

Bio: Lewis (Louis) Daniel Germann

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2019

The collection of records, clippings, and comments assembled here form a relatively clear outline for the family of Lewis Daniel Germann. My primary focus rests with Lewis Germann's brother Alfred Germann, but I wanted to get a clearer definition of "Uncle Lew", as the two brothers were the Germann family "survivors" - having lost their parents and sister while they were young.

A brief biography of Alfred C Germann tells us:

He [Alfred Germann] was given an honorable discharge in April 1866 and returned to his mother's home. The family during his absence had moved to St. Louis, Missouri. His sister Susan had married and died giving birth to her first child. So, it was a sad homecoming. He was given a warm welcome by his brother, Lewis, who was now grown into a husky youth. Albert (sic) was very fond of his younger brother, Uncle Lew.

After the death of Christian German (father), about 1854 in New York, the Germann family made a series of moves westward, stopping in Sandusky county Ohio, St Louis Missouri, and Belleville Illinois. By 1889 the Germann brothers - Alfred and Lewis - were living near the community of Lecom in Dent county Missouri. This remained the home of Alfred Germann's family for a number of years, but Lewis Germann moved about twenty miles to the northwest to the larger city of Rolla Missouri, where he was a merchant and served as an alderman and school board director.

Two records that appear at the end of his life - death record and brief obituary - don't seem to match with his manhood years. They raise questions that are hard to answer. After many years of prominence in Rolla Missouri, why would he return to Belleville Illinois to work out his old age as a "farmhand"? Did he leave his wife and grown children?

1850 Census of Erie county New York; Black Rock
Christian German; 50 (1800) Switzerland; gunsmith
Laura [Lana] German; 27 (1823) France
Susan German; 5 (1845) NY
Alfred German; 3 (1847) NY
Lewis German; 1 (1849) NY

1860 Census of Sandusky county Ohio; po - Fremont
Arnold Determan; 35 (1825) Prussia; farmer
Magdalena Determan; 34 (1826) NY
Susan German; 15 (1845) NY
Alfred German; 13 (1847) NY

Lewis German; 11 (1849) NY
Henry Determan; 9 (1851) Ohio
Mary Determan; 1 (1859) Ohio
Louisa Determan; 5.12 (1860) Ohio

1870 Census of Pike county Missouri

Edwin Hughes; 46, Illinois

Sarah Hughes; 36, Virginia

Robert Hughes; 13, Illinois

Flora Hughes; 10, Illinois

Louisa Hughes; 6, Illinois

Edwin Hughes; 3, Illinois

Malinda Hamlet; 24 (1846) Missouri

Lewis Gurman; 21 (1849) Ohio; farm labor

note - It is of interest to note that Pike county Missouri adjoins Waverly township of Lincoln county Missouri, where Alfred Germann is living with his young family in the 1880 census.

Family records indicate that Malinda Wisdom Hamlett married Lewis D Germann.

Missouri Digital Heritage has digitized the Rolla New Era newspaper for the 1890's. In a series of newspaper "mentions" we learn that Lewis (Louis) D Germann, around 1890, is living in the town of Lecomma in Dent county Missouri. Shortly after he begins to appear in the nearby town of Rolla in Phelps county Missouri where he is serving on the Board of Alderman and operates a merchant concern.

LD Germann and Bro' are buying stock for the St Louis market.

[source] Rolla New Era (Rolla Missouri); 6 Dec 1890.

School Election - Great interest was manifested in the school election on Monday last and resulted in a great victory for the "Mass Meeting" ticket over the one nominated several weeks ago, and ratified by the "faithful" on Saturday evening last. The following is the vote:

Lewis D Germann, 215

Albert Neuman, 184

Robert Meriwether, 120

Absalom Gordon, 100

Politics did not enter into the contest, but freedom in religious matters did, and the result was a stinging rebuke to those pandering to priestly intolerance.

[source] Rolla New Era (Rolla Missouri); 7 April 1894.

JE Lemen of St Louis, was visiting LD Germann and family the first of the week.

[source] Rolla New Era (Rolla Missouri); 28 April 1894.

Mr Frank Germann was married to Miss Effie McGuire by Rev Geo S Manness at the residence of her brother-in-law, EP Benton, on Monday evening last.

[source] Rolla New Era (Rolla Missouri); 9 July 1894.

Local and Personal - Frank Germann has gone on a visit to his uncle.

[source] Rolla New Era (Rolla Missouri); 14 July 1894.

