

FOR THE RECORDS

Road, bridge, ferry, and mill records for North Carolina

Road, bridge, ferry, and mill records are lesser-known sources that can easily go untapped when researching ancestors. If one is aware of and willing to investigate them, however, they can provide a wealth of information, particularly for rural counties where traditional pre-1850s sources may be hard to locate.

History & Genealogy has added to its collection books featuring scanned copies of original 18th- and 19th-century records from the North Carolina State Archives compiled by Stewart Dunaway. In these volumes, Dunaway has copied original petitions, complaints, dockets and court summonses relating to roads, bridges, mills and ferries of North Carolina counties and transcribed many of the original records, allowing easy navigation by the reader.

How might these records be helpful in North Carolina research? First, they can assist in establishing relationships in the neighborhood of one's ancestors. The signers of a petition to create or alter a road can offer clues as to the larger community of the ancestor. Petitions were required by law to create, alter or discontinue a road, so the signers might be those impacted by the change. One such petition requesting construction of a road leading "from Zion Meeting House to Abbott's Creek Meeting House"¹ in Davidson County and dated February 1833 might be a clue to membership in one or both congregations (see Figure 1).

In this same petition are listed "Haworth's Mill," "Evan's Mill," and "Orrill's Mill," names of family trades and businesses along the pathway of the proposed road. In the absence of a county probate record for any of these

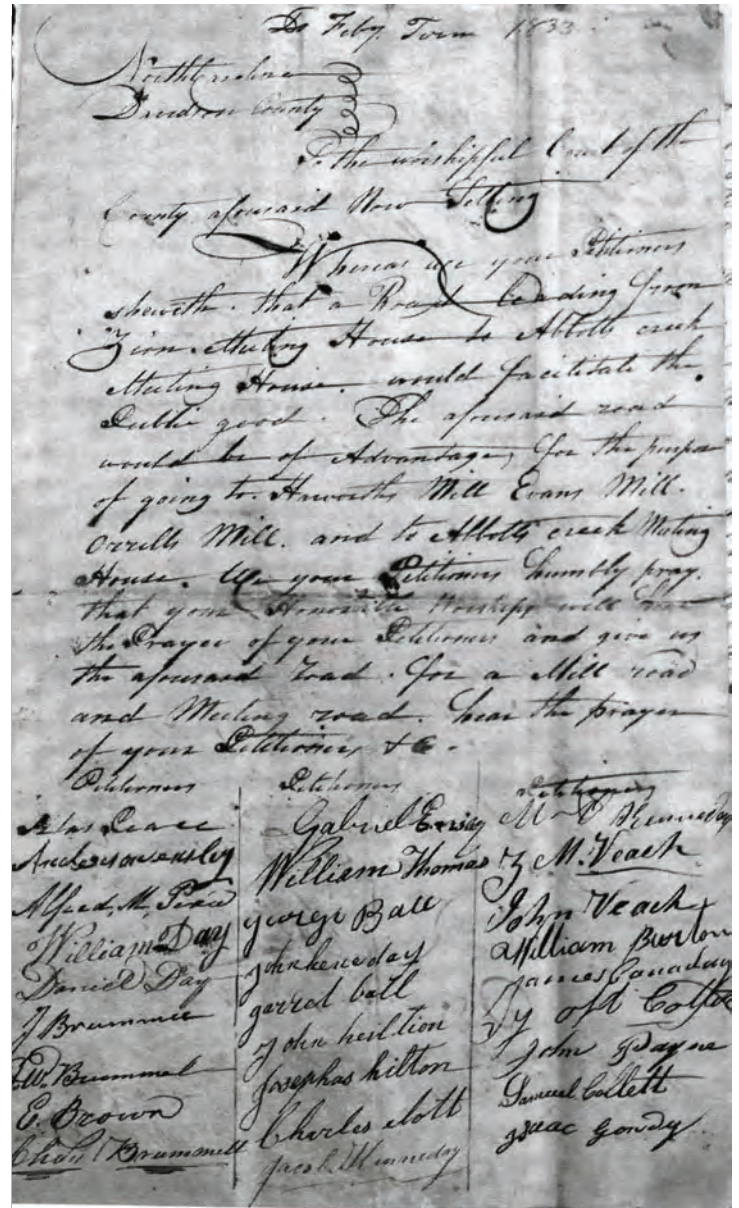


Figure 1 | Petition for the creation of a road.

individual mill owners, such a record might be the only reference to the trade of an ancestor. And while traditional land records for North Carolina are extensive, they might also omit the name of a business if it's not part of the land description on the deed. Not all


CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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signers of a given petition were necessarily inhabitants of an area impacted by the proposal. Figure 2 exemplifies a road petition dated February 1832 in Davidson County against road changes in which signers were “not inhabitants of this neighborhood”² reflecting other possible motivations behind the petitions.

