

19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL <i>Greenwood Cemetery</i>	DATE OF BURIAL <i>Aug 9th 1926</i>
20. UNDERTAKER <i>A. L. Beal</i>	ADDRESS <i>2726 Lucas Ave</i>

Figure 1: Part of a 1926 Missouri death certificate with burial and undertaking information.

FOR THE RECORDS

A Grave Undertaking

Missouri's First Black Female Licensed Embalmer

When researching African American St. Louis ancestors, you might find details in their obituaries or burial records of who handled their funerals. Undertaking is a solemn business, and a kind and respectful mortician can make a devastating event slightly more bearable. As such, you may find yourself wondering—who were the people who cared for my ancestor's body?

The St. Louis Burial Indexes, compiled by the St. Louis Genealogical Society, sometimes contain information regarding the mortuary that attended a burial. Missouri death certificates, obituaries, and church records also typically record this information (Figure 1), but seeing a name does not provide much in the way of understanding. In the first half of the 20th century in St. Louis, there were dozens of funeral homes that cared for the dead. What made your family choose a specific one?

Funerals were a deeply personal event, and many African Americans chose to have their deceased loved ones cared for by fellow African Americans. Funeral directors were “culturally valued for their ability to help their communities honor their dead with dignity and the requisite pageantry” (Smith, pg. 8). In the case of African American funeral directors in St. Louis, many of them became leaders or strong figures within their communities. Serving the dead is a steady business, and the relative financial stability of funeral directors further enabled them to support those around them, even as they were expanding their own businesses. That support was shown in a variety of ways, from philanthropic endeavors to work contracts for Black businesses.

One such funeral director was Birdie Beal of A. L. Beal Undertaking (Figure 2). Born in Tennessee, Birdie moved to St. Louis at the age of ten to live with her father, Albert Beal. Albert had moved to St. Louis in 1900, and spent the next thirteen years working hard and saving money to fulfill his dream of opening his own business. In September of 1913, Albert opened A. L. Beal Undertaking Company at 2726 Lucas Avenue (Figure 3).

When Birdie Beal received her embalming license in 1915, she did so as the first Black female in the state of Missouri. The *St. Louis Argus* reported that she “successfully passed the required examination before the board of examiners in November [1914] and is prepared to render first-class service to ladies” (*St. Louis Argus*, 26 March 1915). This, then, begs the question: what did “first-class” embalming service entail in the first half of the 20th century?

The Rise of Embalming in the U.S.

Prior to the increased urbanization in the latter half of the 19th century, the final disposition of human remains was typically handled in the home. Family members would wash, dress, and bury or entomb their loved ones themselves. But with the rising industrialization of the era, the care of a loved one was increasingly outsourced to professionals, namely, undertakers. Undertakers were called such because they undertook the multiple tasks of removing, transporting, and “funeralizing” the dead. Many undertakers had careers as carpenters or livery owners, serving customers by building coffins or offering transportation via horse and buggy (Figure 4).



Figure 3: A. L. Beal's establishment at 2726 Lucas



Figure 2: Photograph of Birdie Beal with her diploma. *St. Louis Argus*, 4 June 1915.

When the handling of remains was passed on to undertakers, methods were employed that would be difficult to stomach today. Prior to the American Civil War, undertakers in the U.S. did not typically adhere to the modern ideal of a safe, clean method of preserving the dead. Common methods of preservation included placing bodies on ice, inside sealed metal-lined coffins, and, at worst, using sawdust to provide body “structure.” While chemical embalming was a growing industry in Europe throughout the 19th century, it was not until the 1860s that American doctors and undertakers began following the practice.

Dr. Thomas Holmes (1817-1899) is frequently called the “Father of American embalming” for his contributions to the field. He introduced methods of arterial embalming along with

