

PastPorts

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

Vol. 1, No. 7— September 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

Format change in *PastPorts*

Beginning with this issue, website addresses (URLs) are now embedded in the text of the newsletter instead of being spelled out. This will create links to websites within the text. Clicking on the link will take you to the website.

Celebrate with the Special Collections Department on September 13

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Special Collections Department. Patrons and friends of the Department are cordially invited to a reception on Saturday, September 13 from 10 am to 2 pm. The celebration will include refreshments, live music, and the chance to meet and visit with staff members. The Special Collections Department wishes to thank all of its patrons for making the last ten years so successful and looks forward to serving them in the future.

Foiled by HIPAA: Insane Asylum Records are informative but unavailable in the Special Collections Department

When a Special Collections Department patron made a research visit to the St. Louis

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center recently, she hit the genealogical jackpot. The patient record she found for an ancestral relative included address, next of kin, physical description, and level of education, as well as the diagnoses and reason for admittance.

The Insane Asylum, now known as the St. Louis Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center, was established in 1869. Its domed structure remains a familiar south St. Louis landmark. The Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH) Library is located in the original 1869 building and holds original and microfilm copies of patient records, 1869-1911.

The Special Collections Department requested permission from the Center to copy the microfilm for its collection, but was prevented by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Researchers may still view the microfilm at the MIMH Library with advance notice. Contact Librarian Christina Sullivan at 314-877-6516 or by [email](#) to make an appointment. The library is located at [5400 Arsenal Street in St. Louis City](#). More information about Center and the library is available on the [MIMH library's website](#).

We've got class! Part 1: Co-locating with Dewey

All libraries use some sort of a classification system to aid in cataloging and locating items on the shelf. Libraries can choose from several standard systems, but the St. Louis County Library, along with most other public and school libraries, uses the Dewey Decimal System.

Developed by Melvil Dewey in 1876, the Dewey Decimal System classifies books and other items based on their subject matter. The system features ten main classes. Each class has ten divisions, and each division has ten sections. Numbers from classes, divisions and section are put together to form call numbers, which are displayed on labels and placed on book spines. Each numeral in the call number represents a piece of information about the item's subject. The main classes are:

- 000—General knowledge includes Almanacs, Encyclopedias, etc.)
- 100—Psychology and Philosophy
- 200—Religion and Mythology
- 300—Social Sciences and Folklore
- 400—Languages and Grammar
- 500—Math and Science
- 600—Medicine and Technology
- 700—Arts and Recreation
- 800—Literature
- 900—Geography and History (including Genealogy)

Because the Special Collections Department specializes in history and genealogy, most of its holdings are classified in the 900s.

One way to find books is to look up each one in the online library catalog and then find it on the shelf. One advantage of classification systems, however, is that they make browsing the shelves a productive activity. This is due to the concept of "co-location," a library term meaning that items dealing with the same subject end up being shelved next to or near each other. If you find one book on a particular

subject, you should also look at the books shelved next to it—you just might find even more of the kind of information you are seeking. Co-location also means that books for a state, county or city are all shelved in the same section of the library. For example, most books about Missouri history and genealogy have call numbers beginning 977.8 and are shelved together. Items for St. Louis County have call numbers beginning 977.865. Items for St. Louis City are classified 977.866.

Not only are items from the same geographic area shelved together, the various geographic areas are arranged in a logical progression. States are grouped into regions beginning with New England and are arranged geographically from northeast to southwest. Within these regions, states are also arranged from northeast to southwest in the continental U.S. (followed by Alaska and Hawaii). Counties within states are likewise arranged. One advantage of this system is that books for a particular county are shelved next to those for adjoining counties.

If you would like to find all of the books for a particular state or county, simply find the corresponding call number and head for the stacks. Call numbers by state and county are posted on bookshelf end caps in the Special Collections Department. [They are also posted on the Department's website](#), so you can look them up ahead of time before coming into the library.

Look for Part 2 of this article in next month's PastPorts.

Easy to overlook: humble file cabinet hides historical nuggets

An unassuming red file cabinet in the Special Collections Department, placed not too far from the water fountain and underneath the microfiche reader, belies a trove of historical information. Its treasure is the Department's Local History File, and it's full of history, fun facts and nostalgia.

The files contain hundreds of newspaper clippings, pamphlets and booklets collected over the decades from myriad sources. A wide variety of subjects are included: architecture, biographical data, movie theaters, businesses, parks, historic homes, churches, cemeteries, local disasters, neighborhoods and communities, and schools, just to name a few.

