

FOR THE RECORDS

Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland

The History & Genealogy Department has recently added 40 volumes of *Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland*, a resource of value and interest to researchers investigating ancestry in Northern Ireland. The Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency of Great Britain, was founded in 1791 to survey the entire island and create accurate maps. The agency traces its origins to the aftermath of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, when a group of Scottish Highlanders rose up against English rule of Scotland. While the rebellion was effectively quelled at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, the leaders of the rebellion fled west into the Scottish Highlands. They were able to evade capture for years, due to the rugged and difficult terrain of the area and the lack of maps to guide the British army in their pursuit.

Until the Ordnance Survey was established, national maps were rarely made by measuring the ground itself. Surveying was a time-consuming, expensive process, and therefore reserved for much smaller and less ambitious projects. Map-makers tended to copy information from existing maps and combine this information to produce a “new” map. This, of course, led to the replication of errors from the original maps. A consensus developed in the 50-year period after the rebellion that a complete and accurate map of the whole island of Great Britain should be created. In 1791, with the appointment of its first three employees and the purchase of high-quality surveying equipment, the Ordnance Survey was born.

While the mapping of England began with the creation



Illustration depicting the town of Cootehill, County Cavan from *Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland*, Vol. 40, *Counties of South Ulster*, 1834–1838, p. 5.

of the Ordnance Survey, there was little interest directed at Ireland. This slowly began to change after Great Britain and Ireland were formally merged into the United Kingdom in 1800. In the mid 1810s, Parliament began wrestling with the issue in order to implement an equitable taxation system.

The Irish county “cess” tax was the primary method for raising revenues to fund local governmental services in Ireland. Theoretically, the people of Ireland were taxed based on their ability to pay. In order to determine how much an individual had to pay, the tax collectors needed to assess the value of that person’s property. Land ownership was the largest factor in determining the value of one’s property. Therefore, assessing the value of the land was essential to an accurate and fair system of taxation.

The Irish townland was, at that time, the smallest administrative division of land in Ireland. Its ancient

origins predate the 12th-century Norman invasion. Each townland varied widely in size, with the smallest being less than an acre and the largest over 7500 acres. Until the 19th century, most townlands were owned by a single landlord, who would then lease the land to multiple tenants. While the names and approximate boundaries of each townland were locally known, they had never been officially recorded.

By the 1820s, other groups, including the Admiralty of the British Navy, were calling for an accurate map of Ireland. In 1824, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the head of the Irish administrator appointed by the King

of England, initiated plans for establishing an “Irish Ordnance Survey.” Thomas Colby, by then the Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey in England, was assigned the new project.

Due to the need to map the townlands of Ireland for taxation purposes, Colby recommended mapping Ireland on a scale of six inches to one mile. This is a very detailed survey, much more so than the one-inch-to-one-mile scale used by the Ordnance Survey in mapping England to in the preceding years. Colby estimated the cost at £300,000 and that it would take seven years to complete. Both figures, as it turned out, were greatly underestimated.

The Irish Ordnance Survey set out with loftier goals than anything attempted in England. Not only was Colby creating a topographical map, but he was also mapping the borders of the townlands. Alongside the mapping, a separate Boundary Commission was created to help determine the borders between the 60,000 townlands. The Boundary Commission was led by Richard Griffith, who recruited local residents to give tours of the boundaries to the Ordnance Survey map-makers. Griffith also attempted to assign a value to each townland, based on the characteristics of the ground itself and how it was cultivated.

In addition to a physical survey, Colby also endeavored to publish “memoirs”—written descriptions of each parish—to accompany the maps. Each parish was to have its own memoir, which would describe in detail the place’s history, economy, and local customs, and identify physical features, roads, schools, dispensaries, markets, and bodies of water. Descriptions of towns are included, as well as churches, graveyards, and the religious affiliation of the population. Ancient forts and “standing stones” are discussed. The memoirs even report local superstitions and fantastic stories. In short, the memoirs provide a comprehensive account of the features, both natural and man-made, of the parish and its inhabitants.

Illustrations of a wide variety of items found in the

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parish are also included. Often created by the men who wrote the memoirs, the drawings commonly detail the masonry work of the windows and foundation of the local church. There are illustrations of objects of archeological interest found in the parish, including jewelry, coins, arrowheads, and monuments, as well as outlines of ancient forts and church ruins. Occasional street views are included.

While Colby's efforts to describe the entire island while mapping its topography are valued by historians and researchers today, the leadership of his time was not nearly so pleased. By 1832, his initial estimate of £300,000 had been consumed, and not a single finished map had been published. And while publication of the first volume in 1837 was well received, the costs of production in time and funds meant that the memoir project could not be sustained. By 1842, the program was terminated.

