

FOR THE RECORDS

Irish Catholic parish registers

Catholic parish registers are one of the most important tools in the Irish genealogy toolbox. Since civil records of births, marriages and deaths in Ireland did not start until 1864, and the 19th century census records were destroyed, they can be indispensable. Catholic records are often the only evidence of the existence of a large percentage of the population of Ireland, particularly of those people who did not own land, make wills, join armies or sign petitions. Farmers, laborers, servants, beggars and many others left no record of their existence except in their churches. With roughly thirty-three million United States citizens claiming Irish heritage, getting to know these records is a must for today's genealogist.

History

Christianity has existed in Ireland since the 5th century, arrived from Roman Britain, and is usually associated with the legend of Saint Patrick (Fig. 1). Catholicism gradually gained ground and replaced the old pagan traditions. The Irish Church conformed to the Roman-style diocesan system in the 12th century, due in part to the Norman invasion of Ireland. This strengthened the papacy's control over the Irish Church and marked the beginning of more than 800 years of English rule. In 1534, however, Henry VIII of England renounced the papacy and separated the English Church from Rome. Aside from a brief restoration of Roman Catholicism under Mary I, the reformed Church of Ireland was the official state church until 1871.

This had little effect on most people. Large parts of rural Ireland were not in any practical sense under English control. Converts to the Church of Ireland were mainly those who were loyal to the crown and wanted to gain favor. In practice, therefore, the vast majority of people remained Catholic. The Catholic Church was under constant threat, however. The Penal Laws effectively removed the rights of Catholics to hold public office, own land,



Figure 1 | Although St. Patrick is associated with the Irish Church, Christianity had been established in Ireland before his arrival as a missionary. Photo source: [Wikimedia <https://bit.ly/2PGCXec>](https://bit.ly/2PGCXec).

and train in certain professions. Faithful Catholics were in disarray. The clergy was often uneducated and the sacraments poorly administered. Record keeping was a low priority and many priests did not want evidence of their activities to exist. This varied, however. Overt practice was risky in some areas, while Catholic activities were simply ignored in others.

The Penal Laws were eventually relaxed and by 1829 had been repealed. Around this time, a period of new church building began, as well as a massive reconstruction of the church's infrastructure. Unfortunately, even during this reconstruction

The screenshot shows the Ancestry Library search page for 'Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915'. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, Search, Message Boards, Learning Center, Charts and Forms, and New Collections. The search bar contains the text 'Search > Birth, Marriage & Death'. The main heading is 'Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915'. Below this is a search form with a 'Search' button and a checkbox for 'Match all terms exactly'. The form has fields for 'First & Middle Name(s)' and 'Last Name'. There are also filters for 'Birth', 'Death', 'Lived In', 'Marriage', and 'Any Event', each with dropdown menus for 'Day', 'Month', and 'Year', and a 'Location' field. Below the search form is an 'Add family member' section with fields for 'Father', 'Mother', and 'Spouse', each with 'First & Middle Name(s)' and 'Last Name' fields. A 'Keyword' field is also present. On the right side, there are three panels: 'Published under the National Library of Ireland's Terms of Use of Material made available on registers.nli.ie.', 'Browse this collection' with a 'Diocese' dropdown and a 'Parish' dropdown, and 'Related data collections' with links to 'Ireland, Select Catholic Birth and Baptism Registers, 1763-1917' and 'Ireland, Select Catholic Marriage Registers, 1775-1942'. A callout box with a black border and white background is positioned over the search form, containing the text: 'Figure 2 | Irish parish registers can be researched on the Ancestry database.'

period, records were not always kept or may no longer exist if they were. Large numbers of priests were being hurriedly ordained without adequate training. The wealth of the parish to support a full-time priest, as well as the attitude and support of the landlord, were also factors.

The Great Famine

In the meantime, Spaniards who had been colonizing the New World brought back several varieties of the potato. By the end of the seventeenth century, it had become the major crop in Ireland. It is estimated that by the 1840s, nearly half of the Irish population's diet depended almost exclusively on the potato.

In 1845, the water mold *Phytophthora infestans* struck. The pathogen did not accompany the original potatoes, but seems to have been brought to Europe in 1845. The mold decimated

the potato plants with a disease called "late blight." Much of Ireland's potato crop rotted in the fields over the next few years. Around one million Irish died of causes related to starvation. As many as two million emigrated, many of whom made their way to the United States. Irish immigration to America consisted of predominantly poor, rural Catholic peasants during these years and for much the rest of the 1800s.

Though many settled in New York and Boston, St. Louis became a popular, if smaller hub for Irish immigration. Irish immigrants settled in neighborhoods like the Kerry Patch and Dogtown. The Irish quickly became the second-largest immigrant group in St. Louis next to the Germans.

Which records are available?

The number of churches keeping records generally increased in the late 1700s and early 1800s, as the Catholic restrictions

started to ease, but there are regional variations. More early records exist for parishes in the provinces of Leinster and Munster, while fewer are available in Connaught and Ulster. Despite these generalizations, however, all parts of the country have some early records. The earliest surviving Irish Catholic parish register is from Wexford Town, Co. Wexford and dates back to 1671. Some parishes have no surviving registers pre-dating civil records. Unfortunately, some of the poorest, rural areas tend to have the fewest records. This can be frustrating, as these areas are where many immigrants came from.

In 1949, the National Library of Ireland started a twenty-year project to microfilm surviving Catholic parish registers up to 1880. Prior to this, the registers were held locally at individual parishes. While risks were associated with keeping them individually, there was little risk of a catastrophic event destroying them all, so this was fortunate for genealogists. Records for over 1000 parishes exist in the collection.

Once the registers were microfilmed, RootsIreland, a conglomeration of county historical societies and their volunteers, indexed them. The index was available on their website and transcriptions could be ordered for a fee. In 2016, the index and the records were offered to other websites with the stipulation that they must be available to the public at no cost.

Locating records

Irish Catholic parish registers are online several places. While [Ancestry](https://www.ancestry.com/) <<https://www.ancestry.com/>> and [FindMyPast](https://findmypast.com) <<https://findmypast.com>> are both subscription-based sites, they offer free access to the records due to the aforementioned agreement.* Genealogists can search by name. Search functions in each database are a little different, and some researchers like one interface over another. The easiest way to find the Irish Catholic Parish Registers on *Ancestry* is to click on “Search,” followed by “Card Catalog,” and then search for the title “Ireland, Catholic Parish Records, 1655-1915” (Fig. 2). On *FindMyPast*, click “Free Records” and then on “Search Irish Parish Records.” *Ancestry* combines the records into one data set, while searching in *FindMyPast* is divided according to baptism, marriage or death.

