

Figure 1: Freedmen's Bureau Search Portal website
nmaahc.si.edu/explore/freedmens-bureau

FOR THE RECORDS

Freedmen's Bureau Search Portal

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) has launched a new, free genealogy tool, the Freedmen's Bureau Search Portal (Figure 1). The new platform allows researchers to search in over 1.7 million pages of Freedmen's Bureau records.

The portal contains records from the United States Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, commonly known as the Freedmen's Bureau. The Freedmen's Bureau was created by Congress in 1865 to assist in the reconstruction of the southern states and to help formerly enslaved African Americans transition from slavery to freedom.

From 1865 to 1872, the Freedmen's Bureau created the over 1.7 million handwritten records, including labor contracts, land leases, marriages (Figure 2), hospital registers, ration orders, personal testimonies and more. Researchers whose

ancestors were enslaved will most likely hit a wall working backward from the 1870 census, but these records can give important information and glimpses into their pre-1870 lives.

In 2015, the NMAAHC, FamilySearch International, the California African American Museum and the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society collaborated on a crowdsourcing project to index the names, dates, and locations found in the records. In addition, shortly after the indexing project was complete, the NMAAHC and the Smithsonian Transcription Center began another crowdsourcing project to fully transcribe all of the pages. This part of the project is still ongoing, with about 400,000 pages transcribed so far.

The portal allows users to search the indexed data by name, place or date, and the transcribed data for keywords. The Freedmen’s Bureau Search Portal is free to access and can be found at nmaahc.si.edu/explore/freedmens-bureau.

Date	Minister	Names of Husband and Wife	Name Residence	Date Married
Nov 1866	Wm. W. Wright	John Smith Mary Johnson	Washington D.C.	1866
		Robert Brown Sarah Taylor	Richmond Va.	1867
		William Green Jane Miller	Richmond Va.	1868
		James Adams Elizabeth Clark	Richmond Va.	1869
		Thomas White Mary Davis	Richmond Va.	1870
		George Black Susan King	Richmond Va.	1871
		Charles Hall Anna Lee	Richmond Va.	1872
		Edward Scott Margaret Young	Richmond Va.	1873
		Frank Hill Elizabeth King	Richmond Va.	1874
		Henry Cook Sarah Green	Richmond Va.	1875
		John Baker Mary White	Richmond Va.	1876
		James Carter Jane Brown	Richmond Va.	1877
		Thomas Evans Susan Hill	Richmond Va.	1878
		George Foster Anna King	Richmond Va.	1879
		Charles Grant Margaret Lee	Richmond Va.	1880
		Edward Harris Elizabeth Young	Richmond Va.	1881
		Frank King Sarah Green	Richmond Va.	1882
		Henry Lee Anna King	Richmond Va.	1883
		John Miller Mary White	Richmond Va.	1884
		James Moore Jane Brown	Richmond Va.	1885
		Thomas Reed Susan Hill	Richmond Va.	1886
		George Scott Anna King	Richmond Va.	1887
		Charles Taylor Margaret Lee	Richmond Va.	1888
		Edward White Elizabeth Young	Richmond Va.	1889
		Frank Young Sarah Green	Richmond Va.	1890

Figure 2: A list of marriages from the District of Columbia found in the Freedmen’s Bureau records.

H&G Classes & Programs

The following History & Genealogy classes and programs are offered for February 2023:

Beginning Genealogical Research for African American Researchers

Monday, February 6, 6:30 pm, Virtual

Learn about the genealogical research process and the resources available through the St. Louis County Library, including Ancestry Library Edition. Some African American-specific record sets within those resources will also be discussed. In celebration of Black History Month. Adults. Registration required.

One Day at the World's Fair

Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 pm, Florissant Valley

Learn about the truths and myths of the day African Americans were allowed to attend the 1904 World's Fair. This program will explore the experience of African American workers, vendors, and visitors at the fair, as well as the events that took place on July 13, 1904. Speaker: Carol Shelton, a professional storyteller for more than twenty-five years, author, and retired teacher. In celebration of Black History Month. Adults. Registration required.

