



## Heinrich Otto Schneider

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**H**einrich “Otto Schneider was born May 5, 1862 in/around/or near Hessen Darmstadt, Germany. Oral family history said that he was trained in the ministry. Otto immigrated to New York, on September 14, 1886, at the age of 24 years old. He came over on the ship, “Ems,” which he had left Germany from the port of Bremen. Otto made his Declaration of Intent to become a U.S. citizen on October 17, 1892 in the Circuit Court in St. Louis.<sup>1</sup> He was naturalized in the Criminal Court of St. Louis on September 14, 1896; this was exactly 10 years to the day when he arrived in the USA.<sup>2</sup> He is first listed in the St. Louis City Directories in 1885-86 as a brewer, living at 100 S. 20<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1886-7, he is listed as a laborer.

Otto met a very attractive young woman who emigrated from Seengen, Canton Argau, Switzerland. Her name was Anna Marie Bohler. The two were married on April 5, 1888 at the Evangelische St. Lukas Kirche, which was located at the northeast corner of Jefferson and Scott, in St. Louis. Rudolph Bohler, brother of the bride, was the witness to the marriage. The church building and parsonage sustained \$2,500 of damage from the Great Cyclone Tornado in St. Louis on May 27, 1896. After repairing and remodeling the church, it was reopened in October 1896 and at that time the **FIRST SERVICE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE** was conducted, in spite of objections by many members.

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<sup>1</sup> Original Declaration of Intent Document

<sup>2</sup> Original Citizenship Document

In 1906, the congregation built a new Church building at 2336 Tennessee Avenue.<sup>3</sup>



**Heinrich Otto Schneider and Anna Marie Bohler  
Wedding Photo**

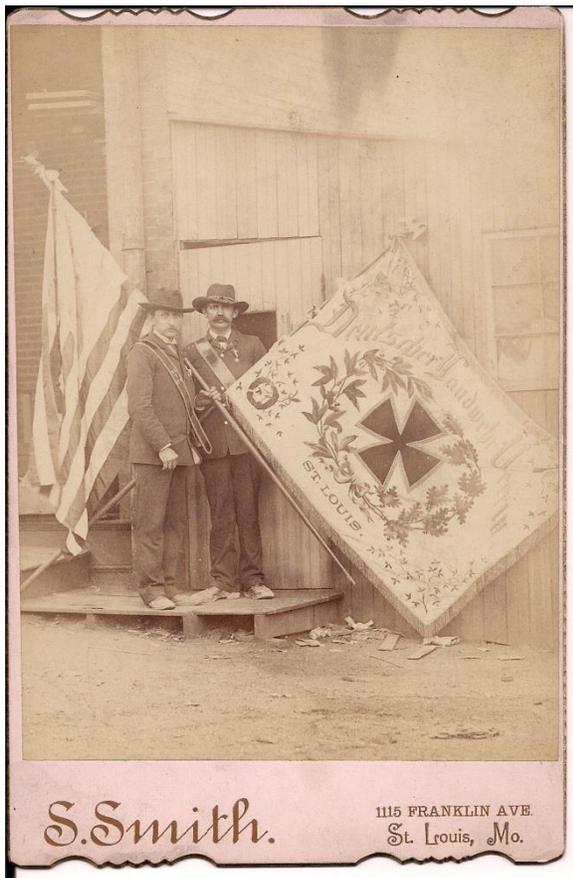
In the 1887-8 St. Louis City Directory, Otto is listed as a brewer, living at 2100 Gratiot. In 1889-90, Otto is listed as a laborer, and living at 2129 Singleton. Then, in 1890-91, he is listed as a laborer, living at 2133 Gratiot. In 1892-3, Otto is listed as a nailer at the same address. From the 1893-4 directory through 1895-6, he is listed as a laborer. In 1896, Otto is listed as a fireman, and his residence is now 3134 LaSalle Street. *This move might have resulted from the destruction caused by the Great Cyclone Tornado in 1896. This neighborhood was in the path of the tornado.* In 1899, he is listed as a

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<sup>3</sup> St. Lukes Evangelical Church 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet

fireman, living at 3214 Rutger. In 1900, he is listed as a blacksmith. The 1901 directory shows him listed as a fireman again. All of these addresses are in the St. Louis neighborhood called "The Gate."

Otto was a member of the Deutsche Landwehr Verein, a German military veterans organization in St. Louis. Eugene Schneider, a grandson, said, "Otto was in the German Kaiser Army."



2Deutsche Landwehr Verein, Otto Schneider, left side

Otto died suddenly on August 19, 1903, at the age of 41 years old. He was buried at the Old St. Marcus Cemetery, located at 6638 Gravois Road. After the cemetery was closed and the New St. Marcus Cemetery was opened, at 7902 Gravois Avenue, Otto was moved to the family plot there. His death was reported in the

Westliche Post, Globe Democrat and Post Dispatch newspapers.

Otto and Anna were blessed with three children: Charles Friedrich William, Anna Margaret, and Walter Eugene Robert. The two oldest children grew up, got married, and had families. The youngest child, Walter, died at age 18 years old in 1915 from epilepsy.

Anna Marie Bohler Schneider was known as "Granny" by her grandchildren.



3Anna Marie Schneider with children; Charles, Anna Margaret and Walter

Written by Jan Spargo Wenk, great-granddaughter, 2014.

\*Note: still searching for Otto's parents' and family names, as well as the town or village name in Germany.