The resulting 40 volumes of memoirs cover nearly all parishes in eight counties: Antrim, Armagh, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Monaghan, and Tyrone. Another four counties were partially complete when the memoir project ended: Cavan, Leitrim, Louth, and Sligo. Volumes are shelved at call number R 941.61 O65 in the History & Genealogy Department. A complete index of the people and places in all volumes is available at call number R 941.6 I38. [A list of all volumes can be viewed in the library's online catalog](#) <<http://tinyurl.com/zj8kp58>>.

Related titles

General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes, and Baronies of Ireland: Based

LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Christmas Eve | Saturday, Dec. 24

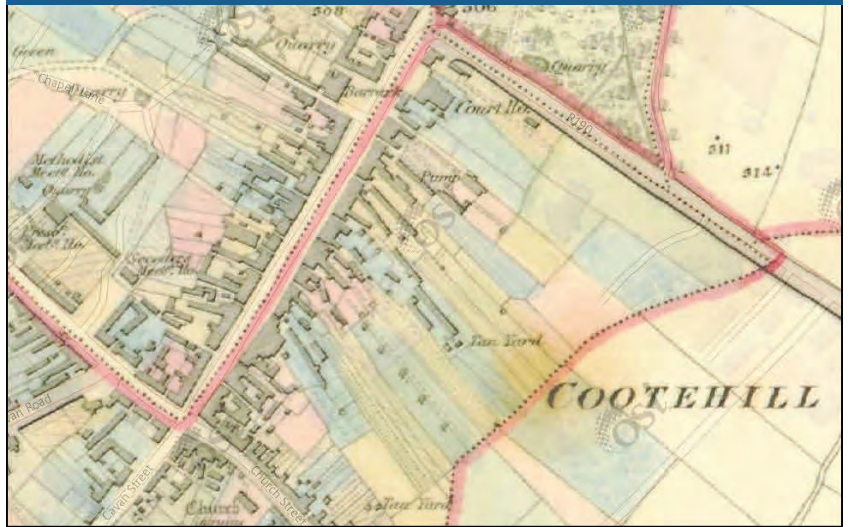
Christmas Day | Sunday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day observed | Monday, Dec. 26

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | Monday, Jan. 16

Presidents' Day | Monday, Feb. 20

Online maps from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland



Map of Cootehill, County Cavan depicting the street illustrated on page 1. This and other historic and current maps can be generated on the [Ordnance Survey of Ireland website](https://www.osi.ie) <<https://www.osi.ie>> using the "Map Shop" feature. The site allows users to search for a location and display current and historic maps, as well as create overlays of maps from different periods. Searching and displaying maps is free. Maps can be downloaded as PDFs for a fee, and paper copies can also be ordered online.

on the Census of Ireland for the Year 1851.

Dublin: A. Thom, 1861; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2000. R 941.5 G326.

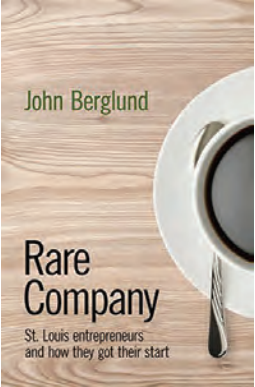
Hewitt, Rachel. *Map of a Nation: A Biography of the Ordnance Survey*. London: Granta, 2010. R 941 H611M

Karin, R.J.P. *British Town Maps: A History*. London: British Library, 2015. R 941 K13B

Lewis, Samuel. *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*. London, 1837; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1984. 941.5 L676T

Maps for the following localities showing wards and townlands are available in the History & Genealogy Department map cabinets: Antrim, Newtownabbey, and Carrickfergus; Borough; North Down Borough; Armagh and Craigavon Borough; Banbridge and Down; Belfast City; Coleraine, Ballymoney, and Moyle; Dungannon; Lisburn and Ards Boroughs, Castlereagh; Newry and Mourne; Omagh; Stragane.

