I pondered the faded messages penned or penciled on yellowed pages, but without knowing whose album it was, they were a blur. No page says, "This book belongs to..." Of all the full names in the album, none is set apart as the owner's. There is no title page except for the publisher's generic *The Tender Thought*.

The album sat on a shelf in my study for a decade before I found time to connect clues in the album to historical information now available online, toward identifying the album's provenance.

Last spring, I managed to fit the pieces of the puzzle together. Below are the clues I followed.

### Clue No. 1

First, the blurb was right: the owner's first name was Mary.

Typical inscriptions begin, “Dear Mary,” or “To Miss Mary.”

On the other hand, an inscription from “W. H. G.” begins, “To Mollie.” I decided this was a red herring, since “Mollie” herself signs a greeting on another page that is addressed to “Miss Mary.” “Though our acquaintance is limited,” it begins, “may it prove a blessing to each of us.” Mollie and Mary were friends, I concluded, but Mary owned the book.

### Clue No. 2

The blurb was also right in saying the book came from Glasgow. Most of the forty messages include the town’s name, as in “Cecilia English, Glasgow, Missouri, July 2, 1865.” There are mentions of local skirmishes of the war. Dates range from 1863 to 1865, with a few in the next decade.

### Clue No. 3

Mary’s age is the third clue. An album like this was rarely given to a middle-aged woman, instead usually to a teenaged girl, to a Miss, not a Mrs. If Mary was between 15 and 20 years old when the album begins, this would place her year of birth between 1843 and 1848.

### Clue No. 4

Fourth, this girl was probably from a well-to-do family. The album was not a cheap paperback. Produced by the New York company of Leavitt & Allen, its 75 gilt-edged parchment pages were lavishly bound in gold-embossed Morocco leather. Interspersed among the blank pages were line drawings by T. H. Matteson and George Morland, prominent artists of the time: “The Lovers,” “Monks of St. Bernard,” “The Sportsman,” “Rural Life,” and “The Justice’s Court.” The title page shows a ship at sea.

If the album was a luxury item in New York, shipping costs probably doubled its price by the time it got to Glasgow. Railroads did not reach the town until the 1870s. Freight came by riverboat. The album was the kind of extravagance from the East that affluent parents in the Trans-Mississippi might give a daughter, to use for autographs, a diary, poetic reflections, whatever writing she intended to cherish for a lifetime.

### Clue No. 5

A fifth clue was Mary’s religion, which a lengthy message near the end of the book let me identify. It was from James Ad-

dison Quarles. “Dear Mary,” he wrote on July 27, 1863, “I inscribe upon this page of your album, which your kindness has dedicated to me, the following lines from Alexander Pope: ‘Oh, be thou blessed with all that Heaven can send....’” There followed a classic verse the English poet had penned in 1724. The entry was signed, “Your affectionate Pastor.”

It took me several tries to decipher the Rev. Quarles’s signature, which was misspelled in the eBay blurb. When I got the spelling right, Google led me to lots of information about him, since he was the author of many books, eventually Professor of Philosophy at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

His first pastorate, however, when he was just 26 years old and newly married, was at the Presbyterian church in Glasgow, Missouri.

Picture the teenaged Mary walking to Sunday services at the Rev. Quarles’s church on Second Street, or riding there with her flush family in a surrey. The building was destroyed by fire during the Battle of Glasgow in 1864. After the war, the Presbyterian congregation moved to the neo-Gothic architectural gem at the corner of Fourth and Commerce Streets, which serves now as the community museum.

Thus it is clear that the Mary who owned the album was Presbyterian, a member of the Glasgow congregation.

### Clue No. 6

Glasgow was violently divided during the period when Mary was collecting entries in her album, yet few of them are political. Most are genteel, poetic platitudes: “My joy is, dearest, to adore thee, My bliss to breathe a blessing o’er thee.” And so

on. Beautiful words, but useless for ascertaining who Mary was!

Googling some of the full names in the book, however, especially of young men, led to documents showing that Mary’s friends and relatives were on the Union side in the Civil War.

The name of Joseph B. West, for example, appears in the album more than once. Conceivably, he had a crush on Mary, or she on him. A history of the state of Nebraska, published by a Chicago company in 1882, included an entry for one “Joseph B. West,” born in Delaware in 1837. According to this entry, West enlisted in the Union army in 1861 and served three years in the Eleventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, mustering out with the rank of Second Lieutenant. He then “engaged for a few months in the cigar manufactory business, at Glasgow, Mo.”



