



Figure 1: Portrait of Charles Gratiot, an early St. Louis landholder. Courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society.

## FOR THE RECORDS

### Finding and Using St. Louis French and Spanish Land Records

If one looks at maps of the St. Louis area, you will see the familiar grid system of the U.S. Public Land Survey System, which was created by the Land Ordinance of 1785 to survey land ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Paris in 1783 following the end of the American Revolution. You will also see parcels of land that do not follow the confines of the grids and vary in size, shape, and orientation. These represent surveys of land that were issued during the period of the French or Spanish occupation of the territory. They were surveyed using the metes and bounds system, which employed natural landmarks like rivers, trees, and marked stones to form their boundaries. Written within the survey's boundaries will be a number which is key to researching it. A researcher with ancestors in the St. Louis region prior to 1803 is highly recommended to investigate land records from the French and Spanish eras to see if a relative received a land grant.

The French method of parceling out land was very informal in the 18th century. Land was not considered valuable unless improvements were made upon it, and it was offered more as an inducement to draw settlers rather than to generate a profit. Initially, the grants were issued verbally by representatives of the French government, but by April of 1766, Louis St. Ange de Bellerive began recording them in books called the *Livres Terriens*. These grants or concessions, as they were also known, were measured in arpents, a measurement equivalent to .85 of an acre. He continued until 1770, when the territory was taken over by the Spanish and Pedro Piernas was appointed lieutenant governor. Piernas agreed to accept the grants made by his predecessor.

Under the Spanish, the grant process was formalized. An applicant applied for permission to settle, stated his allegiance to the king of Spain, and acknowledged an acceptance of the Catholic religion. The applicant could specify the tract of land desired and even request for land to be set aside for a future date. If granted, a survey was ordered and entered into a register when completed. Finally, the application would be sent to New Orleans, where it would be approved by the

Governor General of Louisiana. The first surveyor appointed by Piernas was Martin Duralde. Prior to that, most property had not been surveyed under French rule. In 1795, Antoine Soulard was appointed as the first surveyor general for the area, and systematic surveying began. These surveys were recorded in his *Registre d'Arpentage*. It is thought that he surveyed only those claims that had been filed and recorded, therefore, many parcels had still not been surveyed. In the disputes and confusion that arose after the United States took possession of the Louisiana Territory. In 1800, the territory was then retroceded from Spain to France.

You may also have an interest in the French & Spanish Land Grants if you own property. Early St. Louis maps are dotted with surveys originating from these grants. You can start by looking at atlases of the area. A good first step would be to consult the *Atlas of the City and County of St. Louis by Congressional Townships: Showing All the Surveys of the Public Lands, and of the Confirmed French and Spanish Grants, New Madrid Locations, and Entries of Public Lands, up to the 1st day of January, 1838 ...* by E. Dupré. It is commonly referred to as Dupré's Atlas. Begin by locating the township and range of your property on the first page. The maps are grouped by range number. The page immediately following the map will contain a list of claimants of confirmed French and Spanish land grant claims as well as New Madrid claims and Public Lands claims.

Armed with the claimant's name, you may then consult the *Index to French and Spanish Land Grants Recorded in Registers of Land Titles in Missouri, Books A, B, C, D, E.* by Betty Williams. The name along with the book and page numbers are listed and from this, you are then able to pull the applicable microfilm from the set *Record of Land Titles in Missouri, French and Spanish Land Grants*.

As an example, Charles Gratiot, an early Swiss immigrant of French Huguenot heritage, can be found in multiple entries in the above index. (Figure 1) He acquired a "league grant", a large tract of land with measurements being equal to a league (a land league is equivalent to about 3 miles), or 84 arpents square from then Lieutenant Governor Francisco Cruzat on February 14, 1785. It was recorded in Book A starting on page 536 of the French and Spanish Land Grants. (Figure 2) It shows Gratiot's petition on February 12th and followed by the concession from Cruzat. The property was later surveyed by Antoine Soulard in May of 1796 and then formally approved by the Governor General of Louisiana, Manuel Gayoso de Lemos, thereby fulfilling all of the requirements of the Spanish land grant process.

The land that is covered by this grant is familiar to most St. Louisans. Traversed by the River des Peres, it ranges from Kingshighway to the east and Big Bend on the west, and is then bordered by Bancroft Avenue on the south, while its northern border bisects Forest Park with a little over half of the park falling within the survey. (Figure 3)

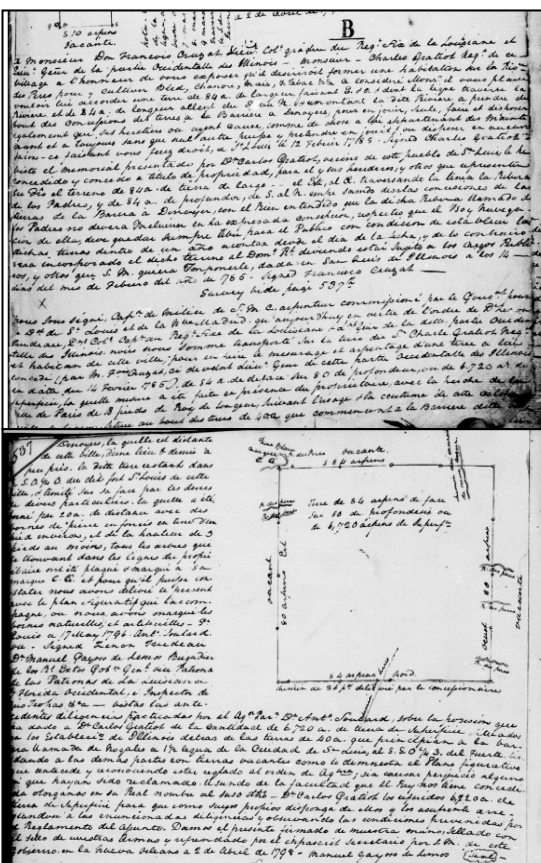
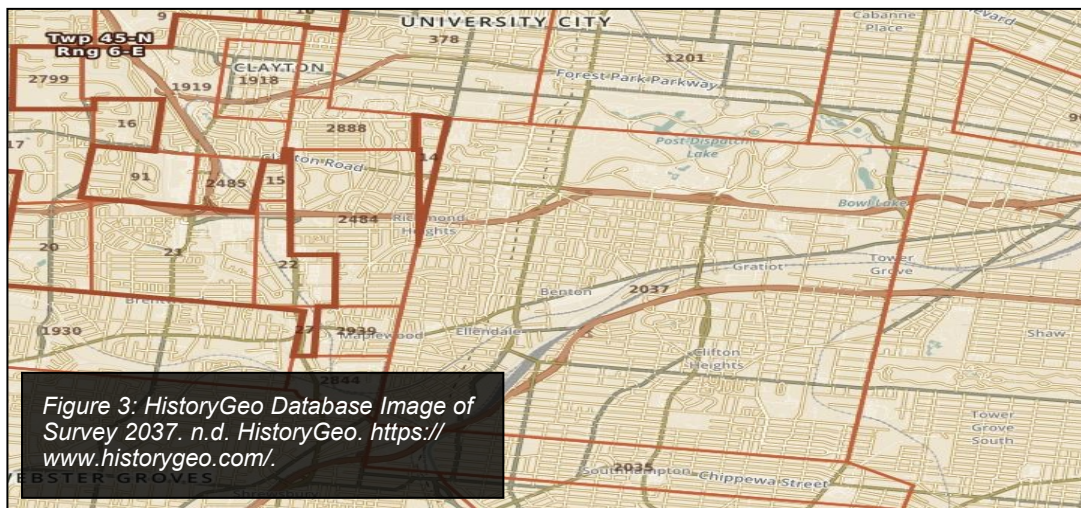


Figure 2: Book A, Page 536 of the French and Spanish Land Grants, showing Gratiot's league grant.





