

PastPorts

VOL. 2, No. 3—MARCH 2009

OF NOTE

St. Louis County receives land donation for new family history center

The St. Louis County Library Board of Trustees accepted a donation of land from Louis Sachs at its November 2008 meeting. The property, on Wild Horse Creek Road, is near the Jewish Community Center located at 16801 Baxter Road, in Chesterfield. Specific design and construction details for the new building have not been developed, but preliminary plans call for a 40,000 square foot research center to house the Special Collections Department. The facility will also include meeting and study rooms. Funding for the center will be entirely dependent on fundraising efforts, which are still in the very early stages.

This is Louis Sachs's second major donation to the Library District. He previously donated the land for the construction of the Samuel C. Sachs Branch, 16400 Burkhardt Place, in Chesterfield.

Microfilm and microfiche now being cataloged

The Special Collections Department cataloger has begun adding records to the library catalog for the various microform (microfilm and microfiche) sets in the Department. This will allow patrons to search for and find microforms using the library's online catalog. Up to now, patrons and staff have been almost totally dependent on finding aids located in the Department and on the Department's website.

Special event will feature Italian genealogy

The Special Collections Department is pleased to feature a special Italian genealogy event on Saturday, March 28, 9:30 am – noon, in the Headquarters Auditorium. Featured speaker Martino Scott Biondo will present "Being Italian in the World" and "Discovering Your Old World Italian Connection."

Biondo is a member of the Board of Directors of the Italian Club of St. Louis and a genealogist specializing in Italian ancestry. Scott has taught Italian ancestry research classes for the Family History Centers of Saint Louis, has been a guest speaker on the subject for the Italian Club of St. Louis, and is a Family History Center librarian. By profession, Scott is a private investigator, a field of obvious value in skills transferable to genealogical research.

See page six for more event details .

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

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

CONTACT US

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

BY MAIL

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

BY PHONE

314-994-3300, ext. 208

BY EMAIL

collections@slcl.org

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

Volunteers are a valuable resource to the Special Collections Department

PastPorts' series of brief volunteer profiles continues this month two others who offer valuable experience and service to the Special Collections Department. The Department continues to be grateful for its volunteers.

■ **Rosanne (Rose) Sartori** has been volunteering in the Special Collections Department since January 2007. She has indexed deaths in the 1880 *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* newspaper, created an every-name index to the 1910 *St. Louis Star-Times*, and compiled indexes to the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company ledger and *As a Tree Planted: History of Fee Fee Baptist Church, 1807-1970*. She is currently creating an every-name index of the 1888 *Jewish Voice* newspaper.

A retired elementary classroom teacher and counselor, Rose writes guidance material for and gives presentations on topics related to the field of elementary counseling. She also volunteers at Haven House, which provides shelter and support to out-of-town families who come to St. Louis for their children's medical care. When not indexing, writing, presenting or volunteering, Rose enjoys making and selling jewelry and teaching art classes for children. Many of you will know Rose as the sister of Special Collections Department staff member Chris Flesor.

■ **Dick Seiler**, a retired electrical engineer for the Navy and McDonnell-Douglas, is a member of the National Genealogical Society and a life member of the St. Louis Genealogical Society. Dick is active in St. Peter's United Church of Christ, where he is on the property committee and church council and serves as a trustee of St. Peter's Cemetery. He and fellow church member Shirley Wotawa have compiled indexes for St. Peter's Church and Cemetery records, available in the Special Collections Department.

In addition to his interests in history and genealogy, Dick volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, where he has served as both a house leader and crew leader. He enjoys traveling and goes abroad about twice a year. Dick has volunteered in Special Collections on the third and fifth Monday of the month for six or seven years and enjoys helping researchers find solutions to their genealogical problems.

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

Hitting a brick wall? Try hitting the library books instead

BOOK CHAT You've spent hours on *Ancestry*, the Internet has taken you about as far as you can go, and that brick wall is looming up ahead. You're in Missouri, but the records you need are probably in another state. What's a poor genealogist to do? Before expending your travel budget, stop by the Special Collections Department. Thanks to genealogical publishing companies and local historical societies, the Department has a wide range of print materials offering a storehouse of information.

