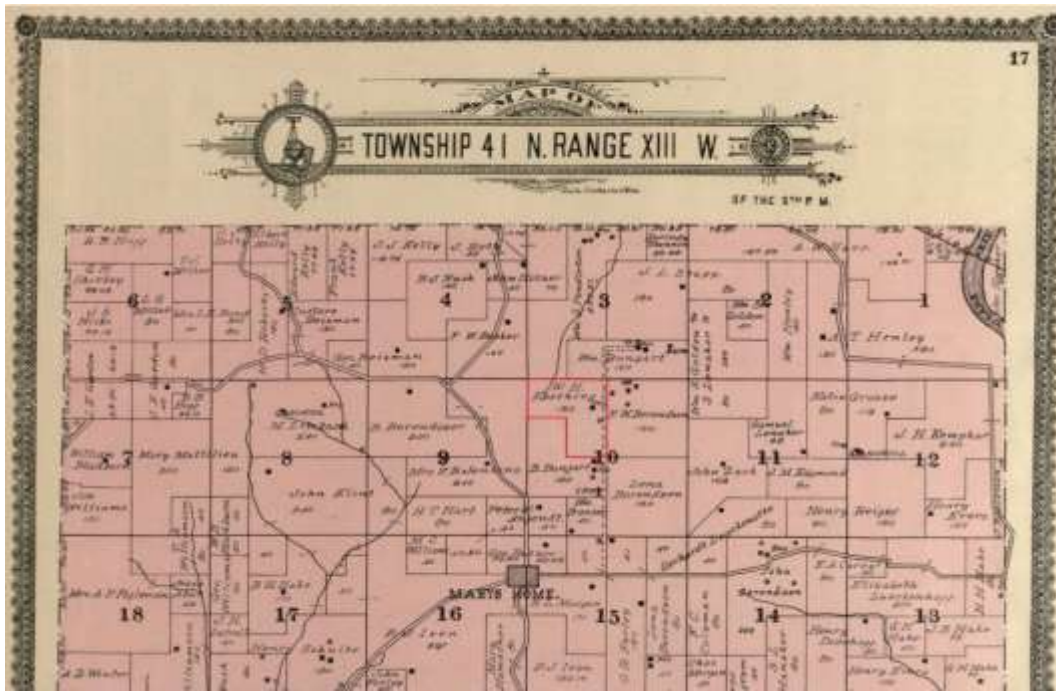




Afb. 1 The N 1/2 of St Mary's Home, MO, 18 of 36 sections. Map of 1903 Jim Henry Township.

Bernard Roels was the owner of the N 1/2 of the NW 1/4 and the SE 1/4 also in the NW 1/4 of section 10 making 120 acres. It means he sold the property before 1903 W.H. Koetting.

- In the census of 1900 he was listed as owner of a farm at Mary's Home.
- Eugene, MO.

Mr and Mrs. (#63) Bushnell and children of St. Louis spent a few days last week visiting near Marys Home. Mrs. Bushnell will be remembered by the older people, here as Miss Lena Roles (#63) before her marriage to Mr. Bushnell, and she was born and reared on **the old Ben Roles farm now owned by J. F. Koetting.**

Mrs. Wm. Bungart accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Bushnell to St. Louis Saturday of last week, where she visited with the Bushnells and also her daughter, Miss Josephine, for a week. Mrs. Bungart returned home last Saturday.

The Miller County Autogram Sentinel, July 4th 1929

- Rev. Wm. Roels (#64) pastor of the St. Peter and Paul Church of Boonville brought the remains of his sister, Miss Clara Roels (#68), to Marys Home Wednesday of last week. Funeral services were conducted the following day. Burial was in the Catholic cemetery here. Miss Roels was a daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Roels who owned the farm known here as the old John Koetting farm.** Her mother died about the year of 1900. After her death, Mr. Roels sold the farm to **the late Herman Koetting.** William Roels, their son, went to study for the priesthood and is now pastor of the abovementioned church. Miss Clara was about 50 years of age. She died in a hospital in St. Louis following an operation for tumor.

