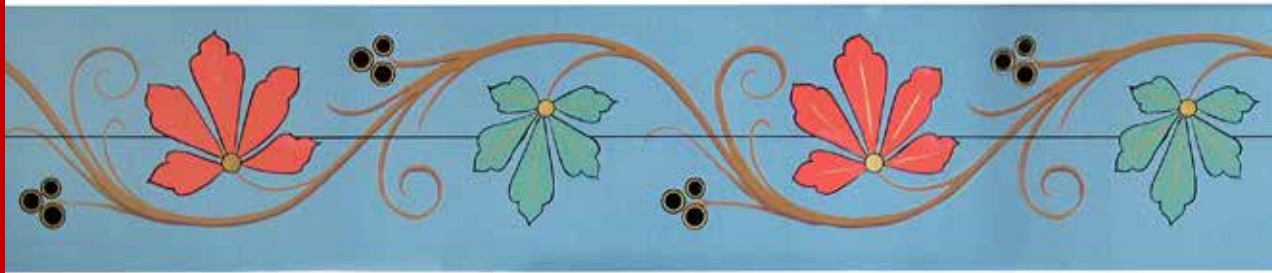




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CAMPBELL HOUSE *Courier*



City Living Since 1851

Summer 2022 Newsletter

Museum Hours

March to December
Wednesday to Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday
12 to 4 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday
By Appointment

January & February
By Appointment



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The Grants and the Campbells

By Tom Gronski

I shall endeavor in the future to make my visits frequent, although I much doubt whether I shall ever make my permanent residence here. I have never lived long enough in one place to form a very close attachment to it, except here and in Washington.

[U. S. Grant referring to St. Louis, April 21, 1873]

2022 marks the Bicentennial of the birth of Ulysses S. Grant, born April 27, 1822 at Point Pleasant, Ohio. Few cities played a more important part in Grant's life than St. Louis, and, within St. Louis, only three residences remain extant where Grant was known to have spent time: White Haven at the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, "Hardscrabble" relocated to Grant's Farm, and Robert Campbell's house at 1508 Locust Street.

The first meeting between Robert Campbell and Ulysses S. Grant is unknown. Their names may have been known to each other in business circles prior to the Civil War. It is more likely that Robert was familiar with Frederick Dent, Grant's future father-in-law. U. S. Grant had originally arrived in St. Louis in 1843, assigned to Jefferson Barracks south of the city. While there, he met his roommate's sister, Julia Dent, who Grant married on August 22, 1848 at her father's house at 4th and Cerre streets. Afterwards, the couple lived for some time at White Haven, the Dent farm on the Gravois Road.

In July 1854, Grant resigned his Army commission and for the next four years, he made his living farming—hauling potatoes, wheat, and cord wood to St. Louis to sell. However, he was not very successful, and eventually moved into the city, at the southeast corner 7th and Lynch streets, and then to a cottage at 1008 Barton Street. Jobs were scarce, and in 1859 he formed a real estate partnership with Harry Boggs. Their office was on the north side of Pine Street, just east of Third. This partnership only lasted one year;



Porcelain bust of U.S. Grant purchased by the Campbells and on display in the parlor

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CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM

The Campbell House Museum enlivens the history of St. Louis and Westward Expansion through the story of the Campbell family and their home.

Since opening, the Campbell House Museum has served the greater St. Louis area as one of the region's premier historic property museums. The Museum not only preserves the Campbells' house, but also their collection of original furniture, fixtures, paintings, objects and thousands of pages of family documents. After a meticulous five-year restoration the building reflects its opulent 1880s appearance, when the house was one of the centers of St. Louis society.

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Crest of the Campbells of Aughalane

Director's Report

By Andy Hahn

This year is the bicentennial of the birth of **Ulysses S. Grant**. To mark the anniversary, Campbell House is hosting a number of special events.

Punch & Pictures: An Evening with Ulysses S. Grant will be held on Friday, July 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Campbell House. Attendees will enjoy light refreshments (including Virginia Campbell's signature Roman Punch) and have the chance to have a photo taken with U.S. Grant (as portrayed by Stan Prater and seen in the photo below).

