

## Bridging the 1890 census gap

*The blaze originated in the basement of the Commerce Building and five alarms quickly brought every piece of apparatus in downtown Washington to the scene... More than twenty lines of hose completed the damage done to the records by pouring tons of water through windows into vaults where the records were kept....According to T.J. Fitzgerald, Chief Clerk of the Census Bureau, records of the census of 1890 were kept stacked outside the vaults, and these were totally destroyed by both fire and water.*

“Census Papers Lost in Washington Fire,”  
New York Times, Jan. 11, 1921.

Newspaper reports like the one above continue to haunt genealogists and family historians. The devastating fire on the night of Jan. 20, 1921 heavily damaged 1890 census records. Although the remains were transferred to storage, no effort was made to salvage them, and they were, incredibly, approved for destruction by Congress in 1933. The loss of such a vast and important set of data continues to cause researchers headaches, especially in the following research scenarios:

- Persons who immigrated after 1880 and before 1900
- Persons born after 1880 and died before 1900
- Children listed with families in the 1880 census but not in the 1900
- Families moving after 1880, perhaps more than once, possibly leaving untraceable birth, marriage, divorce or death records, until reappearing again in the 1900 census.

The absence created by the loss of 1890 census data may leave you feeling stranded and frustrated, but it is possible to find information if you have a willingness to be persistent

Blank schedule used by the enumerator to record information for the 1890 census. Image: National Archives

and creative. The following are some suggestion and examples that may help you reconstruct those “lost” years.

### Surviving federal census records

A few 1890 census records, discovered after the majority were destroyed in 1933, were filmed by the National Archives. These records have been

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# Genealogy PROGRAMS

**APRIL  
2014**

**Programs are free  
and open to the public.**

**Registration is  
not required.**

**Call 314-994-3300  
for more information.**

**Programs take place at:  
St. Louis County Library  
Headquarters  
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, Missouri, 63131.**

## **St. Louis Genealogical Society African American Special Interest Group**

**Saturday, April 5, 11:00 a.m.**

Headquarters East Room

### **Making Sense of Probate Files**

Probate records can often open the door to solving slave research roadblocks. This roundtable will provide an overview of using probate case files for researching family trees.

## **St. Louis Genealogical Society German Special Interest Group**

**Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.**

Headquarters Auditorium

### **Woman in a Dress**

In 1855, a young woman left Bavaria to come to St. Louis. Follow her story, see her clothing and her artifacts, and imagine the journey your own ancestors took to get here.

**Featured Speaker: Dr. Gloria R. Perry**

## **St. Louis Genealogical Society Italian Special Interest Group**

**Monday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.**

Headquarters Author's Nook

### **Pictorial History of The Hill**

Learn about people and events in The Hill neighborhood from 1900 to 1950. This presentation will include information about living conditions and the role of churches, mutual aid societies, and clubs.

**Featured speaker: Rio Vitale**

## **St. Louis Genealogical Society Irish Special Interest Group**

**Tuesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.**

Headquarters Auditorium

### **Early Irish History Through Irish Eyes**

Hear about the social, military, religious, and educational happenings in Ireland that impacted the lives of our early Irish ancestors.

**Featured Speaker: Gabrielle Woeltje**



St. Louis County Library

Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300. [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org)



digitized and are searchable on the Ancestry Library Edition database. A list of surviving fragments is posted on the [FamilySearch website](http://tinyurl.com/l6dodsj) <<http://tinyurl.com/l6dodsj>>.

An additional source of data is the special schedule of Union veterans and their widows. Special data was collected by census enumerators and recorded on separate forms. Most schedules for Alabama through Kansas and half of those for Kentucky were unfortunately destroyed, but those for other states survived. Extant 1890 Veteran's Census records are available on Ancestry Library Edition and [FamilySearch](http://tinyurl.com/ldwbaqb) <<http://tinyurl.com/ldwbaqb>>. [Veterans census indexes and abstract are also available in print for some states and counties](http://tinyurl.com/mn8qnqs) <<http://tinyurl.com/mn8qnqs>>.

