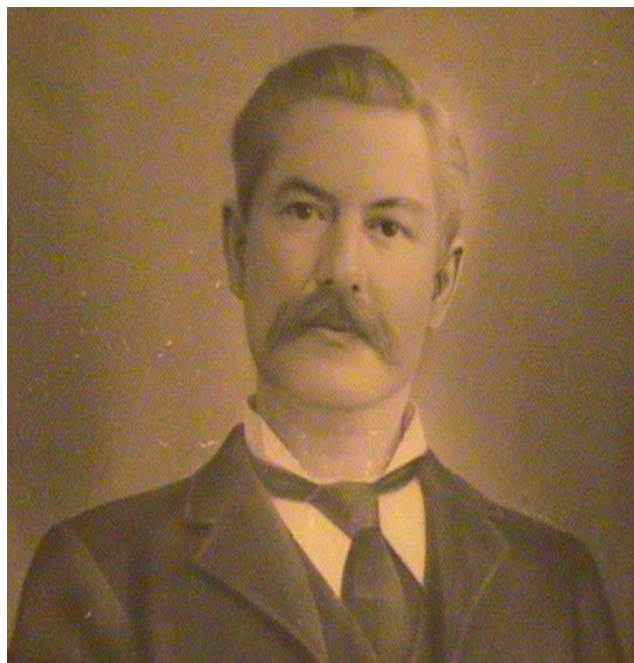


John Vogt

Offenbach am Main, Hesse, Germany to Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri

John Vogt was a native of Offenbach am Main, Hesse, Germany. He is the 5th child and 2nd son of eight children born to Karl Vogt and Susanne Margarethe Phillipine Pfaff Vogt on September 25, 1856.¹ The family belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of **Offenburg** and John continued to practice his faith at the German Evangelical Lutheran in Jefferson City. His father Karl was a blacksmith in Offenbach. John apprenticed as a tailor. For reasons unknown he did not practice the trade in his town. Perhaps there were other tailors in Offenbach and he could not find work there. I do not have a lot of information about the family's daily life in Germany. I have traced the family to the early 1700's but there is more research to be done. Most of the family is from Offenbach and Gross Umstadt. Records indicate that there were other tailors in the family line.²

According to the 1900 Census John immigrated to America in 1871 when he was about 15 years old.³ The immigration record has not been found. A bio from the "Biographies from Cole County People" says that he immigrated to America when he was fourteen years old and was a skilled tailor. He first located in New Jersey and later to the mid-west.⁴ The St. Louis 1873 street directory lists him as a tailor living in a boarding house. While he was in St. Louis he was a tailor and worked in different shops. ⁵



John and Adelaide Vogt

On April 24, 1874 John married Adelaide Osberghaus of Syracuse, New York, the daughter of Dr. Wilhelm Frederich Osberghaus and Mary Jane (Joanne), at the Independent Evangelical Protestant Church of the Holy Ghost at 8th and Walnut Streets in St. Louis.⁶ While in St. Louis they had two daughters⁷ and a son who died in 1882 of phenomina when he was 1 year 9 months old. ⁸

Living conditions in St. Louis were not always the best for Germans and other ethnic groups. The introduction of ready-made clothes, high taxes, crowded living quarters and low city

services could have been reasons for the family to move to Jefferson City in 1884⁹ where they had 3 more daughters and 3 sons¹⁰ making a total of nine children six of whom lived to adulthood. A son died of cholera at the age of 10 months in 1895.¹¹ In Jefferson City the family attended the German Lutheran Church which over the years has change its name several times and is presently called the Central United Church of Christ.¹²

While in Jefferson City John worked in clothing stores and tailor shops, including his own shop until his death.¹³ His son Edwin, learned the tailoring trade and took over the shop after his father died.¹⁴

John lost his wife, Adelaide, February 11, 1900 at the age of 46 of congestive chills, which is similar to today's malaria.¹⁵ At the same time he lost his 9th child, a baby girl who was unnamed. It is not known if the baby died at birth because of the mother's illness or shortly after. Both deaths occurred on February 11, 1900. John was left with 6 children ages ranging from 25 to 9 years old. Three of the children, 2 girls and 1 boy continued to live with him until his death on July 19, 1913 at the age of 56.¹⁶

It is hard to describe John. I am sure he was caring and loved his wife very much. In his will of 1894 (written before Adelaide's death) John refers to Adelaide as "Addie my beloved wife". But it also states that if Addie should remarry his estate should be divided to his children only. His daughter, Adelaide, describes him as a man who provided for his children but also insisted that they work very hard. She seemed to dislike her father. I suppose that losing his wife and operating his own business was taxing for him. He was 44 years old when Addie died and he never remarried.



**The John Vogt Home
117 E. High Street
Jefferson City, Missouri**

Sources:

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Submitted by:
Bobbie Laury
314-544-5143
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