

Recently Digitized Atlases at the Missouri Historical Society

***St. Louis Genealogical Society program – June 8, 2024
Presented by Emily Jaycox, Librarian, Missouri Historical Society***

OVERVIEW

The Missouri Historical Society (MHS) received grants in 2022 and 2023 to digitize previously undigitized atlases from St. Louis city, county, and beyond. *These projects were supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State. For more information, visit www.ims.gov.*

PLAT BOOKS AND MAPS

Most of these atlases digitized are plat books – maps showing property lines and land ownership. Some are a specialized type of plat book that we call a block book – each page showing one city block.

Plat maps give the name of the owner of a parcel of land at the time the map was made. Although you can't be sure that the owner actually lived on that parcel, it's another piece of information that may provide insight about your ancestor.

If your ancestors didn't own land, it's still useful to know more about how land is surveyed and developed. This may give you a better understanding of the neighborhoods where they lived.

THE MHS MAP COLLECTION

The Missouri Historical Society has a large collection of historic maps and plats. These can be visited in person at the [Library + Research Center](#). Many of them can also be viewed in the [Online Collections Search](#), where more digitized items are being added weekly.

However, as the online collection grows, it can be harder to navigate within hundreds of thousands of items to find what you are looking for. MHS has prepared several [research guides](#) to help you navigate its online map resources, as well as find related resources on other websites.

In today's presentation, Emily Jaycox will walk you through these guides:

[St. Louis City and County Atlases and Plat Books](#)

[Missouri Atlases and Plat Books](#)

[Finding digitized maps at the Missouri Historical Society](#)