

Fig. 3: Marriage License, WAHLGREN / ELLEBYE, City of St. Louis, Book 13, Pg. 197

report their place of birth as Missouri. Most 1800s Norwegian immigrants belonged to the Church of Norway, an Evangelical Lutheran denomination. Upon their arrival, these Norwegians intermarried with other ethnic groups within their local Lutheran community. Because of this, many Americans do not even realize they have Norwegian ancestry until they take a DNA test.

Marriages between Germans, Danes, Swedes, and Norwegians were quite commonplace and can often be found within census documents. For example, Theodore Julius WAHLGREN was from Denmark but his wife Henrika ELLEBYE was from Norway. (Fig. 2) They were married September 12, 1866 by the Rev. John F. Buenger at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO. (Fig. 3) This was Henrika's second marriage, and ELLEBYE is a Danish surname, suggesting a likely first marriage to someone not of Norwegian ancestry.

Despite their widespread immigration to North America, Norway is largely under-represented in genealogical research collections outside of the upper Midwest. The largest bygdebøker collections can be found at the University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND) and the Norwegian American Genealogy Center (Madison, WI). Smaller print collections, mostly of older works, are available at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN) and the FamilySearch Library (Salt Lake City, UT).

Beginning in 2023, the Emerson History & Genealogy Center began to aggressively collect bygdebøker in support of Norwegian genealogical research. The center has purchased over 500 items in a relatively brief period, predominantly dating from the 1960s to the present day. This includes many recent publications not yet found at other institutions. The center also has standing orders for future publications.

What are bygdebøker?

The geography of Norway is beautiful and rugged, with vast mountains, valleys, fjords, lakes, islands, and plateaus. Although there are growing urban areas today, the majority of Norwegians were still living within rural farming communities less than 100 years ago. These communities were geographically isolated. This led to the development of independent micro-cultures which maintain their sense of independence to this day. When immigrants came to North America, they were not Norwegians, but Vossings, Trønder, Hardingers, etc.

Rural Norwegians trace their heritage back to their "bygd." The bygd (pronounced "bigd") refers to an area of rural settlement. A bygd could be a grouping of farm houses, a valley of farms, or a village. The important thing to know is that bygds were rural, self-sustaining communities. Therefore, a "bygdebok" is a "rural settlement book."

Origins of kommunes

From 1514-1814, Norway existed as part of the Kingdom of Denmark–Norway. Their union was strong until 1801 when their navy was attacked by the British at the First Battle of Copenhagen. Neighboring Sweden allied themselves with the British and in 1808, Denmark was forced to declare war on Sweden. British blockades isolated Norway from Denmark, resulting in a brief period of home rule.

Per agreements, Norway was to be given as compensation to the King of Sweden for his declaration of war against France. In January 1814, the King of Denmark came to terms with the King of Sweden, releasing Norway from Denmark (Treaty of Kiel). His son, then viceroy of Norway, led an insurrection which declared independence, formed a parliament, and produced a constitution. The Swedes invaded, and in August 1814 at the Convention of Moss, terms were agreed upon which honored the Norwegian constitution and disregarded previous treaties. Norway would swear fealty to a Swedish king, but have its own constitution and parliament.

The Norwegian constitution was more democratic than that of Sweden. It granted significant authority to its legislative and judicial branches. In the early years, a civil servant class that had been involved in authoring the declaration of independence and constitution maintained authority, but that authority quickly shifted to rural farmers who made up the majority of the Norwegian people.

In January 1838, the rural-dominated Norwegian parliament introduced self-government in the rural districts known formally as “formannskapsdistrikts.” The formannskaps law required that every parish be established as an administrative district (although some were divided into multiple municipalities). The result was that 396 administrative bodies were created.

In 1853, a land registration law was enacted, superseding the formannskapsdistrikts. This law differentiated cities from rural municipalities, resulting in a growing number of “herred” (municipalities). A self-government district law in 1936 changed the term to “kommunes,” and expanded the total number to 747. The “Schei Committee” of 1967 reduced this to 454 kommunes, and today there are 357.

Why do we care? As the smallest administrative unit in Norway, the kommunes (herred) are the geographical area covered by a typical bygdebok.

What can be found in bygdebøker?

Since the early 20th century, Norwegians have produced bygdebøker. There is no central registering agency or standards regarding their production. They are a published product of a historical research project produced by the kommune or local historielag (history group), and as such, they often vary greatly in their content, layout, and accuracy. Much of the information is produced through interviews and surveys in which residents provide the author (s) with family histories, photographs, and other resources. They are produced in very limited numbers for the residents of the kommune.

