

## FOR THE RECORDS

### “Freely and without coercion”— Deed records under coverture

“Coverture” (sometimes spelled “couverture”) was a legal doctrine whereby a married woman’s status as “feme covert” (a married woman) removed her rights and obligations and transferred them to her husband. This legal principle created records that can reveal information about ancestors and uncover clues that can break through brick walls.

#### Background

A feme covert had no rights to own property, litigate, own a business. If her husband abandoned her, she had no right to protect and defend herself or her property from litigation or to file suit. If he returned, he could resume control of her property, including businesses she managed. An unmarried woman (feme sole), on the other hand, had the right to own property, make contracts in her own name, own her own business, file suit, and be sued.

Adopted from English common law, coverture was the common legal doctrine in the colonial and early United States. Depending on the colony (state or territory), the practice adopted a more strict (Massachusetts), progressive (middle colonies) or conservative (southern colonies) approach to the rights of a feme covert and her right to property.

The southern colonies “accepted the existence of coercion” while “effectively ... [keeping] women in a subservient position”<sup>1</sup> by developing overprotective laws that treated femes covert as helpless. These colonies emphasized precision in record keeping ensuring the certainty of land title.

Northern colonies, such as Pennsylvania, adopted fewer protections for femes covert because “jurists there believed women were capable of safeguarding their own interests.”<sup>2</sup> This progressive approach left many femes covert without protections from bad husbands. Critics suggest that the objective was not protection but submission. By providing an

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History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library

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open-ended, progressive process and not strictly enforcing safe guards for *femes covert*, jurists could possibly decide that a woman was just in objecting to property decisions made by her husband.

In Massachusetts, justices did not legally recognize the influence of coercion and opposed any legal means through which a *feme covert* could own property or pursue legal recourse. Connecticut developed anti-coercion laws, but like Pennsylvania, it adopted a *laissez-faire* approach to enforcing them, which hardly protected *feme covert*.

These are generalizations, of course. Each colony (and later states and territories) developed a unique legal system and interpretation, muddying the understanding of autonomy of *feme covert* in the region. Even French Louisiana, a colony that developed its legal system from Roman civil law rather than English common law, adopted a property system that shared many similarities to its English colonial neighbors. The result was another different interpretation of *feme covert* autonomy.

## Glossary of legal terms related to coverture

Adapted from *Black's Law Dictionary*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (Henry Campbell Black, St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing, 1990; R 340.03 B627).

**Coercion:** Compulsion; constraint; compelling by force or arms or threat.

**Conveyance:** Transfer of title to land from one person, or class of persons, to another by deed or other instrument.

**Coverture:** The condition or state of a married woman.

**Curtesy:** The estate to which by common law a man is entitled on the death of his wife. It is a freehold estate for the term of his natural life.

**Deed:** A conveyance of realty; a writing signed by grantor, whereby title to realty is transferred from one to another. Also, a sealed instrument, containing a contract or covenant, delivered by the party to be bound thereby, and accepted by the party to whom the contract or covenant runs.

**Dower:** The provision which the law makes for a widow out of the lands or tenements of her husband for her support and the nurture of her children.

**Dower by common law:** Life interest in one-third of the lands of which the husband was seised in fee (possessed of real estate) at any time during the coverture.

**Dowery:** The property which a woman brings to her husband in marriage.

**Estate in dower:** A species of life-estate which a woman is, by law, entitled to claim on the death of her husband, in the lands and tenements of which he was seised in fee (possessed of real estate) during the marriage, and which her issue, if any, might by possibility have inherited.

**Equity:** Justice administered according to fairness, as contrasted with the strictly formulated rules of common law.

**Feme covert:** A married woman.

**Feme Sole:** A single woman, including one who has been married, but whose marriage has been dissolved by death or divorce.

**Freehold:** An estate for life or in fee.

**Grantee:** One who receives a transfer of property.

**Grantor:** One who makes a transfer of property.

**Instrument:** A formal or legal document in writing, such as a contract, deed, will, bond, or lease.

**Interest:** A right, claim, title, or legal share in something.

**Usufruct:** In the civil law, a real right of limited duration on the property of another. The right of using and enjoying and receiving the profits of property that belongs to another.

South Carolina  
Marlborough District

I John Rogers one of the Justices of the quorum of the District aforesaid do hereby Certify to all to whom it may concern that Elizabeth Pouncey wife of the within named James A Pouncey did this day appear before me and being privately and separately examined by me did declare that she did freely and voluntarily without compulsion dread or fear of any person, or persons whomsoever renounce release and relinquish unto the within named Campbell Stubbs his heirs and assigns all her Interest estate right and claim of Dower of in or to the premises within mentioned and Released Given under my hand and Seal this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord 1817.

John Rogers  
Elizabeth Pouncey

This dower release from Marlboro County, South Carolina was recorded separately from the deed acknowledgement: "Elizabeth Pouncey wife of the written named James A. Pouncey did this day appear before me and being privately and separately examined by me did declare that she did freely and voluntarily without compulsion dread or fear of any person or persons whomsoever renounce release and relinquish unto the within named Campbell Stubbs..."

Source: Marlboro County, South Carolina. Deed Book M: 383. James A. Pouncey to Campbell Stubbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1818. Recorder of Deeds Office, Marlboro County, SC.

