FOR THE RECORDS

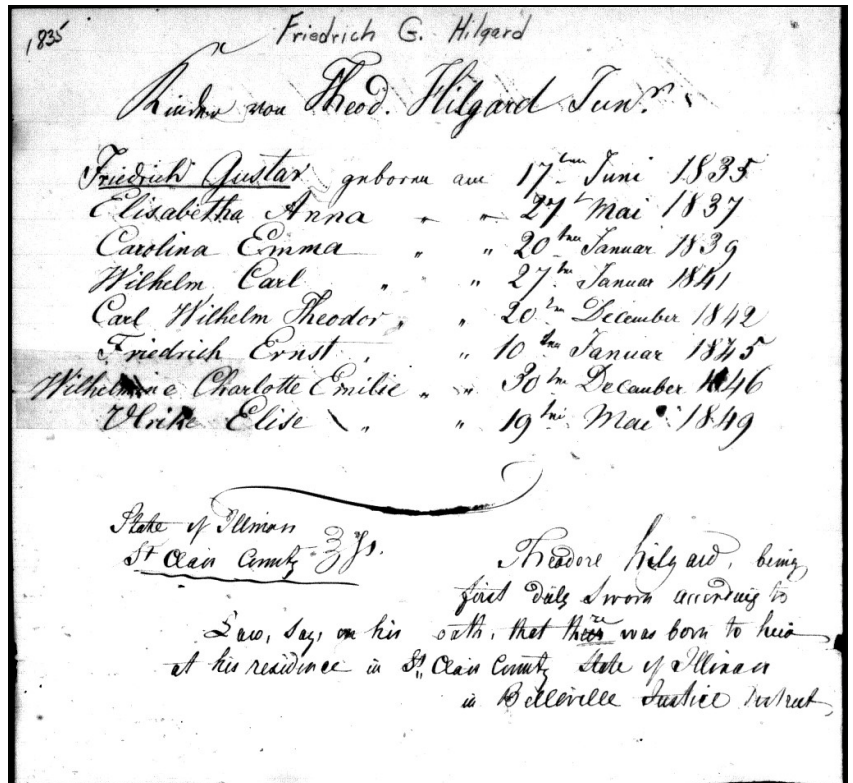## Sources for St. Clair County, Illinois research

St. Clair County Illinois was founded in 1790 by a proclamation of Arthur St. Clair, the First Governor of the Northwest Territory. The county actually pre-dates the state of Illinois, which was named a territory in 1809 but only became a state in 1818. European settlers had been living in the area far longer than that, however. The town of Cahokia, for example, was founded as a Catholic mission in 1696. Over the next 80 years, it became one of the largest French Colonial towns in the area.

Due to the proximity of St. Clair County to the City of St. Louis, the two communities have grown and developed together along the Mississippi River. The populations of both counties share similar ethnic origins, and their people often migrate from one side of the river to the other. This migration pattern between the two places makes it common for St. Louis researchers to find ancestors who lived in St. Clair, and vice versa.

Below is a list of resources found in the History and Genealogy Department concerning St. Clair County. Search the library's catalog for a complete list of books.

Newspaper indexes

The department holds microfilm copies of two indexes for St. Clair County newspapers. Printed on 3x5 cards and organized alphabetically by last name, the cards usually include a brief description of the contents of articles. Copies of the original newspapers can be found on microfilm at the Belleville Public Library.

St. Clair County record from 1835 written partially in German and listing the births of Theod. Hilgard's children

- Index to Belleville Newspapers, 1840–1940
- Index to East St. Louis Newspapers, 1865–1936

Periodicals

Two quarterly journals published in St. Clair County are available in the History & Genealogy Department. Both offer a wide variety of information useful to a researcher. Indexes to original records, often found nowhere else, are the heart of both publications, but they also include articles describing research into local families, extracts from local newspapers, and information about local sources not normally found in online databases.

NEWS AND TIPS | HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY

History & Genealogy invites you to:

EXPLORE TIER 4

[**OPEN** July 8–9]

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

NOW OPEN THE SECOND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH.

