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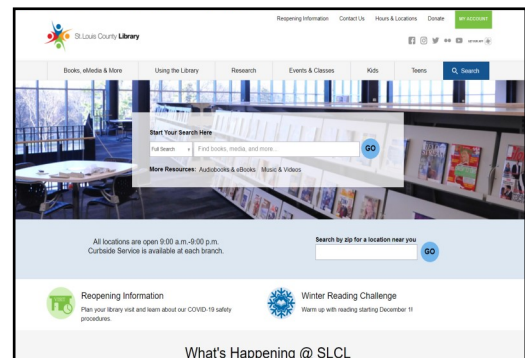
## *Using the History & Genealogy Department at the St. Louis County Library for Your Genealogy Research*

### WEBSITE BASICS

- My account/log in
- Contact Us, Hours & Locations
- Social media
- Main tabs, click icon to return to homepage

### USING THE LIBRARY

- Library cards
  - Online application or any branch | Reciprocal card/limitations | Default pin–1234
- Borrowing
  - 10 books from H & G at a time | 21-day loan period
- Personalized Learning
  - eCourses–Gale, Mango
- Mobile App
- Mobile Hotspot



## BOOKS, EMEDIA & MORE

- Catalog

New catalog | Searching | Mobius | Narrowing a search | Placing a hold |  
Call number/"R" for reference | Dewey Decimal System/Library of Congress |  
Worldcat.org

- Interlibrary Loan

- Suggest a Purchase

- All search box

## EVENTS & CLASSES

- Genealogy classes

Sign up online | "Event Type"—Genealogy

- Computer classes

## RESEARCH/HISTORY & GENEALOGY

- Founded in 1998

Over 130,000 print items | Microfilm | Databases

- Collections

National Genealogical Society Collection (NGS) | St. Louis Genealogical Society  
Collection | Julius K. Hunter African American Collection | William C.E. and Bessie  
K. Becker Collection | Mary F. Berthold Collection | Jewish Genealogical Society  
Collection | Lewis Bunker Rohrbach Collection | Other large collections—migration  
route states, family histories, ortssippenbücher, military | Periodicals/PERSI

- Planning Your Visit

Currently located at Headquarters, Tiers 4 & 5 | No food or drink | Can use own  
laptop | Printer, copier, book scanner available/\$5 per month on card for prints |  
Flash drive

- Publications

*PastPorts*—Monthly newsletter | Sign up to receive | Back issues on website



**PastPorts**  
St. Louis County Library  
VOL. 12, NO. 3 — MARCH 2014

**FOR THE RECORDS**  
Irish Catholic parish registers

Catholic parish registers are one of the most important books in the Irish genealogy toolbox. Since civil records of births, marriages and deaths in Ireland did not start until 1864, and the 19<sup>th</sup> century census records were destroyed, they can be indispensable. Catholic records are often the only evidence of the existence of a large percentage of the population of Ireland, particularly of those people who did not own land, make wills, join armies or sign petitions. Farmers, laborers, servants, beggars and many others left no record of their existence except in their churches. With roughly thirty-three million United States citizens claiming Irish heritage, getting to know these records is a must for today's genealogist.

**History**  
Christianity has existed in Ireland since the 5<sup>th</sup> century, arrived from Roman Britain, and is usually associated with the legend of Saint Patrick (Fig. 1). Catholicism gradually gained ground and replaced the old pagan traditions. The Irish Church conformed to the Roman-style diocesan system in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, due in part to the Norman invasion of Ireland. This strengthened the papacy's control over the Irish Church and marked the beginning of more than 800 years of English rule. In 1534, however, Henry VIII of England annexed the papacy and separated the English Church from Rome. Aside from a brief restoration of Roman Catholicism under Mary I, the reformed Church of Ireland was the official state church until 1871.

This had little effect on most people. Large parts of rural Ireland were not in any practical sense under English control. Converts to the Church of Ireland were mainly those who were loyal to the crown and wanted to gain favor. In practice, therefore, the vast majority of people remained Catholic. The Catholic Church was under constant threat, however. The Penal Laws effectively removed the rights of Catholics to hold public office, own land, and train in certain professions. Faithful Catholics were in disarray. The clergy was often uneducated and the sacraments poorly administered. Record keeping was a low priority and many priests did not want evidence of their activities to exist. This varied, however. Overt practice was risky in some areas, while Catholic activities were simply ignored in others.

The Penal Laws were eventually relaxed and by 1829 had been repealed. Around this time, a period of new church building began, as well as a massive reconstruction of the church's infrastructure. Unfortunately, even during this reconstruction

**NEWS AND TIPS | HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY**

- Genealogical Forms

- Indexes & Finding Aides

Made in-house | Great for St. Louis ancestors | Examples: Newspapers, Local History, Catholic Records

- Online Genealogy Resources

Over 40 genealogy/history databases | Most can be used in any branch, many can be used from home | Examples: Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com, Fold3, HistoryGeo, Findmypast | Familysearch.org affiliate library | Website links

- Lookups

- Video Tutorials/Virtual Classroom

## OTHER “LIBRARY” RESOURCES

- Missouri Digital Heritage

- Missouri Historical Society/State Historical Society of Missouri

- St. Louis Genealogical Society

- Out-of-town libraries and societies

- Digitized books—archive.org, hathitrust.org

- Google searches

## FUTURE PLANS

- Building

- Temporary space/services



St. Louis County **Library**