



St. Louis Genealogical Society

Quarterly

Volume 58, Number 2

Summer 2025



Genealogists love newspapers, and the Library of Congress has recently revised its Chronicling America website to make accessing its comprehensive collection much easier. We'll tell you all about the new website design in this issue!

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On the Cover

The Library of Congress has hosted the Chronically America website for many years, showcasing thousands of digitized newspapers. Recently, the website has had a makeover, and the result is a much easier-to-use experience. Read more in the article by Jane Theissen beginning on page 56.

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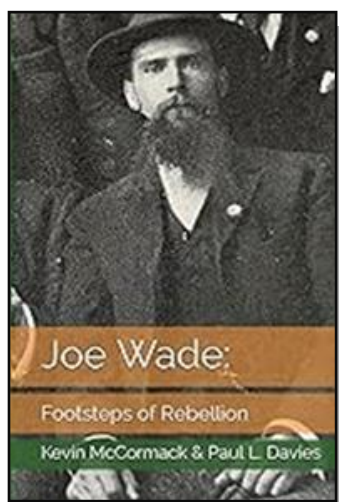
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BOOK REVIEWS

Joe Wade: Footsteps of Rebellion. By Kevin McCormack and Paul L. Davies. Monee, Illinois: self-published, 2024. 140 pages. Soft-cover. About \$14.00.

This book is an appealing mashup of an Irish family history, conflicts resulting from



British imperialism, and the life of a successful Irish immigrant to St. Louis. The authors, an uncle and a nephew from Ireland and Wales, are indirect descendants of the two principal individuals featured in the book, Joe Wade and his cousin, Festus Wade.

Both lived at least part of their lives in St. Louis.

The book begins with Mr. McCormack describing his first meeting, as a young adult, with his father's family in Balbriggan, Ireland. He learned from his grandmother, Catherine (Wade) McCormack, and other relatives about the history of the Wade family in Balbriggan. The authors go on to describe their ancestors' involvement in the Irish independence movement and provide a perspective on the "Great Hunger" of 1845–1852. They also describe the history of the Sack of Balbriggan in 1920 and

Catherine McCormack's recollections, in which two men were killed and many homes and businesses damaged or destroyed by the British police forces.

Much of the middle third of the book recounts the life of the titular Joe Wade, particularly his military career in the Second Boer War in South Africa (1899–1902). I was previously unaware of the role of Irish citizens in this war. The authors provide historical perspective and quotes from Irish involved in the war who perceived this as an opportunity to fight against British imperialism in a way that was not possible in their own country. This section details the actions of the Irish Transvaal Brigade in which Joe Wade served. Coincidentally, the Irish Brigade was commanded by Colonel John Blake, a West Point graduate and native of Bolivar, Missouri. After the war, Joe Wade eventually returned to St. Louis where he had lived briefly before the war, re-joining his cousin Festus Wade's family. He died in St. Louis in 1924 and was buried in Calvary Cemetery.

The second individual featured in the book is Festus Wade, who emigrated from Ireland to St. Louis with his family as a small child in 1860. Unlike his cousin Joe, Festus Wade lived his entire life in St. Louis. As the authors note, Festus Wade's life appears to be an example of the quintessential American Dream. He left school at age ten to begin working in a store. By age twenty-five, he was successful in real estate and was president of a Building and Loan Association. In 1899, he became presi-

Book Reviews

dent of the Mercantile Trust Company and was responsible for raising funds to finance the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. From that time until his death in 1927, he was prominent not only in St. Louis but also nationally as a banker, serving with the Federal Reserve Bank and as an advisor to multiple presidential administrations.

Joe Wade: Footsteps of Rebellion is of interest to anyone with Irish ancestry, especially those in St. Louis. The storyline of each individual is a bit difficult to follow, because the book tends to jump from Joe Wade to Festus Wade to other Wade relatives with some frequency. It also follows tangents to discuss related historical figures and issues. The facts presented appear to be well-researched and accurate, although many of the citations are incomplete. Despite these minor issues, this is an engaging story of one family with at least two prominent members who have links to St. Louis. It will likely prompt the reader to want to learn more about the political, military, and local topics discussed.

(Editor's note: For more about Festus Wade, please see Paul Davies's article in the Spring 2025 issue of the StLGS Quarterly.)

Reviewed by Tom Hall
StLGS volunteer

Enterprising Young Men: The California Gold Rush Memoir of Missourian Robert Mason Clark. Compiled and edited by Marsha Clark. Self-published, 2024. 144 pages. Softcover. \$25.00.

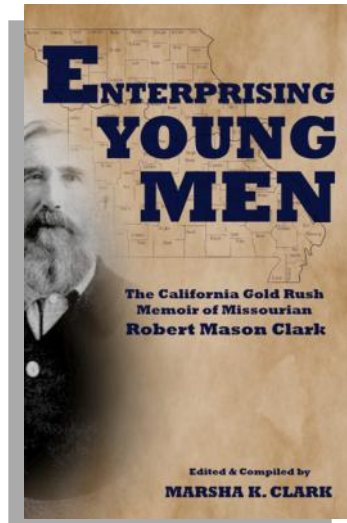
In 1848, gold was discovered in California, starting what we now call the Gold Rush. Young men from across the U.S. were lured west by dreams of instant wealth and adventure. Robert Mason Clark, just twenty-one, couldn't resist the calling. A resident of Palmyra in Marion County, Missouri, he gathered up a half dozen family and friends from northeast Missouri and took off across the prairies and mountains to strike it rich. Unlike many others

who had the same dreams of making their fortunes in gold, Robert survived the hard labor and ever-present illnesses in the west and managed to arrive back home to his family in one piece three years after he left.

Robert had kept a journal while he was in the west, but he lost it on the way back to Palmyra in 1853. However, when he was in his seventies, he recounted his adventures as a series of articles in a newspaper in Hunnewell, Shelby County, Missouri, about twenty-five miles west of Palmyra. This set of articles was re-typed and preserved by a family member, eventually making its way to Robert's great-grandson, the author's husband.

An experienced genealogist and lover of history, Marsha Clark set about the task of preserving and sharing this first-hand account so that others could learn from it. And learn we do! Going way past the narrative, Ms. Clark has done extensive research into the places, conditions, and accuracy of Robert Clark's account. Her footnotes and additional information enhance our enjoyment of following Robert's adventures. We travel across thousands of miles with these men, share their hardships, misfortunes, and some successes, and then return home via a grueling ocean voyage.

Robert's tale is particularly interesting on that return trip, as we sail with him across the Pacific Ocean on a rickety ship, then across Nicaragua to Cuba, on to New Orleans, and up the Mississippi from sandbar to sandbar until he disembarked in St. Louis. There, Robert



Book Reviews

bought a horse and rode home, a trip of more than three long months!

Those “enterprising young men,” Robert and his fellow adventurers, were an integral part of American history. How fortunate we all are that a bit of what they endured has been lifted out of obscurity and made widely available to all of us. Lost in a small newspaper more than a hundred years ago, this story might never have been told if not for family historians recognizing its value. This book is a cover-to-cover read, and when you have turned the last page, perhaps you, too, will be inspired to start writing about your own ancestors!

*Reviewed by Ilene Murray
StLGS publications director*

The Hubbard Family of Bond County, Illinois. By Michael F. Hubbard. Self-published, 2022. 494 pages. Index. Hardcover.

When writing a family history, an author has many things to consider in the presentation of material. The ideal is to construct a monograph that clearly and concisely shares the family story for a reasonable price and in a reasonable number of pages. The structure of Michael Hubbard’s book assures readers that they have a well-researched and documented family history in hand. Mr. Hubbard’s research qualifies him for SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) and the Jamestown Society and his female relatives for DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). He knows his genealogy.

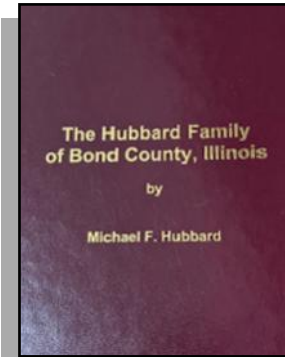
Twenty Hubbard-related family lines comprise the bulk of this book, with a Missouri connection found in the Patterson family buried in Cold Water Cemetery, Florissant, Missouri. Mr. Hubbard also includes transcriptions of many documents. Gravestone information is accompanied by photos, where available. Images of military records are also provided for many of the men in the book. Originals of personal letters, marriage certificates and notices, obituaries, and other documents can also be reviewed. Where personal

recollections appear, they are quoted, and the relationship between the people involved is clarified. In cases where the actual document is not included—for example, census records—Mr. Hubbard supplies citations that direct the reader to the source. He does not simply tell the reader what he found; he encourages the reader to view the original.

The depth of his research allows Mr. Hubbard to add supplementary details and historical perspectives in the appendices, including articles on Jamestown, religious influences, colonial Virginia officials, and even some genealogical humor. These extras would be distracting if placed within the context of the family lines and are included separately for the interested reader, without muddling the flow of the book.

Michael Hubbard has written his family history clearly, thoughtfully, and with a sense of humor. It is obvious that he set out to share his research with interested relatives in the best way possible. They should be delighted with the thorough, well-organized, and rich family history he is leaving them. I would be elated to find such a book about my family.

*Reviewed by Cheryl Wheaton
StLGS volunteer*



**Most of the books donated to StLGS
are available in the
Emerson Genealogy Center at the
Clark Family Branch of the
St. Louis County Library.**

Feature Articles from Other Publications

Compiled by Mike Bridwell, Reference Librarian
History and Genealogy Department, St. Louis County Library

Article subtitles are included where available. A note has been inserted in brackets in order to clarify the content of the article if not evident from the title. These periodicals are available for your use in the Emerson Genealogy Center, now open in its new home at the Clark Family Branch, 1640 S. Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63131.

American Ancestors (New England Historic Genealogical Society)

Vol. 25, no. 4, Winter 2025

- Heraldry in America
- Arts & Artifacts of American Heraldry
- Lives Preserved in Wax: Early American Personal Seals
- Some Heraldic Tombstones in Boston, Massachusetts
- Scots Heraldry, a Global Phenomenon
- Tradition & Innovation: Contemporary Heraldic Artists Share Their Thoughts
- Defining Their Absence: The Valentine Family of Rye

American Ancestors (New England Historic Genealogical Society)

Vol. 26, no. 1, Spring 2025

- Introducing the Family Heritage Experience
- Welcome Back to American Ancestors!
- The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Opens a New Space—and a New Chapter
- The Art of the Family Heritage Experience
- Rebuilding the Past in the Family Memoir: An Academic Recreates 1920's Miami
- The Secret Lives of Harry Taylor: Courting Disaster in England & Massachusetts
- Finding Family History in Resources Donated to 10 Million Names

Kirkwood Historical Review (Kirkwood Historical Society)

Vol. 64, no. 1, Spring 2025

- A.G. Edwards: Kirkwood Mover and Shaker
- Francis E. Nipher Junior High School
- Bill McKenna, One of Hockey's Finest

Missouri Historical Review (State Historical Society of Missouri)

Vol. 119, no. 3, April 2025

- Darwin Hindman: Columbia's Man with the Can

- The Chouteau Women—Matriarchy, Matrimony, and Money in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1750–1814
- “This Infernal One Man’s Law”—George Hesselmeier and the Fight for the St. Louis Zinc Works
- A New Kind of Tourist—Automobiles, the Middle Class, and Route 66 Resorts in the Twentieth-Century Ozarks
- From the Stacks: Research Center—Columbia

NGS Magazine (National Genealogical Society)

Vol. 51, no. 1, January–March 2025

- Genealogy Research at the Filson Historical Society
- Finding Frontier Treasures in the Draper Manuscripts
- Ancestral Clues in Ohio’s Unique Land Records: Part 1
- The Laws behind the Records: Finding U.S. Tax Laws
- Irish Tax Records, Part 2: Valuation Office Records

NGS Magazine (National Genealogical Society)

Vol. 51, no. 2, April–June 2025

- Birth of the Revolution: Rediscovering the People and Events of 1775
- Using the Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789, for Family Research
- The *Jersey* and Old Mill: American Maritime Prisoners During the Revolution
- Finding Patriots at the SAR Genealogical Research Library
- Ancestral Clues in Ohio’s Unique Land Records: Part 2

(continued on p. 38)

St. Louis City/County Biographies Project: Honoring St. Louisans

Do you have ancestors who are part of St. Louis history? Do you know of St. Louisans who deserve to be remembered for their contributions to St. Louis City or County? Whether they did something newsworthy or were little-known outside their neighborhood, they played an important part in making St. Louis what it is today. We would love to help you share their stories.

