FOR THE RECORDS

Town Tales: Kinloch

In terms of the equine, St. Louis is most notable for the Clydesdales of Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Magnificent and enormous, the Budweiser Clydesdales were first presented in 1933 and have remained a beloved element of St. Louis history ever since.

However, there is more to St. Louis’ horse history than the Clydesdales. A small community located in North St. Louis County is named for the horse farm that used to occupy almost 400 acres in the Florissant Valley area, and which gave its name to the community, an airfield, a jockey club, and a horse track. (Figure. 1) The owner of the farm was James Lucas Turner, and the community was, and still is: Kinloch.

Genealogy

James Lucas Turner’s genealogy traces back to Virginia at the turn of the 18th century. His grandfather was Thomas Turner IV, and the Turners’ Virginian estate was located in Fauquier County. It was from his grandfather that J. Lucas took the name Kinloch, for that was the name of Thomas’s plantation. The Kinloch Farm still exists, and is currently family owned, though not by Turners.

One of Thomas Turner IV’s sons was Henry Smith Turner, who, by 1850, was living in St. Louis County with his wife Julia Hunt, and their four children. Henry, like his father, owned seven enslaved people, about whom nothing is known beyond their age and sex. The Missouri slave schedules of 1850 and 1860 did not collect any additional information about enslaved people. All that is known is that at least ten people were owned by Henry Smith Turner between 1850 and 1860, ranging from a two-year old girl to a fifty-year old woman. The 1860 slave schedule states that Henry had only one “slave house,” meaning that the six people he owned at that time had to share a single residence.

James Lucas Turner was born in 1854 in St. Louis, and so was not old enough to serve in the Civil War when it began. He attended school in both France and at Georgetown College, afterwards going into business in St. Louis. When he
was 22 years old, J. Lucas married Bertha Chouteau, a
great-great-granddaughter of René Auguste Chouteau,
one of the co-founders of St. Louis. (Figure 2) Bertha’s
grandfather was Henry Chouteau, Sr., who was killed in
the Gasconade Bridge train disaster in 1855. Bertha and
James Lucas would go on to have six children.

For the next few years, J. Lucas continued his business
career, but in 1879 he purchased 550 acres of land 10
miles southeast of Columbia, Missouri, for $8,960. It was
reported to be one of the “best improved and most valua-
ble farms in the State” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1879, p.
2). (Figure 3)

And the Race is On

For the next few years, Turner worked on establishing his stock, acquiring horses from all around the country and bring-
ing them back to his farm near Columbia. In 1881 he purchased Athlete, “a fine 7 year old chestnut stallion,” which was
the first of three renowned horses he would eventually own and stud (Missouri Statesman, p. 3). The others were
Aristides and Uhlan, who boasted impressive pedigrees and whom J. Lucas traveled far to acquire.

It was in 1883 that a newspaper printed the name of J. Lu-
cas’s burgeoning farm: the St. Louis Globe-Democrat re-ers to “Mr. Lucas Turner, of the Kinloch Farm, Colum-
bia.” Although J. Lucas likely never saw his grandfather’s
plantation, he surely heard about it from his father and so,
perhaps as an ode to his heritage, he used the name himself.
Kinloch, variously spelled Kinlock or Kindloch, became
extremely well-known amongst equestrians and farmers
alike, and J. Lucas would carry the Kinloch name to his
future farm sites as well.

In summer 1883, J. Lucas put his Columbia farm up for
sale, describing it as “the finest land in central Missouri.
Large double brick dwelling house. One of the finest barns
in the state” (Missouri Statesman, 1883). After selling his
farm, in autumn 1883 he began renting the Benoist farm off
of Gravois Road, of which currently remains the Oakland
House, built by Louis Auguste Benoist in 1853. (Figure 4)
J. Lucas continued to do well, breeding a variety of successful horses from his stock, and prompting the St. Louis Post-
Dispatch to predict that his farm would “bring forth good fruit” (1884).

