

FOR THE RECORDS

Using St. Louis County coroner records

Vital records play an essential role in every genealogist's journey to find his or her ancestors, and records pertaining to death in particular can provide a large amount of useful information. While death certificates and obituaries are some of the most sought-after records, coroner reports are often overlooked. One particular set of records in History & Genealogy pertaining to coroner and medical examiner records of St. Louis County from the period of 1940 to 1990 contains a great deal of contextual information about the deceased that is unlikely to be found elsewhere. The microfilm set, while a little tricky to use, is worth looking into.

Natural and unnatural deaths

Many people assume that coroners and medical examiners are only involved in violent deaths, but that's not entirely accurate. Coroners and medical examiners are likely to be involved in deaths that are considered "unnatural" and need investigating. Examples include:

- Homicides
- Suicides
- Accidents
- Sudden deaths of people in good health
- Sudden infant deaths
- Adverse reactions to drugs/alcohol
- Employment-related deaths
- Deaths during medical procedures
- Deaths in jails, hospitals, or other public institutions
- Deaths involving suspicious or unusual circumstances



The murder of Floyd Oestricker created an extensive case file offering detailed personal information (see page 5).

Coroners vs. medical examiners

Coroners have been replaced in St. Louis County and other jurisdictions by medical examiners. While the job duties are essentially the same, medical examiners are required to have a greater amount of medical training in pathology, forensic investigation, and law. Another difference is that coroner's records are public, whereas medical examiner's records are usually private and available only to next of kin.

Types of Records

Several different types of records can be found inside case files. Below are a few examples:

- Death Certificates
- Coroner's Inquests
- Police Reports
- Apparent Natural Death Reports
- Jury Summaries


CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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OF NOTE

H&G hosts local historical societies

Approximately 60 people turned out on Saturday, Aug. 20 for the Local History Fair sponsored by the History & Genealogy Department. Participating organizations included Bridgeton Historical Society, Carondelet Historical Society, Center for French Colonial Studies, Chesterfield Historical Society, Clayton Historical Society, Eugene Field House, Fenton Historical Society, Missouri Pacific Historical Society, National Railway Historical Society, Old Jamestown Association History Committee, St. Louis Parks, and Wildwood Historical Society.



Right and above: Local history organizations had the opportunity to interact with the public and the members of other societies at the Local History Fair, sponsored by the History & Genealogy Department on Aug. 20.

New digital microfilm reader in H&G
The History & Genealogy Department (H&G) recently added a new ST Imaging ViewScan III digital microfilm reader for researchers' use. The unit offers the latest technology to enhance even poor quality microfilm images. Images can be printed or saved to a USB flash drive in a variety of formats. An overview of its capabilities can be viewed on a [YouTube video](https://youtu.be/ZOpbQiB5kJA) <<https://youtu.be/ZOpbQiB5kJA>> produced by the manufacturer (some features shown may not be available on H&G's unit). The unit joins two other digital microfilm readers acquired in 2011 and nine "traditional" machines, eight of which can also save film images in digital formats.

Coroner's records CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- Medico-Legal Reports
- Autopsy Reports
- Pictures
- Witness Statements
- Toxicology Reports

Case Study Example #1

Using the example of June Rueff, assume that all we know is that she died in St. Louis County sometime in 1979. According to Missouri law, her death certificate won't be available online until 2029. Might there be a coroner's report available?

We start by checking the library's finding aid to St. Louis County coroner records. The spreadsheet indicates that natural death index cards from 1979 are on part 13 of Roll 03-04 (Figure 1). When we check the microfilm, we find case file index card (Figure 2).

Note that the case file has a number in the top right corner. However, it was a natural death that occurred in a year when, according to the finding aid, natural and violent deaths were filed separately. So instead of using the case file number, we only need her name and the date of death. Using the finding aid again, we determine that the case file will be on part 1 of Roll 08-97 (Figure 3).

