FOR THE RECORDS

Researching Alsace and Lorraine

Publications and websites mentioned in this article are listed in the bibliography.

Alsace and Lorraine are storied, often contested lands located in eastern France on its border with Germany and the Low Countries. Alsace (see map, right), at 3,196 square miles, is about one-quarter larger than the state of Connecticut[1]. Lorraine (see map, page 4), at 9,089 square miles, is just slightly smaller than the state of Vermont[2]. Along with Champaign-Ardenne, they form the modern region Grand Est whose regional capital and largest city is Strasbourg.

The historic Alsace Region was the smallest in metropolitan France, made up of two departments, Bas-Rhin in the north and Haut-Rhin in the south. The region features a large plain about four times longer than it is wide and situated between the Vosges Mountains and the Rhine River. Prior to the Franco-Prussian War, Alsace, specifically the Haut-Rhin, also included the Territoire de Belfort. When the Germans took control over the rest of Alsace, it became the smallest department in France, and was attached to Franche-Comté and is now part of Bourgogne- Franche-Comté.

The historic Lorraine Region was much larger and consisted of four departments, Meurthe-et-Moselle, Meuse, Moselle, and Vosges. The territory included the historical Duchy of Lorraine, Barrois, the Three Bishoprics (Metz, Verdun, and Toul), and a number of small principalities.

Alsace includes the French *départements* of Haut-Rhin (Upper Rhine) and Bas-Rhin (Lower Rhine) | Map source: Europa Pages, <http://www.europa-pages.net/maps/Alsace.gif>.

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Because of the long, turbulent history of these regions, family history researchers face several distinct problems and opportunities. We will consider the history of the region and how it impacts genealogical research.

A brief history of Alsace and Lorraine

Pre– and early history

Very little is known about the earliest inhabitants of Alsace or Lorraine. Most likely they were nomadic hunter/gatherers in prehistoric times. By 1500 BCE Celtic people began settling in the area. By 58 BCE the Romans were established in Gaul, which included Alsace and Lorraine. This forms the original basis for the French claim to the areas. The Romans established viticulture and built military posts and fortifications to protect the increasing agricultural production in the area, the most important being Argentoratum. Many of the cities and towns in Alsace and Lorraine today can trace their history to the Roman period.

With the decline of Rome, the Alamani, a Germanic people, came to dominate the area in the Fourth Century CE. They renamed Argentoratum as Stratebourg (French Strasbourg, German Straßburg), meaning "the city of the roads." Even then Strasbourg had become an important trading center. This forms the basis of the German claim to the areas.

The Frankish period

During the Fifth Century CE, a Germanic tribe called the Franks gradually took control of the regions and the areas that became Alsace and Lorraine were integrated into the Kingdom (later Empire) of the Franks. Under Charlemagne (Karl der Grosse in German), the Empire reached its greatest size and became the largest empire in Europe since the fall of Rome.

Upon Charlemagne's death in 814 CE, the empire passed to his son, Louis the Pious who ruled until his death in 840 CE. With the death of Louis, intense fighting broke out between Louis' three sons, Lothar, Charles (Karl) the Bald and Louis (Ludwig) the German. Louis the Pious' intent was that Lothar should succeed him as emperor with territory going to the other two as "kings."

Distrusting Lothar, Charles the Bald and Louis the German swore an oath of friendship at Strasbourg that was recorded in both French and German, thus beginning the language divide between the French and German areas. The Treaty of Verdun awarded West Francia to Charles the Bald, East Francia to Louis the German, and Middle Francia to Lothar. Lothar was also nominally the Emperor of the Franks but the title had little meaning. West Francia became the nucleus of France, and East Francia the nucleus of modern Germany.

Lothar's territory included the areas covered by modern-day Alsace, Lorraine, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands Switzerland, Northern Italy, and the German states of North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, and Saarland. This region, located between France and Germany, became a source of conflict that was not resolved until the end of the Second World War and the founding of the European Union.

When Lothar died in 855 CE, his territory was divided again. Charles the Bald took Northern Italy, Louis the German took Alsace, Switzerland, and territories in what is modern Germany. Lothar's son, Lothar II was given the remaining territory, which included Lorraine and the Low Countries. This rump kingdom was known as Lotharingia (Lothar's Land), or Lorraine in French.

For the next several hundred years the histories of Alsace and Lorraine diverge and must be considered separately.

How Alsace became part of France

The kingdom of East Francia evolved into the Holy Roman Empire. Alsace, as the western portion of the Duchy of Swabia, was a part of the Empire. The area was prosperous and peaceful during the reign of the Hohenstaufen Emperors through the 12th and 13th centuries. In the 14th century a series of cold winters, poor harvests, and the Bubonic

plague followed in quick succession. These calamities were blamed on the Jews. Synagogues were burned and Jewish families were murdered or driven out.

Alsace became part of the battlefield of the 30 Years War (1618–1648). This conflict, often viewed as a struggle between the Protestants of northern Europe and the Catholics of the south, was also the first of many struggles between the Bourbon Kings of France and the Hapsburg Kings of Austria. Catholic France joined the war on the side of the Protestants in order to thwart the growing power of the Hapsburgs, who ruled Spain, Belgium, Austria, and the Holy Roman Empire encircling France.

The Peace of Westphalia (1648) ending the war granted France most of Alsace, although Strasbourg and the major cities remained part of the Holy Roman Empire. The treaty of Nimwegen in 1678, at the end of the Dutch War, brought most of the Alsatian cities under French Control. The treaty of Ryswick ended the War of the League of Augsburg. It granted France the city of Strasbourg, bringing all of Alsace under French control.

How Lorraine became French

The death of Lothar II in 869 CE brought chaos to Lorraine. Henry the Fowler, Duke of Saxony and King of the Germans, brought peace and security to Lorraine after defeating Giselbert in 925 CE. He made Lorraine a Duchy of the German Empire, later known as the Holy Roman Empire.

Henry's son, Otto I, succeeded him as King in 936 CE. After a revolt by the Duke of Lorraine, Otto granted the Duchy to his brother, Bruno I, who was also the Archbishop of Cologne. With the death of Bruno, the Duchy of Lorraine was split into two: Lower Lorraine (modern Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg) and Upper Lorraine (modern Lorraine).

