

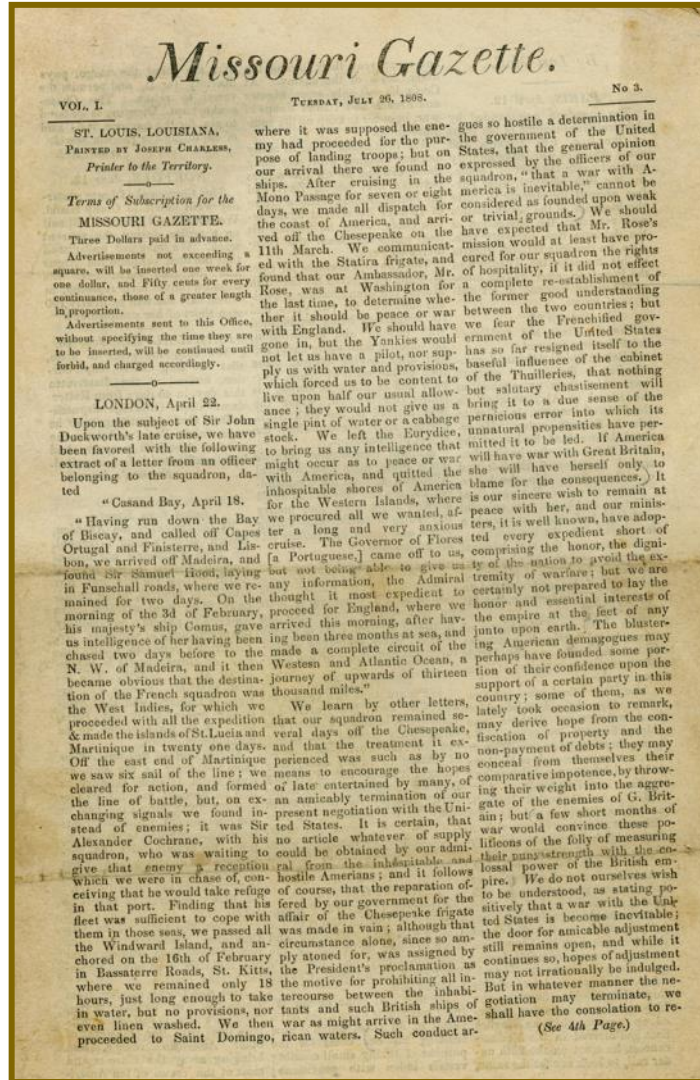


# St. Louis Genealogical Society

# Quarterly

Volume 56, Number 3

Fall 2023



Missouri's first newspaper, The Missouri Gazette, appeared in 1808, and from that time on, newspapers have provided valuable information for researchers of history and genealogy in the state. Read on for much more about accessing Missouri newspapers!

# The St. Louis Genealogical Society

## Office and Mailing Address:

4 Sunnen Drive, Suite 140  
St. Louis, MO 63143-3814  
Telephone: 314-647-8547

## email:

[office@stlgs.org](mailto:office@stlgs.org)

## website:

[www.stlgs.org](http://www.stlgs.org)



Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-noon



## Board of Directors, 2023

President	Karen Goode
Vice President-Programs	Kay Weber
Vice President-Membership	Jim Yochim
Secretary	Cindy Finnegan
Treasurer	Michelle Pearce
At Large	Judy Belford
At Large	Marilyn Brennan
At Large	Diane Broniec
At Large	Bob Cejka
At Large	Kathy Franke
At Large	Bob Goode
At Large	Carol Hemmersmeier
At Large	Laura Balluff Mackinson
At Large	Ilene Murray
At Large	Carol Whitton

## Committee Contacts

Annual Family History Conference	Kay Weber	Publications	Ilene Murray
Ask Louie	Carol Hemmersmeier	Publicity	Laura Balluff Mackinson
Book Sales and Trading Post	Viki Fagyal	<i>Quarterly</i> Editors	Laura Balluff Mackinson
Finance	Mary Lee Chivetta		Jane Theissen
First Families	Diane Broniec	Remote Data Entry Team Leader	Paula Novak
Infosystems	Bob Goode	Social Media	Laura Balluff Mackinson
Librarian	Judy Belford	Technology Director	Bob Cejka
Office Managers	Margie Giblin, Joyce Mercer	Volunteer Coordinator	Marilyn Brennan
Printing	Margie Giblin	Webmasters	Jim Bellenger and Jim Ross

## The St. Louis Genealogical Society *Quarterly* Staff

Editors	Laura Balluff Mackinson, Ilene Murray (this issue), Jane Theissen
Proofreaders	Ann Carter Fleming, CG, FNGS, Tom Hall, Venita Archer Lake, Robert Moody, Ilene Murray, Cliff Saxton
Indexing	Venita Archer Lake, Ann Fleming, Ilene Murray, Jeani Ward
Printing	Margie Giblin

Copyright © 2023 by the St. Louis Genealogical Society ISSN 0036-2056

The *Quarterly* is published by the St. Louis Genealogical Society four times per year. Please send submissions to the St. Louis Genealogical Society *Quarterly* Editor at [quarterly@stlgs.org](mailto:quarterly@stlgs.org).

# St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly

Fall 2023



## ***On the Cover***

From 1808 to the present, newspapers provide a wonderful resource for Missouri family history researchers. Author Tom Hall analyzes the major online newspaper providers in detail with recommendations for which services may help you the most with your Missouri ancestors, as well as those encompassing surrounding states. Article begins on page 72.

## ***Features***

- 70 ***St. Louis City/County Biographies Project***
- 71 ***Emil Oskar Gotsch***  
Article by Cheryl Gross for the  
St. Louis City/County Biographies Project
- 72 ***Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research***  
Article by Tom Hall
- 87 ***Leonard Clifford Smith and the Pumping Station for the State Sanitarium in St. Louis***  
Article by Shirley Wadell
- 89 ***One O'Meara Family's Eighty-Year Contribution to St. Louis Art and Architecture***  
Article by Peter O'Meara Evans
- 98 ***Remembering My Aunt: Aida Lourena Mayham***  
Article by Susan Mowry

## ***Departments***

- 66 Book Reviews
- 69 Feature Articles in Other Publications



***The People of Leith at Home and Abroad, 1600–1799.*** By David Dobson. Baltimore: Clearfield Company, 2022. 169 pages. Softcover. \$31.00.

***The People of Aberdeen at Home and Abroad, 1800–1850.*** By David Dobson. Baltimore: Clearfield Company, 2022. 165 pages. Softcover. \$28.00.

***The People of Fife at Home and Abroad, 1800–1850.*** By David Dobson. Baltimore: Clearfield Company, 2022. 171 pages. Softcover. \$31.00.

***The People of North East Scotland at Home and Abroad, 1800–1850.*** By David Dobson. Baltimore: Clearfield Company, 2022. 167 pages. Softcover. \$28.50.

Four more books by prolific Scottish researcher and author Dr. David Dobson offer the modern researcher abstracts of a multitude of Scottish sources to give us an understanding of the cultural climate of pre-twentieth-century northern Scotland.

Leith, located on the south shore of the Firth of Forth, was a major distribution center for French and Spanish wine from the sixteenth century onward. It was also home to important shipbuilding and a thriving whaling industry. The town became a burgh in 1853 and was fully incorporated into the city of Edinburgh in 1920. Leith was the most important port in Scotland until the rise of transatlantic trade.

*The People of Leith at Home and Abroad* abstracts records from forty-five different sources to focus on the men and women involved in seafaring and trade. For example:

GRANT, PATRICK, born 25 July 1777 in Leith, son of John Grant a merchant, settled in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1802, married Anna Powell in 1807, died 20 November 1812. [BLG.2719] (page 66)

WARDEN, EBENEZER, son of Henry Warden in Leith Mills, was apprenticed to James Ker, a wright in Edinburgh from 1763 until 1769 [ERA]; later, as a journeyman wright, he emigrated from Leith to Port Oxford, Maryland, in 1771. [NRS,JC27,10.3] (page 156)

In the mid-1800s, two separate burghs merged to become Aberdeen, the major city in northeast Scotland and home to shipbuilding, whaling, fishing, woolen mills, and paper-making.

*The People of Aberdeen at Home and Abroad* uses thirty-one sources to link emigrants to North America, the West Indies, and Australia with their families who remained in Scotland. *The Statistical Reports of Scotland* (1791–1799 and 1832–1845) are especially important in understanding the changes in Scottish society that accompanied the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions. Samples from this book:

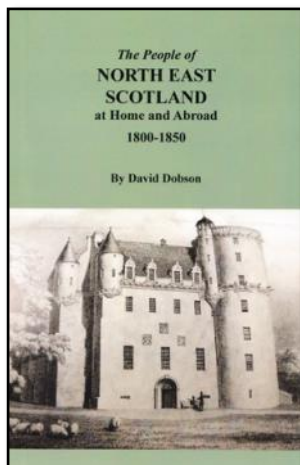
BEGG, JOHN, born 4 April 1825, son of Alexander Begg [1750–1825] and his wife Elspeth Riddle [1757–1845], died in New Orleans, Louisiana on 7 August 1858. [St. Peter's, Spittal, Aberdeen, gravestone] (page 10)

MCCRINDELL, THOMAS, born 1794 in Aberdeen, son of George McCrindell and his wife Margaret Cruickshank, emigrated via

## Book Reviews

London aboard the *Venus* bound for New York on 27 April 1822, a merchant there from 1832 to 1837. [ANY] (page 82)

The County of Fife emerged as a distinct Pictish province during the Dark Ages. By the time of James VI (1567–1625), its economy centered on fishing, coal, and weaving. The Agricultural Revolution saw



the rise of grain exports and distilleries. With the increase in the popularity of golf starting in the late nineteenth century, Fife has emerged as the “Home of Golf.”

For *The People of Fife at Home and Abroad*, Dr. Dobson has brought together local newspapers, tombstone inscriptions, and numerous documents found in Scotland’s National Archives:

LATOU, ROBERT, born 10 July 1799 in Cupar, son of Peter Latou and his wife Janet Henderson, a shipbuilder who emigrated to Montreal in 1816, settled in New York before 1851, died 12 January 1869. [Leuchars gravestone, Fife] [ANY] (page 95)

SAMPSON, GEORGE LESLIE, born 2 April 1798 in Kirkaldy, Fife, son of George Sampson and his wife Euphemia Leslie, emigrated to America in 1816, an iron founder in Richmond, Virginia, later in New York, died at 122 Columbia Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on 2 January 1866. [ANY] (page 139)

*The People of North East Scotland at Home and Abroad* identifies people from the old counties of Nairnshire, Morayshire, Banffshire, Aberdeenshire, and Kincardineshire. The society and economy were predominantly rural and depended on farming, fishing and whaling, forestry, and quarrying. Clans include Ar-

buthnott, Barclay, Brodie, Burnett, Douglas, Dunbar, Farquharson, Forbes, Fraser, Gordon, Grant, Hayes, Innes, Irvine, Keith, Leslie, Ogilvie, Rose, and Skene. The population was largely Presbyterian and Episcopalian.

Information is again drawn from the *Statistical Reports*, along with various publications.

FALCONER, PATRICK, born 1775, son of William Falconer (1720–1793), a farmer at Kinnermony, and his wife Anna Rose (1743–1821), settled in New York in 1794, a merchant at 13 Broadway, N.Y., died in 1837. [Inveravon gravestone] [ANY] [1812] (page 44)

SMITH, GEORGE, born 22 December 1808, son of James Scott, a farmer and his wife Jean Hutcheon in Old Deer, Aberdeenshire, was educated at King’s College, Aberdeen, from 1823 to 1824, a farmer in Terriff, Aberdeenshire, later a land speculator in Chicago, Illinois, in 1833, a banker in Chicago in 1839, and President of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad. [KCA] [ENES.1.253] [MCA] (page 130)

The bracketed code at the end of each entry refers to the source document abstracted but does not fully explain where in that source the information was found. Still, these four *At Home and Abroad* books help readers place their Scottish ancestors in historical context.

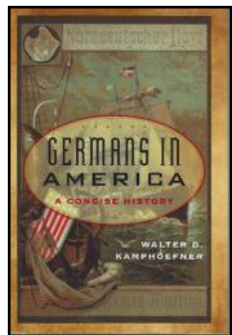
*Reviewed by Judy Belford  
StLGS Librarian*

**G***ermans in America: A Concise History.* By Walter D. Kamphoefner. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2021. 299 pages. List of resources, index. Hardcover.

After a brief introduction, author Walter Kamphoefner takes readers of *Germans in America* on a trip through time, exploring the many facets of German life in North America and the United States from the earliest German arrivals in the 1600s up to the present. Kamphoefner, a fifth- or sixth-generation Missouri German, was born and raised in Defi-

# Book Reviews

ance, Missouri, according to the notes on the author. With a PhD in history from the University of Missouri-Columbia, he has focused his career and his writing on immigration and ethnicity.



Kamphoefner is an engaging writer and a thorough researcher. For example, in chapter two, entitled “Sources and Causes of Nineteenth Century Emigration,” he explores the political and economic conditions that pushed Germans to leave their homeland, providing such detail that one can almost feel the struggles of these people. Using statistics, political history, and well-researched stories, the author paints vivid pictures of the difficult life many faced if they decided to remain in Germany.

Kamphoefner discusses the main areas of German settlement in the U.S. (Cincinnati, Milwaukee, and St. Louis), the German corridor in Missouri, and other areas where large groups of German settlers landed.

Because members of my family settled in both Cincinnati and St. Louis, it was interesting to learn more about German contributions to these cities. Subsequent chapters reflect the same attention to detail and cover religion, the German-language press, women’s roles, German culture, race, and German military involvement in America’s wars. He does a wonderful job relating the important role St. Louis Germans played in saving Missouri for the Union at the beginning of the Civil War. This is a well-researched monograph, and Kamphoefner lists the sources he used by chapter at the end of the book. The resource list would make excellent additional reading for anyone interested in learning more about these topics.

This is not a book to breeze through, because it includes a lot of detail, but for anyone seriously interested in the experiences of their

German ancestors in both Germany and America, it provides a solid foundation.

