



St. Louis Genealogical Society

Quarterly

Volume 56, Number 4

Winter 2023-2024



Fischer's Dry Goods store, located at 7209 South Broadway in St. Louis City, as it appeared before a twentieth-century remodeling.

The St. Louis Genealogical Society

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St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly

Winter 2023-2024



On the Cover

Fischer's Dry Goods store, located at 7209 South Broadway in St. Louis City, as it appeared before a twentieth-century remodeling. Like many buildings in St. Louis, it is now gone, but researching its history has been an ongoing learning experience for a descendant of its original owners. Follow the ongoing saga to learn more about this St. Louis building beginning on page 120.

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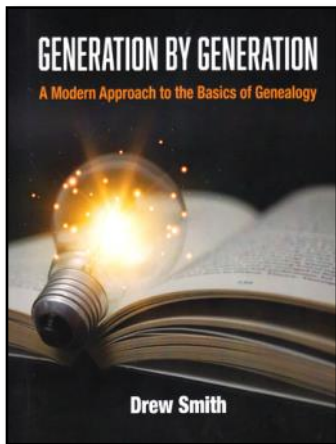
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Generation by Generation, A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy. By Drew Smith. Baltimore, Md.: Clearfield Publications, 2023. 170 pages. \$29.95.

This book is divided into two parts: preparing to research and doing the research. Each section is then broken into chapters and



organized the way many of us learned to do genealogy—by generations. In Part 1, Smith emphasizes defining a research goal and citing sources, using tools and methods to stay organized, and looking for previous research. These practices

will give any beginner a solid foundation of good habits and methodology. There are plenty of examples. I wish there had been sample forms at the back that could be torn out. I think beginners would benefit from having family group sheets and census forms to become familiar with and practice filling them out.

Part 1 also includes chapters on DNA testing and using online repositories. Again, the pictures, charts, and examples are helpful. Smith describes Y DNA and autosomal and X DNA, even giving a short explanation of genetic recombination. In the chapter on online repositories, screenshots make it easy to follow along on a computer at home.

Part 2 details the research process, starting with the current day and working back through time. The first chapter in this section introduces home sources including birth, death, and marriage certificates, obituaries, wills, yearbooks, church bulletins, and artifacts. Smith encourages budding genealogists to look around their own homes and enlist any relatives to do the same, because family papers do not always wind up in a single place. The author recommends scanning the paper and photographing the artifacts as they are found. It may sound like extra work, but my personal experience would agree with his suggestion. Done as you work, you have a small pile. Done after years of research, you have a huge mess and a headache to match. This chapter also addresses the use of newspapers, mentioning the *Chronicling America* website as well as paid newspaper databases to explore. Check with your local library to see if it provides access to any of them. There is also a survey of *Find a Grave*, *BillionGraves*, and *Interment.net* for death and burial information.

The author then addresses U.S. federal censuses, explaining how they were conducted, what was asked, abbreviations, and where to find them. State censuses, military records, and immigration and naturalization records are also introduced. In addition, the chapter touches on church records and probate records, with suggestions for learning about the subjects in more detail.

The next chapter covers resources from 1850 to 1880, since the censuses in these years are different from later ones. Slave schedules

Book Reviews

are discussed for their value and their limitations, and Civil War records are introduced. Each of the remaining five chapters is short, with noticeably less detail.

There is plenty of material in this book for the new genealogist or as a refresher for someone who is returning to their hobby after a long break. I would definitely recommend it for someone looking for a first book on genealogy. It is easy to understand and promotes good genealogical habits.

*Reviewed by Cheryl Wheaton
Assistant in the StLGS Research Room*

The St. Louis Commune of 1877: Communism in the Heartland. By Mark Kruger. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2021. 301 pages. Softcover. \$29.95.

In July 1877, a railroad strike began in West Virginia and quickly spread to several other states, including Missouri and Illinois. In *The St. Louis Commune of 1877: Communism in the Heartland*, Mark Kruger describes the strike, with emphasis on events in St. Louis. He details the connection between European socialist ideals and union activity in the United States at that time. As Kruger writes in the preface, David Burbank's 1966 book *Reign of the Rabble* "provides an excellent day-to-day description of the Commune's rule of the city." Kruger states that the purpose of his book is to describe the European socialist philosophical foundation for those events.

The author explains that the railroad strike in St. Louis, unlike in the rest of the country, expanded to include a general strike across most industries that lasted four to five days. During this time, an executive committee was elected by the strikers and their supporters. Most of the executive committee members were union supporters from the socialist Workingmen's Party of the United States. The executive committee organized large public meetings and marches, and encouraged workers to join the strike. The small St. Louis police force was unable to control the striking workers. The mayor and other

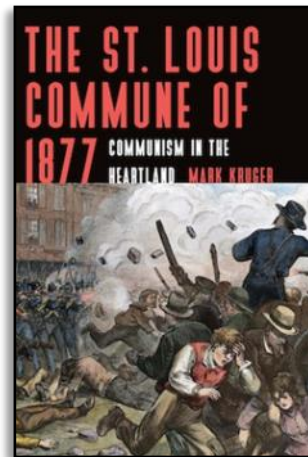
city officials moved from City Hall to the nearby Four Courts building to coordinate efforts to regain full control of the city, which they eventually did. The degree to which the executive committee actually ruled the city is difficult to ascertain from the records of the time, most of which are editorialized newspaper reports.

This book will be of interest to anyone whose ancestors lived in St. Louis during this period and to those who want to learn more about the history of the city, including nineteenth-century European immigration to St. Louis. Other than the small number of strike leaders, names of those who participated are not listed, and the lack of detailed written records makes it unlikely that they ever will be known. But this book provides much information about the conditions of the time in St. Louis and the country, which allows us to better understand the world our ancestors inhabited and gain insights to help us interpret current events. Those who are especially interested may also want to read Burbank's *Reign of the Rabble* (out of print but available from St. Louis city and county libraries) to gain a more focused understanding of the events in St. Louis.

*Reviewed by Tom Hall
StLGS Quarterly contributor*

Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ida. By Anne Hanson. Brookline, Massachusetts: New England Books, LLC, 2022. 359 pages. Softcover. \$18.99.

Is there a genealogist anywhere who has not faced brick walls? We talk about them all the time: relatives who arrived out of nowhere, name changes, family stories that twist and



Book Reviews

turn, difficulties in finding records when there are just too many unknowns. Some of us never get past the brick walls, but others are persistent and maybe a bit lucky, and when they do make a breakthrough, they are rewarded with incredible stories. Such is the case with author Anne Hanson, who has written a memorable family history based on decades of both persistence and luck, with a great deal of excellent research thrown into the mix.

Anne's grandmother, Ida Agnes Howe, died before Anne was born. Her grandfather, Frank Hanson, was always reluctant to reveal anything about his past. Her father and his three brothers, however, often shared stories of growing up in a loving family in Akron, Ohio. Ida and Frank told their four young sons about living in Brooklyn, New York. According to Ida, her rich and famous English family owned a farm that became part of Prospect Park in Brooklyn. Frank's parents were hard-working Swedish immigrants, but he had been a bit of a rebel as a teenager. They each had many siblings, but their connection with New York and their immediate families was abruptly severed after their marriage for reasons no one ever discussed. Anne inherited a family genealogy based on an interview Ida gave Anne's aunt, and after one of her uncles died, a box of photographs and negatives from his home went to her father. However, after years of searching, neither Anne nor her aunt were able to corroborate a single thing that Ida had told them.

The contents of the box Anne's father received were perplexing. Most of the photos were unlabeled but for dates, and the background scenery in many of them bore no resemblance to any of the locations described by her grandfather as places where they lived. Her father was able to identify some of the people and places, but much of the box was a mystery.

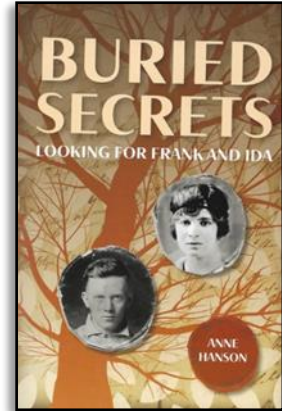
How Anne went about unraveling the pieces of this puzzle forms the basis for this beautifully written and completely absorbing family history. Starting her search in the days before the internet, Anne's journey to discover-

ing her family truths took her to multiple locations. She provides us with insight into how to proceed when barrier after barrier is thrown up in front of you, and by the time she breaks through those barriers, we are so invested in her search that we cannot help but feel a personal connection to her victory.

This book is not a traditional family history. There are minimal source citations, no generation charts, no genealogically numbered lists. Instead, this is the story of a quest, a how-to of best practices documented with all its ups and downs in such an engaging style that it is very difficult to put the book down. Oddly, the publisher placed this book in the categories "Biography & Autobiography; True Crime/Con Artists, Hoaxes, and Deceptions." Clearly, someone had no idea that this book had nothing to do with true crime or con artists. What it does address, however, is how the social norms of the twentieth century affected people's behavior and changed the trajectory of many families. The "hoaxes and deceptions" Anne learns about were simply a unique reaction to the stifling limits to personal freedom of the time period and how an attempt to start over after a mistake made in youth would affect a family for multiple generations because of a perceived need to cover it up. So many of us have the very same "hoaxes and deceptions" in our families, as we learn when we do our own research.

If you are contemplating writing a book about your family, reading Anne's may give you a brand new direction in which to take your story telling. Or just pick up a copy and enjoy it for the great read that it is! You won't be disappointed.

*Reviewed by Ilene Murray
StLGS Publications Director*



Feature Articles from Other Publications

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

Article subtitles are included where available. A note has been inserted in brackets in order to clarify the content of the article if it is not evident from the title. These periodicals are available for your use in the History and Genealogy Department at St. Louis County Library's Daniel Boone branch.