For three years, J. Lucas expanded his stock and presented his fillies and foals to St. Louis. He attended various derbies
and put horses into different races around the Midwest. His was frequently lauded in newspapers as an excellent
example of a well-run stock farm, and his transactions were often reported on in the Post-Dispatch and the Globe-Democrat.

In 1886, Turner finally acquired 374 acres of land at the junction of the Wabash and St. Louis Cable and Western Railways, “the finest and most favorably situated stock farm in this section of the country” (St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 1886). He leased 309 acres and purchased 65 for $18,000. Turner’s goal with his new real estate was to make the farm more accessible to visitors: the convenient location so close to the railroad would enable people to visit and browse more easily than at his previous locations.

The farm was described in detail in an 1888 Post-Dispatch article. The house was “a commodious one of two stories, with piazza and bay-windows.” The stables were luxurious, providing ample space for the three star studs which had made Kinloch such a prominent name in horse breeding. Two employees are mentioned: Archie Turnbull as farm manager, and Johnnie Brown, a young African American who tended to the three stallions, both of whom worked for J. Lucas for several years before his untimely death.

Sadly, Lucas Turner did not get to enjoy his new farm for very long. He and his wife Bertha moved into the new Kinloch homestead in May of 1887. The following winter, J. Lucas fell ill with pneumonia, and on February 10th, 1888, James Lucas Turner died in his home, Taylor place, Seudder Avenue station, on the Narrow-Gauge Railway. His obituary in the Post-Dispatch described him as a “warm-hearted, generous man, and every one who knew him felt a deep interest in him.” Turner died at the age of 33, leaving behind his wife Bertha Chouteau Turner and their children.

In August 1888, Charles Turner, Lucas Turner’s brother, announced that the Kinloch stock would be sold at auction. After the sale of the stock in November, the farm itself was put up for sale: “a well-built frame house containing 10 rooms, bath-room, water closet, etc” and “two fine barns” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1888). The farm was purchased in January 1889 by Mrs. Sarah Chambers for $33,400.

April 1889 saw discussion of a “local syndicate being formed to purchase the Kinloch farm property” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1889). The men involved in the syndicate intended to purchase the property and then parcel it out to buyers. The syndicate included two of Lucas Turner’s brothers, H. P. Taussig, and several executives of the Wabash Railway Company. The announcement of the syndicate included the name for the “new town site”: Kinloch Park. (Figure 5)

The house itself, along with the stables, was sold to a “party of gentlemen comprising the St. Louis County Club” (Post-Dispatch, 1892) and the Kinloch estate became the Kinloch Club, a site for gatherings of the well-to-do in St. Louis County. The club was described, in 1895, as a “very swell and a very genial organization,” and surrounding inhabitants of Kinloch Park considered it an enviable locale to be near.
City of Kinloch

During the early years of the 1900s, the Kinloch Park subdivision was advertised as St. Louis’ “grand scenic suburb.” As time went on, Kinloch Park began filling up with white homeowners, who sought to hire African Americans as servants. In turn, “African Americans were sold land in the otherwise all-white suburb on the condition that they would fulfill the interests and needs of white property owners” (Mandelbaum, 2016). As the African American community in Kinloch grew, white homeowners became dissatisfied with the racial makeup of their neighborhood. They began selling their property, which was bought up by various real estate companies, including the East Kinloch Sales Company and Olive Street Terrace Realty.

In 1916, St. Louis City voted to pass a ballot referendum that “became the first in the nation to legalize housing segregation.” The referendum prohibited blacks from moving into blocks that were more than 75% white, and whites from moving into blocks that were more than 75% black. When the referendum was overturned in 1917, real estate practices returned to the inclusion of restrictive covenants. Restrictive covenants attached conditions or restrictions to real estate transactions regarding who could purchase property in certain neighborhoods. While Kinloch Park did not explicitly have such a covenant, the Olive Street Terrace Realty company subsequently set up a new neighborhood, South Kinloch Park, which was restricted to blacks.

