

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LIFE
OF LOUIS J. HELFRICH OF NEW ORLEANS
AND HIS ANCESTORS



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for Lois Marilyn Helfrich Hellmers
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Introduction

To our knowledge, no one has previously gathered genealogical information on Louis J. Helfrich of New Orleans, Louisiana, and his ancestors. In telephone conversations with Lois Lyn Helfrich Hellmers in January 2011, we learned the basic facts about the lives of Louis Helfrich and his parents, Jacob Helfrich and Elizabeth Jäger (Yaeger).

Louis Helfrich as a young boy was placed in what was then known as the Bethlehem Orphan Asylum. Because of this, and the fact that he died at a relatively young age (48), his family did not learn a great deal about his early life or about their Helfrich or Jäger/Yaeger relatives.

The information for this brief history was primarily gathered from online sources, such as Ancestry.com, GenealogyBank.com, and others. Much of the data on the ancestors and relatives of Louis Helfrich is preliminary and is subject to errors. As much as possible, the information has been gathered from civil and church records, census data, newspaper obituaries, and similar genealogical sources. Where there is conflicting information, the most likely data was selected.

Much more information could be learned from original sources in New Orleans and elsewhere. This history could be seen as a starting point for someone else who can take this research further.

Norman and Patricia Hellmers
Revised April 2011

The Ancestors of Louis Jacob Helfrich

All of the ancestors of Louis Helfrich came to New Orleans in the mid-1800s from what is today the country of Germany. However, when these ancestors left their ancestral homes, there was no Germany as such. Instead it was a land of independent kingdoms, duchies, and principalities.

From the available records, it appears that the Helfrich ancestors came from four different locations:

Michel Helfrich	Kingdom of Bavaria (Bayern)
Margaretha Willem	Rheinbayern, a province in the Kingdom of Bavaria (Bayern)
Heinrich Karl Jäger	Grand Duchy of Hesse (Hessen)
Cicilia Gerber	Grand Duchy of Baden (Baden)

Helfrich Ancestor Table

This table only includes Louis Helfrich, his parents, and his four grandparents.

Michel Helfrich (ca 1822 - 1868)
Jakob Helfrich (ca 1857 - 1901)
Margaretha Willem (1822 - 1906)
Louis Jacob Helfrich (1892 - 1940)
Heinrich Karl Jäger (1826 - 1913)
Elisabeth Jäger (1857 - 1935)
Cicilia Gerber (1834 - 1900)

The Louis Helfrich family in New Orleans is descended from four German immigrants: Michel Helfrich who married Margaretha Willem, and Heinrich Karl Jäger who married Cicilia Gerber.

The family of Michel Helfrich and Margaretha Willem

Michel Helfrich

Michel (also known as Michael) Helfrich may have been born about 1820 in the German city of Wollbach, which was in the Kingdom of Bavaria [Bayern]. (The baptism record of his daughter Ursula Magdalena gives his birth place as Wollbach. A Michael Helfrich was born June 20, 1819, in the village of Wollbach. This may be him. If so, his parents were Johann Helfrich and Ursula Geys/Geis. Additional evidence would be needed to prove that this is indeed the Michel Helfrich who married Margaretha Willem.) There is currently no evidence available that indicates the year when he arrived in New Orleans. Michel Helfrich was presumably in New Orleans by the time of the 1850 federal census, but his name has not yet been found.

On Wednesday, May 5, 1852, Michel Helfrich married Margaretha Willem at St. Mary's Assumption Catholic Church in New Orleans. (Organized in 1843, St. Mary's Assumption was the first church formed specifically to serve the German Catholics in the City of Lafayette, part of today's "uptown" New Orleans. The City of Lafayette was incorporated into New Orleans as the Fourth Municipal District in 1852. St. Mary's Assumption Church still stands at 2030 Constance Street.)

Margaretha Willem

Margaretha Willem may have been born about April 1822 in or near the German city of Klingenmünster. (The baptism record of her daughter Ursuline gives her birth place as Klingenmünster.) A Margaretha Willem was born May 2, 1821 in the village of Gleiszellen-Gleishorbach, which is near the larger community of Klingenmünster. This may be her. If so, her parents were Johann Jacob Willem and Anna Maria Bantz. Additional evidence would be needed to prove that this is indeed the Margaretha Willem who married Michel Helfrich.) She may have come to New Orleans in about 1846 (according to her obituary), so presumably she was in New Orleans at the time of the 1850 federal census, but her name has not yet been found.

When Michel Helfrich and Margaretha Willem were first married, they apparently lived in what was known as the City of Lafayette, which was then in Jefferson Parish. In 1852, the City of Lafayette was annexed into New Orleans, becoming wards 10 and 11. At the time of the 1860 census, the Helfriches were living in the 11th Ward of New Orleans, which is bounded by First and Toledano Streets. They are listed in the 1860 census with four children:

Michel Helfrich	30	M	Labourer
Margaretha "	29	yr	
Margaretha "	9	yr	
Christina "	7	yr	
Jacob "	3	M	
Rosina "	1	yr	

Michel Helfrich appears to be listed twice in the 1861 city directory:

Helfrich M. d. 62 Laurel
Helfrig Mich. warehouseman, 62 Laurel

At the time, he was living at 62 Laurel Street. The house numbering in New Orleans has changed over the years. No. 62 Laurel Street was on Laurel near present-day St. Andrew Street.

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Michel Helfrich apparently volunteered for service in the Army of the Confederate States of America. *Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers*, by Andrew B. Booth, shows that Michel Helfrich was a Private in Company H of the 21st Louisiana Infantry, also known as Patton's Infantry (and later renamed the 22nd Infantry). He apparently enlisted on 13 June 1861. A single muster roll for January and February 1862 shows that he was "present."

Arthur W. Bergeron's *Guide to Louisiana Confederate Military Units 1861-1865* shows: "The regiment was organized at New Orleans on March 28, 1862, with 961 men. The men were trained to operate heavy artillery pieces, and they occupied several fortifications along the Louisiana coast during the Federal campaign against New Orleans." He also notes: "Companies H and I made up part of the garrison at Fort Jackson. The men of the two latter companies became prisoners when the fort surrendered on April 27." According to *The Civil War in Louisiana* by John David Winters: "In the surrender terms it was agreed that officers and men would be paroled and would be allowed to return to New Orleans after turning over the forts with all stores, ordnance, ammunition, and equipment." Michel Helfrich may well have been among the enlisted men who were paroled and returned to New Orleans.

He would have returned to a New Orleans now occupied by the Union Army. This was probably a difficult time for him to find work to support his young family. The Union Army was offering enlistment bonuses. Also in July 1862, the United States offered aliens like Michel the chance for expedited citizenship. Both of these factors may have influenced Michel. Regardless, in September 1862, the same month in which his last child, Alexander, was born, Michel Helfrich enlisted in the Union Army.

Service records show that on September 9, 1862, he voluntarily enlisted "as a Soldier in a Volunteer Regiment of Louisiana, to serve the United States for three years. . . ." The record shows that he was a carpenter and that "[t]his soldier has brown eyes, brown hair, fair complexion, is five feet three inches high." [The complete enlistment document is on the next page.] A later document recorded his eyes as "blue."

Michel Helfrich was in Company D of the 2nd Louisiana Regiment Infantry. The regiment was organized in New Orleans in September 1862 and then moved to Baton Rouge in January 1863. The unit participated in the Siege of Port Hudson beginning with action in May of 1863 and culminating with the surrender of the Confederate garrison on July 9, 1863. The regiment fought in the Second Battle of Sabine Pass on September 8, 1863. In 1864, the regiment fought in the Red River Campaign between March and May and then returned to New Orleans in August. The unit was in Baton Rouge or New Orleans until it mustered out on September 11, 1865.

Recruiting Officer.

John M. Montgomery

I, Michael Hepprich born in Germany
 in the State of Bavaria, aged forty years, and by occupa-
 tion Carpenter do hereby acknowledge to have voluntarily enlisted this 9th
 day of September 1862, as a Soldier in a Volunteer Regiment of Louisiana, to
 serve the United States for Three Years, or during the War with persons owing allegiance to and
 in open rebellion to the United States Government, unless sooner discharged by proper authority ;
 and to be subject to orders from the Federal Government; do also agree to accept such bounty,
 pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be established by law. And I, Michael
Hepprich do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith
 and allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully
 against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the
 President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the
 Rules and Articles for the government of the Armies of the United States.

