

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

November 2014 Vol. 10, No. 3



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2014 Annual Meeting Honors Touhill, Schaefer, and Scharnhorst

The State Historical Society of Missouri's 2014 annual meeting showcased the state grape, welcomed new trustees, showed record growth in the live and silent auctions, and recognized winners of numerous awards.

SHSMO Trustee Blanche M. Touhill received the 2014 Distinguished Service Award, the State Historical Society's highest honor. "Touhill exemplifies what this award was created for with her countless pursuits aimed at preserving and sharing the history of St. Louis and Missouri," said Gary Kremer, SHSMO executive director. "Her service on the Board of Trustees since 1985, her passion for education and history, and her leadership skills have contributed to our success over the past 29 years."

State Senator Kurt Schaefer and Representative Dwight Scharnhorst were honored with the 2014 Trustee Appreciation Award for their bold support of SHSMO in the state legislature. Schaefer said that supporting the State Historical Society and its work has lasting significance for the state and requires commitment from legislators often preoccupied with short-term issues. Scharnhorst agreed in a moving testimony to SHSMO's art, manuscript, and other collections, declaring that they need to be on display where Missouri's children can see them.

The meeting was also highlighted by the elections of new SHSMO Trustees George W. Draper III, Edward W. Scavone, and Beatrice Smith, and the addition of Trustee Robert M. Clayton III to the Executive Committee. Scavone will serve as treasurer.

Guest speaker Todd Kliman, a journalist based in Washington, DC, presented the odyssey of the Norton, Missouri's state grape, from its first cultivation in Virginia through its heyday in Hermann, Missouri, in the late nineteenth century to its near extinction before regaining a foothold in present-day viticulture. His talk introduced attendees to key characters in the history of this distinctive native wine grape and explained the research behind his book *The Wild Vine: A Forgotten Grape and the Untold Story of American Wine*. An essay on the Norton by Kliman will be published in the January issue of the *Missouri Historical Review*.

The live and silent auctions benefiting the James W. Goodrich Graduate Research Assistantship in Missouri History, National History Day in Missouri,



State Representative Dwight Scharnhorst, SHSMO Trustee Blanche Touhill, and State Senator Kurt Schaefer. Touhill received the 2014 Distinguished Service Award, and Scharnhorst and Schaefer received the Trustee Appreciation Award.

and SHSMO's Oral History program raised \$3,400, thanks to the generosity of the item donors: Roy D. Blunt, Lawrence O. Christensen, Citizen Jane Film Festival, Carol Corrigan, Edg-Clif Farms and Vineyard, The Fabulous Fox Theatre, Alan Havig, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Evelyn Kinkade, Mark Koch, Les Bourgeois Vineyards, Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., Laura McHugh, Missouri Botanical Gardens, Bob Priddy, Rock Ranch Shooting Academy, St. Louis Cardinals, St. Louis Symphony, Schlafly Beer, Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, Greig Thompson, Tiger Hotel, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and the University of Missouri Press.

Attendees enjoyed the facilities at The Broadway Columbia, including its eighth-floor rooftop restaurant with panoramic views of downtown Columbia.

2014 Book and Article Awards

Lewis E. Atherton Prize: William M. Snodgrass, "Order in the Marketplace: Commercial Organizations in Antebellum St. Louis," University of Missouri-Columbia, Dissertation (\$1,000)

Doug Genens, "Family Matters: Casework, Manhood, and the Bureau for Homeless Men, St. Louis, 1925-40," University of Missouri-Columbia, Thesis (\$500)

Missouri History Book Award: Tracy Campbell, *The Gateway Arch: A Biography* (\$1,500)

Missouri Historical Review Article Prize: Carl J. Ekberg and Sharon K. Person, "Tracking Pierre Laclede, 1763-66: A Trading Career Gone Wrong" (\$750)



Lucinda Adams joins SHSMO as assistant director at the Research Center–Kansas City.

Research Center–Kansas City Welcomes Assistant Director

Assistant Director Lucinda Adams joined the State Historical Society of Missouri's Research Center–Kansas City on October 28 in the center's first change of leaders since 1980. A former staff member, Adams returns to SHSMO after seven and a half years as senior archivist of the Missouri Valley Special Collections with the Kansas City Public Library.

"We are excited to have Lucinda back and are looking forward to her leadership in the Research Center–Kansas City," said Gary Kremer, SHSMO executive director. "She is very well connected in Kansas City and really understands the unique story the region has to tell."