Read through the City of Ladue file and learn how it went from a sleepy village to a symbol of success and wealth. The Biography File is bulging with stories of local notable personalities, such as the engineering genius James Eads. Read about Pierre Chouteau and how his pond contributed to the devastating cholera epidemic of the 1840s. Not all the biographical information is historical. Patrons can learn, for example, that artist Mary Engelbreit's first studio was in her mother's linen closet. Newspaper clippings cover many notable events. A Dec. 10, 1939 article from the *Globe-Democrat* congratulates St. Louis University on its 107th anniversary. Another article mourns the loss of the Forest Park Highlands, which was destroyed by fire on July 20, 1963.

History buffs and genealogists are not the only ones that will be interested in the collection. Students will find the Local History File to be a good source of information for school history projects.

Come in and explore the historical nuggets in our local history treasure chest. Look for the red filing cabinet underneath the microfilm reader, or ask one of the reference staff members for assistance.

BOOK CHAT

Its time to hit the books! Students of history can go back to school in the Special Collections Department

Maybe you're not back in school now, but the kids and grandkids are. So it's time to get back to your genealogy project! In addition to the commonly-used birth, marriage, death and census records, did you know that Special Collections has a wealth of resources for school research? For example, to answer that perennial St. Louis question, *So, Where'd You Go to High School?* take a look at the book with the same title as the question. This fun-to-use book gives an overview of public, private and parochial high schools in St. Louis, with addresses, years open, histories, photographs, prominent educators and famous alumni. Scattered throughout the book are school fight songs, mascots, school pranks, cafeteria food, St. Louis high school students who went on to become professional athletes, and more.

Public Schools

There are books in Special Collections on the history of several St. Louis County school districts. A volume on the School District of Affton in South St. Louis County includes many photographs and an extensive list of district teachers and staff members. The early days of the one-room schools that came to form the Hazelwood School District of North St. Louis County are documented with many black-and-white photographs. In addition to tracing the history of the South St. Louis County Mehlville School District, this comprehensively indexed work also discusses its churches and businesses. A book on Webster Groves High School traces the school with text and sepia-toned photographs from its beginning in 1907 to 2007.

Private and Parochial Schools

For information on two St. Louis County private schools, take a look at the photograph-filled *St. Louis Country Day School: The First Fifty Years, or A Way of Life: The Story of John Burroughs School, 1923-1973*, where yearly tuition was only \$500 in 1924. And then there are always the parochial schools for which St. Louis is famous. Available books include the following:

- Holy Cross Lutheran School including a complete alphabetical list of all graduates, 1896-1976, and pictures of graduating classes, 1911 – 1976 (with a few exceptions);
- St. Louis University High School, including football, basketball and soccer records, 1916 – 1974;
- St. Louis Priory, founded by Benedictine monks in 1956.

Sports

If you have lived in St. Louis for any length of time or if you attended high school at either Kirkwood or Webster Groves, you will certainly be aware of the Turkey Day Game. The beautifully photographed *Turkey Day Game Centennial, 1907 – 2007*

recounts the long-running rivalry between these two schools, including scores for every year. *The PHL in the STL* highlights "the great players of the league as well as the great coaches and great teams and programs" of the St. Louis City Public High League, while *St. Louis Hoops, 1904 - 2007* covers all high school, college and professional basketball in the Bi-state region.

Magazine

Who can forget *Prom* magazine? If you were a teen between 1947 and 1973, you will definitely want to take a look at this monthly that includes photos and articles from a variety of school events, not just Senior Prom. You might even find your own picture in one of the issues!

Colleges and Universities

Memories of St. Louis colleges and universities will come back while browsing: *As Strong as the Granite: Vitality and Vision: Fontbonne at 75*, with a list of administration and faculty members from 1923 to 1998; *Memorial Volume of the Diamond Jubilee of St. Louis University, 1829-1905*, containing photographs from the late 1800s and early 1900s, as well as over 100 pages of biographical sketches of university students; *St. Louis University: 150 Years*, a beautiful illustrated history of the school; *The Emerging University: The University of Missouri-St. Louis, 1963-1983*, a scholarly look at St. Louis' newest institution of higher learning; *Inauguration of Washington University at Saint Louis, Missouri, April 23, 1857*, which consists of addresses and remarks made by various dignitaries of the time; *Washington: A University Portrait*, a typical coffee table book full of color photographs taken all around campus; *Washington University in St. Louis: A History*, a scholarly study of the university; and *Beginning a Great Work: Washington University in St. Louis, 1853-2003*, an illustrated history of the university through the years.