FEATURED ACQUISITIONS



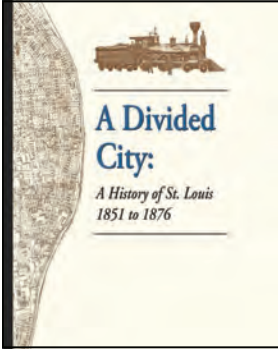
Rare Company: St. Louis Entrepreneurs and How They Got Their Start

By John Berglund

StarLake Holdings Press, 2016

R 977.865 B498R and circulating copy

Would you sell encyclopedias in the worst parts of Los Angeles to make money? Would you sleep on a cot in a factory to make sure your machines were running correctly? Would you sell your wedding gifts to help fund your first business idea? Find out which entrepreneurs did each of these things. In his first book, *Rare Company*, St. Louis entrepreneur and author John Berglund uses his dry wit and clear writing style to tell readers how an elite group of successful St. Louis business owners overcame obstacles as they built and grew their companies. Each one has a captivating story to tell. The common themes are drawn together to provide readers with real-life “lessons learned” that apply to any business.—*Book jacket*



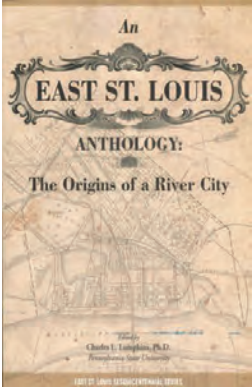
A Divided City: A History of St. Louis, 1851-1876

By Frederick A. Hodes

Bluebird Publishing, 2015

R 977.866 H687D and circulating copy

The third part in a multi-volume history, *A Divided City: A History of St. Louis, 1851-1876* tells how a great American city was torn apart in the years preceding the Civil War; how its divided loyalties led to civic bloodshed, martial law, and military occupation; and how—despite these challenges—St. Louis continued its rapid growth in population and prominence. The result of more than 30 years of scholarships, this definitive and compelling history tells the story of 25 critical years that would shape modern St. Louis.—*Publisher*




An East St. Louis Anthology: The Origins of a River City

Charles L. Lumpkins, editor

Virginia Publishing, 2012

R 977.389 E13

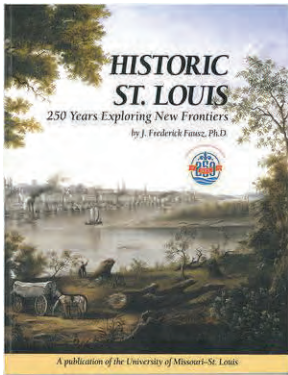
The past comes to life through some of the earliest historians of East St. Louis. Through several essays and multiple historical documents from the city’s early decades, *An East St. Louis Anthology: The Origins of a River City* reveals the history of the city, including a time when its citizens believed that their city was poised to outdistance St. Louis and perhaps even Chicago as the premier industrial giant and railroad freight node of the Midwest. Also included are a sample of biographical sketches and vignettes, city directories, and city ordinances.—*Adapted from the publisher*



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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.

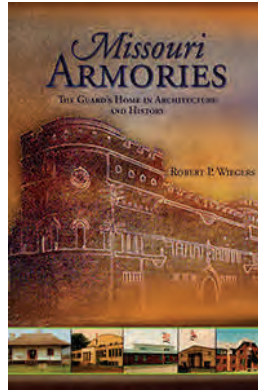


Historic St. Louis: 250 Years Exploring New Frontiers

J. Frederick Fausz
University of Missouri—St. Louis, 2014

R 977.866 F269H

This book chronicles 250 years of the most significant “explorations”—physical, political, intellectual, commercial, cultural, and social—that made the City of St. Louis famous in American history. The depth of coverage required, enhanced by a vast number of rare illustrations, precluded information on events beyond the city’s boundaries. But everyone in the entire metropolitan region should recognize that St. Louis is a special place where the past is still present for shaping a future filled with pride and dignity.—*Excerpted from the author’s prologue*



Missouri Armories: The Guard's Home in Architecture and History

Truman State University, 2012
R 977.8 W645M

The armory buildings in most Missouri towns are the unheralded local face of the Missouri National Guard.

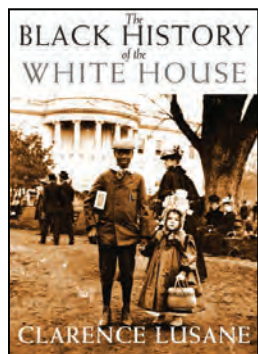
Home to a part-time militia within communities around the state, the armories provide hallowed spaces to Guard members and serve the public in emergencies. Robert Wieggers presents a thorough look at the architectural and historical development of these buildings throughout the state. Divided into six categories based on architectural style, he includes 185 photos with historical data in this comprehensive inventory of Missouri’s armories.—*Publisher*

Other new local history titles

St. Joseph’s Academy: 175 Years of Tradition, Excellence and Faith by Jeanne Wilson | Acclaim Press, 2015 | R 977.865 W749S

Maplewood, Missouri: The First 100 Years, 1908–2008 by Joyce Cheney | Gene-Del Printing, 2008 | R 977.865 C518M

Before it Was Wildwood: One-Room Schoolhouses of Meramec Township, St. Louis County, Missouri by Karen Fox | Wildwood Historical Society, 2016 | R 977.865 F792B



The Black History of the White House

By Clarence Lusane
City Lights Books, 2011
R 975.3 L968B

Official histories of the United States have ignored the fact that 25 percent of all U.S. presidents were slaveholders, and that black people were held in bondage in the White House itself. And while the nation was born under the banner of “freedom and justice for all,” many colonists risked rebelling against England in order

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:
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 Tours are conducted on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and 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.