In 1917, the Olive Street Terrace Realty company undertook the practice of initially selling property to whites before reselling to blacks. The drive behind this operation resulted from the unwillingness of banks to accept black purchasers’ notes as collateral. To circumvent this limitation, Olive Street Terrace Realty openly advertised that their plan was to “sell a lot or group of lots to a white person” and “if a resale is made the white investor receives monthly payments” from the black purchaser double the amount of the white person’s initial payment. Although an article was written in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch which criticized the company’s segregational practices, Olive Street Terrace Realty advertised in such a way that appealed to the black community’s desire for independence.

The black community of Kinloch grew exponentially thanks to the actions of the Olive Street Terrace Realty Company. In 1924, the community succeeded in electing an African American, Walter Johnson, to the local school board. This appointment gave them an unprecedented level of political power over their community. The northern portion of Kinloch was still inhabited by whites, and the racial tensions between these communities eventually came to a head in 1937. Since 1925, white residents had made several attempts to divide the school districts of Kinloch in order to continue segregating education. It wasn’t until they petitioned the County Court in 1937 for permission to form a separate political subdivision that they succeeded, and the city of Berkeley was formed.
In 1941 and 1947, the black citizens of Kinloch petitioned to have their city incorporated. These first two attempts
failed, but the residents, amidst their other efforts to establish schools and other elements of a thriving community, did
not give up. On August 20, 1948, the county court finally approved a petition by residents to become a fourth class city.
This made Kinloch the first African American community to be incorporated in the state of Missouri.

What’s in a Name

Various sources have long questioned the origin of the name of “Kinloch” for a town in Missouri. It is Scottish in origin,
coming from the Scottish Gaelic Ceann Loch, meaning “head of the loch.” Why Thomas Turner IV named his estate
Kinloch is unknown. He himself was born in America, and it is believed that his earliest known ancestor, Thomas
Turner II, was from England, not Scotland. Nevertheless, it was the name he chose, and which his descendent J. Lucas
chose years later. While James Lucas has largely been forgotten to time, his connection to history remains with the name
of Kinloch, once associated with the laudable horses that were born there.

Sources:

History of Boone County, Missouri. Written and comp. from the most authentic official and private sources... (1882). St.


The Missouri Statesman, 1881-1883.

Pitzman’s Atlas for the City and County of St. Louis. (1878).

Plat book of St. Louis County, Missouri. (1909.) Northwest Publishing Company, Des Moines, IA.

St. Louis Argus, 1915-1964.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 1876-1901.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1879-1900.

For more on the history of the City of Kinloch, check out:

Kinloch: Missouri’s First All Black Town by John A. Wright, Sr., 977.865 W951K

Kinloch: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow by the Kinloch History Committee, R 977.865 K55
The holidays are a great time for families to get together and talk about, well, being a family! Here are some family history activities that all ages can get involved in, as well as some links to other ideas.

**Cook a family recipe**
Cooking is a great way to share a family tradition. Make a favorite dish that has been passed down in your family or that comes from your ancestral homeland. Do this with your family or make it to share at your next family gathering.

**Put a family heirloom on display**
Find a family heirloom, such as a piece of jewelry, clothing, picture, document, anything! Put it in a frame or shadowbox for your family members to see.

**Label old pictures**
Label the backs of old pictures with a pencil. This is a great activity to do with a younger family member—they can write, while you identify the ancestors in the pictures. Taking this a step further, you can work together using a phone or other device to scan the pictures. This way they will be saved in case they get lost or damaged. (Reserve an SLCL scanning kit [here](#).)

**Participate in an oral history interview**
Record yourself, or have a younger relative record you using a phone or other device. Talk about when you were born, what your school was like, what you did for fun, etc. These interviews are priceless. (Reserve an SLCL oral history kit [here](#).)

