

**Bellevue Farm, Donnelly property, 1333 Bellevue Farm Rd.,
Jedburgh vicinity**



“Bellevue Farm,” Hal Donnelly’s estate overlooking the Meramec River was originally granted by the Spanish to Samuel Pruitt in the late eighteenth century. By 1849 the property was sold to Aylett H. Buckner and Daniel B. Hunt, who subdivided it in 1854 as the town of St. Paul. Among the first purchasers of lots in the new town were the brothers Julius H. Mincke and George F. Mincke. The town did not prosper though, and in 1865 the Buckners sold their half interest in the unsold lots to Julius Mincke and in 1868 the Hunt portion was sold to Mincke also.

Julius H. and George F. Mincke were sons of George Ferdinand Mincke, who was born in Germany in 1794 and came to the United States in 1834. Julius H. Mincke, born in 1827, entered the lumbering business with his younger brother George after returning to St. Louis after the Gold Rush. Later he opened a grocery on Gratiot. Julius Mincke, the fifth generation of the family in this country finally sold the property in 1988 to Mayer Enterprises, who in turn sold it to Harold K. Donnelly.

Phillipp Kaes House, 15809 Jedburg Rd., Jedburg vicinity, c. 1850



The site of this house, near Jedburg, Missouri, is part of a land grant of 640 acres (a square mile) made by the Spanish colonial government to Samuel Pruitt and later confirmed by the U.S. land commission. Pruitt was one of the first English-speaking settlers west of the Mississippi, settling in west St. Louis County in the late 18th century. Pruitt’s probate records are dated August 2, 1818. He left four sons: Osburn, James, Laburn, and John. In 1825 Osburn and Laburn (here spelled Ausburn and Labourn) sold

the northeast part of the tract, including the site of the present house, to Thomas Keatly for \$400. The sale included “the dwelling houses, out houses, buildings, barns, stables, ways, woods, waters” thereon.

Keatly sold 228 of these acres in 1834 to George August Detharding. In 1848, Detharding sold this land and an additional tract of 48 acres, also part of the Pruitt grant, to Frederick Ehlert of St. Louis. Ehlert lost the land in 1858 through the foreclosure of a mortgage for \$1,200. The buyer was Philipp Kaes (Kaebs, Kaesz), who paid \$2,100. Kaes farmed there through the 1890s but sold the property between 1909 and his death on April 13, 1912, probably because the only son among his five children had moved to Texas. His will requested that his body be buried “in the family burial lot near Sherman.”

By 1862, most of Pruitt’s holdings had been divided between the Lewis, Kaebs, and Coons families. The site of the house is on the property belonging to the Kaebs family. There is still a private cemetery on the site with tombstones bearing the inscriptions of Kaebs (Kaes).