

**S1083 BUSE, JOHN J. JR (1864-1933)  
PAPERS, 1860-1931  
228 FOLDERS, 2001 PHOTOGRAPHS**

**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI  
RESEARCH CENTER-ST. LOUIS**

**PROVENANCE:**

The John J. Buse, Jr. Collection was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by John L. Buse on 2 August 1991 (SHS Accession No. 2886). The Collection was transferred to the State Historical Society Research Center-St. Louis in April 2012.

**HISTORY:**

John J. Buse, Jr. was the older of two children born to John and Rosena (Mueller) Buse. John Buse and Rosena Mueller immigrated from Germany with their parents when both were young children. John Jr. was born on 8 April 1864; his sister Josephine was born three years later. The family lived with Buse's parents on the family farm near Cottleville, St. Charles County, Missouri. Grandfather Casper Buse died in April 1866, and his wife died a few years later. Then, in December 1876, both John, Sr. and Rosena died within seven days of each other, leaving John, Jr. and Josephine to the guardianship of John B. Thro, a St. Charles businessman. John attended school at St. Peter's, a local Catholic school, and went on to attend St. Marys College in St. Marys, Kansas.

In 1881 Buse became an apprentice carpenter at the St. Charles Car Company (later the American Car and Foundry Company) in St. Charles. Buse continued working for American Car and Foundry until his death in 1933. In 1885 he married Agnes Salland, with whom he had six children: John L., Robert, Edward, Alois, Edmunda, and Immelda.

In his later years Buse spent his spare time investigating the history of his hometown and collecting and preserving that history in photographs, reminiscences, and newspaper articles. He spent much time conducting research at the library of the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis, reading old books and rare newspapers from which he copied entire articles to supplement his collection of historical notes. Early in his life Buse became acquainted with St. Charles photographer Rudolph Goebel, a man who was also keenly interested in the world around him from an historical perspective. Through the years Goebel gave Buse some 1,500 photographic

prints of St. Charles buildings and people. In the 1920s Buse wrote his personal memoirs of life on the family farm in the years before his parents died.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The John J. Buse, Jr. Collection consists of photographs, scrapbooks, historical notes, correspondence, and personal reminiscences of a St. Charles, Missouri, historian and collector. Photos by St. Charles photographers Rudolph Goebel, John Gossler, and A. Ruth are included. The John J. Buse, Jr. Collection is arranged into five series:

The Correspondence series (folder 1-folder 11), dates from 1879 to 1905, and contains letters written mostly by and to John J. Buse, Jr. These are arranged chronologically. Early letters are from Annie Graf and Agnes Salland, hometown sweethearts, to John, who was attending St. Marys College in St. Marys, Kansas; and relate Buse and Salland family comings and goings, St. Charles happenings, train wrecks, Christmas festivities, parties, weddings, and amusements. Topics of post-marriage letters include the sale of Salland family property in St. Charles; the Chicago World's Fair of 1893; the marital problems of Buse's sister-in-law and her husband; the scandalous case of an illegitimate child in Sedalia, Missouri; Buse's 1902 trip to Mexico; and letters to and from sons attending St. Francis Solanus College in Quincy, Illinois. Included in these is a letter to son Robert from a former Quincy classmate who had gone to Austria to continue his studies; he describes the trip over, sightseeing, and student life for an American abroad in 1904. There are also several letters dealing with business at the American Car and Foundry Company, touching on cutting production costs, job openings, and nepotism.

The Buse Family History series(folder 12-filder25) is arranged by subject matter and consists of deeds, loan agreements, miscellaneous documents (including a World War I Catholic prayer book "Dedicated to Our Soldiers and Sailors and to the Honor and Glory of the Cross and Flag"), and a handwritten family history. This account describes Buse's grandparents' voyage from Germany; their life near Cottleville, Missouri; his parents' courtship and marriage; his early life; farm life and agricultural practices in the 1860s and 1870s; folk remedies; log cabin building; the role of women on the farm; reminiscences of wagon trains passing through St. Charles in the 1870s; and a detailed account of butchering hogs and cattle to make sausage.

