

East Side Mishpachah
Jewish Community & Family Life in East St. Louis & Belleville

Presented to the Jewish Special Interest Group of the
St. Louis Genealogical Society by
William P. Shannon IV
Executive Director
St. Clair County Historical Society
August 27, 2023

Agenda

- I. Greeting & Introduction
- II. Jewish Community in East St. Louis
 - A. Community Origins
 - B. First *Minyan*
 - C. Agudas Achim
 - D. Jewish Life in East St. Louis
 - 1. Geography
 - 2. Economic Life
 - 3. Civic & Social Life
 - E. Changing Times
 - 1. Agudas Achim-Beth Israel Merger, 1986
- III. Jewish Community in Belleville
 - A. First Wave: German Immigration, 1840s-1870s
 - B. Second Wave: Late 19th Century
 - C. Beth Israel
 - D. Jewish Life in Belleville
 - 1. Geography
 - 2. Economic Life
 - 3. Civic & Social Life
- IV. Research Resources
 - A. Jewish Family History
 - B. General Local, Regional & State
- V. Conclusion & Questions



701 E. Washington St.
Belleville, IL 62220

618/234-0600

stcchs.curator@gmail.com

stcchs.org

facebook.com/STCCHS

Twitter: @STCCHS

**ONLINE RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHING
ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**Compiled by:
William P. Shannon IV
Executive Director, St. Clair County Historical Society**

Updated: June 22, 2022

Publications Online

Histories, Biographies & Biographical Indexes

“History of St. Clair County,” (1876): <https://stclair-ilgs.org/1876-history/>

Brink & McDonough, *History of St. Clair County* (1881): <https://archive.org/details/cu31924028805948>

Chapman Bros., *Portrait and Biographical Record of St. Clair County* (1892): <https://archive.org/details/portraitbiograph00chapma>

Bateman, et. al., *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois & St. Clair County*, Vol. 2 (1907): https://archive.org/details/historicalencycl02bate_4

Missouri Historical Society, Index, *St. John’s Orphanage Edition of The Messenger* (1919): <https://genealogy.mohistory.org/genealogy/source/355>

- The STCCHS has this book in its library.

Walton, *Centennial History of McKendree College with St. Clair County History* (1928): <https://archive.org/details/centennialmckend00mcke>

SCCGS, Biographical Sketch Index (includes Brink, Chapman, Bateman, Walton): <https://stclair-ilgs.org/biographical-index/>

Directories

Belleville City Directories, various dates, 1860-1935: <https://www.belleville.net/540/Archives-Genealogy>

- 1891-1892 directory includes the entire county
- 1904-1905 directory includes Swansea
- 1925 & 1935 directories include Freeburg, Mascoutah, Millstadt, New Athens, O’Fallon, Shiloh, and Smithton

East St. Louis City Directories, 1887 & 1893: <https://www.siue.edu/artsandsciences/political-science/about/iur/projects/eslhistory/documents/index.shtml>

East St. Louis City Directories, various dates, 1901-1926: http://www.linkpendium.com/saint_clair-il-genealogy/dir/

- Volumes also include Washington Park, Brooklyn, National City, Fairmont City, Monsanto, Venice (Madison Co.), Granite City (Madison Co.)

Prairie Farmer Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders of St. Clair & Monroe Counties (1922): <https://archive.org/details/prairiefarmersre00evan/mode/2up>

Photo Books

- Contain photos of people, public buildings, businesses, houses, infrastructure.
 - Belleville Illustrated (1905): <https://archive.org/details/bellevilleillino00stlo>
 - Greater Belleville (1910): <https://archive.org/details/greaterbellevill00reid>

Maps & Atlases

- Federal Township Plats of Illinois (Illinois Digital Archives, Illinois State Library)
 - <http://idaillinois.org/digital/collection/IllinoisPlats/search/>
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (Library of Congress)
 - Includes maps for various dates starting in 1889 for the following cities & towns: East St. Louis, Belleville, Mascoutah, Lebanon, Millstadt, Dupo, Freeburg, Lenzburg, O'Fallon, New Athens
 - <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?fa=location:illinois%7Clocation:saint+clair+county>
- County Plat Atlases & Maps
 - 1863: <https://www.loc.gov/item/2013593093/>
 - 1874: <http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/27969/St.+Clair+County+1874/>
 - 1899: <https://www.loc.gov/item/2013593080/>
 - 1901: not available online; STCCHS Research Library has multiple copies.
 - Federal Township Plats): <http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/7816/St.+Clair+County+1936/>
 - 1939, 1952, 1959, 1968, 1976, 1980, 1988: not available online; STCCHS Research Library has copies.
 - Historical maps (mostly topographical), 1876-1954: <https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/> (search for St. Clair County, Illinois)

Online Collections

- Labor & Industry Museum Photo Collection
 - <https://laborandindustry.pastperfectonline.com/>
- St. Clair County Genealogical Society
 - <https://stclair-ilgs.org/>
 - Information on cemeteries, vital records, obituaries, &c.
 - Includes search feature which searches all 44 years of their quarterly journal (excellent source for all types of family history information)
 - Physical collections of SCCGS are kept at the Belleville Public Library

Newspapers

- Chronicling America, Library of Congress: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- Illinois Newspaper Project, UIUC: <https://www.library.illinois.edu/illinoisnewspaperproject/inp-search/>
 - Includes Illinois newspapers and publications aimed at farmers, their families, and rural life.
 - *Edwardsville Spectator* offers good coverage of St. Clair County in the 1810s-1820s.
- *Freeburg Tribune* (1904-2012): <https://freeburg.advantage-preservation.com/>
- Newspapers from New Athens, Illinois: <https://newathenslibrary.org/journal-press-archives/>



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