

**A0335**

**Couzins Family Papers, 1825-1950**

7 folders

Processed by Dennis Northcott, February 2006

**REPOSITORY**

Missouri Historical Society Archives

P.O. Box 11940

St. Louis, MO 63112-0040

314-746-4510

[archives@mohistory.org](mailto:archives@mohistory.org)

**DONOR INFORMATION**

The bulk of the collection was donated by Addie Couzins Owen in 1923, 1929, and 1934.

The reproduction of a report from the faculty of the Law Department of Washington University addressed to the Rev. William G. Eliot, regarding the admission of Phoebe Couzins to the law school, dated 1868, was donated by Mrs. Robert A. Banashek (in memory of father, Naftalie Lefkowitz) in August 1963.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

John E.D. Couzins was born November 24, 1813, on the Isle of Wight, England. While still a child, he came with his parents to New York City, where he eventually learned the business of an architect and builder. He married Adaline Weston of New York, and settled in St. Louis in 1834, where he began the practice of his profession. He served as chief of the volunteer police department, chief of police, inspector of buildings, and inspector of customs. In early 1861 he served on the Committee of Public Safety, which was formed in St. Louis to work to hold Missouri in the Union. In 1884 he was appointed U.S. marshal of the Eastern District of Missouri by President Chester Arthur. He died September 1, 1887, in St. Louis.

As a member of the St. Louis Ladies' Union Aid Society during the Civil War, Mrs. Adaline Weston Couzins (1815-1892) worked as a volunteer nurse, and traveled to battlefields and hospitals to care for sick and wounded soldiers. During the siege of Vicksburg in 1863 she was wounded in the knee. Following the war she continued her charitable works and was active in the movement for women's suffrage. She died May 9, 1892, in St. Louis.

Phoebe Wilson Couzins, the daughter of John E.D. and Adaline Couzins, was born September 8, 1842. In 1871 she became the first woman to graduate from Washington University Law School. In the years following her graduation, she campaigned for women's suffrage and temperance. She lectured extensively, and her talks drew large crowds. She died in poverty on December 6, 1913, in St. Louis.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Couzins Family Papers (formerly known as the J.E.D. Couzins Papers) contains papers relating to John E.D. Couzins's efforts to hold Missouri in the Union during the Civil War, including letters, commissions, and a loyalty oath; papers relating to Mrs. Adaline Couzins's

work as a volunteer nurse during the Civil War, including printed memorials to the U.S. Senate, dated March 27, 1888, praising her work; papers relating to Phoebe Couzins, including articles and addresses by her; correspondence and articles regarding Couzins family history; and photocopies of newspaper clippings, many of which appear to have been copied from a family scrapbook, mostly relating to J.E.D. Couzins and Phoebe Couzins.

The papers are arranged chronologically, with the exception of the photocopies of newspaper clippings, which are filed in folders 6 and 7.

