“In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage
To know who we are and where we came from.
Without this enriching knowledge there is a hollow yearning.
No matter what our attainments in life,
there is still a vacuum, an emptiness
and the most disquieting loneliness.”
Alex Haley
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Libraries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Kansas State Historical Society**  
6425 SW Sixth Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66615-1099  
785.272.8681 x117  
Kansas City Branch  
314.746.4500  
[www.kshs.org](http://www.kshs.org)  
November - February: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday - Saturday  
March – October:  
Tuesday – Saturday  
[reference@kshs.org](mailto:reference@kshs.org) |
| **Missouri History Museum**  
Across from Forest Park  
225 South Skinker Blvd.  
P.O. Box 11940  
St. Louis, MO 63112-0040  
314.746.4500  
[www.mohistory.org/](http://www.mohistory.org/)  
Tuesday-Friday 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Closed Sunday-Monday  
[library@mohistory.org](mailto:library@mohistory.org) |
| **Missouri State Archives**  
600 West Main  
P.O. Box 1747  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573.751.3280  
[http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/contact](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/contact)  
Monday – Wednesday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Thursday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Sunday & Holiday Weekends Closed  
[archref@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archref@sos.mo.gov) |
| **St. Louis County Library**  
Special Collections  
1640 S. Lindbergh Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63131-3598  
314.994.3300 ext. 2070  
[www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc](http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc)  
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Friday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
[scollections@slcl.org](mailto:scollections@slcl.org) |
| **St. Louis Public Library**  
1301 Olive Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
314.241.2288  
Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Sunday Closed  
[webref@slpl.org](mailto:webref@slpl.org) |
| **Springfield-Greene County Library**  
4653 South Campbell Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65810-1723  
417.616.0543  
Monday – Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Sunday 1 – 5 p.m. |
| **State Historical Society of Missouri**  
1020 Lowry Street  
Columbia, MO 65201-7298  
573.882.7083  
800.747.6366  
[www.shs.umsystem.edu](http://www.shs.umsystem.edu)  
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Sunday Closed  
[shsofmo@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsofmo@umsystem.edu) |
| **State Historical Society of Missouri – KC**  
302 Newcomb Hall - University of Missouri-KC  
5123 Holmes Street  
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499  
816.235.1543  
[http://shs.umsystem.edu/about/kansascity.shtml](http://shs.umsystem.edu/about/kansascity.shtml)  
Tuesday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.  
Borrowing access to collections at each campus.  
[shsofmo-kc@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsofmo-kc@umsystem.edu) |
### Family History Centers (LDS)

*Volunteer staffs. Call to confirm hours.*

To search for a Family History Library


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue Springs, MO 64015</td>
<td>1416 Southwest 19th Street 816.229.5854</td>
<td>To schedule use of the Family History Center, call John Humphreys</td>
<td>By appointment only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excelsior Springs, MO 64024</td>
<td>Highway O 816.637.9306</td>
<td>Wednesday only</td>
<td>10 a.m. – 8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence, MO 64050</td>
<td>15616 E 24 Highway 816.521.7231</td>
<td>Monday – Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday</td>
<td>9 a.m. – 9 p.m. 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City, MO 66109</td>
<td>8620 Haskell 913.299.2876</td>
<td>Tuesday Tuesday Wednesdays, and Thursdays Thursday Saturday (1st, 2nd, &amp; 5th)</td>
<td>10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City, MO 64145</td>
<td>13025 Wornall Road 816.941.7389</td>
<td>Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Saturday (2nd, 3rd, and 4th)</td>
<td>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; 6 – 9 p.m. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence, KS 66049</td>
<td>3655 W 10th Street 785.843.4460</td>
<td>Monday Tuesday Wednesday &amp; Thursday Saturday</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leavenworth, KS 66048</td>
<td>1020 Limit Street 913.682.7729</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Wednesday only Closed holiday seasons and other spring and summer breaks</td>
<td>9 a.m. - noon; 4 -8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty, MO 64068</td>
<td>1130 Clayview Drive 816.781.8295</td>
<td>Wednesday Tuesday &amp; Wednesday</td>
<td>9 a.m. – 3 p.m. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olathe, KS 66062</td>
<td>15915 West 143rd Street 913.829.1775</td>
<td>Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Saturday</td>
<td>10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overland Park, KS 66204
7100 Hadley
913.722.0230
Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m., 6 – 9 p.m.
Saturday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Monday, Friday, & Sunday
Closed

Paola, KS 66971
Old Hwy 169 & Hwy K68
913.294.4411
Wednesday only
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday by appointment

Platte City, MO 64079
2700 Ensign Drive
816.431.2014
Tuesday & Wednesday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thursday
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; 6 – 9 p.m.

