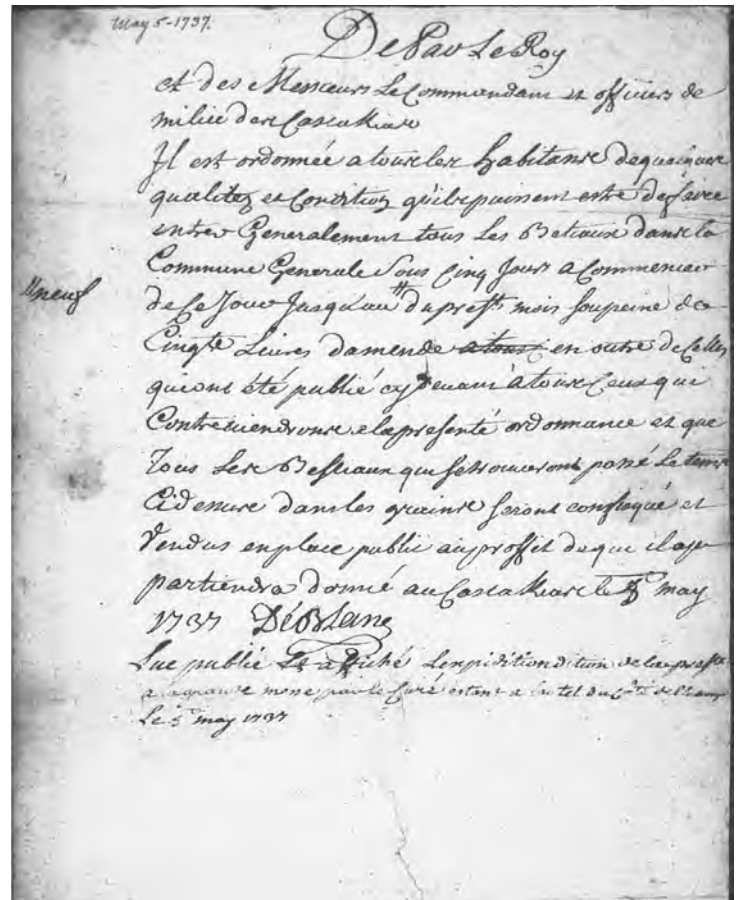# FOR THE RECORDS

The Kaskaskia Manuscripts: 18th-century civil records from the French Illinois Country

The village of Kaskaskia was founded in 1703 as a principle settlement of France's Illinois Country, also known as Upper Louisiana. Inhabitants of Kaskaskia and its neighboring settlements generated a rich variety of sources that are useful for historical and genealogical research. These civil documents were created between 1708 and 1816 and range from inventories, wills, and land sales, to marriage licenses, testimonies, and often amusing incidents of daily life. While the documents are in French and sometimes in poor condition, an index and typed English summaries make them suitable for general use.

Brief history and compilation

The Manuscripts are a compilation of records from Kaskaskia, Prairie du Rocher, St. Philippe, Fort de Chartres, the village of Chartres, Cahokia, and Ste. Genevieve. With the exception of Ste. Genevieve, all of these settlements were located in what is now the state of Illinois. Most of these records were written and maintained by a series of notaries, some of whom were unskilled or performed multiple roles due to a lack of qualified people in the Illinois Country. Priests created documents when a notary was unavailable.

Notaries, guardians, and scholars have organized the Manuscripts in various ways throughout their history. At different times, the documents have been grouped according to the notary who created them and bundled together depending on each document's relation to the private, public, and commercial spheres. Today the documents are generally arranged as close to chronological order as can be known.

Ordinance declaring that all unenclosed livestock will be confiscated and sold. Kaskaskia Manuscripts document 37:5:5:2.

Accessing the Manuscripts

The index and English summaries are available on microfilm in History & Genealogy and online in PDF format <http://tinyurl.com/o34px2n>. The index is a surname, place, and tribal name index. References are given as a series of numbers that point to a date in the order of year, month, day, and finally the document number. Before 1800, the year only includes the last two numbers of the year. For example, "40 : 1 : 3 : 1" could be rewritten as "1740 : January : 3rd : document 1."

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

History & Genealogy invites you to:

EXPLORE TIER 4

[OPEN SEPT. 19 & 20]

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

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

NOW OPEN THE THIRD WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH.