Adams served as state coordinator of SHSMO's flagship educational outreach program, National History Day in Missouri, in 2006–2007. Her educational background includes a master's degree in library science and master's and bachelor of arts degrees in history, all from Indiana University. She succeeds longtime Assistant Director David Boutros, who retired earlier this year.

"Lucinda's enthusiasm for history coupled with her love for Kansas City made her the ideal person to assume responsibility for enhancing the Research Center–Kansas City," said Gerald Hirsch, SHSMO associate director.

—Continued on page 9

Blue Book Available through the Missouri Press Foundation

The Blue Book, Missouri's Official Manual of the State of Missouri, is the state's comprehensive resource on local, state, and federal government. The 2013–14 Blue Book is available from SHSMO's partner organization, the Missouri Press Foundation. You can find the order form at www.mopress.com or place a phone order with the Missouri Press Association office at 877.424.6912.

Show Me Missouri Speakers Bureau Seeks Applicants for 2015

The Show Me Missouri: Conversations about Missouri's Past, Present, and Future Speakers Bureau is seeking applicants for the 2015 program year. A maximum of 40 speakers will be selected, with no more than ten slots reserved for living history or Chautauqua-style presenters. Current Show Me Missouri speakers must reapply to be considered.

Topics should be related to the history, culture, geography, or people of Missouri. Applicants may submit no more than two topics. Applications may be sent to barbara@mohumanities.org, or mailed to Barbara Gill, Missouri Humanities Council, 543 Hanley Industrial Court, Suite 201, St. Louis, MO 63144-1905. The deadline is December 15, 2014, and successful applicants will be notified by January 31, 2015.

Proposals should include: title, summary, and length of presentation; nature of sources, including primary sources; and a brief description of the applicant's public speaking experience. Chautauqua and living history applicants must submit an audition tape or a link to a YouTube video of their presentations.

Selected scholars will be expected to make up to four presentations during the year. Scholars will receive a \$200 honorarium for each presentation, plus reimbursement for up to \$150 in travel expenses.

The Speakers Bureau is jointly organized and managed by the Missouri Humanities Council and the State Historical Society of Missouri.

SHSMO Oral Historian to Serve on National Committee

Oral Historian Jeff D. Corrigan has been elected to a three-year term on the Oral History Association's Nominating Committee. The committee is charged with selecting candidates for officer and council positions. Jeff also is currently serving in the second year of his three-year term on the OHA's Publication Committee. Congratulations, Jeff!

2014 Tax Year Giving

It is a good time of year to consider your charitable giving for 2014 and to begin thinking about 2015. As you review your records, make sure you have made the gifts you intended to the organizations with missions about which you feel most passionate. Ask questions about how your support can make an impact.

The State Historical Society's mission is to collect, protect, and share Missouri's history and heritage, and to advance the body of knowledge and education about the state and its people. Gifts make up a growing portion of our budget and provide operating funds for activities such as publishing the *Missouri Historical Review*, preserving the extensive holdings of state newspapers, and building collections accessed by patrons in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis, and our new center in Springfield.

Charitable gifts can have a significant tax benefit to you and can be reviewed with your financial planner or tax preparer. Appreciated assets can often have a more significant impact as a charitable gift than if taken for their cash value. If you would like to talk about opportunities to include the State Historical Society in your end-of-year giving, our hours at the business office leading up to Wednesday, December 31 are Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Contact the Society

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Telephone

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MISSOURI TIMES

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Society Receives Gift of Robert Bussabarger Artwork

The State Historical Society of Missouri recently received an important donation of artwork from Wendi Newell and David Bussabarger, the children of the late Robert Bussabarger, University of Missouri professor emeritus of art.

The generous gift augments SHSMO's existing holdings of Robert Bussabarger's works in the art collection and papers in the manuscript collection, adding numerous bronzes, ceramics, drawings, paintings, and sketchbooks from his nearly seventy-year career. The gift will facilitate a more complete understanding of his evolution as an artist and his achievements in a variety of media.

A widely traveled and multifaceted artist, Bussabarger drew inspiration from diverse interests including politics and spirituality, frequently incorporating elements of wit and whimsy into his work. While his subjects encompassed many countries and cultures, the items selected by the Society pertain to Missouri, the West, and World War II.

Born in 1922 in Corydon, Indiana, Bussabarger began college in 1940, but his studies were interrupted when he was commissioned as an officer in the US Naval Reserve during World War II. He completed a bachelor's degree in art in 1944 before being called to active duty in the Pacific. During his time in the military, he made numerous sketches of the people and places he encountered, calling his wartime drawings and watercolors a "visual journal."

