

Gateway Family

HISTORIAN

Winter 2005

A Publication of the St. Louis Public Library

Vol. 5 No. 1

New Arrivals

Items recently added to the St. Louis Public Library's collection:

1. Bernard, *Death/Memorial Card Collection of the German-American Communities of Southern Mercer County Ohio (1884-1999)*. Celina, OH: Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., 2001. 929.3771

Listings include name, birth date and location, death date and location, cemetery, and age.

2. DiBello, Rosalie Idoll. *Gerzitis-Idoll-Dobilas-Savitsky From Lithuania to America*. Canton, NC: the author, 1998. 929.2

An extensive history of a Lithuanian-American family, with numerous photos, documents, and family information.

3. Herbert, Jeffrey G. *Selected Hamilton County Ohio Church Baptism Records Early - 1859*. Milford, OH: Little Miami Publishing Co., 2003. 929.3771

Records include name, baptism date, names of father and mother, including mother's maiden name, and the church where the baptism took place. An important resource for this early German community.

continued on page two

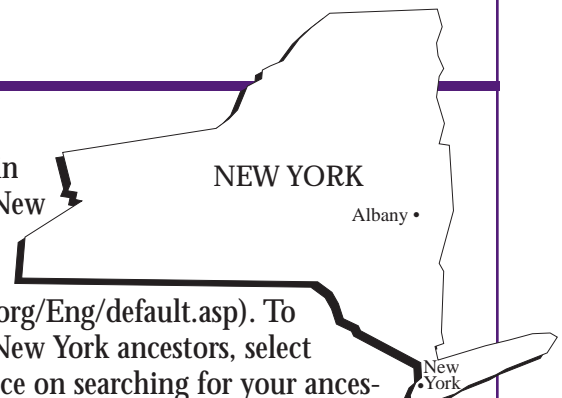
W

elcome to the seventeenth issue of *Gateway Family Historian*, a publication for genealogists with an interest in Missouri, its surrounding states, and those states and countries from which large numbers of immigrants came to settle in Missouri. This issue's focus is a state that has furnished many immigrants to Missouri – New York.

Site-Seeing!

A

good place to begin researching your New York ancestors is the Family Search website of the LDS Church (www.familysearch.org/Eng/default.asp). To find information on researching New York ancestors, select "Get step-by-step research guidance on searching for your ancestors." Select "N" and then "New York, United States." You now have access to guides to exploring birth, marriage, and death records. These guides are printable in PDF format, which you can do if your computer has *Adobe Acrobat* software installed.



A helpful site for finding information about records maintained and publications issued by New York State government agencies, the state legislature, and the state judiciary is the New York State Government Information Locator Service (www.nys/nysed.gov/ils/). You can browse by agency or by subject. Also included are a New York State Government Telephone Directory and a link to the combined catalog of the New York State Library and the New York State Archives.

Those interested in obtaining New York State (other than New York City) vital records should check out the New York State Department of Health's website at www.health.state.ny.us/vital_records/. This office holds birth, death, and marriage records, 1881-present; and divorce records, 1963-present. The website explains the rules pertaining to genealogist access to vital records in New York State.

It is possible in some cases to access vital records not held by the New York State Department of Health by contacting the county in which the event occurred. Some municipalities also have a

continued on page six

New Arrivals

continued from page one

5. McCullough, Kathleen. *Franke-Fischer & Fisher-McGill Ancestors & Descendants*. Lincoln, IL: the author, 2004. 929.2

A well-researched family history with maps, photos, and pedigree charts to supplement text.

6. McCullough, Kathleen. *Our Tree of Life: Ancestors & Descendants of Douglas McCullough & Rosetta Trobaugh: Mattingly & Lewis Ancestry*. Lincoln, IL: the author, n.d. 929.2

Carefully crafted history of an early Maryland family.

7. Scott, Ann Joy Mason. *All My Ancestors (Those I Could Find)*. Kansas City: the author, 2000. 929.2

A family history with lots of photos and maps, including the surnames Adams, Bland, Brasfield, Clardy, Drake, Dunlap, Fry, Mason, Morris, Shotwell, Strode, Tinsley, and Waller.

8. Sowell, Shirley Jackson. *A Maple Branch, Descendants of John Maple & Nancy Hickman*. Des Plains, IL: the author, 2005. 929.2

A very extensively researched family history.

