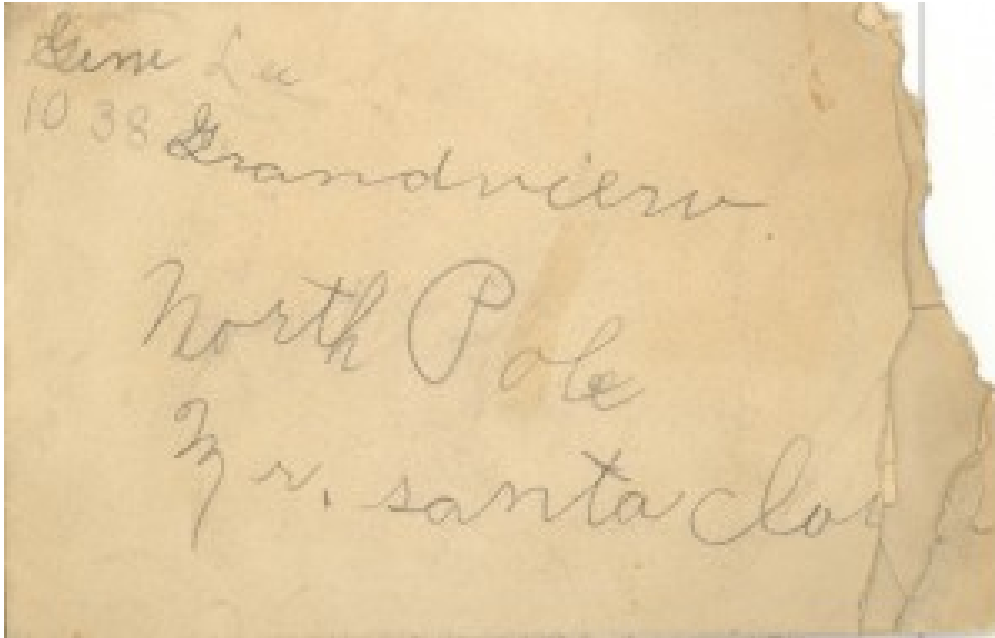


# Wishful Wednesday: c1915 Letter to Santa from Gene Lee



*Envelope to Santa from Lloyd Eugene "Gene" Lee, possibly c1915-1919. (Click to enlarge.)*

Lloyd Eugene "Gene" Lee was born 06 Sep 1907 in St. Louis, Missouri, to Samuel J. Lee (1879-1964) and Dorothy Adele Aiken (1884-1953).

We are guessing that this letter was written possibly when he was about 8-11, so that would be around 1915-1919. (Kids learned to write later back then than they do now.)

## **Transcription:**

"Gene Lee

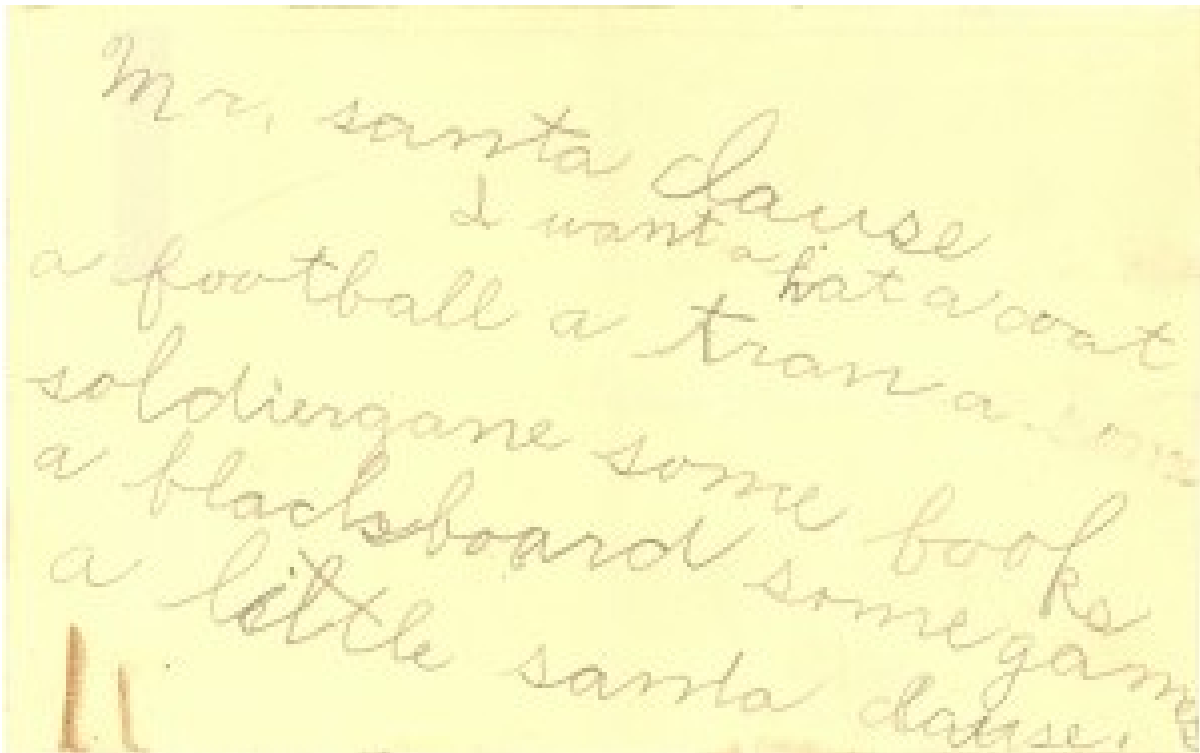
1038 Grandview [return address]

