Missouri Genealogy Research

Native American History

Tribes which formerly lived in what is now the state of Missouri:

- Caddo
- Cherokee
- Dakota
- Delaware
- Fox (Sac or Sauk)
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kickapoo
- Missouri
- Omaha
- Osage
- Oto
- Quapaw
- Shawnee
- The Sac White River Band = Chickamauga Cherokee Nation.

Microfilm of Chickamauga tribal enrollment is at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Agencies which formerly operated in Missouri include:

- Great Nemaha Agency – microfilmed agency records at NARA and the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT
- Ioway Sub agency – The Sac and Fox tribes were assigned to this agency - microfilmed agency records at NARA and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT
- Kickapoo Agency – microfilmed agency records at NARA and the Family History Library, Salt Lake City – Indian Census Rolls taken by this agency 1903 – 1920 – also at NARA and Salt Lake Library
- Miami Agency – microfilmed records listed under Quapaw agency at NARA

The Missouri Superintendency of Indian Affairs began in 1813. In 1822, the St. Louis Superintendency of Indian Affairs was established. In 1851, its duties were assumed by the Central Superintendency. Microfilms of the records are available at NARA and at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

The Cherokee in Missouri were driven into Arkansas by the U. S. government. Descendants of those who escaped that removal have organized:

Western Cherokee Nation of Arkansas and Missouri
PO Box 606
Mansfield Missouri 65704
Website: http://www.westerncherokee.co

European Settlement

- 1735: French lead miners established the first permanent white settlement at Sainte Genevieve.
- 1763: France ceded the Missouri area to Spain.
- French fur traders founded St. Louis in 1764.
- 1800: Spain returned the region to France.
- 1803: France sold Missouri to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase. Missouri was part of the Louisiana Territory after 1805.
- 1812: (June 4,) Congress created the Missouri Territory. Many families left after earthquakes and other disasters.

Statehood

- On August 10, 1821 Missouri became a state.
- 1837: The Osage Indians ceded land
- 1837: The Platte Purchase added six northwestern counties to the state.
- Oregon Trail and Santa Fe Trail began at Independence, Missouri
- 23 April 1860 - 24 October 1861: Pony Express
- 1861-1865: During the Civil War most of the citizens supported the Union, although several counties seceded. Troops from Missouri served in both the Confederate and the Union forces.
- 1876: The city of St. Louis split from the surrounding St. Louis County, creating its own government
- 1898: Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.

Missouri Birth Records

Online Indexes:

- *Missouri Birth & Death Records Database, Pre-1910* - index on *Missouri Digital Heritage* website
- *Ancestry.com* and *FamilySearch.org* have indexes of Missouri births for various years

Births 1821 to 1882

The state of Missouri did not require births to be recorded. Churches, cities and counties may have recorded some births.

Births 1883 – 1893

Missouri law required county clerks to record births. Some cities also kept records. Some, but not all, births were recorded

Births 1910 to present

Statewide registration of births began in 1909.

Obtain a certified or genealogical copy of a birth record from the **Missouri Department of Health** and from the **County Clerk or County Recorder's Office.**

NOTE: Some county birth records can also be obtained from the St. Louis City Recorder's Office.

The St. Louis City Recorder and Registrar is a Certified Copy Center for:

- *1920 to Present* Missouri Birth Certificates of *all Missouri counties* and of *St. Louis City*
- Pre-1910 St. Louis City Birth Registers

Get information for ordering copies: https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/recorder/vital-records/birth-records/birth-certificates.cfm

Missouri Marriage Records

Online Indexes:

- *Ancestry.com* and *FamilySearch.org* have indexes for varying years

County Marriage Records before 1881:

County Recorders Offices began keeping marriage records when the counties were created.

Obtain a copy of a pre-1881 marriage record from the **Recorder of Deeds** in the county where the license was obtained

State Marriage Records 1881 and Later

In 1881, a new state law required the county offices to begin sending copies of marriage records to the Missouri Department of Health

Obtain a copy of a marriage record 1881 to the present from the **Recorder of Deeds** in the county where the license was obtained or from the **Missouri Department of Health.**

NOTE: Check the location of St. Louis City and County Marriage Records below:

- Marriages recorded in St. Louis County from 1766 – 1876
  - Obtain a copy from the **St. Louis *City* Recorder's Office.**
- St. Louis became an independent city in 1876.
- Marriages recorded in St. Louis County 1877 to 1880 (including St. Louis City marriage records)
  - Obtain a copy from the **St. Louis *County* Recorder's Office**
- Marriages recorded in St. Louis County 1881 to the present do *not* include St. Louis City records
  - **Obtain a copy of a St. Louis county marriage record** from the **County Recorder's Office**
  - **Obtain a copy of a St. Louis city marriage record** from the **City Recorder's Office**

Missouri Death Records

Online Indexes:

- *Missouri Birth & Death Records Database, Pre-1910* and *Missouri Death Certificates, 1910 – 1966* are both on the *Missouri Digital Heritage* website
- *Ancestry.com* – death records 1834 - 1910
- *FamilySearch.org* - deaths and burials, 1867-1976

County Death Records

Missouri counties began recording deaths in 1883. Compliance was sporadic. From 1893 – 1909 very few deaths were recorded.

- **Obtain copies of county death records 1883 – 1909 from the Recorder of Deeds** in the county where the death occurred.

Independent City Death Records:

- St. Louis, MO began recording deaths in 1850.
- Kansas City, MO began recording deaths in 1874
- **Contact the St. Louis City Recorder's Office** and the **Kansas City Office of Vital Records** for procedures to obtain copies of their city death records.

State Death Records

Statewide registration of deaths began in 1909 in Missouri. Counties created the records and sent copies to the state department of health.

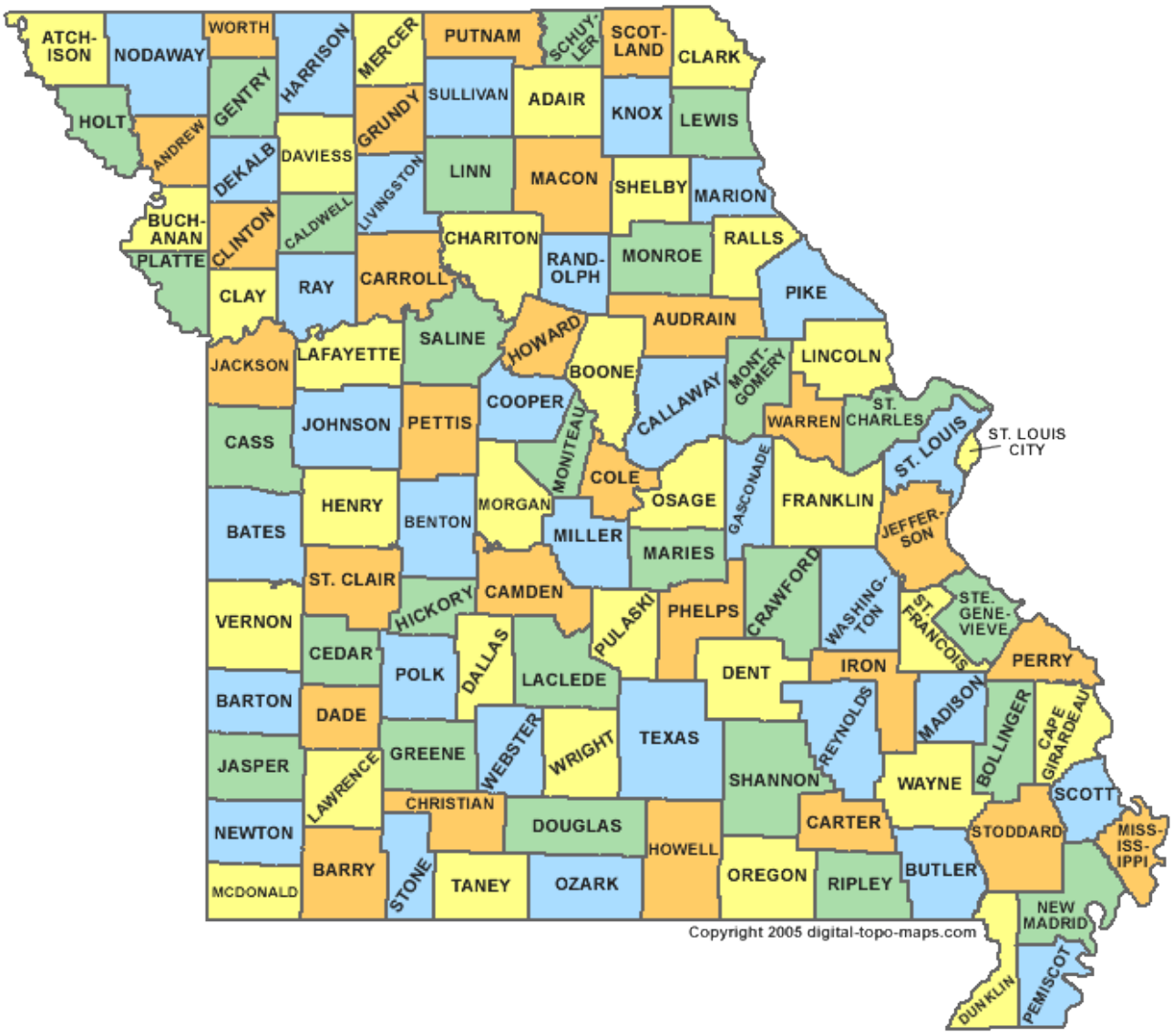
- **Obtain a copy of a death record 1910 to the present from the Missouri Department of Health or from the Recorder of Deeds in the county where the death occurred.**
- To obtain a copy of a death certificate of someone who died within the last 50 years, you must be:
  - The guardian of the person on the certificate
  - Anyone who has legal interest in the certificate

Alternate sources of birth, marriage and death information:

- Family Bibles
- Church Records
- Newspapers Announcements/Obituaries
- Military Records
- Censuses
- Wills/Probate Records
- Funeral Home/Cemetery Records

The Atlas of Historical County Boundaries – Interactive maps and text covering the historical boundaries, names, organization, and attachments of every county, extinct county and unsuccessful county proposal from the creation of the first county through December 31, 2000. - http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/index.html

Missouri Counties



Missouri Migration Routes

Mississippi River · Missouri River · Butterfield Overland Mail · California Trail · Chicago-Kaskaskia Road · Buffalo Trace · Mississippi and Tennessee River Trail · Mormon Trail · Nashville-Saline River Trail · National Road (or Cumberland Road) · Oregon Trail · Santa Fe Trail · Atlantic and Pacific Railroad · Santa Fe Railway · Texas and Pacific Railway

Migration Routes in the Central Plains States -
http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tqpeiffer/Documents/Ancestral%20Migration%20Archives/Migration%20Webpage%20Folder/Central%20Plains%20States%20Routes.htm

Early Missouri Churches

Roman Catholic churches were established in Missouri in the colonial era. Many other denominations came after 1800 with the arrival of various immigrant groups.
By 1900 the largest religious groups in Missouri were the Roman Catholic, Baptist, Christian (Disciples of Christ), and Methodist Episcopal (now United Methodist).
FamilySearch.org and *Ancestry.com* have indexes of some Missouri church records.

Major Repositories of Missouri Genealogical/Historical Information

Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center
State Historical Society of Missouri
Missouri State Archives
Mercantile Library at UMSL
Midwest Genealogy Center,
St. Louis County Library Special Collections
Wilson Creek National Battlefield Park
National Archives Central Plains Region (Kansas City)
National Personnel Records Center (St. Louis)
Newberry Library University of Missouri Digital Library
Miller County Museum and Historical Society
Kansas City Public Library Special Collections
Missouri State Genealogical Association
St. Louis Public Library

Missouri Genealogy Research Websites

NOTE: Look for the GenWeb or Genealogy Trails of any county in which your ancestors lived.

Iron County Historical Society - 1946 Ironton-Arcadia *Telephone Directory*; transcription of the *tax list* from the January 20 and 27, 1898 issues of the Iron County Register; lists of *school students* 1870-1906; a list *of schools, teachers, and clerks* for 1911-1912, and old *photographs* - http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~moichs/index.html

Missouri Civil War Museum – https://mcwm.org/

Miller County Museum and Historical Society – indexes, images of churches, homesteads, cemeteries, marriages, obituaries, schools, post offices, etc.

Missouri Digital Heritage – choose the database you want to search, click and follow prompts to search: births and deaths, land records, coroners' inquests, military records, naturalizations, penitentiary records and more - https://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/browse?id=9

Missouri History Museum Genealogy & Local History Index – names of St. Louis people in biographies, business, real estate, death, military, medical, educational, and other records - http://genealogy.mohistory.org/

Missouri Pioneers - http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mopionee/

My Genealogy Hound – *biographies* extracted from pre-1900 county histories of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee – vintage county maps from Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma (including Indian Nations), and Tennessee - http://www.mygenealogyhound.com/

State Historical Society of Missouri: Digital Collections –diaries, plat maps, photos, oral histories, Civil War letters, a link to a searchable newspaper database - http://digital.shsmo.org/

St. Louis Obituary Index - searchable database of names that appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper for the years 1880-1930, 1942-1945, 1960-1970 and 1992-March 2019 - https://cdm17210.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17210coll9

Missouri African American Research

Access Genealogy – links by state to websites of African American genealogy, cemeteries, and censuses

AfricaMap – track the slave trade with historical overlays and geographical data - http://worldmap.harvard.edu/africamap/

AfriGeneas – slave records, death and marriage records, censuses, surnames – chat or send messages to other researchers

Digital Library on American Slavery – search database of slave petitions, runaway slave advertisements, bills of sale, transatlantic slave trade database; this compilation of various online collections started with a focus on records in North Carolina but the information includes people in all

15 slave states and Washington D.C.; more records are currently being digitized - http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/

International African American Museum - African American funeral programs, obituaries, marriage records, photos, historical documents and family histories – military records of the U.S. Colored Troops are currently being digitized - https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/records/

Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery - search thousands of "Information Wanted" advertisements taken out by former slaves in all states searching for family members lost by sale, flight, or enlistment – the collection currently includes newspapers from 1853 to 1911 - http://www.informationwanted.org/

State Historical Society of Missouri - http://shs.umsystem.edu/research/guides/africanamerican.shtml

Slave Confederate Payrolls - digitized payrolls list names of slaves of 10 southern states who worked for the Confederate Army and whose pay went to their masters - https://catalog.archives.gov/search?q=719477

Slave Voyages - the *Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database* documents vessels along the Atlantic slave routes from 1514 to 1866; *Intra-American Slave Trade Database* documents vessels traveling between the Atlantic and Pacific ports ranging from the United States to Brazil; the *African Names Database* gives names, ages, possible origins of slaves liberated from captured slave ships between 1808 and 1862

Missouri Cemetery Research

Old Lorimier Cemetery, Cape Girardeau, MO - click Burial Listing to view – plat map of cemetery and grave locator also available - https://www.cityofcapegirardeau.org/departments/parks/cemeteries/old_lorimier_cemetery

Missouri Military Research

Grand Army of the Republic Records Project – developing database - histories of posts, reports of officers and members if available, search by state - http://suvcw.org/garrecords/

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery burials – http://www.interment.net/data/us/mo/stlouis/jeffbarr/index.htm

Missouri History Museum Genealogy & Local History Index – many Civil War resources – http://genealogy.mohistory.org/

Missouri's Union Provost Marshal Papers: 1861 – 1866 – correspondence, provost marshal court papers, orders, passes, paroles, oaths of allegiance to the United States, transportation permits, and claims for compensation for property used or destroyed by military forces - African American recruitment lists from Missouri for the years 1863-1865 - https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/provost/

Missouri Soldiers' Records: War of 1812 – World War I – individual service cards, muster rolls, special orders, reports, and more - https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/soldiers/

Missouri Native American Research

Native American Tribes of Missouri - http://www.native-languages.org/missouri.htm

Missouri Newspaper Research

Missouri Online Historical Newspapers – names, publication dates, location of online databases of Missouri newspapers

Historical Society of Missouri Newspaper Project - search indexes of articles in newspapers from Boonville, Columbia, Fayette, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty and St. Louis in the 1800's or early 1900's -http://digital.library.umsystem.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?sid=1318e82edd36c15f4c792cd8d3167f52;page=index;c=catalogic;g=shs

Obituary Search St. Louis Public Library - Search for St. Louis obituaries. Currently this index contains names from the St. Louis Post Dispatch for the years 1880-1930, 1942-1945, 1960-1969, and 1992-2011 - https://cdm17210.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17210coll9

Information on these pages is compiled from information in:

- *FamilySearch.org,* Wiki - *Ancestry.com,* Learning Center
- Family Tree Magazine
- *The Weekly Genealogist, NEHGS; Dick Eastman Genealogy Newsletter*
- *Genealogy Gems from the Allen County Public Library*
- Websites: *St. Louis Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds, Kansas City Office of Vital Statistics*