

### FOR THE RECORDS

### Historic African American Cemeteries of St. Louis: Father Dickson Cemetery

Father Dickson Cemetery has been featured in the media of late, specifically regarding the efforts to maintain and beautify the hallowed grounds. Here is a closer look at the legacy of Father Moses Dickson and his namesake cemetery.

#### Who was Father Dickson?

Moses Dickson was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on April 5, 1824. He was born to free parents Robert and Hannah Dickson. Aside from this, there is very little known about the life of Moses Dickson's childhood. As a young man, he traveled the Mississippi river and its tributaries, working as a barber on various steamboats. His experiences on the boats and scenes he witnessed at various ports that encouraged him to fight for the freedom of African Americans who were bound by slavery in the United States. In 1846, Dickson organized a group of twelve young men stationed across the country known as the "Knights of Liberty." The primary goal of this organization was to force an end to slavery in the United States within ten years' time, through a massive insurrection. By 1856, the group numbered nearly 42,000 members and was located in every southern state with the exception of Mississippi and Texas. In July of 1857, just as the Knights of Lib-

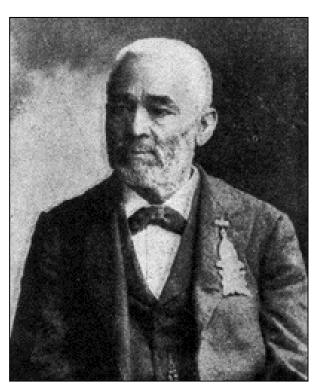


Photo of Moses Dickson. Courtesy of the "Friends of Father Dickson" website.

erty were ready to enact their uprising, Dickson urged his disciples to communicate a halt to their plan, as he sensed the tension between the North and South coming to a head. He felt that if the Knights could wait for whites to become involved in the fight, they had a greater chance at ending slavery completely in the United States. He urged his followers to "wait, have patience, hold together, not break ranks, (and) trust in the Lord."<sup>1</sup>

With the insurrection on hold, Dickson and his men directed their attention to the Underground Railroad. The Knights of Liberty had been assisting with efforts to free slaves via the Underground Railroad since 1850. A secret organization formed in Galena, Illinois known as the Order of Twelve, used St. Louis as its headquarters to help slaves escape to

freedom. When the civil war began, the Knights of Liberty ultimately disbanded. Moses Dickson and many of his followers, however, joined the Union army and fought to end slavery, just as the Knights had intended to do.

After the Civil War, Moses Dickson returned to St. Louis in 1867. The previous year he joined the African Methodist Episcopalian church and became an ordained minister. Dickson was appointed as Pastor of the Freedman's Church

REV. MOSES DICKSON DEAD.

A Prominent Figure Among the Colored People. Rev. Moses Dickson, the veteran colored

minister, familiarly known as Fr. Dickson, died at his home, 2651 Pine street, at 7:45 o'clock last night, after an illness of several

o'clock last night, after an illness of several weeks' duration, from typhold fever. Fr. Dickson was one of the best known men among the people of his race in the United States. As the founder of the Inter-national Order of Twelve of Knights and Daughters of Tabor, his name became a bousehold word in almost every community of colored people in the country. He was one of the most distinguished members of the colored Masonic order of Missouri, being at the time of his death a thirty-third de-gree Mason, and having been at various times grand master, grand high priest and centinent commander. As a minister of the African Methodist Episcopal church, he attained considerable fame as an eloquent pulpit orator and scholar.

fame as an eloquent pulpit orator and scholar. His enthusiasm for the advancement of the interests of his mace led him into the oblitical arena early in life. He is reputed to have been one of the original promoters of the "underground calinoad" for the pur-pose of facilitating the escape of runaway slaves from slave states to the free states and to Canada. He was born in Cherianati. Ohio, April 5, 1824, and was nearly 78 years of age at the time of his death. His carents, Robert and Hamah Dickson, were natives of Virginia. He cans to St. Louis in 1844, and spent the greater portion of his life here. He was a prominent factor in almost every public movement for the benefit of his race in this state for the past half cen-tury. He was the author of several books, He leaves a daughter. Mis. Mamie Au-gusta Robinson, wife of J. S. Robinson, with whem he resided, and two grandchil-dron. Jennic and Eugenia Robinson.