### Legal instruments produced by coverture

Strict governance of married women’s rights to property (and the varying laws developed to reduce it) resulted in an assortment of legal systems and instruments necessary to conduct business and convey property. For example, Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, and New York adopted a dual system based on English property law that used chancery as well as civil courts. Chancery courts were responsible for reviewing cases involving equity (“the spirit and habit of fairness, justness, and right”<sup>3</sup>) which protected the rights of propertied women who married. In these colonies, propertied women could have separate estates, and chancery courts operated independently of common law, “affording relief where the courts of law [were] incompetent to give it.”<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately, because chancery courts were not defined by statute, they were inaccessible to most femes covert because they were legally unable to litigate under coverture.

A common instrument that affected a majority of married women was the “feme covert examination,” also known as “private examination.” Adopted as part of the system of property conveyance, the feme covert examination was a means of protecting a married woman’s dower rights.

### Dower

“Dower” was the interest that a feme covert had in real property owned by her spouse. If her husband owned property during their marriage, the feme covert had a one-third life estate interest in that property. This is known as “dower by common law.” An important distinction in the United States is that “dower” or “dower rights” refers to “dower in common law.” In England, where the practice of dower originates, a woman might receive a “dower by custom” where the quantity of dower allowed the wife was determined by regional customs and not common law. Dower by custom was not practiced in the colonial United States.

Dower is not the same as dowry, which refers to the possessions that a wife brings into her marriage. Dower is also separate from a widow's right to her late husband's personal property. Dower refers to interest, not ownership.

Dower rights extended to all personal property owned before and during marriage, however acquired. It had no value until a feme covert became a widow. It was a life estate—an “estate in dower”—and therefore its term ended on the decease of the widow. Dower rights were therefore dependent upon the widow's status. If a widow remarried, she relinquished her dower rights.

An estate in dower is different from ownership. When a husband died, title for any property owned by the husband would transfer to the husband's legal heir. Husband and wife were not heirs of one another and, therefore, a feme covert could not inherit property from her husband. A legal instrument—the will—was developed to allow husbands to increase dower or transfer property to their spouse. Femmes covert, under coverture, did not have the same opportunity to use the will as an instrument of conveying property, except to a rightful legal heir. Only a feme sole or a widow could legally create and file a will.

Depending on place and time, dower could pertain to all property held by a husband during a marriage, or be limited to only that property held at the time of his death. A bad husband might convey away an extensive amount of property towards the end of his life if he did not wish to provide for his spouse.

### Curtesy

Colonial husbands had a similar legal principal to dower known as “curtesy.” If a feme covert owned property prior to (or inherited property during) her marriage, the property remained her property. While married, her husband possessed an unrestricted right to the use of and income from any property that his wife might bring into the marriage. Because femmes covert were not allowed to legally create or file a will, ownership of her property was conveyed to her eldest legal heir upon death, not her husband.

While a husband could not claim ownership of his wife's property, the husband could claim a life interest in the property, delaying the conveyance of the land to the rightful heir. Such conveyances could become quite complicated if the husband was from a remarriage and the heir was from a previous marriage. If the husband lived on the property, he would become “tenant by curtesy of the law.” Only by his death would her heir obtain unrestricted possession of the property.

### Usufruct

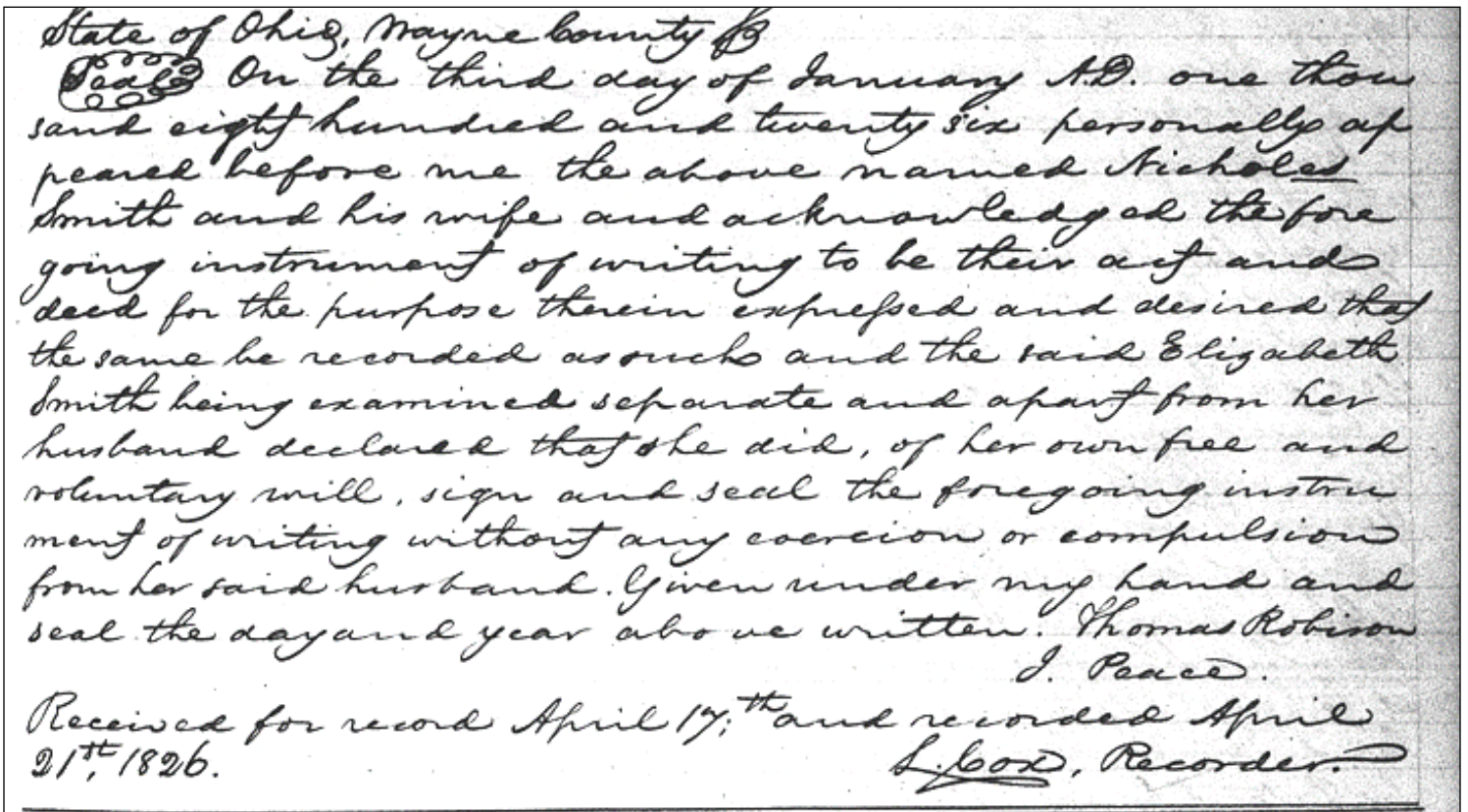
In Louisiana, the legal system developed from French rather than English law. The two share many similarities despite their origins, however. Women could own property separately from their spouse if they owned the property prior to or inherited it during their marriage. While married, the husband was “Lord and Master,” meaning he controlled his wife's property although not possessing ownership. Her husband could not sell her property and unlike in the English colonies, femmes covert in Louisiana had the right to create and file a will.