There are different types of bygdebøker, much like there are different types of local histories here in North America. They can contain a variety of historical information including local history, geology, immigration studies, published genealogies, biog-

gård or gard- an estate farm
ættesoge - genealogy
ætt – ancestry
slekt - family
slekthistorie - family history
soge – story
heim – home
folket – the people
allmen – *general*
bosettings – *settlement*
næringer – industries
fortid - past
natid - present

Fig. 4: Key bygdebok terms



Fig. 5: A Norwegian Gårdshistorie

ographies, history of local business and industry, transportation histories, and others. You can often identify what type of information can be found within a volume from the title.

The title? But how do I do that when I don't read Norwegian? Thankfully, the organizations who produce these works have been consistent in the titling of them. There are some terms researchers can key on to identify the potential content of a bygdebok. (Fig. 4)

A volume named *Brønnøy Gård og slekt* would be a book documenting farms and families in the Brønnøy kommune. *Fjell Bygdebok Allmennhistoria 1700-1910: Mellom havet og byen* is a “General history of the Fjell Kommune from 1700-1910: Between the Sea and the City.”

Occasionally, the titling is not clear. For example, *Nes på Romerike* is Nes on the Romerike, a very general description. This collection is seven volumes with two general works and five detailed farm histories. *Åsane I fortid og natid*, or Åsane Past and Present, like the previous example, is a set of five volumes containing one general history and four farm volumes full of rich genealogical information.

Gårdshistories

The volumes genealogists will be most interested in are farm or village books. You can commonly identify these by the root terms “gård,” “slekt,” “heim,” “folk,” or “ætt,” but as with the aforementioned examples, it’s not one hundred percent. Any volumes in the Emerson collection will have a content note in our finding aids identifying a work as being about farms or villages.

“Gårdshistories” are typically produced in an easy to follow order which subscribes to the Norwegian Land Registry system. Many will mention the “Gårdsnummer” or GNR covered on the cover or title page. *Fjell Bygdebok, Band V, Gårds- og slektshistoria for Gårdsnummer 42-58* is a perfect example of this. (Fig 5)

So what is a Gårdsnummer? Under the Norwegian land registry system, there are six land units:

- Fylkesnummer – county
- Kommunenummer – kommune
- Gårdsnummer (Gnr.) – estate farm
- Bruksnummer (Bnr.) – farm on an estate
- Festenummer (Fnr.) – rental plot within an estate
- Seksjonsnummer (Snr.) – individual units on a shared property, like condominiums

Notice the differentiation between gårds and “bruks.” Think of this in terms of traditional land systems where there is a larger estate on which there are many smaller farms. The smaller farms (bruks) will have both a GNR and a BNR, and in most pub-

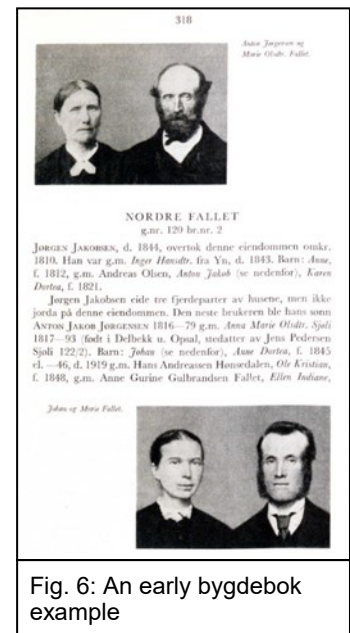


Fig. 6: An early bygdebok example

lished works, the bruks will follow their respective gårds in the publication. More detailed works will even get down to the “feste” or “seksjon” level. These tend to be volumes published in the 21st century.

Eras of publication

Although bygdebøker have been produced for over 100 years, the age of the work can have significant impact on the quality. Books published prior to 1960 will contain less genealogical information and will be more historical in scope. Even farm books from this era tend to be very general in their genealogical information. Books produced in the 1960s –1970s often contain genealogies but aren’t as richly detailed as modern works. (Fig. 6)

Modern bygdebøker are beautiful books on heavy paper with color photographs, maps, and richly detailed histories of the farms and families they document. (Fig. 7) Multi-volume series are currently being produced all over Norway.



Fig. 7: A modern bygdebok example

The era of publication also greatly impacts identification of works. As with the kommunes, the fylker (counties) have also changed greatly over time. Originally there were 20 fylker, but today there are 15. To complicate matters, from January 2000 – January 2024, there were 11. Changes in fylke have caused some kommunes to be split or merged between counties.

Where do I look?