Alumni Directories

Getting back in touch with classmates to organize a class reunion is much easier when alumni directories are available. Special Collections has copies for Christian Brothers College (1989), Cleveland (1991 and 2001), Kirkwood, Mary Institute (1968 and 1974), Washington University (1992 - 93), Webster Groves (2002), and Webster University (1996). Many alumni directories have several lists: alphabetically by last name, by year of graduation, by state, and sometimes even by major. For alumni directories without citations, ask for assistance at the Special Collections reference desk.

Yearbooks

Special Collections has an assortment of more than 800 high school and college yearbooks. Ask to see the list at the Special Collections reference desk for schools and years available.

Bibliography

Items referred to in the article above with call numbers for the Special Collection Department.

- A School for the Lord's Service: Saint Louis Abbey Golden Jubilee, 1955-2005.* St. Louis: St. Louis Abbey Press, 2005. Call no. R 977.865 S372
- Adams, Rita Grace. *Saint Louis University: 150 years.* St. Louis: St. Louis University, 1969. Call no. R 378 A216S and Q 378 A216S
- Austin, Earl. *The PHL in the STL: The Public High League: A St. Louis Basketball Legacy.* St. Louis: Cenveo Printing, 2007. Call no. R 796.3236 A935P
- Browne, Gordon M. *St. Louis Country Day School: The First Fifty Years.* S.l.: s.n.,s.d. Call no. R 977.865 B882S
- Bruce, Tracey A. *Reflections: A History of the Mehlville School District and Its Communities.* Virginia Beach, Va.: Donning Company Publishers, 2002. Call no. R 977.865 B877R
- Dillon, Dan. *So, Where'd You Go to High School? The Baby Boomer Edition.* St. Louis: Virginia Publishing Co., 2005. Call no. R 977.865 D579S
- Franzwa, Gregory M. *History of the Hazelwood School District.* Florissant, Mo.: Board of Education, Hazelwood School District, 1977. Call no. R 977.865 F837H
- Greene, Shawn Buchanan. *Turkey Day Game Centennial, 1907-2007.* St. Louis: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc., 2007. Call no. R 977.865 G812T
- Hassett, Jane Kehoe. *As Strong as the Granite: Vitality and Vision: Fontbonne at 75.* St. Louis: Fontbonne College, s.d. Call no. R 977.865 H355A
- Healey, Jim. *St. Louis Hoops, 1904-2007: Compendium of High School, College and Professional Basketball in the Bi-State Region.* St. Louis: Jim Healey, 2007. Call no. R 796.3236 H434S
- Inauguration of Washington University at St. Louis, Missouri, April 23, 1857.* Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1857. Call no. R 378 I35
- Kirkwood High School Alumni Directory, 1995.* Norfolk, Va.: Bernard C. Harris Publishing Co., Inc., 1995. Call no. R 977.865 K59
- Memorial Volume of the Diamond Jubilee of St. Louis University, 1829-1904.* St. Louis: Little & Becker Printing Co., 1904. Call no. R 977.866 M533
- Morrow, Ralph E. *Washington University in St. Louis: A History.* St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1996. Call no. R 378.778 M883W
- O'Connor, Candace. *Beginning a Great Work: Washington University in St. Louis, 1853-2003.* St. Paul: Litho, Inc., 2003. Call no. R 378.778 O18B
- Parry, Martin L. *A Way of Life: The Story of John Burroughs School, 1923-1973.* St. Louis: John Burroughs School, 1973. Call no. R 977.865 P265W
- Phillips, Minnie Belle. *100 Selma... 100 Years.* St. Louis: Reedy Press, 2007. Call no. R 977.865 P562O

- Prom.* Miller Publications. Call no. R 977.865 P965 (Special Collections has 1947-1973.)
- Schneider, Norman H. *Holy Cross Lutheran School: Memorial Issue, 1976*. St. Louis: Schneider Family, 1976. Call no. R 977.866 S360H
- School District of Affton, Mo. *125th Anniversary, 1857-1982*. Affton, Mo.: School District of Affton, Mo. Call no. R 977.866 S3720
- St. Louis University High School 50th Anniversary: Backer Memorial, 1924-1974*. St. Louis: St. Louis University High School, 1974. Call no. R 977.866 S148
- Strode, William. *Washington: A University Portrait*. Little Compton, R.I.: Fort Church Publishers, Inc., 1985. Call no. R 378.778 S919W
- Touhill, Blanche. *The Emerging University: The University of Missouri- St. Louis, 1963-1983*. Columbia: University of Missouri, 1985. Call no. R 378.778 T722E