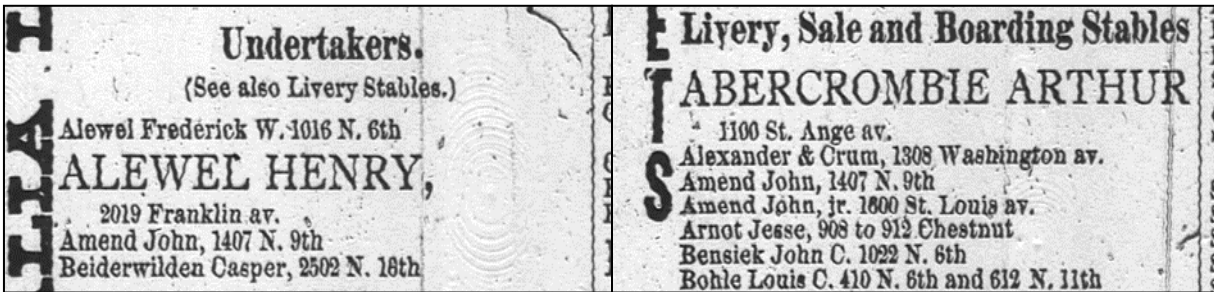


Figure 4: 1880 St. Louis Gould's Directory showing an undertaker who also owned a livery and stable business.

the invention of his own embalming solution. The embalming business, for Holmes and others, boomed during the Civil War due to the overwhelming need to preserve soldiers' bodies after they died during Civil War battles. With soldiers' deaths often taking place very far from home, the chemical embalming of a body allowed for safer transport to the grieving family. This was significant as the more basic methods of preservation (see Figure 5) did not hold up well in the heat of the south, and some railroads began forbidding the transport of bodies if they were likely to give off an odor.

(In the interest of comfort, the details of preparing a body for embalming will not be given here. However, if you are interested in reading contemporary instructions, Dr. Auguste Renouard's 1878 *The Undertaker's Manual* is freely available on Project Gutenberg.)

While there were benefits to the rise of embalming during the Civil War, it was not always practiced in an altruistic way. Due to the high number of fatalities and the unpreparedness of both the Union and Confederate armies, it was easy for vultures to swoop in and take advantage. There were a large number of complaints against embalmers during the Civil

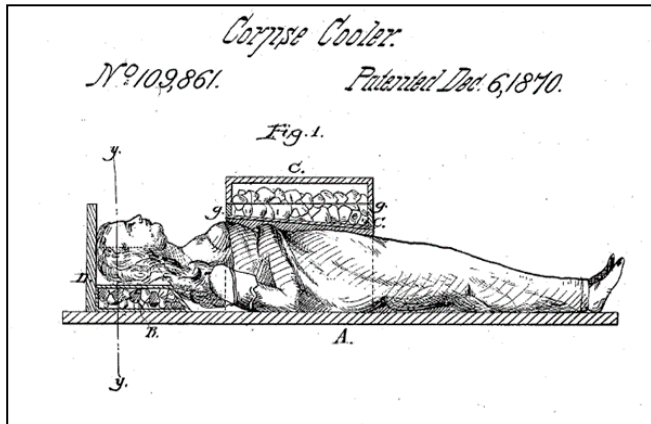


Figure 5: Example of a "corpse cooler," which relied on strategically placed boxes of ice to keep a body cool before burial. <https://patents.google.com/patent/US109861>.

War due to their all too common practice of embalming a deceased soldier and then offering to return it to the family, for a price. Embalmers were also accused of demanding exorbitant fees for their services, though they always attempted to justify the costs. Ultimately, embalming surgeons were ordered away from the front lines of war, where they had been doing most of their business and getting the most complaints.

After the Civil War, embalming continued to spread through the undertaking community. As time went on, medically trained individuals began to withdraw from embalming. The service was taken over by those who had no formal medical experience, and who frequently offered their services to undertaking establishments (See Figure 6). The typical "education" for embalmers was customarily delivered by touring individuals who demonstrated embalming

techniques, holding sessions which lasted from three or four days to a week. Diplomas were handed out at the end of these sessions, and occasionally examinations were given. In 1894, states began establishing oversight boards which imposed rules and regulations on those who wanted to practice embalming.

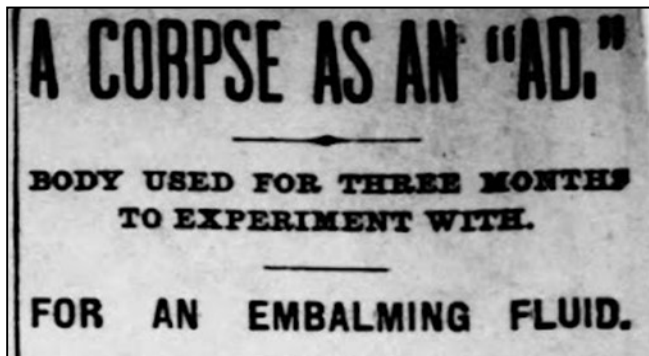


Figure 6: To determine the effectiveness of embalming, some businesses displayed embalmed bodies (sometimes without permission). *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 4 July 1899.

