This is a numbered, blank, stock certificate for the Chester, Perryville, Ste. Genevieve & Farmington Railroad Company. Organized in 1894, the company was part of Louis Houck’s railroad network in southeastern Missouri.

In the late 1800s Louis Houck of Cape Girardeau financed and built a substantial railroad network in southeastern Missouri. Eventually much of it was either abandoned or absorbed into larger and stronger roads. According to records in the Missouri Secretary of State’s office, the Chester, Perryville, Ste. Genevieve & Farmington Railroad Company was incorporated on 19 April 1894 and was inactive by 8 November 1911. It appears to have been taken over by the Frisco system in 1902. This is blank stock certificate number 34, which probably has been removed from a larger book of blank certificates.

John Tlapek of Ste. Genevieve was general manager of this railroad from 1897 to 1902. Considerable correspondence about the company, much of it from Louis Houck, can be found in Tlapek’s papers, which have been microfilmed as WHMC-Rolla collection number R037.