St. Louis Genealogical Society has a feature on its website called St. Louis City/County Biographies that links to 300 biographies (and counting) of local citizens from the 1700s to those recently deceased. Biographies are brief (500 words or less) and can include a copyright-free photo or two.

Our biographies honor men and women who are famous, such as architect William Bernoudy and poet Sara Teasdale, to people you may recognize by name if you live in our area: Chouteau, Straub, Gannon, and Lackland. Most of our biographies, however, simply tell the stories of ordinary people who settled here and helped grow our community by working hard and raising families. Their descendants, or those who know about them, are ensuring their memories last.

On the St. Louis City/County Biographies page on our website <https://stlgs.org/research-2/community/st-louis-biographies>, you will find complete details on how and what to submit. Download a copy of the instruction flyer, and while you are there, take a few minutes to read about the lives of many other individuals who have called St. Louis home.

***"History is the essence of innumerable biographies."
Thomas Carlyle, 1838***

Feature Articles from Other Publications (cont'd.)

St. Clair County [Illinois] Genealogical Society Quarterly

Vol. 47, no. 4, 2024

- Death Records 1920-1921 Zion Evangelical Church, Millstadt, Illinois
- Adeline Smith Scott Townsend Majors: A Mixed-Race Matriarch Navigating Antebellum and Postbellum America
- 1838 School Land Sale Petition Near Marissa (T3S R6W)
- Heritage Travel to St. Clair County: Making Family History Dimensional
- The Men of the Last Man's Club: Herzberger to Krick
- Emerson History & Genealogy Center, St. Louis County Library
- Old Settlers Reunions 1874-1897 (M-Z)
- Republicans from St. Clair and Surrounding Counties, 1890
- Chancery Case Files Index 1870-1920, part twelve

St. Charles County [Missouri] Heritage (St. Charles County Historical Society)

Vol. 43, no. 1, January 2025

- "I cannot get home too soon" . . . The Life and Death of Sgt. Omar Kolkmeier
- Grace Nichols: First Woman Elected Mayor of St. Charles
- In the Beginning . . . The St. Charles County Historical Society
- James I. Spainhower: Lindenwood's President in Changing Times
- Spending the Night in Wentzville



Henri François Roy I, 1767–1831

By Linda Jane Wallis
for the St. Louis City/County Biographies Project

Born on 7 May 1767 in St. Louis, Missouri, Henri François Roy I was the son of Julien Roy (1730–1793) and Marie Barbe Saucier (1736–1778). Henri frequently used his middle name, François, rather than his complete name. His godmother's surname was Pregaldin.

Marie Jeanne Montardy was born on 31 December 1775 in St. Louis. She was the daughter of Pierre Montardy II (1736–1809) and Marie Therese du Chemin (b. 1753). Pierre emigrated from France in 1752.

The 1776 St. Louis census lists Henri and Marie with their respective families. Henri was nine years old and Marie was one.

On 26 June 1793, Henri married Marie Jeanne in St. Louis. He was twenty-six years old and she was seventeen. They became the parents of eight children. The first Catholic church register in St. Louis includes the names and births of their five oldest children.

Children of Henri François Roy and Marie Jeanne Montardy:

1. Henry François Roy (1794–1831), married Ulalie Vien
2. Pierre Roy (1796–1803)
3. Marie Barbe Roy (b. 1798), married Paul Dorval Montambault
4. Jerome Roy Wallis (1894–1896)
5. Julien Roy (1799–1803)
6. Charles Roy (1802–1805)
7. Louis Roy (b. 1807), married Marie Louise Mallet
8. Paul Roy (1809–1810)

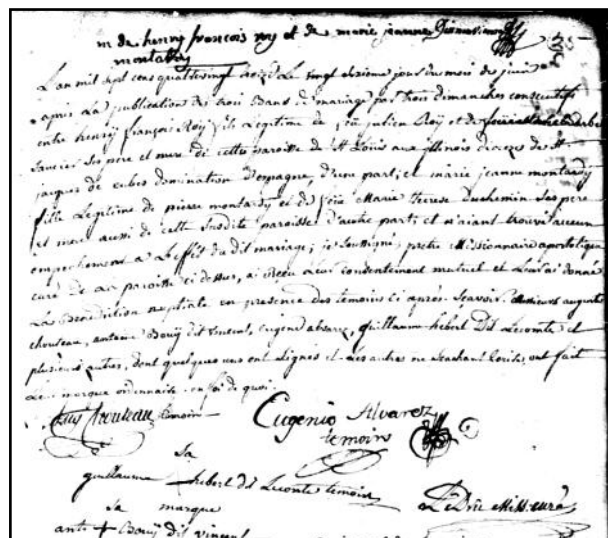
In 1805, Henri signed a petition with his mark (X) in support of Governor Wilkinson. He signed a second petition with his mark (X) on the 8th of January 1817 from the inhabitants of Carondelet about their “commons land which they have held for about 30 years & necessary for their support.”

On 30 October 1818, he signed a third petition with his mark (X) to Congress from the inhabitants of Carondelet “praying the Confirmation and designation of their Common & to prevent intrusions and waste of timber . . .”

In both the 1810 and 1820 federal censuses, Henri's name appears as a resident of Carondelet. He used the name François, which is how he was referred to on his son's marriage contract.

Marie Jeanne Montardy passed away on 1 January 1811 in St. Louis at the age of thirty-five. She and Henri had been married for eighteen years. She was buried at the St. Louis King of France Cemetery.

Henri François Roy I passed away on 3 June 1831 at the age of sixty-four. There were several Roys, including his son, Henry François Roy II, who died within a few weeks of each other. The court recorded Henri Roy I's will on 27 June 1831. He was buried at the St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Carondelet. Henri's Find a Grave memorial number is 160742575 and Marie Jeanne's number is 160762056.



Marriage of Henri Roy and Marie Montardy, in French, 1793. Copy of document in the author's possession.

Experimenting with FamilySearch Labs

By Jane Theissen

FamilySearch is a genealogical gem. Between the billions of records, the digital library, and the research wiki, it is a great place to spend an afternoon online tracking down your ancestors! As you likely know, new records are constantly being added to the five-plus billion already available. But did you know that the folks behind FamilySearch are always looking for ways to give us better access to these records?

FamilySearch Labs

FamilySearch Labs is an experimental area of the website where you can participate. Full-text searching of unindexed records and help with your research using AI (artificial intelligence) are two of these “experiments.” But do not let that word “experiment” throw you. Both of these tools provide solid results for researchers.

Click on the blue “View Experiments” button (see illustration below) to get started. Several experiments are currently available.

Under “Expand your Search with Full Text,” click on “Go to Experiment,” and you will be presented with several options for searching the unindexed records. At the very top of this window is a disclaimer: “This is an experimental Labs product and is not guaranteed to always be available. When using it,

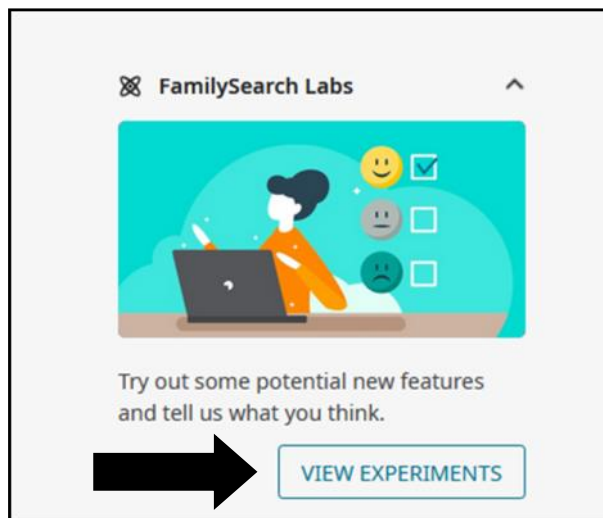
you may encounter some errors and limited data. FamilySearch Community support is available.” This set of unindexed records has been read by OCR (optical character recognition), a program that looks at characters on the screen and converts them into letters. It is not a perfect process, depending largely on the quality of the original.

Read over the information on the screen for some helpful tips before you begin searching. In my latest search, I was looking for any deeds that might include the name of my grandfather, Irwin Nelle. I typed **deeds** in the keyword box and his name “**Irwin Nelle**” in the name box. I included the quotation marks around his name so that the results only had his name and not other people with merely his first or last name. In return, I had fifteen results of deeds with his full name. (See next page.) These are records I am certain I would not have found any other way, and they provided another avenue into the research for my ancestor. In my experiments with this tool, I have discovered that indexed records cannot be accessed here. It is better to use the search tool on the main screen for those.

AI-Enhanced Help Center Searches

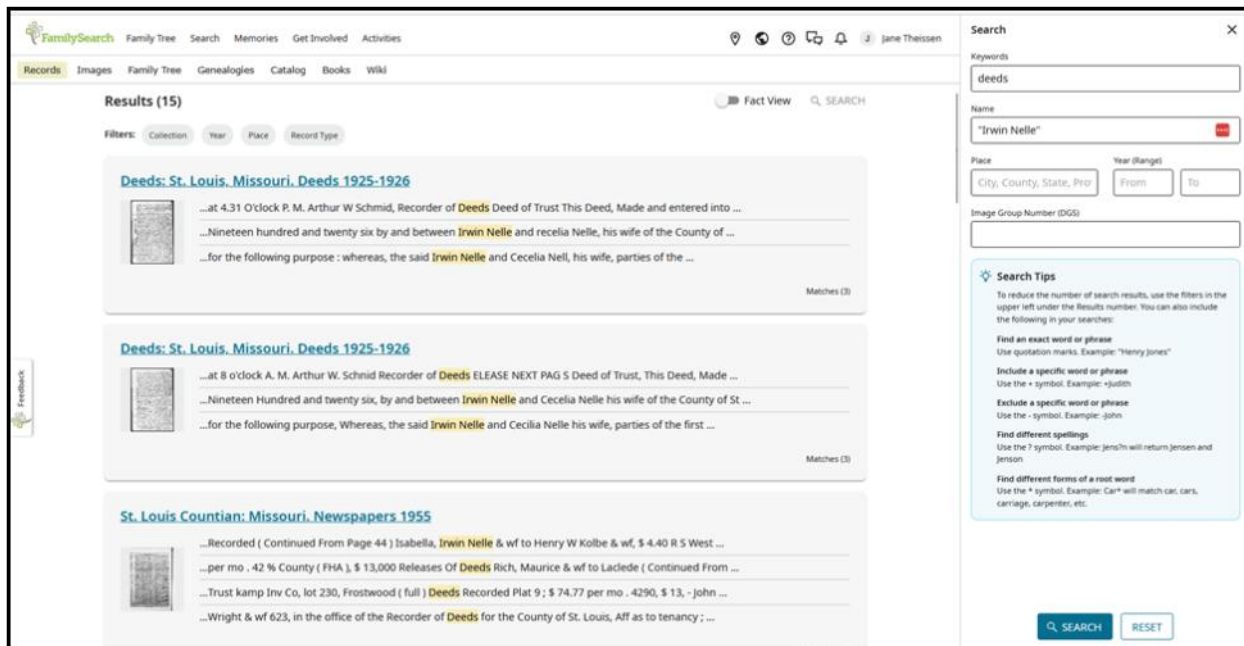
This is a great tool to use if you need some assistance finding where to look for records or to discover whether records you need might even exist. My query to AI was a simple one: “What marriage records exist for Covington, Kenton, Kentucky?” Please note that although simple, this question is very specific. I did not ask a broad question like, “What records are available for Covington?” The more specific you can make your questions, the more useful the results you will receive. I now know several places, both online and in person, to look for records in FamilySearch and in resources beyond FamilySearch. (See next page.)

