



## News & Events by Libby Feil

Thirty-five of you came to our recent program “Where Our Grandparents Walked: Finding Our Ancestral Homelands.” This joint SJCPL-South Bend Area Genealogical Society (SBAGS) event attracted many enthusiasts, all of whom seemed to enjoy the speakers, Sara Allen and Carol Collins. Not to mention the donuts. Next year maybe we’ll finally get the coffee right too! If you were unable to attend, be sure to check out [our website](#) next week. We’re planning to post some of the handouts online. (You’ll find them on our “Programs and exhibits” page after May 13.)

We have some sad news too. Actually, it’s sad for us, but great for the person involved. John Kovach, a longtime Local & Family History professional, will soon become the full-time archivist at Saint Mary’s College here in the South Bend area. He has been their part-time archivist while he has been our part-time historian and genealogist, so now he gets to work one single full-time job and spend more time with his family. We wish him luck but really hate to see him go! If you have stories about how John has helped you with your historical or genealogical quests, please [e-mail me](#) to share them. I’ll collect them and pass them along to John.

The summer genealogy travel season is almost upon us. We welcome people from all over the world to our room every year. If you are planning a trip here, please feel free to call us in advance to find out what resources we have and what other agencies you might need to visit to carry out your research. We can tell you what you will find here, give you contact information for all the other historical and genealogical institutions in our area, and even suggest places near the Library where you can grab a bite to eat!

## New England Ancestors? by Sara Allen

Does SJCPL’s Local & Family History Services collect genealogical materials from outside of Indiana? Yes, we do! New England books, in fact, constitute one of our richest collections. The credit for the breadth and depth of this collection goes to past librarians and also to SBAGS and the Schuyler Colfax Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their generous donations to this area of our collection. We continue to purchase materials on this topic, so if you have New England roots, come in and check out these new arrivals: *New England Vital Records from the Exeter [New Hampshire] News-letter, [1831-1840]*, by Scott Lee Chipman; *Vermont Religious Certificates* and *Vermont Warnings Out*, both by Alden M. Rollins; and *Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the New England Historic Genealogical Society*, by Timothy Salls.

Did you have recent relatives in Boston? Or distant ancestors in small-town Massachusetts? Or other connections to spots all over New England? Many New England genealogical records, including Massachusetts vital records from 1841 to 1910, are available online at any SJCPL location. Visit [our department’s website](#), click on “Digital collections and databases,” and choose *New England Ancestors* from the list of databases. If you would like a tutorial on how to more effectively use this or any of our databases, contact us to make a free one-on-one appointment with a librarian.