The Political Alliance of Ulysses S. Grant and Frederick Douglass

Thursday, February 16, 3:00 pm, Virtual

Frederick Douglass was a steadfast supporter of President Ulysses S. Grant who actively campaigned for him in 1868

and 1872. Grant recognized Douglass' talents and asked him to visit Santo Domingo (present-day Dominican Republic) to learn more about the country. National Park Service Historian Nick Sacco will discuss the political partnership of Ulysses S. Grant and Frederick Douglass. In celebration of Black History Month. Adults. Registration required.

Beginning Genealogy

Thursday, February 16, 6:00 pm, Lewis & Clark

If you have little or no research experience, this is the class for you. Learn about the genealogical research process, the many resources available through History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library, and how to get started. Adults. Registration required.

Coming up in March:

Exploring the Ancestry Library Edition Database

Tuesday, March 7, 10:00 am, Grand Glaize

Monday, March 27, 6:00 pm, Florissant Valley

The Ancestry Library Edition database is a powerful tool for genealogical research. Find out how to search it and take advantage of its many records. Adults. Registration required.

Step Into Irish Dance

Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 pm, Daniel Boone

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the St. Louis County Library! Learn the history of the beautiful and traditional art form of Irish dancing and see a demonstration from the local Clarkson School of Irish Dance. The Clarkson School's dancers compete at the local, regional, national and world levels in solo, ceili and choreography dancing. They may even teach a few moves! All ages welcome. Registration required.

Victoria Woodhull and Women's Suffrage

Tuesday, March 14, 10:00 am, Virtual

In the 1870s, women in the United States did not yet have the right to vote or hold office. Social reformer Victoria Woodhull

Cont. next page

challenged those restrictions. By the time she was in her 30's, Victoria owned her own newspaper, a Wall Street brokerage firm, and was a highly sought-after lecturer. In 1872, she became the first woman presidential candidate, running an uphill campaign against popular incumbent Ulysses S. Grant. Find out more about Victoria's unusual life with National Park Service Guide Evan Meyer. In celebration of Women's History Month. Adults. Registration required.

Pockets & Petticoats

Friday, March 31, 2:00 pm, Daniel Boone Branch

This program will teach basic historical hand sewing techniques by demonstrating how to make your own 18th century pockets and petticoats. In celebration of Women's History Month. Adults. Registration required.

Register at slcl.org/events.

Recordings of our most popular classes can be found at slcl.org/genealogy/virtual-classroom.

PastPorts is published by History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library

Current and past issues can be downloaded from the web at slcl.org/pastports.

Contact us:

History & Genealogy
St. Louis County Library
Temporary Location—Daniel Boone Branch
300 Clarkson Rd.
Ellisville, MO 63011

314-994-3300
genealogy@slcl.org
www.slcl.org/genealogy

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

All SLCL locations will be closed on Monday, February 20, in honor of Presidents' Day.

HOUSE HISTORY

Working on a house history? The Missouri Historical Society sends out a monthly e-newsletter with information regarding researching your St. Louis ancestors and the history of your St. Louis City or County home. The e-newsletter includes announcements of new indexes posted to the Genealogy and Local History Index, newly digitized items from the collections, and tips regarding other local genealogy sources. To sign up to receive this e-newsletter, visit mohistory.org/subscribe.

Mark your calendars for this upcoming program!

If These Walls Could Talk

Tuesday, April 25, 2:00 pm, Oak Bend Branch

The Missouri Historical Society Library and Research Center has a wealth of resources to help you learn about the history of your house and its former inhabitants. See examples of them and learn how they can help you research the history of the place you call home. Presented by Dennis Northcott, Associate Archivist for Reference at the Missouri Historical Society. Adults. Registration required.



History & Genealogy services

The following H&G services are free and available to researchers who are unable to visit the library.

Lookup service

H&G can provide photocopies, prints, or digital scans of many library materials from indexed sources or when given a specific citation:

- Up to 30 pages from one book or one article from a journal issue. Staff can also photocopy or scan tables of contents and index pages.
- Microfilmed records—A list of microfilm available in the H&G collection can be viewed [online](#).
- Print outs from database records if patrons cannot access the database at home.
- Please use the [online lookup request form](#) to submit requests.