With limited access to 18th- and early-19th century vital records, these often overlooked resources might also corroborate secondary information found in more commonly used sources. A proposal to alter a road found in Warren County, N.C. dated 16 March 1839 lists “James OK Mayfield,

admin. of William E. Mayfield, deceased and chief agent and manager of the land”³ allowing one to draw conclusions as to a possible death and probate entry date for both the deceased and administrator. Another volume lists a petition dated 1836 to alter a road “at or near the widow Harris cotton field,”⁴ naming a female on a record. Women are often absent from more traditional records of the era. A dower land division report dated 1844 states that the sheriff of Randolph County will “lay off the and allot to Henrietta Wood, widow of William Ward deceased, her dower and thirds in the lands of said deceased;”⁵ another record for a female. With this further information, probate and land record research could be possible. Plantation, field, ferry, creek, saw, and grist mill locations that include ancestral names are the norm in such records.

Dunaway has compiled road overseer docket books from the original county-held ledgers and loose papers. In some of the counties, entire road docket books were maintained and are now available in this collection. In the 18th and early 19th centuries, road overseers were responsible for the maintenance of stretches of roads and bridges on which they lived, and they were expected to assemble workers when labor on them was required. Local constables and, later, county commissioners were officers who determined those qualified to act as the road overseer. In these records, one might find the name of a male ancestor and the name of the road where he served, as well as the names of the property holders along the road.

Buried in these loose papers are records of arrests of those who refused to serve as overseer or work on the road. A state warrant against Calvin Roseman of Rowan County dated 1876 (see Figure 3 on the next page) calls for his arrest for refusing to work on the Brown Ferry Road in Rowan County, N.C.⁶ On docket book entries, the names of the “hands” or workers on the road are listed with those of the overseer in charge. Often those road workers were actually the slaves owned by the names listed. Female names are often listed as well.

An ancestor’s signature is one of those most coveted items a researcher hopes to obtain. In these records, signatures of jurors, petitioners, and bondmen are extensive. Some