The photos will be taken against a vintage 19th century photographer's backdrop. Civil War-themed tours of the Museum will be offered.

This reception is part of the *9th Annual U.S. Grant Symposium*, a day of events commemorating the life and times of Grant at the Soldiers Memorial (or you can attend virtually) on Saturday, July 23.

The symposium is organized by the Missouri Humanities Council. More info is available at MoHumanities.org/grant-symposium.



On Sunday, September 25 at 5:30 p.m. Campbell House is hosting a fundraiser in conjunction with White Haven (Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site) and the Jefferson National Parks Association. *The Farm Table to the Gilded Table* is a moveable feast that will feature food, drink and entertainment popular from the 1850s through the 1870s (see save the date notice on page 5).

Reservations are required for all these events and more details can be found on our website — CampbellHouseMuseum.org/events/



New jewelry designs from Fleur de Lisa.

Finally, this spring the Museum Store began carrying a line of locally made jewelry from Fleur de Lisa. Stop by and check out these new designs and remember that members always receive a 10 percent discount.

Museum Mourns Two Fine Gentlemen

In March the Campbell House lost two of its most dedicated volunteers. Both were staunch supporters of the Museum and, equally important, fine gentlemen in their careers and lives.

Scott Johnson died on March 30 and had most recently served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

In the spring of 2004, Scott Johnson retired from his career as a high school history teacher (Kirkwood High School and John Burroughs School) when he decided to use some of his new free time to tour Campbell House.

Scott and his wife Lynne were impressed with their visit and generously signed up as members of the 1851 Society. After 7 years of regularly attending Museum events Scott joined the board, and in 2014 he became the President of the Board.

Under Scott's leadership, the Campbell House reached a level of stability and growth unparalleled in its 79 year history—since 2013 the Museum's attendance has grown by 30%. In the midst of all this growth, the Museum raised \$2 million to complete the expansion which now puts it on the path for even greater things in the future.

In gratitude for his service, in 2021 the Museum's Board of Directors honored Scott by reviving the title Chairman of the Board.



Scott Johnson

Joe O'Connell died on March 3. For 30 years Joe "was" Robert Campbell. In the 1970s, Joe's wife Kay began volunteering at Campbell House as a docent and fashion show model. About a decade later Kay started doing first-person interpretation of Virginia Campbell and she quickly recruited Joe to portray Robert.

In parades, for special tours and at Museum events (especially Christmas) Joe and Kay became Robert and Virginia Campbell. They thoroughly researched and accurately portrayed their roles as the Campbells to give museum visitors a more colorful and interesting look at not only the story of Campbell House, but life in 19th century St. Louis.



Joe and Kay O'Connell pose as Robert and Virginia Campbell

Joe served his country in World War II as Army Signal Core Intercept Operator in Oahu, Hawaii, for four years from 1942-1946. For 40 years he pursued a successful career in pharmaceutical sales.

In addition to portraying Robert Campbell, Joe was a loyal volunteer in the Museum shop, chatting with customers and always trying to raise that extra dollar for Campbell House.

New Special Exhibit

At the Back of the House: Servants and Slavery at Campbell House

A new exhibit *At the Back of the House: Servants and Slavery at Campbell House* is on display through March 2023.

While the story of the Campbell family has been told since the Museum opened, the stories of servants and one enslaved woman have only recently been explored.

When they moved into the house in 1854, the Campbells brought an enslaved woman named **Eliza Rone** with them. Eliza was emancipated in January 1857. With **Lucy Kyle** (Virginia's widowed mother) also living in the home, it is likely her Quaker beliefs and her strong opposition to institutionalized slavery influenced Robert's decision to emancipate Eliza. Among the objects on display in the exhibit is a copy of the 1861 freedom bond in which Robert

promised to pay \$500 to guarantee Eliza's "good conduct." \$500 in 1861 would be about \$16,427 today.

Eliza continued to keep in close contact with the Campbells throughout her life, so much so that Eliza received a bequest when Virginia Campbell passed away in 1882. Eliza even named her daughter Virginia Jane and kept close contact with Hugh Campbell after his parents' deaths. She herself passed away at 90 in 1923. Other objects on display which tell the story of Eliza include a letter she wrote to Hugh in 1918.



