

Looking Back with the County Executive: Four Families (*continued*)

Many native-born particularly hated the immigrants if they were Catholic. Orrick Johns describes the nativist writings of Thomas Lindsay, the guardian of Ann Durfee Johns, as “a powerful polemic against the Great Beast of Revelation – the Catholic Church.” Mary Easton Sibley wrote, “I believe firmly that the Jesuits and Romans are for the most part anything but Christians.” Even Edward Bates displayed some nativist leanings.

Good Presbyterians like the Bates and Johns complained about the use of alcohol, especially on Sunday, by the German immigrants, one of whom wrote home to Germany, “Sunday is kept holy here, they go to church three times on Sunday, and during the week besides... Here nothing is sold on Sunday.” Edward Bates served as president of the state temperance society in 1834. John Jay Johns believed “It is impossible to estimate the evils of whiskey and beer, nothing but a Divine Power can destroy them.” Religious Germans, especially the Catholics, as well as non-religious Germans, did not see drinking as a moral issue, and practiced the “Continental Sunday,” where socializing after church might be accompanied by a glass of beer or wine. They saw efforts to impose adherence to the “Puritan Sunday” as a threat to liberty and German *Kultur*.

The four Virginia families held different views on slavery. By 1860, the Dyer family no longer owned slaves. Edward Bates helped an enslaved woman gain her freedom and was active in a colonization society dedicated to returning ex-slaves to Africa. Both agreed with John Orrick that slavery should not spread into the territories. Orrick Johns, grandson of John Jay Johns, later wrote, “My grandfather accepted the world as he found it, attended to his duties piously, believed that his slaves were given to him by an act of God, even as the men of Moses’ time believed that their sheep and goats and handmaidens came to them from Heaven, and Job his boils.”

Anti-slavery Democrats like Arnold Krekel and anti-slavery Whigs like Bates and Orrick formed what became the Missouri Republican Party. Barton Bates had become a lawyer and moved back to Cheneaux in 1855. One leading Republican informed a colleague “(I) have written to Krekel to try and bring out Barton Bates for Judge in your district.” In December 1859, John K. McDearmon was chosen, along with Barton Bates and Arnold Krekel to nominate county delegates to the Republican state convention. McDearmon, the son of James McDearmon, a native of Virginia who had served as Missouri auditor, was married to Lucy Orrick, daughter of John and Urilla Orrick. The state convention endorsed Edward Bates as the Republican nominee for president.

While Krekel supported Bates, most German delegates were suspicious of his flirtations with nativists and supported the eventual nominee, Abraham Lincoln. The same day Lincoln was elected president, Charles Woodson, a brother-in-law of Edward Bates, was elected County Court judge, and John K. McDearmon was elected county clerk. John Jay Johns expressed the view of many in St. Charles County whose roots were in the South, writing, “The North has agitated the subject of slavery until the South is maddened to desperation and, unless she retraces her steps, the Union cannot stand.” John Coalter was one of five conditional unionists from Missouri to attend a convention in Washington to seek a compromise. Two weeks later, John Jay Johns reported, “There are hopeful indications that the border slave states and free states may yet effect a settlement on the matter.” Meanwhile, the Missouri General Assembly called for a convention to decide on secession, and Lincoln named Edward Bates as his attorney general.

When the “unconditional unionists” met to nominate a delegate, Charles Woodson and John McDearmon were elected president and secretary of the meeting. However, most of those in attendance were Germans, causing the *Demokrat* to explain that the German population of the county was “through and through for the Union under the Constitution, without any ‘ifs’ and ‘buts.’”

When the Convention met, Hamilton Gamble chaired the Committee on Federal Relations and guided the Convention towards a rejection of secession. He expressed a pragmatic belief that geography and military necessity dictated, “connection with a Southern confederacy is annihilation for Missouri.” Delegate Robert Frayser, also a brother in law of Edward Bates, the owner of 24 slaves and a conditional unionist, admitted his feelings were with the South, but expressed his belief that the Union was inseparable, stating, “I have

determined that if I can do nothing to advance the peace and perpetuity of the Union, I will do nothing toward destroying it.”

