PastPorts

News and tips from the St. Louis County Library
Special Collections Department
Vol. 1, No. 4—June 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

Summer hours at the St. Louis County Library
All St. Louis County Library locations, including the Special Collections Department, will be closed on Sundays during the summer through Labor Day. Regular hours of operation are:

Monday – Thursday: 9 am – 9 pm
Friday & Saturday: 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday: Closed

The Library will close on Friday, July 4 and Monday, September 1 for holiday observances. Sunday hours will resume beginning September 7.

BOOK CHAT

Need to keep the young descendents busy this summer? Try genealogy
 "No more rulers, no more books, no more teachers' dirty looks!" used to be the refrain on the last day of school. Kids might not recite the old rhyme anymore, but warm summer breezes still signify "vacation" and more time to spend with immediate ancestors. Besides long, hot, humid days, St. Louis summers bring opportunities to share family stories and get the younger generation interested in

genealogy. Whether you would like to get the youngsters reading about genealogy, or are just looking for interesting rainy-day activities, the Special Collections Department can suggest some good summer reads (those with call numbers **not** preceded by "R" are available for check out).

The Department has several introductions to genealogy appropriate for upper-grade-school-age children:

> Beller, Susan Provost. *Roots for Kids: A Genealogy Guide for Young People.*
>   Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1997. Q 929 B442R and
>   R 929 B442R
> Taylor, Maureen. *Through the Eyes of Your Ancestors: A Step-by-Step Guide to
>   Uncovering Your Family's History.* New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1999.
>   J 929.1 and RJ 929.1
> Wolfman, Ira. *Do People Grow on Family Trees? Genealogy for Kids and Other
>   Beginners.* New York: Workman Publishing, 1991. J 929.1 7–9

Beller's text is the most formal of the three, following the format of a typical "how-to" guide to genealogy but written in age-appropriate language. Taylor's book, with shorter, simpler text, might be easier for younger children in this age group. Wolfman's book has a busier and more flamboyant graphic style. Although covering similar territory, the text makes extensive use of story telling and emphasizes immigration and settlement. All three offer a basic introduction to genealogical methods and sources and include bibliographies and standard forms (such as pedigree charts and family group sheets) that can be photocopied.

For middle- and high-school-age youth the "A Student's Guide to…" series published by Oryx Press (Phoenix Ariz., 1996) features titles by various authors covering specific ethnic or national groups. Titles available in the Special Collections Department include:

> Brockman, Terra Castiglia. *A Student's Guide to Italian American Genealogy.*
>   H 929.1 B864S
> Johnson, Anne E. *A Student's Guide to African American Genealogy.*
>   H 929.1089 J66S
> Johnson, Anne E. *A Student's Guide to British American Genealogy.*
>   H 929.1 J66S
> Kavash, E. Barrie. *A Student's Guide to Native American Genealogy.*
>   929.1089 K21S
> Robl, Gregory. *A Student's Guide to German American Genealogy.*
>   H 929.1 R666S
> Rollyson, Carl. *A Student's Guide to Polish American Genealogy.*
>   H 929.1089 R755S
> Ryskamp, George R. *A Student's Guide to Mexican American Genealogy.*
>   H 929.1089 S539
> Schleifer, Jay. *A Student's Guide to Jewish American Genealogy.*
>   H 929.1 S341S
> She, Colleen. *A Student's Guide to Chinese American Genealogy.*
>   H 929.1089 S539
> Yamaguchi, Yoji. *A Student's Guide to Japanese American Genealogy.*
>   H 929.1 Y19S

Each book in the series follows a common format featuring historical and cultural information, immigration patterns, basic genealogical methods, special challenges and sources for the group in question, bibliographies, and tips for writing family histories. A section of color photographs in each volume provides some delight for the eye.

No summer vacation is complete without some pure fun, and the Department has books suggesting activities for young children that also promote generational interaction.

■ One way to teach family history to children is by helping them create a family tree. *Paper Trees: Genealogical Clip Art* by Tony Matthews (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1999, R 929.1 M442P) features a variety of fun family tree chart designs that young children can artistically embellish. Designs may be photocopied for personal use.