- *St. Clair County Genealogical Society Quarterly.* The library has 1978-present. R 977.389 S136
- *Branching out from St. Clair County, Illinois* (Marissa Historical and Genealogical Society). The library has 1974–present. R 977.389 B8161

City and county directories

The History & Genealogy Department has the 1860 Belleville city directory on microfiche. County directories on microfilm begin with 1892 and run through 1959. While Belleville is the primary city enumerated, many other towns and villages in St. Clair County are included. The library's print collection of Belleville

OF NOTE

Save the date for the St. Louis County Library Local History Fair

History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library will host a local history fair on Saturday, Aug. 19, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Headquarters Auditorium Representatives of St. Louis organizations will be available to discuss their activities in documenting, preserving, and promoting the history of their local communities. The event is free and open to the public. The library is located at 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63131.

FamilySearch to discontinue microfilm distribution

FamilySearch announced that it will discontinue distribution of Family History Library microfilm effective Sept. 1, 2017 on account of the rapid progress in digitization. Researchers have until Aug. 31 to order film. Film may be ordered through the FamilySearch website <http://familysearch.org> and requested to be sent to the St. Louis County Library History & Genealogy Department for viewing. The complete text of the announcement is available on the FamilySearch website < http://bit.ly/2rT66oB>.

directories covers the years 1958–2001, and includes nearly every year within that range. This collection also includes many other St. Clair County towns and villages.

City and business directories for East St. Louis also include several surrounding towns and villages. The library's microfilm collection begins with the 1892 edition and continues through 1959. The coverage is sporadic, with most directories covering the 1920's and 1950's.

Books

Over 150 books with St. Clair County information can be researched in the library's print collection. Indexes to original records, including church records, obituaries, census records, cemeteries, vital records, funeral homes, and court records are available. The library also has histories of individual towns in St. Clair County, including Belleville, Cahokia, East St. Louis, Marissa, and Mascoutah, as well as several histories of the county. These often include detailed histories of long-time residents and their ancestors. If your St. Clair County ancestors came from Germany, you should consult the nine-volume set of immigration lists compiled by Heinz Marxkors. These detailed listings feature hundreds of German immigrants who settled in St. Clair County, often including their place of origin and date of arrival in the U.S. The books can be found at call no. R 943.56 M392A under various titles

Vital Records

The History & Genealogy Department holds microfilm copies of the civil birth records filed in the St. Clair County courthouse from 1830 to 1904. While the state of Illinois didn't require a birth record until 1877, St. Clair County records includes numerous delayed birth records that pre-date the law. Nearly all the records asked where the parents of the child were born. While the answer is usually a country of origin, there are numerous examples where towns or counties are listed.
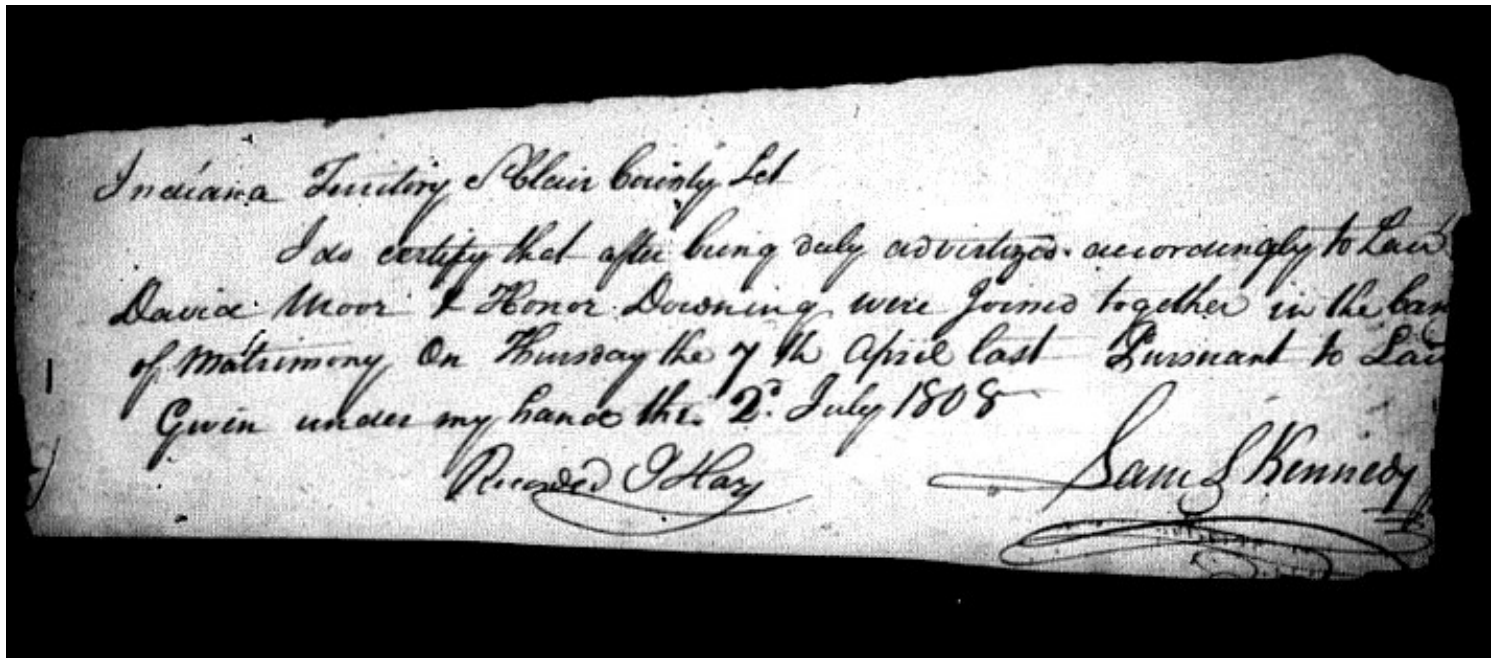
An early civil marriage record recorded in St. Clair County dating from 1808. Marriage records, 1806–1950 are available on microfilm.