After the war, Bussabarger returned to the United States and married Mary Louise Sterling. He received a master's degree in art practice and theory from Michigan State University in 1947 and later studied painting and ceramics at Ohio State University. In 1953 he joined the fine arts faculty at the University of Missouri in Columbia, where he taught ceramics and painting.

Eight years later he received a Fulbright scholarship to study sculpture in India, which led to his book *The Everyday Art of India*, written with coauthor Betty D. Robins. It is still considered one of the most authoritative works on traditional Indian art. After establishing an international reputation as a painter, sculptor, and ceramist, Bussabarger retired as a professor emeritus in 1990. He continued to draw, sketch, and paint until shortly before his death in 2013.



Michigan Shore is a lively study from one of Robert Bussabarger's 85 sketchbooks acquired by the State Historical Society. Throughout his life, Bussabarger constantly drew, painted, and sketched.



Volunteers Add More than 5,800 Hours to Society Workforce in 2013–14

Support from volunteers in each of the Research Centers ensures that the Society can continue to extend its reach. Thank you to the students, retirees, teachers, former staff members, and friends who work beside current staff members, contributing vital assistance to SHSMO services and programs.

Don Allendorf
Jane Allen
Richard Allgood
Patrick Atkinson
Gary Beahan
Doug Beck
Lucy Betz
Susan Burns
Audrey Case
Ed Conrad

Kathleen Conway
Jerry Cooper
Cathy Crites
Jo Ann Dennings
Marty Eisenman
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CONVERSATION!**

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NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MISSOURI

www.nhdmo.org

Spotlight on Springfield Student at National History Day Contest

High school junior Amanda Morrison of Springfield made her third trip to the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest this past June. In 2011 and 2012, Morrison placed in the top 21 in the nation in group performances. This year her individual performance, “Power, The Press, The Post: Katharine Graham and the Rights and Responsibilities of Journalism,” placed ninth in the nation.

“My experience with NHD has been amazing,” Morrison said. “I was introduced to the National History Day program in sixth grade, and from then on NHD has offered me the opportunity to feed all of my interests.”

NHD has also introduced Morrison to new experiences and new people.

“In addition to making countless friends from around the country, I’ve made friends who played significant roles in the very history I am studying,” Morrison said. She traveled to the Nixon Presidential Library in California during her spring break to conduct research for her performance.

“While there I got to perform for a group of museum employees and archivists, which was super cool,” Morrison said. “I also came into contact with John Dean, the former White House counsel to President Nixon and main witness in the Watergate trials. I conducted a phone interview with Dean, and his eyewitness perspective helped me better understand my topic, refine my performance, and add more sources to my bibliography.”

NHD has given Morrison a place to pursue and display her passions.

“It has challenged me to step outside of my comfort zone and try something new,” she said. “NHD has revolutionized my goals for education beyond high school and has opened the doors for me to look into schools, jobs, and other opportunities.”

Welcome Digital Public Library of America!

National History Day in Missouri is pleased to announce that the Digital Public Library of America is joining the program as a Harry S. Truman level sponsor!

NHDMO is excited to share DPLA’s growing collection with students and teachers as they explore primary sources.



Amanda Morrison receives a hug from NHD Director Cathy Gorn after performing at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest VIP reception.

“NHD has revolutionized my goals for education beyond high school and has opened the doors for me to look into schools, jobs, and other opportunities.”

— Amanda Morrison

The Digital Public Library of America is also offering a

prize at the NHDMO 2015 state contest. The website or documentary that best uses DPLA for significant source material will receive a \$50 cash prize and an additional \$200 will be awarded if the winner advances to the Kenneth

E. Behring National History Day Contest. Good luck to all participants, and *thank you* to DPLA for supporting National History Day in Missouri!

In a Material World

National History Day in Missouri teamed up with the State Historical Society of Missouri and MU Special Collections and Rare Books in September to offer a free workshop, *Material Culture: Utilizing Collections in NHD Projects*. In this pilot program, National History Day teachers talked with staff members from its partner institutions about how to access their collections and use the wide range of materials available to students working on NHD projects.

Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to view the Society’s *Thomas Hart Benton’s American Mythologies* art exhibition and examine the papers of Edmund Gray, a Mississippi River steamboat pilot. They also appreciated the chance to inspect seventeenth-century scientific treatises and study 4,000-year-old cuneiform tablets from MU Special Collections.

The workshop partners look forward to expanding this event in the future.



