



Poster, "Uphold our Honor—Fight for us, Join the Army-Navy-Marines," 1917. Source: [Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Online Catalog](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/wwipos/item/2002695582/) <<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/wwipos/item/2002695582/>>.

FOR THE RECORDS

World War I research

Books mentioned in this article are listed in the bibliography beginning on page 4.

This year marks the centennial of the United States' entry into World War I. On April 2, 1917, Woodrow Wilson stood before a special session of Congress and proclaimed, "The world must be made safe for democracy," as he asked for a declaration of war against the Imperial government of Germany. In two days, the Senate would vote 82 to 6 in favor of war, while the House would vote 372 to 50 in favor of the same resolution. On April 6, Wilson would sign off on the measure, thus sending American forces into a bloody conflict that had already gone on for over two and a half years and cost millions of lives.

Declaring war and fighting a war were two very different propositions. For the first time in its history, the United States would need to send large numbers of troops to fight in Europe. In May of 1917, Congress set up the Selective Service Act to begin registering men for possible military service. All those between the ages of eighteen to thirty (later forty-five) would need to sign up. Lotteries would then determine those who would actually be drafted to participate in the war. These registration records are now available on several websites including Family Search, Ancestry Library Edition, and Fold 3. The records provide information such as birthplace, residence, citizenship, next of kin, and even a physical description for some 24 million men.


In addition to raising an army, the U.S. set its entire economy on a war-time CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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footing. Industry and agriculture were mobilized to help win the war. A labor shortage during the war would have two significant results. Women would enter the work force, taking jobs previously held by men. However, compared to World War II, these changes would not have the same long-term impact. But for African Americans, World War I saw the beginning of the Great Migration, where large numbers of southern blacks would travel to northern cities such as New York, Chicago, Detroit and St. Louis in search of jobs and greater opportunity. In addition to using genealogical resources such as Ancestry and Family Search, researchers interested in this topic might find *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* to be of special interest.

The war would also see a backlash against anything that might threaten the war effort. German Americans would be one target of this. *Degrees of Allegiance: Harassment and Loyalty in Missouri's German-American Community During World War I* provides a look at this chapter in American history.

American troops, called Doughboys, would not play a large role in the fighting until the last year of the war. The arrival of American troops helped stall a German offensive in the spring and summer of 1918. September would see the Americans go on the offensive at St. Mihiel and soon thereafter in the Meuse Argonne region of France. It has been said that America's role in the Great War was small but vital to the Allied victory. American losses in the war would total around 120,000 while losses for France, Russia, Germany, and Austria-Hungary would be over a million each.

The Great War would come to an end on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month in 1918. November 11th would become Armistice Day in the United States. This would be a day to remember America's role in that conflict. Cities around the nation would erect monuments and memorials to honor American sacrifices. The horrors of the Great War would sadly be overshadowed as the failure of the Treaty of Versailles would lead to a Second World



Poster, Michael R. Whelan, "Men Wanted for the Army," 1910–1917. [Source: Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Online Catalog](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/wwipos/item/00651830/) <<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/wwipos/item/00651830/>>.

War and other conflicts of the 20th century. Armistice Day would evolve into Veteran's Day as we continue to honor those who have served in America's armed conflicts.

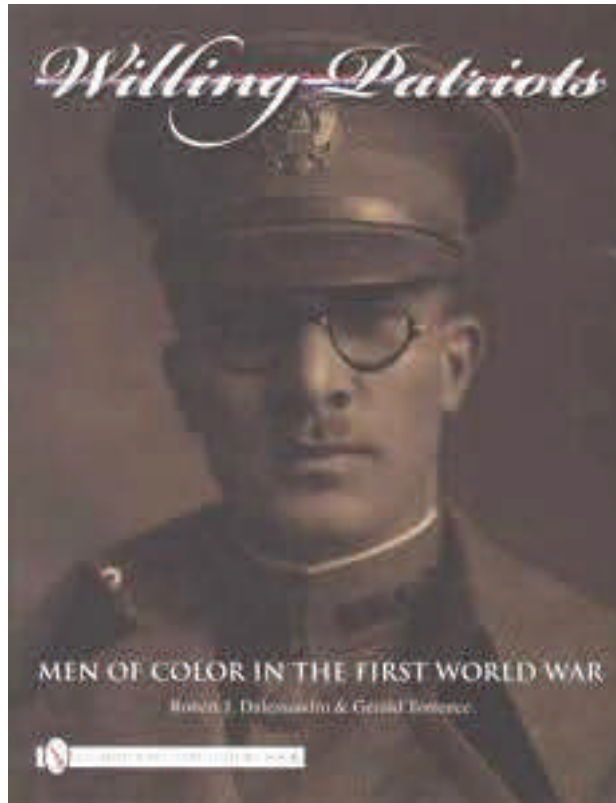
The St. Louis County History and Genealogy Department offers many opportunities for researching the Great War. In addition to online resources such as Ancestry Library Edition, Fold 3, and Family Search, one should not overlook the [National Archives web-](#)