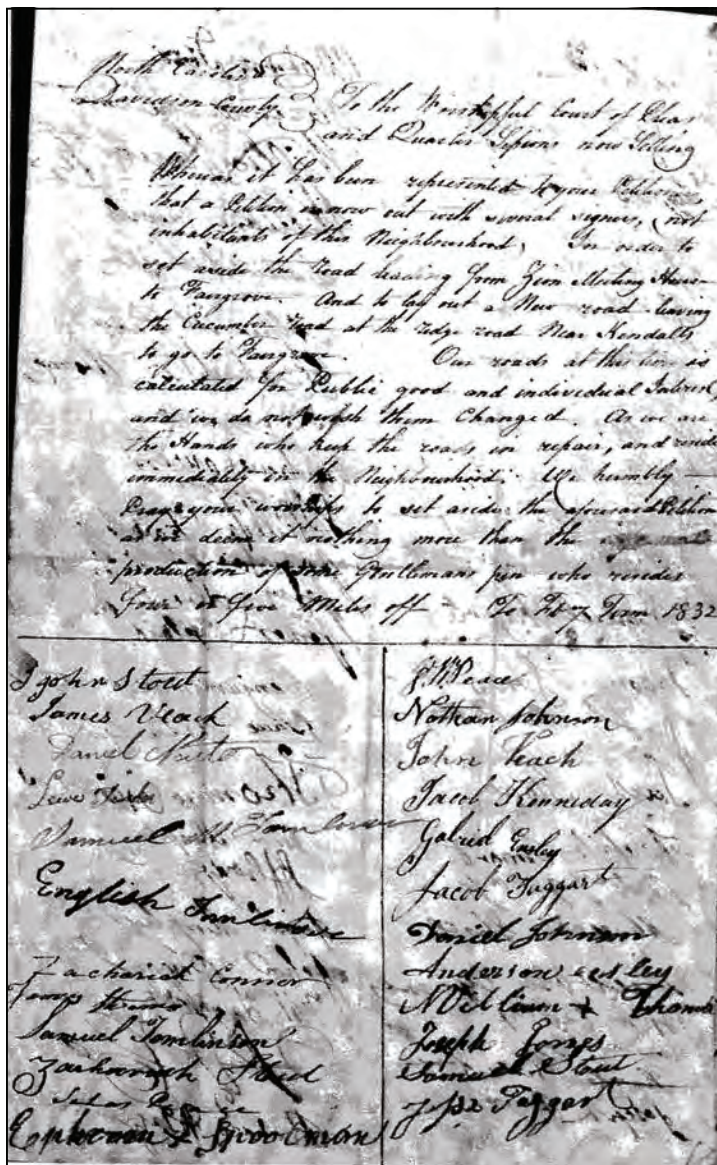


Figure 1 | Petition signed by a non-resident.

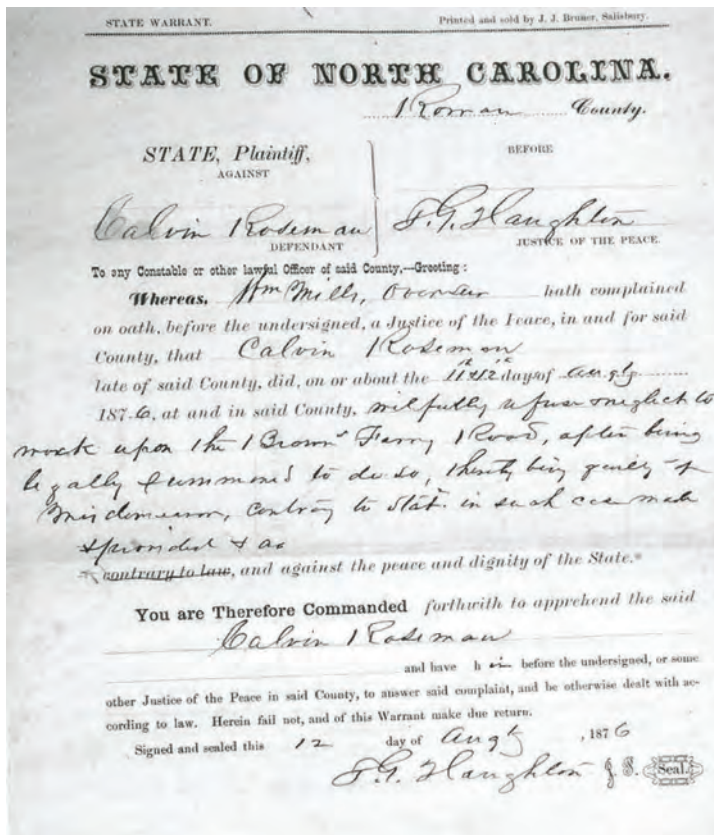
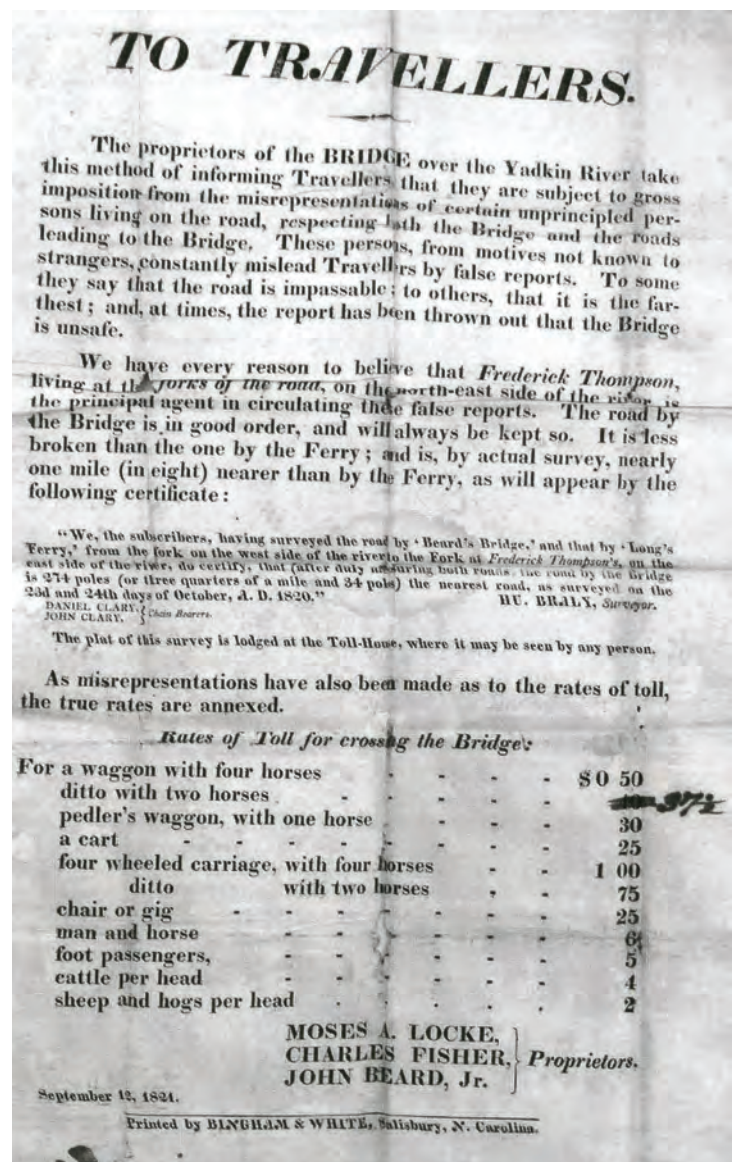