In the 11th and 12th Centuries CE, the Duchy of Lower Lorraine fragmented into separate duchies
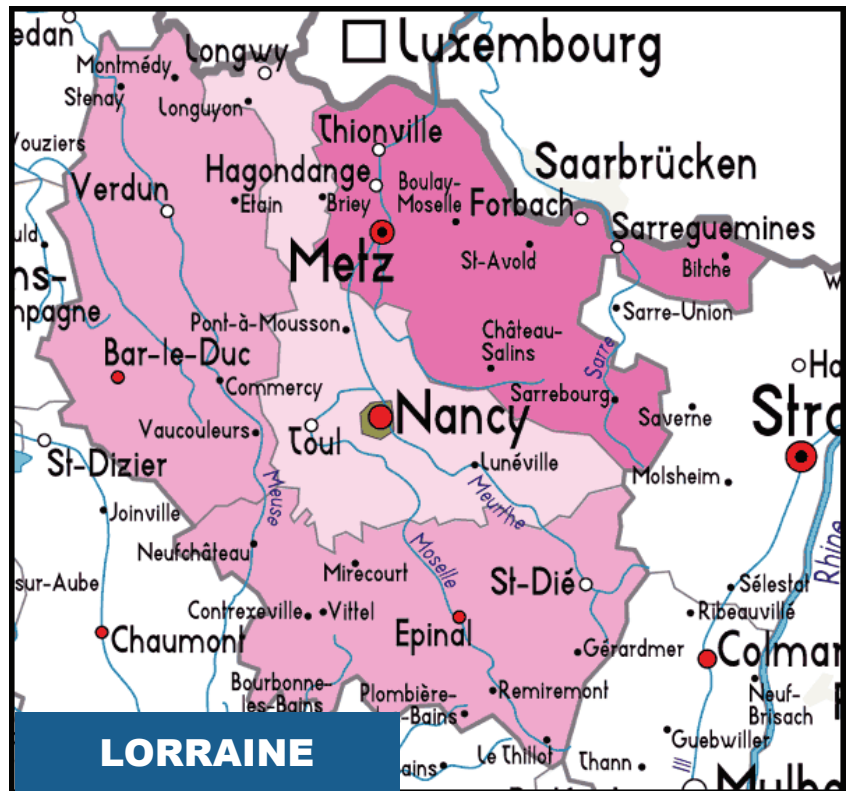
Lorraine includes the French *départements* of Meurthe-et-Moselle, Meuse, Moselle, and Vosges. | Map source: Europa Pages, <http://www.europa-pages.net/maps/Lorraine.gif>.

(Brabant, Limburg, Geire) as well as several counties and Imperial Fiefs. The Duke of Brabant retained the title "Duke of Lower Lorraine," but for all intents and purposes Lower Lorraine ceased to exist and the former Upper Lorraine became known simply as Lorraine. It was a territory that would be in dispute between German and French rulers for the next several centuries.

In 1473, the Treaty of Nancy began the transfer of Lorraine to French control. It declared Charles of Burgundy "protector" of Lorraine. He was allied with France, but the Bishops of Toul, Metz, and Verdun in the territory of Lorraine were ecclesiastical princes of the Holy Roman Empire. When Charles died in 1476, Lorraine became an independent Duchy allied with France and ruled by Duke Renee. Renee's heir, Duke Anthony, confirmed the independence of Lorraine from the Holy Roman Empire in the 1542 Convention of Nuremburg. The church apparently agreed with

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this arrangement and placed the Duchy under the French Bishop in 1546. The dioceses of Metz, Toul, and Verdun came under French bishopric by 1552.
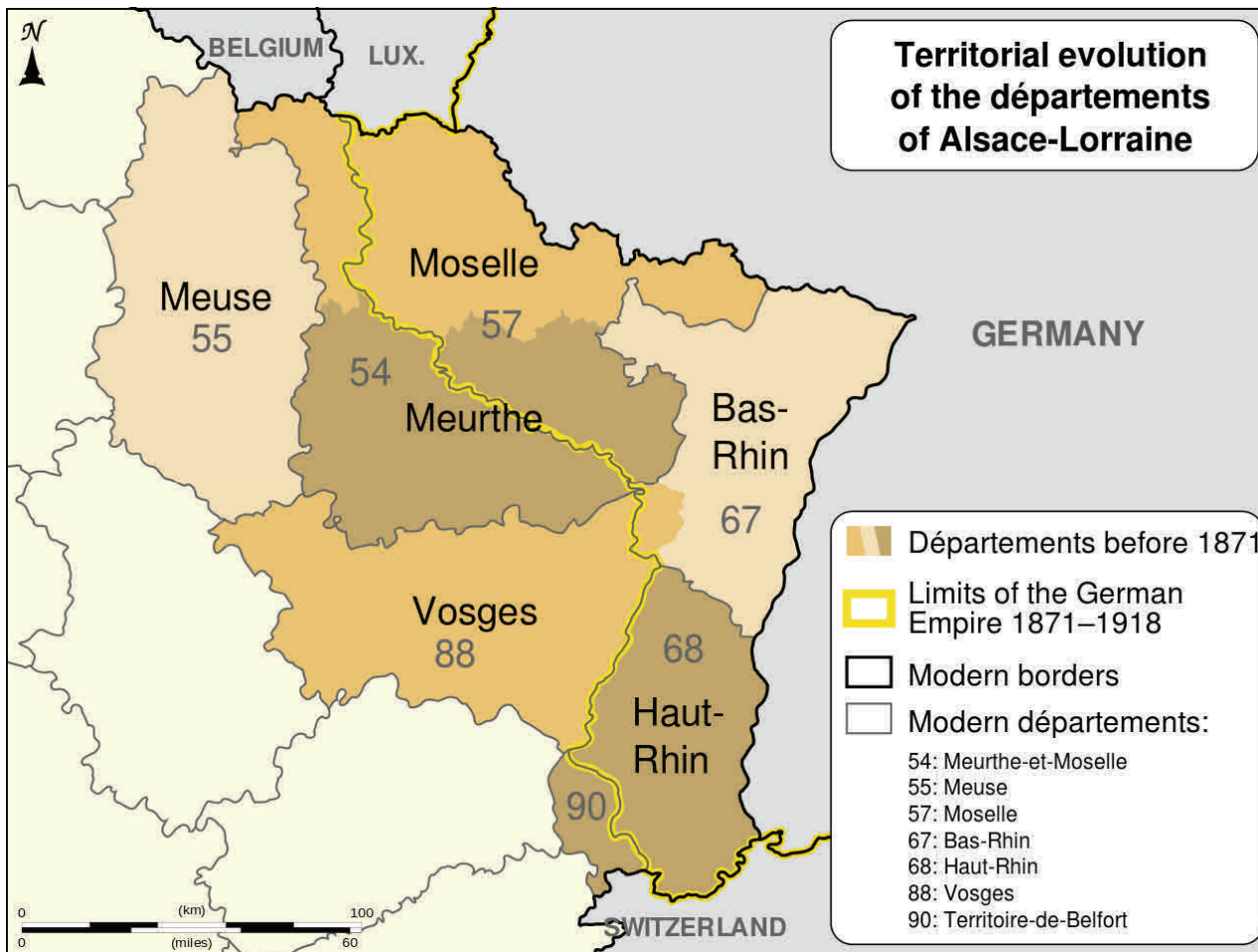
During the 30 Years War, the Protestant German princes promised Lorraine and its cities to France if they were to join with them against Austria, the Holy Roman Empire, and the Catholic League. France agreed to these terms, and the 1698 Peace of Westphalia ending the war confirmed France's possession of Metz, Toul, Verdun, and much of the rest of Lorraine.

The next 100 years brought about the final incorporation of Lorraine into France. The 1659 Treaty of Pyrenees restored Lorraine to Duke Charles IV, but with diminished power. In the Treaty of Nimwegen, Louis XIV recognized Charles V as Duke of Lorraine but began incorporating its cities into France and assuming more control of the territory. In 1697, Duke Leopold negotiated with Louis XIV to retain the title of Duke but was given very little authority. Finally, in the 1738 Treaty of Vienna, Duke Franz ceded Lorraine to France in exchange for Tuscany. Stanislaus, the deposed King of Poland, was named titular Duke for life.

Alsace and Lorraine under French rule

As the French began to exercise more and more control over Alsace and Lorraine, the history of these two territories became more and more the history of France. King Henry IV of France who had been raised a Protestant converted to Catholicism and became King of France in 1598. On April 13, 1598 he issued the Edict of Nantes, which granted religious freedom to his realm.