Moses Dickson obituary. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Nov. 29, 1901, p. 9.

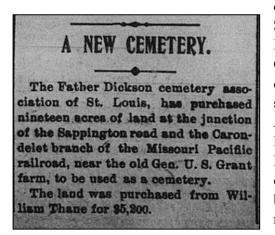
(which later became St. John's Methodist), the first African-American church in Carondelet. Along with leading his congregation, Father Dickson and his wife Mary dedicated their lives to the advancement of African Americans, and especially recently emancipated slaves. Father Dickson took a special interest in the education of African Americans and helped James Milton Turner to found the Lincoln Institute, in Jefferson City, Missouri, which later became Lincoln University. Moses Dickson was involved in many other philanthropic causes between 1865 and 1880. He served in every state Republican convention until 1878. Dickson also campaigned with James Milton Turner to promote black suffrage. In 1872, Moses and his wife Mary established the Order of Twelve Knights and Daughters of Tabor, more commonly referred to as the "Order of Twelve." The group was named in honor of the original Twelve Knights of Liberty that Dickson led before the Civil War. The Order of Twelve sought out to uplift African Americans through social institutions and to promote the acquisition of property, wealth, morality, temperance, and education, influenced by Christian ideals and a devotion to the Almighty. During the "southern exodus" between 1878 and 1879, Moses Dickson served as the President of the Refugee Relief Board and assisted in the relocation of nearly 16,000 former slaves to Kansas. The services provided by the Refugee Relief Board included housing, meals, and assistance with moving and travel. Moses Dickson passed away at his home, 2651 Pine Street, on November 28, 1901. At the time of his death, he ranked as a Thirty-third Degree Freemason, which is a to his contributions to his community. A midnight candlelight funeral service was conducted by the Masons and the Order of Twelve. Mo-

ses Dickson was laid to rest in St. Peter Cemetery until the establishment and dedication of Father Dickson Cemetery on August 29, 1903.

#### **History of Father Dickson Cemetery**

Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, city ordinances were implemented to decrease the number of burials that occurred within the city limits, leading to a need for larger cemeteries to be created outside of the city limits. This made it more difficult for African Americans to find final resting places due to segregation laws that affected even the dead. By 1903, there was only one private African American cemetery in the St. Louis area, Gatewood Gardens. This changed, however, with the formation of the Father Dickson Cemetery Association. In June of 1903, the association was formed as a for-profit organization aimed at selling burial plots exclusively to those within the African American community. The association was officially incorporated by the State of Missouri on July 7, 1903. The St.

Louis Globe Democrat printed a list of the founding board of directors as: F.J. Autenrieth, W. D. Turner, R.L. Johnston, and T.R. Appel. On July 18, 1903, the Father Dickson Cemetery Association purchased the twelve acres that would be-



Purchase of Land for Father Dickson Cemetery. Carondelet News, 18 July 1903, p. 1.

come Father Dickson Cemetery from William Thane for \$5200 (just over \$165,000 today). There is no known formal connection between Father Dickson and the four men who officially formed the Father Dickson Cemetery Association. However, it is presumed that the men must have encountered Dickson in his various social welfare and political rights crusades. Each of the four men on the board of the Father Dickson Cemetery Association were associated with either the freemasons and/or the Republican Party in Missouri. The cemetery was formally dedicated to Father Moses Dickson on August 29, 1903. Some three thousand people attended the dedication, most of whom belonged to the various societies formed by the late Father Dickson. Father Dickson was moved from his original resting place in Saint Peter Cemetery to his namesake cemetery on the day of its dedication. His reinternment is the first burial on the ledger of Father Dickson Cemetery. The ledger books consist of 638 pages, with 12,861 entries across three volumes. The records cover the time the cem-

etery was in operation and can be viewed on microfilm in the History and Genealogy Department, SLCEM Rolls 4, 5, and 6.

and other old a 20 Khads 双斜 21/13

Father Dickson Ledger Book. Volume 1, page 1, Microfilm SCCEM 4.