Figure 3 (above) | Arrest warrant issued for someone who refused to contribute to road work. **Figure 4 (right) |** A note to travelers issued to protest a bridge alteration.

petitions within Dunaway’s books include upwards of fifty signatures most without a marking indicating their inability to write their own name. The signature title of “Junior” and “Senior” on a singular document may help the researcher distinguish two males within the said county. On some petitions, one might find the signature of a female ancestor, which might be a first for researchers in these rural counties due to the scarcity of probate or land records requiring female signatures. Finally, for ancestral surnames which seem to vary within the same family in a given county, signatures can give clues based on the variances of spelling. Interrelated Davidson County men offer a variety of spellings of one surname, with John Keneday, Jacob Kenneday, James Canaday, and Isaac Canady all signing as petitioners⁷(see Figure 1). Evidence of how an ancestor signed his or her name can completely alter the course of one’s research if varying spellings occur.

Original posters and advertisements often accompany documents in these records. A note to travelers dated 1824 (see Figure 4) with the names of proprietors airing a grievance about a proposed or altered road or bridge aligning their properties can be a boon to someone’s research⁸. Other such public notices and bulletins can be found within these books, giving insight into the lives of one’s ancestors.

If one is seeking a pre-1850 ancestor in a county on a given date, these records could prove worthwhile in the absence of traditional sources. Although Dunaway’s books pertain to North Carolina, all states maintained such records at the county level. Check the road [CONTINUED ON PAGE 5](#)



OF NOTE | H&G acquires Joy A. Reisinger book collection

History and Genealogy at St. Louis County Library is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Joy A. Reisinger Collection. The collection is comprised of 1,400 books collected by the late Joy A. Reisinger, a certified genealogist who died in 2013. The library acquired the collection from Reisinger's heirs. The library will announce when the items will be made available for use by the public after necessary conservation and cataloging activities are completed.

The collection includes many books and publications important to French Canadian history and genealogy. Many items

are rarely found in libraries, and they complement the collection of materials already held at St. Louis County Library. The addition of this collection is important to St. Louis genealogy and history because of the area's French colonial legacy, which has connections to French Canada.

Joy Reisinger was well known in genealogy circles. She specialized in French Canadian and Upper Midwest history, conducting workshops and giving lectures throughout the U.S. and Canada. She was certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists in 1980. She was a member of ten historical and genealogical associations, serving as an officer or board member in several. She received several awards for her work, most notably the Grahame Thomas Smallwood Jr. Award of Merit (1996) from the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Presidential Citation and Award of Merit from the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the National Genealogical Society Certificate of Merit.