**Victorian British artist Edward Corbould's version of “The Lovers,” reproduced in Mary’s album, is less erotic and more romantic than Giulio Romano’s famous 16th-century painting of the same title, but the underlying fact it celebrates, the mutual attraction of boy and girl, is timeless and universal. Mary seems to have had many suitors, who related to her, as she did to them, with the formality and reserve characteristic of that era, even in the midst of civil war.**



Any romance there might have been between Mary and Lt. West came to nought. According to the Nebraska history, he moved to Omaha in 1867, married a woman from England, and co-owned a cigar factory that had 50 employees.

The single most poignant entry in Mary's album is from another possible suitor, Monte Lehman, who signed himself "2nd Lieut. Co. H 9th Cav. Mo. S. Mil." The dateline read, "Glasgow, Mo., January 29th, 1865." Sterling Price's Confederate Army had been driven from the state by then, but bushwhackers continued to wage guerrilla war, and to be hunted down by Union militias like the one Lt. Lehman belonged to. Unlike most entries in the album, Lehman wrote not in pencil but with pen and ink:

*Dear Mary,*

*Permit me this evening to inscribe upon the pages of your Album a few thoughts which have suggested themselves to my mind. In the morning, if an overruling Providence is willing, I take up the line of march for Fulton, Mo. 'Tis the soldier's duty to move at the word of command, however unwilling he is to part from those he loves and adores. The reflections of one's leaving the comforts and enjoyments of home: of parting from those dear friends who have been his constant associates from infancy, are really painful and sensitive to the lover of home, friends, and relations; but, kind friend, before my departure I cannot refrain from wishing you the continuance of life's sweetest blessings, health, prosperity and happiness – may God watch over you, and He is a sentinel in whom you can put your trust; He will guide your footsteps aright, and my prayer is that His Guardian Angels may protect and guide you.*

*Your friend,*

*Monte Lehman*

Lehman survived the war, but his friendship with Mary did not lead to marriage. According to the 1883 History of Howard and Cooper Counties, available online, he traveled to Philadelphia after the war to study commerce, then returned to Glasgow to partner with his father in running one of Howard County's largest retail stores. It sold dry goods, clothing, and shoes. Lehman married Fannie Hessrich in 1875.

Knowing that the mysterious Mary was friends with soldiers on the Union side brings us a step closer to discovering who she was. Young, unmarried, affluent, Presbyterian, and loyal to the

Union: see how the clues add up?

## Clue No. 7

An important further clue is that Mary was personally touched and terrorized by the blood being shed all around her. Unlike most entries in the album, which are written in flawless penmanship, an undated entry on a separate page is mostly scribbled, as if written hastily in anguish.

"Captain Samuel W. Steinmetz," the account begins, "with fifteen of his men were bushwhacked by a party of guerrillas commanded by Col. Jackman." She says "Capt. S had one killed and two wounded, one mortally, one slightly." She identifies the soldiers involved, but most of the names are illegible. "The loss on the Rebel side was seven killed and three wounded." She says

Captain Steinmetz raced back to Fayette, where he found reinforcements from Captain Leonard, "after which the Rebels were routed, killing 5 and wounding several...."

This was one of several engagements in Howard County during the spring of 1863, well documented in official records of the war available online. Samuel Steinmetz was from Glasgow, Reeves Leonard from Fayette. Both were Union officers. Sydney Jackman was also from Howard County, but he had sided with the South and now commanded a Confederate regiment. The Union controlled mid-Missouri that spring, but Jackman conducted repeated raids, going so far as to kidnap General Thomas J. Bartholow,



**What a contrast between the idyllic "rural life" depicted in this illustration in Mary's album, and the bloody reality of rural life she was living in! Painted by G. Morland and engraved by J. Bannister.**

a Glasgow businessman.

Steinmetz and Jackman would meet again, though Mary could not have known that when she set down the account of the skirmish in 1863. A year and a half later, on October 15, 1864, in the Battle of Glasgow, Steinmetz was among the Union troops defending the town, fighting under the handmade United States flag that is today enshrined in Lewis Library. Jackman commanded a cavalry brigade that helped bring victory to the Confederate side.