Property acquired during the marriage was community property. Upon death of a spouse, the surviving spouse had a “usufruct” (sometimes spelled usufruit), over the community property. Usufruct was “a real right of limited duration on the property of another”<sup>5</sup>, of which there were three types: “natural profits produced by the subject of usufruct, industrial profits produced by cultivation, and civil profits, which are rents, freights, and revenues from annuities.”<sup>6</sup> This right of interest to community property is very similar to dower and curtesy under English law in that it is a life interest in the property, not ownership. It differs from English law in that it only applies to community-held property.

## SPECIAL LIBRARY CLOSINGS

**Saturday, Sept. 21** | Headquarters will close at 1:00 p.m. for a special event

**Wednesday, Sept. 25** | Headquarters will close at 5:00 p.m. for an author event featuring Jodi Picoult (sold out).



An example of the use of the acknowledgement of the deed as a mechanism for releasing dower and providing evidence of Feme Covert Examination: "The said Elizabeth Smith being examined separate and apart from her husband declared that she did of her own free and voluntary will, sign and seal the foregoing instrument of writing without any coercion or compulsion from her said husband..."

Source: Wayne Co., Ohio. Deed Book 4: 304. Nicholas Smith to Jacob Bowman, 21 April 1826, Office of Recorder of Deeds, Wooster, Wayne Co., Ohio.

In Louisiana, a surviving spouse did not have a legal right to separately owned property. Immediately following the death of a spouse, separately owned property of the deceased transferred to his or her legal heirs. Louisiana law included forced heirship which required one-third of property be left to the children of the deceased regardless of testamentary provisions (that is, a will) to the contrary. Therefore, separately owned property was promptly divided into thirds: one-third to be distributed among the children and the remaining two-thirds to the legal heir or to be dispersed as described in the will.

**Conveyances**

The method of conveying (transferring) property is by deed. Deeds can contain a significant amount of genealogical information, including:

- Names of grantor [seller] and grantee [purchaser]
- Watercourses
- Bordering neighbors
- Witnesses
- Description and acreage
- Consideration (payment)
- Dates (written and recorded)
- Dower release (curtesy release)
- Previous owner's names
- Authority of deed (what type)
- County and state of residence
- Signatures<sup>7</sup>

By reviewing deeds, the researcher can assemble a variety of information into useable genealogical evidence. Deeds can place an individual in a particular place at a particular time, document the arrival or relocation of an

individual, and identify unknown family members (through conveyance or previous ownership). Through property descriptions, associates often appear incidentally in the deeds of their neighbors. Early deeds might also record marriages, adoptions, and guardianships. An easily overlooked key piece of information (and evidence) is the dower or curtesy release.

### Release of interest

Most deeds included a “release of interest.” In order for a spouse to convey a piece of property to a grantor with unrestricted possession, the property required spousal release from rights of interest attached to the property (community property in Louisiana was not protected from release).

This release usually appears after the recording of the deed but before the official filing. The location of the release varied depending on place and the recorder. In the southern colonies, it was usually recorded as its own entry within the greater deed. In northern colonies, the release typically appears within the deed acknowledgment. In either case, the release of interest rarely refers to dower or curtesy. It will in most cases use generic boilerplate language “relinquishing interest in a property.”

If the rights to interest were not released at conveyance, a spouse could file suit and obtain right to interest for a conveyed property from the grantee (upon the grantor’s decease). It is rare to find a deed that does not include a release of interest, because it was advantageous to the grantor. In some cases, a family member might convey property between one another without obtaining a release of interest. A spouse did not obtain a release of interest to purchase property.

### Feme covert examinations

The fear of coercion led many colonies to adopt the practice of feme covert (or private) examination. The process was well defined and strictly adhered to in Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina where property ownership had stronger ties to England and where large plantations made up the greater land ownership. The practice was region specific in northern colonies.