Case study: John Henry Quillin

Take, for example, the case of John Henry QUILLIN. The 1860 census placed him in Harrison County, Ohio in the household of parents Alexander and Nancy. A quick check of the Ohio shelves at call no. 977.1 yielded clues in the following resources (call numbers are in parentheses following each title):

- Ohio Marriages Recorded in County Courts through 1820: An Index* (R 977.1 O37 and 977.1 O37)
- Ohio Wills and Estates to 1850: An Index* (R 977.1 B433O and Q 977.1 B433O)
- Ohio U.S. Military Land Warrants, 1787 – 1801* (R 977.1 J131)
- Early Ohio Settlers: Purchasers of Land in East and East Central Ohio, 1800 – 1840* (R 977.1 B534E and 977.1 B534E)
- Index: Ohio Soldiers Who Served in the War of 1812* (R 977.1 M849I)

The Harrison County, Ohio shelves (977.168) offered a few more possibilities:

- Harrison County, Ohio Will Index, 1813 – 1972* (977.168 S291H)
- Index: Atlas of Harrison Co., Ohio, 1875* (977.168 S425I)

A study of these sources led to clues pointing to possible Quillin ancestors migrating into Ohio via Maryland, North Carolina, and Georgia. Some digging in North Carolina (975.6) yielded:

- North Carolina Taxpayers, 1701 – 1786*

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(R 975.6 R233N and 975.6 R233N)

North Carolina Wills: A Testator Index, 1665 – 1900

(R 975.6 M682N and 975.6 M682N)

The Colonial Records of North Carolina

(R 975.6 N864S)

A quick stop in Georgia (975.8) provided:

Tax Lists Index: Georgia, 1792 – 1819 (R 975.8 J13T)

Georgia Bible Records (R 975.8 A036G and
975.8 A036G)

A survey of the Maryland shelves (975.2) found:

Maryland Calendar of Wills (R 975.2 C851M and
Q 975.2 C851M)

Archives of Maryland (Q 975.2 A673)

Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland
(R 975.21 B261C)

This led in turn to Somerset County (975.223) and
Somerset County Wills, 1770 – 1710 (975.223 S628S).

All the books mentioned above—more than a dozen—
included information about the QUILLIN (QUILLEN,
QUILLIAN, QUILLING, QUILLAIN) family as far back
as about 1650, and all were found within a few hours.
Analysis of the data didn't provide all the answers, but it
established dates and locations, confirmed known
information, helped connect later generations, and cited
original records that could yield even more important clues.
Original records cited in materials such as these are
commonly available on microfilm from the Family History
Library in Salt Lake City and can be borrowed through the
Special Collections Department. Microfilm is also often
available through interlibrary loan from state archives and
other institutions.

Organization

As noted in “We’ve got class! Part 1: Co-locating with
Dewey” (*PastPorts*, Sept. 2008), the Dewey Decimal
System (DDS) places states in order beginning with New
England and proceeding west. Materials for adjacent states
within geographical regions are shelved in adjacent sections
on the shelves (Kentucky is shelved next to Ohio, for
example). DDS also arranges materials from the general to
the specific. Materials dealing with Ohio as a whole or in
general are shelved before materials dealing with specific
counties. Counties within states are also assigned their own
call numbers and are shelved next to or near adjacent
counties.

Searching the online catalog

Browsing the collection for state and country resources
through the [Saint Louis County Library online catalog](#) is
easy and can be done from any computer with an Internet
connection. A keyword search using terms such as “Illinois
genealogy” or “Lincoln County Kansas history,” for
instance, is usually effective but can result in many
irrelevant hits. For more accuracy, select “Subject” in the
drop-down menu next to “Search:”. The formula for finding
genealogical information for states is:

[state name spelled out] genealogy

Example

Maryland genealogy

To search for materials in a specific county, the formula is:

[county name] County [state abbreviation] genealogy

Example:

Somerset County Md genealogy

State abbreviations used in cataloging are the old ones, not
the the ones currently used by the U.S. Postal Service.
“Kansas” is abbreviated as “Kan.,” for example (see more
information below). To search for historical rather than
strictly genealogical sources, substitute “history” for
“genealogy” in the examples above. The catalog search
ignores capitalization and punctuation.