Included is a 200 page detailed narrative of Buse's trip to Cordoba, Mexico, in 1902, to assist the Cordoba and Huatusco Railroad in refitting American Car and Foundry cars to the narrower Mexican gauge. Buse relates the trip to and from Cordoba, bits of Mexican history (especially as it pertains to the cathedrals he visited), his interactions with the people, the weather, and the differences between American and Mexican business practices. References are made to specific photographs throughout this account, which were evidently intended as an accompaniment to a photo album. However, we do not possess these photographs. An edited transcription with photographs, provided by a researcher, is available in the information folder. Please consult the reference staff to access it.

Buse's Historical notes (folder 26-folder54) contain personal memories, transcripts of newspaper articles, and short essays detailing St. Charles's history from its early settlement through the Civil War, the coming of the railroads, World War I, Prohibition, and the beginnings of the Great Depression. These are arranged by topic.

Subjects related to World War I include recruiting, the Red Cross, troop send-offs, funerals, rationing, food prices, and the use of the German language in the daily life of St. Charles residents. Most of this material consists of transcripts of articles appearing in the *St. Charles Daily-Cosmo Monitor*.

Other topics include railroad accidents, bridge building, bridge disasters, St. Charles churches and schools (including Lindenwood College), the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, weather, storms, industry in St. Charles, merchants, and travel on the Missouri River in and around St. Charles.

Also included in this series are two published guides to St. Charles. The first is *To Manufacturing and Mercantile Interests and Real Estate Investors*, a 49 page illustrated guide published by Kolf and Solomon, c. 1905. The second is similar, published c. 1915.

The Photograph Series (folder 55-folder 208) consists of approximately 2,000 photographs dating from c. 1865 to the 1920s with the majority from 1880 to 1905, most of which were taken by Rudolph Goebel or one of his assistants. These photographs were originally glued in photo albums by Mr. Buse, with handwritten captions underneath. There appeared to be no order to how these photos were placed in the albums, except perhaps in the order in which Buse acquired them. For conservation and processing purposes, these photographs have been removed from the albums and arranged alphabetically by subject. Photocopies of the original photo album pages are located in folders 198 to 208. V<sub>1</sub>...; ' s

Subjects include railroads; the building of the Wabash Railroad bridge at St. Charles (and the subsequent collapses and rebuildings thereof); steamboats; St. Charles people; churches; schools; city streets; the 1909 St. Charles Centennial parade; the 1918 Victory parade celebrating the end of World War I in Europe; parks; fairs; clubs; agriculture; and the effects of tornadoes, floods, wind storms and ice storms.

Of particular interest is the extensive documentation of the development and production of railroads and railroad materials in the St. Charles area, with pictures of the building of the various bridges over the Missouri River, derailments, the American Car and Foundry Co. shops, and many of the special cars produced by that company at the turn of the century.

Rare photos include an 1874 photograph of the St. Charles Browns baseball team; the aftermath of an 1876 tornado; images of the town of Brotherton, a small town across the Missouri from St. Charles which fell into the river after a flood in 1882; and three views of the August Chouteau home in St. Louis County as it appeared in the 1870s.

There are also snapshots taken by Buse in the 1920s of buildings in St. Charles that detail the changes the town was undergoing at that time.

The last series, Scrapbooks is made up of 41 volumes of newspaper clippings dating from 1899 through 1930. The scrapbooks have been microfilmed. Buse's clippings show an interest in advances in science, aviation, archeology, automobiles, and motion pictures. However, the majority of the clippings deal with St. Charles: civil government; the paving of roads; railroads; new buildings; city utilities; churches; World War I; schools; obituaries of friends and associates; natural disasters; crime; Prohibition; agricultural prices; tourism; and Missouri history. They are arranged chronologically, and each volume is indexed by the titles of the news articles. In 1975 this material formed the basis of the John J. Buse Historical Museum, a privately supported institution located in St. Charles, and "dedicated to the preservation of our heritage." In 1977 author and historian Lori Breslow drew on these materials for her book *Small Town*. Materials relating to the historical museum are located in the collection's information folder.

