

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

November 2011 Vol. 7, No. 3



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2011 Annual Meeting honors scholarship, funds Civil War projects, and focuses on recent success with eye toward future need

Members gathered at the Tiger Hotel in Columbia on November 5 for an exciting and informative annual meeting.

Under the leadership of President Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., members and guests participated in a silent auction, attended the business meeting, and enjoyed a luncheon with a program by Director Gary R. Kremer.

Four new trustees were welcomed following their election to serve a three-year term, 2011-2014: Rodney Boyd of St. Louis, Edward C. (Ned) Matthews III, Sikeston, Kenneth B. McClain from Independence, and Ike Skelton of Washington, DC. Members reelected the following trustees for continued service during the same period: W. Grant McMurray, Independence, William W. Sellers, Lexington, Jeffrey E. Smith, Columbia, and Robert W. Wilson of Milan.

President Limbaugh acknowledged the support of and expressed appreciation to those trustees retiring from the board: Laura White Erdel of Columbia, James R. Mayo, Bloomfield, and Thomas L. Miller Sr. of Washington.

The Society awarded nearly \$10,000 in Brownlee Grants to nineteen historical societies, museums, and cultural organizations throughout the state for projects commemorating the American Civil War.

The best of current study and scholarship was noted with several awards. The Lewis E. Atherton \$1,000 Dissertation Prize went to April E. Holm for

"A Kingdom Divided: Border Evangelicals in the Civil War Era, 1837-1894." The Atherton \$500 Master's Thesis Prize was given to Steven P. Stuckey for "Fighting for Family: French Kin Networks and the American Revolution in the Illinois Country, 1780-1781."

The Mary C. Neth \$500 Article Prize went to Rebecca S. Montgomery for "'With the Brain of a Man and the Heart of a Woman': Missouri Women and Rural Change, 1890-1915," which appeared in the April 2010 *Missouri Historical Review*, and Stephan Greenway was honored with the \$750 *Missouri Historical Review* Article Prize for "'I Am Going to Find a New Fatherland': Nationalism and German Colonization Societies in the Frontier State of Missouri" published by the Society in October 2010.

James McGrath Morris won the \$1,000 Eagleton-Waters Book Award for *Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print and Power*, and Jarod Roll earned the \$1,500 Missouri History Book Award for *Spirit of Rebellion: Labor and Religion in the New Cotton South*.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Walter A. Schroeder, Assistant Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography at the University of Missouri. Schroeder's fields of study—physical and environmental history, biogeography, and historical geography—are important to understanding Missouri history and create appreciation for the unique features of our state. Schroeder has taught countless Mizzou students to

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Above: Executive Director Gary R. Kremer presents the annual report to members, emphasizing the importance of the Historical Society's successful educational outreach program, National History Day in Missouri.

recognize the ways in which human interaction with the environment affects the cultural landscape, and his books and articles have contributed a great deal to the historical record.

The annual meeting's wine raffle brought in \$375 for National History Day in Missouri. The first-place winner was Sherrie Jackson of St. Louis, and the second-place winner was Kerry McGrath from Urbandale, Iowa. Appreciation is extended to the following individuals who donated wine to the raffle: H. Riley Bock, Lawrence O. Christensen, Carol A. Corrigan, Doug Crews, Lynn Wolf Gentzler, Gary R. Kremer, Laura Jolley, Sabrina McDonnell, Robert J. Mueller, and Bob Priddy.

The silent auction raised \$830 for the James W. Goodrich Graduate Research Assistantship in Missouri History. Thanks to those who donated terrific items to this year's auction: Les Bourgeois Winery, Rocheport, Doug and Tricia Crews of Columbia, Flat Branch Pub & Brewing, Columbia, Jane B. Mudd of Fulton, Panera Bread, Columbia, Peggy Platner of Columbia, and the Westphalia Inn in Westphalia, Missouri.



Above: Many interesting silent auction items lure interested bidders. Left: Dr. Walter A. Schroeder, middle, receives the Distinguished Service Award from President Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. and Executive Director Gary R. Kremer.



