

Walter Williams and Floyd Calvin Shoemaker. *Missouri: Mother of the West*. Vol. 4.  
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## MISSOURI

of great charity, and constantly expressed his tendency toward benevolence.

He married at Saint Louis, August 16, 1896, Bertha Tilling, of Belleville, Illinois, daughter of Fred and Johanna (Eppeson) Tilling. Her parents were born in Hanover, Germany, and settled at Belleville in 1867. Mrs. Mueller, who resides at 3438 Halliday Avenue in Saint Louis, is the mother of three children: Miss Sophie Johanna was graduated with the A. B. degree from St. Marys of the Woods in Indiana, and is now secretary to the Board of Directors of the State Hospital at Denver, Colorado; Miss Ilda Ruth also attended the convent of St. Marys of the Woods, and graduated A. B. from Saint Louis University; and the only son, Henry Thomas, was educated in Saint Louis University and is now attending the University of Detroit, College of Engineering, Detroit, Michigan. He married Margaret Flynn.

W. E. VEERKAMP was county superintendent of schools of Newton County at the time of his death, June 17, 1927, and was one of the veteran school men of the State of Missouri. His early teaching was done in the northeastern quarter of the state, and from there he came to Southwest Missouri. In the forty-eight years of his teaching experience he was identified with practically every phase of progress in Missouri schools from the limited pioneer facilities of the old one-room log cabin school. He taught his first school in 1880. He easily recalled that year from the fact he acted as clerk of elections in his home town of Troy in Lincoln County. That was the year James A. Garfield was elected president.

Mr. Veerkamp was born at Troy, Missouri, September 19, 1859, son of Bartholomew and Sarah (Brown) Veerkamp. The Browns were one of the early families of Lincoln County, going there from North Carolina in a wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen. The father of Sarah Brown was Andrew Brown, a staunch Democrat who had such faith in the justice and successful outcome of the Confederacy that he invested all his money in Confederate scrip, and thus when he died in 1862 he was practically bankrupt. Two of his sons were soldiers under General Price in the Confederate army, one of them being killed in the battle of Pea Ridge, while the other, James A. Brown, died only recently when in advanced age.

The grandfather of Mr. Veerkamp was Bartholomew Veerkamp, who was born in France. He possessed a culture and education that made him a man of mark and distinction after coming to Missouri. He was a graduate of the universities of Paris and of Bonn, and followed up this schooling with a year of travel over Europe, during which he took courses in several institutions of learning. While living in Europe he was a Cathedral choir leader, with the title of kapellmeister. On coming to America he first located at Baltimore and later moved out to Lincoln County, Missouri. He was responsible for bringing the first three pianos into that section of the

state, at a time when there were very few pianos anywhere except perhaps in Saint Louis. He joined the Masonic Order while a student at the University of Paris. This pioneer of culture in Northeastern Missouri died in 1857.

His son, also named Bartholomew, was born in Meppin, Germany. He and his family were opposed to secession, and he was one of the early members of the Republican party, though later he voted as a Democrat. He belonged to what was then known as the Benton Democrats. He and his wife were devout members of the Primitive Baptist Church. Bartholomew Veerkamp died at the age of seventy-eight and his wife at seventy-seven. Of their seven sons two are now living, Herman A., of Portland, Oregon, and James P., of Colorado, general attorney for the Santa Fe Railroad at Colorado Springs.

W. E. Veerkamp grew up in Lincoln County, where he attended public schools. After teaching for a time he went on with his studies in normal school. He intended to enter the Normal School at Kirksville in his section of the state. That was then a private normal, and his parents were of the opinion that the standards of the school were not as high as they desired. In consequence he attended the First State Normal in Missouri, at Warrensburg, being a student there during 1884-85. Mr. Veerkamp in fact always continued a student and accepted every opportunity to extend the realm of his practical knowledge and accomplishment. A number of years ago he read law in the office of Judge G. B. McFarland, and at the close of his life would probably have had little difficulty in passing an examination for the bar. However, he adhered to the vocation of his first choice, and remarked that if he had to live his life over again he would select the calling of an educator.

