ON THE JOB IN GERMANTOWN

Stories and Activities

By

Caroline Aiken and Nathalie Andrews

This advertisement appeared in the 1877 Louisville City Directory, a time when Germantown was particularly well-known for the manufacture of cigars.
Going to Work

Germantown was a busy place in the 19th century. Because automobiles were not invented, carts and wagons rattled through the streets. Barns and fields were busy places too. Because no supermarkets existed, families kept livestock—pigs, cows, chickens and horses.

Work began at home. Young people gathered eggs, milked cows, churned butter and mucked out the stalls. Older sisters and brothers learned trades like brewing, bricklaying, carpentry, furniture making and other skills needed by the growing city.

Research helps us discover how people lived and worked in the past. Looking at the jobs listed in your 1884 Germantown Directory, it’s easy to see that neighborhood jobs centered around groceries, saloons, cigars, furniture and dairy products. Not all jobs, however, are listed; and some people worked outside of the neighborhood. So not having a job after your name doesn’t mean you’re unemployed. And don’t forget, "a woman’s work was never done," yet their important work is not listed.

Like the Directory, advertisements teach us about life in another era. Although people did not yet have television or radio in the 19th century, like merchants today, they advertised their products in the newspaper. These ads teach us about products and services people needed. This book will teach you about going to work in Germantown many years ago. You will see how busy your neighborhood could be.
**Seek and Find**

For this activity, you will need your 1884 Germantown Directory and your Greater Louisville Yellow Pages.

**Rate Your Directory Skills: Job Quiz.** Fill in the name of the person who had each of the jobs below in 1884. Now look up the job in the dictionary. Copy the definition on a separate sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinetmaker</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florist</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grocer</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butcher</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewer</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacksmith</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Score: 

*If your scored 100 points, you’re a Germantown Genius!

Are these services still available in Louisville today? To find out, look up the job in the Yellow Pages of the telephone book. Make a list. Did you find them all? **YES** ________ or **NO** ________. 
The Duchess of Milk Street

The Strubel family, like many of their neighbors, keeps hens and a pig for eggs, ham and sausages. Conrad Strubel works at a nearby brewery assisting the brewmaster. Frederica, his wife, cooks, sews, washes by hand, tends the fires and manages the home. Young Louisa and Reinhart help too.

Since settling in Germantown, the Strubels have built a small barn behind their house and saved $100 to buy a milk cow. They sold extra eggs and vegetables from the garden to raise the money.

Frederica looks forward to the rich cheeses and fresh cream desserts she will make from the new cow’s milk. Louisa and Reinhart aren’t as sure; they want sweet butter for their bread but know that the new cow means more chores.

Tomorrow the Strubels will choose their cow and bring her home. All is ready in the new, little barn. There is a hay loft above the stall and a stanchion for milking. Fine new buckets are ready for the first milking, and Frederica recently purchased a churn. Already, she is teaching Louisa how to make butter.

Just before bedtime, Conrad calls Reinhart to his side. He speaks in his native German language: "Reinhart, my son. Let us decide what food we need for the cow. Here is a recipe my father taught me when I was a boy. Make a mash of four pounds of bran and four pounds of bean-meal. Then feed it to the cow with twenty-five pounds of mangolds and fifteen pounds of straw chaff. If we mix this recipe every day, our cow will be healthy and give lots of milk."

"Not healthy enough," cries Frederica from the stove. "You forgot the fifteen pounds of hay. Always remember, Reinhart, the better the cow is fed, the sweeter the cream will be."

"Wow," Reinhart exclaimed, "that’s a lot of food. I’ll make a deal with Balthasar Kundert, our neighbor on Milk Street. We can trade
milk to borrow his horse and wagon. Our little family dairy will be a huge success."

"Not so fast Reinhart," laughs his father. "All this food will be expensive. I notice some men are buying cheap mash from the brewery for milk cow feed. We might save money this way. Tomorrow, we'll buy the cow's food for the week at the Haymarket. Later we can decide about the brewery mash."

"Yes, Papa, but either way, you'll need a wagon," calls Louisa. "And I want to name our cow. I shall call her Duchess."

