



FOR THE RECORDS

St. Louis Freie Gemeinde

The winds of change were blowing through Europe by the mid-1800s. Crops failed from Ireland to Russia. Industrial expansion in urban areas had slowed, leading to unemployment. Anti-authority reformers sought change. Liberal, socialist and nationalistic ideas rose among the middle class in many European countries, leading to the revolution in 1848. Uprisings in Germany were relatively mild compared to what was seen in other countries, but violent rioting occurred in Berlin on March 15th, 1848. German reformers pushed for unification and human rights guarantees. They wanted a national assembly that represented all of Germany instead of the loosely connected German Confedera-

tion. The reformers experienced some success, but the movement fell apart when they couldn't decide on a constitution.

European background

A related anti-religion movement also began around this time. Both Protestant and Catholic Churches witnessed increasing resistance to the traditions of the church, just as there was an increasing resistance to secular authorities. A belief in the rights of man, or humanism, was growing. This movement held up the importance of humans over the divine. Humanist “freethinkers” who left their churches believed that truth should be formed on the basis of logic and reason, rather than authority and dogma.

After the failed Revolution of 1848, there was an influx of German freethinker **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

Meeting house of the Freie Gemeinde von Nord St. Louis and the St. Louis Schulverein, 20th & Dodier Streets as it appeared in 1910. Photo: [Max Kade Institute <http://bit.ly/2xGq3D1>](http://bit.ly/2xGq3D1)

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Mitgliederliste (membership list) of the Freie Gemeinde von Nord St. Louis, 1862. Image from microfilm in the History & Genealogy Department.

immigrants (often called “Forty-Eighters”) to the United States. They wanted to live free from the control of both government and church authorities. Some were forced to leave as a consequence of their participation in the revolution in Germany. These freethinkers brought their ideas with them, with many settling in German immigrant communities in Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana and Texas. They formed organizations called *Freie Gemeinden*, or “free congregations.”

Freethinkers in St. Louis

Die Freie Gemeinde von St. Louis (The Free Congregation of St. Louis), the first German freethinker society of its kind in the United States, was officially established on Nov. 6, 1850. The organization was also known as the German School Society and Free Congregation of North St. Louis and Bremen. Its first president, F. A. Gottschalk, oversaw an organization of 65 founding members. Bylaws were drafted, and members paid quarterly dues according to their means. The organization’s leaders tended to be well-educated and politically inclined, but the rank and file members came from all economic levels.

One of the main purposes of this newly created St.

Louis organization was education. Members wanted a school that was free from religious instruction. A small house was built at North 14th and Hebert Streets in 1851. This first building contained three classrooms and an annex that was used as a residence for the teacher of the congregation, who was also called the “lecturer” or “speaker.” The teacher instructed students five days a week and lectured to the congregation on Sunday mornings. School tuition was one dollar per year.

By the late 1860s, the student population was outgrowing the house, and a larger, red-brick building was constructed at 20th and Dodier Streets in 1867. The building featured a carved stone with the phrase “*Wahrheit macht frei*” (“The truth will set you free”). Now part of the St. Louis Place neighborhood, the area was a popular residential area for Germans in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Around 1870, public schooling in St. Louis changed. Instruction in German was added to and religion removed from the curriculum, a move favored by the *Freie Gemeinde*. The school was dissolved and most of the classrooms in the building were leased to the St. Louis Public Schools. Schools housed in the building over the years included the Dodier School and Blair Branch. An addition was constructed in the 1880s. When German was later removed from the curriculum, the *Freie Gemeinde* offered a German Saturday school. Three hundred students enrolled in 1900. Rooms in the building were also rented out to other groups to create steady income. A look at the organization’s records shows meticulous financial recordkeeping.

Activities

In addition to the school, the *Freie Gemeinde* also provided other traditional functions of a church. Some religious customs could be observed, but no doctrinal teaching was permitted. Instead, the speaker gave lectures on science, philosophy, history, and literature. No creed or mention of God was included. The organization held “Sunday School,” but it was called so only because it was held on Sunday. Morals were taught to the children without the use of Bible stories.

The speaker performed simple funeral services in which the deceased was honored for goodness and charity, as worth was measured by what had been done for his or her fellow man. The speaker also performed marriages in the early years of the group's existence, and 17 were recorded between 1850 and 1870. Subsequent marriages for members were performed by a Justice of the Peace.

