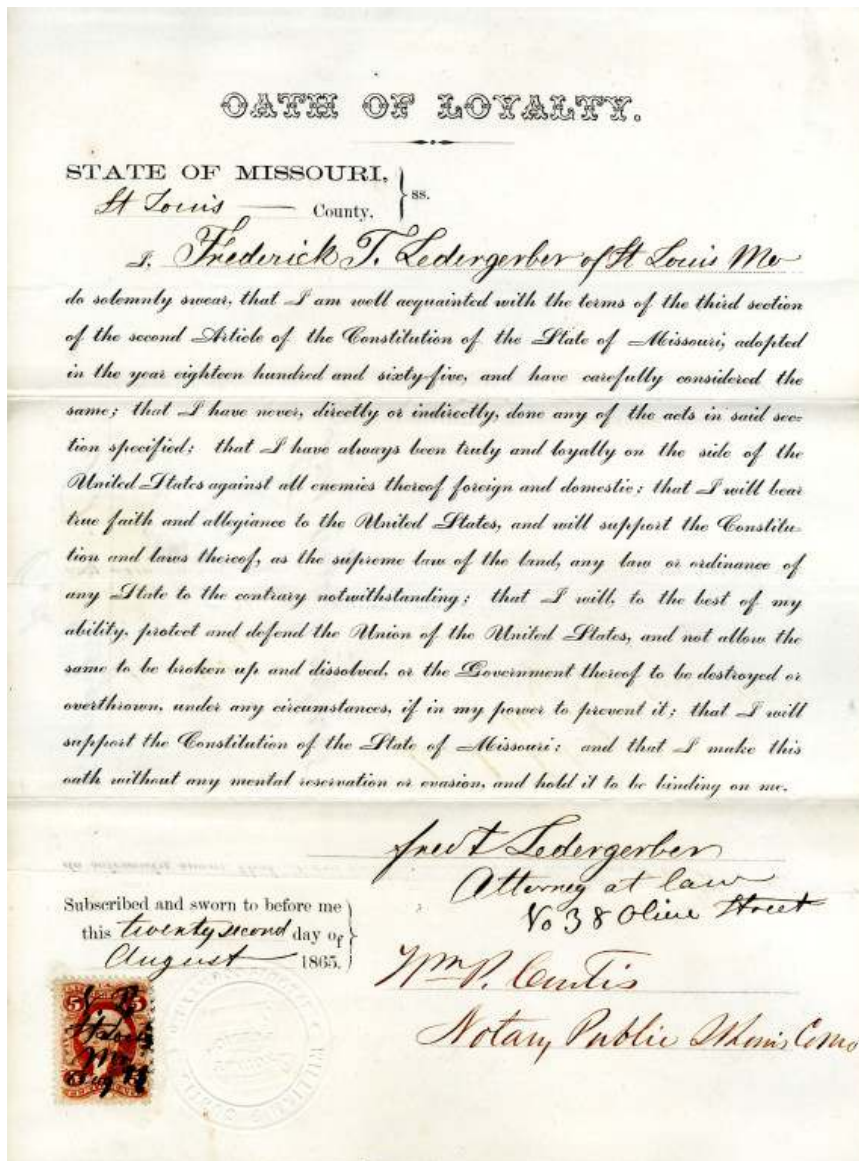


Frederick T. Ledergerber 1867

From *the Bench and Bar of Missouri Cities:*

Frederick T. Ledergerber.

Saint Louis.



Frederick Tell Ledergerber was born May 17, 1835, in the Lateiner Settlement, about two miles east of Shiloh, Saint Clair county, Illinois. He is the son of Joseph Ledergerber, a native of Switzerland. His family were mostly soldiers or priests for many generations. Joseph Ledergerber was an officer in the Swiss guards of the royal army, under Charles X, of France. He came to America in 1832, but returned to Konstanz Baden, and died there in 1882.

The mother of our subject before marriage was Miss Charolotte K. Engelmann, from the Rheinpfalz, Bavaria, a lady of fine education and talent. She was married to Joseph Ledergerber in Saint Clair county, Illinois, in 1834. Her father, F. T. Engelmann, was

a prominent official, but as all of his children took part in the liberal movement against the government in 1832, they started for America, April 3, 1833, where they landed, June 19, 1833.

Frederick was raised on a farm where in early life he formed habits of industry, and was educated under the instruction of private tutors, whom his father hired for the benefit of all of his children, and attended the college of Oakfield, Missouri, under Professor F. Steines, an eminent preceptor. He early took an active part in politics. He was in the convention at Decatur, Illinois, where the preliminary measures were taken to procure the nomination of Abraham Lincoln. It was then that "fence rails" were first introduced as an element in politics. Mr. Ledergerber was appointed commander of the "Wideawakes" of Saint Clair county. He enlisted at Shiloh, Illinois, in the Union army, the day President Lincoln issued his first call for troops; was first lieutenant in the 9th Illinois under Colonel Payne; commanded the first troops sent to protect the Big Muddy bridge, near De Soto, Illinois, in May, 1861; served three months; then entered the army for a term of three years, as captain in the 12th Missouri infantry, under Colonel, afterwards General Osterhaus. He was promoted to major, and in his commission are the words "promoted for gallant conduct in the actions before Vicksburg, Mississippi." He was wounded at Ringgold, Georgia, where his only brother, Joseph, was slain. Our subject receives a small pension from the government, in consequence of the wounds received in that battle. In 1864 he was detailed by General Rosecranz to muster the citizens of Saint Louis, who volunteered to serve in the earthworks, in case General Price came near the city. During that service Major Ledergerber was so busily engaged that he did not get any rest for five successive nights, the pressure being so great on the part of the citizens of Saint Louis to enroll themselves for the defense of their homes. He was commissioned colonel by Governor Fletcher in 1865; settled in Saint Louis; was secretary of the Volunteers' Mutual Aid Society in 1865-6, and in the latter year organized the Grand Army of the Republic in Missouri. He was a member of the loyalist convention at Philadelphia, in the fall of 1866, and was elected to the Missouri legislature in 1866 and 1868; was chairman of the committee on education, where he performed excellent service; was an acknowledged leader in the house during his second term in the legislature. He then moved to Saint Joseph, Missouri, where he remained seven years, and

practiced law. He was appointed special assistant to the United States district attorney, in what was known as the whiskey prosecutions, in which cases he performed effective service. He was at one time editor of a German paper at Saint Joseph, and subsequently contributed to an English paper at the same place.

He is professor of law, and of the history of medicine and law, in the College for Medical Practitioners at Saint Louis.

Colonel Ledergerber commenced the study of the law in the office of Hon. Jehu Baker, at Belleville, Illinois, in 1860, encouraged by ex-Governor Koerner, his uncle, to whom he is, in a great measure, indebted for his education and knowledge; after the war with the late Judge James K. Knight and John H. Rankin, of Saint Louis, and was admitted to the Missouri bar in 1865, and has been in practice since that time. He has had many very interesting cases of considerable importance, involving the rights of married women in regard to property, option deals, cases arising under the statute of frauds and wills; has a large commercial office business, and is especially qualified for that branch of practice; is a careful, painstaking lawyer, and a gentleman of integrity.

He was married in 1870, to Miss Sophie L. Coffey. She is of English descent, and is a lady of refinement and high accomplishments.

He is one of the executive committee for the relief of the German sufferers by the floods of 1883, himself and one other being the only born Americans on that committee. They raised \$25,000 for that object, and forwarded the same to Germany.

End of Article.

Additional. The St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* of 25 Sep 1886 reported the passing of Col. Ledergerber. The article found by researcher does not indicate where he was buried.