**Reading Comprehension**

1. What does Conrad Strubel do for a living?
2. How did the Strubels raise the money to buy Duchess?
3. Who is Balthasar Kundert?
4. Name three dairy products the cow will give the Strubels.
5. Name two things in the new barn.
6. Pretend you are a clerk at the Haymarket when the family visits for a supply of cow feed. Here is your price list:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 lbs. of bran</td>
<td>10 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 lbs. of bean-meal</td>
<td>15 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 lbs. of hay</td>
<td>50 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 lbs. of straw</td>
<td>50 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 lbs. of mangolds</td>
<td>25 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. How much will 150 lbs. of bean-meal cost? __________

b. Which is more expensive? (Circle one) Mangolds  or  Straw

c. The Strubels wish to purchase 75 lbs. **each** of bran and bean-meal; 400 lbs. of mangolds; 200 lbs. of hay; and 200 lbs. of straw for Duchess. Make a list and figure the price of each item. What is their total bill? __________

7. Write your own story about the Strubels and Duchess.

8. Make your own fresh butter. Ask your teacher for the recipe.
THE
Louisville Volksblatt,
PUBLISHED
Daily, Weekly and Semi-Weekly
AND LITERARY SUNDAY PAPER
OMNIBUS
BY
W. Krippenstapel.
97 Third Street, bet. Market and Jefferson.

AS AN ADVERTISING MEDIUM
We offer greater advantages than any other German Paper in the South- west, while our advertising and subscription rates are the lowest. We have, combined, a larger circulation than any other German Paper in the Southwest.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION—By Carrier.
Daily, per week .......................... 20 cents. | Semi-weekly, for two weeks...... 15 cents. | Omnibus (Sunday), per copy.......... 5 cents.

BY MAIL.
Daily Volksblatt, per year................... $8.00 | Omnibus and Weekly, together, per year ................................. $4.40
Semi-Weekly Volksblatt, per year...... 3.00 | Omnibus and semi-Weekly, together, per year............................ 5.50
Weekly Volksblatt, per year........... 1.70 | Weekly, to Germany, per year........ 3.00
Omnibus, per year........................... 3.20 | Semi-Weekly, to Germany, per year.... 6.00
Omnibus and Daily, together, per year ................................ 9.60 | Omnibus to Germany, per year........ $1.50

Job Printing in any Language done with Despatch and in the Latest Style.

WM. Krippenstapel,
Editor and Proprietor,
97 Third St., between Market and Jefferson. LOUISVILLE, KY.
In the News

During the 19th century, German immigrants to Louisville could choose among many different newspapers written in their native tongue. Competition for readers was stiff and many editors advertised their paper just like today. This advertisement for the *Louisville Volksblatt* and the *Omnibus* appeared in the 1877 *Louisville City Directory*. The *Omnibus* was the special Sunday edition of the *Volksblatt*. You can learn many things about the paper by looking carefully at this advertisement. Read the ad and answer the following questions.

Who was Wm. Krippenstapel?

Where was his office located?

How often was the paper published?

Daily? YES____ NO____

Weekly? YES____ NO____

Semi-Weekly? YES____ NO____

How was your paper delivered?

By Carrier? YES____ NO____

By Mail? YES____ NO____

How much was a daily *Volksblatt* per week, by carrier?____________

How much was a copy of the Sunday *Omnibus*?____________

How much to send the *Omnibus* to Germany for one year?____________

How much to send the Weekly to Germany for a year?____________
Mr. Krippenstapel puts you in charge of subscriptions to the Louisville Volksblatt and the Omnibus. Each day, you encounter another confused customer wanting to subscribe to the papers. Read the word problems carefully and practice your math so you can help your customers.

**Monday**—An old man visits your office for three year-long subscriptions. He wants the daily Volksblatt for himself. He also wants to send the Omnibus to his sister in Chicago and the Omnibus to his mother in Germany. How much should you charge him?

**Tuesday**—A young woman stops by the office. She needs to wrap a ham with a single copy of the Omnibus and wants a year’s subscription to the weekly Volksblatt to read. How much will it cost?

**Wednesday**—The owner of the local saloon visits during lunchtime. She loves to read and wants a year of the daily Volksblatt and a year of the Omnibus. What is the best deal you can give her?

How much did she save by buying them together?

**Thursday**—Your sister drops by the office to order the family papers. She orders a year of the daily Volksblatt and the Omnibus. She also sends a year of the Omnibus to your aunt in Germany. How much are the three subscriptions?

Your family gets a 50% (or half price) employee discount. How much does the family save?

**Friday**—Your boss will give you the day off if you have sold more than ten subscriptions already this week. How many did you sell Monday through Thursday? (A single paper does not count)

Did you get Friday off?  YES  NO