Hirsch Family Records Capture Cape Girardeau's Early Broadcasting History

On October 3, 2014, KFVS Television in Cape Girardeau celebrated six decades of broadcasting. In the summer and fall of 1954, merchants in southeast Missouri ushered in the new world of television by telling customers they did not have to pay for their first TV sets until the new local station was on the air. Thousands of homes had their TVs in place for the first evening's programming, a narrated black-and-white slide show of area scenes and pictures of the new transmission tower on a hill northwest of Cape Girardeau, since known as "KFVS Hill." The station did not yet have its own TV camera.

For Oscar Christian Hirsch and Anna Geraldine Fitzgerald Hirsch, it was a dream come true. With their three children, Robert Oscar Hirsch, James Fitzgerald Hirsch, and Marjorie Anne Hirsch Deimund, they built the Hirsch Broadcasting Company into a significant communications corporation that by 1960 was a CBS affiliate transmitting from a 1,676-foot tower that was for a time the tallest man-made structure in the world. It is an impressive story of one



The "Riverboat Jazz" panel from the Mississippi River Tales mural in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, celebrates Raymond F. "Peg" Meyer's Melody Kings. A local swing and jazz band, The Melody Kings were the opening act for the first broadcast of KFVS Radio in 1925.

family's achievement over the course of several decades.

As a young man with a business that included selling storage batteries, Oscar Hirsch became intrigued by the power of batteries and the mysteries of radio waves. Serving in the US Signal Corps during World War I, he recognized the need for better communications with ships at sea and planes in the air. His study of physics at a French university at the conclusion of the war added to Hirsch's interest in radio transmission. After the war, Hirsch became one of the pioneers in radio.

On the evening of June 22, 1925, hundreds of people gathered at the Hirsch home at 318 South Frederick Street in Cape Girardeau. KFVS Radio was going on the air! The windows to the house were open, and the crowd pushed forward to see and hear. Raymond F. "Peg" Meyer's Melody Kings orchestra was ready to play. A Magnavox goose-neck, horn-type speaker, with the terminals reversed in order to accommodate a microphone, was ready to receive and broadcast the music.

At precisely 7:00 p.m., the Melody Kings launched into their first number. When the tune ended, the Hirsch phone rang, and a Mr. Dannemueller of Kelso, Missouri, told Hirsch, "Keep it up. She's coming in fine." Kelso was about nine miles from Cape. Due to unusual atmospheric conditions, the broadcast was also received in rural southwestern Iowa.

For 27 years KFVS was the only commercial radio station in Cape Girardeau and developed a wide following. At a 1981 concert in Cape, singer Johnny Cash recalled listening to the station's nighttime broadcasts when he was a youngster in northeastern Arkansas.



Television pioneer Robert Hirsch. The Hirsch Broadcasting Company established the first television station in Cape Girardeau in 1954.

Buoyed by his early radio success, Hirsch was eager to learn as much as he could about radio. In the 1930s he studied with Dr. Carl Smith at the Cleveland Radio Institute and interacted with many other early broadcast engineers.

By 1950 Hirsch Broadcasting was a fixture in regional radio. With son Robert's technical expertise, the company was poised to move rapidly into television. With Robert Hirsch directing the construction of the new tower, the station's broadcast range increased by 100 miles, doubling the number of viewers.

The Hirsch Broadcasting Company continued as a single-family operation for 54 years before it was sold in 1979. The company is now owned by Raycom Media.

The children of Oscar and Geraldine Hirsch have agreed to place their family records in the care of the State Historical Society of Missouri. The records will be kept at the Research Center-Cape Girardeau, where they will preserve a key chapter in the history of communication in the mid-Mississippi valley.

"On the evening of June 22, 1925, hundreds of people gathered at the Hirsch home at 318 South Frederick Street in Cape Girardeau. KFVS Radio was going on the air! The windows to the house were open, and the crowd pushed forward to see and hear. Raymond F. "Peg" Meyer's Melody Kings orchestra was ready to play. A Magnavox goose-neck, horn-type speaker, with the terminals reversed in order to accommodate a microphone, was ready to receive and broadcast the music."

November

Art for a World at War Through February 14, 2015

Main Gallery Research Center–Columbia

Experience World War I through the eyes of artists in this timely exhibition, *Art for a World at War: WWI Posters and Editorial Cartoons*. See original wartime posters and editorial cartoons and learn how art reflected the hopes, fears, and patriotic devotion of Missourians.

Show-Me Holiday Tree

November 26–January 3 Research Center–Columbia

Share your Missouri history with the State Historical Society of Missouri this holiday season. Visit us to spread cheer and add an ornament representing your region or organization. You may also mail the decoration with a note to the State Historical Society of Missouri at 1020 Lowry Street, Columbia, MO 65201. SHSMO will highlight your kindness with a note of thanks posted to the social media community on Facebook. Thank you for helping us celebrate Missouri's uniqueness with the Show-Me Holiday Tree!



