

Local History & Genealogy Collection Guide

The Local History & Genealogy (LHG) division is located on the third floor of Main Library at 96 S. Grant Ave. LHG is currently open by [appointment only](#). The Local History & Genealogy Collection consists of over 85,000 books and microfilm that support Central Ohio residents with their genealogical and historical research. The collection genealogy and local history, although these are often arbitrary distinctions and customers should review both collections when doing research.

Genealogy Collection

Much of the genealogy collection was acquired in 2007 from the State Library of Ohio and grew with the acquisition of the Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society library and the special collections listed below. Although the genealogy collection covers much of the world, it is primarily focused on Ohio genealogy, including immigration to and from Ohio. Geographic regions from which there is an extensive migration of people to Ohio, including Europe, the original 13 colonies and more recent immigration patterns are well represented. Material pertaining to regions where Ohioans migrated to, such as the western states, is also part of the collection.

The genealogy collection is arranged by Dewey Decimal System order. Collection materials are arranged by state, then alphabetically by county within each state section. The extensive collection contains both microfilm and printed materials and includes vital records, probate and will records, land records, cemetery records, naturalization and immigration records, military records, county histories, atlases and maps as well as handbooks on how to do genealogy research. More than 7,000 published family histories are a highlight of the collection. Researchers often use the self-serve collection of Franklin County city directories. Three special collections are represented within the genealogy collection:

Huguenot Collection

The Huguenot collection is one of the largest Anglo-American Huguenot collections in the country with nearly 400 titles. Huguenots were French Protestants exiled from France in 1685 when King Louis XIV issued the Edict of Fontainebleau which made Protestantism illegal. Many fled to Great Britain and Ireland, and later America. Most Huguenots were middle class and were skilled workers and merchants, so as religious refugees they were welcomed in the places where they chose to settle. Those Huguenots who immigrated to America settled mostly in what is now New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and South Carolina. The Columbus Metropolitan Library's collection of materials consists mostly of church and naturalization records going back to the 16th century in *Publications of the Huguenot Society of London* and Huguenot family histories.

Joy Wade Moulton Collection

The Joy Wade Moulton Collection was given to Local History & Genealogy by the State Library of Ohio in 2005. Moulton was a professional genealogist who wrote a column on genealogy for the *Columbus Dispatch* for over 30 years. The collection covers England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales with items including directories, public records and periodicals. Some highlights of the collection are the *Statistical Account of Scotland*, *Griffiths Valuation*, *The Famine Immigrants*, *The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland*, *The Complete Book of Immigrants*, *Directory of Scottish Settlers in America* and *Emigration from the United Kingdom to America*.

Palatines to America collection

The Palatines to America society was founded in Columbus, Ohio on July 12, 1975. The purpose of Palatines to America is "to promote the study of Germanic immigration to North America, to publish information of general interest, and to provide a means for members to exchange information and share research."

The Palatines to America collection at the Columbus Metropolitan Library was donated by the PalAm Society in 2008 and consists of over 5000 reference works of history, general and ethnic genealogy, immigration/emigration, geography, travel and foreign language topics (US and European publishers), as well as over 300 serial titles. There is also a collection of approximately 400 [German farm histories](#) (hofgeschichten) compiled from original documents about farms and families in the Bersenbrück district (Osnabrück area), Hannover (now Niedersachsen) Germany. Included is genealogical information about the families who oftentimes took on the name of the farm as their surname. In some cases there are photographs of people and buildings, many of which were taken during the 1960's.

Local History Collection

The local history collection focuses on materials relating to the history of Central Ohio and, to a lesser extent, materials about the state of Ohio. Materials representing the people, places and events of Central Ohio are the focus of this collection. It includes published histories, annual reports, documents, letters or organizational records, school yearbooks, city and county directories, ephemera, born-digital files, microfilm, neighborhood and city plans, government records and audiovisual materials (including photographs, negatives, slides, audio and video recordings).

Materials relating to Columbus are collected broadly for this collection. Materials relating to the state of Ohio are also collected, particularly as they provide context for Central Ohio people, places and events.

Special collections in Local History include:

- Department of Development. CML serves as the repository for certain historical materials from the City of Columbus Department of Development, according to the State Archives of Ohio.
- Ohio Depository Library. Publications from Ohio state government are received as part of the Ohio Depository Library program administered by the State Library of Ohio. These items are kept for a minimum of five years. CML does not participate in the Federal Depository Library Program.
- Ohio Biography Collection. The library maintains a collection of biographical materials relating to significant Ohioans. Subjects should have spent a significant portion of their lives or had a formative experience in Ohio to be included in the collection.

Questions? Contact us at history@columbuslibrary.org or book a [Reserve an Expert](#) for a virtual meeting with a librarian.