The law ended the religious conflicts in the country and was in effect for 87 years. On October 18, 1685, King Louis XIV issued the Edict of Fontainebleau, which revoked the Edict of Nantes. Suddenly, Protestants were outlawed and their churches forbidden to keep records. This caused much strife across France

**Territorial evolution
of the départements
of Alsace-Lorraine**

Départements before 1871

Limits of the German
Empire 1871–1918

Modern borders

Modern départements:

54: Meurthe-et-Moselle
55: Meuse
57: Moselle
67: Bas-Rhin
68: Haut-Rhin
88: Vosges
90: Territoire-de-Belfort

Map showing the areas of Alsace and Lorraine that became part of the German Empire. Source: Wikimedia <http://bit.ly/2nRhOiT>,

as Protestant Huguenots fled as refugees to more hospitable lands. Alsace and Lorraine were largely ignored in this repression, however. The ability of Protestant churches to function and keep records means that many Protestant records in Alsace and Lorraine survived intact and are available to research today.

Alsace and Lorraine were both far from the centers of action in the French revolution (1789–1799). During this period, France developed a system of civil registration for births, marriages and deaths that is still in effect today. Alsace and Lorraine were also affected by the Revolutionary Calendar. The calendar, which replaced the Gregorian Calendar, was established in October 1793 and began with the day the Republic was proclaimed. Thus Day 1 of Year I was equivalent to September 22, 1792, but no records used it until Year II. The calendar divided the year into 12 months,

each consisting of three weeks or decades of 10 days each. The extra five days (or six in a leap year) were added at the end of the year as special holidays celebrating the ideals of the revolution. Each of the 12 months was given a name, suggestive of the time of year[3].

Because the calendar was created by the state it was used on all civil records. It was not widely popular, as it gave only one day of rest in 10, unlike the Gregorian week that gave one day in seven. It also caused confusion and created difficulties in communicating with the rest of Europe. Napoleon abandoned the calendar on January 1, 1804 (or in the Year XII by its own reckoning). The calendar resurfaced during the period of the Commune of Paris at the end of the Franco-Prussian War, but only in Paris and its immediate environs.

A final event of note concerning the revolutionary period is that the Jews of France were determined to be French and subject to the Civil Registration. To facilitate this, Napoleon required each Jewish family to select a hereditary surname. France was the first European country to make this requirement.

The Franco-Prussian War and the Treaty of Frankfort

The Franco—Prussian War (1870–1871) was an unmitigated catastrophe for France. Emperor Napoleon III was captured and Paris was under siege. The treaty ending the war was devastating. Bismarck and the Prussians took most of Alsace and about a quarter of Lorraine. Theoretically, the goal of taking the territory was to place the German speakers of Alsace and Lorraine in the German Empire. In actual practice, the new boundary followed the defensible ridgeline, stranding some French speakers on the wrong side of the new border.

So, where exactly was the border drawn? What is now Bas-Rhin and Haute-Rhin became part of Germany as Oberelsaß and Unterelsaß. Together they were Elsaß (Elsass). The region around the town of Belfort was French speaking and put up a tremendous resistance during the war. It stayed French and became the Territoire de Belfort. It left Alsace and has never returned.

In Lorraine, the Germans took most of Moselle and some of Muerthe. This area was combined as Lothringen. The parts of Moselle and Muerthe that remained French were combined into a new department, Meurthe-et-Moselle. It, along with Meuse and Vosges, became a rump of French Lorraine. The Germans also took two departments from Vosges and attached them to Alsace.

The German territory became known as the *Reichsland Elsaß-Lothringen* (Imperial Territory of Alsace-Lorraine). The Kaiser was the governor of the territory. During this period, the civil records were kept, but in German instead of French.

One of the provisions of the Treaty of Frankfort allowed for French citizens of Alsace or Lorraine to opt to keep their French citizenship. The overwhelming desire of Alsatians and Lorrainers was to remain French. They had become attached to the ideals of the French Revolution and disliked Prussian militarism. Most were not in position to leave and thus were forced to remain under German rule. The 150,000 who claimed French citizenship were required to vacate the territory, with most migrating to Paris, one of the other larger cities, or Algeria.

Alsace and Lorraine in the 20th Century

The defeat of Germany in World War I brought new difficulties to Alsace and Lorraine. Under the Treaty of Versailles, Germany ceded the territories back to France. Encouraged by U. S. President Woodrow Wilson, the regional government of Alsace-Lorraine declared independence, a move the French government would not tolerate. Independence lasted only about 11 days. France regained possession of the region, and an effort was made to make the region French. Germans who had settled in the area between 1871 and the end of the war were expelled. Efforts were made to suppress the German language. Germany handed the civil records back to France and recordkeeping resumed in French. Oberelsaß became Department Haut-Rhin and Unterelsaß became Department Bas-Rhin. Lothringen became Department Moselle. The area became collectively known as Alsace-Moselle.

Because the territory was not part of France for such an extended period, Alsace-Moselle was exempted from some French laws. The most striking example is in the area of separation of church and state. Although there was (and continues to be) a constitutional right of freedom of religion in France, Alsace-Moselle operates under the pre-1905 arrangements established by the Concordant of 1801[4]. Consequently there is a public subsidy of Catholic, Lutheran, and Reformed (Calvinist) churches, and the Jewish religion. Public education is provided in each of these faiths and their

clergy are paid by the state. Alsace-Moselle also has a different law of associations, a different approach to personal bankruptcy, and a different social security system from the rest of France. Another unusual difference is that most trains in Alsace-Moselle run on the right of the tracks as they do in Germany rather than on the left, which is normal for the rest of France.

The Second World War brought more chaos and disruption to the region. Alsace and Lorraine were annexed as part of the German Reich by Hitler. Alsace was merged with Baden and Lorraine with Saarland.

At the close of the war, France regained the territories and began once again the process of assimilating them into France. This policy of assimilation is still in effect in France today and applies not only to Alsace-Moselle but also to Bretagne, Auvergne, and other areas where French was not the native language. It is currently a bone of contention between the French government and its Islamic community.

Today Alsace is a French Speaking area. Due to the proximity of the border there are, of course, a large number of people who also speak German. There is also a renewed interest in teaching the Alsatian dialect in schools, a movement that is mostly tolerated by the French government.

Finding your ancestors in Alsace and Lorraine

If you find an ancestor listed in the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1920, 1930, and 1940 with a birth place of France, but in the 1880, 1900, and 1910 with a birth place of Germany, you have almost certainly identified an ancestor from the Alsace-Moselle area. You should then determine his or her specific town or village of origin.

"Finding your Ancestors in German Church Records" (*PastPorts*, June 2016) lists 18 ideas for finding a European town of origin. Consult this list for ideas on how to find your ancestor's home town. In addition, the following resources will be helpful for finding places in Alsace or Moselle:

Check Emigration Indexes and Books.

■ Cornelia Schrader-Muggenthaler's two volume series, *The Alsace Emigration Book* lists over 20,000 emigrants from Alsace between 1817 and 1870. The alphabetical listings provide the individual's name, birth year, birthplace, and date of emigration.