Sworn and subscribed to, at New Orleans La. this
ninth day of September 1862. Michael Hepprich
 Before Geo. K. Hatch
St. Co. A. Louisiana

I CERTIFY ON HONOR That I have carefully examined the above named Recruit, agreeably to the General
 Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would,
 in any way, disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

Geo. K. Hatch EXAMINING SURGEON.

I CERTIFY ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Recruit Michael Hepprich
 previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that to the best of my judgment and belief he
 is of lawful age; and that in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able bodied soldier, I have
 strictly observed the Regulations which govern the Recruiting service. This soldier has brn eyes, brn
 hair fair complexion, is five feet three inches high.

J. Montey RECRUITING OFFICER.

DIRECTIONS.—This enlistment must be signed and acknowledged in triplicate, one copy to be sent to the Adjutant-General, one to the commander of
 the Regiment, and one copy to be retained by the recruiting officer; the copy to the Adjutant-General must be sent immediately after being signed; the oath
 must be sworn and subscribed to before a Justice of the Peace or Notary Public.

On April 8, 1864, the regiment participated in the Battle of Sabine Crossroads at Mansfield, Louisiana. On that day, Michel Helfrich was wounded and captured by Confederate forces. He was paroled to Union forces on June 16, 1864.

A "Certificate of Disability for Discharge" recorded: "On the 8th day of April 1864 Private Michel Helfrich received a severe wound in his right arm at Sabine Cross Roads, being bravely engaged in the action and was not fit for further service since that time."

Michael Helfrich returned to New Orleans. He was listed in the 1866 city directory:

Helfrich M. laborer, Liberty n. Third

Liberty is today's Magazine Street.

Although he may have been able to work, Michel Helfrich apparently remained in poor health. He received a disability pension from the United States until his death on June 4, 1868.

Michael's widow, Margaretha, continued to live with her children in New Orleans' 11th Ward. At the time of the 1870 census, three of her children were still living at home.

Helfrich Margrit	19	f	w	Keeping House
Margrit	19	f	w	Without Occup
Rosa	11	f	w	at School
Mary	8	w	w	at School

In 1879, Margaretha was living at 454 Third Street according to the city directory:

Helfrich Margareth. wid. Michael, r. 454 Third

Today, 454 Third Street is between S. Liberty Street and Lasalle Street. At the time of the 1880 census, Margaretha was living with her son, Jacob, perhaps at that address.

The 1889 city directory shows that Margaretha was living at 356 Third Street. By the time of the 1900 census, she was living with her daughter, Rosina Helfrich Stall, at 1727 Washington Avenue.

Margaretha Willem Helfrich passed away on 22 February 1906. Her obituary gave this information about her:

HELFRICH—On Thursday, Feb. 22, 1906, at 3:20 o'clock a.m., **MARGARETTA HELFRICH** (born Willem), aged 89 years, a native of Klingmumster, Germany, and a resident of this city for the past sixty years. The relatives, friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, which will take place from her late residence, No. 2504 Freret Street, at 1:30 o'clock This (Friday) Evening.

Michel Helfrich and Margaretha Willem Helfrich apparently had a total of six children (according to the 1900 census). All of these children were apparently born in New Orleans and were baptized at St. Mary's Assumption Catholic Church, where Michel and Margaretha were married. The children were:

1. Margaretha Helfrich (according to a civil birth record and her baptism record) was born on April 11, 1851. Evidence suggests that Margaretha was married twice, first to someone named Stephenbach (or Stephenback, first name unknown) in about 1874. On April 25, 1878, she married Otto Schippan, a cigar maker and a Civil War Union veteran from New York. She had children from both marriages. She died August 20, 1887.

2. Maria Anna Christina Helfrich (according to a civil birth record and her baptism record) was born on March 19, 1853. She primarily used the name Christina. She was apparently unmarried and was listed in several census records as a "servant." Christina died on November 30, 1932.

3. Ursula Magdalena Helfrich (according to a civil birth record in which she was named Christina and her baptism record) was born on January 28, 1855. She was apparently deceased by 1860, as she does not appear in the 1860 census with the rest of her family.

4. Jakob Helfrich (according to his baptism record) was born on October 1, 1856. In the 1880 census he was listed as a "laborer." On August 5, 1882, he married Elisabetha Jäger (Yaeger). More on his life will be found in the section on the Helfrich-Jäger family.

5. Ursuline Helfrich (according to her baptism record) was born on December 10, 1858. (She primarily used the name Rosalie. Her name is also recorded as Rosena and Rosa.) On March 26, 1886, she married Louis Stall. In the 1900 census, Louis Stall was listed as a "day laborer." In the 1900 census, the Stalls reported that they had up to that time nine children, six of whom were still living. Rosalie Helfrich Stall died on November 9, 1937.

6. Alexander Helfrich (according to the 1900 census) was born in September 1862. On November 6, 1890, he married Marie Jeanette Fuchs. Alexander was a baker. He and his wife Marie (or Mary) had one known child, Godfrey. Alexander Helfrich died on February 14, 1923.

Michel (Michael) Helfrich
b. ca 1820, Wollbach, Germany
d. 4 Jun 1868, New Orleans, La.

Margaretha Willem
b. ca Apr 1822, Klingenmünster, Germany
d. 22 Feb 1906, New Orleans, La.

m. 5 May 1852
New Orleans, La.

According to the 1900 census, Michel and Margaretha Willem Helfrich had six children, five of whom were still living in 1900. All of the children were born in New Orleans.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Margaretha Helfrich
b. 11 Apr 1851
New Orleans, La.
d. 20 Aug 1887
New Orleans La. | m. ₁ _____ Stephenback
ca 1874

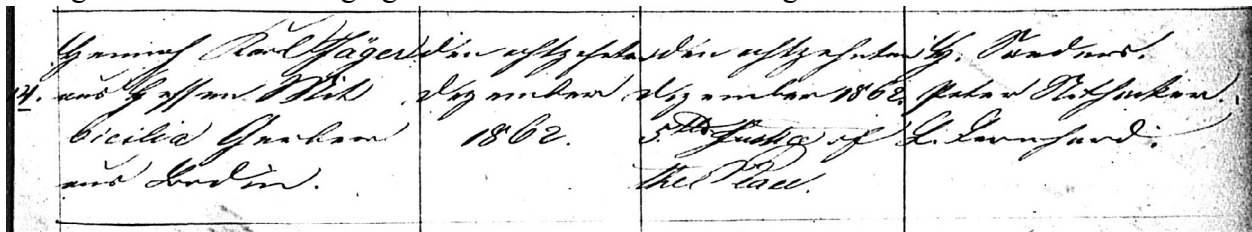
m. ₂ Otto Schippan
25 Apr 1878 |
| 2. Maria Anna <u>Christina</u> Helfrich
b. 19 Mar 1853
New Orleans, La.
d. 30 Nov 1932
New Orleans, La. | Unmarried |
| 3. Ursula Magdalena Helfrich
b. 28 Jan 1855
New Orleans, La.
d. Before 1860
New Orleans, La. | Apparently died as a child |
| 4. Johann Michael <u>Jakob</u> Helfrich
b. 1 Oct 1857
New Orleans, La.
d. 6 Jan 1901
New Orleans, La. | m. Elisabetha Jäger (Yaeger)
5 Aug 1882 |
| 5. Ursuline <u>Rosalie</u> Helfrich
b. 10 Dec 1858
New Orleans, La.
d. 9 Nov 1937
New Orleans, La. | m. Louis Stall
26 Mar 1886 |
| 6. Alexander Helfrich
b. 4 Sep 1862
New Orleans, La.
d. 14 Feb 1923
New Orleans, La. | m. Marie Jeanette Fuchs
6 Nov 1890 |

The family of Heinrich Karl Jäger who married Cicilia Gerber

Heinrich Karl Jäger

Heinrich Karl (also known as Henry Charles) Jäger was born November 22, 1826 in the Grand Duchy of Hesse (or Hessen in German), also known as Hesse-Darmstadt. There is currently no evidence available that indicates the specific place from which he came in Germany. Different sources (the 1900 and 1910 censuses and his obituary) suggest various dates for when he came to the United States: 1846, 1850, and 1854.

