

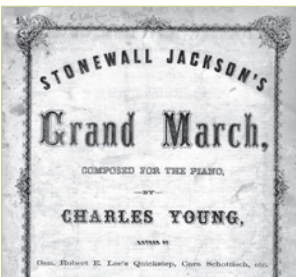
# MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

February 2014 Vol. 9, No. 4



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**Left** The *Missouri Mule II*, a World War II B-26 bomber piloted by George W. Parker. **Right** An air force recruiter and potential candidate discuss service opportunities at a recruiting office in Kirkwood, Missouri, ca. 1954.



## Join the State Historical Society in Celebrating Veterans' Stories

On March 13 the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) and the MU Veterans Center are honoring those who have served in the armed forces. *Proud to Be: Celebrating Veterans*, to be held on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., will capture your senses as authors read excerpts from a recent anthology of essays, fiction, poetry, and interviews by and about veterans and their families.

The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. in Memorial Union's Stotler Lounge III with veterans sharing their stories from *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*. According to Dr. Susan Swartwout, editor of the anthology, it is important to hear veterans' experiences in their own words.

"A nation should never have its military history written solely by military officials or historians," Swartwout said. "That's only part of the story. Groups like the State Historical Society of Missouri—and anthologies like *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*—not only preserve the words but also get those words into the hands and minds of civilians, scholars, historians,

students, family, friends, and those who will follow us in future centuries."

These important written and oral histories provide an opportunity for retrospection and can create public awareness that is helpful in facing future conflicts, according to Carol W. Fleisher, director of the MU Veterans Center. "Securing and sharing veteran oral histories is our only hope of people learning from it and not sending our men and women as our first option," Fleisher said. "War should be the last option. No one goes to war and comes back exactly like they left."

SHSMO Executive Director Gary Kremer said that is why the Society participates in the Missouri Veterans History Project, which reached the milestone of recording its five hundredth oral history in 2013.

"The Civil War, Vietnam, the War in Afghanistan—war shapes our history like few other things, no matter which era," Kremer said. "Without an honest appreciation of what it was really like for our troops and their friends and families back home, how can we expect to heal —**Continued on page 4**



## NHD's Annual Day at the Capitol

Join the State Historical Society of Missouri in thanking your local legislators for supporting National History Day in Missouri through the Annual Day at the Capitol. This February event allows students to showcase their history contest projects and talk about their research experiences. The legislature's support, like yours, makes the difference in growing this innovative educational program.

## Northeast Missouri Pilots Bicentennial Focus Group Meeting, Additional Sessions Anticipated

Missouri's 200th birthday is seven years away as the state officially entered the Union on August 10, 1821. Nonetheless, the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) is already at work planning for the festivities. SHSMO's Bicentennial Committee held a focus group meeting on January 24 with Society members and organizations in northeast Missouri. The objective was to begin incorporating the area's unique history into the statewide bicentennial plans and to develop relationships with local organizations.

*"A true celebration of Missouri and all its unique facets is complex, but that is the goal. Our diversity is a large part of our story."*

—Judge Robert Clayton III

"Who better understands the vibrant history of our region than the museums, genealogical societies, and other organizations that help us celebrate it every day?" said Judge Robert Clayton III, a member of the SHSMO board of trustees.

"Groups like our host, the Mark Twain Museum, are invaluable resources to help plan a comprehensive approach for the bicentennial."

The pilot meeting investigated not only possible statewide initiatives but also potential organizational strategies, community stakeholders, and partnerships.

"The focus group was really a fact-finding mission," Clayton said. "We are glad that so many organizations took part in this exploration of how the state commemorations can support the local ones. A true celebration of Missouri and all its unique facets is complex, but that is the goal. Our diversity is a large part of our story."

The Bicentennial Committee anticipates additional focus group meetings will follow. Invitations will be sent electronically, so make sure your information is up-to-date if you would like to take part in the planning. Contact SHSMO at [shsofmo@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsofmo@umsystem.edu) or 573.882.7083 to verify your email address.

## New Oral History Collection Focuses on Desegregation and Civil Rights in Missouri

A Missouri School of Journalism graduate student's project has helped launch the State Historical Society of Missouri's new Missouri Desegregation and Civil Rights Oral History Project (C4116). Roxanne Foster, now an MU graduate, initially focused her master's project on the desegregation of Douglass and Hickman high schools during the late 1950s in Columbia, Missouri. Thanks to her collaboration with the Society's oral historian, Jeff D. Corrigan, the collection has a strong foundation.

