

## FOR THE RECORDS

### Finding your Ancestors in German Church Records

Church records often include facts about ancestors that cannot easily be found elsewhere and start earlier in time than other records. Records from many parts of Germany have been microfilmed, digitized, or transcribed and are fabulous resources that every genealogist should consider.

#### Tools for deciphering records

German church records present two major research challenges, but resources are available to help you:

**1. The records are written in the old German (Gothic) script.** Records made before the end of World War II were usually written in Gothic script, which differs considerably from English handwriting and is difficult to decipher. Two useful resources are Edna Bentz's *If I Can, You Can Decipher Germanic Records*\*, and the [FamilySearch Wiki](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki) <<http://tinyurl.com/gw7bpx8>>.

**2. The records are in German or Latin,** but the same words and phrases are commonly repeated. Deciphering records is less challenging once you learn to recognize key words. The FamilySearch Wiki offers word lists for both [German](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki) <<http://tinyurl.com/nx44pdy>> and [Latin](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki) <<http://tinyurl.com/zof7fc4>>. A good print resource is Ernest Thodes's *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*, which also includes common Latin terms.

#### Finding your ancestral village

To find church records, first determine the location of your ancestor's church and whether they were Protestant or

\* Books mentioned in this article are listed in the bibliography on page 10.



#### H&G staff attend NGS Conference

Dan Lilienkamp and Scott Holl attended the 2016 National Genealogical Conference in Fort Lauderdale, May 4–7. The conference provided an opportunity to meet many of the 1800 genealogical researchers in attendance and provide information about the resources and services available at St. Louis County Library. Dan and Scott also had an opportunity to network with other professionals and hear presentations at the pre-conference Librarians' Day on May 3.

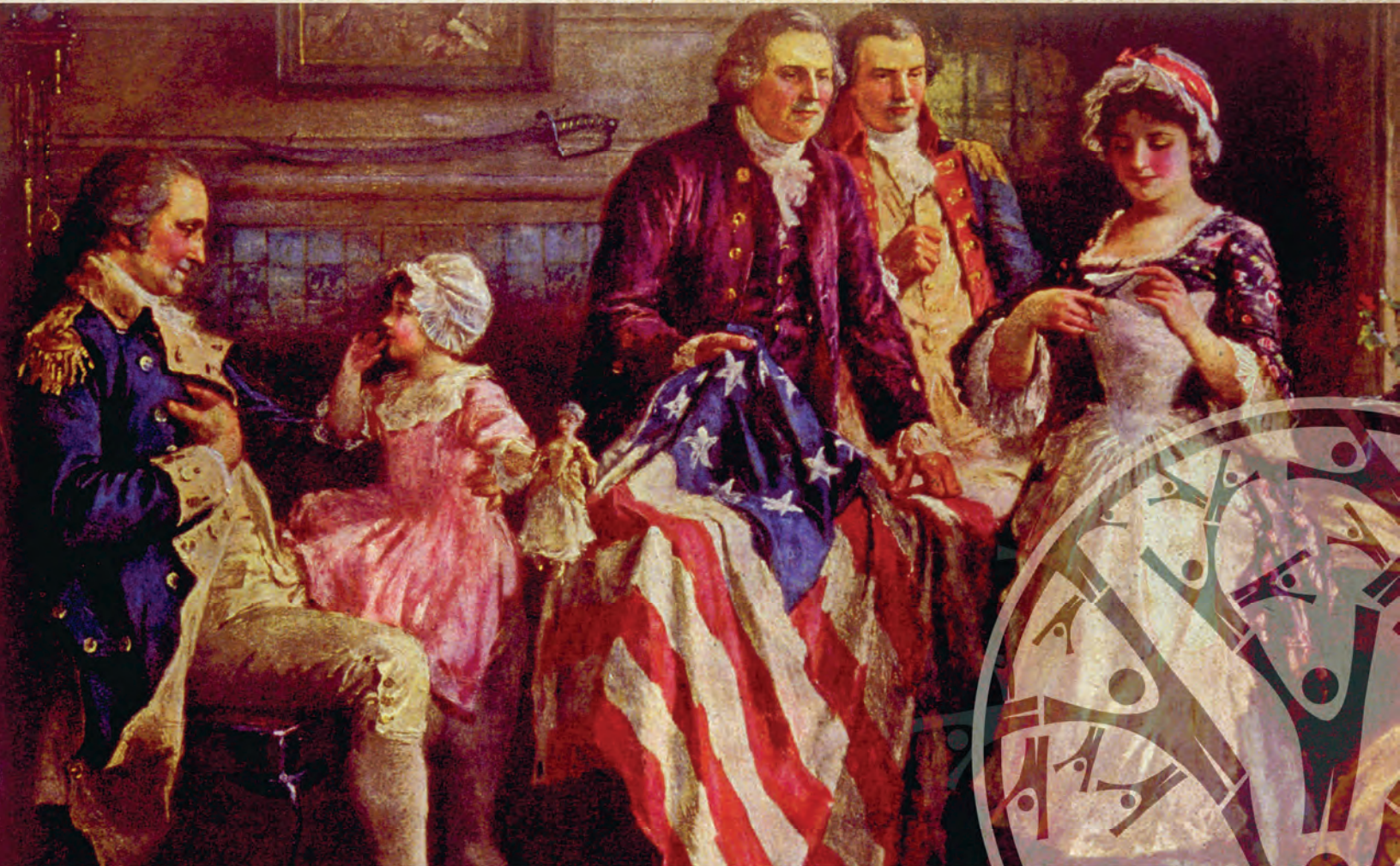
Catholic. History & Genealogy staff members have come up with 18 sources for finding this crucial information:

- Information provided by family members
- Family papers or artifacts
- Passenger lists
- Naturalization records

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History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library

# Lineage Society Fair



**Saturday, June 18** 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Representatives will be available on Tier 4 to provide information about their societies.

Children of the American Revolution | Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars | Daughters of the American Colonists  
Daughters of the America Revolution | Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War | First Families of St. Louis – St. Louis  
Genealogical Society | Mayflower Society | National Society Daughters of the Union | National Society Magna Charta  
Dames & Barons | National Society of New England Women | National Society Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth  
Century | Sons of the American Revolution | Sons of Union Veterans

## St. Louis County Library Headquarters

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-994-3300

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.



St. Louis County **Library**

Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org).