■ Liana Brittain's *Genealogy for Children: A Resource for Teachers, Parents and Grandparents* (Almonte, Ontario: Liana Brittain, 1997, R 929.1 B862G) includes crossword puzzles and other activities for introducing young children to genealogy.

■ Genealogical scrapbooking is a creative activity that lends itself to sharing stories and memories. Check out Bev Kirschner Braun's *New Ideas for Crafting Heritage Albums: The Latest Tips and Techniques for Preserving Your Family's Memories* (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2001, Q 745.593 B825N) and Maureen Taylor's *Scrapbooking Your Family History* (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2003, Q 745.593 T2445).

So, gather up your young descendants for a little summertime genealogy. At least they might have something to report when the teacher asks, "What did you do on your summer vacation?"

TIPS

■ Detailed information about the contents of *Ancestry Library Edition* databases is linked at the bottom of the main page of each database. This information is important, because it describes date ranges, geographical coverage, source and other database information. For example, there are currently three databases featuring Missouri marriages in *Ancestry Library Edition*. Each one covers different time periods. Not all of them cover every county. Using *Missouri Marriages, 1851-1900* as an example, select the database and scroll down the screen on the main page until you find:

> **About *Missouri Marriages to 1851-1900***
> Database of Missouri marriages to 1851-1900
> For more information about this database, <u>click here</u>.

Clicking on the link will result in a list of counties, date ranges, and the source. The entry for Iron County includes the following information.

> **Iron County** was formed in 1857 and was organized from Madison, St. Francois, Reynolds, Washington and Wayne counties. The records in this database cover the years 1857 through 1880.
>
> Original data: *Iron County, Missouri Marriages, 1857 - 1880*. County court records located at Ironton, Missouri. Family History Library film #0915142

Note that the Iron County records cover only 1857–1880 even though the database title states coverage for 1851–1900.

■ Just because an electronic database is online does not mean it is complete. Next time you search an online database and do not get results, check to see if the database provider noted how complete the database is. If the database is not complete, try your search again later. The information may have been processed and uploaded in the meantime.

Some databases state the completeness of a title as a percentage ("Title is___% complete). Some even let researchers see what's coming down the road. The Bureau of Land Management website (http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/), featuring free land record databases, includes a page with information about the completeness of each database. A timeline indicates when additional data is expected to be uploaded. The page can be viewed at http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/Visitors/StateTime.asp.

■ The *Westliche Post* newspaper (St. Louis) often published memorials in the obituary section one year after a person's death. If you didn't find the newspaper issue where an obituary might have occurred due to gaps in the microfilm, check issues published a year later for a possible memorial.

■ In the "Microfilm Finding Aids" binder in the Special Collections Department, there is a section featuring selected St. Louis funeral homes. The microfilm records for each funeral home have been analyzed. Possible information includes place of birth, occupation, parents' names and birth places, copies of death certificates, obituaries (often from more than one newspaper), place of funeral and name of cemetery.

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.

New pages on the Special Collections Website:
http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/

> "Deaths in the *Daily Missouri Democrat*, St. Louis, Missouri, 1860."
>   Located under "Indexes"

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/.

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

Fulton Country, Illinois R 977.397 B789F
Madison County, Iowa R 977.781 B789F
Morgan County, Illinois R 977.3463 B789F
Randolph County, Missouri R 977.8283 B789F

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

■ Other new titles

Cornebise, Alfred E. *The CCC Chronicles: Camp Newspapers of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942*. 2004. R 333.72 C813C

Culen, Konstantín. *History of Slovaks in America*. 2007. R 973.04918 C967H

Dunford, Fraser. *The Beginner's Guide to Ontario Genealogy*. 2007. 971.3 D915B (NGS Collection)

Heagney, Adele. *Historic Photos of St. Louis*. 2007. R 977.866 H433H

McDermott, John Francis. *A Glossary of Mississippi Valley French, 1673-1850*. 1941. R 447.9 M134G

McGhee, James E. *Guide to Missouri Confederate Units, 1861-1865*. 2008. R 973.7478 M145G