**Folder 1**

- 1825 Oct 17      Warranty deed conveying property from John Couzins and his wife, Mary, to Evert A. Bancker of New York. (6 pages)
- 1861 Aug 16      Letter signed Hamilton Gamble, Jefferson City, Missouri, to Capt. J.E.D. Couzins. "I send you enclosed by kindness of Charles White conductor \$40 the amount of bill for great seal & press. P.S.: Please don't neglect to telegraph any important news." (includes typescript copy) (1 page)
- 1861 Oct 1        Telegram of Edward Bates, Washington, D.C., to John E.D. Couzins. "You are needed here come at once & bring two men that you can trust you shall not lose by it." (1 page)
- 1861 Oct 7        Note signed Edward Bates, attorney general's office. "Mr. John E.D. Couzins of St. Louis is about leaving Washington for home. He came to this city at my special request, and in the public service. I commend him to the kindness of all officers & others in the service of the government." (1 page)
- 1861 Oct 18      Commission of John E.D. Couzins as chief of police of the city of St. Louis, signed by John How and George Gavin. (1 page)
- 1861 Oct 18      Letter signed Henry F. Watson, office of the police commissioners for the city of St. Louis, to Capt. J.E.D. Couzins. States that he has been appointed chief of police at a salary of \$1,500 per year. (1 page)
- 1861 Nov 25      Letter signed Edward Bates, attorney general's office, to John E. Couzins, St. Louis. Marked "private." States that he has not heard anything about Hamilton[?] since he was near Knoxville, Tennessee, and fears that he has "fallen among thieves"; requests his views regarding affairs in St. Louis and Missouri; and comments on the progress of the war. (3 pages)
- 1862 Feb 10      Document signed R.R. Hazard, acting president of the Western Sanitary Commission, stating that Mrs. Couzins, lady volunteer, has been detailed to service in the hospital boats from Vicksburg north. (1 page)
- 1862 Feb 17      Transportation passes for Mrs. Couzins and Mrs. Crawshaw [Crashaw], members of the Ladies' Union Aid Society. (6 items)
- 1862 Oct 10      Commission of J.E.D. Couzins as major of the Police Battalion. (1 page)
- 1863 Feb 11      Letter signed R.R. Hazard, acting president of the Western Sanitary Commission, St. Louis, to A.W. Plattenburg, agent of the Western Sanitary Commission. Requests him to assist Mrs. Couzins who is proceeding to Vicksburg with commission stores and will be acting as nurses on hospital boats returning north. (1 page)

- 1863 Aug 7 Loyalty oath signed by J.E.D. Couzins. (1 page)
- 1865 Mar 21 Receipt for ordnance stores signed B. Laibold, chief of police, St. Louis. Stores were turned over by Quartermaster General E. Anson More to J.E.D. Couzins, and then given to B. Laibold. (1 page)
- 1868 Reproduction of a report from the faculty of the Law Department of Washington University addressed to the Rev. William G. Eliot, president of the board of directors, regarding the admission of Phoebe Couzins to the law school. (3 pages) (accession number 63-0060)
- 1871 May 8 Washington University Law School diploma of Phoebe Couzins. (in Latin) (1 page) **(oversize)**
- 1871 Dec 8 License of Phoebe Couzins to practice law in the state of Arkansas, signed N.W. Cox, clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Arkansas. (1 page) **(oversize)**
- 1873 Feb 26 Note on card signed U.S. Grant [Ulysses S. Grant]: "Will the Sec. of the Treas. please see Miss Couzins of St. Louis, Mo. on business connected with the Treas. though not the usual business which ladies have at the Dept." (1 page) (includes transcribed copy)
- 1875 Mar 2 Printed act of the U.S. Congress for the relief of J.E.D. Couzins. Directs that Couzins be paid \$2,000 for services rendered to the U.S. government in the detection and conviction of counterfeiters of U.S. Treasury notes. (1 page) (2 copies)
- [1876-1877?] Pages from Phebe Hanaford's book titled *Women of the Century*. Contains a biographical sketch of Phebe W. Couzins, and also mentions the Civil War work of Mrs. Adaline Couzins and Arethusa L. Forbes. (6 pages)
- Folder 2**
- 1882 Mar 11 Letter signed E.H. Carmick, Washington, D.C., to Miss Couzins. Discusses the history of the Couzins family, including her mother, Susan Couzins, and her grandfather Daniel Couzins. (3 pages)
- after 1883 Plat of Brotherton, St. Louis County, Missouri. Handwritten note reads, "washed away by Missouri River about 1882 or 1883." (1 page) **(oversize)**
- 1884 May 5 Letter signed Arethusa L. Forbes to Mr. & Mrs. J.E.D. Couzins, St. Louis. Congratulates them on their fiftieth wedding anniversary. (3 pages)

