

PastPorts

News and tips from the St. Louis County Library
Special Collections Department

Vol. 1, No. 3—May 2008

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

Contact us

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

By mail

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

By phone

314-994-3300, ext. 208

By email

scollections@slcl.org

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

OF NOTE

***PastPorts* subscription continues to grow**

The number of subscribers to *PastPorts* has now topped 200. Many thanks to everyone for signing up. We appreciate your support and comments.

Special Collections acquires Scottish monumental inscription books

The Special Collections Department is pleased to announce that it recently acquired more than 400 Scottish monumental inscription books. The books are rare this side of the Atlantic, and the Department is the only library in the U.S. to hold many of the titles. The books transcribe information found on tombstones and other monuments in Scottish parishes. Monuments erected in memory of deceased persons from a certain parish often include information about someone actually buried elsewhere. Some inscriptions include biographical information and record multiple generations of family members.

In addition to library funds, generous donations from Mary Berthold, Joyce Mercer, Ilene Murray, Pat Stamm and Ted Steele made the acquisition possible. The Department is immensely grateful to all the donors, and especially to Mary Berthold, who facilitated ordering the books from Scotland.

If you would like a list of the monumental inscription books in PDF format, please send an email to scollections@slcl.org with **Scottish Books** as the subject. The list,

which is arranged by parish, is also available at the Special Collections Department Reference Desk.

Special Collections Department to close early on May 21

All Headquarters departments, including Special Collections, will close at 5 pm on Wednesday, May 21 for an author event featuring journalist Cokie Roberts. Roberts will speak on her book, *Ladies of Liberty: Women Who Shaped Our Nation*, as part of the Buzz Westfall Favorite Author Series sponsored by the St. Louis County Library Foundation. The event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6 pm for the 7 pm program.

A healthy circulation sometimes makes you ILL

In the jargon of lending libraries, "circulation" refers to items that can be checked out for use outside the library. Unusual for a research collection, the Special Collections Department has many books that circulate, thanks to the National Genealogical Society (NGS). In 2001, NGS transferred its library to the Special Collections Department on the condition that NGS books be made available for checkout. Circulating titles are continually added to the NGS collection.

In the Special Collections Department, circulating books can be identified by the blue "dot" labels on their spines. In the library's online catalog (<http://webpac.slcl.org>) circulating items do not have an "R" in front of the call number ("R" stands for "Reference use only").

Circulating books in the Department can be checked out by anyone with a valid St. Louis County Library card. Information about obtaining a card is on the Library's website at <http://www.slcl.org/services/librarycards.htm>. The standard check-out period for Special Collections Department items is two weeks with up to three renewals. Only two books per patron may be checked out at any one time.

Circulating items in the Special Collections Department are also made available to patrons outside the St. Louis area through Inter-library Loan (ILL) services. Most public libraries participate in ILL, but policies can vary—check with your local library for details. ILL is also a service available to St. Louis County Library card holders. Information about Inter-library loan policies is on the Library's website at <http://webpac.slcl.org/screens/ill.html>. Patrons are advised that ILL requests can take at least two weeks and usually longer to process. Items may not be available at all depending on the policies of the library that owns the item. The lending library can also charge a fee, which may then be passed on to the patron.

One online tool for discovering what is available in other libraries is the *WorldCat* database available online at <http://www.worldcat.org>. *WorldCat* is similar to a library's online catalog but includes the holdings of most U.S. and many foreign libraries. An item found in *WorldCat* but not held by your home library can be requested through Inter-library Loan, although the availability of the item cannot be guaranteed.

For more information about circulation, ILL, or *WorldCat*, please contact the Special Collections Department at 314-994-3300, ext. 208 or by email at scollections@slcl.org.

Don't let the road to ancestral addresses lead to a dead end

Finding an ancestral address can be challenging if your forbears lived in St. Louis. Not only have many city and county streets and roads changed names through the years, they are also notorious for changing names along their routes. Take Lindbergh Boulevard, for example.

Most county roads were originally mere trails. Eventually they came to be called by the names of the families living along or at the end of their routes. The longest portion of what is now Lindbergh Boulevard was originally called Denny Road for the Denny family. Expansion of the route between 1927 and 1930 incorporated some of the oldest trails in the county, including Geyer, Sappington, Schuetz, and Taylor Roads.

