



OF NOTE

History & Genealogy welcomes National Genealogical Conference attendees

An estimated 2,500 family history researchers converged on the St. Charles Convention Center, May 13–16 for the 2015 National Genealogical Society Conference (NGS). History & Genealogy expected many visitors during the conference, and preparations began a year in advance. A large portion of the collection was shifted, allowing access to the collections on Tier 4 that are normally closed to the public. Extra library and volunteer staff were also on hand to assist researchers.

Home to the National Genealogical Society Collection, History & Genealogy's collection of 13,000 family histories, its rich sources for St. Louis research, and materials for U.S. states and European countries proved an attractive destination. To accommodate attendees, the NGS Local Host Committee arranged for buses to bring researchers to the library on May 11 and 12. Many additional conference-goers visited the library before, during, and after the event.

Between Thursday, May 7 and Tuesday, May 19, an estimated 410 people visited History & Genealogy, a significant increase over similar periods of time. The number of researchers on site at one time peaked at 53 (15 on a regular day is considered busy). In addition to out-of-town visitors, many local researchers took advantage of the opportunity to browse the collection housed on Tier 4 while it was open.

History & Genealogy thanks the St. Louis County Library Foundation, which provided a hospitality room with snacks, drinks, and a place for researchers to take a break. The Foundation also underwrote a booth at the NGS exhibit hall so



History & Genealogy proved to be a popular destination for National Genealogical Society attendees when more than 400 researchers visited the library.

History & Genealogy staff members could meet conference attendees and answer questions about the collection.

History & Genealogy invites you to “Explore Tier 4”

History & Genealogy will open its staff-only area to the public every third weekend of the month beginning July 18–19. Shelved on Tier 4 of Headquarters, the closed-stack collection includes over 13,000 family histories, school yearbooks, and information about many states west of the Mississippi. Researchers are encouraged to browse and use the materials during the “Explore Tier 4” weekends. Items from Tier 4 are available to researchers at any time upon request and will be retrieved by a librarian when the area is not open. History & Genealogy staff will also offer tours on third Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. For more information about “Explore Tier 4” or third Saturday tours, call History & Genealogy at (314) 994-3300, ext. 2070.

FOR THE RECORDS

St. Louis probate records

Wills and probate records offer a wealth of unique information about our ancestors. They can be essential in proving a relationship between family members, such as parents to children, husband to wife, and to extended family, including nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. Property inventories describing tools, real estate, household items, and the people the decedent chose to manage his or her worldly affairs provide glimpses into what that ancestor's life was like.

The term probate, first used in England circa 1460, comes from the Latin word *probo*, meaning "to show, prove, and demonstrate." The modern usage of the word refers to the process of proving the validity of a deceased person's will in a court of law. In the United States, probate courts have

jurisdiction over this process. The court's role is to prove the validity of a will, if one exists, and to supervise the distribution of the deceased's property to his or her beneficiaries. This process can be relatively simple or rather complicated, depending on a number of factors.

In many states, if a married person dies without a will, portions of the estate can pass to the surviving spouse without going through probate. In others, it is necessary to "probate the estate" if the property is not held jointly or in trust, regardless of whether or not the decedent had a valid will.

After a probate case is opened in court, a personal representative is assigned the case, either as an executor named in the will or as an administrator selected by the court. This executor or administrator begins the process by inventorying and collecting the decedent's property. He or she then pays debts and taxes, including estate taxes, if applicable. Finally, the executor / administrator distributes the remaining property to the beneficiaries, either as instructed by the will or under the laws of the state if no will exists.

When beginning a search for ancestors in probate records, consider where they might have owned real estate or personal property. The probate record should be found in the same jurisdiction in which the property is located.

Finding St. Louis probate records

The city of St. Louis separated from St. Louis County in 1876, an event that complicates probate research. When seeking probate records for St. Louis City or County, consider checking all probate indexes for the region.

St. Louis City and County probate case files for 1804–1900 are searchable online at the [Missouri Digital Heritage website](http://tinyurl.com/ozc3tbt) <<http://tinyurl.com/ozc3tbt>>, created by the Missouri State Archives. The [Missouri Judicial Record Search](http://tinyurl.com/q7dqv9e) <<http://tinyurl.com/q7dqv9e>> page allows searching for probate records by name or keyword. History & Genealogy has indexes to the St. Louis City and St. Louis County probate records and copies of original records on microfilm after 1900.