Samuel Steinmetz was killed in the battle, as was his younger brother Aaron. They are buried together in Washington Cemetery.

The album contains no reference to the Battle of Glasgow. Perhaps the horror was beyond what Mary could set down in words.

There is a brief entry, not quite three months after that battle, when bushwhackers continued to terrorize residents loyal to the Lincoln government, and Union militias did the same to Southern sympathizers. Mary's brief sentence, around which a box is drawn in pencil, has the heavy, acrid odor of despair: "4th day of Jan.

1865, where will we all be this time next year, 1866?"

Clearly, the war was close to Mary, enough to make her fear for the future and her own life.

### The linchpin piece of the puzzle

In retrospect, I wonder why it took me so long to identify the young, unmarried Glasgow girl who gathered autographs, notes and verses in her album during the Civil War. Her full name appears on the first handwritten page.

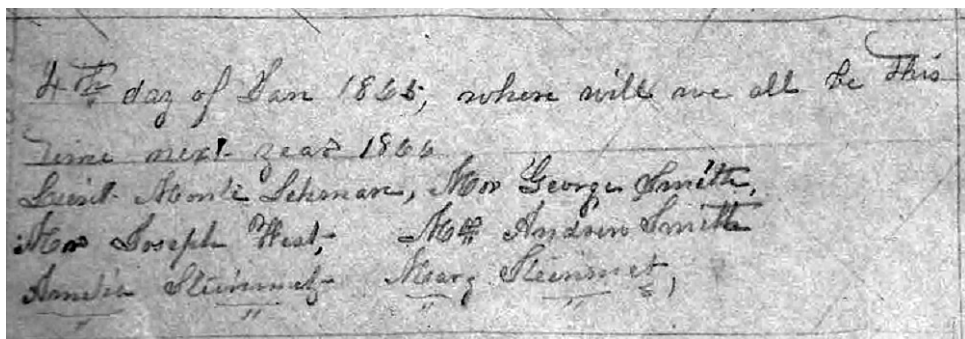
What threw me off is that Mary did not set her own name apart from the others, just recorded it as any other of the seventeen names on the page, as if the writer were somebody else. All the names are in pencil, in small, dainty script. One or two look like autographs. The rest are in the same handwriting, presumably Mary's.

The names are not in a list, instead sprinkled across the page at

recorded on her album's first page, besides her own, were those of her parents and siblings. Her father was Mr. Samuel (1809-1895), her mother Mrs. Lezzetta (1825-1903). Miss Amelia and Master Samuel were her older sister and brother. Her younger brothers were Master Aaron, Master Edward, Master George, and Master John.

Mary had one younger sister when this first page of the album was written. Her name was Catherine, born in 1859. This name does not appear, unless she was called "Miss Mattie." Neither, of course, do the names of three siblings born after the war, Donella, William and Manning.

As to why Joseph West's name was on that first page, perhaps it was Mary's hope at the time that he would become part of the family. On the other hand, in the 1865 addendum, three additional young men are listed. George Smith and Monte Lehman were in the same Company H of the 9th Missouri State Militia. Mary may have had many admirers.



The despairing sentence of January 4, 1865: "where will we all be this time next year, 1866?" Mary Steinmetz is the last of the six names.

different angles. You turn the book sideways to read most of them. Most are framed with boxes. Studying that page initially, I could not make heads or tails of it.

Here are the first eleven names: Miss Amelia Steinmetz of Glasgow, Mo.; Mr. Samuel Steinmetz; Master Samuel Steinmetz of City of Glasgow; Miss Mary Steinmetz; Master Edward Steinmetz; Master George Steinmetz; Master Aaron Steinmetz of Glasgow, Mo.; Master John Steinmetz of Glasgow, Mo.; Mrs. Lezzetta Steinmetz of Glasgow; Miss Mattie Steinmetz, Sept. 22nd, 1864; J. B. West, Glasgow, Mo., January 4, 1865.

The remaining six names are in a separate box at the bottom, beneath the only text on the page, that single despairing sentence: "4th day of Jan. 1865, where will all be this time next year, 1866?" These names are: Lieut. Monte Lehman, Mr. George Smith, Mr. Joseph West, Mr. Andrew Smith, Amelia Steinmetz, Mary Steinmetz.