Though this grant fulfilled all of the requirements for a recognized Spanish land grant, the majority did not. Some claimants only took the first steps of the process but did not complete all of the necessary bureaucratic tasks that would have set them up for clear title under the United States government. They may have had nothing in writing and could only rely on the testimony of neighbors to confirm their claims. Additional complications arose because the territory was transferred from France to Spain, then back to France again and then ultimately, to the United States. Spain asked that all concessions be recognized, whether complete or not, when it returned the territory to France. With the purchase by the United States, land that previously had little value under the two previous regimes, now became a means to raise money for the government. Speculators poured into the territory and bought land from landowners who may have been ignorant of the transfer in government and therefore, had no idea of the land's increased value. Abandoned land was claimed by unscrupulous newcomers and it was believed that Zénon Trudeau, former Lieutenant Governor of the area signed blank sheets of paper to facilitate fraudulent claims to the land. Antoine Soulard, Surveyor General of the territory, was suspected of altering plats by his successor Silas Bent who described Soulard's work as "chaotic". All of this turmoil set the stage for legal proceedings to test the legitimacy of the claims for decades to follow.

To unravel these claims and establish which concessions were legitimate, Congress passed a series of acts, all with the goal of sifting through claims and recognizing those that were acquired in good faith. In 1805, an "Act for ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to land within the Territory of Orleans and the district of Louisiana" was signed into law by President Jefferson and allowed him to appoint the First Board of Land Commissioners. With this act, claims from the French and Spanish governments issued before October 1, 1800, and those that had been settled according to Spanish law prior to December 20, 1803 would be recognized. Claimants were required to present notices in writing describing the property and include a plat. The board was empowered to call witnesses and administer oaths and then proceed with their judgments. It was under a great deal of pressure to be generous with their confirmations, particularly to the bona fide settler claiming smaller tracts. Interestingly, Charles Gratiot served as a clerk on the board and was noted for being sympathetic to his fellow claimants.

With concern about the liberality of the first board, William C. Carr was appointed to look after the government's interests and report his findings to Thomas Jefferson. One of the board members was replaced by Frederick Bates and Gratiot was dismissed in 1807. Bates was far more conservative in his determinations which provoked great resentment amongst the claimants.

The first certificate of confirmation was issued December 8, 1808, three years after the board first met. On January 24, 1812 the board closed down and Clement Penrose, who had served on the board, brought a report along with a registry and other documents to Washington. A majority of the claims had been denied which furthered discontent. Those who were rejected could appeal to Congress as recourse. Daniel Boone was one such claimant. He had a claim to 1000 arpents in St. Charles but it was rejected because he had not followed the conditions of the claim obligating him to reside and make improvements within a year and a day of acquiring the concession. Congress finally confirmed his claim in 1814.

Another board convened under Frederick Bates in 1812 and work began again. Congress had passed several more acts amending the requirements and the board completed its work in 1816. Though more confirmations were made, there were still many left that had been rejected. In 1824, provision was made for claimants to take their cases to a district court to be heard. Not many availed themselves of this option, likely due to lack of funds and distrust of the process. By 1828, only three decisions had been handed down. Two of those cases were appealed to the Supreme Court while any remaining cases were withdrawn.

In 1832, Congress again created a new board of land commissioners to examine rejected claims made before March 10, 1804. This second board submitted reports in 1833, 1834, and 1835. Those that received a favorable disposition were confirmed in 1836 by yet another congressional act. Any that had not been approved had the right to appeal in a court of justice. Additionally, there were 700 claims that had never been examined, and which the board recommended that Congress continue to work to resolve. In 1860 and 1867 more congressional acts were passed that were to provide for a final disposition of the properties in question.

Luckily, for Charles Gratiot, his league grant had followed all of the requirements in a textbook fashion. He had several others that did not and were rejected, at least initially. This large grant was confirmed in 1808. His confirmation is indexed in the *Index to the Minutes of the First and Second Board of Land Commissioners, Missouri, 1805–1812, 1832–1835* and can be found in Book 3, page 362 of the *Land Commissioners Minutes* viewable on microfilm. (Figure 4)

Another source for verifying if a claim was approved is the *Index to Private Land Claims, Missouri, 1812-1867*. This index consists of a series of exhibits produced for a final report by the Surveyor General of Missouri and Illinois upon the closure of its office in 1867. These exhibits index records from the various land commissioners boards, New Madrid Claims and confirmations by courts or congressional acts. In the case of Charles Gratiot, survey no. 2037 appears in Exhibit I, Grants made and approved before the change of Government. (Figure 5)

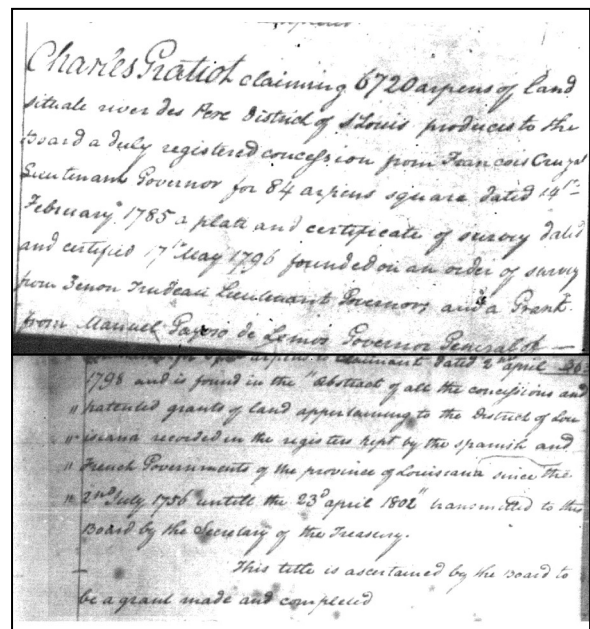


Figure 4: Gratiot's confirmation of land in Book 3, Page 362 of the *Land Commissioner's Minutes*.

Once the property was finally confirmed, it would be surveyed and assigned a number. Charles Gratiot's survey no. 2037 can be viewed on the microfilm, *Individual Private Land Surveys*. Surveys are in numerical order, though there are



many that are missing and were not filmed. In addition to a drawing of the concession's boundaries, there is a written legal description in the surveyor's hand. Earlier, under the Spanish government, his property was also recorded in the *Registre d'Arpentage* on page 149. Antoine Soulard performed the survey in his role as Surveyor General. (Figure 6)

Other sources for information about land transactions that may have occurred prior to the American government's takeover are the *St. Louis Archives* and the *American State Papers*. The *St. Louis Archives* collection contains marriages, wills, deeds and other legal instruments and could potentially include information about property that was granted and then later transferred to another party. It is indexed in O.W. Collet's *General Index to the St. Louis County Archives*. The *American State Papers*, Volumes 2 and 3, have details on those whose claims were accepted as well as those that were rejected. Volumes 6–8, *American State Papers*, *Public Lands* contain the reports of the Second Board of Land Commissioners providing lists of evidence and documents submitted by claimants.

