

FOR THE RECORDS

Stories, Sources, and Senior Year: An Internship at H&G

In the words of our own H&G spring intern, Lily

Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of interning in the History and Genealogy department at the St. Louis County Library. As part of Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience Magnet High School's graduation requirements, students are required to complete a four month internship. Most of my classmates are interning in the healthcare field, however, I made it very clear to my internship coordinator that I wanted to complete a history-related internship, as I plan to study history in university next year. When she mentioned the SLCL History and Genealogy department, I was ecstatic. Over the summer, I had started to explore my family history using resources such as FamilySearch and Ancestry Library Edition, but my experience was limited and I was only familiar with a few types of records. I had begun creating a tree with the little knowledge I had, and I was eager to continue my research once I started my internship.

During my first week, I worked to find records requested by patrons through email. I learned how to find marriage records through an FamilySearch film number, which taught me how to find records effectively. Throughout this experience, I also became very good at reading a variety of handwriting. Reading the handwriting on digitized records is very difficult and I commend everyone who does it on a daily basis! On my first day, I had my first experience with a patron. He was

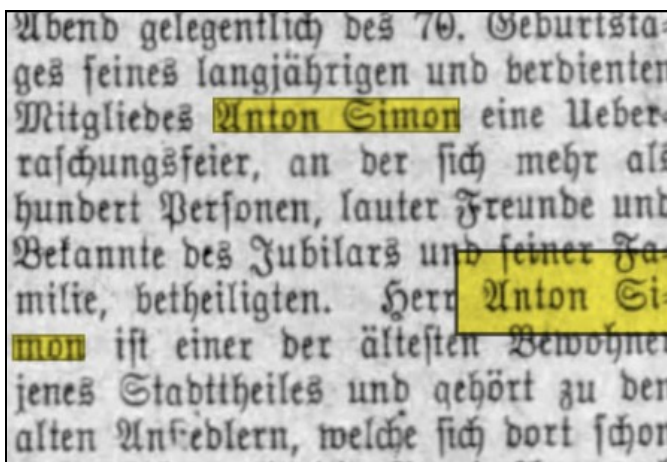


Figure 1: An obituary found in the Westliche Post, a St. Louis German newspaper.

looking for a map of an area in Hungary. Both a staff member and I tried to help, but it looks like the town no longer exists under the same name, or it was too small to appear on a map. I enjoyed the process of looking for documents to help him, but I felt bad when we were not able to find anything. We try our best to help patrons, but sometimes we need to refer them to someone else.

Throughout the last few months, I have been able to do a lot of work on my own genealogy. With access to all of the materials and resources here, I have been able to trace my family back to the countries they originally emigrated from, and some even farther back. One of my favorite resources is Newspapers.com. Obituaries are something a lot of people overlook, but they actually offer a lot of information. They sometimes list birthdates, the parents of the person who died,

and the children. They can be especially helpful if they list the maiden name of the mother of the deceased, as well as the maiden name of the deceased. One of my biggest challenges has been finding a woman's maiden name. There is also a lot of variety in newspapers, as each city can have many newspapers and in a variety of languages. I have used the *Westliche Post*, a German language newspaper based in St. Louis from 1857 to 1938, to find obituaries and other information about my family members. (Figure 1)

I also learned through a webinar conducted by the department that land records can also offer a lot of information, and surprisingly they list women a lot of the time. If you're looking for records early enough in the United States, land records are not something to neglect, they can tell you more than you think.

I have also had the opportunity to work at the Lynn Beckwith Jr. Administrative building, where I have learned more about what happens behind the scenes. Running this department takes a lot of work and people. Books have to be ordered, and when they come in they might need to be shipped away for binding. Then, when they are ready to go into the collection, they need to be cataloged. I have been able to see how all of this works, from ordering books to binding them and cataloging them. (Figure 2) Another interesting thing is digitization. We are currently in the process of going through the collection and deciding what needs to be digitized, donated, or kept in the collection. We need to make room for the many books and periodicals coming into the collection, so we would like to digitize as much as we can.