[site <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww1>](https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww1). Although most WWI records were destroyed in a fire in 1973, there are still several items of interest relative to the history of America's involvement in that conflict.

The History & Genealogy Department's newspaper microfilm collection featuring the *New York Times* (1851–present), *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (1874–present), the *St. Louis Star-Times* (1910–1950), and the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (1853–1986) is an important resource. As noted in ["World War History" in the November 2016 issue of PastPorts <https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/11_2016.pdf>](https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/11_2016.pdf), the Newspapers.com website can be used to search the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *Star-Times*. A free search will return exact citations which can be used for locating articles in the library's newspaper microfilm (viewing articles on Newspapers.com requires a paid subscription). Use the search engine to find the articles you need, then come to the library and digitize or print the articles from the microfilm. Researchers who are unable to come to the library can request articles by sending a request to genealogy@slcl.org. The library staff will return electronic scans from microfilm. There is no charge for this service, but requests should be limited to three articles per email.

The History & Genealogy Department also provides an index of *St. Louis Star-Times* newspaper articles featuring WWI military personnel from St. Louis. These articles were published from Friday, January 24 to Wednesday, February 26, 1930. The series was written by Don H. Thompson, himself a veteran of the war. [The index can be viewed online at the library's website <https://www.slcl.org/content/star-times-article-series-st-louis-world-war-fighters>](https://www.slcl.org/content/star-times-article-series-st-louis-world-war-fighters).

Last, but not least, browsing through the History & Genealogy stacks could lead to the discovery of a book detailing the experiences of a U.S. state, county, or municipality in the Great War. These types of sources could shed additional light on how America responded to these difficult times.



Bibliography

In addition to the following titles, items are often available for individual states and local communities. Check the [library's online catalog <http://webpac.slcl.org>](http://webpac.slcl.org) for titles. Call numbers beginning with "R" are for use in the library only.

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[< Read a summary of this book on page 10.](#)

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Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery. Source: [American Battle Monuments Commission](https://www.abmc.gov/) <https://www.abmc.gov/>

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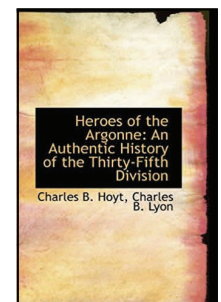
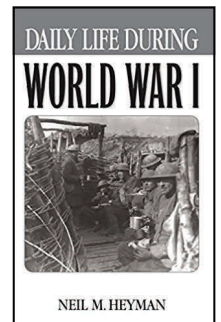
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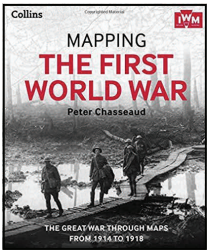
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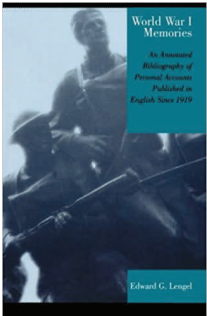
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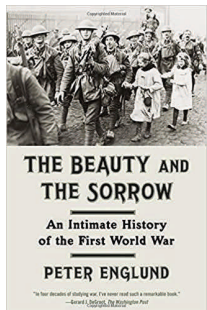
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Shelf life

SAMPLINGS FROM THE PRINT COLLECTION

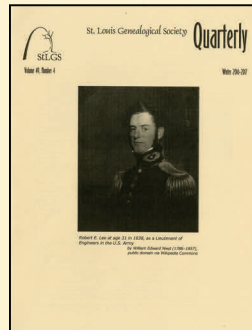
BOOK | The Birth Index of Ireland

A major challenge of Irish genealogy is the commonality of names, a problem that arises with both first names and surnames. If an Irish ancestor isn't named Mary Murphy, there is a good chance his name is Patrick Kelly, making research difficult when hundreds or thousands of people have the same name. *The Birth Index of Ireland: A Special Record of Irish Family Names* (R 941.5 M427B), compiled by Robert E. Matheson, aims to decrease this burden by narrowing surnames down to a few counties.