*Reviewed by Jane Theissen  
StLGS Quarterly editor*

**W**ar of 1812 Research (Updated Edition). By the War of 1812 Preserve the Pensions Project and Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2020. 4 pages. Laminated. \$9.95.

This four-page laminated booklet is another in the ongoing series titled *Genealogy at a Glance*, all written by experts in the field of genealogy. Ms. Koford has worked with the War of 1812 Preserve the Pensions Project for many years, and she and her group have created a helpful guide to discovering more about the records associated with this period in American history.

In addition to the Table of Contents and Quick Facts on the first page, there is a section of bullet points on “Finding a War of 1812 Soldier” and another on the Preserving the Pensions Project. If you had ancestors who fought in the War of 1812, you will want to familiarize yourself with all of the points covered in these lists. This early-American war generated a bonanza of genealogically significant information, including more than 180,000 military pension files that have been laboriously preserved and are now available online.

In the succeeding pages, the authors explain the record sets you will want to review. They outline the contents of each set, where they are located, and how you might access them. Of special interest to many will be the bounty land files. Soldiers who fought, or their widows, were entitled to bounty land after  
*(Continued on page 70)*



## Feature Articles from Other Publications

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

**A**rticle subtitles are included where available. A note has been inserted in brackets in order to clarify the content of the article if it is not evident from the title. These periodicals are available for your use in the History and Genealogy Department, temporarily located at the Daniel Boone branch of St. Louis County Library, 300 Clarkson Road, Ellisville, Missouri 63011.

### ***American Ancestors*** (New England Historic Genealogical Society)

Vol. 24, no. 32, Summer 2023

- Introducing 10 Million Names
- Reflections on 10 Million Names
- 10 Million Names Flagship Projects
- 10 Million Names Project Advisory Board: Making the Impossible Possible
- 10 Myths about Slavery in the United States
- Disagreement, DNA, and Divorce: Restoring a New Haven Brockett Lineage

### ***Kirkwood [Missouri] Historical Review*** (Kirkwood Historical Society)

Vol. 62, no. 2, Summer 2023

- Fort Leonard Wood: Its History—My Memories
- Shirley Seifert—Hometown Writer
- The Adventure of Two Young Schoolboys

### ***Missouri Historical Review*** (State Historical Society of Missouri)

Vol. 117, no. 4, July 2023

- A “Rebellious District and Dangerous Locality”: Cherokee Soldiers and Refugees in Neosho, Missouri, 1862–1863
- The Ubiquitous Activist, the Peace Professor, and Student Protest at the University of Missouri in the Vietnam War Era
- The Organization, Establishment, and Legacy of the Missouri State Militia: A Historical Approach to Understanding Veterans’ Benefits during the Civil War Era
- From the Stacks: Research Center—Cape Girardeau
- The Decline of the Neighborhood Grocery in American Life: The Vandeven Family Papers

### ***NGS Magazine*** (National Genealogical Society)

Vol. 49, no. 2, April–June 2023

- Research Planning for the Win: Next Steps for Breaking Down a Brick Wall
- Overcoming Record Loss
- Finding New Evidence: Strategies to Improve Cluster Research
- Hidden Stories: Exploring the Unexpected in Family History
- Research on the Island of Enchantment

### ***St. Charles County [Missouri] Heritage***

(St. Charles County Historical Society)

Vol. 41, no. 3, July 2023

- St. Francis of Assisi parish withstood floods, pandemics, and war: But will be one of three county parishes closing this summer
- *Gaetta und Schnippelbohrensuppe aus dem Hollrah Familienkochbuch*: Short on recipes but long on stories rich in family history
- A St. Charles sailor in World War II: Kenneth J. Hahn saw action in major Pacific Theater battles
- The Flood of 1973



## ***St. Louis City/County Biographies Project***

**D**o 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, as well as people you may recognize by name if you live in our city: 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 regarding 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***

---

### **Book Reviews (Continued)**

1850. The applications, warrants, and patents for this land are filled with genealogically valuable information and are well worth exploring. There are also service records from the Army and Navy, as well as prisoner of war records.

In addition to records located at the National Archives, the authors discuss what you might find in some lineage societies, in state records, and at national parks and battlefields. On the last page of their guide, they include helpful sources and a chart with hints to obtain information about militiamen.

Whether you are just beginning to research a War of 1812 soldier or you have done some research but are wondering if more information is to be found, you will find this booklet to be of immense help in sorting out what records exist and how to make use of them.

*Reviewed by Ilene Murray,  
StLGS Publications Director*

If you see a review here that piques your interest, you might want to check the publisher's website for more complete information or to see what else might be available, especially that of Genealogical Publishing Company ([www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com)), which donates many of the books reviewed here. Donated books are available in the History and Genealogy Department at St. Louis County Library ([www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org)). Check to see if the book has been cataloged and if it can be checked out. Some books are part of the National Genealogical Society Collection and as such are circulating, rather than reference-only. Residents of St. Louis County, St. Louis City, and St. Charles County may obtain a library card for the St. Louis County libraries. Others may check out NGS books via interlibrary loan.



# Emil Oskar Gotsch

By Cheryl Gross

for the St. Louis City/County Biographies Project

**E**mil Oskar Gotsch was the fourth of eighteen children fathered by Rev. Dr. Georg Moritz Gotsch. He was born on 25 July 1831, in Waldenburg, Saxony, where his father was a tutor. Called by his middle name, Oskar was only four days old when he was baptized at St. Bartholomaeus Lutheran Church. As was the Lutheran tradition for centuries, Oskar was confirmed into the faith at the age of fourteen in Ziegelheim, Saxony, by his father, who was the pastor of that congregation.

Oskar's education began at home with a tutor, Mr. Nauman. He then entered the University of Leipzig. In 1847, he attended the *Koenigliche-Gewerbs-Schule*, graduating in 1849. From there, Oskar went on to a military academy. He had hopes of becoming a chemist and also "had the fine skills of making precision instruments." With his father, his stepmother, and his many siblings, he came to America aboard the bark *Wieland* in June 1852.

Once in America, Oskar anglicized his name, spelling it with a *c* instead of a *k*. While employed in Cincinnati, Ohio, as a draftsman, he was approached by Dr. C. F. W. Walther, co-founder of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and close family friend, to be a teacher in the Lutheran schools. Oscar took his friend's advice, without attending the teachers' seminary.

Oscar married his first wife, Barbara Christine Wiereter, in Cincinnati at Trinity Lutheran Church on 13 July 1856. Barbara was born in Wittenberg, Saxony, on 28 March 1837. Their first child was born there eleven months after their marriage. Oscar accepted a call to Bethlehem Lutheran School in St. Louis to serve as teacher, organist, and choir director, which he did for five years. After moving his family there,



Oscar Gotsch

five more children were born. He became an American citizen on 4 September 1861.

Barbara died on 6 December 1866, in St. Louis. Oscar married his second wife, Rosette A. Craemer, on 18 April 1869 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, although Oscar was then teaching at Trinity Lutheran School in Soulard. Rose was the daughter of Margaretha Thomas (Craemer) Anders, born in St. Louis on 27 March 1849; her father's name is unknown. During Oscar's marriage to Rose, twelve children were born. While still at Soulard, Oscar signed an Allegiance to America on 10 August 1865.



Rosette (Craemer) Gotsch

Oscar's other calls to teach in the Lutheran schools took him to New Melle, Missouri, and

Staunton, Illinois, four schools in all, serving the church for more than forty years. He retired from Zion in Staunton and returned to St. Louis in 1910. In Zion's anniversary book, it is interesting to note that, in 1904, the year Oscar retired from teaching, the pupils served as janitors. As principal of the school, Oscar was paid \$540 a year, lived in a rent-free house, and was furnished with 100 bushels of coal.

Oscar died on 6 September 1914 and was laid to rest at Concordia Lutheran Cemetery in St. Louis. He had been predeceased by twelve of his eighteen children. He was a man of multiple talents in that he possessed artistic skills, could play the organ and sing, and even composed a hymn. Rose continued to live in St. Louis until her death on 19 March 1947, only days before her ninety-eighth birthday. Both Oscar and Rose have qualified at the Immigrant level in StLGS's First Families of St. Louis.

*(Photos of Oscar and Rosette (Craemer) Gotsch in the author's collection and used with permission.)*

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

By Tom Hall

**H**istoric newspapers hold a wealth of information of interest to the genealogist. Local newspapers often provide data on births, deaths, marriages, and other important events that involved our ancestors. For research prior to governmental collection of this information or when governmental resources have been lost, newspapers may be the best or only existing source of contemporary evidence. Historic newspapers can also teach us about the places our ancestors lived and the people around them, helping us to better understand their lives and times. The websites discussed here all provide online access to digital images of newspaper pages. Most of the sites include optical character recognition (OCR) search engines that allow the user to search for specific names and other words in newspaper articles. These searches can often be narrowed by date ranges and location where the paper was published.

This review of historic newspaper resources was originally envisioned to be a quantitative comparison of the primary online historic newspaper sites for genealogy research in St. Louis and Missouri. The goal was to provide genealogy enthusiasts in Missouri with information to help determine which of the available resources are most likely to benefit their research. As the work progressed, additional insights surfaced that will be helpful in using these sites to research any geographical location. The primary focus, however, remains research in Missouri. This review assumes that the reader has some experience with the use of online newspaper sources and is not intended to be a primer on these sources. For readers who desire such an introduction or who wish to enhance their baseline knowledge, *The Family Tree Historical Newspapers Guide* is an excellent resource.<sup>1</sup>

The following online historic newspaper sites are compared in this review (all prices current as of July 2023):

## **Newspapers.com**

**<https://www.newspapers.com>**: *Newspapers.com* is a subscription service. Individual users have a choice of either the Basic level, which costs \$7.95 per month or \$44.95 for six months, or the Publishers Extra plan for \$19.90 per month or \$74.90 for six months.<sup>2</sup> The website states that the Basic level has “240 million+ pages from 22,188 newspapers dating back to 1690.” It is continually being updated. The Publishers Extra plan has “638 million+ additional pages” of licensed content from 23,992 newspapers. Both plans offer a seven-day free trial. *Newspapers.com* also offers a Library Edition which can be accessed with a current library card via the St. Louis County Library’s website or in person.<sup>3</sup> The Library Edition has about eighty-five percent of the pages and ninety-four percent of the newspapers in the individual Basic subscription.

## **GenealogyBank**

**[www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com)**: *GenealogyBank* is a subscription service. Individual user subscriptions cost \$99.90 per year, with discounts frequently available for the first year of access. A seven-day free trial is also available.<sup>4</sup> The website states that the service includes “over 15,000 newspapers” and that the site has “95% newspapers exclusive to *GenealogyBank*.”<sup>5</sup> *GenealogyBank* offers individual subscriptions only, not library or institutional subscriptions, although the website indicates that material is available to libraries as part of packages of service from the *GenealogyBank* parent company, *NewsBank*.<sup>5</sup> *GenealogyBank* is not available at the St. Louis County Library; however, *NewsBank* is accessible from its website.

## **NewspaperArchive**

**<https://newspaperarchive.com>**: *NewspaperArchive* is a subscription service. Subscriptions are available for \$22.99 per month,

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

\$95.94 for six months, or \$155.88 for one year.<sup>6</sup> Seven-day free trials are available. The site states that it includes more than 16,059 publications, with titles from more than 3,447 cities from around the world.<sup>7</sup> The St. Louis County Library makes *NewspaperArchive* available on its website but in-person only at the Daniel Boone branch of the St. Louis County Library where the History & Genealogy Department is temporarily located.<sup>8</sup>

## ***Chronicling America***

**<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>:**

*Chronicling America* is a free service provided by the Library of Congress. The site includes digital images from 3,938 newspapers with more than twenty million pages.<sup>9</sup> This is a significantly smaller number of papers than the three services mentioned above.

## ***State Historical Society of Missouri***

**<https://shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/mdnp>:** The State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO), based in Columbia, curates the *Missouri Digital Newspaper Project* (MDNP) which provides free online access to approximately 400 Missouri newspapers.<sup>10</sup> Access to the digital images from the SHSMO site is provided by links to either *Chronicling America* or *Newspapers.com*.

## ***General Comparison***

The three subscription services (*Newspapers.com*, *GenealogyBank*, and *NewspaperArchive*) all have robust search functions. Searches can be performed on the entire database or easily can be narrowed by location (state and city), date range, or a combination of location and date. The results include close-up views of the searched name and surrounding words, allowing the user to determine if the page is likely to be of interest.

*Newspapers.com* is the only one that allows narrowing the location by county as an intermediate step between state and city,

which is a very helpful feature when the user may be unfamiliar with all the municipalities in a county being searched or when it is necessary to perform a broader search.

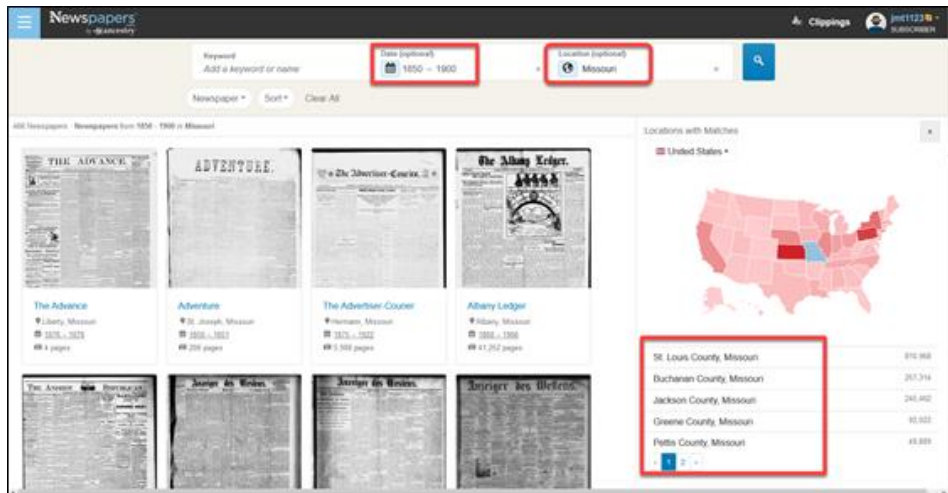
*GenealogyBank* is the leader in terms of ease of use of the search features. The filters are conveniently located in a column on the left of the screen and are easily manipulated to narrow focus and re-expand if needed. *Newspapers.com* and *GenealogyBank* both have filters to specifically search obituaries and marriages; *NewspaperArchive* does not. *GenealogyBank* also has a filter for birth records.

