



# Gateway Family Historian

A PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY



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**W**elcome to the twenty-fourth issue of **Gateway Family Historian**. This issue's focus is a country that furnished many immigrants to Missouri—Scotland.

NOTE: We welcome your suggestions for topics for future issues. Topics can be states, countries, or research specialties such as census or death records. Just e-mail [tpearson@slpl.org](mailto:tpearson@slpl.org). Thanks!

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## OUR TOWN—

# Events at the St. Louis Public Library

The St. Louis Public Library Events Calendar ([www.slpl.org/events/calendar.asp](http://www.slpl.org/events/calendar.asp)) can provide you with an up-to-the-minute listing of what's happening at the Library!

Metered parking around Central Library is free on Saturdays, and the Scottrade Center MetroLink stop is only four blocks away. Other free parking is available on weekdays to Library users: call or e-mail us for details. Registration for our programs is highly recommended but not required. Please call 539-0381, or e-mail [tpearson@slpl.org](mailto:tpearson@slpl.org) to register or for further information.

# We Could Use Your Help...

The St. Louis Public Library loves being able to help so many genealogists. We are sometimes asked if there is anything patrons can do to help us. If you would like to support the Library, you might consider donating a copy of your printed family history book to us. We will gladly add it to our permanent collection. You might also want to make a Tribute donation through the St. Louis Public Library Foundation. A Tribute allows you to donate tax-deductible funds for the purchase of books or materials that will be added to the genealogy collection. You can honor a family you are researching, or an individual of your choice, with a bookplate that is added to each Tribute item. This program benefits the Library and your fellow genealogists. If you would like to consider making a Tribute gift, visit the Foundation's website at [www.slplfoundation.org](http://www.slplfoundation.org). Thanks to all of our readers for your support of the Library!



# Venerated Ancestors



Here are just a few of the items in the St. Louis Public Library's collection that can assist you in researching your Scottish ancestors:

1. Adam, Frank. **Clans, Septs, & Regiments of the Scottish Highlands.** Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1970. H/G 941

An authoritative work on the history of the clan system and the individual clans and septs of Scotland, this book also includes information on Highland garb and tartans, listings of Highland surnames and titles, coats-of-arms of clan chiefs, badges of clans and families, clan pipe music, as well as slogans/war cries of the Highland clans. There are also histories of individual Highland regiments. Also included are color examples of clan and regimental tartans listed alphabetically by name.

2. Black, George Fraser. **The Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning, and History.** 2 vols. New York: The New York Public Library, 1943-1946. H/G 929.4

This book is a compilation of articles that originally appeared in the New York Public Library "Bulletin," but in this edition take the format of a name dictionary. Several thousand Scottish

surnames are included, for each of which the derivation, meaning, alternate spellings, geographic area in which the name was most prevalent, and its first documented usage are given. It is an excellent starting point for genealogists researching a Scottish ancestor for whom they only have a surname.

3. **Burke's Peerage, Baronetage, & Knightage, Clan Chiefs, Scottish Feudal Barons.** 107th ed. 3 vols. Wilmington, DE: Burke's Peerage and Gentry LLC, 2003. H/G 929.7

Contains the genealogies of the titled families of Scotland along with their coats-of-arms. Earlier editions of the *Burke's Peerage* sets are also available in the Library's stacks.

4. Cory, Kathleen B. **Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry.** 3rd ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2004. H/G 929.1

This is an informative how-to book on conducting research in Scotland and on the Internet. The author explains where records are found and how they are arranged. Addresses of libraries, archives, and records centers are also given along with website and e-mail addresses. A chapter on how to find present-day relatives in Scotland is also included plus a listing of church parishes and the earliest date for which records can be found.

5. Johnston, William H. **Tartans: Abbotsford to Fraser; Frederickton to MacNeil; and MacNichol to Yukon.** 3 vols. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Pub., 1999. FINE ARTS 929.209411

Three volumes of large, beautiful color plates covering a wide array of tartans. Clan tartans in all of their hunting and dress varieties are included. District tartans are also illustrated. The color reproductions in this set are probably the best to be found in any of the Library's many tartan books.