The cemetery officially closed in 1976, with intermittent burials and exhumations over the next several years. Upon its closing, the cemetery soon began to fall into disrepair. With no perpetual endowment, funds to maintain the grounds were not available. By the mid-1980s, the grounds had become so overgrown that weeds had begun to look like bushes

and headstones could not be located. Community members came together in 1988 to help restore the grounds and have worked diligently since then under the name, "Friends of Father Dickson." The organization fought the uphill battle to beautify the green space and ensure those buried there are never forgotten. Friends of Father Dickson, under the leadership of Ernest Jordan Jr., officially took ownership of the cemetery in 2015. Their continued efforts and community support have allowed Father Dickson to become more than just a cemetery to the St. Louis community. Furthermore, with the assistance of the Missouri State Historical Preservation Office, the organization petitioned for Father Dickson Cemetery to become a nationally recognized historic site. The process took many years to fully complete and finally, on August 19, 2021, the sixty-seven page appli-



The entrance to Father Dickson Cemetery. Photo by Robert Cohen, rcohen@post-dispatch.com

cation was certified for consideration. On October 6, 2021, Father Dickson Cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The recognition was due in large part to historically significant persons buried at the cemetery and its role in St. Louis history. The addition of the cemetery to the National registry not only protects the land, but could also provide support for preservation benefits and incentives according to the National Park Service website.

#### **Moving Forward**

In the fall of 2021, Lindenwood University history professor Jeffery Smith collaborated with Father Dickson Cemetery and the St. Louis Genealogical Society for his senior seminar on "Death and Mourning." While his students conducted research, Professor Smith began a project that utilized GPS to create an interactive map of the cemetery. The project will allow researchers to view the 917 identifiable headstones with detailed burial information about the people associated with each marker. The finished map will be hosted by Lindenwood University through their Digital Commons and the plan is to make a direct link available on the St. Louis County Library History & Genealogy webpage, as well as the genealogical society's website. The St. Louis Genealogical Society has also updated their index of the Father Dickson ledger books to include lot and section numbers for burials.

Friends of Father Dickson meet the third Saturday of the month, April through November, between 10 am and noon to tend to the grounds. If you are interested in volunteering, feel free to join them, or if you would like more information, you can contact them by email (friendsoffather@aol.com) or by phone (314-822-8221). Community members are also encouraged to visit Father Dickson and enjoy the greenspace. There are places to sit and enjoy a nice day, picnic, or take a stroll using the walking guide which points out numerous headstones and the history behind the people buried there.. The walking guide book will soon be available at the Barn and Sappington House gift shops for purchase, and is available for loan in the History and Genealogy Department.

#### Some People of Note Buried in Father Dickson Cemetery:

#### **James Milton Turner:**

James Milton Turner was a famous African American rights advocate. He was born a slave in north St. Louis County,



Headstone of James Milton Turner. Courtesy of the Friends of Father Dickson website.

His father was a free man who shoed horses and his mother was a slave. James and his mother Hannah were freed when James was around the age of four. As a boy, Turner attended the steamboat school run by Reverend John Berry Meachum. During the Civil War, Turner acted as a body servant for Madison Miller, a Union colonel. Post-Civil War, Turner dedicated his life to the advancement of former slaves and the education of African Americans. He helped establish thirty schools in the state of Missouri, including Lincoln University, the first higher education institution for African Americans in the state. From 1871 through 1878, Turner served as the U.S. Minister to Liberia, the first African American to do so since the position had been created in 1820. The last two decades of Turner's life were spent fighting for the rights of freedmen who resided in Native American territories in Oklahoma. In 1915, a railcar exploded near where he was working, resulting in shrapnel cutting his hand. Turner died on November 1, 1915, due to blood poisoning caused from the injury.

#### Mary Elizabeth Peters-Dickson

Mary Elizabeth Peters-Dickson was born in 1918 in Ste. Genevieve to John Sebastian and Mary Butcher. Her father is known as one of the original German settlers of Ste. Genevieve. Married at 17, she and her husband Caleb Peters moved to Galena, Illinois in 1838. Caleb passed away in 1846 and Mary soon converted to the A.M.E.. She married Moses Dickson on October 5, 1848. Mary devoted her life to serving the African American people. She accompanied Moses on many endeavors to help enslaved people escape their bondage via the Underground Railroad and ultimately help abolish slavery. For her service and dedication to her people, the fraternity that she helped her husband create bestowed upon her the honorable title of "Mother of all Knights and Daughters of Tabor," in August of 1882. Mary died on February 1, 1891, and was buried in St. Peter cemetery. She was reinterred at Father Dickson Cemetery on November 6, 1910.