Mr. Veerkamp did his first teaching in the old Dyer district in Lincoln County. A former teacher had been Pat Dyer who subsequently became a man of note in Saint Louis and throughout Missouri and the Middle West. Mr. Veerkamp had five years of experience in rural schools, then took charge of the school at Rush Hill in Audrain County, and was also principal of the school at Laddonia in the same county. After removing to Southwestern Missouri in 1890 he had charge of the high school at Stockton five years, of the Nevada High School ten years, then became principal at Neosho, and from that was promoted by election to county superintendent of schools.

Mr. Veerkamp married Miss Katherine Skelley, daughter of Peter C. Skelley. Mr. and Mrs. Veerkamp had four sons and one daughter. Two of the sons were early volunteers for the World war. Louis Franz, the oldest, was on the battle lines in France as an intelligence officer, having been promoted to that service after the troops reached France. The selection for this duty came as a result largely of the fact that he spoke both French and German fluently. He now has charge of the *Daily Times* office in Neosho. The second

son, Bryan, is associated with the *Newkirk Republican-News* at Newkirk, Oklahoma, and was in training for duty as a soldier at Fort Scott and later at Fort Leavenworth. The third son, Harold, is principal of schools at Wentworth in Newton County. The daughter, Fern, was formerly a teacher in the Tulsa High School and is now the wife of H. L. Van Bradt, who was born and educated in New York and is of Holland Dutch ancestry. The oldest son, Orris E., died, leaving two children, Violet, attending Drury College at Springfield, and W. E., Jr. These two children have made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Veerkamp since the death of their father.

Mr. Veerkamp in early manhood joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, against the protest of his parents, who as Primitive Baptists did not favor secret societies. He was a member of both the Lodge and Encampment degrees and the Rebekah. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as does also his wife, and he was formerly superintendent of the Sunday School and at the time of his death had a large and popular men's Bible class. Mr. Veerkamp was a member of the Missouri State Historical Society, and history was always a favorite subject with him. His death occurred June 17, 1927. He was reelected at the April school meeting to a term of four years, this term to start in July, 1927, but death suddenly overtook him.

VICTOR T. MOBERLY, president of the Jefferson Bank of Saint Louis, was educated for the law, but has followed banking instead, and prior to going with the Jefferson Bank was a state bank examiner.

Mr. Moberly was born at Lindley in Sullivan County, Missouri, June 1, 1880. It was for the Moberly family the City of Moberly, in Randolph County, was named. His parents were George T. and Sarah (Dobbins) Moberly. His mother resides at Humphreys, Missouri. His father, now deceased, was born in Sullivan County, and was a banker and merchant at Lindley and Humphreys.

Victor T. Moberly attended public schools at Humphrey and for two years was a student in the University of Missouri. He graduated in law from the Washington University Law School in 1903. For three years he was connected with the International Bank of Saint Louis. Mr. Moberly was an examiner for the State Banking Department from 1908 to 1912. In 1913 he became cashier of the Jefferson Bank, and since 1918 has been its president. The Jefferson Bank was incorporated July 20, 1892, and has had a steady growth in service and financial resources. Since Mr. Moberly became president the bank has completed its new home, at the corner of Franklin and Jefferson avenues.

Mr. Moberly is a former president of the Associated Bankers of Saint Louis and served as a group chairman of the State Bankers Association in 1925. He represents his bank in the Chamber of Commerce is a member of the Better Business Bureau, and belongs to the Missouri Athletic Association. He mar-

ried, in 1914, Miss Edith Swift, of Saint Louis, daughter of the late John S. Swift, for many years connected with the Simmons Hardware Company. Mr. and Mrs. Moberly had two children, Isabelle Swift, born in 1915, and John Thomas, born in 1919. Mrs. Moberly died in 1920.

OSCAR JOHNSON was one of the men identified with the founding and management of the Johnson, Rand Shoe Company, a business that has been one of the important contributors to Saint Louis' prestige as the great shoe manufacturing center of America. It is a business that not only grew to large proportions but was founded and conducted on especially high ideals, so that the products of the company have had an increasing sale and the personnel of the business has been inspired by the ideals and standards of the men at the head of the business, including the late Oscar Johnson. Mr. Johnson and his brother, Jackson Johnson, engaged in the shoe business in the South before moving to Saint Louis.

Oscar Johnson was born at La Grange, Alabama, January 6, 1863, and died at his home in Saint Louis, July 28, 1916. His father, James Lee Johnson, was a southern planter, entered the Confederate army, was wounded in one battle, and his death was the direct result of the wound. James Lee Johnson married Helen Rand, also of Alabama, and of the family which gave part of the business title to the Johnson, Rand Shoe Company.

