



PastPorts

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Welcome to History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library

Home of the National Genealogical Collection

Your NGS guide to History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library

History & Genealogy welcomes all researchers to St. Louis County Library. Produced in conjunction with the 2015 National Genealogical Society Conference, this special edition of PastPorts is a helpful tool for planning a research trip to St. Louis County Library.

Library location, contact information and hours

History & Genealogy

Tiers 4 and 5

St. Louis County Library Headquarters

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63131

(314) 994-3300—General library information

(314) 994-3300, ext. 2070—History and Genealogy

Email: genealogy@slcl.org

Website and library catalog: www.slcl.org/genealogy

■ Hours

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

■ Driving directions

The library is located two blocks south of I-64 at the Lindbergh Blvd. exit.

■ Parking

Entry into the parking lot is at the stoplight on Lindbergh Blvd. just south of Clayton Rd. and across from Plaza Frontenac shopping center. Free parking is available on the north, west, and south sides of the library building.

Finding History & Genealogy collections

The library entrance is on Tier 3 (the main level.) Materials

in History & Genealogy are located on Tiers 4 and 5 of the library building, accessible by stairs and elevator.

Planning a visit

We are expecting large numbers of visitors before, during and after the NGS Conference and recommend advance planning. The following are some tips to help make your research trip a pleasant and productive experience.

Travel lightly

Lockers are located on Tier 4. Locker dimensions are 16.5” tall, 12” wide, and 16.5” deep. The number of lockers is limited, so please plan accordingly.

Know what to bring—and what not to bring

The following items are welcome on Tiers 4 & 5:

- Writing paper
- Pens and pencils
- Personal notes
- Laptop computers (please do not bring cases)
- Cell phones and handheld electronic devices (please silence cell phones)
- Wallet or small fanny pack
- Three-ring binders
- Coats, jackets, and sweaters

Please do not bring:

- Purses, backpacks, and briefcases
- Bags of any kind, including book bags, grocery bags, and shopping bags
- Laptop computer cases
- Accordion files
- Books, either personal or from another library department
- Food and drinks

History & Genealogy collections— they are here because of you!

History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library has been sustained and expanded by many generous donations. Thanks to people like you, we are the proud home of numerous family history research collections. The following are some of the collections you have helped establish:

■ The St. Louis Genealogical Society Collection

is the core of our collection. Donated in 1998, it offers unique materials for St. Louis metropolitan-area, Missouri, and Midwest research, and sources for locating your European roots.

■ The National Genealogical Society Collection

includes more than 28,000 items which are available for checkout or request through interlibrary loan. The collection features state, county, local, and family histories; cemetery, church, court, land, marriage and estate record abstracts.

■ The Julius K. Hunter and Friends African

American Research Collection (JKH) features unique African American genealogical resources in print and on microfilm.

■ The William C.E. and Bessie K. Becker Collection

is comprised of sources for German, Swiss, and Irish research. Featured is a collection of more than 850 microfilm reels of parish records from Canton Bern, Switzerland.

■ **The Mary F. Berthold Collection** is a collection of unique, heavily used works collected by the National Genealogical Society for its reference library.

■ **The Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis Collection** was originally housed at United Hebrew Temple and offers a unique look at Jewish history. It includes more than 100 Yizkor books – an invaluable resource for researching destroyed Jewish communities and family lost to the Holocaust.

■ **The Lewis Bunker Rohrbach Collection** is our most recent acquisition. It features sources for research in Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New England, and rare sources for English, Welsh, and Scots, as well as unique materials relating to the history and culture of Canton Bern, Switzerland.

Thank you for your continued support of History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library.

Remember to bring:

- Money—photocopiers accept quarters, dimes, nickels, and dollar bills. Microfilm printers take quarters only. A coin changer is available.
- A valid driver's license or state ID for public Internet computer use
- A USB flash drive

Identify which materials you want to research and note where they are located before you arrive

Check the library catalog at www.slcl.org for items in print (books and periodicals.) Items noted in the catalog as “HQ Hist. & Gen. Open” are located on Tier 5. Items noted “HQ Hist. & Gen. Closed” are located on Tier 4. The collections on both tiers will be open to the public during the NGS Conference.

Finding aids are available online at www.slcl.org/genealogy and can be used to identify microfilm collections that might interest you.

Locating books and microfilm in History & Genealogy

Note: library entrances are on Tier 3.

