This outline describes major sources of information about families from Missouri. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

**RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

The Family History Library has most of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include land, probate, and vital records from all but two of the county courthouses in the state.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the Family History Library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.
The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the Family History Library and at each Family History Center. To find a record, look in the locality search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:
  
  **UNITED STATES** - CENSUS RECORDS  
  **MISSOURI** - MILITARY RECORDS  
  **MISSOURI, JACKSON** - LAND AND PROPERTY  
  **MISSOURI, JACKSON, KANSAS CITY** - CHURCH RECORDS  

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

  **UNITED STATES** - CENSUS RECORDS  
  **MISSOURI** - MILITARY RECORDS  
  **MISSOURI, JACKSON** - LAND AND PROPERTY  
  **MISSOURI, JACKSON, KANSAS CITY** - CHURCH RECORDS  

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

**ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services to assist genealogical researchers:

- **Missouri State Archives**  
  600 West Main St.  
  Jefferson City, MO 65102  
  Telephone: 314-751-3280  
  Fax: 573-526-7333  
  A helpful guide to the collection is *A Guide to the Missouri State Archives* (Jefferson City, Mo.: Missouri Secretary of State, 198-; not at FHL).

- **National Archives—Central Plains Region (Kansas City)**  
  2312 East Bannister Road  
  Kansas City, MO 64131  
  Telephone: 816-268-8000
- **Missouri State Genealogical Association**
  P.O. Box 833
  Columbia, MO 65205
  Telephone: 816-747-9330

- **State Historical Society of Missouri**
  1020 Lowry
  Columbia, MO 65201-7298
  Telephone: 573-882-7083
  Fax: 573-884-4950

- **Missouri Historical Society Library and Research Center**
  Jefferson Memorial Building
  255 South Skinker Blvd
  St. Louis, MO 63112-0040
  Telephone: 314-746-4599
  Fax: 314-746-4548
  *Mailing Address:* Missouri Historical Society Library and Research Center
  P.O. Box 11940
  St. Louis, MO 63112-0040

- **St. Louis Public Library**
  History and Genealogy Department
  1301 Olive Street
  St. Louis, MO 63103-2389
  Telephone: 314-241-2288
  Fax: 314-539-0393

- **Kansas City Public Library**
  14 West 10th Street
  Kansas City, MO 64105
  Telephone: 816-701-3400
  Fax: 816-701-3401
The Mid-Continent Public Library shares its genealogical materials through interlibrary loan.

To learn more about the history, record keeping, and available records of Missouri counties, use the 15 inventories of the county archives published by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. The Family History Library has copies of most of these inventories.

You should also be aware that records kept at the state capitol were lost by fires in 1837 and 1911. Several counties in Missouri have also lost records due to fire, war, and other destruction.

**Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards**

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Missouri in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- **USGenWeb**
  
  http://www.usgenweb.com/

  A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.

- **Roots-L**
http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.
For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the United States Research Outline (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection contains some volumes of Missouri Bible records. (See the “Genealogy” section of this outline). It is partially indexed in E. Kay Kirkham, An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States, vol. 2 (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

Some Bible records are also found in genealogical periodicals. Another source of published Bible records is Elizabeth Prather Ellsberry, Bible Records of Missouri, 8 vols. in 3 (Chillicothe, Mo.: E. P. Ellsberry, [1963-65]; FHL book 977.8 V29e; film 873910, fiche 6051119; 3 additional volumes published in 1968 are in FHL book 977.8 V29L and FHL films 873911 items 4-5 and 851115 item 18).

BIOGRAPHY

Most of the archives mentioned above have collections of published biographical information. The public libraries in St. Louis and Kansas City also have good collections. Also search the biographical sections of statewide, regional, and county histories.

The Family History Library has a large collection of biographical sources. Selected volumes are on FHL films 1000272-79, including Howard Louis Conrad, Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri, a Compendium of History and Biography for Ready Reference (New York: Southern History Co., 1901; FHL book 977.8 H2c; films 1000272-73; fiche 6051492).
CEMETERIES

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection contains tombstone inscriptions from many Missouri cemeteries. (See the “Genealogy” section of this outline). Many transcripts of cemetery records have been published, such as:

Ellsberry, Elizabeth P. Cemetery Records of Missouri. 3 vols. N.p.: 1965. (FHL book 977.8 V22d; film 844967; fiche 6051170.)

Cemeteries of Missouri. 15 vols. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1954-64. (FHL book 977.8 V22g; films 924436-39 and 924900 item 3; fiche 6051114 vols. 1-15.)

Missouri Cemetery Records. Vol. 1. Kansas City, Mo.: Heart of America Genealogical Society & Library, 1981. (FHL book 977.8 V3m v.1; fiche 6101174, vol.1.) This volume is a reprint of inscriptions from 26 Missouri counties published in the Kansas City Genealogist (see the “Periodicals” section of this outline).

196 Cemeteries of Missouri. 3 vols. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society: 1948-68. (FHL film 1035921.)

CENSUS

Federal

Many federal census records are found at the Family History Library, State Historical Society of Missouri, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The United States Research Outline provides more detailed information about these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of Missouri for 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920. The 1890 census was destroyed. The 1890 Union veterans schedule and published index are available at the Family History Library and at the National Archives. The 90,000 names in the index include some Confederate soldiers.

Statewide indexes are available for the 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses in book format. Separate published indexes for many counties are also available for 1860. Soundex (phonetic) indexes are available on microfilm for part of the 1880 census and all of the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses.

Mortality schedules (lists of deaths during the year preceding the census) exist for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. The State Historical Society of Missouri has these records. Copies of the schedules and indexes for 1850, 1860, and 1870 (counties A-L) are available at the Family History Library.
Territorial and State

A few Spanish censuses were taken as early as 1772. Portions of Missouri were included in the 1810 census of Louisiana Territory. Missouri Territory took censuses in 1814, 1817, 1819, and 1820. The 1820 census was destroyed, but tax and vital records have been published as a substitute.

The state of Missouri took censuses in 1821, at four-year intervals from 1824 to 1863, and in 1876. The 1876 census, available for 10 counties, is the most complete. It lists only the heads of households. Most of the other schedules have been destroyed. Copies of the portions that remain are available at the State Historical Society of Missouri, the Family History Library, and the Missouri State Archives, and in some local county offices (See "Archive and Libraries" section of this outline).

CHURCH RECORDS

Roman Catholic churches were established in Missouri in the colonial era. Records for St. Louis, for example, date from 1765. Many other denominations came after 1800 with the arrival of various immigrant groups. By 1900 the largest religious groups in Missouri were the Roman Catholic, Baptist, Christian (Disciples of Christ), and Methodist Episcopal (now United Methodist).

The Family History Library has some collections of church records for Missouri, including Catholic, Baptist, and Presbyterian records. These include a unique collection of 13 films of alphabetized parish register transcripts from the Catholic Archdiocese of Kansas City for the years 1830 to 1900.


Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following for more information about their records.

Baptist

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
901 Commerce St., Suite 400
Nashville, TN 37203-3630
Telephone: 615-244-0344
Fax: 615-782-4821

Missouri Baptist Historical Commission
400 East High St.
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Telephone: 573-636-0400 ext. 205
American Baptist Historical Society

Christian
Disciples of Christ Historical Society
1101 19th Avenue S
Nashville, TN 37212
Telephone: 615-327-1444

Methodist
United Methodist Archives
Central Methodist University Library
411 Central Methodist Square
Fayette, MO 65248
Telephone: 660-248-6271
Fax: 660-248-6226

Centenary United Methodist Church
55 Plaza Square
16th & Pine Street
St Louis, MO 63103
Telephone: 314-421-3136
Fax: 314-421-4625

Commission on Archives and History
United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 127
36 Madison Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940
Telephone: 973-408-3189

Roman Catholic
Archives of the Archdiocese of St. Louis
20 Archbishop May Drive
St. Louis, MO 63119
Telephone: 314-792-7020
Fax: 314-792-7029
COURT RECORDS

Major Missouri courts that kept records of genealogical value include the following:

Circuit courts are countywide courts with jurisdiction over criminal and civil matters. Courts of common pleas were countywide courts that existed in some counties before the 1880s. They had jurisdiction over minor civil and criminal matters. Magistrate courts have citywide jurisdiction over minor criminal offenses and some small claims.