The case file includes a few related papers. First is an apparent natural death notice from the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office (Figure 4). This form details most of the information about her death,

| Begin Date | Begin Letter | End Date | End Letter | Index Card Contents | Roll # |
|------------|--------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1/1/1979 | A | 12/31/1979 | Z | Natural Deaths | 03-04 (13) |
| 1/1/1979 | A | 12/31/1979 | Z | Violent Deaths | 03-04 (14) |

N0967
7/7/79

RUEFF, JUNE W. w/m/52
270 Brightmoor
Florissant, Mo. 63033

DOA St. Louis County Hospital. Conveyed via
WHITE MULLEN AMBULANCE (M.E. Charge)

8/8/79 w/m 840

| Contents | Begin Date | Begin Number/Letter | End Date | End Number/Letter | Roll # |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Coroner Reports Natural Deaths | 10/22/1979 | R | 1/1/1979 | Z | 08-97 (1) |

ME-APD-1 ST. LOUIS COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

N0967

APPARENT NATURAL DEATH *831-8324*

Call: _____ Subject: _____

Date *July 7, 1979* Name *June W. Rueff*

Time *7:30 AM* Address *270 Brightmoor, Florissant 63033*

From whom received: *Mr. Stanley Rueff* Age *52* Race *w* Sex *F* Occupation _____

Marital Status *married*

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES - MISSOURI DIVISION OF HEALTH
MEDICAL EXAMINER OF CORONERS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH 124 STATE FILE NUMBER

REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. _____ PRIMARY REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. _____ REGISTRAR'S NO. _____

1 OCCIDENT NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST SEX MALE FEMALE DATE OF DEATH (Mo., Day, Yr.)

2 JUNE W. RUEFF 3 JULY 7, 1979

4 SA (Type of Union) _____

5 RACE (In full, including color) _____

6 WHITE 7 52 8 JUNE 19, 1927 9 ST. LOUIS

10 CLAYTON ST. LOUIS COUNTY HOSPITAL

11 MISSOURI U. S. A. 12 STANLEY C. RUEFF

13 500-24-4964 14 RETIRED LIBRARIAN 15 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING

16 MISSOURI ST. LOUIS 17 FLORISSANT 63033 18 270 BRIGHTMOOR DRIVE

19 ARTHUR WESTLAKE LOIS ROBINSON

20 MR. STANLEY C. RUEFF 21 270 BRIGHTMOOR DRIVE FLORISSANT MISSOURI 63033

22 CREMATION JULY 9, 1979 23 MEMORIAL PARK CREMATORY 24 JENNINGS MISSOURI

25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90

91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Figures (right) from top:

Figure 1 | Finding aid entry pointing to records for 1979.

Figure 2 | Index card for June W. Rueff, who died naturally.

Figure 3 | Finding aid entry pointing to the roll on which the coroner's record will be found.

Figure 4 | Notice of natural death from the case file.

Figure 5 | Death certificate recorded July 7, 1979 found in the case file. Note that the most recent Missouri death records available online are from 1965.

FILED AUG 10 1955 THE DIVISION OF HEALTH OF MISSOURI STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH State File No. 24895

BIRTH NO. REG. DIST. NO. 317 PRIMARY REG. DIST. NO. 500 Registrar's No. 1626

1. PLACE OF DEATH
a. COUNTY St. Louis
b. CITY OF TOWN UNINCORPORATED
c. LENGTH OF STAY (in days) D.O.A.
d. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION

2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where decedent lived. If institution: residence before institution)
a. STATE Missouri
b. COUNTY Jefferson
c. CITY OR TOWN Arnold
d. STREET ADDRESS (If none, give location) Box 196 R.#2 Arnold 0549

3. NAME OF DECEDENT a. (First) Floyd b. (Middle) Oestricker c. (Last) Oestricker
4. DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year) July 16, 1955

5. SEX Male 6. RACE White 7. MARRIAGE STATUS UNMARRIED 8. DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (Day) (Year) June 26, 1920
9. USUAL OCCUPATION (When kind of work done during most of preceding life, even if retired) Truck Driver 10. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Leucking Tr. Co. 11. BIRTHPLACE (City and State or Foreign Country) Ironton, Mo. 12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? USA

13. FATHER'S NAME Louis Oestricker 13a. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Mamie Woollem 14. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE Elizabeth Oestricker

15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? No 16. SOCIAL SECURITY No 17. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE OR NAME Jess Oestricker, Arnold, Mo. #2 Beach 18. ADDRESS (City, town, or county) Arnold, Mo. 19. DATE OF OPERATION 981X 20. AUTOPSY? YES [X] NO []

21. ACCIDENT (Specify) Homicide 21a. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., to or about torso, face, leg, neck, etc.) UNKNOWN 21b. CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP unknown
21c. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK? NO 21d. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR? Severe wounds of the head
22. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from 19 to 19, that I last saw the deceased on 19, and that death occurred at m. from the causes and on the date stated above.

