

Tracking Territorial Families through Missouri Repositories The Repositories

Patti Lee Hobbs, CG®

This session focuses on the Missouri repositories where the records presented in part 1 were found. The acronyms designate the repository indicated in the first session. Books found online or in many repositories will be discussed last.

MSA – Missouri State Archives (Jefferson City)
MSA-SL – Missouri State Archives – St. Louis
MHS – Missouri Historical Society (St. Louis)
SHSMO – State Historical Society of Missouri (Columbia)
MDH – Missouri Digital Heritage
MDA – Missouri Department of Agriculture (website)
CMU – Central Methodist University (Smiley Library)
MSU – Missouri State University (Meyer Library)
SGCL – Springfield-Greene County Library (The Library Center)
UMC – University of Missouri – Columbia (library website)
County – County records found at MSA, FamilySearch, or county courthouse

Missouri State Archives (MSA)

600 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101



<https://www.sos.mo.gov/records> Click on “Research & Resources.”
<https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/resources>

For the most part, federal, states, and county archives hold collections of records created by the governmental agencies incorporated within their bounds. Manuscript collections unrelated to governmental agencies are represented to a much smaller degree or not at all.

Some, but not all resources, link to *Missouri Digital Heritage* collections which often include searchable databases.

Research

The Missouri State Archives is the repository for state records of historical value. Highlights among manuscripts and original documents in the Archives include French & Spanish land grants, testimony concerning the New Madrid earthquake of 1811-1812, maps of Missouri's first surveyed roads, Missouri's Ordinance Abolishing Slavery, and material pertaining to Harry S. Truman.

Currently, the Archives holds more than 336 million pages of paper; 829,000 photographs; 9,000 maps; 68,000 reels of microfilm, 1,000 cubic feet of published state documents and 1,000 audio/video items. These records include:

- County and Municipal Records
- Land Records
- Legislative records
- Manuscript Collection
- Military records of Missourians from the War of 1812 through World War II, including more than 9 million pages related to the Civil War.
- Missouri's history under French & Spanish colonial rule, as a U.S. territory, and during early statehood
- Photographs
- Resources for Family & Community History
- State agency records
- State government publications

County and Municipal Records: links to pdfs for each county's records for which the archives holds microfilm. County records include probate, deeds, court, and tax records, often the most important for genealogical research. More or less is available depending on whether the state has microfilmed in the particular location. If the state has extensively microfilmed records in the county, often spreadsheets have been created to index the contents. The county has the microfilm and the electronic indexes as well. If the level of microfilming seems minimal, it is likely that the film held by the archives was done by UGA (Utah Genealogical Association) now FamilySearch. Most of the *FamilySearch* microfilm has been digitized on their website (<https://familysearch.org>)

Land Records: These are primarily lands transferred to private individuals through French & Spanish Land Grants (private land claims as shown in the first session) and US land sales mostly for lands granted to the state by the U.S. government. The database link directs to *Missouri Digital Heritage*. Not all lands sold to the public by the federal government will be found here. Others may be found by searching the land patents at <https://glorerecords.blm.gov>.

Manuscript Collections: Manuscript collections may, but often do not, contain information specifically about your ancestor. They are often not indexed. The strategy for searching these is to look for items which were created in the same times and locations shared by your ancestor. In the case of the list on this web page, there is not enough information to know whether anything might be of value without clicking on each collection title. However click on the "General Manuscript List" to get a 17-page spreadsheet with helpful information. For example, I might want to view MMS 107 The Weller Family Letter because it contains information about the Missouri Methodist Conference of 1860.