The following month, confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter and people began to take sides. Fleming Bates, son of Edward Bates, was among the sons of Virginia families who headed south, avoiding Union patrols, to join the Confederate Army. After a scouting party arrested William Keeble and discovered he had been at the home of William’s father Richard, Provost Marshal Krekel explained, “When this was reported to me, I instructed Captain Hoover to release young Keeble and arrest the old man, having before this time notified him not to permit his place to be made the resort of disloyal men who had taken up arms.” The Randolphs and the Talleys were also among those Virginia families who did little to hide their disloyalty. The mother of Charles Henry Gauss, eventual husband of John Jay John’s daughter Charlotte Elizabeth (Lizzie), wrote to her son when he was a student at Yale College, “I am glad you found some sympathisers [sic] in New Haven -- it would be rather hard to stay there a year, and have no one to talk to...”

Those who remained expressed all shades of loyalty. When federal troops came to St. Charles in July, Rev. Robert Farris, minister at the Presbyterian Church, prayed that the state “might have the powers granted to it by the Almighty to drive out the invaders.” After Mary Easton Sibley complained to Union officials, three members of the congregation, including John Jay Johns, wrote a letter to Hamilton Gamble, named provisional governor by the Convention, in defense of Rev. Farris admitting, “He claims to be loyal, although he holds some opinions different from those in power.”

Orrick Johns described his grandmother, whose father’s family was from Massachusetts, as one “devoted to the Union cause,” but helped southern soldiers avoid the authorities. He described how his family dealt with the invaders.

The terror rose every day, and threatened the home of my grandfather. He had a cousin and boyhood companion in Springfield, Illinois, a friend of Lincoln, and the father of two sons in the Northern army. The cousin forwarded my grandfather’s letter, describing the terror against civilians, to the President. In a short while, one of the sons of the Springfield cousin, a lieutenant in full uniform, appeared in St. Charles, on a furlough especially granted by Lincoln, and with orders to investigate. He stayed at the Johns house for a week, and the terror came to an end.

Four sons of Edward Bates served the Union, including Julian as a surgeon in the Missouri militia; Richard as an ensign in the Navy; Charles Woodson as a West Point cadet; and John Coalter as an officer in the Army of the Potomac. When German Home Guard regiments launched a pre-emptive strike against the Missouri militia at Camp Jackson in St. Louis, Barton Bates supported them. While it was composed primarily of Germans and commanded by Arnold Krekel, William Dyer joined a pro-Union Home Guard regiment in St. Charles County, as did Fred Hatcher and Richard Woodson, nephews of Edward Bates. Barton Bates wrote his father, “The St. Charles Home Guard is out upon some duty. They stayed 800 strong at Barrack (Peruque) Bridge last night. I think they have some extensive march in view, but don’t know what it is. Goody Woodson and Fred Hatcher are with them.”

The owner of seven slaves, Barton Bates opposed efforts to free the slaves of disloyal masters, writing “I don’t like General Fremont’s notion about the negroes. I don’t see the propriety of treating them differently from other property.” Governor Gamble agreed, and gave Dr. Benjamin F. Wilson, the largest slaveholder in St. Charles County, a pass to take his 45 slaves south.

John C. Orrick, a graduate of St. Charles College, received a degree from Harvard, where he studied law. He returned to St. Charles in 1861, began practicing law and became a staunch Unionist. He served as a captain in a militia battalion organized in March 1862 under the command of Arnold Krekel. Governor Gamble, with whom his father had served in the General Assembly, launched young Orrick’s political career by appointing him to fill a vacancy for prosecuting attorney for the judicial circuit which included St. Charles County. As the animosity between Conservatives, like Governor Gamble, and Radicals, like Colonel Krekel, increased, Orrick gravitated toward the Radicals, as did the Dyers.

Barton Bates became the leader of the Conservatives in St. Charles County. The reconvened Convention passed an ordinance in October, requiring elected officials, members of certain professions, and anyone wishing to vote, whether they were suspected of disloyalty or not, to take the "Convention Oath." One vacancy and two refusals to take the oath allowed the appointment of an entirely new Supreme Court, which included Barton Bates. The following June, the Convention required all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45 to enroll in the Enrolled Missouri Militia. Governor Gamble assigned Colonel Barton Bates the task of organizing two regiments in St. Charles County. Radicals were concerned that Southern sympathizers, willing to swear a false oath, were serving. The presence of such men within the St. Charles County regiments led George Dyer, enrolling officer for Cuivre Township, to complain about certain neighbors who, were enrolled in the militia but were not considered loyal men.