There are rules to digitization, however. We cannot just digitize whatever we want. The book or periodical needs to have been published before 1927 to be eligible for digitization. Copyright law does not allow us to digitize books published after 1927, so for this reason, if I search for the digitized version of a book on FamilySearch and it is not there, it needs to be kept in the collection. If I search for a book on FamilySearch and it is already digitized, which means it is pre-1930, we can donate the book and remove it from our collection. We do this to ensure patrons still have access to the material online, even after it has been removed from our physical collection. This way we can have room to add new items to the collection, and allow patrons to have access to much more material!

This process is not the most fun activity, it involves looking through carts and carts full of books. The binding will stain your fingers, and the pages will leave crumbs on your clothes. However, it is interesting to flip through each of the books while looking for the digital versions. I also feel very accomplished after sorting a few carts of books, it's a very similar feeling to decluttering your closet after ten years.

All in all, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time spent in the History and Genealogy department. The research skills I have learned over the last few months will be useful in the future, in the academic world and beyond. I have also enjoyed sharing the information I have learned with my friends and family, who have now expressed interest in doing their own genealogy.



Figure 2: Donated books ready to be sent to binding and cataloged.

H&G Classes & Programs

The following History & Genealogy classes and programs are offered for May 2023.

In honor of Memorial Day, H&G will be offering a variety of military-themed programs.

Pockets & Petticoats

Tuesday, May 9, 7:00 pm, Florissant Valley

Learn about the basic historical hand sewing techniques needed to make your own 18th century pockets and petticoats. Adults. Registration required.

Researching 20th Century Military Records

Wednesday, May 10, 6:00 pm, Daniel Boone

Learn how to research a 20th century military veteran's record, including World War II and Korea. Explore the holdings, website, destroyed records, and recovery efforts at the National Personnel Records Center. The presentation will also include a personal journey of a World War II veteran, demonstrating how to construct a military chronology from a destroyed record. Presented by Thomas Richardson, Archives Technician at the NPRC. Adults. Registration required.

Exploring the Fold3 Database

Monday, May 15, 2:00 pm, Virtual

Learn how to navigate the Fold3 database to search for military and other genealogy records. Adults. Registrations required.

Exploring Ancestry Library Edition and FamilySearch.org

Thursday, May 18, 6:00 pm, Lewis and Clark

Ancestry Library Edition and FamilySearch.org are two helpful databases for genealogy research. Learn how to search them and take advantage of their many records. Adults. Registration required.

Genealogy @ FV

Monday, May 22, 3:00 pm–6:00 pm, Florissant Valley

The History and Genealogy Department is taking the show on the road! A staff member will be available at the branch to provide help with how to begin researching your family history, using the library's genealogy resources, and breaking through brick walls. Adults.

Civil War Camp Life

Tuesday, May 23, 3:00 pm, Daniel Boone

Learn about the daily experiences of Civil War soldiers while they were in camp. Explore the foods they ate, what they did in their free time, the weapons they used, diseases that threatened the camps, and more. Presented by National Park Service Ranger Shawn Williams. All ages. Registration required.

Register at slcl.org/events.

TECH TALK

Take a look at the following SLCL Tech Talk offering:

Tech Talks: Spring Clean Your Technology

May 3, 2:00-4:00 pm, Grant's View

Learn about the proper way to clean computers both inside and out and how to properly dispose of old technology. Adults. Registration required.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

All SLCL locations will be closed on Monday, May 29, in honor of Memorial Day.

PastPorts is published by History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library

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

Contact us:

History & Genealogy
St. Louis County Library
Temporary Location—Daniel Boone Branch
300 Clarkson Rd.
Ellisville, MO 63011

314-994-3300
genealogy@slcl.org
slcl.org/genealogy

SCOTTISH GAMES

Do you have Scottish heritage? See you at the St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival! H&G will be there!

St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival

Saturday, May 6, 9:00 am–8:00 pm

Schroeder Park, Manchester, MO

Experience Scottish music, dance, games, food and more.

See the schedule of events and more details at stlouis-scottishgames.com/.



JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH



May is Jewish American Heritage Month! This recognition was first proclaimed in 2006 by then President George W. Bush. This month recognizes the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture.

See www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/ for more information and resources.

History & Genealogy services

The following H&G services are free and available to researchers who are unable to visit the library.

Lookup service

H&G can provide photocopies, prints, or digital scans of many library materials from indexed sources or when given a specific citation:

- Up to 30 pages from one book or one article from a journal issue. Staff can also photocopy or scan tables of contents and index pages.
- Microfilmed records—A list of microfilm available in the H&G collection can be viewed [online](#).
- Print outs from database records if patrons cannot access the database at home.
- Please use the [online lookup request form](#) to submit requests.

*Some items may be temporarily unavailable due to construction

Print collection

More than 27,000 books in the collection can be checked out. The entire collection is included in the library's [online catalog](#). Books with call numbers that do not begin with "R" are available to check out. Patrons can request books online or by calling 314-994-3300.

*Some items may be temporarily unavailable due to construction

Research guidance

H&G staff members can provide research assistance by phone.

Book-a-Genealogist

Researchers encountering brick-walls or who would like assistance in developing a plan to achieve specific research goals can schedule a consultation with an H&G staff member. Requests can be made using the online [Book-a-Genealogist form](#).

Database access

Many library [databases](#) can be used at home by St. Louis County Library card holders living in the metropolitan area. For more information, please contact the History & Genealogy Department at 314-994-3300 or genealogy@slcl.org.

STLGS Event

The StLGS 51st Annual Family History Conference: Explore Unique Pathways to Smash Brick Walls!



Featuring Judy Russell, JD, *The Legal Genealogist*® and other local speakers

Live at the Maryland Heights Community Center and via Zoom

Saturday, May 6, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Presentations include:

“Through the Golden Door: Immigration After the Civil War”

“Documents to Databases: Using the Missouri State Archives’ Newest Resource”

“Advertising the Law: The Gems in the Legal Notices”

“Documents to Databases: Using the Missouri State Archives’ Land and Judicial Databases”

“Of Delinquents and Common Scolds: Women, Children, and Criminal Justice”

“Findmypast: Your Source for Irish and British Research”

“After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History Through DNA”

“Why You Should Care Where Your Family Bible Is”

See stlgs.org for more information and to register.

AAIP HERITAGE EVENTS

Below is a sampling of the SLCL offerings in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month:

Chinese Tea Tasting

May 1, 10:00 am, Weber Road

Learn the history and medicinal uses of Chinese teas, while sampling different varieties. Registration required. Adults.

The Art of Chopsticks

Multiple dates and locations

Learn the history and art of using chopsticks as you taste test a variety of Chinese snacks. All ages. Registration required.

Sashiko Stitching

May 4, 2:00 pm, Meramec Valley

Learn about the traditional Japanese mending technique and make a sashiko embroidery design. Adults. Registration required.

Ancient Ruins of Cambodia

May 18, 7:00 pm, Bridgeton Trails

Discover the ancient city of Angkor in Cambodia, an archeological world heritage site with the largest temple in the world. Adults. Registration recommended.

Jack Soo: Strength Through Laughter

May 25, 2:00 pm, Oak Bend

Learn about the extraordinary life of Jack Soo (born Goro Suzuki), who starred as Sgt. Yemana in "Barney Miller" after starting his entertainment career at a Japanese internment camp. Adults.

See www.slcl.org/events for more events and to register.

MO HIST EXHIBIT



Sports fans will want to check out the new exhibit at the Missouri History Museum!

“Soccer City”

April 8, 2023–February 18, 2024

In 1875 the first recorded soccer-like game in St. Louis took place at the future site of Sportsman’s Park between teams named the Blondes and Brunettes. In 2019 the city was awarded a Major League Soccer team, the first majority female-owned club in MLS history.