National Archives—Central Plains Region (Kansas City) has U.S. circuit and district court records dating from 1820. The Family History Library has microfilmed many Missouri court records in each county. The library also has a few records from the French and Spanish era for 1766 to 1816 (FHL films 1005424-6).

For more information about federal court records, see William D. White, Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the United States Courts for the Western District of Missouri, (Kansas City, Mo.: Federal Records Center, 1969; FHL book 977.8 A1 no. 85; film 982261 item 21).

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities of Missouri. For example, the Family History Library has:

- St. Louis
  1821-60 FHL fiche 6044444-62
  1863-1935 FHL films 1377473-506
  1917, 1942, etc. FHL book 977.866 E4p

- Kansas City
  1860-61 FHL fiche 6044015
  1865-1935 FHL films 1376961-73
  1940, 1975, etc FHL book 978.139/K1 E4p
A few thousand French settlers remained in the area after the United States bought Missouri as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, but most prestatehood settlers were Americans of English and Ulster Scots origin. They came mainly from the Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Settlement spread up the river valleys into central Missouri by the 1820s and into western Missouri by the 1830s. Mormon immigrants settled western Missouri in 1831 but were driven from the state in 1839.

Both the Santa Fe Trail and the Oregon Trail began at Independence, Missouri. Many Missourians followed these trails westward to California, Texas, Oregon, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Kansas. In spite of this emigration from the state, Missouri was the fifth most populous state in the United States at the close of the Civil War.

Overseas immigration to Missouri began in earnest in the 1830s when large numbers of Germans began to settle the farm country west of St. Louis and south of the Missouri River known as the “Missouri Rhineland.” Beginning in the 1840s German and Irish immigrants settled in urban centers. After 1880, St. Louis and Kansas City attracted groups of Italians, Greeks, Poles, and east European Jews.

An especially helpful description of settlement patterns in Missouri is in Milton D. Rafferty, *Historical Atlas of Missouri* (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982; FHL book 977.8 E7r).

Before the Civil War the Ohio-Mississippi-Missouri river system was the major migration route to Missouri. New Orleans was the favorite port of entry for early German immigrants to Missouri. After the war, most settlers came by railroad through the lower midwestern states. To find an immigrant ancestor, you may want to check ship passenger lists for East Coast ports and for the Port of New Orleans. More detailed information on immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

**GAZETTEERS**

Several helpful guides to place names in Missouri have been published, including:


Campbell, Robert Allen. *Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri*. St. Louis: Campbell, 1875. (FHL film 897468.)

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. For example, the St. Louis Public Library has a card index to published genealogies in books and periodicals. Such collections must usually be searched in person.

A significant manuscript collection is the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection. This collection consists of transcripts of Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, death, obituary, and will records. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is also available at the St. Louis Public Library and on 57 films at the Family History Library (FHL films 870004--.) The volumes are generally arranged by county, and many have individual indexes.

Some major published collections of genealogical material for Missouri include:


HISTORY

The following important events in the history of Missouri affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1735  French lead miners established the first permanent white settlement at Sainte Genevieve.

1763  France ceded the Missouri area to Spain. French fur traders founded St. Louis in 1764.

1800  Spain returned the region to France.

1803  France sold Missouri to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase. Missouri was part of the Louisiana Territory after 1805.

1812  Congress created the Missouri Territory. Many families left after earthquakes and other disasters.

1821  Missouri became a state.

1837  The Platte Purchase added six northwestern counties to the state.
1861-1865 During the Civil War most of the citizens supported the Union, although several counties seceded. Troops from Missouri served in both the Confederate and the Union forces.

Major research centers have histories of the state and its counties. An especially helpful source for studying the history of Missouri before statehood is Louis Houck, *A History of Missouri from the Earliest Explorations and Settlements until the Admission of the State into the Union*, 3 vols. (Chicago: R. R. Donnelley, 1908; FHL book 977.8 H2h; vols. 1-2 on film 1697679 items 2-3; vol. 3 on film 1320710).

For a list of published county histories, see Paul O. Selby, *A Bibliography of Missouri County Histories and Atlases*, 2d ed. (Kirksville, Mo.: Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, 1966; FHL book 977.8 A1 No. 145).

**LAND AND PROPERTY**

**Claims to French and Spanish Grants**

In the early 1800s many land claims were filed as Missouri residents tried to document claims to lands previously granted by the French and Spanish. In 1805, the U.S. Congress established a Board of Commissioners to confirm earlier grants.

Some of these records have been published in sources such as the *American State Papers*. An index to the claims made from 1795 to 1812 is on FHL film 984777. The names in the *American State Papers* (on microfilm at the Family History Library) have also been published in:


Land claims have been explained and documented in:


*Missouri Land Claims*. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1976. (FHL book 977.8 R2m; film 1036517 item 2.) This volume is a reprint of the 1835 *Congressional Report*, and has land claims for 1796-1835.
Federal Land Grants

After the United States obtained possession of the area that became Missouri, land was surveyed and distributed through eight federal land offices, the earliest of which opened in 1818. The General Land Office in Washington, D.C., also distributed many of the state's public domain lands between 1818 and 1922. This process has been explained in Gary W. Beahan, Missouri's Public Domain: United States Land Sales, 1818-1922 (Jefferson City: Records Management and Archives Services, 1980; FHL book 977.8 R2mi).

Records of the local land offices are in the Missouri State Archives. Tract books, plat maps, and land patents are in:

Bureau of Land Management Eastern States Office
7450 Boston Blvd.
Springfield, VA 22153
Telephone: 703-440-1600
Fax: 703-440-1609

War of 1812 bounty land warrants were also issued for Missouri lands. The Family History Library has copies of the warrants and their indexes (FHL [films 983163-77]). Homestead records for the 1860s and later years are at the National Archives.

Many additional documents dealing with early land transfers are available at the Family History Library:

- Record books, 1795 to 1808
- U.S. land patents, 1800s to early 1900s
- Tax deeds, 1847 to 1878
- Miscellaneous land records in French, Spanish, and English, 1700s to 1800s
- Swamp land records for the 1800s
- Land plats and index for the 1800s
- General Land Office sales, 1818 to 1903

County Land Records

After land was transferred to private ownership, subsequent transactions have been kept by the county recorders of deeds. The Family History Library has copies of most pre-1900 deeds from each county courthouse. From St. Louis County, for example, the library has over 900 microfilms of deeds and indexes for 1804 to 1901. Additional land records may be obtained from the Missouri State Archives and the various county courthouses.
MAPS

Atlases that can aid your research are:


City ward maps of Kansas City (1884, 1888, and 1890) and St. Louis (1859, 1870, 1882, and 1891) are on FHL film 1377700; fiche 6016664-6 (Kansas City), fiche 6016759-62 (St. Louis). These can help you determine the ward of residence for census searches.

Large collections of maps and atlases are available at the University of Missouri, St. Louis Public Library, and St. Louis University. A helpful guide is Paul D. Selby, *Bibliography of Missouri County Histories and Atlases*, 2d ed. (Kirksville, Mo.: Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, 1966; FHL book 977.8 A1 No. 145).

MILITARY RECORDS

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on the federal military records and search strategies.

For Missouri the following sources are also very helpful. Most are available at:

Office of the Adjutant General
1717 Industrial Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Copies of many of the records are at the Family History Library and the St. Louis Public Library.

Revolutionary War (1775-1783)

An alphabetical list of soldiers, their birth dates, death dates, and military service is Alice Kinyoun Houts, *Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Missouri* ([Kansas City, Mo.: Houts, 1966]; FHL book 977.8 M2ha).
War of 1812 (1812-1815)

Bounty land in Arkansas, Illinois, and Missouri was issued to soldiers who served in the War of 1812. Copies of the bounty land warrants are on 14 films at the Family History Library. The names of Missouri patentees are indexed on FHL film 983163. The records provide the name of the soldier and his rank, unit, date of warrant, and the date the land was located.

Civil War (1861-1865)

Missouri soldiers served in both the Union and the Confederate armies. Indexes to the service records are available at the Family History Library. The federal service records are available at the National Archives.

Pension records of Confederate veterans and soldier's home admission applications are alphabetized and available on FHL films 1021101-27 and at the Missouri Adjutant General's office. The Family History Library has an index to the Union army pensions, but the actual files are only at the National Archives.

The Adjutant General's office has state records of volunteers and state militia (FHL films 1021080-98), including descriptive muster rolls and enlistment and discharge rolls.

A special 1890 census of Union veterans is at the National Archives and on FHL films 338186-93. A published index to this census is available.

Spanish-American War (1898)

In addition to the federal records, the Missouri Adjutant General's office has muster rolls and an index to volunteers (FHL films 1021099-100).

World War I (1917-1918)

The Missouri Adjutant General's office has service files and bonus application papers. The latter often contain family information.

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Missouri see:

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:


**Additional Records**

The Family History Library has 214 microfilms of records in various collections created by the Missouri Adjutant General's office for service in the War of 1812, Black Hawk War, Seminole War, Mormon War, Heatherly War, Iowa War, Mexican War, and Civil War. The records include burial information, state militia rolls, and county enrollments.

**NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

Naturalization records have been filed primarily in the circuit courts. In earlier years naturalization information was included in the minutes and order books of various courts along with other court matters. Eventually the papers were kept in separate volumes with indexes. You may obtain copies of declarations, petitions, and certificates by contacting the clerk's office in each county courthouse.

The Family History Library has copies of the records for some counties in the state. For St. Louis, for example, the library has 17 microfilms of an index to naturalizations from the Circuit Court for 1840 to 1906.

After 1906, most records are under the jurisdiction of a U.S. district court. If you need naturalization records after that date, contact a federal office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service or the National Archives—Central Plains Region (Kansas City). The Archives maintains records from the U.S. Eastern District Court, 1907 to 1941, and the Western District Court, 1906 to 1924.

**NEWSPAPERS**

The State Historical Society of Missouri has a major collection of newspapers. In the collection are Missouri newspapers from about 1800, and card indexes by name and subject
to some of the early papers. The Society and the Family History Library also have several published abstracts and indexes of obituaries and marriages from 1808 to 1870.


**PERIODICALS**

The major genealogical periodicals and magazines helpful for Missouri research are—

*Kansas City Genealogist*. 1960-. Published by the Heart of America Genealogical Society and Library, c/o Kansas City Public Library, 311 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64106-2412. (FHL book 977.841 B2g; fiche 6010733-60, vols. 1-28.)


*Missouri Pioneers: County and Genealogical Records*. 1967-76. 30 vols. Published by Nadine Hodges & Mrs. Howard W. Woodruff, Independence, MO. (FHL book 977.8 D2h; vols. 1-2 on film 496617 items 8-9; vols. 3-6 on film 496618; vol. 7 on film 823774 item 5.)

*Ozar' Kin: The People who Settled the Missouri Ozarks*. 1979-. Published by the Ozarks Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 3945, Springfield, MO 65808-3945 (FHL book 977.8 D25o.)


*The Prairie Gleaner*. 1969-. Published by the West Central Missouri Genealogical Society and Library, 705 Broad Street, Warrensburg, MO 64093-2032. (FHL book 977.84 B2p.)

*St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly*. 1968-. Published by the St. Louis Genealogical Society, 1695 So. Brentwood Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63144. (FHL book 977.865 B2q; vols. 1-2 on film 1698206 item 16; vols. 1-27 and an index to vols. 11-20 on films 1698209-10.)


**PROBATE RECORDS**

Probate matters in Missouri have usually been recorded by the clerks of the probate courts, but in some counties the common pleas or circuit courts handled this function. The records include wills, administrator bonds, and estate inventories. They are frequently indexed. You can obtain copies by contacting the probate judge in each county.
Copies of many of the records are available at the Family History Library. The library's records generally date from the creation of the county to about 1925. For example, the library has 71 films for Jackson County that include:

- Wills and other records (1828-1917)
- Bonds (1868-1923)
- Letters (1876-1955)
- Guardians' records (1871-1898)
- Inventories (1881-1915)
- Real estate sales (1890-1918)

For many counties, abstracts of the earliest wills have been published, and copies are available at major archives and the Family History Library.

**TAXATION**

Many tax assessment books of Missouri counties have been preserved. The original records are generally at the county courthouses. Some of these are on microfilm at the Family History Library. For example, the library has Osage County tax books for 1844, 1856 to 1862, and 1865.

**VITAL RECORDS**

**County and City Records of Births and Deaths**

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1863, but registration was not compulsory. Missouri has required registration in each county only during the years 1883 to 1893 and since 1909. The state did not achieve 90 percent registration of births until 1927 and of deaths until 1911.

Write to the appropriate county clerk for records before 1910. Those from 1883 to 1893 are also available from the Missouri State Archives.

The Family History Library has copies of most of the existing civil vital records in Missouri from about 1883 to the early 1900s. For example, records of Jefferson County births, stillbirths, and deaths from 1883 to 1892 are available.

For St. Louis city records from 1870 to the present, write to:
The library also has 16 microfilms of the registers of the St. Louis City Hospital for 1846 to 1900.

**State Records of Births and Deaths**

Although the files are not open for public inspection, you can obtain copies of the state's births and deaths registered after 1 January 1910 by writing to:

**Bureau of Vital Records**
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570
Telephone: 573-751-6387

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993. (FHL book 973 V24wv.) Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers.

**Marriage Records**

Marriage records have been kept by Missouri county clerks from the earliest days of each county. Some records date from the early 1800s when the area was a territory without counties. Statewide registration of marriage began in 1881, and the files are mostly complete after that date. You can obtain copies of these documents from the various county clerks.

The Family History Library has copies of marriage records from each county. These often date to the 1920s. For St. Louis, for example, the library has 147 microfilms from the city recorder (index for 1806-1965, records from 1808-1920, licenses from 1881-1966), and 14 films from the county recorder (index for 1877-1928, licenses from 1881-1933). The Missouri State Archives has copies of the same films available at the Family History Library.

Most pre-1850 marriages in Missouri have been transcribed in publications such as the following:


The Bureau of Vital Records (see address above) has an index to marriage records from July 1948 to the present.

**Divorce Records**

Divorce proceedings have been filed with a court of common pleas, a circuit court, or the state legislature. Most divorce records can be obtained by contacting the appropriate circuit court clerk in the county where the plaintiff resided. The Family History Library has some of these court records, which include divorce information. The Bureau of Vital Records has divorce records from 1948 to the present.

A published list of early divorce records is Lois Stanley, *Divorces and Separations in Missouri, 1808-1853*. Missouri: 198-. (FHL book 977.8 P2sd.) This volume includes notices from newspapers.

**Inventory of Vital Records**

To learn more about the history and availability of vital records, see *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Missouri* (St. Louis: Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 977.8 V2h; film 928021 item 10).