Executive Director Kremer presented the luncheon address, "We Are Living in Very Stirring Times: The Civil War Era in Missouri's Capital City." In his introduction, he traced the division between the proslavery Upland Southerners who first settled the area and the antislavery German immigrants who had arrived later in the 1860 presidential election. He emphasized that Jefferson City was occupied by Federal troops from June 1861 until the end of the war, with the military and civilians alike anticipating the possibility of invasion by secessionists. Using personal letters, newspapers, and provost marshal records, Kremer discussed the effect of this prolonged occupation, which resulted in suspicion and distrust between troops and civilians, and among civilians. He also commented on the animosity between the races caused by the influx of runaway slaves that occurred after 1862.

In conclusion, Kremer noted that a legacy of division informed relations between descendants of Jefferson City Civil War era residents during much of the century following the war.

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New membership club: **George Caleb Bingham Annual Giving Society**

One of the nineteenth century's best-known artists, George Caleb Bingham, preserved on canvas some of our most iconic images of commerce and politics during the turbulent period of westward expansion and the Civil War. The Historical Society is proud to have in its collection several of his most important works, including masterpieces *General Order No. 11* and *Watching the Cargo*.

Not only was Bingham an eminently talented artist, he was also a man of high ideals. Therefore, it is fitting that the Society name its new annual giving club at the \$1,000 level in his honor—the George Caleb Bingham Society—to help uphold our high ideals in preserving our great heritage. Bingham Society members will enhance our ability to collect, publish, and preserve material that is vital to the study of the history of Missouri and the settling of the West. Please consider this highest level of membership.

The Historical Society continues to rely on member support and donations to fund exhibitions, services, and special events at each facility and throughout the state, and as noted in the August 2011 newsletter, effective January 1, 2012, the dues associated with existing levels of membership will rise. New membership rates are: Student/Teacher Member \$25; Individual Member \$30; International Member \$40; Household \$50; Contributing Member \$75; Supporting Member \$125; Sustaining Member \$250; Patron Member \$500; Corporate/Institutional Member \$500; and the new George Caleb Bingham Annual Giving Society \$1,000. Bingham Society dues may be paid in two installments of \$500 each within the calendar year.

All members receive the *Missouri Historical Review* quarterly scholarly journal, the *Missouri Times* quarterly newsletter, a discount on publications and Benton-Bingham Gift Shop items, a reduced fee on research assistance and workshops, and an invitation to the Annual Meeting. To learn about increased benefits at higher levels of membership visit our Web site or telephone (573) 882-7083.

The Price Family honored with Exhibition and Reception

In association with the Annual Meeting's Trustee Dinner on November 4, a special reception was held at the Historical Society in Columbia to honor Albert M. "Al" Price and his family. Attendees included Steve Owens, Interim President of the University of Missouri, as well as Society trustees and the friends and family of Al and Marjo Price.

Guests enjoyed light refreshments and perused the special exhibition, *The Prices of History: The Legacy of the Price Family in Mid-Missouri*, which opened September 15 to commemorate the return of George Caleb Bingham's *Order No. 11* to the Society's Main Gallery and to acknowledge the legacy of the Price family and their connection with Bingham through R. B. Price, who helped finance "Bingham and Co.," publishers of the engraving *Martial Law (Order No. 11)*, for which the Society's version of the great picture was painted.

Al Price traces his ancestry to an early nineteenth-century Virginian, Dr. Edwin Price, brother of Sterling Price who gained fame as a Missouri governor and Confederate general. In 1852 Dr. Price's son, Robert Beverly (R. B.) Price, came to Columbia to attend the state university. While in Columbia, R. B. met and married Emma Prewitt, daughter of Frederick Moss Prewitt. In 1857 R. B. joined his father-in-law in a new company that became the Boone County Bank that same year. R. B. served as treasurer of the University of Missouri from 1872 to 1922 and treasurer of the Society from 1901 to 1923.

R. B. Price Jr. started working as a bookkeeper at the Boone County Bank in October 1903 while attending the University of Missouri. He succeeded to the bank presidency in 1924, after his father's death. Like his father, he also served as treasurer of the University of Missouri (1922-1963). R. B. Price Jr. was treasurer of the Historical Society from 1923 until 1968, when his nephew, Al Price, took over the position, serving until 2010.