As the project moves forward, the Society will preserve stories about the desegregation of Missouri's public schools and its impact on the civil rights movement across the state. The collection for this ongoing oral history project will remain open, and interviews on this very important topic will continue to be added. To view the current inventory, visit [shs.umsystem.edu/manuscripts/invent/4116](http://shs.umsystem.edu/manuscripts/invent/4116).



University of Missouri graduate student Roxanne Foster, left, interviews Jim Nunnally, a Douglass High School graduate, at the Research Center-Columbia.

### Contact the Society

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## Missouri Conference on History Planned for March 17-18 in Jefferson City

The Missouri Conference on History will provide a preview of keynote speaker Lea VanderVelde's new book, *Redemption Songs: Suing for Freedom before Dred Scott*. VanderVelde, a law professor at the University of Iowa, has unearthed nearly 300 freedom suits brought by slaves in the St. Louis courts. Her book is scheduled for release in May from Oxford University Press. Join us at the luncheon on Monday, March 17, to be enlightened by

her discoveries. The 2014 conference, hosted by the Missouri State Archives, is sure to inspire with the presentation of new scholarship, information exchanges between colleagues, and exploration of new ways to promote public interest in history and the welfare of the history field as a profession. Register by February 21 to receive the early rate of \$45.00 at [shs.umsystem.edu/mch](http://shs.umsystem.edu/mch).

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## Spotlight on Columbia Volunteer

As the former managing editor of Sheba Review Publishing, a past educator at Columbia College, and the author of *The Life of Helen Stephens: The Fulton Flash*, Sharon Kinney Hanson has a strong résumé. Fortunately for the Society, she includes SHSMO in her list of civic involvements.

Hanson first became engaged in 1990 when she was archiving the Helen Stephens Papers. Since then she and her husband have donated her father-in-law's World War II letters and papers (the Wilson O. Hanson Papers), and she has volunteered as a judge for National History Day in Missouri for five years. She recently began volunteering regularly at SHSMO.

"What interests me still about SHSMO is the many supportive roles that it plays: educational for the general public, preservation, support for the researcher, archival," Hanson said. "All of its facets have significant value to many people for a variety of reasons."

Her work scanning the Society's extensive photograph collection helps to ensure that the images are preserved for future generations. Hanson's background has also been an asset in media relations, which opened new avenues for her personal communications, including Facebook and Twitter.

"I have the opportunity to work with like-minded professionals, and I will gain a sense of contributing to and being of assistance to the Society's ongoing work," Hanson said. "To do something useful to others means a lot to me. Of course, I'm enjoying myself as well!"



Sharon Kinney Hanson recently started scanning photos and assisting with SHSMO's media relations.

In addition to volunteering her time, Hanson furthers the Society's mission as a Supporting Member. "If I have a general message to others to volunteer their time or give their financial support to SHSMO it would be this: know that what you are supporting is worthwhile, not only for enriching yourself, but for the public good," Hanson said.

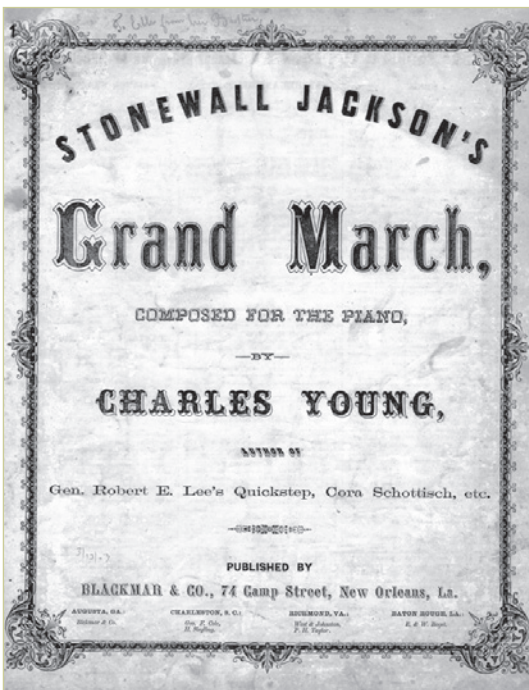
## Nebraska State Historical Society Offering Great Plains Research Grants

In May 2014 the Nebraska State Historical Society will award up to three research grants of \$1,000 each to support the work of scholars pursuing original research and interpretive writing on some aspect of history or archaeology of Nebraska or the Great Plains. Applications must be emailed or postmarked by April 1, 2014.