Each surname in the book is listed alphabetically with the number of people born in each of the four provinces of Ireland: Leinster, Munster, Ulster, and Connaught (see example below). Each of these provinces is made up of several counties. The final column lists locations more specifically, generally providing the names of only a few counties that people with the surname were most likely to live in. Variations of names with and without the prefixes "Mac," "Mc," and "O" are included in the book, so researchers should take care not to overlook them.

The most common surnames may still be too widespread to narrow down to a few possible counties by themselves, but multiple names can be considered together. For example, if a married couple immigrated to the US from Ireland, which counties contain both surnames? The surname origins of Irish neighbors, godparents, and others associated with the family of interest are also likely to be useful in this process, since immigrants often came to live near people from their original communities. If most people associated with a family have surnames that come from Cork and Limerick, then the genealogist can prioritize searching Cork and Limerick over the rest of Ireland.

JOURNAL | St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly



Beginning its 50th year of publication, the St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly is the go-to publication on genealogical research in the St. Louis area. Individuals researching ancestors in this area should become regular readers of the publication if they are not already.

Published four times a year, the publication offers a wealth of information about St. Louis families and research, but also publishes how-to articles on a variety of subjects. Recent articles have focused on orphans and orphanages, newspaper research, French-colonial research in St. Louis, and topics on St. Louis history. Past issues have featured record indexes, information on researching families in St. Louis, and technology tips.

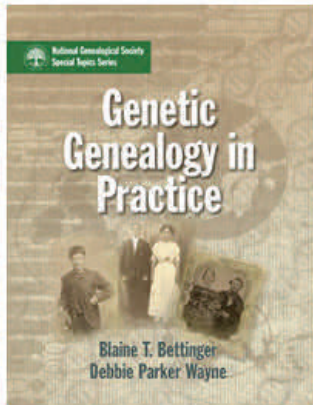
Researchers can find articles by searching PERSI (Periodical Source Index). In addition, History & Genealogy has a print index of article titles for the years 1968–1990 and CD indexes that cover the years 1968–2007.

The library has copies of all the back issues of the St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly. A subscription to the quarterly is included with St. Louis Genealogical Society memberships, as is access to all of the back issues on the society's website <<http://www.stlgs.org>>.

Names.	NUMBER OF ENTRIES IN BIRTH INDEXES FOR 1890.					Counties in which principally found.
	IRELAND.	Leinster.	Munster.	Ulster.	Connaught.	
Brownlee,	19	1	—	18	—	Antrim and Armagh.
Bruce,	7	12	—	5	—	—
Bruen,	10	—	—	1	9	Roscommon.
Bruton,	9	8	—	—	1	Dublin.
Brown,	42	21	2	4	4	Dublin, Kilkenny, Wexford, Cork, and Down.

An example of entries in the Birth Index of Ireland.

SELECTED NEW TITLES



Genetic Genealogy in Practice

By Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne

National Genealogical Society, 2016

929.1 B565G

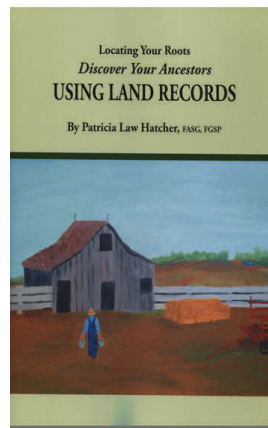
Written by Blaine T. Bettinger, PhD, JD, and Debbie Parker

Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM, the book provides family historians and genealogists who have just begun to explore genetic genealogy practical, easy to understand information that they can apply to their research. As Wayne notes in her blog, Deb’s Delvings in Genealogy, “DNA can seem complex to many of us, but this book will guide you and help build your knowledge level one step at a time.”

At their own pace, readers learn the basic concepts of genetic genealogy. They then build on that knowledge as they study the testing, analysis, and application of Y-DNA, X-DNA, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), and autosomal DNA (atDNA) to

reach and support genealogical conclusions. Each chapter includes exercises with answer keys for hands-on practice.