When a deed was to be conveyed, the spouse (feme covert) was to be brought to the court, moved to a room separate from her husband, read the entirety of the document (unless they themselves could read), and examined as to her understanding. If a representative of the court concluded that the feme covert could understand the document, she could then agree or disagree to relinquish her right to dower.

Private examinations were common in Pennsylvania and New York. The majority of justices dismissed the practice, however, suggesting that a separate room with a door did not actually prevent coercion. Regardless, the process is documented in dower releases recorded in county deeds. They typically include the phrase “examined separate and apart from her husband.”

Feme covert examinations are important instruments to look for in the release of interest. In southern colonies, absence of a private examination (or an improperly conducted one) would open up a conveyance to litigation. This was also the case in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and later in most other northern states.

### Married Woman’s Property Acts and Statutes

The principal of coverture slowly disappeared from the American legal system. In 1809, Connecticut made it legal for a married woman to write a will. The first Married Woman’s Property Act passed in Mississippi in 1839. Texas passed a similar act in 1840, followed by Maryland (1843), Michigan (1844), Arkansas (1846), New York (1848), Pennsylvania (1848), and Massachusetts (1855). State constitutions in California (1849), Kansas (1859), Nevada (1864), and Oregon (1857) guaranteed women the right to property regardless of marital status. New Jersey passed a limited statute in 1852 and a more comprehensive one in 1874. By the end of the Civil War, 14 states had adopted some form of statute and 29 states had adopted a version of the Married Woman’s Property Act. Today, only seven states have some form of dower or marital rights: Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Ohio.

## Using coverture in genealogical research

How can an understating of coverture be used we in genealogical research?

### Discovering the name of female spouse

From 1790 to 1840, U.S. Federal Census records only name heads-of-household. Deed records for property connected to head-of-household, on the other hand, will include a dower release naming the spouse.

### Clues to further records

Discovery of a release of curtesy rights suggests that a feme covert was a property owner before her marriage or inherited property during it. Look for a deed, and/or will and probate records related to the property in question.

In South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, or New York: if a feme covert sold property without a release of interest, it was likely part of a separate estate. Look for a will or earlier deed for the property, as well as records in the court of chancery regarding ownership of property.

If a man was married and sold property without a dower release, this might indicate the possibility of other records, for example:

- His wife might be deceased. Check local cemetery records.
- The grantee is a direct relative of his spouse. Check for a relationship.
- There might be a legal suit. Check for court records following his date of death.

### Narrowing down an ancestor with a common name

If you are looking for a George and Barbara Smith, for example, but find four George Smiths living in the county, look for deeds. A deed will list the name of the spouse. It is unlikely that all four George Smiths will be married to a Barbara.

## Finding earlier origins

In Louisiana: If a feme covert in Louisiana sold property, it was probably because the property was part of a separate estate and not community property. Look for a will or earlier property deed for the property to determine its origin.

An understanding of coverture and the records related to it provide another tool that can help find information about elusive female ancestors.

## Notes

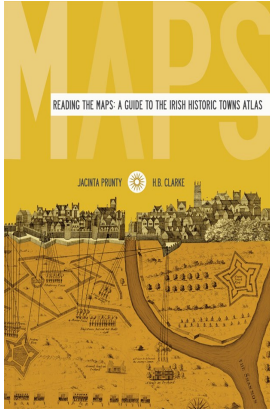
1. Salmon, Marylynn. 1986. *Women and the Law of Property in Early America*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press. pp. 39
2. Ibid, pp. 39
3. Black, Henry Campbell. 1990. *Black's Law Dictionary Sixth Ed.* St. Paul, Minnesota: West Publishing Co. pp. 356
4. Ibid, pp. 540
5. Ibid, pp. 1544
6. Ibid, pp. 1544
7. Hone, E. Wade. 1997. *Land & Property Research in the United States*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Incorporated. pp. 184, 186.

## Suggested reading

- Hone, E. Wade. *Land & Property Research in the United States*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Incorporated, 1997. R 929.1 H772L and circulating copy
- Salmon, Marylynn.. *Women and the Law of Property in Early America*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina, 1986. R 346.73 S172W

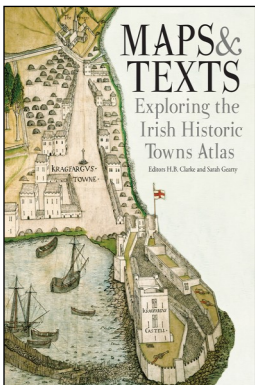


## NEW BOOK HIGHLIGHTS



**H.B. CLARKE, JACINTA PRUNTY**  
**Reading the Maps: A Guide to the Irish Historic Towns Atlas**  
 Royal Irish Academy, 2011  
 R 941.5 P972R

*Reading the Maps* is a textbook companion to the Irish Historic Towns Atlas, the successful series which documents and assesses the evolution of Irish towns. To date, over 27 published atlases, three bound volumes and ten ancillary publications supply comparative, thematic and specialised studies of Irish urban history. Various town types, from monastic to Viking to modern, illustrate the origins of urban culture portraying similarities and differences across the island of Ireland. This book picks from the best of the atlases. It is richly designed with maps and views taken from the IH-TA series along with exercises and summaries that allow for accessible reading and interaction. *Reading the Maps* is a vibrant production geared towards teachers and users of the atlas from primary school through to post-graduate students.—*Publisher*