10. Sullivan, George W. *The Sullivans & Allied Families*. Dallas: the author, 1995. 929.2

11. Sullivan, George W. & Dorothy O. Sullivan. *A Direct Sullivan Bloodline from Daniel Sullivan, Sr. to George W. Sullivan*. Dallas: the author, 1993. 929.2

continued on page three

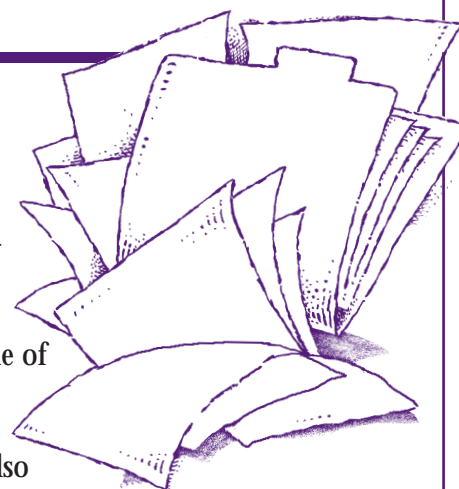
Did You Know?

New York State Archives

www.archives.nysed.gov/aindex.shtml

The New York State Archives was established in 1971 and opened its doors to the public in 1978. It currently houses more than 130 million documents, some of which are of interest to genealogists.

NYSA does not have vital records, but does have indexes for those records. It also has abstracts of military records for New York veterans prior to WWII (but not compiled service records). It has a collection of records for New York GAR posts, and a collection of WWI bonus cards, 1920-1937. The collection also includes 500,000 photographs, some of which are on display in an online photo gallery. The catalog for this site also accesses the collection of the New York State Library.



A link from the NYSA website takes you to the "Rediscovering New York" page. This portal provides access to information on the following historical subjects offered by New York State historical societies, libraries, museums, and universities: Genealogy; Business & Labor; Community History; Education; Environmental Affairs; Health; Military; and People, Groups, and Cultures. You can also browse by county or city to find organizations of interest.

New York State Military Museum:

www.dmna.state.ny.us/mil-hist.htm

The New York State Military Museum (NYSMM) is located in Saratoga Springs, NY. Its collection includes a 2,000-volume library; 6,000 photographs including 2,300 Civil War photographs; 1,700 battle flags, 60% of which are Civil War battle flags (making this the largest collection of Civil War battle flags in the world); and 10,000 artifacts dating from the American Revolution to the present day. The NYSMM also holds NY National Guard service records dating from the 1880s to 1965. The NYSMM website includes a New York State Unit History Project, which is attempting to put together historical information on each military unit raised in New York State between the American Revolution and the Korean War. Efforts are currently concentrated on Civil War regiments. The online listing for each regiment includes the text of the entry for that unit from Phisterer's *New York in the War of the Rebellion* (1912), and can also include photos of officers or other regiment members, photos of battlefield monuments to that regiment, a photo of the regiment's battle flag and/or heraldic shield, and any newspaper clippings available for that regiment. The NYSMM is also currently involved in a Veteran's Oral History Project in an effort to collect the reminiscences of 20th-century New York State veterans while there's still time.

They Came From... New York!

- 1609 – Henry Hudson, flying the Dutch flag, establishes Holland's claim to the area.
- 1624-1626 – Colony of New Netherlands is established by the Dutch East India Company.
- 1629 – The Dutch introduce the patronship system, which establishes a landholding aristocracy.
- 1664 – Holland transfers ownership of the area to England, which divides it into New York and New Jersey.
- 1683 – Original New York counties formed: Albany, Dutchess, Kings, New York, Orange, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, Ulster, and Westchester.
- 1731 – Boundary between New York and Connecticut is settled.
- 1773 – Boundary dispute between New York and Massachusetts is finally resolved.
- 1774 – Boundary line with New Jersey is surveyed and marked.
- 1776 – New York declares its independence from Britain, and Vermont declares its independence from New York.
- 1783 – New York Loyalists are evacuated by the British to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the British West Indies.
- 1788 – New York ratifies the U.S. Constitution and becomes the 11th state.
- 1790 – New York recognizes Vermont's independence.
- 1796 – State capital is changed from New York City to Albany.
- 1812 – New York City Municipal Archives has Manhattan death records 1812-1948.
- 1825 – Erie Canal is completed.
- 1842 – Railroad lines connect Albany to Buffalo.
- 1847 – Local school districts are required to begin recording vital statistics, with most doing so for several years. Any of these records that have survived are held locally, not in the collection of the New York State Archives.
- 1853 – New York City Municipal Archives has Manhattan birth records 1853-1909, and Manhattan marriage records 1853-1937.
- 1857 – New York City Municipal Archives has Brooklyn death records 1857-1948.

continued on page six

New Arrivals

continued from page two

Two very extensive family histories for the Sullivan family, including coats of arms.