For real estate transfers occurring in 1804 or later, one would refer to Collet's *Index to Instruments Affecting Real Estate Recorded in the Office of Recorder of Deeds: In the County of St. Louis, Mo.; Grantees and Grantors*. The index points to deeds that will enable you to construct the chain of ownership of a property, however, each time a large lot is subdivided, it can become more difficult

to trace. If you are researching a present day address, it will be most effective to begin with current information and work backwards. After the transfer to the United States, the American government also began issuing land patents to settlers. Subsequent transactions to those patents will appear in the deed records for St. Louis.

In the course of St. Louis' development, the French and Spanish Land Grants played an integral part in shaping the region's real estate. They provide unique insight into the customs of their time and the difficulty a young nation had arbitrating between the competing interests of old and new settlers as well as its own. The names of these original settlers still linger in their neighborhood and street namesakes as a remnant of their former presence.

For more information and the resources mentioned in this article, see the guide, "Land Records Relating to French and Spanish Claims in Missouri, Especially St. Louis County," on pages 15–25.

Grant Number	Name of the Grantee or Claimant	Name of the Claim	Reference to the Record	Number of Acres
1	Charles Gratiot	Grant of survey by the Governor General of Louisiana, 1764, to Charles Gratiot, Esq., of the Province of Louisiana, for a tract of land situated in the Parish of St. Charles, containing 1000 acres, more or less, bounded by the River St. Charles on the north, the Parish of St. Charles on the east, the Parish of St. Charles on the south, and the Parish of St. Charles on the west.	Act of the Governor General of Louisiana, 1764, in the Parish of St. Charles, Louisiana, 1764, p. 100.	1000
2	Charles Gratiot	Grant of survey by the Governor General of Louisiana, 1764, to Charles Gratiot, Esq., of the Province of Louisiana, for a tract of land situated in the Parish of St. Charles, containing 1000 acres, more or less, bounded by the River St. Charles on the north, the Parish of St. Charles on the east, the Parish of St. Charles on the south, and the Parish of St. Charles on the west.	Act of the Governor General of Louisiana, 1764, in the Parish of St. Charles, Louisiana, 1764, p. 100.	1000
3	Charles Gratiot	Grant of survey by the Governor General of Louisiana, 1764, to Charles Gratiot, Esq., of the Province of Louisiana, for a tract of land situated in the Parish of St. Charles, containing 1000 acres, more or less, bounded by the River St. Charles on the north, the Parish of St. Charles on the east, the Parish of St. Charles on the south, and the Parish of St. Charles on the west.	Act of the Governor General of Louisiana, 1764, in the Parish of St. Charles, Louisiana, 1764, p. 100.	1000
4	Joseph Desha	Grant of survey by the Governor General of Louisiana, 1764, to Joseph Desha, Esq., of the Province of Louisiana, for a tract of land situated in the Parish of St. Charles, containing 1000 acres, more or less, bounded by the River St. Charles on the north, the Parish of St. Charles on the east, the Parish of St. Charles on the south, and the Parish of St. Charles on the west.	Act of the Governor General of Louisiana, 1764, in the Parish of St. Charles, Louisiana, 1764, p. 100.	1000
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Figure 5: Grants of land by the Governor General of Louisiana, Exhibit I, Claim no 3.

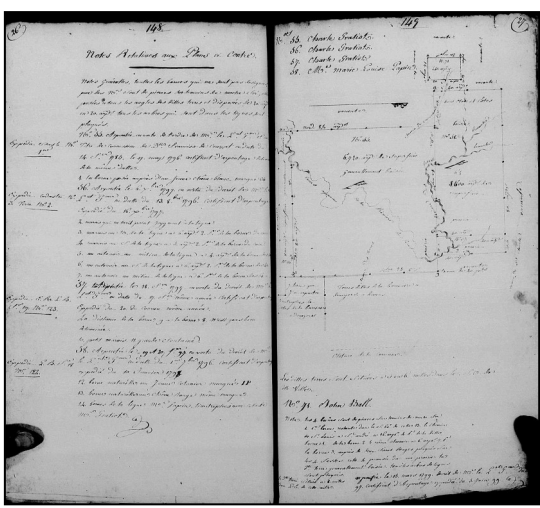


Figure 6: Gratiot's survey in the Registre d'Arpentage.

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.”

### 2000s-2020s

- In addition to traditional library services, The St. Louis County Library continues to serve the community with programs like Born to Read, after-school meals, fitness challenges, community gardens, virtual programming, GrandPads and more
- SLCL grew to its current size of 20 branch libraries with locations in all parts of the county
- The 2012 “Your Library Renewed” campaign funded refurbishments at all branches
- SLCL was awarded the 2022 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries

Branches established:

Samuel C. Sachs Branch, 2002

Grant’s View Branch, 2015 (replaced Tesson Ferry Branch)

Lynn Beckwith, Jr. Administrative Building, 2022

Clark Family Branch, anticipated late 2023 (replacing Headquarters)



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

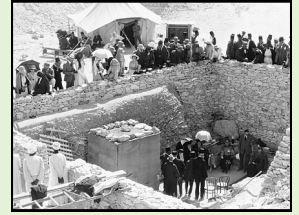
Researchers encountering brick-walls or who would like assistance in developing a plan to achieve specific research goals can schedule a consultation with an H&G staff member. Requests can be made using the online [Book-a-Genealogist form](https://bit.ly/3fQbB0r) <<https://bit.ly/3fQbB0r>>.

### 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](mailto:genealogy@slcl.org).

## This month in history

On November 4, 1922 Egyptologist Howard Carter and his team stumbled upon steps hidden by debris in the "Valley of Kings" near Luxor, Egypt. They had discovered the long sought-after tomb of young Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun. The inner chambers of the tomb were seen for the first time on November 26, 1922.



Inside, Carter and his partner George Herbert, Fifth Earl of Carnarvon, would find thousands of intact artifacts, including the solid gold sarcophagus containing the mummified body of King Tut. This discovery would lead to worldwide media attention and spurred Egyptian-influenced trends in the western world.



## NEW ANCESTRY RECORDS

Do you have French ancestors? Ancestry Library Edition has added the following new records:

- Gard, France, Censuses, 1836-1921 (in French), 3,261,016 records
- Indre, France, Censuses, 1836-1921 (in French), 3,339,038 records
- Aube, France, Censuses, 1836-1921 (in French), 3,607,718 records
- Tarn-et-Garonne, France, Censuses, 1870-1911 (in French), 1,387,904 records
- Haute-Saône, France, Censuses, 1836-1921 (in French), 2,810,145 records
- Somme, France, Censuses, 1816-1921 (in French), 3,745,306 records

Ancestry Library Edition can be accessed at any St. Louis County Library branch.



# Classes & Programs

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

## Exploring Ancestry Library Edition

Wednesday, November 16, 6:30 pm, Daniel Boone Branch  
Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 pm, Virtual

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, 10:00 am, Thornhill Branch  
Monday, December 5, 6:30 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.

## Exploring FamilySearch.org

Wednesday, November 30, 6:30 pm, Virtual

Virtual program. FamilySearch.org is a free website offering access to millions of records for genealogy and family history research. Learn to navigate image collections, search the FamilySearch catalog, and use advanced search features to tap into hard-to-find records. Adults. Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email.

