National History Day in Missouri Students Shine at Day at the Capitol

On February 6 eleven students, with their sponsoring teachers and supportive parents, journeyed to the Missouri State Capitol to share their National History Day in Missouri (NHDMO) experiences and showcase their NHD projects. We were delighted to display projects by Haley Brown (Liberty), Libby Shannon, Elizabeth Burken, and Taylor Vaughn (Carthage), Allyson Doman and Miles Krusniak (Kirksville), Emily Schwenneker and Renae Cramer (Princeton), Anum Ahmed (Joplin), and Elizabeth Meyer and Casey Hulshof (Columbia).

Each of these students advanced from regional competitions to participate at the 2012 NHDMO State Contest, with some advancing to serve as Missouri delegates to the national contest in June in College Park, Maryland.

Deborah Krusniak, Miles Krusniak’s mother, said that one of the great things about the NHDMO program is that it allows students to find their own interests and encourages them to dig deeper into their chosen topics. Miles chose to create a website, “AC and DC: The Current War,” while his classmate Allyson Doman wrote a paper, “John Muir: Revolution and Reform in Perspective and Preservation of Nature.”

National History Day in Missouri, the state affiliate of National History Day, is an innovative educational program for students in grades 6-12. NHD students conduct extensive research related to an annual theme and present their findings in one of five formats: exhibit, performance, documentary, website, or paper. By encouraging students to determine their project’s topic and medium, NHDMO equips them to step into high school and college classrooms with poise and confidence.

Libby Shannon—who participated in National History Day for five years—presented her senior individual exhibit, “Good Morning, Miss Blow! : Kindergarten and the Reform of Public Education.” Now a freshman at Missouri State University, Libby is pursuing a degree in special education.

All of the students were applauded for their NHDMO participation, receiving special recognition on the House and Senate floors by being introduced as special guests. They also enjoyed a tour of the capitol building, met with their legislators, and received special resolutions for their accomplishments. Teacher Maureen Funk, who sponsored Emily Schwenneker and Renae Cramer’s group exhibit—“Steamboat Comin”—concluded the day, warmly sharing: “This was a wonderful experience.”

National History Day in Missouri is sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council.
Society to Copublish Ike Skelton Memoirs

The State Historical Society and Southern Illinois University Press are copublishing Achieve the Honorable: A Missouri Congressman’s Journey from Warm Springs to Washington by Ike Skelton, who served in the US House from 1977 to 2011. The volume details Skelton’s life from his boyhood in Lexington, Missouri, to his years on Capitol Hill. Skelton, whose aspirations to a military career were derailed by contracting polio, became known as a champion of the armed services. He was a longtime member of the House Committee on Armed Services and served as its chair from 2007 to 2011. Among other honors, Skelton has received the US Army’s Distinguished Civilian Service Medal and the US Navy’s Distinguished Public Service Medal. Achieve the Honorable, which is scheduled for release in November 2013, provides insight into many of the events and political personalities of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

Merit, Not Sympathy Editors Speak on February 2

The life of John William “Blind” Boone (1864-1927) was the topic for a presentation by Mary Barile and Christine Montgomery on February 2 at the Columbia Research Center. Barile and Montgomery are the editors of Merit, Not Sympathy: Wicns, The Life and Times of Blind Boone, published by Truman State University Press. The presenters provided an overview of Boone’s life as a concert pianist whose repertoire included classical music as well as popular songs, folk tunes, and Negro spirituals. Boone, the son of a self-emancipated black woman, spent the early years of his childhood in Warrensburg, attended the Missouri School for the Blind, and began his musical career while still an adolescent. At the age of sixteen, he found a long-term manager and friend in John Lange, a Columbia contractor at the time. Under Lange’s management, Boone became a nationally known musician, who played to both white and black audiences during the Jim Crow era. Barile and Montgomery concluded their presentation by playing excerpts from three of Boone’s compositions as recorded by pianist John Davis.

$6,385 Preservation Grant

The SHSMO has been awarded a Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board preservation grant for the purchase of an encapsulation machine. This equipment will be used to preserve records by encapsulating them between two layers of clear polyester. The machine will seal the edges of the polyester without damaging the document. The process is completely reversible and provides support and protection to fragile paper records that otherwise could not be handled by researchers or placed on display.