Military Records: Take advantage of more than just the carded records for Missouri soldiers. These were created later to provide an index and are the easy pickings on *Missouri Digital Heritage*, using the top link on this page. Each war listed has variable amounts of other records including muster rolls, enrollment lists, and pay records. These are not digitized, but a comprehensive finding aid can be consulted at the archives to access the microfilm or original records. The enrollment list and regimental papers shown in the first presentation were found in Record Group 133: Office of the Adjutant General of Missouri by accessing the appropriate microfilm (enrollment list) and regimental papers. The linked document "Civil War Resources at the Missouri State Archives" shows several record sets pertinent to the Civil War era including a

description of available penitentiary records, Missouri Veterans Home at St. James, as well as the Provost Marshall index which are federal records. Some, but not all, are digitized on *Missouri Digital Heritage*. After a person of interest has been identified on those databases, look at the inventory of records at Missouri State Archives to see what else is available. The Provost Marshall records are in two sets. These were claims made by individuals (one series) and more than one person (the second series) for property taken or damaged by Union troops. The digitized index is for the first series only. The second series for “two or more civilians” is indexed on this page: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/provost/provostPDF>. This file also includes a link to the microfilm of the files. Locations are also indexed, and by viewing those records, greater understanding of what was going on in the area where ancestors lived can be had.

Census Records and Tax Lists

(<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/census/Default.aspx>) is listed in the “Online Resources” section, most of which we’ll discuss in the section about *Missouri Digital Heritage*. But not all of these are digitized and are, in fact, resources available on the Missouri State Archives website. Click on link for “Federal Censuses.” This does not include the population schedule easily found on other websites. Included are the special schedules such as agriculture schedules. These are nicely arranged by county and year. Click on one year’s link for the desired county. Observe the townships in the heading of the digitized page to scroll to the appropriate section. These schedules were created at the same time as the population schedules, so people will appear in the same township in both. The agriculture schedules give amount of improved land, stock, and crops grown adding interesting detail to our ancestors’ lives.

Missouri State Archives, St. Louis (MSA-SL)

Carnahan Courthouse

1114 Market Street, Room 245

St. Louis, MO 63101

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/msastl/default>

A branch of the Missouri State Archives in Jefferson City, the St. Louis location primarily houses the 19th century records of the St. Louis Circuit Court. The court cases are indexed on *Missouri Digital Heritage*. Some of the early original case files were transferred to Missouri Historical Society (MHS), but MSA-SL staff maintain a database to identify the correct location for any particular file.



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

<https://shsmo.org>

Six regional centers are located in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis, and Springfield. The catalog entries will indicate which facility holds the particular records, although the SHSMO has a courier service which will transfer records from one facility to another.

For the most part, federal, states, and county archives hold collections of records created by the governmental agencies incorporated within their bounds. Historical societies on the other hand accept many collections that may have historical importance even family papers. State historical societies will often have the largest collections of microfilmed newspapers, books, and maps for locales within their state. The State Historical Society of Missouri publishes the important journal *Missouri Historical Review* which is a rich resource for context in understanding the times and places in which our ancestors lived.

Research (menu item) shows sub-menu items Collections, Digital Collections, and Research guides.

- **Collections > Newspapers** gives a link to the digitized newspapers. Many are not digitized but are available through inter-library loan as well as on location. The link for the microfilmed newspaper can be searched by using town or by county: <https://shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/microfilm>. Once the location is selected, the pdf gives the information needed to access or order the microfilm. It will link to the digitized version if available.
- **Collection > Maps**
 - Plat maps: <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/plat>
 - Also aerial photographs from the 1930-1960s and railroad maps.
- **Collection > Manuscript Collection**
 - There are three ways to access the collections: by Research Center (Columbia, St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, Rolla, Cape Girardeau) or by topic or by county. I found the 1826 petition signed by Stewarts and Smirls for Jefferson County by looking at collections by county. I also viewed some lead mine store accounts for Potosi around the time the Greens might have lived there.
 - The Works Project Administration (WPA) inventoried not only government records, but also created inventories of manuscript collections, church records, and vital statistics. Some projects transcribed and indexed records. The WPA collection for any locale is invaluable in determining what records existed in the late 1930 to early 1940s. Often local people do not even know what all is available. The State Historical Society of Missouri holds these original records, but they're also microfilmed. As with any of the collection the finding aid will serve as a guide and is particularly helpful with very large collections. Check the bottom of the finding aid for any indexing done. Some of these finding aids are hundreds of pages long and it may not be obvious that there is an index at the end. This is particularly helpful for very large collections.