'Father Roels accompanied the undertaker and the mortal remains to Marys Home. The Miller County Autogram Sentinel Dec. 10, 1942

San Antonio, FL June 23, 1888

My dear brother and sister,

We received your letter, which pleased us to learn that you are all in good health. I hope my recent letter still finds you, and in any case, we are also in good health. My brother, we have moved to FL, and our journey went well. We are very happy. There are beautiful orange groves here, and this region is very rainy.

Anyone who has five acres of orange trees can say their happiness is made. You asked me for news about Bernard: everything is going well for him, but he has a little girl. They are not very happy. So, that makes four children for him. Please be kind enough to send me some cabbage and celery seeds, and put them in another sheet of paper, in a sturdy envelope.

We don't harvest wheat here; it's only for fruits and vegetables: oranges, lemon trees, pear trees, peach trees, raspberry bushes, and other fruits whose names I don't know. We harvest oranges in January, and at Christmas, you can eat strawberries. I'll tell you that we are near the Gulf of Mexico.

We crossed all of FL by train, and the whole of FL is flat. The soil is sandy, long, and uniform, and it's not hotter here than in the North.

I'll also tell you that our train trip cost us 800 francs, and we boarded the train in the morning and got off on Saturday in Carrabelle, where we faced mosquitoes.

We managed to find the best place, the best place in the world, and you couldn't find anything more beautiful. There are lots of fish here, and there are also lakes.

There are several, and I won't say more for now. I'll end my letter by sending my greetings to everyone and giving our compliments to the whole family. I remain your brother and sister for life.

Ambroise Roels

San Antonio, Pasco County, FL, America

The SS Saint-Laurent with propeller departed Le Havre for the first time on October 11, 1866, completing its maiden voyage in ten days and fifteen hours. At that time, the French Le Havre-New York service was in its infancy. It was only two years old, and operated alongside the Washington and the La Fayette.

How did Ambrose and his family traveled from Missouri to FL at the end of the 19th century.

The most plausible method was by train, although it was also possible to travel via the Mississippi River and across the Gulf of Mexico—a much longer and less efficient route. At the time, rail travel was the dominant form of long-distance transportation in the United States. While there was no direct rail line from Jefferson City, Missouri, to Tampa, FL, the journey could be completed by combining several rail routes.

The Likely Journey:

1. From Dauphin to St. Louis, Missouri

On the Missouri Pacific Railway. Ambrose and his family would have boarded a train bound for St. Louis, a major city with connections to numerous other rail lines.

2. From St. Louis to Atlanta, GA

From St. Louis, the family would head south using a railway such as the Louisville & Nashville Railroad (L&N) or a similar route. A common path involved traveling through Louisville, Kentucky, continuing to Nashville, Tennessee, and then reaching Atlanta, GA, a vital rail junction in the southern United States.

3. From Atlanta to Jacksonville, FL

From Atlanta, they would board the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad or another southern rail line to Jacksonville, a significant railroad hub in northern FL.

4. From Jacksonville to Dade City.

The final leg of the journey would take them south from Jacksonville to Dade City. This route could have been completed on the FL Central and Peninsular Railroad, which had been extended to Tampa by the late 19th century. Alternatively, they might have traveled via the Plant System, a network of railroads and services specifically designed to bring passengers and goods to Tampa and other cities in southern FL.

Estimated Duration

The trip would have taken several days, depending on train schedules and connection times. On longer segments, such as St. Louis to Atlanta, Ambrose's family likely enjoyed the relative comfort of sleeper cars and dining cars, which made such journeys more manageable for families.

The Plant System in Tampa: Tampa's growth during this era was closely tied to the development of Henry B. Plant's rail and hospitality network. Plant's investments in railroads and luxury hotels made FL, including Tampa, an increasingly accessible and attractive destination.

Flexibility of Routes: The exact path taken could vary based on ticket availability, rail conditions, and the expansion of rail networks at the time.

Upon arriving, Ambrose and his family would likely have used horse-drawn carriages or streetcars to navigate the city. This multi-stage journey by rail exemplified the transformative impact of the railroad system in connecting distant parts of the United States at the dawn of the 20th century.

83. IRENE⁹ BUSHNELL

From a familybook by Irene Bushnell written in 1987.

