



PastPorts

VOL. 11, NO. 5-6 — MAY-JUNE 2019



**Welcome to History & Genealogy
at St. Louis County Library**

Home of the National Genealogical Collection



PHOTO: ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY

History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library A Major Research Destination

The following article originally appeared in the Oct.–Dec. 2018 issue of NGS Magazine and is used by permission of the National Genealogical Society.

St. Louis County Library invites researchers to use its History and Genealogy collection while visiting the area for the 2019 NGS Family History Conference, 8–11 May 2019 in St. Charles, Missouri. History & Genealogy is located at the Headquarters location in Ladue, seventeen miles from the St. Charles Convention Center, and is open seven days a week.

Founded twenty years ago after the acquisition of the St. Louis Genealogical Society's collection, History & Genealogy has extensive resources with wide geographic coverage, both national and international. The US holdings offer a vast print collection featuring local histories and published indexes, abstracts, and transcriptions produced by major genealogical publishers and by state and local genealogical and historical societies, with an emphasis on states adjoining

Missouri and east of the Mississippi River.

History & Genealogy has become a major research destination welcoming researchers from across the United States and many foreign countries. Its collection consists of more than one hundred thousand print items, a large number of microform publications, and a substantial selection of electronic resources. History & Genealogy is a FamilySearch affiliate library.

Knowledgeable librarians are available to answer questions and provide guidance, including assistance with foreign-language sources. History & Genealogy features collections of value for all researchers, not just those tracing St. Louis ancestors.

National Genealogical Society Book Loan Collection

Two eighteen-wheelers pulled into the parking lot at St. Louis County Library in 2001 to deliver about twenty thousand books from the NGS headquarters in Arlington, Vir-

ginia. This donation was the beginning of the National Genealogical Society Book Loan Collection in History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library.

Books in the NGS Book Loan Collection “circulate.” Researchers across the country may borrow these books through their local library’s interlibrary loan service. Such access to over ten thousand published family histories is unparalleled in the genealogical community.

Identify circulating NGS items in the online catalog (<http://webpac.slcl.org>) by call numbers that do not begin with “R,” and submit an interlibrary loan request to a local library. A limit of two books per request applies. Researchers whose libraries don’t participate in interlibrary loan may want to use History & Genealogy’s lookup service. See <https://www.slcl.org/content/lookup-other-services> for details.

The NGS Collection continues to grow as authors and publishers contribute new books daily. Reviews of selected new titles appear in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and the *NGS Magazine* provides notices of selected acquisitions.

Collection highlights

St. Louis became the destination for many Europeans starting in the eighteenth century and for African Americans in the post-Civil War era. History & Genealogy collections offer sources for discovering ancestral migration paths and homeland origins. Many items in this category are difficult to find elsewhere in the United States.

African American

The Julius K. Hunter and Friends African American Research Collection, established in 2000, provides outstanding print and microfilm sources for researching African American enslaved ancestors and free people of color. Antebellum, military, and post-Civil War records relating to slavery and freedom are available on microfilm. Notable sources include

- Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, including field office records for various states ²
- Charles F. Heartman Manuscripts of Slavery Collection, featuring more than four thousand items pertaining to slavery and free people of color in Louisiana, with emphasis on New Orleans, 1724–1897
- Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who served with the United States Colored Troops (Civil War) and index
- Descriptive Recruitment Lists of Volunteers for the United States Colored Troops for the State of Missouri, 1863–1865 ³

Library location, contact information and hours

History & Genealogy

St. Louis County Library Headquarters

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63131

(314) 994-3300, ext. 2070

genealogy@slcl.org

www.slcl.org/genealogy

■ Hours

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

■ Driving directions

The library is located two blocks south of I-64 at the Lindbergh Blvd. exit.

■ Parking

Entry into the parking lot is at the stoplight on Lindbergh Blvd. just south of Clayton Rd. and across from Plaza Frontenac shopping center. Parking is free.

- Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks, a microfilm set with available legislative petitions and a representative sample of county court petitions related to race and slavery in fifteen southern states, 1778–1867
- Southern Claims Commission records
- State slavery statutes
- Wilbur H. Siebert Collection, focusing on the Underground Railroad

British Isles

History & Genealogy holds an extensive collection of British Isles genealogical sources including the forty-three volumes of *Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland*. English holdings include *Victoria History of the Counties of England* and transcriptions and abstracts of church, tax, trade, manorial, and court records. Scottish resources include eight hundred books featuring monumental and graveyard transcriptions, plus many other books offering local history and genealogical information for specific locations.