- U.S. church records (including marriage, death, and baptisms of immigrants' children)
- Birth records
- Civil marriage records
- Death certificates
- Obituaries and death notices
- Wills and probate records
- Tombstone inscriptions
- World War I draft registration records
- U.S. Census records
- Published family histories and family trees found on the Internet
- U.S. Army Register of Enlistments, 1798–1914 (Ancestry database)
- Geographical surname sites
- Contemporary online telephone books
- Location specific publications, such as *Men of Bern*, *The Alsace Emigration Book*, and *The Wuerttemberg Emigration Index*. [See also “Passenger Lists and Other Sources Pertaining to 19th-Century German Emigration and Immigration \(Bibliography\)” on the library’s website](http://tinyurl.com/zcgv2tn) <<http://tinyurl.com/zcgv2tn>>.

The list is not exhaustive, and there is no guarantee that you will discover the name of your ancestral village in any of these sources. Finding the village or town name is the key to doing research in Europe, however.

### Finding records on microfilm

Once you discover the town name, use Kevan M. Hansen’s *Map Guide to German Parish Registers* to discover if church records for your ancestor’s village have been microfilmed by FamilySearch and available on loan from the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City. Hansen’s volumes are divided into separate sections for Catholic and Lutheran parishes. Find the village name in the index in the appropriate volume to find the corresponding Protestant or Catholic parish map. Maps lists all villages within a particular parish. If microfilm is available, a film number will be listed next to the parish name (see page 4). The volumes not only indicates the availability of records pertaining to official Protestant and Catholic state churches but also include information for locating the records of congregations belonging to “free church” and minority denominations.

Three factors determine the availability of records on microfilm:

**1. The information recorded**—Churches minimally kept records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths. The amount of detail and the style of the record keeping depend on place and time. The closer to the present, the more detail you can expect to find.

**2. Surviving records**—Many German church records suffered destruction during the Thirty Years War (1618–1648) and other conflicts. Although some earlier records do survive, most date from the late 1640s. Additionally, fire, water, infestations of rodents and other pests, or even ill-conceived efforts at preservation may have destroyed the records.

**3. Access to the records for filming**—Some churches or denominational archives, such as those in Bavaria and Hanover, have not allowed FamilySearch to film or digitize their collections. Hansen provides information for contacting German archives in case microfilmed records are not available.

### Finding and ordering microfilm on the FamilySearch website

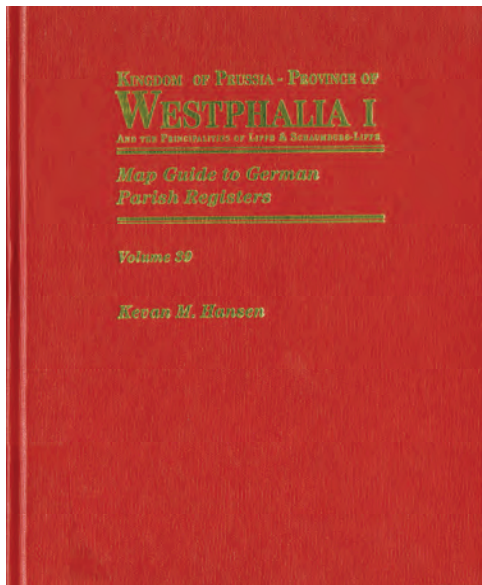
Using the FHL film number from Hansen’s book, search the [Family Search website](https://familysearch.org/catalog/search) <<https://familysearch.org/catalog/search>> to determine which records are available. From the resulting list, choose the reels covering the time periods of interest. The catalog descriptions are in German: *Taufen* = baptisms; *Heiraten* = marriages; *Toten* = deaths; *Konfirmanden* = confirmations; and *Verzeichnis* = register or index.

Once you have identified the appropriate films, sign into your FamilySearch account or create one. If you have not done so already, select a Family History Center. History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library serves as a Family History Center, but others are located worldwide. Choose a short-term (90 days) or long-term (permanent) loan. You will receive an email notification when your film arrives at the library.

### Record formats

Records were written in various formats. If you are lucky, the information will be written

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



## Finding a parish using Map Guide to German Parish Registers

Using Wadersloh as an example

Wadersloh is a village in present-day North Rhine-Westphalia and is listed in Vol. 59, *Kingdom of Prussia—Province of Westphalia and the Principalities of Lippe and Schaumburg-Lippe*. Volumes are based on territorial boundaries as they existed before 1870.

1. Find Wadersloh in the index. Note the page number for the appropriate map.

### WESTPHALIA I TOWN INDEX

N	CATHOLIC TOWN	LUTHERAN	CATHOLIC
120	<b>W</b>		
148			
152	Wabelheim	91	159
120	Wadersloh	73	141
143	Waghorst	43	113
141	Waldhausen	47	117
165	Waldmühle	64	132



4. The adjoining map shows the parish location within the Kreis (district).



3. Find the parish in the Parish Key. Note the parish name and film number.

2. Find Wadersloh in the in the Town Key and note the parish number

52 Geborne und Getaufte					im Jahre 1844			
No.	Nach-Namen des Kindes.	Tag und Stunde der Geburt in Buchstaben und Ziffern.	Ob es ehelich oder unehelich.	Vor- und Zunamen des Vaters auch Stand-besitzes.	Vor- und Zunamen der Mutter.	Wohnort der Eltern.	Tag der Taufe und Namen des Pfarrers der es getauft.	Namen der Taufpaten.
50.	Caspar.	21. Sept. 1844, 12. Uhr	ehelich	Heinrich Gottl. Brand	Katharina Brand	Wadersloh	21. Sept. 1844	Christoph Brand, Elisabeth Wisch.
51.	Nikolaus	22. Sept. 1844, 10. Uhr	ehelich	Liebert Wisch	Katharina Wisch	Wadersloh	22. Sept. 1844	Wilhelm Boltmann, Christina W. Deub.
52.	Gerhard	23. Sept. 1844, 10. Uhr	ehelich	Christian Georg	Elisabeth Deub.	Wadersloh	23. Sept. 1844	Gerhard Deub., Elisabeth Westmann.

**Getaufte eheliche Kinder von**  
*Amo 1844*  
 Am 14. Septembris Anno 1844 sub inf. Georgis Ferrariniis in domo mit nomen Joh. getauft. So nun mit Vatern & matrikeln richtig gezeugt. Väterlicher Joh. Othmar und matrikeln Elisabeth. Väterlicher Joh. Othmar.