Illustration by Barbara Decker

Eliza Rone

The story of the servants at the Campbell House is divided into two eras. The first is servants at Campbell House during the 19th century and the second is servants during the 20th century. The Campbell's life of luxury would have been

Continued on page 7

Virginia Kyle Goes to Boarding School: Part 2

By Tom Gronski

As we continued our research into Virginia Kyle's attendance at Julia Hawkes' Female Seminary in Philadelphia (Fall 2021 newsletter), we made an extraordinary discovery – the Hawkes' school was not the first school that Virginia Kyle attended!

In November 1833, two years before Virginia was in Philadelphia, her cousin, Missouri Clark, was attending the Samuel Hilles school at Wilmington, Delaware. In a letter to her uncle, Tucker W. Clark, Missouri states: *"Uncle Hazlett Kyle [Virginia's father] died last July... Aunt Lucy [Virginia's mother] talks of sending the children to boarding school; cousin Eleanor here and cousin Virginia to Northampton, Massachusetts."*

A second letter from Missouri dated June 18, 1834 provides greater detail: *"Tomorrow I am going to Philadelphia to spend a few days with Aunt Lucy Kyle. She returned from Northampton about a week ago, where she has left cousin E. and V. at school."*

We are not told the name of this school, but several reasons lead us to speculate that the Kyle sisters attended Margarette Dwight's seminary for young ladies. Margarette Dwight (born April 14, 1804) was the 5th child (of 15) of Josiah Dwight, Jr. and Rhoda Edwards Dwight. Margarette's mother, Rhoda, was the granddaughter of Jonathan Edwards – a Congregationalist theologian, considered one of America's most important philosophers and the president of Princeton University. According to Dwight family history, Margarette *"was all her life a teacher, from the age of 16 to her death. She began her work with teaching her younger sisters... and her work gradually extended from her skill in it and her enthusiasm until it embraced a host of pupils."*

The Dwight school was one of the most prestigious girls' schools in Massachusetts. Though no records exist prior to 1835, Margarette Dwight was known to have instructed girls in her mother's home on King Street for at least five years before a group of supporters built the "Gothic Seminary," opened in November 1835, with Margarette as principal.

Pupils of all ages were admitted, divided into three departments: Senior (over age 13), Secondary (age 7 to 13), and Primary (age 6 or 7). In June 1834, Eleanor Kyle was 13 & Virginia was 12. The school term at the Gothic Seminary was 22 weeks and catalogues list the Summer Term beginning the third Thursday of May. It is reasonable to assume that school calendars before and after the

opening of the Gothic Seminary were the same, so presumably the Kyle sisters started their school May 15, 1834, ending the first term October 16.

The more important reason linking the Kyle sisters to Margarette Dwight's Seminary was that the school was clearly in the tradition of the 19th Century Female Seminary Movement and, more specifically, the girls' schools located throughout the Connecticut River Valley, which included Catharine Beecher's School in Hartford, CT and Julia Hawkes' Female Seminary in Springfield, MA.

Margarette Dwight wrote about her school: *"My school is established with a view to solid education, based on Gospel principles... It is my aim first to win the confidence and affections of my pupils; then to inspire them with a spirit of self-improvement; to lead them on from step to step in the work of self-cultivation, so that they shall themselves aim at the greatest perfection that human beings may hope to attain in character and habits..."*



The Dwight house on King Street in Northampton, Massachusetts. This building was the first location of Margarette Dwight's school and where Virginia and Eleanor Kyle would have studied and boarded.



Margarette Dwight's Gothic Seminary, Northampton, MA. Photos courtesy of Forbes Library, Northampton, MA

We assume the Kyle sisters also attended the 1834 Winter Term, which began the third Thursday of November, ending April 23, 1835. Margarette Dwight's view was *"I do not receive any pupils for less than a term; and I would prefer not receiving any into my family for less than a year..."* We know that Virginia Kyle was at Julia Hawkes' School in Philadelphia by Christmas 1835.