Finding call numbers for counties and abbreviations for states

Dewey Decimal numbers for states and counties are posted
in the Department and on the Department’s [website](#). Click
on the “Guides” tab. Click on any state abbreviation under
“[Alphabetical listing of counties and their Dewey Decimal
numbers by state](#)” to see the call numbers for specific
counties. The abbreviations used in the table are those used
for doing subject searches in the catalog.

Browse the shelves or check the catalog?

The organization imposed on the collection by DDS makes
it easy and convenient to browse the shelves. Materials
relating to specific counties will all be shelved together—or
will they? What about books dealing with more than one
county or other relevant books that might be shelved
elsewhere. This is another reason to check the catalog.
Records for books covering more than one county, for

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example, will include subject headings for both counties and will therefore be found when searching on one or the other. For instance, the catalog record for *History of Carroll and Harrison Counties, Ohio*, shelved with Carroll County books, will include “Carroll County (Ohio)—history” and “Harrison County (Ohio)—history” under “subjects.” This makes the item accessible by doing a subject search for either county.

Make sure you know the “genealogy” of the county you are researching. Harrison County, Ohio was carved out of Jefferson County in 1813. If you can’t find your ancestor in Harrison County in 1810, it might be because she lived in what was then Jefferson County. *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*, 3rd ed. (Alice Eichholz, ed., Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2004; call no. Q 929.1 R312, also available at the Special Collections Reference Desk) includes the dates of county formation for all states.

Can't find what you need?

The Special Collections Department is continually adding to its holdings of state and county resources. If you find selections for your county to be a little thin or know of a resource that should be included in the collection, let a Department staff person know. The Department will do its best to acquire the item(s). Check the “New in the Special Collections Department” section of *PastPorts* every month for recently acquired state and county resources.

TIPS

The January / February 2009 issue of *Everton's Genealogical Helper* has two articles that many St. Louis-area researchers might find especially helpful. In “France and Alsace—A Beginner’s Guide” (pp. 36 – 40), Glenn Lazarus offers hints for researching Alsatian ancestors. This area of Europe is particularly challenging, because it changed hands between France and Germany numerous times. It is now a part of France, but the native tongue for many Alsations is a German dialect. Besides suggesting useful websites, the author also recommends several resources available in the Special Collections Department:

Cornelia Schrader-Muggenthaler, *The Alsace Emigration Book*. 2 vols. Apollo, Penna.: Closson Press, 1989-1991; call no. 944.383 S377A and R 944.383 S377A

Cornelia Schrader-Muggenthaler, *The Baden Emigration Book: Including Emigration from Alsace*. Apollo, Penna.: Closson Press, 1992; call no. 943.46 S377B and R 943.46 S377B.

Other resources for Alsace-Lorraine are included in the “German Genealogy—Regional German Research” guide available for free in the Department.

In the same issue, Gail Blankenau offers tips for reading and interpreting German language documents in “Using German Parish Records” (pp. 42 – 45) and includes specific examples. Researchers will appreciate the [German Fraktur and handwritten script charts](http://www.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/fraktur.htm), available on the Yale University website, recommended by the author. [http://www.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/fraktur.htm]

The current issue of *Genealogical Helper* and other general interest genealogical magazines are available in the current periodicals rack in the Special Collections Department.

WEB NEWS

New on Ancestry

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

■ **Abraham Lincoln Papers:** This collection of 20,000 documents with images of the originals from the Library of Congress, 1850-1865. The database is searchable by name as well as keyword, allowing users to search for events or places as well as people.

■ **Georgia Confederate Pension Applications, 1879 – 1960:** Images of these multi-page documents are included in this database. Documents include questionnaires, affidavits and other forms needed to apply for the pensions.

■ **U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866 – 1938:** This database includes images from the registers from Soldiers Homes in various states. Data can include name of soldier, name of home or branch, admission date, birthplace, rank, company and regiment, enlistment and discharge data, physical description, occupation, marital status, and religion.