The Genealogist (American Society of Genealogists)

Vol. 37, no. 2, Fall 2023

- Becoming Mainers: The Little-Known "Northward to Maine" Move of Mayflower Descendant Nathaniel Tilden's Family
- Rutherford Burchard Hayes Rivers: An Identity Untangled
- Etienne Bellumeau de la Vincendiere, Planter-Refugee from Saint-Domingue: French Origins and American Descendants
- A Plumb Line: The Parentage and Progeny of Pleiades Plumb (1832–1908)
- The Ancestry of Dorothy Derrent, the Ghost of Botathan of South Petherwin, County Cornwall, England
- Mary Reigle, Probable Wife of Adam Crick of Rimersburg, Pennsylvania: Dueling Claims and a Correction

Missouri Historical Review

(State Historical Society of Missouri)

Vol. 118, no. 1, October 2023

- "Watch Adair County Klan Grow": The Second Ku Klux Klan in Kirksville, Missouri, 1923–1925
- French Law and Marriage in Early Missouri Courts: Roswell Field Argues St. Louis History
- St. Louis vs. Chicago: The Water Pollution Case of 1900–1906
- From the Stacks: Research Center—Columbia
- The 1918 Journal of E. Lansing Ray

NGS Magazine (National Genealogical Society)

Vol. 49, no. 3, September 2023

- Genealogy Education: A Changing Landscape
- University Libraries and African American Research
- Using Theses and Dissertations to Enhance Family History

- What Can Genealogists Learn from Yearbooks?
- Special Interest Groups and Small Study Groups
- Roots of Education in Colonial America

NGS Magazine (National Genealogical Society)

Vol. 49, no. 4, October–December 2023

- Techniques for Differentiating Identities
- The Foundations of Genealogical Research
- Finding the Elusive Maiden Name
- Tracing African American Identities
- Rediscovering an Immigrant's Original Surname
- Making Sense of Name Inconsistencies

St. Charles County [Missouri] Heritage

(St. Charles County Historical Society)

Vol. 41, no. 4, October 2023

- The History of Matson
- Joseph Chandler of Chandler Hills
- Dr. Daniel T. Brown: A Remembrance
- Immaculate Conception, West Alton
- The Justice of the Peace in St. Charles County

St. Clair County [Illinois] Genealogical Society Quarterly

Vol. 46, no. 3, Fall 2023

- The Balsters Farm Name for Henry Voss (1818–1887), East St. Louis
- 1834 School Land Sale Petition Near Millstadt (T1S R9W)
- Marriage Index 1951 (Bride Surnames Harris, G–Pierce)
- Grand Juror Lists, 1891–1895
- Death Records, Zion Evangelical Church, Millstadt, Illinois, 1836–1915, part ten
- 1838 School Land Sale Petition Near Lebanon (T2N R6W)
- Chancery Case Files Index, 1870–1920, part seven

St. Louis City/County Biographies Project

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

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

Our biographies honor men and women who are famous, such as architect William Bernoudy and poet Sara Teasdale, to people you may recognize by name if you live in our 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 on how and what to submit. Download a copy of the instruction flyer, and while you are there, take a few minutes to read about the lives of many other individuals who have called St. Louis home.

“History is the essence of innumerable biographies.”

Thomas Carlyle, 1838

Save the Date! **Successfully Navigating Websites for Your Genealogy**

Saturday, 4 May 2024

StLGS’s 52nd Annual Family History Conference

**Featuring David Rencher, AG® CG®, FUGA, FIGRS,
Chief Genealogical Officer for *FamilySearch***



PLUS
Four Additional Local Speakers

**Registration Opening
Late February!**

Benito Andres Vasquez (1738–1810)

By Douglas W. Whitney
for the St. Louis City/County Biographies Project

Benito Andres Vasquez was born in 1738 in Torrente, Galicia, Spain. Torrente was a village near Santiago de Compostela. Benito's father was a farmer and carpenter, but Benito joined the Spanish Army in 1762 and was assigned to the Regiment of Leon. In 1766, he volunteered to join an elite one hundred-soldier company to accompany the new governor of the Louisiana Territory in America when the territory was ceded from France to Spain. One of the officers of that company was Captain Pedro Piernas. They sailed first to Havana, where the governor, Antonio Ulloa, was waiting for them. They then sailed to New Orleans.

Vasquez was then ordered to accompany Piernas to establish a Spanish settlement on the west bank of the Mississippi River across the river from Natchez. In August 1768, Piernas was ordered to the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers to relieve Franco Riu, who had failed in his mission to build a Spanish fort there. Piernas received special permission from Ulloa for Vasquez to accompany him on that mission due to their long service together. In the spring of 1769, they arrived at the trading post named St. Louis, which had been built by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau just south of the proposed fort. After a short stay, they returned to Havana due to a rebellion by the French settlers against the Spanish. The rebellion was put down, and they returned to St. Louis. Piernas was appointed lieutenant governor of the northern portion of the territory. Piernas, Vasquez, and their troops stayed in St. Louis to consolidate the Spanish governance rather than occupy the failed fort.

In 1772, Vasquez retired from active military service but chose to remain in St. Louis. He was very close to Piernas and was granted a lot where the north leg of the St. Louis Arch is located today. He became involved in the fur trade with the Osage and other tribes up the

Missouri River, and in 1774 he married sixteen-year-old Marie Julie Papin, a member of an early French-Canadian family.

Benito and Julie had eleven children, several of whom were involved in the fur trade and exploration of the west. Benito was appointed captain of the St. Louis militia and was cited by the Spanish king for his heroism in the defeat of the attempted British invasion of St. Louis in May 1780. Benito and his family members stood with tears in their eyes in 1804 as the Spanish flag was replaced by the French flag and then by the American flag on successive days due to the purchase of the Louisiana Territory by the United States. Benito's fur trade efforts were quite successful until he invested in the formation of the Missouri Fur Company, which failed, and he was never able to recover. He passed away in 1810 and was buried next to the St. Louis Cathedral, to the ringing of the beautiful bell which Benito had procured and transported from New Orleans in 1774 for the cathedral and dedicated to his patron, Pedro Piernas and his lady.

(Douglas W. Whitney is the third great-grandson of Benito Andres Vasquez)



The Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, known locally as the Old Cathedral

Photo by Karl Bloomberg in the StLGS photo archives; used with permission.

10 Must Haves for Genealogy and Family History Success

By Thomas MacEntee

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Whether you're just dabbling in genealogy and researching your roots, or you've become a hard core lifer obsessed with the hunt, there are basic skills that family historians of all levels have in common. We'll review those skills that can help you find success researching online or in-person.

Is there a RIGHT WAY to do GENEALOGY?

I've never liked living in a black and white world where there are only two ways of doing something. Telling another genealogist that they aren't doing it "right" can quickly turn a misunderstanding into a battle royale. However, I do think there are some BASICS of genealogy and family history research that should be learned and employed so that we aren't just "playing around." Sites like *Ancestry* have "gamified" genealogy so it is fun to build family trees, click on hints, add info, etc. But are you really building a legacy and leaving a solid body of work for your future generations?

The 10 Must Haves

My list of must haves for genealogy is one I think most genealogists can agree with.

A Sense of Purpose

Seriously consider why you want to search for your ancestors and know more about your family history. Take into account how many years you've been doing this, how much time you spend each week researching, and how much money you spend each year going to conferences, society meetings, ordering copies of records, subscribing to websites. It is so easy to just bounce from thing to thing and never really have anything to show for your investment of time and money. Having one big goal such as "I'm going to write a book about

the MacEntee family history" is admirable, but it might be too big and overwhelming. Start with small goals: "I'm going to write a two-page biographical sketch on Elmer MacEntee, my great-grandfather." Then more small goals and pretty soon you'll find you can string them together into that one big goal!

Communication Skills

Why Can't We All Just Get Along? You think it would be simple especially since the genealogy community is generally known as a dedicated and intelligent group of researchers all focused on a similar goal: finding our ancestors. Yet researchers are people and as such little things like the ego and even misinformation or lack of knowledge can be like sand in the gears of the genealogy machine.

It all comes down to COMMUNICATION. Whether dealing with family members, cousins with whom I've never met before, or archivists and librarians, I always try to remember the 5 Cs: **Clear, Concise, Complete, Congenial, and Compensation.**

Writing Skills

I was fortunate enough to become a good writer in high school and a better writer in college. In genealogy, don't feel pressured to write a long proof argument like those you see in society journals. Employ the KISS concept: Keep It Simple, Stupid. I contend that you can compose a written proof of an ancestor's birth date or birth location in fifty words or less and still follow guidelines set out by professional genealogy societies and associations.

In addition, learn to master whatever writing application you are using whether it is Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc. Once you acquire those skills, you'll have an easier time documenting your research efforts as well as

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getting those family stories in a fixed and written format.

Genealogy Research Toolbox

Have you ever sat down either in front of your home computer or at a library prepared to start some genealogy research and then *bam* you can't find that wonderful website or resource you used last week or last month? Wouldn't it be great if you could build your own little toolbox of research resources that you could use anywhere? Building a research toolbox with your own favorite links, books, articles and more is what you need. A personalized research toolbox not only can help you locate information about your own ancestors, but it is a great way to share resources with your fellow genealogists.

- **Containers:** Think of a physical toolbox, perhaps made of metal or plastic. Which design would work best for you? Large or small? With a handle? Lots of small drawers inside for items? For a research toolbox, especially one with lots of links to websites, consider a container where you can organize your browser bookmarks. A big consideration is portability.
- **Content:** Think of what you would want to have at your fingertips during genealogical research. Are you constantly going out to Google to search for something like a list of old occupation names or abbreviations for given names? If you already had these website links in your research toolbox, imagine the amount of time you could save? And that time could be used to search for ancestors instead of tools!

Organization Skills

If you're a beginning genealogist you want to research "the right way" and if you're an intermediate one, you probably have learned from your early mistakes. While some would argue as to what is "correct" we would probably all agree on these points as to what a research log could and should do:

- **Create an action plan.** Many genealogists have some sort of research plan whether it is written down or in their heads. A research log can help you fine tune that research plan and convert it into an action plan. For many of us, that is the challenge . . . getting from "What I want to look for" to "Oh, look what I've found!"
- **Keep you organized.** Do you spend hours just bouncing around on *Ancestry.com* or another website? What about in-person at a repository . . . do you use your time wisely or just go from resource to resource? A research log can help you not only organize your research finds, but also identify areas where you need to do more research.
- **Allow instant recall.** Even if you are successful at finding the records and information you need in genealogy, what good is it if you can't locate that information easily and quickly? Especially if you store your finds on a computer, it helps to have a map to where all that stuff is! Use links and entries in a research log to find items fast.
- **Reduce "do-overs."** There's nothing worse than spending time researching only to find out that you already had that particular record. A research log lets you know where you've been and where you should be spending your time.
- **Help analyze data.** If you've located several different records related to an ancestor's marriage, how can you really analyze all the information and come to a conclusion if you can't see the details all at once? A research log lets you sort by fields or column headings and also search for specific keywords so you can easily analyze results.

Evidence Evaluation Skills

Have you ever looked closely at a vital record such as a birth or death certificate? I mean REALLY close . . . every line, front and back, every stray mark? That is what we should do

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as genealogists, but many of us get caught up in the excitement of the find, that our eyes only gravitate towards what we feel matters at that time. The following fields can be used when working with *The Board for Certification of Genealogists' Skillbuilding: Guidelines for Evaluating Genealogical Resources*.