Figure 1 | Two common formats used in German church records: tabulated columns<sup>1</sup> (top) and narrative paragraph<sup>2</sup>.

in clearly defined columns on tabulated forms. Recent records, especially those in northern Germany, are usually of this type. Another common format is the narrative paragraph. Regardless of format, the type of information and the order in which it is presented is usually consistent from record to record, making entries easy to decipher once you understand the pattern (see Figure 1).

**Basic search strategy**

Begin by searching for an individual’s baptismal record, which should also include the name of his or her parents. Then search for the parents’ marriage record and, finally, the individual’s death record.

The parents’ marriage record will hopefully include the names of their parents. If so, you can begin searching for

their baptismal records, checking to make sure the parents’ names match. If the parents’ are not listed in the marriage record and there is more than one person of the same name in the village, you will have to research each record and try to rule out all but one. Keep working backwards and analyzing as you go.

As you move backward, the records can become more difficult to read. However, with patience and time, you should be able to trace the family back to the parish’s earliest records.

**Case study: Maria Gertrude Holtgraver**

Studying a specific example will illustrate the process. According to U.S. records, Maria Gertrude Holtgraver, also known as Anna Holtgraver, was born on 16 June 1849 in Germany, the daughter of Bernard Holtgraver and Anna Maria Bönhoff. She married Michael Paquet at St. Boniface Church on 31 Dec. 1862 and died in St. Louis on 7 Dec. 1929.

By using the 18 sources mentioned above, we can determine her place of birth to be Wadersloh in Prussian Westphalia. *Map Guides to German Parish Registers*, Vol. 59, *Kingdom of Prussia—Province of Westphalia I* indicates that Wadersloh is in the Catholic parish of the same name in Kreis (district) Beckum (see page 4). Using the FHL number given (860793), we can search the FamilySearch catalog. The results list available microfilmed records for Wadersloh Parish (see Figure 2). Film numbers 0871719 and 0871720 are chosen based on the subject’s birth date.

A search in the 1849 baptismal records quickly yields Maria

NOTE	LOCATION	COLLECTION/SHELF	FILM/DGS	FORMAT
Taufen 1636-1696 Heiraten 1637-1696 Konfirmanten 1668 Tote 1652, 1660-1696 Verzeichnis 1636-1742	Family History Library	International Film	860792	🔍
Verzeichnis 1743-1802	Family History Library	International Film	860793	🔍
Taufen, Heiraten 1697-1742 Konfirmanten 1710-1721 Tote 1713-1742	Family History Library	International Film	860794	🔍
Taufen, Heiraten, Tote 1743-1804 Konfirmanten 1747-1764 Taufen 1803-1821	Family History Library	International Film	860795	🔍
Heiraten, Tote 1803-1821	Family History Library	International Film	860796	🔍
Taufen 1822-1836 Heiraten 1822-1835 Tote 1822-1834 Taufen 1836-1865	Family History Library	International Film	871719	🔍
Heiraten 1835-1875 Tote 1834-1867	Family History Library	International Film	871720	🔍
Taufen 1865-1875 Tote 1867-1875	Family History Library	International Film	871721	🔍
Status Animarum 1749 Taufen, Heiraten, Tote 1811-1813	Family History Library	International Film	871722	🔍

Figure 2 | FamilySearch catalog search results for Wadersloh parish records<sup>3</sup>.

Gertrude’s baptismal record (Figure 3). The record is written across two pages in a ledger book in neatly defined columns. The columns from left to right list record number, name, date of birth, whether the child was legitimate or illegitimate, name of the father, name of the mother, residence (village within the parish), date of baptism, and godparents.

While we are looking at baptismal records, we should also look for the records of any known or unknown siblings. We

look for the child’s name, if known, or for the parents’ names within the baptismal record. When we are finished, we look for the parents’ marriage record.

We found a marriage record for Bernard Holtgraver and Anna Maria Bönhoff by looking through marriages recorded earlier than the date of birth of the oldest child (see figure 4). As with the baptismal record, the marriage record was written in tabular format across two pages of a ledger. The individual columns list record number, the full name of the groom, the residence and position of the groom’s father, the age of the groom, whether the groom’s parents or guardians gave permission for the marriage, whether the groom had been previously married, the full name of the bride, the name, position and residence of the bride’s father, the age of the bride, whether the bride’s parents or guardians gave permission for the marriage, whether the bride had been previously married, the date of the marriage, the name of the pastor, and the names of witnesses.

Clearly, most of the information will be of genealogical significance. In the case of the Holdgraver–Bönhoff marriage, we learn that Bernard’s father was from the parish of Boke in Kreis Büren. Bernard was most likely born there, so searching records in that parish, if available, would likely yield additional information.

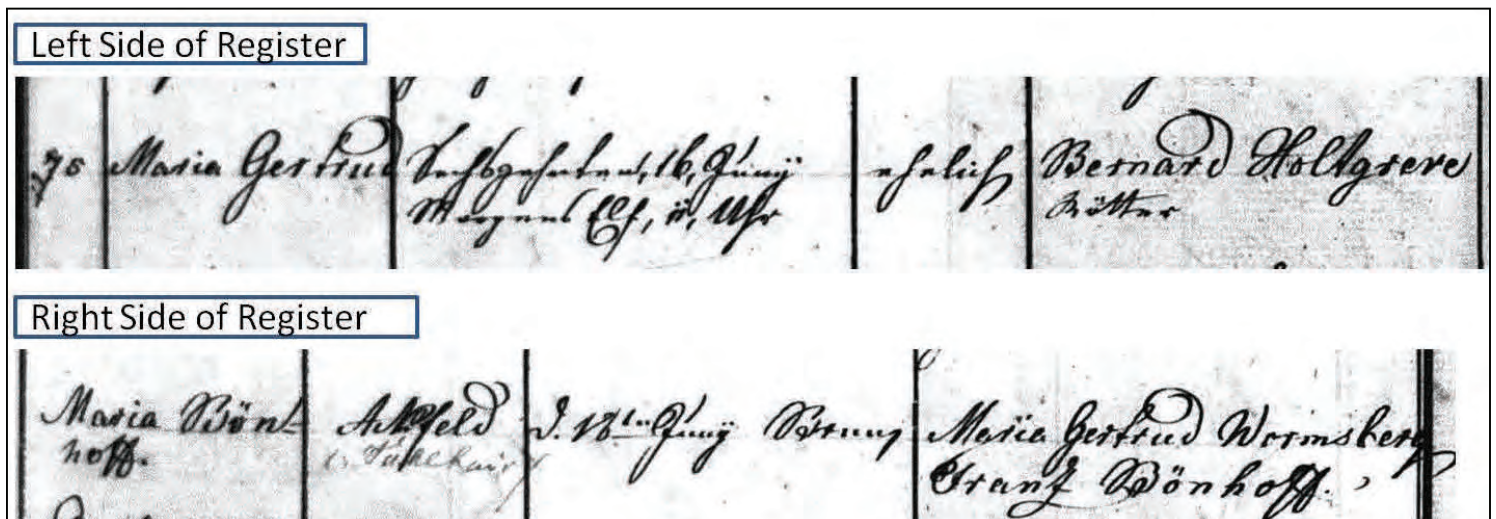


Figure 3 | Baptismal record for Maria Gertrude Holtgraver<sup>4</sup>.

