For the Records

Etienne Cabet and La société icarienne (Icarian Society)

The nineteenth century was a time of great political upheaval in France. After more than two hundred years, the rule of the House of Bourbon came to an end with the French Revolution in 1792 only to be replaced by Napoleon, who was followed by the restoration of the House of Bourbon. The plight of the working class during the formative years of industrialization was a common theme during these times, commensurate with the rise of socialist/utopian philosophy and writings.

One of the better-known proponents of this school of thought was Etienne Cabet, born in 1788 in Dijon, France to a family of coopers. He took no interest in being a cooper, instead attending law school at the University of Dijon. He practiced for a time in Dijon and later relocated to Paris where he became involved in republican politics. In 1833, he began publishing his own newspaper, Le Populaire, which soon became the most popular republican newspaper in France. In 1834, as a result of his criticisms of the King and the ministry, he was offered the option of a fine and two years in prison or five years in exile. He chose the latter and departed for Brussels – whose leaders immediately ejected him – and then sought refuge in London.

Two of Cabet’s primary influences in his conversion to socialism / utopianism were Thomas More’s Utopia and time spent in London observing the advanced stage of mechanization in place there. In 1839, Cabet wrote... CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
History & Genealogy invites you to:

EXPLORE

[ OPEN August 20–21 ]

NEW!
OPEN THE SECOND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER

Browse 13,000+ family histories, school yearbooks, materials for states west of the Mississippi and more.

Tours of the History & Genealogy Department will be conducted on third Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.
Cabet’s followers, called Icarians, were expected to marry. Adultery was punished. Little room was allowed for self-interest. It was all for one and one for all. To each one according to his needs; from each one according to his strength. Solidarity, equality, liberty, eligibility, unity, peace, love, justice, mutual aid, universal insurance, organization of work, machines to the profit of all, augmentation of production, equitable division of products, suppression of misery, growing improvements, marriage and family, continual progress, abundance, art, education, intelligence, reason, morality, order, and union were the rule of the day. The first right was life. The first duty was work. Common happiness was the goal, and there were no formal religious observances.

In 1843, Cabet came up with a plan to create utopia in America. It would be: 1) a small self-sustaining community; 2) composed of 200–300 people, superior in their ability, character, and devotion; and 3) financially strong. The failure of the wheat harvest in 1846 and continued political and social problems convinced Cabet that he and

**Explore Tier 4 moves to second weekends of the month**

Explore Tier 4 will move to the second weekend of the month beginning Sept. 2016 to coincide with the monthly meetings of the St. Louis Genealogical Society. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at St. Louis County Library Headquarters. The monthly event is an opportunity for members of the public to browse a portion of the collection that is normally open only to library staff, including more than 13,000 family histories and school yearbooks. A tour of the department will be given on Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

Materials on Tier 4 are always available for use and will be retrieved by library staff upon request when Tier 4 is closed to the public. For more information, contact the department at genealogy@slcl.org or call 314-994-3300, ext. 2070.

**H&G staff at conferences**

Jake Eubanks, History & Genealogy Assistant Manager, attended the Midwestern Roots Conference, July 15–16, in Indianapolis. The sold-out conference of more than 400 participants brought heavy traffic to the H&G booth in the exhibit hall.

**PastPort readers are invited to stop by the H&G booth at the following upcoming conferences;**

- Missouri State Genealogical Society Conference, Aug. 6–7, Columbia, Mo. H&G Manager Scott Holl and staff member Kelly Draper will be present.

- Federation of Genealogical Societies, Sept. 1–3, Springfield, Ill., Jake Eubanks and staff member Mike Bridwell will attend.

**Kelly Draper awarded Certificate of Appreciation**

History & Genealogy staff member Kelly Draper has been awarded the Certificate of Appreciation by the Missouri State Genealogical Association (MoSGA) for significant contribution to the field of genealogy and family history. The award will be presented at the 2016 MoSGA conference on Aug. 6. Kelly has worked for History & Genealogy since the department officially opened in July 1998. Past award recipients include History & Genealogy staff members Scott Holl and Larry Franke.
his followers would never be successful in setting up a utopian society in France. Finding a small community to establish his utopia would not be a problem because there were about 100,000 active Icarians in France by 1846.

On May 9, 1847, Cabet announced his decision in *Le Populaire* to found the colony in America, believing that it would be impossible for one to be established in France. Land approximately one hundred miles northeast of Dallas, Texas was chosen. On February 2, 1848, with an avant-garde of sixty-nine men (the women and children would come later), the first ship left Le Havre for America, arriving in New Orleans near the end of March. Unfortunately for Cabet, on February 24, Louis Philippe was deposed and the Second Republic proclaimed. Now that the monarchy was gone, many Icarians lost interest in emigrating and some who had emigrated decided to return to France.