- **Source Type:** A source is **original** if it is the first written statement, photograph, or recording of an event. Subsequent copies are **derivative** and may be reproduced by hand, machine, camera or scanner; they may be reproduced on paper, in microform, as photographs or digital images, or in any other medium that records the image whether transcribed by hand or technology.
- **Clarity:** Use "clear" if the information can easily be read. Use "marginal" if information is not clear, is partially obscured and researcher must "guess" at words or letters.
- **Information Type:** Use "primary" if a piece of information is recorded by a knowledgeable eyewitness or participant in that event or by an official whose duties require him or her to make an accurate record of the event when it occurs. Use "secondary" if information is supplied by someone who was not at the event and may include errors caused by memory loss or influenced by other parties who may have a bias or be under emotional stress.
- **Evidence Type:** Direct evidence is any fact that is explicitly stated. Indirect evidence is inferred from one or more pieces of evidence within the record.

Source Citation Skills

When I first learned about source citations, I didn't believe they were necessary. I thought they were a waste of time. Over time, I realized their importance:

- **Establish Proof.** Cited material gives credibility to a fact or relationship while proving a connection.
- **Determine Reliability of Evidence.** Some sources are more reliable and make a

stronger proof. Compare points of evidence based on their source.

- **Track Records and Resources.** Easily go back and locate records and their repository. This is effective when the original record or a copy is lost.
- **Expand Research.** When encountering a difficult area of research, look for sources that were successful in making a proof and check them again.
- **Discover Conflicts.** Locate contradictions in existing research or when new evidence is found.
- **Understand the Research Process.** When using another researcher's work, sources can give a glimpse at how that research was developed.
- **Placeholders.** Pick up a research project where you left off by looking at source citations.

Tech Skills

Even for a "techie" like me, it isn't easy to keep up with the latest genealogy technology. A great way to stay up to date is to visit the RootsTech website and sign up for their e-newsletter. And also attend the FREE virtual portion of RootsTech each year!

One bit of advice on updating technology: never go for the latest and greatest. Never be a ".0" person. What do I mean by that? Well when a new version of a genealogy software comes out—like Version 8.0—don't run to update your copy even if it is free. I've found that most .0 versions of software and apps have bugs and glitches. Wait for the Version 8.1 which usually is available a few weeks after the .0 version. You'll have a better upgrade experience and why should you be a bug fixer for that company?

A Sense of Fun

It can be difficult to quantify fun when it comes to genealogy. I'm sure anything we genealogists find enjoyable, like indexing rec-

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ords on FamilySearch or transcribing an old letter from an ancestor, will appear just plain weird and nerdy to friends and family.

For me, each time I am doing my genealogy I ask myself, “Thomas, is this fun?” And if it isn’t, I move on to perhaps a different ancestor or a different task. I don’t mean to say that you should avoid the menial tasks, but look for balance between what **MUST** be done and what **CAN** be done . . . and go for the fun stuff!

A Sense of Legacy

I strongly believe that the forty-five years I’ve spent doing genealogy should have something to show for that time and effort. If my family is not interested, and I don’t have a family member who wants to inherit my work, at the very least when my “expiration date” arrives, I will have already donated my research to one or more genealogy libraries and societies or have left instructions with my family on how to dispose of my research and everything that goes with it.

What if I did it WRONG?

Finally, how can you do it **WRONG** if there is no **RIGHT WAY** in genealogy? And even if after reviewing the ten must haves above, you notice something you’ve done wrong, it is easy to fix. Like evidence evaluation . . . just review the section above, look at the Resource List below, set a reasonable goal for yourself, like “spend an hour learning the best way to evaluate a historical document,” and just do it! That small time and effort investment will really pay off as you continue your genealogy journey.

Resources

Genealogy Bargains

- **Genealogy Cheat Sheets**
<https://genealogybargains.com/genealogy-cheat-sheets/>

Sense of Purpose

- **10 Ways to Jumpstart Your Genealogy**
<https://genealogybargains.com/syllabus-jumpstart>

Evidence Evaluation

- **Evidence Explained Website**
<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/>
- **The Genealogical Proof Standard**
<https://bcgcertification.org/ethics-standards/>

Source Citations

- **Evidence Explained Website**
<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/>

Writing Skills

- **BCG Resources on Key Skills**
<https://bcgcertification.org/learning/skills/>

Genealogy Research Toolbox

- **Cyndi’s List**
<https://www.cyndislist.com>
- **FamilySearch Digital Library**
<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/>
- **Genealogy Research Toolbox**
<http://genealogytoolbox.weebly.com>
- **Google Bookmarks**
<https://www.google.com/bookmarks/>
- **Google Books**
<https://books.google.com>
- **Wolfram-Alpha**
<https://www.wolframalpha.com>

Organization Skills

- **Genealogy Research Log – Microsoft Excel**
<https://genealogybargains.com/genreslog>
- **Trello**
<https://trello.com>

Tech Skills

- **RootsTech**
<https://www.rootstech.org>

Sense of Fun

- **10 Ways to Jumpstart Your Genealogy**
<https://genealogybargains.com/syllabus-jumpstart>



There is More Than Born, Married, Died

By Viki Fagyal

Some people who claim to do genealogy only care about the “born, married, and died” for people in their family tree. Others will diligently work through a paid genealogy site, adding every source suggested for someone in their tree. And then there are genealogists who dig for every detail to get to the bottom of a story, leaving no stone unturned. Does the internet tell you the entire story of events in your ancestors’ lives? Absolutely not! Although I regularly use online databases and websites, including paid sites, I am well-aware they just reveal a small part of the story. I am a true believer in the importance of onsite research to get further details and find records not available on the internet.

Missouri State Penitentiary Record

While doing research on Theodore George Zwick, born in St. Louis, Missouri, on 25 May 1887, I found him listed in the Missouri State Penitentiary database on the Missouri State Archives website.¹ He was sent to prison on 7 August 1909 for second-degree

murder committed in St. Louis City. The website includes a database and a digital image of the actual prison register. The database provided a great deal of information, including the name of the prisoner, alias names, gender, age, approximate birth year, race, location of the court, offense, date received, and date discharged. Clicking on “View Record Detail” at the bottom of the database page added the register number, nativity, trade, any former imprisonments, the sentence, term of court, full-term sentence expiration, discharge notes, and information necessary for a full source citation.

A link at the bottom of the page labeled “View Numerical Register” takes the reader to the full two-page prison register. Prison registers are very large, so it is necessary to enlarge the scanned pages to read all of the details. The prison record offered much more detail about Theodore Zwick, listing his height as five feet four and one-quarter inches and his weight at 135 pounds. His foot was nine and three-quarters inches long. His hair was

The screenshot shows a web page titled "Missouri State Penitentiary Database". At the top, there is a yellow box with "IMPORTANT INFORMATION!" and a warning about PDF file sizes. Below this are two buttons: "New Search" and "Back to Search Results". The main content is organized into sections: "Offender Information", "Offense Information", "Location", and "Images".

Section	Field	Value
Offender Information	Register Number	10930
	Name	Theodore Zwick - Offender
	Sex	Male
	Race	White
	Age/Approx. Year of Birth	23/1886
	Nativity	Missouri
	Trade	Tinner
	Former Imprisonment	None
	Offense Information	Offense
Location of Court		St. Louis City
Sentence		10 yrs from June 23, 1909
Term of Court		Jun-09
When Received		8/7/1909
Full Time Sentence Expiration		22-Jun-19
Date of Discharge		6/4/1914
Discharge Notes		Commutation by Gov Major
Location	Reel	S228
	Volume	BB
	Page	278
Images	Numerical Register	View Numerical Register

Department of Corrections, "Missouri State Penitentiary: 1836-1931," database and digital images, Missouri State Archives (<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/msp>), Theodore Zwick.

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light brown, and he had blue eyes and a fair complexion. He did not wear whiskers, nor did he report a religion. He was listed as intemperate in his habits of life. He was educated, and his nativity was Missouri.²

Local newspapers provided details of the crime for which Theodore was incarcerated. The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* recounted:

In a flat-dwellers' quarrel last night Nicolaus Abel [*sic*], who occupies the lower flat at 2292 Osage street, was shot to death by Theodore Zwick, who occupies the upper flat at the same address.

Zwick declared at the Second District Station, where he was taken after the shooting that Abel [*sic*] had been boisterous and noisy in his downstairs flat all evening, and had seriously disturbed him in the upper flat. He declared that he went downstairs to remonstrate with Abel [*sic*] and that the latter had attacked him. He asserted that he was obliged to shoot to defend himself. Mrs. Abel [*sic*] was confined to her bed with a broken leg. She declared that Zwick was entirely responsible for the quarrel and that he had shot without provocation.

The bullet fired by Zwick struck Abel [*sic*] in the right breast. Abel [*sic*], together with his wife, were taken to the City Hospital. Abel [*sic*] died there at 12:30 a.m., about three hours after the shooting.³

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported:

At the Four Courts, where he is held a prisoner, Zwick said Tuesday that loss of sleep, caused by the noise nightly made by Able and his wife, unsettled his nerves and made him desperate.

"Last night," he said, "It was worse than ever. From the time Able came

home for supper he and his wife quarreled continuously until long after bedtime.

"I had stood this every night for a month. I called down the stairs and asked them to keep still, and they dared me to go down and make them.

"I took a revolver off the dresser and went to their room. I didn't mean to shoot and I would not have done it if Able hadn't picked up an ax and tried to strike me with it. He swung the ax over my head and I fired."

... Henry Barthels of 3911 Marine avenue and William Fink of 2639 Chipewewa street, who were in the Able apartments just before the shooting, are held as witnesses. They told the police they had been drinking beer there and that Able and his wife were quarreling. Able was a dogcatcher.⁴

St. Louis City Circuit Court Record

Some researchers may think they have retrieved all of the details about their subject at this point, having searched paid genealogical sites and read newspaper articles. They would be wrong. A trip to the Missouri State Archives and a question posed to an archivist for any additional information available on the prison record of this man revealed that the court case from St. Louis City Circuit Court and a commutation file for Theodore Zwick were available at the Missouri State Archives. Neither piece of information is available online, nor are copies of the photographs required to be taken of all prisoners after 1928.