[To:]

North Pole

Mr. santa clau [torn paper]"

Including that return address was vital, so Santa could find his house- no GPS or online directories for Santa back then. ;D



Letter to Santa from Lloyd Eugene "Gene" Lee, possibly c1915-1919. (Click to enlarge.)

### **Transcription:**

"Mr. santa clause

I want a hat a coat

a football a tran [train] a some [looks erased]

soldier game some books

a blackboard some games

a little santa clause."

The request for the 'soldier game' may help to put the date around 1918 when World War I was in progress, although little boys always seem to want to play soldiers, whether with toy soldiers or today's more sophisticated video war games.

Asking for a hat and coat first, necessities of life in the St. Louis winters, shows how tough economic times were at the end of the nineteen teens, and how practical people had to be everyday.

Even for Christmas.



*Lloyd Eugene "Gene" Lee, age 12, 1920. (Click to enlarge.)*

Happy Holidays to all our family and readers!

### **Notes, Sources, and References:**

1) Family treasure chest ephemera, in possession of author.

*Please contact us if you would like higher resolution images.*

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## **Friday's Faces from the Past: At 1038 Grand View Place in St. Louis, Missouri**



*Samuel J. Lee family home at 1038 Grandview, St. Louis, Missouri, October 1922.*

Details of a house can give one clues to pictures with no names, addresses, or dates. The first picture in this post was positively identified by Gene Lee as being their Grand View home, and he identified his mother and the place in the image below. From there we need to make educated guesses about other images in a photo album that look similar.



Dorothy (Aiken) Lee, probably in front of their home at 1038 Grand View Place, St. Louis, Missouri. (Known identification of Dorothy.)

Things we know about this house:

1) It has large white rectangular stones along foundation.



*05 Aug 1923, outside 1038 Grand View Place. Unknown woman.*

2) The house has brick above the foundation, probably a red brick.

3) There are arched bricks over lower windows of the house in the basement.

4) The house has a basement.

5) Lattice surrounds the base of the porch.



*April 1918, outside 1038 Grand View Place, St. Louis, Missouri. Possibly Dora Russell Aiken, who lived with her daughter's family.*

6) A wooden railing with columns surrounds the porch.

7) Height of porch is about 4 feet.



*1920, Lloyd Eugene "Gene" Lee at 1038 Grandview, St. Louis, Missouri. He was about 13 in this photo.*

8) The front porch has wide steps.



*1922- 1038 Grand View Place. Probably Dorothy (Aiken) Lee.*

9) It looks like the wild vegetation was cleared back and columns made bigger on the porch- note differences from first

image, but others of these images were verified by Gene Lee (who lived there)- he said they were 1038 Grand View Place.

10) There is a lone tree at the base of the steps.

11) A narrow sidewalk curves around the side of the house.



*April 1918, outside 1038 Grand View Place, St. Louis, Missouri. Possibly Dora Russell Aiken, who lived with her daughter's family.*

11) The house appears to be on a cul-de-sac.