## Beerember: A Celebration of STL Brewing History

Friday, December 9, 6:00 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.

## Genealogy in Newspapers

Monday, December 12, 6:30 pm, Daniel Boone Branch

Newspapers are excellent sources of genealogical and historical information, and digitization has made them more widely available. Explore the information you can find in newspapers and how to access our most popular databases. Adults. Registration required.

Register at [slcl.org/events](https://slcl.org/events).

Recordings of our most popular classes can be found at [slcl.org/genealogy/virtual-classroom](https://slcl.org/genealogy/virtual-classroom).

# STLGS Events

## Monthly Meeting: Families of Florissant

Saturday, November 12, 10:00 am, Hybrid

Speaker: Andrew Theising

Discover some of the families that lived in Florissant with special connections to local and sometimes national history. This meeting will take place at the Thornhill branch of St. Louis County Library. Directions to the library and registration for the Zoom part of this meeting will be available soon on the Monthly Meeting page.

Visit [stlgs.org](https://stlgs.org) for more information.



**DIY  
FAMILY  
HISTORY  
GIFTS**

Thornhill  
**Tuesday, November 29, 10:00 a.m.**

Meramec Valley  
**Monday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.**

As the family historian, how can you share your findings with the rest of your family? Learn about some easy DIY projects that make great gifts.

**Adults. Registration required.**



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](http://www.slcl.org).



## TECH TALK

Do you use Excel spreadsheets to organize your genealogy? Want to learn about a similar product, Google Sheets? Check out the following SLCL offering:

### Google Sheets

November 10, 2:00-4:00 pm, Mid-County Branch

November 28, 2:00-4:00 pm, Rock Road Branch

Create and edit spreadsheets using Google Sheets, a feature of Google Drive. Basic formulas and functions will also be covered. Registration required.

See [slcl.org/events](https://slcl.org/events) for more technology classes and to register.

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All SLCL locations will close at 5:00 pm on Thursday, November 17 for a special 75th Anniversary event. See [slcl.org/content/rock-out-slcl](https://slcl.org/content/rock-out-slcl) for more information.

All SLCL locations will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

Current and past issues can be downloaded from the web at [slcl.org/pastports](https://slcl.org/pastports).

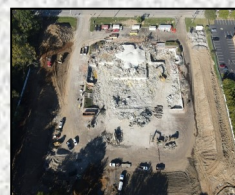
### Contact us:

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

314-994-3300  
[genealogy@slcl.org](mailto:genealogy@slcl.org)  
[www.slcl.org/genealogy](http://www.slcl.org/genealogy)

## DEATH NOTICE

**St. Louis County Library Headquarters**  
January 11, 1960–September 30, 2022. Beloved administration building and library at 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. Former Home to the History & Genealogy Department. Survived by several other branches. Day respects at the new Clark Family Branch, late 2023.



## DID YOU KNOW



Did you know that the reconstruction of the oldest surviving one-room African American schoolhouse in the state is happening right now? African School No. 4 in the former Chesterfield School District, dating back to 1894, was located on private property near Wildhorse Creek Rd. The St. Louis County Parks Department Foundation is covering the cost to dismantle, move and rebuild the historic school. Its new home will be Faust Park's Historic Village in Chesterfield, where it joins other historic buildings. Completion is possible by the end of the year. For more information about visiting Faust Park, see [stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/parks/places/faust-park/](https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/parks/places/faust-park/).







## PASSPORTS REWIND

Obituaries are great genealogy records. In April, 2011, PastPorts contained an article titled, “Obituaries in St. Louis: a comparison.” In this piece, obituaries were studied, comparing dates, papers and frequency. The papers used were the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Globe Democrat, St. Louis Republic, St. Louis Star (and Times) and the Westliche Post. Most of these papers for the period of the comparison, 1875-1925, can be found on newspapers.com. SLCL patrons can access newspapers.com from home with a library card.

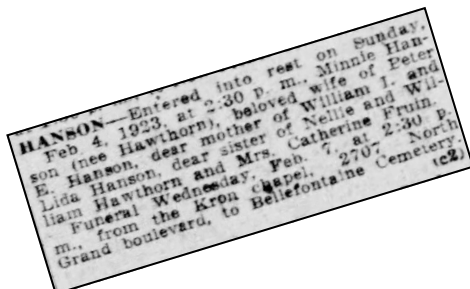
Here is a summary of the findings:

- It is important to search all available newspapers for an obituary.
- Over time, newspapers published more obituaries.
- In many instances, a person listed with only a burial permit in the Post-Dispatch will have an obituary in another paper.
- Prior to 1910, a good strategy would be to search the Globe-Democrat first, then the Republic, and finally the Post-Dispatch. After 1910, the Post-Dispatch becomes a better option, but researchers should also search the Republic and the Star.

The article also included “Tips for Finding Obituaries:”

- Finding the Obituary Section—In the earliest years, newspapers tended to print the death notices on the first few pages. Over time, they moved further back in the paper. By the turn of the 20th century, they generally can be found on the first page of the classified section.
- Weekends and Holidays—A death occurring on a weekend or a Friday, holiday, or the day before a holiday often delayed publication of a notice. If a funeral parlor was not open, the family would need to wait to make the arrangements.
- Is it necessary to find an obituary in every paper?—Ultimately, this is a personal decision. Experience suggests that there is very little difference in the text of an obituary between newspapers, especially in later years. The most common difference seems to be an evening paper referring to a funeral “tomorrow,” while the next day the morning paper will say it is “today.”
- “Indianapolis, Ind. Papers Please Copy”—This type of statement was common in death notices up through the 1930s. It was a way to notify family members in another city about the death. For family history researchers, it is a clue where else to look for family connections.
- Obituaries in German Language Newspapers—Many of the obituaries printed in the Westliche Post also appear in one or more of the English-language newspapers around the same time they appeared in the German-language paper. If the quality of your German obituary leaves little to be desired, consider looking for a notice in the English newspapers.

The article in its entirety can be found at [www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/04-2011.pdf](http://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/04-2011.pdf).



## SLCL HISTORY PROGRAMS

The St. Louis County Library's Department of Adult Services, Reference Department, or Branch Libraries are presenting the following history programs:

### **Land Acknowledgment: Brief History of Indigenous Americans in Missouri**

Various times and locations

Before Missouri was a ratified state, there was an extensive history of Indian tribes and communities in the territory. Using library resources, we will delve into a brief history lesson of the tribes, conflict and treaties with the growing American government, and their removal from the Missouri territory. Adults.

### **History Past and Present St. Louis Before the Civil War, The Photography of Thomas Easterly**

November 10, 2:00-3:00 pm, Oak Bend Branch

Presented by Park Ranger Nick Sacco

Take a tour of St. Louis during the 1850s through the camera lens of Thomas Easterly, the city's most prominent photographer before the Civil War. Adults.

### **1960's Trivia Night**

November 10, 6:00-8:00 pm, Parkview Branch

Celebrate the revolutionary decade with trivia, music and snacks. Part of SLCL's 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Adults. Registration required.

### **Pac Man Fever: A History of Arcade Games Part II**

November 10, 7:00-8:00 pm, Meramec Valley Branch

Presented by the Reference Department

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.