PastPorts is published by the St. Louis County Library History and Genealogy Department, 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:

History and Genealogy
St. Louis County Library
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63131

Phone: (314) 994-3300, ext. 2070

Email: genealogy@slcl.org

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

Tours

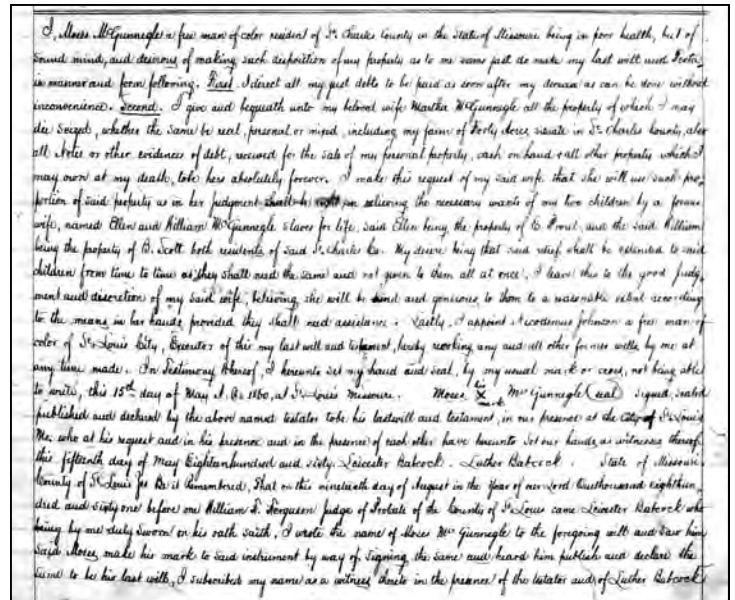
Tours of History & Genealogy are conducted on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. No registration is required. Group tours are gladly arranged with advance notice by calling (314) 994-3300, ext. 2070.

Probate records are organized in numerical order by case file number. To find the case file number for a particular probate record, it is necessary to first consult a case file index. Case file indexes for St. Louis City are divided into two time periods. The first index contains records prior to 1890 and a second covers 1890–1989. The first 15,299 case files are available on microfilm in History & Genealogy. Later records can be ordered from the 22nd Judicial Circuit, Probate Division (see sidebar).

St. Louis County probate records created before 1877 are included with those for St. Louis City. For county records covering 1877–2000, consult the index on microfiche in History & Genealogy to locate the case file number. St. Louis County probate case files are available on microfilm and microfiche, although the collection has some gaps. Records not available in History & Genealogy can be requested from the St. Louis County Probate Court (see sidebar).

St. Louis wills

Will books include copies of wills related to probate files and the statements of witnesses testifying to the veracity of each will. St. Louis City will books, 1816–1880 are available on microfilm in History & Genealogy. The department staff is developing an [online index to St. Louis City will books](http://tinyurl.com/ozc3tbt) <http://tinyurl.com/ozc3tbt>. The index currently includes will books covering 1852–1946. Additional will



The will of Moses McGonnegle signed in St. Louis on May 5, 1860. The document indicates that Moses was a freed slave living on his farm in St. Charles County and names his wife and two enslaved children and their owners.

book indexes will be posted to the library website as they become available.

St. Louis County will books are available on microfilm, 1877–1969. A separate index, also on microfilm, covers 1877–1976.

Other probate-related records

Probate records are not limited to the case files. Closed estate files—cases that have been probated and resolved—are also available on microfilm for St. Louis County. These records are in alphabetical order and can be searched using the decedent’s last name. Because probate cases can remain open for years, closed estate file records do not include all those listed in the probate indexes.

Minutes and registers of St. Louis City Probate Court are also available in History & Genealogy. These meticulous records of daily court business provide access to detailed reports, the interactions with the personal representatives of the deceased, and furnish a firsthand account of court proceedings.

Where to find probate records not available online or on microfilm in History & Genealogy

St. Louis City
 22nd Judicial Circuit, Probate Division
 10 N. Tucker Blvd.
 St. Louis, Missouri 63101
 (314) 622-4500.