**FOR FURTHER READING**

For more detailed information about research and records of Missouri, see:

Parkin, Robert E. *Guide to Tracing Your Family Tree in Missouri*. St. Louis: Genealogical Research and Productions, 1979. (FHL book 977.8 D27pr.) This guide lists the published and microfilmed records available for each county.

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry’s Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
Missouri Historical Background

History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

The following important events in the history of Missouri affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1735  French lead miners established the first permanent white settlement at Sainte Genevieve.
1763  France ceded the Missouri area to Spain. French fur traders founded St. Louis in 1764.
1800  Spain returned the region to France.
1803  France sold Missouri to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase. Missouri was part of the Louisiana Territory after 1805.
1812  Congress created the Missouri Territory. Many families left after earthquakes and other disasters.
1821  Missouri became a state.
1837  The Platte Purchase added six northwestern counties to the state.
1861-1865 During the Civil War most of the citizens supported the Union, although several counties seceded. Troops from Missouri served in both the Confederate and the Union forces.
1898  Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.
1917–1918 More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war.
1930s  The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.
1940–1945 Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.
1950–1953  Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.
1950s–1960s The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.
Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

Historical Sources

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under Missouri or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family's lifestyle and the community and environment in which your family lived.

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for Missouri available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

For a list of published county histories, see Paul O. Selby, *A Bibliography of Missouri County Histories and Atlases*, 2d ed. (Kirksville, Mo.: Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, 1966; FHL book 977.8 A1 No. 145).

Local histories are extensively collected by the Family History Library, public and university libraries, and state and local historical societies. Two useful guides are:


State History

Major research centers have histories of the state and its counties. An especially helpful source for studying the history of Missouri before statehood is Louis Houck, *A History of Missouri from the Earliest Explorations and Settlements until the Admission of the State into the Union*, 3 vols. (Chicago: R. R. Donnelley, 1908; FHL book 977.8 H2h; vols. 1-2 on film 1697679 items 2-3; vol. 3 on film 1320710).
United States History

The following are only a few of the many sources that are available at most large libraries:


Dictionary of American History, Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.
Missouri Statewide Indexes and Collections

Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following statewide indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

- The author and title of the source.
- The Family History Library (FHL) book, film, fiche, or compact disc number. If the words beginning with appear before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
- The name of the repository where the source can be found if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

What You Are Looking For

- Your ancestor’s name in an index or collection.
- Where the ancestor was living.

Steps

These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in statewide indexes or collections.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in statewide indexes or collections.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source on the right.

1580–1900s
- Ancestral File
- International Genealogical Index
- Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search
  To see these files, click here.

1580–1991
- Missouri State Genealogical Association Four Generation Charts: Surname Book. (FHL book 977.8 D2ms, vols. 1–7.) Lists ancestors, with names and addresses of descendants. Has about 8,000 surnames.


1580–1936 Smith, Mellcene Thurman. *History and Lineage Book, National Society Daughters of the American Colonists in Missouri*. (FHL book 977.8 C4sh; film 1036672 item 1.) Has the names of descendants.


1700–Present  **Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal**. (FHL book 977.8 D25m.) Indexed.


1700–present  **Genealogy Surname File**. (Not at FHL.) At the St. Louis Public Library. This is a card index to many sources.

1700–Present  **Local History File**. (Not at the FHL.) At the St. Louis Public Library. A card index to St. Louis area local histories.


1700–1868  **D.A.R. Revolutionary War Burial Index**. (FHL films 1307675–82.) Alphabetical. prepared by Brigham Young University from DAR records. Often lists name, birth date, death date, burial place, name of cemetery, company and/or regiment, sometimes gives the place of birth, etc. About 67,000 names.

1700–1840  **A General Index to a Census of Pensioners For Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840**. (FHL book 973 X2pc index; film 899835 items 1–2; fiche 6046771.) Lists Revolutionary War pensioners whose names are on the 1840 census lists.

After using the general index, go to the original book (FHL book Ref 973 X2pc 1967; film 899835 item 3.) This book gives the pensioner's town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was living, and age of pensioner or his widow.

1700–1904 Missouri. Adjutant General's Office. *Military Records, 1812–1904*. (FHL films beginning with 1,204,650.) Has alphabetical lists for Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, etc.


1700–1900  **Revolutionary Soldiers and Their Descendants, Genealogical Records: Missouri Edition**. (FHL book 977.8 D2r; fiche 6087900.) Does not list very many soldiers. Includes index.

1700–1970 Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken From the Microfilm at the Genealogical Society of Utah.* (FHL book 973 D22kk, vol. 2; fiche 6089184.) Indexes the source below.

1700–1970 Daughters of the American Revolution. *Genealogical Collection.* (Over 30 FHL films beginning with 870004.) Surname only index. See the Kirkham book above for a surname index.

1710–1900 Conard, Howard Louis. *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri, A Compendium of History and Biography For Ready Reference.* (FHL book 977.8 H2c; films beginning with 1000272; fiche 6051492.)

1730–1804 Houck, Louis, ed. *The Spanish Regime in Missouri: A Collection of Papers and Documents Relating to Upper Louisiana Principally Within the Present Limits of Missouri During the Dominion of Spain, From the Archives of the Indies at Seville.* (FHL film 1723770, vols.1–2.) Indexed. Has lists of early settlers. Includes papers and documents relating to upper Louisiana, mostly within the present limits of Missouri during dominion of Spain, from archives of the Indies at Seville.

1734–1875 Bryan, William S., and Robert Rose. *History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri, a History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri, With Numerous Sketches, Anecdotes, Adventures, etc. Relating to Early Days in Missouri: Also the Lines of Daniel Boone and the Celebrated Indian Chief Black Hawk, With Numerous Biographies and Histories of Primitive Institutions.* (FHL book 977.8 D2b; film 823561 item 1.)

1740–1900 White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.* (FHL book 973 M22i.) Lists War of 1812 soldiers and often lists their spouse. You would need to send to the National Archives for the full pension information which may list names of children.

1741–1839 Eddlemon, Sherida K. *Missouri Genealogical Records and Abstracts.* (FHL book 977.8 R4e, vols.1–5.) Has surname index by Marlene Towle.

1750–1812 *First Settlers of the Missouri Territory.* (FHL book 977.8 R2f, vols.1–2.) From early land grants.


1750–1854 Wilson, George F. *Death Records of Missouri Men From Newspapers, 1808–1854.* (FHL book 977.8 V4w.)

1760–1960 Langley, Elizabeth B. *Bible Records of Missouri.* (FHL book 977.8 V29L; films 873911 items 4–5 and 851115 item 18.)

1760–1960 Ellsberry, Elizabeth Prather. *Bible Records of Missouri.* (FHL book 977.8 V29e, vols.1–8; film 873910, items 1–8; fiche 6051119.)
1770–1920 Census indexes, 1830–1880 and 1900–1920. In the window to the left click on Family History Library Catalog. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.

1770–1853 Wilson, George F. 1300 "Missing" Missouri Marriage Records From Newspapers, 1812–1853. (FHL book 977.8 V2w; film 1421793 item 10.)

1770–1840 Ormesher, Susan, Missouri Marriages Before 1840. (FHL book 977.8 V2o; fiche 6051425.) Marriages about 1804–1840.

1770–1840 Carter, Mrs. J. R. Early Missouri Marriages to 1840 Taken From the Following Counties: Audrain, Barry, Benton, Buchanan, Callaway, Carroll, Chariton. Clay, Clinton, Cole, Cooper, Daviess, Henry, Howard, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lafayette, Lincoln, Pettis, Pike, Platte, Randolph, Ray, Saline. (FHL book 977.8 V25c, vols.1–3; films 928077 item 4–5 and 823928 item 4.)

1770–1853 Stanley, Lois. Divorces and Separations in Missouri, 1808–1853. (FHL book 977.8 P2sd.)


