

PastPorts

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

Vol. 1, No. 5—July 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

Family History Library films now available for permanent loan

The Special Collections Department has been notified that patrons may now request Family History Library microfilms for permanent loan. Patrons can make the loan permanent upon initial request or renewal. The usual fees—\$6 at initial request, \$5.50 each for up to two renewals—still apply, making the total fee for a permanent loan \$17. Films will be kept in the Special Collections Department and made available to any patron wishing to use them. The staff will maintain a list of the available films kept on permanent loan. The change in policy also allows patrons to order microfiche from the Family History Library for a fee of 15 cents per sheet.

More than miscellaneous: microfilm odds-and-ends yield research treasures

Most researchers familiar with the Special Collections Department know about its large microfilm sets featuring the St. Louis birth and death registers, funeral home and cemetery records, and other prominent record sets. What might be surprising are the research pearls hidden in the single rolls and small sets available in the Department. Here are a few shining examples available only on microfilm or microfiche.

Lots of people know that the St. Louis city directories, 1860 – 1980, are on microfilm, but what about pre-1860? Check out the microfiche carousel just beyond the Reference Desk. There you will find St. Louis city directories for 1821 – 1860.

The church record microfilm collection is certainly a treasure trove featuring extensive Catholic, Lutheran, and German Evangelical (United Church of Christ) records. Yet lurking just a few feet away are records for churches of other denominations. Take a look at these hidden gems:

- Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis County, 1864 – 1925 (Roll FFBC-1)
- Second Baptist Church, Clayton and McKnight Roads, St. Louis, 1827-1953 (Rolls SBC-StL-1 and 2)
- Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church, St. Louis: Yearbook, 1894/95; Marriages, 1915-1920 (roll 73, Microfilm Shelf 62)
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, 1954-2006 (five unnumbered rolls, Microfilm Drawer 5)
- Kirkwood Methodist Church, 1869-1965 (Roll METH-1, Microfilm Drawer 5)
- Lewis Memorial Methodist Church, Crescent, St. Louis County, Missouri, 1893-1968 (Roll 112, Microfilm Shelf 63)
- St. George's Episcopal Church, St. Louis, 1851-1871 (Roll 112, Microfilm Shelf 63)

Do you have an orphaned ancestor? Try the *German General Protestant Orphans' Home Intake Records, 1878-1943* (unnumbered microfilm roll, Microfilm Drawer 2). A printed index titled, *Index to Intake Records, German General Protestant Orphans' Home, St. Louis, Missouri* is shelved at R 977.866 I38. Or, how about the *Journal of Commitments of House of Refuge, 1854-1899* (Roll 326, Microfilm Drawer 2).

Was your ancestor a St. Louis policeman? Try the *St. Louis Police Department, 1902* microfilm roll (Roll 85, Microfilm Shelf 62). The film lists all of the men who were working for the St. Louis City Police Department in 1902 and includes identified pictures of all of them.

Do you come from a healthy German line? Your ancestors might be in *Golden Jubilee: Concordia Turnverein, St. Louis, Missouri, January 1925* (Roll 94, Microfilm Shelf 63), which includes a complete listing of all male and female members of this athletic club as of the date of publication.

Maybe your forebears were the learned type. Try "Washington University 50th Anniversary, 1857-1907" program (Roll 304, Microfilm Shelf 63).

Or perhaps they were the festive type. You might find them in "Pageant and Masque of St. Louis, May 1914" (Roll 304, Microfilm Shelf 63), depicting the early history of St. Louis and attended by more than 100,000 people nightly over four evenings, May 28-31. The names of all participants, no matter what their role, are listed, although not alphabetically.

Pictorial St. Louis, the Great Metropolis of the Mississippi Valley... 1875 is certainly a gem. But you might have missed the older *Atlas of St. Louis County, 1871-1872* on an unnumbered roll of microfilm in Microfilm Drawer 68 (Remember that St. Louis

City was part of the County until 1876!). And for later research, the *St. Louis County Plat Book, 1909* is on Roll C8758 in Microfilm Drawer 68.

"Treasure is where you find it," they say. So, come to the Special Collections Department and make a few discoveries of your own. Happy hunting!

BOOK CHAT

The unveiling of an old St. Louis tradition

It's the first of July in St. Louis. Fireworks crackle in the sultry evening air in anticipation of the July 4th holiday, and people are making plans to attend Fair St. Louis. Many of them probably don't realize that this popular Independence Day celebration has its roots in one of the oldest and most controversial of St. Louis traditions. Known by its current name only since 1994, the event was established in 1981 as the V.P. Fair, a celebration growing out of the then-flagging Veiled Prophet Parade.