Historical Society President Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. spoke during the reception, remarking on the extraordinary history of the Price family in Missouri and their longtime service



The Price family pictured above: back row left to right, Albert Langrell Price, Albert M. Price, Marjo Langrell Price, Robert Beverly Price III, and Edwin Lakenan Price. Front row Ryan Sterling Price and Oliver Lakenan Price. Below right: Among those on hand to express appreciation for the Price family were Trustee Charles Digges Sr., Sam B. Cook, and Donna Smith.

to the Historical Society and University of Missouri. Curator of Art Collections Joan Stack spoke about the artworks on display in the exhibit, which include portraits of the Price family by George Caleb Bingham as well as landscapes by Al's venerable ancestor, R. B. Price. Later in the evening during the trustees dinner, Al Price was presented with a framed reproduction of one of the R. B. Price landscapes from the exhibition in appreciation of his service to the Society.



Left: The Trustees Dinner included a fine art auction and trustee Kenneth B. McClain offered the top bid on an oil painting by internationally known artist and University of Missouri Professor Emeritus of Art Frank Stack. McClain is pictured at right with Frank Stack and daughter, Dr. Joan Stack, Curator of Art Collections for the Historical Society. Proceeds went to support the Oral History Program.

Rudi Keller's "Life During Wartime" The Civil War in Central Missouri

On November 10 journalist Rudi Keller gave a talk about his daily column in the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, "Life During Wartime," to a capacity audience gathered in the Main Gallery at the Research Center-Columbia. The interested crowd asked many questions of Keller: where he gets his material and ideas for articles, what counties are included in his definition of central Missouri, and most importantly, does he plan to write a daily entry for each day of the remaining four and a half years of war? Rudi answered affirmatively to the last question!

Keller noted several resources that aid his understanding of Missouri 150 years ago and expressed appreciation for the Historical Society's newspaper collection, in particular, online availability of the *Daily Missouri Republican*, published in St. Louis continuously throughout the wartime period. Rudi said he also learns from visits with Civil War buffs and academic historians and consulting additional documentary materials.

If you have ideas or an interesting piece of Civil War history you would like to share with Rudi, you may contact him at: rkeller@columbiatribune.com.



Rudi Keller speaks at the Historical Society in Columbia on his column that details the impact of the Civil War on the people and communities of central Missouri.

Repairs continue at Columbia Research Center following water damage from Ellis Library fire

Reconstruction of ceilings, walls, and floor surfaces continues following water damage to several areas at the Research Center in Columbia that occurred when a fire suppression sprinkler system was activated during an arson and vandalism incident at Ellis Library on September 10. Fortunately, damage was confined primarily to office areas, with no risk to the art collection storage rooms or galleries. Only two of the approximately 6,000 manuscript collections housed at the Columbia Center sustained minor damage, and some reels of duplicate microfilm were destroyed.

Several staff members have been moved to temporary offices in the McReynolds building on campus, and much shifting has taken place among reference, curatorial, and administrative staff members who remain at the Society while reconstruction and clean-up efforts are underway. The staff's main goal during this period has been to continue providing high-quality public service.



Above: a portion of the newspaper collection on September 10 with tarps moving running water away from historic Missouri newspapers.

Commemorating The Battle of Lexington



Dr. Joan Stack poses with William W. Sellers in front of the Society's painting, *The Battle of Lexington*. Sellers is a Society Trustee and President of Wentworth Military Academy and College in Lexington.

The Historical Society supported several activities surrounding the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington in mid-September. Director Gary R. Kremer moderated a Civil War Authors Round Table on September 14 for a large audience of about 130 people at Wentworth Military Academy to kick off the commemorative events.

Also, on September 17, in the midst of activities accompanying the reenactment of the Battle of Lexington, Curator of Art Collections Joan Stack presented an illustrated lecture at the State Historic Site. Titled "The Challenge of Painting *The Battle of Lexington*," the presentation centered on a picture in the Society's collection said to have been painted during the battle by the little-known Hungarian emigrant artist F. Domenico.

Chief Exhibit Preparator Greig Thompson brought the painting from the Society to Lexington, and it was on display during the event. Stack discussed the picture in the context of battle painting as a genre, considering how earlier works may have influenced the painter, and comparing Domenico's artwork with representations of the battle by other artists. The lecture was attended by Society trustee William Sellers and an attentive group of over twenty-five people.

NHD 2012: Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History



During the 2011-2012 school year, National History Day students will research topics related to the theme "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History."

