

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

February 2015 Vol. 10, No. 4



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St. Louis Area to Host Lineup of Major History Conferences this Spring

Three significant conferences will be held in or near St. Louis this spring, attracting thousands of historians and genealogists to Missouri. The rare convergence begins in March when the 57th annual Missouri Conference on History meets in St. Louis County. The Organization of American Historians national conference follows in April in downtown St. Louis, and in May the National Genealogical Society's annual conference will be held in St. Charles. The State Historical Society of Missouri plans to participate in all three conferences as an administrative sponsor or vendor.

The Missouri Conference on History will feature a roundtable discussion, "The Meaning of Ferguson, Missouri," with a panel of scholars from the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Saint Louis University, and Washington University in St. Louis. The conference meets March 11-13 at the DoubleTree Hilton and Conference Center in Chesterfield.

This year's Missouri Conference will also include a public interview of Tom Engelhardt, former *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* political cartoonist, by Bob Priddy, recently retired director of Missouri news service and a SHSMO trustee. Engelhardt will discuss his art and career, and will sign copies of his new book, *Four Turbulent Decades: A Cartoon History of America, 1962-2001*, published by the State Historical Society.

Admission to the March 12 Engelhardt event is free for registered conference attendees. The public is also invited to attend. Proceeds

from the \$25 public registration fee will support the political cartoon collection at SHSMO. Registration for the three-day conference is \$55 (\$35 for students).

The 2015 Missouri Conference featured speaker will be Carlos Schwantes, St. Louis Mercantile Library endowed professor of transportation studies at UMSL, who will present "Distant Glory: Comparing the Commercial Enterprises of Venice and St. Louis."

Several annual awards for outstanding scholarship will be presented at the event, including the newly named Lawrence O. Christensen Article Award, which honors the longtime Missouri University of Science and Technology professor of history and SHSMO trustee.

Administered by SHSMO, the

conference, but registration is required. For details, visit <http://shs.umsystem.edu/mch> or contact SHSMO at 573.882.7083 or mch@umsystem.edu.

The national conference of the Organization of American Historians, which will feature a special display of the National History Day in Missouri program, will be held April 16-19 at the America's Center and the Renaissance Grand Hotel St. Louis. OAH is the largest professional society dedicated to the teaching and study of American history, and more than 2,000 scholars, students, and teachers are expected to attend the conference. See <http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/2015> for more information.

The St. Louis Genealogical Society will host the National Genealogical Society's annual



Orval Henderson and Lynn Gentzler, retired SHSMO associate director, catch up at the 2014 Missouri Conference on History, hosted by the Missouri State Archives.

conference rotates its meetings among host institutions throughout the state. The 2015 conference is hosted by the UMSL history department.

Anyone interested or involved in teaching history or conducting historical research, historical preservation, and other professional applications of history is welcome at the

family history conference on May 13-16 at the St. Charles Convention Center. The conference features programs and workshops for genealogists of all skill levels. Several sessions centered on Missouri topics will be offered. For more information, visit <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>.

First Center for Missouri Studies Fellowships Awarded for 2015 History Projects

A history professor at Missouri University of Science and Technology and a PhD candidate at Washington University in St. Louis have won the first two fellowships granted by the Center for Missouri Studies, which launched last September.

Patrick Huber, history professor at Missouri S&T in Rolla, was awarded the Center's interdisciplinary studies fellowship for "Remembering the Ste. Genevieve Race Riot of 1930: Historical Memory and the Expulsion of African Americans from a Small

Missouri Town." Huber plans to examine a four-day disturbance, long shrouded in secrecy, in which vigilantes drove away most of Ste. Genevieve's black residents.

Taylor Desloge, a graduate student at Washington University, received the Center's fellowship in environmental history for "Jim Crow Is No Barrier": Housing, Tuberculosis and the 'New Public Health' Roots of Urban Renewal in Black St. Louis, 1920-1940." Desloge intends to study how urban and public health policies that began with good

intentions later swerved into destructive outcomes due to factors such as interwar housing market pressures and the toxic influence of racial discrimination.

Chosen from a pool of 35 applicants, Huber and Desloge will hold their fellowship appointments for the 2015 calendar year. Each will write a scholarly essay of 6,000 to 8,000 words for publication in the *Missouri Historical Review* and will make a public presentation of his work. The fellowship awards include stipends of \$5,000.

