

Eis

Timeline:

1884, April – Stover Automatic Car Coupler Co. organized. The product is being used successfully. Incorporators: I.L. Stover, G.E. Eis, David VanBenthuzsen, Ben Kaelin, P.H. Robnett, Dwight Jennings and F.E. Jennings. (Archives: 1884CS13200)

1884 – Sentinel ad: G.E. Eis, Gem Cigar Store. (Archives: 1844CS13200)

1887, March – Sadler sold the building at Broadway & Oak to G.E. Eis, owner of the Gem Cigar Store. Merkel & Harding occupy lower floor. (Archives: Centralia Democrat 1887)



The Tim Eis Cigar Factory and Store was located at Broadway and Chestnut Street in 1889. Seen here are Walter Vass, G.E. Eis, Joe Kessler, Julius Kohl, Fred Kreiter, John Zick, W. Laichinger, Jed Emery, Bill Stansifer, and George Freeman. Always a colorful industry, the last cigar makers, Walter Winkler and Mike Peifer retired in the 1950s.

From Dr. George Ross's "Centralia" book

1890, Dec - E.F. Zarbock, G.E. Eis, and J.J. Witmore Jr. have been given permission to incorporate the Chinese Stove Polish Co. (Archives: 1890CS13206)

1890 – Sentinel business ad: G.E. Eis, Big Injun Cigar Factory. (Archives: 1890CS13206)

1891, Feb - Street Car Co. Board of Directors: S.N. Pierce (Pres); T.F. Meagher (VP); G.P. Duncan (Sec); A. Dunker (Treas) and G.E. Eis. (Archives: 1891CS13207)

1892 – G.E. Eis, cigar manufacturer, 132 S. Elm (Archives: 1892 Centralia City directory)

1892, Aug – Mrs. Mary Eis, mother of George Eis of Centralia, resides at Dayton, Ohio. (Source: *Footprints in Marion County*, Fall 1981, Vol. XVI No. 2, Genealogical Gleanings: *Centralia Sentinel*, Jan 2-Dec 31, 1892, contributed by Dr. George E. Ross.)

1892, Oct – Mr. & Mrs. G.E. Eis of Centralia have a boy born on the 1st. (Source: *Footprints in Marion County*, Fall 1981, Vol. XVI No. 2, Genealogical Gleanings: *Centralia Sentinel*, Jan 2-Dec 31, 1892, contributed by Dr. George E. Ross.)

1893, Jan – Messrs. D. Kugler, G.E. Eis and J. Peifer have turned out this past year an aggregate of 680,000 cigars. This industry has given work to 20 men and boys. (Archives: 1893CS13209)

1894 – G.E. Eis, cigar manufacturer, 132 S. Elm

Mrs. Annie Eis, 132 S. Elm

Miss Marion Eis, 132 S. Elm (Archives: 1894_City_Dir_7844)

1897, July - Queen City Loan Association organized. Board: J.N. Kerr (Sec), G.E. Eis (VP), Edward Hartman (Treas), Fred Keller, Louis Roemer (Pres), Al Harding, E.E. Fyke, W.W. Scott and J.J. Bundy (Atty). (Archives: 1897CS13213)

1897, Dec - Board of directors for Western Envelope Co. elected: C.C. Davis, G.E. Eis, H.M. Warner, A.E. Bradshaw of Indianapolis and L.C. Pierce of Denver. (Archives: 1897CS13213)

1900-02 Centralia City Directory:

Surname, Business Name	Given Name	Wife	Occupation, Business	Address
Eis	Clarence		Clk 100 N Chestnut	134 S Elm
Eis	GE	Annie	Mnfr & jobber of cigars & tobacco 100 N Chestnut	134 S Elm

1902, Aug – Harry Kohl and G.E. Eis of Centralia and A.L. Cruzen of Walnut Hill have organized and opened a press brick factory between those cities. (Archives: 1902CS13218)