The last of these, I finally understood, was the Mary who owned the album, the one to whom messages are addressed in later pages. Born in 1845, Mary Steinmetz was an unmarried 18-year-old in 1863, when the entries in the album begin.

What made the picture clear was the pages on Mary Steinmetz and her kin on *Find A Grave*, a website incredibly helpful for all kinds of historical research. There I learned that the names Mary

### How the pieces of the puzzle fit

Knowing Mary Steinmetz's full name brings all the other clues and information into a coherent whole.

Her family indeed had money enough that a teenaged daughter could appropriately own an expensive album. A posthumous biography of her father Samuel was published in a 1919 History of Cooper County, available online like all my other sources. It says he was an immigrant from Germany, had gotten rich trading and raising livestock, and was a major breeder of shorthorn cattle. When

the Chicago & Alton was extended to Glasgow in 1878, Steinmetz gave the railroad some land from his large farm five miles east of town, on condition that two trains should stop there daily, one going east, the other west. A small village named Steinmetz grew up around the depot, with post office, school, store, and several homes. Samuel's hobby was horticulture. New varieties of green and black dahlias from his greenhouse won national acclaim.

Mary's ethnicity is consistent with her ties to Union soldiers. Overwhelmingly, Missouri's German population supported the Union during the Civil War.

At first I doubted that the Mary who owned this album was Captain Samuel Steinmetz's sister, because she refers to him formally, by his military title and rank. I see now that for the young woman, it was a way of acknowledging with respect the important role her older brother was playing in the life-and-death drama of the war.

Knowing who Mary was makes her horror and despair over the bloodshed understandable. The fighting could not have hit closer to home. It was her own flesh and blood, Master Samuel and Master Aaron, her older and younger brothers, who died in the Battle of Glasgow.

As for what became of Mary Steinmetz after the war, an undated autograph near the end of her album tells the tale. It reads



simply, “W. A. Meyer.” Seven years older than Mary, he was, like her, offspring of a German immigrant. Like her brothers Samuel and Aaron, also like Monte Lehman and Andrew Smith, William Meyer was a veteran of Company H, 9th Missouri State Militia.

On February 22, 1866, Mary Caroline Steinmetz and William A. Meyer were wed. Their marriage answered the question Mary had written in her album one year before, “Where will we all be this time next year, 1866?”

### Rewards for solving the puzzle

If all I got from this project was the fun of solving the mystery behind a special gift, that would have been reward enough. The past of our species provides an infinite number of questions awaiting answer, puzzles begging to be solved. There is intrinsic satisfaction in tackling any one of them, from a hundred years ago or a thousand, on this continent or any other, and working through

Heying went further, facilitating my gift of the album to the community museum, where others can ponder and learn from it.

For me, however, this project’s greatest reward has been some further illumination of my own life. Not that it was about my own ancestors. I have no ties of kinship to the Steinmetz family. My father’s family arrived in Glasgow only in 1892, my mother’s in 1918, long after the Civil War. Family history is a powerful way of examining one’s own life, but this little project was about some other people’s family, not mine.

Even so, as I learned more about Mary Steinmetz, her husband, their children and descendants, I realized that through them she touched me, shaped my own life. Here are three ways.

In my mother’s 1992 autobiography, *Prairie Fire*, she recounts that one of her father’s favorite haunts after the move to Glasgow in 1918, was the grocery store on Main Street run by an old man she calls Uncle Billy Meyer. She says her father felt welcome there, learned news of the town and made new friends.

This, I now know, was Mary’s husband’s store. He started it after the Civil War, and ran it until his death in 1931 (Mary died four years later). The two-story Italianate building, built in 1879, still stands at 605 First Street. It originally faced the river, since William Meyer was an agent for steamboat companies. You can still make out the oversize letters painted on the brick facade: “W. A. MEYER, GROCERIES.”

Second connection. When I was growing up on my parents’ farm northeast of Glasgow in the 1950s, my parents had a lot of respect for a businessman in town named George Meyer. He was vice-president of the Glasgow Savings Bank and had an insurance agency. He always wore a suit and tie, from which I judged him to be of a higher class.