As with any European research, locating the point of origin is key to identifying and utilizing any resources. Because Norway was not an independent country at the time of immigration, it was very common for Norwegians in North America to refer to their place of origin as their district, region, herred (kommune) or gård, as opposed to more general Norway or their fylke (amt).

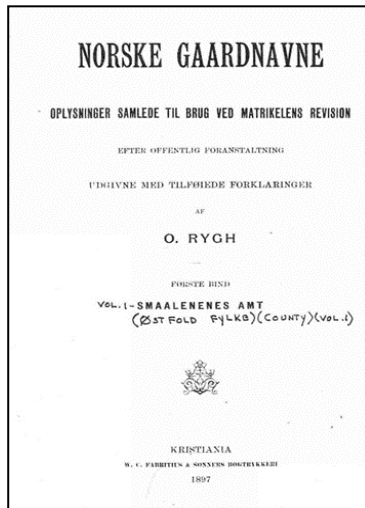


Fig. 8: Norske Gaardnavne, which chronicles the use of farm names

There are five regions of Norway, which correspond with north, south, east, west, and central: Nord-Norge, Sørlandet, Østlandet, Vestlandet, and Trøndelag. Within each of these regions are a number of traditional districts. As there are too many to list in an article, a list is available on the SLCL website [slcl.org/research-learn/genealogy/norwegian-genealogy]. Knowing the region or district can aid in narrowing down a particular kommune.

As with any group, there are many different locations where a place of origin might appear, and this experience will be different for each researcher. Since Lutheranism was the national religion of Norway, church records would be a good place to begin. Records of many congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) are digitized on the Ancestry database. Of course it is also possible that such information might appear on a death certificate, marriage license, or other records. Pay close attention to location of birth on all documents.

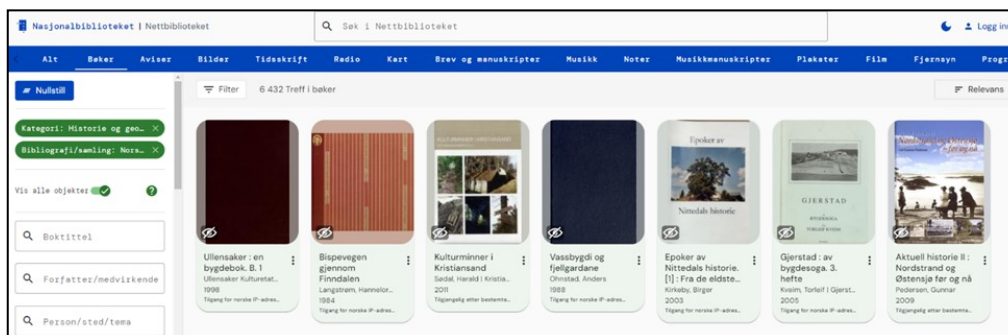


Fig. 9: The Library of Norway's catalog

If ancestors were kind enough to leave behind their particular *kommune* or *gård* in documentation, the next step is to consult *Norske Gaardnavne*. This is a series of 19 volumes which was published between 1897-1924. (Fig. 8)

The set chronicles the use of cadastral farm names, i.e. *gårds* (farms) and some *bruks* (sub-farms). The first 18 volumes are the collected information, and the 19th is a cumulative index. The work includes variations of spelling and pronunciation of farms dating back to the Middle Ages. Spellings were revised during the writing to be as close to the actual local pronunciation as possible. All 19 volumes have been digitized by FamilySearch.org [familysearch.org/search/catalog/58263?availability=Family%20History%20Library]

Researchers can consult vol. 19 for the *gård* or *kommune* names, then consult the other volumes for locale specific information. This should aid in directing research towards the appropriate *bygdebok*.

Once a researcher has identified a *kommune* or *bygdi*, it is recommended that they consult the Library of Norway's catalog. (Fig. 9)

The Library of Norway has the most comprehensive collection of *bygdebøker* in the world. They have digitized all volumes and made them available to Norwegian citizens with a Norwegian IP address. While non-Norwegians cannot access the digitized books, the catalog [nb.no/search?mediatype=b%C3%B8ker&ddc=9&bibliography=Norsk%20lokalhistorisk%20bibliografi] is available to search. This is a great way to search for and identify if a resource has been produced for the area genealogists are seeking to research.

Emerson History & Genealogy Center's *bygdebøker* collection

The center began curating a collection of *bygdebøker* in 2023. It has quickly grown into one of the largest in North America. Selection determinations are made based on Norwegian copyright law, which protects materials for 70 years after the passing of the author. Items found within the collection have publication dates after 1960, with a few items dating prior to that time. This ensures the collection remains predominantly in copyright. To continue growing the collection of modern volumes, Emerson has standing orders with many Norwegian *kommunes*.