MEET THE STAFF

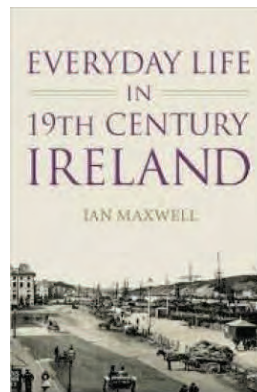


Kelly Draper

Kelly is a part-time member of the H&G reference team and is the department's longest serving staff member, having joined the department shortly after it opened in 1998. Kelly is native to St. Louis. After graduating from Oakville Senior High School, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in French from Webster University. Her particular areas of interest are German church records and newspapers, and she often uses her French and German language skills to help researchers decipher records. She particularly enjoys discovering new research sources and solving genealogical mysteries. As to her own research interests, "I'm very interested in 19th-century St. Louis history, because that's when the majority of my ancestors arrived in the area. My great-great-grandfather was a landscape gardener who came to St. Louis to work on Forest Park and Tower Grove Park."

to protect their lucrative slave business from the growing threat of British abolitionism. These historical facts, commonly excluded from schoolbooks and popular versions of American history, have profoundly shaped the course of race relations in the United States.

In this unprecedented work, Clarence Lusane presents a comprehensive history of the White House from an African American perspective, illuminating the central role it has played in advancing, thwarting or simply ignoring efforts to achieve equal rights for all. Here are the stories of those who were forced to work on the construction of the mansion at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and the determined leaders who pressured U.S. presidents to outlaw slavery, White House slaves and servants who went on to write books, Secret Service agents harassed by racist peers, Washington insiders who rose to the highest levels of power, the black artists and intellectuals invited to the White House, community leaders who waged presidential campaigns, and many others. Juxtaposing significant events in White House history with the ongoing struggle for civil rights, Clarence Lusane makes plain that the White House has always been a prism through which to view the social struggles and progress of black Americans.—
Publisher



Everyday Life in 19th-Century Ireland

By Ian Maxwell

History Press Ireland, 2012

R 941.5 M465E

Nineteenth-century Ireland was a world of extremes. The countryside was made up of great estates where more than half the land was owned by less than 1,000 landlords, many of them related by blood or marriage. Served by an army of staff, they enjoyed a luxurious and leisured lifestyle housed in mansions with richly furnished interiors and elaborate gardens. For the vast majority, however, life was one of grinding poverty.

But the country was in monumental change. The railways which were forged through the famine-stricken countryside

DATABASE SPOTLIGHT

FindMyPast

Researchers with ancestors from the British Isles will find new record sets to peruse on Findmypast. Many parish, army, workhouse, and apprentice records are available online exclusively through the database. Record sets range from the expected, such as census, passenger lists, and cemetery records, to the unexpected and niche, including the Ireland Dog License Registers and a Manchester Police Index. Significant resources available for Ireland include the Catholic parish registers, Petty Sessions Court Registers (1829-1912), Griffith's Valuation, Prison Registers (1790-1924), and Irish Quaker records.

In addition to Findmypast's usefulness for British Isles research, it hosts a growing collection of U.S., Canadian, and Australian genealogy sources. It is also the exclusive provider of the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), an expansive name index for genealogy periodicals from around the world. Copies of many of these periodicals are available in History & Genealogy and can be found in our online catalog.

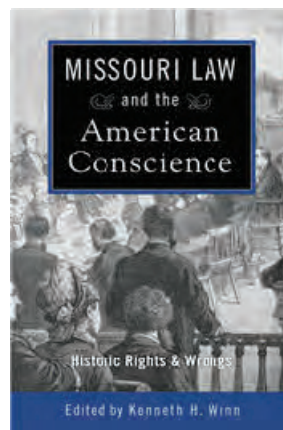
Much like Ancestry or FamilySearch, users may search all collections at once, or choose one from the catalog to search more carefully. To see a list of all collections available on Findmypast, click the "Search" drop-down menu on the blue banner at the top of the homepage, and then click on "A-Z of Record Sets" to reach a searchable list. Library users have the option of creating a free account to store information in a tree and use in conjunction with the library's subscription.