1770–1876 Moore, Marilyn. Gone to Missouri: from Whence They Came to Where & When [ca.1819–1877]. (FHL book 977.8 D2mm.) Indexes the periodical, Missouri Pioneers, edited by Nadine Hodges.

1770–1826 Stanley, Lois. Missouri Taxpayers, 1819–1826. (FHL book 977.8 R4s.)


1780–1865 Stanley, Lois. Death Records from Missouri Newspapers: The Civil War Years, January 1861–December 1865. (FHL book 977.8 V4s; fiche 6049410.)


1780–1960 Missouri Cemetery Records: Reprinted from Twenty Years of The Kansas City Genealogist. (FHL book 977.8 V3m; fiche 6101174.) Records from 26 counties.

1780–1961 Wilson, J. E. 196 Cemeteries of Missouri. (FHL film 1035921 item 1.)

1780–1961 Cemetery Records of Missouri. (FHL book 977.8 V22g, vols.1–15; films beginning with 924436, item 1–4; fiche 6051114.)

1780–1960 Wardle, N. J. Cemetery Records of Missouri. (FHL book 977.8 V22c; film 873911 item 2.)


1793–1890 Hodges, Nadine. Missouri Pioneers, County and Genealogical Records. (FHL book 977.8 D2h, vols.1–30; films beginning with 496617 item 8.)


1800–1934 United States. Veterans Administration. General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934. (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans; copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Author/Creator</th>
<th>Title/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800–1890</td>
<td>DeGood, Harold.</td>
<td>An Index, Civil War Veterans and Widows, 1890 Census. (FHL book 977.8 X28d 1890.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800–1890</td>
<td>Dilts, Brian Lee.</td>
<td>1890 Missouri Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows. (FHL book 977.8 X2d.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820–present</td>
<td></td>
<td>Death records from 1909 to present. (Not at FHL.) At the Missouri Department of Health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830–1907</td>
<td>Watts, John J.</td>
<td>John J. Watts Collection, of Genealogical Records Index A.B., 1830–1907. (FHL book 977.8 D22j, film 1320994 item 10.) Rev. Watts was a Baptist circuit riding preacher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850–present</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage records from 1909 to present. (Not at FHL.) At the Missouri Department of Health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878–1918</td>
<td></td>
<td>World War I Draft Registration Records. (Not at FHL.) At the Federal Records Center, Central Plains Region - Kansas City. This set of records may have more birth information than source below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878–1918</td>
<td>United States. Selective Service System.</td>
<td>Missouri, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918. (On 134 FHL films beginning with 1683089.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For ideas on ways your ancestor's name might be spelled by indexers or in collections, see Name Variations.

**Step 2. Copy and document the information.**

The best method of copying information is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) that include your ancestor's name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also write the name of the library or archive.
Where to Find It

Family History Centers and the Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of the films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for the nearest Family History Center, click here.

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

Libraries and Archives

You may be able to find the books at public or college libraries. If these libraries do not have a copy of the book you need, they may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:

- Go to a public or college library.
- Ask the librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You need the title of the item and the name of the author.
- The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the American Library Directory, published by the American Library Association. The American Library Directory is available at most public and college libraries.
Summary: History of Federal Censuses, records, and completeness. U.S. Maps from 1790 – 1920 showing U.S. boundary changes. Maps of each state for each census year beginning when the state was created up through 1920.

Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library. One map drawer for the state of Missouri.

G4160 – G4164. State maps from 1800s to 2000. Many of the maps show county boundaries and county seats, railroad lines, private land grants, population, etc. Some maps include information about what was happening that year.

To find more maps, search the byline for Missouri maps, atlases, and gazetteers.
Maps
Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps
Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

Animap
BYU FHL – on computer
Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

Google Maps
Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

Geology.com Maps
Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.
Missouri Maps Bibliography

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- G 1201.F7 A5 1991

Summary: Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.
Evaluation of Missouri maps: pp. 525 - 582. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- CS 49.A55 1992. (3 copies in FHC)

Summary: The previous map was copied from page 429 of this book. On the next page is a listing of the counties, the date the county was formed and parent county, and the date of first recorded deeds and certificates. The section on Missouri also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- G1201.E6225.K5 1976

Summary: Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil War maps and information.
Evaluation of Missouri maps: State historical information, p. 22; 1823 map, p. 102; 1838 map, p. 129; 1861 map, p. 151; 1909 map, p. 224.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref - F 465.P37

Summary: Louisiana Territory maps 1804-1820. Various maps of the state include county boundary changes from 1820 - 1870.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref - Quarto Shelves G 1200.M4 1996.

Summary: Missouri maps and information on pages 174 - 180. Includes maps comparing Missouri to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

MAPS


U.S. Geological Survey. Topographic Quadrangles. (arranged by state, shows buildings, roads, cemeteries, churches, counties, townships, etc.)

ATLASES

Andriof, John L. Township Atlas of the United States. 1977


Jackson, Richard H. Historical and Genealogical Atlas of the United States. (1823, 1838, 1861 state maps)


Many county and local atlases have been published. Copies are often available at public libraries, local historical societies, state libraries, or state historical societies. Many will be found listed in the card catalog at the Genealogical Department Library and at its branch libraries.

**GAZETTEERS**


1855 - Fanning's Illustrated Gazetteer of the United States (New York: Ensign, Bridgman, and Fanning, 1855).


FINDING AIDS

PLACE-NAME LITERATURE


SPECIALIZED LOCALITY SOURCES


HISTORIES

Missouri Federal Census Population Schedules, 1810 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Missouri residents are included in federal censuses from 1830 through 1920.

- The 1790 through 1840 censuses give the name of the head of each household. Other household members are mentioned only by age groupings of males and females.
- The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of each household.

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives who may have lived nearby.

Steps

These 5 steps will help you use census records.

Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in Missouri with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.
Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor.

The censuses from 1850 to 1920 give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in each household.

The censuses from 1790 to 1840 give the name of the head of each household and the number of males and females in age groups without their names.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only.

For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

1830 1840 1850 1860 1870
1880 1890 1900 1910 1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see Where to Find It.

Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information, such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see Tips.

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:

• Who was in the family?
• About when were they born?
• Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
• Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
• Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
• Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see Tip 3.
Tips

Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor’s parents?

Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.

Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book, Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790–1980, updated as 200 Years of U.S. Census Taking, both by the United States Census Bureau.

Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?

Comparing censuses indicates:

• Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
• Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
• Changes about each individual, such as age.
• Movement of the family within Missouri to a different county or town.
• Movement of the family out of Missouri if the family no longer appears in the census for Missouri.

You will eventually want to know every country, state, county, township, and town where your ancestor was located. You can then check information in other records for those places. A careful check of all available federal census records can help you identify those places.

Ages and estimated birth dates for an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for older adults.

Background

Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules.

Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

What U.S. federal censuses are available

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.
Most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire. However, portions of a special schedule taken in 1890, of Union Civil War veterans and their widows, have survived. The surviving 1890 veterans' schedules cover Washington D.C., half of Kentucky, and all of Louisiana through Wyoming (states are in alphabetical order from K to W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

Types of census schedules

The following census schedules are available for Missouri and were created in various years by the federal government:

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
- **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **1840 pensioners’ schedules** list people who were receiving pensions in 1840. Included were men who fought in the Revolutionary War or in the War of 1812 or their widows.
- **1890 veterans’ schedules** list Union veterans from the Civil War or their widows who were living in 1890.
- **Slave schedules** for Southern states list slave owners and the number of slaves they owned in 1850 and 1860.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

How Censuses were taken

People called enumerators were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit houses in any order, so families who are listed together in the census may or may not have been neighbors. The accuracy of the enumerators and the readability of their handwriting varies.