The last three numbers of the year are used after 1799, so 800 means 1800, and 816 refers to 1816. The final number in the sequence, the day's document number, is 1 unless multiple documents were created on the same day. Sometimes part of the date is unknown, and in those cases dashes (--) are used in lieu of a number for the day or month.
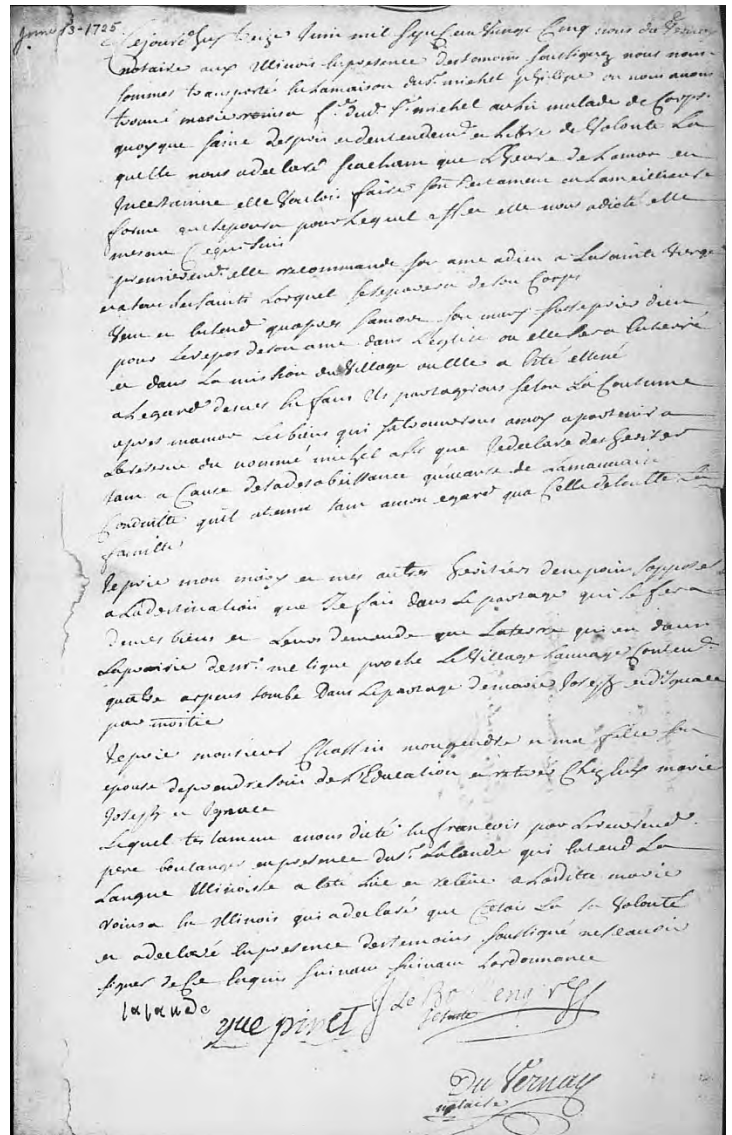
The index takes into account alternate name spellings, under which additional references may be found. Using the Beauvais family as an example, one will find the alternate spellings "Bauvais" and "Bovais" in parentheses on the line beneath the Beauvais entry. The entries for Bauvais and Bovais direct users to the main Beauvais entry, but in other cases references to Manuscript documents may also be given. When researching women, keep in mind that French women's maiden names were generally used in legal documents regardless of their marital status. It is common to find several references associated with an individual found in the index. A similar index for geographical names is found in the same PDF as well as on microfilm, but the most common place names are excluded.