■ Jean Fleury's, Lorrains *Émigrés en Amérique de 1815 à 1875: Alsace émigrés en Amérique de 1815 à 1875* lists emigrants alphabetically by surname and includes the date and place of his/her birth, their destination in the United States, parents and spouses

■ Individuals who were issued passports by the government of the Haut-Rhin Department are listed in Clifford Neal Smith's, *Emigrants from France (Haut-Rhin Departement) to America*. The names were extracted from registrars seven and eight and include the name of the emigrant, age, profession, accompanying family members, place of birth, residence at the time the passport was issued, and the destination. The names are listed in order of the volume and entry number, but there is a surname index at the back of the book.

■ If your ancestors came to the United States in the eighteenth century, check out Annette Kunselmann Burgert's, *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the Northern Alsace to America*. The volume lists emigrants alphabetically. The names are derived from both European and American records and include family members and home villages.

■ Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby's *Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports* volumes may also list your ancestor.

■ Visit the website "La France de votre Nom de Famille." This French-language site lists the distribution of surnames across the various departments of France for four time periods: 1891–1915, 1916–1940, 1941–1955, and 1956–1990. Type the surname you are looking for into the box labeled "VOTRE NOM" and

click the "Valider" button. You will be taken to a color-coded map of France showing which departments the surname appeared in 1891–1915. To the right of the map is a list of departments where the name appeared, displayed from the most to the fewest. Clicking on the department name will open a new window and give a list of the communes within the department where the name appeared. This tool is more useful for an uncommon name than for a common one.

■ Finally, try the modern French Telephone Directory *(Pages blanches)*. If you have an unusual surname and if your relatives didn't move too far, you might be able to plot the data on a distribution chart and zero in on a town.

Researching Alsace-Moselle

Because Alsace-Moselle was part of the German Empire in 1912, its towns and villages were included in the *Meyers Orts-und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs* (commonly referred to as the Meyers-Orts). The Meyers-Orts has been digitized and translated online. The record will indicate the "Standesamt"— the location of the civil register office where ancestral records might be held.

Finding the German name of the town *(commune)* is typically not difficult. *Wikipedia* provides alphabetical lists of the communes by department (see table, above).

The French departmental archives are in the process of digitizing records and making them available online. At this writing the Department Bas-Rhin has digitized the Civil Registrations and the Parish Registers (from before 1792), and the Department Haut-Rhin has digitized the civil registrations. The Department Moselle has digitized parish registers and the ten-year indexes to civil registrations (see table, above). Records might also be available through FamilySearch.org.

These websites were created in France for French

Links to lists of communes in Alsace-Moselle	
Department	**Wikipedia link**
Bas-Rhin	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communes_of_the_Bas-Rhin_department
Haut-Rhin	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communes_of_the_Haut-Rhin_department
Moselle	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communes_of_the_Moselle_department

Links to departmental archives in Alsace-Moselle	
Department	Link to departmental archives
Bas-Rhin	http://archives.bas-rhin.fr/
Haut-Rhin	http://www.archives.haut-rhin.fr/
Moselle	http://www.archives57.com/index.php/recherches/archives-en-ligne

speakers. If your French language skills are not up to navigating a website, there is an easy solution. Open the website in one browser tab and open *Google Translate* in another. Copy the URL from the French website into the first box and select French as the language. Select English for the other box and click on the "Translate" button. This will generate a URL for an English Language version of the website. Click on the link and it will open.

There are two potential problems with this approach, however. First, the translation will not be in perfect English. Of greater importance, the links on the translated page may or may not work. This depends on how the code was written for the original page. If the link does not work, look at where it appears on the page. Then find it in the same location on the original site. Click on it there and repeat the translation with that page.

Civil registration, as previously noted, began with the French Revolution in 1792. These records, which are public after 100 years, are pretty straight-forward. They are generally written on a form in French or German, depending on the period. They include re-

cords of birth, marriage, and death. Each category has its own book, with a separate book for each year. Records are listed in chronological order. An index normally occurs at the end of each book. Ten-year indexes, called *décennales*, are also available.

Specific records are usually easy to find. Just go to the correct volume and look for it in date order. If you only know the year, consult the index for that volume. If you do not know the year, consult the décennale.

The research process should be something like this:

1. Begin with your ancestor's birth record and find the name of his or her parents. Then look for their marriage. From the marriage you will learn their birth years and their parents' names

2. To find your ancestor's siblings, look at the index for a child with the correct surname, and then check the individual record to see if he or she has the correct parents. If everything is a match, you have found a sibling.

3. To find the marriage record, look for the date of the marriage and then the names of the couple, if there is more than one record for a given day. The marriage record will give you the birth dates of the couple and the name of their parents.

4. Return to the birth records to find the records for the parents. Then back to the marriage records to find the marriage of the grandparents. Continue working back in time until you reach 1792.

5. You may discover that an ancestor came from a different town. To trace his or her line further, you then will need to look at the records from that place.

6. Since death is an arbitrary event, the only way to find a death record is to search the indexes

Once you have gone back to 1792, you will have to move into church records. Finding the church may require some additional work. Your ancestor's town may have been a part of a parish in a neighboring community. Kevan M. Hansen's *Map Guide to German Parish Registers* offer the best way to learn what towns or villages comprise a particular parish. Alsace-Moselle is included in these because the areas were, for a time, part of the German Empire. A description of how to use these volumes can be found in "Finding a Parish using Map Guide to German Parish Registers" (*PastPorts*, June 2016).

The differences in approach when using church records can be defined in four principal ways.

1. Churches are concerned with baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials, whereas the civil records are concerned with births, marriages and deaths. A baptism record might include birth information, and a burial record might include a death date. It depends upon the minister or priest making the record.

2. Church records may be recorded on a printed form, follow a written format, or may be a narrative text.

3. Church records might not be indexed—it depends on whether or not the recording clergyman made an index.

4. The language the records are in will depend upon the denomination. Catholic records are usually in Latin, Lutheran records are usually in German, and Calvinist / Reformed records are usually in French. Of course, there are exceptions.

Other research issues, problems, and resources

Researching in Meurthe-et-Moselle, Meuse, Vosges, and Territoire de Belfort

Researching in these areas is similar to the rest of Alsace and Lorraine except that they were never part of the German Empire. Which means records were never kept in German. German resources, such as Myers Orts and *Map Guide to German Parish Records* do

not apply. Civil Registrations and church records are digitally available these departments (see table, right).

Jewish research

Eastern France is no exception to the anti-Semitism that was endemic in European history. Massacres, pogroms, expulsions, and the desecration and destruction of synagogues were unfortunately common, as were the destruction of related records..

Some records survived, however. According to an article by Daniel N. Leeson in *Avotaynu*, some pre 1784 Jewish records exist in Alsatian archives (although not in the department archives). Included among them are betrothal agreements. Many of the documents are written in the Judeo-Alsatian dialect using the Hebrew alphabet which may make them inaccessible to many researchers.

The History & Genealogy Department also has a microfiche copy of Daniel N. Leeson's, *Four Indices to the 1784 Census of Alsatian Jews*. This census was created when King Louis XVI became aware of the mistreatment of Jews and wanted to offer them a protected status. Local officials took the census so they could identify exactly who came under the protection. The census asked the names, ages, capacities, places of birth and professions of each individual. The published census does not include all of this information, but it is still helpful in identifying individuals and their families in Alsace.