TIPS

- It is now easier for researchers to order a copy of an ancestor's Social Security record. For those wanting to send a written request and pay with by check, money order, or credit card, the [SocialSecurityOnline website](#) makes available an [order form in PDF format and instructions](#). Copies may also be [ordered online and paid for with a credit card](#).
- Make the most out of marriage records. When you find an ancestral marriage record, look for other records that might exist. Depending upon what the laws for the time and place of marriage were, additional records might exist that include:
 - a license application with age and place of residence for the bride and groom, and in some cases additional information such as the names of their parents
 - the completed license returned by whomever married the couple
 - record of the marriage as copied into the county record book
 - record of a marriage bond

When you call or write to a courthouse for a marriage record, be sure to inquire if they have other records for the marriage beyond what the civil official copied into the county's record book.

If a couple was married in a religious ceremony, look for the religious record of their marriage. Marriage records kept by religious congregations often include more information than civil records. If you don't know the congregation where the marriage took place, check the civil record for the name of the clergyman. Find the cleric's congregation, and you will likely find the religious record of marriage.

NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

The following is a selection of new items added to the collection. Additional items may have been received which are not listed here.

The Department is grateful to the St. Louis Genealogical Society, the National Genealogical Society, Julius K. Hunter and Friends, and our patrons for their donations.

New on the [Special Collections Website](#):

"[Histories of Religious Congregations](#)." Includes links to two new histories of religious congregations

"[Index to Immanuel United Methodist Church Centennial Celebration, 1888-1988](#)."

"[Index to The Webster Groves Presbyterian Church: Beginning a Second Century of Christian Witness 1866-1966](#)"

The [Watchman Advocate main page](#) includes links to the following new page:

"[Index to the St. Louis County Watchman-Advocate St. Louis, Missouri: 1884](#)"

"[Microfilm Frame Numbers for Records of the Field Offices for the State of Alabama, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, & Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872 \(National Archives Microfilm Publication M1900\)](#)"

"[Microfilm Frame Numbers for Records of the Field Offices for the State of Mississippi, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, & Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872 \(National Archives Microfilm Publication M1907\)](#)"

"[List of Colored Persons in Wesleyan Cemetery St. Louis, Missouri, 1847-1868](#)," compiled by Gloria Dettleff

"[Index to A Centennial History of Congregation Temple Israel 1886-1986](#)"

PRINT RESOURCES

Call numbers follow each title. Complete bibliographic information for each item is available in the St. Louis County Library's [online catalog](#).

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

Dallas County, Missouri R 977.8813 B789F
Gasconade County Missouri R 977.861 B789F

A surname index for Arphax Family Maps is available on the [Arphax website](#).

■ **States and Counties** (abbreviated titles unless italicized)

MISSOURI

Carondelet. 2008. R 977.866 W951C
Confederate Hospital Register, 1861-1862. 1995. R 973.776 B393C
Guerilla Warfare in Civil War Missouri, vol. 2. 2007. R 973.7 N616G

ILLINOIS

Illinois on The Eve Of The Seven Years' War, 1747-1755. 1940. R 977.3 P363I
Prominent East St. Louisans. 2001. R 977.389 N972P
Union County, Illinois, a Pictorial History. 2001. R 977.3995 U58

INDIANA

Counties of Whitley and Noble, Indiana: Historical and Biographical. 1882.
[reprint] R 977.276 C855

LOUISIANA

History of Vermilion Parish, Louisiana. 2003. R 976.351 H673

MISSISSIPPI

*Fevers, Floods and Faith: A History of Sunflower County, Mississippi
1844-1976.* 1980. R 976.247 H491F

OHIO

Guide to Carroll County Ohio Birth Records 1867-1908. 2000.
R 977.167 S263G

PENNSYLVANIA

*Pennsylvania Births: Carbon County, 1775-1825, Monroe County 1741-1825,
Schuylkill County 1755-1825.* 2006. R 974.826 H926P

Pennsylvania Births: Dauphin County, 1757-1825. 2005. R 974.818 H926P

Pennsylvania Births: Delaware County, 1682-1800. 1995. R 974.814 H926P

Pennsylvania Births: Lebanon County, 1714-1800. 1996. R 974.819 H926P

Pennsylvania Births: Philadelphia County, vol. 2, 1766-1780. R 974.811
H926P

Pennsylvania Births: York County, 1730-1800. 1998. R 974.841 H926P

VIRGINIA

Transcription of Lower Norfolk County, Virginia Records. 2007.
975.552 B827T [NGS]