Theodore was charged with first degree murder for shooting Nicolaus Abel [*sic*] on 29 March 1909. The St. Louis City Circuit Court record had already been flattened and placed in an acid-free folder, so it was relatively easy to access its information. The criminal court case file contained thirty-three pages. Page six included a list of subpoenas issued to the following people: Officer McClellan, Officer

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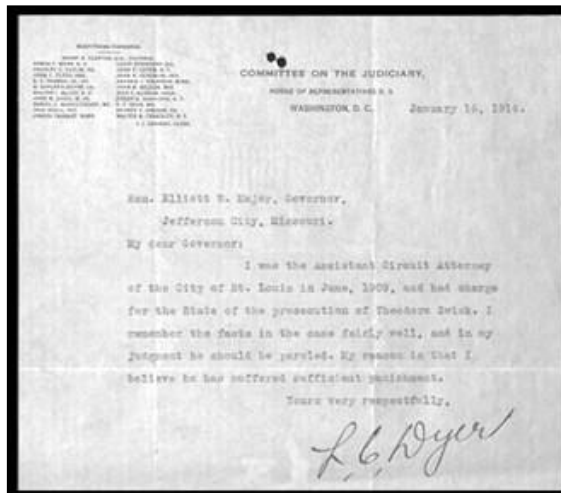
Schick, Sergeant Robertson, Officer Howater, Officer Schulte, Jennie Able, Henry G. Thien, Henry Barthels, Christ Diehl, Harry Julin, Henry Lenwal, Wm. Fink, F. W. Blanche, Timothy Kirbey, Mrs. Mary A. Kirby, Dr. Kirchner, and Dr. R. H. Barnes.⁵ Page fourteen included the address where each subpoena was served.⁶ Theodore pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree on 23 June 1909, giving up his right to a trial by jury. He was sentenced to ten years in prison.⁷

Commutation Files

Information in a database available only to the archivist at the Missouri State Archives indicated Theodore Zwick's prison sentence was commuted on 4 June 1914. The archivist retrieved the commutation packet from the archive files. It resembled a folded probate packet and had been folded in thirds for more than one hundred years. Trying to open it to read the documents within could have damaged the pages. Although it took several days, the archives preservation department was able to flatten the packet. The Archives allowed me to pay for the copies which they emailed to me as an attachment within a week.

According to details in the commutation packet, Theodore Zwick's ten-year prison sentence was commuted by Elliot W. Major, governor of the state of Missouri, on 4 June 1914. On 1 June 1914, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles submitted a report to the governor outlining the proceedings of their hearing and recommending he "commute the sentence of the said Theodore Zwick to a term in the penitentiary ending June 4, 1914." Theodore's prison record was "good." They received recommendations from the trial judge, prosecuting attorney, and clerk of the Criminal Court, as well as approximately forty letters from reputable citizens who were members of the community.⁸

Letters of support came from neighbors who had known Theodore since he was a boy,



Board of Pardons and Parole, "Secretary of State, Commissions, Commutations of Sentence 1847-1985," Commutation file, office no. 5274, Record Group RG 3.17; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri; "recommendation to the Governor, commutation of Theodore Zwick, prisoner no. 10930, 4 June 1914, p. 13.

from more than one businessman requesting he be paroled to them and promising him employment, and from a Father Geisert whose connection to Zwick is unknown. Copies of every letter of support were included in the file, as was a petition signed by thirty-nine "reputable citizens" requesting Theodore's parole.⁹ Part of the commutation process included filing a public notice in the newspaper of the pending matter, and copies of the public notice were also part of the file.¹⁰

On 23 November 1912, Theodore submitted a letter to Herbert Spencer Hadley, governor of Missouri, which stated in part,

I am Writing to you as A poor Orphan Boy and Asking you if you Will Please Grant Me A Parole as I Have A Petition and Also A Parole Blank Signed and Letters From People of Good Standing . . . I Will Promice [sic] you if I am Given Another Chance that I will Obstain [sic] From Drink and Bad Company in the

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Near Future as I Was Only A Boy of 21 years Old at the Time[.] . . . I'm Reformm [sic] and I Will Save My Money and Buy A Farm on Time Payments In Southwest Missouri and Get Married and Settled [sic] Down and Build A Reputation For My Self and Remain on the Farm For the Rest of My Life. So Please Govnor [sic] Grant Me this Favor as I Want to Make A Man out of My Self.¹¹

On 4 February 1914, Theodore submitted his application for parole to Elliott W. Major, Hadley's successor as governor of Missouri. Information about his ethnicity, occupations, and residences prior to his conviction were included. In his own words, Theodore described his crime and his situation at the time of his arrest.

I was committed to trial. I was young & had no one to advise me—got into bad company. I have learned my lesson, that crime does not pay, bad company only leads to trouble. I have a good record previous to my present trouble—have served almost five years of my sentence—feel that I have been punished sufficiently and have finally resolved, if your Honorable Board will extend clemency, to lead a good life & try to make a man of myself & a benefit to the community.¹²

On 14 June 1914, Governor Major issued the commutation stating:

. . . for the purpose of parole, I commute the sentence of the said Theodore Zwick . . . to imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term ending June 4, 1914, without the benefit of the three-fourths law; upon condition, however, that he in future obey the laws of the State, conducting himself, in all respects, as a law abiding citizen, refrain, absolutely, from

the use of intoxicating liquors and immediately upon his release go to Saint Louis, Missouri, and at once report to Mr. H. C. Koenig and under Mr. Koenig's supervision and direction obtain property employment.¹³

Both Theodore and Mr. Koenig agreed to all of the conditions of the parole. Both were also required to file reports to the governor on a regular basis by letter, to include: "Zwick's whereabouts, by whom he is and has been employed, what wages he has received and that he is in every respect complying with the conditions of this parole; then every sixty days up to July 1, 1915 and after that every ninety days up to and including January 1, 1917 . . . Failing in this, or upon the order of the Governor at any time, he is to be returned to the penitentiary, there to serve the remainder of his sentence."¹⁴

One clue about Theodore's family was found in a letter from a Mrs. Burns of 3637 Wisconsin Avenue, dated 3 February 1912. Her first name was not listed. She said she was Theodore's mother's neighbor and had known Theodore since he was eight years old. The letter stated, "There is a young man by the name of Theodore Zwick and his Sister of 23 years of age died to day of Tuberculosis [sic] she will be buried Tuesday is there any chance for him to come to see her he has not seen any of his folk from the day he was taking [sic] to prison."¹⁵ Theodore's sister, Annie Zwick Gellner, died 3 March 1912 of "phthisis pulmonalis," an old-fashioned term for pneumonia.¹⁶

Information from Theodore's World War I draft registration on 5 June 1917, three years after his parole, reported Theodore was working as a tinner for Blanke Can Manufacturing Company, 116 Pine Street, St. Louis City. It noted that he was single and had no military experience.¹⁷ However, he had enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve Force in 1915 and served as an apprentice seaman during World

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APPLICATION

To **ELLIOTT W. MAJOR**,
Governor of Missouri:

The application of Theodor Zwick

shows that his full and true name is Theodor Zwick
his age is 26 years, and that his birthplace was St. Louis Mo.
(State Nationality of each.) his parents were
Father's Mother both German

and that his occupation and residence during the five years next before his conviction of the offense heretofore stated were as follows:
Driver of Home Building Co. 3 years
H.C. Hoerig Brick Co. 1 year

That on the 23^d day of June 1909 he was tried and
convicted in the Circuit Court in and for the City of St. Louis of
Mo. of the crime of Murder 2^d Degree
and thereupon sentenced to imprisonment in Jefferson City Mo.
for the term of 10 years
and that he is now imprisoned pursuant to such sentence.

Name and address of trial judge Ed. Fisher 508 Olive St.
Prosecuting attorney at time of conviction L. C. Ryan U.S. Washington D.C.

Witness was indicted and convicted under the name of Theodor Zwick
That he has never been known by any alias except None
and was never arrested, indicted or convicted of any other offense except as above stated.

That hereto annexed and made a part thereof is a succinct statement of the evidence adduced at his trial with the endorsement of the
Judge & Circuit Attorney
that it is substantially correct. (If such statement or endorsement cannot be furnished here state the reason.)

Board of Pardons and Parole, "Secretary of State, Commissions, Commutations of Sentence 1847-1985," Record Group RG 3.17. p. 36

War I.¹⁸ His obituary includes his membership in Central Memorial Post No. 154 of the American Legion.¹⁹

Theodore married Helen Catherine Rabeneck (1898-1976) on 25 June 1919 at Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 2854 St. Louis Avenue and Abner Place, St. Louis City, Missouri.²⁰ Theodore and Helen had two children, Lois and Robert. His occupation was listed as tinner at the time of his incarceration, and he remained in that occupation until his death. Theodore died on 18 November 1940 in Cook County, Illinois²¹ and is buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in Section 41, Site 12699e. The grave marker and the U.S. Veterans' Gravesites, ca.1775-2006 contradict his World War I draft registration.²²

The commutation packet contained forty-eight pages. The cost of the copies for both the Criminal Court records and the commutation file, a total of eighty-one pages, was less than twenty dollars. In my opinion, it was a cheap price to pay for information only available at the Missouri State Archives. The trip to the archives yielded two record sets not available online. And both were discovered because the archives staff recommended looking at additional records.

Do not hesitate to talk to the librarian or archives staff. They know the collections better than anyone and can direct a researcher to records not in the catalog. Online records told me the boring "born, married, and died." Going to the Missouri State Archives gave me a much broader picture of Theodore George Zwick, one not available on the internet.

And consider taking a batch of cookies or a box of candy for the staff when you go. They will know you appreciate what they do and really go out of their way to help you!

End Notes

Please note: All websites were current prior to publication.

1. Department of Corrections, "Missouri State Penitentiary: 1836-1931," database and digital images, Missouri State Archives (<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/msp>), Theodore Zwick, prisoner no. 10930; citing Numerical Register, vol. BB, p. 278, reel S228.

2. Department of Corrections, "Missouri State Penitentiary: 1836-1931," database and digital images Theodore Zwick, prisoner no. 10930.

3. "Ten Years for Theodore Zwick," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* (St. Louis, Missouri), 24 June 1909, digital images, *Newspapers.com* (www.newspapers.com), p. 14, col. 2.

4. "Man Slain By Neighbor," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (St. Louis, Missouri), 30 March 1909, *Newspapers.com*, p. 7, col. 2.

5. St. Louis City, Missouri, Circuit Court-Criminal Cases, Division 11, Case No. 82, The State of Missouri versus Theodore Zwick, "Information in the Saint Louis Court of Criminal Correction in

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the case of *The State of Missouri vs. Theodore Zwick Charged with Murder in the First Degree*," subpoenas issued in case of Theodore Zwick, 12 April 1909; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, Cole County.

6. St. Louis City, Missouri, Circuit Court-Criminal Cases, Division 11, Case No. 82, *The State of Missouri versus Theodore Zwick, Witnesses*, 10 April 1909.

7. St. Louis City, Missouri, Circuit Court-Criminal Cases, Division 11, Case No. 82, *The State of Missouri versus Theodore Zwick, Plea of murder in the second degree*, 23 June 1909.

8. Board of Pardons and Parole, "Secretary of State, Commissions, Commutations of Sentence 1847-1985," Commutation file, office no. 5274, Record Group RG 3.17; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City; recommendation to the Governor, commutation of Theodore Zwick, prisoner no. 10930, 4 June 1914, p. 1.

