

Volunteers make valuable contributions to the Special Collections Department

In the January 2009 issue, PastPorts featured three volunteers who contribute their time and talent to the Special Collections Department. The series continues this month with brief profiles of three other volunteers. The Department is grateful for the valuable work contributed by its volunteers.

Bill Mason wears many hats. In addition to being a truck driver for 32 years, he has also played the coronet and trumpet for the St. Louis Ragtimers since 1961. The group played at Gaslight Square for about three years before moving their act to the Showboat on the St. Louis riverfront near the Arch. The Department was fortunate to have the St. Louis Ragtimers perform at the Special Collections Department's 10th anniversary celebration in September 2008. Bill serves as the courier between the Special Collections Department and the St. Louis Genealogical Society, delivering periodicals to the library and taking other materials back and forth. He has volunteered in the Department since the Society moved its library to St. Louis County Library Headquarters more than ten years ago.

Mike McDermott is a multi-talented retired legal investigator. For about the past four years, he has indexed obituaries from the St. Louis German newspaper, *Westliche Post*, and so far has completed 1880 to April 1887. Mike, whose last name is obviously not German, learned the language from his maternal grandmother and from time spent in Bavaria during military service. Mike enjoys working out at the gym and playing with his grandchildren. He also volunteers at St. Wenceslaus Church where he serves as a lector and lay minister at Sunday Mass and as a liturgy director and commentator.

Barbara (Portell) Mottin worked for St. Louis County Library for more than twenty-five years, yet she still comes back to volunteer. As Barb says, she will always be a reference librarian at heart. In addition to her love for family history (she has deep Missouri French roots), reading and travel, Barb is also a volunteer for the St. Louis Food Bank and serves as a docent at the shrine of Ste. Philippine in St. Charles. Barb has volunteered in the Department since 2005, working on a personal name index to the *St. Louis County Watchman-Advocate* newspaper. She started with 1882 and has completed the index through July 1885.

New volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in serving, please contact Joyce Loving, Manager of the Special Collections Department, at (314) 994-3300, ext. 241.

Migration trails offer paths to discovery

“My ancestors started out in Virginia. How did they end up in Missouri, and what happened in between?” Why and how pioneers moved from settled eastern regions

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NEWS AND TIPS FROM THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

PastPorts is a monthly publication of the Special Collections Department located on Tier 5 at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh in St. Louis County, across the street from Plaza Frontenac.

CONTACT US

To subscribe, unsubscribe, change email addresses, make a comment or ask a question, contact the Department as follows:

BY MAIL

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131

BY PHONE

314-994-3300, ext. 208

BY EMAIL

collections@slcl.org

Regularly scheduled tours of the Special Collections Department are conducted on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of the month at 10:30 am. No advance registration is required. Group tours are gladly arranged with advance notice. Please call the Special Collections Department at 314-994-3300, ext. 208 for scheduling information.

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BOOK CHAT

to the Midwest and beyond is both a great American story and the story of our ancestors. Many of these trails still exist in the form of modern roads and highways. Examining ancestral migration routes can lead to possible locations of temporary settlement, which in turn can lead to local records and further clues in the genealogical quest. A number of resources in the Special Collections Department help identify and explain migration patterns and literally map out the route an ancestor may have followed.

William Dollarhide's *Map Guide to American Migration Routes* (Bountiful, Utah: AGLL Genealogical Services, 1997; call no. R 973 D665M) provides a quick overview of migration routes from the time of first European settlement to 1815. The text briefly explains the causes of migration and the resulting trails. Although not as attractively produced, *Immigration, Migration and Settlement in the United States: A Genealogical Guidebook* (Marilyn Lind, Cloquet, Minn.: The Linden Tree, 1985; call no. R 973 L742I) is also a useful resource. Chapters are divided into time periods. The author discusses social, cultural and economic factors that influenced migration, and summarizes migration patterns to or within individual states.