23. SIGNATURE (Signature) 23a. ADDRESS Clayton, Mo. 23b. DATE SIGNED 7-21-55
24. BURIAL CREDENTIALS (Name, Address, Phone No.) 24a. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Mount Hope Cemetery 24b. LOCATION (City, town, or county) St. Louis County, Mo.
25. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE (Signature) 25. FURNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE Meyer-Pfitzinger, Kirkwood, Mo.

18. CAUSE OF DEATH: Rater only (as cause for line 10c), (b), and (c)
I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH: 10 wounds of the head, 8 of which
ANTECEDENT CAUSES: A. World conditions, if any, giving rise in the above cause (a) during the underlying acute ill. DUE TO (b) penetrated the brain, proving fatal. DUE TO (c) fatal.
II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS: (Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death.)

19. DATE OF OPERATION: 981X
20. AUTOPSY? YES [X] NO []

21. ACCIDENT (Specify): Homicide
21a. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., to or about torso, face, leg, neck, etc.): UNKNOWN
21b. CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP: unknown
21c. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK? NO
21d. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR? Severe wounds of the head
22. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from 19 to 19, that I last saw the deceased on 19, and that death occurred at m. from the causes and on the date stated above.

23. SIGNATURE (Signature): [Signature]
23a. ADDRESS: Clayton, Mo.
23b. DATE SIGNED: 7-21-55
24. BURIAL CREDENTIALS (Name, Address, Phone No.):
24a. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY: Mount Hope Cemetery
24b. LOCATION (City, town, or county): St. Louis County, Mo.
25. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE (Signature): [Signature]
25. FURNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE (Signature): Meyer-Pfitzinger, Kirkwood, Mo.

| Begin Date | Begin Letter | End Date | End Letter | Index Card Contents | Roll # |
|------------|--------------|------------|------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1/1/1955 | A | 12/31/1955 | Z | Violent Deaths | 03-01 (3) |

OESTRICKER, FLOYD, w, 35
Box 196, Route 2
Arnold, Missouri

#1745

July 16, 1955 - Body found in trunk of car 1 1/2 mi. south of Lemay Ferry Rd. off of New Baumgartner Road with severe head injuries

July 19, 1955 - Inquest
VERDICT: Homicide, at the hands of unknown party or parties

8/4/55 Meyer-Pfitzinger \$10.00

Figures (above) from top:

Figure 6 | Floyd Oestricker's death certificate as posted on the Missouri Digital Heritage website.

Figure 7 | Finding aid pointing to film roll where the index card will be found.

Figure 8 | The index card includes a brief summary of the case along with the case number. The case number is essential in finding the record.

and in some natural death case files, this is the only document available. Also in June Rueff's case file there is a D.O.A. notice, a funeral arrangement release form, an examination notice, a money and valuables record, and a death certificate (Figure 5).

While the other documents provide insight regarding the circumstances of death, the death certificate itself is the most genealogically informative. You might be surprised that there's a death certificate in a case file for a natural death. The reason it's in here is most likely due to the fact that June Rueff was cremated.

Case Study Example #2

Now let's compare the previous example to the case file of an unnatural death. Let's say we're looking for information about Floyd Oestricker. His death certificate is available online at Missouri Digital Heritage. It indicates he died on July 16, 1955, and that his death was ruled a homicide (Figure 6).

What we want is more information about the circumstances of his death and about his immediate family. A coroner's report is a great place to look for clues. To find the report we have to start by checking for an index card. To do that, we need the name and date of death. Using the library's finding aid we determine the index card will be on part 3 of Roll 03-01 (Figures 7 and 8).

The top right corner of the index card holds the key to finding the case file. That number, along with the year of his death, will determine which microfilm roll the case file is on. Once again, we go back to the library's finding aid. Using the spreadsheet, we determine the file will be on part 1 of Roll 05-19 (Figure 9).

