

The parents of Margaret Johanna Wetzel were John Louis Wetzel (1868-1920) and Anna Lillie Fornoff (1872-1939). They lived in St. Louis, and Margaret had five older brothers: John, Arthur, Clarence, Albert, and Walker. Sadly, the influenza pneumonia pandemic caused the death of her oldest brother, John, when he was only 20 years old, and their father died less than two years later at the age of 52.

John Louis Wetzel's jobs varied including a drayman (driver of a flat-bed wagon) for the Hon furniture company, an inspector for the Water Department, and a store clerk. His parents were George Wetzel and Johanna (Hannah) Haise. George was born in Bavaria (southern Germany) in 1838. Johanna Haise was born in 1843. Family notes show a connection to a family by the name of "Baldwin". Census records reveal that this was actually the "Ball" family of Ballwin, Missouri.

John Ball, born in 1779, was the founder of Ballwin. After Jefferson City became the capital of Missouri in 1826, a road was built to route mail to and from St. Louis that happened to go right by John Ball's land. In 1837, seeing that traffic had increased, he took advantage of the situation and a town was born. The Ball family was Irish, and John's father, James Ball (born in Dublin) was supposedly a friend of Daniel Boone. Johanna's parents are unknown, but census records show that they were German. She may have been unofficially adopted by the Ball family. A WWI record shows that one of her sons was named "Albert Ball Wetzel".



John Louis Wetzel Sr.

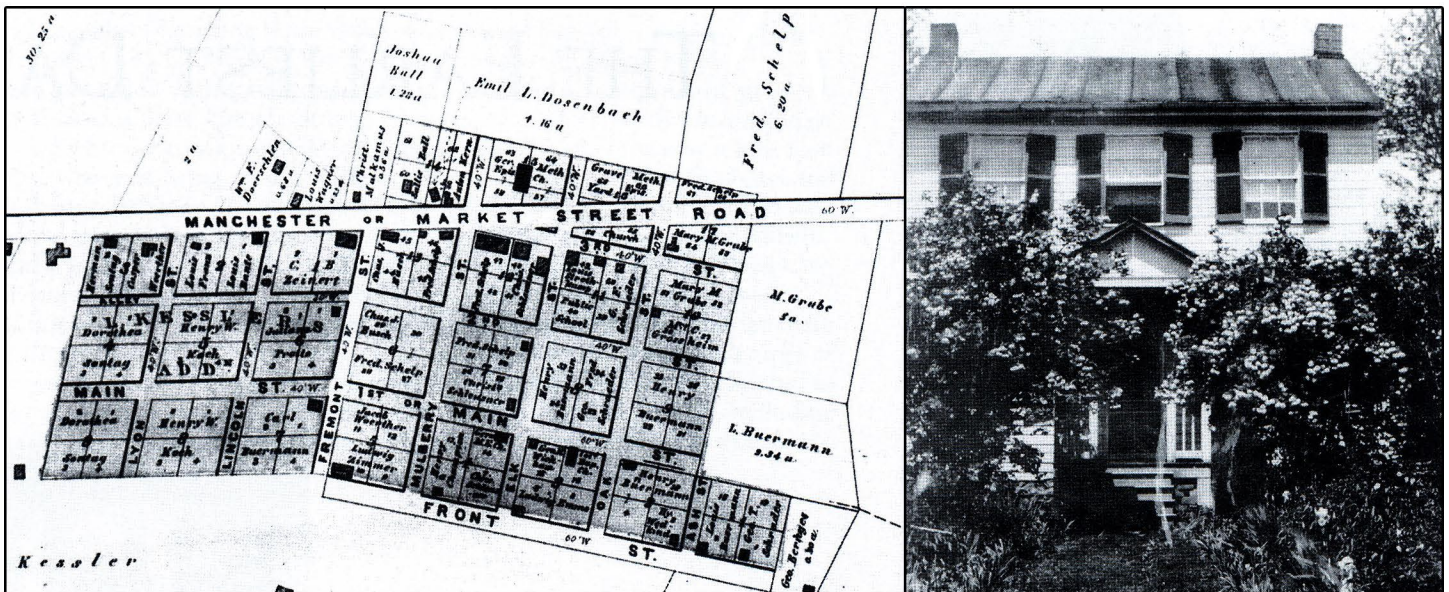


Margaret Johanna Wetzel



John Louis Wetzel Jr.