The land purchased in north Texas near the Red River Valley turned out to be a bust. The plots were not contiguous and thus did not contribute to communal living. Plus, the Icarians were not accustomed to the climate and physical effort required to farm (many were artisans of various kinds). They gave up and went back to New Orleans to wait for Cabet’s arrival from France in December 1848.

The Mormons had recently vacated Nauvoo, Illinois, leaving available a large quantity of buildings and land. The Icarians decided to purchase it and set out for Nauvoo on February 28, 1849. Their party of almost 300 arrived there on March 15. By 1855, they numbered around five hundred. They leased an additional 2,000 acres of farmland on which to raise wheat and vegetables.

For entertainment, the Icarians put on plays, concerts, and operettas, which were attended by their American neighbors. They picnicked in the country, had a library of over four thousand volumes and, on Sunday, in lieu of a church service, attended the *Cours Icarien*, an ongoing seminar conducted by Cabet on the themes found in his novel. Beginning at the age of four children lived and studied together in a dormitory, visiting their parents only on weekends. The Icarians had
hoped to rebuild the abandoned and partially destroyed Mormon temple as a schoolhouse, but a tornado struck in 1850 damaging it further. They decided to use the limestone to build a new two-story school on the same site. (The Mormon temple was re-built in 2002).

The 1850 U. S. Census for Hancock County, Illinois paints a good picture of the Icarian colony at Nauvoo. In many cases, not only is the home country (usually France, but sometimes Germany, Switzerland, or other country) given for the resident, but also his or her hometown.

In addition to a summary of the Icarians who appeared on the 1850 U. S. Federal Census for Hancock County, Illinois, Francis and Gontier’s *Partons pour Icarie* contains appendices listing Icarian deaths in Nauvoo.

In May of 1851, Cabet returned to France to face charges of fraud and deception brought against him by disillusioned Icarians. He was cleared of all charges, but because of ongoing political problems there, he was forced to leave. Upon his return to Nauvoo in 1852, he discovered that the Icarians had grown lax. There was too much drinking, smoking, hunting and fishing for sport (rather than for necessity), and some of the women had started to wear makeup. Cabet banned all of these and also called for silence while at work. Of course, there was much grumbling among the colonists. Dissatisfaction began to grow as they began to realize that Cabet was just another man. Cabet, on the other hand, was growing paranoid. Convinced the assembly to pass a rule against complaining, and grew more and more dictatorial. He began cultivating a network of spies in order to find out what people were saying in general and about him specifically.

In 1851, the decision was made to relocate farther west due to too many bad influences in Nauvoo from the Americans and Jesuits. The Icarians purchased three thousand acres of land in southwestern Iowa, and sent out rotating groups of settlers to farm it.

The ratification of the rigid Forty-eight Articles by the governing committee on February 3, 1853 caused a schism in the colony by 1855. The articles allowed arbitrary job assignments and frequent assignments to unrelated jobs. The bans on alcohol, tobacco, talking while at work, swearing, and complaining about the rules were a few of the more unpopular Articles. Spies continued to inform on other members. In the fall of 1855, Cabet suffered a minor stroke.

The colony formally split in 1856 and the “Cabetists” followed their leader to St. Louis. By November 6, 1856, 179 people were gathered in New Bremen, in North St. Louis with Cabet. The following day, he had another stroke and died on November 8 at the age of sixty-eight. He was originally buried in Holy Ghost (Old Picker) Cemetery, but when Holy Ghost was closed in preparation for the construction of Roosevelt High School, his body and monument were moved to New St. Marcus Cemetery on Gravois Road at Hampton.

As to the Icarians remaining in New Bremen, they purchased a thirty-nine acre property in Cheltenham, the present-day site of St. Louis.
Community College-Forest Park (bounded by Oakland Avenue, Manchester Road, Hampton Avenue, and Macklind Avenue) in 1858 for $25,000 with $500 down, which left the community dangerously low on funds. Another division in March 1859 resulted in the loss of 44 Icarians. They took with them $188 in cash, $588 in IOUs, and $1800 worth of clothing and tools. They had performed important functions at all levels, and Cheltenham never recovered economically.

When the Civil War broke out, some men left to fight for the Union. Unable to pay their creditors, the St. Louis colony dissolved in 1864. Some of the members went to live in the city of St. Louis; others moved to the Icarian colony near Corning, Iowa, which itself dissolved in 1898.