Oscar Johnson was only an infant when his father died, and his mother then moved to Mississippi to be near her brother, Oscar Rand, at Red Banks. Oscar Johnson attended school at Red Banks, but because his mother was comparatively poor he had no advantages beyond the common schools. At the age of fourteen he went to work, being employed in the general merchandise store of his uncle, Oscar Rand, in Alabama, and after a year or so went to Holly Springs, Mississippi, where he and his brother, Jackson Johnson, conducted a general store and were cotton commission merchants. When twenty-five years of age Mr. Johnson and his brother, having sold their Mississippi business, bought a large shoe company at Memphis, Tennessee. That was in 1893, and it was the foundation of the Rand, Johnson Company. They were wholesale dealers at first. In 1895 they moved the entire business and personnel to Saint Louis, where John C. Roberts became associated with them. The firm became Roberts, Johnson & Rand. Jackson Johnson was president of the company and was succeeded by his brother, Oscar Johnson, who gave his promotion to the growing industry until his death.

Mr. Johnson married at Holly Springs, Mississippi, February 19, 1889, Irene Walter. She was educated in the Maury Institute at Holly Springs. Her father, Col. Harvey W. Walter, was a Confederate officer, entering the army as a private and at the close received a commission as general. He served on the staff of General Johnston and General Bragg. He practiced law in Mississippi and in West-

# THE NEOSHO TIMES

NEOSHO, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1927

## DEATH CLAIMS W. E. VEERKAMP SUPT. SCHOOLS

**Illness of Short Duration. Was  
Elected for Third Term as  
Co. Supt. Last April**

Prof. W. E. Veerkamp, County Superintendent of Schools, elected last April for a term of four years more to begin the first Monday in July, died at his home in Neosho Friday evening, June 17th at 5:30 o'clock.

His sickness was of short duration. He attended to the duties of his office until about three weeks before his death. When his condition became serious he was taken to Joplin for an examination. It was found that his system had become poisoned from infected kidneys and teeth and little hope was given for his recovery. He came home and went to bed a week before his death and rapidly grew worse.

The news of the sickness and death of Prof. Veerkamp was heard with profound sorrow and regret throughout the county. During his sickness inquiries about him came



W. E. VEERKAMP

from all parts of the county and fervent hope expressed that he would recover. He had served faithfully and well as county superintendent for about fourteen years and had just been elected for another four year term. It is no exaggeration to say that the death of no man in the county would have caused more genuine and widespread sorrow than that of Prof. Veerkamp.

Soon after his death the body of Prof. Veerkamp was taken to the undertaking parlors of the Bigham Undertaking Co. where it lay in state during Saturday and Sunday. Private funeral services were held Monday at 10:30 at the home in the Withrow Addition, conducted by Rev. M. C. Magers, of Joplin, presiding elder of the M. E. Church, South, of which Prof. Veerkamp was a member. Public services by the local Odd Fellows' Lodge were held at the grave in the I. O. O. F. cemetery. Many friends, some from distant parts of the county, attended the funeral.

W. E. Veerkamp was born Sept. 19, 1859 in Lincoln county, Mo., of German lineage. He came to Neosho in 1908 and resided here continuously till his death.

His paternal grandfather, Bartholemew Veerkamp, left his home in Meppin, Germany, a small village on the Ems river near the Holland border, about 1830. He brought his family to America and landed at Baltimore, Md., and then made an overland migration to what was then the west. He stopped at Dayton, Ohio, lived there for a few years and then went to St. Louis via Cincinnati, some of the family stopping there. He purchased a large farm where the city of St. Louis now stands but sold it in a few years and moved to Lincoln county and settled a few miles from Troy, Mo.

His father, Bartholemew I. Veerkamp, married Sarah Catherine Brown, who had settled in Lincoln county with her parents, coming from North Carolina. They settled on a farm in Lincoln county and he was their first born.

His early life was the same as hundreds of others who lived in the tumultuous times of the Civil War. He received what education was available in the log school house of the district which was some three miles from his father's home. In fact his early life could be summed up in Gray's terse lines, "The short and simple annals of the poor."