Call for Papers: Missouri Conference on History

November 30

The Missouri Conference on History is accepting proposals for papers, panels, and student posters. Topics related to Missouri/Midwestern, American, European, and non-Western history, as well as public history and historic preservation, will be considered for the conference on March 11–13, 2015. For details on the submission process, visit shs.umsystem.edu/mch



December

New Workshop: Turning Personal History into Film December 8 Research Center–Columbia

9 a.m.–noon

Turning Personal History into Film—Explore a new avenue for telling your story: film! This workshop will be led by Brian Woodman, SHSMO film and video specialist. Woodman holds a PhD in film, cinema, and video studies. He will provide tips for taking your personal history from primary sources and papers to audiovisual works that resonate.

February

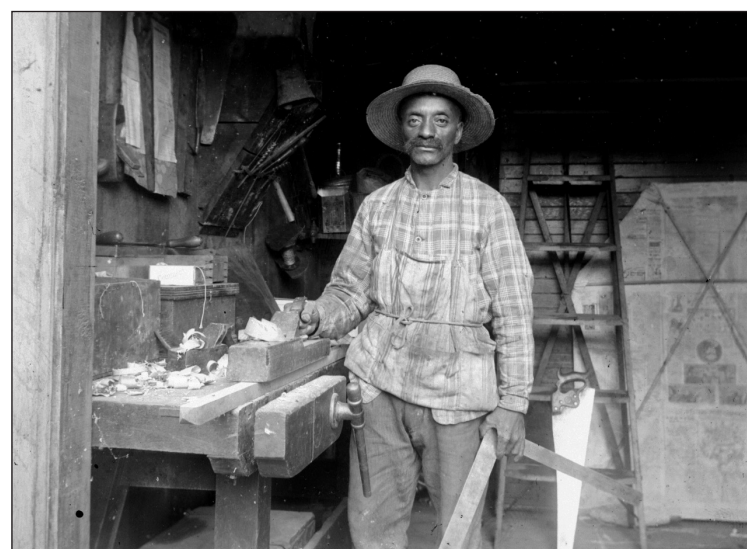
Black History Month February 1–28

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 during 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.umsystem.edu.

Annual Day at the Capitol February 4

Missouri State Capitol

Join us for the 2015 Annual Day at the Capitol to discover more about National History Day in Missouri and learn how this innovative program puts students in charge of their own education. Meet outstanding NHD students who will be on hand to showcase their original research projects and talk about their experiences. National History Day in Missouri is sponsored by SHSMO in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council.



St. Charles Historical Society Workshop March 28, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

St. Charles Community College

Join the St. Charles Historical Society and the State Historical Society of Missouri for a day of hands-on training that will open up a new world of resources for researching your family history—the Internet. Experts from around the state will guide you step by step in this computer-based workshop covering photographs, newspapers, and genealogy. Sessions are suitable for beginning to advanced genealogists, as well as those who want to learn how to maximize their time conducting online research.

Looking ahead

Patrick Papers Bring World War I to Life

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the “War to End All Wars.” As centennial observances of the 1914–1918 conflict gather momentum, those wishing to explore the Great War and its legacy might enjoy the numerous letters, photographs, postcards, scrapbooks, and artifacts in the John H. Patrick Papers (C1291) at the Research Center–Columbia.

When the United States entered World War I, John Hezekiah “Hezzie” Patrick volunteered to serve overseas as a civilian clerk and confidential secretary to the Medical Corps. While in France, he was commissioned in 1918 as a second lieutenant in the US Army Corps of Engineers. He was assigned to teach in the Military Aerial Photography School, and by war’s end he was mapping battlefields and serving at the front in the headquarters of the Second American Army.

Patrick, who grew up on a farm near Higbee, was very close to his parents. While overseas, he wrote dozens of letters describing in detail what he saw “Over There.”

In a letter dated November 21, 1918, ten days after the armistice that ended the fighting, he describes the desolated French town of Verdun, the site of horrific battles between the French and the Germans. “This is a barren waste, and the only erections left [are] the rude black cross[es] which mark the graves of German soldiers,” Patrick wrote. “We did not have the time to look around but I have been told that the German dead lie in heaps below Verdun and I have seen at Paris a picture of a pile of skeletons ten feet high.”