In 1808, Napoleon required the French Jews to take hereditary surnames. This requirement created a new set of records or declarations whereby Jewish families selected their surname. These records are now kept in the department archives, although they have not been digitized as of this writing. Transcriptions are available in book form[5]. The adoption of surnames made it possible for Jews to be recorded with French Christians in civil records from 1808 forward. Alsatians and Lorrainers who opted for French citizenship after the Franco-Prussian War

Department archives, Meurthe-et-Moselle, Meuse, Vosges, and Territoire de Belfort	
Department	**Link to departmental archives**
Meurthe et Moselle	http://www.archives.meurthe-et-moselle.fr/fr/archives-en-ligne.html
Meuse	http://archives.meuse.fr/search/home
Vosges	http://archives.vosges.fr/
Territoirie de Belfort	http://www.archives.cg90.fr/

Alsations and Lorrainers who opted for French citizenship after the Franco-Prussian War

The Treaty of Frankfort ending the Franco-Prussian War automatically gave German citizenship to residents of Alsace and Lorraine unless they opted to retain their French citizenship. If they did, they were required to file a form with the French government and vacate the territory.

The French Government kept records of these people, in 395 alphabetical lists, which were published in the bulletin of laws. Records give the birth dates, place of birth, and sometimes the destination the migrants. These records are available on *Ancestry.com*.

Ortssippenbücher

As of this writing, the History & Genealogy Department holds over 75 *Ortsippenbücher* from Alsace and Lorraine, with additional volumes arriving periodically. A complete list is on the library's website <http://bit.ly/2rZlWmb>. To learn more, see "Ortsippenbücher and other locale—specific resources are rich in genealogical data" (PastPorts, Aug. 2010) and Daniel R. Lilienkamp's "Using Ortsippenbücher to Research Your Family ."

Les Noms de Famille

Les Noms de Famille is a series of French books listing the most common surnames in the department. The book provides the origin of the name, famous people from the area with that name, and other names with a similar meaning.

Handwriting aids

Many records were written in Gothic script (even when the record's language was French). This differs considerably from English handwriting and is difficult to decipher. Two useful resources are Edna Bentz's *If I Can, You Can Decipher Germanic Records*, and the FamilySearch Wiki (see bibliography).

Although the troubled history of Alsace and Lorraine create a number of obstacles for a family historian to overcome, ultimately, the wealth of resources from the area prove to be a treasure worth seeking. Once we learn where to look and how to look, suddenly doors seem to open to us, and our long deceased ancestors find a new life in our memories and our hearts.

Notes

1. Alsace area is 8,280 square kilometers per *Wikipedia*: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsace (accessed Dec. 5, 2017). This calculates to 3,196 square miles. Connecticut is 5,567 square miles per *Wikipedia*: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Connecticut (accessed 5 Dec. 5, 2017).

2. Lorraine is 23,547 square kilometers per *Wikipedia*: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorraine (accessed Dec. 5, 2017. This calculates to 9092 square miles. Vermont is 9,616 square miles per per *Wikipedia*: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermont (accessed Dec. 5, 2017).

3. The months were Vendémiaire (vintage), Brumaire (mist), Frimaire (frost), Nivôse (snow), Pluviôse (rain), Ventôse (wind), Germinal (seed), Floréal (blossom), Prairial (meadow), Messidor (harvest),

Thermidor (heat), and Fructidor (fruits). In Alsace and Lorraine, these names sometimes came to be written in a sort of Germanic equivalent of the French.

4. The Concordant of 1801 between Napoleon Bonaparte and the Roman Catholic Church settled the breach caused by the church reforms and confiscations during the French Revolution. Among other provisions, the government agreed to pay the salaries of cures and bishops in compensation. This arrangement was later extended to the Protestant churches and Jewish synagogues. The French government abrogated this arrangement in 1905 with the passages of the "Separation Law."

5. See also Pierre Kats, *Recueils des déclarations de prise de nom patronymique des Juifs du Bas-Rhin en 1808, Recueils des déclarations de prise de nom patronymique des Juifs de Lorraine en 1808: Moselle, Meruthe-ét-Moselle,* and *Recueils des déclarations de prise de nom patronymique des Juifs du Haut-Rhin en 1808*, Cercle de Généalogie Juive, 1996-1999. These publications are held by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and perhaps elsewhere.

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Lilienkamp, Daniel R. "Using Ortsippenbücher to Research Your Family." PDF. https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/Using%20Ortsippenb%C3%BCcher%20to%20Research%20Your%20Family-Lilienkamp.pdf (accessed Feb. 7, 2016).

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de Bergh, Anne, et al. *Les noms de famille du Haut-Rhin.* Paris: Archives & Culture, 2007. R 944.393 N799

Mergnac, Marie-Odile and Larent Millet. *Les noms de famille de la Meuse.* Paris: Archives & Culture, 2006. R 944.381 N799

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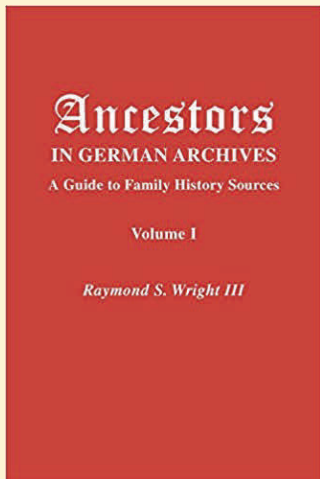Archives départementales de la Moselle. "Archives en ligne." http://www.archives57.com/index.php/recherches/archives-en-ligne.

LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSING

Presidents' Day | Monday, Feb. 19

Shelf life

Book | Ancestors in German Archives

You know the town your immigrant ancestor came from. You made all the necessary reservations months in advance to visit his or her birthplace in Germany, and you have researched a few must-see tourist attractions. You've even brushed up on your German. But one important step remains: informing yourself about local archives. A convenient source for finding information about genealogical collections in Germany is *Ancestors in German Archives* (R 943 A538), one part of a larger effort by students at Brigham Young University to identify immigrant origins.

Data for the book was acquired by sending questionnaires to archives that were determined to hold genealogical records. Archives are grouped by state, type of archive (state, local, church, or family), and then arranged alphabetically by city or town name. In addition to learning about the local or city archive, researchers should make sure to check the entries on state-wide archives found at the beginning of each state's chapter, as well as church or other archives at the end of the chapter; these archives will usually not be located in the same city the ancestor was born in. Entries have a standard format that includes the address, phone number, and website if available. Information on jurisdiction, published guides or finding aids, and specifics on holdings of common genealogical record types and their organization are also found in the entries.

By becoming acquainted with this information in advance, researchers can be prepared to confidently carry out research in Germany. Those who are not able to go to Germany in person may be able to request research services from many of the archives listed in the book.

### Periodical | Virginia Magazine of History and Biography
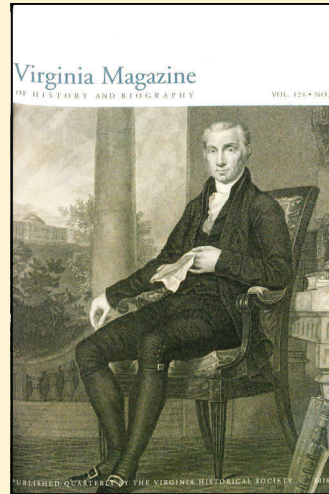
Founded in 1831, the Virginia Historical Society is the fourth oldest historical society in the United States. Since 1893 they have published the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography each month.