Missouri established its own Board of Embalmers in 1895 with the passage of bill No. 202. The bill required those wishing to be licensed to submit an application to the Board, pay a fee of \$5 (about \$180 in 2023), and take an examination. The examination tested the licensees on knowledge of the venous and arterial systems, anatomy, the science of embalming, and sanitation as well as other aspects. By 1900, courses at the most reputable colleges of embalming lasted for an average of three weeks. St. Louis even had its own mortuary science college, the American College of Embalming, which undertaker M. H. Alexander opened in 1903. It was from this school that Beal received her education in the science of embalming.

Beal Undertaking

Beal's status as a Black embalmer was further enhanced by her status as a woman. In January, the *St. Louis Argus* wrote, "In the East the need of having a woman to prepare the bodies of women and children has been felt, and the want supplied there. Though the want has been felt in St. Louis for a long time among the more refined, it remained for Miss Beal to become the pioneer and embark in the calling that will mean so much to the women of this city" (*St. Louis Argus*, 8 January 1915). While it was not out of the ordinary for male undertakers to handle female bodies, it may have encroached on the sensibilities of contemporary society. To have a female undertaker, particularly one who was Black, perhaps lent assurances of respectful conduct to grieving families.

Beal ran the funeral home with her father Albert until his death in 1929. After his passing, Beal ran the funeral home until the 1980s. According to the *St. Louis Burials Index*, accessible in the History & Genealogy Department, Beal Undertaking buried upwards of 2,000 people, most of them African American, and most of them in Lake Charles Memorial Park, Friedens Cemetery, Washington Park, and Greenwood Cemetery. The *St. Louis Argus* frequently published cards of thanks from the bereaved who mentioned their gratitude to the various people involved in their loved one's funeral, including Beal Undertaking (Figure 7).

Under Beal's leadership, Beal Undertaking supported the African American communities of St. Louis in a variety of ways. The funeral home sourced all its work contracts from Black businesses (*St. Louis Argus*, 20 June 1947). This was in line with Beal's membership in the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, a nonpartisan civil rights organization that aimed to empower African Americans and others in securing economic self-reliance, social equality and civil rights. Beal also served on the National Executive Board of the Funeral Directors' Association, and was given an honorary lifetime membership on the board of the National Negro Funeral Directors Association. As part of that organization, in 1956, Beal and other leaders in the African American funeral directing community donated \$1,000 to the Mont-

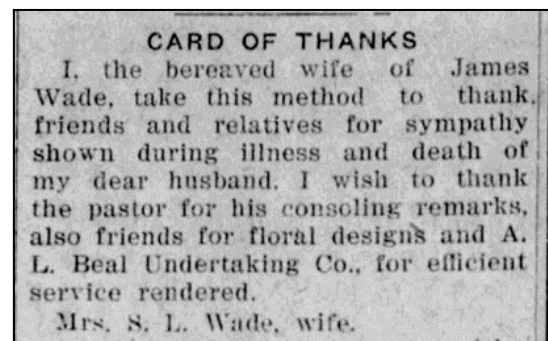


Figure 7: Card of thanks. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 13 August 1926.

gomery Improvement Association to aid in the bus boycott in Montgomery (St. Louis Argus, 30 March 1956).

Beal passed away in 1987 (Figure 8), and her undertaking business was kept in the family. Her daughter, Vora Thompson, along with Vora's husband Charles S. Wilson, carried on the business after her mother's death. Beal's service to the African American community continued when, in 1997, Beal Mortuary "was one of four funeral homes that received a contract. . . to rebury the remains of those poor souls who were interred at the Washington Park Cemetery just east of the airport" (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 10 July 1998). This contract was granted during Phase 2 of Lambert

Airport's work in relocating graves that obstructed airport development. Beal Mortuary's service in the airport's project was part of Lambert's intention to give more respect to the deceased than was paid in the 1992 reinterments. The 1992 work, conducted to clear ground for a MetroLink extension at the airport, was mismanaged to the point that some families lost track of their ancestors, with no indication of where their bodies were reinterred. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch also reported that an archaeologist involved with the 1992 project took "dozens of bodies from the cemetery and kept them for months," and that the use of heavy machinery for disinterments caused the destruction of the deceased and their coffins (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 5 April 1997). When Beal Mortuary took part in Phase 2, restrictions and guidelines were in place to better ensure the safety of those being reburied.