*FamilySearch.org In-Home Activities*

*Family Tree Magazine Genealogy Activities for Kids*

*The Family History Guide Family Activities*

*Lisa Louise Cooke's Family Reunion Ideas*

**Happy Holidays from our History & Genealogy family to yours!**
The following History & Genealogy classes and programs are offered for January 2024:

**Beginning Genealogy Research**
Monday, January 8, 6:30 pm, Virtual
If you have little or no research experience, this is the class for you. Learn about the genealogical research process, the many resources available through History and Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library and how to get started. Adults. Registration required.

**Cooking Up History & Genealogy**
Monday, January 22, 6:30 pm, Virtual
Learn about resources at the St. Louis County Library for cooking the historical recipes of your ancestors. Adults. Registration required.

**Exploring Ancestry Library Edition**
Thursday, January 25, 2:00 pm, Virtual
The Ancestry Library Edition database is a powerful tool for genealogical research. Find out how to search it and take advantage of its many records. Adults. Registration required.

Coming in February:

**Beginning African American Research**
Thursday, February 2, 6:00 pm, Lewis & Clark
Tuesday, February 13, 2:00 pm, Jamestown Bluffs

**Exploring FamilySearch.org**
Monday, February 5, 6:30 pm, Virtual

**St. Louis Love Stories**
Thursday, February 15, 2:00 pm, Daniel Boone

**African American Genealogy: A Mississippi Case Study**
Monday, February 26, 6:30 pm, Virtual

**SLCL Databases for Genealogy Research**
Wednesday, February 28, 2:00, Virtual

Visit [www.slcl.org/events](http://www.slcl.org/events) and choose event type “Genealogy” for the complete list of H&G offerings.
THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

The Great Seal of the State of Missouri was designed by Judge Robert William Wells and was adopted by the Missouri General Assembly on January 11, 1822.

The one large and twenty-three small stars near the top of the seal represent Missouri’s admission as the 24th state. The grizzly bears represent strength and bravery. They surround a coat of arms encircled by a belt with the phrase, “united we stand, divided we fall.” They stand on a scroll bearing the state’s motto, “salus populi suprema lex esto,” or “the welfare of the people shall be the supreme law.”

For information on all of the symbols found in the seal, see the Missouri Secretary of State’s website.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All branches of the St. Louis County Library will be closed on the following days:

Sunday, December 24, 2023, Christmas Eve
Monday, December 25, 2023, Christmas Day
Monday, January 1, 2024, New Year’s Day
Monday, January 15, 2024, Martin Luther King Day

NEWBook

CAMERON COLLINS & DENNIS DILLON
Lost Treasures of St. Louis, 2nd Edition
Reedy Press
977.866 C712L

Published in 2017, Lost Treasures of St. Louis provided a kaleidoscope of bygone places, events, and items once identified with the Gateway City. Now, in an all-new second edition, Lost Treasures of St. Louis continues the journey down memory lane. Fully updated and brimming with more than 130 new entries, places like Eat-Rite, Schneithorst’s, Village Square, and Ponticello’s are brought back to life and placed alongside famous St. Louis memories like the Admiral, Forest Park Highlands, and Phil the Gorilla. Celebrate dancing to Ike and Tina at the Club Imperial, Bowling for Dollars at the Arena, movies at Ronnie’s Drive-In, and myriad other pastimes enjoyed through the years. Rarely seen photos and artifacts will revive eateries like Miss Hulling’s Cafeteria and the floating McDonald’s as well as entertainment and sports attractions including the Pevely Fountain and Sportsman’s Park. Revisit retail stores including Famous-Barr and Grandpa Pidgeon’s, along with community establishments like Cleveland High School and Homer G. Phillips Hospital. And of course we can’t forget locally manufactured products like Mavrakos candy and Falstaff beer. Join longtime St. Louisans Cameron Collins and Dennis Dillon as they travel to favorite places that are gone but not forgotten. This second edition of Lost Treasures of St. Louis will elicit nostalgia and reveal how the past has shaped St. Louis and all who have called it home.—Publisher

Several copies are available for pickup at your local branch. Place a hold through the SLCL card catalog.
The St. Louis Genealogical Society presents the following events:

**Monthly Meeting: Ask Louie**
Saturday, January 13, 10:00 am, Virtual
Bring the team your questions concerning basic researching, immigration and naturalization, Irish, German, and Jewish genealogy, technology, orphanage care in St. Louis, and many more. Our experienced genealogists will try to provide answers.