6. Lewis, Samuel. **Topographical Dictionary of Scotland, Comprising the Several Counties, Islands, Cities, Burgh and Market Towns, Parishes, and Principal Villages.** 2 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1989. H/G 914.1

An alphabetical listing of place names in Scotland. Each entry gives the origin, history, and location for each name. The Library also has an older 1849 edition in the stacks containing a third volume with maps of each county.

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**Venerated Ancestors**  
continued from page 2

7. Moncrieffe of that Ilk, Sir Iain, and Don Pottinger. **Scotland of Old.** Edinburgh: John Bartholomew & Son, Ltd., 1960. H/G Heraldry Stand

A color-coded map of Scotland indicating where various clans held sway. One hundred seventy four coats-of-arms and crests for the

clan chiefs are also displayed in color around the perimeter of the map.

8. Smith, Philip D. **Tartan For Me! Suggested Tartans for Scottish, Scotch-Irish, Irish, and North American Surnames With Lists of Clan, Family, and District Tartans.** 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc. H/G 929.609411

A very useful book for learning which tartans to use for names other

than those of the major clans. An alphabetical list by surname gives the suggested clan, family, or district tartan to select for each name. Approximately 22,000 names and spelling variations are listed in this edition including some 3,200 Irish and 500 Cornish surnames. 

## Did You Know? } Inheriting Land and Buildings in Scotland

The National Archives of Scotland provides a very helpful introduction to inheritance of Scottish land and buildings. Until 2004 (yes, 2004), the feudal system held sway in Scotland. Under that system, all land belonged to the Crown, with the Crown passing ownership of certain lands down to vassals (also known as “subject superiors” or “Crown tenants”). The vassal in turn owed military service (in modern times an annual monetary payment) to the Crown.

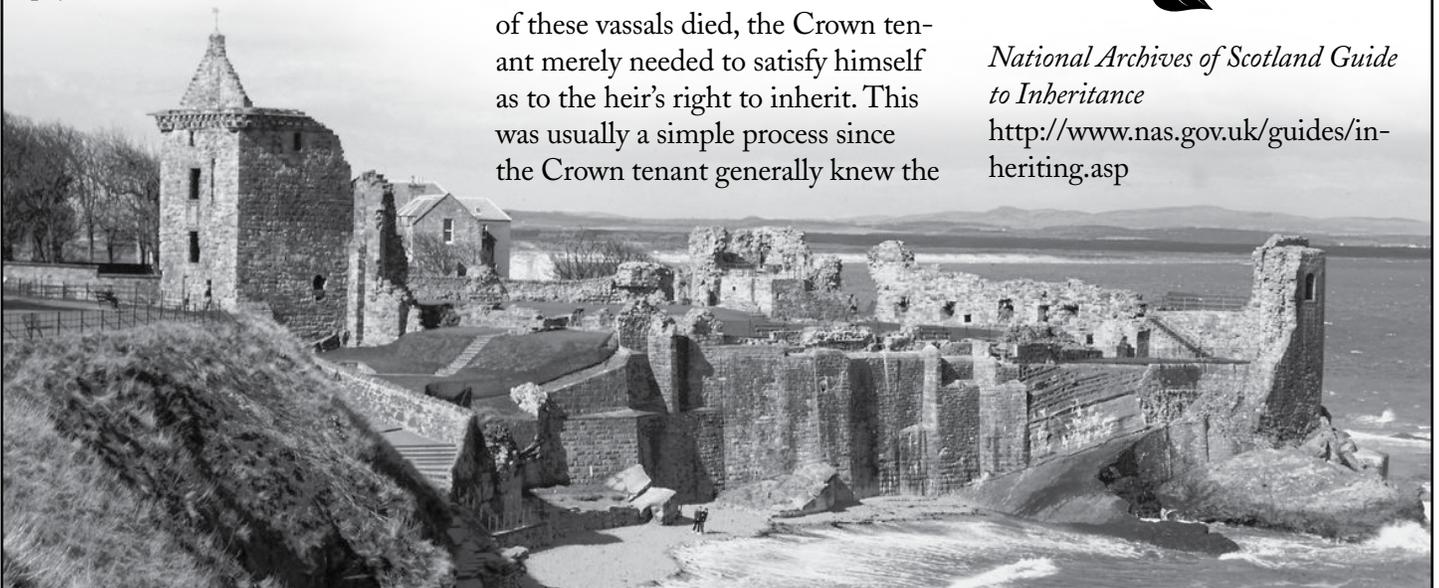
When a Crown tenant died, his heir had to prove his right to inherit before a jury of local landowners. The jury proceedings were written up (a “retour”) for the Royal Chancery. The Royal Chancery then would generally recognize the validity of that claim (“serve him as heir”), although it was not bound to do so. All retours are recorded in the Royal Chancery.