After we scroll through the case file, we note that it includes a coroner's inquest, a copy of the death certificate, reports from the Missouri State Highway Patrol and St. Louis County Police, a newspaper clipping from the Post-Dispatch, and multiple photos from the crime scene and the autopsy. We can start by looking at the coroner's inquest (Figure 10).

From that 45-page transcript we can obtain a treasure trove of genealogical information about an entire cast of characters including the decedent and his family. Information includes:

- Name of decedent
- Estimated date of death
- Cause of death
- Physical attributes
- Home address
- Occupation
- Work address
- Employment history for 5+ years
- Date of birth
- Name of ex-wife
- Address of ex-wife
- Number of children with ex-wife
- Age of child of ex-wife
- Name of brother of ex-wife
- Approximate address of brother of ex-wife
- Name of current wife
- Date of marriage to current wife
- Number of children with current wife
- Name of step-father
- Occupation of step-father
- Address of employer of step-father
- Number of years employed
- Number of years married
- Name of mother
- Address of parents
- Occupation of mother
- Address of employer of mother
- Name of brother
- Age of brother
- Address of brother
- Name of coroner
- Name of pathologist/physician
- Names of officers/troopers
- Names of jurors
- Funeral home where autopsy was performed

Next we have a copy of Floyd Oestrick's death certificate (Figure 11). We see here that the death

certificate is incomplete. Compare it to the one on Missouri Digital Heritage website and note the differences (see page 5).

After the death certificate is a report from the Missouri State Highway Patrol (Figure 12). This

| Contents | Begin Date | Begin Number/Letter | End Date | End Number/Letter | Roll # |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Coroner Reports | 2/22/1955 | Case # 1665 | 7/28/1955 | Case # 1749 | 05-19 (1) |

EVIDENCE IN THE MATTER OF FLOYD OESTRICKER, DECEASED.

#1745.

Inquest held at 9:30 A.M., July 19th, 1955, by **ARNOLD J. WILLMANN**, Coroner of St. Louis County, Missouri, at the St. Louis County Health Center, Clayton, Missouri.

Jury duly sworn and affirmed by **ARNOLD J. WILLMANN**, Coroner of St. Louis County, Missouri, at the St. Louis County Health Center, Clayton, Missouri.

**THE DIVISION OF HEALTH OF MISSOURI
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

State File No. _____

BIRTH NO. _____ **REG. DIST. NO.** _____ **PRIMARY REG. DIST. NO.** _____ **Registrar's No.** _____

| | | | |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY St. Louis | | 2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived, if institution; residence before admission) a. STATE Missouri b. COUNTY Jefferson | |
| b. CITY (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township) D.O.A. | | c. LENGTH OF STAY in this care | c. CITY OR TOWN Arnold |
| d. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION | | STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) Box 196, R.#2 Arnold | |
| 3. NAME OF DECEASED a. (First) Floyd b. (Middle) Oestriker c. (Last) Oestriker | | 4. DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year) July 16, 1955 | |
| 5. SEX Male 6. COLOR OR RACE White 7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED Married | | 8. DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (Day) (Year) June 26, 1920 9. AGE (in years) (Month) (Day) (Year) 35 | |
| 10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) Truck Driver | | 10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Leucking Trf. Co. 11. BIRTHPLACE (City and State of Foreign Countries) Tronton, Mo. 12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? USA | |
| 13a. FATHER'S NAME Louis Oestriker 13b. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Mamie Woolam 14. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE Elizabeth Oestriker | | 15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, unknown) No 16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. None 17. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE OR NAME Jess Oestriker, Arnold, Mo. 18. ADDRESS 33415 | |
| 18. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c)) 1. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH (a) 10 wounds of the head, 8 of which ANTECEDENT CAUSES (b) penetrated the brain, proving fatal. (c) fatal. | | MEDICAL CERTIFICATION 11. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS (Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death.) | |
| 19a. DATE OF OPERATION | | 20. AUTOPSY? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 21a. ACCIDENT (Specify) Homicide 21b. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.) unknown 21c. (CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP) (COUNTY) (STATE) unknown | | 21d. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR? Severe wounds of the head | |
| 21e. TIME OF INJURY (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hour) Unknown 21f. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE: <input type="checkbox"/> WHEAT <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHEAT Body found July 16, 1955 at 4:45 AM | | 22. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from _____, 19____, to _____, 19____, and that death occurred at _____, 19____, from the causes and on the date stated above. | |
| 23a. SIGNATURE (Degree or title) | | 23b. ADDRESS Clayton, Mo. 23c. DATE SIGNED 7-21-55 | |
| 24a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Burial 24b. DATE 7/19/55 24c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Mount Hope Cemetery 24d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State) St. Louis County, Mo. | | 25. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE Meyer-Pfzinger, Kirkwood, Mo. | |

