

PastPorts

VOL. 2, No. 1—JANUARY 2009

OF NOTE

Thanks to our volunteers!

As the old year ends and the new one begins, the Special Collections Department would like to take a moment to recognize its volunteers, who put in many hours of their own time indexing sources, doing looks ups, or helping patrons. The Department and its staff wish to thank all of them for their invaluable work. The following are brief profiles of three of these individuals. Others will be featured in coming months.

Morty Bearman, a real estate broker by day, is the Department's newest volunteer. He has been working on his genealogy for about twenty years and also enjoys reading, especially biographies. He volunteers in the Department twice a week and is currently indexing the obituaries from the 1930 *St. Louis Star-Times*.

Judy Doyle has been volunteering once a month in the Special Collections Department since it opened in 1998. Offering her expert help to Department patrons, Judy especially loves helping "newbies" find something for the very first time. Judy is retired after teaching grade school for thirty-two years. In addition to genealogy, her interests include working with organizations that address issues of hunger and homelessness. Judy also loves to play bridge and sing. She is currently taking voice lessons and sings with church and community groups.

Christy Hughes worked in various capacities for St. Louis County Library, most recently as assistant manager of the Special Collections Department. She is the author of the indispensable *Guide to St. Louis Catholic Archdiocesan Parish Records*, which was published by St. Louis County Library in 2001. In addition to her long-time interest in genealogy, Christy also likes to quilt, read (especially historical fiction) and go walking. Since she started volunteering in the spring of 2007, Christy has been working on the personal name index to the *St. Louis County Watchman-Advocate*.

New volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in serving, please contact Joyce Loving, Manager of the Special Collections Department, at (314) 994-3300, ext. 241.

Defining moments in genealogical research

Anyone researching old records will eventually encounter unfamiliar terms that obscure their understanding. If Great-Grandma was a "consort," is that something to avoid talking about at the next family reunion? What in the world is a "muniment?" How does one find quick information about the Petersburg Campaign of the Civil War? And then there are those hard-to-interpret records from foreign countries. Fortunately a wide range of both general and specialized dictionaries is available in

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NEWS AND TIPS FROM THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

PastPorts is a monthly publication of the Special Collections Department located on Tier 5 at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh in St. Louis County, across the street from Plaza Frontenac.

CONTACT US

To subscribe, unsubscribe, change email addresses, make a comment or ask a question, contact the Department as follows:

BY MAIL

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131

BY PHONE

314-994-3300, ext. 208

BY EMAIL

specialcollections@slcl.org

Regularly scheduled tours of the Special Collections Department are conducted on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of the month at 10:30 am. No advance registration is required. Group tours are gladly arranged with advance notice. Please call the Special Collections Department at 314-994-3300, ext. 208 for scheduling information.

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BOOK CHAT

the Special Collections Department to aid the researcher. Not only do they help clarify archaic or unfamiliar terms, dictionaries can help fill out historical detail or even direct the researcher down new paths of discovery. The following is a short description of various categories of dictionaries with some examples available in the Department. Call numbers follow each title.

General genealogical dictionaries

General genealogical dictionaries often provide a quick definition of an unfamiliar or archaic term. The Department has a number of good ones, including:

Evans, Barbara Jean. *The New A to Zax*, 2nd ed. Champaign, Ill.: Barbara Jean Evens, 1990. R 929.1 E92N (shelved at the Special Collections Reference Desk)

Harris, Maurine and Glen Harris. *Ancestry's Concise Genealogical Dictionary*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1989. R 929.103 H315A

Sperry, Kip. *Abbreviations and Acronyms: A Guide for Family Historians*. Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2003. R 929.1 S751A

Foreign language dictionaries

The Department has a wide variety of dictionaries to help translate foreign language genealogical terms into English. Below is a just a sample; many other foreign language dictionaries are available. The Department also has standard foreign-language-to-English dictionaries. Foreign-word lists are also available in thirteen on the Finding Aids Counter.