As an advocate of making vital records available and accessible to the public, Joy Reisinger would have approved of St. Louis County Library's plans for her collection.

Acquisition of the books was made possible through funds provided by the William C.E. and Bessie K. Becker Collection.

[Ms. Reisinger's obituary](http://tinyurl.com/pvw8hl3) <http://tinyurl.com/pvw8hl3> from the *La Crosse Tribune* can be read online. [A tribute written by David McDonald](http://tinyurl.com/qenp2js) <http://tinyurl.com/qenp2js> appears on the Board of Certified Genealogist's website.

Road, bridge, ferry, and mill records

Continued from page 4

and bridge records for counties of interest. Records may have been maintained as a separate record group, or they might be included in county court, court of common pleas and city council record and minute books.

Notes

1. Dunaway, Stewart E. *Davidson County North Carolina*, Vol. 1, *Road, Bridge and Ferry Records (1823-1929)*, 2013, p.72. R 975.668 D897D.
2. Ibid, p.77.
3. _____, *Warren County North Carolina Road Records*, Vol. 1 (1792-1882), 2013, p.72. R 975.652 D897W.
4. _____, *Davidson County North Carolina*, Vol. 1, p.119.
5. _____, *Miscellaneous North Carolina Roads, Bridges and Mill CRX Records (1767-1937)*. 2014, p.104. Library-owned copy is in process.
6. _____, *Rowan County North Carolina Road and Bridge Petitions (1758-1882)*, 2010, p.16. R 975.671 D897R.
7. _____ *Davidson County North Carolina*, Vol. 1, p.72.
8. Ibid. p.197.

SPECIAL LIBRARY CLOSING

St. Louis County Library Headquarters will close at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13 for a special author event featuring Rick Riordan (sold out).

LOCAL HISTORY | Historic homes in the Local History File



The Prestien Farm home (left) and outbuildings were located in Creve Coeur until demolished to make way for Missouri Highway 141 expansion. Photos: Missouri Department of Transportation

In May 2009, History & Genealogy received photographs of the Prestien Farm from the Missouri Department of Transportation. The farm had recently been demolished in order to make way for Route 141. Photographs were taken by the Missouri Department of Transportation to document the property, as well as the inside and outside of the home. An October 5, 1996 St. Louis Post-Dispatch article notes that the farm was most likely the last working farm in Creve Coeur and qualified as a Century Farm (a farm that has been owned by one family for over 100 years). The photographs have been placed in the Historic Homes section of the Local History Files along with information about the family cemetery and the fate of the farm as plans for Missouri Route 141 were being finalized.

The History & Genealogy's Local History File contains information about other St. Louis-area historic homes:

Alswel (Busch summer residence), Sunset Hills
 Auguste Archambault House, Florissant
 Berthold Mansion, St. Louis
 Bissell Mansion, St. Louis
 Campbell House, St. Louis

Capt. Harvey Ferris House, Ellisville
 Cupples House, St. Louis
 DeMenil Mansion, St. Louis
 Emma Buck Farm, Monroe County, Ill.
 Eugene Field House, St. Louis
 Hanley House, Clayton
 Hawken House, Webster Groves
 John B. Myers House, Florissant
 Laclede's First Home, St. Louis
 Lemp Mansion, St. Louis
 Stockstrom House (Magic Chef Mansion), St. Louis
 Peers Griffen House, Webster Groves
 Rock House, St. Louis
 Sappington House, Sappington
 Thornhill, Faust Park, Chesterfield
 Tyler Home, Bonhomme Bottoms, St. Louis County
 White Haven (Ulysses S. Grant), St. Louis County
 Wm. Long Log House, Crestwood

The Local History File is available for researchers to use in History & Genealogy. Ask a librarian for assistance in using the collection.

St. Louis County Library Foundation and the
2015 Greater St. Louis Humanities Festival present

Elizabeth Terry, John Wright & Patrick McCarthy

AUTHORS OF "ETHNIC ST. LOUIS"



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 7:00 P.M.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. (Seating is limited; early arrival is highly recommended).

The authors will join a panel of first and second generation immigrants to discuss the significant impact of St. Louis' immigrant communities both past and present.

St. Louis County Library Headquarters–Auditorium

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Books for signing
will be available
for purchase.