Laid to Rest

Beal Undertaking was not the only African American funeral home in St. Louis. Ellis, Gates, Manuel, and many more served the Black community, and can be found in burial and death records throughout St. Louis's past. But Beal Undertaking was one of the first Black undertaking businesses in Missouri. Its fleet of Cadillacs, comfortable and comforting rooms, friendly faces, and community outreach helped to establish it as a respected business. Birdie Beal's own status as the first Black female licensed embalmer in Missouri added to the mortuary's notoriety, and, as the St. Louis Argus stated, she was a pioneer in the funerary community and a leader among both women and men.

References

Habenstein, R. W., Lamers, W. M. (1962). The history of American funeral directing, revised edition. Bulfin Printers, Inc.: Milwaukee, WI.

HistoryNet. (2006). The undertaker's role during the American Civil War. www.historynet.com/the-undertakers-role-during-the-american-civil-war/?f

Birdie Beal Anderson; Owned Mortuary

A funeral for Birdie Beal Anderson, owner of A.L. Beal Funeral Homes Inc., in St. Louis, will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday at Central Baptist Church, 2843 Washington Avenue. Burial will be in St. Peters Cemetery.

Mrs. Anderson, 90, of St. Louis, died Saturday at Farmington Mineral Medical Center in Farmington, Mo., after a heart attack.

Mrs. Anderson is recognized as the first black licensed female embalmer in Missouri.

Mrs. Anderson's father, the late Albert L. Beal, founded the mortuary in 1913. After his death in 1929, Mrs.

Anderson served as president until she retired in 1984. She remained chairman of the board.

In 1976, Mrs. Anderson received a 50-year Embalming Certificate from the Missouri State Embalmers and Funeral Directors. She was a former president of the association and former director of its ladies' auxiliary.

She belonged to various trade organizations, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Surviving are two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Figure 8: Birdie Beal obituary. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 30 September 1987.

Marsh, T. D. (2018). Regulation of the funeral services industry: A legal research guide. William S. Hein & Co., Inc.: Getzville, NY.

Renouard, A. (1878). The undertakers' manual: A treatise of useful and reliable information. A. H. Nirdlinger & Co.: Rochester, NY. www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/70908

Smith, S. E. (2010). To serve the living: Funeral directors and the African American way of death. Belknap Press: Cambridge, MA.

St. Louis Argus. (1915-1964). St. Louis, MO.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch. (1879-Present). St. Louis, MO.

Further Reading

All the Living and the Dead by Hayley Campbell

Grave Matters: A Journey through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial by Mark Harris

Last Rites: The Evolution of the American Funeral by Todd Harra

Smoke Gets In Your Eyes by Caitlin Doughty

To Serve the Living: Funeral Directors and the African American Way of Death by Suzanne Smith (coming soon to H&G)

Other resources

The Missouri Division of Professional Registration has a database search that allows you to view non-active licenses, including those for funeral directors or funeral establishments. pr.mo.gov/licensee-search-nonactive.asp

Non-Active Status Licensee Search Results				
Disclaimer: If you are unable to locate the individual for whom you are searching, please contact the appropriate licensure board or the Division of Professional Registration.				
County Name: St. Louis City				
Profession Name: Funeral Establishment				
Search Criteria: Name = beal Go to page <input type="text"/>				
5 records found - you are viewing page 1 of 1 total pages				
#	Licensee Name	Profession	City, State	Detail
1	Al Beal Funeral Homes Inc	Funeral Establishment	St. Louis MO	Detail
2	Al Beal Funeral Homes Inc	Funeral Establishment	St. Louis MO	Detail
3	Al Beal Mortuary Inc	Funeral Establishment	Saint Louis MO	Detail
4	Al Beal Undertaking Co Inc	Funeral Establishment	Saint Louis MO	Detail
5	Beal Undertaking Inc	Funeral Establishment	Saint Louis MO	Detail