So why did Eleanor and Virginia Kyle leave Northampton? Perhaps the Dwight school was too expensive. This was the case with Apphia Judd, who attended 1832 through May 1834 and was the same age as Virginia. Apphia's father wrote, "Miss Dwight is an excellent teacher, but her price is too high for me." Or perhaps Margarette Dwight's authoritarian and moral standards were too much for the Kyle sisters.

Margarette Dwight herself stated, *"If I do not succeed in gaining the affections of a pupil, and influencing her to a general aim to do right, after one year's effort, I may feel it my duty, to give her place to someone, who will make more improvement, under my care."*

Margarette Dwight died September 5, 1845 at age 41 and her Gothic Seminary closed just three years later.

The Fall 2021 article about Virginia Kyle Campbell's education can be found via this link: CampbellHouseMuseum.org/newsletters

New Assistant Director Named

Samuel I. Monroe has been named the new Assistant Director of the Campbell House Museum.

As a summer 2021 Campbell House intern, he updated the finding aid for the Museum's collection storage room, led tours of the museum and helped take inventory of the museum's collection.



Sam is from Shiloh, Illinois. He has described St. Louis as his "backyard." Sam holds a bachelor's degree in history and just completed his Master's certificate in Museum Studies at the University of Missouri St. Louis.

Sam started work in January, taking over from previous Assistant Director **Michael Stoecklin** who served five years and stepped down last October.

In addition to assisting with the day-to-day operations with administration of the museum, Sam will also manage its social media and membership programs. He will also be promoting local awareness and engagement at the Campbell House and hopes to implement a museum theatre program structured around Hazlett Campbell and the importance of mental health awareness. Come down to the Museum and welcome Sam!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE
September 25, 2022
 5:30 p.m.
 Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site and Campbell House Museum invite you to eat, drink and party like it's 1855 and 1875.

THE FARM TABLE TO THE GILDED TABLE

A Moveable Feast Honoring Grant's Bicentennial

A night inspired by the historic foods, libations, and entertainment enjoyed by Ulysses S. Grant at his White Haven home and as a guest at Campbell House.

Proceeds benefit Campbell House Museum and Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site

Hosted by:
 Jefferson National Parks Association
 Campbell House Museum
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More details about this event will be announced in July.

All members enjoy these benefits (choose a membership level or make a donation)

- Unlimited free museum admission and tours
- A 10% discount at the Museum Gift Shop
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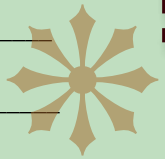
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The Grants

Continued from page 1

then it was back to the farm, and on to Galena, Illinois in March 1860 where Grant worked for his father.

Of course it was during the Civil War that Grant became nationally recognized. He made periodic though infrequent visits to St. Louis, most notably in late January 1864 when his eldest son was seriously ill. During this visit, numerous wealthy citizens, including Robert Campbell and his brother Hugh, sponsored a reception for Grant at the Lindell Hotel.

Grant's became the 18th President of the United States on March 4, 1869. It is only then that he is known to have made at least four formal visits to the Campbell House. Grant's first visit to St. Louis as President occurred August 10 to 13, 1870. Grant stayed at the residence of William Benton at 1604 Lucas Place, just one block west of the Campbell House. Given his proximity to Robert Campbell, you would expect Grant to have visited the Campbells on this visit, but the Campbells were not in town. Robert had been appointed by Grant in May 1869 to the Indian Peace Commission, and Robert had been called to New York at the end of July for a meeting. The entire Campbell family went as part of their summer excursion to the eastern seashore.

In January 1871, Robert and Virginia Campbell were in Washington D.C. for Indian Commission meetings. Virginia Campbell assisted Mrs. Grant with an afternoon reception at the White House on January 17 and an evening reception at the White House on January 20, with many notable guests in attendance.

24 April 1871

Grant's second presidential visit to St. Louis was April 1871. He arrived in St. Louis on April 23 and again stayed at the William Benton house (1604 Lucas Place). Grant had been invited to numerous dinner parties, and one he accepted was the evening of April 24 at Robert Campbell's house—the irony being that Robert himself was not in attendance—he had left St. Louis on April 20 for New York for Indian Commission business. The papers noted the President was “entertained in an elegant manner by the accomplished hostess, Mrs. Campbell” and the guest list included Gen. Horace Porter, Judges Dillon, Treat and Wagner, James E. Yeatman, Henry T. Blow, Capt. James B. Eads, Gen. Lewis Parsons, Capt. Charles Parsons, James O'Fallon, Gen. A. J. Smith, Hugh Campbell and Capt. C. W. Ford.