Other Freie Gemeinde activities included committee meetings, dances, festivals, and debates. The group supported a ladies' choir, or *Damenchor*. The congregation sent representatives to national and international conferences. It created an insurance pool and sold cemetery plots to its members. Members frequently took up collections to help groups such as flood and yellow fever victims. The *Freie Gemeinde* kept a library of over three thousand books. Many members were active in other German organizations such as the *Turnvereine* (turning societies).

Politics and influence

The Freie Gemeinde influenced local politics and held ideas that aligned closely with the abolitionist movement. It supported Lincoln in the 1860 election, and some German freethinkers went on to fight in the Civil War. These immigrants had a high degree of patriotism for their new country and did not want to see the kind of division they had experienced in Germany. The Freie Gemeinde opposed a movement in 1872 to add references to God to the Constitution. The organization also promoted women's suffrage and permitted female members. The membership list of 1875 included a woman, Frau Henrietta Kurtzeborn.

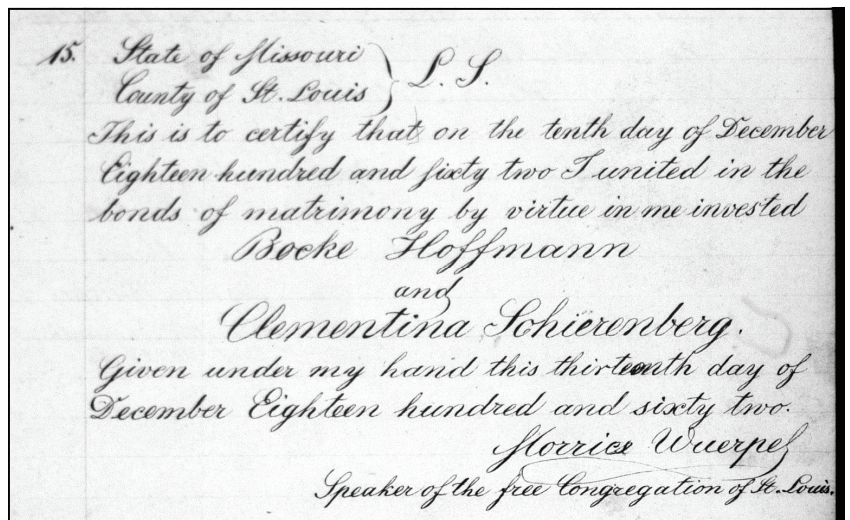
German freethinkers were not shy about sharing their views. Among the St. Louis Freie Gemeinde members was the influential German newspaper editor, Emil Preetorius of the *Westliche Post*. Heinrich Boernstein, editor of the *Anzeiger das Westens*, was also a supporter. These newspapers often espoused freethinking views, whether by criticizing religion or slavery, or promoting racial and social equality. Later on in its history, the Freie Gemeinde heavily sup-

ported the Socialist Party, and members ran for local offices under the Socialist banner. Many members were also involved with Camp Solidarity, a "collective" neighborhood and recreational area in Pacific, Missouri. Camp Solidarity was co-founded by Edward Petrikovitsch, one of the last remaining members of the Freie Gemeinde.

Institutional decline

"Freethought" was influential in American history from approximately 1875 to 1914, and the St. Louis organization's numbers bear this out. The organization claimed 250 members in 1900. Anti-German sentiment during the World Wars, the rise and subsequent threat of Communism, changing social and political attitudes, and its own internal organizational strife caused a steady membership decrease throughout the 1900s. Decline led the group to sell its large building at 20th and Dodier in 1943 and move to a smaller building on St. Louis Avenue. After selling that building in 1961, members met in homes until the group officially disbanded. Seven remaining members met for the last time on June 25th, 1972 to settle tax matters and distribute the assets. The organization's remaining funds, almost \$28,000, was donated to the Ethical Society of St. Louis, an organization considered most closely to resemble the ideals of the Freie Gemeinde (the Rationalist Society of St. Louis had similar beliefs but received no assets). The organization's records were given to the State Historical Soci-

One of 17 marriage records found in Freie Gemeinde records. Image from microfilm in the History & Genealogy Department



ety of Missouri ([see online finding aid <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/stlouis/s0037.pdf>](http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/stlouis/s0037.pdf)), and its library was donated to the University of Southern Illinois-Edwardsville. The only remaining Freie Gemeinde in the United States today is in Sauk City, Wisconsin.