The department also holds microfilm copies of St. Clair Co. civil marriage records. dating from as early as 1806 and continuing until 1950. By 1877, each record included both the license application and the marriage certificate. The application includes the places of origin for the bride and groom, as well as their parents' names.
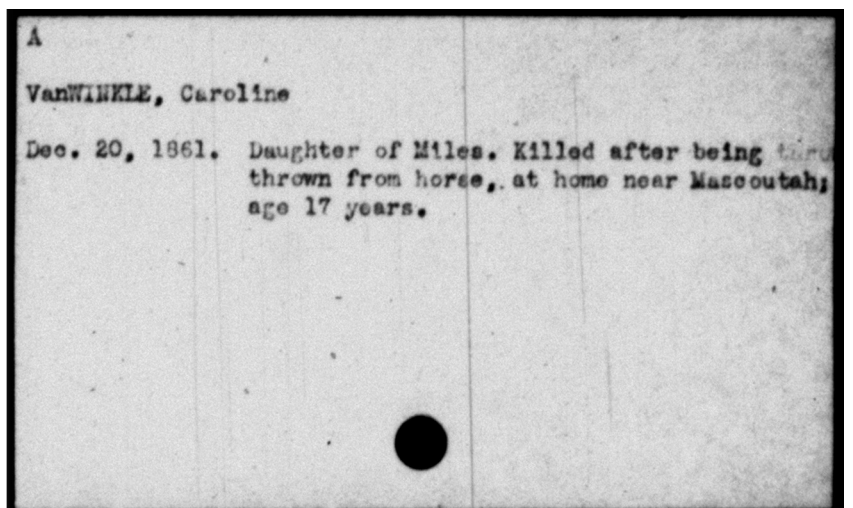
Church Records

Church records are an invaluable source of vital records prior to the civil registration of births and deaths. The department holds microfilm copies of parish registers from three denominations: Catholic (Diocese of Belleville), Lutheran, and German Evangelical (present-day United Church of Christ). In addition, the department has print indexes to many of the parishes we own on microfilm, as well as indexes for records not held on microfilm. Please consult the online guides <http://bit.ly/2uv9FmF> for a list of church records on microfilm in the History and Genealogy Department.

Kaskaskia Manuscripts

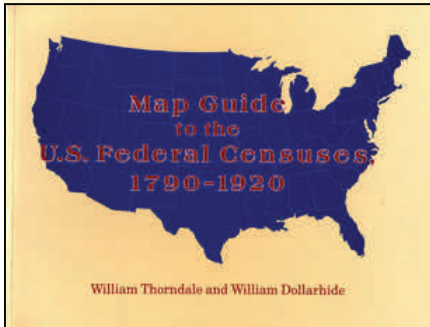Some of the earliest Illinois records are part of the Kaskaskia Manuscripts Collection, available on microfilm in the History & Genealogy Department. Comprised primarily of notorial records from the 1700's, they include marriage contracts, land sales, acknowledgements of debt, and other legal transactions. While many of the early French villages along the Mississippi eventually ended up in Randolph County, an exception is Cahokia. If you can trace your ancestry to southern Illinois prior to statehood, these manuscripts should be consulted.