**German Special Interest Group: Following an Ancestor with a German Farm Name or Hofname**
Wednesday, January 17, 7:00 pm, Virtual
Prior to the mid-1800s, part of Germany had farm names or Hofnamen. Learn what a Hofname is and where in Germany to expect to find them. Identifying an ancestor with a Hofname requires recognizing the clues in the records and then carefully and thoroughly following them. Featured speaker: Carol Whitton, STLGS projects director and G-SIG leader.

**Irish Special Interest Group: It’s Time to Ask Those Questions!**
Saturday, January 20, 1:00 pm, Virtual
Join us with your questions and comments regarding our favorite but sometimes frustrating pastime, Irish research. Hopefully we can help with some of those rock walls! Led by Mike Bridwell, Carol Hemmersmeier, and Kay Weber.

**STLGS Events**

The St. Louis Genealogical Society presents the following events:

**Monthly Meeting: Ask Louie**
Saturday, January 13, 10:00 am, Virtual
Bring the team your questions concerning basic researching, immigration and naturalization, Irish, German, and Jewish genealogy, technology, orphanage care in St. Louis, and many more. Our experienced genealogists will try to provide answers.

**German Special Interest Group: Following an Ancestor with a German Farm Name or Hofname**
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**Irish Special Interest Group: It’s Time to Ask Those Questions!**
Saturday, January 20, 1:00 pm, Virtual
Join us with your questions and comments regarding our favorite but sometimes frustrating pastime, Irish research. Hopefully we can help with some of those rock walls! Led by Mike Bridwell, Carol Hemmersmeier, and Kay Weber.

StLGS monthly and SIG meetings are free and open to the public!

See stlgs.org for more information and to register.
HeritageHub
Explore your family history with the premier collection of U.S. obituaries and death notices for in-depth genealogical research from 1704 – today. HeritageHub helps you easily identify relatives, uncover new information and potentially unknown family members. Includes deep coverage from all 50 states, hard-to-find content from the mid 1900’s, and original obituary images. HeritageHub is available to all St. Louis County Library cardholders and can be accessed here.

PastPorts is published by History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library
Subscribe at slcl.org/pastports. Current and past issues can be downloaded from the web.

Contact us:
History & Genealogy
St. Louis County Library
Temporary Location: Daniel Boone Branch
300 Clarkson Rd.
Ellisville, MO 63011
314-994-3300
genealogy@slcl.org
slcl.org/genealogy

PARDON OUR DUST
The St. Louis County Library has recently upgraded its website. The History & Genealogy page can be accessed by clicking on “Research & Learn,” and then “History & Genealogy.” Unfortunately, some of the H&G links have been broken during the upgrade process. Please be patient as our hardworking SLCL technology team works to get everything back on track. Please contact H&G at 314-994-3300 or genealogy@slcl.org for help locating any of our online materials.
**FLICKR UPDATE**

**CLARK FAMILY BRANCH**

*Photos of the new home of H&G courtesy of St. Louis County Library [flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/stlouislibrary/), October 26 and December 7, 2023.*

**SCANNING KITS**

Scanning kits are now available through H&G at the St. Louis County Library! Transform those photos, notes, scrapbooks, and documents into generational legacies.

Scanning Kits contain a Chromebook, a portable Canon flatbed scanner, instructions, and resources for additional information related to organizing your digital archive.