The 221 Icarians who remained in Nauvoo, in 1857 decided to liquidate their assets and relocate to Corning, Iowa, which they did in 1858. That group suffered another split when some of the younger and more recently arrived members wanted to implement changes which displeased the older members. The younger ones formed Jeune Icarie (Young Icaria) in 1878. It and the original Corning Icarie lasted until 1898.

In 1881, many of the Young Icarians decided to relocate to Cloverdale, California where they formed yet another Icarian Colony, Icaria Speranza, which lasted until 1886.

Although the goals of the Icarians were admirable in trying to form a fair and just society, it eventually failed due to mismanagement, insufficient capital, better economic opportunities elsewhere, the death of its leader, and internal disson. Unfortunately for the Icarians, they eventually found their utopia, which in Greek means “no place.”

**Bibliography**

*A Photographic History of Icaria-Speranza: A French Utopian Experiment at Cloverdale, California.*

Nauvoo, IL: National Icarian Heritage Society, 1989. 979.418 P575

La revue Icarienne was the Icarian newspaper published by the Icarians at Cheltenham (St. Louis). Photo: Larry Franke.

A diagram showing the opening and closing dates and locations of the Icarian Societies in America. Source: *California’s Utopian Colonies.*
**DATABASE SPOTLIGHT**

**Access World News and America’s Obituaries and Death Notices**

*Access World News and America’s Obituaries & Death Notices* are two databases that researchers can use to find news articles and obituaries from the last few decades. Both have similar designs and options.

Drawing from over 3,600 sources, *America’s Obituaries and Death Notices* focuses on obituaries from the United States. While the database includes obituaries from as early as 1860, most content dates from 1980s to present. Since it is limited to obituaries, it may be easier to locate a particular obituary through this database than more general newspaper databases. Search options include name, date, and obituary text.

*Access World News* has wider and less specific uses, hosting the text of over 8,000 news sources from 152 countries, including over 100 publications from Missouri. Obituaries are often included, but name searches can only be searched using keywords in the “all text” search box. Content is available from 1978 to the present, with coverage of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* beginning in 1988. Researchers can find articles by searching headlines, article text, author, date, section, and more.

From the main page of both databases, users can click on places on the map or navigate the list to the left to see an overview of what is available in any particular state or country, including newspaper names, localities, and date ranges. Users can simply copy and paste the text of articles and obituaries into another format, or they can print, email, or save them as PDF files. The two databases include coverage of newspaper text only, so any desired images will still have to be found through microfilm copies or other sources.

**More databases for History & Genealogy**

St. Louis County Library subscribes to over 30 databases for genealogical and historical research, most of which are accessible at home to library card holders living in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Download a guide in PDF format [here](http://tinyurl.com/jdujdgc) or see the list online [here](http://tinyurl.com/7qt8ja7).

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**NEWS AND TIPS | HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY**


Garno, Diana M. *Citoyennes and Icaria.* Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2005. R 335.02 G236C [Treats the struggle of women Icarians for equal rights]


You probably know that History & Genealogy has city directories for St. Louis City and County, but did you know that others are also available? The collection includes directories for cities and towns in Missouri and other states, as well. See the entire list on the library’s website! <http://www.slcl.org/content/city-directories>.


Prévos, André Jean Marc. *Frenchmen between Two Rivers: A History of the French in Iowa*. Iowa City: University of Iowa, 1981. R 977.7 P64F


The St. Louis Woman’s Exchange: 130 Years of the Gentle Art of Survival
By Jeannette Batz Cooperman
History Press, 2012
R 977.865 C778S

On the surface, the Woman’s Exchange of St. Louis is an exquisite gift shop with an adjacent tea-room—beloved, always packed, the chatter light and feminine, the salads and pies perfect. But the volunteers who run the Woman’s Exchange have had enough grit to keep the place going through two world wars, a Great Depression, several recessions, the end of fine craftsmanship and the start of a new DIY movement. The “decayed gentlewomen” they set out to help in 1883 are now refugees from Afghanistan, battered wives and mothers of sons paralyzed in Iraq. Sample the radical changes they have made over the years, as well as the institutions they wisely left alone, like the iconic cherry dress that has charmed generations of women and mothers, including Jacqueline Kennedy and Gwyneth Paltrow.—Publisher

By Roger L. Severns
Southern Illinois University, 2015
R 977.3 S498P

A concise legal history of Illinois through the end of the nineteenth century, Prairie Justice covers the region’s progression from French to British to early American legal systems, which culminated in a unique body of Illinois law that has influenced other jurisdictions. Written by Roger L. Severns in the 1950s and published in serial form in the 1960s, Prairie Justice is available now for the first time as a book, thanks to the work of editor John A. Lupton, an Illinois and legal historian who also contributed an introduction.—Publisher