Saint Joseph, MO 64506
7 N. Carriage Drive
816.232.2428
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Warrensburg, MO 64093
Trails Regional Library
432 N. Holden
660.747.9177
Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

These are not mailing address. Mail inquiries will not be answered.
Genealogical Libraries in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area

**Cass County Public Library**
Genealogy Library Branch
400 East Mechanic
Harrisonville, MO 64701
816.884.6285
www.casscolibrary.org/

Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
robertsj@casscolibrary.org

**Clay County Archives**
210 East Franklin / PO Box 99
Liberty, MO 64068
816.781.3611
www.claycountyarchives.org/

Monday – Wednesday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
1st Wednesday of month 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
info@claycountyarchives.org

**Community of Christ Headquarters Library**
The Temple
201 S. River
Independence, MO 64051
816.833.1000 ext. 2400
www.cofchrist.org/templeschool/library/default.asp

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1:30 p.m.-4:30 pm
Fridays by appointment
rmeisinger@CofChrist.org

**Jackson County Genealogical Society Library**
1111 W. Pacific
Independence, MO 64050
816.252.8128
www.jcgs.org

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Jackson County Historical Society**
Research Library & Archives, Room 103
129 W. Lexington
Independence Square Courthouse
Independence, MO 64050
816.252.7454
www.jchs.org

**Johnson County Genealogical Society**
Housed in the Local History and Genealogy Area of the Johnson County Library
9875 W. 87th Street
Shawnee Mission, KS 66212
913.495.2400
www.jocolibrary.org/

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
queries@johnsoncountykansagenealogy.org

**Kansas City, Kansas Public Library**
625 Minnesota
Kansas City, KS 66101
913.351.3280
www.kckpl.lib.ks.us/

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
gmurphy@kckpl.org
Genealogical Libraries in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area

**Kansas City, Missouri Public Library**
Special Collections
14 West 10th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106
816.701.3427
www.kclibrary.org/localhistory

**Mid-Continent Public Library**
Midwest Genealogy Center
3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road
Independence, MO 64035
816.252.7228
www.mymcpl.org/genealogy

**National Archives, Central Plains Region**
400 W. Pershing
Kansas City, MO 64108
816.268.8000
www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/

**Platte County Historical and Genealogical Society Library**
Ben Ferrel Mini Mansion Museum
220 Ferrel Street
Platte City, MO 64079
816.431.5121
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mopchgs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kansas City, Missouri Public Library</strong></td>
<td>Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Collections</td>
<td>Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 West 10th Street</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lhistory@kclibrary.org">lhistory@kclibrary.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City, MO 64106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>816.701.3427</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.kclibrary.org/localhistory">www.kclibrary.org/localhistory</a></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Mid-Continent Public Library</strong></th>
<th>Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midwest Genealogy Center</td>
<td>Friday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road</td>
<td>Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence, MO 64035</td>
<td>Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>816.252.7228</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ge@mymcpl.org">ge@mymcpl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy">www.mymcpl.org/genealogy</a></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>National Archives, Central Plains Region</strong></th>
<th>Tuesday - Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400 W. Pershing</td>
<td>Closed Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City, MO 64108</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov">kansascity.archives@nara.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>816.268.8000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/">www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/</a></td>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Platte County Historical and Genealogical Society Library</strong></th>
<th>April 15-October 15 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ben Ferrel Mini Mansion Museum</td>
<td>Thursday – Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220 Ferrel Street</td>
<td>Closed October 16-April 14 By appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platte City, MO 64079-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>816.431.5121</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mopchgs">http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mopchgs</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kansas City Public Library