While newer issues tend to focus more on history, a great deal of genealogical information can be found in the earlier volumes. For example, volume 38 (1930) has genealogical articles about the families of Major Andrew Gilson, the Humes family, an autobiography of the Rev. Robertson Gannaway reprinted from a 1859 edition of the Religious Herald of Hendersonville, North Carolina, and letters of the Byrd family.

History & Genealogy has a complete run of the volumes from 1893 to the present. Articles can be found by searching PERSI on *Findmypast*. If, however, your ancestors came from the Old Dominion, spending a few afternoons looking through the periodical could also be useful.

NEW BOOK HIGHLIGHTS
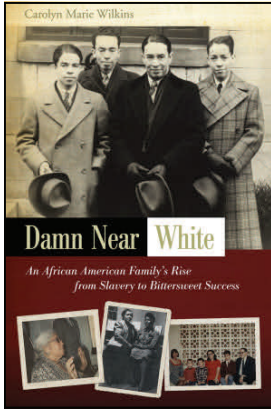
CAROLYN WILKINS

Damn Near White: An African American Family's Rise from Slavery to Bittersweet Success
University of Missouri, 2010
R 929.2 W686W

Carolyn Wilkins grew up defending her racial identity. Because of her light complexion and wavy hair, she spent years struggling to convince others that she was black. Her family's prominence set Carolyn's experiences even further apart from those of the average African American. Carolyn's parents insisted she follow the color-conscious rituals of Chicago's elite black bourgeoisie—experiences Carolyn recalls as some of the most miserable of her entire life. Only in the company of her mischievous Aunt Marjory, a woman who refused to let the conventions of "proper" black society limit her, does Carolyn feel a true connection to her family's African American heritage. *Damn Near White* is an insider's portrait of an unusual American family. Readers will be drawn into Carolyn's journey as she struggles to redefine herself in light of the long-buried secrets she uncovers. Tackling issues of class, color, and caste, Wilkins reflects on the changes of African American life in U.S. history through her dedicated search to discover her family's powerful story.—*Publisher*
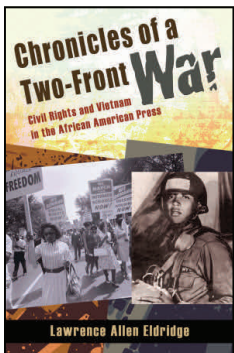
LAWRENCE ELDRIDGE

Chronicles of a Two-Front War: Civil Rights and Vietnam in the African American Press
University of Missouri, 2011
R 323.1196 E37C

During the Vietnam War, young African Americans fought to protect the freedoms of Southeast Asians and died in disproportionate numbers compared to their white counterparts. Despite their sacrifices, black Americans were unable to secure equal rights at home, and because the importance of the war overshadowed the civil rights movement in the minds of politicians and the public, it seemed that further progress might never come. For many African Americans, the bloodshed, loss, and disappointment of war became just another chapter in the history of the civil rights movement. Lawrence Allen Eldridge explores this two-front war, showing how the African American press grappled with the Vietnam War and its impact on the struggle for civil rights.

Eldridge reveals how the black press not only reported the war but also weighed its significance in the context of the civil rights movement. The black press ultimately viewed the Vietnam War through the lens of African American experience, blaming the war for crippling LBJ's Great Society and the War on Poverty. Despite its waning hopes for an improved life, the black press soldiered on.—*Publisher*
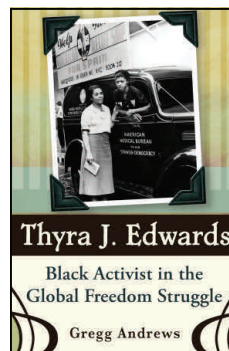
GREGG ANDREWS

Thyra J. Edwards: Black Activist in the Global Freedom Struggle
University of Missouri, 2011
R B Edwards Thyra J.

In 1938, a black newspaper in Houston paid front-page tribute to Thyra J. Edwards as the embodiment of "the Spirit of Aframerican Womanhood." Edwards was a world lecturer,

View a complete list of new books online

A list of new books received during the previous month is posted on the library's website. View the list online <http://tinyurl.com/ktha6fr>. For more information about viewing the new book list online, exporting records, and saving items to a customized list, call (314) 994-3300 or ask a librarian when visiting any St. Louis County Library branch.

journalist, social worker, labor organizer, women's rights advocate, and civil rights activist—an undeniably important figure in the social struggles of the first half of the twentieth century. She experienced international prominence throughout much of her life, from the early 1930s to her death in 1953, but has received little attention from historians in years since. Gregg Andrews's *Thyra J. Edwards: Black Activist in the Global Freedom Struggle* is the first book-length biographical study of this remarkable, historically significant woman.

This fascinating biography details Thyra Edwards' lifelong journey and myriad achievements, describing both her personal and professional sides and the many ways they intertwined. Gregg Andrews used Edwards' official FBI file—along with her personal papers, published articles, and civil rights manuscript collections—to present a complete portrait of this noteworthy activist. An engaging volume for the historian as well as the general reader, Thyra J. Edwards explores the complete domestic and international impact of her life and actions.—*Publisher*


SUSAN CURTIS

Colored Memories: A Biographer's Quest for the Elusive Lester A. Walton
University of Missouri, 2008
R B Walton Lester

Lester A. Walton was a well-known public figure in his day. An African American journalist, cultural critic, diplomat, and political activist, he was an adviser to presidents and industrialists in a career that spanned the first six decades of the twentieth century. He was a steadfast champion of democracy and lived to see the passage of major civil rights legislation. But one word best describes Walton today: forgotten.

Exploring the contours of this extraordinary life, Susan Curtis seeks to discover why our collective memory of Walton has failed. In a unique narrative of historical research, she recounts a fifteen-year journey, from the streets of Harlem and "The Ville" in St. Louis to scattered archives and obscure public records, as she uncovers the mysterious circumstances surrounding Walton's disappearance from national consciousness. And despite numerous roadblocks and dead ends in her quest, she tells how she came to know this emblematic citizen of the American Century in surprising ways. *Colored Memories* is a highly original work that not only introduces readers to a once-influential figure but also invites us to reconsider how we view, understand, and preserve the past.—*Publisher*
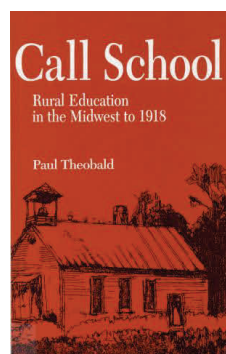
PAUL THEOBALD

Call School: Rural Education in the Midwest to 1918
Southern Illinois University, 1995
R 977 T385C

Paul Theobald chronicles the history of the one-room country schools that were spread throughout the rural Midwest during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Focusing on the region's educational history in light of the religious, economic, and political atmosphere, Theobald explores the tight connection between educational preferences and religious views, between the economics of the countryside and the educational experiences of children, and between the

politics of local power and the educational prospects of the powerless. Theobald's study illuminates the history of education on the plains and sheds light on the social foundations of the period.—*Publisher*
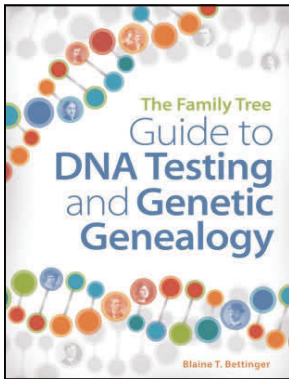
BLAINE BETTINGER