Information about the collection is available on the St. Louis County Library's website, where the Norwegian collection now has its own feature page [www.slcl.org/research-learn/genealogy/norwegian-genealogy].

Emerson History & Genealogy Center staff maintain a map guide to locations of bygdebøker found in the collection. This map guide uses the Google Maps platform. (Fig. 10)

Locations have been sub-divided into the five regions of Norway for search ease:

- Vestlandet (west)
- Østlandet (east)
- Trøndelag (central)
- Nord-Norge (north)
- Sørlandet (south)

Fylke are color-coded to aid in narrowing down individual locations. Locations colored in gray refer to books currently on order.

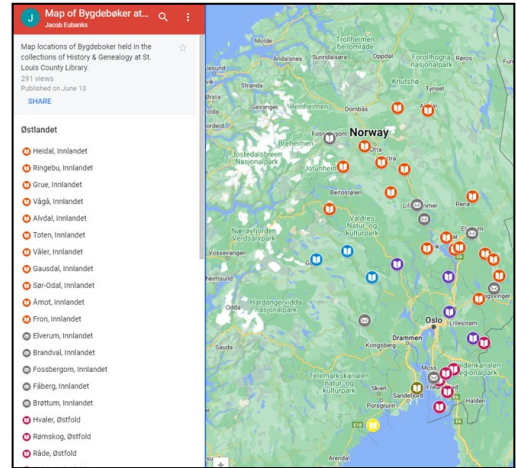


Fig. 10: Emerson History & Genealogy Center's online Bygdebøker map

For each location, there is a corresponding entry that includes the title, volumes, and call numbers related to the bygd. Here we see an example of Rissa, a bygd in Trøndelag. Emerson currently owns two different titles, and 9 volumes total for Rissa. (Fig. 11)

Emerson History & Genealogy Center staff have also produced additional finding aids for researchers. Two PDF guides are available and will be updated every few months as more resources are made available. (Fig. 12) These guides are:

- Bygdebøker (Rural Settlement Books) by Region, District, Historic Kommune
- Bygdebøker (Rural Settlement Books) by Historic Kommune, District, Region

A future guide is planned that will index the gårds and bruks found in all volumes in the Emerson collection.

As with all resources found in the St. Louis County Library collection, library staff are happy to provide assistance to patrons who are outside of our local area by offering free lookups from indexed sources. Although not every bygdebok is indexed, library staff will check and verify any requests you might have.

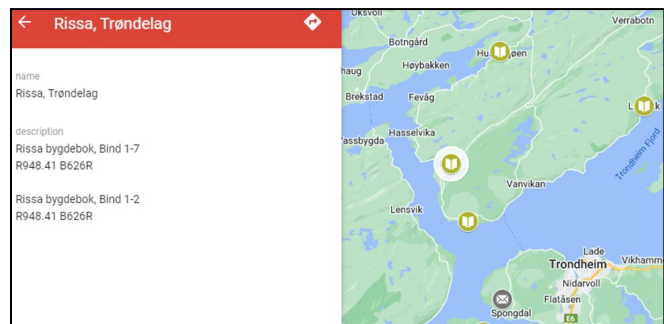


Fig. 11: H&G holdings for the bygd of Rissa

Other Bygdebøker collections

While we would love it if all Norwegian research could be conducted here at the Emerson History & Genealogy Center, we are realistic in our expectations. There are several wonderful research collections which would be of great benefit to genealogists conducting Norwegian research.

REGION	DISTRICT	HISTORIC KOMMUNE	FYLKE	CURRENT KOMMUNE	TITLE	VOL.	Call #	MEMO
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Brønnøy	Nordland	Brønnøy	Brønnøy Gård og slekt	1	R948.44 B869	Farms
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Brønnøy	Nordland	Brønnøy	Brønnøy Gård og slekt	2	R948.44 B869	Farms
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Brønnøy	Nordland	Brønnøy	Brønnøy Gård og slekt	3	R948.44 B869	Farms
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Brønnøy	Nordland	Brønnøy	Brønnøy Gård og slekt	4	R948.44 B869	Farms
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Brønnøy	Nordland	Brønnøy	Brønnøy Gård og slekt	5	R948.44 B869	Farms
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Rana	Nordland	Rana	Gård og slekt i Rana	5	R948.44 G217	Farms
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Sømna	Nordland	Sømna	Personregister	Index	R948.44 M431S	Index to Sømna Gard og Slekt
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Sømna	Nordland	Sømna	Sømna Gard og Slekt	1	R948.44 M431S	Farms
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Sømna	Nordland	Sømna	Sømna Gard og Slekt	2	R948.44 M431S	Farms
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Sømna	Nordland	Sømna	Sømna Gard og Slekt	3	R948.44 M431S	Farms
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Sømna	Nordland	Sømna	Sømna Gard og Slekt	4	R948.44 M431S	Farms
Nord-Norge	Helgeland	Sortland (Suorta)	Nordland	Sortland	Sortland bygdebok	1	R948.44 B734S	Farms

