

OF NOTE

Special Collections Department to offer genealogical workshops

The Special Collections Department staff will begin offering workshops to help patrons sharpen their research skills and knowledge of sources. Each two-hour workshop will be offered on a Saturday and repeated on a weekday evening. While some will offer an introduction to the Department and teach basic research skills, others will feature more advanced topics. Each workshop will feature a combination of lecture/presentation and hands-on activities. The following workshops have been planned to date:

Genealogical Research: Getting the Most out of Your Library

Saturday, June 27, 9 am – 12:30 pm & Thursday, July 16, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

For Land's Sake! Learning How to Read and Write Township and Range Land Descriptions

Saturday, July 25, 9 am – 12:30 pm & Wednesday, July 29, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Ancestral Timelines: Records for Researching Your Family

Saturday, Aug. 22, 9 am – 12:30 pm & Wednesday, Aug. 26, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Registration information and other details will be published in the June edition of *PastPorts*. The Department staff welcomes suggestions for future workshops. Please contact the Special Collections Department to suggest a topic or theme.

Indexers needed for Centenary Methodist Church records project

The Special Collections Department is seeking volunteers to index Centenary Methodist Church marriage and baptismal records. Volunteers can work on the project in the Department or at home if they have a PC with Microsoft Excel. The resulting indexes will be placed in the Department and a copy given to the church. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Department by calling 314-994-3300, ext. 208 or email sollections@slcl.org.

Award-winning author to speak on German genealogy in September

The Special Collections Department is pleased to announce that award-winning author and genealogical speaker John T. Humphrey, CG will lecture at a Special Collections Department special event on Saturday, Sept. 12, beginning at 9 am. Mr. Humphrey's topics will include:

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

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

CONTACT US

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

BY MAIL

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

BY PHONE

314-994-3300, ext. 208

BY EMAIL

sollections@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.

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Researching German Ancestors: “The Agony and the Ecstasy”

More Americans claim descent from German ancestors than from any group who immigrated from the British Isles. This introduction to German research explores obstacles like language and custom, and it looks at a variety of records kept by Germans both in the U.S. and Germany that will open the way to a rich source of research material.

Using Published Sources to Find German Ancestors

A variety of sources published in Germany are available in the United States that offer genealogists the opportunity to find information on ancestors who came from areas where information is limited.

The event is free and open to the public. No pre-registration is required.

Mr. Humphrey is the current president of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society, and past vice president of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. He is also the former Director of the National Genealogical Society Learning Center in Arlington, Va. and has published numerous books and articles.

Handy chart available in the Special Collections Department

The Special Collections Department staff has developed a handy chart that makes calculating the birth year of persons listed in a given census year quick and easy. The chart covers all available Federal censuses. Copies are free, so pick one up the next time you are in the Department.

Interpreting the babble: translation guides help break the language barrier.

Through persistent research (and a measure of good luck), many researchers manage to locate their ancestral village across the Atlantic. For those researching in non-English-speaking countries, the next challenge is often the language barrier. Be it contacting archives in other countries or

extracting information from documents, the lack of foreign language skills can make research a daunting task.

The Special Collections Department has a wide variety of standard and genealogical foreign language dictionaries available (see “Defining Moments in Genealogical Research,” *PastPorts*, Jan. 2009, p. 1), but interpreting records involves a complexity that necessitates going beyond looking up a word. Translation guides, on the other hand, offer the kind of broader information and advice researchers need to understand, decipher and extract essential data from genealogical records. Besides an overview of the structure and grammar of the language, guides usually show examples of actual records and demonstrate how to analyze them. With a little patience and study, researchers can begin to recognize and interpret essential words and phrases. The guides also often include sample letters for requesting information from civil and religious archives. The following is an overview of the translation guides available in the Special Collections Department.

BOOK CHAT

Polish and Russian

Shea, Jonathan D. and William F. *In Their Words: A Genealogist’s Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin and Russian Documents*. New Britain, Conn.: Language & Lineage Press.

Vol. 1: *Polish*, 2000. R 929.1072 S539I v. 1 and circulating copy

Vol. 2, *Russian*, 2002. R 929.1072 S539I v. 2

Despite the title, only the first two volumes of this work have been published so far. Both hefty volumes offer an extensive introduction to the language, including its alphabet (printed and script), pronunciation, and grammar. Examples of various common records and documents encountered in genealogical research are followed by tips and advice for analyzing them. Word lists with English equivalents appear within and at the end of each volume. The Russian translation guide also demonstrates how to transliterate names from the Cyrillic alphabet into a variety of other languages such as Yiddish, Lithuanian, and German.