The English summaries describe the purpose of the document and list every name involved. They are fairly detailed and are worth reading, particularly if researchers find the French originals intimidating. The summaries make an equally good starting point for those who can read French, as many early French settlers have twenty or more documents associated with them. Checking the summaries first can help researchers decide which documents may be the most valuable to them.
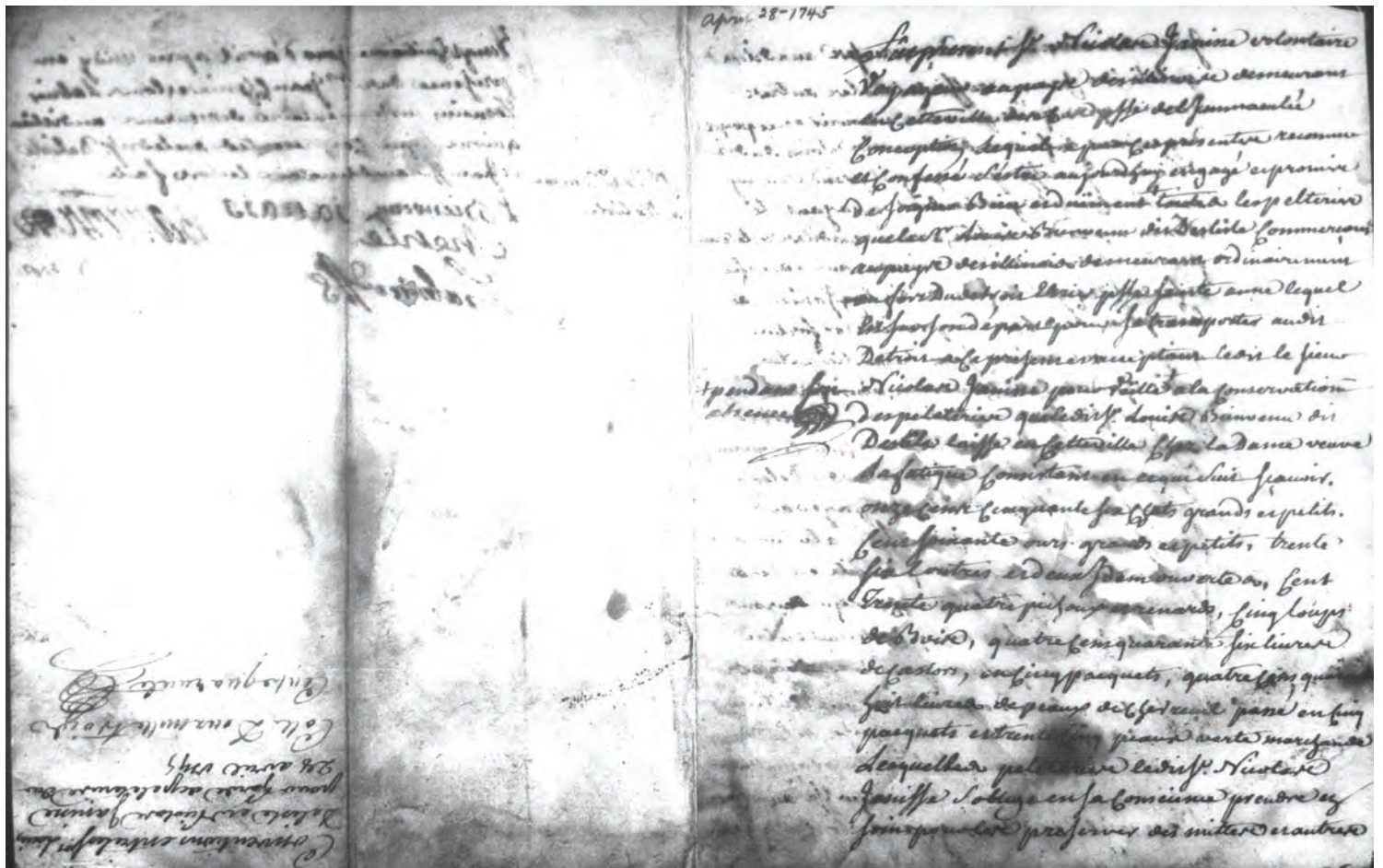
The summaries can be viewed on microfilm or from a computer by downloading the PDF file <http://tinyurl.com/pp7pe5c> from the Illinois State Archaeological Survey website. The searchable version allows users to skip using the index by searching for names directly, which may be convenient when a surname is mentioned in a large number of documents. When the searchable PDF file is open, press Ctrl+F when using a Windows PC and Command-F for Mac to bring up a search bar, which can be used to search the document for a certain last name. Due to the various spellings of surnames, it is still helpful to check the index for alternate spellings. Researchers can also locate summa-

ries on microfilm by using the date references found in the index.

In addition to the English summaries on microfilm, History & Genealogy holds a book of early French record translations that pertain to St. Philippe and the village of Chartres titled *The Village of Chartres in Colonial Illinois, 1720-1765* (call no. R 977.392 V713 and circulating copy). The

The will of Marie Rouensa, a Native-American woman from the Kaskaskia tribe who converted to Catholicism and integrated with the French. In this document, she disinherited one of her sons for his disobedience in choosing to live among the Native Americans and marrying without her consent. Kaskaskia Manuscripts document 25:6:13:1.