Fig. 12: Bygdebøker guide

University of North Dakota

The Arne G. Brekke Bygdebok Collection [apps.library.und.edu/bygdebok/] at the University of North Dakota possesses the most comprehensive collection of bygdebøker in the United States. (Fig. 13) They have developed a useful finding aid and research guide. It is a research collection and may be accessed on-site, or they will provide research assistance for a fee. They do not circulate these materials. The collection includes some earlier titles which precede SLCL parameters.

Norwegian American Genealogical Society

The Naeseth Library at the Norwegian American Genealogical Center [nagcnl.org] in Madison, WI, houses one of the country’s largest collections of Norwegian and Norwegian-American family history, genealogy, and immigration history resources. This includes a large collection of bygdebøker.

University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota [<https://libguides.umn.edu/finding-norwegian-bydoboker>] has a moderate sized collection of bygdebøker. The University is not actively collecting these resources. The collection includes some earlier titles, and they do offer inter-library loan service for particular volumes.

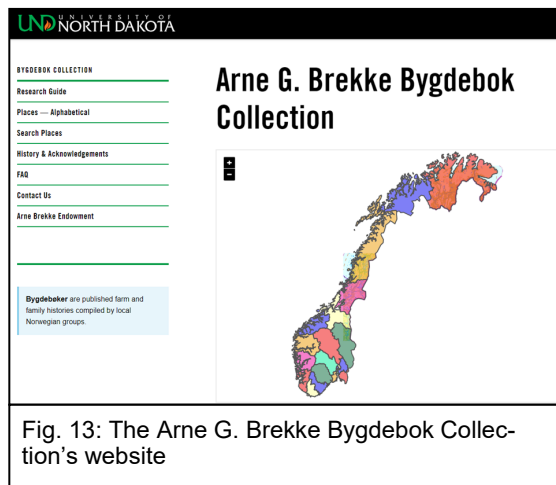


Fig. 13: The Arne G. Brekke Bygdebok Collection’s website

Welcome to the new Emerson History & Genealogy Center

It has been a little over two years since the Headquarters Branch (our former home) was closed. The department was relocated to the Daniel Boone Branch, and we enjoyed seeing many patrons continue researching there. For those of you who have been waiting for the new space to open, welcome back! The Clark Family Branch officially opened on July 9. The branch has replaced Headquarters, and is still located at 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. The Emerson History & Genealogy Center, as we are now called, thanks to a generous grant from Emerson, is located on the second floor of this wonderful new building.

There are so many new features in our department, it's hard to know where to begin! Some of the highlights include:

- Patrons can now access the entire collection on high density movable shelving with no more closed tiers
 - Eight computer stations with double monitors
 - New microfilm readers
- Interactive FamilySearch touch screens to explore your genealogy in a fun way!
 - Large, tilting screens with links to a variety of map resources
- Memory Lab, consisting of a Personal History Recording Studio where you can record oral history interviews with family members, and a Scanning and Digitization Studio filled with technology to digitize your photographs, slides, VHS tapes, and film
 - And more!

We hope to see you soon!

THANK YOU

The History & Genealogy Center would like to thank Emerson for their sponsorship, along with all of those who have contributed named collections throughout the years, including:

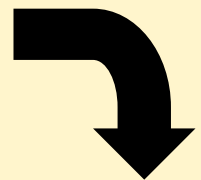
- National Genealogical Society Book Loan Collection
- St. Louis Genealogical Society Collection
- Julius K. Hunter & Friends African American Collection
- Lewis Bunker Rohrbach Collection
- Joyce A. Reisinger Collection
- William C.E. and Bessie Becker Collection
- Mary Berthold Collection
- St. Louis Jewish Genealogical Society Collection

H&G would also like to thank the countless individuals who have donated small collections and individual books. Your gifts are much appreciated by the researchers who use our resources!