On the complaint of Colonel Barton Bates that he harbored and armed rebels, Lieutenant John McDearmon arrested William Randolph and took him to St. Louis in January 1863. Barton Bates' son Onward informed his grandfather, "We have had lively times up here lately, the McDearmons of St. Charles, who profess to be good Union men and belong to the Militia have been furnishing the rebels with arms, the Militia captured a revolver Saturday that one of them gave Willie Talley, it was hid in the piano."

While Conservatives still controlled the governor's office and the Convention, after the General Election in 1862, Radicals were in control in the legislature and St. Charles County. As they attempted to purge Conservatives from positions of power, former political allies became enemies. John Orrick no longer owned slaves by 1863 and supported the Radicals, who passed an act in the legislature, the preamble of which recited that all members of the Board of Curators of St. Charles College, with the exception of John Orrick, Arnold Krekel and Edward A. Lewis had failed to take the Convention oath. The act declared all their positions vacated and appointed a new board that included Orrick, Krekel and other Radicals. Litigation by the old board was unsuccessful at the circuit and appellate court levels and the new board remained in control throughout the war.

With partisan strife increasing a group of Radicals, including Arnold Krekel, traveled to Washington to meet with Lincoln in September 1863. When Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Chase invited them to his home, Attorney General Bates refused to join them, explaining, "I refuse flatly to hold social, friendly intercourse with men, who daily denounce me and all my friends, as traitors." After his appointment as commissioner of exemptions in the militia, fifty-seven commissioned officers complained to Governor Gamble that John K. McDearmon had failed to join the Home Guard at the beginning of the war and had been elected captain of the only "Secesh" Company in the county. The governor appointed Barton Bates instead.

Since Missouri was not "in rebellion," the Emancipation Proclamation did not apply to slaves within the state. In November 1863, Arnold Krekel was one of the three Radical candidates to replace the three conservative incumbent Supreme Court Justices, including Barton Bates. James B. Eads criticized the Radicals for politicizing judgeships that had always been non-partisan and endorsed the incumbents. While the Radicals received 65 percent of the vote in St. Charles County, the Conservatives won the Supreme Court races statewide. However, a strong showing by Radicals in state circuit judge elections persuaded Lincoln to begin recruiting slaves in Missouri, paying their masters \$300 for each recruit. John Jay Johns reported, "My negro man Henry ran off yesterday. Many negroes are leaving every week." By 1864, only two of Barton Bates' slaves remained, prompting his father to write his grandson Onward, "We hear very good reports of you, and indeed, all the children – how cheerfully you conform to your new situation and with what a good-will you help your ma, in all her domestic labors." Two months later, Barton Bates suggested that, since President Lincoln was no longer taking his advice, his father retire from the cabinet and come with Julia and live at Cheneaux.

After William Dyer claimed Richard Keeble harbored guerrillas, the provost marshal imprisoned him. Another southern sympathizer was arrested, accused of assaulting William Dyer. Dyer's sister, Elizabeth, had married Frederick Grabenhorst, who had served with John C. Orrick in Colonel Krekel's militia regiment. When guerrilla forces threatened St. Charles County in the fall of 1864, Grabenhorst enlisted at Wentzville in the 49th Missouri Regiment, and was named first lieutenant. As bushwhackers approached St. Charles the *Demokrat* reported, "A hot reception is certain. All Union folks of the county are under arms." The Johns family remembered it differently and, many years later, Orrick Johns wrote, "It was said that when news arrived that a guerrilla band under one of Quantrill's lieutenants named Anderson was near St. Charles and intended to

raid it, all the uniforms of the Home Guard disappeared and guns were thrown into wells. Quantrill's men were known to be under oath to kill at sight any man they met in a U.S. uniform."

In November 1864, the oath requirement, and the many men who had left the state to fight for the Confederacy, meant President Lincoln received 78 percent of the vote in St. Charles County. Radical candidates also benefited from martial law. After his election to a full term as prosecuting attorney, John C. Orrick informed the provost marshal that soldiers had gone too far in arresting Alfred Stonebraker, a law-abiding citizen who had supported the Democrat, Gen. George McClellan, for president.

After Lincoln's re-election in November, Edward Bates did leave the cabinet, further weakening Conservative influence in the administration. He returned to Missouri, where the voters had overwhelmingly approved a constitutional convention. When it met, it elected Arnold Krekel president and passed an ordinance freeing the slaves of Missouri in January 1865. Orrick Johns later observed, "My grandfather was on the property side, and as a result of a bloody war, had much of his property confiscated."