* *Ancestry Library Edition* and *FindMyPast* can be used for free at any St. Louis County Library location.



The tombstone in Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis for Patrick Kelly states he was born in County Clare. Source: [Findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/48037161) memorial ID 48037161 <<https://bit.ly/2lgin00>>.

The [National Library of Ireland](https://www.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx) <<https://www.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx>> also offers digitized records online, but they are not searchable by name. This is the best site to use for browsing, which can be useful when searching by name on other sites has not yielded results. Users are able to locate a parish by name or by using a map.

It is important to keep in mind that more registers may still be discovered and digitized in the future. Several years of parish records from St. Columb Derry City, Co. Derry just came online in 2019.

What the records look like

Irish Catholic parish registers consist of baptisms, marriages, and (occasionally) deaths. Baptisms typically include date,

child’s name, father’s name, mother’s maiden name and names of godparents or sponsors. Sometimes a birth location was included. Baptisms usually took place as soon as possible after birth. Marriages include the date and names of bride, groom, and witnesses. The entries may also include the places of residence and names and occupations of the fathers. Death or burial records consist of the name of the deceased and date of interment, but rarely a location. Since standard printed forms did not exist, records can offer a wide range of information, vary from parish to parish, and even vary from year to year in the same parish.

The registers were recorded in either English or Latin. Latin tended to be used in rural, Irish-speaking parishes, while English was used in urban areas. Irish was not used.

Finding the right parish

As with all European research, the primary task is to identify the immigrant ancestor’s place of origin. Ireland’s four provinces were divided into 32 counties with civil parishes and

townlands within the counties. The Catholic Church had 26 dioceses with over 1,000 parishes. The first step in identification is to exhaust all records found in the United States for clues of origin, and the more specific, the better. A place of origin can sometimes be found by speaking with other family members and exploring family lore. A tombstone (Fig. 3), naturalization record, obituary, Catholic record from the United States or a U.S. county history book may list a location. DNA testing may also be useful, and some testing services are able to narrow results to fairly specific geographic locations (Fig. 4). Searching DNA matches can offer clues as well.

Researching relatives, neighbors and close relations of the ancestor can also be effective, as immigrants from the same location tended to settle together. Chain migration was common. If the place of origin for the ancestor remains elusive, it might be found by researching a contemporary relative. Recording information about these associated people in a spreadsheet can be useful.

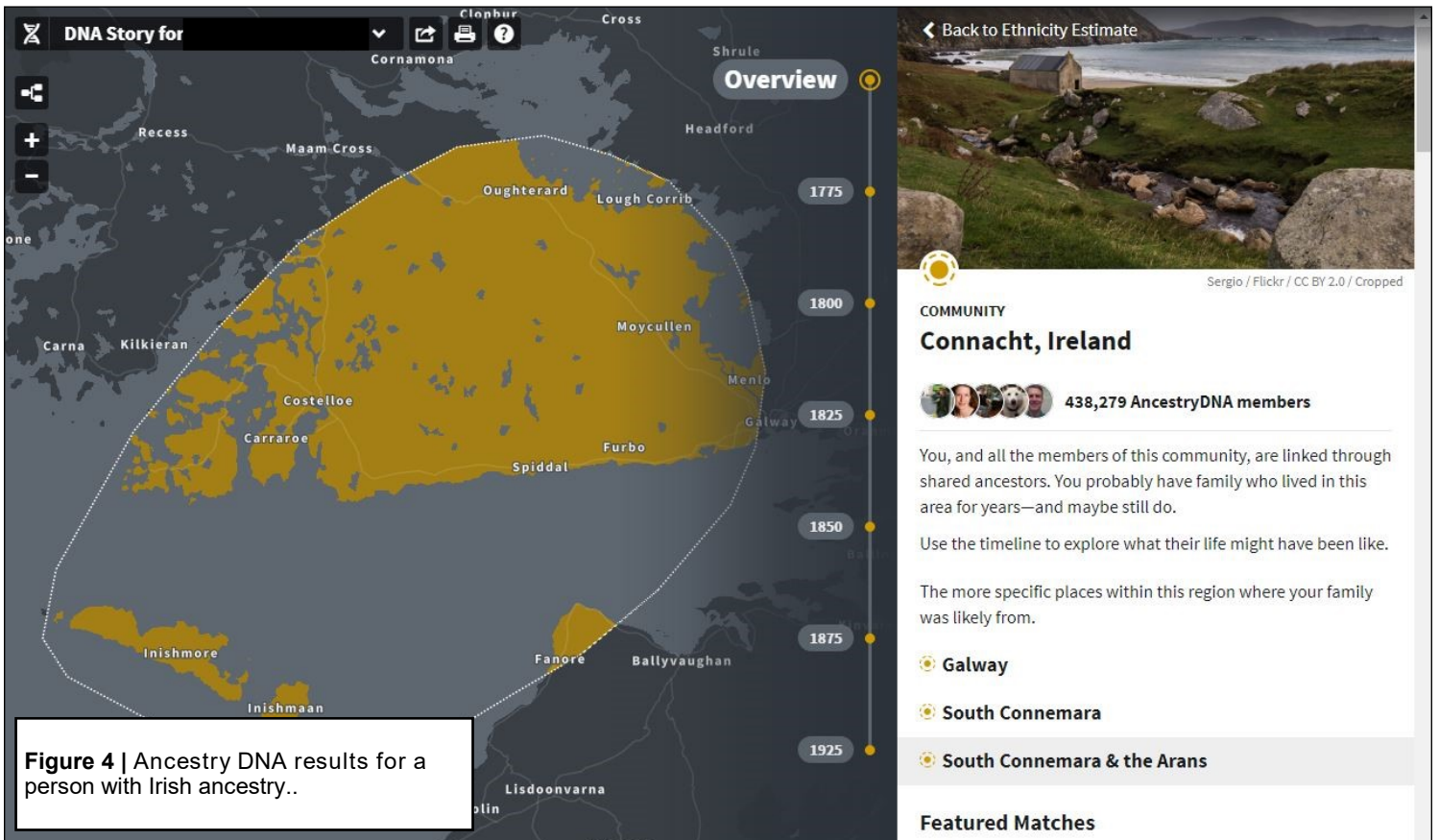


Figure 4 | Ancestry DNA results for a person with Irish ancestry..

