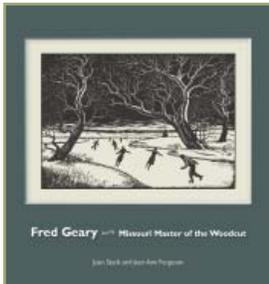


# MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

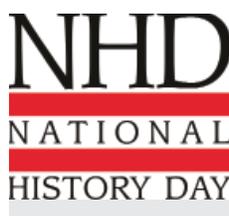
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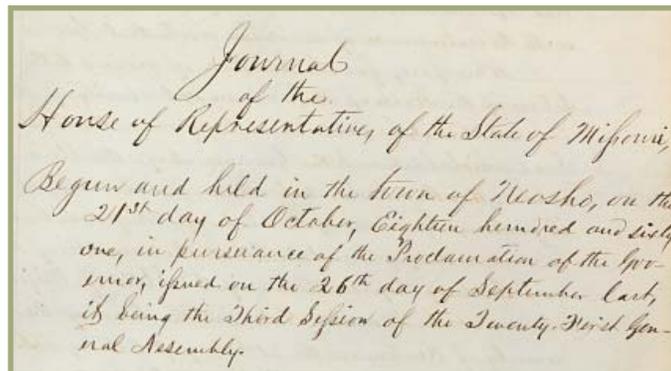
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## Hiding in plain view: The recently discovered House Journal of Missouri's "Rebel Legislature"

by James Denny, Independent Scholar, and  
John Bradbury, Assistant Director, SHSMO Research Center-Rolla



Journal  
of the  
House of Representatives of  
the State of Missouri,  
Begun and held in the town  
of Neosho, on the 21st day of  
October, Eighteen hundred and  
sixty-one, in pursuance of the  
Proclamation of the Governor,  
issued on the 26th day of  
September last, it being the  
Third Session of the Twenty-  
First General Assembly.

Gov. Claiborne Jackson called for a special session of the Twenty-first General Assembly to convene at Neosho on October 21, 1861. By this date, however, Jackson's government and military force, the Missouri State Guard, were at war with the Federal government and a provisional Unionist state government that had declared vacant all elected offices, including the executive branch and the General Assembly that was about to gather.

So it was as fugitives slipping through enemy lines that legislators gathered, first at Neosho and then at Cassville, and convened under the protection of Gen. Sterling Price and the Missouri State Guard. Missouri's "Rebel Legislature," as the assembly was later known, met from October 28 through November 7 and took the necessary steps to withdraw from the United States and forge an alliance with the Confederacy. At Neosho, in a one-day session, they passed an ordinance of secession and then voted to adopt the provisional constitution of the Confederate States of America. Moving to Cassville, legislators reorganized the State Guard, selected representatives to the Confederate Congress, and attended to other business. In response, the Confederate Congress admitted Missouri as the twelfth Confederate state on November 28, 1861.

To date, all scholarship on the day-to-day activities of the "Rebel Legislature" has been based solely on the journal of the Senate, which was captured in Alabama by the Forty-ninth Missouri Volunteers and published by the Missouri House in 1865-66. The "lost" journal of the House had long been thought to have vanished but has recently been "discovered" by *Columbia Daily Tribune* reporter Rudi Keller while researching for his daily column on the Civil War, "150 Years Ago": it was hiding all along in the collections of the State Historical Society of Missouri. How and when it came to the SHSMO collections are mysteries. No accession number had ever been assigned to the journal, but it has been in the collection for some time and is included in the Society's electronic subject guides and inventories.

The fifty-five-page handwritten House journal has an accompanying typescript that appears to have been made decades ago. Like the Senate journal, the House version contains no roll call of the members present, leaving unanswered the enduring question of whether a legal quorum existed to validate the business conducted by both bodies. There is, however, still much for scholars to analyze, including the names of thirty-one representatives present at the assembly. Previously, only four were known by mention in the Senate's journal. The additional names and the minutes of the deliberations in the House add an important missing dimension that will enrich future studies of this momentous period of Missouri's history.

**New Civil War in Missouri website**



Spanning the Border War through the adoption of Missouri's third constitution (1854-1875), the site features over 120,000 newspaper pages and 10,000 manuscript pages, keyword-searchable and freely available to the public. Users can also explore Civil War era books and images, investigate events and materials by region, and scroll through history with the interactive timeline. Funded in part by the Missouri State Library through the Library Services and Technology Act and by the National Endowment for the Humanities and Library of Congress, the American Civil War in Missouri website provides a central, accessible location for multi-media materials and will assist patrons, researchers, and students in their work.

**Contact the Society**

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**One-Room School Oral Histories**

Interviews with students and teachers of one-room schools across southwest Missouri were taken March 22-23 at the MU Greene County Extension Center in Springfield. Organized by David Burton, MU Extension Civic Communications Specialist, with support from SHSMO Oral Historian Jeff Corrigan and SHSMO Trustee, and retired Professor of History, Dr. Virginia Laas, thirteen oral histories were recorded over the two days.