Please note that History & Genealogy's subscription to Findmypast is only accessible from library locations. [View all library databases for genealogical and historical research on the library's website](http://www.slcl.org/genealogy-and-local-history/databases-and-websites) <<http://www.slcl.org/genealogy-and-local-history/databases-and-websites>>.

would transform the local economy, providing employment, developing towns across the country and providing the impetus for Ireland's first tourist boom. Within a generation, life in Ireland had, for many, changed irrevocably.

The hated tithing proctor had long vanished, the hedge school was gone, and while by the end of the century Ireland had become a less remote place, to those who administered the country it remained a puzzle.

This book aims to examine those paradoxes and why Ireland in the nineteenth century was no less complex, beguiling, intriguing and exasperating than it is today.—*Book jacket*



Missouri Law and the American Conscience: Historic Rights and Wrongs

Kenneth H. Winn, editor

University of Missouri, 2016

R 977.8 M678

Until recently, many of Missouri's legal records were inaccessible and the existence of many influential, historic cases was unknown. The ten essays in this volume showcase Missouri as both maker and microcosm of American history. Some of the topics are famous: Dred Scott's slave freedom suit, Virginia Minor's women's suffrage case, Curt Flood's suit against professional baseball, and the Nancy Cruzan "right to die" case. Other essays cover court cases concerning the uneasy incorporation of ethnic and cultural populations into the United States; political loyalty tests during the Civil War; the alleviation of cruelty to poor and criminally institutionalized children; the barring of women to serve on juries decades after they could vote; and the creation of the "Missouri Court Plan," a national model for judicial selection.—*Publisher*

CLASSES

Classes are free and open to the public.

Registration is required. 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.

Jan. 10, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters
 Jan. 23, 2:00 p.m., Rock Road
 Jan. 30, 10:00 a.m., Cliff Cave
 Feb. 6, 2:00 p.m., Prairie Commons

■ **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. To take this class, you should already know how to use a computer and search the Internet.

Feb. 4, 2:00 p.m., Natural Bridge

■ **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.

Jan. 9, 10:00 a.m., Oak Bend
 Jan. 17, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters

■ **Introduction to Fold3 and HeritageQuest Databases**

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.

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters

■ **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.

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2:00 p.m., Headquarters

■ **Finding Your Ancestors in European Church Records**

Church records are some of the most valuable and easily found sources for genealogical research. Using records from Switzerland and Germany as case studies, the presenter will demonstrate the goldmine of information such records can reveal. The presentation will include tips for finding records for European towns.

Jan. 12, 7:00 p.m., Grant's View

■ **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.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:00 a.m., Mid County
 Thursday, Feb. 23, 7:00 p.m., Natural Bridge

PROGRAMS

Programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

■ Wednesday, Jan. 11 | 7:00 p.m.

St. Louis Germans in the Mid-19th Century

StLGS German Special Interest Group

Learn about the daily lives of your German ancestors, including their neighborhoods, education, social Turnvereins, jobs, and chain migration. Hear about their reactions to diversity, other Germans, slavery, Nativism, and the Civil War. | Dorris Keeven-Franke, Speaker

■ Saturday, Jan. 14 | 10:00 p.m.

The Homefront V-Mail to Email

St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting

This talk explores the evolution of the home front experience in the Saint Louis region from WWII till today. | Daniel Gonzales, Preservation Historian for St. Louis County Parks & Recreation, Speaker

■ Tuesday, Jan. 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Irish Round Table

StLGS Irish Special Interest Group

This is your chance to bring your questions and comments about Irish research to find suggestions and help. Does Griffith's Valuation help you find your ancestors? Will John Grenham's website narrow your search? | Carol Hemmersmeier, Kay Weber, & Ken Webb, Speakers

■ Saturday, Feb. 11 | 10:00 a.m.

Finding the Meaning Behind Objects: Analyzing Artifacts for Genealogy Research

St. Louis Genealogical Society General Membership Meeting

The presenter will discuss why objects are meaningful to family history researchers and methods for uncovering clues to your family history through artifact analysis. Helpful resources in the History & Genealogy Department of the St. Louis County Library for evaluating heirlooms will also be discussed. | Ellen Mays, St. Louis County Library History & Genealogy Department, Speaker

BRANCH 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

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

Weber Road

4444 Weber Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123

General information

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