Dad once lost two cows to a lightning strike and telephoned Mr. Meyer to make an insurance claim. The latter answered that the company would require that he see the dead cows himself. Dad said sure, but that this would mean a long walk through mud to a back pasture. I remember being shocked to see Mr. Meyer arrive at the farm wearing khaki pants and work boots. I never guessed he owned clothing like farmers wore.

Mr. Meyer, it turns out, was Mary Steinmetz’s grandson. She had four sons, two of them named for her slain brothers, Samuel and Aaron, one named for her husband William, and one for her brother George, the father of the George I remember. Until my album project, I had no idea of Mr. Meyer’s heritage in the cauldron of the Civil War.

Last connection. Another townsman my parents held in high regard was a physician named W. B. Kitchen, who practiced in Glasgow from 1911 until his death in 1947. Dr. Kitchen was a skilled “baby doctor.” He came to my parents’ farmhouse and delivered all six of their children, the first in 1923, the last (me) in 1944, three years before he died.

It turns out that Dr. Kitchen was Mary Steinmetz’s son-in-law, the husband of her younger daughter, Margaret. And it was Dr. Kitchen’s granddaughter-in-law, family historian Connie Young Kitchen, who posted the information on Mary Steinmetz at *Find A Grave* that clinched my identification of the mysterious album’s owner.

I got in touch with Ms. Kitchen after *The Glasgow Missourian* published my account of this project, offering thanks for her



**Meyer Grocery Store on First Street in Glasgow still stands. It was started after the Civil War, in 1879, by Mary’s husband, who ran it until his death in 1931. Photo courtesy Jim Denny**

evidence to produce new knowledge.

The satisfaction is all the greater if, as in the present case, the new knowledge finds its way into print – or the virtual equivalent. I was delighted that Michael Heying, editor of *The Glasgow Missourian*, found my puzzle and its solution worth publishing.



genealogical scholarship. Our exchange gave me the opportunity to set down in writing a deeper gratitude. Since Dr. W. B. Kitchen died so soon after my birth, I was never able to thank him personally for having assisted my entry into this world. Now at long last I could put those thanks in writing and convey them to Dr. Kitchen's grandson, Connie Young Kitchen's husband. I counted this a bonus of this project.

### The examined life

If the paragraphs above have done nothing else, I trust they have let you in on the fun I had following clues, doing Google searches for name after name, little by little piecing together the story behind a tattered album given to me for my birthday ten years ago. This project was hardly of earth-shaking import, but it was about a real girl coming of age in the midst of America's worst war. With luck, you have caught some of the excitement and satisfaction I found in discovering who she was.

With luck, this article has served a further purpose. I hope that reading it has awakened in your mind some as yet unanswered questions you yourself have pondered about Boone's Lick history, or the history of some other place you are rooted in. Whatever those questions might be, I hope you have found in my research about Mary Steinmetz encouragement to start looking for answers in available evidence, especially in documents now accessible on the internet, connecting facts, solving puzzles, and writing down what you find out.

Your reward will be the same as mine: fun, of course, the satisfaction of producing new knowledge, but in addition, what matters most, deeper understanding of how you came to be who you are. Carried through to its best conclusion, the study of history amounts to examination of one's own life.

### Gentleness and respect

This article ends on a cautionary note. Some of the feedback on my publication of the album story in *The Glasgow Missourian*, while appreciative and generous, showed a hint of – I don't know the right word, *resentment* is too strong, *discomfort* or *hurt* may be better. The ambivalence came from Mary Steinmetz's descendants, as if to ask who this outsider thinks he is, to be writing about our ancestor, the woman to whom *our* very lives are traced?

Several readers asked me who placed the album for sale on eBay – as if wanting to know which relative to be annoyed with,

for having let the album out of the family. (My honest answer was that I don't know. The seller was an antique dealer whose name I have lost. My hunch is that the album belonged to one of Mary Steinmetz's descendants when he or she died, and that whoever handled the estate did not recognize it as a family heirloom.)

Fact is, everybody tends to be possessive of his or her ancestors. Kinship ties are fraught with feeling. It is normal to wince a little when actions or possessions of an ancestor are treated with cool detachment.

I can be possessive myself. My wife's paternal grandparents were part of an old, tight-knit German Lutheran community in rural Ontario. After their deaths some decades ago, an auction was held of their belongings. Anne and I attended. We decided to buy a box of Grandpa and Grandma's treasured books. We hated the thought of them ending up in a used bookstore in Toronto.