(Licensed Embalmer's Statement on Reverse Side)

Figure 9 (top) | Finding aid entry pointing to the film roll where the case file will be found.

Figure 10 | Coroner's inquest record.

Figure 11 | Uncompleted death certificate as it appears in the coroner's case file. Note the differences with the completed certificate on page 5.

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Kirkswood, Missouri
July 16, 1955

From: Sergeant L. A. Feco

Subject: Murder of Floyd Oestricker, Route 2, Arnold, Missouri

To : Commanding Officer, Troop C
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Kirkswood, Missouri

1. At approximately 8:30 a.m., July 16, 1955, Mr. WILLIAM J. DOHACK, Route 11, Box 662, Nehlville, Missouri, contacted Troop C Headquarters by telephone and reported that he had located an abandoned car in a wooded area just south of Baumgartner Road, one and one-half miles east of U. S. 61.

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|---|
| ST. L. CO. PD. F-3 | | | |
| Division SOUTH | Car No. 16 | ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE REPORT | Central Complaint Number 1447 |
| Location | | | Municipality Complaint Number |
| Date Of This Report 7-16-55 | | | Date Of First Report 7-16-55 |
| Name Of Complainant William Dohack | | Offense Murder | Crime Class |
| Place Of Occurrence New Baumgartner Road (1 mi. east Hwy 61) | | Originally Reported As Investigate Abandoned Auto | Crime Class |
| ADDITIONAL Details, Investigation and/or Disposition Location 1 mile east of Highway 61, 800 feet from New Baumgartner Road in south east direction in wooded section, north of Meramec River. | | | |
| On the above date and time Lt. A. H. Piotraschke and Officer Marcel Bonson of this command received information of the finding of the body of a white man, in the trunk of an automobile in a wooded section off of Baumgartner Road, 1 mile east of Highway 61. | | | |

Figure 12 (top)
| Report from the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

document provides an excellent timeline of events as they unfolded in the case beginning with the sergeant's arrival on the scene. Not only does this document provide a timeline, but it also includes pieces genealogical information not mentioned during the inquest:

Figure 13 |
Report of the St. Louis County Police Department.

- Name of ex-wife's daughter
- Name of mother of ex-wife
- Address of mother of ex-wife
- Employer of ex-wife and her mother
- Exact address of brother of ex-wife

A second report from the Highway Patrol shows the lab results of various blood and fingerprint tests. While interesting, there is no genealogical information here that hasn't already been noted.

We also have a report from the St. Louis County Po-

lice Department which begins with their arrival on the crime scene, and includes interviews of several persons relating to the decedent (Figure 13). From that report we gain further genealogical information:

- Estimated year of divorce from first wife
- Second place of employment of the ex-wife
- City where the deceased married his current wife
- Employer of the brother of the ex-wife, along with address
- Decedent's exact dates of employment with most recent company

Next we have a newspaper clipping from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* about the death of Floyd Oestricker, including a picture of him (see page 1). While the clipping isn't dated, we know Oestricker's date of death, and a search of the *Post-Dispatch* on microfilm discovers an article on the front page of the July 17, 1955 issue. In fact, the *Post-Dispatch* ran similar articles on July 16th and 18th. All three articles contain quite a bit of information related to the case, but the picture is most significant. Now we have a face to go with our physical description.

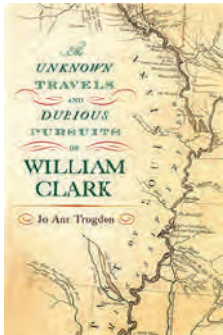
Speaking of pictures, we now come to one of the rarest aspects of this case file: the crime scene and autopsy photos. The majority of case files do not include photos, so this particular file provides a candid look into the unfortunate death of Floyd Oestricker. Many of the photos are not for the faint of heart.