In *The St. Louis Veiled Prophet Celebration: Power on Parade, 1877 – 1995* (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 2000, call no. R 394.5 S746S), Thomas M. Spencer traces the festival's history from its elite, grandiose debut in October 1878, through its peaks, valleys and near demise in the twentieth century, to its rocky transformation in the 1980s into a celebration of the metropolitan area's ethnic and cultural diversity. The author investigates the secretive and exclusive Veiled Prophet organization, the festival's role in St. Louis culture, and the place of both within a broader historical and cultural context. Throughout the book, Spencer offers critical and often fascinating insights into this unique and enduring St. Louis tradition.

The Veiled Prophet Celebration's (literally) crowning event is the annual debutante ball. Exclusive and by invitation only, St. Louisans of all classes could participate in this extravaganza vicariously when it was televised in the 1940s and 1950s. One person who lived it for real was Lucy Ferriss. In *Unveiling the Prophet: The Misadventures of a Reluctant Debutante* (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 2005, Call no. R 813.54 F394U), Ferriss recounts her experiences as a logical yet ironic choice for inclusion as a maid in the Court of Love and Beauty and a witness to one of the most dramatic moments in Veiled Prophet history. It was December 22, 1972, and Ferriss had just taken her place on the stage at Kiel Auditorium. Suddenly, a woman representing a civil-rights protest group appeared from nowhere, ripped off the Prophet's veil, and revealed his secret identity. The event forms the vortex around which Ferriss describes her privileged Clayton upbringing, her rebellious escape to a California university, her experience as a Veiled Prophet debutante, and the discoveries she made when she revisited it all as a mature adult. This rich and complex narrative demonstrates how personal history intertwines with larger historical narratives, often with transformative results.

On the lighter side, *America's Biggest Birthday Party: V.P. Fair Saint Louis* (St. Louis: V.P. Fair Foundation, 1985, Call no. R 394.268 V110) provides 176 pages of full-color photographs shot by 14 professional photographers. The volume offers a look at the 1985 Fair in its then-recent transformation into a river-front community festival. Though obviously promotional (it was an official publication of the Fair organizers),

the book nonetheless features beautiful and interesting photographs of people and events at the Fair that year.

TIPS

■ If you are trying to find the burial of a Union soldier killed in the Civil War, the multi-volume set, *Roll of Honor: Names of Soldiers Who Died in Defense of the American Union, Interred in the National Cemeteries* (27 vols. Washington, D.C.: U. S. Quartermaster's Department, 1866-1868. Reprint, 10 vols. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1994. Call no. R973.7 R749) lists name, rank, unit, death date and sometimes other information. The volumes are based on data collected by the federal government and include more than 228,000 names. Since the total number of Union soldiers killed is estimated at 303,504, and many burials are listed as "unknown," not every Union soldier killed in the war is listed. This is a good resource to start with, however.

■ The St. Louis County Library's Website, including the Special Collections' pages, can now be searched by using the "Google Custom Search" option found in the upper right hand portion of each library web page. Just enter terms in the search box under the words "Search Site." This new feature replaces the blue "search" button or hyperlink that appeared at the top of SC pages and is much more powerful.

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.

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)

Jefferson County Iowa R 977.794 B789F
Clinton County, Missouri R 977.842 B789F

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

■ States and Counties (abbreviated titles)

Laclede County Missouri, R 977.8815:
Palmer Funeral Home 1919-1926
Scrap book: WWII newspaper clippings
Index to wills and probates 1956-1980

Pickaway County Ohio, 977.1815:
Probate court marriage records
Cemetery records—Saltcreek Township, Forest Cemetery
Partition records of Common Pleas Court, 1836 to June 1873

Colorado (NGS Collection):
Territory Civil War Volunteer records, 978.8 C719
Arapahoe County marriages, 978.8 A662 and 978.8 A662
Littleton United Methodist Church, 1894-1985, 978.882 L781
Place names of Colorado, 978.8 E46P

■ Germany

Hansen, Kevan M. *Map Guide to German Parish Registers*, R 943 H249M:
Vol. 20, *Kingdom of Bavaria VII, Niederbayern II*
Vol. 21 *Kingdom of Bavaria VIII, Oberbayern I*