A Crown tenant in turn could cede land to vassals of his own. When one of these vassals died, the Crown tenant merely needed to satisfy himself as to the heir’s right to inherit. This was usually a simple process since the Crown tenant generally knew the

heir personally. The Crown tenant then recognized the heir by issuing a precept of clare constat. There is no central register of precepts of clare constat, but they do often turn up in collections of family papers at the National Archives of Scotland. Beginning in 1868, Scots were allowed to pass on heritable property such as land and buildings in wills, and the feudal procedures gradually fell into disuse although the feudal system was not officially abolished until 2004. 

*National Archives of Scotland Guide to Inheritance*

<http://www.nas.gov.uk/guides/inheriting.asp>



# Site Seeing



## Cyndi's List-Scotland

<http://www.cyndislist.com/scotland.htm>

We shouldn't need to tell you that a good first stop when researching your Scottish ancestors is *Cyndi's List*. The website includes an extensive Categories List plus a list of Related Categories, all of which may prove useful to the person researching Scottish ancestors. Categories include How-To; Libraries, Archives and Museums; Maps, Gazetteers, and Geographical Information; Mailing Lists, News Groups, and Chat; and Military (to name just a few). Jump start your Scottish genie research with a trip to *Cyndi's List!*

## BBC— Scottish Roots: Searching for Your Family History in Scotland

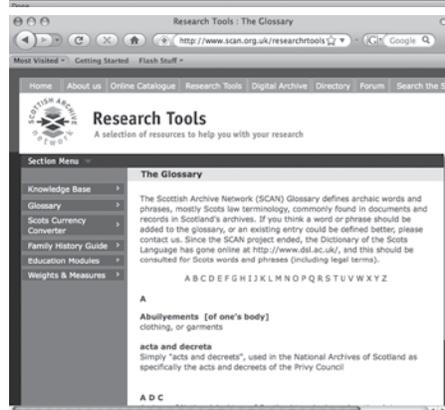
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/history/scottishroots/>

The BBC's guide to Scottish roots research is a great location for anyone new to Scottish ancestor research.

## Genuki— Scotland

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/>

It's links, links, and more links—all of them dealing with Scottish history and/or genealogy!



## General Register Office for Scotland

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/index.html>

They abbreviate it as GROS, but there's a whole lot to like about the website of this very important Scottish records office.

## ScotlandsPeople—The Official Government Source of Genealogical Data for Scotland

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Their free surname search (it will cost you to actually view an image of the record in question, however) provides access to nearly 50 million records!

## Scottish Archive Network

<http://www.scan.org.uk/>

Includes research tips, a directory of participating archives (with virtual tours of some of them), and a catalog covering records in all 52 participating archives!

## Scottish Archive Network—Scottish Language Glossary

<http://www.scan.org.uk/researchrtools/glossary.htm>

Yes, they speak English (sort of), but you'll find this glossary to be VERY helpful!