It is also occasionally possible to narrow down a location based on a surname. While many Irish surnames are common throughout the island, some tend to be concentrated in certain areas. A helpful resource is *The Birth Index of Ireland: A Special Record of Irish Family Names* (Call no. R 941.5 M427B). It uses the birth indexes of 1890 to identify the regions and counties where surnames are typically found. Websites like [Irish Ancestors](https://johngrenham.com/) <<https://johngrenham.com/>> (free for the first few searches) or [Irish Surname Map](https://barrygriffin.com/surname-maps/) <<https://barrygriffin.com/surname-maps/>> perform a similar function. They synthesize data from church registers, Griffith's Valuation and the 1901 and 1911 censuses to create surname maps. The surname Fogarty, for example, is heavily concentrated in County Tipperary based on a records compiled by the Irish Surname Maps website (Fig. 5). While a name and county is typically not enough information to search databases, adding additional information, such as parents' names, can make the search more successful.

Tips

The following offers some tips that may help the researcher with the Irish Catholic parish registers.

Naming patterns were common. The eldest son was named after the child's paternal grandfather, the second son after the child's maternal grandfather, the third son after the father, the fourth son after the child's eldest paternal uncle and subsequent sons after other paternal uncles or the eldest maternal uncle. The eldest daughter was named after the child's maternal grandmother, the second daughter after the child's paternal grandmother, the third daughter after the mother, the fourth daughter after the child's eldest maternal aunt and subsequent daughters after other maternal aunts or the eldest paternal aunt. Although the naming pattern was not always followed, it may give the researcher some guidance when little other information exists.

Records can include many name variations. Since some of registers are in Latin, consider the Latin versions of names in searches. Examples include Guliemus for William and Honoria for Nora. You will also often see names abbreviated in the records, although these are usually more obvious, such as Margt for Margaret or Jas for James. Nicknames were often used that may not be quite as obvious, such as Nelly for Ellen

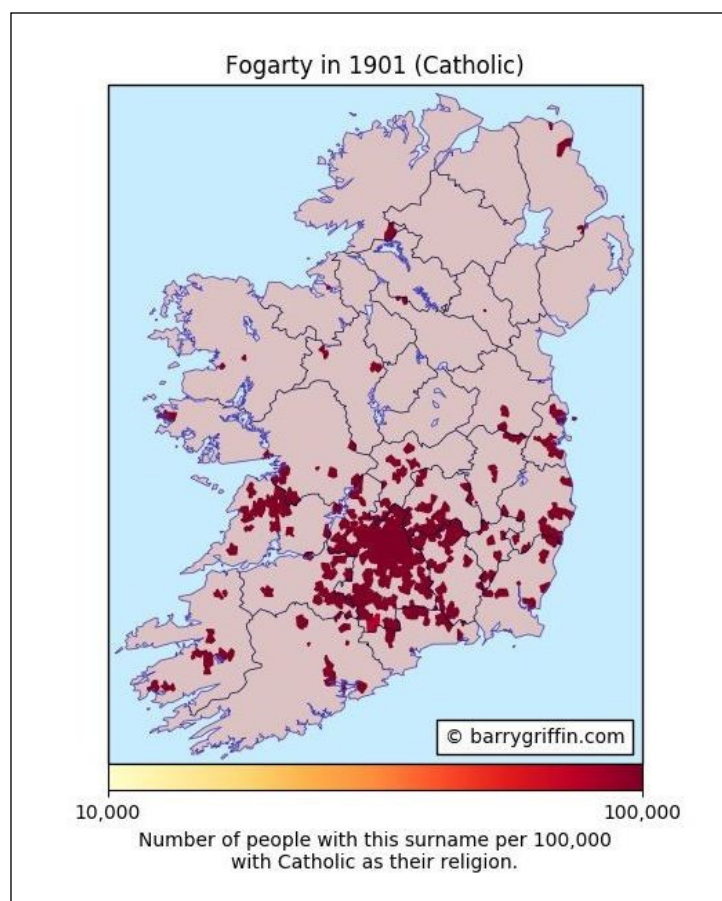


Figure 5 | Surname map showing occurrences of the name "Fogarty." Source: [Barrygriffin.com](https://bit.ly/3cohh05) <<https://bit.ly/3cohh05>>.

or Castor for Christopher. There are also interchangeable names such as Bridget and Bedelia or Owen and Hugh. Simple spelling differences are almost always found, such as Mulloy as Malloy or Burke as Bourke. After years of Anglican pressure, prefixes like O' (descendent of) and Mc (son of) were sometimes dropped from Irish names. Names like O'Reilly became Reilly and McSweeney became Sweeney.

Keep name variations in mind when searching. Some searches may need to be performed more than once. It is also important when searching a site by name to select the "name variations" box. Alternatively, an asterisk or "wildcard" can also be used when searching and the results will include records that begin with the specified letters. For example, records often use Pat, Patt, Patk, and Patricius for the name Patrick. Searching for "Pat*" in a database using the wildcard should find all of these variations.

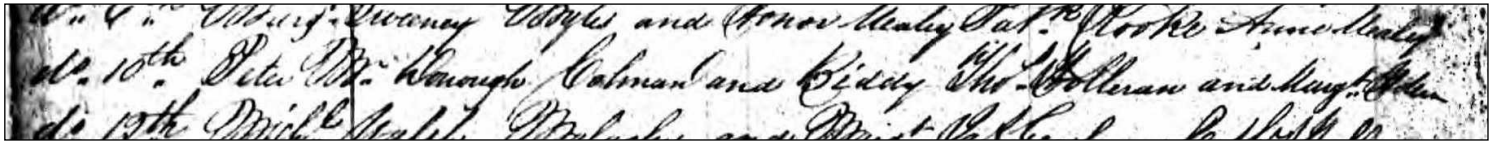


Figure 6 | Baptismal record for Peter McDonough. Source: [Ochterard Parish, National Library of Ireland](https://bit.ly/2Tg4CVH) <https://bit.ly/2Tg4CVH>

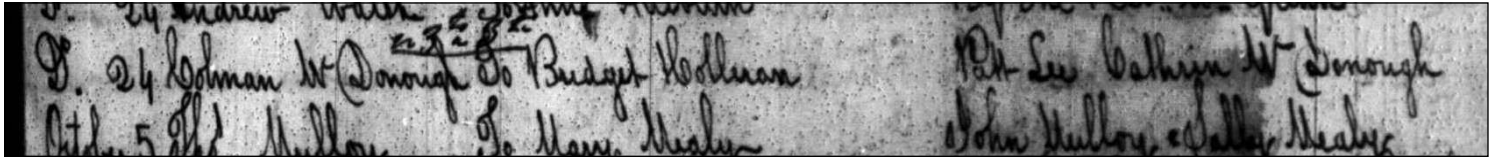


Figure 7 | Marriage record for Colman McDonough and Bridgett Holleran. Source: [Ochterard Parish, National Library of Ireland](https://bit.ly/2Tg4CVH) <https://bit.ly/2Tg4CVH>