Benton Works Go on National Tour

The State Historical Society of Missouri is loaning several works by Thomas Hart Benton to the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) in Salem, Massachusetts, for its *Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood* exhibition. SHSMO will contribute four paintings from Benton's *Year of Peril* series and seven lithographs to the exhibition's 100 works by Benton. The works include 50 paintings and murals along with a selection of his drawings, prints, and illustrated books. The exhibition's thematic presentation—the themes include Presenting Benton, Myths and Movies, American Epics, Character and Stagecraft, World War II, and Westerns—demonstrates fascinating relationships between Benton's art and movie making.

Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood will open June 6, 2015, at the PEM and then embark on a 15-month national tour. The exhibition will be at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City from October 10, 2015, to January 3, 2016. It will then be on display at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, Texas, in early February through early May 2016. Its final stop will be the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.



Nelson-Atkins Museum conservator Mary Schafer examines *Negro Soldier*, a painting from Benton's *Year of Peril* series, to ensure its readiness for an extensive national tour.

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MISSOURI TIMES

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Consider Your Legacy with the State Historical Society's 1898 Society

With 89 members, the 1898 Society commemorates the founding year of the State Historical Society while celebrating the visionary donors who have assured SHSMO's future and its mission to collect, preserve, and share Missouri's history and heritage. Members of the 1898 Society have supported this work with both outright gifts as well as gifts that will be realized in the future through estate planning provisions.

Opportunities for support include making gifts of appreciated stocks and bonds, property, insurance policies, and some types of retirement or bank accounts.

Established by significant estate gifts, the 1898 Society endowment continues to grow. All members and friends are invited to become 1898 Society members. If you have questions about the 1898 Society and would like to talk about including SHSMO as part of your legacy, contact Ms. Severin Roberts, Director of Development, severin.roberts@umsystem.edu, 573.882.7083.

Papers of Attorney Who Defended Frank James Donated to SHSMO

The State Historical Society has received the papers of Charles P. Johnson, one of the most gifted criminal defense attorneys in Missouri's history. Born in 1836 in St. Clair County, Illinois, Johnson moved to St. Louis and studied law with former Missouri attorney general Robert F. Wingate before embarking on his legal and political career. He held numerous public offices, including St. Louis city attorney, St. Louis circuit attorney, and state representative, and was lieutenant governor of Missouri from 1873 to 1875.

Despite having been an avowed Unionist during the Civil War, Johnson joined the team that successfully defended outlaw and former Confederate guerrilla Frank James at his murder trial in 1883. Johnson lived until 1920, when he died at age 84. Susan Johnson Kennedy, his great-granddaughter, recently donated several of his diaries, a scrapbook of news clippings about his career, photographs, and papers. The Charles P. Johnson Papers (CA6380) are housed in the Research Center-Columbia.



Ask What You Can Do for Your Country by Tom Engelhardt depicts a world in mourning after the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Remembering Loren Reid

Loren D. Reid, professor emeritus of communication at the University of Missouri–Columbia, died December 25, 2014. His 109 years were filled with many accomplishments, and he will be remembered for his contributions to the field of speech and communications. The son of a small-town newspaper publisher, Reid intended to follow in his father's footsteps but instead discovered that he enjoyed teaching. He received his PhD in speech from the University of Iowa in 1932, joined the MU faculty in 1944, and taught thousands of students before he retired in 1975.

A member of countless professional organizations, Reid contributed to and edited scholarly journals, traveled the world as a visiting professor, and wrote two textbooks. He also reminisced about growing up in Gilman City, Missouri, where he was born in 1905, in his books *Hurry Home Wednesday* and *Finally It's Friday*.

A State Historical Society of Missouri member since 1950, Reid donated his personal and professional papers (C3946) to SHSMO in 1992. They include correspondence, lectures and speeches, teaching material, and travel memorabilia. His father, Dudley A. Reid, became a member in 1917 and his papers (C3855) can also be found in the Society's collection, providing a remarkable record of one family's continuous support of SHSMO.