To preserve the fruits of victory, the delegates believed it was necessary to continue disenfranchisement of the "rebel" element. Delegate Charles Drake convinced his colleagues to include in the proposed constitution a test oath requiring all voters to affirm they had been loyal since the very beginning of the Civil War. The proposed constitution also contained an "Ouster Ordinance" declaring the offices of all judges and clerks of Missouri courts vacant as of May 1, 1865.

In April, the war ended, Lincoln was assassinated and an election held to decide the fate of the proposed constitution. Edward Bates continued to criticize Arnold Krekel and wrote extensively opposing the proposed Drake Constitution. When it was soundly beaten in St. Louis, and received only 31.1 percent in St. Charles County, he wrote, "And so, Mr. Drake is plucked bare, and cast down upon his own dunghill. In St. Charles, Krekel fares no better; we beat them largely in the town, and in the whole county 5 or 600." Nevertheless, the Constitution passed statewide.

Conservative resentment was expressed in a tongue-in-cheek letter to the editor of the Conservative *Missouri Republican*, signed "St. Charles County," reported that the editor of the Radical *Westliche Post* appeared "as representative of our most gracious sovereign (Krekel), who could not be present (delicacy you know), came here to our grand Jubilee when we changed the name of "Camp Bates" (Bates the arch-traitor) to "Camp Krekel"(Krekel, that glorious patriot, brave General and wise statesman).

Writing years later Onward Bates remembered, "The Civil War came on with its bitterness and all of those good people were ranged, some on one side and some on the other. Some of them moved away, and among them all lines of separation were strictly drawn. The war exhausted the country, and when its bloody term was ended the old conditions were not restored." As prosecuting attorney, John C. Orrick enforced the new conditions. There were disturbances in Wentzville in September 1866 when election official Frederick Grabenhorst refused to register Charles Smith, and certain other individuals, who could not take the oath. After Smith assaulted several individuals, the sheriff and Orrick arrested him. Priests and ministers were required to take the test oath. Among those charged by Orrick was Rev. Robert Farris, who was indicted by the grand jury. John C. Orrick's brother-in-law John K. McDearmon was ousted as county clerk and replaced with a Radical.

The Ouster Ordinance did not affect Judge Barton Bates, who had resigned from the Supreme Court in February 1864. When his uncle, John Coalter, died later that year his will relieved Barton of the \$10,000 note he owed him. Anticipating "the termination of the struggle may leave them destitute," Coalter had also established a trust for the benefit of his sister's family in South Carolina, and appointed his nephew as trustee. Barton Bates traveled to South Carolina in the fall of 1865 to "provide comforts for those who may need them."

Barton Bates continued to reside in St. Charles County. Onward Bates later wrote that Cheneaux "was so dear to the to the father and mother and children that no idea of exchanging it for one in the city was successfully maintained, although professional and business requirements caused father to make frequent visits to Jefferson City and St. Louis." Barton Bates became an investor, along with his friend James Eads, in the construction of a bridge across the Mississippi River at St. Louis. The *Post-Dispatch* reported that he paid taxes on over \$141,000 in 1872.

Edward Bates died in 1869 and Barton Bates never again held public office. His influence in St. Charles County declined. He was one of 17 non-Germans who filed a remonstrance in the St. Charles County Court

against renewing the license of a German dram shop operator they alleged “sells intoxicating liquor, on the first day of the week, commonly called the Sabbath...” After a hearing, the court, composed of German-Americans, not only renewed the license, but ordered the remonstrants to pay court costs amounting to \$91.83. Barton Bates’ brother, John Coalter Bates, did not return to St. Charles County after the war but stayed in the Army. His son Onward worked on the railroad bridge built at St. Charles, before going on to build bridges throughout the world and become a nationally known engineer.

John Orrick remained on the Board of Curators of St. Charles College. In 1969, the Missouri Supreme Court upheld the loyalty oath requirement stating, “An alien enemy may be forbidden to live among us, and, by strict law, he may be imprisoned and his property confiscated.” However, the court ruled that whether the individual members had refused to take the oath was a matter for judicial determination and could not be decided by the legislature.