—*Publisher*



Locating Your Roots: Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records

By Margaret Law Hatcher

Revised edition Genealogical Publishing, 2016

R 929.1 H361L and circulating copy

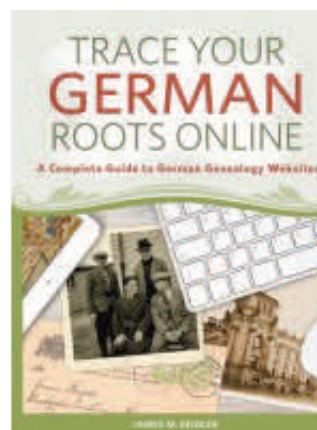
Land records—grants, deeds, mortgages, surveys, and more—are among the most valuable resources for genealogists to prove relationships and to point to new relationships. One of the strongest motivators for American immigration was land, and one of the strongest motivators for migration within America was land. Because of this, land records are the most common records available for pioneer ancestors. For many, they may be the only records. This invaluable guide will help you understand the various types of land records and give you the information you need to locate these records—and in the process, it may well open up new avenues of research for you.—*Publisher*



View this month’s list of new books on the web

A list of new books received during the previous month is posted on the library’s website. View the list

by clicking on the graphic above, or by typing the URL into your browser: <<http://tinyurl.com/ktha6fr>>. For more information about viewing the new book list online, exporting records, and saving items to a customized list, call (314) 994-3300 or ask a librarian when visiting any St. Louis County Library branch.



Trace Your German Roots Online: A Complete Guide to German Genealogy Websites

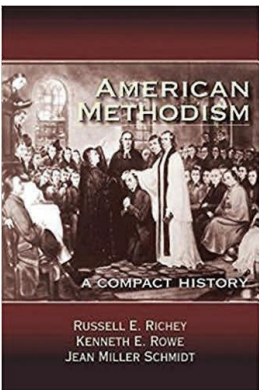
By James M. Beidler

Family Tree, 2016

929.1 B422T

Explore your Germanic heritage from the comfort of your own computer. Trace Your German Roots Online highlights important German resources on popular genealogy websites includ-

ing Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, as well as lesser-known resources such as Archion.de. With this guide’s helpful illustrated step-by-step instructions, you’ll learn how to use each site to its fullest potential for German genealogy, including how to get around language barriers and navigate the various German states that have existed throughout the centuries. In addition, this book contains links to the best websites to consult when answering key German genealogy questions, from unpuzzling place names to locating living relatives in the old country.—*Publisher*



**American Methodism:
A Compact History**

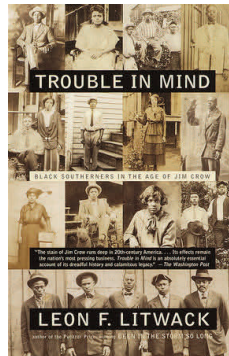
By Russell E. Richey, Kenneth E. Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt

Abingdon, 2012

R 287.0973 R529A

An essential guide to American Methodism. In this engaging and art-

ful overview, Russell Richey, Kenneth Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt, some of Methodism’s most respected teachers, give readers a vivid picture of soulful terrain of the Methodist experience in America. The authors highlight key themes and events that continue to shape the Church.—*Publisher*



Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow

By Leon F. Litwack

Vintage Books, 1999

R 975.0049 L782T

With the same narrative skill he brought to the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Been in the Storm So Long*, Leon Litwack constructs a searing history of life under Jim Crow. Drawing on new documentation and first-person accounts by blacks and whites, he describes the injustices—both institutional and personal—inflicted against a people. Here, too, are the black men and women whose activism, literature, and music preserved the genius of their human spirit. Painstakingly researched, important, and timely, *Trouble in Mind* recalls the bloodiest and most repressive period in the history of race relations in the United States—and the painful record of discrimination that haunts us to this day.—*Publisher*

PastPorts is published by History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library, located on Tier 5 of the library headquarters.

[Current and past issues can be downloaded from the web <http://www.slcl.org/pastports>](http://www.slcl.org/pastports).