Below | an index to St. Clair County newspapers is available on microfilm. Copies of articles can be obtained from the Belleville Public Library.

A

VanWINKLE, Caroline

Dec. 20, 1861. Daughter of Miles. Killed after being thrown from horse, at home near Mascoutah; age 17 years.

Shelf life

BOOK | Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790–1920

Genealogists researching in the United States tend to quickly find themselves (and the records they seek) at the mercy of countless geographical boundary changes. These changes could result in an ancestor being enumerated in a different county or even state each census year while actually living in one place all along. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790–1920,* R 911.73 T498M, compiled by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, can help researchers identify county, state, and territorial boundary changes at each ten-year federal census.

The maps are organized by state in roughly alphabetical order, then by year for each state. Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts are grouped together, as are Washington D.C., Maryland, and Delaware. The maps show the modern boundary lines in white with former boundaries superimposed in black. Relevant notes about census availability and county name changes are included on each map.

The maps are also available through HeritageQuest, an online database that library card holders can access from home. To see the maps on Heritage Quest, click on "Maps" from the red banner near the top of the page, then choose a state and year. The default view is small and difficult to read, so click the map image with the right mouse button to open a contextual menu, which will give options to either save the image or open it in a new tab.

JOURNAL | Missouri State Genealogical Association

What do the records of the Baptist Church of Goshen, the Ragsdale School in Texas County, Holt County's *Craig Leader,* and the 1875 Gasconade County Road Tax List have in common? If you answered they are all article titles from the Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal, R 977.8 M678J, you are correct (see citations below).

Published four times a year since 1981, the journal contains a wealth of information about your Missouri ancestors. The topics covered include church records, cemetery records, newspaper abstracts, brief family histories, school records, and many more. In most cases the information would be very difficult to locate in any other way.

Researchers can use PERSI (Periodical Source Index) to find articles of interest. Alternatively they may browse the back issues. History & Genealogy has the complete run of the periodical (except for a few issues which we are trying to obtain). A subscription to the Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal comes with membership in the group.
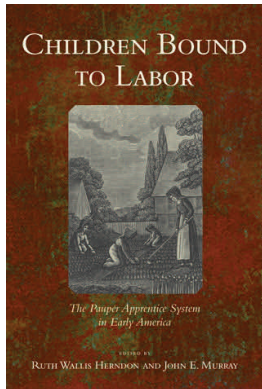
"Baptist Church of Goshen, Wilton, Little Bonne Femme Bottom, Boone Co." Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal, Vol. 30, No. 1 (2010) pp 23-33; No 2(2010) pp 70-76; No. 3 (2010) pp157-161.

"Ragsdale School, Texas County, District 1. T 30, R 11, 1888." Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal, Vol. 24, No. 1 (2004) p57.

"Extracts, the Craig Leader, Holt County, Oct 1886–Aug1887." Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal, Vol. 28, No. 3 (2008) pp 183-186.

"1875 Gasconade County Road Tax List" Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal, Vol. 140, No. 2 (1994) pp 61–62.
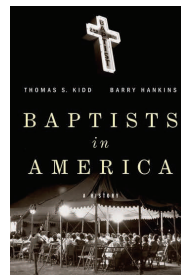
SELECTED NEW TITLES

Children Bound to Labor: The Pauper Apprentice System in Early America.

Ruth Wallis Herdon and John E. Murray, editors
Cornell University, 2009
R 331.31 C536

The history of early America cannot be told without considering unfree labor. At the center of this history are African and Native American adults forced into slavery; the children born to these unfree persons usually inherited their parents' status. Immigrant indentured servants, many of whom were young people, are widely recognized as part of early American society. Less familiar is the idea of free children being taken from the homes where they were born and put into bondage.