12. Weant, Kenneth E. *Texas War of Independence Chronological Index to Selected Articles from the Missouri Republican (St. Louis, Missouri) 1 January 1835 to 31 December 1836 (303 Names Indexed)*. Arlington, TX: the author, 2004.
929.3764

Yet another of Mr. Weant's enormously helpful newspaper indexes, based on news articles from the *Missouri Republican*.

13. Weant, Kenneth E. *Boone County, Missouri 5206 Deaths Reported in & Chronological Index to Selected Articles (Includes 2228 Marriages) from The Columbia Missouri Statesman 6 January 1843 to 25 December 1857*. Vol. 6. Arlington, TX: the author, 1998-.
929.3778
14. Whitley, Caroline B. *North Carolina Headrights: A List of Names, 1663-1744*. Raleigh, NC: Division of Archives & History, 2001.
929.3756

Gives name of person proving the headright, the person brought to the colonies as a result, and the date of the warrant documenting the headright.

... And Some Venerated Ancestors

1. Bergen, Teunis G. *Register in Alphabetical Order of the Early Settlers of Kings County, Long Island, NY, from its First Settlement by Europeans to 1700*. New York: S. W. Green's Sons, 1881. 929.3747

Extensive genealogical information on the early families of Kings County, New York.

2. Doherty, Frank J. *Settlers of the Beekman Patent: Dutchess County, New York: An Historical & Genealogical Study of all the 18th Century Settlers in the Patent*. 6 vols. Pleasant Valley, NY: the author, 1990 - . 929.3747

This ongoing series is currently completed through the letter "H". Volume One contains historical records. Other volumes include extensively researched family trees for each family.

3. Inskip, Carolee R. *The New York Foundling Hospital: An Index to Its Federal, State, and Local Census Records (1870-1925)*. Baltimore: Clearfield, 1995. 929.3747

An index to census records for the New York Foundling Hospital. Entries include name, sex, race, age, and status – inmate (foundling) or staff person. Many of these children were later sent west to be adopted.

4. *Oyster Bay Town Records*. 4 vols. New York: Tobias A. Wright, 1916. 929.3747.

continued on page five

Help!!

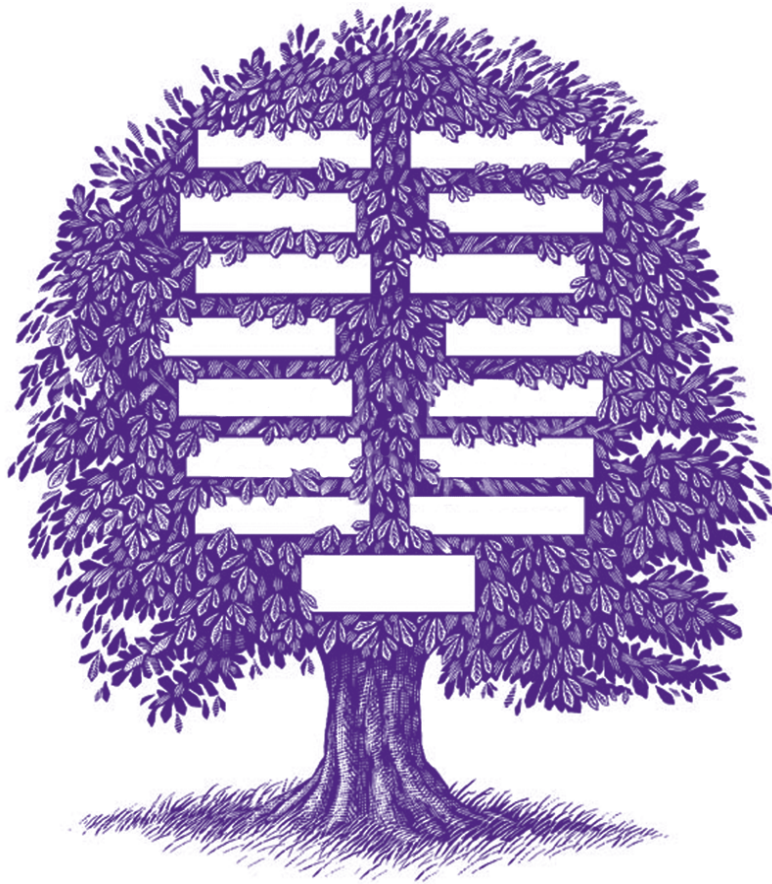
H

elp!! provides an opportunity for readers to ask for assistance with genealogical queries. We invite our readers to contribute solutions to questions featured in this section. See the Contact section for e-mail and postal addresses. Put GFH-HELP!! in the subject line.