According to the records of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Heinrich Karl Jäger and Cicilia Gerber were married on December 18, 1862. The church at the time was known as the First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of New Orleans. The original record looks like this:



Note: The dates of birth of the Jäger/Yaeger children would seem to indicate that Heinrich Karl Jäger and Cicilia Gerber were married as many as six years after the birth of their first child. The records indicate that they had three children before they were married.

Cicilia Gerber

Cicilia Gerber was born about April 1834 in the Grand Duchy of Baden. (A “Caezilia Gerber” was born on November 17, 1833 in Forchheim, Freiburg, Baden. This may be her. If so, her parents were Gorgon Gerber and Rosina Mast. Additional evidence would be needed to prove that this is the Caezilia Gerber who married Heinrich Karl Jäger.) She may have come to New Orleans in about 1854 (according to the 1900 census).

The fact that Heinrich Karl Jäger and Cicilia Gerber were married at what is today St. Paul Lutheran Church and that their children were baptized there suggests that they first resided in downtown New Orleans. The family has not been found in the 1860 census. A “C. Jaeger” appears in the 1861 city directory living at No. 75 Congress Street. This house would today be in the block between Dauphine and Burgundy Streets.

Jaeger C. carpenter, 75 Congress

This might be him. The “C.” could stand for Charles Jäger and Henry Charles Yaeger does show up in the 1910 census as a carpenter. Almost certainly he was the Henry C. Yaeger living in 1886 on “Jeanna” (today’s Alvar Street).

**Yaeger Henry C. lab. r. es. Jeanna, bet. N. Peters
and Chartres**

Sometime between the 1860s and the 1880s, the family started spelling their name in a more English form, "Yaeger," instead of the German spelling of Jäger or Jaeger. It also appears that the family switched their membership from St. Paul Lutheran Church to First English Lutheran Church.

Cicilia Gerber Yaeger died on June 6, 1900. This obituary appeared in *The Times-Picayune*.

YAEGER—On Wednesday, June 6, 1900, at 8:40 o'clock p. m., **OEOILE BENDEL**, wife of Henry C. Yaeger, aged 60 years, native of Baden, Germany, and a resident of this city for the past forty-six years. The relatives, friends and acquaintances of the family, and the members of the English Evangelical Lutheran Church, respectfully invited to attend the funeral, which will take place This (Thursday) Afternoon at 4 o'clock precisely, from the late residence of the deceased, No. 611 Bartholomew Chartres street.

The obituary gives Cicilia's maiden name as "Bendel." In at least one other source, her name appears as Bender, leading to the speculation that Cicilia Gerber may have been married for a short time to someone named Bender before her marriage to Henry C. Jäger.

Several days after Cicilia's death, the 1900 census was taken, leading to some confusion in the record between the name of Cicilia and their daughter Rosa. Henry C. Yaeger was shown as owning his home at 611 Bartholomew Street. It would appear that this house still exists today.

Yaeger	Henry C.	Head	M.	M.	Mar	1826	74	M	25
—	Rosa	Wife	M.	F.	Apr	1834	66	M	45
—	Rosa	Daughter	M.	F.	Oct	1874	25	S	
—	Viola	Grand Child	M.	F.	Jan	1896	4	S	

Henry C. Yaeger continued to live at 611 Bartholomew Street, since he is again recorded there in the 1910 census. Living with him was his daughter, Louise Jäger Ribes, her husband Armand Ribes, and their only son, Henry Ribes.

Henry C. Yaeger died on November 22, 1913. His obituary said:

YAEGER—Saturday, Nov. 22, 1913, at 6:40 o'clock a.m.. HENRY C. YAEGER, husband of the late Cecil Gerber, aged 87 years, 8 months and 12 days, a native of Germany and a resident of this city for the past sixty-seven years.

The relatives, friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, which will take place Sunday, Nov. 23, 1913, at 3 o'clock p.m., from the late residence of the deceased, No. 611 Bartholomew Street.

Interment in St. Vincent de Paul's Cemetery.

Heinrich Karl (Henry Charles) Jäger (Yaeger) and Cicilia Gerber Jäger (Yaeger) may have had nine children. Information is available on several of these children. Additional evidence in the form of civil and church birth, marriage, and death records would add to what is known about these children.

The children of Heinrich Karl Jäger and Cicilia Gerber (all born in New Orleans) were:

1. Rosina Jäger was (according to her church baptism record) born on August 10, 1856. She was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church on August 15, 1856. Her only sponsor was named Rosina Gerber. This could have been the child's aunt or grandmother. In either case, it suggests that Cicilia Gerber came to the United States with at least some of her family. Rosina may have died young. This is suggested by the fact that no confirmation record has been found at St. Paul Lutheran Church and that a later child was named Rosa.

2. Elisabeth Jäger (the mother of Louis J. Helfrich) was (according to her church baptism record) born on October 19, 1857. She was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church on January 3, 1858. She was confirmed at St. Paul in 1871. On August 5, 1882, she married Jakob Helfrich. More on her life will be found in the section on the Helfrich-Jäger family.

Note: In most census records in which she is included, her death record, and several other records, Elisabeth is listed as having been born in Missouri (and in one, in St. Louis, Missouri). It is conceivable that her family was temporarily in Missouri and returned to New Orleans before January 3, 1858, when she was baptized.

3. Georg Karl Friedrich Jäger was (according to his church baptism record) born on August 22, 1860. He was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church on December 21, 1860. Georg (or George) married Emily Jacquet on March 19, 1885. George and Emily Yaeger had children, but no information is included on them here. George died on October 29, 1931.

4. Friedrich Jäger was (according to his church baptism record) born on March 5, 1863. He and his twin brother, Heinrich, were baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church on May 8, 1863.

He was confirmed at St. Paul in 1877. Friedrich (or Frederick) Jäger/Yaeger may have married Louisa Gautreaux on January 24, 1887. Nothing further has been learned about this family.

5. Heinrich Jäger was (according to his church baptism record) born on March 5, 1863. He and his twin brother, Friedrich, were baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church on May 8, 1863. Heinrich may have died at a young age. He was not confirmed with his twin brother Friedrich in 1877 and no further record has been found of him.

6. Katharine Elisabethe Jäger was (according to her church baptism record) born on November 13, 1865. She was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church on August 18, 1866. Katharine was married twice, first to Antoine Laterrade and later to Emile Beucler. She died on September 24, 1942. Her funeral was at First English Lutheran Church and she was interred in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

7. Rosa Jäger was (according to her church baptism record) born on October 9, 1868. She was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church on January 10, 1869. This Rosa is listed with her father in the 1900 census and was apparently unmarried at that time, but had a four-year-old daughter. No further information has been found.

8. Josephine Jäger was (according to her church death record) born on October 9, 1870. No baptism record for her has been found at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Josephine married Sidney Rosenthal, but no record of this marriage has been found. They had at least two children. She died August 18, 1960, and was buried from Trinity Lutheran Church in Algiers.

9. Louise Jäger was (according to her church baptism record) born on March 8, 1872. She was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church on August 25, 1872. Louise married Armand Ribes on October 4, 1898. She died 18 November 18, 1938. Her funeral was at First English Lutheran Church and she was interred in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

Note: There are a number of “mysteries” to be resolved regarding the family of Heinrich Karl Jäger and Cicilia Gerber. They include:

1. Why is the name Bendel or Bender occasionally associated with Cicilia Gerber? Was she perhaps previously married?
2. Why did the parents delay their marriage until 1862, when their first child was born in 1856?
3. Was their daughter, Elisabethe, really born in Missouri? How did this come about?

Heinrich Karl "Henry Charles" Jäger (Yaeger)
b. 10 Mar 1826, Grand Duchy of Hesse, Germany
d. 22 Nov 1913, New Orleans, La.