A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil Registration Documents, 2nd ed. (Northbrook, Ill.: Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, 1989; R 943.8 F848T) by

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Judith R. Franzen offers a more concise guide with emphasis on Jewish genealogy.

Italian

Cole, Trafford R. *Italian Genealogical Records: How to Use Italian Civil, Ecclesiastical, and Other Records in Family History Research*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1995. R 929.1 C689I and circulating copy.

This guide discusses records within the context of Italian genealogical research as a whole. Sections discuss the history of Italy and its impact on record keeping, an overview of the types of records available, and sample letters in Italian to use when requesting specific records from Italy. A section on reading and interpreting records closes the book.

For a bare-bones approach, try Ruth Nerud's *Italian Extraction Forms with Translations for LDS Records, Birth Deaths, Marriages* (s.l., R. Nerud, 2002; R 929.1 N454I). The author omits explanatory text to offer a strictly line-by-line transcription and translation of records commonly available on microfilm from the Family History Library.

German

Bentz, Edna M. *If I Can, You Can Decipher Germanic Records*, rev. ed. San Diego, Calif.: Edna M. Bentz, 2001. R 943 B479I and circulating copies.

Sometimes just getting past the letter forms is challenge enough, as anyone doing German genealogical research knows. Although this book is more of a word list than translation guide, it is very helpful for understanding the written script and identifying words. Bentz offers examples of various scripts found in hand-written German records from time different periods. Further sections of the book provide a glossary of German and Latin terms organized by subject. Those doing research in Schleswig-Holstein will appreciate the glossaries of German words with their Danish equivalents.

Multiple languages

Shea, Jonathan D. and William F. Hoffman. *Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide*. Teaneck, N.J.: Avotaynu, 1994. R 929.1072 S539F and circulating copy.

This concise but comprehensive guide offers assistance for deciphering records in many European languages, including German, Swedish, French, Italian, Latin, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Czech, Polish, Russian, Hungarian, and Lithuanian. The authors provide a brief overview of the alphabet (printed and script), pronunciation, and grammar of each language, followed by examples and detailed document analysis. Word lists help researchers identify commonly-used terms.

WEB NEWS

■ [Online Searchable Death Indexes](http://www.deathindexes.com/)

<<http://www.deathindexes.com/>>: This website offer links to death records and indexes, obituary websites, and cemetery listings organized by state and then county. Some cities, such as St. Louis, have separate listings. The site includes both free websites and fee-based websites such as Ancestry.com. The St. Louis County Library has free access to Ancestry Library Edition at all branches, including the Special Collections Department.

■ [University of Missouri Digital Library](http://digital.library.umsystem.edu/)

<<http://digital.library.umsystem.edu/>>: Digitized texts and images and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Missouri, 1880-1922 are available free of charge on this website. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Missouri and Illinois are also available through the a database available at all St. Louis County Library branches and at home for patrons with a valid St. Louis County Library card. The database is listed on the [Genealogy Databases page](#) <<http://www.slcl.org/databases/genealogy.htm>>. Scroll down the page to the find the link to "Sanborn Maps—Missouri and Illinois."

■ [Missouri Death Records](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/) <<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>>: The state archives has added death certificates from 1958 (48,953 new records) to the database.

■ [St. Louis Public Library Post-Dispatch Obituary Index](http://www.slpl.org/slpl/gateways/article240117800.asp)

<<http://www.slpl.org/slpl/gateways/article240117800.asp>>: Although this online index has been around for a long time, St. Louis Public Library has now added obituaries for 1880-1930, 1942-1945, 1960-1963, and 1992-1995. Note that these additional years are not available on the familiar obituary index page but can only be accessed through a new search engine. From the

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library's [home page](http://www.slpl.org) <<http://www.slpl.org>>. Click on "Gateways" and then "Genealogists" (or try the direct link listed at the beginning of this article). The resulting page has options for browsing or searching the obituary index on the left side of the screen. The Special Collections Department has the *Post-Dispatch* on microfilm for the years 1874 to present on microfilm.