It has been suggested to me several times that I write a history of our family so that the ones that come after will have some idea of who their ancestors were. I knew it would not be an easy task as I felt I did not have enough information to do a very good job, but I decided to start and see what I could accomplish. Add to the lack of information the fact that I am not a writer and you can understand that I

had problems. I decided on a looseleaf book for two reasons. First, I wanted to add a picture of all the people that I could; 2nd, I knew that I might be able to get more information than I had and this way I could go back and add it, more or less in the proper place. This has proved to be a great advantage. My husband has been a great help in his encouragement, identifying people in pictures, and helping to figure out dates. Ishmael Prowell helped a great deal with dates, Milton Sanford contributed information and pictures; and Glenna and Roderick also contributed pictures. I have tried to be as accurate as possible but some dates are approximate. The typing mistakes are half mine and half the fault of the typewriter which has seen better days. I take all blame for the lack of punctuation as I did not edit this but just wrote as I thought and what came to mind is what you have. I really accomplished more than I had at first thought I could and the book is much larger than I had planned but it just sort of grew. I have enjoyed doing it. It has brought back a lot of memories and I've had some good laughs about some of it and also shed a few tears. When you read it you may wish I had added things that I did not and you may wish I had left out other things. Feel free to add any information that you would like included.

I have written this for my children and eventually my granddaughter, Lory Miller. I regret that I did not start this years ago when there were still people alive that could have told me so much.

So now if you turn the page we will start with my grandfather, Bernardo Roales. (Bernard Roels #44) Irene (Till) Shaver (#83)

Bernardo Roales (Roels)

Bernardo Roales (Roels), my grandfather, was born approx. 1838 and died approx. 1928. He was buried in Milwood Parish, Silex, Missouri.

Bernardo Roels was Flemish. Whether he was born in Flanders and immigrated to this country or whether his parents immigrated before him is not known. He spoke a dialect known as Low German (Flemish, which is Dutch). He lived in Mary's Home, Missouri.

He was married to Maria Magdalena Banner (does not exist, all children are from Nathalie D'Haenens) and they had two children:

1. Edward Roels

2. Franciscus Leopold Roels

Maria Magdalena Roels must have died and Bernardo Roels then married Natalia d'Haenens, my grandmother, in approx. 1884 and they had six more children:

3. Anna Helene Roels (my mother)

4. Gulielmus Roels (Father William F. Roels)

5. Leo Augustinus Roels

6. Amanda Elisabeth Roels (Aunt Irene)

7. Maria Sidonia (Sophia) Roels (Sister Blanche Roels)

8. Clara Sophia Roels

Natalia d'Haenens was born August 18, 1858 and died April 5, 1899. She was buried April 7, 1899 in Mary's Home, Missouri.

I remember seeing my grandfather one time and going to his funeral. My family went to see him where he lived with my Aunt Irene and Uncle Arnold near Alton, Illinois. My impression is that we went to a small weatherbeaten house out in the country and up on a little hill. We took a gift of cigars that were individually wrapped in tin foil and were his favorites. I remember very little of the man himself except that he was bedridden and spoke no, or very little, English. I was about seven years old at the time. He died shortly after this at the age of ninety. He was Catholic and his funeral mass was said by his son, Father William F. Roels. As only a 7-year old, could I remember his funeral as very beautiful. It was the only time I had ever been in a Catholic Church and I was very impressed with the beauty of the church, the singing, the robes, the wheeling of the flower covered coffin down the aisle to the front of the church, and all the pomp and ceremony. I thought dying must be very nice but of course I felt no sadness at the passing of someone I didn't know. It was there that I saw my uncles, Father William and Uncle Leo, the only time I ever saw them and one of the two times that I ever saw my aunt, Sister Blanche.

My first memory is of the house where I was born in Lynn Haven, FL. I am told this is impossible as I was only two years old when my family left there to come to Miami but I can see it as clear as if it was yesterday, not the house itself but the yard. It was sandy and to go from the yard to the street you had to cross a little wood bridge over a dry ditch. There were a lot of sandspurs but the largest ones grew right where the bridge started.