

Discover History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library

Founded in 1998, the St. Louis County Library History and Genealogy Department is a major research destination offering access to a growing collection offering unique opportunities for genealogical and historical research.

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library offers sources for discovering St. Louis-area ancestral roots, as well as materials for research in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and states east of the Mississippi, with emphasis on migration trails. Discover premier resources for tracing African American ancestors and unique materials for finding family origins in the British Isles, Germany, and Switzerland. [The National Genealogical Society Book Loan Collection](https://www.slcl.org/content/national-genealogical-society-book-loan-collection) <https://www.slcl.org/content/national-genealogical-society-book-loan-collection> makes 27,000 print items, including 10,000 family histories, available for check out and interlibrary loans.

[See the May-June 2019 issue of *PastPorts* for an in-depth overview of the History & Genealogy collection](https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/05_2019.pdf) <https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/05_2019.pdf>.

St. Louis research

A large selection of microfilm featuring civil records, city directories, vital records, naturalizations, probate records, cemetery records, funeral home records, and other important sources for St. Louis City and County research. [“Online Guide to St. Louis Sources in the History and Genealogy Department”](https://www.slcl.org/content/online-guide-st-louis-sources-history-and-genealogy-department) <https://www.slcl.org/content/online-guide-st-louis-sources-history-and-genealogy-department> provides an overview of what is available.

U.S. research

The department offers many print sources, including vital record indexes and abstracts; cemetery and funeral home records; church records; land ownership records and maps; military records, including indexes and abstracts for federal and state records and extensive holdings for the Civil War period; genealogical journals and newsletters; probate court, wills and estate records; and local, regional and state histories.

Church records on microfilm

Collections include St. Louis-area Lutheran, United Church of Christ, and Catholic records, including those for the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Diocese of Belleville, Ill. [See the online guides to church records on microfilm](https://www.slcl.org/category/finding-guide-topics/church-records) <https://www.slcl.org/category/finding-guide-topics/church-records>.

Newspapers on microfilm

The library holds microfilm copies of current and historical St. Louis newspapers, including those published for immigrant, ethnic, and local communities. [See the online list of available newspapers titles](https://www.slcl.org/content/newspapers-and-other-periodicals-microfilm-held-saint-louis-county-library) <https://www.slcl.org/content/newspapers-and-other-periodicals-microfilm-held-saint-louis-county-library>.

Published family histories

The department offers more than 13,000 published family histories. More than 10,000 are available for checkout or interlibrary loans.

Sources for national groups and ethnic research

The department's collection features unique and foreign sources, including one of the largest collections of German [Ortsippenbücher](https://www.slcl.org/category/finding-guide-topics/ortssippenbücher) (village-specific genealogical registers extracted from church records) found in U.S. libraries. Other sources include Scottish memorial (cemetery) inscription books, sources for English research, an extensive collection of parish French North American parish registers, and the only complete microfilm collection of [church records for Canton Bern, Switzerland](https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-church-books-canton-bern-switzerland) found in the U.S.

Electronic databases

The library offers Ancestry Library Edition, Fold3, FindMyPast, Newspapers.com Pro-Quest Historical St. Louis Post-Dispatch and New York Times, Access Newspaper Archive, and a variety of other databases for genealogical and historical research. Most can be used remotely by St. Louis County Library card holders living in the St. Louis metropolitan area. [View the list of genealogy research databases online](https://www.slcl.org/research/databases?field_categories=79&search_api_views_fulltext=>)

Online subject guides to the collection

[Downloadable guides are available for various subjects](https://www.slcl.org/content/subject-guides-history-genealogy-department)

DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Lookup services—The department staff will do lookups in indexed sources. [An online lookup request form is available](https://www.slcl.org/content/lookup-request)

Book-a-Genealogist—H&G librarians are available for consultation by phone to provide research guidance and direction to resources. [Schedule an appointment online](https://www.slcl.org/content/book-genealogist)

Monthly newsletter—*PastPorts* monthly newsletter offers department news, articles highlighting department sources, and a listing of free classes and events. The newsletter is delivered electronically to subscribers via email for free. [Past issues and subscription information are available on the library's website](https://www.slcl.org/pastports/)

FamilySearch Affiliate Library—A comprehensive range of FamilySearch digitized records can be viewed on public computers and via the library's wireless network.

Classes and events— the department staff offers free virtual classes on genealogy. [See the class schedule and register online](https://bit.ly/3jJ8bxq)

Virtual classroom—[View recorded classes on demand in H&G's virtual classroom](https://www.slcl.org/genealogy/virtual-classroom)

<<https://www.slcl.org/genealogy/virtual-classroom>>.