Heimatatlas für die Provinz Schlesien: Ergänzt mit einer Landeskunde und historischen Bildern [Local atlas for Silesia: Supplemented with a Description of the Area and Historic Photos]. 2005. R 943.85 H467

Heimatatlas für die Rheinprovinz: Ergänzt mit einer Landeskunde und historischen Bildern [Local Atlas for the Rhine Province: Supplemented with a Description of the Area and Historic Photos]. 2005. R 943 H467

■ Church records

Linenfelser , Judith Jo and William H. Schwend, compilers:

Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths Recorded At St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Marine, Madison Co., Illinois, 1861-2005. For a transcription of the original records, see R 977.386 L754B. Scanned images of the original records are available on CD #M52.

Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths Recorded At St. James Catholic Church, St. Jacob, Madison Co., Illinois, 1895-2005. For a transcription of the original records, see R 977.386 L754B. Scanned images of the original records are available on CD #M53

Marriages Recorded At St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland, Madison Co., Illinois, 1848-2004. For a transcription of the original records, see R 977.386 L754M. Scanned images of the original records are available on CD #M54.

Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths Recorded At St. Gertrude Catholic Church, Grantfork, Madison Co., Illinois, 1875-2005. For a transcription of the original records, see R 977.386 L754B. Scanned images of the original records are available on CD #M55

■ Other new titles

- Baxter, Angus. *In Search of Your German Roots: A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe*. 2008. 929.1 B355I (NGS Collection)
- Blair County's [Pennsylvania] First Hundred Years, 1846-1946. 1945. 974.875 B635 (NGS Collection)
- Dinwiddie, James C. *History of Iowa County, Iowa, and Its People*. 1855. Reprint, 2000. R 977.7653 D587H
- Epperson, Gwenn F. *New Netherland Roots*. 2008. R 974.7 E64N
- Gamber, Wendy. *The Boardinghouse in Nineteenth-Century America*. 2007. R 917.6031 G189B
- Greene, Shawn Buchanan. *Turkey Day Game Centennial, 1907-2007*. 2007. (Webster Groves-Kirkwood Football). R 977.865 G812T
- Jackson, Larry Havelock. *Translations of the French documents of the Old Cape Girardeau District during the Spanish Regime and the United States Territorial Period, 1796-1807*. 2007. R 977.896 J13T
- McGuckin, John H. *A History of Ballinderry Parish to 1766*. 1980. (Tyrone and Derry, Ireland). 941.62 M148H
- Mandell, Daniel R. *Tribe, Race, History: Native Americans in Southern New England, 1780-1880*. 2008. R 974.03 M271T
- Owen, David R. *Courts of Admiralty in Colonial America: The Maryland Experience, 1634-1776*. 1995. R 347.7328 O97C
- Peden, Henry C. *A Guide to Genealogical Research in Maryland*. 2001. R 975.2 P371G
- Pugh, Ralph Bernard. *The Records of the Colonial and Dominions Offices (Great Britain-Colonies)*. 1964. R 942 P978R
- Riddle, Merrell Jenkins. *Graham County, North Carolina Marriages*. 2002. R 975.697 R543G
- Riddle, Merrell Jenkins. *Graham County North Carolina Delayed Birth Records*. 2000. R 975.697 R543G
- Rolla Cemetery, Rolla, Missouri*. Updated to August 2001. R977.8594 R749
- Standard Atlas of Sullivan County, Missouri: Including a Plat Book of the Village....1897*. Reprint, 2006. Oversize shelf R 977.8235 S785
- Smith, Dale Edwyna. *The Slaves of Liberty: Freedom in Amite County, Mississippi, 1820-1868*. 1999. R 976.224 S645S

Wagner, Allen Eugene. *Good Order and Safety: A History of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, 1861-1906*. 2008. R977.866 W132G plus circulating copies

Microfilm

■ Bethlehem Cemetery, 1885 – 2007.

Bethlehem cemetery, located at 9650 Bellefontaine Rd., was the burial ground for Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Louis. The records cover 1885 to 2007, and include the name of the deceased, date of death, date of burial, cause of death, age, name of undertaker, location of interment, and location where death occurred. The cemetery accepted many people who were not members of the church.

■ Ebenezer Lutheran Church (St. Louis) Records, 1870 – 1975

Ebenezer Lutheran Church, at the corner of Theobald and Church Rd., was an offshoot of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The microfilm includes marriage, baptism, death, and confirmation records. The time period covered by the records is 1870 to 1975. The early records are especially interesting, as they often contain the birth place of immigrant parishioners.