La Gazette Française, 1780-1781: Revolutionary America’s French Newspaper.
By Eugena Poulin
Salve Regina University, 2007
R 071.3 P874G

On July 11, 1780, after a sixty-nine-day voyage, 6,000 French troops under the command of General Rochambeau disembarked in Newport, R.I. Cognizant of the anti-Catholic feelings against France that ran rampant among the general population, the French military officers who arrived in Newport on that July day anxiously descended from their ship, not knowing how they would be received. Once it became clear that the French stay in Newport would last through the winter months, the French soldiers began printing a newspaper, using the press that was carried on board the ship. The first issue of the Newport newspaper, the Gazette Française, appeared on November 17, 1780, followed by six consecutive issues and a final Supplement on January 2, 1781. The original purpose of the Gazette was to satisfy the curiosity of French officers seeking to educate themselves...
about their American military counterparts. To revisit the newspaper now is to capture a moment in American history, to see a unique perspective on Revolutionary America, naval customs of the era, and the political and social ambiance of Newport during the Revolution. A newly translated and annotated edition.—Publisher

**Bound to Respect: Antebellum Narratives of Black Imprisonment, Servitude, and Bondage, 1816–1861**

By Keith Michael Green

University of Alabama, 2015

R 810.8 G796B

Keith Michael Green examines key texts that illuminate forms of black bondage and captivity that existed within and alongside slavery. In doing so, he restores to antebellum African American autobiographical writing the fascinating heterogeneity lost if the historical experiences of African Americans are attributed to slavery alone. The book’s title is taken from the assertion by US Supreme Court chief justice Roger B. Taney in his 1857 Dred Scott decision that blacks had no rights that whites were “bound to respect.” This allusion highlights Green’s critical assertion that the dehumanizing absurdities to which defenders of slavery resorted to justify slavery only brought into more stark relief the humanity of African Americans.—Publisher

**Lift Every Voice: The NAACP and the Making of the Civil Rights Movement**

By Patricia Sullivan

New Press, 2009

R 973.0496 S951L

Lift Every Voice is a momentous history of the struggle for civil rights told through the stories of men and women who fought inescapable racial barriers in the North as well as the South—keeping the promise of democracy alive from the earliest days of the twentieth century to the triumph of the 1950s and 1960s. Historian Patricia Sullivan unearths the little known early decades of the NAACP’s activism, telling startling stories of personal bravery, legal brilliance, and political maneuvering. In the critical postwar era, following a string of legal victories culminating in Brown v. Board, the NAACP knocked out the legal underpinnings of the segregation system and set the stage for the final assault on Jim Crow.—Book jacket

**Fighting Neoslavery in the Twentieth Century: The Forgotten Legacy of the NAACP**

By Reginald Walters

Third World Press, 2015

R 306.362 W235F

Dr. Ronald Walters, one of the most highly respected political scientists in the nation, has compiled a body of evidence and anecdotes to substantiate his hypothesis that chattel slavery for African Americans did not end with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In Fighting Neoslavery in the 20th Century, Dr.Walters reports of the
efforts to eradicate bondage led primarily by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The stories and narratives are confirmed by numerous letters and documents that are used by the author to establish the amazing fact that slavery existed in the United States well into the 20th century.—Syndetics / Bowker

The Catholic Calumet: Colonial Conversions in French and Indian North America
By Tracy Neal Leavelle
University of Pennsylvania, 2012
R 299.7 L439C

In 1730 a delegation of Illinois Indians arrived in the French colonial capital of New Orleans. An Illinois leader presented two ceremonial pipes, or calumets, to the governor. One calumet represented the diplomatic alliance between the two men and the other symbolized their shared attachment to Catholicism. The priest who documented this exchange also reported with excitement how the Illinois recited prayers and sang hymns in their Native language, a display that astonished the residents of New Orleans. The "Catholic" calumet and the Native-language prayers and hymns were the product of long encounters between the Illinois and Jesuit missionaries, men who were themselves transformed by these sometimes intense spiritual experiences. The conversions of people, communities, and cultural practices that led to this dramatic episode all occurred in a rapidly evolving and always contested colonial context.—Publisher

The Royal Houses of Europe
P. Arnold, 2006–2015

Thirty-three volumes provides overviews of the family trees of European nobility. The books are located under various call numbers beginning with R 929.7.
Classes

Classes are free and open to the public. Registration is required, except where noted. Register online at http://www.slcl.org/events, or call (314) 994-3300.