Martin, Charles T. *The Record Interpreter: A Collection of Abbreviations, Latin Words and Names Used in English Historical Manuscripts and Records*. 2nd ed. Reprint. Baltimore: Clearfield, 2003. R 473.1 M379R

Pařez, Jan. *Handy Czech-English Genealogical Dictionary*. Prague: Scriptorium, 1999. R 491.86 P228C

Stelten, Leo F. *Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Latin*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1995. R 477 S824D (shelved at the Special Collections Reference Desk)

Thode, Ernest. *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*.

Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1992. R 929.1 T449G and 929.1 T4495. Note: this dictionary is also useful for French and Latin terms used in German records.

Dictionaries for special vocabularies

Questions about medical, vocational and other special terminology often require more specialized dictionaries. A few examples in the Department are:

Jerger, Jeanette L. *A Medical Miscellany for Genealogists*. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1995. R 610.14 J55M

Waters, Colin. *A Dictionary of Old Trades, Titles and Occupations*. Newbury, Berkshire, England: Countryside Books, 2000. R 331.7003 W329D

Name dictionaries

If nothing else, discovering the meaning of a name adds color to family research. The Department has both surname and given-name dictionaries for various nationalities. The following are just a few.

Bardsley, Charles W. *A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames with Special American Instances*. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1980. R 929.40942 B247D and 929.40942 B247D

Beider, Alexander. *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names: Their Origins, Structure, Pronunciation and Migrations*. Bergenfield, N.J.: Avotaynu, 2001. R 929.4 B422D

Woulfe, Patrick. *Irish Names and Surnames*. Rev. ed. Kansas City, Mo.: Irish Genealogical Foundation, 1992. R 929.4 W938S and 929.4 W938S

Geographical dictionaries

People usually think of dictionaries as a source for word definitions. Geographical dictionaries, also called gazetteers, define the location of a place and sometimes offer historical data and name change information. The Department has geographical dictionaries for foreign countries, as well as U.S. localities.

Bahn, Gilbert S. *American Place Names of Long Ago: A Republication of the Index to Cram's Unrivaled Atlas of the World as Based on the Census of 1890*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1998. R 917.3 A512 and 917.3 A512

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Callary, Edward. *Place Names of Illinois*. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 2009. R 1977.3 C156P

Omni Gazetteer of the United States of America: A Guide to 1,500,000 Place Names in the United States and Territories. 10 vols. Detroit: Omni Graphics, 1991. R 917.3 O55

Smith, Frank. *A Genealogical Gazetteer of England: An Alphabetical Dictionary of Places with their Location, Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Population and the Date of the Earliest Entry in the Registers of Every Ancient Parish in England*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1968. R 914.2 S647G and 914.2 S647G

Biographical dictionaries

Biographical dictionaries offer short articles with biographical information or genealogical data about individuals. Some examples in the Department include:

Biographical Dictionary of Black Lutheran Clergymen. St. Louis: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1978. R 284.1322 L973B

The Book of St. Louisans: A Biographical Dictionary of Leading Living Men of the City of St. Louis and Vicinity. 2nd ed. St. Louis: The St. Louis Republic, 1906-1912. R 977.866 B724

McCartney, Martha W. *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607-1635*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2007. 975.5 M123V

Subject dictionaries

Subject dictionaries feature short articles on various personalities or aspects relating to a broader subject and offer a quick overview of a particular subject. Two in the collection include:

Boatner, Mark Mayo, III. *The Civil War Dictionary*. New York: David McKay Co., 1959. 973.7 B662C

Miller, Randall M. and David Smith. *Dictionary of Afro-American Slavery*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1997. 305.5 D554

TIPS

The Illinois State Library has many county atlases and land ownership maps that can be borrowed through interlibrary loan. A list can be downloaded as a PDF from the [Secretary of State's website](#). Maps are listed by county and then by year. [URL: http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_have/map_resources/landownership_atlases.html]

WEB NEWS

Web Finds

Colorado Newspapers: This website offers a searchable database of digital images of 147 newspapers published 1859 to 1923. [URL: <http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>]

Odessa Digital Library: This website features a collection of digitized church, census, and cemetery records for Germans who emigrated to Russian in the 1800s. [URL: <http://www.odessa3.org/>]

Quaker Meetings Research Site: This website is useful for locating meeting records. The search engine can locate either a specific meeting or a list of meetings for a given location. Available information includes the date of the first meeting, website address if available and the location of any existing records. [URL: <http://www.quakermeetings.com/>]