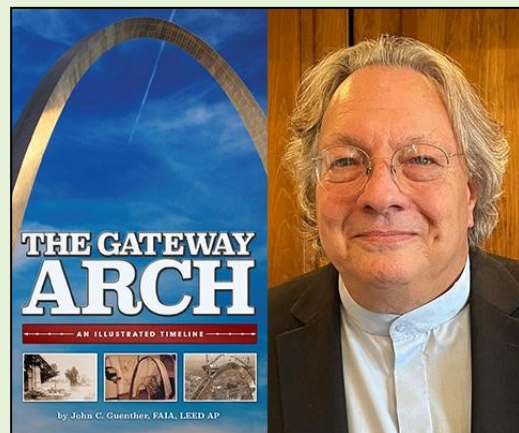
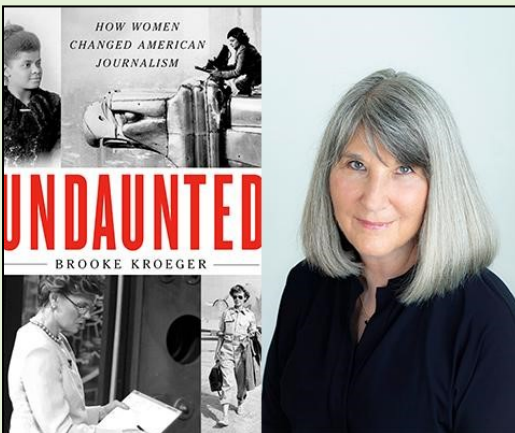
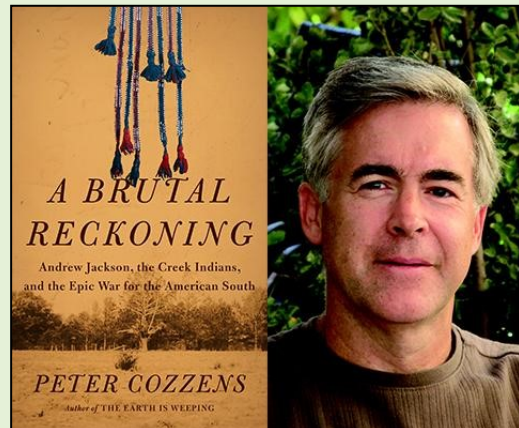
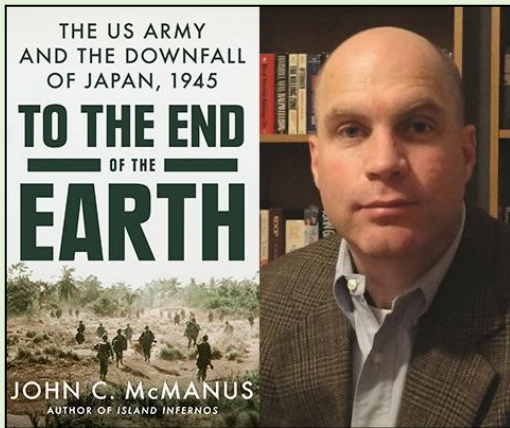
In between these two dates are amateur and professional teams, victories and defeats, and periods of struggle and astounding upsets. Combined, they sealed the St. Louis region’s reputation as America’s first soccer capital. Unlike most cities, St. Louis cultivated a unique, homegrown soccer culture, with an impact that stretched beyond our nation’s borders.

Soccer City at the Missouri History Museum will present graphics, digital interactives, films, and artifacts that tell the story of a major metropolis, a dynamic sport, and the many personalities that propelled St. Louis to the competitive forefront.—Missouri History Museum

See <https://mohistory.org/museum> for more information.



May Author Events @ SLCL



For information on these and other author events, visit www.slcl.org/authors.

CLASSIC CLIPPING



FIRST STL SOCCER GAME

The first "soccer-like" game in St. Louis was played in 1875. Here is the clipping of the game from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, May 29, 1875:

BLONDES VS. BRUNETTES.

