

## Francis Henry Peters

1838 - - 1924

Mr. Francis Henry Peters was one of the most outstanding Christian laymen of his generation. He was widely known and greatly beloved in St. Louis. He is remembered and will always be remembered as a man of unusual faith and broad Christian vision.

Mr. Peters was born on February 22, 1838, in Rothenfelde, Germany. He came to St. Louis on November 15, 1854. With his brother Frederick W. Peters he established a dry goods store in 1865 which was first known as the Peters and Brother Dry Goods Company and in 1887 was incorporated as the Peters Dry Goods and Clothing Company. In 1889, with his brother Frederick W. Peters and his nephew Henry W. Peters he founded the Peters and Miller Shoe Company which became in 1892 the Peters Shoe Company. In 1911 the Peters Shoe Company and the Roberts, Johnson and Rand Shoe Company consolidated and became the International Shoe Company. Mr. Peters was a very successful business executive and one with high ideals. He purposed always to conduct his business on a Christian basis.

On February 20, 1864, just nine months after the organization of our Church, which was then known as the First German Presbyterian Church, Mr. Peters united with our Church at the first Session meeting for the reception of members presided over by Dr. A. Vander Lippe. From that time to the day of his death, Mr. Peters was one of the most earnest and consecrated members of our Church. His benevolence, always done very humbly and unobtrusively, aided many Christian institutions and worthy causes. He entered into the life beyond this life on August 8, 1924. Our Church, which stands as a living memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Peters, has a great tradition to carry forward, a tradition given to it not only by this great Christian layman but also by the earnest souls who in the days that are passed were associated with him.

Mr. F. H. Peters was the father of Emma L. Baggerman (Mrs. W. J. Baggerman) and maternal grandfather of Wm. F. Baggerman. His last home was at 2236 St. Louis Ave., St. Louis, Mo.