### State census records

State census records are an important source of information during this period. State censuses were taken mid-decade (1855, 1865, etc.) every ten years. Records usually include population schedules and statistical summaries of each

**PastPorts** is published monthly by the St. Louis County Library Special Collections Department, located on Tier 5 of the Headquarters location.

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

### Contact the Special Collections Department

Special Collections Department  
St. Louis County Library  
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63131

Phone: 314-994-3300, ext. 2070

Email: [scollections@slcl.org](mailto:scollections@slcl.org)

Website: <http://www.slcl.org>

### Tours

Tours of the Special Collections Department are conducted on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. No registration is required. Group tours are gladly arranged with advance notice by calling the Special Collections Department at 314-994-3300, ext. 2070.

county. Unfortunately, state census records are not available for all years and for all counties. "State Census Records," by Ann S. Lainhart, is an excellent resource to find out which are available for the states and counties you are researching (see bibliography, below). Some state census records can be searched on Ancestry Library Edition.

### Census reconstructions

Census reconstructions compile information from alternate sources to provide a data snapshot about individuals between 1881 – 1891 and are available for numerous states and counties. "1890 Genealogical Census Reconstruction, Missouri Edition" by Sherida K. Eddlemon is one example. [Reconstructions for other states and counties are also available.](http://tinyurl.com/qhoje8g) <<http://tinyurl.com/qhoje8g>>.

### City directories

City directories can be helpful for locating people in a particular location and time. Directories for St. Louis City and County are available on microfilm in the Special Collections Department and on Fold3 and Ancestry Library Edition databases. The department has directories for other communities. Contact the department for a list of holdings.

### Historic newspapers

The advent of searchable newspaper databases has opened up access to a vast amount of data that has previously been nearly impenetrable. The following excerpt was discovered by searching the "ProQuest Historical Newspapers St. Louis Post-Dispatch (1874-1922)" database, and is an example of what you might find:

*Married Sixty-Five Years | Unusual Record of Mr. and Mrs. Burghardt of Belleville*

*Probably the oldest married couple in St. Clair County, if not in Illinois, is Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Burghardt of 509 East A Street, Belleville, Ill. Mr. Burghardt is 96 and his wife 93 years old. They were both born in Huelhausen, Oberthal, Thuringien, Germany, and were married May 15, 1832, in their native village. They came to Belleville in the fall of 1844...*

—St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Feb. 27, 1897

Special Schedule.—Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows, etc.

S. D.: 1 : E. D.: 221 : [unclear] Division.

No.	Name of Surviving Soldier, Sailor, or Marine, and Widow.	Rank.	Date of Enlistment or Term.	Date of Discharge.	Length of Service.		
					Yrs.	Mos.	Days.
101118	John R. [unclear]	Co	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101119	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101120	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101121	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101122	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101123	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101124	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101125	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101126	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101127	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101128	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101129	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15
101130	William H. [unclear]	Pa	1861 21 16	1864 10 15	1	11	15

Notes.—The provisions of the act of March 3, 1865, under which this special enumeration of survivors of the war of the rebellion is made, reads as follows:

This act requires that, under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, there be taken on a special schedule of inquiry, according to such form as he may prescribe, the names, residences, and length of service of those who have served in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States in the war of the rebellion, and who are survivors of the time of said inquiry, and the widows of soldiers, sailors, or marines.

The entries under each survivor or widow should be carefully and accurately made, so that the printed reports may contain only trustworthy information.

Spaces are provided on this special schedule for the entry of fifty names, or more properly, terms of service. The spaces are numbered consecutively from 1 to 50, and cover the four pages contained in each schedule. The inquiries made concerning each survivor or widow call for the repetition of the number of the house and family as returned on the general population schedule (No. 1), the name, rank, company, regiment or vessel, date of enlistment, date of discharge, and length of service (in years, months, and days) on the upper half of each page, and the post-office address, disability incurred, and general remarks on the lower half of each page. The column headed "Remarks" is intended to be used to cover any points not included in the foregoing inquiries, and which are necessary to a complete statement of a person's term of service in any one organization.