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy
Family Tree Books, 2016
R 929.1 B565F
and circulating copy

Discover the answers to your family history mysteries using the most-cutting edge tool available. This plain-English guide is a one-stop resource for how to use DNA testing for genealogy. Inside, you'll find guidance on what DNA tests are available, plus the methodologies and pros and cons of the three major testing companies and advice on choosing the right test to answer your specific genealogy questions. And once you've taken a DNA test, this guide will demystify the often-overwhelming subject and explain how to interpret DNA test results, including how to understand ethnicity estimates and haplogroup designations, navigate suggested cousin matches, and use third-party tools like GEDmatch to further analyze your data. To give you a holistic view of genetic testing for ancestry, the book also discusses the ethics and future of genetic genealogy, as well as how adoptees and others who know little about their ancestry can especially benefit from DNA testing.—*Publisher*
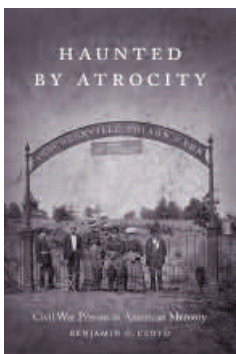
BENJAMIN CLOYD

Haunted by Atrocity:
Civil War Prisons
in American Memory
Louisiana State University, 2016

R 973.771 C648H

During the Civil War, approximately 56,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in enemy military prison camps. Even in the midst of the war's shocking violence, the intensity of the prisoners' suffering and the brutal manner of their deaths provoked outrage, and both the Lincoln and Davis administrations manipulated the prison controversy to serve the exigencies of war. As both sides distributed propaganda designed to convince citizens of each section of the relative virtue of their own prison system-- in contrast to the cruel inhumanity of the opponent--they etched hardened and divisive memories of the prison controversy into the American psyche, memories that would prove difficult to uproot. In Haunted by Atrocity, Benjamin G. Cloyd deftly analyzes how Americans have remembered the military prisons of the Civil War from the war itself to the present, making a strong case for the continued importance of the great conflict in contemporary America.—*Publisher*
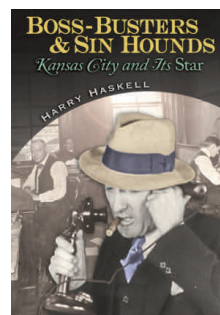
HARRY HASKELL

Boss-Busters and Sin Hounds:
Kansas City and Its Star
University of Missouri, 2007
R 977.8411 H349B

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Kansas City Star was a trust-busting newspaper acclaimed for its crusading progressive spirit; fifty years later it was a busted trust, targeted in the most important antitrust action ever brought against an American daily. Now Harry Haskell tells the tale of the Star's rise and decline against the richly textured backdrop of Kansas City—the story of how a newspaper and a city grew together and ultimately grew apart.

Boss-Busters and Sin Hounds takes readers into the city room and executive offices of one of the most respected American newspapers, whose influence extended beyond its own community to international affairs. Re-creating life at the Star from the inside, the book traces the shifting fortunes of a great newspaper and the compelling "power of purpose" it exerted from the birth of the progressive movement in the 1880s to the 1950s.—*Publisher*

Briefly notes

Local St. Louis and Missouri history

50th Anniversary Celebration, Evangelical United Church of Christ [Webster Groves, Mo.]. R 977l865 F469
Case that Never Dies: The Lindbergh Kidnapping. R 364.1523 G227C
Christ Church, Golden Anniversary, 1890–1940 (Christ Evan-

gelical and Reformed Church, Maplewood, Mo.).
R 977.865 C554C

Diamond Jubilee, 1896–1971, St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Taft and Alaska, St. Louis. R 977.866 D537

Fiftieth Anniversary of Jesus Evangelical Church, St. Louis, MO, November Fifth, Nineteen Hundred and Fort-Four. R 977.866 F469

Stephan Memorial Methodist Church: Building a Christian Community, 1908–1958. R 977.865 S827

African-American

Akee Tree: A Descendant's Quest for His Slave Ancestors on the Eskridge Plantations. R 929.2 E75H

A Cry for Justice: Daniel Rudd and his Life in Black Catholicism, Journalism, and Activism, 1854–1933. RB Rudd, Dan

The Negro in Mississippi. R 976.2 W554N

Negro Slavery in Arkansas. R 976.7 T244N

"A Rift in the Clouds:" Race and the Southern Federal Judiciary, 1900–1910. R 342.7308 A898R

Germanic

Ortsippenbücher
Local genealogical registers—abbreviated titles

Béning-lès-Saint-Avoid, Lorraine, France. R 944.385 W115B
Bobenneukirchen, Saxony. R 943.21 M688F
Bredenbeck / Deister, Evestorf, Holtensen, Lower Saxony. R 943.59 W373O
Dannstadt and Schauernheim, Rhineland-Palatinate. R 943.43 S452F
Denkendorf, Baden-Wuerttemberg. R 943.471 M459O
Eichenbarleben, Saxony-Anhalt. R 943.18 B283F
Erxleben, Saxony-Anhalt. R 943.182 B283F
Farschviller, Lorraine, France. R 944.385 D559F
Freidorf, Romania (Banat). R 949.84 Z19F
Gelenau, Saxony. R 943.21 T229E
Groppendorf, Saxony-Anhalt. R 943.18 B283F
Gross-Zimmern, Hesse. R 943.416 F837F
Gutsow-Platkow, Brandenburg. R 943.153 B197F
Kalt, Rhineland-Palatinate. R 943.432 R 982E
Kappelwindeck, Baden-Wuerttemberg. R 943. 464 K92O

Alsace and Lorraine

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FamilySearch.org "Germany Handwriting." https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Handwriting.

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Meyers Gazetteer. "Search the Meyers Gazetteer." https://www.meyersgaz.org/

PagesBlanches. "PageBlanches: Le service de recherché de particliers avec l'annvaire." https://www.pagesjaunes.fr/pagesblanches.

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Wikipedia. "Communes of the Moselle department." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communes_of_the_Moselle_department.

Kuppenheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg. R 943.464 L747O

Leimen, Baden-Wuerttemberg. R 943.464 F862F

Loupershouse-Ellviller, Lorraine, France. R 944.385 L891

Mertloch, Einig, Gerin, Kollig (Maifeld), Rhineland-Palatinate. R 943.43 R982E

Mortizfeld, Romania (Banat). R 949.84 N383F

Neuhaldensleben, Saxony-Anhalt. R 943.182 B283F

Neukirchen (Neukirchen-Vluyn), North Rhine-Westphalia. R 943.553 B531O

Neu-Ulm, Bavaria: R 943.37 T351O

Niederschwedeldorf, Poland (formerly Silesia). R 94

Nussloch and Maisbach, Baden-Wuerttemberg. R 943.464 O86E

Puttelange-aux-Lacs, Lorraine, France. R 944.385 B647P

Rimsdorf, Alsace, France. R 944.395 R577

Saint-Jean-Rorhbach, Lorraine, France. R 944.385 D559S

Siegersleben, Saxony-Anhalt. R 943.182 B283F

Talheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg. R 943 464 B899O

Tenteling-Ebring, Lorraine, France. R 944.385 G817T

Tiergarten, Baden-Wuerttemberg. R 943.4626 M958F

Bürgerbücher, Häusergeschichten, Hofgeschichten
Historical and genealogical information about towns and their residents—abbreviated titles)