SPOTLIGHT ON

STL FUNERAL HOME RECORDS

Looking for more information on your St. Louis ancestors? History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library has the following funeral home records on microfilm:

Ambruster
Ambruster, Edith E.
Ambruster, Robert J.
Ambruster, Wm.
Bauman Colonial Chapel
Bopp
Croghan Chapel
Cullen and Kelly
DeMoor, Len/Tom Murray Monument Co. (obituaries only)
Donnelly, Arthur J.
Fendler
Gebken
Gebken-Benz
Hoffmeister
Howard, Edward F. and Sons
Howard, Joseph A.
Parker-Aldrich
Peetz
Robert, Wm. J.
Schumacher-Smith
Smith and CroghAn
Smith, Jay B.
Smith, Jay B. Schumacher Chapel
Southern
Weick Bros.

Funeral home records can often contain genealogical information about the deceased and their family. The funeral home name can usually be found on the death certificate. If your ancestors were outside of the St. Louis area, check a local historical or genealogical society for information about records. For a detailed list of H&G St. Louis funeral home records, years covered, and microfilm roll numbers, click [here](#). For our Lookup form, click [here](#).

H&G Classes & Programs

The following History & Genealogy classes and programs are offered for February 2024:

Beginning African American Research

Thursday, February 2, 6:00 pm, Lewis & Clark

Do you want to research your African American family but don't know where to start? This class will teach you the basics of genealogical research and introduce you to specific resources for African American research that are available through History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library. In celebration of Black History Month. Adults. [Registration required.](#)

Exploring FamilySearch.org

Monday, February 5, 6:30 pm, Virtual

FamilySearch.org is a free website offering access to millions of records for genealogy and family history research. Learn how to search for ancestors, navigate the catalog, and take advantage of other features. Adults. [Registration required.](#)

Beginning African American Research

Tuesday, February 13, 2:00 pm, Jamestown Bluffs

Do you want to research your African American family but don't know where to start? This class will teach you the basics of genealogical research and introduce you to specific resources for African American research that are available through History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library. In celebration of Black History Month. Adults. [Registration required.](#)

St. Louis Love Stories

Thursday, February 15, 2:00 pm, Daniel Boone

Take a fun, in-depth look at several important true love stories in St. Louis history. Topics include Dred and Harriet Scott, Frankie and Johnny, and Ulysses S. Grant and Julia Dent, plus other well-known and less-known stories of the power of love to change history. Presented by Amanda Clark, Community Tours Manager at the Missouri Historical Society. Adults. [Registration required.](#)

African American Genealogy: A Mississippi Case Study

Monday, February 26, 6:30 pm, Virtual

Learn about resources for African American genealogy through an exploration of Scattered Leaves: The African American Families of the Rock Hill Community in Panola County, Mississippi with the book's author, Len Campbell. In celebration of Black History Month. Adults. [Registration required.](#)

SLCL Databases for Genealogy Research

Wednesday, February 28, 2:00, Virtual

Discover the variety of genealogical databases that can be used free at the library and at home with your St. Louis County Library card. Adults. [Registration required.](#)

Coming in March:

Finding Female Ancestors

Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 pm, Virtual

Beginning Genealogy Research

Thursday, March 7, 2:00 pm, Prairie Commons

Using Irish Catholic Parish Records

Tuesday, March 12, 2:00 pm, Virtual

Branching Out with DNA

Thursday, March 14, 6:30 pm, Virtual

StL Genealogy

Monday, March 25, 6:30 pm, Virtual

For a complete list of H&G offerings, click [here](#).

LATIN RECORDS

Are your ancestors' records in Latin? Need help reading them? FamilySearch has short, free lessons (3-5 minutes each) on reading Latin in their Learning Center! Lessons include:

- Latin Handwriting 1: Introduction
- Latin Handwriting 2: Latin Genealogical Word List
- Latin Handwriting 3: Google Translate
- Latin Handwriting 4: How to Decline Personal Names
- Latin Handwriting 5: Latin Dictionary
- Latin Handwriting 6: Latin-English Dictionary
- Latin Handwriting 7: The Catholic Encyclopedia
- Latin Handwriting 8: Dizionario di Abbreviature Latine ed Italiani
- Latin Handwriting 9: Latin Language and Script Gallery of Latin Abbreviations
- Latin Handwriting 10: Parish Register Latin: An Introduction

Click [here](#) for these and other FamilySearch programs.