I encourage you to check out the Labs and see what tools you can find that might help you further your genealogical research.

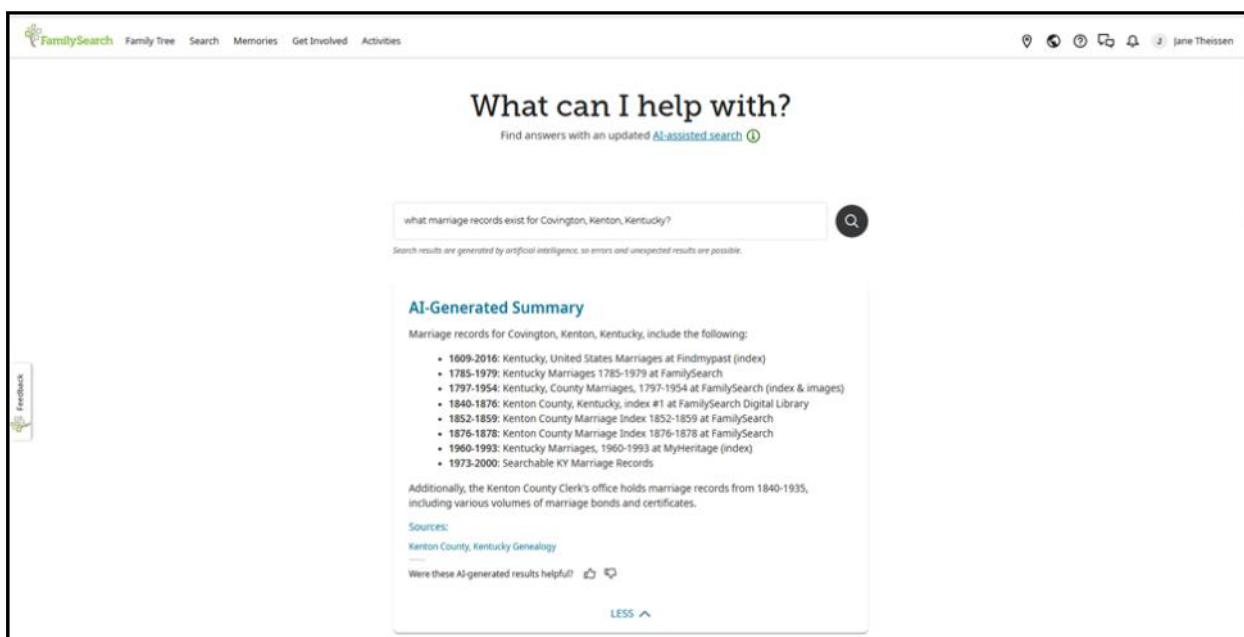


Experimenting with FamilySearch Labs

The FamilySearch Labs results screen below shows how a search for the keyword “deeds” and the name “Irwin Nelle” yielded previously unknown records.



Asking the FamilySearch AI assistant to search for Covington, Kenton County, Kentucky, yielded the list shown below and many new records to search.



Getting to Know My Great-Grandfather, Judge James McLaughlin

By Kate McLaughlin

Kate McLaughlin served as an intern in our office last year. As part of her experience, she assisted in our research room, where she learned about researching her own family and practiced genealogical writing. Once she started, her enthusiasm was infectious, and the essay she produced about her great-grandfather was the culmination of her internship program and a job very well done!

As a college student, I am usually thinking about the future. What I will end up doing with my life and my English degree, is still a mystery to me. Plus, jobs and internship programs alike are becoming increasingly competitive; that is why I was so grateful when the St. Louis Genealogical Society (StLGS) welcomed me with open arms for my internship, despite my lack of experience with the subject. When I first started as an intern at StLGS, I was not sure exactly what they would need me for. Tech support? Coffee runs? Snooping around cemeteries like a particularly troubled Goth teen?

As it turns out, StLGS is a well-oiled machine. Many of the volunteers, retired from nine-to-five jobs, are better with their computers than I am. They even have a hall of famer from the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency who uses a virtual mapping program called QGIS to organize and label headstones in dozens of digitized cemeteries around St. Louis! And if I did not feel like an unnecessary addition to the society already, they even have their own coffee pot and a lavish spread of snacks in the office kitchen. No need for coffee runs! So when I finished my tour of the office, I quickly learned that I would have the freedom to do whatever I wanted with all of the amazing resources of StLGS available to me.

Naturally, I gravitated toward working on my own family history. I decided to write a biography of my great-grandfather, Judge James McLaughlin, a fabled figure in my family's history, for the society's St. Louis City/County Biographies program. But his fascinating story led me to quickly surpass the five-hundred word limit. With the support and guidance of the society's volunteers, I decided

to write a full article for the *Quarterly*, instead. I dug into James's life using sources like *Ancestry*, *FamilySearch*, *Newspapers.com*, and the society's impressive collection of St. Louis city directories. This summer has been the first in years when I have thought more about the past than the future. For a young person in an increasingly unpredictable world, this experience researching my family's unique history has been a welcome respite from the constant anxiety of planning for an unpromised future.

Great-Grandfather McLaughlin

James Edwin McLaughlin was born in St. Louis on 16 August 1885 to Eugene Edwin McLaughlin and Margaret McMinimee.¹ Eugene abandoned his wife soon after his son was born, forcing Margaret to care for James on her own. Throughout his life, Eugene McLaughlin was married four times, in St. Louis, Chicago, and California, beginning his second marriage when James was just two years old.² Eugene never divorced any of the women.

The unexpected abandonment by her husband was hard on Margaret. After about eleven years of caring for James, she felt that she was not up to the task of raising a young man on her own and sent James to an orphanage in New York. From notes on his youth, James writes about how he was shaped by this difficult period of his life: "You never remember that I had just spent five in New York with about one thousand of the toughest kids in the world—boys picked off the streets of New York and sent to an orphan asylum known as The Mission of the Immaculate Conception. I was pretty tough myself."³

Five years later, when James was sixteen, his mother traveled to New York to visit her son. She was shocked at the conditions of The

Getting to Know My Great-Grandfather, Judge James McLaughlin

Mission of the Immaculate Virgin asylum: too many kids and not enough space or food. Violence was commonplace. This was the wake-up call that she needed; she knew then that she had to take James back home to St. Louis.

In January 1902, James began attending Christian Brothers College High School (CBC) in St. Louis as a boarding student. His time at CBC was extremely formative for him and developed in him a passion for both academics and athletics. He described “the old College” in loving detail in his journals; he wrote, “In the center of the building was a magnificent rotunda extending to the glass roof. It must have been fifty to sixty feet in diameter. It was an imposing sight—a thing of beauty.”

James had a deep appreciation for the people and places of CBC, going as far as to say that “the food was excellent, and the treatment by the brothers was humane. CBC was

like heaven to me after what I had been through for five years.”

James McLaughlin’s love of sports, specifically soccer, was cultivated at CBC, which he described as “the real cradle of soccer in the United States.” The luxury of athletics had never before been afforded to James, who “had never seen a soccer ball before 1902.” Two years later, the 1904 Olympics arrived in St. Louis. By then, James had become a defensive player on CBC’s soccer team, which was one of the teams representing the U.S. in the games. The team finished second in the Olympic games, earning a silver medal for the United States. They lost to the Canadians, but when writing about CBC’s victory against St. Rose (taking the bronze medal), James recounted, “[St. Rose’s goal scorer] was never more than five yards from me all during the game. He became so annoyed at me for my adhesiveness that late in the game he bit me.”

His passion for soccer soon translated to being a St. Louis baseball superfan. James was a diehard Browns fan for his entire life and even threw the first pitch for the Browns in the 1951 baseball season.⁴ During his time as a judge, he was assigned to a trial that included the Cardinals and promptly turned it over to another judge. In his own words, he reasoned, “I had been a lifelong, rabid Browns fan. I hated the Cards. I wasn’t sure in my own mind that I’d be able to give the suit a fair trial.”⁵ According to family lore, the trial ended up being held in a courtroom directly below his own. James instructed everyone in his courtroom to jump and stomp their feet to disrupt the Cardinals suit below them!

For some years after his graduation from CBC in 1906, James worked as a clerk at different locations around the city. According to the 1907 St. Louis city directory, he worked in the historic Bell Telephone building at 920 Olive Street.⁶ He was a man of St. Louis city. He lived on Arsenal Street in 1907 and North Compton Avenue in 1911,⁷ but Uncle Sam eventually called him away from his hometown.



Christian Brothers College in its original St. Louis City location, Easton Avenue (now Martin Luther King) and North Kingshighway, 1949. This photo shows the campus as Judge McLaughlin remembered it.

Photo by Oscar C. Kuehn , <https://mohistory.org/collections/item/resource:149532>. Public Domain. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=85524224>

Getting to Know My Great-Grandfather, Judge James McLaughlin

In the Mexican border war, he served with the First Regiment Missouri National Guard at Laredo, Texas in 1916. On 8 June 1918, James was mustered into federal service in World War I and served at Fort Meade, Maryland,⁸ alongside then-officer Dwight D. Eisenhower.

When the war ended, James returned to St. Louis and went on to attend law school night classes at Saint Louis University.⁹ He graduated with his law degree in 1923,¹⁰ meaning that he did not finish law school until he was almost forty years old.

James got married on November 11 of that same year to Margaret J. Lester, a twenty-two-year-old woman from Washington, Davis County, Indiana.¹¹ Their first son, James Lester, was born three years later in 1927.¹² The family lived in the Hi-Pointe neighborhood of St. Louis for many years, and the neighborhood welcomed the birth of two more McLaughlin children: my grandfather, Gerard Edwin, in 1931 and Joan in 1934.¹³

In 1929, James began working under Franklin Miller as an assistant circuit attorney. According to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1938, "At first he handled Court of Criminal Correction prosecutions, bond forfeitures, extraditions and other matters, but after Sept. 1st, 1933, he handled grand jury and Coroner's cases."¹⁴

He resigned from this position in 1937 to run for circuit court judge for the Democratic party, which he won, and was re-elected every term until he retired. He served twenty-six years as a judge, presiding over all kinds of cases: criminal, civil, equity, domestic relations, and more. Judge James E. McLaughlin never missed a single day on the bench until he suffered a heart attack in 1959.

In his long career in law, both as a circuit court judge and an assistant circuit attorney, James played an important role in many difficult cases, but his empathetic nature, strong sense of justice, and progressive politics have ensured that his judicial decisions aged well.

One of his rulings led to the clearance of slums in St. Louis City and the building of low-income public housing.¹⁵

The Missing Suit Story

One of his most caring moments in court has become an oft-shared story in my family, which I will call "The Missing Suit Story." When my grandfather Gerard returned to St. Louis after serving in the Korean War, he looked in the closet of his childhood bedroom to find his nicest suit missing. When James, his father, came home from court that night, the truth came out: he had given Gerard's suit to a young man who had come to his court date dressed in rags.

Though my grandfather had been upset at the time, this story perseveres in my family because it shows James's dedication to kindness, equality, and justice—no matter the personal cost. This anecdote even made its way into a newspaper article about James in January 1964 titled, "Retiring Judge J. E. McLaughlin Deceptively Mild in Appearance."

The article stated, "[McLaughlin] gave one young Negro defendant new clothing to replace the torn shirt and trousers the man had worn to court."¹⁶

Despite his rocky childhood and the lack of familial love he was shown, James was always described as one of the most loving and affectionate men that the McLaughlin family had ever known. His sweet and paternal nature was not only felt by his own children and grandchildren but was also felt by every St. Louis resident who came through his court.