## **FOLDER LIST**

### **BOX 1**

Correspondence, 1879-1884 (29 items)  
Correspondence, 1885-1889 (13 items)  
Correspondence, 1890-1893 (19 items)  
Correspondence, 1894 (32 items)  
Correspondence, 1895-1899 (31 Items)  
Correspondence, 1900-1901 (28 items)  
Correspondence, 1902 (48 items)  
Correspondence, 1903 (14 original items)  
Correspondence, 1903 (15 original items) 1. 10, Correspondence, 1904 (42 original items)  
Correspondence, 1905 (20 items)  
Tax bills and receipts, 1893-1927 (7 items)  
Loan agreements, 1890-1894 (8 items)  
Deeds, 1867-1895 (16 items)  
Land Transactions, c.1900 (18 items)  
Family mementos, 1860-1917 (10 items)  
Buse family history, n.d. (34 original items)  
Buse family history, n.d. (25 items)  
Buse family history, n.d. (31 items)  
Buse family history, n.d. (16 items)  
J.J. Buse autobiography, n.d. (13 items)  
J.J. Buse Mexico Trip, 1902 (edited transcript available) (30 ite,\$)  
J.J. Buse Mexico Trip, 1902 (edited transcript available) (30 items)  
J.J. Buse Mexico Trip, 1902 (edited transcript available) (35 items)  
J.J. Buse Mexico Trip, 1902 (edited transcript available) (12 items)  
Historical notes, railroads (23 items)

**BOX 2**

Historical notes, World War I (39 items)  
Historical notes, World War 1 (20 items)  
Historical notes, St. Charles (17 items)  
Historical notes, St. Charles (30 items)  
Historical notes, St. Charles (30 items)  
Historical notes, St. Charles (27 items)  
Historical notes, St. Charles (30 items)  
Historical notes, St. Charles (31 items)  
Historical notes, St. Charles (29 items)  
Historical notes, St. Charles (30 items)  
Historical notes, St. Charles (17 items)  
Historical notes, St. Charles (8 items)  
Historical notes, history of St. Charles (10 items)  
Historical notes, history of St. Charles (13 items)  
Historical notes, history of St. Charles (10 items)  
Historical notes, Churches (17 items)  
Historical notes, Churches (34 items)  
Historical notes, Schools (39 items)  
Historical notes, Industry (38 items)  
Historical notes, miscellaneous (46 items)  
Historical notes, miscellaneous (39 items)  
Historical notes, Promotional booklets, St. Charles (1 publication)  
Historical notes, Promotional booklets, St. Charles (1 publication)  
Historical notes, Business Cards (13 items)  
Historical notes, Penmanship exercise book (1 item)  
Historical notes, St. Charles newspaper clippings (no originals)  
Historical notes, St. Charles newspaper clippings (no originals)  
Historical notes, St. Charles newspaper clippings (no originals)

**BOX 3**

f. 55 Photographs 1083.1-1083.9  
f. 56 Photographs 1083.10-1083.19  
f. 57 Photographs 1083.20-1083.31  
f. 58 Photographs 1083.32-1083.47  
f. 59 Photographs 1083.48-1083.52 (contains some non-photo images)  
f. 60 Photographs 1083.53-1083.72  
f. 61 Photographs 1083.73-1083.99  
f. 62 Photographs 1083.99-1083.104  
f. 63 Photographs 1083.105-1083.123  
f. 64 Photographs 1083.124-1083.145  
f. 65 Photographs 1083.146-1083.152  
f. 66 Photographs 1083.153-1083.163  
f. 67 Photographs 1083.164-1083.169

- f. 68 Photographs 1083.170-1083.181
- f. 69 Photographs 1083.182-1083.191
- f. 70 Photographs 1083.192-1083.196
- f. 71 Photographs 1083.197-1083.204
- f. 72 Photographs 1083.205-1083.211
- f. 73 Photographs 1083.212-1083.230
- f. 74 Photographs 1083.231-1083.237
- f. 75 Photographs 1083.238-1083.252 f. 75a Photographs 1083.253-1083.272
- f. 76 Photographs 1083.273-1083.283 (contains some non-photo images)
- f. 77 Photographs 1083.284-1083.304
- BOX 4**
- f. 78 Photographs 1083.305-1083.315
- f. 79 Photographs 1083.316-1083.324 (contains some non-photo images)
- f. 80 Photographs 1083.325-1083.346 (contains some non-photo images)
- f. 81 Photographs 1083.347-1083.355
- f. 82 Photographs 1083.356-1083.366 (contains some non-photo images)
- l. 83 Photographs 1083.367-1083.384
- f. 84 Photographs 1083.385-1083.387
- f. 85 Photographs 1083.388-1083.393
- f. 86 Photographs 1083.394-1083.402
- f. 87 Photographs 1083.403-1083.413
- f. 88 Photographs 1083.414-1083.420
- f. 89 Photographs 1083.421-1083.443
- f. 90 Photographs 1083.444-1083.457
- f. 91 Photographs 1083.458-1083.463
- f. 92 Photographs 1083.464-1083.476
- f. 93 Photographs 1083.477-1083.481
- f. 94 Photographs 1083.482-1083.489
- f. 95 Photographs 1083.490-1083.497 (contains some non-photo images)
- f. 96 Photographs 1083.498-1083.506
- f. 97 Photographs 1083.507-1083.517
- f. 98 Photographs 1083.518-1083.535
- f. 99 Photographs 1083.536-1083.561
- f. 100 Photographs 1083.562-1083.575
- f. 101 Photographs 1083.576-1083.593
- f. 102 Photographs 1083.594-1083.639