Cicilia Gerber
b. ca 1822, Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany
d. 6 Jun 1900, New Orleans, La.

m. 18 Dec 1862
New Orleans, La.

1. Rosina Jäger
b. 10 Aug 1856
New Orleans, La.
d.

2. Elisabeth Jäger
b. 19 Oct 1857
New Orleans, La.
d. 11 Jul 1935
Houston, Tex.

m. Jakob Helfrich
5 Aug 1882

3. Georg Karl Friedrich Jäger
b. 22 Aug 1860
New Orleans, La.
d. 29 Oct 1931
New Orleans, La.

m. Emily Jacquet
19 Mar 1885

4. Friedrich Jäger
b. 5 Mar 1863
New Orleans, La.
d.

m. Louisa Gautreaux [?]
24 Jan 1887

5. Heinrich Jäger
b. 5 Mar 1863
New Orleans, La.
d.

6. Katharine Elisabethe Jäger
b. 13 Nov 1865
New Orleans, La.
d. 24 Sep 1942
New Orleans, La.

m.₁ Antoine Laterrade
29 Feb 1892

m.₂ Emile Beucler

7. Rosa Jäger
b. 9 Oct 1868
New Orleans, La.
d.

Continued on next page

8. Josephine Jäger
b. 9 Oct 1870
New Orleans, La.
d. 18 Aug 1960
New Orleans, La.

m. Sidney Rosenthal

9. Louise Jäger
b. 8 Mar 1872
New Orleans, La.
d. 18 Nov 1938
New Orleans, La.

m. Armand Ribes
4 Oct 1898

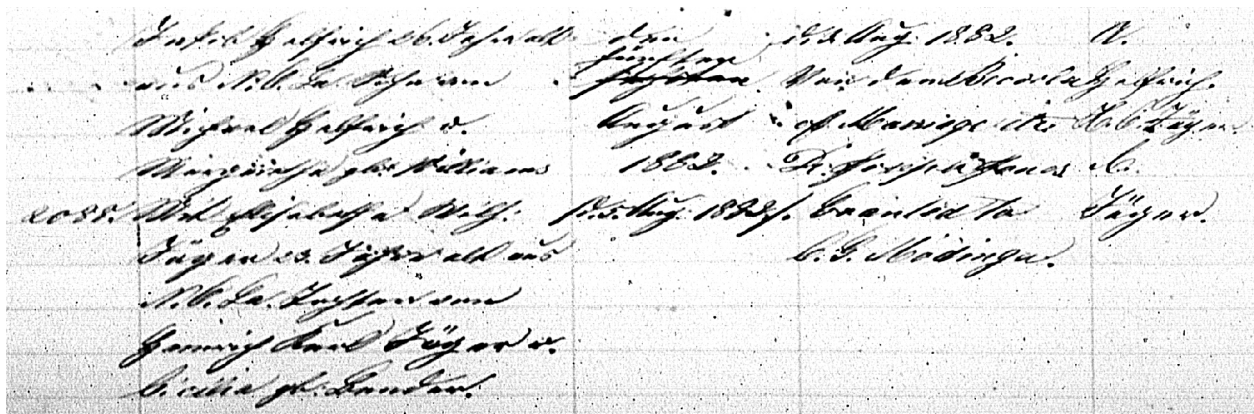
The family of Jacob Helfrich and Elizabeth Yaeger

Jacob Helfrich

Jacob (or Jakob) Helfrich was born in New Orleans about October 1857, but his exact date of birth is unknown. He is listed as age 3 in the 1860 census and age 23 in the 1880 census, which calculates to being born about 1857. The 1900 census gives his birth date as October 1855, which is probably incorrect. In 1868, when Jacob was about 11 years old, his father Michel Helfrich died. In the 1870 census, his mother is listed with his siblings, but Jacob is not listed with them and he has not been found on his own. Presumably he was working outside of the home and possibly was not included in the census. In the 1880 census Jacob is listed as a laborer and as the head of the household with his mother and sister Christine. Jacob Helfrich died in New Orleans on January 6, 1901, at the age of 44. His funeral took place the next day at the home of his son-in-law, John Hof, at No. 630 Poland Avenue, near Royal Street. His burial place is unknown, but was likely St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

On August 5, 1882, when he was 26 years old, Jacob Helfrich married Elizabeth W. Yaeger, who was then 23. They were married at St. Paul Lutheran Church, then known as the German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation. Presumably they were married there because Elizabeth's family was associated with the church. The witnesses were A. Helfrich, H. C. Jäger, C. Jäger. Perhaps these were Alexander Helfrich (Jacob's younger brother), Henry Charles Jäger (Elizabeth's father), and Cicilia Jäger (Elizabeth's mother).

This is how the record appears in the marriage records of St. Paul Lutheran Church:



Elizabeth Yaeger

Elizabeth Yaeger (spelled various ways) was born October 19, 1857, and was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Her place of birth is presumed to also be New Orleans, but several records give her birthplace as Missouri and one record gives her birthplace as St. Louis, Missouri. Her parents were Henry Charles Yaeger and Cicilia (or Cecilia) Gerber. She and her parents and siblings have not been found in the 1860 or 1870 censuses. In the 1880 census Elizabeth is listed as age 21 living with her parents and siblings.

On August 5, 1882, Elizabeth married Jacob Helfrich. Between 1883 and 1900 this couple had eight children, all growing to adulthood except one who died as an infant. Their first three children were baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church, although they were living in uptown New Orleans. It appears they first lived on First Street and then Third Street. Some time in about 1897, Jacob Helfrich and his family moved downtown to 632 Poland Avenue.

Note: The last two children were not baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Perhaps they were baptized at First English Lutheran Church. The church's records could be checked for evidence of this family.

Jacob and Elizabeth are listed in the 1900 census living at 632 Poland Avenue with six of their children. Jacob's occupation is listed as day laborer and his 14-year-old son was also a day laborer. Elizabeth is recorded as having had seven children, but only six of them were living at the time of the census. Their ninth and last child was born in August 1900 after the 1900 census was taken.

Elizabeth's husband, Jacob, died on January 6, 1901, leaving her with eight children to care for. A month after Jacob's death, on February 3, 1901, Elizabeth placed three of her children in the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Asylum in New Orleans. They were her daughter Emily and her sons Louis and Emile. By the time of the 1910 census, Emily was back with her mother and siblings, who were living at 4711 Royal Street. The two boys were still living in the orphanage.

Helfrich	Elizabeth	Head	F.	W.	49	Wid.	9	8
	Abraham	Son	M.	W.	23	S.		
	Charles	Son	M.	W.	22	S.		
	Emily	Daughter	F.	W.	20	S.		
	William	Daughter	F.	W.	15	S.		
	Antoinette	Daughter	F.	W.	9	S.		

Note: It appears that the 4700 block of Royal Street disappeared when the Industrial Canal was constructed.

Sometime after the 1910 census, Elizabeth moved to Houston, Texas. Either at the same time, or at different times, six of her children also moved to Houston, where all of them lived out their lives. It is not known what drew them to Houston. While still in New Orleans, at least one son, Charles, worked for a box-making company. In Houston, several of the children worked for a box-making company, so it may be employment opportunities that enticed them to move there.

Two of her children, Emily and Louis, remained in New Orleans where they married, had children, and died. In the 1920 census in Houston, Elizabeth is listed with two of her unmarried sons, one unmarried daughter, and a widowed daughter and four grandchildren. Elizabeth and her two unmarried sons have not been found in the 1930 census, but they are presumed to have been living in Houston.

Elizabeth (Yaeger) Helfrich died in Houston at the Jefferson Davis Hospital on July 11, 1935. Her death record gives her birth date as October 19, 1857, and her age was given as 77 years, 8 months, and 22 days. Her parents are listed as Charles Yeager [sic] and Cecil Gerber, both born in Germany. Her occupation was listed as housework. Her cause of death is given as cerebral vascular accident (i.e., stroke) and hypostatic pneumonia. She was buried July 12, 1935, in Brookside Memorial Cemetery, now known as Brookside Memorial Park. Her son, Charles, was killed in an accident the day before and they were buried on the same day.