National History Day in Missouri is gearing up for this exciting season and planning for the state contest set for **April 21, 2012**. NHD in Missouri must have almost 150 judges and about 30 additional volunteers to help out for all or part of the day. Judges should have knowledge of history and/or education or a familiarity with one of the presentation formats, such as drama, speech, communications, video, or Web site production, etc. Judges are placed in teams that balance history with other talents. Other volunteers can help with registration, selling t-shirts, "guarding" the doors while judging takes place, and much more. It is so much fun to see the excitement of these young people that many of our volunteers come back year after year!

For more information, please see the NHDMO Web site, <http://mo.nhd.org/volunteersalumni.htm>, or contact Deborah Luchenbill at (573) 882-0189 or HistoryDay@umsystem.edu.

New National History Day Blog

NHD Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn has started a new blog, "The Voice of NHD," at which she will be writing about her travels to places and meetings with people involved in NHD and about important news related to education and history. In September Gorn wrote about her visits to the programs in Indonesia and China. Find the link at <http://www.nhd.org> or at <http://thevoiceofnhd.wordpress.com>.

2012 Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Albert H. Small Student/Teacher Institute

Teachers are invited to apply for the 2012 Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Albert H. Small Student and Teacher Institute. The fifteen teacher and student teams chosen will have the opportunity to conduct research about the Normandy Campaign in World War II, then gather in June for presentations and tours in both Washington, DC, and Normandy, France. This is a very exciting program! Missouri teacher Derek Frieling and student Lauren Grundberg were chosen as a 2011 team and had a wonderful experience.

For more information about the program and to find the application, see <http://www.nhd.org/normandyinstitute.htm>.

Application deadline is December 1.

2012 NHDMO Regional Contest Dates

February 24

Region 1 Maryville Tom Spencer
tspence@nwmissouri.edu (660) 562-1294

Region 8 Rolla Jeff Schramm
schrammj@mst.edu (573) 341-4806

February 25

Region 2 Kirksville Jeff Gall
jgall@truman.edu (660) 785-7747

Region 4 Jefferson City/Columbia Shelly Croteau
Shelly.Croteau@sos.mo.gov (573) 751-4303

Region 7 Springfield Gail Emrie
gailemrie@missouristate.edu (417) 836-5913

March 2

Region 6 Joplin Paul Teverow
Teverow-p@mssu.edu (417) 625-3114

March 3

Region 3 Greater Kansas City Mark Adams
mark.adams@nara.gov (816) 268-8236

March 9

Region 9 Cape Girardeau Joel Rhodes
jrhodes@semo.edu (573) 651-2715

March 24

Region 5 St. Louis Peter Acsay
acsayp@msx.umsl.edu (314) 516-5700

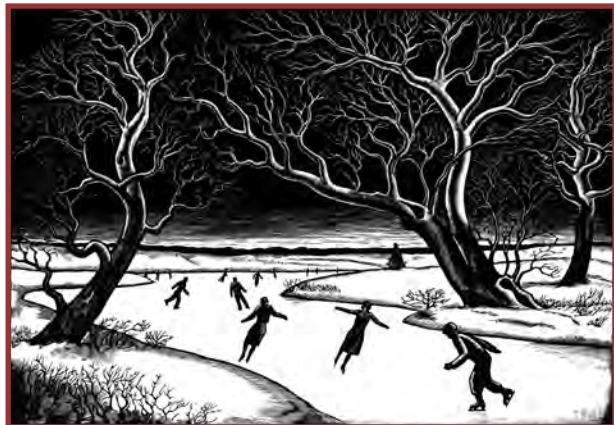
Truman Library and Museum Honors Kansas City-area NHD Finalists

On August 11, the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum recognized NHD finalists Riya Mehta and Sophia Mauro for their achievements in the NHD program. Riya Mehta, a student at Pembroke Hill School, won third place in the nation with her senior individual performance, and Sophia Mauro, a student at The Barstow School, placed fifth with her junior individual performance. The students were honored at a reception and both performed their entries for the guests. Below: Riya, at left, and Sophia.