First page of an agreement between Nicolas Janisse and Louis Bienvenu dit Deslisle stating that Janisse will protect Deslisle's pelts from mites and other dangers for a payment of 350 livres while Deslisle is in Detroit. A list of pelts is included. Kaskaskia Manuscripts document 45:4:28:1.

translated records consist of selections from the Kaskaskia Manuscripts and Ste. Anne church records.

While summaries are useful for organizing and planning research, many researchers will want to examine the documents for more details. Where the summary indicates that an inventory or witness testimony exists, the records enumerate the items and describe the testimony. Copies of the Manuscripts' pages are currently only viewable on microfilm, which is available in History & Genealogy.

Steps to using the manuscripts

1. Check the index to see the number of documents for the person you are researching and any alternate spellings.
2. Download the searchable version of the calendar and use the shortcuts Ctrl+F on Windows or Command-F on Macs to bring up a search bar that will find all name references in the summaries. Alternatively, simply browse the summaries on microfilm.
3. Prioritize documents based on their summaries and find more detailed information on microfilm.

Other French Colonial sources in the St. Louis Area

As a companion to the Manuscripts' extensive civil records, researchers who visit History & Genealogy also have access to the colonial French records included in the church records of the Catholic Diocese of Belleville. The French churches included Holy Family in Cahokia, Immaculate Conception in Kaskaskia, St. Joseph in Prairie du Rocher, and especially Ste. Anne at Fort de Chartres. The

Kaskaskia Manuscripts: scholarship and preservation

Following the French period, the Kaskaskia Manuscripts were in the possession of several different people and moved back and forth between different places. At one point during the 1860s and 1870s the loose pages deteriorated in boxes in a courthouse hallway, unguarded and accessible to the public. By 1905, historians of the area generally believed the old French records to be lost or destroyed.

That same year, Illinois historian Clarence Alvord located the documents in the circuit clerk's office in Chester, Ill. He took the records to be preserved at the University of Illinois, where he taught for many years. Alvord ultimately organized the papers into three groups: Public Papers, Private Papers, and Commercial Papers. Alvord wrote a more detailed account about his original involvement with the Manuscripts in his essay "The Finding of the Kaskaskia Records." The essay was included in the 1906 *Papers in Illinois History and Transactions,* a periodical published by the Illinois State Historical Society. The article is available for free online through Google Books <http://tinyurl.com/o2vqkes>.

In the late 1970s scholars Margaret Kimball Brown and Lawrie Cena Dean worked to increase the availability of the records. This involved interleaving the document pages with acid-free paper, organizing them in chronological order, indexing and summarizing the contents, and microfilming the records and supporting materials. Before these efforts, the Manuscripts were largely inaccessible.

Additional pages of the Manuscripts have gradually resurfaced. Scattered pages, such as a group that was donated to the Chicago Historical Society, were likely taken by passersby while the documents were stored in the public hallway. In other cases, the papers were simply stuck together. Despite these discoveries, some of the collection's pages are lost, such as never-returned documents borrowed by nineteenth-century researchers.

More details about the creation, history, and preservation of the Kaskaskia Manuscripts are available in a finding aid in History & Genealogy and on the Illinois State Archaeological Survey website <http://tinyurl.com/o34px2n>.

last of these includes records dating from 1721 to 1761. Many families that appear in the Kaskaskia Manuscripts and early Belleville Diocese parish records can later be followed in the records of the St. Louis Archdiocese, particularly in those for the Old St. Louis Cathedral in St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve Parish in Ste. Genevieve, and St. Ferdinand in Florissant. History & Genealogy has records for the Archdiocese on microfilm. A finding aid is available in the library and can also be downloaded from the library's website <http://tinyurl.com/pnhwpxs>.
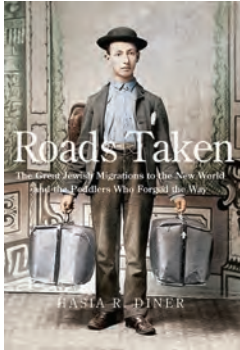
French Illinois today

When the British took control of the Illinois Country in 1765, most French settlers of Kaskaskia and the surrounding villages crossed the Mississippi River to live in St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve. Kaskaskia was the capital of the American Illinois Territory and later became the first state capital of Illinois. Kaskaskia, the village of Chartres, and St. Philippe were lost when the Mississippi River changed its course in the late 1800s. In Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher, and Ste. Genevieve, examples of French Colonial architecture still survive. After falling into a state of disrepair for many years, Fort de Chartres was restored and is now on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The area's French and Native-American past is celebrated through well-attended festivals at the fort every year.