Q: I have heard the term "independent city" used to describe St. Louis. What is an independent city, and are there any others?

A: An independent city is one that is separate from the governmental jurisdiction of the county of which it would normally be a part. Independent cities do all of the things that a county government would normally do. Historically, there are quite a few in Virginia, plus Baltimore, Md., and St. Louis, which separated from St. Louis County in 1876. More recently, Denver, Colo.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Indianapolis, Ind.; and Los Angeles, Calif., have become independent cities.

Prior to splitting up in 1876, St. Louis City was the county seat of St. Louis County. Therefore, they hold all records created by St. Louis County before 1876. For information after 1876, you'll need to check both locations for vital records if you are not sure whether the event took place in St. Louis City or St. Louis County.



Ethnic Spotlight

Harlem and the Black Renaissance

Harlem is a neighborhood on northern Manhattan Island. It was founded as a village in 1658 by Dutch settlers, and named "Nieuw Haarlem" after its namesake in the Netherlands. Slavery was legal in New York in the colonial period, and by 1790 fully one-third of Harlem's population consisted of slaves. In the mid-1800s, the area was a fashionable white suburb of New York, but excessive speculation in real estate led to a collapse in values in the early 1900s. The completion of a subway line connecting Harlem with lower Manhattan helped spur a dramatic increase in Harlem's black population, which by 1930 numbered 180,000.

A tremendous outburst of creative activity among black writers, musicians, and artists occurred in Harlem during the 1920s while at the same time a mass exodus of black Americans from the South to urban areas in the North had begun. During this same period, W.E.B. DuBois was publishing his influential journal, *The Crisis*, in which he expounded his belief that racial equality could only result from the efforts of an educated black elite to instill pride in the black community in both current-day black achievements and their African cultural heritage.

The phrase "Harlem Renaissance" refers to this flowering of the creative arts in Harlem during the 1920s and 1930s. This creative burgeoning was originally referred to as the "New Negro Movement," which in turn co-opted "The New Negro," a term coined in 1925 by Alain Locke, a sociologist and intellectual. Locke considered the mass migration of blacks from the South to urban areas in the North in the early 1920s as something of a "spiritual emancipation." Also prominent during this period was Marcus Garvey, black nationalist and founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association.

Writers commonly associated with the Harlem Renaissance were Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, James Weldon Johnson, and Claude McKay. Entertainment venues like the Cotton Club and the Savoy Ballroom featured jazz musicians including Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Fats Waller. The Lincoln and Apollo theaters were transformed from burlesque houses into outlets for popular entertainers like tap dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and singers Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and Bessie Smith.

Harlem did not share in the general prosperity associated with the coming of World War II. A riot there in 1943 killed five, injured nearly 500, resulted in almost 500 arrests, and caused upwards of \$500,000 in property damage. Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia imposed a curfew and halted travel by non-emergency vehicles in Harlem both during the riot and for two days afterwards. By the 1960s, the once-bustling black cultural mecca had been abandoned by the black middle class, and had become an area of extensive slums and deteriorating housing stock. A second riot in 1964 resulted in several deaths, numerous injuries and arrests, and the burning and looting of more than 100 businesses.

... And Some Venerated Ancestors

continued from page four

Records cover 1653 to 1732. Very extensive court records, with many names and genealogical relationships.

5. Penrose, Maryly B. *Compendium of Early Mohawk Valley Families*. 2 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1990. 929.3747

Volumes are based on a variety of primary and secondary documents. Some entries are quite brief, while others are extensive.

6. Perry, William Graves. *The Old Dutch Burying Ground of Sleepy Hollow in Tarrytown, New York: A Record of the Early Gravestones, & Their Inscriptions*. Boston: Rand Press, 1953. 929.3747

Transcriptions of the gravestones, descriptions of their appearance, and photos of some stones. Indexed, with a map of the cemetery (no mention of Ichabod Crane).