After presiding for seven months in domestic relations court in 1951, the judge wrote a guide of "ten commandments" designed to put divorce courts out of business, a publication in which "mutual love and consideration and having children, by adoption if necessary, were emphasized." James wrote in his guide, "The sweetest place in the world is your home. Spend your evenings there."¹⁷

Getting to Know My Great-Grandfather, Judge James McLaughlin

Finding out more about my family history, specifically the life of such an interesting relative, would not have been possible without all the help from the people at StLGS. I would recommend to young people who are at all interested in this subject to ask their older relatives for anything they have to share: newspaper clippings, anecdotes, old journals or diaries, any heirlooms that have been passed down. Some grandparents are more tight-lipped than others. In many families, you will never know how fascinating your history is until you ask!

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. "Missouri, County Marriage, Naturalization, and Court Records, 1800–1991," *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org>), digital images, marriage, Eugene E. McLaughlin and Maggie McMinimee, 16 January 1885, citing St. Louis City Marriage Records, vol. 28, p. 209, license 14046.

2. "Illinois, Cook County Marriages, 1871–1968," *FamilySearch*, Eugene E. Lawson and Grace M. Simpson, 1 June 1899, citing Cook County Clerk, Cook County Courthouse, Chicago, Illinois.

3. Personal Journals of James Edwin McLaughlin, 1930–1950. Unpublished.

4. "The Judge is a Fan," *St. Louis* [Missouri] *Post-Dispatch*, 17 April 1951, p. 16, col. 3–4; digital image *Newspapers.com* (<https://newspapers.com>).

5. "James McLaughlin Dies; Circuit Judge 26 Years," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 29 November 1971, p. 19, col. 3–4; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

6. Polk-Gould Directory Company, compiler, *Gould's St. Louis* [Missouri] *Directory for 1907 Being a Complete Index of the Residents of the Entire City, and a Classified Business Directory, to Which is Added an Appendix Containing Useful Information of the Churches, Societies, Railroads, City, State, and Other Miscellaneous Matter, also Street and Avenue Directory* (St. Louis: Polk-Gould Directory Company, 1907); James E. McLaughlin, p. 1149.

7. *Gould's St. Louis* [Missouri] *Directory for 1911*, James E. McLaughlin, p. 1293.

8. "Biographies of Democratic and Republican Candidates for Judicial Offices in Aug. 6 Primary," *St. Louis* [Missouri] *Daily Globe-Democrat*, 21 July 1940, p. 6, col. 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

9. Saint Louis University Libraries Digital Collections, St. Louis University Yearbooks, *The Archive*, 1923, p. 127 (<https://digitalcollections.slu.edu/digital/collection/historicpub/id/40080/rec/3>), image 129 of 411.

10. "State and Local Judges Seeking Retention on the Bench," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 26 October 1952, p. 114, col. 4–5; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

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12. "Missouri, U.S., Birth Registers, 1847–2003," *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com>), digital images, James Lester McLaughlin, 6 January 1927; citing Missouri States Archives, birth index, 1920–1999, Jefferson City, Missouri.

13. 1940 U.S. census, St. Louis City, Missouri, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 96–601, sheet 13B (penned), visited no. 279, James E. McLaughlin; digital image, *Ancestry*; citing National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm publication T627, roll 2205.

14. "Facts About Circuit Bench, Criminal Correction, and Probate Court Nominees," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 26 October 1938, p. 22, col. 4–5; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

15. "Retiring Judge J. E. McLaughlin Deceptively Mild in Appearance," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 22 January 1964, p. 3, col. 6–7; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

16. "Retiring Judge J. E. McLaughlin Deceptively Mild in Appearance," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 22 January 1964.

17. Personal Journals of James Edwin McLaughlin, 1930–1950. Unpublished.



Lottie Barbara (Schlatter) Steiling

By Shirley Wadell

Another of the many “lost” photographs at the St. Louis Genealogical Society office is of a lovely young girl named Lottie Schlatter. The six-by-ten-inch portrait includes the note, “To Wink, the dearest of friends, Lovingly Lottie.” In addition, there is a tiny two-inch-by-one-inch vanilla-colored card embossed with “Lottie B. Schlatter, 3955 Connecticut St.” and on the back, written in pen, is “For-get-me-not,” possibly in Lottie’s handwriting. The name of the photography studio is embossed at the bottom of the photo as “DeVere, Saint Louis.” In this image, Lottie is wearing a light-colored dress with a large white collar and a two-strand petite pearl necklace. Her hair is short, styled with finger waves which was a popular hairstyle in the 1920s and 1930s.

This same image of Lottie appears in the 1930 yearbook of Roosevelt High School in St. Louis, Missouri. Lottie’s senior photo appears with those of her classmates and the



note, “It wouldn’t be an accident, if she became the President.” Her school activities are listed as “College Club, Secretary and Treasurer Girls’ Basketball Club, Basketball Captain, Basketball B and Pin, Latin Club, Chairman Picture Committee New Seniors, Scholarship R’s and Pin, *Torch*.”¹ Lottie’s school life was full and busy.

Rudolf Schlatter, Lottie’s father, had filed a Declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States in 1915 in a St. Louis court.² He had been born on 24 November 1879 in Fahrwangen, Switzerland, and immigrated to the United States on board the *Kaiserin Augusta Victoria* from Hamburg, Germany in 1913. Lottie, her parents, and two younger brothers traveled to Switzerland on 12 December 1919 to visit her aged and ill paternal grandfather. The U.S. passport application for Lottie’s mother, Barbara (Staubli) Schlatter,³ showed that Barbara was born on 7 November 1881 in Muri, Switzerland. The application noted that for this trip, she would be accompanied by her three small children, Lottie Barbara, age six-and-a-half years old; Rudolf, four years of age; and Willard Frederick, age five months. Included with this passport was a black-and-white photograph of Barbara and her three children. Lottie’s father, Rudolf, had filed a passport application as well, noting that he had been a U.S. citizen since 7 September 1917.⁴ During their visit, Lottie’s grandfather passed away.

The family did not remain overseas for long. By August of the following year, the group returned to the United States. They sailed from Boulogne-Sur-Mer, France, on 11 August 1920 aboard the *S.S. Rotterdam* and arrived in New York nine days later.⁵ The passenger list showed Lottie’s birth date as 4 April 1913 and her place of birth as St. Louis, Missouri. This would explain why Lottie and her family were not listed on the U.S. federal 1920 census which was taken in January of that year.

Lottie Barbara (Schlatter) Steiling



Lottie, her brother Rudolf, and baby Willard on their way to Europe with their mother in 1920. Passport photo from Ancestry.com.

Another overseas trip found Lottie, Barbara, Rudolf, and Willard returning again from Boulogne-Sur-Mer, France, on 16 September 1925 aboard the *S.S. Volendam*.⁶

Lottie finally appeared on a U.S. federal census in 1930. Her father Rudolph (his name now with an English spelling) Schlatter, was fifty years old and worked as a mechanical engineer for a diesel engineering company. He lived with his wife Barbara, who was forty-eight years old, and their three children: Lottie, age seventeen; Rudolph (again, changed to an English spelling), fourteen; and Willard, ten years old; at 3955 Connecticut in St. Louis. Rudolph Sr. owned the house, valued at \$7,500. It was also noted on the census that Lottie's father had immigrated in approximately 1905 and that her mother came to America in approximately 1911.⁷

Lottie Schlatter, age twenty-four, traveled alone from Europe, departing Le Havre,

France, on 25 September 1937 and arriving in New York on 30 September 1937. She was aboard the *S.S. Normandie*. This document does not give the reason for the trip.⁸ The 1938 St. Louis city directory recorded Lottie B. Schlatter living with her parents and two brothers at 3955 Connecticut. She was employed as a case worker for the City Board of Children's Guardians. Her father and her brother Rudolph both worked as mechanical engineers, and Willard was a student.⁹

Lottie's engagement to Carl H. Steiling (1907–1993),¹⁰ son of William John Steiling (1880–1968)¹¹ and Florence M. (Brungard) Steiling (1886–1974),¹² was announced in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* on 21 May 1939.¹³ Lottie and Carl were issued a marriage license in June 1940.¹⁴ No marriage record was located for the couple, but by 1950, Lottie and her husband Carl were living at 5245 Sutherland in the downstairs apartment of a two-family flat. The couple had three children: Sylvia, age five; Carl, four years old; and Theodore, four months old.¹⁵ Carl Sr. worked at a brewery as a mechanical engineer.

Lottie's residence at the time of her death was 5004 Sutherland Avenue in St. Louis. Her death certificate included the following information: She was born on 4 April 1913 in St. Louis and died on 5 March 1955, also in St. Louis. The cause of her death was listed as "status asthmaticus" (respiratory failure) while undergoing a bronchoscopy at the hospital and was recorded as an accident. She was forty-one years old. Her husband provided the information on the certificate¹⁶ Lottie was buried in Sunset Burial Park next to her parents.¹⁷

After I had completed this article, I received a copy of *Chronicle: the Schlatter Family of Fahrwangen*, (1947), compiled by Hermine (Schlatter) Steinmann, sister to Rudolf Schlatter, from Jeffrey Schlatter. This compilation contains a wonderful family history. It was translated by Jeffrey Schlatter and republished for the family. Through her efforts and the work Hermine put into researching her fami-

Lottie Barbara (Schlatter) Steiling

ly's ancestral history, these forebears will not be forgotten.

If you are interested in claiming the original photograph of Lottie (Schlatter) Steiling, please email Ilene Murray, publications director of the St. Louis Genealogical Society at publications@stlgs.org or call the St. Louis Genealogical Society office at 314-647-8547.

Lottie's death certificate showing her cause of death (see p. 49). Image from the Missouri Digital Heritage website sos.mo.gov.

Naturalization Records, 1856–1942”; citing “Declarations of Intention For Citizenship, 1890–1/25/1991,” National Archives at Kansas City, Missouri.

3. “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925,” database with images, *Ancestry*, no. 149392, Barbara Schlatter (1919), St. Louis, Missouri; citing National Archives, Washington D.C., “Passport Applications, January 2, 1906–March 31, 1925,” roll 1011, certificates 149376–149749, 16 December 1919–16 December 1919.

4. “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925,” database with images, *Ancestry*, no. 149391, Rudolf Schlatter (1919), St. Louis, Missouri, citing National Archives, Washington D.C., “Passport Applications, January 2, 1906–March 31, 1925,” roll 1011, certificates 149376–149749, 16 December 1919–16 December 1919.

5. “New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957,” database with images, *Ancestry*, “List of United States Citizens,” S.S. Rotterdam, 20 August 1920, p. 116, line 11, Lattie [sic] Schlatter, age 7; citing “Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897–1957,” microfilm no. T715, “Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787–2004,” National Archives, Washington, D.C.

6. “New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957,” database with images, *Ancestry*, “List of United States Citizens,” S.S. Volendam, 25 September 1925, p. 177, line 2, Lottie Schlatter, age 12; citing “Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897–1957,” microfilm no. T715, “Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787–2004,” National Archives, Washington, D.C.

7. 1930 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, Enumeration District (ED) 96–493, p. 13B (handwritten), dwelling 206, family 255, Lottie B. Schlatter in the household of Rudolph Schlatter; digital image, *Ancestry*, citing FHL microfilm 2,340,971.

8. “New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957,” database with images, *Ancestry*, “List of United States Citizens,” S.S. Normandie, 30 September 1937, p. 50, line 14, Lottie B. Schlatter.

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. Roosevelt High School, “Bwana 1930” (yearbook), Lottie Schlatter, St. Louis, Missouri, np, image 440 of 644; digital image, “U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900–2016,” *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com>).

2. District Court, Eastern District, Eastern Division, St. Louis, Missouri, “Declarations of Intention,” volumes 19 (cont.) to 22, nos. 8800–10404, 1914–1915, p. 92, entry for Rudolf Schlatter of Fahrwangen, Switzerland, 15 March 1915; digital image, *Ancestry*, “Missouri, U.S. Federal

Lottie Barbara (Schlatter) Steiling

ter, age 24; citing "Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897–1957," microfilm no. T715, "Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787–2004," National Archives, Washington, D.C.