French, French colonial, and French Canadian

The first non-Native American settlers in the St. Louis area were French Canadian fur traders. History & Genealogy offers French colonial church records, land grants, and Kaskaskia manuscripts, to name a few resources.

History & Genealogy holdings include a sizable collection of marriage repertoires (indexed abstracts) and transcriptions of other church records for parishes in French Canada. For roots in France, investigate the eighty-five volumes of the *Noms de famille* series listing surnames common to individual départements and the families associated with them.

German and Swiss

History & Genealogy's impressive collection of German sources includes many unusual items. Chief



PastPorts

VOL. 11, NO. 2 — FEBRUARY 2018

FOR THE RECORDS

Researching Alsace and Lorraine


Publications and websites mentioned in this article are listed in the bibliography.

Alsace and Lorraine are storied, often contested lands located in eastern France on its border with Germany and the Low Countries. Alsace (see map, right), at 3,196 square miles, is about one-quarter larger than the state of Connecticut. Lorraine (see map, page 4), at 9,089 square miles, is just slightly smaller than the state of Vermont. Along with Champagne-Ardenne, they form the modern region Grand Est whose regional capital and largest city is Strasbourg.

The historic Alsace Region was the smallest in metropolitan France, made up of two departments, Bas-Rhin in the north and Haut-Rhin in the south. The region features a large plain about four times longer than it is wide and situated between the Vosges Mountains and the Rhine River. Prior to the Franco-Prussian War, Alsace, specifically the Haut-Rhin, also included the Territoire de Belfort. When the Germans took control over the rest of Alsace, it became the smallest department in France, and was attached to Franche-Comté and is now part of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté.

The historic Lorraine Region was much larger and consisted of four departments, Meurthe-et-Moselle, Meuse, Moselle, and Vosges. The territory included the historical Duchy of Lorraine, Barrois, the Three Bishoprics (Metz, Verdun, and Toul), and a number of small principalities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Alsace includes the French départements of Haut-Rhin (Upper Rhine) and Bas-Rhin (Lower Rhine) | Map source: Europa Pages, http://www.europa-pages.net/maps/Alsace.gif

NEWS AND TIPS | HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY

PastPorts online

PastPorts is a monthly digital publication highlighting a specific History & Genealogy resource in each edition. As an example, the February 2018 issue provides research clues in finding aids and maps for ancestors who lived in Alsace or Lorraine.¹ Subscribe for free at <https://www.slcl.org/pastports>.

among them are *Ortssippenbücher*, which can be translated as “local family genealogical registers.” *Ortssippenbücher* offer abstracts of genealogical information from local church records, organized by surname in family groups. History & Genealogy currently has one of the largest collections in the United States with about one thousand *Ortssippenbücher*, including some for German-speaking villages in Alsace and Lorraine in France and the Banat region covering parts of Romania, Serbia, and Hungary.



PHOTO: ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY

A friendly and expert staff are ready to offer research advice and assist in locating materials.

History & Genealogy's online resources include a map showing the location for each *Ortssippenbuch* in the collection.⁴ A 117-page finding aid lists all *Ortssippenbücher* at History & Genealogy, covering locations in several countries. This resource is available sorted by village names and by country, state, and district.⁵

Other German sources include *Hofgeschichten* (farm histories), *Häusergeschichten* (house/building histories), emigration lists, and annual publications produced by German genealogical and historical societies. Also available are multi-volume sets of compiled genealogies, including *Genealogisches Handbuch des Adels*, *Deutsches Familienarchiv*, and *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch*.⁶ History & Genealogy's online guide to this source includes a valuable "Lexicon of Symbols, Abbreviations, and Terminology."⁷

Swiss genealogical sources include more than eight

hundred rolls of microfilm and eighty volumes of the parish records of Canton Bern, from the early sixteenth century through 1876. History & Genealogy is the only library in the country to have a full set of these records. A finding aid and guide is available online.⁸

Other notable resources

Lewis Rohrbach Collection: more than twelve thousand volumes including every publication produced by Picton Press. The August 2015 issue of *PastPorts* provides full details.⁹

- Draper Manuscript Collection on microfilm: a wide variety of material pertaining to the history and settlement of the developing mid-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth frontiers east of the Mississippi River.
- Family histories: more than thirteen thousand published family histories. Ten thousand are

available to check out or borrow through interlibrary loan.