St. Louis County
 St. Louis County Probate Court
 105 S. Central Ave., 5th Floor
 Clayton, Missouri 63105
 (314) 615-2629

NEW IN HISTORY & GENEALOGY



**Under One Flag:
A Journey from 9/11
to the Heartland**

**By Amy George
Rush, Tom Rollins,
and Rick Randall**

**Reedy, 2014
R 929.92 R952U**

To mark the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, a group of volunteers acknowledged the fallen by posting 2,996 American flags at a city park in St. Louis, Missouri. One of the flags honored New York City firefighter Michael Weinberg, a first responder who died at Ground Zero. In a twist of fate, Michael's flag went unnoticed at auction after the event but, as a result, would make a remarkable journey through the Midwest. *Under One Flag* chronicles this journey with poignant, richly illustrated stories of American heroism and the conviction of those intent on paying trib-

ute. Key among the latter are grassroots organizer Rick Randall and also Larry Eckhardt, known as "The Flag Man" for placing flags along the routes of soldiers' funerals. Through Larry's efforts, Michael's flag would fly in Preston, Iowa, to honor Marine Corporal Zach Reiff, who died serving his country in Afghanistan. *Under One Flag* shows how lives interweave when compassion serves as the common tie. It is the collective story of people who want nothing but give everything.—*Publisher*



**And Justice for All: A History
of the Federal District Court
of Eastern Missouri**

By Burton A. Boxerman

**University of Missouri, 2014
R 929.92 R952U**

Beginning with the Court's roots in the Articles of Confederation, Boxerman describes the history of the Federal Judiciary and its selection process that ensures rigorous consideration of qualifications. He includes the judges' biographies, available photos, and discussions of many major cases and their implications, with copies in the appendix of the original documents in the famous Dred Scott trial.

Boxerman writes that the court in which these judges hear cases has been and continues to be a forum of integrity, where justice is fairly dispensed and everyone has the opportunity to be heard. Missouri's United States District Court for the Eastern District is today, as it has always been, an institution that truly metes out "justice for all."
—*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 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>>.

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.

LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSING

Independence Day | Saturday, July 4

HISTORY & GENEALOGY EVENTS

FamilySearch “Live”

Cliff Cave Genealogy Group

A look inside the FamilySearch website and its bounty of free records. Carol Whitton, speaker

Monday, July 13 | 6:30 p.m.

Cliff Cave Branch, 5430 Telegraph Rd.

Preparing Ahead for a Credible Genealogy Project

St. Louis Genealogical Society General Meeting

Have you reviewed your genealogical records only to ask yourself, “Where did I find this information?” Do you have a source attached to every document? Are your materials organized? If you prepare in advance, you will be able to write your family history much sooner. Time to take steps in that direction! Carol Whitton, speaker.

Tuesday, July 14 | 7 p.m.

Headquarters Auditorium

Chart the Trails Using Timelines

StLGS Irish Special Interest Group

Timelines help organize data to better identify your ancestors. Learn how to utilize this resource. Ann Fleming, speaker

Tuesday, July 28 | 7 p.m.

Headquarters East Room

Events are sponsored by St. Louis County Library and are free and open to the public.

The Naming of St. Louis Catholic Parishes

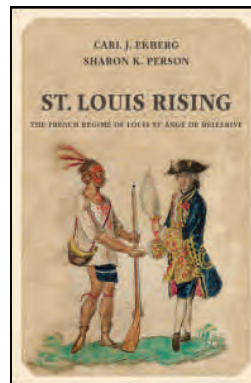
By Timothy David Uhl

Dissertation, St. Louis University, 1997

R 977.866 U31N

Uhl’s dissertation concerns “...a study of how the names of Catholic parishes in St. Louis serve as testaments to the founding parish communities and to the development of the Archdiocese” (page 1). In the course of his discussion, Uhl places churches in their historical and sociological context, thus providing a historical overview of individual parishes and discussions of the ethnic communities that founded them. Parish names are more than just that; they reveal cultural shifts, confirm historical trends, and in themselves reveal something about the communities and the eras in which parishes developed. The study places naming patterns in the broader context of recent Catholic history.

—*H&G Staff*



St. Louis Rising: The French Regime of Louis St. Ange de Bellerive

By Carl J. Ekberg and
Sharon K. Person

University of Illinois, 2015

R 977.866 E36S

Copies are also available to check-out at other St. Louis County Library locations.

St. Louis Rising overturns such gauzy myths with the contrarian thesis that French government officials and institutions shaped and structured early village society. Of the former, none did more than Louis St. Ange de Bellerive. As Carl J. Ekberg and Sharon K. Person show, St. Ange’s commitment to the Bourbon monarchy and to civil tranquility made him the prime mover as St. Louis emerged during the tumult that followed the French and Indian War.