CDs

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

- 64 A & B *Georgia Colonial and Headright Plat Index, 1735-1866*. R.J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation and Georgia Archives, 2005. One copy is NGS and circulates
- M50 *Switzerland Place Name Indexes*
- M56 *Newington Cemetery, Edinburgh [Scotland]: Monumental Inscriptions.*
- M58 *United States Submarine Men Lost During World War II*
- M61 *Maryculter, Kincardineshire: The Church of Scotland Parish Registers 1696-1855*
- M65 *Zoar New Hanover [Zoar United Church of Christ, Columbia, Monroe Co., Ill.] Cemetery*
- M66 *City sub-division Cape Girardeau County, Missouri: Town Plat Maps and Index of Town Property Owners, 1910* (created by the office of the County Clerk)

- M67 *Warriston Cemetery [Edinburgh, Scotland] Monumental Inscriptions Cemeteries*
- M69 New Jersey Archives: Calendar of New Jersey Wills, 1670-1817
- M70 New Jersey Archives: New Jersey Marriage Records, 1665-1800
- M71-1 New Jersey Archives: Colonial Documents, 1631-1756 (New Jersey Archives, First Series, v. 1-10)
- M71-2 New Jersey Archives: Colonial Documents, 1631-1756 (New Jersey Archives, First Series, v.11-19)
- M72 New Jersey Archives: New Jersey Colonial Documents, 1664-1703
- M73 New Jersey Archives: Extracts from American Newspapers, 1756-1775
- M74 New Jersey Archives: Extracts from American Newspapers, 1776-1782
- M76 *Carmyllie [Parish], County of Angus [Scotland] Memorial Inscriptions*. The contents of the CD are also available in book form at call number R 941.26 C287. The CD, but not the book, includes photographs of the gravestones.

WEB WATCH

Web finds

- **Jefferson County, Mo Newspaper Index:** <http://jeffersoncountylibrary.org/genealogy/index.shtml>
This index on the Jefferson County Library's website covers 1866-1897, although the *Jefferson Democrat* can be browsed through 1904. Copies of the articles can be requested from the Jefferson County Library. The fee is \$10.00 for up to 5 names. A link to the library's research request form is on each web page.
- **Massachusetts Archives, Passenger Manifest Index:** <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ArchivesSearch/Passengermanifest.aspx> An index to Boston passenger lists, 1848-1891, kept by the commonwealth of Massachusetts (not the lists kept by the federal government).
- **The New York Times Archive:** <http://query.nytimes.com/search/>
Full-text articles are available from 1851-1922 at no cost. All *New York Times* articles can be downloaded for free on the *Historical New York Times, 1851-2004* electronic database, available at all St. Louis County Library locations. The database can be accessed at home with a St. Louis County Library card at <http://www.slcl.org/databases/newspapers.htm>.

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. S. Naturalization Records – Original Documents, 1795-1972: A database (incomplete at this writing) featuring images of original naturalization records for Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia, primarily from district and circuit courts. The database is searchable, or it can be browsed by state.

■ Wisconsin Death Index, 1959-1997: An index to the Wisconsin Death Records with access to images of typed index pages.

■ Maps, Atlases and Gazetteers: Although not new, be sure to check out this category of *Ancestry* databases. Included is the *Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1881, vol. 3* listing St. Louis businesses in alphabetical order and a directory for Missouri Justices of the Peace. Other databases in this category include land ownership atlases for various years and other interesting and useful maps for St. Louis and Missouri locales.

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.

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

AUGUST

📞 Tuesday, August 5, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

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

Saturday, August 9, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

St. Louis County Library Headquarters East Room
St. Louis Genealogical Society African American Special Interest Group
Program: "Take Charge of your Research"

📞 Tuesday, August 12, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

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

Tuesday, August 12, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Main Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Presentation
Program: "Family History Resources in the 19th Century Missouri Court Records

📞 Tuesday, August 19, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

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

Wednesday, August 20, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

St. Louis County Library Headquarters Main Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society German Special Interest Group
Program: "History of the German Evangelical Synod of North America"

Wednesday, August 27, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

St. Louis County Library Headquarters East Room
St. Louis Genealogical Society Jewish Special Interest Group
Program: "Maps - Europe"

📞 Thursday, August 31, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

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