John Jay Johns was on the Board of Directors at Lindenwood. The school was under the control of the Presbyterian Church, whose members were split on the subjects of slavery and loyalty. Anti-slavery members controlled the General Assembly of the denomination and, after extensive litigation, the Missouri Supreme Court held they had the right to oust pro-slavery trustees like Johns and appoint new trustees. While her husband John Jay stayed with the southern branch of the Presbyterian Church, Ann Durfee Johns joined the northern branch. Her grandson later explained, “Her family besieged her with every argument they could think of, to no avail. She would have nothing of Secession or slavery, and in spite of the ridicule of her best friends she trotted alone every Sunday to the North church.”

John Jay Johns testified as a character witness for James Judge, who had lost his freedom and his property during the war simply for making a pro-southern statement. Someone later noted Judge “died a poorer man,” and explained “Poor Judge was too great a rebel in war times and the government bled him to the amount of several thousand dollars, for his rebel sentiment.”¹

The Johns family continued to reside in St. Charles, described by his grandson as, “... a community of new German immigrants whose sympathies were pro-Lincoln, ‘republican,’ plebian – the very antithesis of the ideas by which George and his brothers were reared, and reasons for a scrap were never wanting. The honor of the south and of the family had to be defended.” While George Dyer’s daughter married Frederick Grabenhorst, who had been promoted to captain and seen action in the South before the war ended, nostalgic memories of the “lost cause” were reinforced in the Johns family when daughter Charlotte Elizabeth married former secessionist Charles Henry Gauss. When Fleming Bates returned from the war he married Nannie Wilson, daughter of Benjamin Wilson, the largest slave-owner in St. Charles County before the war.

John C. Orrick was elected state representative in November 1866. When he was elected speaker two years later at age twenty-nine, the *Demokrat* reported, “Among the Germans everyone voted for him. We rush to congratulate St. Charles on the election and are confident that at the end of this year’s session the House can also be congratulated that it has chosen such a good Speaker.”

However, he began to alienate his German constituents when he became a supporter of women’s suffrage. In 1869, he met with members of the Missouri Woman Suffrage Association, including Beverly Allen, the first president of the St. Louis chapter. One newspaper reported, “Mr. Orrick stated the object of the meeting, alluded to his part here before in bringing the subject of woman’s suffrage before the people, and concluded one of his usual graceful speeches, with the declaration that in his view the time had come when we should make this a republican government, in fact as it was in theory, which it could not be while class government prevailed.”

A women’s suffrage amendment was debated in the Missouri House of Representatives before it was tabled on a vote of 59 to 43. The following June, Orrick married Penelope Allen, daughter of Beverly Allen. Orrick’s

¹ *St. Charles Cosmos*, October 7, 1891. Judge’s will devised one-half of all his property to his trustees for the benefit of a religious denomination known as the New Church. His estate was valued at \$5,000, and included more than 4,000 acres of land in the county. When the St. Louis Court of Appeals heard the case, Edward A. Lewis, who was then a justice, recused himself because he had been Judge’s trustee under the will. Since the constitution prohibited a devise of land to a religious institution of more than five acres in the country, or one acre in a city, the appeals courts upheld the lower court decision striking down the bequest. *Judge v. Booge*, 47 Mo. 544, Mo 1871.

support for women's suffrage provoked a respectful, yet strong, editorial from the *St. Charles Demokrat*. "One could excuse this as a youthful indiscretion, which is surmounted when one has more experience. However, that Mr. O. in his passion for this idea, has completely overlooked his duty to his voters, becomes, in itself, a decidedly unpleasant development."

The *Demokrat* did support his leadership in passing a proposed constitutional amendment abolishing the "ironclad" oath requirement. When the State Republican Convention refused to support re-enfranchisement in principle, the Liberal Republicans met in the Senate chamber to establish their own party, which was endorsed by the *Demokrat*. The Liberal Republicans were not united in St. Charles County and another candidate filed as a Liberal Republican. But Orrick's biggest political problem was his past support of women's suffrage. The *Demokrat* had advised that it was a position "a representative of a district like St. Charles must definitely retract if he dutifully considers his voters, as on this point it must certainly be known to him that the overwhelming majority of these have decided completely against this." By August, when it reported on the county convention, the *Demokrat* sarcastically remarked, "At the end the women's representative John C. Orrick took the podium, spoke in total only a few words, which were of no consequence to anyone." With the Republican vote split, the Democratic candidate won with a plurality.