A few days later he recounted, “Friday I had another very interesting trip to what was ‘the Front’ . . . One of the more exciting sports at the Front now is the locating and exploding or digging up of the mines the Germans had laid for us. All day long, on all sides of us there were terrific explosions. . . . One of the men working in this gang told me they had one go off the day before and kill four men and he wanted to show me the remains of one of the poor fellows. I was satisfied however of the varacity [*sic*] of his statements. That is one job I should balk on. I did [not] hang around that place any longer than it took to get a picture.”

A prolific photographer, Patrick captured the devastating toll the war took on France and its people. His images show damage inflicted by German shelling to structures such as the iconic Reims Cathedral, as well as depictions of fellow soldiers and the daily lives of French children and adults.



John H. Patrick provided a varied and comprehensive record of his time in France during World War I.

Patrick learned French and acted as an informal interpreter for other Americans. While on leave, he traveled freely throughout the French countryside collecting artifacts.

In a letter home, Patrick boasted, “I was particularly fortunate in finding souvenirs on Friday. My haul for the day was: Two spiked helmets (officers), one common camouflaged helmet, one cap, two German shells, two leather cartridge cases, a bayonet, a lot of books, paper and pictures and best of all a German rifle in first class condition with strap, bayonet and all. This is their best rifle and is a dandy. The result is that my end of the room looks like an arsenal or museum.”

Some of these items are in the State Historical Society’s collection, as are pieces of a German zeppelin shot down over Paris and a small metal tube that was attached to homing pigeons to carry messages over the lines. Patrick’s mementos and writings provide unique insight into one soldier’s wartime experiences.

Patrick’s photographs of fellow soldiers are preserved in the John H. Patrick Papers. This photo shows a lunch gathering.

Kansas City Volunteer Shares Passion for History of Transportation

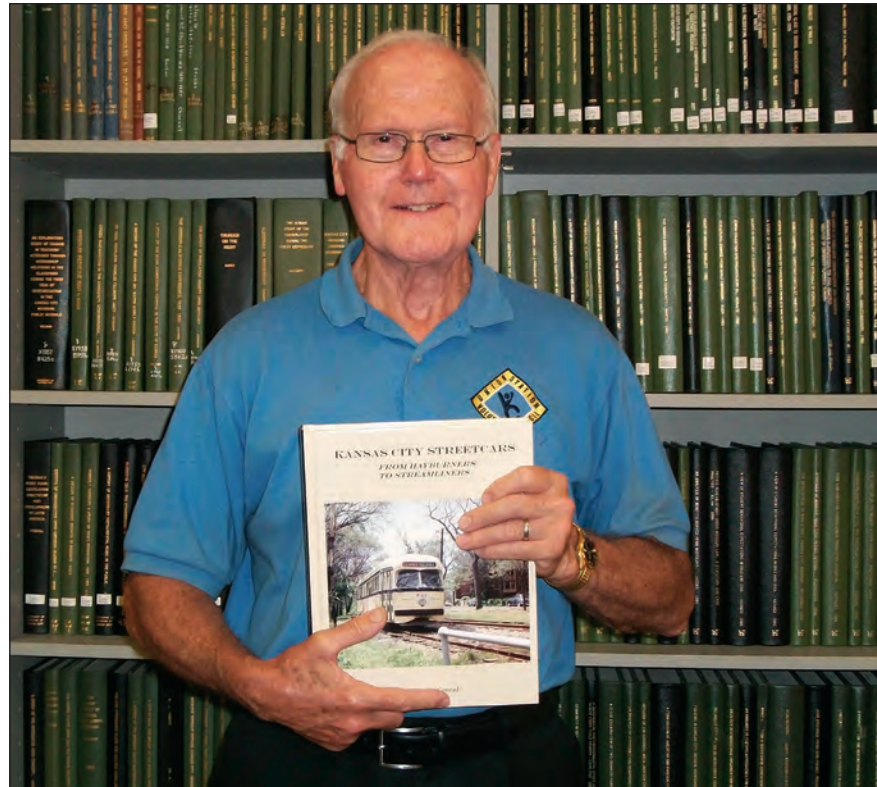
The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center–Kansas City is fortunate to have several committed volunteers who generously donate their time and skills, regularly assisting staff with various projects. Ed Conrad is one such volunteer.

A retired technical writer and trainer originally from Wisconsin, Conrad moved from San Jose, California, to the Kansas City area with his wife, Doris, in 2002 to be closer to their family. Conrad's fascination with transportation history, specifically streetcar and interurban lines, led him to pursue a lifelong dream of immersing himself in the subject. He began research that has now produced three books devoted to Missouri and Midwestern rail transportation history.