Olive Hampton of Springfield, left, visits with Jeff Corrigan and Virginia Laas during an interview. Olive attended a one-room school and also taught at one. Photo taken by and courtesy of David Burton, University of Missouri Greene County Extension.

**George Caleb Bingham Society Members**

Thank you to the following individuals who have contributed \$1,000 during the second quarter of 2012 as new or renewing members of the George Caleb Bingham Annual Giving Society.

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Roy Blunt                       | Charles and Jean Ann Ferguson   |
| H. Riley and Jill Bock          | Richard and Ann Franklin        |
| Steven and Anita Byers          | Thomas B. III and Margaret Hall |
| Lawrence and Maxine Christensen | Peggy Platner                   |
| Warren R. Dalton Jr.            | Ron and Patty Richards          |

**2012 Missouri Conference on History**

The 54th annual Missouri Conference on History took place in Columbia on March 29-30. The conference was hosted and sponsored by the SHSMO and the University of Missouri Department of History. Other sponsors and supporters included the Missouri Humanities Council, the University of Missouri History Graduate Student Association, the University of Missouri Press, the Missouri History Museum, the Postal History Society, and Thomas Jefferson University Press. The conference was well attended, with over 175 registrants taking part in some 30 sessions. The first day of the conference featured two special events. Colin Gordon of the University of Iowa's Department of History delivered a luncheon keynote address titled, "St. Louis Blues: The Urban Crisis in the Gateway City." In the evening, the conference hosted a screening and discussion of the award-winning documentary, *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth: An Urban History*. In the roundtable that followed the screening, Gordon and one of the film's producers, Paul Fehler, answered questions regarding the documentary and the history of race, class, and place in twentieth-century St. Louis.

The conference's annual awards luncheon and business meeting took place on Friday. The 2012 prize for best history book by a Missouri author was awarded to Michael Jan Rozbicki of Saint Louis University for *Culture and Liberty in the Age of the American Revolution*. The best article prize went to Michael J. McVicar of Ohio State University for his "Aggressive Philanthropy: Progressivism, Conservatism, and the William Volker Charities Fund," which appeared in the July 2011 issue of the *Missouri Historical Review*. The award for best student paper on any topic was presented to a University of Missouri graduate student, Sarah Lirley McCune, for "Prostitution, Suicide, and Respectability: St. Louis, Missouri, Coroner's Inquests, 1875-1900." The Lynn and Kristen Morrow Missouri History Student Prize, awarded for the best student paper on any Missouri topic, went to Luke Ritter, a PhD student at Saint Louis University for "Racial Discrimination in the Open Housing Movement, St. Louis County 1968-1977."

From left, SHSMO Director Gary R. Kremer, keynote speaker Professor Colin Gordon, and SHSMO Assistant Editor and conference coordinator John McKerley.

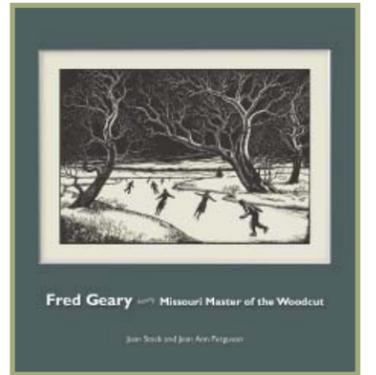


**New exhibit catalog: Fred Geary: Missouri Master of the Woodcut**

Reared in Carrollton, Missouri, Fred Geary (1894-1946) was a leading figure in the American woodcut revival of the 1930s and 1940s. Viewers introduced to Geary's woodcuts, wood engravings, and linocuts invariably marvel at their lyricism, beauty, and intricate workmanship. Unfortunately, too few people are familiar with the work of this remarkable artist. The new, profusely illustrated, catalog of Geary artworks provides the most complete overview of his printmaking career—reproducing, analyzing, and documenting sixty-five prints, some of which have never been published.

Geary made his living as a designer for the Fred Harvey company, a business with headquarters in Kansas City that operated restaurants, hotels, and dining cars throughout the Southwest. His art deco design sensibilities pervade his fine art, as does the influence of Spanish American art and American Regionalism. Following Geary's death, his mother, Sophie Geary, donated a large collection of his prints, paintings, and woodblocks to the SHSMO, and this donation forms the foundation of the new catalog. The book includes an introduction by SHSMO Curator of Art Collections, Dr. Joan Stack, and a biographical sketch of Fred Geary by Jean Ann Ferguson, Independent Scholar. Entries provide basic information about each artwork, and short essays discuss relevant aesthetic and historical issues. Entries also include the publication and exhibition history of each print when available. Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Missouri history and culture, the SHSMO is proud to play a part in the revival of appreciation for this important printmaker. The catalog was created in association with the exhibition *Fred Geary: Missouri Master of the Woodcut* held at the SHSMO in Columbia, July 16, 2011, to April 29, 2012, and at the Kansas City Public Library, May 5 through June 30, 2012.