Missouri Conference on History to be Held March 21-22

Academic and public historians, students, and independent scholars will gather in the Drury Lodge in Cape Girardeau on March 21-22 for the Fifty-fifth Annual Missouri Conference on History. Twenty-six sessions are scheduled, with topics as varied as preservation of historic places, modern history, and the cold war. The Thursday luncheon will feature Dr. Doug A. Mishler, University of Nevada-Reno, in a performed interpretation program titled ‘Ernie Pyle: Reporting on the Greatest Generation’.

Pinhook Researchers and Residents Discuss Town’s Destruction and Hopes for Future

The village of Pinhook, in Mississippi County, Missouri, was destroyed and the residents forced to flee when the US Army Corps of Engineers blasted the Birds Point levee during the Mississippi River flood of May 2011. On December 1 two folklorists and displaced members of the community discussed the destruction and its aftermath at an afternoon event at the Columbia Research Center. Elaine Lawless, Curator’s Professor of English and Folklore Studies at the University of Missouri, and Todd Lawrence, associate professor of English at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, who have been studying the African American village, shared their research and talked about the impact of the town’s destruction on the residents. Debra Tarver, a spokesperson for the community, discussed the bonds that still connect the town’s mostly female residents, who now live in widely scattered towns and cities. She also talked about the community members’ desire to relocate and rebuild the town, something that will not be possible without federal and/or state government assistance. Laurel and Lawrence also screened video taken in the area after the water had receded. Further information about Pinhook is available at http://rebuildpinhook.wordpress.com.

Missouri Veterans History Project Intern

Jerica Holt, a senior majoring in business, is interning as executive director of the Missouri Veterans History Project (MVHP) this semester, with headquarters in the Research Center–Columbia. A native of Buffalo, Missouri, Jerica was drawn to the project because of the pleasure she finds in interacting with people and learning about the individual and the big picture. The MVHP is dedicated to preserving the histories of veterans through oral or video recordings, with volunteers acting as interviewers and videographers. During her internship, Jerica will work to define measurable goals for the project as well as to create a structure for the executive director position. She said, “I’m excited [about the internship] because it is so open-ended, and it integrates a lot of the things I’ve enjoyed in my life.” Veterans and potential volunteers can find further information about the MVHP at http://mvhp.net.
SHSMO Contributes to Over There: Missouri and the Great War

The State Historical Society of Missouri has joined a statewide digitization project whose goal is to document the involvement of Missourians in World War I. The project, titled Over There: Missouri and the Great War, will develop a digital collection of World War I documents, photographs, and artifacts that will be available online through an interactive, educational website. Over There is made possible by a Library Services and Technology Act Digital Imaging Grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and coordinated by the Missouri State Library.

Over There project staff members are evaluating World War I-related collections at each of the partnering institutions across the state. Associate historian Claire Presley Marks is reviewing material at the SHSMO. So far, thousands of items have been inventoried and evaluated for the project. Notable material includes vivid propaganda posters, the photograph collection of Ruby D. Garrett, the Forty-second Division’s chief signal officer, and the detailed diary kept by Eighty-ninth Division Regimental Sergeant Major Williams Phalen. Additionally, there are thousands of pages of correspondence being examined, which range from soldiers writing home to their families in Missouri to correspondence of famous Missouri figures such as General of the Army John J. Pershing, Judge Advocate General Emich Crowder, Senator Bennett Champ Clark, and Missouri Council of Defense Director Frederick Mumford.

For more information about Over There: Missouri and the Great War, visit the project blog, Missouri Over There, at www.missourioverthere.org. The blog contains posts about World War I history, Great War programs throughout the state, World War I historical collections, and updates about the progress of the project. You can also follow the project on Facebook.

Over There Project Partners Include

- Missouri History Museum, St. Louis
- Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City
- Museum of Osteopathic Medicine SM, Kirksville
- National World War I Museum, Kansas City
- Springfield-Greene County Library District

The State Historical Society of Missouri

Artists Leads Walk-through of Frank Stack at 75

On Saturday, December 8, visitors to the SHSMO Art Gallery in Columbia were given the opportunity to tour the exhibition Frank Stack at 75 with the artist himself. The mid-Missouri painter led an audience of about thirty people through the exhibit, providing firsthand insight into his creative process. The Society’s Curator of Art Collections, Joan Stack, was also on hand to discuss the joys and difficulties of organizing this retrospective of her father’s work. Frank Stack at 75 documents Stack’s fifty-year career in Missouri. As the artist strolled through the exhibition, he discussed the changing nature of the local landscape and urban environment. He also commented on his work as a comic artist, focusing on his collaborations with writer Harvey Pekar.