Web news

Johnson County, Mo. to Digitize Cemetery Information: The [Trails Regional Library](#) has received a grant from the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund to record and preserve cemetery information. The online inventory will include names, dates, grave locations, and photographs of grave markers. The existing Digital Cemetery Project Website will be transferred to the library. [URL: <http://www.trl.lib.mo.us/index.htm>]

New on Ancestry

Ancestry continues to add numerous titles to its Canadian Collection, so check the database often for recent additions. Ancestry Library Edition is available at all St. Louis County Library locations.

NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

The following is a selection of items recently added to the collection. Additional items may have been received which are not listed here. The Department is grateful to the St. Louis Genealogical Society, the National Genealogical Society, Julius K. Hunter and Friends, and our patrons for their donations.

NEW ACQUISITION SPOTLIGHT

Healey, Jim. *Westwood Country Club 1908-2008: A Centennial Celebration*. St. Louis: Westwood Country Club, 2008. R 977.865 H434W

The Special Collections Department would like to thank Tony D'Errico and the board of Governors of the Westwood Country Club for their generous donation of this well written and beautifully presented volume. The book reads as a "Who's Who" of the St. Louis Jewish Community. In addition to telling the history of a renowned institution, it features lists of members—and in many cases—their photographs. Stories about the staff, and descriptions and photographs of the golf course round out this volume. The book is a valuable addition to our collection of St. Louis resources.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WEB PAGES

■ [Deaths in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat](#)

These new pages include indexes referencing all deaths in Missouri and Illinois mentioned in this daily newspaper, not just obituaries. Entries are listed alphabetically by surname, then by given name. Microfilm of the newspaper are available on Tier 4 of the St. Louis County Library Headquarters. [URL: http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/indexes/globe_democrat_deaths.htm]

■ [Individuals in Institutions in the Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Schedules from the 1880 Federal Census for St. Louis, Missouri](#)

This index includes institutionalized individuals listed in the special census schedules for the insane, idiots, deaf-mutes, the blind, homeless children, inhabitants in prison, and paupers and the indigent. The microfilm containing these schedules (DDD-2), is available in

Special Collections at St. Louis County Library Headquarters. [URL: http://www.slcl.org/sc/pdfs/census_ddd_stl_inst.pdf]

■ [Index to Westliche Post Obituaries](#)

Pages have been added covering obituary indexes for 1885 and 1886. [URL: <http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/indexes/westliche/westliche-obit-index.htm>]

BOOKS

Call numbers follow each title. Complete bibliographic information for each item is available in the St. Louis County Library's [online catalog](#). Titles are abbreviated unless italicized.

■ [Family Maps by Gregory A. Boyd](#)

Coshocton County Ohio, R 977.165 B789F
Jasper County Iowa, R 977.7594 B789F
Lee County Illinois, R 977.336 B789F
Randolph County Illinois, R 977.392 B789F
Montgomery County, Illinois, R 977.382 B789F

A surname index for Arphax Family Maps is available online at <http://www.arphax.com>.

■ [States and Counties](#)

VIRGINIA

Wythe County R 975.5773

Abstracts of Land Entries July 27, 1790 -
December 27, 1803

Abstracts of Wills, October 9, 1837 -September 11,
1848; May 1822-April 30, 1837

Birth Records 1865-1872

Divorces 1816-1886

Marriages, Vol. 1, 1790-1853; Vol. 2, 1854-1866

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Baptismal
Records, 1804-1846

■ [Family Histories](#)

The Bohning Blue Book: Hermann Heinrich Bohning and Maria Eleanora Stoffer-Blasez: Their Descendants in America, 1843-1993. R 929.2 B677K

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NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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Broders Family. 1973. R 929.2 B864B

The Buuck Family in America: Sesquicentennial (1836-1986). R 929.2 B989B

Descendants of Martin Benz-Dorothea Schmeller. 1983. R 929.2 B479B

A History and Genealogy of Birkholz's [sic] that Immigrated to Howard Lake, Minnesota, from Prussia, Germany. 1983. R 929.2 B619G

