

FOR THE RECORDS

Biére, Bier, Beer: The Early Beer History of St. Louis

Early Brewers

St. Louis, as many of us know, is home to the “King of Beers” (Figure 1). Even before the German beer masters arrived in the city, however, beer flowed in the small French village. Perhaps it was destined to become a world-renowned brewing city as its namesake, King Louis IX, established the first set of laws in France for brewers to follow in 1268. The village of St. Louis was under French control for almost forty years before becoming an American territory in 1804 as a result of the Louisiana Purchase.

In the early days, brewing was performed in homes across the village and was offered in a few varieties, differentiated by alcohol content. Brewing was traditionally “women’s work” prior to the Industrial Revolution. These years are described as the “cottage industry” days of beer brewing in St. Louis. While it is certain that beer was being produced and sold prior to 1809, the first recorded beer advertisement in St. Louis appeared in the Missouri Gazette in October of 1809 (Figure 2). There would be a series of small breweries in and out of operation within the city for the next thirty years.

The 1830s and 1840s gave way to massive immigration of Germans and Bohemians to St. Louis. With this influx of immigrants, who hailed from the birthplace of brewing beer as we know it, the scale and style of brewing beer in the city

changed. Sometime around 1840, a German grocer by the name of Johann Adam Lemp introduced the citizens of St. Louis to German-style “lager.” This style of beer was different from any other beer being sold in the city as it was aged in cold storage for months to achieve its unique taste. Lemp would age his beer throughout the winter months in barrels underground or in cellars kept cold with ice from the frozen Mississippi River and packed with hay. The German lager quickly became the most popular type of beer in the city. So popular, in fact, that within a of couple years, the Lemp family abandoned the grocery business altogether and began exclusively brewing beer. Other brewers of note during this era were Griesedieck, Finkelmeyer and the Bavarian Brewery of Eberhard Anheuser.

Post-Civil War

Following the Civil War, the brewing industry of St. Louis began entered its peak years. By 1870, there were at least 50 different breweries operating in the city. This era not only saw expansion in the number of breweries producing beer, but it also saw a change in the way breweries did business. A rise in marketing, official logos and trademarks became key components of the beer industry. In 1872, E. Anheuser and Company trademarked the iconic “A and Eagle” logo. Shortly thereafter, his son-in-law and partner Adolphus Busch took note of the new pasteurization technologies that came out of French wine making. The process allowed for beer to be bottled, corked and stored for longer periods of time. This innovation led to the use of refrigerated rail cars transporting beer long distances to other cities across the country and other ports around the world. Other brewers, including Lemp, took advantage of these new technologies. By 1880, St. Louis was the nation’s third most prosperous beer producing city (627,275 barrels of beer), behind New York (2,384,884) and Philadelphia (765,884).

Strong & Table Beer.
 Manufactured by St. Vrain & Habb, at Belle Fontaine, near St. Louis.
 The price of strong Beer, will be ten dollars in cash or twelve in produce, five dollars in cash for Table Beer or 6 in produce delivered at the Brewery at the following prices.

Wheat	-	at	-	62½	Cents.
Barley	-	-	-	30.	
Rye	-	-	-	62½	
Corn	-	-	-	25.	
Green hops	-	-	-	10.	

Cattle and Pork at the market price will also be taken and three months credit shall be given to purchasers provided he gives an endorsed note to the satisfaction of the Brewers.
 Those who wish to be supplied will please direct their orders to the Brewery, or to Edward Hempstead esq. St. Louis, who will always have a quantity in his cellar ready for sale.
 Customers who may want a large supply will please to give timely notice.
 St. Louis, April 28, 1810. tf.

Figure 2: An early beer advertisement in the Missouri Gazette and Advertiser, June 7, 1810.

ST. LOUIS LEADS NATION AGAIN IN BEER PRODUCTION

Throngs at the Two Breweries — Many Private ‘Watch’ Parties Held.

Continued from Page One.

already are increasing their original orders.
 “Only last night we received an order from a wholesale firm in Seattle, Wash., asking for an additional ten carloads, which amounts to 10,000 cases.”