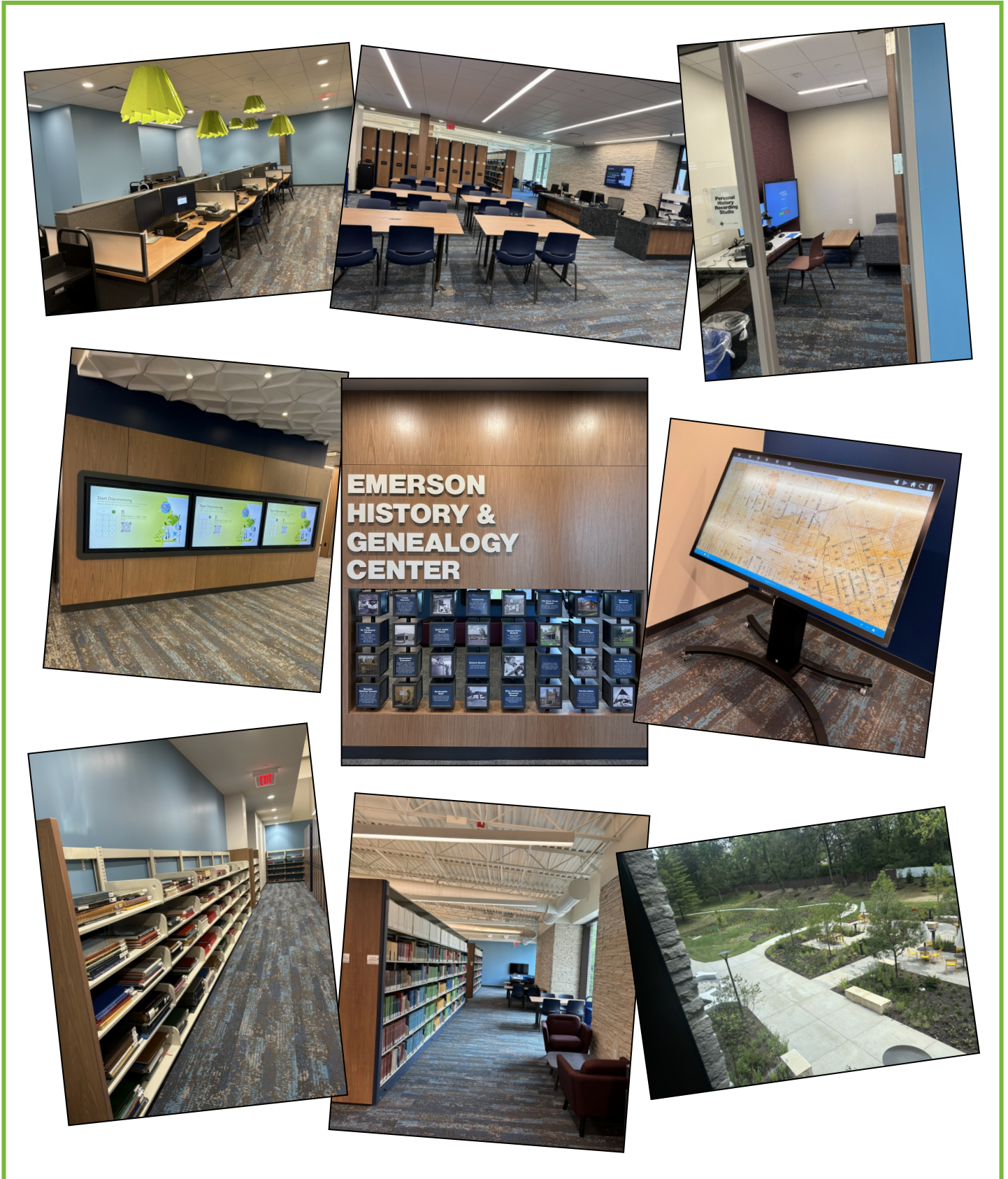
SAME VIEW



Headquarters, 1960



Clark Family Branch, 2024



SPOTLIGHT ON



NEWSPAPER RESOURCES

Newspapers can be an invaluable resource for genealogy research. The information given is not limited to a form, so the sky is the limit when it comes to what can be found! Newspapers can help prove connections, lead to other research, give a look at the community, or just put some “meat on the bones” of your family tree. Newspapers can contain news articles, obituaries, burial notices, births, marriages, divorces, legal notices, social news, achievements, military lists, politics, businesses, sports, classified advertisements, and more.