Efforts to expand and rename the road began in the 1920s. The front page of the Sept. 20, 1927 *St. Louis County Watchman Advocate* proclaimed, "\$900,000 will be spent on the Denny Road which will extend from South to North Part of County." The article continued, "Denny Road, the first 100-foot highway in St. Louis County, when completed, will extend from the Mississippi river north of the city of St. Louis to the Mississippi river south of St. Louis city. It probably will pass through Florissant, Pattonville, Kirkwood, and Mehlville, in making this circle about the city." On Dec. 13, 1930, the *Watchman Advocate* announced the official dedication of Lindbergh Boulevard to honor "the intrepid aviator who claimed Lambert-St. Louis Flying Field as his home-port."

Today, Lindbergh cuts through St. Louis County from I-255 on the south to US 367 on the north-east. For most of its route, it is designated as US 67 and is generally known as South Lindbergh or North Lindbergh. However, the official designation of the route changes numerous times along its course, sometimes adding or dropping U.S. highway route designations and the "Lindbergh Blvd." moniker. It transforms completely into "Kirkwood Road" as it passes through the Kirkwood municipality.

Searching for an address on Lindbergh Boulevard in county directories can require creative thinking. An address on the route in North St. Louis County may be listed in one year as being on Highway 67. Another year it might be North Highway 67. In yet another edition, it might be listed on North Lindbergh. If the address was on the south end of the route, it might be listed on Denny Road, Kirkwood Road, Lindbergh Boulevard or various highway numbers, depending on the year and location.

Street name and numbering changes can be confusing for researchers, but learning about local history and the process of urban development will help them stay on the right track. Useful research tools include historical street guides, city and county directories, local maps, place-name resources, local history clipping files, and town histories—all of which are available in the Special Collections Department.

Special Collections staff to National Genealogical Society Conference

Special Collections Department Manager Joyce Loving, Assistant Manager Scott Holl, and Reference Specialist Ruth Ann Hager, will attend the National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference in Kansas City, May 14 – 17. The conference provides attendees with an opportunity to learn about sources and research methods from some of the country's top genealogical experts. Staff members attend the conference to learn about new sources and methods that will help their patrons.

During the conference, Hager, a Certified Genealogical Speaker, will present "Promoting Your Library to Genealogists" at the pre-conference "Librarian's Day" Program. Hager will offer two more presentations during the regular conference program: "Civil War Provost Marshals Records of Civilians: 1861 – 1866" and "Civil War Border States' Records for Slaves and Slave Owners." St. Louis County Library Director Charles Pace will also be speaking at the conference.

As the conference theme, "Show Me the Nation's Records," indicates, much of the event will focus on Missouri research. The conference is open to professionals and researchers of all skill levels. More information is available on the NGS website at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

BOOK CHAT

Photographs: eloquent preservers of history

"A picture is worth a thousand words," as the saying goes. Researchers usually spend most of their time sifting through manuscripts and records with the goal of processing the information and getting it down in words on paper. And yet, it is photographs that often captivate us, for they so eloquently convey that which is beyond words. The inclusion of photographs in a genealogy or local history is both a gift to the reader and an important source of non-verbal information.

Like any original document, photographs require identification, proper storage, organization, preservation and (frequently) restoration. Indeed, they have their own special requirements. Those dealing with boxes of old family photos will find Maureen A. Taylor's book, *Preserving Your Family Photographs: How to Organize, Present, and Restore Precious Family Images* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2001, call no. R 771.46 T244P) particularly useful. Taylor discusses the different types of processes used to create photos and how each affects preservation and restoration. Chapters include information about photo identification, storage, preservation, scanning, organization and presentation. The final chapter, "Three Family Collections," uses case studies to show how family photograph collections can be an integral part of genealogical research. Although the book clearly emphasizes genealogy, it can adequately serve as a basic archivist's handbook for handling photographs according to professional standards.

For those who want to go beyond family portraits, the Special Collections Department has numerous books of published photos offering researchers a general sense of the time and social context in which their ancestors lived. One example is the recently-published *Historic Photos of St. Louis* (Nashville: Turner Publishing, 2007, call no. R 977.866 H433H) with text and captions by St. Louis [City] Public Librarians Adele Heagney and Jean Gosebrink. Nearly 200 black-and-white photos from the St. Louis Public Library and other collections cover the 1860s to the 1960s, arranged by time period. Images include the monumental and the humble, the well-known and the seldom-remembered subjects of everyday life in the city. For those with St. Louis ancestors, it is easy to picture them in any of the number of period street scenes.

Moving across the river to southern Illinois, Herbert K. Russell's book, *A Southern Illinois Album: Farm Security Administration Photographs, 1936 – 1943* (Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University Press, 1990, call no. R 977.3 R964S) presents black-and-white photos of rural scenes from the Great Depression. Created by Farm Security Administration employees, the photos were originally used to document

rural conditions in support of Franklin D. Roosevelt's social and economic programs. The stark simplicity of these photographs provide a poignant record of the hard times some still remember and others have experienced through the stories told by parents and grandparents.