- 1884 May 7 Letter signed James E. Yeatman, St. Louis, to Miss Couzins. Sends his regrets that he will not be able to attend her parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary, and discusses her mother's work as a nurse during the Civil War. (3 pages)
- 1884 May 8 Letter signed Emory S. Foster to Miss Phoebe Couzins, St. Louis. Sends his regrets that he will not be able to attend her parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary. (2 pages)
- 1884 May 8 Letter signed John D. Finney, St. Louis, to Miss Phoebe Couzins. Sends his regrets that he will not be able to attend her parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary. (3 pages)
- 1884 May 8 Invitation of Miss Phoebe Couzins to the golden anniversary of her parents' wedding, to be held at Second Baptist Church, St. Louis. (1 page)
- 1884 May 10 Letter signed W.G. Eliot [William Greenleaf Eliot] to Miss Couzins. Contains Eliot's blessing on the occasion of her parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary. (2 pages)
- circa 1887 Resolution regarding the death of J.E.D. Couzins, signed by George Hatch, Freeman Barnum, George Mills, and William Morgan. (1 page)  
**(oversize)**
- Folder 3**
- 1888 Mar 27 Printed memorial to the U.S. Senate, presented by Michigan senator Thomas W. Palmer, urging that a pension be granted to Mrs. Adaline Couzins. Includes testimonials of James E. Yeatman, Carlos Greeley, S. Pollak, James O. Broadhead, Charles Gibson, S.M. Breckenridge, J.B. Henderson, Alvin Saunders, J.C. Keston, and A.L. Forbes. These testimonials praise Adaline Couzins' work as a nurse during the Civil War. Memorial also discusses the contributions of John E.D. Couzins to the Union cause in Missouri. (6 pages)
- 1888 Mar 27 Printed "Copy of Memorial submitted to the United States Senate in March, 1888, by Thomas W. Palmer, Senator from Michigan, in behalf of Mrs. Adaline Couzins, widow of the late J.E.D. Couzins, United States Marshal for Eastern District of Missouri—St. Louis." (The text of this document is the same as the previous item, excepting that it also includes a copy of a letter of Edward Bates to George Harrington, dated March 27, 1865, regarding J.E.D. Couzins, and some biographical notes about J.E.D. Couzins. (8 pages) (2 copies)
- 1889 Nov 19 Letter signed F.C. Ainsworth, War Department, Washington D.C., to Miss Phoebe W. Couzins, St. Louis. Informs her that the records of the War

- Department fail to show that J.E.D. Couzins was an officer in the military service of the United States during the Civil War. (2 pages)
- 1890 Oct 23 Appointment of Phoebe W. Couzins to be a member of the Board of Lady Managers of the World's Columbian Commission, Chicago. (1 page) **(oversize)**
- 1890 Dec 31 Letter signed John B. Shipley to Miss Phoebe Couzins. Encloses his notes regarding John Couzin (or Jean Cousin). (7 pages)
- 1891[1890?] Jan 3 Typescript copy of letter of Seneca to the editor of the *Chicago News*. Discusses an ancestor of Phoebe Couzins named Jean Cousin who is alleged to have discovered America before Columbus. Includes biographical sketch of Jean Cousin and notes regarding the Castilian Pinzon of Columbus' crew, translated from *Les Decouvreurs Francais du XIV an XVI Siecle* by Paul Gaffarel (Paris, 1888). (4 pages)
- 1898 Oct 21 Letter signed Phoebe W. Couzins, Nevada, Vernon County, Missouri, to Isaac H. Lionberger. Marked "personal." Discusses the medical treatment she has received for rheumatism and asks Mr. Lionberger for assistance. (6 pages)
- circa 1900 Typescript by Austin A. Owen titled "Captain Austin A. Owen," which contains his reminiscences of his experiences as a steamboat officer, including an account of the sinking of the steamboat *Wyandotte*, which hit a snag on the Mississippi River above Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1848. Mentions the following steamboat officers: Thos. Scott, Mont Douglas, Jos. Monti, William Lovejoy, James G. Owen, Isaac Fulkerson, Chas. Labarge, Jerry Millington, William Vanhorne, Capt. Pat Yore, Capt. James Henderson, Wm. Cable, Wm. Hamilton, Wm. Brandon, George Stanley, Capt. Brandenburgh, Capt. Broadwell, and Capt. John Bofinger. Others mentioned are Norman Cutter, Rev. Linn, and Capt. Nelson of the Eads & Nelson Wrecking Co. Also mentions the steamboats *Fayaway*, *Governor Bent*, *Union*, and *Atlantic*. (4 pages)
- 1900 May 28 Letter signed Phoebe W. Couzins, Louisiana, Missouri, to Thomas B. Reed, New York. Requests Mr. Reed to look up a probate administration, and discusses the history of the Tully and Weston families. Encloses copies of will and estate of Bartholomew Tully. (Bartholomew Tully married Frances Weston, who was the oldest sister of Phoebe Couzins' mother, Adaline.) Letter mentions Samuel Weston, Margaret Tully, and Agnes Tully. (8 pages)
- 1900 May 30 Pamphlet titled "Is America Again a Vassal of England?" by Phoebe W. Couzins. (29 pages) (2 copies)