# ETHNIC SPOTLIGHT—Tartans

**Tartan** is a pattern consisting of criss-crossed horizontal and vertical bands in multiple colors. Tartans were originally created exclusively in woven cloth, but are now often displayed on other materials. Tartans are particularly associated with Scotland, and kilts almost always have tartan patterns—although tartan-like cloths have also been discovered in Central Europe, Scandinavia, and China. Tartan is commonly referred to as “plaid” in North America, but in Scotland “plaid” refers to either a tartan cloth slung over the shoulder or to a blanket.

A tartan is made with alternating bands of pre-dyed threads woven at right angles to one other. The alternating bands form visible diagonal lines where different colors cross, giving the appearance of new colors blended from the original ones. The resulting blocks of color repeat vertically and horizontally in a distinctive pattern of squares and lines known as a sett.

Until the early nineteenth century, tartans were associated with regions or districts, not specific clans. Designs were produced by local weavers, and the patterns produced were simply different regional checked-cloth patterns. Clan members in battle situations identified friend and foe by the color of the ribbon in their bonnets, not the design of their tartans. It was only in the early- to mid-1800s that

specific tartans began to be associated with specific Scottish clans.

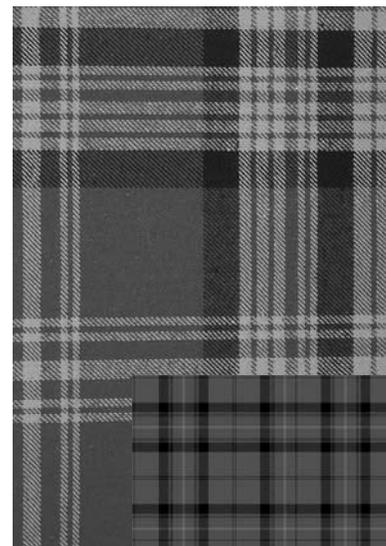
Colors in a tartan originally had no symbolic meaning—the colors used mainly reflected the types of natural dyes available to weavers in a given region. Natural dyes generally produced somewhat muted colors—chemical dyes that came into widespread use in the late 19th century produced colors much brighter or darker than those seen previously.

Currently, two Scottish charitable organizations register tartan designs for a fee. Each has a database containing more than 3,000 tartan designs. There recently has been a push to create a central tartans register to be sponsored by the government of Scotland.

*References:* Tartan Designer: <http://www.tartandesigner.com/designer.php>

“Tartans.”

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tartan>



# They Came From . . . *Scotland!!*

**1296**—King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned.

**1297**—Battle of Stirling Bridge in which William Wallace (portrayed by Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*) defeats Edward I.

**1304**—Stirling Castle captured by Edward I.

**1305**—William Wallace handed over to the English and executed.

**1306**—King Robert I (“The Bruce”) crowned at Scone.

**1314**—Robert the Bruce defeats Edward II at Battle of Bannockburn.

**1328**—Treaty of Edinburgh between King Robert I and Edward III, which recognized Scotland’s independence, ends the 30-year Wars of Independence.

**1329**—Robert the Bruce dies.

**1542**—Mary, Queen of Scots, born at Linlithgow Palace.

**1543**—Mary, Queen of Scots, crowned at Stirling Castle.

**1560**—Latin Mass prohibited in Scotland by Parliament as Protestant faith gains the ascendancy.

**1566**—Mary, Queen of Scots, gives birth to the future King James VI of Scotland and I of England.

**1567**—King James VI (aged 13 months) crowned following the abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots, five days earlier.

**1568**—Mary, Queen of Scots, sails to exile in England.

**1576**—First Bible (New Testament) printed in Scotland.

**1582**—University of Edinburgh founded.

**1587**—Mary, Queen of Scots, beheaded at Fotheringay Castle.

**1592**—Act of the Scottish Parliament creates the best-regulated system of armorial bearings in Europe.

**1600**—First January 1 celebration of New Year in Scotland (March 25 in prior years).

**1603**—Union of the Crowns of England and Scotland on the death of Queen Elizabeth I and succession of King James VI of Scotland.

**1606**—Union flag adopted as the flag of England, Wales, and Scotland.

**1617**—Articles of religion, introducing

Anglican principles into Scottish worship, endorsed by Scottish parliament.