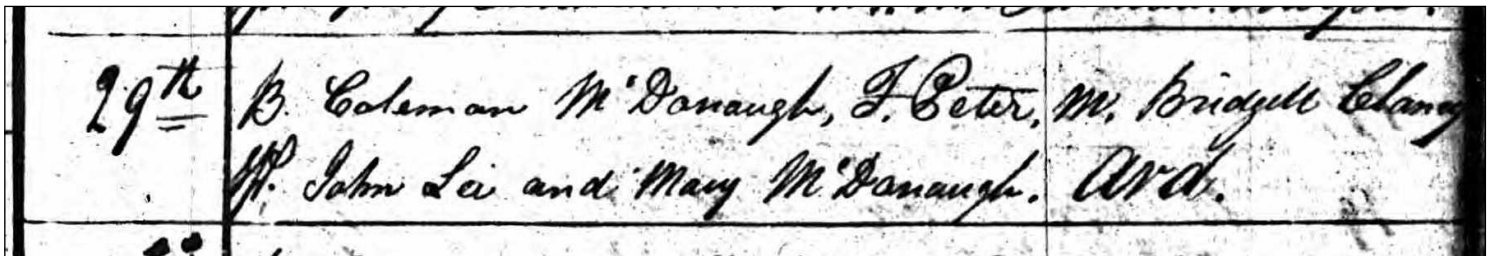


Figure 7 | Baptismal record for Colman McDonough. Source: [Ochterard Parish, National Library of Ireland](https://bit.ly/2Tg4CVH) <https://bit.ly/2Tg4CVH>

Pay close attention to and keep track of witnesses and godparents found in marriage and baptism records. They can help build and prove connections. Siblings and other relatives, such as first cousins, friends and neighbors, were likely candidates. Godparents or sponsors for a baptism tended to be of the same generation as the parents and almost always included a male and a female. A female may have been recorded with her maiden, rather than her married, name.

Always view the original record, not just the transcription. The transcriber could have made a mistake, or omitted information, such as a notation in the margin. Sometimes notations can refer to a person, but they also might be notes regarding an event or the general state of the parish. In the Oughterard Parish, Co. Galway register of marriages from 1846, for example, the priest wrote the following note at the end of the year, “A year of famine during which over 400 died in this parish.”

While we know that most Irish people continued to practice Catholicism, those seeking favor with the English or better financial opportunities may have opted to attend the Church of Ireland. If a record cannot be located in the Catholic registers,

it may make sense to look there. Unfortunately, however, about one-half of these registers were destroyed in the Four Courts fire of 1922.

Even though the residents of Ireland were not particularly migratory, it may be prudent to check neighboring parishes. If a bride and groom were from different parishes, the marriage was usually performed in the bride’s parish. Those living near a parish border may have had a sacrament performed in the neighboring parish. Parish boundaries also sometimes changed. Researchers should be aware of when parishes formed, as records may be found in an older parish from which a newer parish was created. *A Guide to Irish Parish Registers* (call no. R 941.5 M681G) shows when parishes began. Catholic parishes also occasionally crossed county borders.

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Pitfalls

Unfortunately, research in Irish Catholic parish register comes with pitfalls. First, some are very hard to read due to poor handwriting or deterioration. In addition, some registers, even if they start early, have gaps and missing years.

As mentioned previously, another problem is that priests were not consistent with the types and amount of information they recorded. The Kilcolman Parish, Co. Mayo marriage records, for example, only recorded the couple's names but not those of witnesses in the years 1807–1817.

Another issue is finding too many people with the same name. You may discover that multiple babies were born with the

same name around the same time in the same parish. Without more information, it may be hard to distinguish between them. The Irish at this time often did not have or record middle names. There were small pools of Irish first names, usually saint's names. In some places in Ireland in the mid-1800s, it is estimated that as many as 1 in 3 female babies were named Mary. When combined with the prevalence of certain surnames in specific areas, this can indeed be a major pitfall to research.

Case study: Peter McDonough

Evidence from U.S. research indicates that Peter McDonough was born in County Galway. Finding his baptism in Irish Catholic records would be the place to start. The researcher discovered his baptism recorded on Sept. 10, 1844 in the records of Oughterard Parish (also called Kilcummin), County Galway (Fig. 6). His parents were Colman McDonough and "Biddy." Biddy is a common nickname for Bridget. His godparents, Thomas Holleran and Margaret Holleran, were likely relatives of his mother.

The next step is to identify a marriage record. A marriage was found between Colman McDonough and Bridget Holleran on September 24, 1843 (Fig. 7). The witnesses are Patt Lee and Catherine McDonough.

The researcher would want to locate Colman's and Bridget's baptisms next, and Colman's will be detailed here. Irish people in the 1800s married for the first time between the ages of 20-30, so looking for a baptism 20-30 years before Colman and Bridget's marriage would be in order. Pre-famine marriages tended to be earlier than post-famine ones. For Colman McDonough, a baptism was recorded on January 29, 1815 (Fig. 8). His parents were Peter McDonough and Bridget Clancy. The godparents were John Lee and Mary McDonough. This is the only Colman McDonough identified in the logical date range. Additionally, if the naming tradition was followed, this is a likely match, as Colman named his first son (above) Peter. More evidence for these parents lies in the fact that one of the witnesses at his wedding was Catherine McDonough. There is a Catherine McDonough born to Peter McDonough and Bridget Clancy in the register in 1819, in the same townland stated in Colman's record. A sister would be a likely marriage witness. It can also be assumed that there is



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some connection to the Lee family, as two members appear in the records.

Unfortunately, the Oughterard registers begin in 1809, so it would not be possible to go back another generation. This research, however, successfully added two more generations to the tree.

Irish Catholic parish registers are an essential genealogical resource. They provide evidence of direct links between one generation and another and are readily available online. They can help genealogists expand their family trees, particularly for those generations before the civil records began in Ireland in 1864. They can also be used in conjunction with other types of Irish genealogy records, such as Griffith's Valuation, the later civil records and the later censuses. For the majority of the Irish people who lived in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a church record may be the only proof of their existence. Finding ancestors in the Irish Catholic parish registers may be the key to unlocking an Irish family tree.