The publication sells for \$18, SHSMO members; \$20, nonmembers. To purchase through the SHSMO online Gift Shop, go to <http://shsofmo.org/store/publications.html>



**Dr. Joan Stack lectures on Bingham at Gettysburg College**



On April 3 Curator of Art Collections Dr. Joan Stack gave a presentation in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, as part of Gettysburg College's American Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration. The lecture, "Picturing a State Divided: Missouri

Artist George Caleb Bingham and the American Civil War," focused on how Bingham's paintings provide insight into studies of slavery and secession.

This presentation is one of several events and programs sponsored by the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College to mark the Civil War anniversary years, 2011-2015, with special emphasis on 2013, the 150th anniversary of the enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Battle of Gettysburg, and President Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address.

Pennsylvania College (now Gettysburg College) played an important role in the Civil War with over 200 alumni serving in the Union and Confederate armies, and the college's Pennsylvania Hall used as an observation point and hospital during the

Battle of Gettysburg. College students and faculty were in attendance when President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address at the national cemetery in November 1863. The college, larger community, and military park combine to provide a unique place in American history.

Today, Gettysburg College is a highly regarded four-year residential institution focused on the liberal arts and sciences. The SHSMO is honored that staff member Joan Stack was chosen to contribute as a scholar and culturalist to Gettysburg College's Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration.

Left: After George Caleb Bingham, *Marital Law (General Order No. 11)*, mezzotint engraving by John Sartain, 1872.

**New Benton interview reveals information and provides insight**

On Saturday, May 5, Society oral historian Jeff D. Corrigan and art curator Dr. Joan Stack presented "Benton Speaks: Fifty Years Later" in the Society's Main Gallery.

In November 2011 Society Trustee Brent Schondelmeyer purchased at auction and donated an interview with Missouri artist Thomas Hart Benton that was recorded on May 6, 1962. This event showcased the newly acquired interview and introduced over twenty minutes of the recording to the public for the first time. Corrigan revealed what has been unearthed about the interview's original provenance and discussed it as an early work of scholarship to incorporate audio recordings into research. Stack talked about how this interview can help us better understand Benton's artistic philosophy and his opinions on a variety of topics and subject matter.

Also at the November 2011 auction, the SHSMO acquired two illustrated Benton letters which are on display in a room in the Main Gallery adjacent to the space where visitors can view the exhibition *1942: Thomas Hart Benton's Year of Peril* through September 15, 2012. Also available in the gallery for the first time is an audio touch screen that allows patrons to listen to three small clips from the Benton interview discussed above.

## New Revelations of the Gentry Family

St. Louis author and cultural preservationist Elizabeth Gentry Sayad gave a program on March 8 at the Country Club of Missouri in Columbia to a large audience. Mrs. Sayad focused her comments on her grandfather, William Gentry, and his brother, her great uncle, North Todd Gentry—both grandsons of Richard Gentry, the Missouri pioneer with a leading role in early Columbia history who was killed in the Battle of Okeechobee during the Seminole War.

The SHSMO holds the papers of North Todd Gentry, which offer a wealth of information about Gentry, his family, and the history of Boone County. North Todd Gentry was an attorney, Missouri attorney general, Supreme Court judge, district judge, and bankruptcy commissioner. He was active in politics, the Presbyterian church, many philanthropic boards, and was a respected historian.

Warren R. Dalton Jr. served as event sponsor, and he and writing partner David A. James sold several copies of their book, *The Writings of North Todd Gentry: Stories from Columbia's Colorful Past*, to interested audience members following Mrs. Sayad's program.



From left: SHSMO Executive Director Gary R. Kremer, guest lecturer Elizabeth Gentry Sayad, Warren R. Dalton Jr., and David A. James.

## Park University students create SHSMO Civil War Endowment Fund

History students from Park University's Zeta Omicron Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta made a donation to establish a Civil War Endowment Fund at SHSMO during a signing event, April 13, at the National Archives in Kansas City. The gift honored the soldiers, units, and civilians on both sides of the conflict, many of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives. Dr. William Garrett Piston was the featured speaker, discussing his role as editor for the new SHSMO anthology, *A Rough Business: Fighting the Civil War in Missouri*, containing fourteen articles from the *Missouri Historical Review*. Park University students hope their gift will inspire others to contribute to the fund for preservation, conservation, digitization, and purchase of papers, manuscripts, and other archival material related to the Civil War in Missouri."

## Improved access to John C. Danforth Papers

The inventory for the papers of John C. Danforth is now available online. The vast collection encompasses more than 300 cubic feet of material created and collected by Danforth over four decades, including his terms as Attorney General of Missouri (1969-1976), U.S. Senator from Missouri (1976-1995), and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (2004-2005).

Staff files, correspondence, reports, speeches, photographs, computer discs, and hundreds of audiovisual items are among the holdings. The inventory is available at <http://shs.umsystem.edu/manuscripts/invent/5455ca.pdf>.

Subject matters of local, statewide, national (the image above dates from 1969), and even international significance are contained in the papers. Abortion law and legislation, the North American Free Trade Agreement, strife in Sudan, the Waco Branch Davidian disaster, and the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas are all extensively covered.

