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ILLUMINATIONS

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Hidden Gem: Clifford Row

by
Liz Beall Poelker

Nestled between apartment buildings in the 6600 block of Kingsbury is a treasure hiding in plain sight.

It is a group of five bungalows in the Rosedale Heights subdivision which are among the oldest homes in University City. These houses were built in 1911 by Eugene L. Clifford as one of the first examples of “affordable housing” in the new city. Their front yards are larger than those of other homes in the neighborhood. These deep yards give the row its hidden quality, especially when the trees are in full foliage.



The houses are constructed in the Arts and Crafts style--one and a half story bungalows with dormers on the second floor. They have the elements typical of Craftsman style: porches with thick square columns, open floor plans with few hallways and numerous windows, some with stained or beveled glass. Of particular interest are their identical Gambel roofs, two-sided with double slopes on each side, the lower slope having a steeper pitch. The Gambel roof is rare in University City houses.

Within the past decade the homeowners of these houses became concerned when Wash-

ington University purchased one of the bungalows. It appeared likely that the others would also be purchased by the University or a developer so that the whole row could be razed to permit the building of a single larger building with a corporate purpose.

The owners (Susan Drescher Terrill, Ann Justice, Kathryn Freese, Fran Sontage, Paul Graham, Richard Chase and John Thompson), inspired and led by Terrill, banded together to protect the houses by having the group designated as a local Historic District with the name of Clifford Row. This designation prohibits the destruction of any building in the district and specifies that only detached single-family dwellings can be built there. It also provides standards for alterations to existing structures.

Gaining this designation was not a simple task. Much hard work in organization by Terrill, legal aspects by Chase, photography by Justice, historical research by Graham and hosting of numerous meetings by Sontage were required. With all the homeowners' efforts and the research of then-County Preservation Historian Esley Hamilton, the application for historic status was presented to the Historic Preservation Commission of University City in February 2010. As a visible sign of their protected status, the group spearheaded by Terrill commissioned the design of a special flag by Grant Phillips, a Washington University student. Since November 2015 the houses fly a distinctive banner.





Guest speaker Karen Doering of the Missouri History Museum and HSUC President Eleanor Mulin at the Annual Dinner, Oct. 6 at the library.

The Fallen Of World War I

by Ilene Kanfer Murray

Veterans' Day, November 11, seems like the ideal time to remember five young men from University City who lost their lives in World War I. We know about these men via biographical information collected at the Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center and a list of soldiers from University City in the archives of the HSUC.

Alfred Andrew ANDERSON was inducted at Jefferson Barracks on 25 March 1916. Born on 23 December 1892, at 1225 Sutter Avenue, to John and Minnie Anderson, he was just a bit older than twenty-three when he enlisted in Company C, 7th Infantry as a sergeant. Alfred had attended Wellston schools for seven years. He was a farmer before the war. Of Danish ancestry, his father was a farmer and gardener.

Sent overseas on 6 April 1918, Alfred was dead by the 15th of July, killed in action in France on St. Agerment Hill, Fossay, in the Battle of Chateau Thierry. In 1921, Alfred's body, which was first buried in France, was reburied at Memorial Park Cemetery in St. Louis. According to a letter from his sister, which outlines his entire service record, Alfred was acting as company commander when he was killed.

Hamilton Lee BAYNE resided at 6600 Julian. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on 28 June 1894. His parents were Frances M. and Thomas Leo Bayne. Thomas was from Ireland and had worked for the railroad in St. Louis. Hamilton attended Rankin Trade School, Horace Mann, and Lincoln.

Before the war, Hamilton was a plumber and lead burner. He enlisted on 27 June 1917, after which he traveled to Norfolk, Virginia. On Halloween 1917, he was assigned to the USS *Pittsburgh*, where he served until 3 February 1918. On that date, he transferred to the USS *Cyclops*. He became a second-class seaman in the Navy, working as ship's fitter. On 14 June 1918, the *Cyclops* was lost at sea; Hamilton's body was not recovered. He was just shy of his twenty-third birthday. Thomas Bayne, Hamilton's father, died in 1918, within a month of his son's death.

James W. KELLEHER was living at 1224 High Street in St. Louis when he was inducted on 18 September 1917. He had been born in St. Louis on 30 October 1893 to William H. and Julia (Canton) Kelleher. They lived at 6531 Crest Avenue when he left to go overseas. James had attended schools in St. Louis for eight years and had been a tile roofer before enlisting. His father, of Irish Catholic ancestry, had been a horse-shoer from St. Louis.

James was a corporal in the 354th Infantry, entering on 18 September 1917. He was killed in action in Ardennes, France, on 1 November 1918. James's father died before James was killed, as his mother was a widow when they moved to 1116 Delaware after the war. Like the others just mentioned, James was killed before his twenty-third birthday.