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

NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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

NEW ACQUISITION SPOTLIGHT

Thörner, Udo. *Venne in America: The 19th Century Mass Emigration to America of Tenants and Small Cottage Farmers from a Rural Village in the Region of Osnabrück*. Rosalie Hortmann Haines, tr. Osnabrück, Germany: Arbeitskreis Familienforschung Osnabrück, 2008. R 943.5911 T511V

A genealogical boon to anyone with ancestry from the village of Venne, this book will also benefit anyone with roots in the former Kingdom of Hannover. Chapters cover the social, economic and political conditions in that area of Germany, reasons for emigration, a description of the trip to America, and the fate of immigrants in their new homeland. The author relays this history using the stories of the persons who experienced it. An appendix lists all emigrants from Venne to the U.S. from 1830—1900, and includes spouses' names, birthdates, destinations, and year of immigration. This work is not only highly detailed, it is also superbly researched and documented.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WEB PAGES

■ [Index to "St. Louis World War Fighters," a St. Louis Star Newspaper Series](#)

An every name index to a series of articles published in 1930 about World War service men living in St. Louis. The microfilm for the *St. Louis Star* newspaper, is located on Tier 4 of St. Louis County Library Headquarters. The [drawer list for Tier 4](#) indicates its specific location.

PRINT RESOURCES

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

■ States and Counties

Abbreviated titles unless italicized

GEORGIA

- Berrien County Marriage Records Index 1856-1949*. 2008. 975.8862 P328B (NGS)
Oconee County Superior and Ordinary Court Records, 1875-1912. 975.8193 M174 (NGS)
Tattnall County Loose Papers, Vol. 2, 1846-1870. 975.8775 M984T (NGS)
Ware County Marriage Records Index 1874 to 1943. 2008. 975.8794 P328W (NGS)

ILLINOIS

- Clinton County, Illinois, History & Families*. 2008. R 977.3875 C641
The Underground Railroad in Western Illinois. 2008. R 973.7115 M946U

MISSOURI

- Extracts from The Rising Son, Kansas City, Missouri, 1903-1907* (African-American newspaper). 2001. R977.8411 C978
 Kansas City Cemeteries. Multiple volumes. R977.8411
 Kansas City Funeral Homes Multiple volumes. R977.8411
 Ray County Missouri (various records). 2008. R 977.819 W362R
Saint Louis Italians: The Hill and Beyond. 2008. R 977.866 M326S
St. Charles Guards: McCausland's Company of the Oregon Battalion. R 977.839 S217S

PENNSYLVANIA

- Acta Germanopolis: Records of the Corporation of Germantown, Pennsylvania, 1691-1707*. 2008. 974.811 A188 (NGS)

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Laurens County, South Carolina Minutes of the County Court, 1786-1789*. R 975.731 H725L
South Carolina Revolutionary War Indents: A Schedule. 2009. R 975.7 A567S

■ Germany

- Die Höfe in Fürstbistum Osnabrück, Teil 1, Die Ämter Iburg und Osnabrück [The Farmsteads in the Prince-Bishopric of Osnabrück, Part 1, The Departments of Iburg and Osnabrück]*. R 943.5911 H658A

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NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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Die Höfe in Fürstbistum Osnabrück, Teil 2, Die Ämter Grönenberg, Wittlage und Hunteburg [The Farmsteads in the Prince-Bishopric of Osnabrück, Part 2, The Departments of Grönenberg, Wittlage, and Hunteburg]. R 943.5911 H658A

Die Familien der Kirchengemeinde Rysum [The Families of the Parish of Rysum] (1712 - 1900). 2008. R 943.5917 L389F

Die Familien des ehemaligen Amtes Pewsum aus den Kirchengemeinden Pewsum, Woquard, Loquard und

Campen und deren Nachkommen bis ins 20. Jahrhundert [The Families of the Former Department of Pewsum from the Parishes Pewsum, Woquard, Loquard and Campen, and Their Descendents to the 20th Century]. 3 vols. 2005- R 943.591 F198