Over There Project Partners Include

Missouri History Museum, St. Louis
Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City
Museum of Osteopathic Medicine SM, Kirksville
National World War I Museum, Kansas City
Springfield-Greene County Library District
The State Historical Society of Missouri

Oral History Workshop Held

Nineteen people attended an oral history workshop on December 3, at the Columbia Research Center led by SHSMO oral historian Jeff D. Corrigan and senior manuscript specialist Tom Miller. Participants were given an overview of the oral history field and taught the basics of oral history so that they could conduct an interview or implement an oral history project.

Topics covered included all of the steps that should be considered and executed before, during, and after an oral history interview. Other issues included technology, legal release forms, drafting appropriate open-ended questions, and tips and tricks to a successful interview. Participants also had the opportunity to talk about upcoming interviews and projects they hoped to conduct with the workshop leaders and fellow participants.

Frank Stack talks about one of his paintings during the December 8 artist’s walk-through.

Thank you to the Missouri Humanities Council, which serves as co-sponsor for National History Day in Missouri.

National History Day in Missouri Student Haley Brown Contributes to Salute to Freedom Website

The National World War II Museum is pleased to announce that its Salute to Freedom site is live: http://salutetofreedom.org/

Featuring content by fifty-one National History Day students, representing every state and the District of Columbia, this site honors the contributions each state made to World War II.

Read National History Day in Missouri student Haley Brown’s piece on President Harry S. Truman: http://salutetofreedom.org/mo.html.

You’re Invited!

We invite you to join us at the National History Day in Missouri State Contest on April 20, 2013, at the University of Missouri—Columbia. You will meet some of the 600 students who have been working diligently on their research, and you will see the creative ways they present their findings—with exhibits, performances, documentaries, websites, and papers.

The National History Day theme for 2013 is “Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events.”

For more information on National History Day in Missouri, visit: mo.nhd.org. If you are interested in judging this year at the state contest, please e-mail historyday@unsystem.edu.

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Spring 2013 public programs

The State Historical Society of Missouri

February

Money, Mail, and Memoria: Ephemera of the Civil War Era
through August Corridor Gallery Columbia Research Center

Many limit discussion of Civil War art to paintings, sculptures, photographs, and fine prints. This exhibit focuses on popular imagery from more unexpected contexts. Pictures decorated currency, newspapers, sheet music, books, popular prints, and other media. Much of this neglected art of the Civil War era helps us better understand the political, social, and cultural climate of the period.

March

Nelly Don: Self-Made, Ready-Made
a collaboration with the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection, University of Missouri

March 2-May 18 Main Gallery Columbia Research Center

Mrs. Ellen Quinlan Donnelly Reed was a truly self-made American success story. In a time when most women did not own or even manage a business, she created one of the largest women's dress companies in the United States. She began what was to become the Donnelly Garment Company in Kansas City in 1916 by designing and selling housesaudes. Because of the quality and style of Donnelly’s dresses, they were often featured in the editorial fashion pages of the New York Times. As one advertisement put it: “Out in the Midwest a woman has this big American idea: to use modern factory dressmaking to give the 'mostest of the bestest for the leastest.'”

Money, Mail, and Memoria: Ephemera of the Civil War Era
Walk-through with Curator of Art Collections Joan Stack

March 9 1:30 p.m. Corridor Gallery Columbia Research Center

Travel to the nineteenth century as the Society’s art curator, Joan Stack, leads a tour of Money, Mail and Memoria: Ephemera of the Civil War Era. See how the popular imagery of the period reflected partisan attitudes and shaped conceptions of race, gender, and regional identity. Newspaper illustrations, currency, patriotic envelopes, sheet music, and campaign posters all provide insight into the political, social, and cultural values of the era.

April

National History Day in Missouri State Contest

April 20 University of Missouri campus, Columbia

Over six hundred junior and senior high school students will travel to Columbia to present papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries, and websites showcasing their research into a myriad of topics. The 2013 NHD theme is “Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events.” NHD in Missouri is sponsored by the SHSMO, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council.