Explore the history of the Evangelical Synod in St. Louis

Scott Holl, Manager of History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library, will present "The Legacy of the German Evangelical Synod of North America in St. Louis" on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Christ Church United Church of Christ, 2200 Bellevue Ave., Maplewood, Mo. 63143. The event, sponsored by Christ Church, is free and open to the public.

Most St. Louis-area United Church of Christ congregations can trace their roots directly to The German Evangelical Synod of North America (1840–1934) or through its successor, the Evangelical and Reformed Church. This presentation will focus on the history and ethos of the Evangelical Synod and its lasting influence in the UCC.

NEW IN HISTORY & GENEALOGY

Roads Taken: The Great Jewish Migrations to the New World and the Peddlers Who Forged the Way
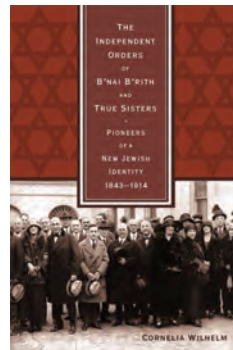
By Hasla R. Diner

Yale University, 2015
R 973.049 D583R

Note: copies of this title are available for check out at other St. Louis County Library locations. Between the late 1700s and the 1920s, nearly one-third of the world's Jews emigrated to new lands. Crossing borders and often oceans, they followed paths paved by intrepid peddlers who preceded them. This book is the first to tell the remarkable story of the Jewish men who put packs on their backs and traveled forth, house to house, farm to farm, mining camp to mining camp, to sell their goods to peoples across the world. Persistent and resourceful, these peddlers propelled a mass migration of Jewish families out of central and eastern Europe, north Africa, and the Ottoman Empire to destinations as far-flung as the United States, Great Britain, South Africa, and Latin America.—*Publisher*

The Independent Orders of B'nai B'rith and True Sisters: Pioneers of a New Jewish Identity, 1843–1915

By Cornelia Wilhelm

Wayne State University, 2015
R 943.004 W6781

Founded in New York City in 1843 by immigrants from German or German-speaking territories in Central Europe, the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith sought to integrate Jewish identity with the public and civil sphere in America. In The Independent Orders of B'nai B'rith and True Sisters: Pioneers of a New Jewish Identity, 1843–1914, author Cornelia Wilhelm examines B'nai B'rith, and the closely linked Independent Order of True Sisters, to find their larger German Jewish social and intellectual context and explore their ambitions of building a "civil Judaism" outside the synagogue in America. —*Publisher*

The Black Press in Mississippi, 1865–1985

By Julius E. Thompson

University Press of Florida, 1993
R 976.2 T473B

In spite of the historical conditions of poverty, illiteracy, and fear that have prevailed in Mississippi, blacks in the state have struggled to create a viable press that would record their world view. From Reconstruction to the present, the black press has been a major institution in their effort to secure freedom and equality. This work, the first complete treatment of the journalism experience of blacks in a single state, documents all the
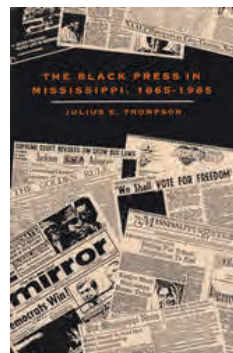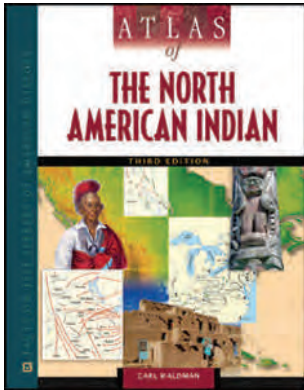
View this month's list of new books on the web

A list of new books received during the previous month is posted on the library's website. View the list by clicking on the graphic, left, or by typing the URL into your browser: <http://tinyurl.com/ktha6fr>. You can also download the list as a PDF from the library's website <http://tinyurl.com/ps4o6zl>.