Please contact the SHSMO Research Center-Columbia for more information at (573) 882-1187 or [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).



## 34th Mid-America Conference on History Call for Papers

The 34th annual Mid-America Conference on History has issued a call for proposals for papers and sessions, including overview sessions and graduate papers. The proposal deadline is June 1. The conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Springfield and is hosted by the Department of History at Missouri State University. For more information about featured speakers at the conference or to submit proposals, contact Worth Robert Miller, Conference Coordinator, Department of History, Missouri State University at [BobMiller@MissouriState.edu](mailto:BobMiller@MissouriState.edu) or (417) 836-4141.

## Women's History Month talk on suffrage

On March 8 Margot McMillen discussed her new book, *The Golden Lane: How Missouri Women Gained the Vote and Changed History*, with a large crowd at the Research Center-Columbia. Among interested audience members was First Lady of Missouri Georganne Wheeler Nixon, pictured below (right) with McMillen and Executive Director Gary R. Kremer following the program.



## National History Day in Missouri State Contest

On a beautiful Saturday in April, almost 600 sixth through twelfth-grade students participated in the National History Day in Missouri state contest on the MU campus. On April 21 the students represented 89 schools and were coached by 100 teachers. As part of the year-long program, they researched and analyzed historical topics related to the theme *Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History* and presented their findings in one of five categories: museum-style exhibits, multimedia documentaries, interpretive websites, dramatic performances, and research papers. There were a total of 89 medal-winners in first through third places. The 59 first- and second- place winners of each division and category advance to the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland in June. In addition, 16 special prizes were awarded at the state contest. Special prize winners are pictured above receiving recognition during the awards ceremony for the National History Day in Missouri contest.

For a complete winners' list, please visit the National History Day in Missouri website, <http://mo.nhd.org>.



## Teacher of Merit Awards

SHSMO is pleased to award three state Teacher of Merit Awards to National History Day in Missouri teachers. These awards are given for providing extraordinary dedication to their teaching and creativity in the classroom, along with participation in the National History Day program.

The 18th annual Joseph Webber Teacher of Merit Award, which now recognizes excellence in a teacher who has participated in National History Day for five or fewer years, went to Ivan Obert, teacher at South Middle School in Joplin. The third annual Patricia Behring Missouri Teacher of the Year Awards went to Terry Trullinger, teacher at Hannibal Middle School in Hannibal, for the junior level (6-8 grades) and to Janet Baldwin, teacher at Pattonville High School in Chesterfield, for the senior level (9-12 grades). Both Mr. Trullinger and Dr. Baldwin are nominees for the national Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award, announced at the national contest in June.

## National History Day Awarded Prestigious National Humanities Medal

On February 13 NHD was awarded the prestigious 2011 National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama at a White House ceremony. Dr. Cathy Gorn, executive director of NHD, accepted the award on behalf of the NHD staff, board, and honorary advisory council. The National Humanities medals honor achievements in history, literature, education, and cultural policy. For the first time ever, a K-12 education program received the National Humanities Medal. The citation for National History Day was for being "a program that inspires in American students a passion for history. Each year more than half a million children from across the country compete in this event, conducting research and producing websites, papers, performances, and documentaries to tell the human story."

"NHD works because it applies a research-based methodology, specifically engaging students in rigorous research, connecting teacher practice and instruction to student achievement, and providing students and teachers career-ready skills they can use outside the classroom," Gorn said.

## Missouri Humanities Council Honors Missouri's 2011 NHD Finalists



On April 18 the Missouri Humanities Council hosted the 2011 Missouri Humanities Awards in the DoubleTree Hilton hotel in Jefferson City, where Missouri's three National History Day 2011 finalists were celebrated for their achievements. The honored students were among the top 10 in the nation out of over 2,700 students who competed at the national contest in Maryland in June 2011. Honorees were Kansas City students Riya Mehta and Sophia Mauro and Joplin student Derek Carter. Each student received a special certificate commemorating the event.



**Kenneth E. Behring  
National History Day Contest  
June 10-14**

University of Maryland-College Park  
Tune in to the live webcast of the Awards Ceremony  
7:30 a.m. CT June 14 at <http://www.nhd.org>

## May

### **Fred Geary: Missouri Master of the Woodcut** **May 5 through June 30** Kansas City Public Library's Central Library

This popular exhibition of Fred Geary works travels to the Kansas City Public Library during May and June. Call (816) 701-3400 for details or visit the website [www.kclibrary.org](http://www.kclibrary.org). The Kansas City Public Library is hosting this special SHSMO exhibit with support from the Missouri Arts Council.

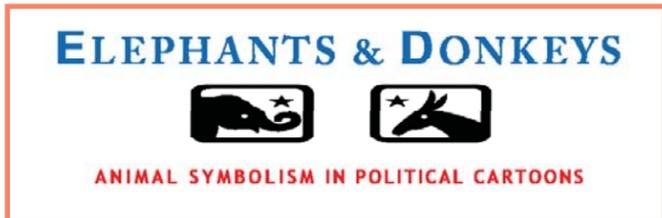


Reminder: Research Center-Columbia is closed Mondays.