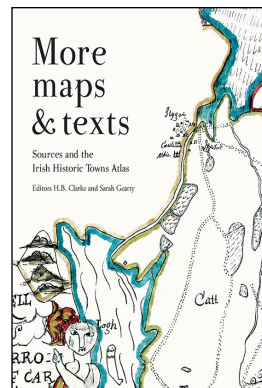


**H.B. CLARKE, SARAH GEARTY**  
**Maps & Texts: Exploring the Irish Historic Towns Atlas**  
 Royal Irish Academy, 2013  
 R 941.5 M297

This book emerges from the 25 Irish Historic Towns Atlases published to date. It brings together their authors' expertise and insights under the guidance of the editor, medieval historian H.B. Clarke. With an attractive and highly readable design it explores what is unique about Irish towns and what is generic. Through comparisons it considers various categories of Irish urban life, how Ireland's major towns and

cities interacted and changed over time and why that might be so. It considers town morphology as a social process in the making of urban Ireland and its distinct personality.

The book comprises 20 individual essays that offer new perspectives on urban life in Ireland. In the first section, pairs of comparable towns, and in one case three towns, are explored. The second section focuses on aspects of urban life such as religion, manufacturing and education. In the final section, three critiques open further ground, suggesting various approaches and tools for understanding towns and their history, shape and diversity.—*Publisher*



**H.B. CLARKE, SARAH GEARTY**  
**More Maps & Texts: Sources and the Irish Historic Towns Atlas**  
 Royal Irish Academy, 2018  
 R 941.5 M297

Nineteen essays are presented in the volume, which is structured into three chronological parts: monastic proto-towns and Viking towns; Anglo-Norman, gaelicised and plantation towns; and Georgian and Victorian towns. An introductory essay

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deals with a selection of standard sources that have been used by the IHTA. Subjects range from the meaning of placenames, to the art historical perspective, to the impact of canals and railways on towns. The twenty-eight published IHTA fascicles provide the basis for the research and the emphasis is on the cartographical and historical sources — their nature and utility — that are available for the study of Irish towns. —*Publisher*

## Briefly noted

### American history

- Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63.  
973.0496 B816P
- Quiet Presence: Dramatic, First-Person Accounts: The True Stories of Franco-Americans in New England.  
R 974 H798Q
- Sending out Ireland's Poor: Assisted Emigration to North America in the Nineteenth Century. R 973.0415 M829S
- The Anti-Slavery Crusade: A Chronicle of the Gathering Storm. R 973 M177A

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Website: <http://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.

### Biography

- Becoming Eichmann: Rethinking the Life, Crimes, and Trial of a Desk Murderer. RB Eichmann Adolf
- The Diary of Edward Goschen, 1900-1914.  
RB Goschen Edward
- The Diary of Samuel Sewall, 1674-1729. RB S513
- Feisty: Chronicles & Confessions of an Old PR Warhorse.  
RB Finnigan Joe
- Molly Brown from Hannibal, Missouri: Her Life in the Gilded Age. RB Brown Margaret
- Rob Roy MacGregor: His Life and Times. RB Rob Roy We. RB Lindbergh Charles

### British Isles

- Antrim and Argyll: Some Aspects of the Connections.  
R 941.612 A636
- British Diplomatic Representatives, 1689-1789.  
R 941.068 H813B
- The Catholic Church and the Campaign for Emancipation in Ireland and England. R 941 M114C
- Charges to the Grand Jury, 1689-1803. R 941 C472
- The Devonshire Diary: William Cavendish, Fourth Duke of Devonshire Memoranda on State of Affairs, 1759-1762.  
R 941.072 D511D
- Documents Illustrating the British Conquest of Manila, 1762-1763. R 941.073 D637
- The Letters of the Third Viscount Palmerston to Laurence and Elizabeth Sullivan, 1804-1863. R 941.081 P178L
- A List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles.  
R 941 S836L
- National Index of Parish Registers. R 941 S813N
- Parliamentary Diary of Sir Edward Knatchbull, 1722-1730.  
R 941.071 K67P
- Parliamentary Papers of John Robinson, 1774-1784.  
R 941.073 R662P
- Private Correspondence of Chesterfield and Newcastle, 1744-46. R 941.072 C525P
- Proceedings of the Short Parliament of 1640. R 941 P963
- Swedish Diplomats at Cromwell's Court, 1655-1656: The Missions of Peter Julius Coyet and Christer Bonde.  
R 941.064 C881S
- Women and the Country House in Ireland and Britain.  
R 941 W872