Exhibitions

Reminder: Research Center-Columbia is closed Mondays.



through mid-April 2012 Research Center-Columbia, Corridor Gallery **Fred Geary: Missouri Master of the Woodcut**

Missouri artist Fred Geary (1894-1946) was a leading figure in the American woodcut revival of the 1930s and 1940s. The Society's collection of over fifty of his graphic masterpieces reveals Geary's exceptional skill in the medium; depictions of landscapes and landmarks and a wide range of other subjects display the expertise of this extraordinary artist. The run of this exhibit has been extended through spring due to the time it was off-display for repairs to the Research Center in Columbia following water damage caused by the arson incident in Ellis Library.

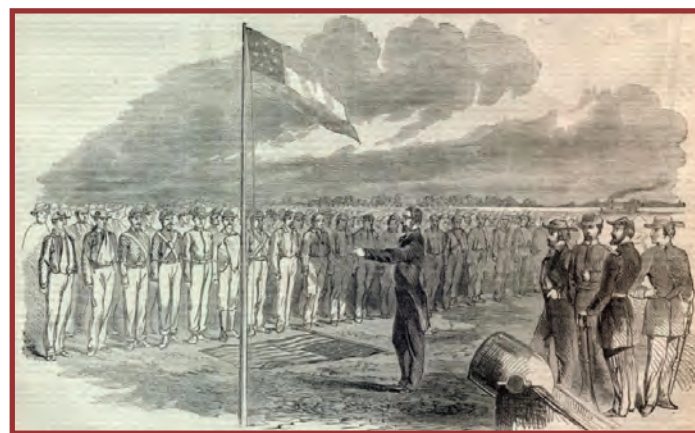
Visit the online Gift Shop to purchase Geary Winter Scene notecards just in time for the Holidays: <http://shsofmo.org/store/>

through February 2012 Research Center-Columbia, Main Gallery **A State Divided: Missouri and the Civil War**

Missouri suffered greatly from brother against brother fighting during the Civil War. Images and objects in this exhibition chronicle the conflict, revealing the complexity of the period. Among the works on display are pieces by George Caleb Bingham and wood engravings from *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*.

January 28 1:30 p.m. **Curator's Walk Through**

Be a part of this guided tour by Dr. Joan Stack to learn more about the art and history of Missouri and the Civil War.



through June 2012 Research Center-Columbia, Bingham Gallery **The Prices of History: The Legacy of the Price Family in Mid-Missouri**

Opened on September 15, this exhibit celebrates the return of George Caleb Bingham's *Order No. 11* and acknowledges the legacy of the Price family and their connection with Bingham through R. B. Price, who helped finance "Bingham and Co.," publishers of the engraving *Martial Law (Order No. 11)*, for which the Society's version of the great Civil War picture was painted.

The exhibit includes several pieces loaned by Albert M. and Marjo Price—watercolors by R. B. Price and oil portraits of the Price family by George Caleb Bingham—including the one pictured left, *Robert Beverly Price*, ca. 1862.

January



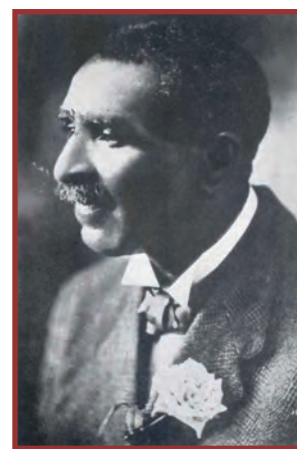
January 25 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. State Capitol Third Floor **Annual Day at the Capitol**

The Historical Society's 2012 Day at the Capitol will promote better understanding of **National History Day in Missouri**—an important history education program sponsored by the Society in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council. NHD in Missouri students will be on hand to discuss how they choose and approach a topic related to the annual theme, talk about the fun and pressure involved in local and state contests, and present their findings with exhibits or performances. Join us on the third floor Rotunda of the Missouri State Capitol to learn more from young Missouri scholars and enjoy a piece of National History Day cake.

February

February 23 5:30 p.m. Research Center-Columbia **George Washington Carver: Scientist and Symbol**

Executive Director Gary R. Kremer and Professor Charles Nilon of the School of Natural Resources in the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources will present a program on George Washington Carver—sure to move us past a simplistic understanding of him as the first African American scientist who studied the peanut at Tuskegee Institute. Dr. Nilon will discuss the depth of Carver as a scientist and focus on Carver's work in conservation, while Dr. Kremer will explain how Carver does not align easily as hero or myth but is better understood as an extraordinarily complex man living in an extremely complicated society.