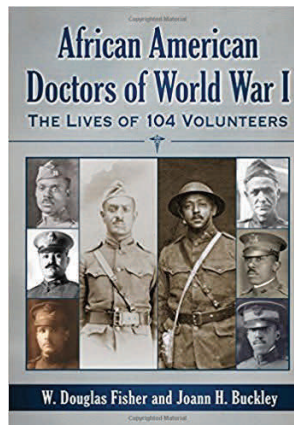
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Phone: 314-994-3300, ext. 2070
Email: genealogy@slcl.org
Website: <http://www.slcl.org>

Tours

Tours are conducted on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Group tours of 10 or more are gladly arranged with advance notice by calling 314-994-3300, ext. 2070.



African American Doctors of World War I: the Lives of 104 Volunteers.

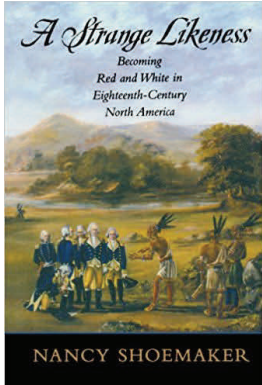
By W. Douglas Fisher

McFarland, 2016.

R 940.4757 F537A and circulating copy

In World War I, 104 African American doctors joined the United States Army to care for the 40,000 men of the 92nd and 93rd Divisions, the Army’s only black combat units. The infantry regiments of the 93rd arrived first and were turned over to the French to fill gaps in their decimated lines. The 92nd Division came later and fought alongside other American units. Some of those doctors rose to prominence; others

died young or later succumbed to the economic and social challenges of the times. Beginning with their assignment to the Medical Officers Training Camp (Colored)—the only one in U.S. history—this book covers the early years, education and war experiences of these physicians, as well as their careers in the black communities of early 20th century America.
—*Publisher*



**A Strange Likeness:
Becoming Red and white
in Eighteenth-Century
North America**

By Nancy Shoemaker

Oxford University, 2004

R 306.08997 S559S

The relationship between American Indians and Europeans on America's frontiers is typically characterized as a series of cultural conflicts and misunderstandings based on a vast gulf of difference. Nancy Shoemaker turns this notion on its head, showing that Indians and Europeans shared common beliefs about their most fundamental realities--land as national territory, government, record-keeping, international alliances, gender, and the human body.

By the end of the 18th century, Shoemaker argues, they abandoned an initial willingness to recognize in each other a common humanity and instead developed new ideas rooted in the conviction that, by custom and perhaps even by nature, Native Americans and Europeans were peoples fundamentally at odds. In her analysis, Shoemaker reveals the 18th century roots of enduring stereotypes Indians developed about Europeans, as well as stereotypes Europeans created about Indians. This powerful and eloquent interpretation questions long-standing assumptions, revealing the strange likenesses among the inhabitants of colonial North America.—*Adapted from Syndetics*

New St. Louis-area history

Chesterfield by Nicki Jacobsmeyer. Arcadia, 2016.

R 977.865 J17C and circulating copy

Hidden History of Downtown St. Louis. Arcadia, 2017.

R 977.866 K21H and circulating copy

New Irish titles

County histories from Geography Publications (abbreviated titles)

Armagh, R 941.661 A727

Claire, R 941.93 C591

Cork, R 941.95 C799

Derry and Londonderry, R 941.62 D438

Dublin, R 941.65 D748 and R 941.822 M484

Fermanagh, R 941.63 F358

Galway: History & Society, Gerard Moran, ed. 1996.

R 941.75 G183

Kilkenny, R 941.89 K48

Limerick, R 941.94 L733

Longford, R 941.812 L853

Mayo, R 941.73 M473

Waterford, R 941.91 W325

Other Irish titles

Fethard County Tipperary, 1200–2000 by Michael O'Donnell. 2010. R 941.92 O26F

The Golden Vale of Ivowen: Between Slievenamon and Suir by Eoghan O'Neill. Geography Publications, 2000.
R 941.92 O58G

The Irish-American Experience: A Guide to the Literature by Seamus P. Metress. University Press of America, 1981.
R 973 M594I

The People of Derry City, 1921: Extracted From the Derry Almanac and Directory by Brian Mitchell. Clearfield, 2016. 941.62 M681P

The Place Names of County Derry by Brian Mitchell. Clearfield, 2016. 941.62 M681P

LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSING

Easter Day | Sunday, April 16

CLASSES

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

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project

Are you ready to start researching your ancestors? Learn about the genealogical research process, how to get started, how to organize and cite your findings, useful library skills, various formats used in research (print, microfilm, and electronic), and the rich sources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. If you have little or no experience with genealogical research, this is the class for you.