The children of Jacob Helfrich and Elizabeth Yaeger (all born in New Orleans) were:

1. Christina Elizabeth Helfrich was born May 26, 1883. She was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church on July 8, 1883. Her baptism record gives her name as Christine Elisabethe and her marriage record gives her name as Christina Elizabeth, but her name is listed as Elizabeth in most other records. At the age of 16, she married John Hof, on July 26, 1899, in New Orleans. They had at least four children born in New Orleans: Joseph born in 1900, Hazel born about 1903, Jules born in 1906, and Howard born about 1911. In the 1910 census John Hof is listed as working in a lumber mill. At the age of only 39 years, John Hof died on February 15, 1912, and was buried in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery. By the time of the 1920 census, Elizabeth Hof and her four children were living in Houston, Harris County, Texas, with her mother and siblings. She is also listed there in the 1930 census living with her youngest son, Howard, and her brother Alexander and his wife, Doris. Christina Elizabeth (Helfrich) Hof died at the age of 72 in Houston on February 24, 1956. Her death record gives her cause of death as cerebral hemorrhage due to cerebral arteriosclerosis. She was buried there on February 27th in Forest Park Cemetery.

2. Jacob Alexander Helfrich is listed in his civil birth record as Jacob Jr. and in his baptism record as Jakob Alexander, but he used the name Alex or Alexander most of his life. According to his civil birth record he was born in New Orleans on June 9, 1885, but his baptism record at St. Paul Lutheran Church indicates he was born June 18, 1885. He was baptized on 28 June 1885. He is listed with his parents in the 1900 census and with his mother and siblings in the 1910 census, both in New Orleans. Sometime after the 1910 census, he moved to Houston, Texas, with his mother and some of his siblings. Alexander was married there on October 3, 1917, to Annie Steele. His World War I draft registration took place in Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi, on September 11, 1918, where his name was given as Alexander Jacob Helfrich, born June 3, 1885, and his permanent address was listed as Royal Route Company, Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi. His occupation was given as a marine engineer with the Royal Route Company. His nearest relative was listed as Mrs. Dorris Helfrich, 50 Paige Street, Houston, Texas. His wife's name may have been Doris Anna Steele, and she may have gone by both the names Doris and Annie. In the 1920 census he seems to be listed in Natchez, Mississippi, as Aleck J. Helfrich, age 33, born Louisiana, with Annie T. his 19-year-old wife and a son, Alexander age 1-4/12, both born in Texas. His occupation was given as a boat engineer. At the time of the 1930 census, he was again listed in Houston as Alexander J. Helfrich, age 42, occupation natural gas company engineer. Listed with him is his wife Doris A., age 30, born Texas. He stated he was first married at age 30 and she was first married at age 17, which calculates to being married about 1917, which matches the marriage found for A. J. Helfrich to Annie Steele. In 1930, Alexander and Doris are living with Alexander's sister, Christina Elizabeth (Helfrich) Hof and one of her children, Howard Hof, age 19. Alexander Helfrich died

in Houston at the age of 51 on November 28, 1936, and was buried in the Brookside Cemetery on November 30, 1936. His death record gives his cause of death only as "heart trouble."

Note: Where was the son, Alexander Helfrich, in 1930 who was listed in the 1920 census as age 1-4/12 in Mississippi? A confusing 1930 census record was found of an Anna Helfrich, 28, born Texas, and a son, Alexander Helfrich, age 11, born Texas, living in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. Perhaps the family lived temporarily in San Antonio and was listed in both San Antonio and Houston.

Note: Regarding the death of his wife Annie and/or Doris, a death record was found for a Doris A. Helfrich, born May 12, 1901 and died September 26, 1991, in Bexar County, Texas. It is unknown if this person was the wife of Alexander Helfrich or not.

3. Charles Helfrich was baptized as Karl, but he is listed as Charles (the English version of Karl) in most of his records. His birth date is given in his baptism record at St. Paul Lutheran Church, New Orleans, as August 31, 1887. He was baptized on September 18, 1887. No civil birth record has been found for him. He is listed as being born in August 1887 in the 1900 census when he was living with his parents and siblings in New Orleans. In the 1910 census he is living with his widowed mother and his siblings also in New Orleans. Sometime after that, his family moved to Houston, Texas, and while there on June 5, 1917, Charles completed his World War I draft registration giving his birth date as August 13, 1887, and his occupation as a laborer with the Republic Box Company in Houston. The 1920 census lists him living with his mother and siblings, as age 32 and single. Charles, his mother, and his brother Emile cannot be found in the 1930 census, but presumably they were living in Houston. Charles was never married. He died in Houston at the age of 47 on July 10, 1935, and was buried July 12th in the Brookside Cemetery. His death record gives his cause of death as "run over by train, accidental, Elder St. Crossing, near Jeff-Davis Hospital, Houston, Texas, fractured skull above left ear." Information known to the family was that he was killed by a train while going to get a doctor for his dying mother. She died the next day. They were buried on the same day.

4. Emily Georgiana Helfrich was born October 11, 1889. It is not known where she was baptized. She is listed with her parents in the 1900 census, age 10 and with her mother and siblings in the 1910 census, age 20 and single. As noted earlier, when her father died, she and two of her brothers (Louis and Emile) were placed in the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Asylum in New Orleans. It is not known how long she remained there, but by 1910, she was back living with her mother and siblings. On February 7, 1914, at the age of 27, she married Jules Joseph Villere, age 47, in New Orleans. This couple had at least three children, listed in 1920 as Edward J. born about 1916, Emily M. born about 1918, and Sidney D. born about 1919. In this census the occupation of Jules is listed as inspector of fruit. The same family members are listed in the 1930 census in New Orleans and Jules is listed as a steamship fruit inspector. Emily's husband, Jules Villere, died February 9, 1952, at the age of 82. His obituary states he attended Jesuit High School and Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, and that he worked as an inspector for the United Fruit Company for about 20 years. He was buried in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery on February 10, 1952. His obituary listed his children as a daughter, Mrs. W. York LeCorgne, and two sons, Edward J. and Sidney G. Villere. Emily Georgiana (Helfrich) Villere died on February 24, 1976, in New Orleans. Her children were listed at that time as Mrs. Emily V. LeCorgne, Edward J. Villere, and Sidney J. Villere. She was a parishioner of St.

Dominic Catholic Church at the time of her death and she was buried February 25, 1976, in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

5. Louis Jacob Helfrich was born March 30, 1892. Records at Bethlehem Orphan Asylum indicated that he was baptized by the Rev. A. H. Becker on June 5, 1892. At the time, Pastor Becker served what was known as the Clio Street German Evangelical Church. Louis is listed in the 1900 census with his parents. After his father's death, Louis, along with Emily and Emile, were placed in the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Asylum in New Orleans. By the time of the 1910 census, Emily was living back with her mother and siblings, but Louis and Emile were still living in the orphanage. Emile later joined his mother and siblings in Houston, Texas, where they lived out their lives. Louis, however, remained in or near New Orleans. [A more complete account of the life of Louis Helfrich follows in the third section of this history.]

6. Emil (or Emile) Joseph Helfrich was born on August 24, 1894. He is listed in the 1900 census with his parents and siblings. After his father's death in 1901, Emile, his sister Emily, and his brother Louis were placed in the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Asylum in New Orleans. Louis and Emile are listed there in the 1910 census as "orphans" even though their mother was alive. In 1917, Emile registered for the WWI draft while he was a divinity student at St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas, but his permanent address was listed as Houston, Texas, where his mother and siblings were living. By the time of the 1920 census he was living with his family in Houston and his occupation was listed as a laborer for a sheet metal works company. Though he studied at both Concordia College in New Orleans and at St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas, he apparently did not pursue any religious occupation. Emile, his mother and brother Charles cannot be found in the 1930 census, but presumably they were living in Houston. In 1942, Emile Joseph Helfrich registered as required for the World War II draft and gave his address as Route 1, Box 550, Recreation Acres, Fairbanks, Harris County, Texas. The record stated he was born on August 24, 1894, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and listed Mrs. Antoinette White at the same address as the person who would "always know" his address. His occupation was listed as odd jobs. The address given in this record is the same address given by Jack William White (his brother-in-law) when he registered for the World War II draft, so they were apparently living together at that time. Emile died in Houston at the age of 59 on January 2, 1954. His death record states he was never married and his occupation at the time of his death was a night watchman. His cause of death was carcinoma of the stomach with metastasis to the liver, kidney, and peritoneum with obstruction of the left ureter, with the secondary cause of death as pneumonia. He was buried January 5, 1954, in Brookside Memorial Park. Note: Emile's death record states that he served in WWI and died at a VA hospital. A record was found of Emil J. Helfrich, World War I Records of Camp Travis, Texas. His rank was listed as private, first-class, unit staff at the Base Hospital.