12) Using Google maps and street view, we can see that there is a large two-story building nearby (currently a school and may have been in the 1920s as well), plus a house nearby that has a third story window that is the maximum height for its width in the gable. (This house seems to have been demolished; the freeway is very close by now and the road was terminated.)

Using these clues, there are other images in the Lee photo album that were most probably taken at 1038 Grand View Place. Knowing who lived in the house at certain times can help us narrow the possibilities of the persons in the pictures.



*Decoration Day May 30-24.*

*May 30, 1924, Decoration Day probably in front of 1038 Grand View Place, St. Louis, Missouri. Dorothy (Aiken) Lee on left?*



*April, 1918. Possibly Dorothy (Aiken) Lee in front of their home at 1038 Grand View Place, St. Louis, Missouri. Note similar house next door.*



*Possibly Dora J. Russell on left with unknown woman. Probably in front of 1038 Grand View Place, St. Louis, Missouri, in the 1920s.*





*Possibly Dora J. (Russell) Aiken at 1038 Grand View Place, St. Louis, Missouri, May 1923.*

The Lees had moved on to 6704 Alamo by the time of the 1930 US Federal census.

The house is still standing, and is listed on Zillow.com as being 1,444 sq. ft. with one bathroom, built in 1908. It is located near Clayton and Berthold Streets on Grandview Place (now 'Grand View' is one word instead of two). Due to Google's Terms of Service I cannot post an image of the house, but if you click [here](#), it should take you to the image.

### **Notes, Sources, and References:**

1) Photos from the Lee family treasure chest.

2) GoogleMaps street view of house today: <https://www.google.com/maps/@38.6310572,-90.3012714,3a,75y,87.49h,90.75t/data=!3m4!1e1!3m2!1sZ8aSXN4kZFkCNUzY4o9ygQ!2e0>

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# Those Places Thursday: 1038 Grand View, St. Louis, Missouri

In the Gould's 1917 City Directory for St. Louis, Missouri, Samuel J. Lee is listed as residing at 1038 Grand View Place.

Lee Samuel J drugs 4067 Chouteau av r 1038  
Grand View pl

*Gould's 1917 City Directory listing for Samuel J. Lee. Ancestry.com*

The family probably purchased the house sometime between 1910 and 1917, as at the 1910 census, the family was living at 4063 Chouteau, very near Sam's store at 4067 Chouteau. (Were they possibly living over the store in those early years?)

The family was still living in this house on Grand View Place when the 1920 US Federal Census was enumerated. Samuel J. Lee, his wife Dorothy (Aiken) Lee, their son Lloyd E. Lee (later known by his middle name, Eugene or "Gene"), and Dorothy's mother Dora J. (Russell) Aiken (she was separated from her husband, William H. Aiken) were still living in the household. Sam had his own store and worked there as a druggist, and his mother-in-law also worked there, as a saleswoman.



Dorothy (Aiken) Lee, probably in front of their home at 1038 Grand View Place, St. Louis, Missouri. (Known identification of Dorothy, per Gene Lee.)

The house was in a beautiful area- just a long block to Forest Park, the 1300+ acre park that was the site of the 1904 World's Fair (AKA 'Louisiana Purchase Exposition'). The park also houses the Art Museum, zoo, bandstands, picnic areas, lakes, etc., and has been a centerpiece of St. Louis life for well over a century. The surrounding homes were big for the time period, with two or three stories. Yards were fairly small since the home was in the city, but there were small trees planted on the lot to provide shade and some cooling in the relentless sun and heat of St. Louis summers.

Learning more about a house and it's setting can help us to understand the socio-economic position of a family, their passions (gardens, yard art, etc.), their style, etc. Looking at the architectural features of a home can help us to identify unknown photos, and possibly help date them and give us clues about the people in the images.

Tomorrow: using clues from a house to help identify unmarked photos.

### **Notes, Sources, and References:**

1) Photo from the Lee family treasure chest.

2) Gould's 1917 City Directory for St. Louis, Missouri: Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. [http://interactive.ancestry.com/2469/11419399/619815277?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3dUSDirectories%26h%3d619815277%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt\\_t4160486\\_p-1645006806\\_kpidz0q3d-1645006806z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&ssrc=pt\\_t4160486\\_p-1645006806\\_kpidz0q3d-1645006806z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord](http://interactive.ancestry.com/2469/11419399/619815277?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3dUSDirectories%26h%3d619815277%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt_t4160486_p-1645006806_kpidz0q3d-1645006806z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&ssrc=pt_t4160486_p-1645006806_kpidz0q3d-1645006806z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord). Accessed 10/14/14.