Save the Dates

March 3 **New Exhibit** Research Center-Columbia, Main Gallery **1942: Thomas Hart Benton's Year of Peril**

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the creation of Thomas Hart Benton's Year of Peril Series, the Historical Society will mount an exhibition of all eight of the war propaganda paintings Benton created at the outset of the U.S. involvement in WWII. In addition to the monumental war paintings, the exhibit will include editorial cartoons and war posters created by other artists in 1942.



March 8 5:30 p.m. Research Center-Columbia **Author Margot McMillen**

The Golden Lane: How Missouri Women Gained the Vote and Changed History

In June 1916 the Democratic National Convention met in St. Louis. Inside the Jefferson Hotel, the men ate breakfast and met with their committees. Outside, thousands of women quietly took their places along both sides of Locust Street, standing shoulder to shoulder, in dresses that brushed the pavement, wearing yellow sashes that said "Votes for Women." The all-male delegations may not have had a comfortable walk down the Golden Lane, but they were moved to add women's suffrage to the national platform.

Join Margot McMillen for an accessible history of a privilege too often taken for granted.

Theo Wilson: Dean of the Trial Reporters



Theo Wilson in her office, c. 1980

The National Women and Media Collection (NWMC) is a joint venture of the Society and University of Missouri School of Journalism. Marjorie Paxson—MU graduate, journalist, and retired Gannett publisher—established the collection in 1987 with a monetary donation and the gift of her own papers. The collection documents the roles women have played in media fields, both as employees and as objects of coverage, how those roles have altered over time, and how attitudes of and toward women have changed.

The papers of Theodora R. “Theo” Nadelstein Wilson, the “dean of the trial reporters,” are part of the collection. Her career illustrates the golden age of newspaper journalism and is invaluable to researchers interested in criminal and celebrity trials of the mid-to-late twentieth century.

Wilson, born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 22, 1917, was first published at age eight in a national magazine for her story on the family’s pet monkey. She attended the University of Kentucky and became a columnist and associate editor of the school newspaper without taking any journalism courses. She began work at the *Evansville (IN) Press* the day after graduation and quickly became the paper’s tri-state editor. She soon moved with her new husband, William R. “Bob” Wilson, to Richmond, Virginia, and joined the *Richmond News Leader* as a trial reporter covering city, state, and federal courts and federal agencies. She learned skills in this position that would later prove invaluable: “how to read a long and complicated opinion and dictate immediately from it, how to write meticulous notes for hours every day in every kind of a court case, how to write a story, always on deadline, so it could be understood by readers.”

From Richmond she went to the Philadelphia bureau of the Associated Press until a position opened at the *Philadelphia Bulletin* in 1950. In 1951, when Bob was offered a job at NBC Radio, they moved to New York where Wilson spent a brief period at the *New York Post* before joining the

New York Daily News in 1952. In 1960 the couple divorced. Theo remained in New York and became one of the most acclaimed trial reporters in the history of journalism.

Beginning in 1954 with the Sam Sheppard murder trial, Wilson covered every major trial in the U.S. for the *Daily News* until 1982. Over the coming decades, Wilson reported on the trials of Jack Ruby, Sirhan Sirhan, Charles Manson, Claus von Bulow, Albert DeSalvo, and David Berkowitz, among other. She also wrote about the Mercury and Apollo space programs, Jacqueline Kennedy’s 1962 trip to India and Pakistan, and the 1968 Democratic convention. It was her trial reporting, however, that won Theo fame as an accomplished journalist.

In her memoir *Headline Justice*, Wilson said, “I have always compared big courtroom trials to great theater, filled as those trials are with revelations of human weakness and folly, with violence and sorrow and humor and pity and passion, all the more fascinating because these are real people, real life.” Longtime friend and fellow journalist Linda Deutsch recounted Wilson’s rules for covering a trial: “Never leave the courtroom except to file your story; you might miss a crucial moment. Don’t give undue attention to out-of-court gossip; the only important facts are those which come from the witness stand to the jury’s ears. Never forget that lawyers on both sides of a case are salespeople, and those ‘secrets’ they may want to tell you are designed to help their clients. And most importantly, never come to a trial with your mind made up; listen to the evidence as if you were a juror and report it with a fair, unbiased approach.”