#### Susan Paul Vashon

Several members of the Vashon family, for which Vashon High School in St. Louis is named, are buried in Father Dickson Cemetery. Susan Paul Vashon, the matriarch of the prominent family, was an African American abolitionist,, educator, and philanthropist born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1838. Her mother died at a young age and her maternal grandparents raised Susan. Her grandfather was the Reverend Thomas Paul, a significant figure in Boston and African American history. She was educated at Miss O'Mears Seminary in Somerville, Massachusetts. She was the only African American student and was valedictorian of her class. She went on to become a teacher and later married George Vashon, the principal of her school. Together they had nine children. During the Civil War, Susan aided wounded soldiers of the colored infantry and helped raise funds to assist in veteran and refugee housing and care in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Susan returned to work as a teacher after moving to Washington D.C. in 1872. She then became principal of the Thaddeus Stevens School. In 1882, she and her family moved to St. Louis, where she lived the rest of her life

promoting the advancement of African American women through various clubs such as the St. Louis Association of Colored Women's Clubs, which she helped to found. Susan Paul Vashon died on November 27, 1912. Susan Vashon was originally buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery but was reinterred at Father Dickson, the final resting place of three of her children.

### Bibliography

#### **Resources from the H&G Collection:**

Books: *Father Dickson Cemetery: a Walking Tour and Map, 845 S. Sappington*, published by Friends of Father Dickson Cemetery, 977.865 F253 *Sacred Green Space: A Survey of Cemeteries in St. Louis County*, by Ann Morris, R 977.865 M875S
Microfilm:
St. Louis Cemetery records (Father Dickson Cemetery): SLCEM 4 - 6
St. Louis Globe Democrat, October 21, 1853–October 29, 1986 - Rolls 16-34

### **Other Resources:**

Father Dickson Cemetery National Register of Historic Places Registration Form <u>https://docs.google.com/document/d/10dzGXssy-RCQYKIRw2LYMBFilhonkyOwtUPeKnfF0RI/edit</u> Father Dickson Cemetery Website <u>https://greatriversgreenway.org/father-dickson-cemetery-gravois-greenway-grants-trail/</u>

#### **Citation:**

1. Timothy E. Fulop, Albert J. Raboteau Routledge, African-American Religion: Interpretive Essays in History and Culture Jan 11, 2013

### PASTPORTS NEWS

You may have noticed a change in the formatting of PastPorts. Going forward, the "For the Records" article will be published in a single-column format. Over the past few months, the History & Genealogy Department has been looking at how we can make our materials more engaging and accessible to all of our patrons.

This reformatting was in response to a comment regarding the difficulties that those who have visual impairments may face when reading double-columned articles with the assistance of magnifiers and e-readers. We hope this minor adjustment allows for more accessible and easier reading for all of our patrons.

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

To celebrate Women's History Month, SLCL is offering the following program about women's history in St. Louis:

Virtual Program: St. Louis Women Behind the Camera Thursday, March 10, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Learn about the early history of photography in St. Louis through the lens of women's work, lives, and unconventional careers. In celebration of Women's History Month. Adults. Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering.

To register for these or other St. Louis County Library programs, click here: <u>https://www.slcl.org/events</u>.

#### MARCH 2022 | PAGE 7

### PastPorts.

### SPOTLIGHT ON

### **IRISH HISTORY AND RESEARCH**

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17th each year, is a day of Irish celebration. History & Genealogy has many resources for those wanting to learn more about Irish history or search for their Irish ancestors. Here is a sampling:

### **Microfilm:**

St. Louis Irish Catholic Church Records, including St. Brigid, St. Patrick, and St. Lawrence O'Toole. See the <u>Guide to St. Louis</u> <u>Archdiocesan Records</u> <a href="https://bit.ly/34rlf9d>">https://bit.ly/34rlf9d></a>

#### **Print Materials:**

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors by John Grenham 929.1 G826T

The Birth Index of Ireland: A Special Record of Irish Family Names by Sir Robert E. Matheson R 941.5 M427B