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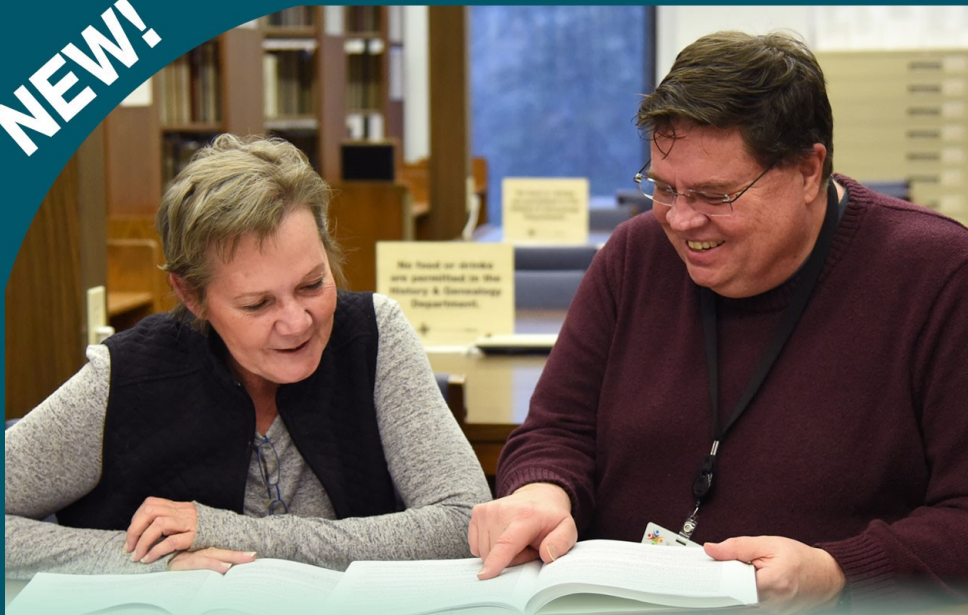
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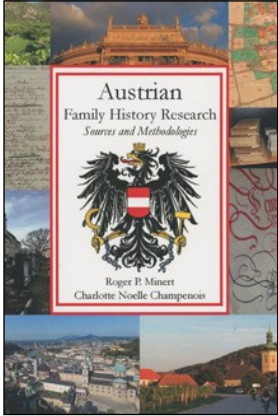


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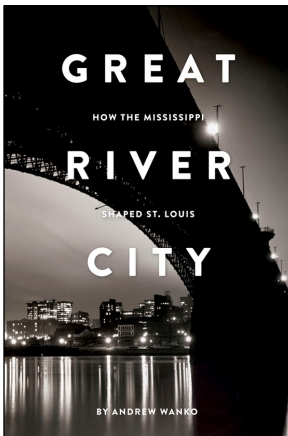
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ROGER P. MINERT
Austrian Family History Research: Sources and Methodologies
 Family Roots Publishing Co., 2019
 R 943.6 M664A

For years, researchers investigating Austrian ancestry have felt like second-class citizens in the genealogical world, given the number of books written for neighboring countries, such as Germany. But now the wait is over, and the book we need is here. The authors have covered the topic in great detail and have included images to show the kinds of records that are available to study. Novices and experts alike will benefit from the sources and methods described in detail in this book.—*Publisher*



ANDREW WANKO
Great River City: How the Mississippi Shaped St. Louis
 Missouri Historical Society Press, 2019
 R 977.866 W247G

For St. Louis, the Mississippi has always been more than just a river. It's been the focus of the local economy, a shaping force on millions of lives, and a mirror for the city's triumphs, embarrassments, joys, and tragedies. Through fifty-six snapshots from the city's history, *Great River City: How the Mississippi Shaped St. Louis* examines the many ways St. Louis has interacted with the mighty river running past its front door.

Included among the dozens of stories are landmark moments in the history of St. Louis, from Lewis and Clark's 1803 expeditionary stopover and the construction of the Eads Bridge in the 1860s and '70s to more recent events,

like the Great Flood of 1993. But this book also reveals some unexpected connections between the Mississippi and St. Louis, diving into subjects as diverse as sanitation, urban planning, and racial and ethnic conflicts. Some of these moments still leave their traces on the city today, while others have long since washed away. All are proof that both river and city will continue rolling on.

Countless works have examined the importance of the Mississippi River in American history, but rarely through the lens of a single city. Illustrated with hundreds of maps, artifacts, and images from the rich archives of the Missouri Historical Society, *Great River City* does just that.—*Publisher*

Briefly noted

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Local histories

Abbreviated titles

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 St. George Lutheran Church, Kammerstein, Bavaria.
 R 943.32 S819

Häusergeschichten & Hofgeschichten

Village histories with historical lists of inhabitants— abbreviated titles

Gussenstadt, Walbach, and Dietzlinweiler, Baden-
 Wuerttemberg. R 943.47 J24G
 Brachstadt and Holzöfen, Bavaria. R 943.37 W411H
 Hoyerhagen, Lower Saxony. R 943.59 M613H

Ortssippenbücher

Village-specific genealogical registers—abbreviated titles

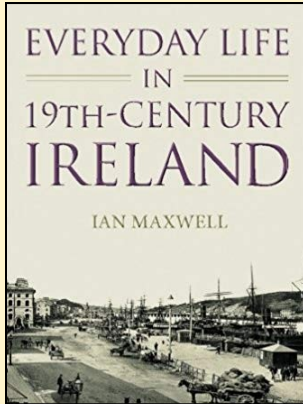
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 Berlinchen (Neumark), Pommerania. R 943.816 B899O
 Burgsolms and Oberndorf, Hesse. R 943.414 S353F
 Capellen (Stolzenfels), Rhineland-Palatinate. R 943.432 K18F

Deutsch-Elemer, Banat. R 949.71 L533F
 Deutschbentschek, Rumänischbentschek, Janowa,
 Herneakowa, Nadasch and Stantschowa, Banat.
 949.84 S358F
 Dossenheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg. R 943.471 H481E
 Dunaharaszti bei Budapest, Dunaharaszti, and Taksony,
 Batschka. R 943.91 N488O
 Ebermergen, Brünsee, Marbach, Unterer Reismühle,
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 Ratzenhof, Reichertsweiler, Säubertsweiler, and
 Schwarzenberger Hof, Bavaria. R 943.37 O78
 Erlingshofen, Bavaria. R 943.37 K72O
 Fürth (Odenwald), Hesse. R 943.416 K67F
 Hürnheim and Christgarten, Bavaria. R 943.37 B393O
 Ichenheim (Neuried), Baden-Wuerttemberg. R 943.462 K75O
 Kischker, Batschka. R 949.71 L869O
 Kleinbetschkerek, Banat. R 949.84 G454F
 Knees, Hodon, Baratzhausen, and Kettel, Banat.
 R 949.84 C555F
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 Pfäfflingen im Ries, Bavaria. R 943.37 B393P
 Rümmlsheim, Rhineland-Palatinate. R 943.43 K18F
 Schkeitbar bei Lützen, Saxony. R 943.212 K94F
 Segenthau, Banat. R 949.84 K83F
 Thalfang, Rhineland-Palatinate. R 943.43 K18F
 Trechtingshausen, Rhineland-Palatinate. R 943.43 K18F
 Unterringen, Amerdingen, Diemantstein, Fronhofen,
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 and Unterliezheim, Sternbach, Thalheim, Warnhofen, and
 Zoltingen, Bavaria. R 943.37 W411O
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 Waldalgesheim, Rhineland-Palatinate. R 943.43 K18F
 Weißenthurm am Rhein, Rhineland-Palatinate.
 R 943.432 T377O
 Windesheim and Schweppenhausen, Rhineland-Palatinate.
 R 943.43 K18F
 Woustviller, Lorraine. R 944.385 W433W

Shelf life

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Book | *Everyday Life in 19th-Century Ireland*



A genealogist collects records and builds a family tree of ancestors. Ancestors, however, are more than just names and dates. In order to make them “come to life,” it is important to know how they lived. One book, *Everyday Life in 19th-Century Ireland* (Call no. R 941.5 M465E)

by Ian Maxwell, does just this.