Applicants from any background, including academic and public historians, graduate students, and independent researchers, are welcome to apply. Recipients are expected to spend at least one week during the grant period in residence in Lincoln working with materials from the Nebraska State

Historical Society collections. The grants are intended to support research that will lead to submission of a manuscript for possible publication in the NSHS's quarterly journal, *Nebraska History*, or another appropriate venue. For more details, see <http://nebraskahistory.org/publish/grants/resgrant>.

## Imagery of the Everyday Civil War Online in Sheet Music Collection



As last year's exhibit *Money, Mail, and Memoria: Ephemera of the Civil War Era* highlighted, much can be learned about a time period through its everyday objects. A Society collection recently placed online extends this insight to popular sheet music from the Civil War period.

Twenty-three songs from the Civil War Sheet Music Collection are now available through the State Historical Society of Missouri website. The web assortment currently features mostly Southern examples written for piano, yet there are hopes of expanding the number of pieces offered at the site.

Take advantage of the collection by visiting [shs.umsystem.edu](http://shs.umsystem.edu) and searching for sheet music. Help support manuscript preservation and increased access to collections by making a gift to the Manuscript Collections fund today. Donate online at [shsofmo.org/store/donation](http://shsofmo.org/store/donation) or contact the Society at 573.882.7083.

**JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION!**

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[facebook.com/statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri](http://facebook.com/statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri)

**Pinterest**  
[pinterest.com/shsofmo](http://pinterest.com/shsofmo)

**Twitter**  
[twitter.com/shsofmo](http://twitter.com/shsofmo)

**Youtube**  
[youtube.com/shsofmissouri](http://youtube.com/shsofmissouri)



## Veterans' Stories—Continued

our wounds and learn from our experiences?"

It is simple to join the Society and the MU Veterans Center in supporting veterans and honoring their experiences, according to Fleisher. "The easiest way to help veterans is to simply say, 'Thank you for your service,'" she said. "Acknowledgment of their service is immeasurable and is remembered."

The public will have an opportunity to do just that at the book signing and reception at the SHSMO Research Center-Columbia on March 13. From 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. attendees can talk with veterans, view artifacts from the Society's military collections, and see Thomas Hart Benton's interpretation of World War II in his *Year of Peril* series. The first fifty veterans at the signing will receive a free copy

of *Proud to Be* thanks to the Missouri Humanities Council, and tours of the MU Veterans Center will be available.

Beyond thanking veterans, Swartwout said the bravery of these men and women should be celebrated. "I hate war. I've found that most veterans do, too," Swartwout said. "But still, they went to war when called to do so, and they—metaphorically and literally—shielded us with their bodies. That deserves our great respect, both now and in the historical preservation of their voices for the future."

*Proud to Be: Celebrating Veterans* is cosponsored by SHSMO and the MU Veterans Center, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council, Southeast Missouri State University Press, the Warrior Arts Alliance, and the MU Army ROTC.

*Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* is a two-volume anthology of essays, fiction, poetry, and interviews by and about veterans and their families. The first volume was recently awarded the 2013 Stars and Flags Book Award gold medal.

## RESEARCH CENTER

### CAPE GIRARDEAU

## Research Center-Cape Girardeau Connects with Community through Open Houses

The Research Center-Cape Girardeau continues to seek avenues for spreading the news about the State Historical Society of Missouri and its newest location. A series of open houses, which began in October 2013, invite the Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) campus and the general public to the Research Center-Cape Girardeau.

The events provide an opportunity for community members and SEMO faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates to view the variety of historical resources at the Cape Girardeau center. Items displayed include papers from the Oliver Collection, which holds the records of a prominent southeast Missouri family and law firm, as well as artifacts from the Southeast Missouri Medical Society and materials from other collections.

The open houses allow for connections between southeast Missourians, Society staff, and SHSMO members, said Robert Mueller, a member of the Society's executive committee.

"I was down in Cape Girardeau doing some research at their local library and stopped in to see the Research Center-Cape Girardeau," Mueller said. "I was pleased to see that they were having an open house. I met a couple of students from the SEMO historic preservation program while I was there, including a friend from Perryville who has gone back to school."

The events are also prime opportunities to explain how southeast Missourians can access the State Historical Society of Missouri's vast resources throughout the state thanks to the courier system.

Watch for details on a special open house for the general public when the Research Center-Cape Girardeau moves into its new, refurbished quarters on the ground floor of Pacific Hall later this year. In the meantime, learn more about the rich history of southeast Missouri by visiting the current third-floor location.



A series of open houses, which began in October 2013, invite the Southeast Missouri State University campus and the general public to the Research Center-Cape Girardeau. Later this year the Center will have a special event when it moves into its new, refurbished quarters on the ground floor of Pacific Hall.