St. Louis County Library cardholders are able to access the following historical newspaper [databases](#):

Newspapers.com

Historical St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Historical Newspapers: U.S. Major Dailies

Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers

African American Newspapers: 19th Century

NewspaperARCHIVE (use in-person at H&G)

The Emerson History & Genealogy Center has created several newspaper [indexes](#):

Carondelet News, every-name index, 1903-1908

St. Louis French newspapers, every-name index, various years

St. Louis Globe-Democrat, index to deaths, 1881-1891

St. Louis County Watchman-Advocate, every-name index, 1881-1893

St. Louis Star-Times, title index to local history articles, 1884-1933

St. Louis Sun obituary index, 1989-1990

Westliche Post, index to death notices, 1875-1895

The St. Louis Public Library maintains a St. Louis Post-Dispatch and St. Louis Argus obituary [index](#).

While many St. Louis newspapers can now be found in the above databases, H&G still maintains a collections of newspapers on [microfilm](#).

H&G also has print materials available to help with newspaper research:

Family Tree Historical Newspapers Guide: How to Find Your Ancestors in Archived Newspapers by James M. Beidler (929.1072 B422F)

How to Find Your Family History in Newspapers by Lisa Louise Cooke (R 929.1 C772H)

The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking (929.1 S724)

H&G Classes & Programs

Exploring Ancestry Library Edition

Wednesday, September 4, 2:00 pm, Clark Family

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.

Genealogy in Newspapers

Monday, September 9, 6:30 pm, Clark Family

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.

Beginning Genealogy Research

Wednesday, September 11, 2:00 pm, Bridgeton Trails

Thursday, September 23, 6:30 pm, Virtual

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 the Memory Lab

Tuesday, September 17, 2:00 pm, Clark Family

Learn about the Emerson History & Genealogy Center's Memory Lab, including what items can be digitized, the output formats available, and how to make an appointment to preserve your own memories. Finish with a tour of the lab stations. Adults. [Registration](#) required.

Introduction to Mexican Genealogy

Saturday, September 28, 11:00 am, Virtual

Get started researching your ancestors in México, including discovering historical backgrounds, navigating the records, and learning expert research tips. Speaker: Lisa Medina. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Adults. [Registration](#) required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering.

Coming in October:

Exploring Ancestry Library Edition

Thursday, October 3, 2:00 pm, Virtual

From Québec to France: Tracing the Journey

Monday, October 7, 6:30 pm, Virtual

Beginning African American Genealogy

Wednesday, October 9, 10:00 pm, Florissant Valley

Genealogy @ JB

Friday, October 11, 1:00-4:00 pm, Jamestown Bluffs

Hearth & Home: Sources for English Genealogy Research

Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 pm, Virtual

Cholera in St. Louis

Friday, October 18, 2:00 pm, Clark Family

Bygdebøker: Norwegian Rural Books

Monday, October 21, 6:30 pm, Virtual

Exploring FamilySearch.org

Wednesday, October 23, 2:00 pm, Virtual

Ortsfamilienbücher: Researching German Ancestors

Monday, October 28, 6:30 pm, Virtual

Programs are available for registration on the first day of the prior month. See all SLCL programs at slcl.org/events-classes.

History & Genealogy Services

Print collection

More than 25,000 books in the collection can be checked out. The entire collection is included in the library's [online catalog](#). Books with call numbers that do not begin with "R" are available to check out. Patrons can request books online. Reference materials may be used in person during library hours.

Database access

Many library [databases](#) can be used at home by St. Louis County Library cardholders living in the metropolitan area. Some databases are restricted to branch or H&G department access only. H&G also maintains the [SLCL Digital Archives](#).

Research guidance

H&G staff members can provide research assistance by phone and in person. Contact information can be found in the lower right corner of this page.

Lookup service

H&G can provide photocopies, prints, or digital scans of many library materials from indexed sources or when given a specific citation. Requests can be made through the [online lookup request form](#).

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](#).

Memory Lab

H&G has personal recording and scanning & digitization studios for preserving family history. [Reservations](#) are required. Recorders and scanners may also be [checked out](#) for home use.

Classes & programs

H&G offers a variety of in-person and virtual [events](#) for new and experienced genealogists. All events are free and a library card is not required.

StLGS Events

Monthly Meeting: Overwhelmed by DNA Results?

Saturday, September 14, 10:00 am, Clark Family & Virtual
Learn to use the tools DNA testing companies provide and other resources, like DNA Painter, to help you focus, organize, and better understand your DNA results.

German Resources at the St. Louis County Library

Wednesday, September 18, Clark Family & Virtual
Explore the many resources for German research in the Emerson History & Genealogy Center at SLCL, including Ortssippenbücher, Marxkors books, St. Louis German church records, the Archion database, and more.

See [stlgs.org](#) for more information and to register for virtual access.

Events are free and open to the public.