### **Fred Geary: A Celebration and Road Show** **May 19** Carrollton Public Library

**9:30 to 11 am Presentations:** "Fred Geary: Missouri Master of the Woodcut" by Joan Stack followed by "Caring For Your Geary—and other works of art" by Greig Thompson.

**11 am to Noon Road Show/Book Signing** with Stack and Jean Ann Ferguson, co-authors of the **new catalog** *Fred Geary: Missouri Master of the Woodcut*. Bring your Geary prints for identification and learn more about them. Sponsored by the Carrollton Public Library, Carroll County Historical Society & Museum, Arts Council of Carroll County, and Beta Sigma Phi, Laureate Nu chapter. The library is located at 1 North Folger Street, Carrollton.



### **May 22 through November** **Columbia Research Center, Corridor Gallery**

In the United States certain animals have come to be associated with certain political parties and concepts. This exhibition explores the creative use of animal symbols in American political cartoons and ephemera from the late 19th to the early 21st centuries. To understand this symbolism, viewers must learn a visual language that changes decade by decade.

## June

### **Reflections of African-American Arrow Rock: 1865-1960** **June 2** Arrow Rock

To celebrate the opening of the Black History Museum, Friends of Arrow Rock are offering this exhibit with special presentations by Timothy Baumann, Gary R. Kremer, and Teresa Van Buren Habernal. Exhibit opens at 9:00 am; presentations begin at 10:00 am. Go to [FriendsOfArrowRock.org](http://FriendsOfArrowRock.org).

### **Finding the Individual and the Iconic in Civil War Documents: A Workshop** **June 16** 9:00 to 11:30 am Columbia Research Center

In his popular "150 Years Ago" column for *The Columbia Daily Tribune*, Rudi Keller often has to compose thumbnail sketches of individuals from the Civil War period on tight deadlines. Learn about the resources he turns to time and again for accurate information in a hurry: *Goodspeed's* county histories, the SHSMO surname index, Ancestry.com, and other well-developed lineage directories. SHSMO Curator Joan Stack has studied the visual culture of the period, from patriotic envelopes to printed currency and illustrated newspapers such as *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. She will share with you how to draw important conclusions from these historical records. And Reference Specialist Amy L. Waters will show you how to use government records, including census, military service, land, and pension, to determine the part your ancestors played in this national conflict. Reserve your spot by June 12 at (573) 882-7083. \$25 nonmembers • \$15 members

## July

### **Essex Garner's Colored Infantry Series: Engaging with History through Art**

**July 21** One-day Exhibition and Gallery Talk Columbia Research Center  
 12:00 Noon Exhibit Opens 1:30 pm Program



Join Essex Garner for an exhibition of his work illustrating the plight of Colored Infantry soldiers in the Civil War. Garner brings focus to the importance of colored soldiers' ability to read in order to support effective communication within the command structure. A retired Army and National Guard professional with more than twenty-five years' active service, Garner served much of that time as a military illustrator, artist, and draftsman. With art education and fine arts degrees from Lincoln University, Essex is currently pursuing a graduate degree in art education at MU. He will share his working methods, research into imagery, how he proceeds with a picture, and what he hopes his art conveys.

A reception with the artist will follow the program.

### **KWOS "Open Air" 950 AM**

Join the conversation with hosts John Marsh and Warren Krech as they visit with SHSMO Director Gary R. Kremer from 8:20 to 9:00 am, the third Monday of each month:  
**May 21, June 18, and July 16.**



### **Benton & Twain: Thomas Hart Benton's illustrations of Mark Twain** **Exhibition with Opening Event, Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum, Hannibal** **July 29** 2:00 pm

SHSMO will lend an exhibition of Benton drawings illustrating Mark Twain's classics *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Hannibal. This month-long exhibit will open with a free reception on July 29. Visitors will enjoy light refreshments and the opportunity to discuss the show with SHSMO staff. Curator of Art Collections Dr. Joan Stack will present a short lecture on the historical significance of artworks at 2:00 pm. Doors open at 1:00 pm. For information, call (573) 221-9010.



## Looking ahead

### **Benton's Year of Peril: An Epic Vision Created in Kansas City** **Steve Sitton, Director of the Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio Historic Site** **August 25** 1:30 pm Columbia Research Center, Main Gallery



Director of the Benton home in Kansas City Steve Sitton will present an illustrated lecture on Benton's World War II paintings on display in the SHSMO exhibit, *1942: Thomas Hart Benton's Year of Peril*. The pictures were painted in Kansas City within a four-month period, and Sitton will consider them within the context of Benton's life and political background in Missouri.

**September 6**  
 4:00 to 8:00 pm

### **MU Art-i-Fact** **Gallery & Museum Crawl**

Explore the campus gallery and museum scene and treat yourself to an evening of music, snacks, prizes, and fun! Pre-crawl warm-up, 3:00 to 5:00 pm, at the Missouri Theatre. Sponsored by Art-i-Fact, a consortium of spaces where art, science, and culture are yours to explore.