Issues of the *Missouri Historical Review* from 1906 to 2019 are freely accessible online. Use the search box to find articles of interest or use the three-volume index set found at most Missouri libraries. The book version of the index can be more beneficial since you are likely to see items of interest that you wouldn't think to search for.



<https://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/>

Missouri Digital Heritage includes digitized collections from several institutions. Thus you may see the same record collection at both the originating institution and Missouri Digital Heritage.

Browse collections by topic:

Many collections appear in multiple topics. Under the Genealogy topic, the following collections are included:

- Census Records and Tax Lists (links to the same page on MSA that has the agriculture schedules)
- Frisco: A Look Back at the Saint Louis-San Francisco Railway (hosted by the Springfield-Greene County Library)
- Lasting Impressions: German-Americans in St. Louis (originally hosted by the St. Louis County Library, but now linked to the Wayback Machine.)
- Missouri Birth & Death Records Database Pre-1910
- Missouri Coroner's Inquest Database
- Missouri County Histories (contributed by various institutions)
- Missouri County Plat Books (Missouri State Library)
- Missouri Death Certificate
- Missouri Fire Insurance Maps – Sanborn (outside of Kansas City and St. Louis, these are all provided by University of Missouri-Columbia)
- Missouri Judicial Records
- Missouri Naturalization Records
- Missouri Penitentiary Records
- Missouri Soldier's Database: War of 1812-WWI
- Registre d'Arpentage (Antoine Soulard's survey book for claims of land acquired from the French and Spanish governments)

- Many others

Although this warning is applicable to any online database, it is particularly useful to note for Missouri Digital Heritage. The user is often not informed about the coverage. It's up to you to look carefully. For example, the death certificates are complete up through the year given. But — for example— the Judicial Records, Missouri Naturalization Records, and the Missouri Birth & Death Records Database Pre-1910 are not. First not all counties are included. Observe from the drop-down menu for county whether the county in which you expect to find the records is included. Also determine coverage by entering generic information such as just a year to see how many records come up. For Greene County in the Judicial Records database, only by entering dates around the Civil War are any results returned. Remember, too, that some databases such as the Missouri soldiers and the penitentiary records include only a portion of the records available.



Missouri Historical Society

225 S Skinker Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63105

314-746-4500

<https://mohistory.org/library>

The Missouri Historical Society's Library & Research Center has some searchable online collections. In-person research is best approached by using the Archives Guides which includes both collection guides (categories) and finding aids (<https://mohistory.org/research/documents-archives/archives-guides/>). The library also has an extensive index card catalog which can point to particular collections using specific names and subjects. This is where I found the ferry licenses.










Missouri Department of Agriculture (website)

<https://agriculture.mo.gov/> (Chose submenu item "Land Survey" under "Weights & Measures.")

<https://agriculture.mo.gov/weights/landsurvey/>

Sites of Interest

- [Surveyor Contract Qualification Questionnaire](#) 
- [Land Survey Index](#) -- Search for land records 
- [Corner Master Index](#)
- [GLO Field Notebook Index Map - North Missouri River](#) 
- [GLO Field Notebook Index Map - South Missouri River](#) 
- [GLO Field Notebook Index Map - East 5th Principal Meridian](#) 
- [Check List for Review of Survey Plats for Compliance with Missouri Standards for Property Boundary Surveys](#) 
- [Forms](#)
- [Horizontal and Vertical Control Maps](#)
- [Geographic Reference System Monument Recovery Form](#)
- [Land survey corners are](#)  the basis for the location of all property in Missouri
- [You can order](#) land records from our repository containing approximately 2 million documents
- [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#)
 - [Federal Geographic Data Committee](#)
 - [Rolla USGS Center](#)
 - [Real Time Water Data for Missouri](#)
 - [Global Positioning System](#)
- [National Geodetic Survey \(NGS\)](#)
 - [Survey Control Data Sheets](#)