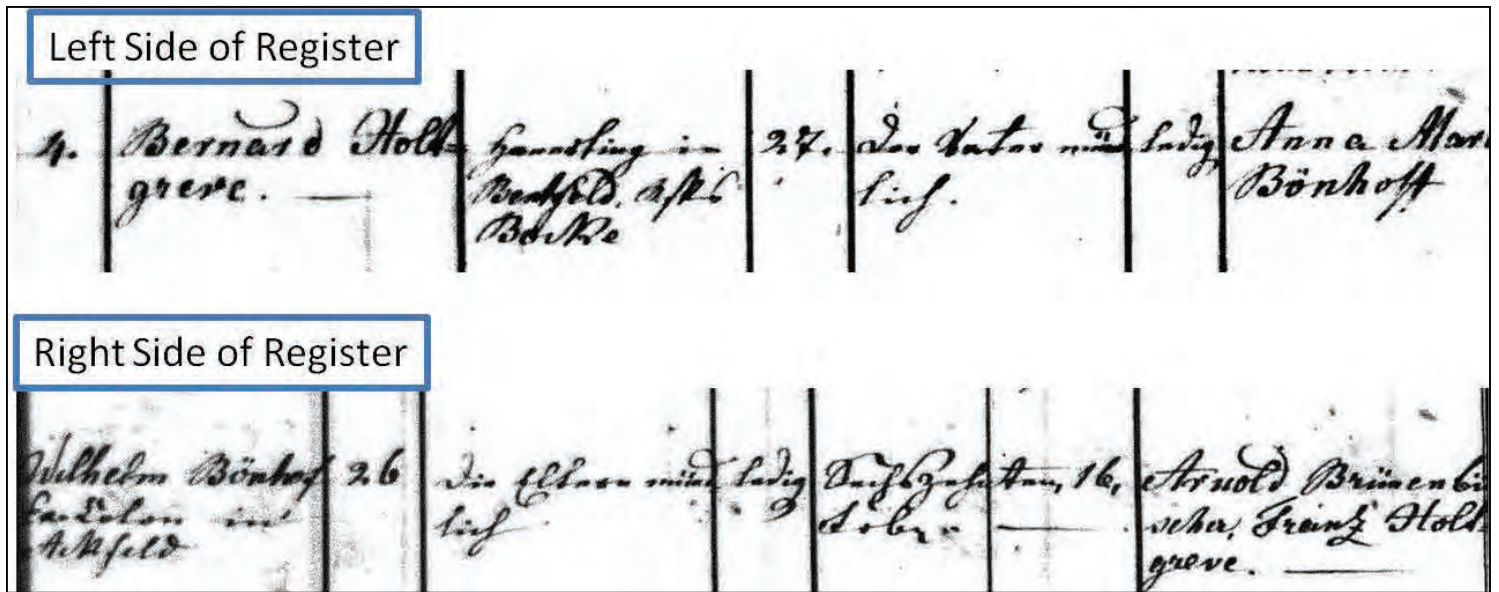


Figure 4 | Marriage record for Bernard Holtgraver and Anna Maria Bönhoff<sup>5</sup>.