In contrast, the search function in *Chronicling America* is more difficult to use than any of the subscription services. The publications can easily be filtered by date range, but the location can only be narrowed to the state level or to a specific newspaper title. The search results show the full page with no preview of the search term, making it necessary in nearly all cases to open the page to determine if it is of interest.

*Chronicling America* does have one unique database that can be of great value to the genealogist—the U.S. Newspaper Directory.<sup>11</sup> This directory is accessed by a button at the upper right on the main search screen. The directory does not include digital images but instead is a listing of nearly 160,000 U.S. newspapers published from 1690 to the present. The directory can be filtered by publication name, location (state, county, and city), publication date, and language. Information on each newspaper includes publication dates, frequency, coverage, and related titles. The listing for each publication includes historical information about the newspaper which can provide information of interest to genealogists regarding the communities where our ancestors lived. At the bottom of the newspaper detail screen, the “view complete holdings list” link takes the user to a page listing the

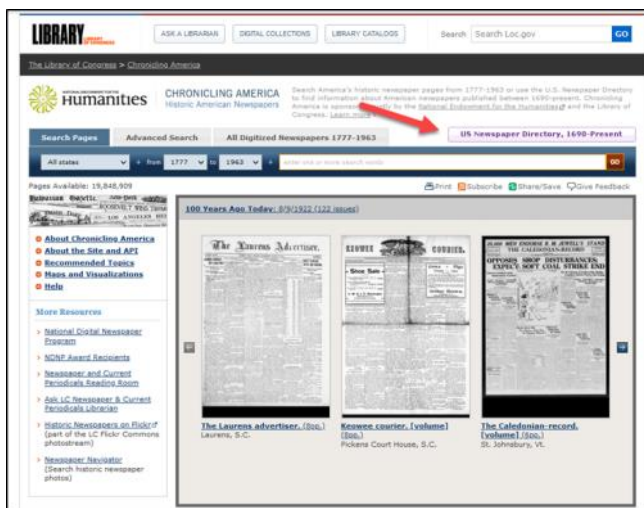
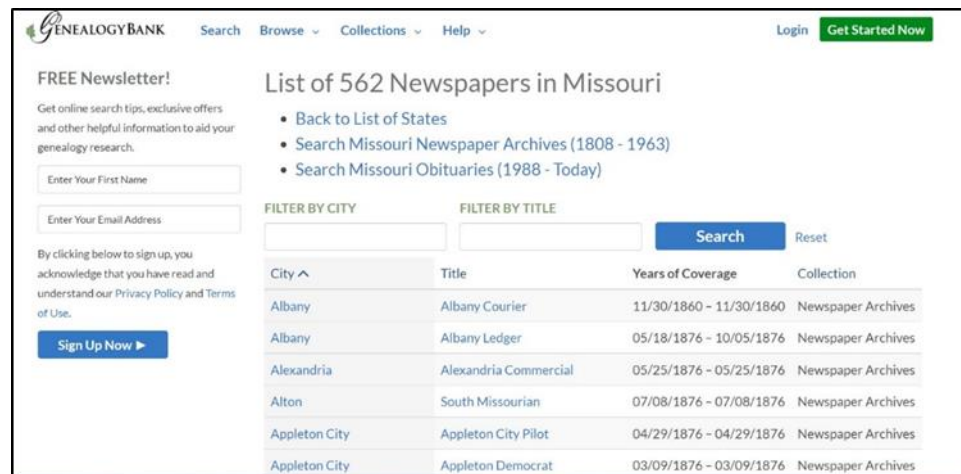
*(Examples on the next page; text on p. 75.)*

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research



*Newspapers.com allows users to narrow searches by date, location, and county.*

*Newspapers that are available in GenealogyBank can be identified without a subscription. Here are some newspapers in Missouri. (See explanation on p. 77.)*



*Chronicling America, part of the Library of Congress website, hosts the Newspaper Directory, which lists published newspapers in the United States back to 1690.*

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

libraries that hold original or microfilm copies of the paper and the publication date ranges that are held. Note that this site lists more than 150,000 publications. The largest online site, *Newspapers.com*, has digital images of about 24,000 publications. Clearly there are more than 100,000 historic newspapers available that are not yet included in the online sites. If the online sites do not have publications with the information being sought, the U.S. Newspaper Directory is an excellent resource for finding an alternative source for a newspaper of interest.

Searching newspapers using the SHSMO depends on whether the site directs the user to *Chronicling America* or *Newspapers.com*. Once those sites are accessed from SHSMO, the search features found on those interfaces apply as described previously. With links to *Newspapers.com*, only the paper or other nearby papers linked from SHSMO are initially available to be searched, and they must be searched one at a time. However, the user can select the state of Missouri in the location filter at the top of the screen and expand the results to the entire state. The results are limited to papers that are available from SHSMO, not the entire *Newspapers.com* database.

## Missouri Coverage Overview

Table 1 (see next page) provides a summary of the Missouri newspaper coverage for each of the resources listed above. In very few cases are issues from the entire date range available. *Chronicling America* has fewer sites and a slightly narrower range of dates covered than the other resources. The earliest Missouri newspaper, included in *GenealogyBank*, *Newspapers.com*, and the SHSMO starting with issues from 1808, is the St. Louis-based *Missouri Gazette and Public Advertiser*. The oldest newspapers in *NewspaperArchive* are one issue of the *Missouri Gazette and Public Advertiser* from 1822 and three issues of the *Missouri Republican* (published in St. Louis) from 1823 to 1824.

Very few issues of newspapers published prior to 1850 exist on any of these services. *Newspapers.com* has an average of fifty of the weekly issues per year of the *Missouri Gazette and Public Advertiser* from 1809 to 1821, 180 issues of the *Independent Patriot* from Jackson from 1821 to 1826, and seventy-eight issues of *The Missourian* from St. Charles between 1820 and 1822. *GenealogyBank* also has many issues of the *Missouri Gazette and Public Advertiser* from a similar period as *Newspapers.com* and more than 200 issues of the *St. Louis Enquirer* between 1817 and 1826. The numbers begin to increase in the 1840s, and by the 1860s, a much larger number of issues and publications is available.

The data in Table 1 provides a rough guide regarding the anticipated value of these newspaper resources, but some important caveats exist. *GenealogyBank* lists a total of 572 newspapers from Missouri on its website. However, 111 of these comprise a collection of only obituaries, almost exclusively from the twenty-first century, and a total of 304 have only one or two issues available. *Newspapers.com* lists a total of 1,356 Missouri newspaper titles on its website for the Publishers Extra subscription. The total appears to be inflated slightly by the presence of multiple listings of the same title when breaks in coverage exist. For example, *Anzeiger des Westens* is listed six times, with breaks or overlapping dates. Like *GenealogyBank*, there are a significant number of titles on *Newspapers.com* with very limited coverage. The same coverage pattern holds true for the Library Edition as well. *NewspaperArchive* lists a total of 241 Missouri newspapers. Of these, nineteen have only one or two issues available.

Please be aware that coverage on these sites changes, sometimes as a result of contract negotiations between the vendor and the publishers. For example, the number of Missouri newspapers on *Newspapers.com* increased from 700 to 1,300+ between March 2022 and July 2023. In contrast, the Missouri

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

Table 1: Overview of Missouri Newspaper Coverage by Service  
(Assessed July 23–25, 2023)

Criteria	<i>News- papers. com</i> Li- brary Edition	<i>News- papers.com</i> Publish- ers Ex- tra Plan	<i>Geneal- ogyBank</i>	<i>News- paper Archive</i>	<i>Chroni- cling Ameri- ca</i>	State Histori- cal Socie- ty of Mis- souri
Number of Missouri Newspaper Titles	1203	1302	461	241	93	448
Earliest Year Available	1808	1808	1808	1822	1839	1808
Latest Year Available	2011	2023	1922	2006	1922	2007
<b>By date range</b>						
1800–1849	42	42	58	9	6	17
1850–1899	756	781	369	91	51	280
1900–1949	648	698	58	155	56	294
1950–2023	140	217	0	54	0	61

newspaper coverage for *NewspaperArchive* encompassed more than 500 Missouri papers in March 2022 but fell to 241 titles by June 2023. Readers should confirm that the issue(s) they need are available before paying for a subscription.

It is also important to save a digital copy of any article that supports your research to your computer (or print it out). This will ensure that you have the item in the event that it later becomes unavailable online. In so doing, be sure to note the citation information—newspaper title, article title, date of issue, and page and column number. As noted, access changes, so check back on the sites periodically to determine if new publications or issues have been added that were not previously available. Some of the services allow subscribers to save a search and receive notifications when new material is added that matches it.

To some degree, there are gaps in coverage for all these resources. A website may state that the site has issues of a newspaper for a long span of years. However, in some cas-

es, the site may have only a few issues in the first years listed, followed by a gap of several years until more consistent coverage is provided. In other cases, a range of years may be listed, with some issues from each year in the range but with many issues missing.

### **Note What is Available on Each Site!**

Given the inconsistency in coverage, it is important to examine the resource to determine what newspapers are currently archived on that site and which issues are included. Fortunately, the subscription sites make that information available even to users without a paid subscription. These are important tools to consider using when deciding which subscription service to purchase or to better interpret a search that produced no results.

To check availability of a specific issue in *GenealogyBank*, scroll down to the map of the United States. Just above the map, click the button “See all states” next to “Browse Newspaper Titles by State.” This shows a list of all states.<sup>12</sup> Select “Missouri” and the resulting

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

page shows the Missouri newspapers housed in *GenealogyBank* and the range of coverage dates. This will not indicate if the specific date needed is on the site, given possible coverage gaps, but it will show if it is within the range available on the site. (See example on p. 74.)

*Newspapers.com* provides even more information without a subscription. At the top of the home screen, click on "Papers."<sup>13</sup> On the left, click on the image of Missouri on the map to filter the results to the state. Publications with issues only available in the Publishers Extra plan are identified by a small yellow plus sign next to the newspaper title. Results can be filtered further by typing the city name in the "Type paper name keywords" box at the upper left. This will display newspapers from a city even if the city name is not included in the title. Click on the newspaper title of interest. A graphic timeline appears on the upper left displaying the number of issues by year, with Basic plan issues in blue and Publishers Extra issues in yellow. Scroll down on the left to the "Browse Archive by Date" calendar. This allows review of the specific years, months, and issues that are available.

From the *NewspaperArchive* home screen, click on "Publications" at the top of the page to access the list of all the newspapers included in this resource.<sup>15</sup> Click on the image of Missouri on the map to the right to get the Missouri list, including the date range and number of issues. Click on the newspaper name of interest. On that newspaper's page, you can use the "Browse by Date" feature on the left to view the specific years, months, and publication dates that are available on the site.

## ***Newspaper Coverage in Surrounding States***

Since some ancestors may have moved to or from bordering states, a sample of four states surrounding Missouri (Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa, and Illinois) was also reviewed to determine if the overall coverage comparison for Missouri applies similarly in these states.

As Table 2 shows (see next page), the results from some of these states differ significantly from Missouri. For this comparison, only the full newspaper issues on *GenealogyBank* were counted, not the obituaries-only listings. The listings in *GenealogyBank* for these states include a large number of papers with only one or two issues available. If searching for newspaper records in Kansas, *Newspapers.com* appears to have much better coverage than other resources, with a remarkable total in excess of 5,000 newspapers. *NewspaperArchive* has more than three times as many newspapers from Iowa as any of the other services, and its total for Illinois is also the highest. This information reinforces the recommendation to review the coverage for the location of interest with each service and demonstrates that the results found in this review for Missouri may not apply to other states.

## ***Analysis of Coverage***

Due to the limitations of simply counting the number of newspaper titles, coverage was evaluated by identifying the number of available newspaper issues on each service. This should provide the most accurate estimate of the overall value of each online service for genealogy research in St. Louis and Missouri. *NewspaperArchive*, *GenealogyBank*, and *Chronicling America* all provide the number of issues available for each title. However, *Newspapers.com* and the SHSMO listings linked to *Newspapers.com* provide page counts for each publication, not issue counts. Details as to how issue counts were obtained for *Newspapers.com* can be found in Appendix 1 to this article.

Each online resource was reviewed first to identify newspapers published in St. Louis City or County in order to determine the coverage of each resource for the St. Louis area. To evaluate the rest of the state, a sample of thirty counties was randomly selected from among the 114 Missouri counties, and the largest city or town in each county was identi-

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

**Table 2: Newspaper Coverage in Four States Bordering Missouri  
Number of Newspapers per State  
(Assessed on 25 July 2023)**

State	Newspapers.com Library Edition	Newspapers.com Publishers Extra Plan	GenealogyBank	Newspaper Archive	Chronicling America
Missouri Newspaper Titles	1,203	1,302	461	241	93
Illinois Newspaper Titles	580	797	240	882	86
Kansas Newspaper Titles	5,018	5,071	245	169	99
Iowa Newspaper Titles	275	290	387	1,218	86
Arkansas Newspaper Titles	212	217	171	57	65

fied on the 1900 United States federal census.<sup>15</sup> This year was chosen as likely a period of interest to genealogists. All newspapers from each municipality were counted by number of issues. The municipalities used for the Missouri review are listed below:

County	Municipality
Bates	Rich Hill
Callaway	Fulton
Cape Girardeau	Cape Girardeau
Cass	Pleasant Hill
Christian	Ozark
Clark	Kahoka
Clay	Liberty
Dade	Greenfield
Greene	Springfield
Jasper	Joplin
Laclede	Lebanon
Lafayette	Lexington
Lincoln	Troy
Livingston	Chillicothe
Moniteau	California
Montgomery	Montgomery City
Newton	Neosho
Nodaway	Maryville
Pike	Louisiana
Polk	Bolivar
Pulaski	Richland

Ray  
Ripley  
Saline  
Schuyler  
Shannon  
Shelby  
Sullivan  
Vernon  
Wright  
Richmond  
Doniphan  
Marshall  
Lancaster  
Winona  
Shelbina  
Milan  
Nevada  
Mountain Grove

## St. Louis Coverage Results

Table 3, on the next page, presents the comparative online coverage of St. Louis City and County newspapers. There are a total of 142 different St. Louis City/County newspapers with at least one issue available. Table 4 lists the top twenty newspapers by issues available on at least one online service. All the papers were published in St. Louis City, except for four which were published in Webster Groves, with most issues between 1909 and 1961. One of the Webster Groves titles is included in the top twenty and listed in the table. The other three are included under "All others (122 titles)."