For more detailed information about migration and migration trails, Carrie Eldridge has produced a series of atlases with informative text. Volumes cover particular geographic areas (all volumes are located on the Oversize Shelf and published: Chesapeake, Ohio: Carrie Eldridge):

An Atlas of Appalachian Trails to the Ohio River
(1998, call no. R 975 E37A)

An Atlas of Northern Trails Westward from New England (2000, call no. R 974 E37A)

An Atlas of the Southern Trails to the Mississippi River
(1999, call no. 975 E37A)

An Atlas of Trails West of the Mississippi River
(2001, call no. 278 E37A)

Large, legible maps show route locations with dates, geographic features, settlements, trading post and fort locations. The text describes factors influencing migration and gives descriptions of the various routes as they can be seen today.

How trails developed is an interesting story in itself. Those interested in this history should find Mary B. Kegley's *Finding Their Way: From the Great Road to the Wilderness Road, 1745 – 1796* (Wytheville, Va.: Kegley Books, 2008; call no. R 975.5 K26F) a fascinating read. This well-researched and documented book discusses initial exploration of the land beyond Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountain barrier. Early settlers found non-existent or only primitive trails. The area's exploration, early trail establishment, and subsequent road improvements unleashed a flood of pioneers heading west. The author describes at length the political, social, economic and technological forces influencing trail development. Careful research led the author to confirm authentic route locations.

While the previously mentioned books devote much space to migration and migration paths, the Department also has books that put it all into a social and historical context. *Bound Away: Virginia and the Westward Movement* (David Hackett Fisher and James C. Kelly, Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2000; call no. R 975.5 F529B) discusses the groups who originally settled Virginia and those who migrated westward from there. The authors use stories of individuals as illustrations and discuss how Virginians brought their cultural legacy with them as they settled in other states, including Missouri's "Little Dixie." Chapters include the history of African American migration out of the state.

For the northern perspective, Stewart H. Holbrook offers a colorful account of westward migration in *The Yankee Exodus: An Account of Migration from New England* (New York: Macmillan, 1950; call no. 325.274 H724Y). Chapters describe the migrant's intentions and destinations. Chapters cover migrations from New England to particular states. The author often demonstrates how the particularly zealous worldview of New England pioneers, strongly influenced by their Puritanism, marked their intentions and the communities they founded in the West.

TIPS

■ Surnames originating in areas where Romance or Germanic languages are spoken can begin with an article or preposition. The names DeSimone, DiGregorio, DeLovely, LaFontaine, LaSalle, de Boer, van Dycke, van Beethoven, von Laar, von der Ohe, are just a few examples. If you can't find such a name in an index, try searching by the

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main word in the name. For instance, if you can't find "von Laar" under "V," try searching under "L" for Laar. Indexes often list surnames like these under the main word first. The ancestor might also have dropped the "von," or the person creating the record might have misunderstood the name.

WEB NEWS

Web Finds

■ **The American Presidency Project**: Executive orders, presidential proclamations, public papers, news conferences, and party platforms dating from the present to as far back as 1789—these are just some of the documents available on this website. This well-organized site provides an archive with links to document transcriptions. [<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/>]

■ **Calisphere**: The University of California in collaboration with the California Digital Library has produced this site giving access to digitized primary sources related to the history of the state. Well designed and organized, the site is both browseable and searchable, with links to manuscripts, documents, photos, art work, and oral histories. The site includes the Japanese American Relocation Digital Archive. Although designed for elementary and secondary school students and teachers, the site is a valuable source for anyone interested in California history. [<http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/>]

■ **Missouri History Museum Genealogy and Local History Index**: This database indexes hundreds of references at the library of the Missouri Historical Society. Users can search by personal name, business name, street address, or source. Sources include yearbooks, WWI service questionnaires, church histories, Civil War Loyalty oaths, business publications, and much more. [<http://www.mohistory.org/genealogy>]

■ **Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800**: The papers of the U.S. War Department were destroyed by fire in 1800. This project was undertaken in an attempt to reconstruct the files from various sources here and abroad. The result is a free searchable database of 55,000 War Department papers dating from 1784 to 1800. Military pensions, pay vouchers, settlements, and military appointments are just some of the sources available on the site. [<http://www.wardepartmentpapers.org>]

■ **Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms**: Have you run across an unfamiliar disease or medical term in an old record? Give this website a try. The data is both searchable and can be browsed. [<http://www.antiquusmorbus.com>]

■ **South Carolina Digital Library**: This website provides access to digitized photos, books, manuscripts, maps newspapers, and even sheet music. Images can be browsed by image type, county, region, and personal name. A search engine is also included. [<http://www.scmemory.org/index.php>]

New on Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry Library Edition is available at all St. Louis County Library locations.