NEW LIBRARY HOURS

The St. Louis County Library Board of Trustees voted at their November 20, 2023 meeting to adjust SLCL branch hours in 2024. Starting January 2, 2024 all SLCL branches will close at 8:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Previously, all branches were open until 9:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday. All other library hours remain the same.

WHAT'S THE WORD

The modern word "sheriff," which refers to an individual who enforces the law in a county, comes from the Anglo-Saxon words "shire" (county or land area) and "reeve" (chief). The Shire-Reeve, beginning in England in about the 700s, was responsible for collecting taxes and enforcing the king's orders.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

All branches of the St. Louis County Library will be closed on Monday, February 19, in honor of Presidents' Day.

WEBSTER PERMITS

Historic homeowners in Webster Groves will now have an easier time applying for their Century Home Plaques! Webster Groves city building permits for 1908-1996 are now digitized and available online.

See the Webster Groves Public Library for an index to the permits [here](#).

See biblioboard for the newly digitized permits [here](#).

For more information on obtaining a plaque, see the Webster Groves Historical Society's website [here](#).



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
- 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

The St. Louis Genealogical Society presents the following events:

Jewish Special Interest Group Meeting: Jewish Foodways: 1870–1930

Sunday, February 4, 1:00 pm, Virtual

Many of us enjoy delicious Jewish food as part of our everyday lives without giving it much thought. Learn how immigration, tradition, and the observance of the laws of kashrut shaped Jewish food culture here in America. Presenter: Margi Lenga Kahn.

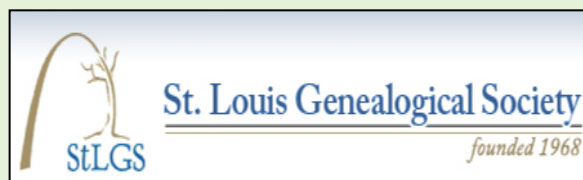
Monthly Meeting: Using the St. Charles County Historical Society Website as Your Gateway to St. Charles County History

Saturday, February 10, 10:00 am, Grant's View/Hybrid

Did you know that St. Charles was Missouri's first capital city? That Daniel Boone and Lewis and Clark have ties to the city? The history of St. Charles goes back hundreds of years, and the society's website may help you discover your own ancestors' stories. Presenter: Greg Hilton. Registration not required for in-person.

StLGS monthly and SIG meetings are free and open to the public!

See stlgs.org for more information and to register.



Registration is now open for the National Genealogical Society's 2024 conference! The 2024 event is all virtual, and is great for both beginning and veteran researchers. Expert speakers will present 50 lectures with live questions and answers. Topics include records, methodology, AI, DNA, and more. Click here for more information and to register.



2024 VIRTUAL FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
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History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library is home to the National Genealogical Society's book collection.

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

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

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
slcl.org/genealogy

PARDON OUR DUST

The St. Louis County Library has recently upgraded its website. The History & Genealogy page can be accessed by clicking on "Research & Learn," and then "History & Genealogy." Unfortunately, some of the H&G links have been broken during the upgrade process. Please be patient as our hardworking SLCL technology team works to get everything back on track. Please contact H&G at 314-994-3300 or genealogy@slcl.org for help locating any of our online materials.





SLCL had another successful Beercenter event on December 8 at the Grant's View Branch. Samples from five local breweries, music by the Gaslight Squares, Gus' pretzels, a Bellefontaine Cemetery beer barons presentation, brewers' roundtable, home brewing display, and St. Louis beer history scavenger hunt all made for a fun evening. There were over 200 people in attendance. Join us next year at the Clark Family Branch!

SCANNING KITS

Scanning kits are now available through H&G at the St. Louis County Library! Transform those photos, notes, scrapbooks, and documents into generational legacies.

Scanning Kits contain a Chromebook, a portable Canon flat-bed scanner, instructions, and resources for additional information related to organizing your digital archive.

Click [here](#) for more information.