Falstaff Production.
 About 40,000 cases, or 960,000 bottles of beer, were shipped out of the Falstaff plant between 12:01 a. m. and 8 a. m. Alvin Griesedieck, vice president, said.
 Griesedieck asserted the brewery would operate about twelve hours a day as long as the demand for beer continued to exceed the supply.

Figure 3: Headline from the St. Louis Star and Times April 7, 1933.

These years were followed by what is now deemed “the beginning of the end” for much of the St. Louis beer industry. In June of 1889, eighteen smaller breweries in the area came together as the St. Louis Brewing Association. This restructuring left only three independent breweries of significance operating in the city: Anheuser Busch Brewing Association, William J Lemp’s Western Brewery, and Louis Obert’s Arsenal Brewery. Between 1890 and 1904, the Lemp and Anheuser Busch Breweries continued to grow and expand, new smaller breweries opened, and others faltered. By the time of the 1904 World’s Fair, Anheuser Busch was one of the most recognizable names in brewing in the world. With the growing temperance movement, anti-German sentiments, and rationing of grain to breweries however, the golden era of brewing in St. Louis was quickly coming to an end.

Prohibition

In December of 1917, the initial proposal to abolish the production and sale of alcohol in the United States was submitted to Congress. Brewers prepared for what seemed to be the inevitable as best they could. The 18th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified by the states on January 16, 1919. Breweries shifted to or increased their production of non-alcoholic beverages and malt products to stay in operation after Prohibition

took effect. The St. Louis Brewing Association closed all but one of its breweries, while the International Brewing Company (which formed from brewers unsatisfied with the SLBA in 1907) began manufacturing soda, primarily the IBC Root Beer we still know today. Anheuser Busch Brewing Association changed its name to Anheuser Busch Inc. and began producing everything it could to keep its workers employed, from malt beverages and refrigerator boxes to baker's yeast. The same was not true for the Lemp Brewing Company. William J Lemp Jr. made no effort to keep his factories open during prohibition. Workers arrived to find the production plant locked, with no warning or explanation. In 1920, Lemp sold the Falstaff name and logo rights to Joe Griesedieck, who would rebrand his beverage company as Falstaff Corporation. The Lemp Brewing Company would sell off the rest of its assets by 1922, and would not reemerge when Prohibition was repealed.

On March 22, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt allowed brewers to begin production of beer (albeit at a 3.2% alcohol content) in the United States once again. The end of Prohibition officially began at midnight on April 7, 1933, known as "New Beer's Eve." Anheuser-Busch and the rebranded Falstaff Brewing Corporation were the two remaining breweries still open in the city. The day before Prohibition ended, Anheuser Busch obtained 804 permits for its dealers so that they could begin legally selling beer at midnight. According to the *St. Louis Star and Times*, on April 7, 1933, some thirty thousand people were in the streets outside the two breweries to ring in the new era of beer (Figure 3). Eberhard Anheuser immediately sent several cases of beer to FDR (Figure 4). The 18th amendment was officially repealed in December. By 1948, just over a century after German beer came to St. Louis, Anheuser Busch and Falstaff would be ranked fourth and fifth in the nation for beer production, and would continue to rise in the ranks over the next several decades.



Figure 4: Eberhard Anheuser hands off cases of beer to a pilot to be flown directly to President FDR. St. Louis Star and Times, April 7, 1933.

For more information

With these roots, it is no mystery why St. Louisians love their beer. From haunted beer tours of cemeteries to the lore of the Lemp mansion, and from celebrating Oktoberfest at the Anheuser Busch Biergarten to the resurgence of microbreweries around the area, beer is a part of the DNA of St. Louis. It helped to shape our history and will forever be a part of the city and those who live here. For more information about the history of beer in St. Louis, check out *St. Louis Brews: The History of Brewing in the Gateway City* by Henry Herbst (338.766 H538S). The St. Louis County Library has several circulating copies.

We also invite you to attend our upcoming event, **Beercember: A Celebration of St. Louis Brewing History**, Friday, December 9, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Daniel Boone Branch. Commemorate the anniversary of Prohibition ending with an evening of brewing history, live music, local experts and beer samples. Adults 21+, registration required at [slcl.org/events](https://www.slcl.org/events). Registration opens October 10.

SLCL



THROUGH THE DECADES

In celebration of the St. Louis County Library's 75th Anniversary, we are featuring highlights of the library's history "through the decades."

1970s-1990s

- The St. Louis County Library continued to grow and serve the community
 - A tax levy in 1973 allowed for the building of several new branches
 - On September 13, 1982, the library introduced an automated request and circulation system, complete with "bar codes" on library cards and books
 - By the mid 1980s, cards and drawers were disappearing, and the "card catalog" could be found on microfilm
 - OPAC, or the "online public access computer system" card catalog was installed in May, 1989
 - On June 1, 1996, SLCL joined the internet and patrons were able to surf the web on library computers
- Branches established:
 - Weber Road Branch 1972
 - Bridgeton Trails Branch 1973
 - Thornhill Branch 1976
 - Mid County Branch 1977
 - Grand Glaize Branch 1978
 - Cliff Cave Branch 1980
 - Meramec Valley Branch 1986
 - Oak Bend Branch 1986
 - Prairie Commons Branch 1986
 - Parkview Branch 1987
 - Eureka Hills Branch 1989
 - Jamestown Bluffs Branch 1998



Photos courtesy of the St. Louis County Library's Flickr account [flickr.com/photos/slclevents/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/slclevents/).

History & Genealogy services

The following H&G services are free and available to researchers who are unable to visit the library.

Lookup service

H&G can provide photocopies, prints, or digital scans of many library materials from indexed sources or when given a specific citation:

- Up to 30 pages from one book or one article from a journal issue. Staff can also photocopy or scan tables of contents and index pages.
- Microfilmed records—A list of microfilm available in the H&G collection can be viewed [online](https://bit.ly/3jrqw3j) <https://bit.ly/3jrqw3j>.
- Print outs from database records if patrons cannot access the database at home.
- Please use the [online lookup request form](https://bit.ly/2UQXJKE) <https://bit.ly/2UQXJKE> to submit requests.

*Some items may be temporarily unavailable due to construction

Print collection

More than 27,000 books in the collection can be checked out. The entire collection is included in the library's [online catalog](https://slouc.na2.iiivega.com/) <https://slouc.na2.iiivega.com/>. Books with call numbers that do not begin with "R" are available to check out. Patrons can request books online or by calling 314-994-3300.

*Some items may be temporarily unavailable due to construction

Research guidance

H&G staff members can provide research assistance by phone.

Book-a-Genealogist

Researchers encountering brick-walls or who would like assistance in developing a plan to achieve specific research goals can schedule a consultation with an H&G staff member. Requests can be made using the online [Book-a-Genealogist form](https://bit.ly/3fQbB0r) <https://bit.ly/3fQbB0r>.

Database access

Many library [databases](https://bit.ly/3hBmF3Y) <https://bit.ly/3hBmF3Y> can be used at home by St. Louis County Library card holders living in the metropolitan area. For more information, please contact the History & Genealogy Department at 314-994-3300 or genealogy@slcl.org.

This month in history

“The War of the Worlds” episode of the radio series, The Mercury Theatre on the Air, was performed and broadcast live at 8:00 pm ET on October 30, 1938. The episode is famous for panicking its listeners, who thought that a “Martian invasion” was taking place.

The episode took the format of a typical evening radio program that was interrupted by “news bulletins.” The news bulletins described a deadly alien invasion, beginning with a report of an unknown object falling out of the sky on a farm in Grovers Mill, New Jersey.



Orson Welles starred in and produced the episode, based on the 1898 novel of the same name by H.G. Wells.

It is thought that perhaps some of the audience was listening to another program and tuned into The War of the Worlds during a break, therefore missing the introduction that it was a work of fiction.

Many were outraged, calling for more regulation by the FCC on deceptive radio programming. No punitive action was ever taken, and Welles apologized at a news conference the following day.



Classes & Programs

The following History & Genealogy classes and programs are offered for 2022:

Beginning Genealogical Research

Monday, October 10, 6:30 pm, Daniel Boone Branch

If you have little or no research experience, this is the class for you. Learn about the genealogical research process, the many resources available through History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library and how to get started. Adults. Registration required.

Exploring Ancestry Library Edition

Wednesday, November 16, 6:30 pm, Daniel Boone Branch

The Ancestry Library Edition database is a powerful tool for genealogical research. Find out how to search it and take advantage of its many records. Adults. Registration required.

DIY Family History Gifts

Tuesday, November 29, 10-11:30 am, Thornhill Branch

Monday, December 5, 6:30-8:00 pm, Meramec Valley Branch

As the family historian, how can you share your research with the rest of your family? Explore some easy DIY projects that make great gifts. Adults. Registration required.

Capturing Family Stories with Oral History

See pages 8 & 12 for more information.

Beercenter: A Celebration of STL Brewing History

Friday, December 9, 6:00-9:00 pm, Daniel Boone Branch

Commemorate the anniversary of Prohibition ending with an evening of brewing history, live music, local experts and beer samples. Adults 21+. Registration required. More information to follow.

Register at slcl.org/events.

SLCL LANGUAGE CLASS

Many of our readers have German ancestry. If you have ever wanted to learn German to help decipher genealogy documents or letters, check out the following SLCL offering:

Language Learning: German

October 21, 2:00-3:00 pm, Cliff Cave Branch

Using library resources, explore how you can begin learning German. Come learn about our eCourses, audio guides, databases and more that will help you on the road to language proficiency. Viel Glück! Adults and teens. Registration required. There are 75 spaces available for this event.

Register at slcl.org/events.

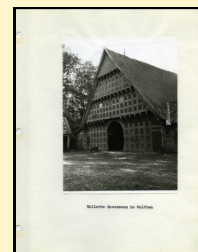
FARM HISTORIES

Have German ancestors from the Osnabrück area? The Columbus, Ohio Metropolitan Library holds the following collection:

“This is a collection of farm histories (hofgeschichten) compiled from original documents about farms and families in the Bersenbrück district (Osnabrück area), Hannover (now Niedersachsen) Germany. Included is genealogical information about the families who oftentimes took on the name of the farm as their surname. In some cases there are photographs of people and buildings, many of which were taken during the 1960s. This collection is part of the Palatines to America Society (German) Genealogy collection at Columbus Metropolitan Library.”

Browse these farm histories at:

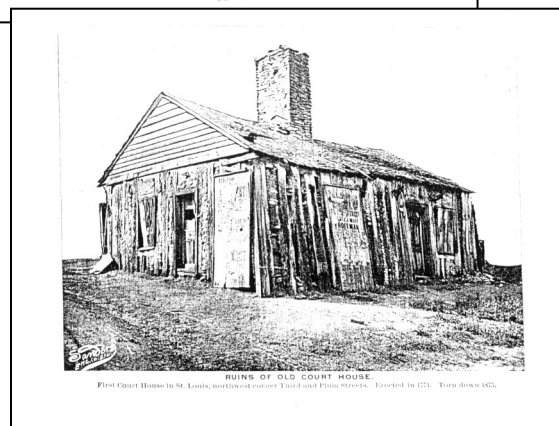
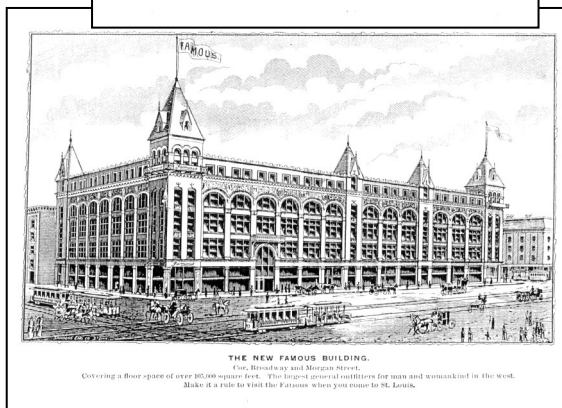
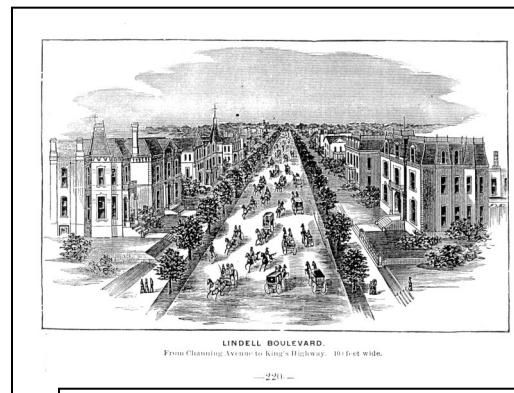
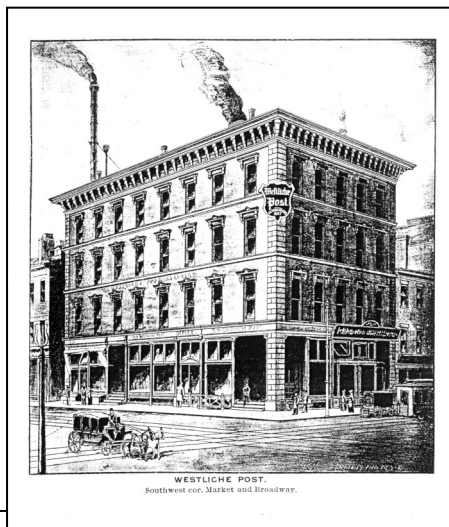
digital-collections.columbuslibrary.org/digital/collection/p16802coll9



Shelf Life

SAMPLINGS FROM THE PRINT COLLECTION

Want to know more about what prominent St. Louis buildings looked like? Check out “*Shewey’s Pictorial St. Louis: Past and Present: A Sketch of St. Louis, It’s History, Resources, Chronological Events, Tables of Information and Points of Interest*” (R 977.866 S554). This book contains sketches and photos of early St. Louis buildings, as well as a list of buildings in the city at the time it was published in 1892. This book can be found at History & Genealogy at the Daniel Boone Branch.





The 43rd St. Louis Storytelling Festival will take place from October 13-22, 2022. St. Louis County Library is the new home for the festival, which will be held at a wide variety of venues through the St. Louis region. See slcl.org/events/st-louis-storytelling-festival for more information.

As a part of this festival, History & Genealogy is presenting the following program:

Capturing Family Stories with Oral History

October 18, 10:00-11:00 am, Mid-County Branch

October 19, 7:00-8:00 pm, Daniel Boone Branch

October 20, 6:30-7:30 pm, Oak Bend Branch

October 21, 10:00-11:00 am, Natural Bridge Branch

October 21, 2:00-3:00 pm, Grant's View Branch

November 8, 10:00-11:00 am, Virtual

Discover tips, tools and techniques for recording your family's oral history. Part of the St. Louis Storytelling Festival. Adults. Registration required.

Register at slcl.org/events.

SLCL HISTORY PROGRAMS

The St. Louis County Library's Department of Adult Services is presenting the following history programs:

German Heritage of Missouri

Various times and locations

From St. Louis to Indian Grove, German immigrants have played a significant role in the settling of Missouri. Come explore the history of the German Heritage corridor, and how the settling of sixteen counties affected the growth, food, and industry of the area. Adults. Registration required. There are 30 spaces available for this event.

Virtual Program: Ulysses S. Grant: Myths, Stories, and Realities

October 5, 10:00-11:00 am, Virtual

Presented by the National Park Service. Ulysses S. Grant's legacy has been marked by claims of poor generalship, a corrupt presidency, and excessive drinking; this program gets to the bottom of these claims to distinguish fact from fiction. Adults. Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering. A recording of this virtual program will be available on the SLCL Youtube page within three business days.

Remember When

October 5, 2:00-3:00 pm, Florissant Valley Branch

The Florissant Valley Fire Protection District will be at the branch to talk about the history of the district. There are 25 spaces available for this event.

Urban Legends of Missouri

Various times and locations

From the Spooklight to the legend of Momo, Missouri's history is rich with tall-tales and urban legends. Join us as we explore the urban legends and stories that have lingered for decades and decide for yourself whether they are fact or fiction.

Insert Coin: A History of Video Games, Part 1

October 6, 7:00-8:00 pm, Meramec Valley Branch

Presented by the Reference Department. The first of a four part series, "Insert Coin" examines the early days of arcade games, featuring Atari, Space Invaders and the Japanese arcade invasion. Adults and teens. Registration required.

Haunted History of St. Louis

October 7, 2:00-3:00 pm, Cliff Cave Branch

October 26, 6:00-7:00 pm, Parkview Branch

Whether you are a believer in the supernatural or not, everyone can enjoy this thoroughly entertaining dive into the hauntings of the St. Louis area. From the Lemp mansion to the "real" story of the exorcist, you will leave this program with a few more chilling tales for your friends and family. Adults and teens.

Boos and Booze

Various times and locations

Presented by Monster Paranormal Learn about the history and hauntings of infamous St. Louis Beer Barons. Registration recommended. Meeting Room 1. There are 75 spaces available for this event.

Pac-Man Fever: A History of Arcade Games, Part II

October 20, 6:00-7:00 pm, Grand Glaize Branch

October 26, 2:00-3:00, Thornhill Branch

If you've ever had a pocket full of quarters and headed to the arcade, or wish you did, then the second of the four part series, "Pac-Man Fever," is the program for you. Join us as we continue the look back at the golden age of arcades. For every part of the series attended get entered into a raffle for a prize! Adults and teens. Registration required.

Lemp Family History & Ghosts

Various times and locations

Presented by Monster Paranormal. An in-depth look into the tragic history and hauntings of one of the most famous St. Louis families. Adults. Registration recommended. There are 75 spaces available for this event.

Continued on page 10.

SLCL HISTORY PROGRAMS

Death Rituals

October 20, 6:00 -8:00 pm, Bridgeton Trails Branch

October 27, 6:00-8:00 pm, Rock Road Branch

Throughout history different civilizations have developed their own specific practices and rituals around death preparation and funerals. For those fascinated by varied cultural traditions, this program offers a view of how death, mourning and ceremony is experienced around the world. Adults and teens. Registration required. There are 40 spaces available for this event.

Ed Wheatley: "St. Louis Sports Memories"

October 27, 7:00-8:00 pm, Grant's View Branch

Award-winning local author Ed Wheatley brings his die-hard fan's perspective to St. Louis and its sports legacy. Root for the home teams and for the bygone heroes in this town that boasts one of the greatest histories in the annals of sports. In "St. Louis Sports Memories", you can relive the highlights and championships-some of which played out against a backdrop of social upheaval that have characterized St. Louis's sports scene for more than a century.

See slcl.org/events for more information and to register.

PastPorts is published by History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library

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

Contact us:

History & Genealogy
St. Louis County Library
Temporary Location–Daniel Boone Branch
300 Clarkson Rd.
Ellisville, MO 63011

314-994-3300
genealogy@slcl.org
www.slcl.org/genealogy

STLGS Events

STLGS Fall Speaker Series

"New Approaches to Old Problems"

Featuring D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, FUGA

Saturday, October 1

Maryland Heights Community Center

2300 McKelvey Rd.

Maryland Heights, Missouri 63043

Lecture 1: Bridging the Gap: Finding Ancestors in the United States Between 1780 and 1840

Lecture 2: My New England Research is Done . . . Or Is It?

Lecture 3: Having No Children: Tracing Relatives with No Known Descendants

Lecture 4: On and Off the Net: Locality Searching

Monthly Meeting: Finding Friends: Researching Your Quaker Ancestors

Saturday, October 8, 10:00 am, Hybrid

Speaker: Jacob Eubanks, Assistant Manager History & Genealogy at the St. Louis County Library

Quakers were one of the earliest religious groups to settle in the U.S, and their records are among the most detailed denominational records found in the genealogical world.

Learn how to find your "friends." This meeting will be held at the Thornhill branch of St. Louis County Library.

Irish SIG Meeting: Placing an Irish Ancestor into STLGS's First Families

Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 pm, Webinar

Speakers: Viki Fagyal & Kay Weber

You can honor your early ancestors by enrolling them in a lineage society with knowledge of the process. Follow the story of Bernard/Barney/Brian King from Ireland to St. Louis prior to the Civil War.

Visit stlgs.org for more information.

SPOTLIGHT ON



RELATIONSHIPS

Determining relationships in a family tree can be a daunting task. Luckily, there is some great information out there to help. The key is identifying the relationship of each individual to their common ancestor. To do this, use your tree or simply sketch out each relationship. The National Genealogical Society's "Family Relationship Chart" below can then help you from there. If you are still a little confused, try a calculator. This one at the "Genealogy Explained" website allows you to enter the relationships of two people to a common ancestor and calculates the relationship for you: genealogyexplained.com/basics/cousin-calculator/. Happy relating!



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

Family Relationship Chart

To find the relationship between two people, first determine the common ancestor you share and your relationship to the common ancestor: grandchild, great grandchild, etc. Pencil in the common ancestor's name, if it helps.

- Choose Person #1's relationship to that ancestor from the top row of boxes, e.g. "child."
- Choose Person #2's relationship to that ancestor from the left column of boxes, e.g. "grandchild."
- The box where the two intersect identifies the relationship between the two people in this case: Niece/Nephew.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Common Ancestor	Child	Grandchild	Great Grandchild	Great-Great Grandchild	G-G-Great Grandchild	4th Great Grandchild
1 Child	Sister/Brother	Niece/Nephew	Grandniece/Grandnephew	G-Grandniece/G-Grandnephew	G-G-Grandniece/G-G-Grandnephew	G-G-G-Grandniece/G-G-G-Grandnephew
2 Grandchild	Niece/Nephew	1st Cousin	1st Cousin Once Removed	1st Cousin Twice Removed	1st Cousin Three Times Removed	1st Cousin Four Times Removed
3 Great Grandchild	Grandniece/Grandnephew	1st Cousin Once Removed	2nd Cousin	2nd Cousin Once Removed	2nd Cousin Twice Removed	2nd Cousin Three Times Removed
4 Great-Great Grandchild	G-Grandniece/G-Grandnephew	1st Cousin Twice Removed	2nd Cousin Once Removed	3rd Cousin	3rd Cousin Once Removed	3rd Cousin Twice Removed
5 G-G-Great Grandchild	G-G-Grandniece/G-G-Grandnephew	1st Cousin Three Times Removed	2nd Cousin Twice Removed	3rd Cousin Once Removed	4th Cousin	4th Cousin Once Removed
6 G-G-G-Great Grandchild	G-G-G-Grandniece/G-G-G-Grandnephew	1st Cousin Four Times Removed	2nd Cousin Three Times Removed	3rd Cousin Twice Removed	4th Cousin Once Removed	5th Cousin

National Genealogical Society | 6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 810 | Falls Church, VA 22042-2318 | ngsgenealogy.org
 © 2018 National Genealogical Society. For personal use only. Cannot be reproduced for commercial purposes.

Capturing Family Stories with Oral History

Discover tips, tools and techniques
for recording your family's oral history.

Adults. Registration required.

Pick up a flyer for a complete schedule
of events or visit www.slcl.org/events.

St. Louis
STORYTELLING
Festival



St. Louis County **Library**

Program sites are accessible. With at least two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit www.slcl.org.