Genealogy Research in the Missouri Valley Room

The Missouri Valley Room (MVR) has material in both open and closed stacks. Open stacks are available for direct patron use and include:

- Genealogy related materials—outer sides of shelves
- Periodicals—arranged alphabetically—inside area of shelves
- Newspaper clippings index—north wall
- Civil War Official Records—east wall
- Maps—large cases in the back of the room

Materials in closed stacks, accessible only to staff, that may be found in the online catalog include but aren’t limited to:

- School newspapers
- School yearbooks
- County histories
- Family histories
- Archival collections
- Genealogy files

To request an item, you will need to fill out a form and leave some type of identification, which will be returned when you check in the material.

- No materials may leave the MVR
- Only pencils may be used
- No cell phones please
- No food or drink
- Photocopier available
- WiFi hotspot
- Tables equipped for laptops and scanners
- Microfilm and readers
- Two public computers available

Using the Web Pages

Using the Missouri Valley Room

Monday—Friday
9am-5pm
Saturday
10am-5pm

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PERSI
Periodical indexing for genealogy sources. Searchable by name and locality—open shelf MVSC Q 929 P445 1847-1997

YEARBOOKS
Primarily Kansas City school district high schools; some college yearbooks—closed shelf (List at desk and under “Research Guides”)

CITY DIRECTORIES
All Kansas City city directories beginning 1859—microfilm (some years in book form on open shelf) Other metro area directories available. (List at desk or online under Research Guides or search the online catalog.)

TELEPHONE BOOKS

ADDITIONAL LOCAL RESOURCE SITES
National Archives-Central Plains Region
Public libraries in area
Genealogy society libraries
Family history centers (LDS Church)
Local church headquarters
Historical societies and archives

Ask a librarian for a list of addresses, telephone numbers, and hours.

OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE HERE

CATALOG
To search for books that are in both open and closed stacks including:
- County histories
- Marriage, death and birth records
- Cemetery listings
- Family histories
Records found in the MVR will have MVSC in front of the call number.

DIGITAL GALLERY
To find photographs, maps, citations to magazine and newspaper articles, and other materials.
Enter keywords in the search box in the upper right-hand corner of page.

LOCAL HISTORY
- GENEALOGY—links to lists of internet resources, beginners guides, and resources available in the MVR
- RESOURCES—links to research guides, newspapers and clippings, yearbooks and school newspapers
- QUICK LINKS—from the Genealogy page, found on the left hand side of the page:
  - Ancestry Library edition (in-library use)
  - Kansas City Star database (off-site w/card)
  - Missouri Birth and Death records
  - Jackson County marriage records
  - Sanborn Maps (digital gallery and through ProQuest off-site w/card)
**Basic Sources to Consult**

**VITAL RECORDS**

Birth, marriage, and death records found at the city, county, and state level.

**Birth Records**
- Jackson County, 1883-1895 (microfilm)
- Select 19th Century birth records for other counties also found in catalog

**Death Records**
- Kansas City, 1874-1909 (microfilm)
- Jackson County, 1883-1893 (microfilm)
- MVSC 929.3 Ms41r
- Dead People Files, records from 1910-1985 listing persons who died outside of KC but were buried here (microfilm)

**Marriage Records**
- 1827 through 1937, Index to Jackson County Marriages at Independence, brides and grooms (microfilm)
- 1881 through 1937, Index to Jackson County Marriages at Kansas City, brides and grooms (microfilm)
- Selected years for Jackson County and other counties (open shelf)

**Guides**
- *The Sourcebook of County Court Records*, 1992 MVSC 016.929 S724
- *The Genealogist’s Address Book*, MVSC Q 929 B477g 1998
- *The Handbook For Genealogists* (Desk) MVSC Q 929 E93H 2002

**CENSUS RECORDS**

Federal census records available by decade, 1790-1930 (minus 1890). Released 72 years after census taken. State censuses vary by state.
- Ancestry (on-line)
- Census (federal) records, incomplete, scattered; primarily for Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, and other eastern states (microfilm)
- Full set of microfilm census rolls available at the Genealogy Branch of Mid-Continent Library System and the local National Archives branch.
- Soundex for Missouri, 1880 only (microfilm)
- Census indexes, 1790 to 1870 most states, including special schedules like the 1890 Veterans and slave schedules (open shelf)