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.

known examples of the black press in Mississippi from 1865 to 1985, including newspapers, newsletters, magazines, and radio and television.—*Publisher*

Atlas of the North American Indian, 3rd Edition

By Carl Waldman

Facts on File, 2009
R 970.004 W164A

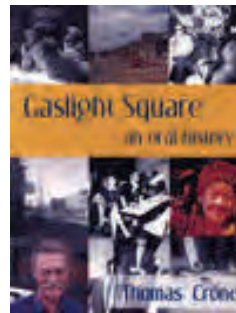Atlas of the North American Indian, Third Edition chronicles the travel and experiences of Native Americans from the first voyage to North America to the present day. This edition now features a bold full-color format and is bolstered by more than 120 full-color, detailed maps that cover important locations for American Indians, as well as highlighting their interactions with European colonists and other non-Native people. In addition, the updated text details the

LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSING

Labor Day | Monday, Sept. 7

history, traditions, conflicts, land cessions, and contemporary ways of life for American Indians. This informative book is enhanced by more than 140 full-color and black-and-white photographs and illustrations of the people, places, and artifacts important in the history of Native America. Invaluable appendixes include a chronology of North American Native prehistory and history, a list of contemporary Indian nations in the United States, a list of contemporary Canadian First Nations, and a list of major Native place-names in the United States and Canada. A glossary, a bibliography, and indexes are also included. —*Publisher*

Gaslight Square: An Oral History

By Thomas Crone

William and Joseph Press, 2004
R 977.866 C947G

Note: copies of this title are available for check out at other St. Louis County Library locations. The book tells the full 50 year story of St. Louis' Gaslight Square – from inception to decline to redevelopment – in the voices by people who were there. The interviews pass through the conservative innocence of the 1950s to the fringe of Beat philosophy to the counterculture of the 1960s and the political turmoil that saw us through the Vietnam War.—*Publisher*

New at Ancestry Library Edition

- UK, City, Town and Village Photos, 1857-2005
- U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007
- Pennsylvania, Coal Employment Records, 1900-1954
- Many new databases for Australia

Ancestry Library Edition can be used for free at any St. Louis County Library location.

HISTORY & GENEALOGY CLASSES AND EVENTS | Fall 2015

Genealogy class schedule

Classes are free and open to the public. Space is limited, and registration is required. Call (314) 994-3300, or register online <http://www.slcl.org/events>. See bottom of this page for class descriptions.

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2:00 p.m.
Beginning a Genealogical Research Project
Headquarters East Room
Registration begins Aug. 4.
Instructor: Larry Franke

Friday, Sept. 11, 2:00 p.m.
Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database
Headquarters Computer Lab
Registration begins Aug. 14.
Instructor: Larry Franke

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:00 a.m.
Beginning a Genealogical Research Project
Thornhill Auditorium
Registration begins Aug. 15.
Instructor: Greg Hilton

Friday, Sept. 18, 2:00 p.m.
Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases
Headquarters Computer Lab
Registration begins Aug. 21
Instructor: Larry Franke

Saturday, Sept. 19, 10:00 a.m.
Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database
Florissant Valley Computer Lab
Registration begins Aug. 22.
Instructor: Dan Lilienkamp

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project

Are you ready to start researching your ancestors? Learn about the genealogical research process, how to get started, how to organize and cite your findings, useful library skills, various formats used in research (print, microfilm, and electronic), and the rich sources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. If you have little or no experience with genealogical research, this is the class for you. | Headquarters, Sept. 1 | Thornhill, Sept. 12 | Florissant Valley, Oct. 3 | Headquarters, Oct. 6 | Grand Glaize, Nov. 21 |

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. | Headquarters Sept. 25 & Nov. 9 |

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database

The Ancestry Library Edition Database is a powerful tool for genealogical research. Find out how to search for your ancestors in census, immigration, military, and death records. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet. | Headquarters, Sept. 11 | Florissant Valley, Sept. 19 | Grand Glaize, Oct. 17 | Headquarters, Oct. 23 | Thornhill, Nov. 14 |

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases

Fold3 and HeritageQuest are electronic databases that offer a variety of records for genealogical research, and they can be used at home for free with a valid St. Louis County Library card. Find out how to search for your ancestors in census records, city directories, books, periodicals, and government documents. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet. | Headquarters, Sept. 18 | Grand Glaize, Sept. 26 | Thornhill, Oct. 10 | Headquarters, Oct. 30 | Florissant Valley, Nov. 7 |

Genealogy class schedule | Fall 2015

Friday, Sept. 25, 2:00 p.m.