**The Light Above the Dark,
Boys.**

**The Lawyers Show What They Know
About Foot Ball—A Lively Game and
Plenty of Sport—The Blondes
Win, but Agree to Call
It a Draw.**

Those who have been inclined to look upon football as a stupid sort of a game, wherein the sport is not in fair proportion to the exercise, have no true conception of its merits, and all such opinions could but recoil upon themselves, in the presence of such a game as was played yesterday afternoon at the Grand Avenue Base Ball Park by the members of the legal fraternity of the city. The game, which was arranged for the benefit of the News-boys' Home, has been a fruitful theme of discussion in all quarters for several days past, and those of the lawyers who had voted violent exercise out of order, and yet were chosen to participate in the contest, took counsel with themselves as to the best means of limbering up the joints and lengthening out the wind. Some, it is asserted, went so far as to put themselves on a corn-meal diet, in the hope of being able to develop an extraordinary degree of energy in the pedal extremities, while others, who were unable to trace a connection between the feet and the stomach, especially through the instrumentality of corn (in a dry state), resorted to such means as were suggested to them by interested friends. As a result of this preliminary training, the contestants were in first-class order.

THE DAY

opened yesterday rather discouragingly, and although there was a temporary brightness, following the heavy shower at noon, the clouds became threatening again, and doubtless deterred many from witnessing the game. However, there were a goodly number of spectators on the ground, and with the ball-kickers and tossers (the latter attending to practice duty), the scene was quite animated. Among those present were a number of ladies, who followed with interest every movement of the players.

Notwithstanding the rain that had fallen, the field was in fine condition. A commissary tent had been pitched outside of base limits, and therein was contained much of that enthusiasm so essential to such meetings.

THE CONTENDING ARMIES

were on the ground by 4 o'clock, but various consultations, for strategic purposes, had to be held before play could be commenced. Annexed are the players:

Blondes—Frank J. Bowman, Captain; E. W. Goode, First Lieutenant; F. N. Jones, Second Lieutenant; A. W. Slayback, A. W. Mead, L. A. Groff, Jos. S. Laurie, W. J. Sharman, C. E. Shedd, E. P. McCarty, G. A. Castleman, Nat. Dryden, J. C. Normile, F. E. Richey, Fergus Graham, Christ. Koerner, W. L. Garesche, George A. Schutte and John I. Martin.

Brunettes—E. S. MacDonald, Captain; Angus Cameron, First Lieutenant; W. H. H. Russell, Second Lieutenant; R. E. Collins, R. W. Claiborne, A. J. Kennedy, J. P. Vaseline, Franklin Ferris, A. M. Thayer, A. W. Sullivan, Alex. Garesche, Jr., Ben. F. Clarke, Geo. W. Lubke, Aug. Binswanger, Frank Ryan, C. F. Ellerbe and Chas. Taylor.

Judges Jones, Wickham and Lindley having been chosen as a board of referees, these gentlemen called game at 4:30 o'clock.

GAME CALLED.

The commanders ordered their men into line, the Blondes being at a disadvantage, facing a strong west wind, which materially assisted the efforts of their antagonists.

Captain Bowman advanced to the center of the field with the ball in his hand, and at a signal from the starter, it was let fly into the air. Then there was a general scramble of Blondes and Brunettes, and the ball went helter-skelter from the many hearty kicks it received. First it was upon one side of the field and then upon the other, when finally Captain McDonald planted the winning kick in the sphere, and the first inning was concluded in favor of the Brunettes; but the game had not progressed thus far without its accidents. Mr. A. W. Mead, while in the midst of the chase, felt his feet fly out from under him, and he landed broadside in a mixture of mud and water, of about the consistency of mush. But "blood will tell," and it may here be remarked that he continued to play with ardor only slightly dampened. Another unfortunate met with a similar accident, and, although originally a Brunette, from a rear view he presented the appearance of a Blonde. Captain Bowman, while in pursuit of the ball, fell and parted with most of the skin on his left arm, from wrist to elbow.

Positions were changed for the

SECOND INNING.

The Blondes having the advantage of the wind. The Brunettes started off with the first kick at the sphere and sent it whirling along almost over the line. There was a strong defensive movement on the part of their opponents, but Mr. Garesche sent the ball and attempted to carry it into the enemy's country. Then the forces massed themselves, and the fight for some time was at close quarters, and the Blondes finally won the inning. The older players felt the need of rest, and were allowed five minutes by the judges. During this time the base stakes were changed, the contestants being made to face north and south.