21 April 1873

It was almost exactly two years later before Grant would visit St. Louis again. Following his second inauguration on March 4, 1873, Grant arrived in St. Louis on April 18. For this visit, Grant resided with Gen. William Harney, whose mansion at 1426 Lucas Place was directly across 15th Street from the Campbells. Believe it or not, Robert Campbell was again absent from the city, having left on April 17 to once again go to New York to assist in making purchases of Indian goods.

On the morning of April 21, Grant rode the Pacific Railroad to Kirkwood and Carondelet, and then to the Dent Farm. In the evening, the Presidential party dined at the Campbell House, followed by a reception for Miss Nellie Grant. *The Daily Missouri*

St. Louis Daily Globe: Tuesday Morning, April 22, 1873.

Lucas Place at Night.

After the President's return from Carondelet, he and his family and suite accepted an invitation to a private dinner party at Mrs. Robert Campbell's residence, No. 1,508 Lucas Place.

About fifteen guests, all intimate acquaintances of the President or his family, were seated at the board. Among them were Gen. Harney, Hon. Henry T. Blow, Col. Thos. T. Gantt, Capt. James B. Eads and others.

The President expressed his regrets at the unavoidable absence of Hon. Robert Campbell, at New York.

RECEPTION.

About half-past nine o'clock the party retired to other apartments, and prepared for another entertainment. This was a young folks' reception, given by Mr. Hugh Campbell to Miss Nellie Grant, at which most of the young elite of the city were present, and the ladies were very richly attired. Maher's Band did the musical part of the entertainment. Fifty-five ladies and sixty gentlemen participated in the festivities. Among those noticed in the parlors were: Miss Brown, daughter of the Mayor; Miss Benton, the Misses Eads, Filley, Harney; Messrs. Charles Knapp, Bryan Clemens, Crickard, Jewett, Col. Vincent Marmaduke and others. Mr. Campbell was the escort to Miss Grant, and introduced her to the visitors in a very graceful and dignified manner.

A SERENADE.

About midnight the full Arsenal Band, escorted by Gen. Grierson and party, arrived in the vicinity. The first two airs were given in front of Gen. Harney's residence, on the southeast corner of Fifteenth street and Lucas Place. Afterwards the band drew up in line in front of No. 1508, and serenaded the President for an hour. As an introduction to each selection the "Potomac Reeve" was given. On calls being made for the President he came out upon the balcony and bowed, with Mrs. Campbell leaning on his right arm Mrs. Grant accompanying Hon. Henry T. Blow. Gen. Harney was also one of the party. The President on appearing remarked to the lady with him: "This is very tiresome to me—having to go through it so often." The lady replied, "Yes, General, it must be—but it is to please the people, who honor you."

The party stood viewing the premises before the house listening to the music and talking among themselves for half an hour, when they retired into the house.

THE CROWD

outside the mansion was quite large, early in the evening, but many left before the serenade, having become wearied awaiting its occurrence.

Republican gave the dinner one line of coverage. *The Daily Democrat* reported that “a select party of twenty” were in attendance, followed by a reception for Miss Nellie Grant, which was attended by a large number of invited guests...” But it was the *St. Louis Daily Globe* that

provided the most interesting details (*full article illustrated at left*).

In December 1873 and March 1874, President Grant made two additional visits to St. Louis, both of a personal nature and both including Robert Campbell (though without a visit to the Campbell House). On December 17, 1873, Robert was a pallbearer at the funeral of Col. Frederick Dent, the father of Julia Grant. On March 27, 1874, Robert attended the funeral of Julia's brother, Judge Louis Dent, at the home of another brother, John C. Dent, on Washington Ave.