9. "Gould's St. Louis City Directory," 1938 (New York: Polk-Gould Directory Company, 1938), p. 1121, "Lottie Schlatter"; digital image, "U.S., City Directories, 1822–1995," *Ancestry*, image 33.

10. *Find a Grave* (<https://findagrave.com>), memorial 81221679, "Carl Herman Steiling," 29 November 2011 by Marvin & Samme Templin"; also, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery (St. Louis, Missouri), Carl H. Steiling grave marker, digital image, 17 October 2016 by Randy Watkins.

11. *Find a Grave*, memorial 47271307, "William John Steiling," 29 January 2010 by "T.V.F.T.H."; also Calvary Cemetery and Mausoleum (St. Louis, Missouri), William J. Steiling and Florence M. Steiling grave markers, digital image, 7 May 2016 by "Kathie."

12. *Find a Grave* memorial 47281304, "Florence M. Brungard Steiling," 29 January 2010 by "T.V.F.T.H."; also Calvary Cemetery and Mausoleum (St. Louis, Missouri), William J. Steiling and Florence M. Steiling grave markers, digital image, 7 May 2016 by "Kathie."

13. "Bride-To-Be," *St. Louis* [Missouri] *Globe-Democrat*, 21 May 1939, p. 28 (4D), col. 2, Miss Lottie Barbara Schlatter; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (www.newspapers.com).

14. "Marriage Licenses, Births Recorded, Burial Permits," *St. Louis* [Missouri] *Post-Dispatch*, 4 June 1940, p. 31, col. 3, Carl H. Steiling and Lottie B. Schlatter; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

15. 1950 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, Enumeration District (ED) 96–1526, p. 13 (handwritten), dwelling 142, Lottie B. Sterling [*sic*] in the household of Carl H. Sterling [*sic*]; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm T628, roll 2042; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

16. "Missouri, U.S., Death Records, 1910–1971," database with images, *Ancestry.com*, St. Louis, no. 10236, Lottie B. Steiling (1955); citing "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910–1969," Missouri Office of the Secretary of State, Jefferson City.

17. *Find a Grave*, memorial 137520177, "Lottie Barbara Schlatter Steiling"; also image from Sunset Memorial Park and Mausoleum (St. Louis, Missouri), Lottie Barbara Schlatter Steiling grave marker, both on 20 October 2014 by "frankseyffardt."

Status Asthmaticus and Bronchoscopy

While most of us are familiar with asthma as a chronic condition, status asthmaticus, today called acute severe asthma, can be a killer, striking suddenly and leading to death by asphyxiation. In Lottie's case, what appears to have happened is that she was undergoing a routine bronchial test in a hospital when her body reacted in an unexpected way.

The test she was having, a bronchoscopy, is minimally invasive and done with a thin tube inserted into the throat, windpipe (trachea), and lungs to diagnose lung disease. She may already have had asthma or some other condition affecting her breathing.

According to the Cleveland Clinic website (<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/status-asthmaticus>), this acute form of asthma does not respond to standard treatments and is life-threatening. Likely what occurred to Lottie is her airways tightened (bronchospasm), which caused swelling (inflammation) and increased mucus production. Even with today's arsenal of treatments, acute severe asthma can lead to hypoxia (lack of oxygen), cardiac arrest, and respiratory failure.

German Immigrant Leaves a Family Legacy: Herman Verheyen

By Joe Armour

(Editor's Note: This is the last essay on the Verheyen family, who left their homeland in Germany in the late 1840s to build a new life in America. These accounts have depicted the struggles and achievements of many immigrants to this country in the mid-1800s. Maybe some of your immigrant ancestors had similar experiences.)

Herman Verheyen was six years old when his family, along with four others, left Westphalia in Germany to immigrate to the United States in 1849. The group had no way of knowing the adventures and trials that lay ahead. Herman, born on 20 March 1842, was the oldest of the four children of Johann Verheyen and Bartholomea Zadelaer. The cohort of five families traveled from Qualburg and other villages near Kleve (Cleve) to the port of Le Havre, France. From there, they sailed to New Orleans, arriving on 27 April 1849. Soon after, they traveled up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, where they stopped briefly, then most of the group proceeded on to Milwaukee before returning to St. Louis. Along the way, various members disembarked and settled.

Johann, Bartholomea, and their children returned to St. Louis shortly after the Great Fire that destroyed much of the area around the Mississippi River levee in May 1849. Cholera was also rampant in St. Louis during that year, and thousands of citizens perished, although Herman's family was not affected. But the following summer, in August 1850, Herman's father, Johann, died. Herman was eight years old. His mother, Bartholomea, did what any other woman in her position would do—she found another husband. On 1 October 1850, she married Joachim Gamers at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Biddle Street in St. Louis.¹ Joachim had also lost his wife during the summer of 1850.

Herman attended the parish school at St. Joseph Catholic Church. On 4 April 1853, he made his First Communion and was confirmed, along with forty-eight other boys and girls.² Soon after, he likely began working, as was customary for young men and girls at that time. In the 1860 federal census, Herman, enumerated in his stepfather's household, was a laborer.³

In his 1863 draft registration, Herman "Verhein" [sic] is listed as a twenty-year-old teamster, single, living at 384 Biddle Street in St. Louis.⁴ No records have been found indicating that he served in the military. Following the Civil War, he married Mary Crancer (Kranzer) at St. Joseph Church on 1 November 1865.⁵ Together, Herman and Mary had nine children:⁶

1. William F., born on 15 November 1866
2. John Thomas, born on 26 October 1869
3. Boniface F., born on 1 August 1871
4. Agnes, born on 19 July 1874
5. Maria, born on 8 July 1876
6. Benedict, born on 3 April 1880
7. John W., born on 6 November 1881
8. Mary "Mamie," born on 17 September 1884
9. Annie, born on 24 April 1887

On the 1870 federal census, Herman "Viehann" [sic] was enumerated with his wife, Mary, their three-year-old son, William, and their son, John, who was nine months old. In addition, his fifty-six-year-old mother, Elizabeth (Bartholomea), was residing with them. Herman was a carpenter whose personal estate was valued at \$500.⁷ Based on his brother Friedrich's later account, Herman had learned the carpentry profession sometime in the 1860s.⁸

In 1866, Herman's brother, Friedrich Boniface, took vows to become a Benedictine monk and was ordained a priest in 1869. (See

German Immigrant Leaves a Family Legacy: Herman Verheyen

the article in *StLGS Quarterly*, vol. 57, issue 1, about Fr. Boniface). On 6 August 1871, Fr. Boniface Verheyen, O.S.B., baptized Herman and Mary's third son, Boniface Friedrich, who had been born five days earlier. In the baptismal record, Fr. Boniface wrote his brother's full name as "Herman Thomas Verheyen," and in subsequent records, Herman was sometimes listed as "Thomas." The sponsors for young Boniface's baptism were Louisa Gamers, Herman's half-sister, and J. H. Moore.⁹

By 1872, Herman was a foreman working at St. Louis Planing Mills, sometimes known under the proprietor's name Lesley, Garnett & Co., a maker of Sash, Doors and Blinds located at Seventh and Mullanphy Streets¹⁰ where he worked for twenty-seven years.¹¹

During the early-to-mid-1870s, Herman and his family lived at 1514 and 1517 North Seventh Street as listed in *Gould's City Directories*.¹² In 1879 and 1880, he is shown living at 1520 and 1518 East Twentieth Street,¹³ then, in the early 1880s, at 1516 Cass Avenue.¹⁴ In approximately 1884, he and his family moved to 5229 Conde where he resided until 1906¹⁵ when he became the O'Fallon park keeper and lived in the cottage on the premises.¹⁶ The

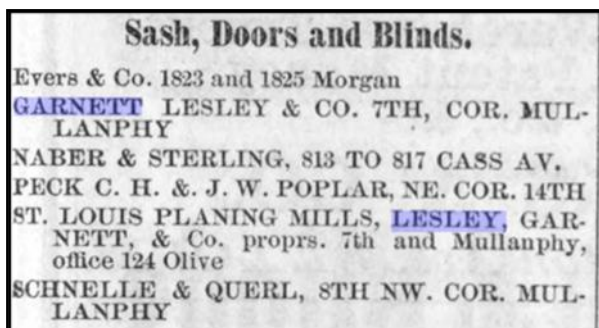


Herman Verheyen

change of residence on the north side was also reflected in a change of parish. Until 1880, all the children had been baptized at St. Joseph Catholic Church at Eleventh and Biddle. Their son, Benedict, was baptized at St. Liborius at 1825 North Eighteenth Street in April 1880, although the following year John was baptized in November at St. Joseph. After the family moved to Conde Street, their daughter, Mary, was christened in September 1884 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Twentieth and Linton Streets, as was her sister, Anna, three years later in April 1887.¹⁷

Herman became a naturalized citizen in St. Louis City on 2 October 1876.¹⁸ He evidently was a respected Democrat on the north side of St. Louis because in 1905, he was called upon to chair a meeting of Democratic candidates and leaders to discuss the issues of the upcoming election.¹⁹ He eventually joined the Jefferson Club, an organization that promoted Democratic candidates and issues.²⁰

In mid-February 1887, Herman's mother, (Elizabeth) Bartholomea Gamers, died.²¹ She had been living with Herman and his family since the death of her second husband, Joa-



Listing from Gould & Aldrich's Annual Directory of the City of St. Louis for 1872, p. 935, entry for "Lesley, Garnett & Co.; St. Louis Mercantile Library, digital image; <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/umsl/islandora/object/umsl%3A10601#page/944/mode/2up>; accessed 11 February 2024.

German Immigrant Leaves a Family Legacy: Herman Verheyen

chim, in 1865. Two months after his mother's death, Herman and Mary's youngest child, Annie, was born. This must have been an emotionally and economically difficult time for Herman. Over the last decade, he and his wife had lost three children. As a result, with limited finances and his siblings in similar straits, his mother was buried without a gravestone in the pauper's section (section 1) of Calvary Cemetery. Interestingly, in the burial records, she is mistakenly listed as "Bartholomew," a male.²²

In the 1900 *St. Louis Tax Directory*, Herman's residence on Conde Street was valued at \$3,000 and his personal estate at \$80.²³ On the federal census that year, Herman was recorded as a night foreman ("foreman, p.m."), and it was noted that he owned his own home free of a mortgage. He and his wife had been married for thirty-five years and had nine children, only six of whom were still living.²⁴

Sometime between 1900 and 1903, Herman retired from his job at St. Louis Manufacturing Company at Tenth and Mullanphy Streets where he had served as superintendent for seventeen years. He and William Hader then founded Hader & Verheyen, a lumber company, at 211 North Market Street²⁵ from where he again retired after three years. It was apparently a short-lived enterprise, according to his obituary.²⁶

As reported in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1905, their children surprised Herman and Mary with a party for their fortieth wedding anniversary. Their grandchildren presented the couple with forty American Beauty roses, forty pink carnations, and forty white chrysanthemums. Their son, John, gave a toast, and the evening was spent with food, music, singing, and dancing. The article also mentions that Mr. Verheyen was fondly called "Uncle Tom" by the children of the neighborhood.²⁷

After his partnership venture in the lumber business ended, Herman worked for the mayor of St. Louis, Rolla Wells, for a year be-

fore being appointed as the park keeper at O'Fallon Park in 1906 where he resided with his wife and two youngest daughters, Mary and Annie.²⁸ While he was employed as the park keeper, his daughter Mary, sometimes called May or Mamie, married Henry Kissel on 9 June 1908 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.²⁹ Originally from Belleville, Illinois, the groom, who was the son of John Kissel and Victoria Damsky,³⁰ was living at 2715 Thomas Street in St. Louis at the time he wed Mary.³¹ The wedding was officiated by her uncle, Fr. Boniface Verheyen O.S.B., now the prior of St. Benedict Abbey in Atchison, Kansas. After the ceremony, Herman had an open-air breakfast at O'Fallon Park for the seventy-five guests. According to the *Post-Dispatch*, this outside function was the first of its kind in a St. Louis park.³²

Herman's Death

After working most of his life, Herman died on 17 January 1909. According to his obituary, he had suffered from kidney disease for a long time. Sensing his end was near the month before, he had asked some of his closest friends to be his pallbearers. Three weeks before his death, he slipped into a coma.³³ His well-attended funeral attested to the wide esteem in which he was held and was an indication of his deep involvement in the activities of his parish and the greater Catholic community in St. Louis. His funeral mass was attended by several priests, including his brother, the Rev. Boniface Verheyen, O.S.B., who officiated and performed the burial rites.