**Folder 4**

- 1902 Feb 17      Typescript copy of a newspaper article in *The Kansas City Journal* titled "Miss Couzins Talks. Fills Dr. Roberts' Place at Church of This World. Her Theme: Building the Temple—Fine Flowers and Animals Cultivated, but No Prizes for Fine Human Beings." (5 pages)
- 1902 Feb 17      Typescript copy of a newspaper article in *The Kansas City Times* titled "Phoebe Couzins' Address. The Noted St. Louis Woman Occupied Dr. Roberts's Pulpit Yesterday." (3 pages)
- 1902 Nov 17      Typescript letter signed W.S. Chaplin, chancellor, Washington University, St. Louis, to Miss Phoebe Couzins, St. Louis. Contains the text of the resolution passed by the Washington University board of directors in 1868, stating that law school applicants should not be refused admission based on their sex. Verso contains newspaper clipping titled "Miss Couzins' Comment. She Points Out the Difference at the White House 'Then and Now,'" dated March 18, 1893. (2 pages)
- 1905 Jan 12      Letter signed C.S. Broadhead, St. Louis, to Miss Couzins. Discusses the work of the Committee of Safety in St. Louis during the Civil War, of which their fathers, James O. Broadhead and J.E.D. Couzins, were members. (5 pages)
- 1909 Feb 21      Typescript letter signed Phoebe W. Couzins, Washington, D.C., to Governor Herbert Hadley, Jefferson City, Missouri. (Letter written on illustrated stationery of the Riggs House.) Recounts the role her father, J.E.D. Couzins, played in the Committee of Public Safety and in creating the state seal and press during the Civil War. (6 pages) (includes typescript copy and typescript copy of note of Hamilton Gamble to J.E.D. Couzins, dated August 16, 1861)
- 1910 Dec 15      Typescript letter signed F.M. Rumbold, Missouri adjutant general, Jefferson City, to Miss Phoebe W. Couzins. Encloses her father's certificate of service. (1 page)
- 1910 Dec 15      Certificate of the Missouri adjutant general's office, Jefferson City, stating that J.E.D. Couzins was commissioned on October 10, 1862, as major in the St. Louis Police Battalion, Enrolled Missouri Militia, for three years. (1 page)
- 1911 Aug 20      Letter signed G.[?] Freeman, New York, to Miss Couzins. Discusses President Taft's arbitration treaties. (4 pages)
- 1911 Oct 30      Pamphlet titled "Project for a Monument to the Women of the Civil War," published by the Commandery of the State of New York, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Includes address of James M.