In 1973 the *Daily News* established a bureau in Los Angeles with Wilson as the primary correspondent. She moved to California permanently, and from there covered the Angela Davis, Hillside Strangler, and Patty Hearst trials. In 1982 she left formal employment with the paper. She later completed freelance work on the John DeLorean and O. J. Simpson trials. In 1997 Wilson died suddenly from a cerebral hemorrhage as she prepared to launch a book tour of her memoir.

The Theodora R. Wilson Papers consist of newspaper articles, trial notes, awards, correspondence, photographs, and miscellaneous items from her career as a reporter and writer, 1937-1996. Her status as the premier trial reporter of her generation is thoroughly documented, and the collection illustrates the changing relationship between mass media and the justice system over the second half of the twentieth century.

If you have, or know of, documents you believe would be suitable for the National Women and Media Collection, please contact Laura Jolley at (573) 882-0187, or JolleyL@umsystem.edu

Theo Wilson received the University of Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism in 1984.

Then and Now: Milgram Food Stores, Inc. Collection

When the Kansas City Athletics made their home debut at Municipal Stadium on April 12, 1955, former President Harry Truman threw out the first ball. A photograph of the historic moment was reproduced on the two-story ash wood wall at the Kansas City Royals Hall of Fame at Kauffman Stadium. This picture is also among the hundreds of historic photos in Milgram Food Stores, Inc. Collection held at the SHSMO Research Center-Kansas City.

Pictured among the fans at the 1955 opener were Milgram officials Stuart Wien (in back, second from left), Lester Milgram (third from left), and Nat Milgram, founder (in bow tie, standing next to Lester).

Stuart Wien went on to become chairman of the grocery chain, and he is pictured, right, standing alongside the famous photo on July 18, 2011, during a visit to the Hall of Fame.

Milgram's, along with Katz Drug, Western Auto, and Wolferman's (all of whose records are held at the Society's Research Center-Kansas City), was one of the truly iconic business names of Kansas City. Moreover, the family's civic contribution, culturally and socially, is hard to match.

Milgram Food Stores, Inc. began in 1913 with one store owned by Nat Milgram. After fifteen years under his ownership and the management of three brothers and five brothers-in-law, the chain had grown to thirty-seven stores, which the Kroger Company purchased in 1928. In January 1932 Nat organized a new Milgram Food Stores, Inc. and served as its president until his death in January 1958. His son, Lester (1917-1976), then became president and continued Milgram's traditions of active involvement in community affairs. Milgram's continued under family ownership and management until 1984 when it was sold to Wetterau, Inc., who over the next several years closed the thirty-six retail stores.

The records, heavy with photographs, document the business and activities of the company and the Milgram family. Among the many topics covered are the American Royal, jazz, the Ban Johnson League, and other amateur sports.



Above Left: Lester Milgram, playing the trumpet, was an accomplished jazz player who was given a lifetime membership in the Kansas City Federation of Musicians Local 34. Kansas City Mayor Charles B. Wheeler (front left) enjoys the music. Center: The Milgram store in Brookside at 6327 Wyandotte, December 23, 1938. Right: Jane Nabor, popular spokesperson for the Milgram company, broadcasts her "Hi Neighbor" cooking show on local TV.

The Williams Family Papers



Aerial view of the Williams farm, c. 1954

The Williams Family papers, recently loaned for copying to the Research Center-Rolla, illustrate the one-of-a-kind historical items that occur in collections otherwise of personal and sentimental value. The collection represents members of the Williams, Sturgeon, Thomas, and Watson families—all prominent in the Rolla area. The Sturgeons were early settlers of Beulah, in southern Phelps County, and the collection contains rare images of the Beulah area, most notably a heretofore unknown photo of the main street in 1906.

Elbert “Bert” Deer Williams, born near Licking in 1883, came to Rolla in 1910 after marrying Althea Sturgeon, the daughter of William Zadock Sturgeon, director of the Rolla State Bank. Starting as assistant cashier, Bert Williams eventually became president of the bank and an eminent citizen of Rolla, serving many years on the board of education and the city council. Bert and Althea are remembered in Rolla for their gift of the 200-acre Holloway Farm on the east side of town, which ultimately became BerJuan Park, the centerpiece of Rolla’s park system. They had two children—Rex Z. and Juanita.

