

The Grave of George E. Kessler

Jim Barnes

Color photographs taken in July 2011; arranged May 2017



At the time of his sudden death on the 19th of March 1923 (at age 61 in an Indianapolis hospital), George E. Kessler maintained their primacy family residence in St. Louis, Missouri, in this house located at 51 Vandeventer Place.

Within this most prestigious of St. Louis' fabled *private places*, the Kesslers' house had been designed by the Boston architecture firm of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge -- originally as a home for millionaire John T. Davis.

Vandeventer Place, in its entirety, was demolished during the 1940s.



Bellefontaine Cemetery and the Roman Catholic Calvary Cemetery are adjacent burial grounds in St. Louis. They have numerous huge tombstones and monumental mausoleums. They contain the burials of a number of famous people, one of whom is George E. Kessler.



The part of the Bellefontaine Cemetery where Kessler and his family are buried is surrounded with gigantic tombstones and mausoleums, such as this Neo-Egyptian extravagance.



George E. Kessler's grave is among the most modest. His tombstone is now covered by the bush in the center of this picture.



George Edward Kessler: 1862-1923

To the right of George E. Kessler is buried his wife...



Ida Field Kessler: 1865-1931

To George E. Kessler's left is buried his son...



George Edward Kessler Jr.: 1906-1971

Behind them are the graves of a spinster sister of George E. Kessler ...



Antonie Louise Kessler: 1863-1947

..... and their mother...



Clotilde Kessler geb. Zetzsche: 1832-1911 (maiden name "Zetzsche")



Not far from the graves of the Kesslers is buried Adolphus Bush, the famous St. Louis brewer, and his wife. The architect of Bush's *Adolphus Hotel*, Tom Barnett, also designed this magnificent Gothic mausoleum.



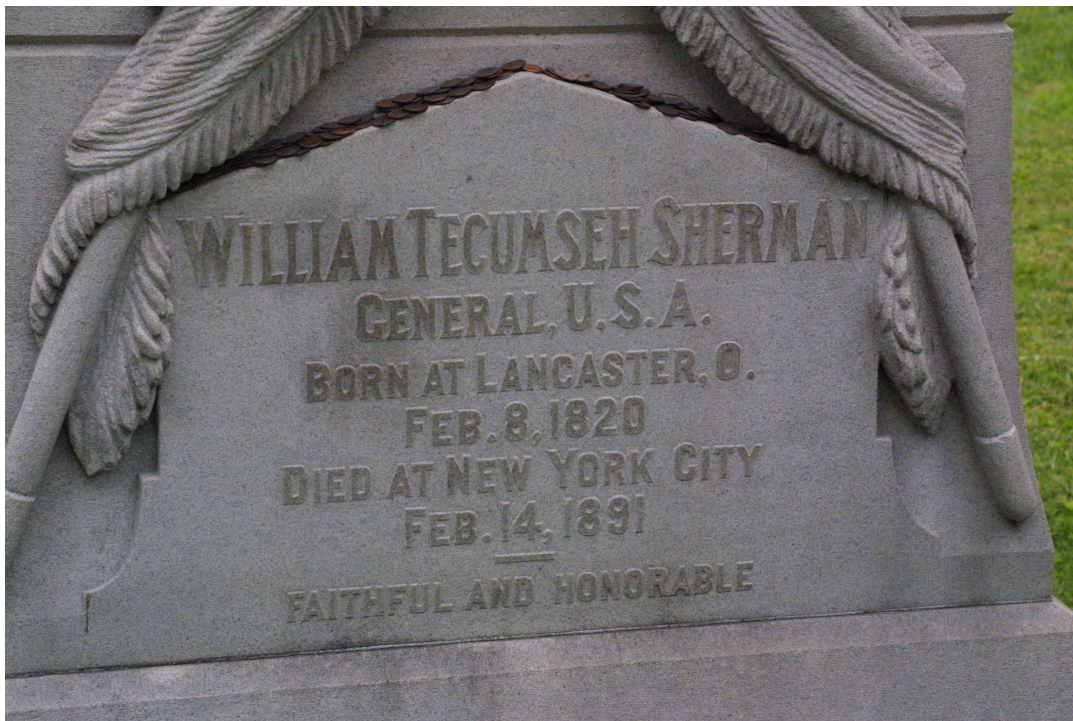
WILLIAM CLARK
BORN IN VIRGINIA
AUGUST 1, 1770
ENTERED INTO LIFE ETERNAL
SEPTEMBER 1, 1838
SOLDIER, EXPLORER,
STATESMAN AND PATRIOT
HIS LIFE IS WRITTEN
IN THE HISTORY OF HIS COUNTRY.

"THE EXPEDITION OF LEWIS AND CLARK ACROSS THE CONTINENT
IN 1804-5-6, MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE PROCESS OF
EXPLORATION AND COLONIZATION WHICH THRUST OUR NATIONAL
BOUNDARIES TO THE PACIFIC"

William Clark, co-leader of the *Lewis & Clark Expedition*, is also buried in this Bellefontaine Cemetery of north St. Louis.



Civil War general William Tecumseh Sherman is buried in the adjacent Calvary Cemetery (the Roman Catholic area).



Notice the pennies left along the ledge above his name.

(End)