## New Prizes: Stop the Presses and Show Me!

Students coming to the 2014 National History Day in Missouri state contest will have the opportunity to apply for two new special prizes, one sponsored by the Missouri Press Association and one by the State Historical Society of Missouri's Bicentennial Committee. Visit [nhdmo.org](http://nhdmo.org) for more details on each of these new student prizes.

## Be Part of the 2014 NHD Experience

The National History Day in Missouri state contest will be held April 26 at the University of Missouri-Columbia. If you have ever watched TV or visited a website, then you are ready to help judge this contest! Its five categories—documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, and website—have something for everyone. Join us as a judge and be amazed by Missouri's students! To sign up, visit: [nhdmo.org/judges](http://nhdmo.org/judges) or call 573.882.0189.



The state contest is possible thanks to more than 120 volunteer judges from all over Missouri.

## Hang Out with National History Day for Expert Tips

National History Day launched its first Google Hangout series in January and February. Partnering with the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Newseum, and the Smithsonian, NHD held five hangouts—one for each project category—featuring experts who talked about their approaches to creating powerful documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites.

Designed to be highly interactive among the experts, students, and educators, NHD invited questions in advance and tweeted live during the events. Maggie Mayhan, National

History Day in Missouri state coordinator, joined the panel for the documentary hangout.

"This was an amazing opportunity for students to hear from an expert, be able to ask questions, and see samples of professional work," Mayhan said. "It also encouraged them to view their own NHD work as a professional project and set high goals for what the finished product can be."

Watch National History Day in Missouri's social media for details on future Google Hangout sessions so you can tap into the experience of experts in the field.

# Get Ready!



## Mark Your Calendar

### Regionals

- Maryville - February 28
- Kirksville - March 1
- Greater Kansas City - March 1
- Columbia/Mid-Missouri - Docs, Websites, and Papers - February 14
- Performance/Exhibits - March 7
- St. Louis - February 22
- Joplin - March 7
- Springfield - February 28
- Rolla - February 21
- Cape Girardeau - March 14

### State

Columbia - April 26

### Nationals

Maryland - June 15-19

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MISSOURI



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



573.882.7083 | [nhdmo.org](http://nhdmo.org) | [hdmo@umsystem.edu](mailto:hdmo@umsystem.edu)

## Help NHDMO grow

Secure a strong future for this innovative program with your time, by sharing its mission, or by giving a gift!

## Missouri Team Selected for Normandy Institute

Alexander Bueneman and his teacher Angela Allison from Oak Grove High School in Oak Grove, Missouri, have been invited to participate in the 2014 Albert H. Small Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Student and Teacher Institute, which offers an in-depth history of the Normandy invasion and focuses on remembering the D-Day veterans. One of only 15 students selected from an international application pool, Bueneman will step into history, attending lectures presented by leading World War II historians and participating in a scholarly study of the war memorials in the Washington, DC, area before traveling to Normandy, France. On one of D-Day's historic beaches, he will give a eulogy in remembrance of an individual soldier, sailor, or marine from Missouri.



## February Black History Month February 1-28

Follow the State Historical Society of Missouri on social media all month long for a celebration of the unique contributions that African Americans have made to the rich history of our state. Join us in remembering the personal struggles in slavery, the triumphs of courage in the civil rights movement, and the continued fight for social justice for all Americans. Find us on Facebook and Twitter through the home page: [shs.umssystem.edu](http://shs.umssystem.edu).

### March Historic Missourians March Madness March 1-31

Get caught up in history this March with matchups between some of your favorite Historic Missourians. Join in the fun by voting for your favorites on Facebook and by creating a tournament bracket in the formal competition! Download the bracket at [shs.umssystem.edu/outreach/events](http://shs.umssystem.edu/outreach/events) and pick your winners. Then email your selections to [shsofmo@umssystem.edu](mailto:shsofmo@umssystem.edu) by February 28. The highest-scoring bracket will win a T-shirt that showcases your love of history! Find us on Facebook through [shs.umssystem.edu](http://shs.umssystem.edu).

#### Proud to Be: Celebrating Veterans

**March 13 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. University of Missouri-Columbia campus**  
Memorial Union's Stotler Lounge III (5 p.m. - 6 p.m.) Research Center-Columbia (6 p.m. - 8 p.m.)