Looking ahead

Photographs Workshop

June 22 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Columbia Research Center

Photograph collections can quickly become overwhelming. Manuscript specialist Anne Cox will provide an introduction to caring for photographs in this workshop. Topics include collection management, organization and storage, description, basic preservation, and dealing with digital images. This workshop is suitable for caretakers of historic photograph collections, or those who want to learn how to best keep their contemporary photographs for future generations. $15 for members and $25 for nonmembers, the workshop fee includes a boxed lunch. Limited to twenty people, please reserve your spot by June 14 at 573.882.7083.
Warrensburg Newspapers from Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries Added to Collection

Before selling Warrensburg’s Daily Star-Journal newspaper in 2007, longtime publisher (and SHSMO trustee and president) Avis Tucker realized there was a stockpile of history lying in the newspaper’s back offices. This cache, in the form of thousands of issues of newspapers spanning more than fifty years, had been there since the World War II era. Thanks to the foresight of Tucker, who passed away in 2010, and with the mediation of University of Central Missouri history professor William Foley, these newspapers are now available on microfilm to researchers interested in the history of Johnson County, Missouri.

Claire Presley Marks, an associate historian at the SHSMO Research Center-Columbia, performed the painstaking work of organizing the thousands of newspaper pages, encompassing several related titles in both daily and weekly formats, in preparation for microfilming.

According to Marks, “This project allows us to preserve an invaluable piece of Missouri history. The newspapers are an excellent window into the daily lives of Missourians during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.” Newly filmed titles include weeklies, 1883-1915, and dailies, 1896-1925 with one issue from 1933 (there are, however, issues and years missing between these beginning and ending dates).

The lineage of the Star-Journal newspaper can be traced back to the Journal, started in 1865 at the close of the American Civil War. In 1876 the Journal merged with the Warrensburg Democrat, which had been started in 1871 by the Johnson Weekly Democrat. In 1883 the Star moved from Knob Noster to Warrensburg, eventually becoming the Johnson County Star. The fates of the newspapers crossed in 1913 when they merged to form the new Star-Journal. Crossley, who would own the newspaper until his death in 1943, also served as Missouri’s lieutenant governor from 1917 to 1921.

Throughout their publication, the Warrensburg newspapers documented life in the town and county and collected state, national, and international news. Opening the wider world to readers, the papers educated them about distant events and figures but also kept them informed about happenings and personalities with a local connection—like John William “Blind” Boone, the pianist extraordinaire.

The newspapers provided extensive general coverage of major world events, including World War I, with the Daily Star-Journal proclaiming on June 29, 1914: “Heir to Austrian royalty, Count Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated yesterday in Sarajevo. The assassination of the Archduke is another step in the approach to impending conflict, ‘A statement from senator Stone.—took no part in filibuster, thinks fair minded Missourians should await facts.’

Any newspaper is full of big moments and little moments, and the Warrensburg newspapers are no exception. Births, deaths, marriages, divorces, combings, goings, comings, social affairs, and a myriad of life’s other joys and sorrows found their way into the newspapers’ pages. Avis Tucker’s husband, William, who acquired the newspaper following Crossley’s death, captured this quality in the December 7, 1965, centennial issue of the papers.

The public is invited to make use of the thirty-two reels of newly microfilmed Warrensburg newspapers and their many “fleeting images of a moment.”

Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Achieve 80 Years

On January 20, 1932, 101 men gathered in the Muehlebach Hotel ballroom to found the Native Sons of Kansas City (now the Sons and Daughters of the NSD)—“a group of men of mature years, who had been born within the present city limits of what is now Kansas City, Missouri.” They wanted an organization “to link the past with the present and the present with the future.”

Within the next several years, the NSD set a pattern of providing support, both organizational and financial, to other historical societies in Kansas City. Then in 1936 President Pierre R. Porter established a new goal—to “contribute accurate historical details, intimate, heretofore unpublished material for the use of future historians and novelists,” thus beginning the Native Sons Archives. James Anderson, a descendant of John Wornall and Thomas Johnson (for whom Johnson County, Kansas, is named), became historian, a position he would hold for thirty years. Anderson immediately began collecting material for the archives from among the members and organizations represented in the rolls. The archives quickly became the most significant collection of Kansas City regional history, particularly of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Native Sons and Daughters were instrumental in saving Union Cemetery from developers, re-creating Fort Osage, providing support for the one hundredth anniversary of Kansas City, and placing uncounted plaques and markers throughout the area. Recently, they have led or helped in securing the Three Pioneers statue at West Road and Broadway, converting the Boone-Hays Cemetery, which contains the grave of Daniel Morgan Boone, son of Daniel Boone, into a park, and restoring the Liberty Memorial.