Freie Gemeinde records

The History & Genealogy department has a copy of the *Freie Gemeinde von St. Louis* records on four microfilm rolls. They include marriage records, member or “Mitglieder” lists, protocol books, cash books, dues lists, correspondence, cemetery plot purchases, and pamphlets. Many records are in German. If you are having trouble locating St. Louis German ancestors in church records, the Freie Gemeinde records should be considered.

The large Freie Gemeinde building at 20th and Dodier still stands, although probably not for long. It most recently housed the Youth and Family Center but has been vacant for several years. Neglect and the elements have taken their toll. The roof partially caved in after 2011, when a National Historic District application for St. Louis Place was filed. Although the structure will not last forever, the legacy of the *Freie Gemeinde von St. Louis* made a lasting contribution in shaping the history of the St. Louis area.

Bibliography and suggested reading

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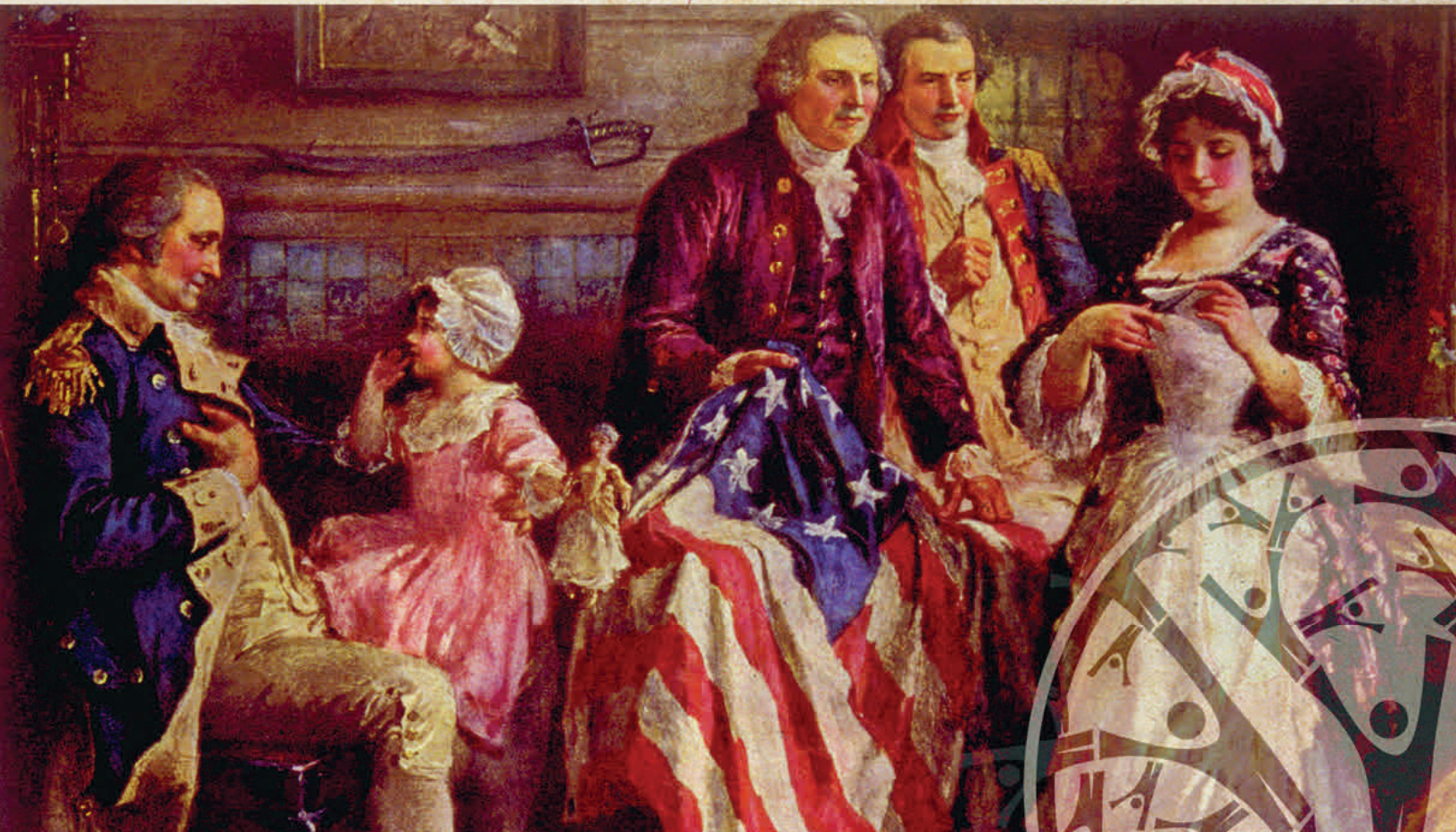
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Shelf life