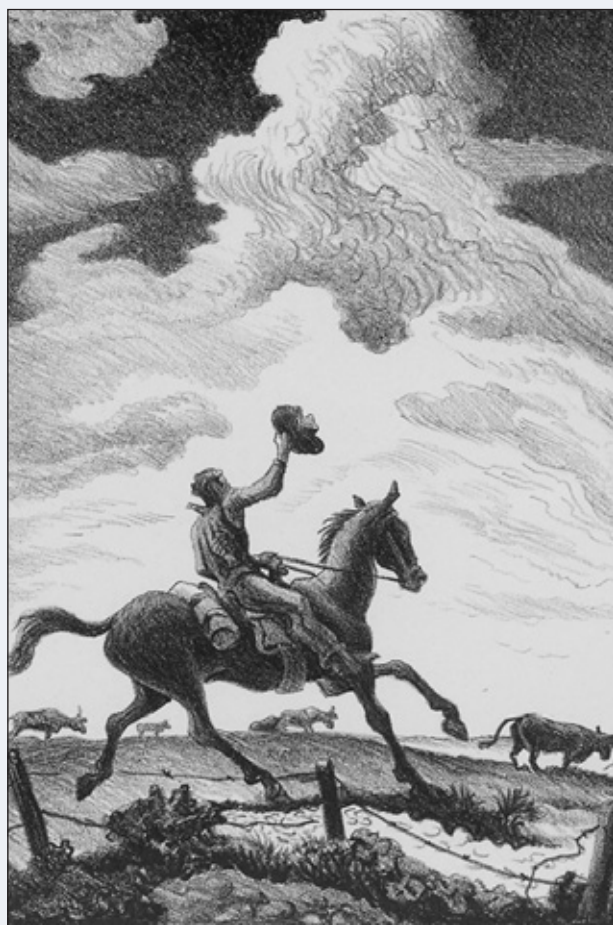
This event honoring those who have served in the armed forces will capture your senses as authors read excerpts from *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*, a two-volume anthology of essays, fiction, poetry, and interviews by and about veterans and their families. Tours of the MU Veterans Center will be available, and a book signing and reception at the Research Center-Columbia will feature artifacts from the military collections as well as the *Year of Peril* series of World War II paintings by Thomas Hart Benton.

The evening is cosponsored by SHSMO and the MU Veterans Center, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council (MHC), Southeast Missouri State University Press, Warrior Arts Alliance, and MU Army ROTC. The first fifty veterans at the signing will receive a free copy of the book thanks to the MHC.

#### Missouri Conference on History

**March 17-18 (Please note this is a Monday and Tuesday.) Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City**

Join others in the field of history to share in the presentation of the results of research, to exchange information on teaching and curriculum, and to consider ways to promote interest in history and the welfare of the profession. All persons interested in the teaching of history, historical research, historical preservation, or other applications of history are welcome. See page 3 for details or visit [shs.umssystem.edu/mch](http://shs.umssystem.edu/mch).



## April

### Thomas Hart Benton's American Mythologies

**April-October Main Gallery Research Center-Columbia**

To commemorate the 125th anniversary of the artist's birth on April 15, 1889, this exhibition showcases Thomas Hart Benton artworks that explore the mythic West, including subjects such as Jesse James and the writings of Mark Twain. Visit the Main Gallery at the Research Center-Columbia this April through October to view the intersections of American cultural heritage in Benton's regionalist images.

### Thomas Hart Benton Birthday Bash

**April 12 Research Center-Columbia**

Join SHSMO and the Museum of Art and Archaeology (MAA) for an afternoon of activities celebrating the 125th birthday of Thomas Hart Benton, including a chance to "meet" him as MAA docent Gary Beahan answers questions in costume!

**F 1 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. - Inspired by Benton: Kids Create and Curate!** - At this fun family event kids ages five to twelve will create a special exhibition of cards celebrating Benton's birthday. Dr. Joan Stack, SHSMO's art curator, will provide a short tour of the new *American Mythologies* exhibit. Children will then make birthday cards inspired by the pieces on display. When finished, the kids will help design a temporary exhibit showcasing them in the Society's Corridor Gallery. The event is free, but space is limited. Register by contacting SHSMO at 573.882.7083 or [shsofmo@umssystem.edu](mailto:shsofmo@umssystem.edu).

**3 p.m. - 4 p.m. - Happy Birthday Mr. Benton!** - Join in the celebration of this Missouri artist's life and work by learning more about his impact on the history of American art. Curator Dr. Joan Stack will enlighten us with the stories behind the new exhibition *American Mythologies*. Attendees can wish "Benton" a happy 125th birthday while sharing cake and viewing the new temporary exhibit of cards inspired by Benton (see above).