7. Scott, Kenneth & Rosanne Conway, comps. *New York Alien Residents, 1825-1848*. Baltimore: Clearfield, 1978. 929.3747

Entries include name, residence, date, occupation, and residence in Europe, often including name of the town of origin. An extremely valuable resource.

continued on page six

... And Some Venerated Ancestors

continued from page five

8. Scott, Kenneth & Kenn Stryker-Rodda. *Denizations, Naturalizations, & Oaths of Allegiance in Colonial New York*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1975. 929.3747

Information includes name, date of event, and sometimes occupation; witnesses, other family members, church membership, or other items. Covers the very late 17th century through the start of the American Revolution.

9. Scott, Kenneth, ed. *Nineteenth Century Apprentices in New York City*. Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 1986. 929.3747

Entries cover approximately 1815 to 1900. Includes the name of the child, age (often in years, months, and days), date of the apprenticeship, location, and name of the master or mistress. Some entries are listed as adoptions.

10. Scott, Kenneth, comp. *Early New York Naturalizations: Abstracts of Naturalization Records from Federal, State, and Local Courts, 1792 – 1840*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981. 929.3747

Entries include name, occupation, country of former allegiance, and the name of the person who recommended him for citizenship. Many names listed.

continued on page seven

They Came From... New York!

continued from page three

1881 – New York State Department of Health begins the keeping of birth, death, and marriage records for most parts of New York State (except New York City).

1898 – Counties of Kings (Brooklyn), New York (Manhattan), Richmond (Staten Island), and Queens incorporated as boroughs of New York City. New York City Municipal Archives has birth records for Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island for 1898-1909, and death records for Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island for 1898-1948.

1907 – Marriage records prior to this year for Albany, Buffalo, and Yonkers are held by Local Registrars, not the State Department of Health.

1914 – Bronx is incorporated as fifth borough of New York City. Birth and death records prior to this year for Albany, Buffalo, and Yonkers are held by Local Registrars, not the State Department of Health.

1963 – New York State Department of Health begins receiving a copy of divorce records for all of New York State.

Site-Seeing!

continued from page one

local registrar who records vital records (Albany, Buffalo, and Yonkers are good examples). There is a Local Government Information section in the New York State Government Information Locator Service (see page one) which has links to “County Governments” and “City/Town/Village Government.”

A site of interest to those with New York City ancestors is the New York City Department of Records (www.ci.nyc.us/html/records/home/html). This site includes NYC vital records (dates of availability vary somewhat by borough-check for details). There is also an interesting online photo gallery, the Crime and Criminals section of which includes several photos of homicide victims, plus mug shots of gangsters Bugsy Siegel, Meyer Lansky, and Lucky Luciano. The photo collection also includes the NYC Tax Photographs Collection: between 1939-1941, the city photographed every house and building in the five boroughs, and copies of these photos are now available for purchase. Get a photo of your parents' or grandparents' New York City residence even if it no longer exists!

Other New York State sites containing information of interest to genealogists can be discovered by checking Cyndi's List: U.S. - New York (www.cyndilst.com/ny.htm). A Category Index includes subjects such as Immigration; Libraries, Archives, & Museums; and Military.

Our Town – Events of Interest

We are looking forward to a very special guest, Tony Burroughs, who will visit Central Library on Monday, September 19, from 7-9 p.m. He will be doing a presentation on finding mixed-race ancestors. Tony Burroughs is an exceptional speaker, and his presentation will be beneficial to every genealogist. Space fills quickly. Register soon. Call 314-539-0385 or e-mail ksmith@slpl.org

On Saturday, October 1, 2005, please join us for “Wolf Bounties & Cattle Brands: Genealogical Research Using Lesser-Known County Courthouse Records.” Our county courthouses hold a wealth of records that seem to us funny, silly, or just too bureaucratic for words. But they also contain information about our ancestors – tax records, voter lists, dog licenses, and even wolf bounties – that can help paint a picture of their lives. Sign up now. This class should be helpful for all beginning and intermediate genealogists. Please call 314-539-0385 or e-mail ksmith@slpl.org for registration or further information.

All classes are *FREE* and *open to the public*. Limited free parking is available.



... And Some Venerated Ancestors

continued from page six

These are just a few of the genealogy materials in our collection. In addition, we have a variety of 19th-century county and town histories, a full set of census, several early census substitutes or tax lists, a full set of New York City directories from the 1600s to 1934, additional city directories for Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island, and much more.

Websites!