In the case of persons having served in more than one organization, use as many spaces as may be necessary to cover their various terms of service. In the case of widows of deceased soldiers, sailors, or marines, make the entry of her name on the dotted line, as follows: Mary J., widow of [unclear] giving under "Post-office address" the present address of his widow. Name, home, &c.

Special schedule used to record data for veterans of Union military service. Image: National Archives

**Other sources of information**

Other sources that might fill the gap include family letters and photos; Bible records; civil records of birth, death and marriage; funeral home and cemetery records; tax records; voter registration lists; and wills and probate records. As with all genealogical research, it is important to search all available sources for possible clues.

Creative thinking is the key for finding those ancestors who disappeared into the 1880–1890 gap left by the 1890 census. With the vast amount of resources available through libraries, record repositories and databases, it is quite possible to bridge it.

**Bibliography**

Extant 1890 census records (general population and veterans schedules) are available on Ancestry Library Edition. Ancestry Library Edition can be used for free at any St. Louis County Library location.

1890 census reconstructions for various localities are available in the collection. [See the list extracted from the library catalog](http://tinyurl.com/qhoje8g) <<http://tinyurl.com/qhoje8g>>. [Print indexes and abstracts for the 1890 veterans census are also available](http://tinyurl.com/mn8qnqs) <<http://tinyurl.com/mn8qnqs>>.

**1890 census print index**

Swenson, Helen Smothers. *Index to 1890 census of the United States*. St. Louis: F.T. Ingmire, 1981. R 317.3 S974I.

**State censuses**

Lainhart, Ann S. *State Census Records*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing, 1992. R 929.37 L187S and circulating copies.

**Missouri sources**

Dilts, Bryan Lee. *1890 Missouri Veterans Census Index*. Bountiful, Utah: Precision Indexing, 1993. R 929.3 D579E.  
 Eddlemon, Sherida K. *1890 Genealogical Census Reconstruction. Missouri Edition. Volumes 1, 2 and 3*. Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2004. R 977.8 E21E.

**General information about the 1890 census**

"1890 Overview—History." Webpage, U.S. Census Bureau. [Available online](http://tinyurl.com/neqkem5) <<http://tinyurl.com/neqkem5>>.  
 "1890 'Veterans Census'." Web page, U.S. Census Bureau. [Available online](http://tinyurl.com/1l4w8x6) <<http://tinyurl.com/1l4w8x6>>.  
 Blake, Kellee. "'First in the Path of the Firemen.'" The Fate of the 1890 Population Census, Part One. Prologue 28, No. 1 (Spring 1996) [available online](http://tinyurl.com/cb3fj) <<http://tinyurl.com/cb3fj>>.  
 Kemp, Thomas Jay. *The American Census Handbook*. Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 2001. R 929.1 K321A and circulating copy.

## THIS MONTH IN SAINT LOUIS HISTORY

April 30, 1803

## Louisiana Purchase

On April 30, 1803, James Monroe and Robert P. Livingston, representing the United States, and François Barbé-Barbois, representing France, met in Paris and signed the agreement transferring ownership of New Orleans and the Louisiana Territory to the United States. France's offer to sell all of Louisiana Territory was a surprise to President Thomas Jefferson, who only sought to buy New Orleans. The cost to double the size of the United States was a mere \$15 million—less than 4 cents per acre. The acquisition also conveniently removed a domestic threat and gave the U.S. undisputed control of a vital port (New Orleans) and waterway (the Mississippi River) necessary for westward expansion.



## For further reading

Titles available in the Special Collections Department. Call number locations follow each title.

Cerami, Charles A. *Jefferson's Great Gamble: The Remarkable Story of Jefferson, Napoleon and the Men Behind the Louisiana Purchase*. Naperville, Illinois: Sourcebooks, 2003. R 973.46 C411J.