Conrad's endeavors brought him to the Kansas City research center, where he began volunteering in 2003 after visiting to conduct research in the Terence W. Cassidy Collection (K0302). In the course of using the 70-cubic-foot collection, he began to assist with identifying and cataloging its contents more thoroughly to aid future researchers. The meticulous attention to detail that he learned as a technical writer translated well to archival work.

By 2004 Conrad's first self-published book was complete. *Tri-State Traction: The Interurban Trolleys of Southwest Missouri, Southeast Kansas, and Northeast Oklahoma* is a detailed history of the network of interurban lines used from the 1890s to the late 1930s to connect the tri-state region's mining communities.

Two years later, Conrad published



Ed Conrad, Research Center–Kansas City volunteer and author, with his most recent book, a history of Kansas City's streetcars.

Heartland Traction: The Interurban Lines of Kansas City. His most recent effort, published in 2011, is *Kansas City Streetcars: From Hayburners to Streamliners*, which draws heavily from SHSMO's Rotogravure Collection (K0432) and Cassidy Collection, as well as from private collections.

In addition to volunteering at the research center, Conrad spends Friday afternoons working in Kansas City's

Union Station information booth, where he enjoys answering wide-ranging questions from people visiting the refurbished railroad terminal building.

Conrad serves as an impressive example of an active and engaged retiree who is committed to service and lifelong learning. The Society encourages those interested in volunteering to contact the SHSMO research center in their region for more information.

Kansas City Assistant Director—Continued

"Her history with the State Historical Society of Missouri was a bonus."

A statewide organization with a strong infrastructure to support, enhance, and share collections throughout Missouri, SHSMO has partnered with many cultural, historical, and heritage-oriented organizations to foster and promote the Show-Me State's history. The Kansas City center's collections include seminal work by area residents in architecture and urban planning, the Trans World Airlines (TWA) records, and the letters and documents of many civic leaders.

"Lucinda's knowledge and enthusiasm will promote new local partnerships, which means we are looking forward to an even brighter future in our long tradition of leadership in Kansas City."

—Gary Kremer

"Lucinda's knowledge and enthusiasm will promote new local

partnerships, which means we are looking forward to an even brighter future in our long tradition of leadership in Kansas City," Kremer said. "It is an exciting time to see how we can grow existing programs such as the Charles Kimball Lecture Series and further showcase and enhance SHSMO's collections in new collaborations with partner organizations."

New Research Center Opens in Springfield

The State Historical Society of Missouri and Missouri State University have partnered to open a new SHSMO research center in Springfield. The new center, housed in the Duane G. Meyer Library on the Missouri State campus, is great news for researchers in southwest Missouri, said Dave Richards, head of Special Collections and Archives at MSU.

“There are two keystone events for MSU researchers seeking local primary resources: construction of the special collections space in 2001 and now the establishment of the State Historical Society’s Springfield Research Center in 2014,” Richards said. “Having access to the state’s largest repository of primary research materials is crucial for understanding and documenting southwest Missouri’s history. This partnership benefits the MSU community, the greater Springfield metro area, and the southwest region of Missouri.”

The center is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended hours on Tuesday until 9 p.m. The hiring of Erin Smither, a Missouri State graduate, as a SHSMO manuscript specialist headquartered in Springfield establishes the center as a permanent fixture that has progressed from a pilot project begun in February 2012.

The center makes available SHSMO’s manuscript, newspaper, and book collections to researchers no matter where the records are housed, Smither said.

“One of my graduate school friends drove to St. Louis every weekend to conduct research for her seminar paper,” Smither

said. “I am so excited that the new center will save researchers from that kind of travel.”

In its initial phase the new center will receive supervision from the Research Center–Rolla and SHSMO Assistant Director John Bradbury, who has held an essential role in establishing the center in Springfield.

Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., SHSMO president, said the center will bolster the preservation and study of southwest Missouri’s history.

“This partnership holds great promise for the collection, curation, and dissemination of materials relating to the rich history of southwest Missouri,” Limbaugh said. “We can delve more deeply into the history of the region and complement the work being done in the university’s Special Collections and Archives.”

Tom Peters, dean of library services at MSU, said the new center is a welcome addition to the Springfield area. “The SHSMO Research Center–Springfield will provide more resources for people interested in the history of southwest Missouri—the region’s tourism and entertainment phenomena, the diversity of peoples who lived and worked here, the transportation history, including the Butterfield Overland Mail, the Frisco Line, and Route 66, and Ozarkiana in general,” Peters said.

For more information about the Research Center–Springfield, please call Erin Smither at 417.836.3782 or email her at smithere@umsystem.edu.