TIPS

■ Searching for French Canadian ancestors? A wonderful set of biographies is available in *Our French-Canadian Ancestors* at call no. R 971.4014 L442O. An index of all the biographies is at <http://www.quintinpublications.com/ofca.html>. The number in front of the name indicates the volume. The Special Collections Department has the complete 30-volume set.

■ There were approximately 4,100 applications for pensions filed with the state of Missouri based on service in the Confederate Army. Application records, available on microfilm in the Special Collections Department, are indexed in Peggy Barnes Fox's book, *Missouri Confederate Pensions and Confederate Home Applications Index* at call no. R 977.8 F793M.

NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Print resources

Call numbers follow each title. Complete bibliographic information for each item is available in the St. Louis County Library's online catalog at <http://webpac.slcl.org/>. The Department is grateful to the St. Louis Genealogical Society, the National Genealogical Society, Julius K. Hunter and Friends, and our patrons for their donations.

■ Family Maps by Gregory A. Boyd (abbreviated titles)

Benton County, Missouri R 977.849 B789F
Putnam County, Ohio R 977.118 B789F

A surname index for Arphax Family Maps is available online at <http://www.arphax.com>.

■ Other new titles

1812 Ancestor Index: National Society, United States Daughters of 1812, Vol. 3, 1992-2002. R 973.52 E34

Andersen, Daisy Samples. *Written in Stone: Cemeteries of Carter County, Missouri.* 2007. R 977.8892 A544W

Crowe, Elizabeth Powell. *Genealogy Online.* 2008. 929.102 C953G

Fallin, Wilson. *Uplifting the People: Three Centuries of Black Baptists in Alabama.* 2007. R 976.1 F195U

Fleming, Ann Carter. *St. Louis Family History Research Guide*. 2008. R 929.1 F597S

Flynt, Wayne. *Alabama Baptists: Southern Baptists in the Heart of Dixie*. 1998.
R 976.1 F648A

Hamrock, John. *A Guide to Tracing Your Roscommon Ancestors*. 2007. 941.5 H232G

Hébert, Donald J. *Southwest Louisiana Records: Church and Civil Records, Vol. 42, 1910*. Includes additional entries in the SWLR series, 1784-1909. 2007.
R 976.3 H446S

Index to the Wills and Probates of Laclede County Missouri: 1956-1980. 2003.
R 977.8815 I38

Irvine, Sherry. *Finding Your Canadian Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*. 2007. 971 I72F

Minert, Roger. *German Immigrants in American Church Records, Vol. 5, Wisconsin Southeast Protestant*. 2008. R 929.3089 G373

Nevada & Vernon County's [Missouri] Heritage, 1855-2005. 2005.
R 977.844 N499

Paperfuse, Edward C. *The Maryland State Archives Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland, 1608-1908*. 2003. R 975.2 P214M (Oversize, shelved separately in Aisle 16A)

Senyszyn, M. Angela. *The Polish-born Immigrant in St. Louis, 1860-1900*. 1979.
R 977.866 S478P

Some Mascoutah Township Cemeteries, St. Clair County, Illinois: Mascoutah City, Perrin. 2008. R 977.389 S693

Williams, Dorothy. *Alphabetical List Morgan Co., MO Cemetery Records, 1835 Through 2004*. 2007. R 977.853 W722A

Also: nine new books for DeKalb County Missouri, R 977.8153, and seven volumes of cemetery inscriptions for Macon County Illinois, R 977.3582.

CDs

CD numbers precede each title. Ask for CDs by number at the Special Collections Department Reference Desk. A complete list of available records on CD is available on the Special Collections website at <http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/cds/cd-title.htm>.

M49 Kelso Rosebank Cemetery, 1870-2002
M75 Kelso Poor Law and Ragged School Records
M76 Carmyllie, County of Angus, Memorial Inscriptions
M77 Dunbarney, County of Perth, Memorial Inscriptions

Microfilm

The following new city directory microfilm is located in Microfilm Drawer 75:

Gould's Commercial Register, 1902 – 1907. The 1902 edition has business listings for St. Louis, Alton, Ill.; Belleville, Ill.; East St. Louis, Ill.; Poplar Bluff, Mo.; and Venice, Ill. The 1903 – 1907 editions add Granite City, Madison, and Venice, Ill.

Gould's Red Book, 1911 – 1916. The 1911 and 1912 – 1913 editions have classified business listings for St. Louis and East St. Louis, Granite City, Madison and Venice, Ill. The 1914 – 1916 editions have listings for St. Louis and East St. Louis only.