### National History Day in Missouri State Contest

**April 26 University of Missouri-Columbia campus**

Nearly 600 sixth- through twelfth-grade students from every corner of the state will converge on the MU campus for the National History Day in Missouri state contest. Advancing from nine regional contests, these top students will present their documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites that explore "Rights and Responsibilities in History." Finalists will serve as Missouri delegates to the national contest June 15-19 at the University of Maryland-College Park. NHDMO is sponsored by SHSMO, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council.

### Oral History Workshop in Forsyth, Missouri May 19 White River Valley Historical Society

SHSMO is taking workshops on the road in 2014 with help from your local organizations! Members in the Ozarks should save the date of May 19 for *Introduction to Oral History*. Working with Jeff D. Corrigan, the Society's oral historian, you will learn the fundamentals of conducting oral history projects from initial idea through finished product. Contact the State Historical Society of Missouri at 573.882.7083 or [shsofmo@umssystem.edu](mailto:shsofmo@umssystem.edu) to ensure you receive more information as it becomes available.

## Looking ahead



## German American Newspapers Shape Hermann's Culture

The history of Hermann, Missouri, starts with a comparison. In the *Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America* (1829), Gottfried Duden wrote about the Missouri River valley. His widely circulated description of the similarities between this region and the Rhine River valley in Germany is often credited with bringing the first wave of German settlers to the area. The land he described between St. Louis and what would become Hermann seemed an ideal setting for a colony promoting traditional German culture. In fact, the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia founded Hermann in the 1830s because of Duden's enthusiasm for the region.

At the heart of the new German American community was Eduard Mühl, who immigrated to Hermann with his family in 1843. Mühl and a brother-in-law, Karl Strehly, brought a printing press with them and started a German-language newspaper, the *Hermann Wochenblatt*, that same year.

A freethinker, Mühl's editorials sometimes caused

*The Hermann Wochenblatt translates to Herman Weekly. It was renamed the Hermann Volksblatt in 1856. Volksblatt means the people sheet.*

controversy. The editor was an early and outspoken critic of slavery, a position that took courage because many of his neighbors were slaveholders. Mühl also advocated for the



Hermann residents often subscribed to both the *Hermanner Volksblatt* and the *Advertiser-Courier* as a way to work on their English-language skills. These issues from December 20 and 22, 1922, show the similarity in coverage between the two papers.

cultivation of grapes and the production of quality wines when the town was facing economic hardships. Education was another passion for Mühl, and he spoke out against the exclusive use of English in public schools. In Hermann, classes were conducted in both English and German to advance the German identity that the town promoted.

Mühl passed away from cholera in 1854, but the independent spirit of the newspaper continued under a new owner. Jacob Graf, like Mühl, was an abolitionist who advocated in print for the antislavery cause despite the dangers it posed for him. During his tenure, Graf changed the name of the newspaper to the *Hermanner Volksblatt*. After Graf passed away in 1870, his family turned to Joseph Leising for help to keep the paper running in German. This tradition continued until 1928,

despite the pressure placed on German culture during World War I.

Leising and Graf's widow, Christina, started a new venture in 1872, forming the publishing company C. Graf & Co. It was under this name that the first English newspaper was published in Gasconade County, the *Hermann Advertiser*.

The population of Hermann, still almost exclusively of German heritage, was willing to subscribe to both papers. An editorial from the fortieth birthday of the *Advertiser-Courier* stated, "The subscribers of the German paper (the *Volksblatt*) saw in the 'English' paper the means of acquiring the language of their adopted country and at the same time induce their children to read and learn English, [and] became subscribers of both papers, the local news being generally a literal translation from that published in

the German weekly and thus formed attractive supplementary reading for the young Teutons."

This comparison of German newspapers to their English counterparts can still be made today as issues from both the *Hermanner Volksblatt* and the *Advertiser-Courier* will soon be freely available to the public in the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project at [shs.umsystem.edu/newspaper/mdnp](http://shs.umsystem.edu/newspaper/mdnp).

Thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress, this keyword-searchable collection of 138 digitized newspapers from the 1800s through the early 1920s is growing. In fact, 106,695 pages were added thanks to the Scenic Regional Library Newspaper Digitization Project, which supplemented the titles available with the addition of the *Advertiser-Courier* and thirteen other newspapers from Gasconade, Warren, and Franklin counties.

## F Company—Fall In—Step Alive

Many years had passed since they had told each other good-bye. Faces had changed. Some men were thinner, and others more rounded out. "I know you but just can't recall your name" echoed through the jolly crowd in Kansas City around the Liberty Memorial on Sunday, August 31, 1930.

Members of F Company, 140th Infantry, were gathered for their first reunion since the 35th Division had demobilized and members were discharged at Camp Funston in 1919. At about 4:30 p.m. they formed in line for a parade. However, this time they filed into more than twenty-six cars escorted throughout the city by mounted police.