**CENSUS GUIDES** (open shelf)
- Lainhart, Ann S. *State Census Records*, 1992 MVSC 016.929 L18s

**FAMILY HISTORIES**

Both published and unpublished. Not always correct, check information given.
- Published Family Histories — check catalog
- Check the Surname portion of the Family History Center at www.familysearch.com
- Genealogies Cataloged by the Library of Congress Since 1986 MVSC 016.929 L69g; as well as 016.929 G3262 & 016.929 K15c

**COUNTY AND STATE HISTORIES**

Data including biographical, geographical, historical, and county military (particularly Civil War).
- Many 19th and 20th-century Midwest county histories as well as states to the east. Search the computer catalog.

**Helpful guide** — open shelf
- *A Bibliography Of American County Histories*, compiled by P. William Filby, 1985 MVSC 016.973 F47b

**MILITARY RECORDS** — Primarily federal records including service, pension, and unit histories.
- Online name searches — Use links from the Research Guide “Genealogy on the Internet”
- Forms to send to the National Archives to receive copies of records — at desk
- Regimental Histories, Civil War, UMI series — microfilm
- Others available in book form. Check the computer catalog.

**Helpful guides:**
- *Genealogical Abstracts Of Revolutionary War Pension Files*, 4 v. — open shelf MVSC 929.3 A73wh-2
- *Index To War Of 1812 Pension Files*, 3 v. — open shelf MVSC 929.3 A73wh
- *Lineage Books-DAR*, 166 v. and 4 v. index, 1890-1912 — open shelf MVSC 929 D24
- *Patriot Indexes* published later — shelved before the DAR lineage books

**COURT AND LAND RECORDS**

Published transcript of a variety of early Jackson County land records.

**COURT AND LAND CHURCH RECORDS**

Church records — MVRC archives and microfilm
- Plat books for Jackson County, MO — closed shelf MVSC F 099.7 N87
- MVSC F 099.7 B53
- American State Papers — microfilm (Index is Grassroots of America — open shelf MVSC Q 333.1 M16g (for federal land records.)

**CEMETERY AND DEATH NOTICES**

Some Kansas City cemetery records include:
- Elmwood Cemetery — MVSC 929.3 Ms41r
- Union Cemetery — MVSC 929.3 Ms41t
- Brookings Cemetery — MVSC 929.3 Ms41b
- Jackson County cemetery records, 1826-1876
- *Vital Historical Records of Jackson County, Missouri* — MVSC DESK 929.3 Ms41.dkv
- Area newspapers on microfilm and online
- Social Security Death Index (via Ancestry)

**Guides**
- *Cemeteries Of The United States*, 1994 MVSC 929 C394
- *Cemeteries Of Jackson County, Missouri* MVSC 929.3 Ms41m (Includes directions on how to find them.)

**IMMIGRATION RECORDS**

Various passenger lists including but not limited to the following — all open shelf
- Filbey, P. William, ed. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* MVSC 929.3 A73h
- *Germans to America* MVSC 929.3 A73grm
- *Italians to America* MVSC 929.3 A73ht

**LAND & PROPERTY RESEARCH**

Jackson County land records)
- *Record of Original Entries to Lands in Jackson County, Missouri...* MVSC 929.3 Ms41e (published transcript of a variety of early Jackson County land records)
- MVSC 929.3 Ms41e
- *Land & Property Research in the United States* MVSC Q 929.1 H77L
1 HOW DO I BEGIN TO TRACE MY FAMILY?

Start with yourself and work backwards through the generations, recording each person’s major life events on ancestor charts. Organize from the start! Keep a research logoff your efforts and consider placing your charts in a three-ring binder or use a genealogy software program. Try to involve family members and be sure to interview your oldest relatives. Search for clues in scrapbooks, family Bibles, photograph albums, samplers, letters, school records, baby books, etc. Next, redirect your attention to community, state, and national resources. Also, consider joining a local genealogy club or taking a beginner genealogy course. Most importantly, keep realistic goals! What you learn about your heritage is more important than how far back you can trace it.