All three versions of *Newspapers.com* have issue numbers that significantly exceed the

(continued on p. 80)



# ***Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research***

**Table 3: Number of Issues for St. Louis Area Newspapers Available**

<b>Newspaper Title</b>	<b><i>Newspapers.com</i> Library Edition</b>	<b><i>Newspapers.com</i> Basic Plan</b>	<b><i>Newspapers.com</i> Publishers Extra Plan</b>	<b><i>GenealogyBank</i></b>	<b><i>Newspaper Archive</i></b>	<b><i>Chronicling America</i></b>	<b>State Historical Society of Missouri</b>
<i>Amerika</i>	4,656	4,656	4,656	111	0	0	0
<i>Anzeiger des Westens</i>	11,002	11,002	11,002	52	0	0	0
<i>Daily Missouri Republican</i>	5,472	5,472	5,472	7,586	0	0	5,472
<i>Mississippi Blatter</i>	3,839	3,839	3,839	0	0	0	0
<i>Naborhood News Link</i>	1,648	1,699	2,013	0	0	0	0
<i>Neighborhood News</i>	1,732	1,785	2,137	0	0	0	0
<i>Neuer Anzeiger des Westens</i>	5,064	5,064	5,064	0	0	0	0
<i>St. Louis Argus</i>	670	670	2,575	0	1,138	0	1,154
<i>St. Louis Daily Market Reporter</i>	0	0	0	1,631	0	0	0
<i>St. Louis Globe-Democrat</i>	3,903	3,903	3,903	408	1	0	0
<i>St. Louis Jewish Light</i>	139	164	2,875	0	0	0	0
<i>St. Louis Republic</i>	2,179	2,179	2,179	6,293	2,181	2,191	2,191
<i>St. Louis Star and Times</i>	4,163	4,163	12,882	0	1	0	0
<i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>	17,024	17,024	53,145	0	1	0	0
<i>The Daily Missouri Democrat</i>	107	107	107	4,621	0	0	0
<i>The Missouri Republican</i>	1,740	1,740	1,740	0	3	0	1,739
<i>The News-Times (Webster Groves)</i>	2,526	2,526	2,526	0	0	0	0
<i>The Sporting News</i>	0	0	0	0	5,176	0	0
<i>Westliche Post</i>	26,900	26,900	26,900	3	0	0	0
<i>Westliche Post Daily Country Edition</i>	1,582	1,582	1,582	0	0	0	0
All others (122 titles)	5,756	5,789	6,135	4,251	3,183	1	1,915
<b>Total Issues</b>	<b>100,102</b>	<b>100,264</b>	<b>150,732</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>11,684</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>12,471</b>

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

other services. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* is covered very well by *Newspapers.com*. The Library edition and Basic subscription have most issues from the paper's founding as the *St. Louis Dispatch* in 1874 through 1922; the Publishers Extra plan extends coverage to within approximately four weeks of the current date. All three versions of *Newspapers.com* also have issues of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* from 1853 to 1963. The only other online service that has any significant coverage of either of these two newspapers is *GenealogyBank*, which has 408 issues of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* from May 1875 to December 1876. *Newspapers.com* also has a large number of issues of the *St. Louis Star and Times*, with most of the published issues from 1910 to 1922 in the Library and Basic plans, and from 1910 to 1949 in the Publishers Extra plan. *Newspapers.com*, *GenealogyBank*, and the SHSMO all have issues of the *Daily Missouri Republican*. This is a case where different services have different issues of the same publication. *Newspapers.com* and SHSMO appear to have most of the issues published from 1854 to 1868. *GenealogyBank* has issues ranging primarily from 1841 to 1888 but appears to have a smaller percentage of all potential issues published during this period. *NewspaperArchive's* coverage of St. Louis is smaller than the other services, and its value for St. Louis-based genealogy research is further limited by the fact that nearly half of the issues are from *The Sporting News*.

Notably, about 50,000 issues of the *Newspapers.com* totals are German-language publications. These represent about one-third of the Publishers Extra plan and one-half of the Library and Basic plans. Certainly, these may be of value to individuals with German heritage, but require the ability to read German or have the information translated. Even so, *Newspapers.com* still has a much larger number of English language issues than the other services.

The *Newspapers.com* Basic plan and Library edition are virtually identical for St. Louis-area newspapers. The additional issues provided by the Publishers Extra plan are nearly all from four sources: the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* from 1923 to 2023, the *St. Louis Star and Times* from 1923 to early 1950, the *St. Louis Jewish Light* from 1963 to May 2022, and the *St. Louis Argus* from 1928 to 1964.

## Missouri Coverage Results

As shown in Table 4, on the next page, *Newspapers.com* provides coverage for the largest number of the municipalities in this sample and has the highest issue counts. It has at least a few hundred issues from all but four of the sampled municipalities. The only significant difference in this sample between the Basic plan and the Library edition is more than 10,000 issues of newspapers from Springfield, Missouri, ranging between 1867 and 1933, which the Library edition does not include. The difference in this sample between the Basic and Publishers Extra plans are post-1922 newspapers from Springfield, post-1930 newspapers from Marshall, and post-1926 newspapers from California.

*GenealogyBank* has issues from all but four of the municipalities but has only ten or fewer issues from sixteen of the remaining municipalities. It is the only source of issues from Louisiana. *NewspaperArchive* is the only source of a significant number of issues from Liberty and Mountain Grove. It also has a significantly larger number of issues from Joplin (most ranging from 1909 to 2018) and Troy (ranging from 1866 to 1978) and a slightly larger number from Cape Girardeau. It should be noted that a large fraction (forty-two percent) of the total issues on *NewspaperArchive* came from publications from one city, Joplin. The State Historical Society of Missouri provides access to a good number of Missouri

(continued on p. 82)

# ***Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research***

**Table 4: Number of Issues for Select Missouri Municipality Newspapers**

<b>Missouri Municipality</b>	<b><i>Newspapers.com</i> Library Edition</b>	<b><i>Newspapers.com</i> Basic Plan</b>	<b><i>Newspapers.com</i> Publishers Extra Plan</b>	<b><i>GenealogyBank</i></b>	<b><i>Newspaper Archive</i></b>	<b><i>Chronicling America</i></b>	<b>State Historical Society of Missouri</b>
Bolivar	378	378	405	3	0	0	362
California	5,849	5,849	9,933	0	0	0	5,577
Cape Girardeau	903	903	903	893	1,308	898	898
Chillicothe	27,164	27,164	27,164	400	23,962	406	406
Doniphan	833	833	833	647	646	646	646
Fulton	2,388	2,388	2,388	4	0	0	2,387
Greenfield	5,754	5,754	5,754	2	0	0	5,748
Joplin	4,463	4,466	4,466	1	52,197	0	0
Kahoka	2,671	2,671	2,671	1	0	0	2,670
Lancaster	2,513	2,513	4,282	1	0	0	0
Lebanon	2,130	2,130	2,130	3	0	0	2,130
Lexington	3,122	3,122	3,122	2,857	2,865	2,865	3,038
Liberty	1	1	1	2	1,128	0	0
Louisiana	26	26	26	555	0	0	0
Marshall	6,092	6,092	18,566	689	932	688	849
Maryville	26,496	26,496	27,924	0	18239	0	21,249
Milan	6,820	6,820	6,820	2	0	0	6,820
Montgomery City	254	254	254	510	508	508	508
Mountain Grove	0	0	0	0	701	0	0
Neosho	19,433	19,433	19,599	3	15,221	0	4,566
Nevada	3,239	3,239	3,239	2	0	0	3,234
Ozark	3,121	3,121	3,171	1	0	0	0
Pleasant Hill	5,689	5,691	5,691	1	0	0	200
Rich Hill	505	505	505	491	491	491	491
Richland	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Richmond	561	561	562	495	495	495	495
Shelbina	3,919	3,919	3,919	1	0	0	3,919
Springfield	17,927	27,713	100,711	10	376	1	6,244
Troy	663	663	663	660	5,836	660	660
Winona	294	294	294	0	0	0	294
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,208</b>	<b>162,999</b>	<b>255,996</b>	<b>8,235</b>	<b>124,905</b>	<b>7658</b>	<b>73,391</b>

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

newspapers in this sample. Because SHSMO is available without subscription or the need for library access, it is a convenient resource and reasonable starting point for searching Missouri papers.

The only municipality in this sample with essentially no coverage by any of the major online resources is Richland in Pulaski County. While no online digital access is available, *Chronicling America's* U.S. Newspaper Directory does list five publications from Richland.<sup>16</sup> Issues are available on microfilm at the State Historical Society of Missouri, including the *Richland Mirror* from 1913 to early 2009,<sup>17</sup> and at the Lebanon-Laclede County Library.

Because a random sample of municipalities was used for the Missouri comparison, it is appropriate to perform statistical analysis to determine how likely it is that the observed results reflect true differences in the coverage of the state. Such an analysis was performed on the data, and this analysis supports the conclusion that all three of the Newspapers.com editions have a very high likelihood of having more issues available for Missouri than *GenealogyBank*, *NewspaperArchive*, or *Chronicling America*. Additional details on the statistical methods used are available in Appendix 2 at the end of this article for those who are interested.

## Additional Online Newspaper Resources

Several other online sites offer more limited access to historic newspapers. These resources are neither as extensive nor as functional as the ones discussed earlier but may be worth considering if a search of the larger databases is unsuccessful.

**Smalltownpapers.com** is a free online resource that offers digital images from approximately 300 newspapers across the United States.<sup>18</sup> The digital images are searchable, although the search function is not as robust as the subscription services discussed above. Searching the site using the “Browse-by-State”

button lists four newspapers in Missouri: the *Press-News Journal* (Canton), *Cuba Free Press*, *Excelsior Springs Standard*, and *Monroe County Appeal* (Paris).<sup>19</sup> All of the issues are from the late 1900s and early 2000s, and therefore may not be as useful for genealogical research. The largest coverage is for the *Monroe County Appeal*, with available issues spanning the years 1965 to 2019.

The number of newspapers from neighboring states is similarly limited, with one from Arkansas, six from Illinois, nine from Kansas, and eighteen from Iowa. The numbers from the “Browse-by-State” function on the website appear to miss some newspapers that are on the site, at least for some states. Searching by state name on the “Browse-by-Title” page reveals ten from Kansas and twenty-two from Iowa, both more than listed on the “Browse-by-State” page. Searching Missouri in the “Browse-by-Title” page lists the same four papers noted previously. Some newspapers do include earlier issues that may be of interest to genealogy researchers. For example, the *Dayton Review* from Iowa has many issues from the 1930s to the 1950s, plus a few earlier years. This paper is not available in any of the other online services. The copyright policies from this site are very strict and appear to prohibit any reproduction of the material, even for personal use.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, while limited in scope and with very rigid copyright policies, this may be a source for material not found elsewhere.

**Access World News** from *NewsBank* is available by remote online access on the St. Louis County Library website with a current library card.<sup>21</sup> Material from 141 sources in Missouri is included. Most of these sources are newspapers, with some television and radio station websites. The earliest issues are recent—from the early 1980s. This site does not display digital images of the newspapers but instead has text transcripts of selected articles. The material is searchable and can be filtered by location and date, much like the subscription services. This site may be of val-

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

ue when looking for recent information. Some obituaries are included in the articles available for review.

**HeritageHub** from *NewsBank* is another online resource that is available remotely from the St. Louis County Library with a current library card.<sup>22</sup> This resource provides access specifically to published obituaries and death notices, primarily in newspapers, but also some from television stations. The resource includes approximately 120 Missouri sources, with about forty of those being from the St. Louis metro area.<sup>23</sup> Most are from the year 2000 and later, but there are some earlier publications available. These include St. Louis newspapers *Tri-Weekly Missouri Republican* and *Weekly St. Louis Pilot* from the 1850s, the *St. Louis Republic* from the 1890s, and the *St. Louis Enquirer* from 1819 to 1824. These early publications are also available on *GenealogyBank* but are not available on any of the *Newspapers.com* editions.

**Elephind** ([www.elephind.com](http://www.elephind.com)) is a free service of Veridian, a New Zealand-based company that offers digital access services to libraries.<sup>24</sup> *Elephind* does not have its own set of newspaper images. Instead, its stated goal is to serve as a single site to search a variety of other online sources for historic newspapers, such as *Chronicling America*, universities, and other institutions. Searches on *Elephind* identify keywords from newspapers held at the linked sources. Users can preview the results, and pages of interest can be selected, which takes the user to the library or other facility providing the content. *Elephind* lists a total of 4,345 newspapers, most of which are from the United States. Coverage of newspapers from the states of Colorado, Texas, Virginia, and Indiana are most robust, with nearly 300 or more titles per state.

Coverage of Missouri newspapers is minimal beyond what is linked to and available directly from *Chronicling America*. The site lists about 5,600 issues of the *Columbia Mis-*

*sourian*, most published from 1960 to 1985. However, the links to this publication at the University of Missouri School of Journalism do not work. It has better coverage of Illinois newspapers, with issues from 146 publications provided by the library at the University of Illinois. Many of these are not available on *Chronicling America*. While this resource is currently less likely to be of benefit for Missouri newspapers, it could be a valuable resource for other states.