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

[Subscribe](#) to PastPorts or [view](#) current and past issues.

Contact us:

Emerson History & Genealogy Center

St. Louis County Library

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63131

314-994-3300

genealogy@slcl.org

slcl.org/genealogy

Mon-Thurs 9 am-8 pm, Fri-Sat 9 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

The first multi-page American newspaper was published on September 25, 1690. A single edition of *Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick* was printed in Boston, Massachusetts. The British colonial authorities, however, did not like the way they were portrayed and had it shut down.



SOCIETY SECTION



“The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.”

“As one of the most inclusive genealogical societies in the country, DAR boasts 190,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally. Any woman 18 years or older-regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background-who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership.”-DAR website

There are over 10 DAR chapters in the St. Louis area!

See dar.org for more information.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

All branches of the St. Louis County Library will be closed on Monday, September 2 for Labor Day.

PHOTOS

Looking for photos of your ancestors? These can sometimes be hard to come by, but Ancestry Library Edition has some record sets that contain historic portraits. Examples include:

United States, Dead Fred Genealogical Photo Archive Index, 1816-2001, 117,389 records

UK, Portraits and Photographs, 1547-2018, 156,917 records

U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-2016, 881,225,696 records

Private Member Photos, 182,924,367 records

UK, Civil Engineer Photographs, 1829-1923, 836 records

California, U.S., World War I Soldier Photographs, 1917-1918, 4,800 records

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



CLASSIC CLIPPINGS



1904 OLYMPIANS

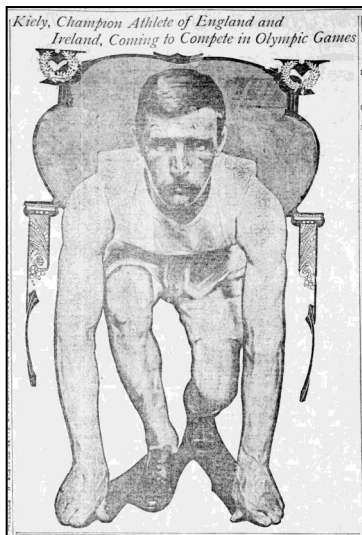
With the 2024 Paris Olympic Games in the books, we thought we would take a look at athletes from the 1904 St. Louis games. Today, NBC broadcasts the modern games and creates athlete vignettes to go along with them. In 1904, that information came in the newspapers. Enjoy these clippings of athletes from the 1904 St. Louis Olympics Games!



The St. Louis Republic, July 24, 1904



The St. Louis Republic, September 25, 1904

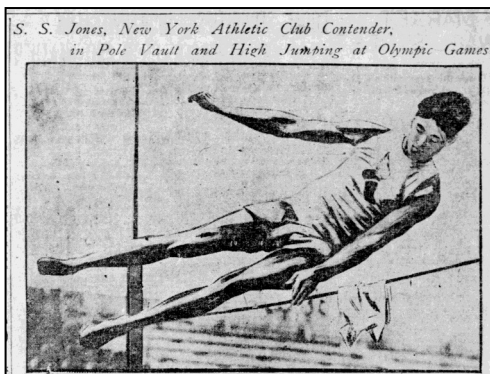


The St. Louis Republic, September 4, 1904

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, June 12, 1904



St. Louis Globe-Democrat, September 1, 1904



St. Louis Post-Dispatch, August 31, 1904



Monday, October 7, 6:30 p.m.

**From Québec to France:
Tracing the Journey**

Learn to use the Emerson History & Genealogy Center's vast collection of print resources to trace your Québec ancestors back in time through the earliest days of the colony, and ultimately to their hometowns in France.

Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 p.m.

Bygdebøker: Norwegian Rural Books

Since the early 20th century, Norwegians have produced manuscripts that contain rich details about rural individuals and families. Learn about Bygdebøker and the growing collection at the Emerson History & Genealogy Center.

Monday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.

**Hearth & Home: Sources for English
Genealogical Research**

The Emerson History & Genealogy Center collects print resources for English genealogy. Learn about English tax books, local histories, and other items in the collection to help you locate your English ancestors.

Monday, October 28, 6:30 p.m.

**Ortsfamilienbücher:
Researching German Ancestors**

Ortsfamilienbücher contain genealogical information about families within a specific town, village, or parish, sometimes going back to the beginning of written records. Learn about the Emerson History & Genealogy Center's large collection of these books and how to use them.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

MEXICAN GENEALOGY

Speaker: Lisa Medina

Saturday, September 28, 11:00 a.m.

Adults. Registration required.

Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering.



St. Louis County **Library**



HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH