

ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

927 Felix St.

St. Joseph, MO 64501

CONTACT US

816-232-8151

sjpl.lib.mo.us

HOURS

Monday – Saturday

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



St. Joseph Public Library

RESEARCHING YOUR GENEALOGY

ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

WHERE TO BEGIN...

Beginning Your Research

- Find a method of recording information that works for you:
 - Familysearch.org accounts are free and allow you to create a digital pedigree chart that you can edit.
 - Binders are good to have as a backup, but limit your ability to share the information.
 - Programs like Evernote and Microsoft OneNote allow you to store nearly all information in one, searchable location.
- Assess what you already know
- Interview relatives
- Look through
 - family bibles
 - scrapbooks
 - diaries
 - letters
- Letters and postcards
- Any documents kept by family
- Identify surnames within your ancestry
- Many surnames were initially recorded by sound, Americanized, and changed over time
- Locate your ancestors. What states/countries were they from?
 - Counties – Old county histories can be a treasure trove of information

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION RECORDS

- Cook County, Illinois Clerk of the Circuit Court Naturalization Declarations of Intention

<http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/NR/>

- Naturalization Index, St. Joseph, Missouri

<https://www.archives.gov/kansas-city/finding-aids/naturalization-st-joseph.html>

- Missouri Naturalization Records, 1816 – 1955

<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/naturalization/>

- New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1368704>

- Ellis Island Foundation Passenger Search

<https://libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>

- Castle Garden – database offering access to records on over 11 million immigrants from 1820-1892

<http://www.castlegarden.org/>

- National Archives Immigration Records

<https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration>

DATABASES

- US Gen Web Project
<http://www.usgenweb.org/>

GENERAL RESEARCH

- Google Books
<https://books.google.com/>
- HathiTrust – partnership of research institutions and libraries worldwide
<https://www.hathitrust.org/>
- JSTOR – can create a free account which grants limited access to articles on historic topics
<https://www.jstor.org/>

MAPS

- Atlas of Historical County Boundaries – download .kmz file to use with Google Earth
<http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>
- Ramsay Place Name Guide – a list of places that no longer exist in Missouri counties
<http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/ramsay/ramsay.html>
- topoView – From USGS a timeline of historical maps
<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>
- Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States
<http://dsl.richmond.edu/historicalatlas/>
- Mapbox – create your own map
<https://www.mapbox.com/>

RESEARCHING YOUR ANCESTORS AT THE LIBRARY

- Birth Records
 - 1873-1894, 1893-1894, 1895-1896, 1897-1898, 1899
 - 1900, 1901 (Incomplete), 1902 (Incomplete), 1903 (Incomplete), 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908
- City Directories
 - 1859 – Current (some years may not be available)
- Local History Index
 - Available at <http://sjpl.lib.mo.us/genealogy/local-history-index/>
 - Or in the Reference Department
- Obituaries
 - Searchable Obituary Database
<http://sjpl.lib.mo.us/genealogy/obituary-search/>
 - Hard copies of the obituary years are available in the Reference Department
- Yearbooks
 - The Reference Department holds numerous years of St. Joseph High School yearbooks
 - Complete listing <http://sjpl.lib.mo.us/genealogy/school-yearbooks/>
- Newspapers
 - Multiple St. Joseph and area newspapers can be found on microfilm in the Reference Department
- St. Joseph File Headings
 - A collection of newspaper articles and other documents on specific subjects of St. Joseph's history
- Maps
 - Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the City of St. Joseph
 - Atlases of Missouri counties and some Kansas counties
 - Plat Books
- County Histories and Genealogies
 - The St. Joseph Public Library holds multiple family genealogies
 - Within the genealogy collection there are multiple county histories, as well as vital record information from individual counties

BIRTH RECORDS

- The Reference Department has St. Joseph Birth Transcripts from: 1873-1894, 1893-1894, 1895-1896, 1897-1898, 1899, 1900 - 1908
- Missouri Birth Records, Pre-1910
<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/birthdeath/>
- Missouri Births and Christenings, 1827 – 1935 (index)
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1680833>
- Missouri Birth Records, 1847 - 1910
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1170>

MARRIAGE RECORDS

- Missouri Marriages, 1750 – 1920
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1680838>
- Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1171>
- Missouri County Marriage Records (Counties A-C)
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2060668>
- Buchanan County 1881 - Present

DEATH RECORDS

- Missouri Death Records
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1494474>
- Social Security Death Index, 1962 – February 28, 2014
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535>
- Social Security Death Index, 1935 - 2014
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3693>

VITAL RECORDS

- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Bureau of Vital Records
<http://health.mo.gov/data/vitalrecords/>
- The Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society has marriage records for multiple counties in Missouri and Kansas, spanning many years.
- Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1965
<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/deathcertificates/>
- Find A Grave – may also search by cemetery
<http://www.findagrave.com/>
- Non-Population Census Schedules
<http://tinyurl.com/kgkmbmp>
- Social Security Death Index, 1962 – February 28, 2014
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535>
- Social Security Death Index, 1935 - 2014
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3693>

FORUMS AND CROWDSOURCING

- Genealogy.com – Surname forum by Ancestry (free)
<http://www.genealogy.com/>
- Olive Tree Genealogy
<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>
- Rootsweb – by Ancestry
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>
- My Roots Place
<http://myrootsplace.com/index.php>
- WikiTree
<http://www.wikitree.com/>

USEFUL GENEALOGY RESOURCES

ORGANIZATION

- FamilySearch – largest genealogical organization in the world
- Ancestry.com \$ (free access at the St. Joseph Public Library)
- My Heritage – free account but option of premium account (wider access)

NEWSPAPERS

- Stanford Data Visualization – Historical map of newspapers
http://web.stanford.edu/group/ruralwest/cgi-bin/drupal/visualizations/us_newspapers
- Elephind – newspapers online
<http://www.elephind.com/>
- Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers – LOC
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- NewspaperCat – catalog of digital historical newspapers
<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/hnccoll>
- U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>
- Missouri Digital Newspaper Project
<http://shsmo.org/newspaper/mdnp/>
- The Ancestor Hunt, Newspaper Research Links
<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>

TIMELINES

- Sutori – can share timelines online
<https://www.sutori.com/>
- Twile – genealogical timeline
<https://twile.com>

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records are available on FamilySearch.

Search by name or by State > County.

Years available vary by county. Many are available from the early 1800s through the early 1900s.

- Missouri Probate Records by County (Not Searchable)
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2399107?collectionNameFilter=false>

CHURCH RECORDS

In the United States, Church records or many times the only source for vital records prior to the Twentieth Century. FamilySearch is a great place to start for narrowing down your search for Church Records.

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Church_Records

MILITARY RECORDS

- Soldiers' Records: War of 1812 - WWI
<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/soldiers/>
- Records Database. Includes World War I and World War II
http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/cs/us/worldwar2records?cj=1&netid=cj&_xid=0000584978&o lid=0000584978&o sch=Affiliate+External
- Nationwide Gravesite Locator (veterans)
<https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>
- The Stars and Stripes: The American Soldiers' Newspaper of WWI
<http://bit.ly/2vAlkR8>

ST. JOSEPH NEWSPAPERS AT THE ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

○ ***Adventure (Adventurer)***

May 5, 1848 to May 20, 1853

○ ***Commercial Cycle*** (same roll as *Adventure*)

May 27, 1853 to April 21, 1854

○ ***Free Democrat*** (same roll as *Weekly West*)

August 6, 1859 to April 13, 1861

○ ***St. Joseph Weekly Gazette***

April 25, 1845 to September 8, 1848

October 27, 1848 to October 4, 1854

July 9, 1868 to June 27, 1872

July 4, 1872 to December 25, 1873

January 6, 1887 to September 28, 1893

January 3, 1896 to December 30, 1898

○ ***St. Joseph Daily Gazette***

July 1, 1868 to June 26, 1870

January 3, 1872 to June 30, 1874

December 1, 1874 to December 31, 1894 (pages from 1882 are missing)

January 1, 1896 to June 30, 1953

October 1, 1953 to September 30, 1988 (May 1987-Sept 1988 on News-Press Reels)

○ ***St. Joseph Gazette-Herald***

January 3, 1899 to December 29, 1899

July 31, 1900 to October 11, 1900

○ ***St. Joseph Morning Herald***

February 13, 1862 to September 30, 1864

○ ***St. Joseph Morning Herald and Daily Tribune***

October 1, 1864 to July 24, 1866

○ ***St. Joseph Morning Daily Herald***

July 25, 1866 to October 8, 1876

○ ***St. Joseph Daily Herald***

October 10, 1876 to July 31, 1900

○ ***St. Joseph Weekly Herald***

March 20, 1862 to October 27, 1864

January 9, 1890 to December 25, 1890

January 4, 1894 to December 28, 1899

○ ***St. Joseph Evening News***

May 3, 1879 to October 19, 1885

○ ***St. Joseph Daily News***

October 21, 1885 to December 31, 1886

May 1, 1888 to September 30, 1901

January 1, 1902 to September 19, 1903

○ ***St. Joseph News and Press***

September 21, 1903 to February 28, 1905

○ ***St. Joseph News-Press***

March 1, 1905 to December 31, 1935

January 17, 1936 to CURRENT

○ ***Standard***

September 7, 1871 to January 28, 1875

○ ***Weekly West*** (same roll as *Free Democrat*)

May 8, 1859 to April 28, 1860

○ ***Winners of the West***

December 1923 to December 28, 1944