### Under the Big Top with Parker and Watts Circus

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the arrival of the circus in cities and towns across America brought everyday life to a halt. Businesses temporarily closed, and a festive atmosphere ensued as the big top slowly rose to the sky. But by the 1920s social, economic, and technological changes were under way that threatened the existence of the circus. The advent of “talkies” and the popularity of radio, together with the Great Depression, created fierce competition for the circus. The papers of the Parker and Watts Circus (1934-1949) offer a detailed account of the trials and tribulations that one circus faced in the midst of the Great Depression.

In the fall of 1937, Missouri natives Ira M. Watts and Charles H. Parker purchased Seal Brothers Circus and renamed it the “Parker and Watts Circus.” Both men had previously worked in the circus world, Parker as a young man and Watts his entire life. Parker left the big top to become the assistant general superintendent of Eagle-Picher Mining and Smelting Company in Picher, Oklahoma. Watts had joined the James Patterson-Gollmar Brothers Circus in 1917 and remained. The allure of the circus was too much for Parker. Together he and Watts, with the financial backing of their mutual friend George W. Potter, an Eagle Picher executive, purchased the circus for \$40,000. The partners announced their intent to bring “a medium sized circus with a Big Horse Drawn Street Parade, a good high class performance and an absence of objection gambling and catch penny devices” to the public.

After wintering in Emporia, Kansas, the Parker and Watts Circus embarked on its inaugural season in 1938, a grueling 10,002-mile journey across ten states. A “motorized” circus, Parker and Watts traveled by highway caravan, rather than by rail like larger shows. One of the last circuses to feature a horse-drawn parade, Parker and Watts’s lively street procession concluded with loud blasts from the



This photograph, taken in 1939, shows the personnel of the Parker and Watts Circus in its final season. In the foreground is veteran performer “Andy Calino the Educated Chimp,” known for his “habit of shaking hands with one paw and ‘roughing’ up his friends with the other.” Andy reportedly lived to be forty years old.

show’s calliope. Talented performers such as Andy Calino the Educated Chimp, ménage rider Hazel King, the Aerial Zerrados, and the Hodgini Riding Troupe worked and performed for Parker and Watts, but life on the road was not easy. Just a few weeks into the tour, Parker wrote George W. Potter, “There is no indication of an end for this recession. This means that we will have to cut the show down to the bone.” Tragically, Parker died on June 8, 1938, while on tour with the circus in Mobridge, South Dakota. Ira Watts and the rest of the circus stayed on schedule.

Daily life and accommodations with the circus were challenging. Menus show that performers and crew ate basic fare such as “dry salt onions and potatoes” and “macaroni and cheese, tomatoes, raisins” for lunch and dinner. Knowing which towns were lucrative and which were not was also important. Lynchburg, Virginia, was “excellent,” Albemarle, North Carolina, was “good at tobacco time only,” and Atlanta, Georgia, was “only good for Ringling show.” Unsavory tactics from other circuses prompted Parker and Watts to distribute flyers advertising their free street parade with the admonishment, “Do not be deceived by small bankrupt circus[es], with big tents with nothing in them, carrying crooked gambling and questionable devices to rob and fleece the public.”

The show took to the road again in 1939 but a series of mishaps crippled the circus. A rival circus infringed on Watts’s business route. In October 1939, Watts wrote to his aunt, “Since leaving Virginia things have gone from bad to worse, and when the war was declared the bottom dropped out of show business.” The show’s general agent, L. B. Greenhaw, allegedly ran up expenses before he was fired. Creditors began demanding payment. Disagreements with performers led to lawsuits over back pay that sapped the already strained finances of the Parker and Watts Circus. This forced the show to disband for the season and move into winter quarters at Fort Smith, Arkansas. Watts announced his intent to take “a little back roads show to the hills of Arkansas, where I hope they haven’t even heard of the war.”

Calling the new show the “Adams-Floto Trained Animal Show,” Watts hoped for a fresh start. On December 15, 1941, Watts wired financial backer George W. Potter, “War declared. Business coastal towns went to nothing. I have made my last show.” The Parker and Watts Circus was subsequently liquidated.

The papers of the Parker and Watts Circus cover the circus from the time of purchase through the time of sale and final accounting. The collection contains general business accounts and records, employee and general correspondence, newspaper and magazine clippings, and photographs. The papers provide an intimate insight into the rise and fall of an American circus during the Great Depression.

### J. C. Nichols Company’s Pictograph

Inside the lobby of the J. C. Nichols Company offices at 310 Ward Parkway in Kansas City once hung a beautiful hand-drawn pictography map of the Country Club District. Measuring about nine feet by six and one-half feet, it was the center of attention for anyone visiting the offices and offered an interesting focal point for people waiting to meet with company staff and officers. The map was drawn by Earl Wilson Allen (1908-1961) who playfully noted on the painting, “Labor on this cartograph happily ended for Earl W. Allen on Labor Day, 1930.” Allen was an architect with the Nichols Company, known for his work on homes in the Country Club District and for planning and placement of rare art objects in the residential areas—a feature denoting quality and identity for the neighborhoods. In 1936 Allen wed Eleanor Nichols, daughter of J. C. Nichols. The couple died in a tragic fire at their home in Mission Hills, Kansas, in 1961.