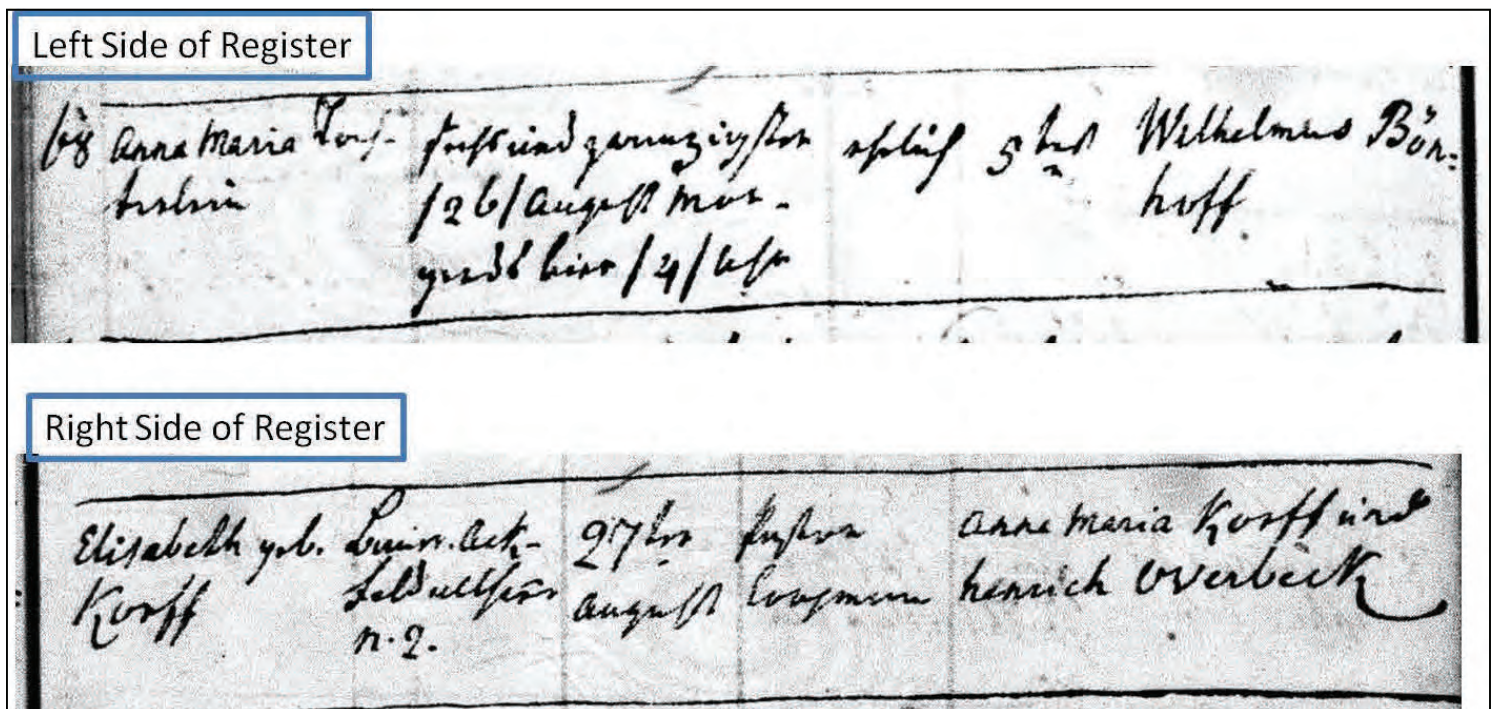


Figure 5 | Baptismal record for Anna Maria Bönhoff<sup>6</sup>.

Anna Maria Bönhoff’s father is listed as Wilhelm Bönhoff from Ackfeld, another village located in Wadersloh Parish, so we can search for her baptismal record in the rolls of microfilm at hand. The marriage record states she was 26 in 1840, indicating she was likely born and baptized about

1824. According to the list in the FamilySearch catalog, the record should be on microfilm number 0871719.

As expected, we find the baptismal record in 1824 (Figure 5). This record was also written in a tabular format, but this

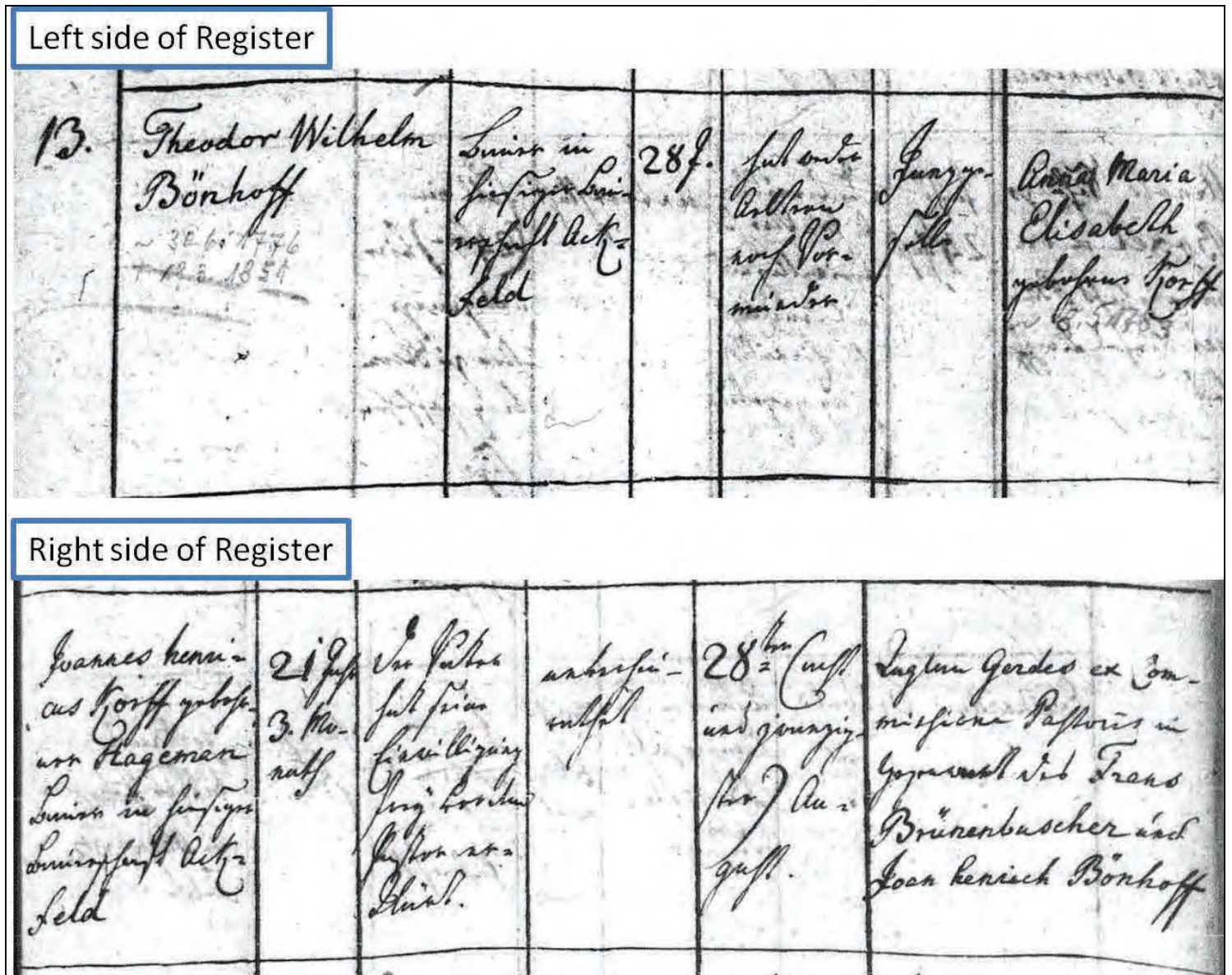


Figure 6 | Marriage record for Theodor Wilhelm Bönhoff and Anna Maria Elisabeth Korff<sup>7</sup>.

time the columns are hand drawn and the headings are handwritten. Recorded are the number of the baptism (68), the name of the child, the date and time of birth (26 August at 4 a.m.), whether the child is legitimate or illegitimate, the number of the child of the marriage, the name of the father, the name of the mother (Elisabeth nee Korff), the residence of the parents (Ackfeld), the date of baptism (27 August), the name of the pastor, and the sponsors.