**1633**—Coronation of King Charles I at Holyrood.

**1637**—A new *Scottish Prayer Book* creates social unrest and disorder.

**1639**—Charles I forced to withdraw from Scotland and recognize an independent Scottish Parliament.

**1646**—King Charles I surrenders to Lord Leven and later passed to Parliamentary forces.

**1647**—King Charles I, imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle, reaches an agreement with the Scots who offer military aid in exchange for a promise to establish Presbyterianism in England (but only for three years).

**1648**—Battle of Preston in which Duke of Hamilton, at the head of an army of 20,000, crosses into England in support of Charles I. Scots defeated by Oliver Cromwell with 2,000 killed, 8,000 captured, and Hamilton surrendering on August 25 (and beheaded in March 1649).

**1649**—King Charles I executed at Whitehall.

**1649**—Charles II proclaimed king in Edinburgh—but not in England.

**1650**—Cromwell defeats Scots at Battle of Dunbar; Edinburgh castle surrendered to Cromwell.

**1651**—Charles II crowned King of Scots at Scone, the last coronation on Scottish soil.

**1652**—Scottish Regalia (crown, scepter, and sword) saved from invading army of Cromwell by James Granger, who smuggles them out of Dunnottar Castle (which was under siege).

**1652**—Great Fire of Glasgow destroys nearly one-third of the city.

**1653**—Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

**1661**—Many Scottish historical records lost when the ship *Elizabeth of Burntisland* sinks off the English coast. The records had been taken to London by Cromwell and were being returned to Edinburgh.

**1678**—First Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service begins from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh.

**1690**—The Scots Parliament ratifies the establishment of a Presbyterian religious system, rejecting Episcopacy.

**1693**—Hackney cabs (horse-drawn taxis) authorized for the first time in Glasgow.

**1695**—The Scottish Parliament establishes a General Post Office.

**1695**—Bank of Scotland founded by an Act of the Scottish Parliament.

**1707**—Act of Union of English and Scottish parliaments proclaimed. Last meeting of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh until 1999.

**1715**—*The Glasgow Courant*, city’s first newspaper, appears for first time.

**1725**—The Black Watch regiment commissioned under General Wade to police the Highlands.

**1725**—Malt Riots (Glasgow) against higher taxes on Scottish malt.

**1747**—Proscription Act introduced, banning wearing of tartan and carrying of weapons.

**1771**—Novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott born.

**1780**—Society of Antiquaries founded.

**1782**—Proscription Act repealed, thus allowing again the wearing of tartan and the carrying of weapons.

**1783**—*Glasgow Herald* newspaper first published. It is the longest continuously published daily newspaper in Britain.

**1786**—*Kilmarnock Edition* of the poems of Robert Burns’ *Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* first published.

**1788**—Charles Edward Stewart, “Bonnie Prince Charlie” dies.

**1796**—Robert Burns dies in Dumfries.

**1817**—First edition of the Edinburgh-based *Scotsman* newspaper published by its founders Charles MacLaren, William Ritchie, and John MacDiarmid.

**1818**—Honours of Scotland put on display in Edinburgh Castle after being rediscovered by Sir Walter Scott.

**1824**—Edinburgh’s Great Fire destroys the High Street, Parliament Square, and the Tron Kirk.

**1831**—Scotland’s first passenger railway opens (between Glasgow and Garnkirk); major outbreak of cholera in Scotland.

**1832**—Novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott dies at age 61.

**1834**—First shipment of tea direct from India arrived in Glasgow.

**1835**—Steel tycoon and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie born in Dunfermline.

**1838**—The 703-ton *Sirius*, built in Leith and carrying 90 passengers, reaches New York, the first ship to cross the Atlantic entirely under steam.

continued on next page

# Help!!

**Help!!** 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: Help! Who (or What) was Greyfriars Bobby?

Greyfriars Bobby was a Skye Terrier that became well-known in Edinburgh, Scotland, during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Bobby belonged to John Gray, who worked for the Edinburgh City Police as a night watchman. The pair were inseparable for two years, at which time (February 15, 1858) Gray died of tuberculosis. He was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard, the graveyard that surrounded Greyfriars Kirk in the Old Town of Edinburgh (Greyfriars refers to monks of the Franciscan order).



Bobby survived Gray by fourteen years. He is said to have spent most of that time maintaining a lonely vigil on his master's grave. It appears that Bobby abandoned his vigil long enough each day to take a meal at a restaurant beside the graveyard (where his master had often taken his meals), and most likely was sheltered on bitterly cold winter days and nights in nearby houses. But there can be no doubt that Bobby was amazingly loyal to his deceased master.

In 1867, a law was passed mandating that ownerless dogs must either be licensed or destroyed. By then, however, Greyfriars Bobby was already a local celebrity. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir William Chambers (who was a director of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), himself paid for a renewal of Bobby's licence, thereby making the ownerless dog the responsibility of the Edinburgh city council.

Bobby died on January 14, 1872. He could not be buried in the consecrated ground of the cemetery itself, so he was buried just inside the gate of Greyfriars Kirkyard, not far from the grave of his master, John Gray. Bobby's headstone reads as follows: "Greyfriars Bobby--died 14<sup>th</sup> January 1872--aged 16 years-

-Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all." In 1873, a Scottish philanthropist paid for the erection of a fountain above which sits a statue of Bobby, the little dog who never left his master's side. Several books and movies tell the story of Greyfriars Bobby including a 1961 Walt Disney live-action film.

*References:* Greyfriars Bobby: <http://www.greyfriarsbobby.co.uk/>

Greyfriars Bobby: [http://www.findoutaboutdogs.com/Greyfriars\\_Bobby.html](http://www.findoutaboutdogs.com/Greyfriars_Bobby.html)

Greyfriars Bobby: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyfriars\\_Bobby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyfriars_Bobby) 

## They Came From... Scotland!! continued from page 6

**1840**—Foundation stone for monument to Sir Walter Scott laid in Princes Street Gardens.

**1842**—Intercity railway between Glasgow and Edinburgh opened by Queen Victoria.

**1843**—Break up of Church of Scotland and formation of Free Church of Scotland.

**1847**—Alexander Graham Bell born in Edinburgh.

**1847**—Final run of the Edinburgh to London mail coach (trains had taken over).

**1850**—Novelist and poet Robert Louis Stevenson born in Edinburgh.

**1854**—The Great North of Scotland Railway opened, running from Aberdeen to Huntly.

**1855**—David Livingstone reaches Victoria Falls in Africa.

**1859**—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, born of Irish parents in Edinburgh.

**1861**—"One o'clock gun" fired for first time from Edinburgh Castle.

**1868**—Last public hanging in Scotland--that of Joseph Bell at Perth.

**1868**—Scottish Reform Act passed, giving vote to all male householders.

**1871**—Journalist Henry M. Stanley found the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone.

**1872**—Introduction of voting by secret ballot.

**1872**—Education (Scotland) Act passed, providing elementary education for all children.

**1876**—Alexander Graham Bell applies for patent for telephone. Two hours later his rival, Elisha Gray, applies for a similar patent. Bell's was granted (Patent 174461).

**1876**—Alexander Graham Bell demonstrates his telephone to Queen Victoria, who makes the first call in the British Isles from her residence on the Isle of Wight.

**1886**—Crofters' Holding Act passed providing limited security of tenure.

**1887**—Wallace statue unveiled at the Wallace National Monument at Stirling.

**1894**—Death duties introduced for first time in Britain.

**1895**—The east coast express train from London to Aberdeen sets record time of 10 hours and 21 minutes for 540-mile trip.

**1899**—Experiment using electricity to drive Glasgow's tram cars is successful, sounding the end for the 3,000 horses used by the city on its 150 miles of track.



# Gateway Family Historian

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



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## 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-U.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 (however transmitted to us) 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 at [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org).