**BOX 5**

- f. 103 Photographs 1083.640-1083.662
- f. 104 Photographs 1083.663-1083.697
- f. 105 Photographs 1083.698-1083.704
- f. 106 Photographs 1083.705-1083.715

- f. 107 Photographs 1083.716-1083.731
- f. 108 Photographs 1083.732-1083.744
- f. 109 Photographs 1083.745-1083.788
- f. 110 Photographs 1083.789-1083.800
- f. 111 Photographs 1083.801-1083.823
- f. 112 Photographs 1083.824-1083.849
- f. 113 Photographs 1083.850-1083.863
- f. 114 Photographs 1083.864-1083.882
- f. 115 Photographs 1083.883-1083.905
- f. 116 Photographs 1083.906-1083.923
- f. 117 Photographs 1083.924-1083.934
- f. 118 Photographs 1083.935
- f. 119 Photographs 1083.936-1083.941
- f. 120 Photographs 1083.942-1083.950

### **BOX 6**

- f. 121 Photographs 1083.951-1083.967
- f. 122 Photographs 1083.968-1083.979
- f. 123 Photographs 1083.980-1083.983
- f. 124 Photographs 1083.984-1083.1004
- f. 125 Photographs 1083.1005-1083.1019
- f. 126 Photographs 1083.1020-1083.1023
- f. 127 Photographs 1083.1024-1083.1035
- f. 128 Photographs 1083.1036-1083.1070
- f. 129 Photographs 1083.1071-1083.1079
- f. 130 Photographs 1083.1080-1083.1084
- f. 131 Photographs 1083.1085-1083.1088 (Contains non photographic printed material)
- f. 132 Photographs 1083.1089-1083.1105
- f. 133 Photographs 1083.1106-1083.1111 (Contains non photographic printed material)
- f. 134 Photographs 1083.1112-1083.1126
- f. 135 Photographs 1083.1127-1083.1137
- f. 136 Photographs 1083.1138-1083.1143
- f. 137 Photographs 1083.1144-1083.1154
- f. 138 Photographs 1083.1155-1083.1175
- f. 139 Photographs 1083.1176-1083.1181
- f. 140 Photographs 1083.1182-1083.1188
- f. 141 Photographs 1083.1189-1083.1222
- f. 142 Photographs 1083.1223-1083.1233
- f. 143 Photographs 1083.1234-1083.1252
- f. 144 Photographs 1083.1253-1083.1263
- f. 145 Photographs 1083.1264-1083.1277

### **BOX 7**

- f. 146 Photographs 1083.1278-1083.1306

- f. 147 Photographs 1083.1307-1083.1311
- f. 148 Photographs 1083.1312-1083.1319
- 1. 149 Photographs 1083.1320-1083.1327 (Contains non photographic printed material)
- f. 150 Photographs 1083.1328-1083.1341
- f. 151 Photographs 1083.1342-1083.1357
- f. 152 Photographs 1083.1358-1083.1384
- f. 153 Photographs 1083.1385-1083.1394
- f. 154 Photographs 1083.1395-1083.1399
- f. 155 Photographs 1083.1400-1083.1413
- f. 156 Photographs 1083.1414-1083.1416
- f. 157 Photographs 1083.1417-1083.1420
- f. 158 Photographs 1083.1421-1083.1435
- f. 159 Photographs 1083.1436-1083.1440
- f. 160 Photographs 1083.1441-1083.1452
- f. 161 Photographs 1083.1453-1083.1474
- f. 162 Photographs 1083.1475-1083.1492
- f. 163 Photographs 1083.1493-1083.1501
- f. 164 Photographs 1083.1502-1083.1515
- f. 165 Photographs 1083.1516-1083.1534
- f. 166 Photographs 1083.1535-1083.1543
- f. 167 Photographs 1083.1544-1083.1553
- f. 168 Photographs 1083.1554-1083.1575