- John Dabney Shane Manuscript Collection on microfilm: documents covering pioneer history in Kentucky and the Mississippi Valley. Emphasis is on the development of the Presbyterian Church in pioneer areas, 1716–1860.
- Yizkor books: more than one hundred publications, in Yiddish and Hebrew, memorializing villages and communities destroyed during the Holocaust. A location index is available.¹⁰

Start your research at home

The History & Genealogy portion of the library's website (<http://www.slcl.org/genealogy>) offers valuable information to help prepare for a visit. Planning Your Visit (<https://www.slcl.org/content/planning-your-visit>) offers practical information, such as computer and wireless network access and copying and scanning equipment. Indexes, Finding Aids and Guides (<https://www.slcl.org/finding-guides>) provides a multitude of research aids listed by topic. The entire collection, including the NGS Book Loan Collection, is included in the library's catalog (<http://webpac.slcl.org>).

The St. Louis County Library History & Genealogy staff welcomes all NGS Family History Conference attendees and looks forward to helping visiting researchers discover the wealth of information in its collections. Visit the History & Genealogy staff at Booth 103 during the conference.

Notes

Websites cited in this article were viewed on 9 November 2018.

1. "Researching Alsace and Lorraine," *PastPorts*, February 2018, digital image, *St. Louis County Library H&G* (https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/02_2018.pdf).

2. "Microfilm frame numbers—Records of the Field Offices, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned

Land," finding aid, *St. Louis County Library H&G* (<https://www.slcl.org/content/microfilm-frame-numbers-records-field-offices-bureau-refugees-freedmen-abandoned-land>).

3. "Descriptive Recruitment List of Volunteers for the United States Colored Troops for the state of Missouri, 1863–1865," finding aid, *St. Louis County Library H&G* (<https://www.slcl.org/content/descriptive-recruitment-lists-volunteers-united-states-colored-troops-state-missouri-1863-18>).

4. "Ortssippenbücher in History and Genealogy at St. Louis County Library," collection map, *Google Maps* (https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1Vvjk9dme6llQiNU_URne0N4N_s9VsAjj&ll=50.27566977410948%2C14.008308499999998&z=5).

5. "Ortssippenbücher and similar sources held by the St. Louis County Library History Genealogy Department, by village name," finding aid, *St. Louis County Library H&G* (<https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/Ortssippenbuecher%20by%20village%20name.pdf>). "Ortssippenbücher and similar sources held by the St. Louis County Library History Genealogy Department, by country, state, and district," finding aid, *St. Louis County Library H&G* (https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/Ortssippenbuecher%20list%20by%20country,%20state,%20and%20district_1.pdf).

6. "Brief guide to Deutsches Familienarchiv," *St. Louis County Library H&G* (<https://www.slcl.org/content/brief-guide-deutsches-familienarchiv>). "Guide to using Deutsches Geschlechterbuch," *St. Louis County Library H&G* (<https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-using-deutsches-geschlechterbuch>).

7. "Deutsches Geschlechterbuch Holdings in the Special Collection Department, Lexicon of Symbols, Abbreviations, and Terminology," finding aid, page 6, *St. Louis County Library H&G* (https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/DGB%20holdings%20and%20lexicon_0.pdf).

8. "Guide to the Church Books of Canton Bern, Switzerland," finding aid, *St. Louis County Library H&G* (<https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-church-books-canton-bern-switzerland>).

9. "Rohrbach Collection expands research possibilities at St. Louis County Library," *PastPorts*, August 2015, *St. Louis County Library H&G* (https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/08_2015.pdf).

10. "Yizkor books by locality," finding aid, *St. Louis County Library H&G* (<https://www.slcl.org/content/yizkor-books-locality>).

Planning a visit

A guide to doing research in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library

The following tips will help make your research trip a pleasant and productive experience.