SLCL HISTORY PROGRAM

Check out this St. Louis County Library offering:

The Bumpy History of the Bicycle

Tuesday, February 20, 6:00 pm, Prairie Commons

Join us for an exploration in the evolution of transportation brought by the creation of the bicycle. Uncover the wheeling wonders that transformed mobility, from the earliest pedal-powered contraptions to the sleek and efficient bicycles of today. Adults. [Registration required.](#)

Click [here](#) for all SLCL programs.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

In the fall of 1763, a business was formed between Gilbert Antoine de St. Maxent and Pierre Laclède Liguist. The search was then on for a suitable location to base the company's fur trading operations. An elevated area on the west side of the Mississippi River, south of the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, was identified. In addition to river transportation, the area also had natural drainage, nearby forested areas and grasslands for farming. In fact, Laclède declared that it "might become, hereafter, one of the finest cities in America."

The settlement was named St. Louis in honor of King Louis XI of France, who ruled from 1226 to 1270. He was a devout Catholic who was later made "Saint" Louis. Work on clearing the site began on Saint Valentine's Day, 1764 by Laclède's stepson, Auguste Chouteau, and thirty settlers. The street plan produced by Laclède for the early city, based on that of New Orleans, included a public corridor of 300 feet fronting the river, 3 long avenues running parallel, and block sizes of 240 by 300 ft. And the rest, as they say, is history!

SOCIETY SECTION

"In 1838, approximately 700 German-Lutherans left their homes, farms, businesses and all they knew behind to embark on the dangerous sea voyage to America. Finding new homes in St. Louis and then Perry County, Missouri, they rebuilt their lives and formed communities which endure to this day. Discover their hardships, tragedies and triumphs and explore the families, churches, farms and businesses they established which make East Perry County a unique and truly authentic destination."—Website

Do you have Perry County, Missouri German Lutherans in your family tree? If so, check out the [Perry County Lutheran Historical Society](#) for blog posts, conferences, exhibits, research, and more.

Remember, sometimes when researching history and genealogy, it's best to go local!



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St. Louis County Library is a FamilySearch Affiliate Library

Ancestry Library Edition at Your Branch

Ancestry Library Edition can be used at any of the St. Louis County Library's branches. This database is a great place to begin or continue your genealogy research. You may use a public computer or bring your own device and connect to the branch wifi. Click [here](#) for more information on the following St. Louis County Library locations:

Bridgeton Trails Branch

3455 McKelvey Rd.
Bridgeton, MO 63044

Clark Family Branch (closed-under construction)