Video tutorials—[Brief genealogy tutorials are available online](https://www.slcl.org/genealogy/video-tutorials) <<https://www.slcl.org/genealogy/video-tutorials>>.

USING THE COLLECTION

St. Louis County Library buildings are currently closed to the public because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The H&G staff is available by phone and email to assist you.

Telephone hours

Call 314-994-3300

Monday–Thursday, 9 am–6 pm

Friday & Saturday, 9 am–5 pm

Closed on legal holidays and special occasions as announced.

Email requests

Use the online [lookup request form](https://www.slcl.org/content/lookup-request) <<https://www.slcl.org/content/lookup-request>> or send an email to genealogy@slcl.org.

Book-a-Genealogist

Request an appointment using the [online form](https://www.slcl.org/content/book-genealogist) <<https://www.slcl.org/content/book-genealogist>>.

Contact information for the History and Genealogy Department

History and Genealogy Department

St. Louis County Library 1640 S.

Lindbergh Blvd.

St. Louis, Missouri 63131-3598

Phone: (314) 994-3300, extension 2070

Email: <mailto:genealogy@slcl.org>

Website: <https://www.slcl.org/genealogy>

H&G webpages mentioned during the presentation

ONLINE INDEXES AND GUIDES TO RECORDS AVAILABLE DIGITALLY ON FAMILYSEARCH

- [Guide to St. Louis Catholic Archdiocese Parish Records](https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/HG%20SLAPR%202015_0.pdf)
<https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/HG%20SLAPR%202015_0.pdf>.
Bonus: [view a tutorial](https://youtu.be/SGaJvY0ux0) <<https://youtu.be/SGaJvY0ux0>>
- [United church of Christ Records Held by the History & Genealogy Department](https://www.slcl.org/content/united-church-christ-records-held-history-and-genealogy-department)
<<https://www.slcl.org/content/united-church-christ-records-held-history-and-genealogy-department>>

- [St. Louis Naturalization Index](https://www.slcl.org/content/saint-louis-missouri-naturalization-index) <https://www.slcl.org/content/saint-louis-missouri-naturalization-index>
- [Index to Saint Louis City Wills](https://www.slcl.org/content/index-saint-louis-city-wills) <https://www.slcl.org/content/index-saint-louis-city-wills>

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH

- [Civil War Slave Compensation Claims in Compiled Military Service Records of U.S. Colored Troops \(index\)](https://www.slcl.org/content/civil-war-slave-compensation-claims-compiled-military-service-records-us-colored-troops) <https://www.slcl.org/content/civil-war-slave-compensation-claims-compiled-military-service-records-us-colored-troops>
- [Guide to Civil War Slave Compensation Claims from Compiled Military Service Records](https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-civil-war-slave-compensation-claims-compiled-military-service-records) <https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-civil-war-slave-compensation-claims-compiled-military-service-records>
- [Descriptive Recruitment Lists of Volunteers for the United States Colored Troops for the State of Missouri, 178630-1865 \(index\)](https://www.slcl.org/content/descriptive-recruitment-lists-volunteers-united-states-colored-troops-state-missouri-1863-18) <https://www.slcl.org/content/descriptive-recruitment-lists-volunteers-united-states-colored-troops-state-missouri-1863-18>
- [Guide to Researching Southern Claims Commission Records](https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-researching-southern-claims-commission-records) <https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-researching-southern-claims-commission-records>

GERMAN AND SWISS RESEARCH

- [Ortssippenbücher / Familienbücher Held by the History and Genealogy Department](https://www.slcl.org/content/ortssippenbuecher-familienbuecher-held-history-and-genealogy-department) <https://www.slcl.org/content/ortssippenbuecher-familienbuecher-held-history-and-genealogy-department>
- [Guide to Using Deutsches Geschlechterbuch](https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-using-deutsches-geschlechterbuch) <https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-using-deutsches-geschlechterbuch>
- [Guide to the Church Books of Canton Bern](https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-church-books-canton-bern-switzerland) <https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-church-books-canton-bern-switzerland>

MILITARY RESEARCH

- [American Civil War in the History & Genealogy Print Collection](https://www.slcl.org/content/american-civil-war-history-genealogy-print-collection) <https://www.slcl.org/content/american-civil-war-history-genealogy-print-collection>

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

- [Guide to Finding Your Ancestors in the Draper Manuscript Collection](https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-finding-your-ancestors-draper-manuscript-collection) <https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-finding-your-ancestors-draper-manuscript-collection>
- [John Dabney Shane Manuscript Collection on Microfilm \(guide\)](https://www.slcl.org/content/john-dabney-shane-manuscript-collection-microfilm) <https://www.slcl.org/content/john-dabney-shane-manuscript-collection-microfilm>



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