The index maps are interesting, too, but the field notes and survey maps shown in the presentation are found in the Land Survey Index. The landing page is useful, but a search for the early surveys and field notes can be narrowed by clicking on the tab at the top Glo Plats and Notes:

Master Index | County Index | **GLO Plats and Notes** | Subdivision | Shopping Cart (0) | Help

GLO Search

*Fields marked with * are required.*

*Township:
 *Range:
 *Direction:
 *Type:

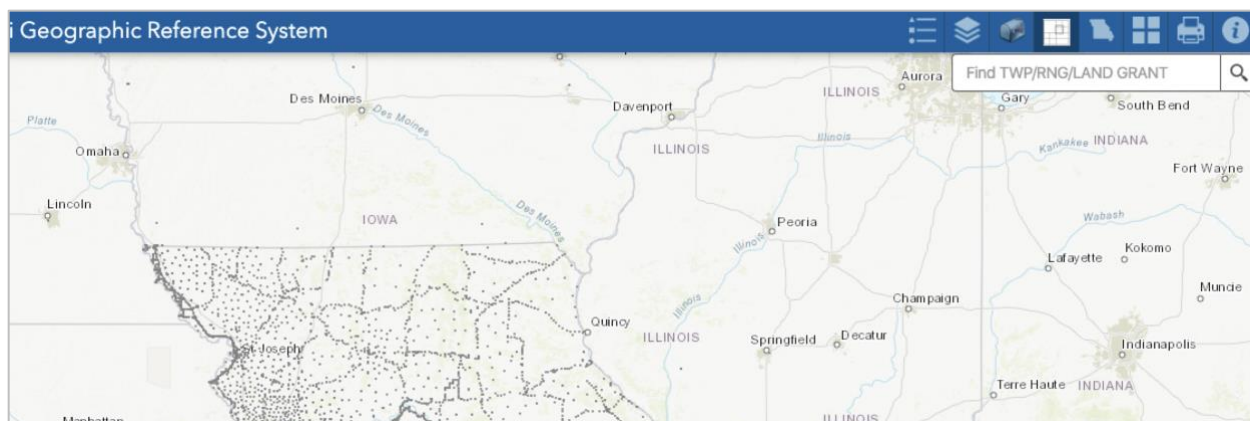
Your search returned 50 rows.

are available for purchase - only the blue highlighted links are available for preview.

Twp	Rng	Dir	Sec	Fract	Sec Line	U.S. Surv	Doc Date	Surveyor	Root Ref	Loc Org	Document Name	Add	Report Error
42	6	E	0	0	0	50	09-27-1861	CUDDY	38/ 45	720	Y9900946.pdf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42	6	E	0	0	0	50	01-06-1863	CUDDY	38/ 45A	720	Y9900945.pdf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42	6	E	0	0	0	659	09-27-1861	CUDDY	38/ 45	720	Y9900946.pdf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Each document costs \$1.00 and is electronically delivered upon payment.

Geographic Reference System map to place property on a modern map using either the US Survey number (e.g., 2019 and 1985 for the Stewart land) or the rectangular survey system (township, range, and section): <https://agriculture.mo.gov/weights/landsurvey/GrsMap.php>



Property descriptions must be known from either private land claims as shown with the Stewart property or by federal land description through land grants (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov>) or deeds.



University of Missouri – Columbia library website

Sanborn Maps

<https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A138690>

Click the link to the city of interest.

Plat Books of Missouri

<https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A138690>

These were all created in the early 1930s.



