

About Me



WILLIAM
PACK
Magic is my life
and has been
practically since I
was born. I also

happen to be a bit of a history buff. Mostly the magic history of Chicago, but also the history of the city itself. You can add in the history of Spiritualism and Halloween, especially how it developed here in my home town. This is sort of a diary of my journey into the past. And I'll be adding updates on my books and products.

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No not Hamburgler or Hamburger or Humberger, as my spell check suggests.

Bart Whaley's Who's Who in magic lists one magician by the name, Hambujer.

Hambujer (Denmark [sic]: 1848-1924) Pro sleight-of-hand. Played Dublin (1859) & Boston (1860)

Of course, if we do the math, born in 1848, played Dublin in 1859; he would have been age eleven and twelve in Boston. This is not unheard of, but unusual. What makes things more unusual is a second (?) Hambujer in New York, Chicago, and Detroit. Not that is unusual that a magician would use another's name or is it the same person and the birth date was recorded wrong. Here is the knot.

(The *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and an unnamed Milwaukee paper are referenced and partially quoted.)

April 1862, New York—Mons. Hambujer and a Madam Hambujer play a benefit at the end of their run. (Married at thirteen?)

July 1862, Chicago—*Hambujer, the wonderful East Indian Magician, commences a series of his entertainments this Monday evening at Bryan Hall. The Detroit Advertiser says of him: "This celebrated magician, who is generally admitted to have no superior, opened last evening in Fireman's Hall. The audience was large, and the dexterous operator received rounds of applause. Hambujer's illusions defy all detection, while they are performed with such rapidity that the audience is kept in a continual furore of excitement. We have never seen his superior as a "prestidigitatuer," and very few, if any, equals has he on this continent. His exhibition of Indian magnetism is decidedly interesting, and the influence, which he exercises upon the subjects, is truly marvelous. Mr. Hambujer has exhibited in all the principal cities of the Union, and carries with him the unanimous approval of the press and people as a talented wizard."*

July 14, 1862—*Hambujer, who has been engaged during the past week in performing his wonderful sleight of hand tricks at Bryan Hall, is now arranging for the performance of two feats*

Leave your comment

I own the original testimonial book of my great grandfather, Ephraim Hambujer, who gave performances in Germany and in England around 1860 before emmigrating to America. These German and English testimonials are largely from schoolmasters of the time, attesting to his mastery of "the cabalistic arts". I would appreciate corresponding with

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PREVIEW

which have never before been performed in this country, and which appear almost incredible, smacking more of Arabian Nights supernaturalism

than latter day realities. Hitherto, Hambujer's feats have been those often witnessed here, excepting that, they are done in this instance without the usual appurtenances of the magician's repertoire. These new feats are restoring the dead to life and suspending a boy in the air by a single hair of his head from a floating ball.

The first feat is well known in India. It consists of placing a boy in a basket, thrusting a sword through the basket and drawing out again covered with blood. The boy's body is examined by physicians and then returned to the basket. A pistol is discharged into the basket; the boy vanishes, and re-appears alive and well.

The ball feat consists in suspending a boy by a single hair to a rubber ball filled with a chemical mixture by which he floats gracefully in the air at the Professor's bidding.

It is reported a day later that Hambujer learned these tricks while serving in the military in India, of which we can assume that he was a European performing "Indian" mysteries. The Tribune also reported that his two big draws previously described did not live up to expectations.

The next city Hambujer visited was Milwaukee, WI, but after that, any other current searches have not picked up his trail.

Is he a past master or a pretender with great promo?
If you know any more about him, please write.

posted by chgomagic at 6:16 PM on Jul 30, 2006

richard grayson said...

<http://www.graysonfamily.org/Documents/Hambujer/>

Ephraim Hambujer was my great grandfather. See URL for complete bio.