9. Board of Pardons and Parole, "Secretary of State, Commissions, Commutations of Sentence 1847-1985," Record Group RG 3.17. p. 2-3.

10. Board of Pardons and Parole, "Secretary of State, Commissions, Commutations of Sentence 1847-1985," Record Group RG 3.17. p. 5.

11. Board of Pardons and Parole, "Secretary of State, Commissions, Commutations of Sentence 1847-1985," Record Group RG 3.17. p. 36.

12. Board of Pardons and Parole, "Secretary of State, Commissions, Commutations of Sentence 1847-1985," Record Group RG 3.17. p. 22-23.

13. Board of Pardons and Parole, "Secretary of State, Commissions, Commutations of Sentence 1847-1985," Record Group RG 3.17. p. 46.

14. Board of Pardons and Parole, "Secretary of State, Commissions, Commutations of Sentence 1847-1985," Record Group RG 3.17. p. 47.

15. Board of Pardons and Parole, "Secretary of State, Commissions, Commutations of Sentence 1847-1985," Record Group RG 3.17. p. 41.

16. Missouri Secretary of State, death certificate 11021 (3 March 1912), Annie Gellner; digital image, "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1971," Missouri State Archives.

17. "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database and images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com), entry for Theodore Zwick, Serial No. 1483, Order No. 1969-160, Ward 8, Precinct 9, St. Louis City, Missouri; citing Selective Ser-

vice System, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Washington, D.C.: NARA micropublication M1509.

18. Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery (Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri), photograph, grave marker, Theodore George Zwick (1887-1940), Section 41, Site 12699E; personally read by Charlene and Viki Fagyal, December 1993.

19. "Deaths Theodore Zwick," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 20 November 1940, p. 21, col. 3; *Newspapers.com*.

20. St. Louis City, Marriage records of St. Louis and St. Louis County, 1806-1965, vol. 92 1919: p. 271, Theodore G. Zwick and Helen C. Rabenneck, 25 June 1919, license no. 228838; FHL microfilm 529,062, item 2.

21. "Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths, 1916-1947," database, *FamilySearch.org* (www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NQW3-CVP), Theodore G. Zwick, 1940.

22. Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery (Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri), photograph, grave marker, Theodore George Zwick (1887-1940), Section 41, Site 12699E.

About the Author

Viki Fagyal, a forty-plus-year research veteran, has served in many capacities at StLGS for more than thirty years. She was a long-time member of the board of directors, was StLGS treasurer, and is currently the Society's sales manager, buying and selling both new and used books for our online store and our Trading Post. Viki is the author of *The Fagyal Family from Mérék, Hungary* and *Researching Orphans and Orphanage Care in St. Louis*, and is currently writing a book on her mother's family.



Was Your Ancestor Really Born in Reusel, Reusel de Mierden, Noord Brabant, Netherlands? A Cautionary Tale

By Ted Steele

While researching a family with Dutch ancestry for a client, I noted that several online genealogy websites indicated he was born in Reusel, Reusel-de Mierden, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands. I decided that I wanted to learn a bit more about this place. Where in the Netherlands is it located? Is it a small village or a large town? Was there anything of note in its history, etc.? This would enable me to add those details as background material in the book I am writing for the client.

So I googled it. Imagine my surprise when I read the following in a 2013 post on the *Dutch Genealogy* blog:

When I look at online trees, especially on *Ancestry.com*, I often see “Reusel, Reusel-de Mierden, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands” listed as the place of birth. At first I was puzzled how all these people with names that are typical for Friesland, Groningen or Gelderland would have children in a village on the other side of the country. There was obviously something wrong there. But then I started using Family Tree Maker and tried to resolve some place names. Guess what? “Holland” resolves to “Reusel, Reusel-de Mierden, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands.

How does that happen? The author continues:

When you record “Holland” as the place of birth, and then try to automatically resolve that to a geographical name that is located on the map, the program starts to look for a geographical location named Holland. Earlier versions of Family Tree Maker didn’t find the country, but it found a street called ‘*t Holland* (or the woodland) in the village of Reusel in

Noord-Brabant. It then changed the place name “Holland” to “Reusel, Reusel-De Mierden, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands.”¹

Wanting to confirm this, I kept googling and found this:

The culprit in this confusion was an earlier version of Family Tree Maker (FTM), long a very popular genealogical software program. When a user of FTM would enter “Holland” as an ancestor’s place of birth (or marriage, or death, etc.), FTM would try to match that location to a place in its geography database. Unfortunately, it matched it to “a narrow, 1.3 km road named ‘Het Holland’ (The Woodland) located in Reusel, and automatically suggest [*sic*] this substitution. Long after the software error was corrected, these spurious locations have persisted in trees and have been uncritically copied.”²

So now, many online genealogies state that families came from Reusel, Reusel-de Mierden, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands. Unfortunately, we do not now know the town of origin in the Netherlands for the family of my client.

Is it still possible, or likely, that *your* ancestor really was from Reusel? Let’s find out.

Reusel is a very small village in Noord-Brabant, with a population of less than 1,000 in 1849. [Per the 1849 census, Noord-Brabant.] Not many people emigrated from the area so the chances that your (immigrant) ancestor is actually from Reusel are very VERY small. The municipality of Reusel-De Mierden, however, has only existed since 1997, so did not exist during the time your ancestors allegedly lived there.³

Was Your Ancestor Really Born in Reusel, Reusel de Mierden, Noord Brabant, Netherlands? A Cautionary Tale

What have we learned here? First, of course, if your family tree says that you have an ancestor from Reusel, Reusel-de Mierden, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands, you will probably want to double-check that and start looking for his or her place of origin using traditional research methods.

More importantly, however, is the always-true reminder that it can be foolhardy to simply copy information from any online family tree and paste it into yours. I use online trees all the time, but when I do, I always double-check what I find there. First, does it pass the “sniff test”? If it smells funny, then it’s probably not true. How often have I seen a child born on, perhaps, 3 February 1832 and then, right beside it, the next child born on 15 May 1832? Hmmm . . . I would then question that entire posting. One classic example is for people born in, say, Massachusetts in 1584. That might be true if your ancestor was a member of the Mohawk tribe, but if not, think again. Remember, the Mayflower did not arrive until 1620.



Reusel (Netherlands), town church from Wikipedia. Creative Commons Share Alike License. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reusel#/media/File:Reusel-kerk.jpg>, CC BY-SA 3.0. File:Reusel-kerk.jpg, created: 3 June 2007

End Notes

Please note: All websites were current prior to publication.

1. Yvette Hoitink, “Was your ancestor born in Reusel-De Mierden, Noord-Brabant? Guess again!” *Dutch Genealogy* (www.dutchgenealogy.nl/ancestors-in-reusel-de-mierden-noord-brabant), 2013.

2. “Reusel, Village in North Brabant, Netherlands,” *Wikiwand.com* (www.wikiwand.com/en/Reusel).

3. Yvette Hoitink, 2013.

About the Author

Ted Steele began researching his family history in 1977 and has been a member of the St. Louis Genealogical Society since that year. He has authored several genealogical books and journal articles. Ted has chaired three national genealogical conferences and presented lectures at a number of local and national genealogical conferences. He is a past president of the St. Louis Genealogical Society and is a member of several other genealogical societies.

Isn't Holland the Same as the Netherlands?

Actually, no, although many people use them interchangeably. The Netherlands is made of twelve provinces, of which only two, Noord (North) Holland and Zuid (South) Holland, make up Holland. The official name of the country is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The major Dutch cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and The Hague are in Holland, but the area described in this article is not.

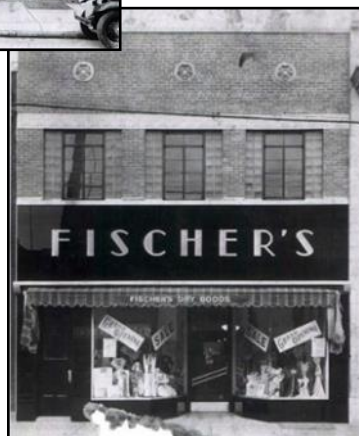
Research Tip Leads to New Information About Fischer Family Dry Goods Store

By Martin Fischer

St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly readers may recall my article titled, “A Tale of Two Photos: Using Photographic Analysis to Date a Family Store Renovation,” published in the fall 2015 issue.¹ In the article, I explained how I used a variety of genealogical and non-genealogical research techniques to analyze “before” and “after” photos of the Fischer’s Dry Goods store facade in an attempt to determine when a major renovation of the St. Louis building owned by my family had taken place. These analytical research methods included finding U.S. census records; conducting an oral history interview with my elderly aunt, who had lived above the store when she was a child; learning about architectural and typographical styles, and construction materials; and identifying the year and model of an old car seen in the “before” photo, among others.



The Fischer’s Dry Goods store at 7209 S. Broadway in the Carondelet neighborhood before (left) and after a major building renovation. (Author’s photos; used with permission.)



In that article, I had concluded that the modernizing redesign had taken place most likely after the 1930 census and was completed by 1931. My previous research had included, among other factors, the following as justifications for the 1930–1931 estimate:

- The car seen in the lower right corner of the “before” photo was identified by experts as a 1929–1931 Model A Ford.² In response to my original article, Ben Hilliker provided the editors of the *StLGS Quarterly* with credible evidence that it was, in fact, a 1930 Model A Ford.³ This was forwarded to me.
- My aunt Lucille Alexander (née Fischer), who had lived at 7209 S. Broadway in St. Louis as a child, estimated in an oral history interview that she had been about twelve to fourteen years old when the store was remodeled—roughly 1929 to 1931.⁴
- Three families, comprising a total of eleven people, were living in the three-story building at 7209 S. Broadway when the 1930 U.S. census was taken.⁵ But by the 1940 U.S. census, after the building had been converted to two stories as part of the renovation, only four Fischer family members lived there.⁶

As a genealogist, I am always open to new research discoveries—even those that might call into question previously researched conclusions. Occasionally, a simple suggestion from a genealogy article or webinar speaker can lead to discovering new or previously unavailable information about family history. I benefited from one such tip provided in a webinar hosted on 12 August 2022 by the St. Louis Genealogical Society.

“If These Walls Could Talk” was the title of a lecture by Dennis Northcott, assistant archivist at the Missouri Historical Society Library and Research Center in St. Louis. His suggestion: Don’t use a name when searching for articles about one’s family in the subscription online database *Newspapers.com*, but instead

Research Tip Leads to New Information About Fischer Family Dry Goods Store

fill in the keyword search field with only the known exact address of the family, and specify the state in the location field.