Now that we have reached the end of Floyd Oestricker's case file, we have learned a fair amount of useful information about his death and his surviving relatives. The clues to the case may not have lead to any arrests, but clues from the case file can help genealogists searching his family tree.

Conclusion

When it comes to death records there are several types of records available, so remember to check every resource at your disposal. Coroner's records in particular can be an invaluable source of information.

FEATURED ACQUISITIONS



The Unknown Travels and Dubious Pursuits of William Clark

By Jo Ann Trogdon

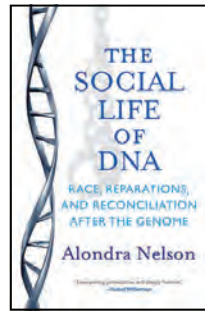
University of Missouri, 2015

R 917.8 T844U and circulating copy

In 1798—more than five years before he led the epic western journey that would make him and Meriwether Lewis national heroes—William Clark set off by flatboat from his Louisville, Kentucky home with a cargo of tobacco and furs to sell downriver in Spanish New Orleans. He also carried with him a leather-trimmed journal to record his travels and notes on his activities.

In this vivid history, Jo Ann Trogdon reveals William Clark's highly questionable activities during the years before his famous journey west of the Mississippi. Delving into the details of Clark's diary and ledger entries, Trogdon investigates evidence linking Clark to a series of plots—often called the Spanish Conspiracy—in which corrupt officials sought to line their pockets with Spanish money and to separate Kentucky from the United States. The Unknown Travels and Dubious Pursuits

of William Clark gives readers a more complex portrait of the American icon than has been previously written.—*Publisher*



The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation after the Genome

By Alondra Nelson

Beacon Press, 2016 | 305.896 N244S

We know DNA is a master key that unlocks medical and forensic secrets, but its genealogical life is both revelatory and endlessly fascinating. Tracing genealogy is now the second-most popular hobby amongst Americans, as well as the second-most visited online category. This billion-dollar industry has spawned popular television shows, websites, and Internet communities, and a booming heritage tourism circuit.

The tsunami of interest in genetic ancestry tracing from the African American community has been especially overwhelming. In *The Social Life of DNA*, Alondra Nelson takes us on an unprecedented journey into how the double helix has wound its way into the heart of the most urgent contemporary social issues around race.

For over a decade, Nelson has deeply studied this phenomenon. Artfully weaving together keenly observed interactions with root-seekers alongside illuminating historical details and revealing personal narrative, she shows that genetic genealogy is a new tool for addressing old and enduring issues. In *The Social Life of DNA*, she explains how these cutting-edge DNA-based techniques are being used in myriad ways, including grappling with the unfinished business of slavery: to foster reconciliation, to establish ties with African ancestral homelands, to rethink and sometimes alter citizenship, and to make legal claims for slavery reparations specifically based on ancestry.

Nelson incisively shows that DNA is a portal to the past that



View this month's list of new books on the web

A list of new books received during the previous month is posted on the library's website. View the list

by clicking on the graphic above, or by typing the URL into your browser: <<http://tinyurl.com/ktha6fr>>. 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.

DATABASE SPOTLIGHT

HistoryGeo

HistoryGEO is a database of United States maps focused on the original owners of land titles transferred by the federal government. The states covered are the twenty-nine federal land states (including Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana) and Texas. The database is based on the *Family Maps* book series, many of which are available in the library.

Researchers can use the database by zooming in on a location of interest or by searching a surname. After entering a surname, blue circles will appear on states and counties indicating the number of results. Clicking one will cause the map to zoom, allowing for further selections. Eventually, green icons shaped like a person will appear on the map, which represent a single individual's land. Information such as property lines, names of neighbors, and the year of acquisition should be visible after clicking one of these icons. The parcel information box (accessed by clicking the green icons or any piece of property) includes other features, such as a link to view the spot in Google Maps.

A second section of *HistoryGEO*, the antique maps collection, consists of maps from various states, including those not covered by the original landowner maps. The maps are arranged by state and county, and many show the names of landowners as well as landmarks (which may no longer exist) that were used to describe property boundaries.