5:28 PM

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Hambujer

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PROFESSOR HAMBUJER

Date: Jul 18, 1862
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PROFESSOR HAMBURGER

Chicago Tribune (1860-1872); Jul 18, 1862; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1985)
pg. 0_4

Our citizens are expressing considerable impatience to witness the wonderful feat of restoring the dead to life, as advertised by Professor Hamburger. The statement made is so startling that incredulity may well be pardoned. We have heard of wagers being made that neither the Professor or "any other man" can do what he advertises to be able to do. Hamburger advises his friends to take "that bet"—as he insists that as sure as the sun rises in the heavens, so sure will he bring the dead to life.

That other feat of suspending two feet from the ground a boy fifteen years old, by a single hair attached to a ball four inches in diameter, is scarcely less wonderful.

In addition to the above wonderful and startling feats, the Professor will introduce many interesting and novel experiments, among which will be the restoration of a canary bird after having its head cut off. This exhibition takes place Monday evening, 31st inst. Seats may be secured up to Monday noon. A large number have been secured already.

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HAMBUJER AT BRYAN HALL.

Date: Jul 21, 1862
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HAMBUJER AT BRYAN HALL.

Chicago Tribune (1860-1872); Jul 21, 1862; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1985)
pg. 0_4

HAMBUJER AT BRYAN HALL. -To-night this celebrated magician commences his series of wonderful and inexplicable tricks of East Indian necromancy and slight-of-hand, among which, will be performed the (first time in the United States) the thrilling and tragic feat of murdering a boy and restoring him to life, and the beautiful and extraordinary suspension of a boy sixteen years of age, by a single hair of the head. Besides these, the professor will introduce a number of novel and unique experiments in the art *magique* never before seen in this country.

The fact of the feasibility of these wonderful feats was fully demonstrated at a private *soirée* given by Prof. Hambujer on Friday evening last, in the presence of the reportorial corps of this city.

A full orchestra of twelve musicians have been engaged from the Great Western Band, for the occasion, and neither pains nor expense have been spared to make this entertainment one of the most *recherche* affairs ever given in Chicago.

The professor and his boy will appear in full East Indian costume.

We understand that a large number of reserved seats have already been engaged, and we would advise all who intend going, to secure seats before two o'clock to-day.

PROFESSOR HAMBUJER

Chicago Tribune (1860-1872); Jul 18, 1862; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1985)
pg. 0_4

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In addition to the above wonderful and
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many interesting and novel experiments,
among which will be the restoration of a cana-
ry bird after having its head cut off. This
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Inst. Seats may be secured up to Monday
noon. A large number have been secured
already.

HAMBUJER.

Chicago Tribune (1860-1872); Jul 23, 1862; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1985)
pg. 0_4

HAMBUJER. —A very respectable audience gathered in Bryan Hall last evening upon the occasion of the second representation of the boy-murder. Upon Monday evening, the trick was not performed to the entire satisfaction of the audience, owing to circumstances beyond the control of the performer, but last evening it passed off very smoothly, and was received with great applause. This evening, Hambujer repeats it, together with many other interesting feats of sleight of hand.

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COLONEL EPHRAIM HAMBURG, AGED WAR VETERAN, DEAD.

Chicago Daily Tribune (1872-1963); Jun 2, 1913; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1985)
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**COLONEL EPHRAIM HAMBURG,
AGED WAR VETERAN, DEAD.**

**Soldier in Franco-Prussian and Civil
Struggles and Believed Oldest
Mason in Chicago Passes Away.**

Col. Ephraim Hamburg, veteran of wars for his fatherland and his adopted country, died Saturday at the Hamburg residence, 4049 Prairie avenue, at the age of 87. He was believed to be the oldest Mason in Chicago.

Col. Hamburg was born in Prussia Oct. 1, 1815, and entered the army at 18, continuing as drillmaster until he was detailed in 1850 for three years' detached service in London. In 1859 he came to the United States and settled in Detroit, working for the Detroit Free Press until the opening of the civil war, in which he served for four years.

At the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war he offered his services to his fatherland and at the close of the war was granted various medals. He was a Mason since 1858, when he was initiated at Edinburgh. He is survived by his widow and eight children. The funeral service at the residence tomorrow at 10 a. m. will be in charge of Bee Hive lodge No. 900. A. F. & A. M.

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