Herman's obituary in the German St. Louis Catholic newspaper, *Amerika*, noted that he was one of the co-founders of Mary Succor parish (later known as Our Lady of Perpetual Help) and of the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was an honorary member of the Church Council, the St. Vincent's Orphans Association, the St. Joseph's Benevolent Association, and a member of the Jefferson Club.

German Immigrant Leaves a Family Legacy: Herman Verheyen



Herman's tombstone at Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis. Photo by the author and used with permission.

He was buried in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis.³⁴ His wife and six children survived him. According to his will, Herman left the entirety of his real estate and personal property to his wife, Mary; twenty-five dollars to the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Mary of Perpetual Help; and twenty-five dollars for masses for the repose of his soul. His wife and his eldest son, William, were named as executors.³⁵

This young immigrant, who endured many hardships after arriving in St. Louis in 1849, grew to be well-regarded by his family and community. Herman was someone who, from an early age, assumed adult responsibilities. He provided for his stepfather and his twice-widowed mother. While Herman was not the only one who found himself thrust into early responsibilities, these experiences fostered his leadership skills and enabled him to advance in management positions at work, in the St. Louis Catholic community, and in his neighborhood political arena.

End Notes

(NOTE: All URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. "Catholic Church, Shrine of St. Joseph (St. Louis, Missouri), Church records, 1843–1979," digital images, *FamilySearch* ([https://](https://familysearch.org)

familysearch.org), marriage, Joachim Gams [sic] and Bartholomea Sadelar, 1 October 1850, FHL film 1870935, image 68 of 982.

2. "Catholic Church, Shrine of St. Joseph (St. Louis, Missouri), Church records, 1843–1979," digital images, *FamilySearch*, first communion and confirmation records, Herman Verheyen, 1853, FHL film 1870934, image 641 of 778, line 9.

3. St. Louis Genealogical Society, *1860 Census, St. Louis and St. Louis County, Missouri, Index to 1860 Federal Census: Volume I: A–E* (St. Louis, Missouri: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 1984), Joachim and Bartholomea Gamers family, 513.

4. "U.S. Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863–1865," digital images, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com>), Herman Verhein [sic], 1 July 1863, line 19; citing *Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registrations, 1863–1865*, Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War), National Archives, Washington, D.C.

5. "Church Records, 1854–1869," Shrine of St. Joseph, St. Louis, Missouri; digital images, *FamilySearch*, marriages, Hermann Verheier [sic] and Maria Crancer, 1 November 1865, FHL film 1870935, item 2, image 169 of 981.

6. "Catholic Church, Shrine of St. Joseph (St. Louis, Missouri), Church records, 1843–1979," digital images, *FamilySearch*, baptisms (1862–1873), FHL film 1870934, Fredrick Wilhelm Verheier, 18 November 1866, image 90 of 793, no. 219; also John Thomas Verheier, 31 October 1869, image 134 of 793, no. 280; also Boniface Fredrick Verheyen, 7 August 1871, image 160 of 793, no. 189; also Agnes Verheyen, 24 July 1874, image 227 of 793, no. 182; also Maria Verheier, 9 July 1876, image 258 of 793, no. 155; also John William Verheyen, 13 November 1881, image 335 of 793, no. 271; also "Catholic Church, St. Liborius (St. Louis, Missouri), Church Records, 1873–1992," *FamilySearch*, FHL film 1871138, baptisms (1874–1881), Benedict Aloysius Verheyen, 11 April 1880, image 125 of 867, no. 45; also "Catholic Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help (St. Louis, Missouri), Church Records, 1873–1992," *FamilySearch*, FHL film 1870546, baptisms (1874–1881), Maria Albertina Verheyen, 21 September 1884, image 303 of 807, no. 1; also Anna Cecilia Verheyen, 24 April 1887, image 319 of 807, no. 8.

7. 1870 U.S. census, St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis Post

German Immigrant Leaves a Family Legacy: Herman Verheyen

Office, 10th ward, p. 398 (handwritten), dwelling 2380, family 3464, Herman Viehann [sic] household; digital image, *FamilySearch*; citing National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm publication M593, roll 820.

8. "Father Boniface Verheyen, O.S.B.: Jubilarian at St. Benedict's College," *The Atchison [Kansas] Daily Globe*, 26 August 1919, p. 5, cols 3–5; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://newspapers.com>).

9. "Catholic Church, Shrine of St. Joseph (St. Louis, Missouri), Church records, 1843–1979"; digital image, *FamilySearch*, FHL film 1870934, baptisms (1862–1873), Boniface Fredrick Verheyen, 6 August 1871.

10. *Gould & Aldrich's Annual Directory of the City of St. Louis for 1872*, p. 765, "Verheir [sic], Thomas, foreman, Lesley, Garnett & Co."; digital image, *UMSL Digital Library*, St. Louis Mercantile Library, Missouri, (<https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/umsl/islandora/object/umsl%3A10601#page/774/mode/2up>), image 775 of 1008.

11. "Onkel Tom zur Ruhe bestattet," *Amerika [St. Louis, Missouri]*, 21 January 1909, p. 5, cols. 3–4; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

12. *Gould & Aldrich's Annual Directory of the City of St. Louis for 1872*, image 774.

13. *Gould & Aldrich's Annual Directory of the City of St. Louis for 1879*, p. 985, "Verheyen, Herman, carp. r. 1520 E. 20th"; digital image, *UMSL Digital Library*, St. Louis Mercantile Library, Missouri, (<https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/umsl/islandora/object/umsl%3A18199#page/972/mode/2up>), image 973.

14. *Gould & Aldrich's Annual Directory of the City of St. Louis for 1881*, p. 1134, entry for "Verheyen, Herman, foreman, r. 1516 Cass av."; digital image, *UMSL Digital Library*, St. Louis Mercantile Library, Missouri, (<https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/umsl/islandora/object/umsl%3A20878#page/1122/mode/2up>), image 1122.

15. *Gould's St. Louis Directory for 1885. (For the Year Ending April 1st, 1886.)*, p. 1181, "Verheyen [sic], Herman, foreman, r. 5229 Conde"; digital image, *UMSL Digital Library*, St. Louis Mercantile Library, Missouri, (<https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/umsl/islandora/object/umsl%3A31248#page/1168/mode/2up>), image 1168.

16. "Forman Is Acting Mayor," *St. Louis [Missouri] Globe-Democrat*, 22 February 1906, p. 7, col. 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

17. "Our Lady of Perpetual Help, baptisms 1877–1881," *FamilySearch*, FHL film 1870546, Maria Albertina, 21 September 1884; Anna Cecilia, 1 May 1887.

18. Naturalization Cards, St. Louis City Circuit Court–Criminal Court–CCCC, 1839–1896, St. Louis, Missouri, Herman Verheyen, C 25807, vol. 05, p. 529.

19. "Big Good–Government Meeting in North St. Louis," *The St. Louis [Missouri] Republic*, 1 April 1905, p. 2, col. 5; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

20. "Onkel Tom zur Ruhe bestattet," *Amerika*, 21 January 1909.

21. "Yesterday's Burial Permits," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 16 February 1887, p. 12, col. 1, St. Louis County Library microfilm.

22. *Catholic Cemeteries*, Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri (<https://awaittheblessedhope.org/>), Burial Search, Bartholomew Gamers, burial date 17 February 1887, Calvary Cemetery.

23. *St. Louis Taxpayer Directory 1900*, p. 388, Herman Verheyen; digital image, *UMSL Digital Library*, St. Louis Mercantile Library, Missouri, (<https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/umsl/islandora/object/umsl%3A9913#page/402/mode/2up>), image 402 of 462.

24. 1900 U.S. census, St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, population schedule, 1st ward, ED 8, p. 12 (handwritten), dwelling 166, family 205, lines 8–12 Herman Verheyen; digital image, *Ancestry*; citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 889.

25. *Gould's St. Louis Directory for 1903 (For the Year Ending April 1st 1904)*, p. 1930, entry for "Verheyen Herman, (Hader & Verheyen) 211 North Market, r. 5229 Conde"; digital image, *UMSL Digital Library*, St. Louis Mercantile Library, Missouri, (<https://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll7/id/79971/rec/2>), image 1934 of 2710.

26. "Onkel Tom zur Ruhe bestattet," *Amerika*, 21 January 1909.

27. "In Society—Verheyen [sic] Anniversary," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 2 November 1905, p. 18, col. 4; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

German Immigrant Leaves a Family Legacy: Herman Verheyen

28. "Forman Is Acting Mayor," *St. Louis-Globe Democrat*, 22 February 1906.

29. "Have Wedding Feast in Park," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 9 June 1908, p. 1, col. 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

30. "Catholic Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help (St. Louis, Missouri), Church Records, 1873-1992," marriage, Maria Verheyen and Henricus Kissel, 9 June 1908; digital image, *FamilySearch*, image 19 of 618; citing FHL film 1870547.

31. "Marriage Licenses," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 6 June 1908, p. 3, col. 5; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

32. "Have Wedding Feast in Park," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 9 June 1908.

33. "Onkel Tom zur Ruhe bestattet," *Amerika*, 21 January 1909.

34. "Deaths—Verheyen," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 19 January 1909, p. 14, col. 1; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

35. "Testamente," *Amerika*, 26 January 1909, p. 3, col. 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

About the Author

Joe A. Armour holds an M.A. in history from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and an M.B.A. from Lindenwood University. After a six-year teaching career, he began working for UniGroup, Inc., the parent company of United Van Lines and Mayflower Transit, where he held various management positions in his thirty-three year career. During these years, he continued researching his family history and expanding his genealogical knowledge by attending the St. Louis Genealogical Society's meetings and workshops. When he retired in 2009, he devoted more time to his passion and was able to begin writing the results of his findings. His interest in genealogy began as a youth listening to family stories from his parents and grandparents and seeing the places they described.

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Chronicling America: A Searchable Digital Collection of Historical Newspapers

By Jane Theissen

What could be better than a first-hand account of an event that affected the life of your ancestor? Or reading an eyewitness account from someone who was with Rosa Parks on that bus? Readers can do that and more through the updated and freely accessible *Chronicling America* website. Recent changes have transformed *Chronicling America* into a powerful digital resource that genealogists and historians alike will find immensely valuable. A partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress, the endeavor to create a list of historic newspapers and digitize as many as possible has been ongoing. Although the original site is still available, the project recently transitioned to a new website: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/about-this-collection/>

The new main page for *Chronicling America* now presents an introduction to the project and includes the front pages of a few newspapers from “100 years ago today” with links to several more. Stop here and take a few minutes to read through the information provided about the collection itself and how to successfully navigate it. Explore the other links on this page that allow the reader to keep abreast of changes to the site and to discover additional newspaper resources.