The baptismal record names both of Anna Maria’s parents,

so now we can look for their marriage record. Referring to the list of microfilms (Figure 2), the marriage is most likely on roll 0860796, “Heiraten, Tote, 1803–1821,” requiring us to order another film. When the film arrives, we find the marriage in 1804 (Figure 6). The format of this record is identical to the one for the previously-discussed Holdgraver–Bönhoff marriage, even though it is in a different record book and on a different roll of microfilm. The record indicates that the marriage took place on 28 August 1804, the groom was 28 years old and the bride was 21



## Left Side of Register



## Right Side of Register

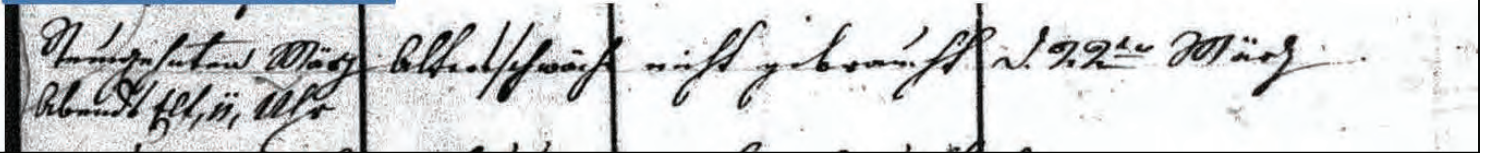


Figure 7 | Death record for Wilhelm Bönhoff<sup>8</sup>.

years and 3 months old, and the name of the bride's father was Johann Heinrich Korff, whose birth surname (*geboren*) was Hageman.

Why was Johann Heinrich Korff born with the name Hageman? Surnames in northwestern Germany before the late 1800s were actually farm names. To have the right to lease a particular piece of land, an individual had to have the surname that was related to the farm. If a woman came into possession of the farm, a man she married would take the name related to her farm so that he could become the tenant farmer. This naming practice is related to the feudal system and can be confusing.

Having found the birth and marriage record for Wilhelm Bönhoff, we should now search for his death record. In this case, someone noted the dates for baptism and burial on the marriage record after the fact. There is no way to know who made the annotations. The only way to check the accuracy of the death date is to search for the death record. Death records are often the most difficult to find because human life can end at any time. If you are lucky, you will find an index in the records, or, as in this case, an annotation in another record. Sometimes all you can do is search diligently until you find it.

As with the other records found in this parish so far, the death record for Wilhelm Bönhoff was written across two

pages in tabular format (Figure 7). The record states the record number, name of the deceased, position and residence, age in years, months, and days, surviving spouse and children, day and hour of death, cause of death, whether the deceased was under the care of a doctor in the last 48 hours of life, and the date and place of burial. We learn that Wilhelm Bönhoff died 19 Mar 1851 at 11 a.m. and was buried on 22 March 1851.

### Next steps

The records for Wadersloh begin in 1697 and likely include information for many more generations of the family. Continue in the pattern described above. First look for a baptismal record and note the individual's parents. Then look for the parents' marriage record. Then look for the parents' baptismal records. Repeat the process for each generation. In this case, the next steps would be to look for the marriage of Wilhelm Bönhoff's parents. We would also need to search for Anna Maria Elisabeth Korff's baptism and her parents' marriage record. It is also important to search for death records for each individual.

Researching in German parish records can be challenging. If you are willing to put in the time and effort to do the work, however, you will surely reap ample rewards.

## Notes

1. St. Margaretha Catholic Church (Wadersloh, Kreis Beckam, Germany), Taufen 1822–1836 Heiraten 1822–1835 Tote 1822–1834 Taufen 1836–1865; FHL Film 0871719.
2. Ancestry.com “Wuerttemberg Germany Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1500–1985,” database, accessed 10 March 2016, digitized version of FHL Film 1104739, Grossheppach Taufen, Heiraten u Tote 1558–1808, p16.
3. FamilySearch.org, “Microfilms from Wadersloh, Kreis Beckam, Germany,” ([www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/4575?availability=Family%20History%20Library](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/4575?availability=Family%20History%20Library)) accessed 10 March 2016.
4. St. Margaretha Church (Wadersloh, Kreis Beckam, Germany), Taufen 1836–1865, p93, Maria Gertrude Holdgraver baptism (1849); FHL microfilm 0841719
5. St. Margaretha Church (Wadersloh, Kreis Beckam, Germany) Heiraten 1835–1875, p20 Bernard Holtgraver and Anna Maria Bönhoff marriage (1840); FHL microfilm 0841720.
6. St. Margaretha Church (Wadersloh, Kreis Beckam, Germany), Taufen 1836–1865, p168, Anna Maria Bönhoff baptism (1824); FHL microfilm 0841719.
7. St. Margaretha Church (Wadersloh, Kreis Beckam, Germany), Heiraten 1803–1821 , p11, Theodor Wilhelm Bönhoff and Anna Maria Elisabeth Korff Marriage Record (1851); FHL microfilm 0860796.
8. St. Margaretha Church (Wadersloh, Kreis Beckam, Germany), Tote 1834–1867, p108, Wilhelm Bönhoff death (1851); FHL microfilm 0871720.

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- Rohrbach, Lewis Bunker, ed. *Men of Bern: The 1798 Bürgerverzeichnisse of Canton Bern, Switzerland*.

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FamilySearch Wiki, “German Word List,”

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FamilySearch Wiki, “Latin Genealogical Word List,”

<[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin\\_Genealogical\\_Word\\_List](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List)>.

St. Louis County Library, History & Genealogy,

“Passenger Lists and Other Sources Pertainint to 19th Century German Emigration and Immigration (Bibliography),” <<http://www.slcl.org/content/passenger-lists-and-other-sources-pertaining-19th-century-german-emigration-and-immigration->>.

## LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Independence Day | Monday, July 4

History & Genealogy invites you to:



# EXPLORE TIER 4

[ OPEN JUNE 18 – 19 ]



Browse 13,000+ family histories,  
school yearbooks, materials for states  
west of the Mississippi and more.

Tours of the History & Genealogy Department  
will be conducted on third Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

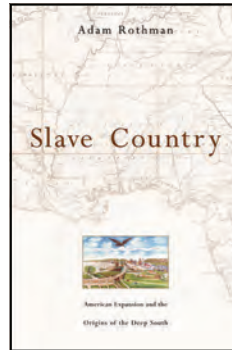
**NOW OPEN THE THIRD WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH.**

## NEW IN HISTORY & GENEALOGY



**The Last Muster**  
**By Maureen Taylor**  
**Kent State University,**  
**2010–2013, 2 vols.**  
**R 973.3 T244L**

A remarkable work of documentary history, *The Last Muster* is a collection of rare nineteenth-century photographic images—primarily daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and *cartes de visite* paper photographs—of the Revolutionary War generation. This extraordinary collection of images assigns faces to an un-illustrated war and tells the stories of our nation’s founding fathers and mothers, updating and supplementing research last collected and published over a century ago. *The Last Muster* is a much-needed contribution to the history of the American Revolution, the early Republic, and the history of photography. Through these portraits and the accompanying narrative, readers will have the opportunity to relive the Revolutionary War.—*Publisher*