Frank Germann Missing - His Wife From Rolla Seeking Him In St. St Louis - Mrs Effie Germann of Rolla Mo is in St. St Louis looking for her young husband Frank who left home on July 5. Mrs Germann is stopping with friends at 1433 Old Manchester road. He is described as 21 5 feet 7 fair complexion dark hair and blue eyes. St. Louis Chronicle July 25.

[source] Rolla New Era (Rolla Missouri); 28 July 1894.

Local and Personal - Messrs AS Long, DW Malcolm, MF Faulkner, Jos J Crites, Louis Heimberger, and LD Germann went out to Carthage, as the guests of the American Incandescent Gas Co of Kansas City, to inspect a gas plant in operation in that city. Whether they have decided to organize a company, put up the cash and build a plant or not, we have not learned.

[source] Rolla New Era (Rolla Missouri); 18 January 1896.

(Advertisement) L. D. Germann - Dealer in General Merchandise - NE Corner 7th and Pine St (Mrs. Boa's Old Stand) Rolla Missouri - Carries a Full Line of All Classes of Goods which he offers at Reasonable Prices. The Highest Market Price Paid for all kinds of Produce, especially Eggs and Chickens. Call and see my goods and Prices. LD Germann.

[source] Rolla New Era (Rolla Missouri); 30 January 1897.

1900 Census of Phelps county Missouri; Rolla

Louis D Germain; 51 (1849) New York

Minnie W Germain; 49 (1851) Missouri

Frank Germain; 27 (1873) Missouri

Mabel Germain; 20 (1880) Missouri

1920 Census of Phelps county Missouri; Rolla

Louis D Germann; 70 (1850) New York

Malinda Germann; 71 (1849) Missouri

Franklin D Germann; 46 (1874) Illinois; son

Mabel E Smith; 39 (1881) Missouri; daughter

Lois M Smith; 16 (1904) Missouri; granddaughter

James F Smith; 14 (1906) Missouri; grandson

This is the Record that raises questions!!!

Name; Louis Germann
Event Date; 4 Sep 1922
Event Place; Swansea, St. Clair, Illinois
Age; 73
Birth Date; 26 Apr 1855
Birthplace; Buffalo, N.Y.
Father's Name; Louis Germann
Father's Birthplace; Switzerland
Occupation; laborer
Residence Place; Rolla, Mo.
Burial Date; 06 Sep 1922
Burial Place; Rolla, Mo.

Louis Germann, 75 years old, a farmhand employed near Belleville, until his final illness five days ago, died at the County Hospital Monday. He leaves a son in Rolla, Mo. The body was shipped to Rolla.

[source] Belleville News Democrat (Belleville, Illinois); 5 September 1922.

1930 Census of Phelps county Missouri; Rolla
Frank A Germann; 56, Illinois; widowed; asst cashier bank
Catherine M W Germann; 7, Missouri; daughter
Malinda W Germann; 81, Missouri; mother
Mabel E Smith; 49, Missouri; sister; high school teacher

Germann Family Burials in the Rolla Cemetery, Rolla, Phelps county Missouri
Lewis Daniel Germann; 1849-1922
Malinda Wisdom Hamlett Germann; 1848-1935
Franklin A Germann; 1873-1963
Mildred H Germann; 1886-1922 (Mildred Hess, wife of Franklin Germann)
Mabel E. Germann Smith; 1880-1956
James M Smith; 1880-1905 (husband of Mabel Germann)
Lois S Long; 1903-1978 (daughter of James Smith and Mabel Germann)

Notes for the Grandchildren:

James Frances Smith married Ruth Morris Cameron; 7 September 1930; Rolla, Phelps county Missouri.

James Francis Smith; born 1 April 1905 Missouri; married Verna Marie Labbitt; 4 August 1968; Cascade county Montana; parents James and Mabel Smith.

James Francis Smith; died 5 September 1992; age 87; Great Falls, Cascade county Montana.

Lois M Smith, age 22; married Albert R Long; 11 September 1926; Rolla Phelps county Missouri.

Lois S Long; born 7 November 1903; died 8 January 1978; buried Rolla Cemetery, Rolla, Phelps county Missouri.

Catherine Mildred Germann, age 22, married William Sanborn Jenks; 25 December 1944 at Rolla, Phelps county Missouri.

Catherine Mildred Germann Jenks; born 24 September 1922; died 13 October 2000 at Rolla Missouri; parents - Frank A Germann and Mildred C Hess.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Lewis Daniel Germann in the database](#)

Bio of Lewis Daniel Germann compiled by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for the Family Stories website; 2019.