*Some items may be temporarily unavailable due to construction

Print collection

More than 27,000 books in the collection can be checked out. The entire collection is included in the library's [online catalog](#). Books with call numbers that do not begin with "R" are available to check out. Patrons can request books online or by calling 314-994-3300.

*Some items may be temporarily unavailable due to construction

Research guidance

H&G staff members can provide research assistance by phone.

Book-a-Genealogist

Researchers encountering brick-walls or who would like assistance in developing a plan to achieve specific research goals can schedule a consultation with an H&G staff member. Requests can be made using the online [Book-a-Genealogist form](#).

Database access

Many library [databases](#) can be used at home by St. Louis County Library card holders living in the metropolitan area. For more information, please contact the History & Genealogy Department at 314-994-3300 or genealogy@slcl.org.

STLGS Events

Jewish SIG Meeting: Getting the Most from Revision Lists

Sunday, February 5, 1:00 p.m., Webinar

Speaker: David R. Brill

Revision lists (revizskie skazki) are among the most important genealogical resources from the Russian Empire and are often the only available confirmation that an ancestor actually lived in a particular shtetl. With the growing number of revision list translations on JewishGen and elsewhere, it is easier than ever to expand one's research beyond U.S.-based sources and discover previously unknown genealogical connections.

Monthly Meeting: Digging in Deeper at the Cemetery

Saturday, February 11, 10:00 am, Hybrid

Speaker: Dan Fuller

Graveyards were the standard before the rural movement took cemeteries outside city limits and embraced the natural environment. Today, cemeteries are not only focused on the death of an individual, they are focused on when that individual arrived at the cemetery. Use of receiving tombs and the difference between public lots/private lots can give more details concerning one's search than some realize. Iconography can also play a key role in pointing to important elements in an ancestor's life. This meeting will be held at the Grant's View branch of St. Louis County Library.

See stlgs.org for more information.

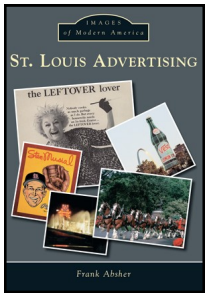
NEW Books

FRANK ABSHER

St. Louis Advertising

Arcadia Press
R 977.866 A164S

Mention "advertising," and just about everyone thinks of New York's Madison Avenue, long the center of the nation's advertising universe. The reality is that advertising is everywhere and has been almost since the inception of the nation. In St. Louis, for example, two early advertising agencies became major players on the national scene, creating advertising for multinational corporations. Browsing through this collection of old advertisements gives readers a chance to follow the development of the nation's business community over the past 200 years and see



what was important in the daily lives of Americans, as well as what the nation's commercial interests wanted them to believe was important. —Publisher

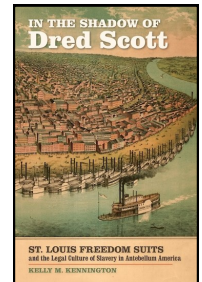
KELLY M. KENNINGTON

In the Shadow of Dred Scott: St. Louis Freedom Suits and the Legal Culture of Slavery in Antebellum America

The University of Georgia Press
R 977.866 K361

The Dred Scott suit for freedom, argues Kelly M. Kennington, was merely the most famous example of a phenomenon that was more widespread in antebellum American jurisprudence than is generally recognized. The author draws on the case files of more than three hundred enslaved individuals who, like Dred Scott and his family, sued for freedom in the local legal arena of St. Louis. Her findings open new perspectives on the legal culture of slavery and the negotiated processes involved in freedom suits. As a gateway to the American West, a major port on both the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and a focal point in the rancorous national debate over slavery's expansion, St. Louis was an ideal place for enslaved individuals to challenge the legal systems and, by extension, the social systems that held them in forced servitude.