St. Louis County Library



Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit www.slcl.org



NEW IN HISTORY & GENEALOGY



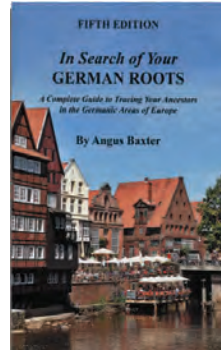
Ethnic St. Louis

By Elizabeth Terry, John Wright, & Patrick McCarthy

Reedy Press, 2015

R 977.866 T329E and circulating copy

On the heels of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of St. Louis's founding, *Ethnic St. Louis* highlights the many communities that make St. Louis a vibrant, multiethnic city. Their stories—accompanied by rare photographs—fill *Ethnic St. Louis*, which represents a rich tapestry of the cultures that have enriched the Gateway City throughout its history. This volume takes us through the colonization by French traders, the influx of Irish and German immigrants searching for land and religious freedom, the migration of African Americans looking for work in the early twentieth century, the more recent arrivals of Vietnamese and Bosnian immigrants, and journeys of many more who have shaped St. Louis history and daily life.—*Book jacket*

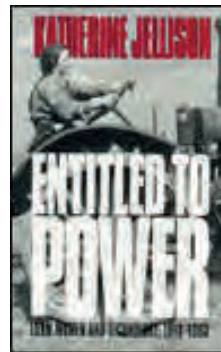


In Search of Your German Roots: A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe, 5th Edition

By Angus Baxter

**Genealogical Publishing, 2015
R 929.1 B355I**

This edition of *In Search of Your German Roots* is designed to help you trace your German ancestry, not only in Germany but in all the German-speaking areas of Europe, from the Baltic to the Crimea, from the Czech Republic to Belgium. It shows you how to conduct your research from your own home—at your computer, using a variety of online resources—and also points you to the most useful repositories of records abroad.—*Publisher*



Entitled to Power: Farm Women and Technology, 1913–1963

By Katherine Jellison

**University of North Carolina, 1993
R 338.483 J48E**

The advent of modern agribusiness irrevocably changed the patterns of life and labor on the American family farm. In *Entitled to Power*, Katherine Jellison examines midwestern farm women's unexpected response to new labor-saving devices. Federal farm policy at mid-century treated farm women as consumers, not producers. New technologies, as promoted by agricultural extension agents and by home appliance manufacturers, were expected to create separate spheres of work in the field and in the house. These innovations, however, enabled women to work as operators of farm machinery or independently in the rural community. Jellison finds that many women preferred their productive roles on and off the farm to the domestic ideal emphasized by contemporary prescriptive literature. A variety



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

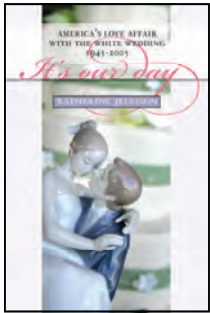
A list of new books received during the previous month is posted on the library's website. View the list by clicking on the graphic, left, or by typing the

URL into your browser: <<http://tinyurl.com/ktha6fr>>.

You can also download the list as a PDF from the library's website <<http://tinyurl.com/ps4o6zl>>.

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.

of visual images of farm women from advertisements and agricultural publications serve to contrast the publicized view of these women with the roles that they chose for themselves. The letters, interviews, and memoirs assembled by Jellison reclaim the many contributions women made to modernizing farm life—*Publisher*



It's Our Day: America's Love Affair With the White Wedding, 1945-2005

By Katherine Jellison

**University of Kansas, 2008
R 392.5 J48I**

For years, a white-gowned bride, multi-tiered white cake, and shiny gold rings have been the central icons for a grand American tradition that remains vibrant despite changing times. Now Katherine Jellison gives us a comprehensive cultural history of American weddings since World War II, examining the development of our pre-

cise and expensive standards for celebrating weddings and the staying power of this phenomenon in the face of enormous social, political, and economic upheaval. Jellison's book is the first to examine wedding culture in the context of postwar cultural change, analyzing the mechanisms that disseminated, updated, and sustained the specific tradition of the white wedding. Tracing the ritual back to the rise of consumer culture in the postwar boom, it also examines how Americans guaranteed the survival of the white wedding into the twenty-first century by amending the ideology that supported it and reinterpreting the functions it served. —*Publisher*

New at Ancestry Library Edition

- Alabama, Civil War Soldiers, 1860-1865
- Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Mississippi, 1903-1964
- Poland, Auschwitz Work Cards, 1944-1945
- Wills and probate records from many U. S. states

Ancestry Library Edition can be used for free on public computers and through the wireless network at all St. Louis County Library locations.