One way to get started is by clicking on the “Collection Items” tab (see below) to access the search screen. From here the user can customize the search by newspaper title, full text (or not), keywords, state, city, ethnicity, and date range or any combination. Over 22 million newspaper pages are available.¹ For ex-

The screenshot displays the Chronicling America website interface. At the top, the Library of Congress logo is visible on the left, and a search bar with a dropdown menu labeled 'This Collection' is on the right. Below the header, a banner features the 'Chronicling America' title and logos for the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities. A navigation bar includes links for 'About this Collection', 'Collection Items' (which is circled in red), and 'All Digitized Titles'. The 'Advanced Search' section is prominent, featuring radio buttons for 'All', 'Titles', 'Issues', and 'Pages (Full Text)'. A text input field for 'All of these words:' is followed by a 'keyword(s)' placeholder. Below this, there is an 'Add Field' button and several dropdown menus for 'State/Province (Geographic Coverage)', 'County', 'City', and 'Title'. An 'Ethnicity' dropdown menu is also present. At the bottom of the search section, there are 'Start Date' and 'End Date' input fields with calendar icons. A 'Clear' button and a 'Search' button are located at the bottom right of the search area.

Chronicling America, “Collection Items,” <https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/>

Chronicling America: A Searchable Digital Collection of Historical Newspapers

ample, a search for newspapers in Beaufort County, South Carolina, resulted in access to the full text of eight historic papers published between 1866 and 1879.

Next, select the tab labelled “All Digitized Titles” (see below) and find an alphabetical list of all newspapers included in the digital project with details on the state of origin, the date range covered, and other information, along with a link to browse the digitized issues. From here, the list is easily filtered by state, ethnicity, and language using the dropdown boxes near the top.

Research Guides

Another avenue for exploring this impressive resource is “Topics in Chronicling America Research Guides” (<https://guides.loc.gov/chronicling-america-topics>). Here users can browse an alphabetical list of topics. Once a topic is selected, these research guides include an introduction to the subject matter, a time-

line of related events, and links to preselected full-text newspaper articles on the subject. Options for browsing make it easy to find items of interest and include:

- Guides in Alphabetical Order
- Guides by Date Range
- Guides by Monthly Observances and Celebrations
- Guides by Subject
- Guides by Themes in History
- Guides by War or Conflict
- Additional External Guides

Here are just a few of the Research Guides provided:

- **Emancipation Proclamation: Topics in *Chronicling America***
In 1863, more than 3.5 million enslaved African Americans in the Confederate states were declared free. This guide provides access to material related to

The screenshot shows the 'All Digitized Titles' page on the Chronicling America website. The header includes the 'Chronicling America' logo and the National Endowment for the Humanities logo. Below the header are navigation tabs: 'About this Collection', 'Collection Items', and 'All Digitized Titles' (which is circled in red). The main heading is 'All Digitized Titles'. Below this is a link 'View all Titles on a Map »' and a 'Download' button set to 'CSV (all titles)' with a 'Go' button. A filter section allows users to filter by 'Select States', 'Select Ethnicities', and 'Select Languages', with 'Clear Filters' and 'Apply Filters' buttons. Below the filters, it says 'Results: 1-25 of 4,139'. A table lists newspaper titles with columns for 'Newspapers', 'State', 'Browse Digitized Issues', 'Number of Issues', 'First Issue', 'Last Issue', 'Essay Available', 'Languages', and 'Ethnicity'.

Newspapers	State	Browse Digitized Issues	Number of Issues	First Issue	Last Issue	Essay Available	Languages	Ethnicity
The Abbeville Banner (Abbeville, S.C.) 1847-1869	South Carolina		254	1847-03-03	1869-09-29		English	
The Abbeville Bulletin (Abbeville, S.C.) 1865-1865	South Carolina		4	1865-08-10	1865-08-31		English	

Chronicling America, “All Digitized Titles,” <https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/dynamic-list-of-titles/>

Chronicling America: A Searchable Digital Collection of Historical Newspapers

"Emancipation Proclamation" in the *Chronicling America* digital collection of historic newspapers.

- **Sinking of the Titanic: Topics in *Chronicling America***

On 15 April 1912, more than 1,300 people died in one of the worst maritime disasters in history. This guide provides information on researching the topic of the "Sinking of the Titanic" in the *Chronicling America* digital collection of historic newspapers.

- **World War I Planes: Topics in *Chronicling America***

In the early 20th century, planes were introduced and later developed as war machines for World War One. This guide provides access to material related to "WWI Planes" in the *Chronicling America* digital collection of historic newspapers.

Print Newspapers

Have you ever been exploring a historical event and wondered if there was a local newspaper that covered the event at that time?

The "Directory of U.S. Newspapers in American Libraries" (<https://www.loc.gov/collections/directory-of-us-newspapers-in-american-libraries/>) is the place to find the answer to your question. This part of the *Chronicling America* project is a directory which presents a list of newspapers published in the United States, the dates they were issued, and, on another tab, the libraries that hold printed copies of that title.

Access the *Directory* by clicking on the link on the left side of the screen. (See next column.) It takes a few clicks to get to the search screen. The first landing page provides an introduction to the collection. The next click presents the user with "A Guide for Researchers," including Search Tips and FAQs. A link to the search page for the *Directory* is located just below the middle of the screen.

Although digital images of these papers are usually not included, this is a great place to discover whether a newspaper exists for the date and location you are researching.



Clicking on the title will offer additional details about the paper and where the print version can be accessed.

More than 150,000 newspaper titles make up this collection, in languages from German to Chinese to Cherokee and just about any other language you can think of, in addition to English. Although the great majority are from the United States, other countries are represented as well, including eleven papers from France, two from Germany, and one from Great Britain. One caution: Numerous newspapers that are from the United States are listed under "United States" with various forms of misspelling. Those will not be returned in a search for "United States" unless the search term is similarly misspelled. You will have to search for those separately.

Chronicling America: A Searchable Digital Collection of Historical Newspapers

Library of Congress » Digital Collections » Directory of U.S. Newspapers in American Libraries

COLLECTION
Directory of U.S. Newspapers in American Libraries

About this Collection Collection Items

+ Advanced Search

Results: 1-50 of 157,611 | Refined by: Part of: Directory of U.S. Newspapers in A... ✕

Refine your results

Title	+
Date	+
Country	+
State/Province (Geographic Coverage)	+
County	+
City	+
Ethnicity	+
Language	+

Collection Items

View **Brief**

NEWSPAPER	The Christian Herald (Portsmouth, N.H.) 1818-1835
NEWSPAPER	Los Angeles Times (Los Angeles, Calif.) 1886-Current [Microfilm Reel]
NEWSPAPER	Genesee Messenger (Canandaigua, N.Y.) 1806-1810
NEWSPAPER	Daily Cleveland Herald (Cleveland, Ohio) 1835-1837
NEWSPAPER	Daily Herald and Gazette (Cleveland [Ohio]) 1837-1839
NEWSPAPER	Freeman's Journal ([Cincinnati, Ohio]) 1796-1800

Chronicling America, "Directory of U.S. Newspapers in American Libraries >> Collection Items," <https://www.loc.gov/collections/directory-of-us-newspapers-in-american-libraries/?searchType=advanced/> (sorted in shelf order)

Go Explore

These are just a few of the countless avenues to explore in *Chronicling America's* updated interface. I encourage you to take the new digital *Chronicling America* for a test drive. I am sure you will find something interesting and enlightening among its treasures—

and hopefully learn something new about your ancestors!

End Note

(NOTE: URL checked prior to publication.)

1. Library of Congress, *Chronicling America*, (<https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/>), Display Level >> Pages (Full Text)

More Mystery Photos: Peter Julius Holderle and Family?

By Shirley Wadell

The St. Louis Genealogical Society (StLGS) received a letter from James A. Black Jr. with copies of seven photographs enclosed. Mr. Black indicated that he had the original photographs of these people, who were friends of his grandparents, Lattie Cleveland Black and Pearl (Dillingham) Black. The Blacks had lived in St. Louis, Missouri, between 1912 and 1918. He did not know the names of these friends but was interested in finding family members who might like to have the photographs, so here's where we need your help.

These images have been taken at different times. One image is of a man wearing a buttoned-down long-sleeved white coat and a white bow tie. The second photograph is of a gentleman, possibly the same man, wearing a straw hat and dress clothes and leaning on an umbrella. A third picture is of a young boy, about six years old, standing next to a woman who is seated in a chair. Another image shows a man and a woman, likely the same people as in the previous pictures. All four of these im-

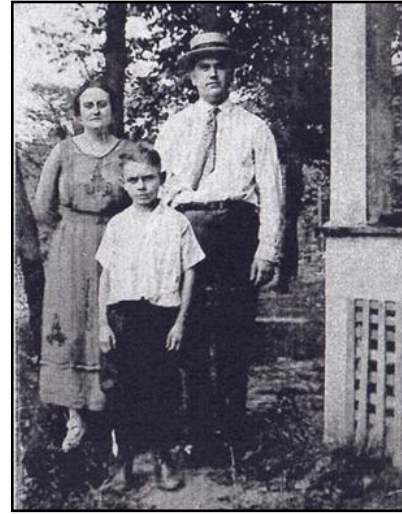
ages (see below) are professional shots taken at Raphael Studio, located at 4117 Manchester Avenue in St. Louis, a notation embossed on the back of some of the pictures.

The last three photographs appear to have been taken outdoors. One is of a woman sitting with a baby on her lap. Another is of a young man whose tie has been caught in the breeze. The final image is of the man, the woman, and a boy who is perhaps nine years old, standing outside near a porch.

With little information about these people, I wrote to Mr. Black to request anything else he might be able to tell me about them. In his



More Mystery Photos: *Peter Julius Holderle and Family?*



reply, he noted that his father remembered the family might have had a surname of Holden or Holder, but he was not sure, and that the father in the images might have been a barber. Mr. Black shared that his grandfather, Lattie Black, had gone to that barber shop, and that may have been where Lattie and this gentleman met.

Hoping to Find the Family: The Search Begins!

Holden and Holder are both common surnames, so entering those names with a St. Louis, Missouri location did not return any useful results on *Ancestry*. Next, I checked the 1913–1918 city directories for St. Louis, looking for James's grandfather, Lattie Cleveland Black, and then looked for surnames starting with Hold. Scanning the pages of the 1913 city directory¹ did not help narrow things down. Remembering that this man might have been a barber, I looked through the list again for anyone with the occupation of barber and found Peter Holderle living at 2220 South Third. Since no other person in this group was listed as a barber, I continued to research Peter Holderle.

Peter J. Holderle completed his World War I draft registration on 12 September 1918. On it,

he reported that he was forty-two years old, was born on 15 July 1876, and was living at 2626 South Ninth Street in St. Louis. At that time, he was employed by the Quartermaster Depot, located at second and Arsenal. His wife was listed as Christina, living at the same residence. Peter was described as being of medium height, stout, with brown eyes and black hair.²

Further research located the Holderle family on several U.S. census records. In 1920, Peter J. Holderle, age forty-two, was listed as a barber. He was living with his wife, Christina, age forty-six, and their six children: Frederick K., age twenty; Charles C., age nineteen; Susie C., age sixteen; Louisa J., age thirteen; Peter J. Jr., age eleven; and Eugene J., age eight. The family resided at 2626a South Ninth Street in St. Louis, renting a two-family flat.³

On the 1930 U.S. census, Peter Holderle was fifty-two years old, living with his wife, Christine, age fifty-six, and three of their grown children. Louise was twenty-three, Peter was twenty-one, and Eugene was eighteen. Next door lived his oldest son, Fred, who was thirty-one years old; Fred's wife, Irma, twenty-eight; and their two children, Norman, age eight, and Raymond, age five. The families rented both residences in the two-family flat at 2626 South Ninth Street in St. Louis.⁴

More Mystery Photos: Peter Julius Holderle and Family?