After the parade, the group broke into informal parties and gathered in the homes of several of the "boys." A business meeting of the 140th F Club followed the next day, which opened with all standing at attention as an American flag was placed in honor and memory of their departed buddies. The club was a new organization formed to promote and perpetuate the friendship and comradeship of their army days during the war and in duties on the Mexican border. But it also aided and assisted fellow members who might need help.

*Composed of the organized National Guard of Kansas and Missouri, the 35th Division mustered ten thousand Kansas men and fourteen thousand Missouri men into the federal service on August 5, 1917. Their war casualties were 1,480 dead, 6,001 wounded, and 167 captured.*

Beginning in September 1930, the 140th F Club convened in Kansas City for monthly meetings and annual reunions until 1974, at which time the organization turned to a more informal structure before disbanding altogether in 1982. The final reunion photo shows an aged and much reduced group of men, fifty-five years after their return from war. In those intervening years they had watched as the country went through a Great Depression, fought another world war, and became a superpower. Behind them hangs a banner listing all the names of their buddies in the club and the dates of their passing.

Besides their legacy of service, they left for posterity their 140th F Club Records (K0119) consisting of meeting minutes, financial records, membership records, and memorabilia related to the group's activities. Also included is a series of photographs of annual reunions, ca. 1930-74.

### 35th Division History

Composed of the organized National Guard of Kansas and Missouri, the 35th Division mustered ten thousand Kansas men and fourteen thousand Missouri men into the federal service on August 5, 1917. After over seven months of training at Camp Doniphan, the division landed in England on May 7, 1918, and arrived in France on May 10. They participated in the Battle of St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive from September until the armistice on November 11.

After the armistice, they spent some weeks in the Le Mans area before returning to America in April 1919. Their war casualties were 1,480 dead, 6,001 wounded, and 167 captured, most of them sustained in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, where the losses were heavy.



The final reunion photo of the 140th F Club shows an aged and much reduced group of men, fifty-five years after their return from World War I. Behind them hangs a banner listing all the names of their buddies in the club and the dates of their passing.

The group formed to promote and perpetuate the friendship and comradeship of their army days in the World War and on the Mexican Border. The tradition of meeting monthly began in September of 1930 and lasted twenty-four years.



## Family Photographs Provide an Escape from Missouri's Winter Weather

The recent polar vortex was indeed a historic event that closed the Missouri University of Science and Technology campus and the Research Center-Rolla due to weather for the first time in living memory. Eight inches of snow followed by subzero temperatures left everyone longing for warmer days. For those tired of winter, the recent accession of William Recklein's family photographs offers an escape to summers past in Missouri.

William Recklein (1872-1962) was born into a St. Louis German family and served in the First Missouri Infantry during the Spanish-American War. He married another southside German, Ida S. Rau, in 1902. Recklein was a banker, and in 1906 he became an officer of the Bank of Cuba in Crawford County. William and Ida moved to Cuba and made it their home for the remainder of their lives. The couple was prominent in community affairs until Ida's death in 1955. Afterward, William became the town's most notable benefactor when he bought and donated for public use Cuba's historic school buildings, including the fieldstone edifice that is now the home of the Crawford County Historical Society. Recklein also funded a new library in Ida's memory, which



Ida and William Recklein, right, display some fine Gasconade River bass with guests.



The passenger shelter at Schlicht Station was less than a mile from Schlicht Springs Lodge. This is the only known photograph of the simple structure erected in 1903 on the Frisco line near Crocker.

was dedicated a few months after his own death in 1962.

Recklein's Spanish-American War papers and his correspondence with Ida are among the earliest collections held in Rolla. Recently, staff scanned selected images from two Recklein family photograph albums and dozens of photographs in the Crawford County Historical Society collections. The albums, circa 1902-03, contain pictures of home life in St. Louis, social activities with Recklein's six sisters and his in-laws, and the family's recreational pursuits.

The family had notable summertime outings to the Gasconade River hamlet of Schlicht, near Crocker in Pulaski County. John Schlicht developed his mill, store, and post office into Schlicht Springs Lodge, a country resort catering to the St. Louis sporting crowd. Rod and gun columns in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* documented hunting and fishing expeditions and publicized the recreational possibilities along the upper Gasconade River. About 1900 the Frisco Railroad's passenger department began promoting the nascent summer resort industry, boosting Schlicht's lodge and other Gasconade locations as vacation destinations. The resorts were advertised as easily reached on the Frisco, and for a generation of city

dwellers the scenic Gasconade region became an oasis for relaxation and recreation.