Tier 4

- Family histories
- Yizkor books and other Jewish genealogical sources
- States west of the Mississippi, except Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana
- Upper-Midwestern states, including Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan
- Washington, D.C.
- Duplicate copies of many books shelved on Tier 5
- Yearbooks
- Printed census indexes
- Oversized books
- Newspaper microfilm
- Passenger list microfilm

History & Genealogy — an alphabetical guide to the library

■ Computers for public use

Four Internet computers with access to library databases and printing capability are located on Tier 5. Use is limited to 30 minutes if others are waiting. A valid St. Louis County Library card, driver's license, or state ID is required.

■ Copiers / digital scanning

Coin-operated machines are located on Tiers 4 and 5. Digital scanning to a USB flash drive is free.

■ Drinking fountains

Drinking fountains are located on the main level and Tier 5.

■ Library catalog

The library catalog is available online at www.slcl.org. Computers with catalog access are located on the main level and Tier 5.

■ Microfilm readers / printers

Microfilm readers are located on Tier 5. Twelve readers are available. Ten have digital scanning capability.

■ Restrooms

Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level (Tier 3) and on Tier 5.

■ Seating and study areas

Table seating is available on Tiers 4 and 5. Access to electrical power is limited.

■ Vending machines

Vending machines are located on the main level of the library. Please do not bring food and drinks to Tiers 4 and 5.

■ Wireless Internet

Wireless Internet is available throughout the library building. No password is needed. The library's genealogical databases can be accessed through the wireless network.

Tier 5 (top floor)

- Books for all states east of the Mississippi not shelved on Tier 4 and for most other subjects
- St. Louis microfilm and most other microfilm collections

Other materials

■ Periodicals

Please ask a librarian for the periodicals you need, and they will be brought to you.

■ Local history file

Newspaper clippings and other materials related to history of the St. Louis area are located in file cabinets on Tier 5. Ask a librarian for assistance.

■ Finding aids

Finding aids and collection guides are located on Tier 5. Many are also online at www.slcl.org/genealogy under the "Finding Aids & Guides" link on the left side of the page.

Options for meals and snacks

Eating establishments and food shops
within walking distance of the library

■ **The Shops at Schneithorst's**, on the southeast corner of Lindbergh Blvd. and Clayton Rd. just north of the library, offers Schneithorst's Restaurant, Starbucks, Froyo Premium Frozen Yogurt, and Poptions Gourmet Popcorn.

■ **Schnucks Market**, on the northeast corner of Lindbergh Blvd. and Clayton Rd., is a full-service supermarket offering a grill, salad and soup bar, deli, hot foods, and a selection of ready-made sandwiches.

■ **Plaza Frontenac**, opposite the library on Lindbergh Blvd., is a shopping mall with a variety of restaurants. Cardwell's at the Plaza, Canyon Café and the Zodiac Room at Neiman Marcus are inside. Brio Tuscan Grill, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, St. Louis Bread Company (Panera), and Brick Top's Restaurant are adjacent.

Eleven reasons to visit History & Genealogy

A small sample of what you will find at St. Louis County Library

1

The National Genealogical Society Collection offers more than 28,000 volumes featuring state, county, and local histories; cemetery, church, court, land, marriage, and estate record abstracts and indexes; and more than 9,200 family histories. The collection is particularly strong in sources for eastern states and New England. All items in the NGS collection may be obtained through interlibrary loan or checked out with a valid St. Louis County Library card.

St. Louis City and County records—With a vast collection of original records on microfilm, History & Genealogy is a great place to start researching your St. Louis ancestors. Sources include vital records; coroner's records; funeral home and cemetery records; probate, will and guardianship records; court records; property records; pre-1804 French and Spanish land records; and naturalization records. St. Louis newspapers, including those relating to specific national and ethnic communities, and city directories are also available. Print materials include histories about St. Louis and its communities, organizations, businesses, and institutions.

2

3

More than 13,500 published family histories can be browsed in open stacks during the NGS Conference. Many can be checked out with a St. Louis County Library card or obtained through your local library's interlibrary loan service.

African American genealogy—The Julius K. Hunter and Friends African American Research Collection offers original records and published materials covering the ante-bellum and Civil War eras and beyond. Offerings include records relating to freedom suits, plantations, U.S. Colored Troops, Southern Claims Commission, Freedmen's Bureau, and the Underground Railroad. St. Louis sources include African American cemetery records and newspapers.

4

5

Church records for St. Louis and beyond—Holdings include microfilm copies of parish records for churches in the Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Catholic Diocese of Belleville. Records for St. Louis-area German Protestant congregations related to the United Church of Christ (German Evangelical) and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are also available.