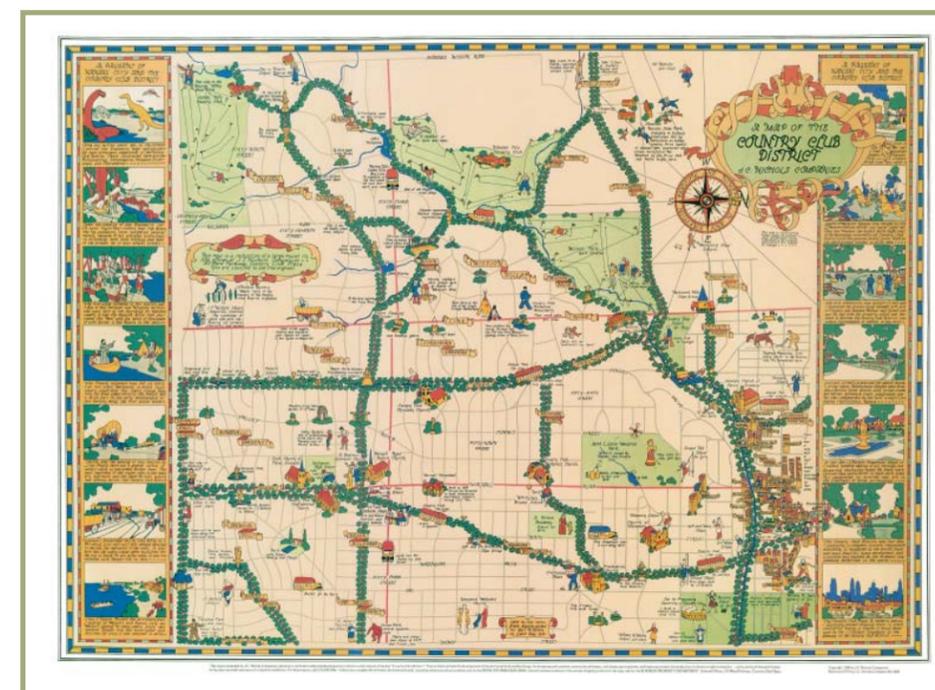


With the recent closure of the company headquarters’ offices and the preparation of the building for lease, Highwood Properties, owners of the old J. C. Nichols Company, donated the Country Club District map to the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City.

The SHSMO-Kansas City greatly appreciates Highwood’s understanding of the historical and artistic significance of the map and their faith in our ability to care for, not only this work, but the legacy of the Nichols Company, which can be found in the hundreds of cubic feet of photographs, scrapbooks, ledgers, and documents in the J. C. Nichols Company Records and the J. C. Nichols Company Scrapbooks.

When examining the map, one must remember that north is to the right rather than the usual orientation at top. Along the sides are vignettes of “A pageant of Kansas City and the Country Club District” beginning 10 million years ago with dinosaurs, and bringing the story up-to-date with the building of the Country Club Plaza, “a modern and scientifically planned shopping center in which commercial beauty is created.”

To say the company was proud of this map is an understatement. Twice they printed it (1930 and 1979) for distribution to property owners in the Nichols’ districts. The SHSMO has prints (25” X 34”) available for purchase at \$25.00 plus postage. To order, visit the Online Gift Shop at <http://shsofmo.org/store/>.



Above: Lobby of the J. C. Nichols Company with map displayed. Left: Earl W. Allen’s interesting cartograph of Kansas City’s Country Club District.

**“Archives on the Road” is under way in Springfield**



Above: Researchers use SHSMO collections in Missouri State University’s Duane G. Meyer Library.

The State Historical Society of Missouri and Special Collections and Archives at Missouri State University are collaborating to bring a valuable new service to researchers in the southwest region of the state. This pilot program, “Archives on the Road,” makes manuscript, book, and microfilm collections from any of SHSMO’s four research centers—Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis, or Rolla—available through a convenient Springfield venue, Missouri State University’s Duane G. Meyer Library.

The program kicked off in February, after years of planning by SHSMO staff and Dave Richards, Head of Special Collections and Archives at the MSU Library.

Every fourth Wednesday of the month, Rolla staff hand-delivers requested SHSMO materials to the Special Collections Department at Missouri State University and provides assistance to researchers. Researchers

may request up to three boxes each month. Requests must be made at least one week in advance, or by the third Wednesday of each month, to ensure timely arrival at Springfield.

SHSMO collection descriptions and inventories are available at the Society’s website, <http://shs.umsystem.edu/research/>. To request materials, researchers should complete the request form at <http://shs.umsystem.edu/requestform>, and pay special attention to the section “requests for research materials to be used at an SHSMO research center” and click on the “Springfield” option.

