

## History of the Applegate B&B

In the 1850's a Dammann bought a lot at the top of the hill overlooking the boat landing – Lot 1 in Block 11 – but it remained unimproved until later. The early owner may have been Rudolph Dammann, who later did build on the lot, or another member of the family.

Born in Prussia (around 1828) to parents who would emigrate, Rudolph Dammann followed many vocations in Augusta. IN 1860, he was listed as a tobacco manufacturer living with a widowed relation (possibly uncle) who was a liquor distiller. During the Civil War, Rudolph served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Infantry, and later records say he built the house on Block 11 in 1864. In fact, the town records show that he then applied to construct a kiln, perhaps to make the brick for that house. The brick (first story) and frame (second story) house remained in his name for many years. Later newspaper accounts reported Dammann active in Radical Republican politics.

In the mid-18790's Rudolph Dammann served Augusta as constable, post rider, and also as undertaker. About his postal service an 1875 newspaper wrote that "the region of Augusta, Femme Osage and Schlursburg has a very good and thoughtful post rider in Mr. Rudolph Dammann. For a very low price and to the great satisfaction of all, he provided the obviously very difficult postal service in these hills and across the river. He received \$400 a year and naturally had to have a horse. While constable, the newspaper described Dammann as "a real example of grace, politeness and 'Gemutlichkeit'". Some years later, in 1881, Dammann set up a liquor store at his property and also made and sold cigars.

### From Historic Augusta – Its'; Buildings and People – 1820 – 1900 Written by Anita Malinkrodt

After Rudolph Damann owned the property, another family who resided there was the Parks family. Rosa Parks was a midwife and healer who assisted Hampson Strother Clay Jr. in delivering babies. Rumor has it she did her wash in a large cast iron kettle that is still located somewhere in town. Some of Rosa's grandchildren and great grandchildren are still in the St. Louis area and remember visiting the property.

From 2000 to 2005 the property became a bed and breakfast called the Old Town Augusta Inn. In 2006, it was purchased by Bob and Lynn Hofer, who renamed it the Applegate B&B which they ran until 2020. Current owner Kelly Dolan bought the property in 2023.