German genealogical holdings include rarely found sources. More than 700 *Ortssippenbücher* (genealogical registers) offer genealogical data for 1,000 villages in Germany, Alsace-Lorraine and Banat. *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch*, *Deutsches Familien Archiv*, and *Genealogisches Handbuch des Adels* feature compiled genealogies. Immigration lists and sources for locating ancestral villages are also on hand. Local sources include German-immigrant church records and German newspapers published in St. Louis.

6

Need help?

History & Genealogy staff members and volunteers will be stationed on Tiers 4 and 5 during the NGS Conference to answer questions and provide help in finding and using the collections.



A knowledgeable and helpful library staff is here to help you be successful. We are experts in genealogical research and would enjoy the opportunity to assist you in finding materials that will support your research.

7 French colonial sources—Microfilm collections include pre-1804 records of civil marriage contracts, purchases and sales of land and slaves, wills, and more for the St. Louis area. Early Catholic records dating from the mid- to late-1700s include the Missouri parishes of Ste. Geneviève (1759), St. Louis Cathedral (1766), and St. Ferdinand (1788), and the Illinois parishes of Cahokia (1699), Kaskaskia (1703), Prairie du Rocher (1721), and Fort de Chartres (1721). The Kaskaskia Manuscripts—18th-century French civil records for southwestern Illinois—are also available. Newspaper holdings include *Le Patriote* and *La Revue de l'Ouest*, two 19th-century St. Louis French-language newspapers. A large collection of marriage “repertoires” for French Canada are available in print.

Scottish genealogy—History & Genealogy is home to one of the largest collections of Scottish monumental (tombstone)



inscription books in the United States and other print sources for Scottish genealogy.



Swiss records—Comprising 832 rolls of microfilm and 82 printed volumes, the parish records of Canton Bern, Switzerland document the lives of people from this important part of Switzerland from the early 16th century through the late 19th century. Fifteen additional rolls of microfilm with passports issued by Canton Bern, 1838-1887, complement the collection.

Rare Jewish sources include more than 100 Yizkor books memorializing destroyed Jewish communities and listing residents killed in the Holocaust. Written by the survivors in Hebrew and Yiddish, the books include family memoirs, photographs, and maps.



SESSION CONNECTIONS

Connect your NGS experience with History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library!

Are you anxious to try out the new research strategies or subject areas you are learning about at NGS? History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library has many sources that support subjects covered in conference sessions. The following information will help you make a session connection with materials in our library!

Did your ancestors emigrate to the U.S. from Germany?

Perhaps they were motivated by Gottfried Duden or came over with the Giessen Emigration Society? Many immigrants from western Germany came through New Orleans to St. Louis. History & Genealogy has German church records, naturalizations, and passenger lists for regional research. The library is also home to many *Ortssippenbücher* and *Familienbücher* (genealogical registers for specific villages) and other German sources. For a must-use shortcut in researching your German ancestry, make this session connection: W123, F357, T222, T253, T213, T203, T245, T215, & T243.

Are your ancestors from Pennsylvania, New York, or the New England states?

History & Genealogy is home to the National Genealogical Collection and the Lewis Bunker Rohrbach Collection, both of which prominently feature sources for Northeast U.S. research. With over 35,000 print items, including over 15,000 published family histories, you should venture to History & Genealogy if your research interests take you to these sessions: W126, T214, T204, T224, T244, & F354.

Visit History & Genealogy at booth 314 at the NGS Conference!

St. Louis was a gateway of possibility for many Irish, Scottish, and Ulster-Scot emigrants seeking a better life.

Regional church records, burials and cemetery records, vital records, probate and court records are all available at History & Genealogy. A growing collection of parish registers, cemetery records and family histories are all possible gateways for research connected to these sessions: F323, T255, & F313.

Territorial settlers did not leave much behind in the way of records, but options exist if your colonial ancestors dared to brave the unknown.

History & Genealogy has the Draper Manuscripts, Kaskaskia Manuscripts, early French and Spanish land records, and numerous record collections for researching your French-colonial, Spanish, and British territorial roots. Brave the journey and make this valuable session connection: W154, W124, W145, & W128.

You do not need to venture south to locate Southern migration records.