At the time of the 1940 U.S. federal census, Peter was enumerated in a household with his wife, Christina, and his daughter, Louisa. His occupation was a watchman at a shoe company, and he was sixty-two years old. His wife was sixty-eight, and his daughter was thirty-three. Peter provided this information to the enumerator. The family was renting a flat at 2910 Eighteenth Street in St. Louis for \$15 a month.⁵

Peter's World War II draft registration, dated 25 April 1942, records his age as sixty-four years and his birth date as 15 July 1877 in St. Louis. Peter was living at 2910 South 18th Street and was employed by the John E. Mitchell Company, located at the intersection of Sixth and Poplar. His wife was listed as Christene [*sic*] Holderle. A physical description of Peter showed that he was five foot nine inches tall, weighed one hundred and eighty-five pounds, and had brown eyes, black hair, and a dark complexion.⁶

Peter's wife, Christina (Perrot) Holderle, died on 4 October 1949 in St. Louis.⁷ She was seventy-eight years old and the mother of six surviving grown children. She was interred at Resurrection Cemetery in St. Louis.

At the age of thirteen, Christina had emigrated with her father, Antoine Perrot, and five of her siblings from Alsace, France, to New York, arriving on 23 October 1884. They traveled aboard the *Canada*.⁸

Christina's death certificate documents that she was born in France on 5 May 1871. The cause of her death was cancer of the gall bladder. Her parents were listed as Antoine and Josephine Perrot, and the informant on the document was her husband, Peter Holderle Sr. Their residence was still 2910 South 18th Street.⁹

By the time of the 1950 U.S. federal census, Peter was a widower and living alone at

the same house on 18th Street. At seventy-two years of age, he was unable to work.¹⁰ Peter died on 7 May 1957 at age eighty of apoplexy (stroke).¹¹ His obituary indicated that he lived at 3856 Botanical at the time of his death and had been a retired watchman. His relatives were listed as Christina (Perrot) Holderle, his late wife; Fred Holderle, Charles Holderle, Sue Cuddy, Louise Friedrich, Eugene Holderle, and the late Peter J. Holderle Jr., his children; and Susan Crousley and Carrie Kraus, his sisters. Like his wife, he was interred at Resurrection Cemetery.¹²

Peter's death certificate recorded his birth date as 15 July 1876 in Missouri, and his parents were Peter Holderle and Emma Muelberg. His son, Charles, was the informant.

If you can identify and/or are interested in obtaining the original photographs of this family, please contact Ilene Murray, publications director of the St. Louis Genealogical Society, at publications@stlgs.org or call the office at 314-647-8547.

End Notes

(NOTE: URLs checked prior to publication.)

1. "Gould's St. Louis City Directory for 1913" (St. Louis: Gould Directory Co., 1913), 1042, "Peter Holderle"; digital image, "U.S. City Directories, 1882-1995," *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com>), image 520 of 1463.

2. "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," digital image, *Ancestry*, Peter J. Holderle, serial no. 2057, Draft Board 9, St. Louis City, Missouri; citing *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*, NARA microfilm publication M1509; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

3. 1920 U.S. Census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, ward 9, enumeration district (ED) 171, p. 12B (handwritten), dwelling 176, family 300, Peter J. Holderle; digital image, *Ancestry*; cit-

More Mystery Photos: Peter Julius Holderle and Family?

ing National Archives microfilm publication T625, roll 951.

4. 1930 U.S. Census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, ward 9, enumeration district (ED) 96-407, p. 5B (handwritten), dwelling 74, family 113, Peter J. Holderle; digital image, *Ancestry.com*; citing FHL microfilm 2340967.

5. 1940 U.S. Census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, ward 9, block 56, enumeration district (ED) 96-204, p. 5B (handwritten), visited number 162, Peter J. Holderle; digital image, *Ancestry*; citing NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 2189.

6. "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," digital images, *Ancestry*, Peter Julius Holderle, serial no. 806, Selective Service Board 9, St. Louis, Missouri; citing *World War II Draft Cards (Fourth Registration) for the State of Missouri*, Record Group no. 147, roll 923; National Archives and Records Administration, St. Louis, Missouri.

7. "Death Notices," *St. Louis [Missouri] Star and Times*, 5 October 1949, p. 26, col. 6, Christina Holderle; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

8. "New York U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," *Ancestry*, manifest, S.S. Canada, 23 October 1884, image 9, np, line 414, Christine Perrot, age 13; citing NARA, Washington D.C.: Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897, microfilm M237, no roll number cited.

9. Missouri Division of Health, Standard Certificate of Death, no. 31845, Christina Holderle, 4 October 1949; Missouri Office of Secretary of State, Jefferson City; digital image "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1972," digital image, *Missouri Digital Heritage* (https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1949/1949_00031839.PDF).

10. 1950 U.S. Census, St. Louis, Missouri, population and housing schedule, enumeration district (ED) 96-649, p. 4 (handwritten), visited no. 35, Peter J. Holderle; digital image, *Ancestry*; citing NARA microfilm publication T628, roll 1014.

11. Missouri Secretary of State, "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1972," digital image, *Missouri State Archives* (<https://www.sos.mo.gov/>

[images/archives/deathcerts/1957/1957_00018824.PDF](https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1957/1957_00018824.PDF)), Peter Holderle, 7 May 1957, certificate no. 18824.

12. "Obituaries," *St. Louis [Missouri] Globe-Democrat*, 10 May 1957, p. 15, col. 1, Peter J. Holderle Sr.; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

13. Missouri Secretary of State, "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1972," Peter Holderle, 7 May 1957.

About the Author

Shirley Wadell began researching her family history in 1989 and has been a member of StLGS and other genealogical societies for several years. She takes a special interest in photography and documenting graveyards. She has written numerous articles for the *StLGS Quarterly* with an emphasis on reconnecting lost photos and heirlooms with their families.



Please Note: The St. Louis Genealogical Society does not actively solicit old photographs or other family heirlooms. If you come across articles of this type, please attempt to locate the family on your own. As a volunteer organization, we have no one who can be in charge of these items. If, however, you have tried to locate the appropriate family members and cannot, we welcome the donations, knowing they will be safe with us and hoping they will find their rightful homes.



St. Louis Genealogical Society

2025 General Meetings & Special Events

**Remaining meetings for this year—
We hope you can join us either in-person or via Zoom!**

Sat., 13 September 10:00 a.m. *What Did They Die From?* Ilene Murray

Hybrid meeting: in person at the Clark Family branch, St. Louis County Library

Most of us have used death records of one kind or another, but sometimes what we see on them is baffling. Vague causes of death were labels for what we now know are serious medical conditions. Join us as we explore some of the illnesses our ancestors suffered and how the “cures” may have made bad situations worse!

Sat., 27 September All day *Exploring AI for Genealogy: A Hands-On Experience?* Jim Ross

In person only at the StLGS office

Discover how artificial intelligence can transform your genealogy research in this interactive, hands-on workshop. You'll learn the basics of using ChatGPT and other AI tools to enhance your research, interpret records, and share your findings through written stories, summaries, and visual aids. With guided instruction and dedicated practice time, you'll build practical AI skills you can apply to your family history projects right away. Registration now open on the StLGS website, <https://stlgs.org>.

Sat., 11 October 10:00 a.m. *Genealogy Resources at St. Louis Public Library* Preston Petermeier

Hybrid meeting: in person at the Clark Family branch, St. Louis County Library

Join Preston Petermeier, genealogy librarian at St. Louis Public Library (SLPL), as he gives an in-depth overview of the genealogical resources available at the downtown branch. Some of these records are unique and cannot be found anywhere else—making them incredibly valuable for researchers. In addition, Preston will also share how to utilize SLPL's award-winning obituary index, which includes more than a million entries!

Sat., 8 November 10:00 a.m. *The Cholera Epidemic in St. Louis and the Effects it Had on Immigrants* Lauren Rhodes

Hybrid meeting: in person at the Clark Family branch, St. Louis County Library

The year 1849 saw a cholera epidemic sweep up the Mississippi River and take the lives of nearly five thousand St. Louisans, one-tenth of the city's population. This presentation will examine the factors that contributed to the epidemic and its impact on the city's immigrant population.



Use your smartphone's camera or scanning app on the QR code to the left to go directly to the StLGS home page.

No meeting in December. Enjoy the holidays as we prepare for 2026!

New Members

The following members joined between 1 April and 30 June 2025.

Welcome!

Lisa Aloisi	Brightwaters, NY	Ann Hymel	Perrysburg, OH
Philip Aschoff	Buffalo Grove, IL	Kellie Johnson	Canton, OH
Joan Aslin	Florissant, MO	Margaret Kenaga	Damascus, OR
Laura Dierberg Ayers	Ballwin, MO	David Kersting	Chesterfield, MO
James Balogh	St. Louis, MO	Thomas Kraft	Lake St Louis, MO
Thomas Barrett	Columbia, IL	Kevin Kruger	St. Louis, MO
Clifford Bischoff	Florissant, MO	David Krygiel	St. Louis, MO
Carol Brickman	Florissant, MO	Brenda Lang	Gardner, KS
Mark Brune	Wentzville, MO	Kevin Langford	Ellisville, MO
Sue Burford	St. Louis, MO	Rachel Lynch	St. Peters, MO
Laurie Burian	O'Fallon, MO	Lisa Matocq	Sacramento, CA
Nancy Butters	Lexington, MA	Kathleen McFarland	Florissant, MO
Theodore Bynum	Vacaville, CA	Katie McGovern	New London, MO
Cynthia Calloway	Eureka, MO	David Meek	Phoenix, AZ
Michele Chapman	St. Louis, MO	Don Meyer	Covington, KY
Jennifer Coile	Hollister, CA	Laurie Miller	St. Louis, MO
Lisa Cole	Kansas City, MO	Julia Miller	St. Louis, MO
Jim Combs	Vancouver, WA	Marsha Mulherin	St. Louis, MO
James C. Cooper	Kirkwood, MO	Jeanine Oberg	Morrison, MO
Michael Copple	St. Louis, MO	Jim Petzel	Wentzville, MO
Dan Creech	St. Louis, MO	Brian Price	Fulton, MO
Pat Casey Daley	Murfreesboro, TN	Karen Rader	Chesterfield, MO
Cheri Dryer	Liberty, MO	Joanne Reed	Jefferson City, MO
Linda Duffield	Orcas, WA	Lynn Reznicek	St. Louis, MO
Amanda Eiting	Hillsboro, MO	Marcia Riley	St. Paul, MN
Mary Judith Estes	Fenton, MO	Katherine Riley	St. Louis, MO
Lynn Field	Holland, MI	Mary Ringwald	Norfolk, VA
Wendy Fischer	Wayzata, MI	Tim Roberts	St. Louis, MO
Joseph Flaig	Fairfax Station, VA	Catherine Rotter	Greenwood Village, CA
Patricia Flood	St. Louis, MO	Mel Rueppel	Salem, OR
Erin Garcia	Austin, TX	John Scott	Tucson, AZ
Carole Goggin	Rolla, MO	Deborah Sellmeyer	St. Peters, MO
Kim Gordon-Moore	Columbia, IL	Lena Seng	Spanish Fork, UT
John Hamilton	Chesterfield, MO	Randal Shasserre	Springfield, IL
Joe Harl	St. Louis, MO	Chelsea Shea	Arnold, MO
Tom Heinze	Roswell, GA	Andrew Trevor Smith	St. Charles, MO
Kathy Henley	Marlborough, NH	Lucinda Stein	Waukee, IA
Michael Higginbotham	Festus, MO	Jennie Sunna	Wesley Chapel, FL
Jonelle Hilleary	Alexandria, VA	William Trelc	Greenville, TX
Brent Hillsman	Schell City, MO	Jill and David VonGruben	Wildwood, MO
Diana Holder	Imperial, MO	Amy Wallerstein	Chesterfield, MO
Judith Holtz-Hall	St. Louis, MO	Rebecca Waters	Des Moines, IA
Regina Huck	Poplar Bluff, MO	Eva Weiss	Granite City, IL
John Hughes	St. Louis, MO	Leanne Wiese	Santa Clara, CA
Mary Hutchinson	O'Fallon, MO	Nicole Winistoerfer	Overland Park, KS

Mission Statement

The St. Louis Genealogical Society promotes family history research by providing educational and research opportunities, offering community services in related fields, and collecting, preserving, and publishing genealogical and historical records.

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