Almost 33 million people in the United States today claim Irish heritage. Many of these people have ancestors who immigrated in the nineteenth century, possibly around the time of the potato famine that occurred in the late 1840s. What were their lives like in Ireland? Why did they decide to leave?

This book describes nineteenth-century Ireland, touching on life in the countryside, life in a town, the famine, law and order, religion, education, and migration.

Since many Irish immigrants were poor tenant farmers in search of a better life, the chapter “Life in the Countryside” is particularly interesting. It describes the social scale of those involved in working on the land, from landowners, to agents, to tenant farmers, cottier tenants, and wandering laborers. Those on the lower end of the scale lived in one-room mud cabins. They subsisted on a mostly potato diet, and the death of the principal breadwinner could force a family into destitution.

Everyday Life in 19th-Century Ireland can help genealogists learn how their Irish ancestors lived and what may have motivated them.

Other German titles

- Die Adressbücher der Oberlausitz [Directories of Upper Lusatia]: 1702–1950. R 943.21 B676A
- The Family Tree Historical Atlas of Germany. R 943 B422F
- Goodbye Forever: Life Beyond Germany: Emigration in the 19th Century. R 943.226 R845G
- Historische Rufnamen der ehemaligen Rheinprovinz und BeNeLux [Historical familiar names of the former Rhine Province and BeNeLux]. R 929.4 L861H
- Our Ancestors Were German: Emigration in the 19th Century from Grand Duchy Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach. R 943.22 R845O
- Vergessene Menschen: Auswanderung im 19 Jahrhundert [Forgotten People: Emigration in the 19th Century]. R 943.22 R842V
- Welschneureut Church Records: Welschneureut, Germany, 1700–1809. R 943.464 D596W

Handbooks and guides

- The Family Tree Problem Solver: Tried-and-True Tactics for Tracing Elusive Ancestors. R 929.1 R595F
- The Family Tree Toolkit: A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy. 929.1 B534F
- How to Find Your Family History in U.S. church records: A Genealogist's Guide. 929.1 M891H
- Visiting Your Ancestral Town: Walk in the Footsteps of Your Ancestors. R 929.1 S375V

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- Diccionario biográfico de antiguos pobladores de San Luis Potosí, 1592–1666. R 972.44 M839D
- Mexico's Copper Canyon = Barranca del Cobre. R 972.16 F535

Military**Civil War**

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- Hardtack and Coffee, or, the Unwritten Story of Army Life. R 973.783 B598H
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- Union Army Balloon Corps: Operations During the War of the Rebellion, 1861–1863. R 973.741 D975U
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- Shrouds of Glory: From Atlanta to Nashville--The Last Great Campaign of the Civil War. R 973.7378 G875S
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- Furlough: The Civil War Diaries of Sarah Belle Bright and Charles Alexander Elder of Trenton, Tennessee, 1861–1867. R 973.782 B855F
- Headed for Dixie and Trouble: The Civil War Journal of Will L. Wade. R 973.781 W121H

With a True God Bless: Civil War Letters. R 973.782 M559W

Regiments

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- As Seen from the Ranks: A Boy in the Civil War. R 973.7447 B478A
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Primary sources

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States and counties

Alabama

Excerpts from Minutes of Cullman Baptist Association of

Cullman County, Alabama, and Surrounding Counties, 1883–1946. R 976.173 C899E

Autauga County

Genealogical Abstracts from the Autauga Citizen, 1853 in Prattville, Autauga County, Alabama. R 976.1463 V788G
Genealogical Abstracts from the Autauga Citizen, 1854 in Prattville, Autauga County, Alabama. R 976.1463 V788G

Mobile County

Death Notices Mobile Daily Register. Volume One: 1885–1894. R 976.122 R523D
Family Histories and Memories. R 976.122 F198
The Mobile Mayor's Court Reports: 1864. R 976.122 W367M
The Mobile Mayor's Court Reports: 1865. R 976.122 W367M

Florida

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Hinshaw's Historical Index of Winchester, Indiana Newspapers, 1857–1984. R 977.266 H665H
History of Daviess County, Indiana: Its People, Industries and Institutions. R 977.2385 F964H
Jackson Cemetery, Jackson Township, Elkhart County, Indiana: Burial Cemetery of War of 1812 Veterans and Indian War Veterans. 483. 977.281 N277J

Iowa

History of Bremer County, Iowa. R 977.734 H673
History of the Spirit Lake Massacre: [Iowa, 1857]: And of Miss Abigail Gardiner's Three Month's Captivity Among the Indians, According to Her Own Account. R 977.7 L478H

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Early Lists of Frederick Countians [Maryland], 1765–1775. R 975.287 W949E

Frederick County, Maryland Church and Cemetery Records. R 975.287 F656F

Massachusetts

A Guide to Massachusetts Cemeteries. 974.4 L222G
Old North Church. R 974.461 O44

Mississippi

Research in Mississippi. 976.2 T513R

Wealth, Land and Slaveholding in Mississippi: A Planter Family's Life of Privilege: 1818–1913. R 976.2 A335W

Missouri

14,468 Public High School Graduates, Kansas City, Missouri, 1872–1920. 977.8411 T367F

Lincoln County

Hawk Point (Missouri): A Harvest of Memories, Index.

R 977.837 G662H

Lincoln County, Missouri: History & Families.