■ **Denmark Births and Christenings, 1631-1900's**

■ **Denmark Marriages, 1631-1900's**

■ **Netherlands Births and Christenings, 1608-1882**

■ **Netherlands Marriages, 1637-1892**

These databases are indexes only and do not include original images. Names are indexed in the original languages, so researchers should take into account special letter forms where they fall in the language's alphabet.

■ **U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880**: Non-population schedules include Agricultural, Industry / Manufacturing and Social Statistics. The only state available at this time is South Carolina, but others will be added. The databases do not yet include a search engine, but the schedules can be browsed.

■ **U.S. Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1992**: This database includes images of index cards for federal naturalizations for Alaska, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Washington. These are for Federal naturalizations only, not local. The cards are filed by Soundex Code, not alphabetically, and the database is not otherwise indexed. A [Soundex converter](#) is available on the [Rootsweb website](#). [<http://resources.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/soundexconverter>]

Ancestry continues to add numerous titles to their German and Canadian Collections, so check back often for recent additions.

NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

The following is a selection of new items added to the collection. Additional items may have been received which are not listed here. The Department is grateful to the St. Louis Genealogical Society, the National Genealogical Society, Julius K. Hunter and Friends, and our patrons for their donations.

NEW ACQUISITION SPOTLIGHT

Shepley, Carol Ferring. *Movers and Shakers, Scalawags and Suffragettes: Tales from Bellefontaine Cemetery*. St. Louis: Missouri History Museum, 2008.
R 977.866 S548M

Bellefontaine, established in 1849, was a cemetery created as a picturesque resting place for the deceased and a monument to both the living and the dead. Shepley tells the history of St. Louis and this magnificent Cemetery through the stories of the people buried there. The book is a great source for those looking for biographical information about the famous and infamous personalities that helped shape the history of the St. Louis region. A list of biographies in the book is included in the [catalog record](#) in the library's [online catalog](http://webpac.slcl.org). [http://webpac.slcl.org]

Shepley will speak at the St. Louis County Library's Lewis and Clark Branch, 9909 Lewis-Clark Blvd. on Feb. 5, at 7 pm. Pre-registration is recommended by calling the branch at (314) 686-0331.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WEB PAGES

■ [Index to St. Louis County Court Records, Volume 1, 1824–1835](#)

A name index to microfilms of typed transcriptions of original records beginning in 1824. Diverse transactions include tavern and grocery licenses, road surveys, municipal building contracts, and inquests.

MICROFILM

■ **City directories—Arkansas**

Includes Blytheville, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Texarkana and West Memphis.

■ **City directories—Louisiana**

Includes Alexandria, Pineville, Baton Rouge, Lafayette,

Lake Charles, West Monroe, New Iberia, Opelousas, and Shreveport

■ **City directories—Missouri,**

Includes Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Hannibal, Independence Jefferson City, Carthage, Joplin, Moberly, Poplar Bluff, St. Charles, and St. Joseph.

Dates of city directories vary, but generally range from the 19th century to the mid-20th century. Inquire at the Special Collection Reference Desk for location and exact dates.

BOOKS

Call numbers follow each title. Complete bibliographic information for each item is available in the St. Louis County Library's [online catalog](#).