History and Genealogy in Newspapers
Headquarters Computer Lab
Registration begins Aug. 28.
Instructor: Larry Franke

Saturday, Sept. 26, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases
Grand Glaize Computer Lab
Registration opens Aug. 29.
Instructor: Jake Eubanks

Saturday, Oct. 3, 10:00 a.m.

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project
Florissant Valley Meeting Room 2
Registration begins Sept. 5.
Instructor: Dan Lilienkamp

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2:00 p.m.

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project
Headquarters East Room
Registration begins Sept. 8.
Instructor: Larry Franke

Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases
Thornhill Computer Lab
Registration begins Sept. 12.
Instructor: Greg Hilton

Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database
Grand Glaize Computer Lab
Registration beings Sept. 19.
Instructor: Jake Eubanks

Friday, Oct. 23, 2:00 p.m.

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database
Headquarters Computer Lab
Registration begins Sept. 25.
Instructor: Larry Franke

Friday Oct. 30, 2:00 p.m.

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases
Headquarters Computer Lab
Registration begins Oct. 2.
Instructor: Larry Franke

Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases
Florissant Valley Computer Lab
Registration begins Oct. 10.
Instructor: Dan Lilienkamp

Monday, Nov. 9, 2:00 p.m.

History and Genealogy in Newspapers
Headquarters Computer Lab
Registration begins Oct. 12.
Instructor: Larry Franke

Saturday, Nov. 14, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database
Thornhill Computer Lab
Registration begins Oct. 17.
Instructor: Greg Hilton

Saturday, Nov. 21, 10:00 a.m.

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project
Grand Glaize Meeting Room 1
Registration begins Oct. 24.
Instructor: Jake Eubanks

BRANCH LOCATIONS | INFORMATION

Genealogy classes are held a the following locations:

Cliff Cave
5430 Telegraph Rd.

Oak Bend
842 S. Holmes Ave.

Florissant Valley
195 New Florissant Rd., S.

Thornhill
12863 Willowyck Dr.

Grand Glaize
1010 Meramec Station Rd.

Information

Contact:
History & Genealogy
(314) 994-3300, ext. 2070
genealogy@slcl.org
www.slcl.org

Headquarters
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

GENEALOGY MEETINGS AND LECTURES | Fall 2015

Meetings and lectures are free and open to the public.
No registration required.

History Past and Present

In die Kirche Gehen: German Churches
in St. Louis, 1830 – 1900

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2:00 p.m.
Oak Bend Branch
Speaker: Scott Holl

St. Louis Genealogical Society

Finding Your Ancestors in the Church Books
of Canton Bern, Switzerland

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7:00 p.m.
Headquarters Auditorium
Speaker: Dan Lilienkamp

St. Louis Genealogical Society
German Special Interest Group

Get Organized, Find Your Missing Germans

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7:00 p.m.
Headquarters Auditorium
Speaker: Carol Whitton

Genealogy at Cliff Cave

The Impact of Railroads in St. Louis and Missouri

Monday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m.
Cliff Cave Branch
Speaker: Pat Stamm

St. Louis Genealogical Society
African American Special Interest Group

Slave Records

Saturday, Oct. 3, 11:00 a.m.
Headquarters East Room
Speaker: LaDonna Garner

St. Louis Genealogical Society

St. Louis Archdiocese Records

Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:00 a.m.
Headquarters Auditorium
Speaker: Rena Schergen

St. Louis Genealogical Society

French-Canadian Genealogical Research

Monday, Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m.
Headquarters East Room
Speaker: Gary Flor

Genealogy at Cliff Cave

Digging up the Past in Funeral Home and
Cemetery Records

Monday, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Cliff Cave Branch
Speaker: Larry Franke

St. Louis Genealogical Society Special Presentation

French Canadian Research

Monday, Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m.
Headquarters East room
Speaker: Gary Flor

St. Louis Genealogical Society

What Land Records Can Tell

Saturday, Nov. 14, 10:00 a.m.
Headquarters Auditorium
Speaker: Ruth Ann Hager

Genealogy at Cliff Cave

In die Kirche Gehen: German Churches in St.
Louis,1830 – 1900

Monday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m.
Cliff Cave Branch
Speaker: Scott Holl