**Google News** (<https://news.google.com/newspapers>) has approximately 1,600 searchable online newspapers. The site opens with a search box and a list of newspaper titles that includes the number of issues and date ranges available.<sup>25</sup> The dates covered include newspapers from the late 1700s to the current century. Unfortunately, only the newspaper title and dates are listed, and there is no way to limit the search to a particular location. For example, it is impossible to know from the list if the *Springfield Daily News*, with 547 issues from January 1860 to December 1861, is from Missouri, Illinois, or somewhere else. The user is required to select the title then zoom in on one of the pages to determine the location (Ohio, for the *Springfield Daily News*). A search field is available, and selecting "Search Archive" limits the search to the listed newspapers. However, the information returned is presented like typical Google search results, with an option to filter by date but not by site of publication. This makes broad searches exceptionally cumbersome. There appear to be no St. Louis or Kansas City titled papers included.

## Recommendations

For genealogy research in Missouri using historical newspapers, this review provides analysis that can inform a successful and efficient search strategy. The initial goal of this evaluation was to determine the most valuable online historic newspaper resource to use

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

for genealogical research in St. Louis and Missouri. As it turns out, that was not the most important information elicited. The most valuable resource is the one that has the specific information being sought. Understanding the best methods to identify and use that resource (online or otherwise) is the most valuable information that can be shared from this work. In summary:

1. The subscription service *Newspapers.com* has the broadest coverage of the available resources for both the St. Louis region and Missouri as a state. The individual Basic subscription or the edition available from the St. Louis County Library are very similar in coverage and offer access to most of the pre-1923 papers that are also available in the Publishers Extra plan. In general, the free version, available remotely or in-person with a library card, is an excellent option. For those who want the additional access to more recent coverage of St. Louis and Missouri newspaper sources, including dates later than 1922, the *Newspapers.com* Publishers Extra plan is the best choice.
2. When searching for a newspaper story for a specific time and place, check all major online resources to see which resource has newspapers and publication dates of interest. This can be done before paying for a subscription and can help determine whether a subscription would be beneficial. Remember to look beyond just the published date range to determine if issues matching the specific dates of interest are available. Users can take advantage of the variety of subscription durations, discounted subscription offers, and free trials to search for specific information if ongoing use of online newspaper sites is not needed. If the SHSMO or *Chronicling America* site have the issues of interest, they are a good no-cost option.
3. Check smaller online resources, such as *Smalltownpapers.com* and *Google News*, for free access as well.
4. If digital images of the newspapers of interest are not available, use the U.S. Newspaper Directory on *Chronicling America* to find repositories that hold microfilm or other versions of that publication. If located, check to see if materials are available for interlibrary loan (ILL). It may be possible to submit a loan request at your local library and have the material sent there for review.
5. Check back periodically or sign up to receive updates for issues that are later added to online resources.
6. Immediately save electronic copies or print out hard copies of the information you find, and include the citation information. That article may not always be available on the site where it was originally found.

This review affirms the availability and value of online newspaper resources for Missouri genealogists and provides methods to use these resources most effectively. The author hopes that the information provided helps those searching for their ancestors in newspapers, especially in the state of Missouri.

## **APPENDIX 1: Determining Issue Counts from Page Counts**

The number of issues available for publications on *Newspapers.com* was determined using the “Browse” feature under the “Search” menu, selecting Missouri, the city being evaluated, and then selecting the individual publication. For publications with ten or fewer years included, all issues were directly counted. For publications with greater than ten years, the years of publication were scanned to identify partial years, defined as having three or more months missing. These partial years were counted directly. Then a sample of ten to twenty percent of the remaining full years was counted, and the

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

results were extrapolated to the total number of full years. The total number of full years was added to the issues counted from partial years to generate the total number of issues. For SHSMO, the page counts for publications linked to *Newspapers.com* was compared to the page counts on *Newspapers.com* to confirm that they matched, which most did. Issue counts for SHSMO were adjusted, if needed, based on the dates included.

<b>Table 5: Results of Statistical Analysis</b> <small>(Note: The term <math>p &lt; 0.05</math> means that there is less than a 5% chance that the numbers of Missouri newspaper issues in the two online services were equal. NS stands for not statistically significant.)</small>	<i>Genealogy Bank</i>	<i>Newspaper Archive</i>	<i>Chronicling America</i>
<b>Newspapers.com Library Edition</b>	$p < 0.05$	$p < 0.05$	$p < 0.05$
<b>Newspapers.com Basic Plan</b>	$p < 0.05$	$p < 0.05$	$p < 0.05$
<b>Newspapers.com Publishers Extra Plan</b>	$p < 0.05$	$p < 0.05$	$p < 0.05$
<b>State Historical Society of Missouri</b>	NS	NS	$p < 0.05$

## APPENDIX 2: Statistical Methods

*Editor's Note: The author has included the following explanation for those who understand statistics and are interested in the statistical methods he used in analyzing these online resources.*

The data for Missouri newspaper issues did not appear to be normally distributed. The mean and median for the full data set were 3,742 and 509, respectively, indicating a significant positive skew. A statistical analysis was therefore performed in Excel using the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test.<sup>26</sup> A Kruskal-Wallis test is used to determine whether or not there is a statistically significant difference between the medians of three or more independent groups. It can tell if true differences are likely to exist somewhere among the online services, but it does not identify which of the services may be better than others. For that question, Dunn's correction for multiple comparisons was used. Dunn's correction compares pairs in the group to determine which services are likely to be superior to which others.

The Kruskal-Wallis test confirmed that there were statistically significant differences among the seven online services ( $p < 0.001$ ). Therefore, the Dunn's correction method was applied. Table 5 shows the number of Mis-

souri newspaper issues in all three *Newspapers.com* versions were significantly greater than those in *GenealogyBank*, *NewspaperArchive*, or *Chronicling America* at an adjusted  $p < 0.05$ . In addition, the number of issues in SHSMO was significantly greater than *Chronicling America* at the same level of confidence. This evaluation was unable to confirm any other differences between services at a level that achieved statistical significance.

### End Notes

Unless otherwise noted, reference websites were last checked on 31 July 2023.

1. James M. Beidler, *The Family Tree Historical Newspapers Guide* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2018).
2. "Choose a subscription," *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com/choose-a-plan/](http://www.newspapers.com/choose-a-plan/)).
3. St. Louis County Library (St. Louis, Missouri), "Online Resources," *Newspapers.com* ([www.slcl.org/resources/newspapers-com](http://www.slcl.org/resources/newspapers-com)).
4. "Get Started Now," *GenealogyBank* ([www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com)).
5. "GenealogyBank, FAQs, Account and Billing Questions, Can my library, business or institution share one account?" *GenealogyBank* ([www.genealogybank.com/information/help](http://www.genealogybank.com/information/help)).
6. "NewspaperArchive Plans & Pricing," *NewspaperArchive.com* (<https://newspaperarchive.com/free-trial/>).

# Optimizing the Use of Online Historic Newspaper Resources for Missouri Genealogy Research

7. *NewspaperArchive.com* (<https://newspaperarchive.com>).
8. "St. Louis County Library Online Resources," *NewspaperArchive.com* ([www.slcl.org/resources/newspaperarchive.com](http://www.slcl.org/resources/newspaperarchive.com)).
9. "All digitized newspapers 1777-1963," *Chronicling America*, The Library of Congress ([https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/#tab=tab\\_newspapers](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/#tab=tab_newspapers)).
10. "Missouri Digital Newspaper Project," The State Historical Society of Missouri (<https://shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/mdnp#list>).
11. "U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present," *Chronicling America*, The Library of Congress (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles>).
12. "List of Newspapers by State," *GenealogyBank* ([www.genealogybank.com/newspapers/sourcelist](http://www.genealogybank.com/newspapers/sourcelist)).
13. "All Newspapers," *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com/papers/#](http://www.newspapers.com/papers/#)).
14. "Newspaper Publications," *NewspaperArchive.com* (<https://newspaperarchive.com/search/publication>).
15. "Population of Missouri by Counties and Minor Civil Divisions," United States Census Bureau, Twelfth Census of the United States, (Washington D.C., 1901), Bulletin 32 ([www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1900/bulletins/demographic/32-population-mo.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1900/bulletins/demographic/32-population-mo.pdf)).
16. U.S. Newspaper Directory, "Search results for Missouri, Richland, 1690," *Chronicling America*, The Library of Congress ([https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/results/?state=Missouri&county=&city=Richland&year1=1690&year2=2023&terms=&frequency=&language=&ethnicity=&labor=&material\\_type=&lccn=&rows=20](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/results/?state=Missouri&county=&city=Richland&year1=1690&year2=2023&terms=&frequency=&language=&ethnicity=&labor=&material_type=&lccn=&rows=20)).
17. *Pulaski County Newspaper Directory*, The State Historical Society of Missouri (<https://files.shsmo.org/newspapers/counties/pulaski.pdf>).
18. "Browse Newspapers by Title," *SmallTownPapers.com* ([www.smalltownpapers.com/browse-by-title.php](http://www.smalltownpapers.com/browse-by-title.php)).
19. "Browse Newspapers by State," *SmallTownPapers.com* ([www.smalltownpapers.com/browse-by-state.php](http://www.smalltownpapers.com/browse-by-state.php)).
20. "Copyright and Reprint Policies," *SmallTownPapers.com* ([www.smalltownpapers.com/copyright.php](http://www.smalltownpapers.com/copyright.php)).
21. "Online Resources, Access WorldNews," *St. Louis County Library* ([www.slcl.org/resources/access-world-news](http://www.slcl.org/resources/access-world-news)).
22. "Online Resources, HeritageHub," *St. Louis County Library* ([www.slcl.org/resources/heritagehub](http://www.slcl.org/resources/heritagehub)).
23. "Online Resources, HeritageHub, HeritageHub, A-Z Source List," *St. Louis County Library* (<https://infoweb-newsbank-com.slcl.idm.oclc.org/apps/news/source-list?p=HHUB>).
24. "About Elephind.com," *Elephind.com* ([www.elephind.com/?a=p&p=about](http://www.elephind.com/?a=p&p=about)).
25. "All Newspapers," Google, *Google News* (<https://news.google.com/newspapers>).
26. "How to Perform a Kruskal-Wallis Test in Excel," *Statology* ([www.statology.org/kruskal-wallis-test-excel](http://www.statology.org/kruskal-wallis-test-excel)); and Bernard Rosner. *Fundamentals of Biostatistics*, 2nd Edition (Boston: Duxbury Press, 1986), 467.

## About the Author

**Tom Hall** has been researching his family history for more than twenty-five years. He retired from a forty-year career as a hospital pharmacist, where he practiced as a clinical specialist and department director. He has published several articles in pharmacy journals and two chapters in pharmacy textbooks. He became interested in performing an evaluation of available historic newspaper services after being introduced to *NewspaperArchive* by a librarian.





# Leonard Clifford Smith and the Pumping Station for the State Sanitarium in St. Louis

By Shirley Wadell

A granddaughter of Leonard Clifford Smith sent a photograph to the StLGS office and asked us to find a home for it. The black-and-white photo, six-by-fourteen inches, shows two rows of men in front of an ornamental cement staircase. Written at the bottom of this picture is "Sanitarium Pumping Station—St. Louis, Missouri, June 20, 1932," and in the lower right hand corner "Taken by C. Hafford Studio—Rosedale 3941."

Through a telephone call to the water department of the city of St. Louis I learned that the picture was taken at the power station for the state sanitarium on Arsenal Street. The power station was behind the sanitarium building. The state of Missouri owned the facility, but the city of St. Louis operated the power plant for the state from the time it was built until the early 1960s when the state took over the power plant operations. The men shown in the picture were all employees of the city of St. Louis. Leonard Clifford Smith (1896–1961) was kneeling in the center-front row. The photo we have was reduced from a larger picture which our donor had.

Although I contacted the water department of the City of St. Louis asking for information on the sanitarium pumping station, I received no reply. I did discover that William Rumbold was

the architect for the state sanitarium's main building. He also designed the dome on the Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis City.<sup>1</sup> Built on approximately fifty-nine acres of land, the state sanitarium opened in 1869. Almost immediately, the building was overcrowded.<sup>2</sup> The complex grew over the years. However, between 1930 and 1941, most requests for building additions, repairs, better equipment, and more staff were rejected, the result of insufficient funding. Despite this, the American College of Surgeons accredited the facility as a Class A hospital in 1933.<sup>3</sup> Apparently, the staff was doing something right!

According to James Herbert Stone's *History of the City Sanitarium of St. Louis, 1930–1941*, "The plumbing maintenance department maintained twenty-four-hour service in up-keep of plumbing and heating equipment."<sup>4</sup> Given the round-the-clock schedule, the photo probably only shows a portion of the pumping station staff. During 1932 and 1933, salaries and positions were cut as a result of the Depression and inadequate funding for salaries from the city.<sup>5</sup> The history of the institution includes several name changes. The name was altered from St. Louis County Lunatic Asylum to St. Louis City Insane Asylum when the City of St. Louis separated from the County in



# Leonard Clifford Smith and the Pumping Station for the State Sanitarium in St. Louis

1876.<sup>6</sup> Thirty-five years later, the name was amended again, this time to the City Sanitarium. In the fall of 1997, the facility moved to its current location at 5300 Arsenal Street, and once more it was renamed, becoming St. Louis Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center.

Finding little additional information about the pumping station itself, I focused my research on the only person identified in the photo—Leonard Clifford Smith Sr. *Find a Grave* shows a memorial for Leonard Clifford Smith Sr. and notes that he was born on 3 February 1896 in Red Bird, Gasconade County, Missouri, and died 19 May 1961 in St. Louis City. His parents were Isaac Clinton Smith and Sarah Elizabeth Branson.<sup>7</sup>

I was unable to locate a marriage record for Leonard. However, by 1930, Leonard Smith, age thirty-two, was living in St. Louis, with his wife, Electoria, thirty years old, and their three children: Goldie, age eight; Leonard, age five; and Elva, age three. They were renting a house at 2631 Brannon for sixteen dollars a month. Leonard's occupation was listed as a laborer at the City Sanitarium.<sup>8</sup> Ten years later, the 1940 census indicates that Leonard C. Smith Sr., now forty-three years old, was living in St. Louis City with his wife, Lectoria, thirty-nine, and their three children: Goldie, eighteen; Leonard C. Jr., fifteen; and Elva, twelve years old. The family was renting a flat at 4921 Magnolia Avenue for twelve dollars a month. Leonard worked as a maintenance man at a retail ladies-wear store.<sup>9</sup> It would be interesting to know if he was a victim of the job cuts at the pumping station in the early 1930s.