Beck, formerly assistant attorney general of the United States, titled "The American Women in the Civil War." (15 pages)

[1918]                   Typescript article with handwritten corrections titled "Phoebe Couzins' Tribute to Nancy Hanks, the Mother of Abraham Lincoln." (7 pages)

1924 Nov 16           *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper clipping titled "Someone Beat Columbus to America, According to Descendant, Duke of Alba." (1 page)

**Folder 5**

1930                   Letter signed "Mother" (Alba Stacy Rhodes), Hotel Gibson, St. Louis, to Stacy. Briefly discusses Couzins family history, and encloses a *Missouri Republican* clipping dated May 10, 1878, titled "A St. Louis Lady Abroad," which reports on a speech given by Miss Phoebe Couzins at Whitewater, Wisconsin. (2 pages)

1934                   Typescript article titled "Christmas in the West," which recounts the journey of J.E.D. Couzins and Isaac Eaton in 1853, who crossed the frozen Mississippi River to Alton, Illinois, continued on to Dwight and Bloomington, Illinois, in a horse-drawn sleigh, in order to transport the Christmas mail and other materials to and from St. Louis. Mentions the steamboat *Altoona*. (8 pages)

1950 July           Typescript article titled "Lawyers Honor First Woman Graduate of Law School Here," taken from *The Alumni Bulletin* of Washington University. (1 page)

no date              Typescript notes, presumably written by Addie Couzins Owen, regarding the Hawken rifle and [Adaline Couzins], who resided with Mrs. Hawken in Hillside, St. Louis County, until her death in 1892 at the age of 84. (1 page)

no date              Typescript "Pedigree of the Cozens' Family," written by Joshua Y. Cozens, late magistrate, Cornwall, Canada West. (1 page)

no date              Two transcribed copies by Phoebe W. Couzins of an article written by Joshua Y. Cozens titled "Pedigree of the 'Cozen,' otherwise 'Cousin' family" (includes additional notes by Phoebe Couzins). (5 pages)

no date              Newspaper clipping titled "Miss Couzins Delights in George Sand." (1 page)

no date              Two newspaper or periodical clippings titled "Washington Did Not Renounce Masonry" and "The Signers of the Declaration." (1 page)



**Folders 6-7**  
circa 1870-1934

Photocopies of newspaper clippings, many of which appear to have been copied from a family scrapbook, mostly relating to J.E.D. Couzins and Phoebe Couzins. Other clippings include the following: letter of Mrs. Mary L. Gempp to the editor of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, April 21, 1926; undated obituary of Captain Austin A. Owen; undated obituaries of George W. Owen; undated obituaries of Captain James G. Owen; undated obituary of Captain John W. Owen; undated sketch of John W. Owens' [John W. Owen] career as an officer in the Masonic Grand Lodge of Missouri; articles regarding Charles David Geer, Jr., of Yale University; undated obituary of Baptist pastor Rev. J.B. Benton; biographical sketch of Prof. George W. Jones; *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (March 24, 1916) obituary of Mrs. Hannah L. Schofield; obituary of William H. Osmer, dated January 9, 1922; *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (September 29, 1929) obituary of Mrs. Fanny Todd Clark; undated obituary of Miss Madeline Lasar; obituary of John E. Couzins, dated May 21, 1915; undated obituary of Mrs. Emma Hawkin [Emma Hawken]; undated obituary of Elmo C. Owen; undated obituary of Thomas Chantler; undated obituary of Mrs. Matilda Fielding (nee Weston); memorial card of Ann Maria Tully who died December 11, 1829; undated obituary of John E. Stonebraker who died June 18, 1889; undated obituary of Mrs. Mary Elbert Shaw; undated obituary of Christopher Hawkens [Christopher Hawken]; obituary (dated 1914) of Edward M. Bowman; undated obituary of Miss Marcia D. Budd who died January 27, 1921; and daguerreotype view and brief historical sketch of Chouteau's Pond. (52 pages)