

## Bio: Alfred C Germann

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2019

Alfred C Germann was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1847 to Christian Germann and Magdalena Zimmerman. The 1850 census shows the Germann family living in Black Rock, Erie county New York, where Alfred's father is shown as a gunsmith. Today's Black Rock has been incorporated into the town of Buffalo New York. About the year 1854, when Alfred was seven years of age, his father died. Not long after that his mother gathered up her three children - Susan, Alfred and Lewis Germann - and moved two hundred and fifty miles along the southern edge of Lake Erie, to Sandusky county Ohio where her brother lived, in or near the town of Fremont. Magdalena was secondly married to Heinrich Arnold Determan, and Alfred is living with his mother and step-father in the 1860 census of Sandusky county Ohio. This is probably the place where Alfred Germann finished his "growing up" years.

On the 13th of January 1864, sixteen-year-old Alfred Germann began service with the Union Army in Co I, Thirty-eighth regiment of the Ohio Infantry. His name does not appear in the "official" Ohio rosters, but his successful pension application gives credence to his service. He signed on just in time for his regiment to join in one of the biggest campaigns of the war:

*On May 5, 1864, the 38th Ohio embarked upon General Sherman's Atlanta Campaign. The goal of this expedition was for Northern forces to capture the important manufacturing center of Atlanta, Georgia. The regiment fought in many of the largest engagements of the campaign, including the Battles of Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, Chattahoochie River, Atlanta, Utoy Creek, and Jonesborough. The campaign concluded with the Union occupation of Atlanta on September 2, 1864.*  
[source] Ohio Civil War Central; 38th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.



Atlanta Square as a tent hospital

Family stories suggest that, sometime during the Atlanta Campaign, young Alfred Germann was shot in the back, and spent months in various army hospitals. He received an honorable discharge following the war. Many years later he received an invalid pension which carried over to his wife after his death.

After his discharge, Alfred Germann returned to his mother's family. The Determans had moved from Ohio to Belleville Illinois, where they appear in the 1870 census. In that same year Alfred Germann married Julia Nieder, and the newlyweds are shown living next door to Henry and Magdalena Determan in the census. Henry Determan, age forty-five, is shown as a teamster, suggesting that his

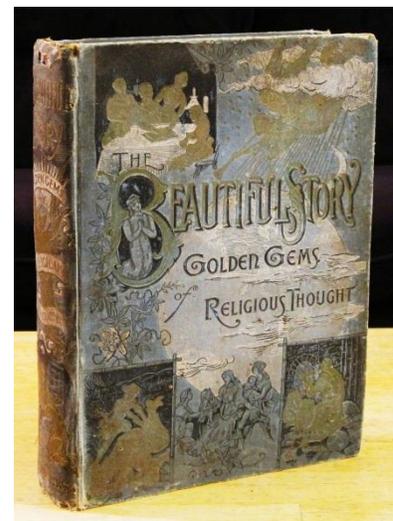
primary occupation was freight-hauling. Alfred Germann's occupation was listed as farm labor. Over the next years members of the Determan and Germann families are found in the areas around Belleville Illinois and St Louis Missouri, eighteen miles to the northwest. Descendants generally remember them as being "from St Louis", but most records connect them with Belleville Illinois.

A family account gives some further detail to the 'meeting - up' story of Alfred Germann and Julia Nieder (Niederer) - ". . . pretty, dark-haired Julia Elizabeth Niederer of Bavaria first saw Alfred Germann, marching in a parade in Belleville, Illinois. At the time, Alfred was working for Hinckley's Milling Company [Belleville Illinois], and Julia was a nanny."

The date 4th of August 1870 is sometimes shown for the marriage of Alfred Germann and Julia Nieder in Belleville Illinois, but family members refer to the marriage being in 1869, and the 1870 census records the marriage in November. Uncertainty remains. Sometime in the years following their marriage, Alfred and Julia Germann rented a farm in Lincoln county Missouri, Waverly township, north and west of St Louis. They appear there in the 1880 census with their four oldest children - Ida, Lewis "Low", Alfred "Alf", and Walter Germon (sic). In the following years, Garfield, Dollie, and Bessie Germann would be added to the family.

In 1892 Alfred Germann purchased a farm southwest of St Louis, in Watkins township of Dent county Missouri. This probably remained the family home for the next twenty to thirty years. One of the younger Germann children, Dollie, penned her recollections of life on the family farm:

*It was a picturesque place, nestled in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains. Two things stand out in my memory; a wonderful spring that furnished the clearest, coldest water I had ever drunk, and a cave up in the side of the mountain about 80 rods east of our cottage. In summer, we used the cave as a refrigerator . . . Our home library was a small one, but two books I recall we had were Pilgrims Progress and Robinson Crusoe. I read them over and over. We also had a large book entitled The Beautiful Story, which contained Bible stories and many beautiful colored pictures. We also had a family Bible. I still have a very vivid picture of my mother as she sat in her favorite chair, reading from that precious book on Sunday afternoons . . .*



Alfred and Julia Germann's children moved off in many directions - Missouri, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming. Toward the end of their lives they may have spent time, back and forth, between their children in Kansas and Missouri. Alfred Germann died in 1922, at the age of seventy-six years, and Julia Nieder Germann died a few years later, in 1927, at the age of eighty-one. The couple is buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery in Ellis Kansas, alongside several of their children.

*Afternote: Several members of the Germann family have diligently gathered, and generously shared their work on this family. Family Search and Find A Grave are great resources to learn more about aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins and children. I have drawn upon the excellent work of Oliver R Germann, Virginia Yeater Tanner, Deborah Tanner, Dollie Germann Glass, and Christine Tanner Reese to prepare this brief biography for Alfred Germann. Pam Garrett, February 2019.*

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Alfred C Germann in the database](#)

About the photo:

The Beautiful Story – Golden Gems of Religious Thought; Gustave Dore, 1887.

**Bio of Alfred C Germann compiled by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for the Family Stories website; 2019.**