Leonard's World War II draft registration card, completed in 1942, listed him as Leonard Clifton Smith, age forty-six, living at 5008 Wren Avenue in St. Louis. He reported that he was born on 3 February 1896 in Red Bird, Missouri. The person who would always know his address was listed as Sarah Smith (his mother), living at 4954 Arsenal Street. He

listed his employer as the St. Louis Water Department.<sup>10</sup>

If you would like to claim the photo of the staff and the power station discussed in this article, please email Ilene Murray, publications director of the St. Louis Genealogical Society, at [publications@stlgs.org](mailto:publications@stlgs.org), or call the Society office at 314-647-8547.

---

## End Notes

Unless otherwise noted, reference websites were last checked on 31 July 2023.

1. *Built St. Louis*, "Recalled to Life: A Tour of Restored Buildings," St. Louis State Hospital ([www.builtstlouis.net/statehospital01.html](http://www.builtstlouis.net/statehospital01.html)).
2. James Herbert Stone, *History of the City Sanitarium of St. Louis, 1930–1941* (St. Louis, Missouri: Washington University dissertation 1957), 29.
3. Stone, *History of the City Sanitarium of St. Louis*, 93.
4. Stone, *History of the City Sanitarium of St. Louis*, 37.
5. Stone, *History of the City Sanitarium of St. Louis*, p. 43.
6. *Asylum Projects*, St. Louis State Hospital ([https://asylumprojects.org/index.php/St\\_Louis\\_State\\_Hospital](https://asylumprojects.org/index.php/St_Louis_State_Hospital)).
7. *Find a Grave* ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)), memorial 147954643, "Leonard Clifford Smith, Sr.," 16 June 2015, by "Kathie"; no gravestone image.
8. 1930 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, p. 24B (handwritten), dwelling 414, family 427, Leonard Smith; digital image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)), citing FHL microfilm 2,340,976.
9. 1940 U.S. census, St. Louis City, Missouri, population schedule, p. 6B (handwritten), household 137, Leonard C. Smith, Sr.; digital image, *Ancestry*, citing NARA microfilm publication T627.
10. "World War II Draft Cards," digital image, *Ancestry*, citing National Archives at St. Louis, World War II Draft Cards (Fourth Registration) for the State of Missouri, "Records of the Selective Service System, 1926–1975," Record Group Number 147, Roll Number 1099.

# One O'Meara Family's Eighty-Year Contribution to St. Louis Art and Architecture

By Peter O'Meara Evans

**P**atrick Marquette O'Meara made a substantial contribution to St. Louis Catholic architecture from 1922 to 1945. His eldest daughter, Sister Virginia, RSCJ, was an educator and artist in St. Louis Catholic schools and art studios from 1955 until her death in 2005. If you happen to be Catholic in St. Louis, there is a chance their work has touched your life. However, one does not need an ounce of Catholicism—or even religion—to appreciate the skill and business acumen of an architect or the passion and devotion of an artist.



*Mandala window of the Carmelite monastery in Ladue, Missouri, built in 1928 by O'Meara. Author's collection, used with permission.*

## **Patrick M. O'Meara— Dynamic Architect and Salesman**

Patrick (1890–1945) was born in West Bend, Wisconsin,<sup>1</sup> but ultimately chose St. Louis, Missouri, as the home base for his successful architectural firm with national reach. St. Louis, then, became the place he chose to raise a family, as well. He and at least one of his children made enduring contributions to St. Louis, especially its Catholic establishments, for more than eighty years.

From 1922 to 1945, the O'Meara and Hills architectural firm designed at least fifteen St. Louis institutions. From Villa Duchesne in Frontenac to the Carmelite Monastery in Ladue to the White House Retreat south of the

city, it was an impressive run. Currently, of the fifteen churches, schools, and hospitals designed by his firm in St. Louis, six are still in use as built with the same name, five are in use but under new ownership or a new name, and four have been demolished. (The latest to be razed was the legacy building of the Sisters of Mary Motherhouse and Novitiate, adjacent to today's St. Mary's Hospital at Bellevue and Wise, making way for a parking lot in 2019.)<sup>2</sup> But that was just the St. Louis footprint of Patrick's work, which spanned the country by the end of his life and career.

By all accounts, my maternal grandfather, Patrick M. O'Meara, seems to be one of those lucky people who found his calling early in life, rarely strayed from it, and enjoyed professional success until his untimely death from kidney failure at the age of fifty-five.<sup>3</sup> As I am one of his grandchildren who is now exactly that age, it is a chilling thought that I could keel over tomorrow and be held to account for what I've done with my life. But it only increases the respect I have for what he accomplished in his. And accomplished he was. Although working almost exclusively in the Midwest, he was so well known nationwide that his obituary ran in the *New York Times*.<sup>4</sup> In November 1946, the publication *Architecture and Design* presented sixty-four of his firm's



*Patrick M. O'Meara Sr., passport photo. Author's collection, used with permission.*

# One O'Meara Family's Eighty-Year Contribution to St. Louis Art and Architecture

projects, declaring, "This memorial issue is respectfully dedicated to memory of P. M. O'Meara, founder of the firm. . . . His keen sense of organization brought together the men who, under his able leadership, developed a company well-known in the ecclesiastical field of architecture."<sup>5</sup>

After graduating from high school in West Bend, Wisconsin, and briefly trying his hand as an elementary school teacher, Patrick studied architecture at Notre Dame University from 1910 to 1911.<sup>6</sup> He founded the architecture firm Daman and O'Meara in Fort Dodge, Iowa, in 1916<sup>7</sup> but was pulled away as a World War I conscript in August 1918. Serving in the U.S. Army as a corporal, first in Company E, 11th Battalion, the 4th Infantry Rifle Regiment,<sup>8</sup> he was then placed in the Engineer Officer's Training School, 1st Company, at Camp Humphreys (now Fort Belvoir, Virginia).<sup>9</sup> The war ended before he deployed, and he returned to architecture.

This time, based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the firm became Daman, O'Meara, and Hills in 1919.<sup>10</sup> While doing business with the Archdi-

ocese of Saint Paul, Patrick's overtures to one of its secretaries was rebuffed many times, my grandmother Favoretta Xavier Sullivan (1899–1985) told me, before he bowed to her superior wit (mind you, this is her account!). Once he acknowledged he had met his match, she acquiesced to court him, and they married in 1923, embarking on a tour of Europe so he could learn from its architecture. The fact he made it a "working honeymoon" foreshadowed what by today's standards would become a poor work-life balance.

In 1922, St. Louis became the home base of the architectural firm at 4908 Delmar Boulevard, with a branch office in Saint Paul, and later expanding to Detroit, Michigan, and Cincinnati, Ohio.<sup>11</sup> Patrick and Favoretta raised their three children in the Parkview neighborhood of University City, Missouri. Being an architect, he procured the blueprints to their house on Westgate Avenue, which I still retain.

What was it that made Patrick O'Meara successful as an architect besides his technical architectural skill? My mother (Marian Hayes



Collage of projects by O'Meara and Hills Architects. Author's collection, used with permission.

## One O'Meara Family's Eighty-Year Contribution to St. Louis Art and Architecture

O'Meara, 1932–2010) was only twelve years old when he died, but she told me that one thing her father knew, at least as well as architecture, was people. He knew how to make a sale.

In one anecdote she shared with me, Patrick was inspecting a Catholic school that was soliciting bids to be rebuilt. He was horrified at the quality of the workmanship he saw. During the walkthrough, it was a challenge to find a straight line or right angle—even the floors had multiple changes in elevation in a single story, causing him to trip repeatedly during the tour. But he also saw clearly how the staff loved the building, and tearing it down would have been hard for them. They were emotionally attached to it, flaws and all. After the tour, the Mother Superior asked him, “What do you think?” He reportedly replied, “Madam, you have a symphony of floors.” He got that contract. And another. And another.

We can validate his firm designed at least ninety-five Catholic churches, schools, and hospitals over roughly twenty-five years in eleven states (Alabama, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin). His *St. Louis Star and Times* obituary had a much higher figure. Its headline read, “Patrick M. O'Meara Dies; Architect of 450 buildings in Midwest.”<sup>12</sup>

Further evidence of the firm's marketing acumen can be seen in its 1928 volume *Catholic Churches and Institutions by O'Meara and Hills Architects*, a self-published, handsomely bound 270-page coffee-table book used as the company's calling card. The tome is dappled with architectural aphorisms that display a knowledge of their target ecclesiastical audience. For example, the book concludes with: “May the new edifices undertaken in the future spell the reverence and faith of the craftsmen of the Middle Ages who so sincerely built and dedicated their churches to the honor and to the glory of God.”<sup>13</sup>

Patrick O'Meara came from an Irish-German family of achievers; of seven siblings



*O'Meara Family. Seated on couch from left: Patrick M. O'Meara Sr., Favoretta Xavier Sullivan, Patrick Jr. Seated on floor from left: Virginia Fay O'Meara, Marian Hayes O'Meara. Taken in 1945 in their University City home. Author's collection, used with permission.*

who lived to adulthood, two were lawyers, one a postmaster, one a Christian Brother, one in insurance and real estate, one a homemaker, and one who went missing after going to Montana to start a homestead. Patrick was fluent in German, though he believed Americans should speak English and never passed the German down to his children.

He drank, smoked, traveled for work constantly, and was quite overweight at the time of his death, by all appearances having enjoyed drinking deeply from the cup of life. According to my mother, when Patrick was hospitalized for kidney failure and on his death bed with his family at his side, his final words shaped their lives, although not necessarily for the better.

At the time of Patrick's death in October 1945, his eldest child, Virginia Fay O'Meara (1927–2005) was eighteen. She had been wanting to join a religious order, which her mother opposed. To her, Patrick said, “Virginia, go ahead and be a nun.” In 1947, she joined Religieuse Du Sacre Coeur De Jesus (RSCJ) and eventually was headmistress for

## ***One O'Meara Family's Eighty-Year Contribution to St. Louis Art and Architecture***

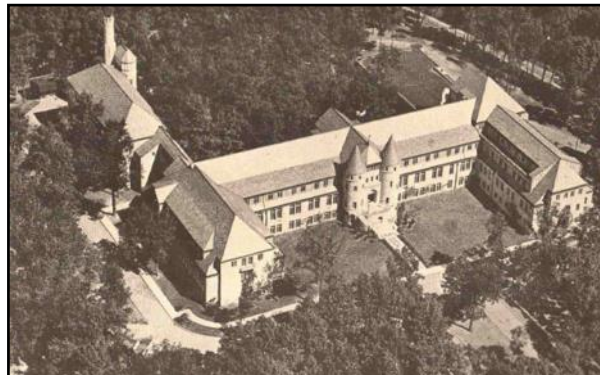
three years at one of her father's signature educational institutions, Villa Duchesne.

To his son, Patrick Jr. (1928–1990), he said, "Pat, you be an architect." According to my mother, this was a suffocating proclamation. My uncle Pat did indeed become an architect, but it was not his calling. He worked respectably and finished his career assisting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the design of the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. (See the page 93 section on Patrick Jr.'s life, with hints of what path he might have chosen, were it not for his father's wish.)

To my mother, at the time not yet even a teenager, he did not know what to say. She was young enough that few had thought what her calling might or should be. According to my mother, as a result, she had the most freedom to choose.

More than two hundred friends, professionals, clergy, and Christian Brothers attended funeral services for Patrick O'Meara on 29 October 1945 at St. Roch Catholic Church on Waterman Boulevard in St. Louis.<sup>14</sup> He was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery on West Florissant Avenue in a modest plot near the main pond, a stone's throw behind the mausoleum his firm had designed just five years earlier. Ironically, my grandmother hated graveyards (that's another story), so it was for decades an unmarked grave. As an amateur genealogist, I felt this was unconscionable, and when the eldest child, Sister Virginia, passed away in 2005, my mother and I had a gravestone placed on the site.

The estate left to my grandmother was approximately \$800,000 in today's dollars.<sup>15</sup> Despite that windfall, she proceeded shrewdly, downsized their home in Parkview to a duplex on Delmar Boulevard, then pulled Pat Jr. out of Notre Dame University, and had him matriculate at Washington University (class of 1950). She also invested in stocks she never sold which were passed down as a boon for the next two generations.



*Villa Duchesne High School shortly after construction in 1929. Author's collection; used with permission.*

### ***Sister O'Meara (RSCJ)— Passionate Visual Artist and Educator***

Sister Virginia "Gin" Fay O'Meara (RSCJ) (1927–2005) took her first vows in 1949 at the Sacred Heart Kenwood Convent in Albany, New York (where it operated until 2009) and took her final vows in Rome in 1955.<sup>16</sup> She earned a bachelor's in education from Maryville University in St. Louis in 1954, an M.A. in European History from St. Louis University, also in St. Louis, in 1956, and another from Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York, in Interdisciplinary Arts in 1968.<sup>17</sup> She taught in St. Louis at Villa Duchesne High School in the 1950s and 1960s (serving as headmistress from 1964 to 1967) and then taught at Maryville University for twenty-two years. In 1989, she retired from teaching as an associate professor of art<sup>18</sup> but continued her studio art work until her death from lung cancer in 2005. She also had a special interest in Jungian psychology.

Gin was a gifted artist, teaching classes in design, silk screen, and calligraphy and designing her own greeting cards for thirty years using paper she made herself. RSCJ has a sizeable portion of her work in its archives at 4537 West Pine Boulevard, St. Louis (**<https://rscj.org/archives>**). The archives are open by appointment to interested researchers.