Identify the materials you want to use before you arrive

Check the library catalog at www.slcl.org for items in print. The entire book collection is open to the public during the NGS Conference. Periodicals, located in a staff area, will be brought to you upon request. Microfilm finding aids are available online at www.slcl.org/genealogy and can be used to identify collections of interest.

Library location and hours

See page 2 for library location, contact information, and hours.

Finding H&G collections

The library entrance is on Tier 3 (the main level.) Materials in History & Genealogy are located on Tiers 4 and 5 of the library building and are accessible by stairs and elevator.

Security policy

Food and drinks are prohibited but other items are

Practical matters

■ Computers for public use

Four Internet computers with access to library databases and printing capability are located on Tier 5. Use is limited to 30 minutes if others are waiting. Please sign in at the H&G reference desk.

■ Coin changer

A dollar bill changer is located on Tier 5.

■ Copier

A coin-operated copier is located on Tier 5. Black and white copies are 15¢ for 8-1/2" x 11" and 30¢ for 11" x 17". Color copies are 30¢ for 8-1/2" x 11" and 60¢ for 11" x 17".

■ Drinking fountains

Drinking fountains are located on the main level and Tier 5.

■ Flash drives

Bring a flash drive to save digital scans or purchase one for \$8 at the library.

■ Library catalog

The library catalog is available online at www.slcl.org. Computers with catalog access are located on the main level and Tier 5.

■ Lockers

Lockers are located on Tier 4. Locker dimensions are 16.5" tall, 12" wide, and 16.5" deep.

■ Microfilm readers / printers

Nine microfilm readers / printers with digital scanning capabilities are located on Tier 5. Prints cost 25¢ for 8-1/2" x 11" or 11" x 17". Digital scans are free. Use is limited to one hour if others are waiting. Please sign in at the H&G reference desk.

■ Restrooms

Restrooms are located on the main level (Tier 3) and on Tier 5.

■ Scanning

The photocopier makes digital scans and an overhead book scanner is available. Scanning is free.

■ Seating and study areas

Table seating is available on Tier 5. Some tables have access to electrical outlets.

■ Vending machines

Vending machines are located on the main level of the library. Please do not bring food and drinks into the History & Genealogy Department.

■ Wireless Internet

Wireless Internet is available throughout the library building. No password is needed. The library's databases can be accessed through the wireless network.

allowed. The library staff reserves the right to inspect bags and purses.

Locations of materials

Tier 4 stacks

- Oversized books
- Biographies
- Family histories
- Jewish genealogical sources, including Yizkor books
- British Isles and Europe
- U.S. States—Maine through New Jersey (Dewey Decimal ranges 974.1 through 974.9)
- Yearbooks
- Printed census indexes

Tier 4 reading room

- Newspaper microfilm
- Passenger list microfilm

Tier 5 (top floor)

- U.S. states beginning with Delaware (Dewey Ranges 975 through 996.94)
- St. Louis microfilm and other microfilm collections

Other materials

■ Periodicals

Please ask a librarian for the periodicals you need, and they will be brought to you.

■ Local history file

Newspaper clippings and other materials related to the

Visit History & Genealogy at
Booth 103
at the NGS Conference.

history of the St. Louis area are located in file cabinets on Tier 5. Ask a librarian for assistance.

■ Finding aids

Finding aids and collection guides are located on Tier 5. Many are also online at www.slcl.org/genealogy under the “Finding Aids & Guides” link on the left side of the page.

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.

Meals and snack options

Food and drink within walking distance of the library

■ **The Shops at Schneithorst's**, on the southeast corner of Lindbergh Blvd. and Clayton Rd. just north of the library, offers Schneithorst's Restaurant, Starbucks, Froyo Premium Frozen Yogurt, and Poptions Gourmet Popcorn.

■ **Schnucks Market**, on the northeast corner of Lindbergh Blvd. and Clayton Rd., is a full-service supermarket offering a grill, salad and soup bar, deli, hot foods, and a selection of ready-made sandwiches.

■ **Plaza Frontenac** shopping mall opposite the library on Lindbergh Blvd., offers a variety of restaurants, including Canyon Café (Southwest) and the Zodiac Room at Neiman Marcus are inside. Brio Tuscan Grill, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, St. Louis Bread Company (Panera Bread), and BrickTop's Restaurant are adjacent to the mall.

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

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