Farnan, William Thomas. "Land Claims Problems and the Federal Land System in the Louisiana-Missouri Territory." Ph.D. diss., St. Louis University, 1972. R 333.31 F235L.

Harlan, James and James M. Denny. *Atlas of Lewis & Clark in Missouri*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2003. R 917.7804 H283A.

Houck, Louis. *The Boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase*. New York: Arno Press, 1901, 1971. R 911.78 H835B.

Smith, Walter Robinson. *Brief History of the Louisiana Territory*. St. Louis: St. Louis News Company, 1904. R 973.4 S663B.

Stoddard, Amos. *Sketches, Historical and Descriptive of Louisiana*. 1812; reprint, Carlisle, Mass.: Applewood Books, 2011. R 976.3 S867S

United States, Department of State. *State Papers and Correspondence Bearing Upon the Purchase of the Territory of Louisiana*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903. R 973.46 U58S.



**Please take a few minutes to help the library plan for the future by taking a short survey. You can find a link on our webpage, [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org) (scroll down to Strategic Planning Survey).**

**Thank you!**



## HOLIDAY CLOSING

Sunday, April 20 | Easter Day

All St. Louis County Library locations will be closed.

## NEW IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT



### View the list of new books on the web

A list of new books received during the previous month now appears on the [library's website](#). View the list by clicking on the graphic, left, or by typing the URL into your browser:

<<http://tinyurl.com/ktha6fr>>.

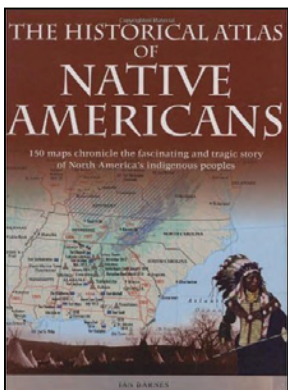
### Looking for a specific state, or county ?

Books pertaining to specific states (and counties within states) begin with the same call number. [A chart of Dewey Decimal numbers for states and counties is posted on the library website](#) <<http://tinyurl.com/oqy8xp8>>. Other subjects are also grouped by call number. For example, family histories begin with 929.2. Materials for Scotland begin with 941 and those for Germany begin with 943.

To find new titles on the book list, note the Dewey Decimal Number for the state / county or subject you are interested in. Scroll through the book list until you find items beginning with that call number.

Books with call numbers **not beginning with "R"** are listed in Dewey Decimal order first, followed by those beginning with "R" (denoting "Reference" books that may be used only in the library). Book titles can be selected from the online list and emailed, printed, or saved to a file. An additional feature for library card holders is the ability to login to their library accounts and save titles to a customized list. [You can also download the list as a PDF from the library's website](#) <<http://tinyurl.com/okz4vvs>>.

For more information about viewing the new book list online, exporting records, and saving items to a customized list, call (314) 994-3300 or ask a librarian when visiting any St. Louis County Library branch.



### The Historical Atlas of Native Americans

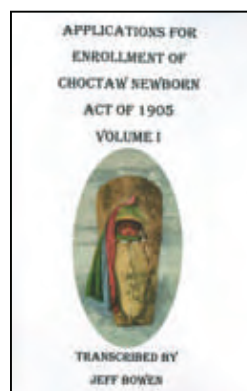
by Anita Hecht

Chartwell Books, 2010; 400 pp.  
R 970.0049 B261H

A detailed and comprehensive exploration of the social, political and geographical history of the native peoples of America.