R 977.837 L736

St. Louis City and County

Hyde Park Restoration Plan. R 977.866 S145H

In Commemoration of the Dedication of the New Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, St. Louis, Mo, January 18, 1931. R 977.866 R791I

Overland Trails and Trials and Your Community Today. R 977.865 P247O

Roadside History of Western St. Louis County, Missouri. R 977.865 F792R

The St. Louis Anthology. 977.866 S145

Taking Possession: The Politics of Memory in a St. Louis Town House. 977.866 K81T

Taming Troubled Waters: Dr. Henry Givens Jr. and the Transformation of Harris-Stowe State University, 1979-2011. R 977.866 G539T

Upon Reflection: The Parish of St. Anselm at the Abbey, 1966–1991. 977.865 U68

The World Came to St. Louis : A Visit to the 1904 World's Fair. R 977.866 B619W

New Hampshire

Danville, New Hampshire Residents, 1760–1992. R 974.26 C712D

Gilmanton, New Hampshire Vital Records, 1887-2001. R 974.245 R646G

Historical Memoranda Concerning Persons and Places in Old Dover, New Hampshire. Volume 1. R 974.25 H673

Hillsborough County

The Vital Birth Records of Nashua, New Hampshire, 1887–1935. R 974.28 N249V

The Vital Records of Hudson, New Hampshire, 1734–1985. Marchand. R 974.28 N249V

New Jersey

Cedar Grove Cemetery: Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey. R 974.931 C732C

The History of Salem County, New Jersey: Being the Story of

John Fenwick's Colony, the Oldest English Speaking Settlement on the Delaware River. R 974.991 S579H

New York

Deaths & Marriages, 1850–1860, from the Files of the Syracuse Chronicle, the Daily Standard & the Madison Observer. R 974.765 K29D

Deaths Reported by the Long Islander, 1878–1890. 974.721 R643D

North Carolina

Camden County, North Carolina Deed Books. 975.6135 G115C

Pasquotank County

Pasquotank County, North Carolina Apprenticeship Bonds, 1716–1881. 975.6142 G115P

Pasquotank County, North Carolina, Extant Wardens of the Poor Records, 1807–1868. 975.6142 G115P

Pennsylvania

Early German-American Newspapers. R 974.8 M647E

German Pioneer Life: A Social History. R 974.8 G373

St. Stephen's Catholic Cemetery in the Nicetown Section of Philadelphia, PA. 974.811 H319S

Tennessee

Algood, Tennessee: Past, Present, and Future. R 976.867 A396

Booth Funeral Home, Roane Co., TN: "Formerly Lamb & Coulter," 1914–1939. R 976.884 C712B

Coffee County, Tennessee: Then and Now. R 976.864 M167C

Confederate Morristown and the War Between the States: The War As Seen from Morristown, Tennessee. R 976.8923 C191C

Dickson County, Tennessee Cemetery Records. 976.844 G239D

Grainger County, Tn. Bonds & Marriages, 1888–1926 976.8932 C712G

History of Houston County, Tennessee: History and Families. R 976.836 H673

Old Times in Tennessee: With Historical, Personal, and Political Scraps and Sketches. R 976.8 G954O

Tennessee Land Entries/Locations, Second Surveyor's District. R 976.8 P971T

The War Between the States: Wayne County, Tennessee: In Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. 973.7468 W253

Anderson County

Holly Gamble Funeral Home, Clinton, Tn., 1961 thru 2000. 976.873 C712H

Martin Funeral Home, Anderson Co., TN, 1929–1975. 976.873 C712M

Sevier County

The Historic Architecture of Sevier County, Tennessee. R 976.8893 J77H

Official Publication of Atchley Funeral Home Records, Sevierville, Tennessee. R 976.8893 F792O

The Official Records of Rawlings Funeral Home Sevierville, Tennessee 1911–1995. R 976.8893 F792O

Sevier County, Tennessee and Its Heritage. 976.8893 S511

Sumner

Historic Sumner County. R 976.847 C956H

Josephus Conn Guild and Rose Mont: Politics and Plantation in Nineteenth Century Tennessee. R 976.847 D961J

Union County

Byrd's Mortuary, July 28, 2009 - Feb. 29, 2016. R 976.8935 C324B

Cooke-Campbell Mortuary, Inc., 1935–1990. R 976.8935 C772C

Mark Monroe: An East Tennessee Pioneer and His Corn Crib. R 976.8935 P483M

Washington County

East Tennessee Tax Records Index. R 976.897 R225E

Washington County, Tennessee, Death Record Abstracts, 1908–1916. R 976.897 N692W

Texas

Deaths in Central Texas. R 976.4284 S795D

Stories Beneath the Stones: The Hidden History of a Small Texas Town Told through the Lives of Those Buried in the City Cemetery: Canton, Texas. 976.4276 G816S

United Confederate Veterans of Limestone and Freestone Counties, Texas. R 976.4232 M145U

Virginia

Clarke County, Virginia Will Book Abstracts, Books A-I (1836–1904) and 1A-3C (1841–1913). R 975.598 D912C
Final Report: Culpeper County [Virginia] Road Orders, 1763–1764: Virginia Genealogical Society, Richmond, Virginia. R 975.5392 M647F

Highland County, Virginia Death Records, 1853–1898. R 975.589 H222H

The Union Star: Brookneal, Virginia, Obituaries, 1916–1920. R 975.5672 U93U

Virginia Bible Records. R 975.5 V817

Virginia Land Causes: Lancaster County, 1795–1848 and Northampton County, 1731–1868. R 975.522 N921V

Essex County

Essex County, Virginia Deed Abstracts, 1786–1805, Deed Books 33 to 36. R 975.534 P665E

Essex County, Virginia, Will Abstracts, 1751–1842 and Estate Records Index, 1751–1799. R 975.534 P665E

Fairfax County

Fairfax County, Virginia Death Register, 1853–1896. R 975.5291 F812F

Fairfax County, Virginia Deed Book J-2, August 1808-March 1810. R 975.5291 D271F

Fauquier County

Fauquier County in the Revolution. R 975.5275 R967F
Fauquier County, Virginia, Birth Register. R 975.5275 D912F
The Tax Man Cometh: Land and Property in Colonial Fauquier County, Virginia: Tax Lists from the Fauquier County Court Clerk's Loose Papers, 1759–1782. R 975.5275 P482T

Frederick County

Frederick County [Virginia] Road Orders, 1743–1772. R 975.5992 M647F

Frederick County, Virginia Minutes of Court Records 1743–1745. R 975.5992 D262F

Frederick County, Virginia, Militia Records, 1755–1761. R 975.5992 L778F

Frederick County, Virginia: Deed Book Series, Abstracted. R 975.5992 G489F

Loudoun County

Colonial Catoctin. R 975.528 C758C

Genealogical Abstracts from the Democratic Mirror and the Mirror, Loudoun County, Virginia. R 975.528 D912G

Genealogical Abstracts from the Telephone, Loudoun County, Virginia. R 975.528 D912G

Other state and county titles

Alaska: A Visual Tour of America's Great Land. R 979.8 D495A

Connecticut in Transition, 1775–1818. R 974.6 P985C

Deep South Genealogical Quarterly Index of Titles, 1962–2005. R 976.1 D311

A Gazetteer of the State of Georgia. R 975.8 S554G

A History of Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory. R 975.47 J72H