BOOK | *Emigrants from Scotland to America, 1774–1775*

In the years leading up to the American Revolution, the British noticed an unsettling trend: the Scots were leaving Scotland. To understand what was happening, the government began recording information about the emigrants' reasons for leaving.¹ The records created through this process remained in obscurity to American genealogists until 1930, when Viola Root Cameron published her transcription of the papers in a book titled *Emigrants from Scotland to America, 1774-1775: Copied from a Loose Bundle of Treasury Papers in the Public Record Office, London, England* (R 973.004 C182E).

The information was recorded in several ways. One list of passengers bound for Wilmington, N.C. provides a combined statement that highlights differences in class and station: "The Farmers and Laborers who are taking their Passage on this Ship unanimously declare that they never would have thought of leaving their native Country, could they have supplied their Families in it... The Tradesmen have a prospect of getting better Wages but their principal reason seems to be that their relations are going and rather than part with them they choose to go along."² Officials also recorded passenger statements that include not only valuable genealogical information, but also a depth of humanity often lacking in genealogical records that reveal something about ancestors' lives and their reasons for coming to America.

1. Bailyn, Bernard. *Faces of Revolution: Personalities and Themes in the Struggle for American Independence*. New York: Vintage Books, 1992, 169. Copy on order.

2. Cameron, Viola Root. *Emigrants from Scotland to America: 1774-1775: Copied from a Loose Bundle of Treasury Papers in the Public Record Office, London, England*. Genealogical Baltimore: Publishing Company, 1976. R 973.004 C182E

SAMPLINGS FROM THE PRINT COLLECTION

PERIODICAL | *Der Blumenbaum*



Der Blumenbaum, the quarterly publication of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society, is highly recommended reading for anyone researching German ancestors. Consider the examples below.

- "Low German,' 'Plattddeutsch,' 'Palt Düüty,' 'Niederdeutsch,' The Language of the Low Country" (Vol. 23:11 [July-Sept. 2014]) discusses the language of northern Germany as distinguished from that of the south. Examples of words in both dialects are provided.
- "He Married the Farm-Owner's Widow. Now What's His Name?" (Vol. 26:2 [Oct.–Dec. 2008]) discusses the use of farm names in northwestern Germany and their importance in genealogical research.
- "Torture by Steerage, What Emigrants Endured Before the Age of the Steamship" (Vol. 32:2 [Oct.–Dec. 2014]) describes the difficulties experienced by our ancestors as they crossed the Atlantic Ocean. A map shows town and city names in the central part of the U.S. with German names—indicating an intense German immigration.

A subscription to *Der Blumenbaum* comes with membership in the Sacramento German Genealogical Society. The History & Genealogy Department has vols. 11 to present. Articles are indexed in PERSI (Periodical Source Index). Copies of individual articles may be requested from genealogy@slcl.org. [See the library's lookup policy for details.](#) <<http://bit.ly/2fSrmad>>

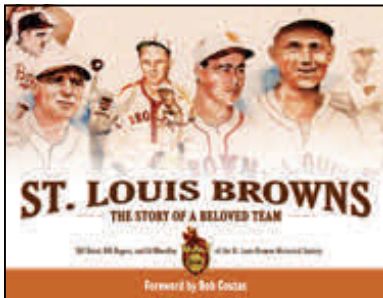
SELECTED NEW TITLES

St. Louis Browns: The Story of a Beloved Team

By Bill Borst

Reedy Press, 2017

R 796.357 B738S and circulating copy



At the core of the St. Louis Browns' story is the ever-present competition on and off the baseball field with the St. Louis Cardinals—a team with whom they not only shared a city and fans, but also a stadium. It was a battle for more than pennants. It was a battle for survival and baseball loyalty. Could they run the Cardinals out of town and become St. Louis's sole baseball team?