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 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.

BRANCH LOCATIONS | INFORMATION

Genealogy events are held at the following locations. See schedules beginning on page 10.

Cliff Cave

5430 Telegraph Rd.

Thornhill

12863 Willowyck Dr.

Florissant Valley

195 New Florissant Rd., S.

Information

Contact:

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

Grand Glaize

1010 Meramec Station Rd.

genealogy@slcl.org

www.slcl.org

Headquarters

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

HISTORY & GENEALOGY CLASSES AND EVENTS | Oct.–Nov. 2015

Genealogy class schedule

Classes are free and open to the public. Space is limited, and registration is required. Call (314) 994-3300, or [register online](http://www.slcl.org/events) <<http://www.slcl.org/events>>. See bottom of this page for class descriptions.

Saturday, Oct. 3, 10:00 a.m.

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project
Florissant Valley Meeting Room 2
Registration is now open
Instructor: Dan Lilienkamp

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2:00 p.m.

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project
Headquarters East Room
Registration is now open.
Instructor: Larry Franke

NEW—ADDED CLASS! Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database
Florissant Valley Computer Lab
Registration is now open.
Instructor: Dan Lilienkamp

Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases
Thornhill Computer Lab
Registration is now open.
Instructor: Greg Hilton

Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database
Grand Glaize Computer Lab
Registration is now open.
Instructor: Jake Eubanks

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

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. | Florissant Valley, Oct. 3 | Headquarters, Oct. 6 | Grand Glaize, Nov. 21 |

History and Genealogy in Newspaper Databases

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. | Headquarters, Nov. 9 |

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database

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. | Florissant Valley, Oct. 10 | Grand Glaize, Oct. 17 | Headquarters, Oct. 23 | Thornhill, Nov. 14 |

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases

Fold3 and HeritageQuest are electronic databases that 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. | Thornhill, Oct. 10 | Headquarters, Oct. 30 | Florissant Valley, Nov. 7 |

Genealogy class schedule

Friday, Oct. 23, 2:00 p.m.

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database
Headquarters Computer Lab
Registration is now open.
Instructor: Larry Franke

Friday Oct. 30, 2:00 p.m.

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases
Headquarters Computer Lab
Registration begins Oct. 2.
Instructor: Larry Franke

Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases
Florissant Valley Computer Lab
Registration begins Oct. 10.
Instructor: Dan Lilienkamp

Monday, Nov. 9, 2:00 p.m.

History and Genealogy in Newspapers
Headquarters Computer Lab
Registration begins Oct. 12.
Instructor: Larry Franke

Saturday, Nov. 14, 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition Database
Thornhill Computer Lab
Registration begins Oct. 17.
Instructor: Greg Hilton

Saturday, Nov. 21, 10:00 a.m.

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project
Grand Glaize Meeting Room 1
Registration begins Oct. 24.
Instructor: Jake Eubanks

GENEALOGY MEETINGS AND LECTURES | Oct.–Nov. 2015

Meetings and lectures are free and open to the public.
No registration required.

St. Louis Genealogical Society African American Special Interest Group

Slave Records

Saturday, Oct. 3, 11:00 a.m.
Headquarters East Room
Speaker: LaDonna Garner

St. Louis Genealogical Society

St. Louis Archdiocese Records

Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:00 a.m.
Headquarters Auditorium
Speaker: Rena Schergen

Genealogy at Cliff Cave

Digging up the Past in Funeral Home and Cemetery Records

Monday, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Cliff Cave Branch
Speaker: Larry Franke

St. Louis Genealogical Society

French Canadian Research

Monday, Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m.
Headquarters East room
Speaker: Gary Flor

St. Louis Genealogical Society

What Land Records Can Tell

Saturday, Nov. 14, 10:00 a.m.
Headquarters Auditorium
Speaker: Ruth Ann Hager

Genealogy at Cliff Cave

In die Kirche Gehen: German Churches in St. Louis, 1830 – 1900

Monday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m.
Cliff Cave Branch
Speaker: Scott Holl