**England and Wales**

The Account-Book of Beaulieu Abbey. R 942.275 B377A  
The Anglica Historia of Polydore Vergil, A.D. 1485-1537.  
R 942.051 V497A  
Banbury Wills and Inventories. R 942.573 B212  
Camden Miscellany. Vols. XXI-XXXI. R 942 C179  
A Chronicle of the First Thirteen Years of the Reign of King  
Edward the Fourth. R 942.044 C557C  
The Chronicle of Walter of Guisborough: Previously Edited as  
the Chronicle of Walter of Hemingford or Hemingburgh.  
R 942.02 W231C  
The Derbyshire Gentry in the Fifteenth Century.  
R 942.51 W953D  
A Directory of English Country Physicians, 1603-1643.  
942 R111D  
Documents Illustrating the Crisis of 1297-98 in England.  
R 942.035 D637  
Documents Illustrating the Rule of Walter de Wenlok, Abbott  
of Westminster, 1283-1307. R 942 W532D  
The Early Correspondence of Jabez Bunting 1820-1829.  
R 942 B942E  
The Early Correspondence of Richard Wood, 1831-1841.  
R 942 W878E  
English Suits Before the Parlement of Paris, 1420-1436.  
R 942.042 E58  
English Wills: Probate Records in England and Wales, with a  
Brief Note on Scottish and Irish Wills. R 942 W217E  
Four English Political Tracts of the Later Middle Ages.  
R 942 F773  
Herefordshire Militia Assessments of 1663. R 942.062 H542  
A History of the Parish of Borough Green, Cambridgeshire.  
R 942.65 P177H  
The Household Papers of Henry Percy, Ninth Earl of North-  
umberland (1564-1632). R 942.055 H842  
The Kalendar of Abbot Samson of Bury St. Edmunds: And  
Related Documents. R 942.64 A124K  
The Letter-Book of John Viscount Mordaunt, 1658-1660.  
R 942 M834L  
Letters from the English Abbots to the Chapter at Cîteaux,  
1442-1521. R 942 T138L  
The Lisle Letters. R 942 L771  
Minutes of the Rainbow Circle, 1894-1924. R 942 M668  
The Notebook of John Penry, 1593. R 942 P417N  
The Political Correspondence of Mr. Gladstone and Lord

Granville, 1868-1876. R 942.081 D543P  
The Purefoy Letters, 1735-1753. R 942.59 M681P  
Records of the Trial of Walter Langeton, Bishop of Coventry  
and Lichfield, 1307-1312. R 942 L286R  
Sidney Ironworks Accounts, 1541-1573. R 942.252 C951S  
A Voyce from the Watch Tower. Pt. 5, 1660-1662.  
R 942.066 L946V  
Wentworth Papers, 1597-1628. R 942.055 W479  
West Yorkshire. R 942.81 S741W  
Western Circuit Assize Orders, 1629-1648: A Calendar.  
R 942 W527

**Cornwall**

Cornish Wills, 1342-1540. R 942.37 C818  
The Parliamentary Survey of the Duchy of Cornwall.  
R 942.37 P252  
Stratton Churchwardens' Accounts, 1512-1578.  
R 942.37 S911

**Devon**

Churchwardens' Accounts of Ashburton, 1479-1580.  
R 942.35 C562  
Devon Household Accounts, 1627-59. R 942.354 D499  
Devon Parish Taxpayers, 1500-1650. R 942.35 D499  
Early-Stuart Mariners and Shipping: The Maritime Surveys of  
Devon and Cornwall, 1619-35. R 942.35 E12  
Elizabethan Inventories and Wills of the Exeter Orphans'  
Court. R 942.35 E43  
Exeter in the Seventeenth Century: Tax and Rate Assessments  
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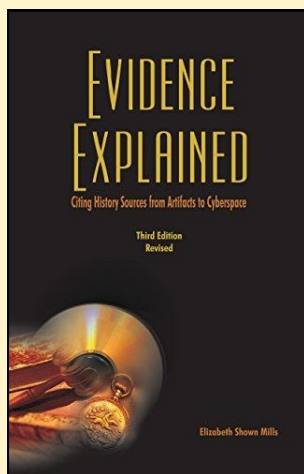
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# Shelf life

## SAMPLINGS FROM THE PRINT COLLECTION

### Book | Evidence Explained



Whether you are writing a family or local history, an academic paper, or simply want to keep your research organized, citing sources is a critical part of research. Providing a source for each piece of information not only saves time in the end, but also spares confusion when problems and contradictions emerge.

Citations make it possible to weigh the quality of the sources against each other and for others to confirm your research. While citation examples for books are readily found online, historical and genealogical sources are often more complicated. Fortunately for the rest of us, Elizabeth Shown Mills shows how to cite

every odd piece of evidence we can find in *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* (Call no. 907.2 M657E).

Based on Chicago Style, *Evidence Explained* covers everything from a simple book to family heirlooms, manuscript collections, church records, and family lore. Introductory sections on the basics of citation and evidence analysis put forth best practices and provide guidance. Mills includes examples and detailed explanations for all source types. "QuickCheck Models" at the beginning of each section are accessible examples without explanation; a full page is dedicated to each source with models for the source list or bibliography as well as full and abbreviated notes.

Depending on preference, researchers starting to collect citations might include the information in a separate word processor or text document, in a notebook, in a family tree program, or written directly on a printed page.

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- Danger Forward: The Story of the First Division in World War II, United States Army, World War II.  
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Old 23rd District: A Genealogical and Historical Sketch of the People Who Settled the Old 23rd District of Henry Co., Tenn. and the Northern Districts of Benton Co., Tenn., Including the Lick Creek Community. R 976.834 R632O

Old Homes of Henry County, Tennessee. R 976.834 T236O

Pen Sketches: Henry County, Tennessee. R 976.834 I57P

Pictures from the Old 23rd District and List of Families. R 976.834 P463P

Ridgeway Funeral Home Records, Paris, Tennessee. R 976.834 K44R

Slave Accounts from Records at the County Archives. R 976.834 T236S

Tennessee Trailings ... Historical Henry County: Articles from the Paris Post-Intelligencer Newspaper. R 976.834 T236T