Showing in early days an aptitude for teaching he acted as instructor for his five brothers, and by self application and many years of hard work he dug out an education that few men of that time could equal. He started teaching in the country schools of the district at the age of 19.

November 30, 1884 he was married to Lydia C. Skelly at Rush Hill, Mo., in Audrain county, and to this union five children were born all of whom survive except Orris E. Veerkamp who died in February, 1920. The family lived in North Missouri until the fall of 1893 when they came to Cedar county where he had charge of the schools at Stockton, the county seat. He was elected there as County School Commissioner and carried on the work of this office along with his teaching. He was instrumental in organizing many of the present school districts of Cedar county, one of which was given his

name. In 1898 he moved his family to Vernon county where he had a position as principal of the high school at Nevada. He held this position for a number of years and during the summer months was instructor of mathematics at the Normal School at Springfield. He was elected County School Commissioner of Vernon County and also held the office of County Superintendent of Schools when the office was changed. Before leaving Vernon county in 1908 he was principal of the Neodesha, Kan., high school one term.

He came to Neosho in 1908 and was elected superintendent of the city school system. He held this office until 1914 when he was appointed by Governor Elliott W. Major to fill an unexpired term as County Superintendent of Schools. He filled this unexpired term and then was elected for three more terms in succession. The last election was in April preceding his death and this term of office would have started this July. Altogether his work in the schools of Missouri covered almost a fifty year period.

He is survived by his wife, Lydia C. Veerkamp; two brothers, James P. Veerkamp of Monte Vista, Colo.; and H. A. Veerkamp of Portland, Ore.; one daughter, Mrs. Harry Van Bradt of Tulsa, Okla.; three sons, Harold C., Franz L., and William B. Veerkamp. Two of his grandchildren were reared in his home as members of his family, Violet Veerkamp and W. E. Veerkamp, Jr., who are the children of his son who died. He is also survived by four other grandchildren.

# Death Certificate of William Egbert Veerkamp

THIS IS A CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.  
(Do not accept if rephotographed, or if seal impression cannot be felt.)

THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS PROHIBITED BY LAW (sec. 193.315, RSMo 1986)

STATE OF MISSOURI }  
CITY OF JEFFERSON } SS I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is an exact reproduction of the certificate for the person named therein as it now appears in the permanent records of the Bureau of Vital Records of the Missouri Department of Health. Witness my hand as State Registrar of Vital Statistics and the Seal of the Missouri Department of Health this date of

*Garland H Land*  
Garland H. Land  
State Registrar of Vital Statistics

JAN 30 1991

## MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Do not use this space.

19025

1. PLACE OF DEATH  
 County Newton Registration District No. 609  
 Township Neosho Primary Registration District No. 4363  
 City Neosho (No. \_\_\_\_\_) St. \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_

2. FULL NAME William E Veerkamp  
 (a) Residence, No. \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Usual place of abode) (If non-resident give city or town and State)  
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. da. How long in U.S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. da.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Male 4. COLOR OR RACE White 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word) Married

5a. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED HUSBAND OR (OR) WIFE OF Lydia Veerkamp

6. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) Sept 19 1859

7. AGE YEARS MONTHS DAYS 67 8 28 If less than 1 day, \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. or \_\_\_\_\_ min.

8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED  
 (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Teacher  
 (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) County School  
 (c) Name of employer Self independent

9. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN; STATE OR COUNTRY) Missouri

10. NAME OF FATHER Bartholomew Veerkamp

11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN; STATE OR COUNTRY) Germany

12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Jane & Brown

13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN; STATE OR COUNTRY) North Carolina

14. INFORMANT Frank Veerkamp  
 Address Neosho Mo

15. FILED 1/25 1990 C.E. Mansfield  
 REGISTRAR

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) June 17 1927

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from May 24 1927 to June 17 1927 that I have never since seen any other death occurred, on the date stated above, at \_\_\_\_\_

THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS AS FOLLOWS  
Chronic Interstitial  
nephritis.  
131

18. WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED \_\_\_\_\_  
 IF NOT AT PLACE OF DEATH \_\_\_\_\_  
 DID AN OPERATION PRECEDE DEATH? \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_  
 WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY? \_\_\_\_\_  
 WHAT TEST CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS? \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signed) D. E. Cullerton M. D.  
 6/18 1927 (Address) Neosho

\*State the Dominant Cause of Death, or in death from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (Use reverse side for additional space.)