To search for news articles, notices, and advertisements about my Fischer family using Northcott's tip, I focused on the address of the dry goods store in the Carondelet neighborhood of St. Louis where the family had lived and worked from the 1880s to the 1950s. So at *Newspapers.com*, I omitted the name while specifying Missouri as the location and filling in the keyword field with various forms of their home and store address: "7209 South Broadway," "7209 S. Broadway" and "7209 So. Broadway." Each version of the address yielded a different set of items related to my Fischer family.

Search results about my Fischer family came from three major metropolitan dailies, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, and *St. Louis Star-Times*; two Jewish newspapers, *The Modern View* and *The Jewish Voice*; three local German-language papers, *Anzeiger des Westens*, *Westliche Post*, and *Amerika*; and a weekly community newspaper I had not previously heard of with the strangely spelled name of *Naborhood Link News*.

Years ago, when I was researching my Fischer family at the St. Louis Public Library's main branch, I manually skimmed through several years of microfilm of the weekly St. Louis community newspaper called the *Carondelet News*—finding very little information about my family even though that publication was focused on the neighborhood where my family had lived for decades. Thus, when writing about my family's store, one of my conclusions was that the family had done very little advertising in newspapers, relying instead mostly on word of mouth. But the recent discoveries described

FISCHER'S		7209 S. Broadway Next to Southern Commercial Bank
Double Eagle Stamps Every Thursday and Saturday		
Red Diamond Work Shirts; special	59c	Full-Fashioned Hose; special, per pair
Kotex; per box, special	25c	Non-Cling; all colors; per yd.
Seamless Sheets; 81x90; special	50c	Pillow Slips; special, each
Table Cloths; assorted colors; 54x58	48c	Linen Toweling; Stevens; 18-in.; yard
COTTON BATS		Mountain Mist or Princess; each
		39c

Advertisement in the 18 February 1932 issue of *Naborhood Link News* promotes bargain prices and double Eagle Stamps at Fischer's Dry Goods.

here from the *Naborhood Link News* pages on *Newspapers.com* showed that conclusion about advertising to be false and also cast doubt on my estimated timing of the store building's major physical renovation.

Naborhood Link News, a weekly newspaper that covered part of the Carondelet neighborhood in St. Louis and nearby suburbs from 1930 to 1969, contained a treasure trove of display advertising and news about Fischer's Dry Goods store, including articles about my grandparents' retirement in the early 1950s and how that had affected operations of the store.

The first mention of the store in *Naborhood Link News* appeared on 18 February 1932 in a small display advertisement for twice-weekly Fischer's Double Eagle Stamps Day sales.⁷ Eagle Stamps were given by many

One of the address search options used on *Newspapers.com* to look for news and advertisements about the Fischer family and their dry goods store in St. Louis.

Research Tip Leads to New Information About Fischer Family Dry Goods Store

stores for purchases from 1903 to 1987 and were redeemable for cash or merchandise. This 1932 ad listed items typically carried by dry goods stores: clothing, fabric, towels, bedding, and more. What may seem to us today as extraordinarily low prices were normal for the time of the Great Depression.

On 19 March 1936, *Naborhood Link News* published a short announcement that the Fischer store, “realizing from past experience, the unsatisfactory experience and results from circulars have decided to use the columns of the *Nabor* [sic] *News* in order to carry the announcement of their greatest spring sale to the people of this community more thoroughly.”⁸

The Fischer store often promoted its sales with signs in its display windows, which were

easily visible to pedestrians. Some of these were seen in the photos analyzed for my previous article. “Remodeling Sale” signs were in the windows of the “before” photo, and “Grand Opening” signs appeared in the “after” photo.

Additionally, to announce the reopening, a full-page advertisement appeared in *Naborhood Link News* on 1 December 1938: “A Great South St. Louis Event! Grand Opening of Fischer’s Newly Remodeled Store.” The smaller type below the headline read in part, “You are invited to attend the opening of our new store. Everything ‘sparkling’ new. Our store has been modernized and streamlined to make shopping more convenient for you.”⁹ Use of the word “streamlined” here describes the Streamlined Art Deco architectural style governing the design of the new store facade.

In the same issue of the *Naborhood Link News*, a short front-page article described the

SPRING SALE AT FISHER DRY GOODS STORE

The Fischer Dry Goods Store, at 7209 South Broadway, realizing from past experience, the unsatisfactory distribution and results from circulars have decided to use the columns of the *Nabor News* in order to carry the announcement of their greatest spring sale to the people of this community more thoroughly. The shelves of the Fischer Dry Goods store are well filled with brand new and fresh, crisp merchandise.

Mr. Fischer advises shopping early, because the exceptionally low prices offered will move this merchandise rapidly.

Naborhood Link News front-page news item announces on 19 March 1936 that Fischer’s Dry Goods was advertising its spring sale in the newspaper.

A Great SOUTH ST. LOUIS Event!

Grand Opening of FISHER'S NEWLY REMODELED STORE
7209 SOUTH BROADWAY

THIS SALE FOR 30 DAYS — DEC. 1st to 30th

DOUBLE EAGLE STAMPS
100% CASH SALES
THURSDAY, DEC. 1 FRIDAY, DEC. 2 SATURDAY, DEC. 3

LADIES SATIN SLIPS 55¢ C 1 for \$1.00 35¢ C 2 for \$1.00	REVERSIBLE BLANKETS \$2.69	FLANNELS -10¢
Smart New Cotton Frocks 88¢ GIRL'S Cotton Frocks 79¢ COTTON PEGGEE 29¢	Sheilly Sprays \$2.59 and up	MUSLIN -5¢
LADIES' SILK DRESSES \$1.88	THE FAST COLOR PRINTS 10¢	NOVEL BATHS 49¢
SLOPPER SWEATERS 98¢	Table Cloths 25¢	DEVID SHIRTS 86¢
	HERMAN'S FROCKERS \$1.95	LENS HOSIERY 10¢
	HERMAN'S SWEATERS 69¢	
	HERMAN'S PANTS \$1.25	
	HERMAN'S TROUSERS 69¢	

FISHER'S DRY GOODS
7209 SOUTH BROADWAY

A full-page ad from the 1 December 1938 *Naborhood Link News* suggests the major Fischer store renovation was completed in November 1938.

Research Tip Leads to New Information About Fischer Family Dry Goods Store

renovation as follows: “The store has been completely remodeled with a new front and new display windows. A black marble effect covers the front of the building. The inside has been rearranged and improved.”¹⁰ The reference to the “black marble effect” describes the opaque pigmented glass called Vitrolite, popular in the 1930s and 1940s to cover walls and facades, which I mentioned in my original article for the *Quarterly*. As a result of these new discoveries, I have had to revise my estimate of when the Fischer store renovation was completed to November 1938, from the 1930–1931 timeframe I had originally estimated.

My paternal grandparents, Henry Fischer (1876–1956)¹¹ and Martha Fischer (née Daust, 1875–1954),¹² had been the sole owners and operators of the Fischer dry goods

store since 1924, when Henry’s widowed mother, Ernestine (Kober) Fischer (1832–1924),¹³ passed away. Among other items of interest from *Naborhood Link News* was information about when my grandparents retired from the dry goods business. This was evidence I did not have previously.

A short news item from 12 March 1952 noted the store was holding a “Quitting Business” sale,¹⁴ and an advertisement from 26 March 1952 announced that Fischer’s Dry Goods had been sold to Levinson’s Clothiers, 7621 S. Broadway—another small business located four blocks south of Fischer’s. That ad explained, “We are pleased to announce Levinson’s Clothiers has purchased the entire stock of Fischer’s Dry Goods and that the store will continue to be operated under the name



A short front-page article from the 1 December 1938 *Naborhood Link News* details the completion of the store’s renovation.



Henry Fischer (1876–1956) and Martha Fischer (née Daust; 1875–1954) owned and operated Fischer’s Dry Goods store in St. Louis for many years until they retired in the 1950s.

Research Tip Leads to New Information About Fischer Family Dry Goods Store

'Fischer's Dry Goods' with the same high-quality merchandise, sound values and Extra Savings through Eagle Stamps . . ."15

Levinson had a "Grand Opening" sale at Fischer's in May 1952 that was advertised on 14 May 1952 in the *Naborhood Link News*.¹⁶ Subsequent advertisements in the 1950s identified the store as "Fischer's Dry Goods, owned and operated by Levinson Clothiers."

The Fischer's Dry Goods store name was eventually eliminated by 12 November 1958, when Southern Commercial Bank, located for decades next door to the store, advertised that its new "installment loan department" had opened at 7209 South Broadway.¹⁷ Eventually the building that had been the home of the Fischer family and Fischer's Dry Goods for more than seventy years was demolished by the bank to expand its parking lot in the 1970s.

Thanks to a webinar research tip and the addition of the *Naborhood Link News* newspaper to the *Newspapers.com* database, I have been able to correct an erroneous conclusion

Announcing
LEVINSON BUYS OUT
CLOTHIERS
7621 S. BROADWAY
FISCHER'S DRY GOODS
7209 SOUTH BROADWAY

We are pleased to announce the Levinson's Clothier's has purchased the entire stock of Fischer's Dry Goods and that the store will continue to be operated under the name "Fischer's Dry Goods" with the same high quality merchandise, sound values and Extra Savings through Eagle Stamps with all purchases. Come in and see our complete new assortment of popular priced, well known, branded lines of

LADIES, CHILDREN'S,
INFANTS WEAR, BOYS'
and MEN'S WEAR

HOSIERY, LINGERIE GIFTS
PIECE GOODS HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
FISCHER'S DRY GOODS
7209 SOUTH BROADWAY Next to Southern Commercial Bank
STORE HOURS: MON. thru THURS., 9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M. — FRI. and SAT., 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

EAGLE STAMPS
are the "SAVINGS PART" of your shopping dollars at our store. Save them . . . and you'll save money as you spend.

EAGLE STAMP
EACH ONE IS WORTH EAGLE STAMPS CO.

Naborhood Link News display ad from 26 March 1952 announces Levinson's has bought out Fischer's.

about the renovation date of my family's store and to add previously unknown details to the accounts of my grandparents' lives.

End Notes

Please note: All websites were current prior to publication.

1. Martin Fischer, "A Tale of Two Photos: Using Photographic Analysis to Date a Family Store Renovation," *St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 48, no. 3 (Fall 2015), 101–105.

2. *Horseless Carriage Foundation* (www.hcfi.org/) to Martin Fischer, electronic communication, February 2015, regarding dating of automobile in photo, Martin Fischer research files, privately held by Martin Fischer [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], St. Louis, Missouri. Also the Henry Ford Museum Research Center (www.thehenryford.org/research/index.aspx) to Martin Fischer, electronic communication, March 2015, regarding dating of automobile in photo, Martin Fischer research files, privately held by Martin Fischer [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], St. Louis, Missouri.