This 1878 Bonhomme Township survey map shows Ballwin, MO. Notice Joshua Ball's name near the top. He was about 48 years older than Johanna when their names appeared together in the census. The photo shows John Ball's house. It was built before Ballwin became a town and no longer stands today.



In addition to enduring the loss of her husband and son at a young age, Anna Lillie Fornoff had a rough childhood. In 1880, her sister died as an infant. In 1885, her mother, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Jacoby, died. Her father, George Fornoff, remarried, but then he died in 1888. Missouri Judicial records show that George's brother, John Fornoff, became the legal guardian of Anna Lillie and her brother, Henry George. They were 16 and 11 years old. However, they lived with Henry & Margaretha Klages. Margaretha was George Fornoff's sister. Payments from John Fornoff to Henry Klages for food, clothing, etc. were recorded by the court. The Klages family happened to live near the Wetzel family. Anna Lillie and John Louis Wetzel married in 1894, and Henry George lived with them. Some of the final payments from John Fornoff for Henry's "clothing and incidental expenses" were made to John Wetzel.

George Fornoff and his brother, John, were barbers in St. Louis. However, in the 1870s George's name is missing from the St. Louis directories. During that time George & Lizzie lived in Lincoln, Illinois, where Anna Lillie and her brother Henry George were born. Abraham Lincoln practiced law there from 1847 to 1859. Lizzie would have been ten when he moved on. It's the only US town named after Lincoln before he became president. George & Lizzie were born in Germany in 1843 and 1849.

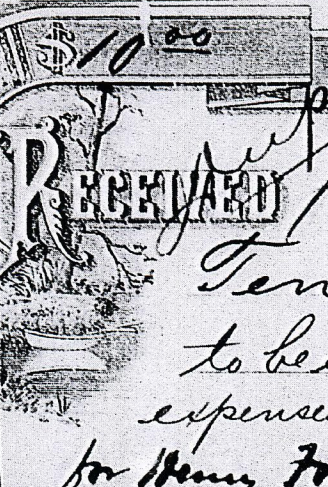
George's parents were Ludwig & Margaretha, born in 1817 and 1820. They came from the Darmstadt area of Germany.

Margaret Johanna Wetzel & Anna Lillie Fornoff



Not - John Wiley & the

works in the  
which is



duplicate

St Louis June 11<sup>th</sup> 1895

from John Fornoff ~~my friend~~  
Ten Dollars

to be expended by me for clothing and incidental  
expenses  
for Henry Fornoff  
John Wiley.

St Louis Mo Sep 15 1894

Received of  
Mr John Fornoff Guardian  
of Henry Fornoff, Jr.

\$15.00 for Suit  
of Cloths \$10.50  
Shoes 2.00  
Hat 1.50  
Shirt 1.00  
\$15.00

John Wiley





To any person legally authorized to solemnize Marriage  
**EXERCISE YOUR OFFICE**

You are hereby authorized To join in the Holy Bands  
 of Matrimony and to celebrate the Rites and Ceremonies of Marriage between  
 Mr. *George Fornoff*  
 and Miss *Lizzie C. M. Fornoff-Jacoby*  
 according to the usual custom and laws of the State of Illinois, and you are required to return  
 this License to me within thirty days from the celebration of such Marriage, with a Certificate  
 of the same appended thereto and signed by you under the Penalty of One hundred Dollars

Witness *James T. Hoblit* Clerk of said Court  
 and the Seal thereof at his office in *Lincoln* in said  
 County this *21<sup>st</sup>* day of *August* A.D. 18*91*

*James T. Hoblit*  
 County Clerk

Cutler, Page, Thorne & Co. Stationers 118 & 120 Monroe St. Chicago

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
*Logan* COUNTY. SS

*I, John Wetts*  
 a Minister of the Gospel hereby  
 certify that on the *22<sup>d</sup>* day of *August* 18*91*  
 joined in Marriage Mr. *George Fornoff* with  
 Miss *Lizzie C. M. Jacoby* agreeably to the authority given  
 in the above License & the custom & laws of this State. Given under my hand and  
 seal this *9<sup>th</sup>* day of *September* A.D. 18*91*  
*John Wetts* Pastor seal.  
 of the Germ. Evang. Church of Lincoln.