As Children Bound to Labor makes clear, pauper apprenticeship was an important source of labor in early America. The economic, social, and political development of the colonies and then the states cannot be told properly without taking them into account. Binding out pauper apprentices was a widespread practice throughout the colonies from Massachusetts to South Carolina. Poor, illegitimate, orphaned, abandoned, or abused children were raised to adulthood in a legal condition of inden-

tured servitude. Most of these children were without resources and often without advocates. Local officials undertook the responsibility for putting such children in family situations where the child was expected to work, while the master provided education and basic living needs.—*Publisher*
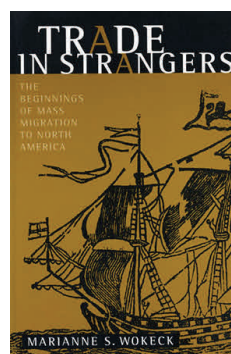
Baptists in America: A History

By Thomas S. Kidd and Barry Hankins
Oxford University, 2015
R 286.0973 K46B

The Puritans called Baptists "the troublers of churches in all places" and hounded them out of Massachusetts Bay Colony. Four hundred years later, Baptists are the second-largest religious group in America, and their influence matches their numbers. They have built strong institutions, from megachurches to publishing houses to charities to mission organizations, and have firmly established themselves in the mainstream of American culture. Yet the historical legacy of outsider status lingers, and the inherently fractured nature of their faith makes Baptists ever wary of threats from within as well as without. Kidd and Hankins, both practicing Baptists, weave the threads of Baptist history alongside those of American history. Baptists in America is a remarkable story of how one religious denomination was transformed from persecuted minority into a leading actor on the national stage, with profound implications for American society and culture.—*Publisher*

Trade in Strangers: The Beginnings of Mass Migration to North America

By Marianne Sophia Wokeck
Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999
R 973.043 W847T

American historians have long been fascinated by the "peopling" of North America in the seventeenth century. Who were the immigrants, and how and why did they

View this month's list of new books online

A list of new books received during the previous month is posted on the library's website. View the list online <http://tinyurl.com/ktha6fr>. 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.

make their way across the ocean? Most of these immigrants were German and Irish, and they were coming primarily to the middle colonies via an increasingly sophisticated form of transport. Wokeck shows how first the German system of immigration, and then the Irish system, evolved from earlier, haphazard forms into modern mass transoceanic migration. At the center of this development were merchants on both sides of the Atlantic who organized a business that enabled them to make profitable use of underutilized cargo space on ships bound from Europe to the British North American colonies. This trade offered German and Irish immigrants transatlantic passage on terms that allowed even people of little and modest means to pursue opportunities that beckoned in the New World. Trade in Strangers fills an important gap in our knowledge of America's immigration history. The eighteenth-century changes established a model for the better-known mass migrations of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, which drew wave after wave of Europeans to the New World in the hope of making a better life than the one they left behind—a story that is familiar to most modern Americans. *—Adapted from publisher*

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

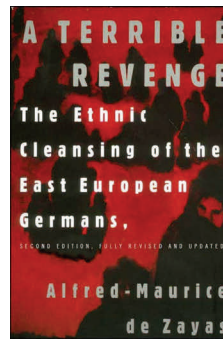Current and past issues can be downloaded from the web <http://www.slcl.org/pastports>.

Contact us:

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

Phone: 314-994-3300, ext. 2070
Email: genealogy@slcl.org
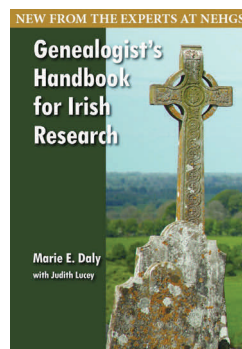Website: **https://www.slcl.org**

Tours

Tours are conducted on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Group tours of 10 or more are gladly arranged with advance notice by calling 314-994-3300, ext. 2070.

A Terrible Revenge: The Ethnic Cleansing of the East European Germans, 1944–1950

By Alfred M. De Zayas
St. Martin's Press, 1994
R 940.53145 D532T

The genocidal barbarism of the Nazi forces has been well documented. What is little known is the fate of fifteen million German civilians who found themselves on the wrong side of new postwar borders. All over Eastern Europe, the inhabitants of communities that had been established for many centuries were either expelled or killed. Over two million Germans did not survive. Some of these people had supported Hitler, but the great majority was guiltless. In A Terrible Revenge, de Zayas describes this horrible retribution. This new edition includes an updated foreword, epilogue and additional information from recent interviews with the children of the displaced.*—Publisher*

Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research

By Marie E. Daley
New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2016
R 941.5 D153G and circulating copy

In *Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research,* NEHGS Irish genealogy experts Marie E. Daly and Judith Lucey offer tips for navigating the sometimes challenging course of finding Irish ancestors. Using real-life examples and offering many illustrations of records and techniques, they take a step-by-step approach to using American records to trace Irish ancestors in this country, with the goal of finding the place of origin. They then explain how to use Irish records to learn even more. Drawing on their years of experience guiding those with Irish ancestry, Daly and Lucey focus not just on sources of records but—more important—on strategies for research and interpretation. The book includes to-do lists, illustrations and maps, a comprehensive table of online resources, and a detailed index.*—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.