### **Knox County**

Ijams Nature Center. R 976.885 J28I

Knoxville in the Vietnam Era. R 976.885 H785K

Knoxville Zoo. R 976.885 H351K

Knoxville, Tennessee. R 976.885 Z72K

Knoxville's 1982 World's Fair. R 976.885 W911K

Knoxville's WIVK. R 976.885 H785K

Knoxville's WNOX. R 976.885 H785K

Lost Restaurants of Knoxville. R 976.885 J68L

### **Rutherford County**

Middle Tennessee State University. R 976.857 B261M

Murfreesboro in the Civil War. R 973.7468 B811M

### **Sevier County**

Eastern Sevier County. R 976.8893 W725E

A Lifetime in Gatlinburg: Martha Cole Whaley Remembers. R 976.8893 M179L

Lost Elkmont. R 976.8893 P328L

### **Shelby County**

Black Fire: Portrait of a Black Memphis Firefighter. R 976.819 C899B

Clarence Saunders & the Founding of Piggly Wiggly: The Rise & Fall of a Memphis Maverick. R 976.819 F855C

Elmwood Cemetery. R 976.819 M129E

Haunted Memphis. R 976.819 C973H

Hidden History of Memphis. R 976.819 D745H

Libertyland. R 976.819 S848L

Lost Memphis. R 976.819 C973L

Memphis and the Super Flood of 1937: High Water Blues. R 976.819 O22M

Memphis Chronicles: Bits of History from the Best Times. R 976.819 H282M

Memphis in Vintage Postcards. R 976.819 F239M

Memphis Zoo. R 976.819 D995M

### **Sullivan County**

Haunted Kingsport: Ghosts of Tri-City Tennessee. R 976.896 D996H

Kingsport Speedway. R 976.896 M145K

Tales of Bristol Motor Speedway. R 976.896 M145T

**Washington County**

East Tennessee State University Football. R 976.897 R645E  
East Tennessee State University. R 976.897 G646E  
Remembering Johnson City. R 976.897 C877R

**Virginia**

Botetourt County, Virginia 1784 Tax Listing.  
R 975.583 D741B  
Ghosts of Bristol: Haunting Tales from the Twin Cities.  
R 975.5726 P563G  
A Guide to Gloucester County, Virginia Historical Manuscripts, 1651-1865. R 975.532 B667G  
A Guide to Huguenot Williamsburg. 975.54252 W891G  
Hidden History of Bristol: Stories from the State Line.  
R 975.5726 P563H  
Historic Virginia. 975.5481 H673  
Northampton County, VA Orders, Deeds, & Wills, 1651-1654 Book IV. R 975.515 W156N  
State Historical Markers of Virginia: Colonial, Revolutionary and Nineteenth-Century. 975.5 V817S  
A True Discourse of the Present State of Virginia.  
R 975.5 H228T  
Wills and Administrations of Southampton County, Virginia, 1749-1800. R 975.5552 C466W

**Other state and county titles**

Catfish Bend, River Town and County Seat: An Informal History of Burlington, Iowa, 1836-1900. R 977.796 J82C  
Cincinnati, Arkansas, Illinois Township, 1836-1986.  
R 976.714 C574  
Directory of Boulder, Colorado for 1883. R 978.863 G542D  
History of Livingston Co., Michigan: With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers.  
R 977.436 E47H  
Hubbell Trading Post: National Historic Site.  
R 979.137 B891H  
Index to Place Names in Soldiers, Sailors, and Patriots of the Revolutionary War, Vermont. R 974.3 F533S1  
Lexington Township [Indiana] Cemetery Records, 1988: From Grave Stones, Mortuary Records, Newspaper Items, Old Cemetery Records and Other Reliable Sources.  
R 977.2183 S443L  
Mariages de Saint-Rosaire 1883 de Rochester 1976, N.H.  
974.25 C951M

Natchitoches Colonials: Censuses, Military Rolls, and Tax Lists, 1722-1803. R 976.365 M657N  
Paid in Kind: The History of Medicine in Troup County, 1830-1930. 975.8463 M234P  
Pendleton County, Virginia Marriage Bonds 1791-1853: Complete 1810 Census. R 975.491 H328P  
That New England. R 974 S225T

**Other new titles**

Barbados and America. R 972.981 K37B  
The Blue Ridge Stemwinder: An Illustrated History of the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad and the Linville River Railway. R 385.097 W145B  
'Christopher North,' a Memoir of John Wilson: Late Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.  
R 820.8 G664C  
Consolidated Bibliography of County Histories in Fifty States in 1961: Consolidated 1935-1961. R 973.016 P485C  
The Despatches of Sir Robert Sutton, Ambassador in Constantinople, 1710-1714. R 949.6 D468  
Haunted Graveyards of the Ozarks. R 976.71 H282H  
Haunted Odyssey: Ghostly Tales of the Mississippi Valley.  
133.12 L856H  
Midwest Sweet Baking History: Delectable Classics around Lake Michigan. R 977.4 L674M  
Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals for the Years 1890 to 1930 at the Port of New York and for the Years 1904 to 1926 at the Ports of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore. 929.3 M889  
Nation-Wide Marriage Notices as Gleaned from the New York Weekly Tribune, 1843-1849. R 973 R952N  
Notable Kin: An Anthology of Columns First Published in the NEHGS Nexus, 1986-1995. 974 R644N

# CLASSES & PROGRAMS

## CLASSES

Classes are free and open to the public, but registration is requested. Register online at [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org) or call 314-994-3300. Before registering for classes, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet. A prerequisite is noted for some classes.

### CLASSES FOR BEGINNING RESEARCHERS

#### Who Were my Ancestors? Beginning Genealogical Research

If you have little or no research experience, this is the class for you. Learn about the genealogical research process and the many resources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library.