John C. Orrick moved his law office to St. Louis, where his legal career flourished. He argued 17 cases before Missouri appellate courts, and five cases before the US Supreme Court, while remaining an influential member of the Republican Party. He and Penelope had three children including a daughter, Christine. John Orrick died in 1879. That same year, Barton Bates was indicted by a federal grand jury for actions taken as vice-president of the National Bank of the State of Missouri in St. Louis. The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court which overturned his conviction in 1883, by which time Barton Bates no longer made the list of the city's richest men.

Radicals worked to establish public schools for blacks and improve them for whites. The Dyer School for whites was named after George Dyer, while the Star of the Prairie, a school for blacks, often operated out of the Dyer farmhouse. George Johns was 12 years old when the German Radicals built a new public school in St. Charles. Orrick Johns later reported, "...at last the southerners surrendered to the public school, which was taught mostly by German-Americans. George and his friends realized that these were sounder scholars and better teachers than the ones they had been used to. Still the prejudice against knowledge with a foreign and plebian flavor was too deep-seated, and the incorrigible kept their sensitive German professors in tears."

After attending public school, Onward Bates graduated from the Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York and became an engineer. His sister Katherine and brother Julian moved away and became physicians. After attending St. Charles College, George Johns enrolled at Princeton University, where he became a reporter on the college newspaper, edited by Woodrow Wilson. When Wilson graduated, George took his place as editor, and the two remained close friends. During his last two years at Princeton, George and Minnehaha "Minnie" McDearmon, a student at Lindenwood, daughter of John K. McDearmon and niece of John C. Orrick wrote each other nearly every day.

After graduating in 1880, George returned to St. Charles and practiced law with Minnie's uncle, Theodore McDearmon. Later that year, he helped his brother Glover start a weekly Democratic newspaper, the *St. Charles Journal*. Orrick Johns later described the paper as an effort to "break the stranglehold of the barbarian bloc," in a town "stagnated in a petty Teutonic tradition of shop-keeping and bribe-sharing."

When July 4th fell on a Sunday in 1880, John Jay Johns, complained, "The governor has appointed tomorrow to be observed as the legal Fourth or holiday. But the German Societies have three celebrations today. They hold very loose ideas of the Sabbath, both Catholic and Lutheran. The open violation of the Sabbath in traffic and open beer and liquor saloons is seriously corrupting the morals of our people."

John Jay Johns continued to be a loyal Democrat, complaining the local Republican Party was made up of "a lot of negroes and low whites." By that time German-Americans comprised two-thirds of the population and were able to elect almost exclusively German-Americans to public office. When Frederick Grabenhorst, husband of Elizabeth Dyer Grabenhorst, filed for state representative, a local paper predicted, "His former comrades, who stood in the ranks with him on the battlefields during wartime, also will not forget him in the

election next November.” He was elected, took office in January 1881, and served for three terms. Orrick Johns later complained that Germans “ruled the town and county, to the fury of the Virginia and Kentucky folk.”

John Jay Johns observed in 1880, “The peculiar condition of things in this community are very unfavorable to the growth of our Protestant American churches. The American population diminishes gradually. Our young people go away as they grow up.” His daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Charles Henry Gauss, moved to Sedalia. A year later, he recorded, “Glover is thinking of leaving here permanently, no opening here for American young men. He will try St. Louis and if he fails there will go southwest.” After an engagement of almost five years, George Johns married Minnie McDearmon in 1884. Just as Minnie’s uncle, John C. Orrick, had 13 years earlier, they joined the diaspora when George became a reporter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Not everyone moved away, and Fred D. Johns was appointed physician and superintendent of the County Asylum. Cora, Margaret and Hester Bates, became teachers at the Francis Howell Institute, while Hatcher Bates remained at Cheneaux to farm. Family ties remained strong. John C. Orrick was a close friend of Judge Samuel Breckenridge, whose daughter Virginia married Onward Bates in 1892. The same year, Barton Bates died at Cheneaux. Later, a monument to honor him was erected, not in Radical St. Charles County, but in Columbia, a Conservative stronghold during the war. John C. Orrick remained close to his brother-in-law John McDearmon who joined Orrick at his ranch in Texas to hunt quail and deer in 1889. Orrick died a year later, and his sister Lucy, the wife of John McDearmon died two years after that.