Beautiful, computer-generated maps and charts based on the latest academic research show the original positioning of Native American peoples before the arrival of Europeans, their traditional language groups and trade routes, their enforced movements to make way for settlers, and their current placement in modern America. Includes over 100 color photographs and illustration of the people, places and events that have shaped Native American History.—*Back cover*

### NEW TITLES ADDED: 243



### Applications for Enrollment of Choctaw Newborn, Act of 1905

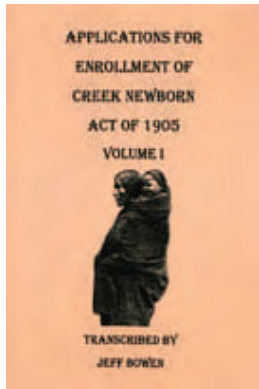
by Jeff Bowen

Clearfield, 2012–2013; 20 vols.  
R 970.3 B786A

This set features transcriptions of records from the "Applications for Enrollment of Choctaw Newborn,

Act of 1905," National Archives film M-1301, Rolls 50-57. The governing 1905 statute (H.R. 17474) defined Choctaw Newborn as "infant children born prior to September twenty-fifth, nineteen hundred and two, and who were living on said date, to citizens by blood of the Choctaw . . ." It authorized the Department of the Interior to enroll and

make allotments to such children based on applications received on their behalf no later than May 2, 1905. The transcriptions provide the names of the applicants and their relatives, and the identities of doctors, lawyers, midwives, and others.—*SC Staff*



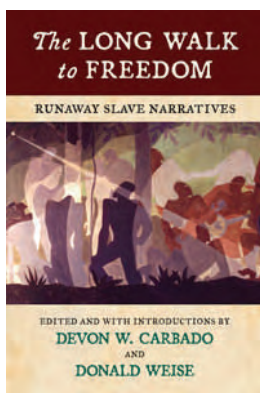
## Applications for Enrollment of Creek Newborn, Act of 1905

by Jeff Bowen

Clearfield, 2012; 14 vols.  
R 970.3 B786A

The author has transcribed “Applications for Enrollment of Creek Newborn, “National

Archives film M-1301 (Act of 1905), as described in “Newborn” was defined as a Creek individual living within a qualified Creek (or other tribal) household who was four years of age or less and not an orphan up to the time that the President awarded the land allotments. Transcriptions include correspondence associated with successful claimants. Information includes names of parents and newborns, and the names of doctors, lawyers, midwives and relatives. A name index includes more than 2,000 entries.—*SC Staff*



## The Long Walk to Freedom: Runaway Slave Narratives

Devon W. Carbado and Donald Weise, editors

Beacon, 2012; 248 pp.  
R 306.362 L848

In this groundbreaking compilation of first-person accounts of the run-

away slave phenomenon, editors Devon W. Carbado and Donald Weise have recovered twelve narratives spanning eight decades—more than half of which have been long out of print. Told in the voices of the runaway slaves themselves, these narratives reveal the extraordinary and often innovative ways that these men and women sought freedom and demanded citizenship. Also included is an essay by UCLA history professor Brenda Stevenson that

contextualizes these narratives, providing a brief yet comprehensive history of slavery, as well as a look into the daily life of a slave. Divided into four categories—running away for family, running inspired by religion, running by any means necessary, and running to be free—these stories are a testament to the indelible spirit of these remarkable survivors. “The Long Walk to Freedom” presents excerpts from the narratives of well-known runaway slaves, like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, as well as from the narratives of lesser-known and virtually unknown people. Gripping, inspiring, and captivating, “The Long Walk to Freedom” is a remarkable collection that celebrates those who risked their lives in pursuit of basic human rights.—*Publisher’s website*

## CLASSES

Classes are free and open to the public, but registration is required. ☎ Call (314) 994-3300 to register. Space is limited.

### APRIL

#### ☎ Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition

Wednesday, April 9, 2 p.m.

Headquarters Computer Lab

Larry Franke, instructor

Registration is now open.

#### ☎ Genealogical Research: Getting the Most out of the Special Collections Department

Tuesday, April 15, 2 p.m.

Headquarters East Room

Larry Franke, instructor

Registration is now open.

### MAY

#### ☎ Introduction to HeritageQuest and Fold3

Thursday, May 22, 2 p.m.

Headquarters Computer Lab

Larry Franke, instructor

Registration opens April 24.