Springfield-Greene County Library District

4653 S. Campbell Ave.

Springfield, MO 65810

417-616-0534

Digitized collections:

<https://thelibrary.org/lochist/digitalarchive/>

Transcribed Turnbo Manuscripts

Battle of Springfield
Civil War Photo Archive
Black Families of the Ozarks
Community and Conflict (extensive effort to digitize Civil War items not previously available)
The Frisco Collection (employee cards for those who began work with the Frisco in the late 1930s and after. Also postcards and digitized employee magazines.)
Many more

Only the Turnbo manuscripts in transcript form have been digitized. The originals are available only at The Library Center's Local History & Genealogy department.



Central Methodist University Methodist Archives

<https://www.centralmethodist.edu/academics/library/missouri-united-methodist-archives.html>

411 Central Methodist Square

Fayette, Missouri 65248

John D. Finley manages the collection. He explained about the Methodist denominations and where records ended up. The Methodist church records coverage is actually more extensive at the State Historical Society of Missouri.

<https://collections.shsmo.org/manuscripts/subjects/methodist>

SHSMO finding aid for the collection Missouri Church Records, 1811-2019:

<http://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/C0558.pdf>

Libraries

- Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri
- St. Louis County Library

Both libraries are among the very few in the country that loan genealogy books through ILL. Springfield-Greene County's library does also, but it does not have as large of a collection as the other two do. Midwest Genealogy Center will loan if it has more than one copy of a book. One will serve as a reference copy and the other checks out.

St. Louis County Library houses the National Genealogical Society's Book Loan collection. After finding a book in their catalog, look to see the entry shows that is part of the NGS collection. Explain to your inter-library loan department when you know the item can be loaned through one of these libraries. The ILL department does not always know this and may spin their wheels navigating through several libraries which do not loan.

County records — Where to research

The county itself is likely to have the most records.

Compare *FamilySearch* coverage of digitized microfilm with the county microfilm inventory from Missouri State Archives.

FamilySearch catalog: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

Enter “state, county”

Click on catalog entries for court, land and property, naturalization and citizenship, probate records, and vital records to determine coverage.

Compare to

“County Records on Microfilm” from Missouri State Archives

(<https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/county/croll>)

Click on county of interest and scroll through the pdf to determine coverage.

Even if *FamilySearch* doesn't have all the records of interest, research at home by taking advantage of those it does keeping in mind that more thorough research may be needed either at the courthouse or by viewing Missouri State Archives microfilm. More recently filmed microfilm – say the last ten or fifteen years – also may have been thoroughly indexed electronically. Usually, the county as well as the Missouri State Archives has them if they have been done. Also keep in mind that when the state films records, not all are retained. For example, major types of crimes or legal proceedings (such as divorces) are retained, but lesser crimes such as debt cases or assault & battery are not. However, even when the case files are not kept, the clerks recorded the proceedings into the register books which are retained.

Books

There are 28 volumes in the Territorial Papers books transcribed and compiled by Carter. Three pertain to Missouri:

Clarence Edwin Carter, *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, 28 vols.

(Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934–1975),

Volume 13: *The Territory of Louisiana-Missouri, 1803–1806*; Volume 14: *The Territory of Louisiana-Missouri, 1806–1814*; Volume 15: *The Territory of Louisiana–Missouri, 1815–1821*.

Volume 13: <http://www.familysearch.org/library/books/idurl/1/280424>

Volume 14: <http://www.familysearch.org/library/books/idurl/1/201959>

Volume 15: <http://www.familysearch.org/library/books/idurl/1/219101>

Read about Carter's process: Clarence Carter, “The Territorial Papers of The United States,” *The American Archivist* 8 (April 1945): 122-135; online PDF, *The American Archivist* (<https://doi.org/10.17723/aarc.8.2.7r01173072880r20> : accessed 16 April 2021).

County histories and church conference minutes can also be found on *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org>) and *Google Books* (<https://books.google.com>).

Many wonderful maps can be found at the Library of Congress's website (<https://loc.gov/maps>) and at *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://davidrumsey.com>).