Bernard Dyer, son of William Dyer, attended college in Indiana. After graduating from the Chicago Law School, he returned to St. Charles County, was admitted to the bar in 1898, and practiced in St. Charles. A Republican, he was elected to the first of two four-year term as St. Charles County public administrator in 1904. Two years later, he married Adelaid Aymond, and they became active members of the St. Charles Borromeo Church. A civic leader in St. Charles, he was one of four men responsible for the city’s centennial celebration in 1909. In April 1911, Dyer was appointed by the Republican governor as judge in the newly created 35th Circuit, which also included Lincoln and Pike counties, where Republicans were scarce. Judge Dyer was nominated by a Republican committee to run for a four-year term in 1912, against the former prosecuting attorney and state representative from Lincoln County. While Dyer almost doubled the vote of his opponent in St. Charles County, he lost the election by 800 votes. He returned to private practice and served as president of the St. Charles chapter of the Knights of America, a Catholic fraternal organization, in 1916.

Onward Bates continued to reflect his family’s views on religion and the Sabbath. Orrick Johns described the Puritan Sunday of his father’s childhood, “...the children suffered many a gloomy Sunday, when not a single needle or a broom moved, nothing was cooked, playing was taboo, and a starved kid, after hours of prayer and church, had to sit and look at his hands.” George Johns George Johns came to agree with the German-Americans, opposing prohibition in 1908, explaining “The *Post-Dispatch* has nothing to do with the beer, wine or liquor business. It is defending a principle dear to every lover of freedom and to every supporter of true Democracy which contemplates the free development of the highest qualities of manhood- strength, self-restraint, temperance, humanity, tolerance, and the limitation of government to the protection of the rights of all men to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...”

Unable to get the General Assembly to act, supporters put the suffrage issue on the ballot in November 1914 by initiative petition. While 24 percent of the Missouri men voting favored the proposal, only 14 percent of men in St. Charles County voted for it. Penelope Allen Orrick remained active in the movement up to her death in 1915. The following year her daughter Christine Orrick Fordyce was elected president of the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League. She addressed members of the Missouri legislature in 1917, “Gentlemen, fifty years ago my grandmother came before the Missouri legislature and asked for the enfranchisement of women; twenty-five years ago my mother came to make the same request; tonight I am asking for the ballot for women. Are you going to make it necessary for my daughter to appear in her turn?” Fordyce died at age forty-five on April 15, 1919, four months before ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution giving women the right to vote.

German-Americans, now in political control, economically successful, and comfortable with their own institutions, continued to cling to the German language, and reject assimilation. After the United States went to war against Germany in 1817, a descendant of former slave-holders in St. Charles County observed, “The

Germans had their day of comeuppance coming – just as the Southerners, years earlier, had their own.” He continued, “Just as the southern families had to change with the times following the Civil War – give up old ways and old beliefs – so it was for the Germans when America and Germany faced off in that great cataclysm.”

George Johns as editor of the *Post-Dispatch* and a descendant of former slave-holders had to resist that impulse. He had heard the stories of Rev. Robert Farris, James Judge, and his father-in-law John K. McDearmon, and shared some of his father’s resentment of the German-Americans. He certainly wanted to protect his fellow-Democrat and good friend Woodrow Wilson. As head of the *Post-Dispatch* editorial board, his objectivity was put to the test.

George and Minnie’s two youngest sons left Princeton and joined the armed forces. That summer, Congress passed the Espionage Act of 1917, making it illegal to cause or attempt to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty, in the armed forces of the United States. Orrick Johns later admitted, “The war time hysteria came over us like a blanket of terror. In St. Louis, on the flimsiest of pretexts, good citizens of German name were denounced, persecuted, and either arrested or beaten.” The following spring, in an interview with a *Post-Dispatch* reporter, Dr. Charles Weinsberg, president of the German-American Alliance in Missouri, predicted that the German offensive in France would be successful within six months, leaving the United States to fight a naval war with Great Britain against Germany. After the paper published the statement, U.S. Marshals arrested Weinsberg a 52-year-old native of Germany, who had immigrated at age 18 and become an American citizen, for violation of the Espionage Act.

Initially, the paper was extremely critical of Weinsberg, who was indicted by the Grand Jury. A visiting federal judge presided over a trial, which exposed lingering memories of the Civil War and ethnic rivalries. The defense compared the statement of Weinsberg to those made by General Sherman in 1861 when he declared it would take 200,000 men to keep Kentucky in the Union, asking “Would anyone have thought of declaring those statements of General Sherman disloyal?”