See the June 2012 issue of *PastPorts* <http://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/pastports/06_2012.pdf> for more information about federal land states, the *Family Maps* series, and relevant terminology. Note that the library's subscription to *HistoryGEO* can only be used in the library.

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. [See the complete listing on the St. Louis County Library website](#) <<http://www.slcl.org/genealogy>>.

yields insight for the present and future, shining a light on social traumas and historical injustices that still resonate today. Science can be a crucial ally to activism to spur social change and transform twenty-first-century racial politics. But Nelson warns her readers to be discerning: for the social repair we seek can't be found in even the most sophisticated science. Engrossing and highly original, *The Social Life of DNA* is a must-read for anyone interested in race, science, history and how our reckoning with the past may help us to chart a more just course for tomorrow.—Syndetics / Bowker

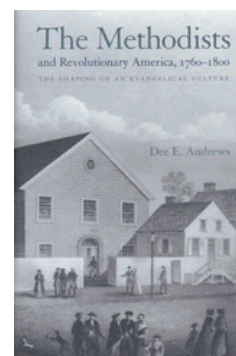


NextGen Genealogy: the DNA Connection

By David R. Dowell

Libraries Unlimited, 2015
R 929.1072 D746N

DNA testing for genealogical purposes has existed for nearly a decade and a half, and is now becoming accepted as another tool in the kit of well-rounded genealogists. Dowell explains this fast-growing application of genetics, and enables general readers to understand how genetic information can be applied to verify or refute documentary research-- and to break down frustrating walls that block the discovery of ancestors. He provides guidance on deciding which test to take, and identifying which members of your family should be tested to answer your most important genealogical questions, as well as how to interpret the results of tests and methods for further analysis to get additional value from them.



The Methodists and Revolutionary America, 1760-1800: The Shaping of an Evangelical Culture

By Dee Andrews

Princeton University, 2000
R 287.0973 A565M

The Methodists and Revolutionary America is the first in-depth narrative of the origins of American Methodism, one of the most significant popular movements in American history. Placing Methodism's rise in the ideological context of the American Revolution and

the complex social setting of the greater Middle Atlantic where it was first introduced, Dee Andrews argues that this new religion provided an alternative to the exclusionary politics of Revolutionary America. With its call to missionary preaching, its enthusiastic revivals, and its prolific religious societies, Methodism competed with republicanism for a place at the center of American culture.

Based on rare archival sources and a wealth of Wesleyan literature, this book examines all aspects of the early movement. From Methodism's Wesleyan beginnings to the prominence of women in local societies, the construction of African Methodism, the diverse social profile of Methodist men, and contests over the movement's future, Andrews charts Methodism's metamorphosis from a British missionary organization to a fully Americanized church. Weaving together narrative and analysis, Andrews explains Methodism's extraordinary popular appeal in rich and compelling new detail.—*Publisher*

PastPorts is published by History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library, located on Tier 5 of the library headquarters.

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

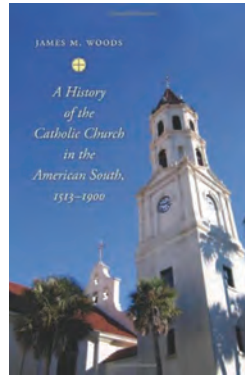
Contact us:

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

Tours

Tours of History & Genealogy are conducted on the first Wednesday and second 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.



A History of the Catholic Church in the American South, 1513-1900

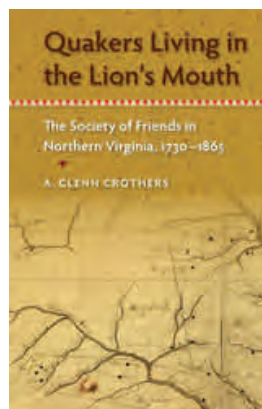
By James M. Woods

University of Florida, 2011

R 282.75 W896H

No Christian denomination has had a longer or more varied existence in the American South than the Catholic Church. The Spanish missions established in Florida and Texas promoted Catholicism, which was also the dominant religion among French settlers in Louisiana. Until the mid-nineteenth century, most American Catholics lived south of the Mason-Dixon Line. Anti-Catholic prejudice was never as strong in the South as in the North or Midwest and was rare in the region before the twentieth century.