**BOX 8**

- 1. 169 Photographs 1083.1576-1083.1605
- f. 170 Photographs 1083.1606-1083.1628
- f. 171 Photographs 1083.1629-1083.1645
- f. 172 Photographs 1083.1646-1083.1649 (contains non photographic image)
- f. 173 Photographs 1083.1650-1083.1660
- f. 174 Photographs 1083.1661-1083.1664 (contains non photographic image) 1. 175 Photographs 1083.1665-1083.1686
- f. 176 Photographs 1083.1687-1083.1709
- f. 177 Photographs 1083.1710-1083.1718
- f. 178 Photographs 1083.1719-1083.1733
- f. 179 Photographs 1083.1734-1083.1745 (contains non photographic image)
- f. 180 Photographs 1083.1746-1083.1772 1. 181 Photographs 1083.1773-1083.1784
- f. 182 Photographs 1083.1785-1083.1794
- f. 183 Photographs 1083.1795-1083.1800
- f. 184 Photographs 1083.1801
- f. 185 Photographs 1083.1802-1083.1808
- f. 186 Photographs 1083.1809-1083.1823
- f. 187 Photographs 1083.1824-1083.1826
- f. 188 Photographs 1083.1827-1083.1839



- f. 189 Photographs 1083.1840-1083.1857
- f. 190 Photographs 1083.1858-1083.1862

### **BOX 9**

- f. 191 Photographs 1083.1863-1083.1867
- f. 192 Photographs 1083.1868-1083.1877
- f. 193 Photographs 1083.1878-1083.1887
- f. 194 Photographs 1083.1888-1083.1894
- f. 195 Photographs 1083.1895-1083.1902
- f. 196 Photographs 1083.1903-1083.1915
- f. 197 Photographs 1083.1916-1083.1922

### **BOX 10**

- f. 198 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 199 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 200 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 201 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 202 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 203 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 204 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 205 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 206 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 207 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 208 Photocopies of Photographs
- f. 209 Notes on St. Charles history, Early Days
- f. 210 Notes on St. Charles history, Churches and Religious Items

### **BOX 11**

- f. 211 Notes on St. Charles history, Disasters
- f. 212 Notes on St. Charles history, Municipal Services
- f. 213 Notes on St. Charles history, Natural Resources
- f. 214 Notes on St. Charles history, Miscellaneous
- f. 215 Notes on St. Charles history, World War I
- f. 216 Notes on St. Charles history, Schools and Colleges
- f. 217 Notes on St. Charles history, Buildings and Private Companies
- f. 218 Notes on St. Charles history, Agriculture f. 219. Notes on St. Charles history, Individuals

### **BOX 12**

- f. 220 History of Cottleville, Missouri
- f. 221 Stories for Book *In His Own Hands*
- f. 222 Buse Museum
- f. 223 Richard Vinson
- f. 224 History of St. Charles Book

- f. 225 Advertisements for *Small Town* book
- f. 226 Publications and Pamphlets, 1901-1976
- f. 227 Newspaper Clippings, 1958-1998
- f. 228 Will and Estate papers of John J. Buse, 1931-1934

**BOX 13**

Negatives

**BOX 14**

Negatives

**BOX 15**

Microfilm of Newspaper Clippings 3 rolls

**BOX 16**

Early photograph lists and Index Cards

**BOX 17**

Copy Prints of Scrapbook Pages

**BOX 18 (OVERSIZE)**

Oversize Photographs 1083.1923-1083.2001

German American Catholics Herald of the Faith publication, 9/26/1900

Marriage certificate, John Buse and Agnes Palland, St. Peter's Church, May 19, 1885

Architectural drawings of house 3 sheets

Newspapers with St. Charles history, 1969-1976

Ad for A.R. Huning Dry Goods Company, 1920