A History of Ireland by Mike Cronin R 941.5 C947H

Everyday Life in 19th-Century Ireland by Ian Maxwell R 941.5 M465E

Mapping the Great Irish Famine by Liam Kennedy, Paul S. Ell, E.M. Crawford and L.A. Clarkson R 941.5 M297

The Famine Ships: The Irish Exodus to America by Edward Laxton R 973.0491 L425F

Missouri Irish: The Original History of the Irish in Missouri by Micheal C. O'Laughlin 977.8 O42M

The Saint Louis Irish: An Unmatched Celtic Community by William Barnaby Faherty, S.J. 977.866 F157S

### **PastPorts Articles:**

For the Records: Irish Catholic Parish Records, March 2020 <a href="https://bit.ly/3sJr4Hp">https://bit.ly/3sJr4Hp</a>

For the Records: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, November 2020–January 2021 <a href="https://bit.ly/3uADkw3">https://bit.ly/3uADkw3</a>

For the Records: Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland, December 2016–January 2017 <a href="https://bit.ly/3HAJGQ0">https://bit.ly/3HAJGQ0</a>>

### **TECH TALK**

Looking to expand your technology knowledge? Looking to better organize and share your genealogy? Check out these upcoming SLCL programs:

#### Virtual Program: Google Drive

Monday, March 21, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Create and store documents in the cloud, access from anywhere and share and collaborate with others. Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering.

#### Virtual Program: Google Docs

Monday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Use Google Docs to create, edit and format documents. Printing and saving in the Internet cloud, using Google Drive will also be covered. Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering.

To register for these or other St. Louis County Library programs, click here: <u>https://www.slcl.org/events</u>.

**PastPorts** is published by History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library, located on Tier 5 of Library Headquarters.

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

#### Contact us:

History & Genealogy St. Louis County Library 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63131

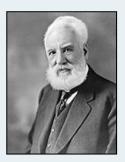
314-994-3300 genealogy@slcl.org www.slcl.org/genealogy

### This month in history

On March 10, 1876, the first words were spoken over a telephone when Alexander Graham Bell summoned his assistant in another room by saying, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to

see you." Bell had received U.S. patent number 174465 for the telephone just three days prior, on March 7.

Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1847. His father was a leading authority on public speaking and speech correction. Bell practiced in the family business and later opened a school for training teach-



ers of the deaf in Boston and became a professor of vocal physiology at Boston University. In his free time, he began experimenting with transmitting speech over a telegraph system, ultimately leading to his invention.

### **NEW PRINT POLICIES**

As of January 1, 2022, the library resumed charging for print, copy and fax services. Each library cardholder will receive a monthly credit of \$5.00 for computer printouts.

H & G printouts: Black and white printouts (8.5 x 11 or 11 x 17 in): \$0.10 Color printouts (staff assistance) (8.5 x 11 or 11 x 17 in): \$0.25

H & G copies: The H & G copy machine will still require cash. Black and white copy  $(8.5 \times 11 \text{ or } 11 \times 17 \text{ in})$ : \$0.10 Color copy  $(8.5 \times 11 \text{ or } 11 \times 17 \text{ in})$ : \$0.25

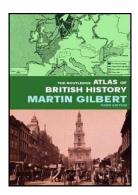
## NEWBooks

**MARTIN GILBERT** 

#### The Rutledge Atlas of British History, 3rd Edition

Taylor & Francis Group R 941 G465R

The changing story of the British Isles forms the central theme of this fascinating and compelling atlas, which covers England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales - and the expan-



sion and gradual disintegration of Britain's overseas empire. This new edition includes:

\* Politics: from the Saxon kingdoms and the collapse of Britain's French Empire to Jacobites, Parliamentary Reform, the Commonwealth and Europe

\* War and Conflict: from Viking attacks and the Norman Invasion to the Armada, World War and the revolt against empire

\* Trade and Industry: from the post-Norman economy and Tudor

trade to industrial unrest and the opening of international trade routes

\* Religion: from the Saxon Church to the Reformation

\* Society and Economics: from civilian life in Roman Britain to the Industrial and Agricultural revolutions, the Great Strike and the growth of universities.–Publisher

