

## **Book Review**

*By Rosemarie Coyle, Library Chairperson*

### **NGS Research in the States Series; Research in Missouri**

By Ann Carter Fleming, Third Edition, Published 2015 by the National Genealogical Society, Arlington, Virginia, GEN 977.8 FLE

“Native Americans...occupied Missouri until the early 1800s.” The Osage, Shawnee, Delaware, Fox, Sauk, Cherokee and other tribal groups were required to forfeit or were forced to move further west into Kansas and “Indian Territory (Oklahoma)” in the early 1800s, “thereby ending indigenous control over lands within the present state.”

In 1682 the area was “claimed for France by the explorer Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle.” “Spanish administration, which began in 1769, continued until after the Louisiana Purchase of December 1803.”

The author provided the migration and settlement patterns of those early settlers in detail with reference materials to support her information. In 1821 Missouri was admitted as a slave state, with the restriction of prohibiting slavery in lands “North of 36 degrees 30 minutes.”

### **Archives, Libraries and Societies**

Missouri State Archives; <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives> “Is the main repository for original, historical records from Spanish and French rule through the modern era. Its public facility holds many census, colonial land grants, federal land-sale records, judicial files, military documents, and state penitentiary logs.” Circuit Court records are found in the branch archives in St. Louis. Missouri State Archives staff does limited research for patrons who are unable to visit in person at no cost. Patrons may request information via telephone, e-mail, online request form, or postal mail.

**The State Historical Society of Missouri has six research facilities located across the state. <https://shsmo.org/>**

“Strengths of the collections include extensive atlases, card-file subject and surname indexes, city directories, ethnic resources, plat maps of most counties...The reference library maintains a significant collection of Missouri maps and county histories and numerous college bulletins, catalogs, and yearbooks.” “This facility houses the state DAR collection.” Newspapers, US and state censuses and military records are available in the society’s microfilm room.

- State Historical Society-Columbia <https://shsmo.org/> Among its holdings are “the WPA Historical Records Survey for all of Missouri is available on microfilm-including early 1940s-era inventories of county records and transcripts of county-court records, as well as slave narratives from the WPA Writers’ Project. Columbia also actively collects materials for its Boone County Black Archives and its German Heritage Archives.”
- State Historical Society-Cape Girardeau <https://shsmo.org/visit/cape-girardeau> “Focuses on the Southeast region of the state including those along the Mississippi River.”
- State Historical Society-Kansas City <https://shsmo.org/visit/kansas-city> Houses “unique materials related to the history and culture of the Kansas City metropolitan area, western Missouri and the Midwest. Highlights of their collection include more than 17,000 sets of architectural drawings spanning the late 1890s through the 1980s...The Jewish Community Archives... and The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Records.”
- State Historical Society-Rolla <https://shsmo.org/visit/rolla> Focuses on the history of southern Missouri and the Ozark Highlands. Major collections include those related to the railroad, minerals,

and smelting companies.

- State Historical Society-Springfield <https://shsmo.org/visit/springfield> Their collections focus on the history of the southwestern region of Missouri. Holdings on the Ozarks, Missourians in the American Civil War and Route 66 are noted.
- State Historical Society-St. Louis <https://shsmo.org/visit/saint-louis> Focuses on the history of the city and its surrounding area. Houses “a strong twentieth-century African -American history collection, including records of an early savings and loan company, area churches and cemeteries. An ongoing oral-history program records family accounts of ancestral migrants and immigrants. An extensive video, film and audio archives which includes the history and the construction of Gateway Arch.

Research Services are available at cost for out-of-area clients. Interlibrary loan service is available. Online research guides are available. This appears to be a very active archive which has ongoing virtual programs <https://shsmo.org/events>, On Demand Programs and even an upcoming two-day conference with more than 91 presenters on March 15 and 16 and costing \$65.00. See programs under upcoming webinars.

### **The Missouri Digital Heritage <https://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/browse?id=9>**

Contains “more than 9 million records that can be accessed through this site which includes. Collections of the Missouri State Archives, The Missouri State Library, and other institutions from across the state.

### **The National Archives (NARA)**

- The National Archives at Kansas City <https://www.archives.gov/kansas-city> “holds many federal files of historical value including bankruptcy, census, court, immigration, military, and naturalizations records.” According to their website the most requested information is related to Alien Case Files (A-Files) and Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary Inmate Case Files.
- The National Archives at St. Louis <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis> “Maintains civilian and military records, including personnel and medical files for federally employed civilians... The civilian holdings include WPA and CCC personnel records.” “The facility maintains twentieth-century medical records of discharged or deceased veterans of all services. A 1973 fire destroyed sixteen to eighteen million inactive Army and Air Force military-personnel files...Records from other service branches remain intact.”

On their website they write that they hold permanent records that include Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs), Official Personnel Folders (OPF), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Enrollee Records, Selective Service Records, Deceased Veteran’s Claim Files, Individual Deceased Personnel Files, and Persons of Exceptional Prominence. It has been my experience that some of the records can be found online.

I have only mentioned a few of the many resources reviewed in this small but extensively researched book by author Ann Carter Fleming. We are fortunate to have this book among our holding at the Citrus County Public Library where it will be on our shelves after in-processing.