New on Ancestry

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

■ World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918:

Although Ancestry has offered this database for quite some time, registrations from Draft Board 3 in St. Louis County have not been included until now. Cards for surnames beginning with the letters I-Z have been uploaded, but there is no indication of when the rest of the records will be added.

Ancestry continues to add numerous titles to their German and Canadian Collections and updates existing databases regularly, so please check back often.

NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WEB PAGES

■ New pages added to "[Histories of St. Louis Religious Congregations](#)"

<http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/indexes/religious_congregation_histories.htm>

125th Jubilee of St. John Nepomuk Parish

*Golden Jubilee of St. John Nepomuk Parish
Dramatic Club*

■ New pages added to the "[Index to Descriptive Recruitment Lists of Volunteers for the United States Colored Troops for the State of Missouri, 1863-1865](#)"

<<http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/jkh/usctmo/usctmosoldiers.htm>>

Slave Compensation Claims by Name of Soldiers/
Former Slaves, 171k PDF

Slave Compensation Claims by Name of Former Slave
Owners, 182k PDF

Microfilm

■ City Directories

Dates are not necessarily inclusive; check the microfilm box label for exact date range..

Cape Girardeau, Mo., 1912 – 1960
Carthage, Mo., 1937 – 1960
Columbia, Mo., 1940 – 1949
Hannibal, Mo., 1903 - 1950
Independence, Mo., 1911 – 1960
Jefferson City, Mo., 1904 – 1935
Joplin, Mo., 1909 – 1960
Joplin / Carthage, Mo., 1902 – 1907
Moberly, Mo., 1905 – 1953
Poplar Bluff, Mo., 1939 – 1960
St. Charles, Mo., 1906 – 1959
St. Joseph, Mo., 1887 – 1951
Sedalia, Mo., 1903 – 1954
Springfield, Mo., 1890 – 1952

■ St. Louis County

St. Louis County Council Ordinances and Resolutions,
1951 – 1958
St. Louis County Court Records, 1824 – 1950

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NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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■ ***Der Friedensbote*** (Evangelical Synod of North America denominational newspaper), 1850 – 1934

Print resources

Call numbers follow each title. Complete bibliographic information for each item is available in the St. Louis County Library's [online catalog](http://webpac.slcl.org). <<http://webpac.slcl.org>>.

■ **Family Maps by Gregory A. Boyd**
(abbreviated title)

Allen County, Ohio. R 977.142 B789F

Jasper County, Missouri. R 977.872 B789F

A surname index for Arphax Family Maps is available on the [Arphax website](http://www.arphax.com) <<http://www.arphax.com>>.

■ **States and counties**

(abbreviated titles unless italicized)

GEORGIA

Macon, Georgia Newspaper Clippings, Vols. 5 & 6
2007. [NGS] 975.8552 E92M

ILLINOIS

New and Complete History of Jasper County Illinois.
1984. R 977.374 S958N

INDIANA

La Salle in the Valley of the St. Joseph. 1955.
R 977.289 B289L

KENTUCKY

Estill County Marriage Records, 1900-1925. 2003.
R 976.959 E81

Abstracted Curtright Funeral Home Records (Louisa,
Kentucky). 2007. R 976.926 A236A

Pine Hill Cemetery, Louisa, Kentucky. 2007.
R 976.926 A236P

LOUISIANA

Index to Louisiana Colonial Records Project. 2000.
R 976.3 B717I

Mississippi Valley Mélange, Vol. 5, 2009.
R 976.303 D494M

MISSOURI

History of Kingston, Caldwell County. 1993.
R 977.8185 W725H

Caldwell County 1897 Atlas. 2001. R 977.8185 B938A

NORTH CAROLINA

Camden County Will Book E, 1869 – 1920. 2008.
[NGS] 975.6135 G115C

OHIO

1826 Licking County Tax Record Index. 1988.
R 977.154 P541I

VIRGINIA

Augusta County Earliest Will Index, 1745 – 1900.
2008. [NGS] 975.5916 S553A

Norfolk County Administrator Bonds, 1711 – 1850.
2008. [NGS] 975.5523 G115N

Norfolk County 1844 Tithables. 2008. [NGS]
975.5523 G115N

WEST VIRGINIA

Ohio County (WV) Index to County Court Order
Books,
Vol. 14. 2007. [NGS] 975.414 C8850