## ***One O'Meara Family's Eighty-Year Contribution to St. Louis Art and Architecture***

Not having an artistic bone in my body, I often did not understand my aunt, but she had found her calling and knew it. A few months before her death, she began a two-page piece on "Visual Arts and the Creative Process" by writing, "At an art exhibit and lecture I once attended, someone asked the artist, 'How are you able to produce so many paintings?' She answered, 'Art is a state of mind and I have it.' I guess I could say the same thing."<sup>19</sup> Her artistry is self-evident, and it was clear to see she used art as a medium of her faith. She successfully sold much of her work to fund her studio.

While the cause of her lung cancer was officially unknown,<sup>20</sup> my mother said Gin believed it was the chemicals she used for silk screening in the 1970s that damaged her lungs and led to cancer (she never smoked). She, too, is buried at Calvary Cemetery with the other RSCJs in section 33. Throughout her life in St. Louis, Gin was a vibrant and enthusiastic artist, teacher, and servant of God. RSCJ's magazine *Heart* profiled her life in its 2005 spring volume.<sup>21</sup> One of my siblings is more artistic than the rest of us, and her three sons are all artists as well, so I choose to believe Sister Virginia's art legacy lives on in them.

### ***Patrick Marquette O'Meara Jr.— Following in his Father's Footsteps***

Patrick Marquette O'Meara Jr. (1928–1990) graduated in 1945 from the Christian Brothers College (CBC) High School on Clayton Road (when it was a military school with uniforms and ranks)<sup>22</sup> and graduated in 1950 from Washington University in architecture,<sup>23</sup> both in St. Louis (after spending the 1945–1946 school year at Notre Dame University).<sup>24</sup> He served in the Navy from 1952 to 1955 as a Lieutenant Junior Grade during the Korean War, primarily aboard the *USS Brush* (DD-745).<sup>25</sup>

During his military service, Patrick Jr. took stunning color 35mm slides aboard ship and ashore in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Philippines; these were of such quality I have



*Sister O'Meara at her first art exhibit at the Wohl Gallery, Jewish Community Centers Association, in St. Louis, Missouri, May 1972. Archives of the U.S.-Canada Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart, used with permission.*

since donated those 152 slides to the University of Chicago digital library (although due to COVID they are not yet online). He had a keen eye for perspective and lighting; his amateur efforts suggest he could just as easily have been a professional photographer.

Patrick Jr. was a founding partner in 1956 of Drake-O'Meara Associates Architects at 212 South Bemiston Avenue in Clayton, Missouri, and appeared to follow in his father's footsteps, contracting with more than forty ecclesiastical institutions in the Midwest, six of them in St. Louis (and even making an addition to his father's projects at the Jesuit White House retreat in Oakville, Missouri, and to his high school alma mater, CBC).<sup>26</sup> From 1966 to 1977, Pat Jr. worked in Washington, D.C., for various firms and in Manhattan for the Archdiocese of New York.<sup>27</sup> He finished his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and contributed significantly to the design of the Korean War Veterans Memorial ([www.nps.gov/kowa/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/kowa/index.htm)).<sup>28</sup> He confided to me that he did not enjoy the politics that surround wartime monuments in Washington.

# ***One O'Meara Family's Eighty-Year Contribution to St. Louis Art and Architecture***

Patrick Jr. had a real gift for writing, and he told my mother that, had his father not directed him in such dramatic fashion to pursue architecture, English literature was his wont and passion. Pat was a joyous and gregarious man who brightened all occasions. He never married, died in 1990, and is at rest with his parents in Calvary Cemetery.<sup>29</sup>

## ***Marian Hayes O'Meara— The Youngest Child***

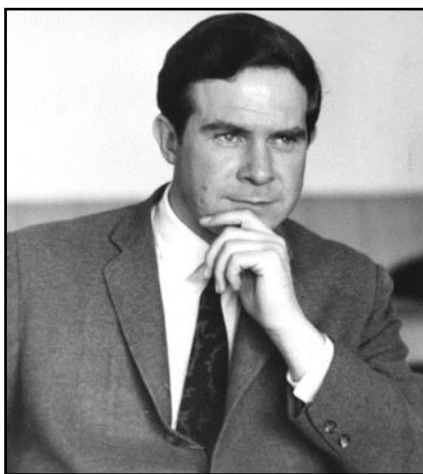
Marian Hayes O'Meara (1932–2010) graduated in 1954 from St. Louis University with a B.S. in political science.<sup>30</sup> She loved politics and public policy, eschewed formal “society” events, and chafed at society’s expectations of women. In 1955, she married William Hooper Evans Jr. at St. Joseph Church on North Mera-mec Avenue in Clayton, Missouri.<sup>31</sup> Marian and William had six children. After many years in University City, Missouri, the family moved in 1974 to Michigan where Marian worked as a realtor. She died in 2010 and had her ashes scattered at sea but consented to her name being added to her parents’ marker in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis so there would be a place for people to pay their respects.<sup>32</sup>

## ***Lineage—Where did these O'Mearas come from?***

Patrick Marquette O'Meara was half-Irish and half-German. While his parents (Patrick O'Meara 1845–1934 and Louisa Reck 1850–1923) were born in Wisconsin, members of the previous generation were all immigrants.

His paternal grandparents emigrated from Ireland. His grandfather, Patrick O'Meara (1799–1890), hailed from County Tipperary,<sup>33</sup> and family tradition is that they were from Toomevara and Ballymackay Parish. His grandmother, Bridget Hays (1805–1885), was from County Limerick.<sup>34</sup> We have spotty and difficult-to-verify information on the generation before that, in part because a fire in Toomevara’s church destroyed most records long before they could be duplicated.

On his mother’s German side, his grandfather, Hubert Reck (1816–1864), emigrated from Aachen, Prussia, and died fighting for the Union at the Battle of Cold Harbor<sup>35</sup> with his son, Herman, fighting at his side.<sup>36</sup> Grandmother Margaretha Gassen (1822–1882) was from Koblenz, Germany, according to family tradition, though definitive documentation is lacking.



*Above left: Patrick O'Meara Jr. Above right: One of Patrick's photos taken in Sasebo, Nagasaki, Japan, 1953. Both from the author's collection, used with permission.*



# One O'Meara Family's Eighty-Year Contribution to St. Louis Art and Architecture

Patrick's father, Patrick O'Meara (1845–1934), was a force in local government. He was elected district attorney of Washington County, Wisconsin, and served from 1874 to 1882. He was elected mayor of West Bend, Wisconsin, in 1887, 1894, and 1895.<sup>37</sup> He ran for Congress in 1886 and 1888 but was defeated. His death in 1934 was big news in Wisconsin, and obituaries ran in twelve city newspapers across the state, as well as in Chicago.<sup>38</sup> The law firm he began in 1870 celebrated its 150th year of operation in 2020. During that century-and-a-half, four generations of O'Mearas practiced law there: first Judge Patrick with his brother, Thomas, then two sons (John and Thomas), and after Judge O'Meara's death in 1934, two grandsons and two great-grandsons went on to serve in the firm. While it still operates today under the name O'Meara,<sup>39</sup> 1998 was the last time there was an O'Meara practicing.

## ***O'Meara Disambiguation— Too Many Irish!***

Arguably, there is a better-known Patrick O'Meara in St. Louis' Calvary Cemetery, who lived from 1808 to 1876 and whose son, John B. O'Meara (1850–1926) was lieutenant governor of Missouri, then later, adjutant and brigadier general of Missouri. These gentlemen are no relation to the O'Mearas in this article.

---

## ***End Notes***

Unless otherwise noted, referenced websites were last checked on 3 September 2023.

1. U.S. Department of State, United States Passport, no. 344269, Patrick M. O'Meara, issued 4 October 1923, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

2. Using Google Earth's "Time Slider" in August 2019, demolition had begun and no later than March 2021, the former Motherhouse and Novitiate was a parking lot.

3. State Board of Health of Missouri, Standard Certificate of Death, file no. 34679, Patrick Marquette O'Meara, 3 November 1945, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

4. "P.M. O'Meara Dies; Noted Architect," *New York Times*, 28 October 1945, p. 43, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

5. "Foreword," *Architecture and Design* 10 (November 1946), privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

6. "List of Students Matriculated during the Scholastic Year September, 1910 to June, 1911" *Bulletin of the University of Notre Dame: General Catalogue, 1909–1910*, series VI, no. 1; digital image, University of Notre Dame Archives (<https://archives.nd.edu/bulletin>), 234.

7. "Foreword," *Architecture and Design* 10 (November 1946).

8. Noncommissioned Officer Appointment Certificate, form no. 152-A.G.O., 27 August 1918, Army of the United States of America, Camp Gordon, Georgia, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

9. Discharge Form #5, Corporal Patrick Marquette O'Meara, First Company, Engineers Officer Training School, 26 November 1918, War Department, Headquarters, Camp A.A. Humphreys, Virginia, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

10. "Foreword," *Architecture and Design* 10 (November 1946).

11. "Foreword," *Architecture and Design* 10 (November 1946).

12. "Patrick M. O'Meara Dies; Architect of 450 Buildings in Midwest," *St. Louis Star and Times*, 27 October 1945, p. 3, col. 7; digital image, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)).

13. *Catholic Churches and Institutions by O'Meara and Hills Architects* (St. Louis, Missouri: Con. P. Curran Printing Co., 1928), 270.

14. "A Register of Friends Who Called in Memory of Patrick Marquette O'Meara, Monday, 29 October 1945," 12 pp., privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

# One O'Meara Family's Eighty-Year Contribution to St. Louis Art and Architecture

15. St. Louis, Missouri, "Estate of Patrick M. O'Meara," St. Louis County Probate, no. 17843, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

16. Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, Provincial Archivist, to Peter O'Meara Evans, electronic communication, 1 February 2022, regarding Sister Virginia Fay O'Meara, personal correspondence, O'Meara family files; privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

17. Pamela Schaeffer, "Working Magic with Hands and Heart: Gin O'Meara, RSCJ is celebrated as artist, spiritual guide," *Heart: A Journal of the Society of the Sacred Heart, U.S. Province*, Spring 2005, 12–15 (<https://rscj.org/publications/heart-magazine-spring-2005-vol-3-no-1>).

18. "Sister O'Meara Dies; Taught Art," *St. Louis Review*, 25 March 2005, photocopy of original privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

19. Gin O'Meara, "Visual Arts and the Creative Process," unpublished essay, February 2005, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

20. Missouri State Registrar of Vital Statistics, Certification of Death, no. 124-05-302259, Virginia O'Meara, 31 March 2005, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

21. Pamela Schaeffer, *Heart: A Journal of the Society of the Sacred Heart, U.S. Province*, Spring 2005.

22. *Christian Brothers College School Guidon* [yearbook], 1945; digital image MyHeritage.com, ([www.myheritage.com/research/record-10568-118577135/christian-brothers-college-high-school](http://www.myheritage.com/research/record-10568-118577135/christian-brothers-college-high-school)), image 30 of 82.

23. "2200 Graduates Getting Degrees in Washington U. Commencement," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 4 June 1950, p. 6K, col. 1; digital image, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) : accessed 9 June 2022). Patrick's name appears in column 3.

24. "Directory of Students in University of Notre Dame," Winter Semester of 1945–1946, 53; digital image, Notre Dame University Archives ([https://archives.nd.edu/dir/DIR\\_1945\\_1946.pdf](https://archives.nd.edu/dir/DIR_1945_1946.pdf)).

25. "Certificate of Service Armed Forces of the United States: LTJ G Patrick M. O'Meara, USNR," 1955, DD-217N, GPO 16-59982-2, wallet card, pri-

vately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

26. "Drake-O'Meara Associates Architects," brochure, undated, 90 pp., privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

27. Patrick Marquette O'Meara Jr., resumé, 1978, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

28. "Certificate of Appreciation in memoriam to Patrick O'Meara" from The American Battle Monuments Commission and The Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board, 1991, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

29. "Obituaries: Patrick M. O'Meara Jr., 62; Architect" *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 13 July 1990, p. 4C, col. 1; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

30. "A Prospective Bride: Marian O'Meara to Be Married to W. H. Evans Jr.," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 3 January 1954, p. 4J, col. 4; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

31. "Recent Weddings: Miss O'Meara Married to William H. Evans Jr. at Church Ceremony," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 20 February 1955, part 11, p. 1; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

32. "Obituary: Evans, Marian O'Meara," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 9 May 2010, p. 20A, col. 4; digital image, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)).

33. Fred L. Holmes, ed., "Biography: Judge Patrick O'Meara," *Wisconsin: Stability, Progress, Beauty* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1946), 363–365; photocopy of original privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

34. "Obituary: Mrs. Bridget O'Meara," *West Bend Democrat*, West Bend, Wisconsin, 26 August 1885, p. 3, col. 3; privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

35. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), "Certificate of Death: Private Hubert Reck," Army of the Potomac, 1 July 1864, privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

36. Andrew Pick O'Meara (great-grandson of Hubert Reck) to Peter O'Meara Evans, conversation 27 November 2004, personal correspondence,

# One O'Meara Family's Eighty-Year Contribution to St. Louis Art and Architecture

O'Meara family files; privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

37. "Death of Judge P. O'Meara," *West Bend Pilot*, West Bend, Wisconsin, 19 April 1934, vol. 43, no. 16, p. 1; "Judge P. O'Meara, a Great Man in County History, Died Sunday," *West Bend News*, West Bend, Wisconsin, 20 April 1934, pp. 1 and 5; privately held by Peter O'Meara Evans, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Springfield, Virginia, 2022.

38. "Death Notices; O'Meara—Judge Patrick O'Meara," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, 17 April 1934, p. 16, col. 8; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

39. "Firm Overview," O'Meara Law Firm, (<https://omearalawfirm.com/firm-overview/>).