A man on the other side of the crowd kept upping my bids. He looked to me like a book dealer from the city, just the kind of outsider we did not want to have those books. He seemed angry when I outbid him in the end. I introduced myself to him afterwards, and then we both laughed. He was from Anne's grandparents' church. He thought I was a book dealer. His purpose was the same as mine: to keep the books where they belonged, with people who knew the deceased personally and cared about them.

There is something harsh about an historian's work, the subjection of human lives to reasoned empirical study and analysis. But reality itself is harsh, as cold and pitiless as dates of death on tombstones. The fun of history is also its price: facing up to what really happened, when, where, why, and how.

History can and should be written gently, with the same kindness, compassion, respect, and above all accuracy, as one would wish to be written about by

others. This golden rule is one final lesson I hope readers will take from my project on Mary Steinmetz's album. I tried hard to do a careful, respectful job. Even so, I sympathize with any of her descendants who feel some ambivalence.[]



**Mary Steinmetz Meyer (1845-1935) as an older woman.**  
Image courtesy Kenneth Westhues.

## BHS Spring Meeting to Highlight Katy Railroad and Bridge April 21 in Boonville Visitors Centers and Museum

The Boonslick Historical Society spring meeting will be held April 21 at the new Boonville Visitors Center and River, Rails and Trails Museum, 100 E. Spring Street, beginning at 7 p.m. The meeting is being held jointly with the South Howard County and Cooper County Historical Societies.

Highlights of the program will be presentations on the historic Katy Railroad Bridge at Boonville, which ultimately will be restored to operation as part of the Katy Hiking and Bicycling Trail. It evolved from the historic M-K-T "Katy" Railroad that operated in Missouri, Kansas, Texas, and Oklahoma for 123 years before it merged with the Missouri Pacific Railroad in 1988 and later became part of Union Pacific Railroad.

Presenting the program will be well-known Boonville resident, videographer, photographer, and Katy Bridge historian Wayne Lammers and Katy Railroad historian Raymond B. George Jr. of St. Charles.

The program will include a brief history of the M-K-T Railroad and the Katy Bridge built at Boonville in 1932 and last used in 1986. Lammers will present a video production of the bridge showing different phases of its use along with video of one of the last Katy trains to cross this bridge with interviews of the bridge operator, C.D. Gregory and others.

Before their presentations, Lammers and George will lead a tour of the nearby south entrance of the Katy Bridge, the new walkway out to the lift span of the bridge, which was recently

reconnected to the main bridge. The historic Katy Railroad Depot, one block north of the Boonville Visitors Center, is situated between the Visitors Center and the Katy Bridge entrance by the Casino parking lot.

Lammers has been long active in historical pursuits, including efforts to save the Katy Bridge (the Katy Bridge Coalition) and is a past president of the Boonslick Historical Society. He also participated in the citizen effort in getting MoDOT to put a walkway on the new Missouri River highway bridge in the mid-1990s and also was responsible for having it officially named the Boonslick Bridge as opposed to the Boonville Bridge.

George is the author of countless articles about the history and operations of the M-K-T Railroad for *The Katy Flyer* magazine and other publications. In 1986 he co-authored *Katy Power: Locomotives and Trains of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, 1912-1985*, with Joe G. Collias, and in 1993 he authored *The Missouri-Kansas-Texas Lines in Color*.

For more information about the meeting, contact Cindy Bowen at 660-273-2374. Visitors to the meeting should bring folding chairs with them. Refreshments will be served. The general public is invited.

More information about the Boonville Visitors Center and River, Rails and Trails Museum is on the museum website: <http://goboonville.com/2016/new-visitors-center-and-river-rails-trails-museum>.



Wayne Lammers



Raymond B. George





## Arrow Rock State Historic Site: 'Rock of Arrows'

### *Location of BHS Summer Meeting in July*

From the earliest days, the Arrow Rock bluffs were a well-known landmark on the Missouri River. Visible for many miles, they first appeared on a French map in 1732, noted as "pierre à fleche" — the "rock of arrows." The origin of this name was first explained in 1819; "Arrow Rock is so-called from its having been formerly resorted to by neighboring Indians, for the stone used to point their arrows."