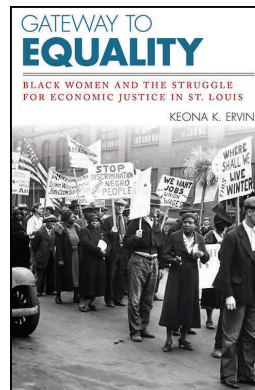
There were the good times when the Browns fielded some of the greatest players in major league history, regularly challenging the mighty Yankees for the American League Pennant in the 1920s. But there were also bad times. The team's lack of success was often impacted by poor financing, bad business decisions, and the need to trade good players to stay afloat. The Browns' story was always a story of what could have been.

Filled with unique and colorful stories and illustrated by exquisite photographs, *St. Louis Browns: The Story of a Beloved*

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Team is destined to become the definitive source for the team's splendid history: the good, the bad, and the ugly.
—*Publisher*



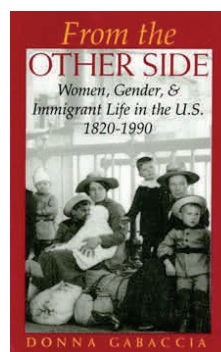
Gateway to Equality: Black Women and the Struggle for Economic Justice in St. Louis

By Keona K. Ervin

University of Kentucky, 2017

R 977.866 E73G

Like most of the nation during the 1930s, St. Louis, Missouri, was caught in the stifling grip of the Great Depression. For the next thirty years, the "Gateway City" continued to experience significant urban decline as its population swelled and the area's industries stagnated. Over these decades, many African American citizens in the region found themselves struggling financially and fighting for access to profitable jobs and suitable working conditions. To combat ingrained racism, crippling levels of poverty, and sub-standard living conditions, black women worked together to form a community-based culture of resistance—fighting for employment, a living wage, dignity, representation, and political leadership—*Publisher*



From the Other Side: Women, Gender, and Immigrant Life in the U.S.

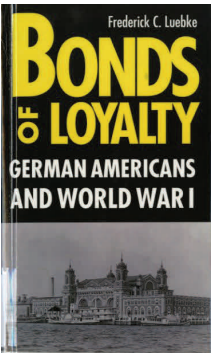
By Donna R. Gabaccia

Indiana University, 2017

R 305.488 G112F

This long-needed study of women "from the other side" examines the experience of women immigrants as they came to the United States from all corners of the earth. Donna Gabaccia traces continuities that characterize women of both the nineteenth-century European and Asian migrations and the present-day Third World migrations. Foreign-born women, even more than men, ex-

perienced sharp tensions between communal, familial traditions and U.S. expectations of individualism and voluntarism. She also discovers strong parallels between the lives of foreign-born women and the women of America's native-born racial minorities.—*Publisher*

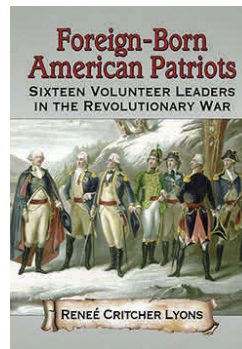


Bonds of Loyalty: German-Americans and World War I

By Frederick C. Luebke
Northern Illinois University, 1974
R 940.373 L948

Bonds of Loyalty examines the crisis of loyalty in which Americans of German origin were trapped when the United States joined the war against Germany in 1917. Most Germans were unquestionably loyal to their adopted country, even though their bonds of affections for the German language and culture remained strong. Nevertheless, a wave of anti-German hysteria swept the land, causing the harassment of many German Americans and attacks on German ethnic institutions.