7. Helen Ruth Helfrich was born on December 24, 1896. She is listed in the 1900 census with her parents. Her father died in 1901 and Helen is listed with her mother and siblings in the 1910 census in New Orleans. Sometime after that census, Helen, with her mother and several of her siblings moved to Houston, Texas, where Helen was married on August 5, 1916, to Charles Frances Gardner. He registered for the World War I draft on June 5, 1917, in Houston, listing his birth date as January 21, 1889, in Stoneham, Massachusetts, and his occupation as a sheet metal works plumber. By the 1920 census, Charles and Helen are listed in Houston with their two

children, Helen F. age 2-1/2 and Charles F. age 1-3/12, both born in Texas. The child, Helen, died from acute hepatitis at the age of 5 on April 6, 1923, in Houston and was buried in Harrisburg, Texas. In the 1930 census, Charles G. Gardner is found still living in Houston, age 41, occupation soda fountain mechanic, but he is listed with a different wife named Freddie E. Gardner, age 23, and his son, listed in this census as Frank (listed in 1920 as Charles F.), age 11, and two children from his second marriage, John W. age 4 and Minnie R. age 9/12. Charles is listed as first married about 1916 and Freddie is listed as first married about 1925. This couple's marriage found in Harris County, Texas, probably Houston, listed as C. F. Gardner to Freddie E. Hagins, married December 22, 1923. Helen (Helfrich) Gardner cannot be found in the 1930 census so it is presumed that she died between the 1920 census and the second marriage of Charles. The deaths of Helen Ruth (Helfrich) Gardner and her husband, Charles Frances Gardner, have not been found.

8. Charles Jacob Helfrich was born on August 13, 1897. He is not listed in the 1900 census with his parents and his mother, Elizabeth, who was reported as having had eight children with only seven of those children living. Therefore, Charles Jacob Helfrich apparently died sometime between his birth and the 1900 census. No death record or obituary has been found for him.

9. Antoinette Helfrich was born August 12, 1900. Five months later her father died and her mother Elizabeth was left with eight children to care for. She is listed in New Orleans with her mother and siblings in the 1910 census and in Houston, Texas, with them in the 1920 census. On June 21, 1921, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston, she married Jack William White, some 16 years her senior. According to his World War I draft registration taken in September 1918, his birth date was February 18, 1884, and his occupation was a foreman of the Republic Box Co., where Antoinette's brother Charles apparently worked, as well as possibly Antoinette herself according to the 1920 census. Antoinette's sister Christina Elizabeth (Helfrich) Hof also worked in a box factory, perhaps the same one. In the 1930 census this couple is listed with Jack's occupation given as box factory foreman and they now have three children, Vivian G. age 8, Jack W. age 6, and Evelyn age 3, all born in Texas. At least three more children were born to this couple after the 1930 census, Bruce Howard born September 19, 1930, Jack born December 16, 1932, and Roy Elmer born November 4, 1934, all born in Harris County, Texas [probably Houston]. In 1942, Jack William White registered as required for the World War II draft and gave his address as Route 1, Box 550, Fairbanks, Harris County, Texas. The record stated he was born on February 18, 1884, in Greenville, North Carolina, and listed Mrs. Nettie White at the same address as the person who would "always know" his address. Jack's employer was listed as the Globe Box Co., located at 2601 Commerce [Street] in Houston. The address given in this record is the same address given by Emil Helfrich when he registered for the World War II draft, so they were apparently living together at that time. According to Texas death records, Antoinette (Helfrich) White died at the age of 70 on October 4, 1970, in Houston, Texas. The cause of death was bilateral pulmonary embolism due to a left femoral vein thrombus. She was buried October 7, 1970, in Brookside Memorial Park, Houston. The date and place where Jack William White died is not known.

The life of Louis Jacob Helfrich

Louis Jacob Helfrich was born in New Orleans on March 30, 1892, to Jacob Helfrich and Elizabeth Yaeger. At the time, the Helfrich family was living at what was then No. 559 Howard Street, and Jacob was working as a laborer. That address is shown in the 1892 city directory below. Also listed were Jacob's uncle Alexander, who operated a bakery at No. 298 Carondelet Street. Living at the bakery with Alexander was Louis's widowed grandmother, Margaretha Willem Helfrich.

Helfrich Alexander, bakery, 298 Carondelet
Helfrich Jacob, lab. r. 559 Howard
Helfrich John, drayman, r. 14 N. Galvez
Helfrich John, hunter, r. 109 St. Bernard av.
Helfrich Joseph J. clk. 336 Chippewa
Helfrich Margeret, wid. Michael, r. 298 Carondelet

Note: The Helfrich name was misspelled in this directory. Also, there is no known relationship to the people name John Helffrich and Joseph Helffrich.

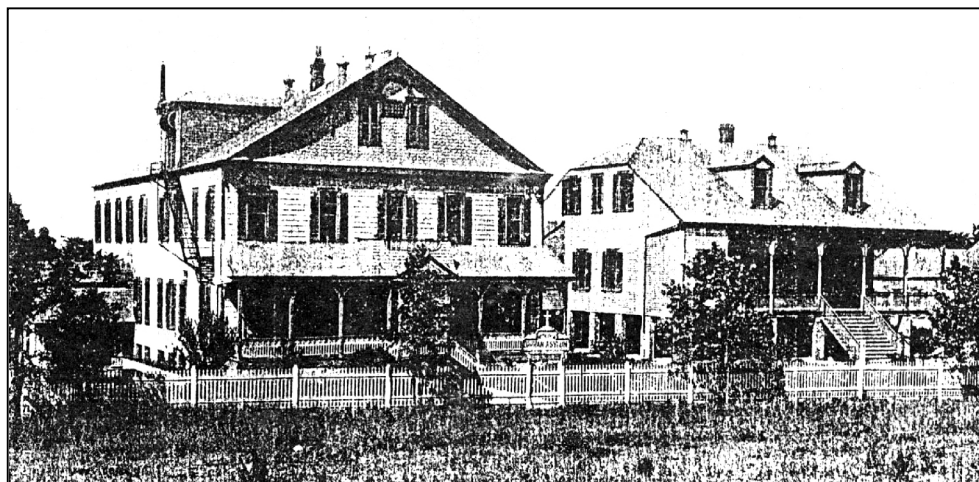
Louis was baptized on June 5, 1892, by the Rev. A. H. Becker, who was pastor of what was then known as the Clio Street German Evangelical Church.

In the years when he was growing up, Louis's father Jacob worked as a laborer. According to city directories, his family lived in a variety of locations, presumably renting. Sometime in about 1897, Jacob Helfrich and his family moved downtown, where they rented half of a double house at 632 Poland Avenue. In the 1900 census, Louis is listed with his parents and siblings at the same address. He was eight years old.

632	277	287	Helffrich Jacob	H	W M	Oct 1855	44	M	17		
	271		Elizabeth	Wife	W F	Oct 1858	41	M	17	8	7
			Alexander	Son	W M	June 1886	14	D			
			Charles	Son	W M	Aug 1887	12	D			
			Amelie	Daughter	W F	Oct 1889	10	D			
			Louis	Son	W M	March 1892	8	D			
			Emile	Son	W M	Aug 1897	5	D			
			Helen	Daughter	W F	Dec 1896	3	D			
630	272	288	Hof John	H	W M	Apr 1874	26	M	1		
			Christina	Wife	W F	May 1883	17	M	1	0	0

On January 6, 1901, Louis's father Jacob passed away, leaving the mother Elizabeth with seven children still at home, including Antoinette, who was only born the previous August 12th. With so many children to care for, one month later on February 3, 1901, Elizabeth placed three of her children, Emily (then 11 years old), Louis (then 9 years old), and Emile (then 7 years old) in the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Asylum, which had been started by the Lutheran

church in 1881. The orphanage was located in the 5400 block of North Peters Street, right behind the Mississippi River levee.