Bittenbrunn-Laisacker, Bavaria. R 943.36 V428B

Erfurt, Thuringia. R 943.2248 B344b

Holzgünz, Bavaria. R 943.37 I33H

Other Germanic titles

Bevölkerung und soziale Schichtung im nördlichen Emsland vom 17. bis zum 19. Jahrhundert [Population and Social Stratification in the Northern Emsland, Lower Saxony from the 17th to the 19th Century], R 943.59 B693B

German Genealogical Research in Pomerania, R 943.81 S334G

German Immigrants in American Church Records, Vol. 20, *Missouri (St. Louis County and city)*, Vol. 21, *Missouri (St. Louis II)*. R 929.3089 G373

Hollandgängerei im Osnabrücker Land und im Emsland: Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Artbeiterwanderung vom 17. Bis zum 19. Jahrhundert [The Holland Workers in the Osnabrück Region and Emsland, Lower Saxony:

A Contribution to the Stubject of Worker Migration from the 17th to the 19th Century]. R 943.5911 B693H

Von Bauern und Bäckern—Russland in der Geschichte der Auswanderung aus Hessen: Zum 250. Jubiläum des Aufbruchs an die Wolga, 1766 [Of Farmers and Bakers—Russia in the History of Emigration from Hesse: On the 250th Anniversary of the Departure for the Volga, 1766]. R 943.41 A917V

Irish

Ireland to America: Emigrants from West Cork. R 973.0491 K53I

Scottish

Highland Heritage: Scottish Americans in the American South. R 973.0491 R264H

The Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, meaning, and History. 929.42 B627S

Religion

Anti-Catholicism in Arkansas: How Politicians, the Press, the Klan, and Religious Leaders Imagined an Enemy, 1910–1960. R297.7 B261A

The Beliefs of the Early Brethren. R 289.2 W739B

Brethren Dress: A Testimony to Faith. R 241.674 R945B

Methodists and the Crucible of Race, 1930–1975. R 287.6 M983M

My Kingdom is not of this World: 300 Years of the Amish, 1683–1983. R 289.73 G371M

The Origin of the Schwarzenau Brethren. R 289.2 M511O

The Rise to Respectability: Race, religion, and the Church of God in Christ. R 289.94 W583R

Schwarzenau, 1708–2008. R 289.2 S411

Von Schlesien nach Amerika: Die Geshcichte des Schwenckfeldertums [From Silesia to America: The History of the Schwenkfelders]. R 289.909 W419V

CLASSES & PROGRAMS

CLASSES

Classes are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Call 314-994-3300 or register online at www.slcl.org/events.

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project

If you have little or no experience with genealogical research, this is the class for you. Learn about the genealogical research process and the many resources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library.

Feb. 14, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register
March 27, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register

Library Skills for Genealogical Research

Prerequisite: Beginning a Genealogical Research Project or prior genealogical research experience

Libraries offer essential tools for genealogical research. Learn how to search online library catalogs, obtain materials from distant libraries, locate periodical articles, and use the library's in-house finding aids.

Feb. 26, 2:00 p.m., Florissant Valley | Register
March 12, 2:00 p.m., Daniel Boone | Register
March 13, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register
March 19, 10:00 a.m., Cliff Cave | Register

Census Basics for Genealogical Research

Census records are a basic and essential source for genealogical research in the U.S. Learn how to search census records effectively using Ancestry Library Edition and other electronic databases.

Feb. 12, 10:00 a.m., Cliff Cave | Register
March 8, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register
March 26, 2:00 p.m., Florissant Valley | Register

History and Genealogy in Newspaper Databases

Searching electronic newspaper databases is easy and fun. The class will cover 19th-Century U. S. Newspapers, NewspaperArchive, and St. Louis Post-Dispatch databases.

Feb. 21, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register

Finding Immigrant European Ancestors

Prerequisite: Census Basics for Genealogical Research

Discover the numerous print and online resources available for researching immigrant ancestors. This class will include an overview of information available on Ancestry Library Edition and other electronic databases.

Feb. 27, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register
March 21, 6:30 p.m., Sachs | Register

Identifying Ancestral Military Veterans

Prerequisite: Census Basics for Genealogical Research or prior genealogical research experience

Explore strategies for military research in the Fold3 and Ancestry Library Edition databases, as well as in print and online sources.

Feb. 8, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register
March 5, 10:00 a.m., Grant's View | Register
March 22, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register

Advanced Techniques for African American Research

Prerequisite: Tracing Your African American Ancestors

The usual techniques can often lead to roadblocks in African American genealogical research. The instructor will use case studies to demonstrate how researchers can fill gaps in missing information.

Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m., Florissant Valley | Register

NEWS AND TIPS | HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY

BRANCH LOCATIONS FOR H&G CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Bridgeton Trails
3455 McKelvey Road
Bridgeton, MO 63044

Cliff Cave
5430 Telegraph Road
St. Louis, MO 63129

Daniel Boone
300 Clarkson Rd.
Ellisville, MO 63011

Florissant Valley
195 New Florissant Rd, S.
Florissant, MO 63031

Grant's View
9700 Musick Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

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

Indian Trails
8400 Delport Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63114

Jamestown Bluffs
4153 N. Highway 67
Florissant, MO 63034

Lewis & Clark
9909 Lewis-Clark Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63136

Natural Bridge
7606 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Oak Bend
842 S. Holmes Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Prairie Commons
915 Utz Lane
Hazelwood, MO 63042

Rock Road
10267 St. Charles Rock Rd.
St. Ann, MO 63074

Samuel C. Sachs
16400 Burkhardt Place
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Weber Road
4444 Weber Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

General information
Phone: 314-994-3300,
    ext. 2070

Email: genealogy@slcl.org

Website: www.slcl.org/genealogy

PROGRAMS

Programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required unless noted.

Social Media

St. Louis Genealogical Society General Meeting

More and more communications are relying on social media. Learn about Facebook, blogs, and Twitter from our experts. Bob Good, speaker.

    Saturday, Feb. 10, 10:00 a.m. | Headquarters

Discovering your Irish and Scots-Irish Roots

See page 5 for information. Registration required.

    Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1:00 p.m. | Grant's View

Getting the Most Out of FamilySearch

The FamilySearch website is much more than a catalog to search for ancestors. Bob Goode of the St. Louis Genealogical Society will help you learn about the FamilySearch Wiki, how to navigate the catalog, how to access digitized books, and much more.

    Friday, February 16, 10:00 a.m. | Cliff Cave

Using City and County Directories

St. Louis Genealogical Society General Meeting

City directories contain more information than just names and addresses. Discover how to find and research directories in print, on microfilm and digitally. Larry Franke, speaker.

    Saturday, March 10, 10:00 a.m. | Headquarters

Beginning German Genealogy

Learn what's needed before trying to trace your ancestors across the Atlantic. Identify records leading to your ancestor's village of birth. Carol Whitton, CG, St. Louis Genealogical Society, Speaker.

    Friday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. | Cliff Cave

Using Campgen (genealogy.net) Effectively

StLGS German Special Interest Group

Are you avoiding using Compgen's GOV, DigiBib, OFBs or other web pages because they are in German? Obtain more information on what's where and how to use it effectively. Speaker: Carol Whitton

    Wednesday, March 21, 7:00 p.m. | Headquarters