Gould's Red-blue Book, 1918 – 1928. Business listings for St. Louis.

Collection guides

Collection guides are free and available in the Special Collections Department. New guides produced since last month's *PastPorts* are:

New Jersey Genealogy
West Virginia Genealogy

WEB WATCH

Web finds

■ Family History 101: <http://www.familyhistory101.com/states.html>
County and state listings for the eastern U.S. and some western states. Content includes historical overviews, links to maps, state and local government sites, and related material on free and subscription databases. The site includes information for St. Louis County but not the city.

■ Georgia's Virtual Vault: <http://content.sos.state.ga.us/index.php>
A site created by the Georgia State Archives with databases for death certificates (with images), wills, maps, and military records.

■ History's Time Portal to Old St. Louis:
<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/county/stlouis/>
Includes images and links to websites with information related to St. Louis and its history. Topics include military, local histories online, natural history (including information about diseases), landmarks, and biographies.

■ Kentucky Vital Records Project: <http://kyvitals.com>
A free site offering indexes to Kentucky vital records with links to digitized death certificates.

Web news

■ Cook County, Ill. Records to Go Online: Genealogists will be able to download digital records after this summer's launch of the Cook County Clerk's Genealogy website. According to the Clerk's Office, "Genealogical records" are considered to be birth records older than 75 years, marriage certificates older than 50 years and

death records older than 20 years. Genealogical records are issued as uncertified documents, stamped "For genealogical purposes only." It is reported the fee will be \$15.00 per record. Exactly which records will be made available through the online database has not been specified as of this writing.

New on *Ancestry*

Ancestry Library Edition may be used for free in the Special Collections Department and all St. Louis County Library branches.

- **Drouin Collection:** Includes French-Canadian records filmed by the Institut Généalogique Drouin pertaining to French-Canadians in Canada and the United States, 1621 – 1967. Records include baptisms, marriages, and burials. The collection consists of five separate databases: Acadia, Ontario, Quebec (two), and the United States.
- **South Carolina:** Nine new databases have been added for South Carolina, including Land Warrants (1672-1711), Indexes to Wills, Jury Lists, Naturalizations (1783-1850), and Lists of Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina, 1763-1773.
- **U. S. IRS Tax Assessments, 1862-1918:** Indexes income tax payers with links to record images. Most records range 1862 – 1866. Missouri records range 1862-1865 and Illinois records range 1862 – 1866. Searching can be cumbersome—the original records are written in ledger books in order by tax district, and the database is indexed by state. To fund the Civil War, the U.S. government levied an income tax on businesses and individuals earning at least \$600 per year. The tax was later suspended due to a lawsuit but reinstated in the early 20th century. Although the database contains a relatively small number of names (most citizens at the time earned less than \$600 per year), the database can still be useful for locating a person in a specific place and time.

CALENDAR

Note: Dates for Special Collections Department classes are indicated by 📞. Please register for classes in advance of the date by calling 314-994-3300 and tell the operator you would like to register for a class.

May

📞 Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Genealogy in Newspapers

Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

St. Louis County Library Headquarters East Room
St. Louis Genealogical Society Jewish Special Interest Group
Program: "Jewish Emigration: From Shtetl to US Ports"


Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Presentation

Program: "Unveiling the Secrets of the City of St. Louis Recorder's Archive Dept."

 **Wednesday, May 14, 2 – 4 pm**

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: AncestryLibrary.com and HeritageQuest.com Databases

 **Monday, May 19, 9:30 – 11 am**

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Genealogy in Newspapers

Wednesday, May 21, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Lutheran House Ministries Building, 660 Mason Ridge Center Drive
St. Louis Genealogical Society German Special Interest Group
Program: "Concordia Historical Institute and More"

 **Wednesday, May 28, 2 – 3:30 pm**

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Genealogy in Newspapers

June

 **Wednesday, June 4, 9:30 – 11 am**

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Genealogy in Newspapers

 **Wednesday, June 11, 9:30 – 11:30 am**

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class:
AncestryLibrary.com and HeritageQuest.com Databases

Wednesday, June 11, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Presentation
Program: "Sharing with Others Online: E-Mail, Mailing Lists, Blogs, Newsletters, & Message Boards"

 **Monday, June 16, 2 – 4:00 pm**

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class:
AncestryLibrary.com and HeritageQuest.com Databases

 **Thursday, June 19, 2 – 3:30 pm**

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Genealogy in Newspapers

Thursday, June 26, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society French Special Interest Group
Program: "The Cahokia Records"