The Recklein albums illustrate railroad tourism in the region. The family was probably among the earliest to vacation there, and the photographs show that bathing, boating, fishing, and other activities on the river were not solely the domain of men. Women, in fact, outnumber the men in the Recklein images, which include Ida Recklein and William's sisters. Proprietor Schlicht promoted his peaceful millponds as the ideal place for women to learn the art of fishing before venturing out on the wild Gasconade, and several of the collection's pictures suggest that some of the women in the party were competent anglers.

Perhaps the most singular photograph in the collection shows the Recklein party waiting for the return train at Schlicht Station. The view of the trackside passenger shelter is the only known photograph of the simple structure that marked the beginning and end of hundreds of summer vacations at a once-favored tourist destination in the Ozarks. For more on William and Ida Recklein and their contributions, visit the Crawford County Historical Society museum.

## Ancestry.com Now Available at the Research Center-St. Louis

The online genealogical service Ancestry.com has arrived at the Research Center-St. Louis reading room. Join us to track your family history through this popular website and its ancillary services:

- Newspapers.com—A searchable database of historical newspapers from the 1700s to the 2000s.
- Fold3.com—An online collection containing original military records.

The services are freely available in the reading room, but there are no printing capabilities. Researchers should bring a USB drive to save their findings. Plan ahead by consulting the online records at [shs.umsystem.edu/manuscripts](http://shs.umsystem.edu/manuscripts) to ensure the Society's own collections that illuminate the experiences of your ancestors are onsite for your visit. The Research Center-St. Louis holds a wealth of information on the history of the St. Louis area and its people.

## Collection on African American Education in St. Louis Expanded through Donation



John Buckner, right, at a Sumner High School reunion. A recent donation from Richard Washington, whose father served as Sumner's assistant principal, enriched the Buckner collection.

Another chapter in the history of Sumner High School, the first high school for African American students west of the Mississippi River, was recently added to the John Davis Buckner Papers (S0468). Scrapbooks with news clippings and administrative files documenting the school's activities from the late 1940s to the mid-1980s add new details to the original collection.

This treasure of information was donated by Richard Washington, whose father, Arthur, served as Sumner's assistant principal alongside Buckner. The addition supplements an already rich collection holding highlights such as artifacts from Sumner High School's 100th anniversary, records on the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the Annie Malone Children's Home, and Buckner's personal correspondence. It also boasts a file on his mother, Dr. Julia Davis, the noted educator who spent forty-eight years in the St. Louis Public Schools system.

## St. Louis Regional Chamber Donation Provides Glimpse into Urban Development Efforts

The St. Louis Regional Chamber, formerly the Regional Commerce and Growth Association, recently donated a large collection of videotapes, photographs, and slides. The collection showcases many of St. Louis's favorite attractions throughout the 1960s and into the new millennium, from Union Station to the St. Louis Zoo as well as the Kiel Center, the Arch, and the St. Louis Symphony.

The St. Louis Regional Chamber supports efforts at planned development of the region across the governing lines of St. Louis's various municipalities, and the donation also features video of the St. Louis Cardinals' championship in 1982 and the team's follow-up appearances in the World Series in 1985 and 1987. Glimpses into civic promotional campaigns such as *Right On!* and *Left On!* from the 1970s and *Sold On St. Louis* in the 1990s are also included in the collection.

The Regional Chamber combines historic efforts by the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, the Metropolitan Plan Commission, the St. Louis Regional Industrial Development Corporation, and the Regional Commerce and Growth Association.



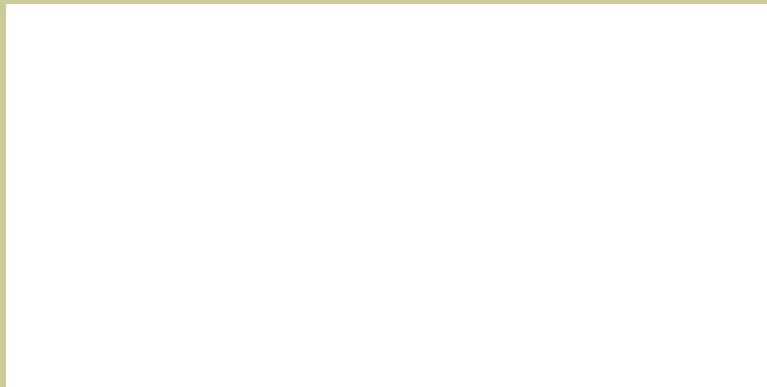
St. Louis Union Station, ca. 1890





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