A federal judge ordered the acquittal of the defendant, finding that the statements were mere expressions of personal opinion, without the intent to create disloyalty in the armed forces. His opinion admitted “My own impressions at that time would not have been encouraging. This defendant is not being tried for imprudent utterances. Prudent men, then and now could not make such statements. He is not, however, being tried on that charge.”

The *Post-Dispatch* disagreed but calmly editorialized, “The Weinsberg case has served to clarify the public mind as to possible offenses against the espionage act. It has called popular attention to the danger of loose talking about the war, and the effect has been salutary, on the charge of violating the law Dr. Weinsberg is vindicated.” When the war ended, George Johns tried to repair some of the injustices to certain individuals. Orrick explained, “Father helped obtain their pardon from the President. He urged, without respite, that hundreds of people, who were in prison for nothing worse than the expression of pro-German sympathies, should be set at liberty.”

A Republican convention nominated Bernard Dyer to oppose Congressman Champ Clark, the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, in the 9th Congressional District in 1918. While Dyer polled 63 percent of the votes in St. Charles County, he did not pull down the Democratic majorities enough elsewhere, and Clark gained a 1,529 vote victory.

With the controversies surrounding the Versailles Treaty after the First World War, everyone knew it was not going to be a good year for Democrats in 1920. Bernard Dyer wanted to run for Congress again, but now Missouri had adopted primary elections. He lost the Republican primary to Theodore Huckriede, who had served as Chairman of the Republican State Committee, by 216. Huckriede did defeat Speaker Clark in November. That same day Missouri voters authorized a state constitutional convention. St. Charles County voters elected Bernard Dyer as their delegate.

George Johns remained editorial page editor until his retirement from the *Post-Dispatch* in 1929. During the Great Depression, Judge Dyer served as the attorney for the local board that enforced price controls under the National Recovery Act passed by the Democratic Congress. Responding to the same crisis, Orrick Johns, much to his father’s displeasure, joined the American Communist Party, became an organizer and wrote for

Communist publications. When the Roosevelt administration announced the Works Progress Administration culture projects, he was appointed Director of the Writers' Project in New York City. Amid pressure to dismiss him as a "red," he resigned in January 1937. Shortly thereafter, he left the American Communist Party but wrote, "I very sincerely believe, however, that Comrade Ivan owns the future. I am with him more often than with anyone else I know."

The following year, the House Committee on Un-American Activities was established to investigate alleged disloyalty and subversive activities on the part of private citizens, public employees, and those organizations suspected of having communist or fascist ties. The following year, Congress passed the Smith Act, making it illegal to belong to any organization advocating the violent overthrow of the U.S. government. In 1941, George Johns passed away.

Meanwhile, back in St. Charles, Prosecuting Attorney David Dyer, son of Bernard Dyer, had been elected vice-president of the Missouri Young Republicans in 1937. After his election as prosecuting attorney in 1940, he convicted Union Electric for violations of the Corrupt Practices Act. David Dyer was elected president of the Missouri Association of Republicans in 1940 and he was considered one of the Missouri Republican Party's rising stars. After Pearl Harbor, he volunteered for the armed services. After requesting a transfer to combat duty, Lieutenant Dyer wrote his mother, "I feel very, very strongly that an obligation rests upon me and the many other men who have enjoyed the advantages of life to place themselves in the most active positions. To endeavor to do anything less is a denial of all we have enjoyed and an admission we were not entitled to it." On March 9, 1944, local newspapers reported that Lieutenant David Dyer had been killed in action on a destroyer in the Mediterranean Sea. Judge Bernard Dyer practiced law until August 10, 1954 when he "died with his boots on" arguing a case in the St. Charles County Courthouse.

When U.S.-Soviet relations deteriorated after the war, the Republicans made Communist infiltration of the government an issue in 1946, the same year the Un-American Activities Committee became a permanent House committee. The following year, the Truman administration required loyalty checks of all federal workers. It remained to be seen whether Communist sympathizer during the Cold War would be treated any better than Confederate sympathizers during the Civil War or German sympathizers during World War I. It was never decided whether Orrick Johns' predictions that "Comrade Ivan owns the future" constituted an "imprudent utterance" or treason. On July 8, 1946, Orrick Johns committed suicide by taking poison.