



A GERMAN FAMILY MOVES TO AMERICA

traveled
Journey
upstream
praising
telescope
English

steamboat
arrived
downstream
including
chores
business

between
wharf
homesick
Jewelry
German
drowned

A German family named Wulfling moved to Louisville in 1837. They traveled by steamboat from Cincinnati. During the journey, their boat hit another steamboat and eight people fell into the water. One drowned.

When they arrived in Louisville, the Wulfling family moved into a house between Third and Fourth Streets. From their home near the Louisville wharf, they could see "five miles upstream and four miles downstream."

The Wulfings were homesick for their friends and family back in Germany. They wrote many letters to their relatives praising America. From these letters, we know that Gustavus Wulfling, the father, owned

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a store. He sold many things, including Jewelry and even a telescope. Christiana, the mother, did not work in the store. She kept the house and cared for their three children, Mathilde, Carl and Fritz. The Wulfing children went to school and did many chores around the house. They spoke both German and English.

The Wulfings had a nice life in Louisville. At first, Gustavus made a good living for his family. But in 1842, low water and slow business forced him to close his shop and move to St. Louis. The family settled again and the new business was good.



Questions:

Where were the Wulfings from?

How did they travel to Louisville?

Where did they live when they were in Louisville?

How long did they stay in Louisville?

What did Gustavus Wulfing do for a living?

Why do you think low water caused the Wulfings to lose business?

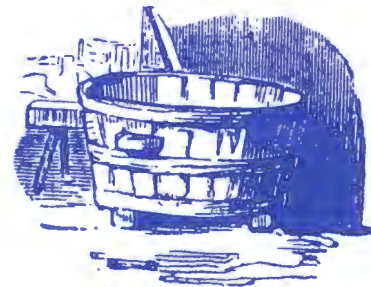
A WOMAN'S WORK WAS NEVER DONE

While Gustavus Wulfinf was busy in his store, his wife Christiana spent her days keeping the house. Since there were no washing machines, heaters or electric irons, Christiana worked hard to keep her home and family in order.

When the Wulfings lived in Louisville, it was hard to keep warm in the winter. Remember there was no central heating or electric blankets. Because of the cold, the Wulfinf women wore many layers of clothing. Sometimes they wore five or more. The bottom layer was usually a flannel petticoat. Mice often became trapped in the women's many petticoats. That is why many women think they are afraid of mice today.



It was very hard to keep so many layers of clothing clean. Since there were no washing machines, Christiana had to wash the clothes by hand. Women in the 19th century could not go to the grocery to buy Tide. Instead, they made their own soap out of lye. Ironing was also a problem. Christiana heated her iron on the stove (wood, not electric) so she could smooth out the wrinkles.



Even though it was much harder to keep clothes clean and ironed than it is today, women in Louisville in the 19th century still liked to wear the latest styles. Fashion magazines arrived by steamboat from New York and Paris and women tried to copy the styles themselves. Of course, when the fashions changed in the big cities, it took a long time for the news to reach Louisville.



FUN WITH FIGURES

chart	expenses	income
sales	dollars	clothing
housing	family	food
profit	earn	minus
money	least	figures
month	problems	number



This chart is a list of Gustavus Wulfing's sales and expenses from some of the months of 1837. His sales are the number of dollars he earned in his store. His expenses are the money he spent for things like food, clothing and housing for his family.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
May	\$330	\$40
June	\$260	\$65
July	\$135	\$51
August	\$96	\$55
September	\$200	\$52
October	\$270	\$75

The Wulfings' profit is the number of dollars they earned in the month minus the cost for the family (the expenses). Showing a profit means that Gustavus made more money than he spent. Here is how Gustavus found his profit for May:

Sales	\$330
-- Expenses	-- \$40
Profit	\$290

Can you help Gustavus find his profit? Here are some of his problems:

What was his profit for June? July? August? September? October?

Which month had the most profit?

Which month showed the least profit?

What if the Wulfing's figures for the month of November looked like this:

November \$50--Sales \$75--Expenses

Does he show a profit?

How much money does he lose?