Kaiser Family History. 1988. R 929.2 K13K

■ Other new titles

Callary, Edward. *Place Names of Illinois*. 2009. 977.3 C156P

Healey, Jim. *Westwood Country Club, 1908-2008: A Centennial Celebration*. 2008. R 977.865 H434W

Italia : Tourist and Motoring Atlas. 2008. R 945 P738I

Kegley, Mary B. *Finding their Way: From the Great Road to the Wilderness Road, 1745-1796*. 2008. R 975.5 K26F

Miller, Kerby A. *Out of Ireland: The Story of Irish Emigration to America*. 1994. R 973.0491 M648O

Richard, Bernice C. *Nova Scotia, 1770 Census: (some 1773 and 1787)*. 1975. 971.6 BR511N [NGS]

ELECTRONIC DATABASES

The following databases are available on the St. Louis County website [Databases page](#) under “History” and “Databases A-Z.”

■ The American Civil War: Letters And Diaries

Firsthand descriptions of historical characters and events, glimpses of daily life in the army, anecdotes about key events and personages, accounts of sufferings at home, a rich battles database, and more.

■ The American Civil War Research Database

Resource for researching the individuals, regiments, and battles of the American Civil War, with indexed, searchable information on 4.3 million soldiers and thousands of battles, together with 15,000 photographs.

■ Images Of The American Civil War

This database offers images of the American Civil War, including photographs, posters, and ephemera.

The following database is available on the St. Louis County website [Databases page](#) under “Newspapers” and “Databases A-Z.”

■ Access Newspaper Archives.com

This large historical newspaper database contains tens of millions of newspaper pages from 1759 to present.

SAVE THE DATE! SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT SPECIAL EVENTS

“Italian Genealogical Research” | Speaker: Scott Biondo, Italian Club of St. Louis | March 28, 2009, 9:30 am—Noon

“Genealogical Resources at the St. Louis Police Library” | Speakers: Barbara Miksicek, Librarian, St. Louis Police Library; Joyce Loving, Manager, St. Louis County Library Special Collections Department | April 4, 2009, 9:30 am—Noon

CALENDAR

A list of events taking place at the St. Louis County Library

Note: Dates for Special Collections Department classes are indicated by 📞. Please register for classes in advance of the date by calling 314-994-3300 and asking for the Reference Department. Once connected, tell the Reference Librarian you would like to register for a class. All events are free and open to the public.

JANUARY

📞 **Tuesday, January 6, 2– 4 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

Saturday, January 10, 10 am

Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Meeting
Topic: “Researching in St. Louis County”
Speaker: Ann Fleming

📞 **Thursday, January 15, 2– 4 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: History and Genealogy in Newspapers

📞 **Tuesday, January 20, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

Wednesday, January 21, 7 pm

Headquarters Auditorium
STLGS German Special Interest Group

Tuesday, January 27, 7 pm

Headquarters East Room
STLGS Irish Special Interest Group
Topics: “U.S. Land Patent Grants with Surname Index,” “How I Found Them in County Mayo”

📞 **Wednesday, January 28, 9:30-11:30**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: History and Genealogy in Newspapers

FEBRUARY

📞 **Wednesday, February 4, 2-4 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: Introduction to Genealogy Databases

Saturday, February 7, 11am

Headquarters East Room
STLGS African-American Special Interest Group

📞 **Thursday, February 12, 2-4 pm**

Headquarters Computer Lab
Special Collections Class: History and Genealogy in Newspapers

Saturday, February 14, 10 am

Headquarters Auditorium
St. Louis Genealogical Society Meeting
Topic: “Timelines: Linking Historical Events to Our Family History”
Speaker: Pat Stamm

MARCH

Wednesday, March 11, 7pm

Headquarters East Room
STLGS Jewish Special Interest Group

Wednesday, March 18, 7pm

Headquarters Auditorium
STLGS German Special Interest Group

Thursday, March 25, 7pm

Headquarters Auditorium
STLGS French Special Interest Group

Saturday, March 28, 9:30-Noon

Headquarters Auditorium
Special Collections Department Event
Topic: “Italian Genealogical Research”
Speaker: Scott Biondo

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