## About the Author

**Peter O'Meara Evans** was born in University City, Missouri, but grew up in St. Joseph, Michigan. A U.S. foreign service officer with the Department of State, he is currently assigned to Washington, D.C. . He has served in Jerusalem, Riyadh, Kuala Lumpur, Taipei, and Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago and the Middlebury Institute at Monterey.

Peter has been an amateur genealogist since 1997, researching the ancestors of Patrick Marquette Meara (1890–1945), Favoretta Xavier Sullivan (1899–1984), William Hooper Evans (1891–1976), Dorothy Adelaide Hart (1898–1976), Genpachi Miyoshi (1907–1966), Kikku Nikko (1910–1944), Haruki Inoue (?–1973), and Yone Kosugi (?–1950).



## Design and Write for the StLGS Quarterly!

### Layout/Graphics Editor

We need someone with skills in layout and graphic design who can assist with our journal. Are you:

- Familiar with photo editing?
- Comfortable with Microsoft Publisher (PC only) and Adobe Photoshop Elements?
- Able to come into our office to work with others when needed?
- A competent writer/editor?

If interested, please contact our publications director at [publications@stlgs.org](mailto:publications@stlgs.org).

### Writers

Do you have a story to tell about your ancestor—or have you learned a great research tip? Perhaps you've discovered a new way to use technology or specific types of resources in your research. Share your story with us for possible publication in the *Quarterly*. For submissions:

Download and read our guidelines for publication in the *Quarterly*:

<https://stlgs.org/media/pdf/quarterlyguidelines2018.pdf>

Send questions or articles to [quarterly@stlgs.org](mailto:quarterly@stlgs.org).

## Remembering My Aunt: Aida Lourena Mayham

By Susan Mowry

The second of three daughters, Aida Lourena Mayham was born on 7 April 1886 in Murphysboro, Illinois, to John Banks Mayham and Emma Boulter Jauncey.<sup>1</sup> The couple also had a son, B. Jauncey Mayham, in 1880, who died in infancy.<sup>2</sup> Aida's father, John Mayham, was born in 1841 in New York state<sup>3</sup> and studied law. John moved to Murphysboro, and in 1867 he was elected city attorney and then became mayor in 1874.<sup>4</sup> He also held the position of County Judge of Jackson County, Illinois.<sup>5</sup> His wife, Emma Boulter Jauncey, was also from Murphysboro where they were married on 10 September 1873.<sup>6</sup> John died on 14 April 1890 in Murphysboro and is buried in the Murphysboro City Cemetery,<sup>7</sup> by his son.

After John's death, Emma moved her three daughters, Aida, Anna May, and Leila Banks, from Murphysboro to St. Louis, Missouri, where they were enumerated in the 1910 U.S. census.<sup>8</sup> That census indicates that they were living at 4210 Washington Boulevard. Emma was listed as the keeper of a boarding house, and Aida was a practicing electrologist.

By the time of the 1920 U.S. federal census, Aida and her mother had moved to 4653 Pershing on the corner of Euclid and Pershing.<sup>9</sup> The original owner of the Pershing residence was Dr. Jacob Friedman, who had the home built in 1905 by architect J. L. Wees.<sup>10</sup> At that time, the street was called Berlin, but in the storm of anti-German public sentiment around the time of World War I, the name was changed to Pershing Avenue in 1918. The structure also included the doctor's office, with its entrance on Euclid Avenue. Dr. Friedman died in April 1918,<sup>11</sup> and a few months later, his widow sold the home to Aida,<sup>12</sup> where she and her mother lived for the rest of their lives.

Aida's lifelong career was in the practice of electrolysis (the removal of unwanted hair using electricity). An article in the 1 May 1957 issue<sup>13</sup> of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* detailed Aida's incredible professional life which started after being told by her uncle not to pursue a



*Aida Mayham with her horse on Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri. Author's collection, used with permission.*

medical degree. Instead, he urged her to become proficient at electrolysis. She then met Dr. William A. Hardaway, a physician in St. Louis, who suggested "that perhaps if she practiced diligently his methods, she might be able to develop a scarless technique," which she ultimately did. Aida was the first to use the term "electrologist" to refer to her profession. As Dr. Friedman had before her, she used the office in the Pershing Avenue house for her business. She was dedicated to her thousands of patients and cared deeply about them.

Aida's name appears often in St. Louis newspapers dating back to 1910. Many business ads from this time promote her professional life as an electrologist. She was an accomplished sportswoman and active in the social life of St. Louis, as well. One St. Louis newspaper article in 1911 reports on Aida being involved in a horse show.<sup>14</sup> A 1912 article references a swimming championship held in the "new sanitary swimming beach at Forest Park Highlands" where she is listed with numerous other "mermaids of St. Louis."<sup>15</sup>

In 1912, a number of articles circulated about a man named Samuel A. Cheatham who was a confessed murderer and overall teller of tall tales. One such article published in the *St. Louis Star and Times* on 10 March 1912 mentions a list found in his diary of "Girls I Have Met," which included Aida and her sister, Leila. The item is accompanied by a photo of

## Remembering My Aunt: Aida Lourena Mayham

Aida.<sup>16</sup> An article in the 23 July 1918 *St. Louis Star and Times* notes that Aida was a member of the St. Louis Red Cross Motor Corps.<sup>17</sup>

On 23 June 1920, Aida married George Kempland of St. Louis, the son of William Corbyn Kempland and Jane "Jennie" Penberthy, in a ceremony at the Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal).<sup>18</sup> The ritual was solemnized by Reverend Edmund Duckworth. It was an elegant affair. Aida wore silver cloth and a veil of rose-point lace that had been made in Italy. The veil was subsequently worn by Aida's sister-in-law, Jane F. Kempland, at her 1920 wedding. Jane had been Aida's maid of honor. Many years later, Aida's niece, Susan Janelle Sleight, wore the same veil at her wedding in 1967.

After their marriage, George moved into the Pershing home with Aida and remained there until the couple's divorce in 1936.<sup>19</sup> He was a real estate broker and had once been a land clearance commissioner for St. Louis.<sup>20</sup> At the time of their divorce, Aida legally took back her maiden name.

Literally thousands of classified ads were published in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* promoting Aida's business. One, dated 20 September 1953, reads "SUPERFLUOUS HAIR permanently removed; the first multiple-needle electrologist in St. Louis; 35 years experience [*sic*] and 20 needles insure absolutely scarless and remarkable speed; medical references. Aida L. Mayham, Electrologist, 346 N. Euclid."<sup>21</sup> The ads ceased in 1955, the year she apparently stopped working.

When I was around eight or nine years old, my parents and I were invited to Aunt Aida's for dinner. The basement in her house on Pershing was decorated as a rathskeller. I had never seen a room like that before, and I kept going from one table to another pretending I was a "customer." During dinner that evening at her beautifully set dining table, a dish was placed before each of us with strange-looking food on it. I had always been taught to sample whatever food was on the plate in front of me, so after looking across the table at my parents



*Aida Mayham in her wedding dress. Author's collection, used with permission.*

(who I am sure were snickering), I tasted this strange "thing." It turned out to be frog's legs, and oh, my goodness, how tasty they were!

Aida Mayham was a fascinating, independent woman who was well ahead of her time. She was an accomplished horsewoman, swimmer, and volunteer for the Red Cross, as well as a determined businesswoman. In addition, I remember her as an extremely kindhearted and loving person, and, as a young child, I was in awe of her glamour and her magnificent home on Pershing. Every time I would see Aunt Aida outside of her home, she was wearing a hat, which made her seem very elegant to me as a young girl. I received many special gifts from her at Christmas. One year, she gave me a small clothes brush with a little heart at one end that had my name engraved on it. It is still one of my special possessions.

Aida passed away on 22 March 1961 at the age of seventy-four.<sup>22</sup> She is buried, by her mother, in the Oak Grove Cemetery Mausoleum in St. Louis, Missouri.

# Remembering My Aunt: Aida Lourena Mayham

## End Notes

Unless otherwise noted, reference websites were last checked on 31 July 2023.

1. Murphysboro, Illinois, birth certificate, Aida Lourena Mayham (1886), Jackson County Historical Society.

2. Murphysboro, Illinois, birth certificate, B. Jauncey Mayham (1880), Jackson County Historical Society; Murphysboro, Illinois, death certificate, B. Jauncey Mayham (1880), Jackson County Historical Society.

3. 1855 New York state census, Schoharie County, New York, population schedule, n.p., dwelling 6, Banks Mayham in the family of John Mayham; digital image, *Ancestry.com* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)), citing census of the state of New York for 1855.

4. "Murphysboro's early history written in '77," *The Daily Independent* (Murphysboro, Illinois), 16 October 1923, p. 25, col. 4; digital image, *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)), p. 25 col. 4.

5. Grace Raymond, *The Family of Henry Maham of Blenheim Hill, Schoharie County, New York*, "North America, Family Histories, 1500–2000," John Mayham, *Ancestry.com*, 18.

6. Raymond, *The Family of Henry Maham of Blenheim Hill, Schoharie County, New York*, 25.

7. Murphysboro, Illinois, cemetery record, John Banks Mayham (1890), Jackson County Historical Society.

8. 1910 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis, p. 11A (penned), dwelling 178, family 208, Emma Mayham; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication T624.

9. 1920 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis, p. 1B (penned), dwelling 11, family 11, Emma Mayham; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication T625.

10. Amanda Clark (Missouri Historical Society) to Susan Mowry, electronic communication, December 2021 through 14 February 2022, regarding house at 4653 Pershing, St. Louis, Missouri, personal correspondence; privately held by Susan Mowry [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], Talking Rock, Georgia.

11. "Cook County, Illinois, U.S., Deaths Index, 1878–1922," death record, Jacob Friedman (1918), *Ancestry.com*, citing Illinois Department of Public Health, "Birth and Death Records, 1916–present," Division of Vital Records, Springfield.



*Aida Mayham, taken about 1940. Author's collection, used with permission.*

12. "Real Estate Transfers. . . Pershing," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 18 December 1918, p. 20, col. 3; PERSHING—51 feet; digital image *Newspapers.com*.

13. Joan Foster, "Electrologist Coined Name, Started Practice in St. Louis," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 1 May 1957, main edition, p. 14A, col. 5; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

14. "St. Louis Women Take Part in Horse Show," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 8 October 1911, p. 23, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

15. "Girls to Swim for Championship July 6," *St. Louis Star and Times*, 3 July 1912, p. 3, col. 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

16. "Has Munchausen Outclassed, is Chief Allender's Comment upon Slayer's Diary of 'Girls I have Met,'" *St. Louis Star and Times*, 10 March 1912, p. 6, col. 1; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

17. "Woman Driver Tells of Ambulance Trip," *St. Louis Star and Times*, 23 July 1918, p. 4, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

18. "Social Items," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 23 June 1920, p. 11, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

19. "Mrs. George W. Kempland Divorces Realty Dealer," *St. Louis Star and Times*, 22 July 1936, p. 7, col. 1; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

20. "George Kempland Dies, Real Estate Dealer Here," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 17 March 1954, p. 21, col. 5; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

21. "Professional Services," *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 20 September 1953, p. 26, col. 8; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

22. "Deaths, Mayham, Aida L," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 24 March 1961, p. 34, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

## New Members

The following members joined between 1 July and 30 September 2023.

**Welcome!**

Paula Albrecht	St. Louis, MO	Gloria Morris	Chesterfield, MO
Daniel Belcher	St. Louis, MO	Pamela Morris	Corvallis, MT
Julie Beller	St. Louis, MO	Thomas O'Shaughnessy	Portland, OR
Patricia Bryant	East Amherst, NY	Holly Parks	St. Louis, MO
Lori Cantrell	St. Louis, MO	Gloria Phillips	Bridgeton, MO
Carmen Castle	Bath, PA	LeeAnn Phipps	Imperial, MO
Erin Craig	St. Louis, MO	Dana Holtzman Pohlman	St. Louis, MO
Sidney Crowcroft	Quincy, IL	Karen Port	St. Louis, MO
Jeri Berthoud Dias	West Plains, MO	Timothy Prince	Hazelwood, MO
Kathleen Dwyer	Albuquerque, NM	Sandra Ristow	Sequim, WA
David Davi Ebel	Indianapolis, IN	Mary Roth and	
Adam Eder	Pevely, MO	Michael Naccarato Roth	St. Louis, MO
Steve Enfinger	Columbia, TN	Kathleen Ryan	Union, KY
Maria Enger	Hattiesburg, MS	Marie Sarich	Apopka, FL
Desiree Funston	Stevensville, ME	Constance Schmitz	Tubac, AZ
Jacob Geers	St. Paul, MN	Elaine Sebald	Georgetown, TX
Diane Giannini	Bentonville, AR	Tobias Simers	Chesterfield, MO
Matthew Glasson	St. Louis, MO	Cheryl Sook Singleton	San Diego, CA
Michael Grumich	New Orleans, LA	Frances Smith	Santa Barbara, AZ
Paulette Harris	Avon, IN	Trevor Smith	St. Charles, MO
Linda Hennemann	Bluffton, SC	Josef Soetebier	Benicia, CA
Mark Horstman	Maryland Heights, MO	Robert Taxman	Chesterfield, MO
Laura Jacoby	San Francisco, CA	Gary Theisen	Elk Grove, CA
Justin Jones	St Louis, MO	Sharon L. Thornton	Terrell, TX
Lesleyanne Kessler	Fairfax Station, VA	Jeffrey Titter	Union, MO
James Korte	St. Peters, MO	Stacy Tucker	Woodinville, WA
Jean Kramer	Fargo, ND	Mark Turley	League City, TX
Barbara Lewandowski	St. Louis, MO	Renee Van Der Werff	Armour, SD
Susan Machado	Stockton, CA	Michael Wilbanks	Naples, FL
Sherry Miller	Columbia, MO	Patricia Willis	Florissant, MO
Timothy Miller	Gold River, CA	Patricia Wolford	Forney, TX
Patricia Moore	Manchester, MO	Edward Wong	Alexandria, VA

### **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.

St. Louis Genealogical Society  
4 Sunnen Drive, Suite 140  
St. Louis, MO 63143-3814

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
St. Louis, MO  
PERMIT No. 2974