Emphasizing Virginia, the Carolinas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and Louisiana, History & Genealogy has county and city vital records, deeds, probate, records of the Freedman's Bureau, the Southern Claims Commission, ante-bellum Southern plantation records, slave marriage records, and many other resources for tracing your southern roots. Make the connection if you attend these sessions: S415, S455, F356, & F306.

Contact us:

History & Genealogy

St. Louis County Library
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd | St. Louis, MO 63131

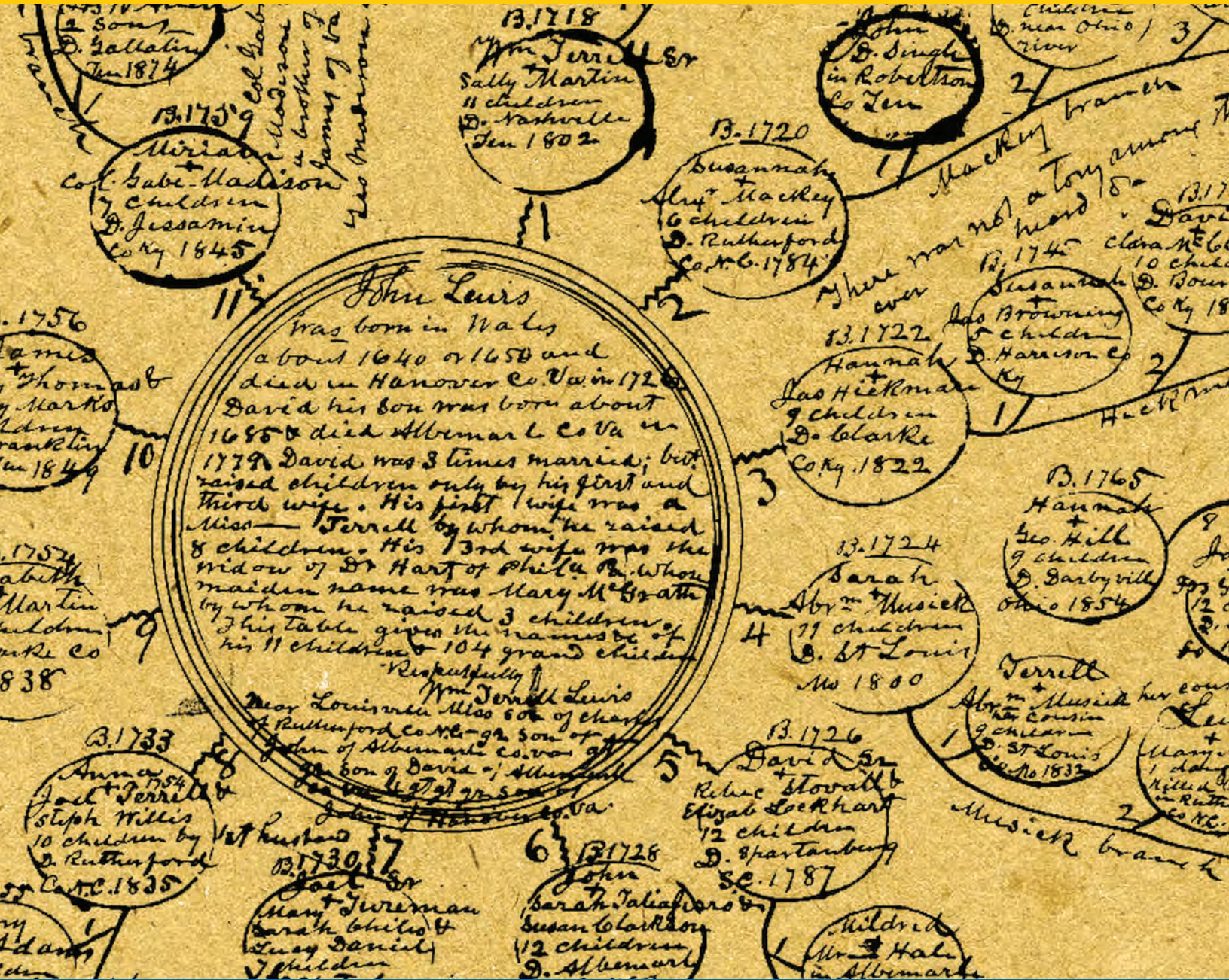
Phone: 314-994-3300, ext. 2070

Email: genealogy@slcl.org

Website: www.slcl.org/genealogy

Tours

Tours 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 314-994-3300, ext. 2070.



PastPorts is a free publication issued monthly by History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. Current and past issues and subscription information are on the web at www.slcl.org/pastports.