2 WHERE IS THE BOOK ON MY FAMILY?

Many people ask this question hoping to begin and end their search in one trip to the public library! While this rarely happens, the question is a good one. Both published and unpublished family history research can be found at public libraries and elsewhere. At your local library, search the catalog under your family name, “local history” and “genealogy.” Also, visit or write to the public libraries where your relatives once lived. When writing, always enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope; and make no more than three specific requests. Other sources of family books or genealogical research include historical societies, genealogical libraries, family organizations, etc. Review all published genealogies with a watchful eye, as most contain some inaccuracies.

3 DO YOU HAVE LOCAL HISTORY INFO?

Every public library with a telephone book has local history information! Many libraries have extensive collections. Read your library’s introductory brochure; search the catalog under “genealogy” and “local history”; and ask your reference librarian for assistance. Be sure to check thoroughly for sources such as city directories, local history books, newspapers, school yearbooks, plat maps, church histories, gazetteers, military records, and cemetery records. Other local history resources include historical societies, state archives, Family History Centers (LDS Church) and the Library of Congress, which has the largest collection of U. S. city directories.

4 WHERE CAN I FIND BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND DEATH VITAL RECORDS?

Vital records are those birth, marriage, divorce and death records which all states have been required to maintain since around 1900. Contemporary with their event, vital records are valuable as “primary sources.” You can find them at state record offices, in some town archives and most county courthouses.

5 WHERE CAN I FIND CHURCH AND CEMETERY RECORDS?

You will find most church records filed in their church offices. If a church no longer exists, write the denomination headquarters. Those addresses can be found in the standard reference sources, Encyclopedia of Associations. In addition, you may find church record abstracts and indexes at public libraries, historical and genealogical societies. Search their catalog for “church records.” Sources for cemetery records included cemetery management offices, local public libraries, and historical or genealogical societies. If a cemetery has disappeared, seek information at the local public library, historical or genealogical society which often have gravestone inscriptions recorded by community and DAR chapter volunteers.

Finally, local county or state governments may have burial certificates.

6 WHERE CAN I FIND CENSUS RECORDS?

By far the most well-known and popular records are federal censuses, which can provide a wealth of information. These records are available on microfilm at many major research facilities, including the National Archives and its branches; Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence, Missouri; and the LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah. You may also find portions of colonial, territorial, state, and local censuses at these locations. Directions for ordering census microfilm from the National Archives are in a free brochure: Using Records in the National Archives for Genealogical Research. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, rev. 1990. (Request an introductory genealogy packet from the National Archives, NNUA Branch, 7th & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20408). Finally, many public and state libraries, as well as historical and genealogical societies, have state and local census records.
**HOW DO I USE CENSUS RECORDS?**

Federal census records from 1790-1930 are available to the public. Start your search with the most recent available, indexed census; the more recent the census, the more information contained. Most states have an alphabetical index for their 1790-1860 census records. The 1880-1930 federal censuses are indexed using the Soundex coding system, which lets you search for a last name by sound, rather than spelling. To learn more about this system and the use of census records, consult a genealogy how-to book. Some titles are suggested under Question #1. Also, request free census brochures from the National Archives and Records Administration. Finally, always use census records with caution as they may contain inaccuracies!

**WHERE CAN I FIND MILITARY RECORDS?**

There are three major types of military information—service records, pension records, and unit histories. Service and pension records are at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and other major research facilities across the country.

**WHERE CAN I FIND IMMIGRATION AND PASSENGER LIST INFORMATION?**

In the process of leaving the Old World and in immigrating to and settling down in America, each new citizen generated many records. Today, passenger lists and immigration and naturalization records are collected at every major genealogy research center.

For microfilm copies of passenger lists and other immigration and naturalization records, check the catalog at libraries, archives, and historical societies. The National Archives and its branches have many passenger lists for U.S. ports and some naturalization records.