The goal of this new partnership is to foster historical research among the residents, students, and scholars of southwest Missouri by providing free

and easy access to all of SHSMO’s collections. Missouri State University’s Special Collections staff, particularly Dave Richards and archivist Anne Baker, have been instrumental to the success of the program by promoting the new service to MSU and the local community, and in working out the logistics on campus.

Response has been overwhelmingly positive. Requests during February, March, and April were generated by library professionals, history professors, local public school teachers, and genealogists.

The scope of the research has included Ozarks history, railroads, genealogy, Civil War prisons, and World War II internment camps.

With the establishment of “Archives on the Road,” the SHSMO continues to provide greater access and outreach opportunities to all Missourians and encourage pursuits in the interest of Missouri history.



Above left to right: Missouri State University archivist Anne Baker, Missouri State University history professor Brooks Blevins, and SHSMO Research Center-Rolla manuscript specialist Leann Arndt.

*“This is great! I have moved from Columbia to Branson and can’t believe how much I miss the SHSMO. I will use this service.”*

E-mail from an SHSMO patron.

**Digitization of visual history provides easy access**

The SHSMO Research Center-St. Louis has completed digitization of all of its 16mm films. The films comprise not only an important visual history of St. Louis but also mark the beginning of a broader effort to put that visual record into accessible digital form.

The 16mm collection includes footage of activities at the St. Louis Zoo, its animal shows and exhibits; the travels and televised films of St. Louis Zoo director Marlin Perkins; the underwater explorations of Vincent Palmer; the around-the-world travels made by Florence Freymuth from the 1930s to 1950s; early St. Louis television programs by Charlotte Peters, and many other films found in individual collections.

The film digitization project is only the first step in the St. Louis Research Center’s transfer of visual material to digital form. Future plans include digitizing VHS, 3/4-inch, and additional video formats. Recent large video donations include many tapes of programming from KDHX/ Double Helix, the community-based local access media outlet that recently closed its television operation. Those tapes include many important interviews with local personalities and political figures, including jazz musician Miles Davis and ACTION activist Percy Green. KDHX’s programming included a regular show that dealt with organized labor issues—Laborvision—which comprises a significant part of the collection. Laborvision programs were donated to the St. Louis Research Center by labor historian Rose Feurer.

The SHSMO Research Center-St. Louis recently acquired two 3-4 inch video playback units for use in digital transfer. The ability to play back the original 3/4-inch videotapes



Above: Sir Edmond Hillary, front, second from left, and Marlin Perkins, front, third from left, are joined by other members of the expedition to find Yeti in the Himalayas.

is becoming rare since the television industry has largely abandoned this format.

The visual history transfer project supplants a longstanding oral history program that also recently underwent digital transfer. Over 70 oral histories conducted over many years with individuals who played key roles in St. Louis history have been copied from reel and cassette sources onto computer and are now available for transfer into digital media.



**World War I Diary Donated**

The SHSMO Research Center-St. Louis recently received a diary documenting the experiences of a World War I soldier.

Walter L. Shafer served in the 138th Infantry and kept a journal detailing life during the Great War, including taking a boat to France; life in the trenches, action against the Germans, and returning to St. Louis in 1919.

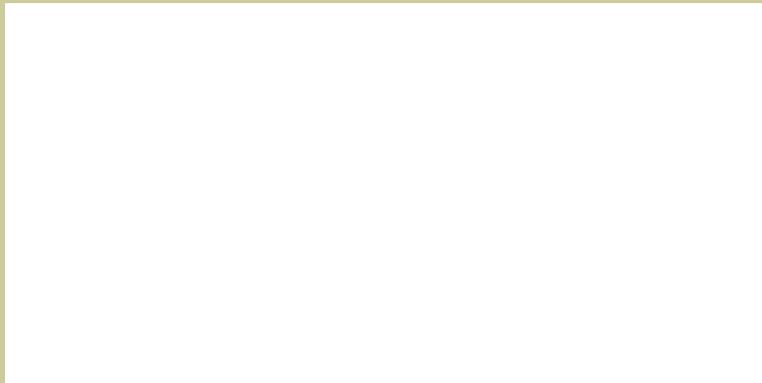
Special appreciation is given to donor Natalie Drew of St. Louis.

Image at right: Shafer mentions visiting a YMCA canteen in his diary. It may have been similar to the one pictured here, just 150 yards from enemy trenches.



**The State Historical  
Society of Missouri**  
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## ***2012 Richard S. Brownlee Fund Grants***

**\$500 for *Civil War* commemorative projects  
June 30, 2012, deadline for application**

In 2012 the SHSMO will further its initiative to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War (1861-65), begun in 2011, by inviting applications that support observance of this important period in our past.

Grants are available to local Missouri historical societies and museums, both public and private, to fund a variety of proposals—events, exhibitions, publications, markers, and program speakers. The maximum amount per grant award is \$500.

For more information go to:

<http://shs.umsystem.edu/awards/brownlee/brownleeaward.shtml>