

First Families of St. Louis

ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION:

StLGS accepts a variety of documentation based on the available resources for that time period. Direct evidence is best, but indirect evidence may be acceptable when used with other documents, thus proving the point.

All documents must be large enough and clear enough to be legible. If your documents are in another language, they are unacceptable unless you provide a translation.

- ❖ Birth certificates: Missouri birth certificates started in 1910. Delayed birth certificates and baptismal records are an acceptable substitute. St. Louis birth register started 1850; however, it was optional registration.
- ❖ Cemetery records (proof of deaths, not residency)
- ❖ Church or synagogue records
- ❖ County histories from St. Louis
- ❖ Death certificates: Missouri death certificates started in 1910. Burial permits and the St. Louis death register are alternate resources before 1910.
- ❖ Deed records: early records may provide relationships, including previous marriages.
- ❖ Divorce records: proof of marriage
- ❖ Manuscript collections may identify spouse or children, such as:
 - Oscar Collett's indexes at Missouri History Library and Archives (MoHis)
 - Robert Parkin Collection at StLGS
 - Pageant & Masque Registration Cards at MoHis
 - *American State Papers*
- ❖ Marriage records may prove:
 - A woman's maiden name
 - A woman's surname at time of marriage (if she had been married before)
- ❖ Military records:
 - Pension records
 - Missouri State Archives military database
 - World War I & II draft registration cards (provides date of birth)
- ❖ Naturalization documents
- ❖ Newspaper articles
- ❖ Probate records
- ❖ Spanish land grants, available online and published:
 - Available at Missouri State Archives website
 - *Index to French & Spanish Land Grants Recorded in Registers of Land Titles of Missouri*
 - *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, volumes 13-15, Louisiana–Missouri

ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF RESIDENCE IN ST. LOUIS BUT NOT OF LINEAGE

- ❖ Census: Federal and state census records plus the St. Louis 1776 reconstructed census.
- ❖ Land grants: provide proof of residency
- ❖ Maps that pertain to St. Louis:
 - 1838 Dupree Atlas with names of property owners
 - 1878 Pitzman's Atlas and index produced by StLGS
 - St. Louis Ward maps available at the StLGS office, 1904–1952
 - Sanborn maps available online on various websites

NOT ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF LINEAGE OR RESIDENCE

- ❖ Family histories
- ❖ Find A Grave, Interment.com, and Billion Graves
- ❖ Hearsay stories
- ❖ Indexes
- ❖ Marriage applications without return of license
- ❖ Lineage society applications (**without adequate acceptable documentation for each person in each generation**)
- ❖ Obituaries (**without acceptable supporting documents, such as a death certificate**)
- ❖ Online tree
- ❖ Oral histories
- ❖ School records