Drawing on a wealth of new source materials, Ekberg and Person reexamine the complexities of politics, Indian affairs, marriage customs, slavery, the role of women, and

material culture that characterized the 1760s. Their alternative version of the oft-told tale of St. Louis's founding places the event within the context of Illinois Country society. Vividly depicting life in a colonial outpost, *St. Louis Rising* provides a trove of new information on everything from the fur trade to the arrival of the British and Spanish in the aftermath of the Seven Years' War—and explodes the many histories that rely on Chouteau's self-aggrandizing recollections.—*Publisher*

CLASSES

Classes are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Call (314) 994-3300 or register online at www.slcl.org/events. Space is limited.

JULY

Beginning a genealogical research project

Monday, July 6 | 6:30 p.m.
Headquarters East Room
Larry Franke, instructor
Registration is now open.

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database

Wednesday, July 15 | 6:30 p.m.
Headquarters Computer Lab
Larry Franke, instructor
Registration is now open.

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest

Thursday, July 23 | 6:30 p.m.
Headquarters Computer Lab
Larry Franke, instructor
Registration is now open.

AUGUST

History and Genealogy in Newspapers

Wednesday, Aug. 12 | 6:30 p.m.
Headquarters Computer Lab
Larry Franke, instructor
Registration opens July 15.

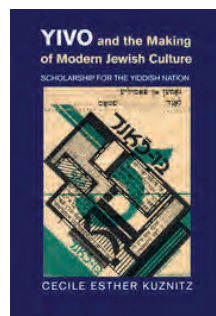


Historic German Newspapers Online

By Ernest Thode

Genealogical Publishing, 2014
R 929.1 T449H and circulating copy

For genealogical research, German-language newspapers are at least as useful as their English language counterparts. Astonishingly, there are now approximately 2,000 historic German-language newspapers online at numerous public, private, and commercial websites. The combined newspapers (fifty years and older) comprise billions of pages and refer to millions of individuals. Since most of these digitized papers are fully searchable, this guide to the newspapers, indicating newspaper title, place of publication, date range, and website, is a key to a mother lode of information found in German-language papers and is a revolutionary new tool for German genealogy research.—*Publisher*



YIVO and the Making of Modern Jewish Culture: Scholarship for the Yiddish Nation

By Cecile Esther Kuznitz

Cambridge, 2014
R 947.93 K97Y

This book is the first history of YIVO, the original center for Yiddish scholarship. Founded by a group of Eastern European intellectuals after World War I, YIVO became both the apex of secular Yiddish culture and the premier institution of Diaspora Nationalism, which fought for Jewish rights throughout the world at a time of rising anti-Semitism. From its headquarters in Vilna, Lithuania, YIVO tried to balance scholarly objectivity with its commitment to the Jewish masses. Using newly recovered documents that were believed destroyed by Hitler and Stalin, Cecile Esther Kuznitz tells for the first time the compelling story of how these scholars built a world-renowned institution despite dire poverty and anti-Semitism. She raises new questions about the relationship between Jewish cultural and political work and analyzes how nationalism arises outside of state power.—*Publisher*

OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

History & Genealogy is proud to be the home of the National Genealogical Society and St. Louis Genealogical Society library collections.

National Genealogical Society

3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Local: (703) 525-0056
Toll-free: (800) 473-0060

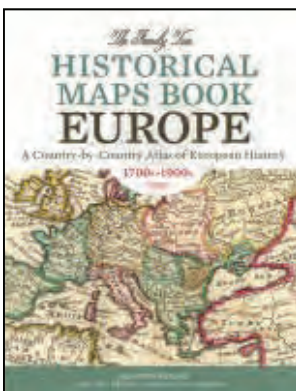
ngs@ngsgenealogy.org
www.ngsgenealogy.org

St. Louis Genealogical Society

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

(314) 647-8547

office@stlgs.org
www.stlgs.org



Family Tree Historical Maps Book: Europe—A Country-by-Country Atlas of European History, 1700s–1900s

By Allison Dolan

Family Tree Books, 2015
R 940 D659F

From Ireland to Italy, Portugal to Poland, Germany to Greece, and everywhere in between, explore your ancestors' European homelands through gorgeous reproductions of 18th-century maps, 19th-century maps and early 20th-century maps. More than 200 full-color historical maps, covering the peak years of European immigration to America, will help you understand changing boundaries in ancestral countries, and inform your search for genealogical records.—*Publisher*