■ **Germany**

Die Familien der Kirchengemeinde Hatzum (1702 – 1900) [Families of the
Church in Hatzum (1702 – 1900)]. 2007. R 943.59 A614F

*Ortsfamilienbuch Gandersum: die Familien der Kirchengemeinde Gandersum von
1723 – 1910; mit Dorfchronik und Wohnstättenverzeichnis* [Local Lineage
Book of Gandersum, with History of the Village and an Index of its Dwellers,
1723 – 1910]. 2007. R 943.5917 E87O

■ **Other new titles**

*1812 Ancestor Index: National Society, United States Daughters of 1812, vol. 3,
1992-2002.* R 973.52 E34

Dysart Cemetery, Pitlochry, Perthshire: Monumental Inscriptions. 2007.
[Scotland] R 941.28 D998

*Emigration and Settlement Patterns of German Communities in North
America.* 1995. R 973.0431 E53

Family Photographs and How to Date Them. 2008. 929.1 S561F

Finding and Using African American Newspapers. 2008. R 071.3 P656F

German Immigrants in American Church Records, vol. 6: Nebraska Protestant. R 929.3089 G373
The German Way: Aspects of Behavior, Attitudes and Customs in the German-speaking World. 1997. R 943 F626G
History of the Mosaic Templars of America: Its Founders and Officials. 2008. R 366.1 B988H
National Genealogical Society, Conference in the States. 2008. R 929.1 N277T
Royal Mistresses and Bastards: Fact and Fiction, 1714-1936. 2007. NGS 929.72 C186R

MICROFILM

St Louis City Marriages 1883-1939 (with more to come).

WEB WATCH

WEB FINDS

- [Ask About Ireland](#): Includes a searchable database for Griffith's Valuation along with images of the original pages and maps.
- [Global Gazetteer](#): This site features a directory of cities and towns around the world. A successful search will include a map and geographic coordinates.
- [Illinois Ancestors Tombstone Project](#): An online database with photos of headstones in Illinois. The front page features links for each county that has photos in the database. Clicking on a link results in a page with cemetery listings. Each cemetery included on the site has a separate page with photos. Cemetery pages do not typically offer photos of every tombstone.

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.

- [Illinois State Census Collection, 1825-1865](#): A searchable database indexes with images for the Illinois State Census. Available counties vary by year. Census returns list only the head of household with age ranges to indicate other family members.
- [New books](#): A large number of full-text books that have recently been added to Ancestry's databases. These include books from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Ohio.
- [The 1900 Census](#): This database has been updated with new, improved, images from [FamilySearch](#). The index will soon be merged with an index from [FamilySearch](#), which will add several new searchable fields such as birth month and birth year. The 1920 census will be similarly updated.

■ Ancestry tip: Since Ancestry updates its databases daily, it is worthwhile to check back frequently. Even if you don't find anything to help you in your search today, that may change tomorrow.

CALENDAR

Events taking place at the St. Louis County Library

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.

SEPTEMBER

 **Wednesday, September 3, 9:30 – 11:30 am**

Headquarters Computer Lab

Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

 **Monday, September 8, 2:00 – 3:30 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab

Special Collections Class: History and Genealogy in Newspapers

Tuesday, September 9, 7 – 9 pm

Headquarters Auditorium

Program: "Voting Records: Who? When? Where?"

Speaker: Ann Fleming

Saturday, September 13, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

St. Louis County Library Special Collections Department

10th Anniversary Celebration

 **Thursday, September 18, 9:30 – 11:30 am**

Headquarters Computer Lab

Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

Thursday, September 25, 7 – 9 pm

Headquarters Auditorium

French Special Interest Group

Program: "A Tour of Special Collections at the St. Louis County Library"

Speaker: Larry Franke

OCTOBER

 **Thursday, October 2, 2:00 – 3:30 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab

Special Collections Class: History and Genealogy in Newspapers

 **Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

Wednesday, October 8, 7 – 9 pm

Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society
Program: "Digging Deeper: Using Missouri Historical Society Archives"
Speaker: Dennis Northcott

 **Thursday, October 16, 9:30 – 11:00 am**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: History and Genealogy in Newspapers

 **Tuesday, October 21, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

 **Tuesday, October 28, 6:30 – 8:00 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: History and Genealogy in Newspapers

Tuesday, October 28, 7 – 9 pm

Headquarters East Room
Irish Special Interest Group
Program: "Irish Research"
Speaker: Gabrielle Woeltje