After the census was taken, usually one copy was sent to the state and another to the federal government. Sometimes copies were also kept by the counties. Few of the state and county copies survived.

When the censuses were taken

Census takers were supposed to gather information about the people who were part of each household on the following dates:

- 1790 to 1820: First Monday in August
- 1830 to 1900: 1 June (2 June in 1890)
- 1910: 15 April
- 1920: 1 January
- 1930: 1 April

If your ancestor was born in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she died after the census date.

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.
Censuses from 1930 to the present

U.S. Federal Censuses from 1930 to the present are confidential. The 1930 census will be available in 2002. You may ask the U.S. Census Bureau to send information about:

- Yourself.
- Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."
- Deceased individuals, if you are "their heir or administrator."

You may request information for only one person at a time. There is a fee for each search. To request information, you must provide the person's name, address at the time of the census, and other details on Form BC-600, available from the U.S. Census Bureau. For the address of the U.S. Census Bureau, see Where to Find It.

Colonial, territorial, state, and local censuses

Colonial, territorial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period. Missouri has some colonial censuses for 1772 to 1803. (See Louis Houck, The Spanish Regime in Missouri: A Collection of Papers and Documents Relating to Upper Louisiana Principally within the Present Limits of Missouri During the Dominion of Spain from the Archives of Seville . . .)

Missouri became part of the Louisiana Territory in 1805 and was included in the 1810 Louisiana territorial census. The Missouri Territory was established in 1812. There are territorial censuses for 1810, 1814, 1817, and 1819.

In 1821 Missouri became a state. There are Missouri state censuses for a few counties for 1844, 1857 through 1858, 1868, and 1876.

Colonial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

Where to Find It

Internet

Many Internet sites include census records, census indexes, or information about censuses. You may find the following sites helpful:

- Missouri GenWeb and USGenWeb have links to indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
- CensusLinks on the 'Net includes links to Internet sites that have United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the Missouri Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several Missouri archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Missouri census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.
Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.

You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See Family History Centers for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using census microfilms in person.

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.

For information about contacting or visiting the library, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

National Archives

Copies of the existing federal censuses from 1790 to 1920 are available in the Microfilm Research Room in the National Archives Building and at the 13 Regional National Archives. The National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Call 301-604-3699 for rental information. For information on how to order photocopies of census records from the National Archives, click here.

College and Public Libraries

Many college libraries have copies of census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and population schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

State Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies

The Archives and Libraries section of the Missouri Research Outline lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Missouri archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Missouri census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

U.S. Census Bureau

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

The U.S. Census Bureau
P.O. Box 1545
Jeffersonville, IN 47131
Telephone: 812-218-3300
Genealogical Search Services

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndisList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.

For more information, see Hiring a Professional Genealogist.
A belated census of earliest settlers of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri.

1817
Memorial and resolutions of the legislature of the Missouri Territory, and a copy of the census of the fall of 1817, amounting to 19,218 males.

1876
Benton County
Christian County
Holt County
Howard County
McDonald County
Reynolds County
St. Francois County

Special Information: includes information on livestock and products.
Census problems?  Maybe this is why we can't always find our ancestors...

1790  - Washington D.C. is with Montgomery & Prince George Co.'s in Maryland

1820 and 1830 - Wisconsin is with the Michigan Census

1836  - Iowa Territory Census includes Minnesota

1840  - Montana is with Clayton Co., Iowa

1860  - Colorado is with the Kansas Census

  - Montana is found in the 1860 Nebraska Census under "unorganized territory," which also includes what is now NE Colorado

  - Oklahoma is with Arkansas, which was then Indian land

  - Wyoming is included with Nebraska

Prior to 1880 IA did NOT mean Iowa, but Indiana

Virginia once covered many thousands of square miles more than it does now. A reference made to a person having been born in Virginia could mean that the person really was born in part of:

Illinois from 1781-1818    Ohio form 1728-1803
Indiana from 1787-1816    Pennsylvania from 1752-1786
Missouri from 1775-1792    Tennessee from 1760-1803
North Carolina from 1728-1803  West Virginia from 1769-1863

(Taken from Walla Walla Gen. Soc. Blue Mt. Heritage, Vol. 16. No.4)


Davis, Walter Bickford. An Illustrated History of Missouri. St. Louis: AJ Hall and Company; Cincinnati: R. Clarke and Company, 1876.  F 466 .D26 1876 also F 466 .D26 1876 (Special Collections: Americana Rare)


Houck, Louis.  A History of Missouri from the Earliest Explorations and Settlements until the Admission of the State into the Union.  Chicago: R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company, 1908.  F 466 .H83 1908 vol. 1-3 also CS 43 .G46x LH 8311 (Microfiche) also Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 22137-38 (Microfiche)


Updated 9/07


Shepard, Elihu H.  *The Early History of St. Louis and Missouri: From its First Exploration by White Men in 1673 to 1843*.  Saint Louis: Southwestern Book and Publishing, 1870.  CS 43 .G46x LH 8309 (Microfiche) also F 474 .S2 S55 1870 (Microfiche) also 299 no. 16 (Microfilm) also Americana F 474 .S2 S55 1870


Simpich, Frederick. *Missouri: Mother of the West*. 977 *A1 no. 13* (Special Collections: Americana Leroy R. Hafen Collection)


Spencer, Thomas M. *The Other Missouri History: Populists, Prostitutes, and Regular Folk*. Columbia, South Carolina: University of Missouri Press, c2004. *F 466.5 .O86 2004*


Switzler, W. F. *Switzler’s Illustrated History of Missouri: From 1541 to 1877*. St. Louis: C.R. Barns, Editor and Publisher, 1879. *F 466 .S97 1879* also *CS 43 .G46x LH 8298* also *F 466 .S97 1879* (Special Collections: Americana Rare)

Thorp, Joseph. *Early Days in Missouri*. Liberty Missouri: Liberty Tribune, 1917-1918. 977.8 *T398e* (Special Collections: Vault)

Thorp, Joseph. *Early Days in the West: Along the Missouri One Hundred Years Ago*. Liberty, Missouri: Irving Gilmer, 1924. *F 466 .T5x 1924* (Special Collections: Americana Rare)


Adair County

Adair County was created in 1841 from Macon County


Allen County

Andrew County

Andrew County was created in 1841 as a result of the Platte Purchase


Arkansas County

Ashley County

Atchison County
Atchison County was created in 1843 from Holt County


Audrain County
Audrain County was created in 1831 from Monroe County

Barry County
Barry County was created in 1835 from Greene County.


Barton County
Barton County was created in 1855 from Jasper County


Bates County
Bates County was created in 1841 from Cass, Van Buren & Jackson counties.

Atkeson, William O. History of Bates County, Missouri. Topeka, Kansas; Cleveland: Historical Publishing Company, 1918. F 472 .B3 A8 1918

Tathwell, S.L. The Old Settler's History of Bates County, Missouri. Amsterdam, Missouri: Tathwell and Maxey, c1897. F 472 .B3 T3 1897

Updated 9/07
Benton County

Benton County was created in 1835 from Pettis & St. Clair counties.


Bollinger County

Bollinger County was created in 1851 from Cape Girardeau, Stoddard & Wayne counties


Boone County

Boone County was created in 1820 from Howard County


Buchanan County

Buchanan County was created in 1838 as a result of the Platte Purchase.


Butler County

Butler County was created in 1849 from Wayne County.