**HOW CAN I GET INFO FROM OTHER LIBRARIES AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES?**

Check your local public library for up-to-date genealogy how-to books and the reference books listed below. From these resources, choose libraries and historical societies to visit or write. Most will respond to letters that include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and no more than three short, specific questions. Request information on their collections and services.
Six Generation Chart

Prepared by

Name of spouse of number 1

B = WHEN BORN
P = PLACE BORN
M = WHEN MARRIED
P = PLACE MARRIED
D = WHEN DIED
P = PLACE DIED

Kansas City Public Library, 04/2011
**Pedigree Chart**

No. 1 on this chart is the same as No. _____ on pedigree chart no. _____

Write names as: Alvin David SMITH
Write dates as: 6 April 1860
Write places as: Amboy, Lee, Illinois, USA or St. Andrew, Rugby, Warwick, England

Prepared by: ________________

---

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<th>No.</th>
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<th>Married</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Died</th>
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Kansas City Public Library, 04/2011
Individual Work Sheet

Name: ______________________

Full Name: ______________________

Born: ______________________ Place: ______________________

Occupation(s): ______________________

Military Service: ______________________

Died: ______________________ Place: ______________________

Buried: ______________________ Place: ______________________

Married: ______________________ Place: ______________________

Spouse’s Name: ______________________ Code #: ______

Divorced: ______________________ For other marriages see work sheet: ______________________

Father’s Name: ______________________ Code #: ______

Mother’s Name: ______________________ Code #: ______

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Residences:

Other Life Events (baptism, religion, education, immigration, naturalization, etc.):

Sources/References:

Prepared by: ______________________ e-mail: ______________________

Kansas City Public Library, 04/2011
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Search Date</th>
<th>Research Objective</th>
<th>Name &amp; Location of Source</th>
<th>Notes about Source</th>
<th>File Number</th>
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<td>Please fill in</td>
<td>Question about an event, relationship, place, or subject</td>
<td>Include name and address of the source person, object, or record repository. When applicable, include, title, author, &amp; publisher of book, document, writing, database, website, etc.</td>
<td>Might include the reason for selection, description of condition, summary and analysis of information found, etc.</td>
<td>Assigned to notes of info from source.</td>
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Family and Home Information Sources Checklist

Use this checklist as a guide to sources of information you might find in your home or the home of a relative.

Check each source you find.

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<td>Citations</td>
<td>Guardian Papers</td>
<td>Achievement Awards</td>
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Genealogy Starter Kit

Just beginning to trace your ancestors? Need some help getting started?  This beginner’s kit may be just the ticket you need to embark on the exciting excursion that will allow you to discover your roots.

It’s always a smart idea when starting a new journey to find a good guidebook. The Kansas City Public Library has several you’ll want to use. These are available for check out in the Central library and some of the branches. The Missouri Valley Special Collections area has them but, they may only be used in the Missouri Valley Room.

929.1 W69AN

Q 929.1 C94U 2001

929.1 R79C

929.1 R42G

www.cyndislist.com/beginner.htm
Cyndi’s List is the most comprehensive genealogy Web site. Also in print on the shelf, Q929.1 H85c 2001.

www.genealogy.com/genehelp.html
Genealogy.com is a subsidiary of A&E Television Network.

www.usgenweb.org/research/starting.shtml
The USGenWeb Project

Included in this kit are several brochures that will provide additional aid.

- “Researching Your Family History: The Top Ten Genealogy Questions”
- “Genealogy Research in The Missouri Valley Room”
- Lists of Area Libraries

Start With What You Know
All beginning guides tell you to start with what you know — about yourself and your family. The charts included here will help you keep track of this information. They may be photocopied as needed. Many of these may also be downloaded from the Internet.

- Family and Home Information Sources Checklist
- Research Log  (It’s very important to document everything you search, what you find — or don’t find — and the source for the information.)
- Individual Work Sheet
- Family Descendant Chart
- Pedigree Chart
- Six Generation Chart

Be sure to check out the links on our Local History Web page research guide “Genealogy Resources on the Internet.”

Now that you have the guides and the tools, good luck searching for your ancestors. And if you need help, don’t hesitate to ask the librarians.