Nadav, Mordekhai. *The Jews of Pinsk, 1506 to 1880*. 2008. R 947.89 N133J

Pearson, Thomas A*. Free Men and Women of Color in St. Louis, 1821-1860*. 1997. R 977.866 P362F

Plat Book and Illustrated Atlas of Sangamon County, Illinois, 1874, 1894, 1914. 1993. R 977.356 P716

Punch, Terrence M. *Erin's Sons : Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada*, 1761-1853. 2008. 971.5 P984E (NGS Collection)

Waters, Colin. *A Dictionary Of Old Trades, Titles and Occupations*. 2000. R 331.7003 W329D

■ *Ortsippenbücher* (German local lineage books)

Alpermann, Gerd. *Höfe und Familien in Garlitz und Mützlitz (Westhavelland) 1543-1945* [Farming Estates and Families in Garlitz and Mützlitz (Westhavelland)]*.* 1997. R 943.154 A456H

Harms, Thorsten. *Die Familien der Evangelisch-Reformierten Kirchengemeinden Borssum (1676 – 1900), ehemals Klein-Borssum (1676 - 1875) und*

Gross-Borssum (1752 - 1875) [Families of the Evangelical Reformed Congregation of Borssum (1676 – 1900), Formerly Lesser-Borssum (1676 – 1875) and Greater-Borssum (1676 – 1875)]. 2007. R 943.5917 H288F

Microfilm

■ Gasconade County Probate Court: Probate Case Files, 1821 – 1882, A – R (2 rolls), located on Microfilm Shelf 55

Collection guides

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

Illinois Genealogy
Kentucky Genealogy
New York Genealogy
Pennsylvania Genealogy

WEB WATCH

Web finds

■ Census Finder: http://www.censusfinder.com
Provides links to census information and images, including federal and state records, as well as directories, histories and state and county maps. The information is listed by state and then by county.

■ Linkpendium: http://www.linkpendium.com/
Lists genealogy links for U.S. states and counties and surnames.

■ Public Land Survey System: http://www.geocommunicator.gov/LSIS6/map.jsp
A government mapping site allowing users to search by township and range (information usually listed in a legal description of a property). Entering the data will return a map marking the property location. Clicking on the website's U.S. map allows users to zoom in on a location manually.

Web news

■ LDS Digital Website Goes Live: The LDS digital records website: http://search.labs.familysearch.com, went live on May 14. Users no longer need to set up an account or log-in to use the site. The site includes census records, death records, the Civil War Pension Card Index, church records and other local and international records. The site is still in the early stages of development, but new records are being added continually.

New on *Ancestry Library Edition*

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

■ <u>Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, 1879-1903:</u>
A searchable database with index cards for Civil War veterans who received headstones from the government. Includes links to images of the cards. The database can also be browsed.

■ <u>Tennessee State Marriages, 1765-2002:</u> Includes original record images.

■ <u>U.S. Naturalization Records Indexes, 1794-1995:</u> This database covers the Eastern District of New York, Maryland, Western District of Pennsylvania, Alaska, Oregon, Massachusetts, Delaware, Southern District of New York, District of Columbia, Northern District of Ohio, Eastern District of Michigan, and Northern District of California. This is an index only. Not all years are available for all areas. Check the database main page for exact coverage.

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 ask for the Reference Department. Once connected, tell the Reference Librarian you would like to register for a class.

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"

JULY

Tuesday, July 8, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
St. Louis County Library Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Presentation
Program: "Exploring Family and National History Events through Newspapers"

☎ **Thursday, July 10, 9:30 – 11:00**
St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Genealogy in Newspapers

☎ **Thursday, July 17, 9:30 – 11:30**
St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: AncestryLibrary.com and HeritageQuest.com Databases

Tuesday, July 22, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
St. Louis County Library Headquarters East Room
St. Louis Genealogical Society Irish Special Interest Group
Program: "Irish Records Available Online"

☎ **Thursday, July 24, 2:00 – 3:30**
St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Genealogy in Newspapers

☎ **Tuesday, July 29, 6:30 – 8:30**
St. Louis County Library Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: AncestryLibrary.com and HeritageQuest.com Databases