### **Local History: North County**

November 15, 2:00-3:00 pm, Lewis & Clark Branch

Amanda Clark, Community Tours Manager, will bring The Missouri Historical Society's See STL tours to local branches to highlight lesser known local histories. Part of SLCL's 75th Anniversary celebration. Adults.

### **Beyond the Gates: Saints and Sinners at Bellefontaine Cemetery**

November 17, 6:00-7:30, Lewis & Clark Branch

Presented by Bellefontaine Cemetery

The era in which we live may impact the definition of a Saint or a Sinner. Learn how those laid to rest in Bellefontaine Cemetery may have been classified in their time and how we view their lives today. Adults.

### **Local History: West County**

November 22, 2:00-3:00 pm, Daniel Boone Branch

Amanda Clark, Community Tours Manager, will bring The Missouri Historical Society's See STL tours to local branches to highlight lesser known local histories. Part of SLCL's 75th Anniversary celebration. Adults. Registration required. Meeting Room 1.

### **Game Over: A History of Arcade Games, Part III**

November 30, 7:00-8:00, Daniel Boone Branch

If you've ever had a pocket full of quarters and headed to the arcade, or wish you did, then the third of the four part series is the program for you. Video arcades were a cultural phenomenon, until the video game crash of 1983. We'll talk about what happened and why all was not lost for the arcade game industry. For every part of the series attended get entered into a raffle for a prize! Adults and teens. Registration required.

See [slcl.org/events](https://slcl.org/events) for more information and to register.

# Check Out an Oral History Kit

Each Kit contains a portable recorder and lavalier mic, as well as a memory card and adapter. There's also a folder with instructions and resources for conducting oral history interviews from SLCL's History & Genealogy Department. Kits can be checked out for 3 weeks with a valid St. Louis County Library card.



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](http://www.slcl.org).







**BeerCember: A Celebration of STL Brewing History**

Friday, December 9, 6:00 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.

# Land Records Relating to French and Spanish Claims in Missouri, Especially St. Louis County

## ATLASES AND MAPS — ST. LOUIS

### Alpha Order

*Atlas of St. Louis County*. 5 volumes. St. Louis Plat and Record Co., 1909. [Call no. R 912 A8812 (oversized)]

Plat map showing ownership of property in St. Louis County circa 1909.

*Atlas of the City and County of St. Louis, by Congressional Townships: showing All the Surveys of the Public Lands and of the Confirmed French and Spanish Grants, New Madrid Locations, and Entries of Public Lands up to the 1st Day of January, 1838: With the Names of the Original Claimants and Number of Acres Claimed by Each*. Jefferson City, Mo.: Capital City Family Research, 1985. [DuPré] [Call no. R 977.865 A881]

Plat book showing the confirmed French & Spanish land claims (S), some unconfirmed claims, New Madrid locations (M), land reserved for public schools (School Land), and entries of public lands from the U.S. Federal government (E).

*Atlas of the City of St. Louis*. 10 vols. St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Plat and Record Co., 1905. [Call no. R 912 A881 (oversized)]

Plat map showing ownership of property in the City of St. Louis circa 1905.

Hutawa, Julius. *Atlas of St. Louis County*. St. Louis, Mo.: J. Hutawa, [1868]. [Call no. R 912.7786 A881; scanned image of the original – available to staff on the server; microfiche copy – in the microfiche carousel labeled “Land Ownership Maps 0407: Mo., St. Louis County [1856–65?].”]

Plat map showing ownership of property in the city and county of St. Louis, Missouri.

Land Ownership Map 0406: MO, St. Louis County, 1857 Microfiche, 1 sheet [FHL #6079643]

The title on the map describes this as a topographic map. The occasional home that appears on the map includes the homeowner’s name, but ownership of the land is not always indicated.

Land Ownership Maps 0407: Mo., St. Louis County [1856–65?] Microfiche, 4 sheets. [FHL #6079644]

While the Library of Congress marks this as [1856–1865?], other existing copies of this unique map indicate that it was actually published in 1868 – after the Civil War. This shows ownership of land, not residency. This is a microfiche copy of Atlas of St. Louis County with lithography by Julius Hutawa. (see Hutawa, Julius, above)

Pitzman, Julius. *Atlas of the City and County of Saint Louis, Missouri*. St. Louis, Mo.: Holcombe: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 1878. [Call no. R 977.8 P692A]

Pitzman, Julius. *Pitzman's Atlas 1878 St. Louis, Missouri*. [electronic resource]

The plates from Pitzman’s 1878 *Atlas of the City and County of Saint Louis, Missouri* are in PDF format and are easy to enlarge or print.



Plat Book of St. Louis Co., Mo., 1909 [electronic resource]. St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 2007.

The map plates from the *Plat Book of St. Louis County Missouri* (1909) are available as jpg files which can be saved, then printed, cropped, or manipulated.

#### Year Order

1838 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

*Atlas of the City and County of St. Louis, by Congressional Townships: showing All the Surveys of the Public Lands and of the Confirmed French and Spanish Grants, New Madrid Locations, and Entries of Public Lands up to the 1st Day of January, 1838: With the Names of the Original Claimants and Number of Acres Claimed by Each.* Jefferson City, Mo.: Capital City Family Research, 1985. [DuPré] [Call no. R 977.865 A881]

Plat book showing the confirmed French & Spanish land claims (S), some unconfirmed claims, New Madrid locations (M), land reserved for public schools (R), and entries of public lands from the U.S. Federal government (E).

1857 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

Land Ownership Map 0406: MO, St. Louis County, 1857. Microfiche 1 sheet. [in the microfiche carousel; FHL #6079643]

The title on the map describes this as a topographic map. The occasional home that appears on the map includes the homeowner's name, but ownership of the land is not always indicated.

1868 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

Hutawa, Julius. *Atlas of St. Louis County.* St. Louis, Mo.: J. Hutawa, [1868]. [Call no. R 912.7786 A881; scanned image of the original – on the server; microfiche copy – in the microfiche carousel labeled "Land Ownership Maps 0407: Mo., St. Louis County [1856–65?]"

Plat map showing ownership of land, not residency, in the city and county of St. Louis, Missouri.

1868 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

Land Ownership Maps 0407: Mo., St. Louis County [1856–65?] Microfiche, 4 sheets. [FHL #6079644]

While the Library of Congress marks this as [1856–1865?], other existing copies of this unique map indicate that it was actually published in 1868 – after the Civil War. This shows ownership of land, not residency, in the city and county of St. Louis, Missouri.

1878 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

Pitzman, Julius. *Atlas of the City and County of Saint Louis, Missouri.* St. Louis, Mo.: Holcombe: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 1878. [Call no. R 977.8 P692A]

1878 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY INCLUDING ST. LOUIS CITY

Pitzman, Julius. *Pitzman's Atlas 1878 St. Louis, Missouri.* [electronic resource]

The plates from Pitzman's 1878 *Atlas of the City and County of Saint Louis, Missouri* are in PDF format and are easy to enlarge or print.



## 1905 – CITY OF ST. LOUIS ONLY

*Atlas of the City of St. Louis*. 10 vols. St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Plat and Record Co., 1905. [Call no. R 912 A881 (oversized)]

Plat map showing ownership of property in the City of St. Louis circa 1905.

## 1909 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY ONLY

*Plat Book of St. Louis Co., Mo.*, 1909 [electronic resource]. St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 2007.