9 October 1874

President Grant's next formal visit to St. Louis occurred October 5 to 11, 1874, this time staying at the Lindell Hotel. Grant was headed to the western territories with former Secretary of the Navy Adolph Borie and William Harney. But on the way, he stopped at St. Louis, primarily to attend the St. Louis Fair, where Grant had horses in competition. He attended the Fair Grounds, along with Gen. Sherman, and, on the evening of October 9 dined "at the hospitable residence of Col. Robert Campbell" around 7 p.m. Robert Campbell was in attendance this time, though the newspapers provided no other details of the event.

27 September 1875

President Grant arrived at St. Louis on September 24, 1875 (through September 28) for his next Presidential visit. He again stayed at the Lindell Hotel. In July 1875, Grant had decided that his "farming experiment" at the White Haven property was a failure and he determined to sell off all the farm equipment and stock at auction, and then to rent or lease the property. Grant's schedule on September 27 included a visit to the Custom-house, where he met



Autographed photo of Nellie Grant Sartoris, a gift to her friend Hugh Campbell.

with Judge Long, Collector of the Port, along with "several old friends, among them Colonel Robert Campbell..." At 7 p.m., the Presidential party, including Adolph Borie, Gen. Sherman and his staff and Mr. Hugh Campbell (Robert's brother), all dined at the Campbell House. The Presidential party left the next morning for Des Moines. The auction at White Haven did not occur until September 30.

Grant made three more visits to St. Louis after his presidency (April 1877, June 1881, and May 1883), but none included a visit to the Campbell House. Of note, however, is a letter he wrote to his son Ulysses S. Grant, Jr. dated November 21, 1877. The younger Grant was considering going to Chicago, and his father hoped he would "run down to St. Louis," where he was encouraged to visit with Robert Campbell and other notable St. Louisans. However, there is no record this visit ever occurred.

December 1903

The last formal gathering of the Grant and Campbell families at the Campbell House was in December 1903. Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris, the President's only daughter, and her daughter, Rosemary Sartoris, attended a luncheon hosted by Robert's son Hugh Campbell. The brief notice in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* captures the charm, and intimacy, and affection that the two families must have felt for each other over the preceding 30 years: "*Covers were laid for eight guests upon a table beautifully decorated with orchids. Large bunches of American beauty roses were at each cover, and the ladies received as souvenirs golden bracelets set with alternate turquoises and diamonds. Mrs. Sartoris, as chief guest of honor, received a necklace with a baroque pearl pendant surrounded with diamonds.*"

New Exhibit

Continued from page 3

impossible without domestics who at times worked up to 78 hours a week.

Hugh Campbell treated his servants more like part of the family, referring to them as "my people" and giving a generous Christmas dinner each year in recognition of their faithful service.

Dedicated housekeeper **Mary Boerste** served in that position from 1904 until her death in 1936. **Philomena "Minnie" Kleeman** (Mary Boerste's niece) later became a cook at the house and served there for 4 years until 1936 when she married. Among the objects on display are a picture of Minnie Kleeman and a shirt of Hazlett Campbell's, which Minnie took with her when she left their service.

Listen to Museum director Andy Hahn discuss the exhibit on the St. Louis Public Radio program St. Louis on the Air — CampbellHouseMuseum.org/news/



The Servants Hall occupied a footprint of about 20 x 30 feet between the Campbell House and the alley. It contained four servant bedrooms, a dining room and storage. The building was razed in 1970.

CAMPBELL HOUSE FOUNDATION

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From the Archives

These three photos are from a collection of more than 50 from the family of Mary Boerste and Minnie Kleeman, both of who worked as domestic servants at the Campbell House.

The collection of photos, documents and other objects were donated to the Museum in 2017 and are a highlight of the new special exhibit, *Back of the House: Servants and Slavery at Campbell House* (see cover story).

These photos are thought to have been taken at the same time about the year



1910. The image above shows three servants standing in the side yard with Campbell House in the background. From left to right their names and jobs are: Susan Hacke, cook; Mary Boerste, housekeeper; and Gus Meyer, chauffeur/secretary. The image at left shows Gus Meyer sitting on the kitchen steps while the image at right shows Mary Boerste sitting in the Servants Hall (demolished 1970). The photos offer a rare glimpse of the life of the domestic servant in St. Louis.