THE THIRD INNING

opened with a new rule, viz.: that the ball should not be picked up and carried, and when the opportunity to evade the law was too good to be lost and was taken advantage of by either side, the other would raise the shout of foul. The strife was animated throughout, but the inning was finally won by the Brunettes.

THE FOURTH INNING

was a hot one. After passing the ball from side to side, hardly letting it touch the ground, Mr. Martin got in a "raiser" that sent it over the line. The Blondes claimed the victory, of course, and the Brunettes disputed it. The referees were called into service. Captain McDonald, in placing his bill of complaint before the court, said: "Johnny Martin kicked that, and he's no lawyer." Captain Bowman stated that Mr. Martin was filling a vacancy caused by the illness of a Blonde, and he was therefore admissible; furthermore, that the complainants were strengthened by the services of a reporter, and therefore could not complain. The court concluded that the case was a draw, and the forces renewed the contest, the Blondes vindicating their cause by winning, thus producing a tie.

THE FIFTH INNING

was short, sharp and decisive, resulting in favor of the Brunettes.

The Blondes claimed

THE SIXTH INNING.

but a protest was entered by Captain McDonald, on the ground that the Brunettes were not ready when the ball was thrown. He was loth to believe that the other side would claim a judgment by default. The judges decided the inning a draw, and again the Blondes vindicated themselves by winning, and again "tying" the score.


The Brunettes claimed to have won the

SEVENTH AND FINAL INNING,


but a claim of foul was preferred by Captain Bowman and allowed by the judges, on the ground that the ball had been started before so ordered. During the contest which ensued, when the Blondes were on the point of winning, an outsider gave the ball a kick and sent it back into the field. A protest was entered, but, as there was no remedy, the contestants went at it again, the Blondes finally winning the inning and game. Later, however, it was agreed all things considered, that the game should be declared a draw.

Before the crowd dispersed, a little matter between Captains Bowman and McDonald, in which the former was to throw an ordinary ball across the field was settled. Mr. Bowman was granted three trials, and although each effort was a good one, none came up to the required mark.

All who were present yesterday so thoroughly enjoyed the sport that the hope was freely expressed that, before long, the Brunettes and Blondes would feel inclined to meet again and decide their "draw."



POCKETS & PETTICOATS



Tuesday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.

Learn about the basic historical hand sewing techniques needed to make your own 18th century pockets and petticoats.

Adults. Registration required.



Florissant Valley Branch

195 New Florissant Road, South | Florissant, MO 63031 | 314-994-3300

Program sites are accessible. With at least two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit www.scl.org.



RESEARCHING

**20th Century
Military Records**

Wednesday, May 10, 6:00 p.m.

Presented by Thomas Richardson, Archives Technician at the NPRC

Learn how to research a 20th century military veteran's record, including World War II and Korea. Explore the holdings, website, destroyed records and recovery efforts at the National Personnel Records Center. The presentation will also include a personal journey of a World War II veteran, demonstrating how to construct a military chronology from a destroyed record.

Adults. Registration required.



Daniel Boone Branch

300 Clarkson Road | Ellisville, MO 63011 | 314-994-3300

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CIVIL WAR Camp Life

Presented by



Ranger Shawn Williams



Tuesday, May 23, 3:00 p.m.

Learn about the daily experiences of Civil War soldiers while they were in camp. Explore the foods they ate, what they did in their free time, the weapons they used, diseases that threatened the camps and more. **All ages. Registration required.**



St. Louis
County
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Daniel Boone Branch

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Presented by the Oak Bend Branch
& the National Park Service



A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The History of Memorial Day

Thursday, May 18, 2:00 p.m.

Park Ranger Nick Sacco will explore the origins and history of Memorial Day in the United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Adults.



Oak Bend Branch

842 S. Holmes Ave. | St. Louis, MO 63122 | 314-994-3300

Program sites are accessible. With at least two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit www.slcl.org.