Oct. 22	10:00 a.m.	Grant's View   <a href="#">Register</a>
Oct. 29	2:00 p.m.	Florissant Valley   <a href="#">Register</a>

#### Library Skills for Genealogical Research

Libraries offer essential tools for researching your ancestry. Learn how to search online library catalogs, obtain materials from distant libraries, locate periodical articles, and use the library's in-house guides. Pre-requisite: "Who Were My Ancestors?" or previous research experience.

Sept. 12	2:00 p.m.	Headquarters   <a href="#">Register</a>
Oct. 1	2:00 p.m.	Florissant Valley   <a href="#">Register</a>
Oct. 8	10:00 a.m.	Grand Glaize   <a href="#">Register</a>

#### Finding Ancestors in U.S. Census Records

Census records are a basic and essential source for genealogical research in the U.S. Learn how to search census records effectively using electronic databases.

Sept. 18	2:00 p.m.	Headquarters   <a href="#">Register</a>
Sept. 24	10:00 a.m.	Cliff Cave   <a href="#">Register</a>
Oct. 23	6:30 p.m.	Thorn Hill   <a href="#">Register</a>

### CLASSES TO EXPAND RESEARCH SKILLS

#### Researching Newspaper Databases

Newspapers are excellent sources of historical and genealogical information, and digitization has made them more widely available. The class will cover 19th-Century U. S. Newspapers, NewspaperArchive, Newspapers.com and St. Louis Post-Dispatch databases.

Sept. 11	2:00 p.m.	Daniel Boone   <a href="#">Register</a>
Sept. 25	10:00 a.m.	Weber Road   <a href="#">Register</a>
Oct. 28	2:00 p.m.	Headquarters   <a href="#">Register</a>

#### Finding Immigrant European Ancestors

Discover print and online resources for researching immigrant ancestors. This class will include an overview of information available on Ancestry Library Edition and other electronic databases. Prerequisite: Finding Ancestors in U.S. Census Records class or comparable research experience.

Sept. 10	2:00 p.m.	Florissant Valley   <a href="#">Register</a>
Oct. 3	2:00 p.m.	Headquarters   <a href="#">Register</a>

## ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY BRANCH LOCATIONS

<p><b>Bridgeton Trails</b> 3455 McKelvey Road Bridgeton, MO 63044</p>	<p><b>Grant's View</b> 9700 Musick Rd. St. Louis, MO 63123</p>	<p><b>Meramec Valley</b> 1501 San Simeon Way. Fenton, MO 63026</p>	<p><b>Rock Road</b> 10267 St. Charles Rock Rd. St. Ann, MO 63074</p>
<p><b>Cliff Cave</b> 5430 Telegraph Road St. Louis, MO 63129</p>	<p><b>Headquarters</b> 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63131</p>	<p><b>Mid-County</b> 7821 Maryland Ave. St. Louis, MO 63105</p>	<p><b>Samuel C. Sachs</b> 16400 Burkhardt Place Chesterfield, MO 63017</p>
<p><b>Daniel Boone</b> 300 Clarkson Rd. Ellisville, MO 63011</p>	<p><b>Indian Trails</b> 8400 Delport Dr. St. Louis, MO 63114</p>	<p><b>Natural Bridge</b> 7606 Natural Bridge Rd. St. Louis, MO 63121</p>	<p><b>Thornhill</b> 12863 Willowyck Dr. St. Louis, MO 63146</p>
<p><b>Eureka Hills</b> 156 Eureka Town Center Eureka, MO 63025</p>	<p><b>Jamestown Bluffs</b> 4153 N. Highway 67 Florissant, MO 63034</p>	<p><b>Oak Bend</b> 842 S. Holmes Ave. St. Louis, MO 63122</p>	<p><b>Weber Road</b> 4444 Weber Rd. St. Louis, MO 63123</p>
<p><b>Florissant Valley</b> 195 New Florissant Rd, S. Florissant, MO 63031</p>	<p><b>Lewis &amp; Clark</b> 9909 Lewis-Clark Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63136</p>	<p><b>Prairie Commons</b> 915 Utz Lane Hazelwood, MO 63042</p>	<p><b>General Information</b> Phone: 314-994-3300, ext. 2070</p>

### PROGRAMS

**Programs are free and open to the public.  
No registration is required.**

Saturday, Sept. 14, 10:00 a.m. | Headquarters

#### **Preserving Home Movies and Family Photographs**

*St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting*

The speaker will discuss tips for preserving family videos and photos. Topics covered will include preservation methods and resources, companies, and technology. Ellen Mays, speaker.

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7:00 p.m. | Headquarters

#### **Using Deutsches Geschlechterbuch and Deutsches Familienarchiv**

*StLGS German Special Interest Groups*

*Deutsches Geschlechterbuch* and *Deutsches Familienarchiv* are important sources for German genealogical research, but using them can be a challenge if one does not know the language. The speaker will give an overview of these publications and offer tips for finding and interpreting information. Scott Holl, speaker.

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m. | Cliff Cave

#### **Cemetery Iconography**

Much can be learned about an individual from the stones that mark their final place of rest. This introductory presentation will cover some basic information about various images found throughout cemeteries.

Saturday, Oct. 12, 10:00 a.m. | Headquarters

#### **Going with the Flow: River History and the Records that Trace It**

*St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting*  
The Curator of the Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library will discuss sources for researching river history, as well as how and where to find evidence of your ancestor's potential travel by or employment on American waterways. Posche Schlapper, speaker.