Caldwell County

Caldwell County was created in 1836 from Ray County


Historic Mormon Country: Jackson, Clay, Ray, Caldwell, & Daviess Counties, Missouri.  Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.  BX 8608 .A1 no. 1869 (Special Collections: Americana)


Johnson, Crosby.  History of Caldwell County.  United States.  BX 8608 .A1a no. 4643 (Special Collections: Americana)

Johnston, Carrie P.  History of Clinton and Caldwell Counties, Missouri.  Topeka, Kansas; Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Company, 1923.  F 472 .C53 J6 1923 (Special Collections: Americana Rare)
MISSOURI


Young, Joseph.  Haun’s Mill Massacre Narrative.  (Original handwritten document—no publisher, but has been published in BYU Studies Vol. 38, no 1.) Vault MSS 791 (Special Collections: Manuscript Collection)

Callaway County

Callaway County was created in 1820 from Montgomery County

Bell, Ovid.  Cote Sans Dessein.  Fulton, Missouri: Ovid Bell, c1930.  F 474 .C84 B4 1930


Camden County

Camden County was created in 1841 from Benton & Pulaski counties.

Cape Girardeau County

Cape Girardeau County was created in 1812 from the original district


Carroll County

Carroll County was created in 1833 from Ray County.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Clay, Ray, Carroll, Chariton and Linn Counties, Missouri.  Chicago: Chapman, 1893.  F 472 .A18 P8 also CS 43 .G46x LH 10645 (Microfiche)


Updated 9/07
Carter County

Carter County was created in 1859 from Ripley & Shannon counties.


Cass County

Cass County was created in 1835 from Jackson County.

Cedar County

Cedar County was created in 1845 from Dade & St. Clair counties.


Chariton County

Chariton County was created in 1820 from Howard County


Updated 9/07
Christian County
Christian County was created in 1859 from Greene, Taney & Webster counties.


Clark County
Clark County was created in 1836 from Lewis County


Clay County
Clay County was created in 1822 from Ray County

Campbell, Robert Allen. Clay County. BX 8672 .A1 no. 87 (Special Collections: Americana)


Jenson, Andrew. Jackson, Clay, Caldwell, and Davies counties, Missouri. BX 8672 J451h (Special Collections: Americana)

Clinton County

Clinton County was created in 1833 from Clay County


Johnston, Carrie P. History of Clinton and Caldwell Counties, Missouri. Topeka, Kansas; Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Company, 1923. F 472 .C53 J6 1923 (Special Collections: Americana Rare)


Cole County

Cole County was created in 1820 from Cooper County.


Cooper County

Cooper County was created in 1818 from Howard County.

Cooper County Record, First Frontier edition. Boonville, Missouri, 1939. F 472 .C7 C66x (Quarto)

Levens, Henry C.  *A History of Cooper County, Missouri.*  St. Louis, Missouri: Perrin & Smith, Steam Book and Job Printers, 1876.  F 472 .C7 L6 1876 (Special Collections: Americana)


**Crawford County**

Crawford County was created in 1829 from Gasconade County.


**Dade County**

Dade County was created in 1841 from Greene County


**Dallas County**

Dallas County was created in 1841 from Polk County.

Hemphill, Elva M.  *Early Days in Dallas County.*  Missouri: c1954.  F 472 .D2 H4

**Daviess County**

Daviess County was created in 1836 from Ray County.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.  *Historic Mormon country: Jackson, Clay, Ray, Caldwell, & Daviess counties, Missouri.*  Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.  BX 8608 .A1 no. 1869 (Special Collections: Americana)
Decatur County

DeKalb County

DeKalb County was created in 1845 from Clinton County.


Dent County

Dent County was formed in 1851 from Crawford & Shannon counties.


Dodge County

Updated 9/07
Discontinued in 1853; Dodge County had lost territory when the Iowa boundary was established, bringing its area below the constitutional limit of 400 square miles. Its territory was added to Putnam County from which Dodge County originated in 1851.

**Douglas County**

Douglas County was created in 1857 from Ozark & Taney counties


**Dunklin County**

Dunklin County was created in 1845 from Stoddard County


**Franklin County**

Franklin County was created in 1818 from St. Louis County


**Gasconade County**

Gasconade County was created in 1820 from Franklin County.


**Gentry County**

_Update 9/07_
Gentry County was created in 1841 from Clinton County.


Greene County

Greene County was created in 1833 from Crawford County.


Grundy County

Grundy County was created in 1841 from Livingston County


Harrison County

Harrison County was created in 1845 from Daviess County

Harrison County Bicentennial History. Marceline, Missouri: Harrison County Bicentennial Committee, 1976. F 472 .H3 H37x


Hempstead County

Updated 9/07
Henry County

Henry County was created in 1834 from Lafayette County


Lamkin, Uel W.  History of Henry County, Missouri.  Historical Publishing Company, 1919.  CS 43 .G46x LH 9722 (Microfiche)

Hickory County

Hickory County was created in 1845 from Benton & Polk counties


Holt County

Holt County was created in 1841 after the Platte Purchase.


Howard County

Howard County was created in 1816 from St. Charles & St. Louis counties


Updated 9/07
**MISSOURI**


**Howell County**

Howell County was created in 1857 from Oregon & Ozark counties

**Iron County**

Iron County was created in 1857 from Dent, Madison, Reynolds, St. Francis, Washington & Wayne counties.


**Jackson County**

Jackson County was created in 1826 from Lafayette County.


*Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri*.  Missouri: The Court, c1986.  KF 355 .J33 C57 1986

*Court Houses of Jackson County, Missouri*.  Missouri.  F 472 .J2 C68x 1930


Updated 9/07 17


Independence, Jackson County, Missouri Centennial, One Hundred Years of Progress, 1827-1927. Independence, Missouri: 1927. F 474 .J3 I34x 1927 (Special Collections: Americana)


Peterson, Orlen Curtis. Parallel Expulsions From Jackson County, Missouri. 1971 F 472 .J2 P48x 1971 (Special Collections: Americana)


Jasper County

Jasper County was created in 1841 from Newton County


Jefferson County

Jefferson County was created in 1818 from Ste. Genevieve & St. Louis counties


Johnson County

Johnson County was created in 1834 from Lafayette County

Crissey, William E.  Warrensburg, MO: A History with Folk Lore, 1924. Missouri, 1924.  F 474 .W3 C7 1924 also CS 43 .G46x LH 10543 (Microfiche)

Kinderhook County

Knox County

Knox County was created in 1845 from Scotland County.


Laclede County

Laclede County was formed in 1849 from Camden, Pulaski & Wright counties.


Lafayette County

Lafayette County was formed in 1820 from Cooper County.


Updated 9/07
Lawrence County

Lawrence County was formed in 1845 from Barry & Dade counties


Lewis County

Lewis County was formed in 1833 from Marion County

   also F 472 .A18 H632 1887

Lillard County

Lillard County was created in 1820 from Cooper County & changed to Lafayette County Feb. 16, 1825.

Lincoln County

Lincoln County was created in 1818 from St. Charles County.


Linn County

Linn County was created in 1837 from Chariton County.

Livingston County

Livingston County was created in 1837 from Carroll County.


Updated 9/07
Macon County

Macon County was created in 1837 from Randolph County.

History of Randolph and Macon Counties, Missouri. St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1884. F 472 .R15 H5 also CS 43 .G46x LH 10571 (Microfiche)

Madison County

Madison County was created in 1818 from Cape Girardeau & Ste. Genevieve counties.


Maries County

Maries County was created in 1855 from Osage & Pulaski counties.


Marion County

Marion County was created in 1822 from Ralls County.

MISSOURI

Holcombe, R.I. History of Marion County, Missouri, 1884. Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth, 1979; St. Louis: E.F. Perkins, 1884. F 472 .M3 H64x 1979 also F 472 .M3 H6 1884 (Special Collections: Americana Rare)

McDonald County

McDonald County was created in 1849 from Newton County.


Sturges, J.A. Illustrated History of McDonald County, Missouri. Pineville, Missouri: 1897. F 472 .M13 S8 (Special Collections: Americana Rare)

Mercer County

Mercer County was created in 1845 from Grundy County


Miller County

Miller County was created in 1837 from Cole County


Mississippi County

Mississippi County was created in 1845 from Scott County.