During the War of 1812, hostile Indians, allied with Great Britain, forced a withdrawal to the east, and the Fort Osage trading post, which had been located just east of present-day Kansas City, was moved to the Arrow Rock bluff, and the Osage Tribe was settled temporarily nearby.

As the "Boone's Lick Country" began to be more settled and more people moved into what is now Saline County, a ferry was established by 1815. The ferry linked the Arrow Rock community with the boom town of Franklin and Howard County on the north bank of the river.

In the 1820s, the earliest travelers on what would become the Santa Fe Trail crossed the river on the Arrow Rock ferry. Local tradition holds some of the Santa Fe caravans filled their water barrels at the Big Spring before heading west. The spring still flows today at the base of the hill behind the J. Huston Tavern.

In 1829, a town was formally platted on this site under the name of New Philadelphia, but this grandiose designation did not last long, and in 1833, it was changed to Arrow Rock to coincide with the landmark bluff.

Three governors of Missouri were closely associated with the Arrow Rock community: Claiborne Fox Jackson (1860-1862), Meredith Miles Marmaduke (1844), and his son John Sappington Marmaduke (1884-1887). Jackson and J. S. Marmaduke also were both important Civil War figures. Dr. John Sappington, a pioneer in the use of quinine to combat malaria, and George Caleb Bingham, Missouri's preeminent artist of the 1800s, also called Arrow Rock home.

Arrow Rock was designated a National Historic Landmark

in 1964. A portion of the town is also preserved as Arrow Rock State Historic Site. The creation of the state historic site resulted from the National Old Trails Road Association's, and later, the Daughters of the American Revolution's efforts to preserve the "Old Tavern." In it, in 1912, a room was set aside for exhibits "as a means of teaching Missouri history to the passerby." Now, Missouri State Parks operates the historic site, which features several historic buildings and a modern visitor center. The visitor center contains artifacts and exhibits that portray the history of the town and the Boone's Lick Country.

A landmark of hospitality for over a century, the J. Huston

Tavern was begun by Joseph Huston in 1834. As the owners changed, the tavern went through a progression of names such as the Neill House, Arrow Rock Hotel, Scripture House, City Hotel and finally the Old Tavern.

The home of 19th-century artist George Caleb Bingham is managed by the state historic site and received its own designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1966. Other buildings operated by the historic site include the old courthouse, the Academy Boarding

House, the Dr. Mathew Hall House and a stone jail known as "the calaboose."

The Friends of Arrow Rock, founded in 1959, own a number of historic structures in town and cooperate with Missouri State Parks to present guided tram tours of the village. Several special events held throughout the year showcase the history of the town.

### **Dues Need to be Paid**

Boonslick Historical Society members who have not paid their 2017 membership fees need to send payment to Treasurer Sam Jewett, Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233, by May 1 to avoid being dropped from the membership rolls and the magazine mailing list. Membership dues are \$15 for individuals, \$25 for families, \$50 for Sponsor, \$250 for Patron and \$500 for Life.

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**Historic Arrow Rock home of artist George Caleb Bingham.** Photo by Don Cullimore.

## **Boonslick Historical Society**

P. O. Box 426

Boonville, MO 65233

### **Two New Members Join BHS Board**

Two new members have been appointed to the Boonslick Historical Society Board of Directors. They are Carolyn Collings of Columbia and Becki Propst of Fayette.

Collings, a professional historian, recently retired after a 26-year career as an archivist with the Local Records Preservation Program, Missouri State Archives. Propst is semi-retired after a long career in banking.

Collings holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Columbia College and master's degrees in education and library science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Propst attended Peru State College in Nebraska, where she majored in speech and drama and was active in theater and the student newspaper.

"I would like to extend a welcome to Becki Propst and



**Carolyn Collings**



**Becki Propst**

Carolyn Collings, our two new board members," notes BHS President Cindy Bowen.

"Becki's background in business and banking will bring helpful experience to the board and the organization. Carolyn, as a retired archivist from the Missouri State Archives, will bring her skills and knowledge to the board and the

organization. And, of course, they are both very much interested in history.

"I would also like to thank Tom Yancey and Connie Shay for their time, effort and contribution for the many years they served on the board," Bowen adds. "They will be greatly missed."

Both Yancey and Shay stepped down from the BHS board at the end of 2016 after many years of service as officers and members of the organization.