In 1988 the NSD transferred their valuable archives to the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City. Moreover, they have continued to assist in collecting in their name additional records, which now comprise over three hundred cubic feet. Included are some of the most valuable and useful personal papers, organizational records, photographs and prints, maps, books, and ephemera on western Missouri history, such as:

- The Kansas Town Company Records (K0352), 1831-1957. The collection consists of the original records of the Kansas Town Company, organized in 1838, which include two volumes of the minutes and financial accounts of the corporation. These manuscripts document the founding of Kansas City from its inception. Also in the collection is a significant amount of research on the townsite, the town company, its founders, and the Town of Kansas from its origin until 1850.

- The Convention Hall Collection (K0269), ca. 1899-1936. Includes minutes from the directors, executives, stockholders, trustees, and the General Relief Committee. It also contains financial reports, event records, a small amount of correspondence and other organizational materials, and a large number of photographs documenting events and the construction of the building. The collection also includes correspondence from and, in some cases, photos of Richard Nixon, George Bush, J. Edgar Hoover, Ronald Reagan, and Barry Goldwater.

- Hope Casey Van Brunt (1865-1952) Papers (K0252), 1830s-1998. Correspondence, clippings, speeches, photographs of Clarence Kelley and his family from Mr. Kelley’s college days until 1994. The collection contains materials relating to Kelley’s FBI career and his tenure as chief of police of Kansas City, Missouri, and personal items. Included are correspondence from and, in some cases, photos of Richard Nixon, George Bush, J. Edgar Hoover, Ronald Reagan, and Barry Goldwater.

The NSD has changed through the years—the membership age was lowered, the place of birth was expanded, women joined. But the Native Sons and Daughters have retained its original spirit and mission to preserve and celebrate Kansas City’s regional history.

Second map of Missouri, drawn and published by T. Luce, engr. by B. T. Welch & Co., Baltimore, 1823.

Balloon ascension, July 4, 1868, on Kansas City public square, southwest corner near Sixth Street. Both the photograph and the map are part of the regional materials collected by the Native Sons and Daughters.
Diehl Montgomery Family Papers Feature Parks Air College in St. Louis and Rolla Businesses

Molly Griffin of St. Joseph, Missouri, recently loaned a collection of images and printed materials for copying to the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla. The Diehl Montgomery (1911-1997) Family Papers [R1296] date from approximately 1929 to 1999 and include images of a promotional brochure for Rolla, nearly forty images of the Montgomery family, businesses, and buildings in Rolla, and over 120 photographs of the Parks Air College in St. Louis, 1928-1931.

Diehl Montgomery was a businessman in Rolla from the 1930s through the 1990s and active in the community. Born in Newburg, Missouri, in 1911, Diehl spent his youth there and graduated from Rolla High School around 1928. Even as a young boy, he was fascinated with aviation and aspired to become a pilot. Upon leaving high school, Montgomery signed up to attend the newly formed Parks Air College in St. Louis.

Located on the site of the current St. Louis Downtown Airport, Parks Air College was America’s first federally certified school of aviation when founded in 1927. When Montgomery attended the college, aviation was the ‘job of the future’ and Parks Air College was at the center. Aviation pioneers such as Jimmy Doolittle, Charles Lindbergh, and Amelia Earhart frequently visited the airport. In the early years at the college, students learned how to manufacture their own biplane by designing, constructing, and finally test-flying it. Noteworthy images in the Montgomery collection show the construction of airplanes, Doolittle’s airplane at the Parks College airfield, structures around the airfield, and several of the foreign students, including Japanese, who attended the college. In 1946 the college became part of St. Louis University, and it still operates today under the auspices of the university as Parks College of Engineering, Aviation, and Technology.

After finishing aviation school, Montgomery worked for Parks Air College for two years and did some barnstorming in the region. He then moved to Owensboro, Kentucky, for two years, trying his hand at opening and owning an airport there. Ultimately, he returned to Rolla to marry his longtime sweetheart, Mildred Bowen, in 1935.