19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Rock Cemetery DATE OF BURIAL 6/20 1927

20. UNDERTAKER Reghan's ADDRESS Neosho

**FOR GENEALOGY PURPOSES**

# Death Certificate of Lydia Catherine (Skelly) Veerkamp

THIS IS A CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
(Do not accept if rephotographed, or if seal impression cannot be felt.)

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STATE OF MISSOURI }  
CITY OF JEFFERSON } ss I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is an exact reproduction of the certificate for the person named therein as it now appears in the permanent records of the Bureau of Vital Records of the Missouri Department of Health. Witness my hand as State Registrar of Vital Statistics and the Seal of the Missouri Department of Health this date of

*Garland H. Land*

Garland H. Land  
State Registrar of Vital Statistics

JAN 30 1991

THE DIVISION OF HEALTH OF MISSOURI STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH				State File No. <b>36647</b>
DECEASED <b>NOV 9 - 1953</b>		REG. DIST. NO. <b>245</b>	PRIMARY REG. DIST. NO. <b>304</b>	Registrar's No. <b>102</b>
1 PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY <b>NEWTON</b>		2 USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived if institution, residence before admission) a. STATE <b>Missouri</b> b. COUNTY <b>NEWTON</b>		
b. CITY OR TOWN <b>NEOSHO</b>		c. CITY OR TOWN <b>NEOSHO</b>		
c. LENGTH OF STAY (in this place)		d. Is Residence within limits of a city or incorporated town? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
d. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION <b>SALE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL</b>		e. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) <b>810 E. COLLEGE ST 0732</b>		
3 NAME OF DECEASED a. (First) <b>LYDIA</b> b. (Middle) <b>CATHERINE</b> c. (Last) <b>VEERKAMP</b>		4 DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year) <b>OCT. 31. 1953</b>		
5. SEX <b>FEM.</b>	6. COLOR OR RACE <b>WHITE</b>	7. MARRIED NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED <b>WIDOWED</b>	8. DATE OF BIRTH <b>NOV. 23. 1864</b>	9. AGE (In years, if under 1 year last birthday) <b>88</b>
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work during most of working life. (See if retired) <b>Housewife</b>		10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY	11. BIRTHPLACE (City and State or Foreign Country) <b>ADRAIN Co. Missouri</b>	12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? <b>U.S.A.</b>
13a. FATHER'S NAME <b>PETER CRAMER SKELLY</b>		13b. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <b>ELIZABETH WEIDLER</b>		14. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes No or unknown) <b>no</b>		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO <b>none</b>		17. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE OR NAME <b>Mrs. Violet Mc Nabt neoshom</b>
18. CAUSE OF DEATH Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c) *This does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, atherosclerosis, etc. It means the disease, injury, or complication which caused death.		MEDICAL CERTIFICATION I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH* (a) <b>PULMONARY HEMORRHAGE</b>		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH <b>8 DAYS</b>
		ANTECEDENT CAUSES A. Antecedent conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause (a) stating the underlying cause last DUE TO (b) <b>BRONCHIECTASIS</b>		<b>10 YEARS</b>
		DUE TO (c)		
		II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the above cause (a) stating the underlying condition last		
19a. DATE OF OPERATION		19. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION		20. AUTOPSY? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21a. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE (Specify)		21b. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)		21c. (CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP) (COUNTY) (STATE)
21d. TIME OF INJURY (Month) (Year) (Hour)		21e. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/>		21f. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?
22. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from <b>10/6 to 31 Oct. 1953</b> , that I last saw the deceased alive on <b>31 Oct. 1953</b> , and that death occurred at <b>11 P.M.</b> , from the causes and on the date stated above.				
23a. SIGNATURE <b>R. Taylor M.D.</b>		23b. ADDRESS <b>Neosho Mo</b>		23c. DATE SIGNED <b>2 Nov 53</b>
24a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) <b>BURIAL</b>		24b. DATE <b>11-2-1953</b>		24c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY <b>I.O.O.F.</b>
24d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State) <b>NEOSHO MISSOURI</b>		25. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE <b>Carley Thompson neosho Mo</b>		
DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG. <b>11-2-53</b>		REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE <b>Merwin C. Bourman</b>		26. ADDRESS <b>000000</b>

**FOR GENEALOGY PURPOSES**