■ Scotland

The Forgotten Tombstones of Moray [Scotland] R 977.819 W362R

Scotland During the Plantation of Ulster: The People of Ayrshire, 1600-1699. 2008. R 941.46 D635S

■ Family Histories

An Updated History and Genealogical Record of the Isenberg Family. 1991. 929.2 I78B (NGS)

Descendants of Elijah Partridge (1763-1814) and Prudence Brown (1761-1844). 2006. 929.2 P275W (NGS)

Descendants of Jacob Amidown (1720-1790) of Woodstock, Connecticut and Dudley, Massachusetts (to 1930). 2007. 929.2 A516A (NGS)

McIntosh-Mackintosh families of Scotland and America. 1982. (NGS) 929.2M152M

The Murray Family of Hawick, Scotland: Pennsylvania and Iowa and Associated Families of Plummer, Dern, Witherow, Koons, Mackey, Leet, Hunter, Hain, Maize, and Pitcairn. 2008 929.2 M981H (NGS)

An Updated History and Genealogical Record of the Isenberg Family. 1991. 929.2 I78B (NGS)

Wheat Genealogy. 1960. 929.2 W556W (NGS)

■ Other new titles

Ireland and Irish America: Culture, Class and Transatlantic Migration. 2008. R 973.0491 M648I

Generals in Blue: The Lives of the Union Commanders. Reprint, 2006. R 973.741 W281G

Generals in Gray: Lives of the Confederate Commanders. 2006 reprint. R 973.742 W281G

New York's Historic Armories. 2006. R 355.75 T635N

Official Guide to Family Tree Maker 2009. 2008. 929.1 P3710 (NGS)

Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1897. (includes numerous names) R 362.8 N277R

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT SPECIAL EVENTS

■ Italian Genealogical Research

March 28, 2009, 9:30 am—Noon
Headquarters Auditorium

“Being Italian in the New World”

Learn the methods for collecting an historical portrait of your Italian family from your immigrant ancestors to the present.

“Discovering Your Old World Italian Connection”

Step back across the bridge into the old country and travel with your Italian ancestors back through time.

Speaker: Scott Biondo, Italian Club of St. Louis

■ Genealogical Resources at the St. Louis Police Library

April 4, 2009, 9:30 am—Noon
Headquarters Auditorium

Speakers:


Barbara Miksicek, Librarian
St. Louis Police Library

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

Special events are free and open to the public.
No pre-registration required

CALENDAR

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

Note: Dates for Special Collections Department classes are indicated by .

Please register for classes in advance of the date by calling 314-994-3300 and asking for the Reference Department. Once connected, tell the Reference Librarian you would like to register for a class.

All events are free and open to the public.

MARCH

 **Monday, March 2, 2-4 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm

Headquarters East Room
STLGS Jewish Special Interest Group
Program: "Internet Sites for Jewish Genealogy"
Speaker: Ilene Murray

 **Thursday, March 12, 2-4 pm**

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

Saturday, March 14, 10 am

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

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

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

Wednesday, March 18, 7 pm

Headquarters Auditorium
STLGS German Special Interest Group
Program: "German Genealogy: A Personal Story"
Speaker: Roland Vogt

Thursday, March 25, 7 pm

Headquarters Auditorium
STLGS French Special Interest Group
Program: "French Villages in the Region of St. Genevieve"
Speaker: Jim Baker

Saturday, March 28, 9:30-Noon

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

 **Thursday, April 2, 9:30-11:30 am**

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

Saturday, April 4, 9:30 am-Noon

Headquarters Auditorium
Special Collections Department Event
Topic: "St. Louis Police Library"
Speakers: Barbara Miksicek & Joyce Loving

 **Friday, April 10, 9:30-11:30 am**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

 **Monday, April 13, 2:00-4:00 pm**

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

Tuesday, April 14, 7 pm

Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Meeting
Topic: "Family Stories: Did It Really Happen That Way?"
Speaker: Ted Steele

 **Wednesday, April 22, 9:30-11:30 am**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

 **Tuesday, April 28, 6:30-8:30 pm**

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