Rex Z. Williams graduated from the Missouri School of Mines in 1931 with a degree in metallurgical engineering. Joining the faculty as an instructor in mechanics, he later became department chair and ultimately associate dean of the School. In 1952 he resigned to become executive vice president at the Rolla State Bank under his father.

Among genealogical materials and family portraits in the collection are business papers associated with the mining partnership between Rex and his sister Juanita’s husband, H. D. “Tommy” Thomas. There are a few speculative leases, but the majority of the papers focus on photographs, mining leases, core reports, and financial calculations concerning Moselle Mine No. 10, a pyrite (sulfide ore) endeavor south of Rolla operated by the Thomas and Williams Mining Company. The mine, a filled-sink deposit of hematite, was opened in 1872 and mined until about 1910. It remained abandoned until Thomas and Williams leased the land in 1934 and sank a shaft that revealed a substantial amount of pyrite; in fact, the pyrite at Moselle No. 10 turned out to be the most remarkable mass of sulfide in any sink structure in the Ozarks at that time. Their first shipments of ore were made in the fall of 1934, but it became apparent that working underground was dangerous. The pyrite was not only soft and caved in easily, but it created a corrosive environment for shaft timbering and equipment. In 1935 they determined that the ore was close enough to the surface for open-pit mining. Peak production came in 1938 with the extraction of over 28,000 long tons of pyrite.

When Thomas and Williams took over the mine in 1934, the pit depth was only 32 feet. By 1939 they had excavated sheer walls to a depth of 185 feet, resulting in a long-anticipated cave-in. They then sold their mining rights and equipment to Rowe E. Carney, who continued digging despite additional rock slides, until a fatal accident in 1940 stopped all mining there. In the end, Moselle Mine No. 10 was Thomas and Williams Mining Company’s biggest success and made them the largest producer of pyrite in Missouri during the 1930s.

The papers in this collection may be the only documentation from the period of Missouri’s short-lived pyrite mining boom.



Beulah, Missouri, 1906



Rex Z. Williams standing in the pit at Moselle Mine No. 10, c. 1936

Research Center-St. Louis doubles researcher access

The St. Louis facility has doubled the amount of material available to researchers. Adopting the “process to content” approach to the backlog of unprocessed material, staff members have placed online several box lists to collections that might have otherwise gone years without any public access. Unorganized, unprocessed box lists were scanned, HTML coded, and placed in the online catalog with the processed collections, which allows researchers access to the content. Although not arranged and described in the traditional manner, online indexing of the lists will direct researchers to their interests. The approach has greatly enhanced the SHSMO Research Center-St. Louis’s ability to offer its full collection to the public despite staff reductions and budget cutbacks.

St. Louis radio history project begun

The Research Center-St. Louis has started an oral history project to document the history of St. Louis radio. The first interviews included Ron Elz, known as “Johnny Rabbit” to St. Louis radio listeners growing up in the 1960s. Another renowned St. Louis DJ, Terry Houston, on the air since 1970, also agreed to be interviewed. Many more interviews are planned in the future.

New Accessions

An important addition has been made to the Research Center-St. Louis environmental collections: LAD Foundation, including files on Pioneer Forest. LAD Foundation was incorporated in 1962 to manage sustainable forest areas and protect natural resources in the Missouri Ozarks. Leo Drey donated Pioneer Forest, an area of Ozarks forest land accumulated in 1951 and 1954, to the LAD Foundation in 2004 for continued management as a model of single-tree selection conservation forestry.

Film producer Brian Woodman donated a DVD copy of his documentary, *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth*. The film recently won the John E. O’Connor Film award from the American Historical Association and has been nominated for the Cinema Eye Honors’ Spotlight Award and the International Documentary Association ABC News Video Source Award. Brian works as a film archivist at the Historical Society’s Research Center-St. Louis. Recently, the documentary was reviewed in the October 15th issue of *The Economist*. Future showings of the film are planned for St. Louis and Columbia. Check out: www.pruitt-igoe.com.



Milissa Grant, daughter of civil rights activist David Grant, donated cassettes and transcripts of oral histories with her father and other African American civil rights leaders.

At left: David Grant leads a 1952 protest in front of the board of education building in St. Louis. The protest was against overcrowding and understaffing of African American schools in the district. The coffin represents a young boy killed at Wheatley School.



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