Index to the Public Official Bonds of Sonoma County, California, 1850–1892. R 979.418 L897I

Natchitoches Colonials: A Source Book: Censuses, Military Rolls, and Tax Lists, 1722–1803. R 976.365 M657N

Recast: Vital Events Published in Variety in 1918 and 1919. R 929.3 P858R

Research in Arkansas. R 976.7 S946R

Wayne County, Nebraska, Newspaper Abstracts, 1876–1899. R 978.257 L479W

Other new titles

American Seaman, 1867–1872. R 355.009 D659A

German Achievements in America: Rudolf Cronau's Survey History. R 973.0431 C947G

The Saint Lawrence [Canada]: Its Basin and Border-Lands. R 971.4 D272S

CLASSES & PROGRAMS

CLASSES

Classes are free and open to the public, but registration is requested. [Register online](https://www.slcl.org/events) <<https://www.slcl.org/events>> or call 314-994-3300. Before registering for classes, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet. A prerequisite is noted for some classes.

CLASSES FOR BEGINNING RESEARCHERS

Who Were my Ancestors? Beginning Genealogical Research

If you have little or no research experience, 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.

March 31	10:00 a.m.	Meramec Valley Register
April 16	10:00 a.m.	Grant's View Register

Library Skills for Genealogical Research

Libraries offer essential tools for researching your ancestry. Learn how to search online library catalogs, obtain materials from distant libraries, locate periodical articles, and use the library's in-house guides. *Pre-requisite: Who Were my Ancestors? Beginning Genealogical Research class or previous research experience.*

March 18	6:30 p.m.	Natural Bridge Register
April 23	2:00 p.m.	Mid-County Register

Finding Ancestors in U.S. Census Records

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.

March 26	2:00 p.m.	Headquarters Register
April 8	6:30 p.m.	Cliff Cave Register

History and Genealogy in Newspapers

Newspapers are excellent sources of historical and genealogical information, and digitization has made them more widely available. The class will cover *19th-Century U. S.*

Newspapers, NewspaperArchive, Newspapers.com and St. Louis Post-Dispatch databases.

March 17	2:00 p.m.	Sachs Register
April 29	2:00 p.m.	Rock Road Register

DATABASES FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Family History Online: Databases for Family History Research

Discover the variety of genealogical databases that can be used free at the library and at home with a St. Louis County Library card.

March 11	2:00 p.m.	Rock Road Register
April 15	2:00 p.m.	Grand Glaize Register
April 25	2:00 p.m.	Headquarters Register

Exploring Fold3 and Heritage Quest Databases

Fold3 and HeritageQuest offer a variety of records for genealogical research, and they can be used free at home with a valid St. Louis County Library card. Find out how to search for your ancestors in census records, city directories, genealogy books, and government documents.

April 21	10:00 a.m.	Weber Road Register
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FamilySearch Basics

FamilySearch.org is a free website offering access to millions of records for genealogical research. This class will provide an overview of the kinds of records available and how to find them.

March 10	2:00 p.m.	Florissant Valley Register
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Getting More out of FamilySearch

Basic search techniques will miss most records in FamilySearch. Learn to navigate unindexed image collections, search the FamilySearch catalog effectively, and use advanced search features to tap into hard-to-find records. *Pre-requisite: FamilySearch Basics or equivalent experience in using the FamilySearch website.*

April 14	10:00 a.m.	Rock Road Register
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CLASSES TO EXPAND RESEARCH SKILLS**Finding Immigrant European Ancestors**

Discover print and online resources for researching immigrant ancestors. This class will include an overview of information available on Ancestry Library Edition and other electronic databases. *Prerequisite: Finding Ancestors in U.S. Census Records class or comparable research experience.*

April 2 10:00 a.m. Weber Road | [Register](#)

CLASSES AT THE MIROWITZ CENTER

Classes are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Contact Susan Kamppainen, 314-733-9813 or email skemppainen@covenantplacestl.org.

Class location

Mirowitz Center at Covenant Place
8 Millstone Campus Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146

Classes are taught by members of the St. Louis County Library History & Genealogy staff.

Tuesday, April 7, 2:00 p.m.

105 | History and Genealogy in Newspapers

Newspapers are excellent sources of historical and genealogical information, and digitization has made them more widely available. The class will cover *19th-Century U. S. Newspapers*, *NewspaperArchive*, *Newspapers.com* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* databases.

- *Participants should bring a laptop or tablet device to participate.*

Tuesday, May 5, 2:00 p.m.

301 | Finding Immigrant European Ancestors

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

- *Prerequisite: Finding Ancestors in U.S. Census Records class or comparable research experience.*
- *Participants should bring a laptop or tablet device to participate.*

Discovering Ancestral Military Veterans

Explore strategies for military research in the Fold3 and Ancestry Library Edition databases, as well as in print and internet sources. *Prerequisite: Finding Ancestors in U.S. Census Records class or comparable research experience.*

March 19 2:00 p.m. Weber Road | [Register](#)

PROGRAMS

Saturday, March 14, 10:00 a.m., Headquarters

St. Louis Genealogical Society

More Than Checkmarks: Finding Female Ancestors

Prior to 1850, census records only listed the names of heads of households while females appeared as check marks. Learn research strategies to solve the question, "Who was she?" Jake Eubanks, speaker.

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m., Headquarters

StLGS German Special Interest Group

German Genealogy: What Do You Need to Know?

Reviewing the basics, learning about Germany and its resources, and finding U.S. records can answer many questions about immigrant families and might lead to the ultimate goal of finding their village of origin. Carol Whitton, speaker.

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m., Cliff Cave

Family History Online—Databases for Genealogical Research

Discover the variety of genealogical databases that can be used free at the library and at home with a St. Louis County Library card. Larry Franke, History and Genealogy, speaker.

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m., Headquarters

StLGS Irish Special Interest Group

Irish Heritage in St. Louis

The Irish have been immigrating to the U.S. for hundreds of years and almost every major city in the country has been influenced by their unique culture and traditions. Learn more about the enduring legacy of the Irish in St. Louis. Gabrielle Woeltje, speaker.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY BRANCH LOCATIONS

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

Eureka Hills

156 Eureka Town Center
Eureka, MO 63025

Florissant Valley

195 New Florissant Rd, S.
Florissant, MO 63031

Grand Glaize

1010 Meramec Station Rd.
Manchester, MO 63021

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

Meramec Valley

1501 San Simeon Way.
Fenton, MO 63026

Mid-County

7821 Maryland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

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

Thornhill

12863 Willowyck Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146

Weber Road

4444 Weber Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

General information

Phone: 314-994-3300