Mizzou 175: The Remarkable Story of Missouri's Flagship University from 1839–2014

By Brian Burnes

Rockhill Books, 2014
R 977.829 B967M

The University of Missouri has helped shape history within the state and far beyond since its founding 175 years ago. The 220-page book, packed with hundreds of archival and contemporary photographs, uses colorful narrative to chronicle the growth of the first public university west of the Mississippi River — from its modest start in frontier Boone County to its current standing as Missouri's major research, land-grant university.—*Mizzou Bookstore website.*



Irish Americans: The History and Culture of a People

William E. Watson and Eugene J. Halus, Jr., eds.

ABC-CLIO, 2015
R 973.049 I68

The Irish have had a significant impact on America across three centuries, helping to shape politics, law, labor, war, literature, journalism, entertainment, business, sports, and science. This encyclopedia explores why the Irish came to America, where they settled, and how their distinctive Irish-American identity was formed. Well-known Irish Americans are profiled, but the work also captures the essence of everyday life for Irish-Americans as they have assimilated, established communities, and interacted with other ethnic groups. The approximately 200 entries in this comprehensive, one-stop reference are organized into four themes: the context of Irish-American emigration; political and economic life; cultural and religious life; and literature, the arts, and popular culture. Each section offers a historical overview of the subject matter, and the work is enriched by a selection of primary documents.—*Publisher*

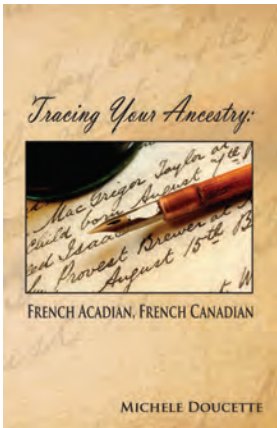


Polish Roots

By Rosemary A. Chorzempa
Genealogical Publishing, 2014
929.1 C551P

Polish genealogy is almost completely defined by geography and history. Situated in the center of Europe, Poland has been foster mother to people of many different nationalities,

especially Russians, Austrians, Germans, Ukrainians, and Lithuanians—people belonging to the nation states that exercised dominion over it. It has also been host over the centuries to Balkan and Carpathian Slavs, Jews, Prussians, Balts, Gypsies, and even Scots, so the Polish genealogical landscape is actually a mosaic. To explore it properly is to cross the overlapping boundaries of language, religion, geography, and history. The second edition of this pioneering work on Polish family history provides the American researcher with the most up-to-date tools to succeed in genealogical research in each of these areas.—*Publisher*



Tracing Your Ancestry:
 French Acadian, French Canadian

By Michele Doucette
St. Clair, 2013
R 929.1 D728T

Tracing Your Ancestry: French Acadian, French Canadian is a resource that will provide the family historian with the knowl-

edge of how and where to begin; so, too, will they find themselves armed with ample websites to guide their search. Being of both French Acadian and French Canadian ancestry, author Michele Doucette felt it important to consolidate a book that other researchers might find beneficial, based on what she was able to uncover in the course of her own published research that spanned close to twenty-five years.—*Publisher*

New at Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry Library Edition can be used for free at any St. Louis County Library location and is accessible through the library’s wireless network.

- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Records, 1875–1940
- Georgia, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1904–1962
- Index to Alien Arrivals at Canadian Atlantic and Pacific Seaports, 1904–1944
- Minnesota, Indian Allotment Records, 1888–1919
- New Mexico, World War II Records, 1941–1945
- Oklahoma, Creek Equalization Records, 1912–1921
- Pennsylvania, Civil War Muster Rolls, 1860–1869
- Poland, Łódź Ghetto Register Books, 1939–1944 (USHMM)
- Puerto Rico, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1901–1962
- Romania, Vital Records from Selected Regions, 1607–1914
- Texas, Passenger Lists, 1893–1963
- Virginia Birth Records, 1864–2014
- Virginia, Death Records, 1912–2014
- Virginia, Divorce Records, 1918–2014
- Virginia, Marriage Records, 1936–2014
- UK, British Army Muster Books and Pay Lists, 1812–1817
- U.S., Passenger and Crew Lists for U.S.–Bound Vessels Arriving in Canada, 1912–1939 and 1953–1962
- A variety of new records from England, Germany, and Australia