■ **Germany**

Auf nach Amerika! Band 3, Beiträge zur Amerika-Auswanderung des 19. Jahrhunderts aus dem Paderborner Land und zur Wiederbelebung der historischen Beziehungen in 20. Jahrhunderts [To America! Vol. 3, Articles Regarding 19th Century Emigration from Paderborn to America and the Restoration of Historic Relationships in the 20th

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NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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Century]. 2009. R 943.565 A918

Ortssippenbuch der württembergischen Kreisstadt Backnang [Local Genealogy Book of the District Town of Backnang, Württemberg]. 2005. R 943.471 O29F

Ortssippenbuch Rotfelden & Wenden, Kreis Calw in Württemberg [Local Genealogy Book of Rotfelden & Wenden, District of Calw in Württemberg]. 2003. R 943.464 O29O

■ Family histories

1150 Years of Continuous Rockwell Families Descent, A.D. 827 to 1977. 1976. R 929.2 R684R

The Burdett Family of Virginia and West Virginia. 2008. [NGS] 929.2 B951B

Carrier-Carryer and Allied Lines. 1985. [StLGS] R 929.2 C316A

The Descendants of Carl Straub. 1995. R 929.2 S912D

The Descendants of John Henderson Bell, 1791 – 1838. 1966. [StLGS] R 929.2 B433B

The Descendants of Sterling & Reuben Mills. 2009. [NGS] 929.2 M657G

Family of John Stone. 1898. [NGS] 929.2 S877S

A Godly Minister: The Reverend William Leverich... 2008. [NGS] 929.2 L661L

Notes on the Quaker Family of Hadley. 1966. [NGS] 929.2 H131H

A Sherwin Odyssey. 2008. [NGS] 929.2 S554H

The Walls Family of Delaware. 2009. [NGS] 929.2 W215K

■ Civil War

Dear Wife: Letters from a Union Colonel. 2001. R 973.7469 M649D

Eighteen Months a Prisoner under the Rebel Flag. 1964. R 973.771 B674E

Memoirs of a Soldier. 1999. R 973.781 S643M

Missouri Confederate Calvary. 2008. R 973.7478 W362C

■ Other new titles

Female Occupations: Women's Employment 1850 – 1950. 2008 [NGS] 331.709 W261F

Fifth Report of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, October 11, 1901-October 11, 1902. 1903. R 369.135 D238F

Finding Anyone, Anywhere, Anywhen. 2009. [NGS] 025.04 E46F

Forgotten Ellis Island: The Extraordinary Story of America's Immigrant Hospital. 2007. R 362.1109 C767F

Jacob's Well: A Case for Rethinking Family History. 2008. [NGS] 929.2 A448A

Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. 1896. R 362.8 N277R

Secrets of Tracing Your Ancestors. 2009. R 929.1 Q6S

Some Pedigrees from the Visitation of Oxfordshire : ... in the Year 1634. 1913. [NGS] 929.4 P549S

For your information

■ St. Louis County Library homepage

www.slcl.org

■ Special Collections Department homepage

www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/

■ St. Louis County Library online catalog

webpac.slcl.org

CALENDAR

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

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

All events are free and open to the public.

MAY

📞 **Friday, May 8, 9:30-11:30 am**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class:
Introduction to Genealogy Databases

Wednesday, May 20, 7-9 pm

Headquarters East Room
St. Louis Genealogical Society Jewish
Special Interest Group
Topic: Jewish Cemeteries in St. Louis County
Speaker: Esley Hamilton

📞 **Friday, May 22, 9:30-11:30 am**

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

JUNE

📞 **Thursday, June 4, 9:30-11:30 am**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class:
Introduction to Genealogy Databases

Tuesday, June 9, 7 pm

Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Meeting

Topic: "Planning and Organizing a
Research Trip"

Speaker: Ilene Murray

📞 **Wednesday, June 10, 2-4 pm**

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

📞 **Tuesday, June 16, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class:
Introduction to Genealogy Databases

📞 **Wednesday, June 24, 9:30-11:30 am**

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

Thursday, June 25, 7-9 pm

Headquarters Auditorium
STLGS French Special Interest Group
Topic: French Cases, Documents, People and
Events in St. Louis Court Records
Speaker: Mike Everman

JULY

Tuesday, July 14, 7-9 pm

Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Meeting
Topic: "NARA: National Archives and Records
Administration in Washington, D.C."
Speaker: Diane Walsh