**Slave Country**  
**By Adam Rothman**  
**Harvard University, 2007**  
**R 306.362 R846S**

Rothman maps the combination of transatlantic capitalism and American nationalism that provoked a massive forced migration of slaves into Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. He tells the fascinating story of collaboration and conflict among the diverse European, African, and indigenous peoples who inhabited the Deep South during the Jeffersonian era, and who turned the region into the most dynamic slave system of the Atlantic world. Paying close attention to dramatic episodes of resistance, rebellion, and war, Rothman exposes the terrible violence that haunted the Jeffersonian vision of republican expansion across the American continent.—*Publisher*

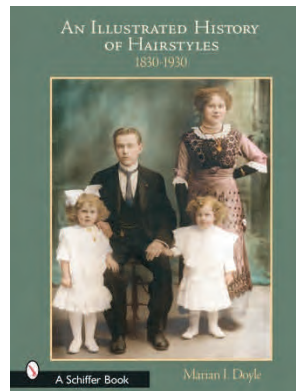


### View this month’s list of new books on the web

A list of new books received during the previous month is posted on the library’s website. View the list by clicking on the graphic, left, or by typing the

URL into your browser: <<http://tinyurl.com/ktha6fr>>. You can also download the list as a PDF from the [library’s website](http://tinyurl.com/ps4o6zl) <<http://tinyurl.com/ps4o6zl>>.

For more information about viewing the new book list online, exporting records, and saving items to a customized list, call (314) 994-3300 or ask a librarian when visiting any St. Louis County Library branch.



**An Illustrated History of Hairstyles: 1830–1930**  
**By Marian I. Doyle**  
**Schiffer, 2003**  
**R 391.5 D754I**

A fascinating timeline of hair fashion emerges through a progression of images. This exten-

### Visit the History & Genealogy booth at these conferences

- **Midwestern Roots**  
Indianapolis, Ind., July 15–16
- **Missouri State Genealogical Society**  
Columbia, Mo., Aug. 5–6
- **Federation of Genealogical Societies**  
Springfield, Ill., Sept. 1–3

## MEET THE STAFF

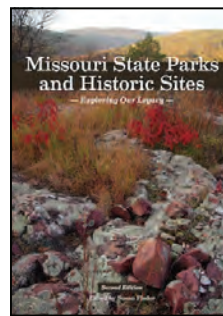


### Ellen Mays

Ellen joined the History & Genealogy staff in May 2016, and we welcome her to the department as our newest employee. Her hometown is Ellisville, Mo., but she mostly grew up in Virginia. She earned a B.A. in History from William Jewell College and an M.A. in Public History—Heritage Education from Southeast Missouri State. Her special areas of interest and expertise are military history, Virginia history, and women's history. Ellen has been busy learning about the many resources in the department and how she can use them to help researchers. One of her favorite sources is *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607–1635* by Martha W. McCartney. "It is a great resource for those researching Virginia history, and it includes family histories, and other information for Virginia genealogy."

sively illustrated history of hairstyles is a guide for theatrical hairstylists, costumers, and historical reenactors, and provides invaluable reference for dating vintage photographs. Employing nearly 500 period photographs and illustrations, it shows how everyday men, women, and children have worn their hair, while providing a surprisingly intriguing glimpse into their lives. This informative, entertaining, and easy-to-use guide cleverly relates how people really once wore their hair.—*Publisher*

## Summer road trip reading



Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites: Exploring Our Legacy

Missouri Life, 2016

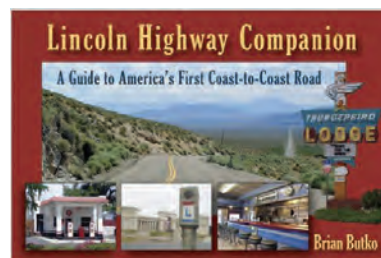
R 977.8 M678

*Exploring Our Legacy* boasts more than 500 new color photographs and fully revised essays including eleven new parks, taking readers on a captivating tour through Missouri's natural, cultural, and historic treasures. Published by Missouri Life, this collection draws upon the expertise, experience, and passion of Missouri Parks Association leaders, and illustrates Missourians' enduring commitment to their extraordinary system of parks and historic sites.—*Publisher*

Lincoln Highway Companion: A Guide to America's First Coast-to-Coast Road

By Brian Butko

Stackpole Books, 2009 | R 973 B984L



Following the Lincoln Highway today is sometimes not too different from what pioneer motorists faced a century ago. Signs and maps can be hard to find, and people you meet aren't sure of the route. You'll stew in traffic jams in cities, while out West you'll cruise an hour without seeing another car. This book shows the route and lists some must-see highlights and places to eat or sleep, but

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

Current and past issues can be downloaded from the [web](http://www.slcl.org/pastports) <<http://www.slcl.org/pastports>>.

Contact us:

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St. Louis, MO 63131

Phone: 314-994-3300, ext. 2070

Email: [genealogy@slcl.org](mailto:genealogy@slcl.org)

Website: <http://www.slcl.org>

Tours

Tours of History & Genealogy are conducted on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. No registration is required. Group tours are gladly arranged with advance notice by calling 314-994-3300, ext. 2070.

Our partner organizations

History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library is proud to be the home of the National Genealogical Society Book Loan and St. Louis Genealogical Society library collections.

■ National Genealogical Society  
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Toll-free: (800) 473-0060

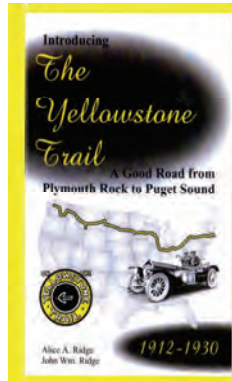
[ngs@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:ngs@ngsgenealogy.org)  
[www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)

■ St. Louis Genealogical Society  
#4 Sunnen Drive, Suite 140  
St. Louis, Missouri 63143

(314) 647-8547

[office@stlgs.org](mailto:office@stlgs.org)  
[www.stlgs.org](http://www.stlgs.org)

thousands of thrills still await: finding traces of the old road, discovering new places to visit, or even the adventures that come from being lost. Driving the Lincoln has offered excitement from coast to coast for almost a hundred years.—*From the author's introduction*



Introducing the Yellowstone Trail: A Good Road From Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound

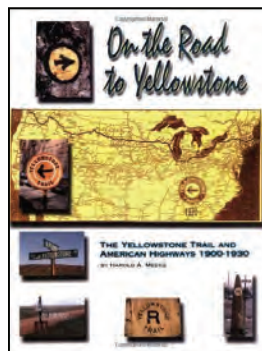
By Alice A. and John Wm. Ridge

Yellow Stone Trail Publishers, 2000

R 973.91 R544I

This is the story of a group of small town businessmen in South Dakota

who undertook an ambitious project to create a useful automobile route, the Yellowstone Trail, across America. This was at a time when roads weren't marked, there were few maps and slippery mud was the usual road surface. The Yellowstone Trail Association located a route, motivated road improvements, produced maps and folders to guide the traveler, and promoted tourism along its length. It became a leader in stimulating tourist travel to the Northwest and motivating good roads across America. Today, almost all of the route is on slower, less traveled roads. Some sections of the Trail in the West have remained little changed and are a delight to visit—*Authors' introduction*



On the Road to Yellowstone: The Yellowstone Trail and American Highways, 1900-1930

By Harold A. Meeks

Pictorial Histories, 2000

R 973.91 RM4940

Before 1900, long distance travel in America and elsewhere was strictly a railroad phenomenon, but with improvements in the internal combustion engine, automobile travel gradually became popular. First a sporting activity for the wealthy, this new means of locomotion quickly spread to a greater consuming public and a cry for better roads swept across the land.—*Publisher*

## UPCOMING

## HISTORY &amp; GENEALOGY CLASSES &amp; EVENTS

**Beginning a Genealogical Research Project**

Are you ready to start researching your ancestors? Learn about the genealogical research process, how to get started, how to organize and cite your findings, useful library skills, various formats used in research (print, microfilm, and electronic), and the rich sources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. If you have little or no experience with genealogical research, this is the class for you.

■ Saturday, June 4, 10:00 a.m.  
Weber Road

[Registration is now open.](#)

■ Tuesday, June 28, 2:00 p.m.  
Headquarters East Room

[Registration is now open.](#)

■ Saturday, July 2, 10:00 a.m.  
Indian Trails

[Registration opens June 4.](#)

**Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database**

The Ancestry Library Edition Database is a powerful tool for genealogical research. Find out how to search for your ancestors in census, immigration, military, and death records. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

■ Saturday, June 4, 2:00 p.m.  
Grant's View Computer Lab

[Registration is now open.](#)

# Classes

**Classes are free and open to the public, but registration is required. [Register online <http://www.slcl.org/events>](http://www.slcl.org/events) or call (314) 994-3300.**

■ Wednesday, July 20, 2:00 p.m.

Headquarters Computer Lab

[Registration opens July 22.](#)

**Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest**

Fold3 and HeritageQuest are electronic databases that offer a variety of records for genealogical research, and they can be used at home for free with a valid St. Louis County Library card. Find out how to search for your ancestors in census records, city directories, books, periodicals, and government documents. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

■ Saturday, July 2, 2:00 p.m.

Rock Road Computer Lab

[Registration opens June 4.](#)

**Finding Your Ancestors in European Church Records**

Church records are some of the most valuable and easily found sources for genealogical research. Using records from Switzerland and Germany as case studies, the presenter will demonstrate the goldmine of information such records can reveal. The presentation will include tips for finding records for European towns.

■ Thursday, July 21, 7:00 p.m.

Grant's View

[Registration opens June 23.](#)

## Class Locations

**Florissant Valley**

195 New Florissant Rd., S.

Florissant, MO 63031

**Grant's View**

9700 Musick Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63123

**Headquarters**

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63131

**Thornhill Branch**

12863 Willowyck Dr.

St. Louis, MO 63146

Weber Road

**General information**

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Email [genealogy@slcl.org](mailto:genealogy@slcl.org)

Website: [www.slcl.org/genealogy](http://www.slcl.org/genealogy)

## UPCOMING

## HISTORY &amp; GENEALOGY CLASSES &amp; EVENTS

■ Saturday, June 11 | 10:00 a.m.

### Sifting for Pay Dirt: Finding and Recycling Golden Nuggets in Our Own Backyards

#### St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting

You have gathered stacks of records. You have all the hard facts. Ah, but you still have nagging questions. What did the “J” stand for in Grandpa’s name? You just might already have the answer and not know it. Learn how to look at your records in a whole new light. | Carol Hemmersmeier, Speaker.

■ Wednesday, June 22 | 7:00 p.m.

### Exhausting U.S. Records to Find Your Germans

#### StLGS German Special Interest Group

If you didn’t yet find your ancestral village name, what else can you do? | Carol Whitton, CG, Speaker

■ Saturday, July 9 | 10:00 a.m.

### Missouri’s German Heritage

#### St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting

How did Missouri become one of the most predominantly German areas in the United States? What does that legacy mean for those researching their ancestors? Germans are still the largest ethnic group in the U.S. according to the federal census, and Missouri ranks

## Events

Events are free and open to the public. No registration is required. All events listed take place at St. Louis County Library Headquarters in the Auditorium

among the highest population. Why Germans were attracted to Missouri and stories of the places they settled combine to create Missouri’s German Heritage Corridor. | Dorris Keeven-Franke, Speaker

■ Tuesday, July 26 | 7:00 p.m.

### Mining All of the Resources From FamilySearch

#### StLGS Irish Special Interest Group

Many of us search the various digital records on FamilySearch.org but are we mining all of the genealogical information from this old favorite website? See what is available to help you jump start your research. | Pat Stamm, CG, CGL, Speaker

■ Saturday, Aug. 13 | 10:00 a.m.

### Maps and What They Can Tell St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting

Maps provide images of geographic areas in your ancestors’ lives. Learn how that knowledge can further your research. | Ruth Ann Hager, CG, CGL, Speaker

■ Saturday, Sept. 10 | 10:00 a.m.

### Discover Your Veterans Serving Our Country St. Louis Genealogical Society General Meeting

What wars have records? Which records are available? What is their content? How and where can you find these records? Find out about all these things plus some websites to try. | Carol Whitton, CG, Speaker

■ Wednesday, Sept. 21 | 7:00 p.m.

### Using German Newspapers When You Don’t Know Much German StLGS German Special Interest Group

German-language newspapers are a valuable source of obituaries and other genealogical information, and you do not have to be a German expert to use them. | Scott Holl, Manager, History & Genealogy, Speaker