April 18, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

May 6, 10:00 a.m., Indian Trails | [Register](#)

Census Basics for Genealogical Research

Genealogical research in the United States begins with the Federal Census. Learn how to search within the Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest databases for federal and state census records. A History & Genealogy expert will explore key strategies on how to conduct effective census research. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

April 1, 2:00 p.m., Oak Bend | [Register](#)

May 6, 2:00 p.m., Prairie Commons | [Register](#)

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database

The Ancestry Library Edition database is a powerful tool for genealogical research. Find out how to search for your ancestors in census, immigration, military, and death records. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

April 26, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases

Fold3 and HeritageQuest electronic databases offer a variety of records for genealogical re-

search, and they can be used at home for free with a valid St. Louis County Library card. Find out how to search for your ancestors in census records, city directories, books, periodicals and government documents. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

April 3, 2:00 p.m., Rock Road | [Register](#)

April 6, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

April 10, 10:00 a.m., Oak Bend | [Register](#)

April 17, 2:00 p.m., Prairie Commons | [Register](#)

April 24, 10:00 a.m., Cliff Cave | [Register](#)

May 3, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

Finding Immigrant Ancestors Using Immigration and Naturalization Records

Beginning in 1790, the U.S. established rules governing "national citizenship." By 1819, vessels arriving at any U.S. port were required to record a list of passengers. A History & Genealogy expert will explore naturalization and immigration records in the Ancestry Library Edition and Find My Past databases and introduce you to the numerous print and online resources available for immigrant research. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

April 1, 10:00 a.m., Weber Road | [Register](#)

History and Genealogy in Newspaper Databases

Newspaper databases make it easy to access millions of articles electronically, and they can be used at home with a valid St. Louis County Library card. Databases covered in this class will include 19th-Century U. S. Newspapers, NewspaperArchive, and current and historical St. Louis Post-Dispatch databases. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

April 13, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

May 1, 2:00 p.m., Rock Road | [Register](#)

May 8, 10:00 a.m., Oak Bend | [Register](#)

May 15, 2:00 p.m., Prairie Commons | [Register](#)

May 22, 10:00 a.m., Cliff Cave | [Register](#)

May 24, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

V

Correction

The location of the Introduction to **Fold3 & HeritageQuest Databases** class scheduled on Monday, April 10 was listed incorrectly in the Spring Events brochure. **The class will take place at the Oak Bend Branch.**

PROGRAMS

■ Tracing Colonial English Ancestors "Across the Pond"

As the largest ethnic group in the United States, Anglo-Americans often consider themselves to be simply "American." Learn about the history behind English Plantation, religious dissent in England, and explore records and histories related to English colonization and research "across the pond."

April 17, 6:30 p.m., Cliff Cave
No registration required.

■ Huguenots: 16th and 17th-Century Religious Refugees

French Protestants, known as the Huguenots, were granted limited religious freedoms by the Edict of Nantes in 1598. The edict was revoked in 1685, forcing them to either convert or flee the country. Many were received by Protestant rulers in Europe, but some immigrated to America. The speaker will discuss the plight of the Huguenots, where they settled, and genealogical sources for finding Huguenot ancestors.

May 17, 7:00 p.m., Grant's View
No registration required.

Programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required. Programs listed here take place in the Headquarters Auditorium.

■ Emigration during the Famine

Tuesday, April 25 | 7:00 p.m.

StLGS Irish Special Interest Group

The speaker will focus on the Irish famine, 1845–1850 | Gabrielle Woeltje, Speaker

■ The Eden Theological Seminary Archives

Saturday, May 13 | 10:00 a.m.

St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting

The Eden Theological Seminary Archives in Webster Groves, Missouri, holds records relating to the former German Evangelical Synod of North America denomination, including those of its congregations, institutions, and clergy. The speaker will provide an overview of the archives and its records of genealogical and historical interest. | Scott Holl, Archivist, Eden Theological Seminary and Manager, St. Louis County Library History & Genealogy Department

BRANCH LOCATIONS

Cliff Cave

5430 Telegraph Road
St. Louis, MO 63129

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

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,
ext. 2070

Email: genealogy@slcl.org

Website: www.slcl.org/genealogy