3) 1920 US Federal Census for Samuel J. Lee household: Source Citation: Year: 1920; Census Place: *St Louis Ward 24, St Louis (Independent City), Missouri*; Roll: T625\_960; Page: 1A; Enumeration District: 468; Image: 245. Ancestry.com. Accessed 10/14/14. [http://interactive.ancestry.com/6061/4313228-00245/103082041?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3d1920usfedcen%26h%3d103082041%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt\\_t4160486\\_p-1645006806\\_kpidz0q3d-1645006806z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&ssrc=pt\\_t4160486\\_p-1645006806\\_kpidz0q3d-1645006806z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord](http://interactive.ancestry.com/6061/4313228-00245/103082041?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3d1920usfedcen%26h%3d103082041%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt_t4160486_p-1645006806_kpidz0q3d-1645006806z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&ssrc=pt_t4160486_p-1645006806_kpidz0q3d-1645006806z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord)

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## **Friday's Faces of the Past: the Lees and Reuters in Colorado**



*1940s trip to Colorado. From left, Bobby Lee (Robert E. "Bob" Lee), Ruth Nadine (Alexander) Lee, Lloyd Eugene "Gene" Lee, Henrietta (Fasterling) Reuter and Walter Reuter on the trail on horseback. (Click to enlarge.)*

The gift of the "FAN Club" continues- Jeff Reuter has more images for us with dear family on a Colorado trip.



*Little Bobby, or Robert E. "Bob" Lee on the mountain in Colorado, 1940s. (Click to enlarge.)*

Little Bobby Lee was born in 1932, so would have been eight if this trip was in 1940.



*1940s trip to Colorado- Gene & Ruth Lee family and Henrietta and Walter Reuter. (Click to enlarge.)*

Here is another clue to place. Victor, Colorado is about 6 miles from Cripple Creek, and all these historic towns are part of a mining area that has been frequented by tourists for many, many years. Our son was about the same age as his grandfather, "Little Bobby," when we visited Victor and Cripple Creek. Going down into the mine was such fun for us- wonder if the Lees and Reuters made that trip deep into the

earth back in the 1940s?

**Notes, Sources, and References:**

1) Family photos shared by Jeff Reuter- thank you again, Jeff!

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## **Sunday's Obituary: Samuel J. Lee**



**FUNERAL TO BE MONDAY  
FOR SAMUEL J. LEE**

Funeral services for Samuel J. Lee, a druggist here for 54 years, will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday at the Ted F. Fendler undertaking establishment, 7420 Michigan avenue, with burial in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Mr. Lee, 85 years old, died of infirmities Thursday at his home, 6204 Alamo avenue. He operated a drugstore at 4067 Chouteau avenue until his retirement five years ago. He was a graduate of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

Surviving are a son, Eugene Lee, and two sisters, Mrs. Christine Burkhardt and Mrs. Lorene Penneman.

*Samuel J. Lee Obituary, 1964. Page 8A, probably from a St. Louis newspaper.*

Samuel J. Lee was born 29 June 1879 in Bunker Hill, Macoupin County, Illinois, to Samuel Lenton Lee and Louisa M. Brandenberger. Samuel was the oldest child, but all his siblings predeceased him except Christine "Crissie" (Lee) Burkhardt and Lorene "Nene" (Lee) Penneman.

Sam Lee married Dorothy "Dottie" Adele Aiken on 1 December 1906 in Bunker Hill, and their son Lloyd Eugene "Gene" Lee was born the next year. The family had moved to St. Louis by 1910, possibly so he could attend St. Louis College of Pharmacy, from which he graduated. (He was a member of the Alumni Association for 64 years.) He lived in St. Louis the rest of his life, and operated a drugstore for 54 years.

Dottie Lee died in 1953, and Sam lived 11 years longer without her. He died 24 September, 1964.

Samuel J. Lee is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, Jennings, St. Louis County, Missouri.

## **Notes, Sources, and References:**

- 1) Family treasure chest of Lee clippings and photos.
- 2) Samuel J. Lee Find A Grave Memorial # 56893479 at <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSvcid=64785&GRid=56893479&>.

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