Once settled in Rolla, Montgomery abandoned his aviation dreams and set his mind to developing various business ventures. For eight years, from the late 1930s to the mid-1940s, he managed a longtime Route 66 landmark, the Sinclair restaurant in St. Louis. Musial became a regular visitor to Rolla, and Montgomery struck up a friendship with St. Louis Cardinal great Stan Musial, who ran a restaurant in St. Louis. Musial became a regular visitor to Rolla, going out hunting with Montgomery often enough that he was featured hunting with the businessman in a photograph from a 1955 brochure promoting tourism in the Rolla area. Diehl Montgomery was active in many Rolla fraternal and civic organizations. In 1958 he was once again able to use his aviation background when he was appointed to the city’s first airport commission, which developed the Rolla National Airport at Vichy. Montgomery passed away in 1997 at age eighty-six.

Normandy School District and Normandy Area Historical Association Collections Document the Founding of UM-St. Louis

As the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus observes its fiftieth anniversary in 2013, researchers have been using State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis collections to explore the university’s historical connections to Normandy, the north St. Louis County suburb where the university began. Planning to create a junior college in the area began in 1958 with a proposal to purchase the Bellerive Country Club property. The Normandy School District Board of Education submitted a bond issue to fund the acquisition to voters on September 30, 1958, which received more than the two-thirds majority required for approval. In October 1959 club officials notified the board of education that it would turn over the full facilities of the club to the school district on May 31, 1960.

This opportunity to develop a junior college for the Normandy School District is documented in two SHSMO-St. Louis collections donated by the Normandy School District and the Normandy Area Historical Association. Each includes manuscripts and photographs reflecting this important historical connection.

Men and women representing many facets of the Normandy community and known as the “Committee of Twenty-eight” set up the criteria for the new and unique educational institution. Early on, they met with University of Missouri president Elmer Ellis and members of his staff in Columbia. Dr. Ellis suggested that the school district establish a junior college to fill all the physical requirements for a residence center, with the university providing and supervising the educational program. Normandy students would pay fees to the university to offset the cost of staffing, and students living outside the Normandy school district would pay an additional fee to help with operating and maintenance costs.

The Committee of Twenty-eight returned from the Columbia conference determined to proceed with the establishment of a Normandy Residence Center in the facilities of the newly acquired country club property. The university required a minimum initial enrollment of 100 students to make the school financially possible, and the old clubhouse needed to be remodeled. Questionnaires sent to all juniors and seniors at Normandy High School and to those living within the district but attending parochial schools resulted in more than the minimum number expressing an interest in enrolling for the fall term. In May 1960 the school district announced that a registration period would be held for students interested in attending the proposed Normandy Residence Center. At the close of the third day, some 180 prospective students had enrolled and paid a “good faith” fee of $50.00. Many potential students had to be turned away.

University of Missouri studies indicated that even with two large, long-established universities already in the St. Louis area, the demand for higher education in the metropolitan area would exceed the number of students then on the Columbia campus. Recognizing this potential demand, university officials began discussing the acquisition of the Normandy Residence Center with Normandy school officials in the fall of 1961. The administrators believed the 128-acre site was adequate for the future development of a four-year branch of the University of Missouri, with the strong possibility that graduate work would also be offered. After thorough deliberation, the school board decided to agree to the university’s plan and move toward the greater goal of a four-year university—all with no further outlay for buildings or operational costs, which would have been borne by local property taxes. After working out legal problems involved in transferring the old Bellerive Country Club property from the school district to the university, the university took title in the fall of 1963. Fifty years later, almost 17,000 students attend the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Dedication of UM-St. Louis in 1963. Elmer Ellis speaking, seated left to right, Governor John Dalton, Edward Monaca, president of Normandy Board of Education, and James Bugyi, who was appointed dean of faculty.
Share Missouri History with Young Missourians!

The National History Day in Missouri program has over 2,500 participants statewide and reaches many more young Missourians than that. To help it come together, we need your help.

Consider making a gift toward the $30,602 needed for the program and volunteering at the state contest in Columbia on April 20.

Make a gift at http://shs.umsystem.edu/ and click on “Donate”

Volunteer with an e-mail to historyday@umsystem.edu