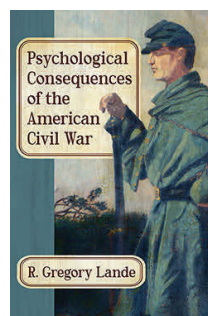
From Frederick Luebke’s point of view, World War I was the occasion that converted latent tensions into manifest hostility. This work touches on many problems that continue to trouble American society—the status of immigrant groups, the persistence of ethno-religious values, conformity and dissent in a pluralistic society, the standards of patriotism, and the content of Americanism in a democracy at war.—*Book jacket*



Foreign-Born American Patriots: Sixteen Volunteer Leaders in the Revolutionary War

By René Critcher Lyons
McFarland, 2014
R 973.3092 L991F

This book presents profiles of sixteen individuals born and raised in countries other than America who voluntarily joined the revolutionary cause. These men were writers, soldiers, merchants, sailors, guerilla fighters, pirates, financiers, and cavalry leaders. Each profile discusses the personal experiences that influenced the volunteer leader’s decision to fight for the fledgling country, the sacrifices endured for the benefit of the Revolutionary Cause, and the unique talents each contributed to the war effort. Their participation helped ensure the perpetuation of the ideals and values of the American republic.—*Publisher*



Psychological Consequences of the American Civil War

By Gregory R. Lande
McFarland, 2017
R 973.714 L254P

The conclusion of America’s Civil War set off an ongoing struggle as a fractured society suffered the psychological consequences of four years of destruction, deprivation and distrust. Veterans experienced climbing rates of depression, suicide, mental illness, crime, and alcohol and drug abuse. Survivors, leery of conventional medicine and traditional religion, sought out quacks and spiritualists as cult memberships grew. This book provides a comprehensive account of the war-weary fighting their mental demons.—*Publisher*

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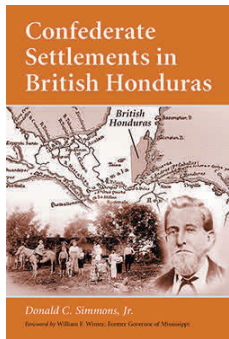
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Tours

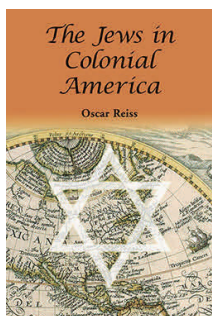
Tours are conducted on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Group tours of 10 or more are gladly arranged with advance notice by calling 314-994-3300, ext. 2070.



Confederate Settlements in British Honduras

By Donald C. Simmons, Jr.
McFarland, 2001
R 972.82 S592C

During the American Civil War and the years immediately following, thousands of Confederate sympathizers and former soldiers left the southern United States to seek exile in other lands. Evidence suggests that more Confederate soldiers went to British Honduras, presently known as Belize, than any other single site. This work is an in-depth look at the settlements established by former Confederates—what lured the Confederates there, what the trip from New Orleans was like, what life was like for immigrants in Belize City, the settlements at Toledo, New Richmond, northern British Honduras, Manatee and other settlements, and what Belize City was like at the height of the immigrant influx. Also included are lists of arrivals at the hotels and passenger lists from the ships; both were important in identifying prominent Confederates who sought refuge in British Honduras.—*Publisher*



The Jews in Colonial America

By Oscar Reiss
McFarland, 2004
R 973.04924 R378J

The first synagogue in colonial America was built in New York City in 1730 on land that was purchased for £100 plus a loaf of sugar and one pound of Bohea tea. The purchase of this land was especially noteworthy because until this time, the Jews had only been permitted to buy land for use as a cemetery. However, by the time the Revolutionary War began, the Jewish religious center had become fairly large. Early in their stay in New Amsterdam and New York, many Jews considered themselves to be transients. Therefore, they were not interested in voting, holding office or equal rights. However, as the 18th century came to a close, Jews were able to accumulate large estates, and they recognized that they needed citizenship.

After a brief overview of the Jews' migrations around Europe, the West Indies and the North and South American continents,

this book describes the hardships faced by the Jewish people, beginning with New Amsterdam and New York and continuing with discussions of their experiences in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New England, and in the South. Subsequent chapters discuss anti-Semitism, slavery and the Jews' transformation from immigrant status to American citizen.—*Publisher*

Other new titles

Local history

- East Alton* by Jason D. Bricker and Judith M. Richie, Arcadia, 2017. R 977.386 B849E
- Forest Park* by Don Corrigan and Holly Shanks, Arcadia, 2017. R 977.866 C825F and circulating copy
- St. Charles, Missouri: A Brief History* by James W. Erwin, History Press, 2017. R 977.839 E73S
- The Steamer Admiral* by Annie Amantea Blum, Arcadia, 2017. R 387.2 B658S and circulating copy

