

Ask Louie at Your Service
St. Louis Genealogical Society General Meeting
13 January 2024
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Here are the URLs used by the Ask Louie team to answer some of the questions from our January 2024 monthly meeting. We hope you find them helpful.

StLGS Website

Research Tips

<https://stlgs.org/research-2/publications/guides-to-research/genealogy-research-tips>

Tips for Tracing Your Family Tree

<https://stlgs.org/research-2/publications/guides-to-research/genealogy-research-tips>

Citation Guide

<https://stlgs.org/resources/on-this-site/citations-a-guide-to-creating-proper-source-citations>

Current Classes

<https://stlgs.org/education/classes/current-stlgs-classes>

Recorded Classes Available Online (NOTE) Classes are for StLGS members only.

<https://stlgs.org/education/classes/recorded-stlgs-classes>

New On This Site

<https://stlgs.org/new-on-this-site-2023>

Free Research Forms

<https://stlgs.org/resources/on-this-site/free-research-forms-2>

Other Websites

StLGS Weekly Blog

stlgs.blogspot.com

Cemeteries on the StLGS website that currently have interactive maps:

<http://stlgs.blogspot.com/2023/11/new-additions-to-stlgs-website-part-ii.html>

St. Louis County Library: History and Genealogy Department

<https://www.slcl.org/research-learn/genealogy>

St. Louis County Library Genealogy Databases

https://www.slcl.org/research-learn/resources-a-to-z?field_summary_value=&field_resource_categories_target_id=126&field_audience_target_id=All

Determining an Ancestor's Religion and Locating Religious Records

- **Common genealogy methods for finding an ancestor's religion.**
 1. Later generations' records identify one or more religions. Work back from them.
 2. Start with ethnicity and history of ancestor's time and place.
 3. On an historical map of ancestor's neighborhood, identify all nearby congregations.
 4. Civil marriages yield a clergy's name—except if by Justice of the Peace (JP.)
 5. In city/county directories of the time seek clergy, congregation, or cemetery.
 6. Civil death records or obituaries may name clergy, congregation, or cemetery.
 7. Newspapers of the time report on congregations' activities, as well as births, marriages, deaths.
 8. Some cemeteries historically were associated with a denomination, even if not now. Obtain the plot record from the cemetery office, it usually gives more information.
 9. Probate files' payment slips name persons or organizations. Try these too.

- **Locating the sometimes excellent and sometimes sporadic religious records.**
 1. For St. Louis City and County, start with StLGS website which now has indexed and imaged about 200 early congregations <https://stlgs.org/research-2/congregations/congregation-index>
 2. StLGS has these; but you may still want to contact them for surrounding counties:
 - a. Archives of Eden Theological Seminary (UCC, Congregational, Evangelical) <https://www.eden.edu/the-archives-at-eden-theological-seminary/>
 - b. Concordia Historical Institute Archives (Missouri Synod Lutherans; NOT ELCA) <https://concordiahistoricalinstitute.libraryhost.com/>
 - c. Central Methodist University United Methodist Archives (Methodists) <https://centralmethodist.edu/academics/library/missouri-united-methodist-archives.html>

- d. Archives of the Archdiocese of St. Louis (Catholic)

<https://www.archstl.org/archdiocesan-archives>. Many of these are online at Family Search.

 - i. Click Research, Genealogy, then scroll down to the paragraph on using <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog> and follow the directions exactly to find the parish online.
 - ii. Or use Christy Hughes' book, *Guide to St. Louis Archdiocesan Parish Records*, to locate the FSL film number for a parish, then search FSL for that number.
- e. Jewish Archives of St. Louis (located in the Kaplan-Feldman Holocaust Museum on the Jewish Community Center campus)

Contact archivist Amy Moorman for collection information and hours of operation at 314-442-3722 or AMoorman@STLHolocaustMuseum.org.
3. FAMILY SEARCH has many local U.S. congregation records; search by place.
4. Or, in Family Search's Research Wiki find lists of denominational archives to contact under "United States Church Records"

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Church_Records.Contact_and_request_historical_records_or_congregation_and_pastor_lists.
5. ALSO CONSULT:
 - a. State archives, or local libraries, genealogical or historical societies, and museums.
 - b. These may hold the numerous WPA congregation inventories or histories.
6. ONLINE, search by (1) Denomination, (2) State, (3) County, and (4) Town. Add the word "religion." Always examine the sources used by Wikipedia.
7. BROADEN your record search. If your ancestor didn't name a congregation, his children, siblings, parents, friends, associates, or neighbors did. Seek their records; they may witness your records!

DNA Questions:

A Few Online or Printed DNA Learning Sites: (there are many others)

- Bettinger, Blaine T. *Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* (Cincinnati: Family Tree Books, 2016) and <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/>
- Bettinger, Blaine T. and Debbie Parker Wayne. *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* (Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2016) find at <https://ngsmembers.ngsgenealogy.org/books/ngs-books?category=Our%20Top%20Sellers>
- Southard, Diahann, *Your DNA Guide—The Book* (U.S.: Your DNA Guide, 2020) and <https://www.yourdnaguide.com/>

DNA Supports Genealogy

- Genealogists mainly use **atDNA** to identify biological or missing parents, solve misattributed-parental event relationships, or identify new cousins.
- DNA indicates a relationship. You determine the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) and verify the connection!
- Getting the most out of atDNA requires:
 - Known cousins be tested at the same company and identified by MRCA.
 - Understanding the “Shared cM Chart” and MRCA concept.
 - Triangulation using a Shared Match tool—you, known ancestor, unknown match.
 - Verify the new connection: contact the unknown match and apply genealogy.

Our 23 Pairs of Chromosomes Contain Four Types of DNA

1. **Y DNA** (Used in longer-range research). ONLY MALES inherit from father.
2. **mt DNA** (Used in longer-range research). Both males and females inherit from mother; only females pass to descendants.
3. **X-DNA** helps narrow DNA hypotheses, especially for males whose X can be more easily identified as coming from his mother.
4. **atDNA** (closer research) inherited from EACH ancestor back to our great-great grandparents (2GGP), the 5th generation. From the 6th generation back, atDNA is RANDOMLY inherited, NOT from every ancestor. All our 1st, 2nd, & 3rd cousins match us; but only HALF our 4th, 5th, and 6th cousins match us.

The Five Major Genealogy DNA Testing Companies

1. Ancestry DNA <https://www.ancestry.com/dna/>
2. My Heritage DNA [Israel] <https://www.myheritage.com/dna/>
3. 23 & Me DNA <https://www.23andme.com/?myg=true>
4. Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) <https://www.familytreedna.com/>
5. Living DNA [UK] <https://my.livingdna.com/>

Is DNA testing Safe? Separate, non-genealogical, databases exist for criminal and medical DNA! The 2008 U.S. Genetic Non-discrimination Act means YOU must specifically give permission to the genealogy testing company for any non-genealogy use of that DNA by any person or entity.