3. Venita Archer Lake, "Chasing Down that Ford," *St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 48, no. 4 (Winter 2015–2016), 130.

4. Lucille Alexander (née Fischer), St. Louis, Missouri, interview by Martin Fischer, 19 May 2001; digital audio file privately held by interviewer, St. Louis, Missouri, 2023.

5. 1930 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, p. 4B (handwritten), dwelling 56, families 92, 93, 94, Henry Fischer, John Rodriguez, Josephine Granda households; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com), citing NARA microfilm publication T626.

6. 1940 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, population schedule, p. 15B, dwelling 368, Henry Fischer; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication T627.

7. Advertisement, "Fischer's, 7209 S. Broadway," *Naborhood Link News*, 18 February 1932, p. 4, cols. 1–2; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (www.newspapers.com).

8. "Spring Sale at Fisher [sic] Dry Goods Store," *Neighborhood Link News*, 19 March 1936, p. 1, col. 4; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

9. "Grand Opening, Sale of Fischer's Remodeled Shop," *Naborhood Link News*, 1 December 1938, p. 16; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

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10. "Grand Opening Sale of Fischer's Remodeled Shop," *Neighborhood Link News*, 1 December 1938, p. 1, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

11. "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," Henry Fischer, 9 March 1876; digital image, *Ancestry.com*. Also "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1971," no. 24947, Henry Fischer, 18 June 1956; digital image, *Missouri Digital Heritage* (<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/Archives/ArchivesMvc/DeathCertificates>), Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

12. "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1971," no. 42369, Martha Fischer, birth 29 June 1875, death 29 November 1954; digital image, *Missouri Digital Heritage*.

13. "Jüdische Gemeinde Kempen (Kempen Jewish Community) *Geburten* (births), *Heiraten* (marriages), *Tote* (deaths) 1827, 1830-1835, Kępno, Poznań, Poland," Family History Library microfilm no. 742975, DGS no. 7954209, Ester Kober, birth year 1832, line 104. Also "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1971," no. 6139, Ernestine Fischer, 20 February 1924; digital image, *Missouri Digital Heritage*.

14. "Final Days at Fischer's," *Neighborhood Link News*, 12 March 1952, p. 1, col. 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

15. Advertisement, "Levinson Buys Out Fischer's Dry Goods," *Naborhood Link News*, 26 March 1952, p. 21, col. 3-5; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

16. Advertisement, "Grand Opening," *Naborhood Link News*, 14 May 1952, p. 22; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

17. "Southern Commercial Opens Loan Quarters," *Naborhood Link News*, 12 November 1958, p. 8, col. 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com*.

About the Author

Martin Fischer, a retired *Chicago Tribune* copy editor, works part-time as a professional genealogist and volunteers for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. He was born in St. Louis and graduated from Southwest High School and Washington University. His paternal ancestors emigrated from Prussia to St. Louis in the 1860s. For several decades, Martin's great-grandparents and their descendants owned the mom-and-pop dry goods store in the Carondelet neighborhood which is the subject of this article.

Eagle Stamps: A Lost Piece of St. Louis History

If you grew up in St. Louis during the twentieth century, you or your family likely collected Eagle Stamps. Long before the days of mobile phone apps, many local merchants distributed these little green-and-white stamps as a way to reward loyal customers.

Eagle Stamps began in the spring of 1903, introduced by the May Company at the downtown St. Louis Famous store (later Famous Barr). Originally, customers were entitled to one stamp for each ten cents they spent. Once they had collected enough stamps to fill a specific number of thin paper booklets, customers could redeem them for cash or free merchandise, much like our credit card or airline points work today.

The stamps were very popular and in time were also distributed by filling stations, dry cleaners, and independent merchants like the Fischers. The end of these and other reward stamps began in the 1970s during the energy crisis when gas stations began to discontinue their participation. Many grocery stores decided to withdraw as well, needing to spend their advertising budgets on lower prices and not stamp programs.

Finally, in late January 1989, the May Company called an end to their Eagle Stamp program, although customers could still redeem filled booklets for another decade.



Fort Don Carlos El Señor Principe De Asturias

From the Archives of Robert Parkin

The following article is part of the society's Parkin Collection, materials that were collected and written by Robert E. Parkin between 1950 and 1998 and donated to the St. Louis Genealogical Society (StLGS). This article was retyped by Ann Fleming and is printed as it was originally written. Citations were not included in the original; however, some sources are mentioned within the text itself.

[In 1767, Spanish troops were commissioned to build two forts at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. However, the site was swampy and prone to flooding, so they actually only built one, called Fort Don Carlos El Señor Principe De Asturias. Indians attacked the City of St. Louis in 1780. The fort was moved into the city but soon abandoned.]

Fort Don Carlos El Señor Principe De Asturias was a square stockade, measuring 80 French feet on each side, including the bulwarks which were seventeen feet in front with flanks of six feet. The outer wall was constructed of thick cottonwood, ash, and ynconis [*sic*] logs, some rounded and some split through the middle. The inner stockade was of equal height but made of smaller logs, only seven inches in diameter. The main gate was made of cottonwood planks in two leaves, seven feet high and four feet broad. It had a large iron latch, a bolt and lock and key, all very serviceable. There also was a second door, used for provisions, consisting of a single leaf, seven feet high and three feet broad, with its own bolt, lock and key.

Within the enclosure, there were two buildings, each one story high, nine feet high from ground to the beginning of the sloped roof, and measuring 50 feet long and 18 feet wide. One of these was a barracks, constructed of various woods and plastered inside and out, with one door, four windows and a clay fireplace. It had a gallerie, or stage, six feet wide on three sides. The other edifice was divided

into four apartments, a lodging, eighteen feet square, for the commandant; a kitchen, eighteen by fifteen feet, with a fireplace; another compartment, divided into two rooms, a powder store and the king's storeroom, and a storehouse, eighteen by ten feet in size.

There was an oven, five feet eight inches in diameter and mounted on posts, situated "opposite the door of succor."

Two of the fort's four bastions had planks nailed to the stockade with boards overhead, which served as sentry boxes. There were twenty-seven banquettes on posts beneath a like number of loopholes for muskets. Two six-caliber cannons and three four-caliber cannons, all mounted on gun carriages and with sights and balls, were set up in a battery inside the yard. The Spanish flag flew from a staff on one of the bulwarks.

Across the way, on the north shore of the Missouri River, there was a blockhouse, eighteen feet square and seven feet high. It was constructed of round logs "of all sorts of wood" with a cottonwood roof and one door and a window with small latches of wood on each of them.

The Fall of Chief Pontiac

In April 1769, the Ottawa chief, Pontiac, suddenly reappeared in the Illinois country. It had been exactly four years since he had left the country, frustrated in his aims to prevent the British from taking over and to avert the ruin of his own race. He had sealed his submission to the English at a council held in the summer of 1766, and there had been no word of his whereabouts since the winter of the same year, when he pitched his lodge in the forest on the Maumee River, living there with his wives and children and hunting like an ordinary warrior. Now, his design in returning was not known, "though his movements excited much uneasiness among the few English" in the Illinois.

Soon after his arrival, Pontiac repaired to St. Louis, where he visited former friends, the

Fort Don Carlos El Señor Principe De Asturias

aging St. Ange, Laclède, and the Chouteau boys. Pontiac was arrayed in the full uniform of a French officer, which had been given to him by Marquis de Montcalm. He only wore his splendid dress on occasions when he wished to appear with unusual dignity. St. Ange and the principal inhabitants of the young village received the chief with cordiality and did their best to entertain him and his attendants. He also certainly would have counseled with Piernas, who mentions the “Utoa” coming to the post during his residence there, although he does not mention Pontiac by name.

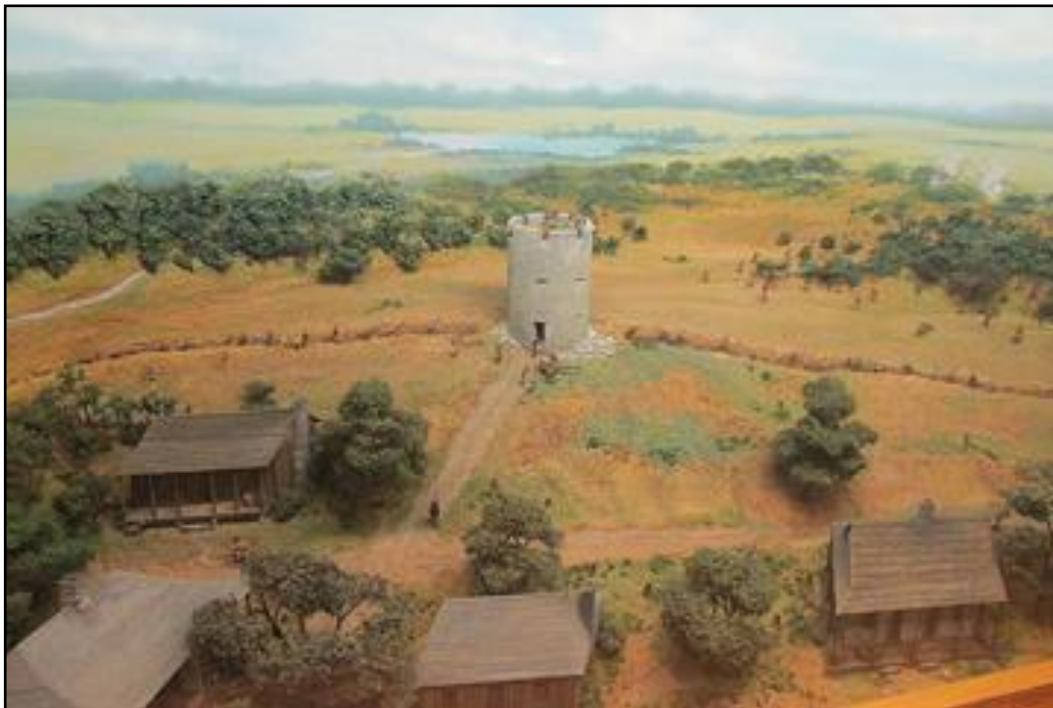
After spending several days in St. Louis, Pontiac heard a large number of Indians were assembled at Cahokia for some sort of celebration. He decided to recross the river, and no amount of dissuasion by St. Ange would change his mind. St. Ange was well aware of

the risk to which Pontiac was exposing himself at the hands of the British.

“Captain, I am a man,” Pontiac declared. “I know how to fight. I have always fought openly. They will not murder me, and, if anyone attacks me as a brave man, I am his match.”