Research guides

- Under Every Tree: A Guide to finding Your Roots in Virginia* by Phyllis Brock Silber, Dementi Milestone, 2016. 975.5 S582U

African American

- African American World War II Casualties and Decorations in the Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine: A Comprehensive Record* by Glenn A. Knoblock, McFarland, 2009, R 940.5467 K72A
- Black Liberation in the Midwest: The Struggles in St. Louis, Missouri, 1964–1970* by Kenneth S. Jolly, Routledge, 2006. R 977.866 J75B
- Black Resistance to the Ku Klux Klan in the Wake of the Civil War* by Swando M. Kinshasa, McFarland, 2006. R 975 K56B
- Black Slaves, Indian Masters: Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship in the Native American South* by Barbara Krauthamer, University of North Carolina, 2013. R 305.8 K91B

English

- The Victoria History of Leicestershire* by Pamela J. Fisher and J.M. Lee, University of London, 2016. R 942.54 F353C

Irish

Armagh Clergy, 1800–2000: An Account of the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Armagh... by W.E.C. Fleming, Dundalgan Press, 2001. R 941.66 F598A

Biographical succession lists of Irish Clergy edited by D.W.T Crooks and published by the Ulster Historical Foundation for the following counties:

Cashel and Emly: Clergy of Leighlin, 2012.

R 941.92 C629

Clogher, 2006. R 941.64 L632C

Connor, 1993. R 941.51 L635C

Derry and Raphoe, 1999. R 941.693 C629

Downs and Dromore, 1996, R 941.65 C629

Dublin, 2001. R 941.835 C629

Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduah, 2010.

R 941.93 C629

Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, 2008.

R 941.7 C629

Limerick: Clergy of Ardfert and Aghadoe, 2015.

R 941.94 L635C

Meath and Kildare, 2009. R 941.85 L635C

Ossory, 2013. R 941.89 L634C

Tuam, Killala and Achonry, 2008.

R 941.74 L635C

Waterford, Lismore and Ferns, 2008.

R 941.91 C851C

Jewish

Dispersing the Ghetto: The Relocation of Jewish Immigrants Across America by Jack Glazier, Michigan State University, 2005. R 973.04924

Scottish

The People of Dumfries, 1600–1799: A Genealogical Source Book by David Dobson, Genealogical Publishing, 2015. R 941.411 D635P

Revolutionary War

Chronology of the American Revolution: Military and Political Actions Day by Day by Bud Hannings, McFarland, 2008. R 973.3 H174C

Medicine and the American Revolution: How Diseases and Their Treatments Affected the Colonial Army by Oscar

Reiss, McFarland, 1998, R 973.375 R378M

Civil War

Civil War Hospital Newspapers: Histories and Excerpts of Nine Union Publications by Ira Spar, McFarland, 2004. R 973.04924 R378J

Every Day of the Civil War: A Chronological Encyclopedia, McFarland, 2010, R 973.7 H174E

Hungarian Émigrés in the American Civil War: a History and Biographical Dictionary by István Kornél Vida, McFarland, 2012. R 973.7089 V648H

World War I

The Experience of World War I by J.M. Winter, Oxford University, 1989. R 940.3 W785E

World War II

Fatal Army Air Forces Aviation Accidents in the United States, 1941–1945 by Anthly J. Mireles, McFarland, 2006. R 358.4134 M674F

The Illustrated History of World War II, Time Life Books, 1999. R 940.53 W927

Religion

A Century of Grace: A History of the Missouri Synod, 1847–1947 by Walter A. Baepler, Concordia, 1963.

R 284.177 B139C

Gods of the Mississippi, Indiana University, 2013.

R 977 G589

Periodical highlights

Der Kurier, Vol. 35, No. 3 (Sept. 2017): “Adding State Department Official Consular correspondence to Your Research,” p. 57.

Naše Rodina, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Sept. 2017): “Bohemian Noble Families,” p. 97; “Nobility in Upper Hungary (Slovakia),” p. 102; “Bohemian Serfs,” p. 106.