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project

Learn about the genealogical research process-- getting started, organizing and citing your findings, navigating the library, using various research formats (print, microfilm, and electronic), and discovering the many resources 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.

Aug. 2, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register

Census Basics for Genealogical Research

Genealogical research in the United States begins with the Federal Census. Learn how to search within the Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest databases for federal and state census records. A History & Genealogy expert will explore key strategies on how to conduct effective census research. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the internet.

July 10, 10:00 a.m., Weber Road | Register
July 17, 2:00 p.m., Lewis & Clark | Register
July 24, 10:00 a.m., Grant's View | Register
July 29, 10:00 a.m., Sachs | Register
July 31, 2:00 p.m., Prairie Commons | Register
Aug. 15, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register

Finding Immigrant Ancestors

Explore naturalization and Immigration records in the Ancestry Library Edition and Find My Past databases and discover the numerous print and online resources available for immigrant research. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the internet.

Aug. 7, 10:00 a.m., Weber Road | Register
Aug. 14, 2:00 p.m., Lewis & Clark | Register
Aug. 21, 10:00 a.m., Grant's View | Register
Aug. 22, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register
Aug. 26, 2:00 p.m., Oak Bend | Register
Aug. 28, 2:00 p.m., Prairie Commons | Register

History and Genealogy in Newspaper Databases

Newspaper databases make it easy to access millions of articles electronically, and they can be used at home with a valid St. Louis County Library card. Databases covered in this class will include 19th-Century U. S. Newspapers, NewspaperArchive, and current and historical St. Louis Post-Dispatch databases. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

July 19, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | Register

Identifying Ancestral Military Veterans

Explore strategies for conducting military research in the Fold3 and Ancestry Library Edition databases and in print and online resources. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the internet.

July 29, 2:00 p.m., Thornhill | Register
Aug. 26, 10:00 a.m., Grant's View | Register

Discovering Your Ancestral German Village

Finding the ancestral village of origin is the key in the German genealogical research process. The speaker will discuss sources and methods that can potentially unlock this important information.

Aug. 7, 7:00 p.m., Sachs | Register

PROGRAMS

Programs are held in the Headquarters Auditorium and are free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Railroads of St. Louis
Saturday, July 8 | 10:00 a.m.

St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting
A narrative overview of the railroads in St. Louis from 1851 to present day. | Nick Fry, Curator, John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library, Speaker

Using Sources Abroad to Identify Your Ancestor's County of Origin
Tuesday, July 18 | 7:00 p.m.

StLGS Irish Special Interest Group

Did Grandpa forget to mention exactly where in Ireland he came from? Have you exhausted all the U.S. resources that you can think of, and still no clue? Come join us as we discuss the best strategies for locating the county of origin for your ancestors in foreign sources. | Mike Bridwell, St. Louis County Library History & Genealogical Society, Speaker

Pictorial St. Louis: A Tool for Studying Vernacular Building Types and the Evolution of Land Use in St. Louis
Saturday, Aug. 12 | 10:00 a.m.

St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting

This talk will examine ways that the 1875 Pictorial St. Louis Map can be used to study historic building typologies and settlement patterns in St. Louis. It will also discuss the places where, and the reasons why, the landscape of 1875 is no longer visible, and the many places where it remains remarkably intact. | Andrew B. Weil, Executive Director, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Speaker

BRANCH LOCATIONS

Cliff Cave
5430 Telegraph Road
St. Louis, MO 63129

Grant's View
9700 Musick Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

Headquarters
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131

Indian Trails
8400 Delport Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63114

Mid-County
7821 Maryland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Natural Bridge
7606 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Oak Bend
842 S. Holmes Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Prairie Commons
915 Utz Lane
Hazelwood, MO 63042

Rock Road
10267 St. Charles Rock Rd.
St. Ann, MO 63074

Samuel C. Sachs
16400 Burkhardt Place
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Thornhill
12863 Willowyck Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146

Weber Road
4444 Weber Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

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