About Erin Smither

A lifelong Missourian, Erin Smither grew up in Bonne Terre. As the daughter of a Civil War collector and history enthusiast, Smither comes by her love of history naturally. Family vacations often involved visiting battlefields. “My sister used to complain about the bugs and boredom, but I was in my element,” Smither said.

Smither holds a master’s degree in library and information science as well as master’s and bachelor of arts degrees in history, all from Missouri State University. In 2011 she was a library practicum student at the Research Center–Columbia.



Erin Smither, SHSMO manuscript specialist, in the reading room at the Research Center–Springfield, headquartered in the Duane G. Meyer Library on the campus of Missouri State University.

Research Center–St. Louis Receives Grant

Thanks to the efforts of Blanche Touhill, SHSMO trustee and former University of Missouri–St. Louis chancellor; the Zonta Club of St. Louis has approved a \$10,000 grant for the Research Center–St. Louis to conduct oral history interviews on the women’s movement in St. Louis. The club is part of Zonta International, a service organization of executives and professionals devoted to advancing the status of women. The interviews will be videotaped at the St. Louis office this winter and will continue into next year.

Fort Leonard Wood Collection Processed



The E. F. Bullene Chemical Defense Training Facility at Fort Leonard Wood, circa 2000. Photo courtesy of the US Department of Defense.

The Research Center–St. Louis recently completed the processing of records donated by environmental activist Kay Drey concerning Fort Leonard Wood. The collection documents important legal proceedings involving environmental concerns caused by the army installation located in Pulaski County.

In 1995 the Coalition for the Environment challenged the legality of state agency permits and variances granted to Fort Leonard Wood that allowed the army to locate its chemical weapons, nerve gas, and germ warfare center in the Missouri Ozarks. The courts set aside the permits after two proceedings initiated by the coalition.

Four years later, at a public hearing held by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the coalition voiced its concern about the effects of fog oil and chemical weapons from Fort Leonard Wood on the Big Piney River and Roubidoux Creek. The department later issued an amendment to a construction permit increasing the allowable level of fog oil use and to allow a vegetable-based fog oil product to be tested.

The collection consists of files pertaining to the legal actions against Fort Leonard Wood. It also contains reviews of the scientific literature, environmental assessments, and toxicological profiles of chemical agents. Other holdings in the collection include books on such topics as arms control, land mines, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Pruitt-Igoe Lecture

Research Center–St. Louis Film and Video Specialist Brian Woodman participated in a Q&A panel discussion following a presentation of the film *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth* on October 23 at the Hotel Frontenac. The screening of the documentary, which Woodman coproduced, was held as part of the Association of Personal Historians Annual Conference in St. Louis. The panel and screening, which was cosponsored by the Missouri History Museum, also featured the museum’s Director of Exhibitions and Research Jody Sowell and former Pruitt-Igoe residents.

New Collection on St. Louis Streetcars Acquired

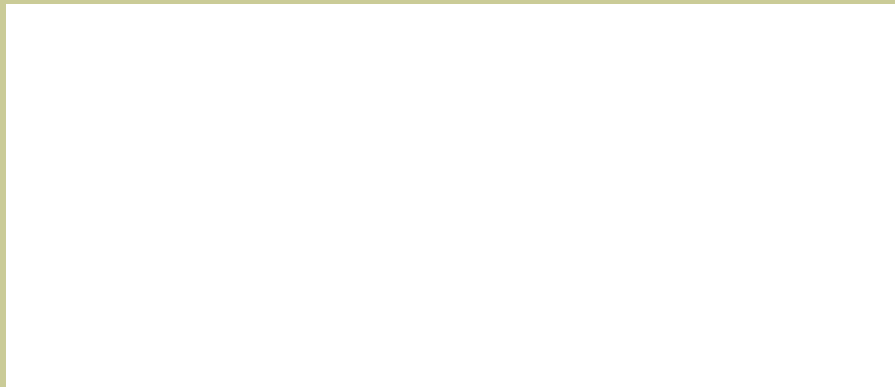
The Research Center–St. Louis recently received a welcome addition to its collections documenting St. Louis streetcars and trolleys. The Davenport Public Library of Davenport, Iowa, donated a set of color slides, “Trolley Cars in St. Louis,” produced by Blackhawk Films. Fortunately for researchers interested in the city’s interurban rail system, all of the slides are clearly identified.



The Wellston Loop Depot and its famous White Mill diner. The bustling commercial area was just outside the St. Louis city limits. The last streetcar ran in 1966.

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