Oliver Guy VASSAR was born in St. Louis on 16 July 1886. Oliver's family lived at 6612 Waterman. His parents were Albert Ellison and Elizabeth A. (Barker) Vassar. Oliver was a member of the Missouri Athletic Association and the third Baptist Church. His father's family was from Poughkeepsie, having arrived in the U.S. in 1796. His mother's family was English. According to Mrs. Vassar, Oliver was a

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TR: President and World's Fair Visitor

By Carol Diaz-Granados

David Francis, tireless promoter of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, managed to get the President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, to attend the dedication ceremony, along with former president Grover Cleveland. On April 30, 1903, the presidents participated in a parade to the Fair site. Roosevelt made a long and enthusiastic tour of the site, trailed by admiring crowds.

In this month of national elections . . . Surely one of the most fascinating and colorful presidents of our country was Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt – who, as vice president, was sworn into the Presidency in 1901 following the assassination of President William McKinley. Roosevelt was re-elected President in 1904. We chose to feature President Roosevelt because he served during the early years of University City.

Theodore Roosevelt was born in October 27, 1858 in New York, NY and had what one could call a privileged childhood. It included trips abroad and a Harvard education. He graduated magna cum laude. He started studying law, but abandoned law for a career in politics. In 1880 he joined the Republican Party.

Roosevelt was a noted outdoorsman from the beginning being a hunter, adventurer, conservationist, and sports enthusiast. In 1881 he climbed the Matterhorn with his new bride, Alice Hathaway Lee (whom he married in 1880 on his 22nd birthday)! Just two years later in 1884 she sadly died of kidney failure. Roosevelt spent a tremendous amount of time in the Dakota territory hunting and ranching. Although he lost the race for mayor of New York City in 1886, he proceeded to write a book, *Life of Thomas Hart Benton* which was published in 1887. He secretly married his childhood sweetheart, Edith Carow, in London the year before and they had their first of four sons, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. on September 13 at Sagamore Hill. Roosevelt continued to write and publish numerous books on his western experiences, historic events, and later his more exotic travels.

In 1895 he became the Police Commissioner of New York City and received national recognition for police reforms there. In 1897 he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy by President William McKinley. In 1898 he established the “Rough Riders” and was elected Governor of New York state, which office he held until 1900 when he was nominated to the vice presidential ticket of the Republican Party. In 1901 McKinley was shot and Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in as the 26th President – the youngest ever to serve. He was re-elected in 1904 and established the U.S. Forest Service, the first federal game preserve, and in 1906 established many of our national parks. In December of 1906, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for mediating the treaty of the Russo-Japanese War. In 1908 Roosevelt established the National Conservation Commission to inventory the country’s natural resources -- a man way ahead of his time!

In March of 1909, Theodore Roosevelt completed his presidency and shortly thereafter embarked on a year-long safari in Africa with one of his sons. That adventure turned into another one of his books! His colorful life of travels, hunting, and writing books continued until January 6, 1919, when at the age of 60 he died in his sleep of a coronary embolism at Sagamore Hill.



Congratulations to Doug Hanto and Mary Klingensmith for being the first homeowners in Ames Place to receive a Century plaque for their home at 6806 Waterman.

The Historical Society of University City
6701 Delmar Blvd.
University City MO 63130

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*Holiday gifts

*U. City soldiers of WW1

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descendent of the Vassar family that founded Vassar College. Oliver had been a high jumper and hurdler. In fact, he was considered the best high jumper in St. Louis.

Oliver had been working as a salesman before he entered the infantry in September 1917 at Sgt. Headquarters Company, Camp Funsten, 354th Infantry. He was transferred to the 30th Infantry, Company M as a sergeant. He was killed at the second Battle of the Marne, near Chateau Thierry, France, on 15 July 1918. A little older than the previous soldiers, Oliver was thirty-one when he died. His funeral was held in July 1921, and he is buried at Valhalla Cemetery in St. Louis.

Gus Charles WEISS was born on 4 September 1890 in St. Louis and lived at 6460 Bartmer. Before the war, he had been a butcher. His family had originated in Bohemia. Inducted at Clayton, Missouri, on 11 March 1918, he became a gunnery instructor in serial school at Taliaferro Field, Hicks, Texas. He died of pneumonia on 14 October 1918 at San Anto-

nio, Texas, a victim of the influenza pandemic that struck that year. He was just twenty-seven and a half years old.

You can learn a lot more about the young people of University City who served in World War I in *University City, Missouri, Its People and Events, 1906–1931*, a book about the first twenty-five years of our community's history, which is for sale at the University Public Library or via the website of the St. Louis Genealogical Society. Chapter Five contains detailed information on these brave soldiers and many more.

Historical Society of University City
6701 Delmar Blvd.
University City MO 63130
ucityhistory@hotmail.com
www.ucityhistory.org