

St. Charles County Historical Society

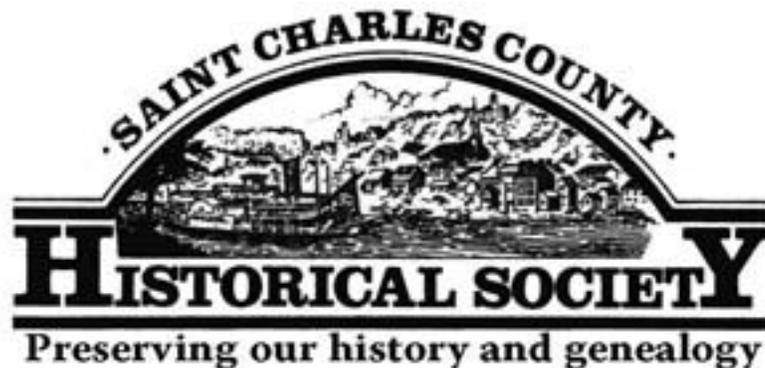
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Hours: 10am-3pm, M-W-F & Saturdays by appointment



The St. Charles County Historical Society (SCCHS) was founded 1956, the third historical preservation organization launched, 187 years after the founding of the City of St. Charles. In May 2009 the St. Charles County Genealogical Society merged with SCCHS. The Society is a non-profit 501 (c)3, with its membership consisting of individuals, businesses, and organizations with an interest in St. Charles County history and genealogy and who are supportive of the Society's mission.

The mission of the SCCHS is to foster an understanding and appreciation of all aspects of St. Charles County history.

Dedicated to the preservation of information, landmarks, and artifacts related to county history, the Society encourages interest in the rich history and culture of the county through Quarterly Membership Meetings with scheduled speakers on topics of local historical interest; fund raising events such as the Annual House Tour and Trivia Night; educational workshops and classes on genealogy. New in 2015 for educational programming is a Living History Gala commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the ending of the Civil War. In addition to these opportunities, all members of SCCHS receive a quarterly journal, the *Heritage*, and newsletter as well as 10% discount on Society publications and research privileges.

The SCCHS Archives is home to over 200 years of historical documents, maps, early government records, painting, illustrations and photographs. The collection includes:

- * Obituaries, marriage records, cemetery records, and church records
- * Naturalization records, will books, and probate files
- * Diaries, journals, early school records, and unpublished family histories
- * Records for the St. Charles City and County tax assessors and collectors
- * Atlases, plat books, Sanborn and aerial maps
- * Circuit Court files and Court Record Books
- * City directories and indexes of the county's various federal and state censuses
- * Photographs of local businesses, people, and events
- * Local newspapers dating as far back as the mid-19th century

Family history files contain information on over 1,300 surnames often holding family letters, photographs, and other hard-to-discover family treasures. In addition, all of the former records, books, and indexes of the St. Charles County Genealogical Society are located in the Archives.

Our library holdings are merged into our collection stacks, public bookcases and vertical files for easy reference and searching. We also maintain many topical files on St. Charles County events, groups, and places that may be of interest to all researchers. In addition, a Microfilm reader/scanner is available for patrons' use in the Nichols Digital Media Center.

Trained volunteers and staff are available to assist with research. You may also use our finding aids and indexes to conduct research, and they are available both at the Archives and on our website.

SCCHS Members have access to the following online indexes:

Archived copies of SCCHS Heritage Journals

Archived copies of SCCHS Newsletters

Baue Funeral Home Records Index

Burial or Removal Permits

Burials by Church

Business & Industry Files Index

Cemetery Records

Census, St. Charles County, 1876

Guardian Books

Land and Property Records by Last Name

Land and Property Records by Year

Marriages by Church

Marriage Index 1836-1858

McElhiney Olson Historical Newspaper article Index

Naturalization Records

Obituaries

Obituaries from **Der Demokrat** w/ English translations (1852-1894)

Probate Records

Selected Church Baptisms

Sibley Diary 1844-1855

Stillbirths

Subject/Topic Files

World War II Marriages

Please note that the original documents referenced by the indexes on our website are not available online.

Everyone using the SCCHS website have access to our online **Catalog**, containing **Photos** and to our **St. Charles County Circuit Curt index**. Find links on the SCCHS Website **Research** page.

Registration

Researchers must be 16 years of age or older or accompanied by a parent, teacher, or guardian. In order to use the collections; researchers are required to complete a registration form and present school ID if student.

To maintain security of St. Charles County's irreplaceable documentary heritage, personal items such as outer coats, bags, briefcases, purses, backpacks, computer cases, packages, clipboards, notebooks in covers, bound or spiral notebooks, bound pads of paper, portfolios, folders, and envelopes are not permitted at the tables in the research rooms. Small lockers are available for storing these items. No food, chewing gum, cough drops, mints, beverage items, or containers are permitted in the research/reading rooms.

Only pencils, unbound note paper, index cards, laptop computers, tablets and loose research notes are allowed at the work tables. Pencils and scratch paper are available.

The St. Charles County Historical Society is located on S. Main Street in the historic downtown district of St. Charles. Parking on Main Street may be hard to find but a large free parking lot can be found one block east of S. Main Street and additional parking can be found on side streets to the west. If you are planning to spend the day at the Archives and need to take a break from research, you will find ample choices to refresh at one-of-a-kind restaurants, coffee houses, pubs and sweet shops.