■ **States and Counties**

Abbreviated titles unless italicized

OHIO

Licking County, R 977.154
Cemeteries of Eden, Fallsbury and Perry Townships
Index 1816 Tax Record
Index 1834 Tax Duplicate
Index to Home Register 1838-1872
Index to pre-1808 Transcribed Land Records
Probate Records 1828-1904

■ **Scotland**

Blair Atholl Church: Monumental Inscriptions. 2006.
R 941.28 B635
East Preston Street Burial Ground. 2008.
R 941.34 I24E
Monumental Inscriptions: Dallas Churchyard and the Dallas and Kellas War Memorials. R 941.22 M815

■ **Family Histories**

The Descendants of Frank Nichols and Mary Petit. 2008. [NGS] 929.2 N616S
A Ripple in the Pond, the Life Story of Freeman Nickerson and Huldah Chapman. [NGS] 929.2 R225R

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NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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The Tillotson Family, Long Island Cordwood, and the Decline of East Coast Sail [NGS] 929.2 W589T

Vautrin-Wotring-Woodring Family: Lorraine-Alsace-Pennsylvania 1640-1790. 929.2 W893B

■ Other new titles

Cattaraugus County Bicentennial History 1808-2008. 2008. R 974.794 C368

Dobson, David. *Irish Emigrants in North America, Part 7.* 2008. R 973.0491 D635I

Dobson, David. *Scots-Irish links, 1575-1725.* 2008. Part 7. R 941.507 D635S

Meehan, Helen. *A Guide to Tracing Your Donegal Ancestors.* 2008. [NGS] 929.1 M494G

Methodism in Devon: A Handlist of Chapels and Their Records. 1989. [NGS] 942.35 T511M

Saint Barbara's Parish: Saint Louis, Missouri 1893-1943. 1943. R 977.866 S135

Words of the Uprooted: Jewish Immigrants in early Twentieth-Century America. 1998. R 362.84924 W924

CALENDAR

A list of events taking place at the St. Louis County Library

Note: Dates for Special Collections Department classes are indicated by 📞. Please register for classes in advance of the date by calling 314-994-3300 and asking for the Reference Department. Once connected, tell the Reference Librarian you would like to register for a class.

All events are free and open to the public.

FEBRUARY

📞 Wednesday, February 4, 2-4 pm

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

Saturday, February 7, 11 am

Headquarters East Room
STLGS African-American Special Interest Group

📞 Thursday, February 12, 2-4 pm

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: History and Genealogy in Newspapers

Saturday, February 14, 10 am

Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Meeting
Topic: "Timelines: Linking Historical Events to Our Family History"
Speaker: Pat Stamm

MARCH

Monday, March 2, 2-4 pm

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

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CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm

Headquarters East Room
STLGS Jewish Special Interest Group

Thursday, March 12, 2-4 pm

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: History and
Genealogy in Newspapers

Saturday, March 14, 10 am

Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Meeting
Topic: "The Family History Library Website:
www.familysearch.org"
Speaker: Larry Franke

Tuesday, March 17, 6:30-8:30 pm

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to
Genealogy Databases

Wednesday, March 18, 7 pm

Headquarters Auditorium
STLGS German Special Interest Group

Thursday, March 25, 7 pm

Headquarters Auditorium
STLGS French Special Interest Group

Saturday, March 28, 9:30-Noon

Headquarters Auditorium
Special Collections Department Event
Topic: "Italian Genealogical Research"
Speaker: Scott Biondo

Have you checked out the [Special Collections Department website?](#)

Guides to the collection, indexes to sources and other valuable, time-saving information are yours at the click of a mouse. Log on to:

[HTTP://WWW.SLCL.ORG/BRANCHES/HQ/SC/](http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/)

SAVE THE DATE! SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT SPECIAL EVENTS

Italian Genealogical Research

March 28, 2009, 9:30 am—Noon

Headquarters Auditorium

Speaker:

Scott Biondo, Italian Club of St. Louis

Genealogical Resources at the St. Louis Police Library

April 4, 2009, 9:30 am—Noon

Headquarters Auditorium

Speakers:

Barbara Miksicek, Librarian,
St. Louis Police Library

Joyce Loving, Manager,
Special Collections Department,
St. Louis County Library