The orphanage was originally located in an old plantation house (right). Later a building was added (left), the contractor for which was Philipp Neff Sr. The young people spent their lives at the orphanage, staying in dormitories, eating in the dining hall, and being educated in the asylum's school. All of the buildings that were associated with the orphanage are now gone.

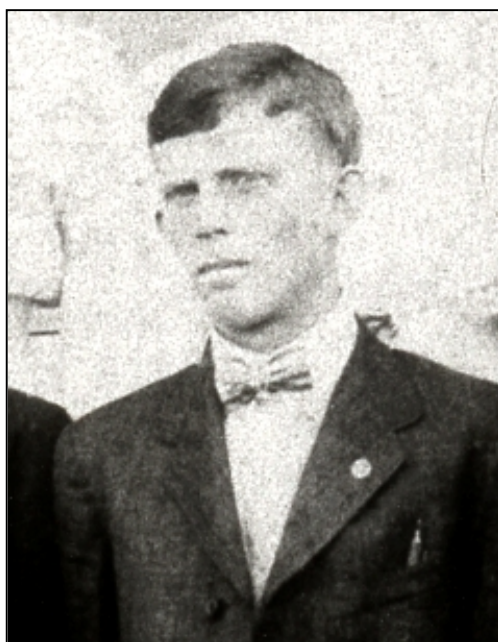
In 1904, Concordia College was started by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in New Orleans. It was located on Caffin Avenue at Royal Street, only a few blocks from the orphanage. The college was coeducational, but the boys were primarily being trained to enter the Lutheran ministry. Enrollment records show that Louis Helfrich began his studies there in 1906. Note: The building that housed Concordia College from 1904 to 1917 still exists today. It is at the downtown-river corner of Caffin Avenue and Royal Street.



This photograph of the students at Concordia College was taken about 1908. It includes Louis. (He is number 13.)



Note: Others in the picture who eventually went into the Lutheran ministry include Michael LeCron (8), Theodore Wegener (9), and Henry Gabriel (27). Juanita Hellmers is No. 3. Her son Donald later married Lois, the daughter of Louis Helfrich.



Louis Jacob Helfrich

A Concordia College photograph from about 1909 includes Louis Helfrich (left) and Theo Wegener. (The young women are not identified.)



It is not known how long Emily Helfrich remained at the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Asylum, but by 1910, she was living back with her mother and siblings. That same year, Louis, age 18, and Emile, age 15, were listed in the census while living at the orphanage.

Hutchinson	Louis H	Head	M	MI	57	MI	27	Louisiana	Ger. German	Ger. German
—	Fredrica	Wife	F	W	52	MI	27	Indiana	Ger. German	Ger. German
—	Louis H. Jr	Son	M	W	25	S		Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana
—	Lowell	Son	M	W	19	S		Louisiana	Louisiana	Indiana
Nunge	Fredric	Fred man	M	W	68	S		Ill. German	Ger. German	Ger. German
Wenzel	Ernest	Boarder	M	W	21	S		Ilexas	Ger. German	Ger. German
Wenzel	Richard	Boarder	M	W	20	S		Ilexas	Ger. German	Ger. German
Thomas	Mari	Cook	F	W	50	WV		Virginia	Virginia	Virginia
Voel	Matthias	Servant	F	B	50	WV		Louisiana	Ger. German	Ger. German
Meyer	Joseph	Orphan	M	W	17	S		Louisiana	Ger. German	Ger. German
LeCron	Michel	Orphan	M	W	18	S		Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana
Laris	Fredric	Orphan	M	W	16	S		Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana
DeCron	Allen	Orphan	M	W	18	S		Illinois	Louisiana	Louisiana
→	Hulfrich	Louis	Orphan	M	W	18	S	Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana
→	Ellerbusch	Blarence	Orphan	M	W	14	S	Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana
→	Vozell	Wallace	Orphan	M	W	14	S	Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana
→	Hulfrich	Emil	Orphan	M	W	15	S	Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana
→	Vozell	Alvin	Orphan	M	W	14	S	Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana
→	LeCron	Samuel	Orphan	M	W	8	S	Louisiana	Louisiana	Louisiana

Note: The names of the Helfrich brothers appear to be incorrectly written as “Hulfrich.”

From the 1910 census record above, it appears that students at the orphanage—such as Louis Helfrich and Michael LeCron—who attended Concordia College continued to live at the orphanage, instead of in private homes, as did some of the Concordia students.

In 1911, Louis Helfrich traveled to Winfield, Kansas, to attend St. John’s College, a two-year pre-ministerial college also operated by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. When Louis attended St. John’s, the entire college was housed in one building, Baden Hall, which was

completed in 1894. It contained the college's classrooms, dormitory, dining hall, chapel, and offices. It was named for John Peter Baden, founder of the school.



In 1912, Emil Helfrich began attending Concordia College in New Orleans.

Note: Emil later also attended St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas, however he apparently did not go further in preparing for the ministry. Emile later joined his mother and siblings in Houston, Texas, where he lived out his life.

In 1913, after completing two years at St. John's College, Louis Helfrich continued his studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, at that time the only seminary of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.



Lois Lyn Helfrich Hellmers relates the following:

While at the Seminary, Louis Helfrich roomed with Theodore Wegener and O. A. (Otto) Geisemann. Louis, because of his red hair was nicknamed "Red." Theodore was "Ted." Otto, for whatever reason, was known as "Fred." The three roommates were known as "Red, Ted, and Fred."

Upon graduating from the Seminary in 1916, he was assigned to Redeemer Lutheran Church in DeRidder, Louisiana, under the auspices of the Lutheran Mission Board. Before beginning his duties there, he was ordained at St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Orleans on Wednesday, August 30, 1916, as part of the annual session of the Louisiana District Conference of pastors and teachers.

While serving in DeRidder, he registered for the military draft that was in effect during World War I. His signed registration card is below. On the back of the card, he was described as being "short," with blue eyes and red hair. The card was dated June 5, 1917.

Form 1		789		2116		REGISTRATION CARD		No. 165		
1	Name in full	Louis Jacob Helfrich					Age in yrs.	25		
2	Home address	DeRidder, La								
3	Date of birth	May		30		1892				
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?	1 Natural Born								
5	Where were you born?	New Orleans		La		U. S. A.				
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	—								
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office?	Minister of Gospel								
8	By whom employed?	Lutheran Mission Board								
	Where employed?	DeRidder, La								
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)?	No.								
10	Married or single (which)?	Single		Race (specify which)?						Caucasian
11	What military service have you had? Rank	None								
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	Minister of Gospel								
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.										
Louis Jacob Helfrich										
(Signature or stamp)										

While still serving the fledgling congregation in DeRidder, Louis also served Immanuel Lutheran Church in Jennings, Louisiana.

In 1919, Louis Helfrich was called as the assistant pastor at First English Lutheran Church in New Orleans. His role was to assist the Rev. George C. Franke, who had been in failing health since 1918. A news article in *The Times-Picayune* (May 29, 1919, page 10, column 4) described the transition:

Rev. L. J. Helfrich Takes Place of Rev. G. C. Franke

Ceremonies attending the installation of Rev. Louis J. Helfrich as assistant pastor of the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port and St. Claude streets, were performed Wednesday night by the pastors of the seven churches of the denomination in the city. More than 1000 persons attended.

Rev. Mr. Helfrich will preach his first sermon Sunday morning. He is to take the place of Rev. G. C. Franke, pastor for the last thirty years, who Saturday leaves for Biloxi, Miss., for a stay of several months. Rev. Mr. Franke has been in ill health since last January.

Reared at the Lutheran Bethlehem Orphan Asylum, the new pastor became an ordained minister four years ago. For the last three years he has been engaged in missionary work in and around Jennings and De Ridder. He is 27 years old.