The Palatine Immigrant, Vol. 62, No. 4 (Sept. 2017): “The 300th Anniversary of the Reformation (1817) and its Implications for German Immigration to America,” p. 12

West Middlesex Family History Society Journal, Vol. 34, No. 3 (Sept. 2017): “Matching the Gravestones at All Saints, Fulham,” p. 9; “Hanwell,” p. 14.

CLASSES

Classes are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Call 314-994-3300 or register online at www.slcl.org/events.

Beginning a Genealogical Research Project

Learn about the genealogical research process—getting started, organizing and citing your findings, navigating the library, using various research formats (print, microfilm, and electronic), and discovering the many resources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library.

Oct. 12, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

Census Basics for Genealogical Research

Genealogical research in the United States begins with the Federal Census. Learn how to search within the Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest databases for federal and state census records. A History & Genealogy expert will explore key strategies on how to conduct effective census research.

Oct. 17, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

Oct. 28, 2:00 p.m., Florissant Valley | [Register](#)

Nov. 6, 10:00 a.m., Weber Road | [Register](#)

Nov. 13, 2:00 p.m., Lewis & Clark | [Register](#)

Finding Immigrant Ancestors

Explore naturalization and immigration records in the Ancestry Library Edition and Find My Past databases and discover the numerous print and online resources available for immigrant research.

Oct. 25, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m., Cliff Cave (*no registration is required*)

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 will include 19th-Century U. S. Newspapers, NewspaperArchive, and current and historical St. Louis Post-Dispatch databases.

Oct. 9, 10:00 a.m., Weber Road | [Register](#)

Oct. 16, 2:00 p.m., Lewis & Clark | [Register](#)

Oct. 23, 10:00 a.m., Grant's View | [Register](#)

Oct. 30, 2:00 p.m., Prairie Commons | [Register](#)

Nov. 14, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

Identifying Ancestral Military Veterans

Explore strategies for conducting military research in the Fold3 and Ancestry Library Edition databases and in print and online resources.

Oct. 2, 2:00 p.m., Prairie Commons | [Register](#)

Nov. 2, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters | [Register](#)

Tracing Your African-American Ancestors

Are you interested in finding your African-American roots? This class will show you how to research your ancestors using two case studies. The first will show you how to get started, and the second will demonstrate how you can use specific source materials to solve common road blocks. The class will conclude by investigating additional records to help deepen your research.

Nov. 2, 7:00 p.m., Florissant Valley | [Register](#)

PROGRAMS

Programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Searching for Clues in Coroners' Records

Saturday, Oct. 14 | 10:00 a.m.

St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting

Coroners' records are often an overlooked source for genealogical research. The presenter will examine several coroners' case files to see what details there might be of interest to the genealogist. | Larry Franke, St. Louis County Library History & Genealogy Department, Speaker

Celebrating Celtic Seasons

Tuesday, Oct. 24 | 7:00 p.m.

StLGS Irish Special Interest Group

Imbolc (spring), *bealtaine* (summer), *lughnasadh* (autumn), and *samhain* (winter) are the four Celtic seasons, each of which contains feast days filled with rituals and traditions. | Gabrielle Woeltje, Speaker

Authenticating Your Family Stories: How Local Newspapers Give Your Family Stories a Second Life

Saturday, Nov. 11 | 10:00 a.m.

St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting

The presenter will show examples of items and photographs from his own story and explain how newspapers retold the story. | Greg Hilton, Speaker

Genealogy: Immigration and Naturalization

Monday, Nov. 20 | 6:30 p.m.

Cliff Cave Branch Program

Why did your ancestors leave their home country? How did they get here? Did they all come through Ellis Island? What was the process to become an American citizen? Learn the answers to these and many other questions concerning immigration and naturalization.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

Cliff Cave

5430 Telegraph Road
St. Louis, MO 63129

Florissant Valley

195 New Florissant Rd, S.
Florissant, MO 63031

Grant's View

9700 Musick Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

Headquarters

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

Indian Trails

8400 Delport Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63114

Mid-County

7821 Maryland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Natural Bridge

7606 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Oak Bend

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

Prairie Commons

915 Utz Lane
Hazelwood, MO 63042

Rock Road

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

Samuel C. Sachs

16400 Burkhardt Place
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Thornhill

12863 willowycck Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146

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