He and some of his followers rowed across the river. Cahokia was full of Illinois Indians. A chief so renowned as Pontiac could not remain long among the village’s friendly Creoles without being summoned to a feast, where ratafia [almond-flavored liqueur] would flow freely.

This was the case. Pontiac drank deeply and, when the carousal was over, staggered down the village street to the adjacent woods, where he was heard to sing his medicine songs. Meantime, an English merchant named Williamson resolved to have Pontiac killed. Williamson’s motive undoubtedly was fos-



Diorama of Fort San Carlos which guarded the western wall of St. Louis. Cannons from Fort Don Carlos, about 15 miles north, were mounted in this tower to defend the city. Gateway Arch Museum, Old Courthouse, St. Louis, Missouri. Photo by Chris Light, 2018; Permission to use with a Creative Commons Share Alike License, Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ft_San_Carlos_2018-08-01_354.jpg.

Fort Don Carlos El Señor Principe De Asturias

tered by the chief's earlier visit to the French in St. Louis. He bribed a Kaskaskia Indian with a barrel of rum to make the attempt on Pontiac's life and promised a greater reward if he was successful. The Kaskaskia stalked Pontiac into the woods and, watching his opportunity, stole behind him and buried a pakamagon [war club] in Pontiac's skull. The fatally wounded Ottawa staggered out of the woods and fell dead on the main street of Cahokia, where his body soon was found. Startled cries and wild howlings spread the word, and the Illinois Indians drove Pontiac's followers from the village. They fled to the north and spread the news among allied tribes, calling for revenge which eventually would cause years of war between the tribes.

Pontiac's body lay in the dirt street until St. Ange, mindful of his friendship for the fallen chief, sent to claim it. Pontiac was buried with military honors in unconsecrated ground, reserved for Protestants and Indians, on the hill overlooking Laclede's village. [Pontiac died on 27 April 1769.]



Chief Pontiac

Public domain, Wikimedia Commons,
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/0d/Chief_Pontiac.jpg/581px-Chief_Pontiac.jpg

Write for the Quarterly!

Do you have a story to tell about an ancestor? Perhaps you've learned some new research tips, such as those discussed in this issue, or maybe you have discovered a new way to use technology in your research.

We invite you to share your knowledge with us for possible publication in the *StLGS Quarterly*.

Here's what you need to know:

- Guidelines for publication in the *Quarterly*: <https://stlgs.org/media/pdf/quarterlyguidelines2018.pdf>
- How to contact us with questions or submissions: quarterly@stlgs.org
- Be sure to keep a copy of everything you send us

Here's what we need from you:

- Your contact information (name, mailing address, phone number, email address)
- Draft of your article or topic you want to write about sent as an MS Word or Apple Pages file, NOT a PDF.
- Images/photographs (you must own the copyright or have permission to publish if they are not in the public domain)

And we still need someone to help with layout and graphics! Please contact us!

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St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly
 Compiled by Venita Archer Lake, Laura Balluff Mackinson, Ilene Murray,
 Jane Theissen, and Jeani Ward

Cover Illustrations



Dr. Clarence M. Westerman and his collection of elephants.



Jacob and Johanna Verheyen and son Frank in the ongoing saga of a German immigrant family



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.



Fishcher's Dry Goods store, located at 7209 South Broadway in St. Louis City, as it appeared before a twentieth-century remodeling.

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Book Reviews

Spring 2023

- ***African American News in the Baltimore Sun, 1870–1927.*** By Margaret D. Pagan. Reviewed by Judy Belford.
- ***Scots-Irish Links: Consolidated Edition (Two Volumes).*** By David Dobson. Reviewed by Kay Weber.
- ***The Jews of Missouri: An Ornament to Israel.*** By Mara W. Cohen Ioannides. Reviewed by Carol Waggoner.
- ***New England Runaways, 1769–1773; New England Runaways, 1778–1783.*** By Joseph Lee Boyle. Reviewed by Ilene Murray.

Summer 2023

- ***This Place of Promise: A Historian's Perspective on 200 Years of Missouri History.*** By Gary R. Kremer. Reviewed by Jane Theissen.
- ***Roots for Kids: A Genealogy Guide for Young People (Third Edition).*** By Susan Provost Beller. Reviewed by Cheryl Wheaton.
- ***In the Walnut Grove: A Consideration of the People Enslaved in and Around Florissant, Missouri.*** By Andrew J. Theising. Reviewed by Ann Fleming.
- ***Sketches of Prominent Tennesseans.*** By William S. Speer. Reviewed by Ilene Murray.

Fall 2023

- ***The People of Leith at Home and Abroad, 1600–1799; The People of Aberdeen at Home and Abroad, 1800–1850; The People of Fife at Home and Abroad, 1800–1850; The People of North East Scotland at Home and Abroad, 1800–1850.*** By David Dodson. Reviewed by Judy Belford.
- ***Germans in America: A Concise History.*** By Walter D. Kamphoefner. Reviewed by Jane Theissen.
- ***War of 1812 Research (Updated Edition).*** By the War of 1812 Preserve the Pensions Project and Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL. Reviewed by Ilene Murray.

Winter 2023–2024

- ***Generation by Generation, A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy.*** By Drew Smith. Reviewed by Cheryl Wheaton.
- ***The St. Louis Commune of 1877: Communism in the Heartland.*** By Mark Kruger. Reviewed by Tom Hall.
- ***Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ida.*** By Anne Hanson. Reviewed by Ilene Murray.



St. Louis Genealogical Society

General Meetings & Special Events, March–July 2024

Meetings this year will be hybrid: held at the Grant's View branch of the St. Louis County Library (until the new Clark Family branch is completed), AND also livestreamed via Zoom. You can attend in-person OR virtually, via computer; however, registration is required for all livestreamed meetings.

Additional special events may be announced during the year! Watch our website for updates!

Sat., 9 March 10:00 a.m. *Genealogy in Newspapers* Robin McDonough
Hybrid meeting: in person at the Grant's View branch, St. Louis County Library
Newspapers are an excellent genealogy resource. Explore the information you can find in them, and learn how to access historic St. Louis newspapers.

Sat., 23 March 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. *StLGS Open House*
Everyone is invited to visit our office, learn more about our website, shop our book sales/Trading Post offerings, meet our SIG leaders, and discover volunteer opportunities.
More information will be on our website and announced in social media. Stay tuned!

Sat., 13 April 10:00 a.m. *Disasters and Catastrophes* Amanda Clark
Hybrid meeting: in person at the Grant's View branch, St. Louis County Library
Cholera, tornadoes, fire . . . All of these disasters have devastated St. Louis but have also brought about improvements to our city and other cities around the globe. Learn about the Great Fire of 1849, the 1896 and 1927 St. Louis tornadoes, transportation disasters, and more!

Sat., 4 May *Successfully Navigating Websites for Your Genealogy*
StLGS Annual Family History Conference
Featuring nationally known speaker David Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS, and four local presenters
Full-day conference, in-person and via Zoom
Maryland Heights Community Center; watch for more information. Pre-registration required.

Sat., 8 June 10:00 a.m. *Recently Digitized Atlases at the Missouri Historical Society* Emily Jaycox
Hybrid meeting: in person at the Grant's View branch, St. Louis County Library
The Missouri Historical Society received grants in 2022 and 2023 to digitize previously undigitized atlases (mostly plat books showing land ownership) covering St. Louis city, county and beyond. MHS librarian Emily Jaycox, will review the online research guide to these digitized maps, which cover the time period 1829–1909. Even if your ancestor didn't own land, these maps may help you better understand the neighborhood where they lived.

Sat., 13 July 10:00 a.m. *Using Obituaries to Learn about our Ancestors and to Connect with Living Relatives* Dan Lilienkamp
Hybrid meeting: in person at the Grant's View branch, St. Louis County Library
Newspaper obituaries provide information about relationships between and among family members including people living at the time of publication. Learn how to find and use these important genealogical documents.



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

New Members

The following members joined between 1 October 2023 and 31 December 2023.

Welcome!

Sarah Anderson	Columbia, MO	Mary Lynn Hertel	Englewood, FL
Colleen Andres	Neenah, WI	Jacob Huelsing	Saint Louis, MO
Barbara Avison	Rapid City, SD	Michele Hutchison	Huntington Beach, CA
Rose-Ann Bennett	Hernando, MS	Nina Ivanichvili	Highlands Ranch, CO
Lee Bergquist	White Fish Bay, WI	Dorris Keeven-Franke	Saint Charles, MO
Denise Bergsma	Lynden, WA	Karen Kuhlman	Saint Louis, MO
Anne Borg	Framingham, MA	Megan Kunze	Kansas City, MO
Joan Brinton	Venice, FL	Claire Lee	Saint Louis, MO
Clayton Caringer	Saint Louis, MO	Daffney Moore	Saint Louis, MO
Louise Centatiempo	Wildwood, MO	Barbara Morrison	Saint Louis, MO
Cincinnati Public Library	Cincinnati, OH	Leslie Myers	Saint Louis, MO
T. Michael & Marie Denkmann Dawson	Wildwood, MO	Shawn Nicholson	Davie, FL
Dyann Dierkes	Fenton, MO	Darren O'Brien	Saint Louis, MO
Danielle Doggett	Saint Louis, MO	Kathleen O'Connell	Saint Louis, MO
Gary Dotson	Saint Louis, MO	Mary Phelan	Boulder, CO
Andrew Elsner	Saint Louis, MO	Christopher Reynolds	Long Grove, IL
D. G. Ewing	Baton Rouge, LA	Sussan Riordan	Saint Louis, MO
Jennifer Fancher	Madison, WI	Tracy Rode	Fenton, MO
Austin Fitzgerald	Columbia, MO	Myra Roper	Glendale, AZ
Judi Freeman	Dallas, TX	Stefani Ryan	Saint Louis, MO
Kathy Gabrielson	Arlington, TN	Stephen Schoenbeck	Saint Louis, MO
Marissa Gardner	Grantville, UT	Katherine Shelton	Edgewater, FL
David Gibbs	McKinney, TX	Jeanne Sojka	South Deerfield, MA
Sarah Graham	Salt Lake City, UT	Daniel Soller	Springfield, VA
Pam Shepley		Beth Swartz	Riverside, CA
Griesemer	Saint Louis, MO	Linda Taff	Saint Louis, MO
Judith Hall	Saint Louis, MO	William Tautphaeus	Clayton, NC
Kristi Hancock	Memphis, TN	Shaleen Tillman	Woodway, TX
James Hanser	Fairfield, CA	Donna Walczak	Whitestown, IN
Bernard Hebert	Owings Mills, MD	Charles Wells	Redlands, CA
Saralou Hendrickson	Saint Louis, MO	Dale Wright	Annawan, IL
		Nora Zimmer	Saint Louis, MO

Mission Statement

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

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