Updated 9/07
Moniteau County

Moniteau County was created in 1845 from Cole & Morgan counties

Ford, J. E. *A history of Moniteau County, Missouri*. California, Missouri: M.H. Crawford, 1936. CS 43 .G46x LH 12626 (Microfiche)


Monroe County

Monroe County was created in 1831 from Ralls County.


*History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, Missouri.* St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1884. F 472 .M76 H5 1884

Montgomery County

Montgomery County was created in 1818 from St. Charles County.

*History of St. Charles, Montgomery and Warren Counties, Missouri.* St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1885. F 472 .S2 H6 (Special Collections: Americana)

Morgan County

Morgan County was created in 1833 from Cooper County
New Madrid County

New Madrid County was created in 1812 from the original district


Newton County

Newton County was created in 1838 from Barry County.


Niangua County

Nodaway County

Nodaway County was created in 1841 from Andrew County.


Tales of Nodaway County. 1977. F 472 .N7 N63x

Oregon County

Oregon County was created in 1845 from Ripley County

Updated 9/07
Osage County

Osage County was created in 1841 from Gasconade County.


Ozark County

Ozark County was created in 1841 from Taney county. The name was changed to Decatur in 1843 & back to Ozark in 1845

Pemiscot County

Pemiscot County was created in 1851 from New Madrid County


Perry County

Perry County was created in 1820 from Ste. Genevieve County


Pettis County

Pettis County was created in 1833 from Cooper & Saline counties.

Phelps County

Phelps County was created in 1857 from Crawford, Pulaski & Maries counties.


Pike County

Pike County was created in 1818 from St. Charles County.


Platte County

Platte County was created in 1838 as a result of the Platte purchase.


Polk County

Polk County was created in 1835 from Greene County


Pulaski County

Pulaski County was created in 1833 from Crawford County.
Putnam County

Putnam County was created in 1843 from Linn County.


Ralls County

Ralls County was created in 1820 from Pike County.


Randolph County

Randolph County was created in 1829 from Chariton County.

History of Randolph and Macon Counties, Missouri. St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1884. F 472 R15 H5 also CS 43 .G46x LH 10571 (Microfiche)

Ray County

Ray County was created in 1820 from Howard County.


Hamilton, Bob. Ray County History Dates to 1820. F 472 .R2 R22x vol. 5 (Special Collections: Americana Folio)

Reynolds County

Reynolds County was created in 1845 from Shannon County.

Ripley County

Ripley County was created in 1833 from Wayne County.

Rives County

Rives County was created from Lafayette County in 1834. The name was changed to Henry County on Oct. 15, 1841.

St. Charles County

St. Charles County was created in 1812 from the original district.


St. Clair County

Updated 9/07
St. Clair County was created in 1841 from Rives (later Henry) County.


St. Francois County

St. Francois County was created in 1821 from Jefferson, Ste. Genevieve & Washington counties.


St. Louis County

St. Louis County was created in 1812 from the original district. It is an independent city.


Shepard, Elihu H. The early history of St. Louis and Missouri: From its first exploration by white men in 1673 to 1843. Saint Louis: Southwestern Book and Publishing, 1870. CS 43 .G46x LH 8309 (Microfiche) also F 474 .S2 S55 1870 (Microfiche) also 299 no. 16 (Microfilm) also F 474 .S2 S55 1870 (Special Collections: Americana)

Saint Louis City (Independent City)

The city of St. Louis was created in 1764


Stevens, Walter B. *St. Louis, the Fourth City: 1764-1911*. St. Louis: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1911, c1909. F 474 .S2 S84 also CS 43 .G46x LH 10994 (Microfiche)


Sainte Genevieve County

Sainte Genevieve County was created in 1812 from the original district


Saline County

Saline County was created in 1820 from Cooper & Howard counties.


Schuyler County

Updated 9/07
Schuyler County was created in 1845 from Adair County.


Scotland County

Scotland County was created in 1841 from Lewis County


Scott County

Scott County was created in 1821 from New Madrid County.


Shannon County

Shannon County was created in 1841 from Ripley & Washington counties.

Shelby County

Shelby County was created in 1835 from Marion County.

History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, Missouri. St. Louis, Missouri: National Historical Company, 1884. F 472.M76 H5 1884

Stoddard County

Stoddard County was created in 1835 from Cape Girardeau County
Stone County

Stone County was created in 1851 from Taney County.

Sullivan County

Sullivan County was created in 1843 from Linn County.


Taney County

Taney County was created in 1837 from Greene County.

Texas County

Texas County was created in 1845 from Shannon & Wright counties

Van Buren County

Van Buren County was created in 1835 from Jackson County. The name was changed to Cass County on Feb. 19, 1849.

Vernon County

Vernon County was created in 1851 from Bates County.
History of Vernon County, Missouri. St. Louis, Missouri: Brown and Company, 1887. F 472 .V4 H57x 1887 (Special Collections: Americana Rare)

Warren County

Warren County was created in 1833 from Montgomery County.


Washington County

Washington County was created in 1813 from Ste. Genevieve County.


Wayne County

Wayne County was created in 1818 from Cape Girardeau County.


Webster County

Webster County was created in 1855 from Greene & Wright counties

Updated 9/07
Worth County

Worth County was created in 1861 from Gentry County.


Wright County

Wright County was created in 1841 from Pulaski County.

Other Missouri Resources


FamilySearch Wiki

Cyndi's List Missouri Links
http://www.cyndislist.com/mo.htm

Missouri County Formation Maps
http://www.mymissourigenealogy.com/mo_maps/mo_cf.htm

Information on the Mid-Continent Public Library’s Genealogy from the Heartland Collection, which includes over 9000 titles
http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh/about/requests.htm#Current

To search the Genealogy from the Heartland Collection

1. Log onto the MCPL catalog at <http://opac.mcpl.lib.mo.us>.
2. If you are a Mid-Continent Library patron, you may login with your library card number and birth date. This will allow you to place a hold whenever you find a book you would like to check out.
3. You may login as a guest if you do not have a Mid-Continent library card.
4. The main search page allows you to search by words or phrase, author, title, subject, or series. Specify the branch for which you are searching as North Independence.
5. If you wish to search by series, type in Genealogy from the Heartland. Titles in the genealogy circulating collection have been designated as this series.
6. Other search options are browse and power search. Always designate the branch as North Independence. When a power search is used, one can combine a series search of Genealogy from the Heartland with a subject search, such as Jackson County, (Mo.), or author, or title, or any combination of the above.
7. When you find a book you wish to borrow, make sure it is a North Independence Adult Non-Fiction copy. Place a hold if you have logged on with a library card. If you are a guest, write down the title and call number and request your local library interlibrary loan the book.

Individuals may borrow books in the Genealogy from the Heartland Collection through their local public libraries. There is no charge to borrow books from the Mid-Continent Public Library. Local libraries may charge shipping or handling fees.

Any library that participates in interlibrary loan may request books from Mid-Continent Public Library. Books may be requested through OCLC or can be requested by author and title via a standard ALA approved Interlibrary Loan Request Form and sent to:
Requests may also be sent via fax to: MCPL-ILL, (816) 521-7265 or by email to: illadl@mcpl.lib.mo.us

Many books in this collection are very popular and are constantly on loan. Though there are multiple copies of these popular books, there may be a six to twelve month wait for some books. Requests submitted through OCLC will be filled if the material is immediately available. If a request is cancelled due to the item being unavailable one may wish to submit the request on a standard ALA Interlibrary Loan Form. These are queued and processed in order of receipt. Please verify using the Mid-Continent Library Online Catalog to assure the item is a circulating book.