James Woods's sweeping history employs a dynamic integration of a wide variety of secondary accounts and original research to create a compelling new interpretation of southern Catholicism. Stretching from the first European settlement of the continent through the early Republic, the Civil War, and Reconstruction to the end of the Spanish-American War, this work explores the unique ethnic and racial diversity of a religion that some Protestants refused to acknowledge as Christian well into the twentieth century.—*Book jacket*



Quakers Living in the Lion's Mouth: The Society of Friends in Northern Virginia, 1730-1865

By Glenn A. Crothers

University of Florida, 2012

R 975.5 C951Q

This examination of a Quaker community in northern Virginia, between its first settlement in 1730 and the end of the Civil War, explores how an antislavery, pacifist, and equalitarian religious minority maintained its ideals and campaigned for social justice in a society that violated those values on a daily basis.

MEET THE STAFF



Scott Holl

Scott was born in the central Kansas town of Lincoln. After earning a B.A. in German from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, he attended Christ Seminary—Seminex in St. Louis and graduated with an M.A. from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. After working for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and then as a freelance graphic designer, he earned a Master's in Library and Information Science from Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois in 2004. Prior to coming to the History & Genealogy Department in 2007, Scott served as reference librarian and archivist at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves. He has served as manager of the department since 2014. Scott enjoys all things German and is particularly interested in 19th-century German immigration and German Protestantism.

By tracing the evolution of white Virginians' attitudes toward the Quaker community, Glenn Crothers exposes the increasing hostility Quakers faced as the sectional crisis deepened, revealing how a border region like northern Virginia looked increasingly to the Deep South for its cultural values and social and economic ties.

Although this is an examination of a small community over time, the work deals with larger historical issues, such as how religious values are formed and evolve among a group and how these beliefs shape behavior even in the face of increasing hostility and isolation.—*Publisher*

New Ortssippenbücher (genealogical registers for German villages)

Anhausen, Rhineland-Palatinate; R 943.432 R369F
 Bethausen, Rumania (Banat); R 949.84 M623F
 Bruchsal, Baden-Wuerttemberg; R 943.464 S344O
 Dausenau, Rhineland-Palatinate; R 943.432 B887O
 Freihung-Thansüss, Bavaria; R 943.34 G562O
 Friedrichstal, Baden-Wuerttemberg; R 943.464 F982F
 Gölshausen, Baden-Wuerttemberg; R 943.464 V878O
 Karlsruhe (Carlsburg Castle), Baden-Wuerttemberg;
 R 943.464 M612O
 Keskastel & Schopperten, Alsace, France; R 944.395 K42
 Kippenheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg; R 943.462 K75O
 Linkenheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg; R 943.46436 J84O
 Pfuhl, Bavaria (Swabia); R 943.37 T351O
 Rengsdorf, Rhineland-Palatinate; R 943.432 R369F
 Ringsheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg; R 943.462 K75D
 Stade, Lower Saxony; R 943.593 P958R
 Vluyn, North Rhine-Westphalia; R 943.553 B531O
 Waldbrunn, Hesse; R 943.414 W413O
 Weener, Lower Saxony (Ostfriesland); R 943.5917 Z74F

LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Labor Day | Monday, Sept. 5

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.

- 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.

- 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.

- Oct. 4, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**
- Nov. 11, 2:00 p.m. | Oak Bend**
- Nov. 15, 2:00 p.m. | Headquarters**

CLASS LOCATIONS

Cliff Cave

5430 Telegraph Road
St. Louis, MO 63129

Grant's View

9700 Musick Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

Headquarters

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

Jamestown Bluffs

4153 N. Highway 67
St. Louis, MO 63034

Lewis and Clark

9909 Lewis-Clark Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63136

Oak Bend

842 S. Holmes Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Rock Road

10267 St. Charles Rock Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63074

Samuel C. Sachs

16400 Burkhardt Place
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Weber Road

4444 Weber Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

General information

Phone: (314) 994-3300,
ext. 2070
Email genealogy@slcl.org
Website: www.slcl.org/genealogy

CLASSES
continued

■ **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

Learn more about our partners



St. Louis Genealogical Society
www.stlgs.org

National Genealogical Society
www.ngsgenealogy.org



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

■ **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 ex-

panded 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

PROGRAMS