**SLCL HISTORY PROGRAM**

Check out this SLCL offering:

**Bourbon and Bootleggers in Missouri**
Saturday, January 6, 2:00 pm, Florissant Valley

From its early roots to the craft distilleries of today, uncover the unique heritage and flavors that have made Missouri a significant player in the world of bourbon.

Adults. Registration required.

See [slcl.org/events](http://slcl.org/events) for more programs.

**NEWS AND TIPS | HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY**
Do you have Wildwood, Missouri ancestors? Check out the Wildwood Historical Society! This society was established in 1999. They are home to a museum, library, and meeting room, all located at 18750 Highway 100 in Wildwood. They hold monthly meetings as well as special events. Get more information at wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org. They also have several books on Wildwood for sale. Remember, sometimes when researching history and genealogy, it’s best to go local!

Visit the Missouri History Museum this winter! Time is running out to see the popular exhibit, Soccer City!

Soccer City at the Missouri History Museum presents graphics, digital interactives, films, and artifacts that tell the story of a major metropolis, a dynamic sport, and the many personalities that propelled St. Louis to the competitive forefront.—Missouri History Museum
Missouri State Archives Photo Scanning Event

Do you have photographs documenting Missouri history tucked away in your attic, closet, basement or even on your cellphone? Are you interested in safeguarding these treasures and growing the photographic history of the state?

Help the Missouri State Archives preserve the Show-Me State’s now 200+ year history by submitting images to the Missouri Bicentennial Photograph Drive!

Sunday, 21 January 2024
St. Louis Genealogical Society
#4 Sunnen Dr., Suite 140, St. Louis, MO 63143
10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Missouri State Archives staff and StLGS volunteers will assist with identifying and scanning your photographs, slides and/or negatives that fit into one (or more) of the four Missouri Bicentennial Photograph Drive focus areas:
- Cultural activities occurring in Missouri
- Events of note in Missouri history
- Famous and (not so) famous Missourians
- Important natural or man-made Missouri sites

Event attendees submitting photographs will receive high resolution scans and maintain ownership of their physical prints, slides, and/or negatives. Due to time constraints, you are asked to bring no more than seven (7) photos to the live event. If you have more, please submit them via the Missouri State Archives website. (See below for information.)

Unable to make an event?
You can also submit photographs online here: https://s1.sos.mo.gov/BicentennialPhotoDrive/Home/

For more information visit s1.sos.mo.gov/BicentennialPhotoDrive or contact the Missouri State Archives at msaoutreach@sos.mo.gov.

MARYLAND RECORDS

Do you have Maryland ancestors? Reclaim the Records has recently acquired several million Maryland records, including births, marriages, deaths and naturalizations. Much of this new collection includes digital images. Visit Reclaim the Records’ “The Maryland Motherlode” for more information!

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

The St. Louis County Library Board of Trustees voted at their November 20, 2023 meeting to adjust SLCL branch hours in 2024. Starting January 2, 2024 all SLCL branches will close at 8:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Previously, all branches were open until 9:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday. All other Library hours remain the same.
January – March

Attend any four History and Genealogy programs from January through March. Graduates will receive a MyHeritage DNA test kit upon completion.

Adults. Registration required. Register by January 3, 2024. Spots are limited, applicants chosen by lottery. Enrollees will receive more information via email. Must be able to pick up kit at an SLCL branch.

Scan for registration application.

Sponsored by St. Louis County Library Foundation

Program sites are accessible. With at least two weeks’ notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit www.slcl.org.
SLCL Author Event

Amanda E. Doyle and Dan Zettwoch
Tuesday, January 9, 6:30 pm, Grant’s View
Local author Amanda Doyle and illustrator Dan Zettwoch share a fast-paced, fact-filled collection of the most fascinating parts of life in our state, with a kid’s-eye point of view in their new book, “Missouri Weird and Wonderful.” Sports, history, wildlife, food, inventions, architecture, natural wonders, and just plain fun come to vibrant life in these richly illustrated, full-color pages. All ages. Books available for purchase at the event. See www.slcl.org/events-classes/authors for more information.