Kennington offers an in-depth look at how daily interactions, webs of relationships, and arguments presented in court shaped and reshaped legal debates and public attitudes over slavery and freedom in St. Louis. Kennington also surveys more than eight hundred state supreme court freedom suits from around the United States to situate the St. Louis example in a broader context. Although white enslavers dominated the antebellum legal system in St. Louis and throughout the slaveholding states, that fact did not mean that the system ignored the concerns of the subordinated groups who made up the bulk of the American population. By looking at a particular example of one group's encounters with the law—and placing these suits into conversation with similar encounters that arose in appellate cases nationwide—Kennington sheds light on the ways in which the law responded to the demands of a variety of actors. —Publisher



DID YOU KNOW



Have you ever noticed the signed name at the bottom of your St. Louis ancestors' death certificates? For many of them, the name is Max C. Starkloff. Maximilian Carl (von) Starkloff was born in Quincy, Illinois in 1858. His father, Hugo, was also a physician and an immigrant from Germany.

Starkloff served two terms as the St. Louis Health Commissioner, from 1895 to 1903, and then again from 1911 to 1933. During these terms, he oversaw the recovery efforts after the 1896 tornado, as well as the city's response to the Spanish Flu in 1918. Starkloff died in 1942. The social distancing protocols he put into place for dealing with the 1918 pandemic continue to be cited in medical literature.

Starkloff's grandson, also named Max Starkloff, was seriously injured in an automobile accident in 1959. He went on to fight for the Americans with Disabilities Act and formed several disability organizations, including Paraquad.

1216 N 7		19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL		DATE OF BURIAL	
15		St. Louis		March 29, 1916	
Filed 29 1916		Max C. Starkloff		1136 N 6 St	
18		J. H. Remick			



PASTPORTS REWIND

The July, 2011 edition of PastPorts newsletter featured the following tip:

The Case of the Missing Marriage Record

Do you have an ancestor who lived in St. Louis at the time of his or her marriage but cannot find the marriage record? Try looking in St. Clair County, Illinois. It turns out that many St. Louis residents crossed the Mississippi River to be married. St. Clair County marriages are included in the online Illinois Statewide Marriage Index at apps.ilsos.gov/isavital/marriagesrch.jsp. Copies can also be requested from the St. Clair County Clerk, St. Clair County Building, 10 Public Square, Belleville, IL 62220.

In 2023, these marriages have now been digitized by familysearch.org. They are accessible in an affiliate library, so you can view them by using a public computer in any SLCL branch, or by using your own laptop and the SLCL Wi-Fi. The records can be found here: [St. Clair County, Illinois marriage licenses, 1806 \(1 license\), 1807-1950](#), or by searching the catalog for film number 2169147.

A promotional banner for 'rootstech by FamilySearch'. On the left, a photograph shows a smiling family of four: a man in a white polo shirt and cap, a woman in a colorful patterned top, and two young girls in white dresses. The background of the banner is a vibrant gradient of purple, blue, and pink. On the right side, the 'rootstech by FamilySearch' logo is displayed, featuring a stylized tree with circuit-like branches. Below the logo, the text reads '2-4 March 2023, Virtual and in person | rootstech.org'.

Want to expand your genealogy education? Be sure to check out RootsTech 2023. RootsTech is presented by familysearch.org, and the virtual program is free with an account. In-person programming will take place in Salt Lake City. Programs cover all ability levels and many different genealogy topics, and are presented by experienced genealogists.

Get all of the details at www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023.



ONE DAY AT THE
1904
WORLD'S FAIR

Presented by Carol Shelton



Florissant Valley Branch
Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 p.m.

This program will explore the experience of African American workers, vendors, and visitors at the 1904 World's Fair. Carol Shelton is a professional storyteller, author and retired teacher.

Adults. Registration required.



Program sites are accessible. With at least two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit www.slcl.org.



VIRTUAL PROGRAM

THE POLITICAL ALLIANCE OF ULYSSES S. GRANT & FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Presented by the



Thursday, February 16, 3:00 p.m.

Historian Nick Sacco will discuss the political partnership of Ulysses S. Grant and Frederick Douglass.

Adults. Registration required.



Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering.



Program sites are accessible. With at least two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit www.slcl.org.