**Beginning a Genealogical Research Project**
Are you ready to start researching your ancestors? Learn about the genealogical research process, how to get started, how to organize and cite your findings, useful library skills, various formats used in research (print, microfilm, and electronic), and the rich sources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. If you have little or no experience with genealogical research, this is the class for you.

**Sept. 13, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

**Sept. 17, 10:00 a.m. | Rock Road**

**Oct. 20, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

**Nov. 5, 10:00 a.m. | Sachs**

**Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition**
The Ancestry Library Edition database is a powerful tool for genealogical research. Find out how to search for your ancestors in census, immigration, military, and death records. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

**Aug. 6, 10:00 a.m. | Lewis & Clark**

**Sept. 22, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

**Oct. 15, 10:00 a.m. | Weber Road**

**Oct. 26, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

**Nov. 5, 2:00 p.m. | Oak Bend**

**Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest**
Fold3 and HeritageQuest electronic databases offer a variety of records for genealogical research, and they can be used at home for free with a valid St. Louis County Library card. Find out how to search for your ancestors in census records, city directories, books, periodicals and government documents. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

**Aug. 11, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

**Sept. 28, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

**Oct. 15, 2:00 p.m. | Grant’s View**

**Nov. 3, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

**History and Genealogy in Newspapers**
Newspaper databases make it easy to access millions of articles electronically, and they can be used at home with a valid St. Louis County Library card. Databases covered in this class will include 19th-Century U. S. Newspapers, NewspaperArchive, and current and historical St. Louis Post-Dispatch databases. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

**Aug 23, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

**Oct. 4, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

**Nov. 11, 2:00 p.m. | Oak Bend**

**Nov. 15, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

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**CLASS LOCATIONS**

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**General information**
Phone: (314) 994-3300, ext. 2070
Email genealogy@slcl.org
Website: www.slcl.org/genealogy
Tracing Your African-American Ancestors
Interested in finding your African-American Roots? This class will show you how to research your ancestors using two case studies. The first will show you how to get started, and the second will demonstrate how you can use specific source materials to solve common roadblocks. The class will conclude by investigating additional records to help deepen your research.

Aug. 6, 10:00 a.m. | Jamestown Bluffs

Using Periodicals for Family History Research
Genealogical and historical societies all over the country publish a wealth of information in quarterlies and other periodical publications. This class will cover the tools needed to locate genealogical periodicals and find information within them. No registration is necessary for this class.

Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m. | Cliff Cave

Programs are free, open to the public and take place in the Headquarters Auditorium. No registration is required.

Saturday, Aug. 13 | 10:00 a.m.
Maps and What They Can Tell
St. Louis Genealogical Society General Meeting
Maps provide images of geographic areas in your ancestors’ lives. Learn how that knowledge can further your research. | Ruth Ann Hager, CG, CGL, Speaker

Saturday, Sept. 10 | 10:00 a.m.
Discover Your Veterans Serving Our Country
St. Louis Genealogical Society General Meeting
Which wars have records? Which records are available? What is their content? How and where can you find these records? Find out about all these things plus some websites to try. | Carol Whitton, CG, Speaker

Wednesday, Sept. 21 | 7:00 p.m.
Using German Newspapers When You Don't Know Much German
StLGS German Special Interest Group
German-language newspapers are a valuable source of obituaries and other genealogical Information, and you do not have to be a German expert to use them. | Scott Holl, Manager, History & Genealogy, Speaker

Saturday, Oct. 8 | 10:00 a.m.
Recent Acquisitions for English Research in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library
St. Louis Genealogical Society General Meeting
The generous donations that made possible the William C. E. and Bessie K. Becker and Lewis Bunker Rohrbach Collections have also significantly expanded materials for English research in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. Learn about these new resources and their use in genealogical research. | Jake Eubanks, Assistant Manager, History & Genealogy, Speaker

Tuesday, Oct. 25 | 7:00 p.m.
Getting Organized: Finding Your Irish Ancestor
StLGS Irish Special Interest Group
Get some tips on how you can be a better researcher. Learn to prepare ahead, create research logs in MS Word, use chronologies to sort your data, and much more. | Carol Whitton, CG, Speaker

Saturday, Nov. 12 | 10:00 a.m.
Meat on the Bones: Using Newspapers to Add Persona to Born, Married, Died
St. Louis Genealogical Society General Meeting
Newspapers are an excellent source of information for the day to day lives of our ancestors and they did not have to be famous to get their name in the newspapers. | Vicki Fagyal, Speaker