#### JOHN W. BROWN

### Missouri Legends: Famous People from the Show-Me State (2nd Edition)

Reedy Press R 977.8 B878M and circulating copies

Walt Disney, Brad Pitt, Jack Dorsey, Payne Stewart. Josephine Baker. Samuel Clemens. George Washington Carver. What do these icons have in common? They were all raised in the Show-Me State. This second edition of *Missouri Legends* brings renowned politicians, authors, artists, athletes, performers, and historical figures to life. The book profiles more than 200 famous Missourians with dozens of new entries. Each profile includes a brief account of their formative years in Missouri and how they became legendary. With the second edition, readers will learn even more about the historically significant (Jesse James, Gen. John J. Pershing, Laura Ingalls Wilder), major politicians (Harry S Truman, Jack Danforth, Bill Bradley), groundbreaking artists (Scott Joplin, Thomas Hart Benton, T.S. Eliot), busi-

ness innovators (Dale Carnegie, Sam Walton, J.C. Penney), sports legends (Yogi Berra, Albert Pujols, Grant Wistrom), iconic entertainers (Redd Foxx, Steve McQueen, Sheryl Crow) and world-famous leaders in science, technology, broadcasting, and other fields. From the smallest towns to the big cities, there are legends all around us. This book is a celebration of our Show-Me State heroes who have made an impact on the world... and it all started in Missouri.–Publisher



### SLCL UPGRADE WEEK

From March 9-16. some library services will be limited or unavailable:

- •Placing holds and renewing items
- •Updating account information
- •Reading History and Lists
- •Obtaining a new library card
- Making payments
- Library Elf services

The St. Louis County Library and the St. Louis Public Library are launching a new shared catalog on March 17. Enhanced services include:

•St. Louis County Library patrons will have access to more items. When you search our new catalog you can borrow books, movies, and music from the St. Louis Public Library.

•Use your library card to place holds on items throughout the City and County library systems, and have them delivered to any City or County location for pick up.

•We will offer a 21-day check out period for most material, as opposed to the 14-day check out period.

\*Reading lists will be cleared and PIN numbers will be reset. Enter the last 4 digits of your phone number or try using 1234, then reset your PIN (only after March 17).

### UPCOMING CONFERENCE



Photo courtesy of FamilySearch

### RootsTech

### https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/

"Join us at RootsTech
The World's Largest Family History Conference
100% Virtual, 100% Free.
3–5 March 2022
Sign up for RootsTech so you can enjoy:
Inspiring keynote speakers
Unlimited access to over 1,500 sessions
Expo Hall with companies from around the world
Playlists, chat, and much more"—RootsTech

St. Louis County Library is a FamilySearch affiliate library

### DATABASE UPDATES

• <u>PERSI</u>, the PERiodical Source Index, has moved to the Allen County Public Library's website <a href="https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/">https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/</a>>.

For the past several years, the index has been a part of the Findmypast database. PERSI began in 1986 at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN as an effort to index publications on genealogy and history. Since then, the ACPL Genealogy Cen-

	Search the (	enealogy Center Catalog	Search
	bearur the c	renearogy center catalog	Search
ACIE	Search our F	ree Databases	Search
GENEALOGY			
CENTER			
The Genealogy Center + Free Databases +	PERSI		
Periodical Source Inde	ex		
PERSI is the premier subject index for genealog Public Library. Using this valuable resource prov			Genealogy Center of the Allen Co
Click a button below to start searching for article	в.		
	s	urnames	
Ur	nited States	Canada	
8	ritish Isles	Other Countries	
	Resear	th Techniques	
	Article	Title Keyword	

ter has created more than 2.5 million searchable records in PERSI from some 8,000 different periodicals. If your PERSI search for an ancestor or topic is successful, there are a few ways you can access the article. First, the St. Louis County Library has a large periodical collection and is acquiring more every year. Check the <u>SLCL catalog</u> <https://iii.slcl.org/> to see if we have the periodical you need. Some periodicals have been digitized and may be online, so an internet search may prove fruitful. A <u>worldcat.org</u> search can be performed to see if any nearby libraries have the periodical, or an out-of-town library may be able to scan it for you. The ALPL can also scan the article for a fee.