1903, Dec - Elks have decided to keep open house on New Year's Day. Committee: Mr. & Mrs. N.M. Rexford, Mr. & Mrs. E.S. Condit, Dr. & Mrs. Richardson, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Pullen, Mr. & Mrs. T.L. Joy, Mrs. C.C. Davis, Mrs. H.M. Warner, Mrs. S.L. Dwight, and Mrs. B. Haussler, Mrs. G.L. Pittenger, Mrs. G. Eis, and Mrs. W.F. Bundy. A feature of the open house will be a cake baked by the 4 head officers. The ER will furnish flour and the Knights the remaining ingredients, neither to know what the other is furnishing. No Elk will be allowed to taste the cake--guests only. (Archives: 1903CS13219)

Elk Reception committees: 3 to 3:30 - A.L. Reinhardt, Wm. DeVeney, Robert George, Wm. Casseday, A.E. Reader, Frank Miller, J.C. Shuttleworth, W.B. Wright, E.D. Slater, S.E. Shanks, Ben Schwartz Jr., C.R. Randolph, H.C. Randolph and S.P. Sicker. 3:30 to 4 - C.F. Prickett, E.A. Knapp, O.V. Parkinson, R.O. Brigham, R.E. Lederman, Dan E. Sullivan, W.B. Smith, Ed B. List, Anderson Fyke, John Schmelzer, Joseph Hefter, Chas. Pulcipher, and Thos. L. Joy. 4 to 4:30 - Chas A. Glore, A.P. Miller, W.L. Derleth, Fred Pfeiffer, Oscar Kurth, J. Reinhardt, C.B. Ruehl, Geo. Schindler, H.B. Robertson, J.E. Hefter, H. Holstlaw, Otis W. Severns and Fred Pullen. 4:30 to 5 - G.L. Pittenger, N.M. Rexford, Wm. Wamsely, T.J. Wright, C.C. Davis, E.S. Condit, Dwight Haussler, C.P. Marshall, C.D. Tufts, H.M. Warner, C.E. Hull, J.W. Tate, G.E. Eis, E.F. Zarbock and L.M. Bostwick. 5 to 5:30 - Fayette Rexford, J.S. Condit, C.F. Condit, Chas. Dunn, Frank J. Zick, Isaac Hoffman, G.W. Pittenger, C.S. Ravenscroft, Fred Schroder, Frank Rickards, Ben A. Grosch, Fred L. Pfaff, Harry Fowler, and F.E. Hobbs. 5:30 to 6 - J.G. Munsell, E. E. Fyke, T.W. Rice, A.H. Rainey, D.D. Dixon, F.F. Noleman, C.N. Dunn, Theo. F. Gerould, Otto D. Diehl, W.L. Finn, S.L. Dwight, W.F. Bundy & J.J. Bundy. (Jan 2 - Big success) (Archives: 1903CS13219)

1904 Centralia City Directory

Surname	Given Name	Wife	Occupation, Business	Address
Eis	GE	Anna	Cigar manufacturer	134 S Elm
Eis	Clarence		Bookkeeper	134 S Elm

1904, Feb - Business Staff for Elks Minstrels: General committee - Chas Pulcipher, Frank Zick and T.L. Joy. Director General - F.F. Noleman; Stage manager - T.J. Wright; Advertising agent - J.E. Hefter; Treasurer - H.M. Warner; Musical Director - J.J. Bundy; Lithographer - R.O. Brigham; Atty for Chorus Girls - W.F. Bundy; Financial agent - C.C. Davis; Official crier - C.D. Tufts; Official Bugler - T.W. Rice; Official Rep. of Queen - Fred Pullen; Scene Shifter - G.E. Eis; Fly man - E.R. List; Call boy - W.D. Richardson; Programmer - Fred L. Pfeiffer; Electrician - Ben Grosch; Pianist - A.H. Rainey; Master of Transportation - F. Zick; Costumer - Wm. Casedy; Physician to Queen - Robert George; Newspaper Con. - C.P. Marshall. (Archives: 1904CS13220)

1906 – Clarence M. Eis, bookkeeper Old National Bank, 134 S. Elm
Gustave E. Eis, wife Anna, cigars 100 N. Chestnut, 134 S. Elm
Walter R. Eis, student, 134 S. Elm (Source: 1906-07 Centralia City Directory)

1906, Jan – G.E. Eis sold his cigar factory to Walter Vass and Chris Broeker but retained wholesale and jobbing business. (Archives: 1906CS13222)

1908, May – Mrs. Marian Bassler died at the Centralia home of G.E. Eis on the 28th. She was born at Zitterburg, Germany on 19 Oct 1827. (Source: Newspaper Gleanings: *Centralia Sentinel* from *Marion County Footprints*, 1998 Winter)

1909, April – The Centralia Township High School presented a concert and operetta at the Pittenger Grand with Professor Lederman in charge. High school chorus was made up of Eoline Allmon, Ruth Bradley, Dorothy Bundy, Ruth Cade, Bessie Cope, Mary Crow, Adaleene Egger, and Goldie Fisher, Rosa Harmon, Eva Hopkins, Neva Huddleston, Josie Leonard, Stella Maxfield, Tressa McGuire, Nellie Morrison, Florence O'Loughlin, Freda Penn, Eva Schroeder, Lela Smith, Martha Smith, Villa Spillman, Hazel Thomas, Eva Vaughn, Carrie Webster, Evelyn Westbrook, Irene Young. McNeil's Orchestra played the overture. The actors included Ruth Bradley, Mary Crow, Reba Davis, Adaleene Egger, Florence Eis, Goldie Fisher, Mabel Fowler, Marguerite George, G. Hewitt, Theresa Kalkbrenner, Jessie Morrison, Grace Pope, and V. Spillman. (Archives: 1909_CTHS_Operatta_7198)



1909, Dec – Old Centralia landmark at Broadway and Chestnut, occupied now by Tim Eis and Frank Boucher, burned. (Archives: 1909CS13225)

1910 – Clarence M. Eis, clerk G.E. Eis, 134 S. Elm
Miss Florence Eis, student, 134 S. Elm
Gustav E. Eis, wife Anna M., cigars & tobacco wholesale & retail at 128 N. Locust, residence at 134 S. Elm
Valette R. Eis, clerk G.E. Eis, 134 S. Elm
Walter R. Eis, clerk G.E. Eis, 134 S. Elm (Source: 1910 Centralia City Directory)

1910, June – CTHS graduates: Mabel Barron, Tressa McGuire, Florence Eis, George Bargh, Ina Jones, Marguerite Prather, Goldie Fisher, Rollin Warner, Lena Lolling, Martha Smith, Irene Lambrecht, George Nichols, Bertha Hoye, Jessie Morrison, Clair Crist, Eoline Allmon, Vida Jones, Curtis Douglass, Ruth Cade, Eva Vaughn, Hugh Parkinson, Irene Young, Margaret O’Loughlin, Ruby Shepherd. (Archives: 1910_CTHS_Com_7880)

A concert was given at the Baptist Church by pupils of Mr. E. Lederman, assisted by the Centralia Philharmonic Chorus. Students playing piano were: Varian Adams, Gray Besant, Ruth Bradley, Dorothy Bundy, Margaret Bundy, Pauline Bundy, Harriett Cade, Florence Eis, Duane Frink, Ida Hediger, Merritt McDowell, Mabel Murfin, Stella Perry, Ralph Pixley, DeWitt Pulcipher, Ruth Rickards, Fae Shuttleworth, Esther Storer, Helen Wade, Vida Webster, Helen Welton. String quintet accompaniment: H. Coffey, Fred Erbes, J. Reinhardt, Fred Schindler, Louis Zarbock. Bass solo: Mr. Louis Beebe. Vocal solos: Neva Huddleston, Vivian Schmelzer. (Archives: Lederman Concert 4352)

CTHS presented “A Rose O’ Plymouth Town,” a romantic comedy in four acts. The actors included: George Bargh, Martha Smith, Florence Eis, Ruby Shepherd, Eoline Allmon, George Nichols, Rollins Warner, and Curtis Douglas. (Archives: 1910_play_7176)

1919, May – Boggs & Agey undertakers buy G.E. Eis home (134 South elm) and convert it to funeral home. (Archives: 1919CS13232)

1920, Aug – G.E. Eis at Detroit, Michigan. 6 Jan 1855 – 10 Aug 1920. Married Anna Merkle on 26 Sept 1883. Cigar maker. Buried Elmwood. (Archives: 1920CS13233)

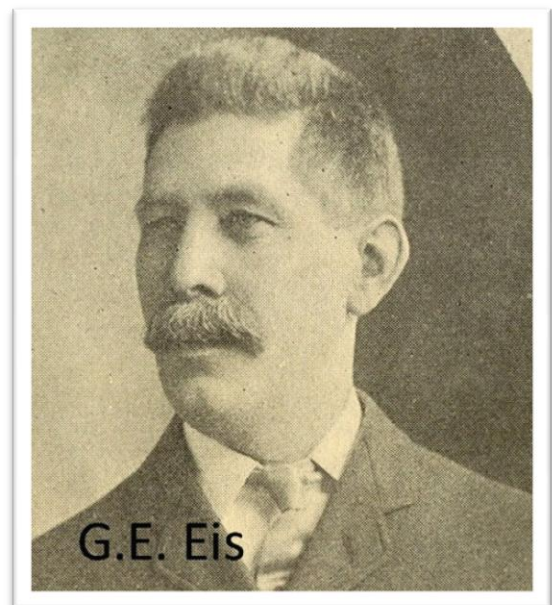
Elmwood Cemetery burials:

Eis, Anna M, b. 1864, d. Sep 7, 1927, bur. #560-0120-01-M

Eis, Gustave E, b. 1860, d. Aug 0, 1920, bur. #560-0120-05-M

(Source: Elmwood Cemetery records compiled by Bill Culbreth, www.interment.net/data/us/il/marion/elmwood/index)

From the “Egyptian Hustlers Program & Souvenir, Centralia, Ill., June 10-12, 1909”: The subject of this sketch is one of Centralia’s most prominent, prosperous and influential business men. **Mr. G. E. Eis** was born in Dayton, Ohio, January 6, 1856, where he lived until he was twelve years old, when he moved to Florence, Kentucky, residing there about eleven years. Leaving there he went to Franklin, Indiana, where after three years he came to Centralia, Ill., where he has lived ever since. He arrived in Centralia May 15, 1881; embarking in the tobacco business the same day at his present location, corner of Broadway and Chestnut Streets, which location he has occupied for more than 27 years. He conducts a wholesale and retail business



in cigars, tobacco, pipes, etc. For a number of years he conducted a cigar factory in connection with his other business. His salesmen cover quite a large territory. He has never had any political aspirations although he served the third ward as Alderman for two terms. He is a Director of the Old National Bank; Director and Vice-President of the Home Building & Loan Association; President of the Floor Clean Co., Chicago, and Director and large stockholder in the Marion County Coal Company. In fact, he has always been a "Booster," ever ready with time and money to further any enterprise that would help Centralia. Centralia first, last and all the time has ever been his motto. Mr. Eis is a man of few words and many actions, and has never failed as yet to do what he has undertaken for the improvement of Centralia. He is a "Self Made Man" in every sense of the word, as he was deprived the privilege of an education. The position he now holds in the social and business world has been gained by persistent effort and hard labor. He is a member of the K of P and BPOE.

In 1883 he married Miss Anna Merkle of Centralia. They are blessed with four children. Clarence, age 24, has charge of the office of the Floor Clean Company of Chicago; Walter, age 18 has charge of the Carpet Clean Department of the same company; Valette, age sixteen, graduates from the Centralia Township High School this year, and Miss Florence, age fourteen, is in the third year of the same school.

Mr. Eis' residence, northeast corner of Elm and First South Streets, is one of the most beautiful in Southern Illinois. (Archives: Eis, GE 4725)

From "60 Years of Banking in Illinois" book: **Gustave E. Eis** was born in Dayton, Ohio in 1855. He was apprenticed to a cigar maker at the age of 9 years in the state of Kentucky where he learned the trade, which he followed in that place until 1881 when he moved to Centralia and began the manufacture of cigars. He was successful in his new location and followed this business until 1907 when he entered the real estate business and was active not only as a real estate dealer but was associated with nearly all of the new enterprises in Centralia as promoter, officer and director, until he retired in 1918. He served as a Director of the Old National Bank from 1906 to 1920. He passed away in Detroit, August 9, 1920. (Archives: Eis, Gustave 2838)

G.E. Eis is one of the thrifty and enterprising citizens of Centralia, and by his progressive spirit has done much for the upbuilding and advancement of this place. He is ever alive to its best interests, and its leading enterprises always receive his hearty support and cooperation. He is now sole owner of the Big Injun Cigar Factory, and is a manufacturer of and wholesale dealer in cigars and tobacco.

Mr. Eis was born in Dayton, Ohio, January 6, 1855, and is a son of John Eis, a native of France, who emigrated to America in 1844 and located in Newark, Ohio, where he engaged in farming. Later he engaged in teaching French in Dayton, Ohio, until 1861, when, on the first call for volunteers, he entered the service of his adopted country. After serving for three years he re-enlisted, and started home on a furlough, but it is supposed that he was murdered and thrown in the Licking River. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Engle, and was a native of Byrne, Germany. At the age of seven she came to this country with her father, George Engle, who located in Dayton, where he engaged in the grocery business. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Eis, of whom the following are living: Sophia, wife of John Byer, who is engaged in the cabinet-maker's trade in Buffalo, New York; Callie, wife of William Gemin, a fresco painter of Dayton; G.E., of this sketch; George, a residence of Buffalo, who is employed as a traveling salesman for the Dayton Cash Register Company; and Emma, wife of Richard Jacobs, now owning and operating a job office in Dayton, Ohio.

At the age of nine years our subject left his native city and went to Boone County, Kentucky, where he served a three years' apprenticeship to the trade of cigar making. He worked in that locality

until 15 years of age, and then followed the same line of business in Kenton County, Ky., for two years, after which he went to Franklin, Indiana. There he was employed for three years, when in 1881 he came to Centralia. Here he embarked in the manufacture of cigars with Joseph Hieserman, under the firm name of Heiserman & Eis, which connection continued for six months, since which time Mr. Eis has been alone in business. He has built up the largest cigar manufacturing business in this part of the state and has a most extensive sale. Among the leading brand of cigars are La Flor de Eis, Potillio, Silk Hat, Cuban Hand, et.

Mr. Eis was married in Centralia, September 26, 1883, to Miss Annie Merkel, daughter of Edward Merkel, a native of Germany, who came to America in 1855 and settled in Centralia. He was a baker and confectioner, and built and owned the first business block on Chestnut Street. His daughter is a native of this city. Mr. and Mrs. Eis now have three children, Clarence M., Walter and Vallett Reuben.

In politics, Mr. Eis is a stalwart Democrat, has served as Alderman from the Second Ward for two years, and has frequently been a delegate to the conventions of his party. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Uniformed Rank. He has also been connected with various business interests which are numbered among the leading industries of the city. He is a stockholder and Director of the Centralia Light and Power Company, is a Director and the largest stockholder in the Centralia and Central City Street Railway Company, and was one of the originators of the old electric light company. He is a large stockholder in the building and loan association, and Treasurer of the Centralia Provident Association, a charitable organization. He owns a sixth interest in the electric light plant of Creal Springs, has an interest in 40 town lots, owns the Saddler's Block and some fine residence property. Through the legitimate channels of business, Mr. Eis has achieved a success which has materially promoted the prosperity of Centralia and has made him one of its substantial citizens. He is very prominent in business circles, and has the confidence and regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact. (Source: *Portrait and Biographical Record of Clinton, Washington, Marion and Jefferson Counties, Illinois*; Chapman Publishing, 1894)