Harlem, 1900-1940: An African-American Community
www.si.umich.edu/CHICO/Harlem/

Harlem: A History in Pictures
www.newyorkmetro.com/metrotv/02/blackhistory_photos/

The Harlem Renaissance
www.usc.edu/isd/archives/ethnicstudies/harlem.html

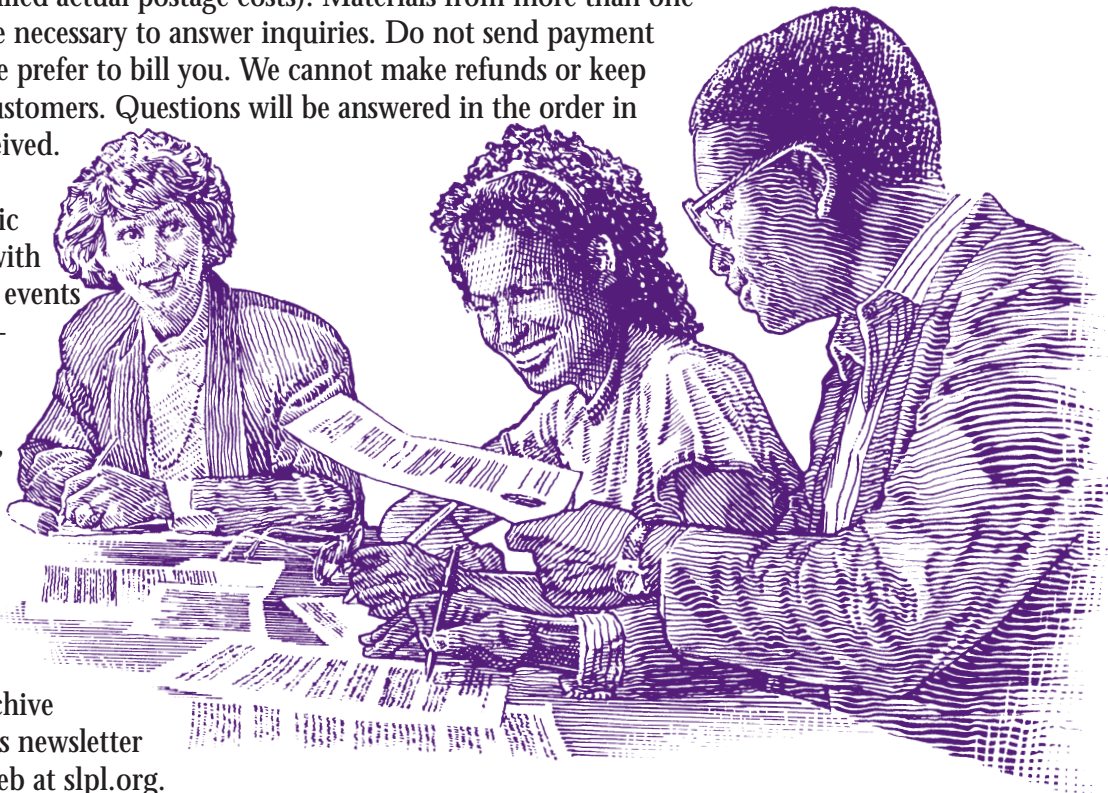
The Harlem Renaissance: A Bibliography
www.georgetown.edu/tamlit/collab_bib/harlem_bib.html



Contact!!

The staff of our History & Genealogy Department can do limited genealogical research for persons making inquiries. Please be specific about who and what you are looking for. We will search our collection and make copies of any materials that answer your questions. We charge \$.25/page for microfilm copies and \$.15/page for photocopies. There is a postage and handling charge of \$1.00 per inquiry per Library department (non-I.S. requests are billed actual postage costs). Materials from more than one department may be necessary to answer inquiries. Do not send payment with your order; we prefer to bill you. We cannot make refunds or keep accounts for our customers. Questions will be answered in the order in which they are received.

The St. Louis Public Library's website, with our online catalog, events calendar, special indexes for St. Louis historical and biographical materials, an index of selected *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper obituaries, death notices, and burial permits, and an archive of past issues of this newsletter is located on the web at spl.org.



Co-Editors: Kathleen Smith & Thomas Pearson

A co-publication of the History & Genealogy and Special Collections Departments

St. Louis Public Library • 1301 Olive Street • St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2325

314.539.0385 or 314.539.0386 • Fax: 314.539.0393 • Website: spl.org

E-mail: webref@spl.org

The Place to Go to
KNOW BETTER



The Place to Go to
KNOW BETTER



1301 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2325