 Missouri death certificates for the year 1971 are now available on the <u>Missouri Digital Heritage</u> website <https://bit.ly/337fugn>. These free records are a great resource for Missouri ancestors. Date of death, cause of death, age, occupation, spouse, parents, and burial place are just some of the bits of genealogy information that may be gleaned from these certificates.

### 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 <u>online</u> <https:// bit.ly/3jrqw3j>.
- Print outs from database records if patrons cannot access the database at home.
- Please use the <u>online lookup request form</u> <a href="https://bit.ly/2UQXJKE">https://bit.ly/2UQXJKE</a>> to submit requests.

### **Print collection**

More than 27,000 books in the collection can be checked out. The entire collection is included in the library's <u>online catalog</u> <<u>http://webpac.slcl.org</u>>. Books with call numbers that <u>do not</u> begin with "R" are available to check out. Patrons can request books online or by calling 314-994-3300.

### **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 phone consultation with an H&G staff member. Requests can be made using the online <u>Book-a-</u> <u>Genealogist form</u> <https://bit.ly/3fQbB0r>.

#### Database access

Many library databases can be used at home by St. Louis County Library card holders living in the metropolitan area. The Ancestry Library Edition database, normally restricted to in-library use, can be accessed remotely on a temporary basis. View the list of genealogical databases on the library's website <a href="https://bit.ly/37GRBtF">website</a>

For more information, please contact the History & Genealogy Department at 314-994-3300 or genealogy@slcl.org.

### LIBRARY EARLY CLOSURE

Wednesday, March 9, H & G will close at 5:00 for the C.J. Box author event at Headquarters.

# Events

Saturday, March 12, 10:00 am

St. Louis Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting:

#### "Using the History & Genealogy Department at the St. Louis County Library for Your Genealogical Research"

Learn about the History & Genealogy Department's expansive collection and services. We will look at how to navigate the website, search the card catalog, place an interlibrary loan request, access the genealogy databases and indexes, locate periodical articles, plan a visit, and much more.

Featured speaker: Robin McDonough

Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

St. Louis Genealogical Society German Special Interest Group Meeting:

### "Brick Walls"

Most roadblocks we encounter are avoidable. Learn how to recognize and overcome the most common issues that can cause an impasse in German research.

Featured speaker: Ute Brandenburg

Visit <u>stlgs.org</u> for more information and to register for these virtual meetings.

### AncestryLibraryEdition at your branch

AncestryLibraryEdition may no longer be available from home, but it can be used in any of the St. Louis County Library's branches. This database has the most search-by-name records and is a great place to begin or continue your genealogy research. For more information on these St. Louis County Library locations, click here: <u>https://www.slcl.org/branches</u>.

Bridgeton Trails Branch 3455 McKelvey Rd. Bridgeton, MO 63044

**Cliff Cave Branch** 5430 Telegraph Rd. St. Louis, MO 63129

Daniel Boone Branch 300 Clarkson Rd. Ellisville, MO 63011

**Eureka Hills Branch** 500 Workman Rd. Eureka, MO 63025

Florissant Valley Branch 195 New Florissant Rd., S. Florissant, MO 63031

### Grand Glaize Branch

1010 Meramec Station Rd. Manchester, MO 63021

### Grant's View Branch 9700 Musick Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63123

#### Headquarters/History & Genealogy 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63131

Jamestown Bluffs Branch 4153 N. Highway 67 Florissant, MO 63034

Lewis & Clark Branch 9909 Lewis and Clark Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63136 Meramec Valley Branch 1501 San Simeon Way Fenton, MO 63026

Mid-County Branch 7821 Maryland Ave. Clayton, MO 63105

Natural Bridge Branch 7606 Natural Bridge Rd. St. Louis, MO 63121

**Oak Bend Branch** 842 S. Holmes Ave. St. Louis, MO 63122

Indian Trails Branch 8400 Delport Dr. St. Louis, MO 63114

Prairie Commons Branch 915 Utz Ln. Hazelwood, MO 63042

Rock Road Branch 10267 St. Charles Rock Rd. St. Ann, MO 63074

Samuel C. Sachs Branch 16400 Burkhardt Pl. Chesterfield, MO 63017

> **Thornhill Branch** 12863 Willowyck Dr. St. Louis, MO 63146

> Weber Road Branch 4444 Weber Rd. St. Louis, MO 63123