The map plates from the *Plat Book of St. Louis County Missouri* (1909) are available as jpg files which can be saved, then printed, cropped, or manipulated.

## 1909 – ST. LOUIS COUNTY ONLY

*Atlas of St. Louis County*. 5 volumes. St. Louis Plat and Record Co., 1909. [Call no. R 912 A8812 (oversized)]

Plat map showing ownership of property in St. Louis County circa 1909.

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCE

Ancestry.com. *U.S., Indexed Early Land Ownership and Township Plats, 1785-1898* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

## PRINTED BOOK SOURCES

*American State Papers. Public Lands*. 8 volumes. Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1994. [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512]

Banner, Stuart. *Legal Systems in Conflict: Property and Sovereignty in Missouri, 1750-1860*. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000. [Call no. R 346.778 B219L]

Beers, Henry Putney. *French and Spanish Records of Louisiana: A Bibliographical Guide to Archive and Manuscript Sources*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1989. pages 248-271. [Call no. R 976.3 B415F and 976.3 B415F]

Carter, Clarence Edwin, editor. *The Territorial Papers of the United States*. 28 vols. Louisiana-Missouri Territory. v. 13-15. Washington, D.C.: U.S. GPO, 1951 [Call no. Q973 C323T]  
Includes correspondence regarding Missouri land claims and related matters. Indexed by volume.

Collet, Oscar. *General Index to St. Louis County Archives*. N.p.: n.p., nd. [Call no. R 977.865 C698G]  
Index is also available in microfilm format at FamilySearch.org. [FHL #529935, item 1]

Collet, Oscar. *Index to Instruments Affecting Real Estate Grantees and Grantors, 1804-1854*, [Call no. R 977.865 C698I2 (Grantee) and R 977.865 C698I (Grantor); These indexes are available in book format and in microfilm format.]

Farnan, William Thomas. *Land Claims Problems and the Federal Land System in the Louisiana-Missouri Territory*. 1980. [Call no. R 333.31 F235L – This is a St. Louis University doctoral dissertation.]

*Final Adjustments of Private Land Claims in Missouri, 1832: House of Representatives Document 1340, 24th Congress – First Session, 1835.* Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, n.d. [Call no. Q 977.8 F494. Book includes a name index.]

This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 8, pp. 20–243: **doc. no. 1340 (24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512] and contains the same “Final Reports...” as found in *Missouri Land Claims*. [Call no. R 977.8 M678 and 977.8 M678]

Frick, Lillian Ruth. *Finding Aid to the St. Louis Recorded Archives Transcription Project, Transcriptions & Indexes, 1938-1940.* Revised edition. St. Louis, Missouri: Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, National Park Service, 1993.

*From Arpents to Acres: French and Spanish Land Grants at the Missouri State Archives.* [Jefferson City]: Missouri State Archives, [1990?] [Call No. R 977.8 F931]

Hodes, Frederick A. *Beyond the Frontier: A History of St. Louis to 1821.* Tucson, Arizona: Patrice Press, 2004. [Call no. R977.866 H687B and 977.866 H687B]

Provides an historic background for land records in and around St. Louis during the crucial time period of acquiring land from the French or Spanish governments, the 1804 Louisiana Purchase, and the formation and activities of the first Board of Land Commissioners. Also includes excellent citations and bibliography, which can direct further study.

Hodes, Frederick A. *Rising on the River: St. Louis 1822 to 1850, Explosive Growth from Town to City.* Tooele, Utah: Patrice Press, 2009. [Call no. R 977.866 H687R and 977.866 H687R]  
Includes some excellent maps for St. Louis during this time period.

*Index to the Minutes of the First and Second Board of Land Commissioners, Missouri, 1805-1812, 1832-1835.* St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 1983. [Call no. R 977.8 I38 and 977.8 I38]

Ingmire, Frances Terry. *Citizens of Missouri, 1787-1835: 3 v. in 1.* St. Louis, Mo.: F.T. Ingmire, 1984. [Call no. R 977.8 I52C]

The author has abstracted the “Minutes of the Board of Land Commissioners.”

Ingmire, Frances Terry. *Citizens of Missouri Territory: Grants in Present Day Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma.* 3 volumes. Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, 1984. [Call no. Q 977.8 I52C]  
Each volume includes a name index. Vol. 1 covers the years 1787–1810, vol. 2 covers 1810–1812, and vol. 3 covers “To – 1835.” The author has abstracted the “Minutes of the Board of Land Commissioners.”

Kvasnicka, Robert M., compiler. *The Trans-Mississippi West, 1804-1912.* Part IV, section 3. “Records of the General Land Office.” Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2007. [Call no. R 978 K97T Part. 4, sect. 3 and Q 978 K97T Part. 4, sect. 3]

*Land Claims in Missouri: House of Representatives 24th Congress, First Session - Document Numbered 1538.* Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, n.d. [Call no. Q 977.8 L253; includes index.]

This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 8, pp. 789–871: **doc. no. 1538 (24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].



*Land Claims in Louisiana and Missouri: House of Representatives Report Number 273, 15th Congress, 1st Session.* Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, n.d. [Call no. R 976.3 L253 and Q 976.3 L253; book includes name index. Documents begin in 1818.]

This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 3, pp.313–370: **doc. no. 273** (15<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

*Land Claims in Missouri and Arkansas from Patents Withheld: Records from the 19th Congress Second Session.* Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, 1999. [Call no. R 977.8 L253; book includes name index. Documents begin in 1826.]

This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 4, pp. 807–854: **doc. no. 534** (19<sup>th</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

*Land Claims in the Missouri Territory: Records of the 12th Congress, Second Session House of Representatives Document Number 206, 1812.* Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, 1999. [Call no. R 977.8 L253. Includes name index.]

This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 2, pp. 463–730: **doc. no. 206** (12<sup>th</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

Lowrie, Walter. *Early Settlers of Missouri as Taken from Land Claims in the Missouri Territory.* Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1986. [Call no. R 977.8 E12 and R 977.8 E12]

This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 2, pp. 463–730: **doc. no. 206** (12<sup>th</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

McDermott, John Francis, ed. *The Early Histories of St. Louis.* St. Louis: St. Louis Historical Documents Foundation, 1952. [Call no. R 977.866 M134E and 977.866 M134E]

Includes maps of the Mississippi River (1762) and St. Louis (1780, 1796, and 1804–1805).

*Missouri Land Claims.* New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1976. [Call no. R 977.8 M678 and 977.8 M678. Book includes an index.]

This is a reproduction of the “Gales & Seaton” printing of the “Final Reports from the Board of Commissioners at St. Louis, under the act of 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1832” authorized by the 24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session. This is also the same “Final Reports...” as found in the *American State Papers*, vol. 8, pp. 20–243: **doc. no. 1340** (24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512], and *Final Adjustments of Private Land Claims in Missouri, 1832: House of Representatives Document 1340, 24th Congress – First Session, 1835.* [Call no. Q 977.8 F494]

*Private Land Claims in Missouri, 1834: United States: House of Representatives Document 1178, Twenty-third Congress - First Session.* Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, n.d. [Call no. Q 977.8 P961. Book includes an index.]

This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 6, pp. 703–900: **doc. no. 1173** (23<sup>rd</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

Richardson, Lemont K. “Private Land Claims in Missouri.” *Missouri Historical Review*, three parts: Part I (January 1956): 132–144; Part II, (April 1956), 271–286; Part III, (July 1956), 387–399. [Call No. R 977.8 M678]

Part 1 – “Private Land Claims in Missouri: Spanish Colonial Land Policy, 1763–1800”

Part 2 – “Private Land Claims in Missouri: The Board of Land Commissioners”

Part 3 – “Private Land Claims in Missouri: The Era of Increasing Liberality”



Sherby, James W. *From New Madrid to Claverach: How an Earthquake Spawned a St. Louis Suburb*. St. Louis, Mo.: Virginia Publishing Co., 2009. [Call no. R 977.865 S551F and 977.865 S551F]

This includes numerous images of documents relating to land ownership beginning in the pre-1804 period down to the 1900s. It illustrates the process surrounding New Madrid Certificates – how they were acquired, and how a person used them to acquire land elsewhere.

Shoemaker, F.C. *Missouri and Missourians: Land of Contrasts and People of Achievements*. 1. Vol. 1. 5 vols. Chicago, IL: Lewis Publishing Co., 1943. [Call no. R 977.8 S559M]

Volume 1 of this series contains a chapter entitled, *Surveying the Lands*. It outlines the process of obtaining a French and Spanish Land Grant and having it recognized once the United States government took control.

Stemmons, John D. *A Partial Census of the Louisiana Missouri Territory for 1810*. Sandy, Utah: Census Publishing, 2004. [Call no. R 977.8 S824P]

Contains the names from all “name lists” found in *The Territorial Papers of the United States* for Louisiana Missouri Territory. Other names from correspondence, etc. are not included. At that time, the Louisiana Missouri territory included part of Arkansas so some Arkansas residents also appear in this source.

United States. General Land Office. *Letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office Transmitting the Report (supplemental) of the Board of Commissioners for the Settlement of Land Claims in Missouri: March 3, 1835, Read and Laid on the Table*. [St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis County Library, Special Collections Dept., 2006] [Call no. R 977.8 U58L. Does not include an index.]

This is a reproduction of House doc. no. 197 (23<sup>rd</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session).

Williams, Betty Harvey, comp. *Index to French and Spanish Land Grants Recorded in Registers of Land Titles in Missouri: Books A, B, C, D, E*. The author: Warrensburg, Mo., 1977. [Call no. R 977.8 W721I]

Williams indexed the *Record of Land Titles in Missouri: French and Spanish Land Grants, 1804–1829* found on microfilms F390–F392.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS ABOUT MO. LAND CLAIMS PRINTED AS SEPARATE BOOKS (listed in Congress & Session order)

1812 Doc. no. 206, 12<sup>th</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session  
*Land Claims in the Missouri Territory: Records of the 12th Congress, Second Session House of Representatives Document Number 206, 1812*. Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, 1999. [Call no. R 977.8 L253. Includes name index.]

This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 2, pp. 463–730: doc. no. 206 (12<sup>th</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

1812 Doc. no. 206, 12<sup>th</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session  
Lowrie, Walter. *Early Settlers of Missouri as Taken from Land Claims in the Missouri Territory*. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1986. [Call no. R 977.8 E12 and R 977.8 E12]

This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 2, pp. 463–730: doc. no. 206 (12<sup>th</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session) [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

- Doc. no. 273, 15<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session**  
 1818 *Land Claims in Louisiana and Missouri: House of Representatives Report Number 273, 15th Congress, 1st Session.* Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, n.d. [Call no. R 976.3 L253 and Q 976.3 L253. Documents begin in 1818 and book includes a name index.]  
 This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 3, pp.313–370: **doc. no. 273 (15<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].
- Doc. no. 534, 19<sup>th</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session**  
 1826 *Land Claims in Missouri and Arkansas from Patents Withheld: Records from the 19th Congress Second Session.* Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, 1999. [Call no. R 977.8 L253. Documents begin in 1826 and book includes a name index.]  
 This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 4, pp. 807–854: **doc. no. 534 (19<sup>th</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].
- Doc. no. 1173, 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session**  
 1834 *Private Land Claims in Missouri, 1834: United States: House of Representatives Document 1178, Twenty-third Congress - First Session.* Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, n.d. [Call no. Q 977.8 P961; Book includes an index.]  
 This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 6, pp. 703–900: **doc. no. 1173 (23<sup>rd</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].
- Doc. no. 197, 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session**  
 1835 United States. General Land Office. *Letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office Transmitting the Report (supplemental) of the Board of Commissioners for the Settlement of Land Claims in Missouri: March 3, 1835, Read and Laid on the Table.* [St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis County Library, Special Collections Dept., 2006] [Call no. R 977.8 U58L; Does not include an index.]  
 This is a reproduction of House doc. no. 197 (23<sup>rd</sup> Congress – 2<sup>nd</sup> Session).
- Doc. no. 1340, 24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session**  
 1835 *Final Adjustments of Private Land Claims in Missouri, 1832: House of Representatives Document 1340, 24th Congress – First Session, 1835.* Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, n.d. [Call no. Q 977.8 F494. Book includes a name index.]  
 This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 8, pp. 20–243: **doc. no. 1340 (24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512] and contains the same “Final Reports...” as found in *Missouri Land Claims*. [Call no. R 977.8 M678 and 977.8 M678].
- Doc. no. 1340, 24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session**  
 1835 *Missouri Land Claims.* New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1976. [Call no. R 977.8 M678 and 977.8 M678. Book includes an index.]  
 This is a reproduction of the “Gales & Seaton” printing of the “Final Reports from the Board of Commissioners at St. Louis, under the act of 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1832” authorized by the 24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session. This is also the same “Final Reports...” as found in the *American State Papers*, vol. 8, pp. 20–243: **doc. no. 1340 (24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512] and *Final Adjustments of Private Land Claims in Missouri, 1832: House of Representatives Document 1340, 24th Congress – First Session, 1835.* [Call no. Q 977.8 F494].



- Doc. no. 1538, 24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session**
- 1836 *Land Claims in Missouri: House of Representatives 24th Congress, First Session - Document Numbered 1538*. Signal Mountain, Tenn.: Mountain Press, n.d. [Call no. Q 977.8 L253. Book includes an index.]
- This is a reproduction of the *American State Papers*, vol. 8, pp. 789–871: **doc. no. 1538 (24<sup>th</sup> Congress – 1<sup>st</sup> Session)** [Call no. R 333.1 A512 and 333.1 A512].

## MICROFILMS

**Pre-1804 (French & Spanish)**

- Collet, Oscar. *General Index to St. Louis County Archives*. [Available at FamilySearch.org. FHL #529935, item 1]  
Index is also available in printed book form [Call no. R 977.865 C698G]
- Index to French & Spanish Archives, 1771–1803, 3 rolls, 16mm, [Roll 69 (F-504), Roll 70 (F-507), Roll 71 (F-511)]  
Original index cards made by the WPA are at the Old Courthouse Archives.
- St. Louis, Mo., Deed Records [St. Louis County Archives] (recorded in French and Spanish), 6 volumes on 3 rolls. [Available at FamilySearch.org. FHL #466341 through #466343]  
Recorded loose papers (documents) including land, marriage, wills, for St. Louis.
- St. Louis, Mo., Deed Records [St. Louis County Archives] (written in French, Spanish, English), 6 volumes on 6 rolls. [Available at FamilySearch.org. FHL #466344 through #466345, #466093 through #466097]  
Includes English translations of the St. Louis County Archives.

**1804 and later (United States)**

- *Land Commissioners Minutes*, 2 rolls, LndCo-1 and LndCo-2  
Includes minutes for both the 1<sup>st</sup> Commission (1805–1812) and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission (1832–1835). [Mo. State Archive film numbers for these rolls are F393 and F394.]
- Collet, Oscar. *Index to Instruments Affecting Real Estate Grantees and Grantors, 1804–1854*. Rolls SLDO-1 and SLDO-2.
- These indexes are also available in book format. [Call no. R 977.865 C698I2 (Grantee) and R 977.865 C698I (Grantor)]. Photocopies may only be made from the microfilm rolls.
- Hunt's Minutes, 1825– : 3 books; typewritten index for book no. 2 precedes that book; handwritten index for books no. 1, some of no. 2 and some of no. 3 appears at the end of the roll. [Available at FamilySearch.org. FHL #984813]  
Proof testimony taken by Missouri Recorder of Land Titles, Theodore Hunt, regarding ownership of townlots, outlots, and claims for land. Testimony sometimes came from neighbors or mentions neighbors. The land was in or adjacent to the communities listed below.
 

• St. Louis	• St. Ferdinand
• Portage des Sioux	• Village a Robert
• St. Charles	• Carondelet



- Ste. Genevieve
- Little Prairie in Missouri
- New Madrid
- New Madrid Records: [Available at FamilySearch.org. FHL #984819]  
Includes records of land damaged by the New Madrid earthquake: testimony regarding damages; New Madrid location certificates; New Madrid original documents; and locations of earthquake damage.
- Record of Land Titles in Mo.: *French and Spanish Land Grants, 1805–1829*
  - Rolls F390 – F391. Volumes A, B, C, and D appear on these films. (Volume E is missing per the Missouri State Archives.)  
Included in these volumes are French and Spanish land claims recorded after the 1804 Louisiana Purchase, but before the approval process for land claims began. Volumes A, B, C, D, and E are indexed by *Index to French and Spanish Land Grants Recorded in Registers of Land Titles in Missouri: Books A, B, C, D, E*. [Call no. R 977.8 W721I]. If a name is listed in this index with the record in missing volume E, then check that name in *Grassroots of America: A Computerized Index to the American State papers* [Call no. R 333.1 M168G or R 333.1 M168G]. Next, look up the references found there in the *American State Papers. 8., Public Lands* [Call no. R 333.1 A512 or 333.1 A512].
  - Roll F392. Volumes F and G appear on this film.  
Volume F (1805–1829) contains documents in French, Spanish, and English and the order of entry appears to be by the date each entry was recorded. Volume F includes copies of the 6 volumes or “books” of the *Livres Terriens* on the following pages:
    - Book 1 - p. 146
    - Book 2 - p. 162
    - Book 3 - p. 178
    - Book 4 - p. 189
    - Book 5 - p. 200
    - Book 6 - p. 210
- Volume G (1830–1872) is by survey number and has a name index at the end listing the survey and page number.
- Record of Land Titles in Mo.: Private Land Claims, roll F1498  
This film includes exhibits for successfully completed claims as follows:
  - A. Confirmation by the Old Board of Commissioners
  - B. Bates’ Confirmations of Village Claims
  - C. Bates’ Confirmations of Extensions
  - D. Bates’ Confirmations of Concessions
  - E. Bates’ Confirmations of Settlement Rights
  - Ee. Bates’ Confirmations to Wm. Russell
  - F. New Madrid Certificates, locations and Surveys
  - G. Hunt’s list of proofs under the act of 26<sup>th</sup> May 1824
  - H. Claims confirmed by the act of 4<sup>th</sup> July 1836
  - I. Grants made and completed before the change of Government
  - K. Confirmations by the United States Courts
  - L. Confirmation by special acts
  - M. Claims reported by the old Board as valid but not finally confirmed

- St. Louis City
  - Record of Sales City Commons, City of St. Louis, 1842. [Available at FamilySearch.org. FHL #981639]
  - Record of Deeds for Lots Sold in Commons under Ordinances 1843, City of St. Louis, roll C13428
  - St. Louis Lands: Blocks of the City of St. Louis and Carondelet and Common Fields of St. Louis, 1840. [Available at FamilySearch.org. FHL #981639]
  - Record of Deeds to City of St. Louis, 1830–1888. [Available at FamilySearch.org. FHL #98164] Includes land deeded to the City of St. Louis only.

St. Louis County (includes both city and county prior to 1876 and only the city after 1876)

- Deeds and Indexes, vols. A–Z<sup>6</sup>, 151-1594, 1804–1901. [Available at FamilySearch.org. FHL #529937 through #544184, and #459594 through #466340]
- Direct Indexes to Deeds, vols. A–Z, 1804–1900. [Available through FamilySearch.org. FHL #531505 through #530136, #530498]
- Inverted Indexes to Deeds, vols. A–Z, 1804–1900. [Available through FamilySearch.org. FHL #529898 through #529932]
- St. Louis County (county only, no city records)
  - Deeds, Bks. 1–1128, 1877–1931. SLCOD-1 through SLCOD-491.
  - Direct Indexes to Deeds, 1877–1931 (A-I). SLCODD-1 through SLCODD-22.
  - Inverted Indexes to Deeds, 1877–1930. SLCODI-1 through SLCODI-20.

U.S. Surveyor General

- Field Notes & Plats Index (Mo.) [in map format] roll MoLAND-1

*How to use:* Images are divided into 3 parts:

- ✓ West of the 5<sup>th</sup> Prin. Meridian & North of the Missouri River
- ✓ West of the 5<sup>th</sup> Prin. Meridian & South of the Missouri River
- ✓ East of the 5<sup>th</sup> Prin. Meridian

Each part has a map index for Field Notes and one for Plats. Also, each map is shown in multiple shots ranging from light to dark.

- Field Notes of Private Surveys (Mo.): Vols. 1–71 (Vol. 8 and 52 are missing. Sometimes there is a volume #A and #B.) rolls MoLAND-10 through MoLAND-17. There are indexes at the beginning of each volume.

*How to use:* In order to locate a specific private survey, you must know in which township (such as T46N R3E) that survey lays. When you know that, pull MoLAND-1 and examine the “Field Notes & Plats Index (Mo.)” in map format and find the township where the private survey lays. The “Pr. Vol. #” is listed in the square for your township (T46N R3E).

- Individual Private Land Surveys (Mo.): Surveys 1–3342, rolls MoLAND–22 through MoLAND–24  
*How to use:* Survey numbers are needed to use this source and they can be found on plat maps, country road maps, etc. as “SUR #\_\_\_\_\_”. These are images of the surveys of French and Spanish land claims AFTER they were approved and accepted by the federal government as valid claims.
- Plats (Mo.): Vols. 1–49 & Miscellaneous Plats: rolls MoLAND–2 through MoLAND–9  
*How to use:* Check the “Field Notes & Plats Index (Mo.)” in map format (MoLAND–1 listed above) to locate the rectangle on the map grid representing that township. The volume or range of volumes is written in that rectangle.
- Record of Private Surveys (Mo.): Vol. 1–20, (index at beginning of each vol.) rolls MoLAND–18 through MoLAND–21  
*How to use:* Check the index at the beginning of each volume. This is a written record of the private surveys copied into a permanent record book.