1640 S. Lindbergh
St. Louis, MO 63131

Cliff Cave Branch

5430 Telegraph Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63129

Daniel Boone Branch

300 Clarkson Rd.
Ellisville, MO 63011

Eureka Hills Branch

500 Workman Rd.
Eureka, MO 63025

Florissant Valley Branch

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

Grand Glaize Branch

1010 Meramec Station Rd.
Manchester, MO 63021

Grant's View Branch

9700 Musick Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

Jamestown Bluffs Branch

4153 N. Highway 67
Florissant, MO 63034

Lewis & Clark Branch

9909 Lewis and Clark Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63136

Meramec Valley Branch

1501 San Simeon Way
Fenton, MO 63026

Mid-County Branch

7821 Maryland Ave.
Clayton, MO 63105

Natural Bridge Branch

7606 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Oak Bend Branch

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

Parkview Branch

8400 Delport Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63114

Prairie Commons Branch

915 Utz Ln.
Hazelwood, MO 63042

Rock Road Branch

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

Samuel C. Sachs Branch

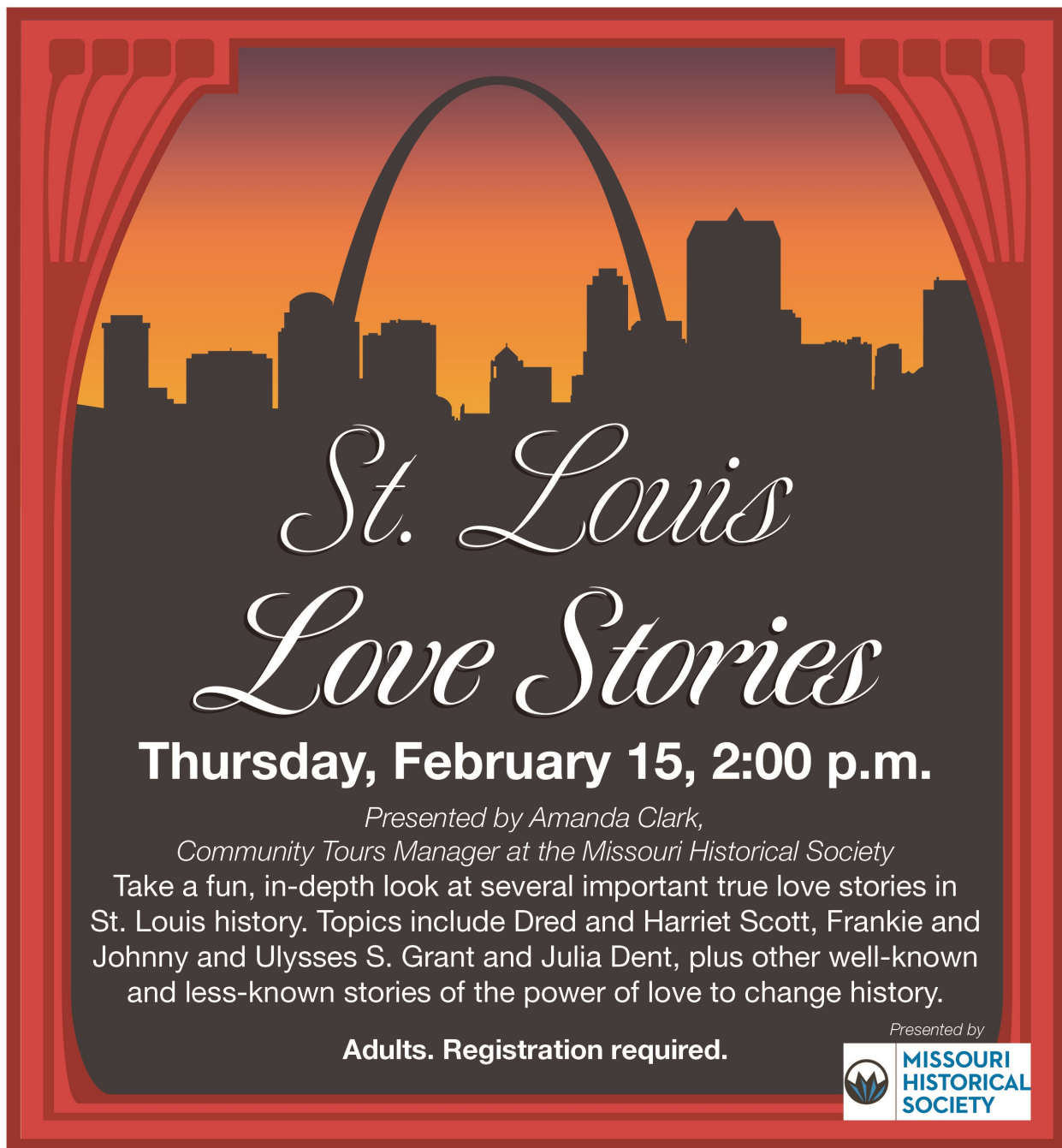
16400 Burkhardt Pl.
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Thornhill Branch

12863 Willowyck Dr
St. Louis, MO 63146

Weber Road Branch

4444 Weber Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123



*St. Louis
Love Stories*


Thursday, February 15, 2:00 p.m.

*Presented by Amanda Clark,
Community Tours Manager at the Missouri Historical Society*

Take a fun, in-depth look at several important true love stories in St. Louis history. Topics include Dred and Harriet Scott, Frankie and Johnny and Ulysses S. Grant and Julia Dent, plus other well-known and less-known stories of the power of love to change history.

Adults. Registration required.

Presented by




Daniel Boone Branch

300 Clarkson Road | Ellisville, MO 63011 | 314-994-3300

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.





Slavery in St. Louis, a banner exhibit from the National Park Service, will be on display at several SLCL branches over the next few months. There will also be programs to learn more about the exhibit and the history of slavery in St. Louis. Click [here](#) for dates and branches.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

African American Genealogy: A Mississippi Case Study

St. Louis County Library

**Monday
February 26
6:30 p.m.**

Adults. Registration required.

St. Louis County Library
**Black History Celebration
2024**