The church is the largest of the denominational branch in the city and one of the largest of the branch in the South. More than 3000 persons form the congregation, many of whom are from outlying country sections, and from towns along the lower coast.

Pastor Franke died on Tuesday, February 17, 1920. Louis Helfrich then became head pastor of what was then the largest Lutheran church in New Orleans.

An advertisement in *The Times-Picayune* of June 19, 1920, listed L. J. Helfrich as the pastor:

Oh Come. Let Us Worship the Lord.
FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Port and St. Claude Streets
Services Sunday Morning at 8:00 A. M.
Bring Up Your Children In the Fear of the Lord
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 A. M.
REV. L. J. HELFRICH, Pastor.
Phone Hemlock 1358 **Residence 2709 Royal St.**

The ad indicates that Pastor Helfrich was living at 2709 Royal Street, which was about four blocks from the church. The Franke family continued to live in the parsonage on Port Street that was located immediately adjacent to the large church that was completed in 1893.

On July 25, 1920, Pastor Helfrich gave the sermon at the festival celebrating the 39th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Bethlehem Orphan Asylum, his old home.

By 1920, Louis Helfrich was courting the daughter of Pastor George Franke, Lois. A newspaper article in *The New Orleans States* of August 15, 1920, documented the relationship. The article was titled "POLICE HUNT PAIR WHO FLED AFTER AUTO ACCIDENT." The article said:

The police continued their search last night for two young white men who abandoned their automobile in Burgundy street after having crashed into a car occupied by the Rev. Louis J. Helfrich, pastor of the First English Lutheran church, and Miss Lois Franke, 20 years old, 1028 Port street, shortly after midnight Sunday, according to the police.

Miss Franke suffered slight injuries. She was treated at her home. The Rev. Helfrich escaped injury. The two occupants of the other car are said by eye-witnesses to have abandoned their car and run away. The license plates on the automobile were issued to Leon Pretania of St. Bernard parish. Police are seeking the pair.

The Times-Picayune of July 3, 1926, commented on a special service at First English Lutheran Church:

ENGLISH LUTHERAN SERVICES ANNOUNCED

**"God and Our Country" Is to Be
Theme of Patriotic Sermon by Pastor**

The Rev. L. J. Helfrich, pastor of First English Lutheran church, Port street and St. Claude avenue, will conduct a patriotic service Sunday morning. W. T. Hall will deliver an address and the pastor will preach on the subject, "God and Our Country." The congregation, led by the junior choir under the direction of Professor Thomson, will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the orchestra of the church will render "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Waldo Treuting will read the Declaration of Independence. The Boy Scouts will take a prominent part in the service.

The mission society will meet Monday; the adult Bible class Tuesday and the Earnest Workers on Thursday.

The Times-Picayune of June 26, 1927 (page 2, column 6) included the following announcement:

HELFRICH-FRANKE—Mrs. G. C. Franke announces the approaching marriage of her daughter, **LOIS CAROLINE** to **THE REV. L. J. HELFRICH** on Wednesday, June 29, at 6:30 p. m. at First English Lutheran church, Port and St Claude streets. Relatives and friends are invited through this medium.

An article on July 1st (page 16, column 2) chronicled the June 29th wedding:

REV. L. J. HELFRICH WEDS MISS FRANKE

**Lutheran Pastor Marries
Daughter of Predecessor;
2000 Attend**

The Rev. L. J. Helfrich, pastor of the First English Lutheran church, and Miss Lois Franke, daughter of the late Rev. G. C. Franke, the Rev. Mr. Helfrich's predecessor, were married in Mr. Helfrich's church on Port street Thursday morning. The wedding was attended by more than 2000 friends, including practically the entire congregation of the church.

The Rev. Mr. Helfrich came to New Orleans as assistant pastor more than ten years ago, when Mr. Franke was pastor. He became pastor several years ago when Mr. Franke died, after more than twenty-five years' service. The romance began with Mr. Helfrich's association with Miss Franke's father.

The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. Mr. Weldig of Pascagoula, and Mr. and Mrs. Helfrich left shortly thereafter for a trip through the East. During their absence, the Rev. Mr. Wilgrubbe will serve as pastor of the church.

Mrs. Helfrich was attended by Miss Myrtle Barrios, maid of honor, and Misses Irene Hall, Dorothy Schober, Gladys Deferneaux, Roberta Gross, Aline Leftwich and Elva Davis. Rodney Emmer was best man.

About two years after their marriage, Louis and Lois Helfrich had a daughter born on August 8, 1929. They named her Lois Marilyn Helfrich. The young family was listed in the 1930 census:

Helfrich, Louis J	Head	28	Q	Mar	31	Mar	30
Lois C	Wife		V	Mar	24	Mar	21
Lois M	Daughter		V	Mar			

Louis Helfrich continued to serve as pastor of First English Lutheran Church into the 1930s. The article below from *The Times-Picayune* of October 7, 1933 (page 7, column 3) describes a Rally Day program.

SPECIAL PROGRAM SET FOR SUNDAY

First Evangelical Lutheran
Sunday School to
Celebrate

Members of the Sunday school of the First English Evangelical Lutheran church will observe their annual Rally Day Sunday at 9:30 a. m., with a special program to be held at the church, 1026 Port street.

The program will open with the Rev. L. J. Helfrich, pastor, introducing members of the executive department. Graduates of the teachers' training class will be presented diplomas by R. M. Haas, president of the congregation and Sunday school executive for the past 20 years. Rally Day boxes will be received at the door of the church as the children march in, the pastor announced.

Services at the First English church Sunday morning will be held at 6 a. m. and 8 a. m. The Rev. Mr. Helfrich will preach at both services on "One God and Father of All."

The following graduates will be admitted as teachers at the conclusion of the rally: Misses Lorraine Anderson, Melva Artigues, Althea Keppeler, Henrietta Mallu, Ursula Rippoll and Ethel Schwab and Messrs. Louis Pelson and Elmore Orth.

Pastor Plans Observance of Rally Day at Church



THE REV. L. J. HELFRICH

On July 22, 1933, Louis and Lois Helfrich had another child, a son, George Franke Helfrich. Note: George died at the age of 76 on July 17, 2009.

Sadly, Louis Helfrich suffered from convulsions, which led to his having to leave the ministry in mid-1935. Five years later, Louis Helfrich passed away at the age of 48 on November 18, 1940, leaving his wife, a daughter Lois Lyn age 11, and a son George age 6. He was buried in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

Note: His wife, Lois Franke Helfrich died December 9, 1998.

An obituary for the Rev. Louis Jacob Helfrich appeared in *The Times-Picayune* of November 19, 1940 (page 2, column 8):

HELFRICH—Of No. 12 St. Claude Court, on Monday, November 18, 1940, at 2 o'clock p. m., THE REV. LOUIS JACOB HELFRICH, beloved husband of Lois Franke, father of Lois Lyn and George Franke Helfrich, brother of Mrs. J. Villere, Mrs. E. Hof, Mrs. J. White and Emile Helfrich, aged 48 years, a native of New Orleans, La.
Relatives and friends of the family, also the officers and members of First English Evangelical Lutheran Congregation and all auxiliary bodies, Bethlehem Orphan Asylum, its board of directors and Ladies' Auxilliary, and also all Lutheran pastors and congregations, are most respectfully invited to attend the funeral from First English Evangelical Lutheran church at 4 o'clock p. m. Tuesday, November 19, 1940. At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon his body will be taken to church from the mortuary of Jacob Schoen & Son, 527 Elysian Fields avenue to lie in state until funeral time.
Interment in St. Vincent de Paul cemetery. Houston, Tex., papers please copy.

Though he died at a young age, Louis J. Helfrich lived a remarkably rich and rewarding life. When Louis was nine years old, his father died and he was placed in an orphanage. Under the care of the orphan asylum, he obviously prospered academically, eventually graduating from Concordia College in New Orleans (1911), St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas (1913), and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis (1916). After serving mission congregations in DeRidder and Jennings, Louisiana, he was called to replace the Rev. George Franke at First English Lutheran Church, then the largest Lutheran congregation in New Orleans and perhaps in the entire South. Only ill health shortened what was proving to be an outstanding life in the ministry. His descendants can be justifiably proud.

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