



# Theodor Kundtz

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

## Introduction

Theodor Kundtz (1852-1937) was a major manufacturer, financier, philanthropist, and leading Cleveland industrialist who was born in Metzenseifen, Hungary. His first job upon immigration to Cleveland was at the Whitworth Company, building cabinets for sewing machines. Upon starting his own business in 1878, Kundtz supplied all of the cabinets for the White Sewing Machine Company, eventually expanding to bicycle wheels and automobile bodies. His was one of the first vertically-integrated businesses in America. Kundtz was well known for his pride in his Hungarian heritage; in 1900, 92% of his 2,500 employees were Hungarian.

## Important Dates

- July 1, 1852: Theodor Kundtz is born in Metzenseifen, Hungary.
- 1873: Kundtz immigrates to Cleveland and takes a job at the Whitworth Company.
- 1875: Kundtz and coworkers purchase the Whitworth Company, renaming it the Cleveland Cabinet Company.
- 1878: Kundtz breaks with his partners and opens the Theodor Kundtz Company.
- 1884: Kundtz marries Maria Ballash; together they have ten children.
- 1890: Kundtz founds the Hungarian Savings and Loan Company and builds Hungaria Hall.
- 1900: Kundtz's business hits its peak, employing 2,500 employees, 92% of whom are Hungarian.
- 1902: Kundtz is knighted by Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary.
- 1903: The four-year building of Kundtz's home, Kundtz Castle, is complete.
- 1918: Kundtz serves on the Mayor's Advisory War Committee during World War I.
- 1925: The White Sewing Machine Company purchases Kundtz's company.
- September 14, 1937: Kundtz dies in Cleveland and is buried in Lakewood Park Cemetery.
- 1961: Kundtz Castle is torn down.
- 1994: Kundtz is posthumously awarded the George Washington Medal by the American-Hungarian Foundation.

## Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Theodor Kundtz, Whitworth Company, Cleveland Cabinet Company.
- Limit your search by date to find information about specific companies of Kundtz's.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.

## Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Knighted by Franz Josef"](#) *Western News* (Stevensville, MT), May 8, 1901, Image 2, col. 4.
- ["Ein gewonnener Streik."](#) *Echo: Wochenblatt der Vereinigten Deutschen Socialisten Clevelands* (Cleveland, OH), February 20, 1915, Image 4, col. 3.
- ["Dynamite is Found near War Supply Plant"](#) *El Paso Herald* (El Paso, TX), November 6, 1915, Image 25, col. 2.
- ["Fabryki firmy"](#) *Wiarus* (Winona, MN), November 18, 1915, Image 3, col. 6.
- ["\\$25,000 for Loss of Sight."](#) *Mahoning Dispatch* (Canfield, OH), May 19, 1916, Image 4, col. 2.