Book on the Political Cartoons of Engelhardt Scheduled for March Release

In March the State Historical Society will publish its latest book, *Four Turbulent Decades: A Cartoon History of America, 1962–2001*. Featuring a selection of drawings by longtime *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* political cartoonist Tom Engelhardt, the book provides evocative images of pivotal events ranging from the President Kennedy assassination to the 9/11 attacks. The drawings were chosen from SHSMO's collection by art curator Joan Stack, who also provides narratives that add historical context and reveal artistic techniques for each drawing.

In addition to the drawings, the book features a commentary by Engelhardt and his friend Jules Feiffer, author, playwright, and Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist, that gives further insight into Engelhardt's career and the field of newspaper cartoons in the twentieth century. A preface written by Engelhardt describes his path to becoming the *Post-Dispatch's* political cartoonist in 1962.

The book will be launched with an event on March 12 in Chesterfield at the Missouri Conference on History. See page 6 for details. It will be published in paperback at a list price of \$15 for SHSMO members (\$20 nonmembers). To preorder, visit <http://shsofmo.org/store> or call 573.882.7083.

Benton Sketch Acquired

On December 5 the State Historical Society acquired a new Thomas Hart Benton drawing related to the artist's illustrations for the Limited Edition Club's 1939 publication of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The artwork was acquired from Dirk Soulis Auctions and authenticated by renowned Benton scholar Henry Adams. It is believed to be a preparatory study for the illustration in chapter 31, "Lost and Found Again." In this chapter, Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher explore McDougal's Cave after a village picnic. They are chased by bats and end up lost in the cave.



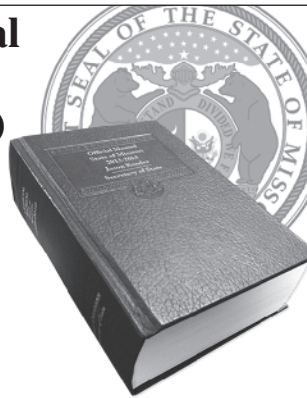
A study for an illustration by Thomas Hart Benton in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

The final drawing that appeared in the book is among the more than 200 ink sketches illustrating Mark Twain novels that Benton personally donated to the State Historical Society in 1966. The artist made this donation to keep these Missouri-related drawings together at an institution that

would regularly share them with the public. Benton's friend and associate, longtime SHSMO art curator Sidney Larson, was instrumental in orchestrating the donation. The entire Benton-Twain collection is now available for study online at the SHSMO website.

Missouri Official Manual (The Blue Book)

This latest edition includes a tribute to
President Harry S. Truman
with 25 pages of words and photos.



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NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MISSOURI

www.nhdmo.org

From Princeton, Missouri, to College Park, Maryland— My Year with National History Day

by Maycie Mayfield,
Princeton R-5 School

When I started my seventh-grade National History Day project, my goal was to make it to finals at the state competition, but with the help of former NHD competitors, my wonderful teacher Maureen Funk, and my parents, Terry and Chrystal Mayfield, I was able to go all the way to the national contest in College Park, Maryland.

I started by reading books and websites about my topic: photographer Lewis Hine and child laborers. I then decided an exhibit would be the best way to show my research and spent my mornings, nights, and even weekends working on my project. On the day of the regional contest, I thought I had messed up my interview, but I was awarded first place! I knew I had more work ahead of me, so before the state contest I interviewed college professors and historians to strengthen my project.

On April 26, 2014, the day of the state competition, I realized that even though I had worked day and night on my exhibit,

I might not reach the finals. But after I finished my interview, my confidence grew, and when I looked at the Junior Individual Exhibit finals list and saw my name, I was so happy, I started to cry. I had reached my goal. At the awards ceremony, as the second- and third-place winners were announced, I thought I had no chance of going to nationals. Then first place was announced, and I couldn't believe it: it was ME!!

I knew I had a ton of work to do before nationals. That summer I spent every day working on my exhibit, sometimes for eight hours at school. Then it was on to nationals for a week in June, exploring Washington, DC, and College Park while trading buttons with other NHD students from around the world.

At the awards ceremony, my exhibit was named the Outstanding Entry from Missouri, and I placed ninth in the nation! All my hard work had paid off.

National History Day has helped my researching and writing abilities and given me confidence to talk in front of crowds. It has also given me an



Maycie Mayfield placed ninth in the nation with her award-winning NHD exhibit, *Lewis Hine: Turns Picture into Law*.

opportunity to see different parts of the country, learn about events in history, and make friends from around the world. I will never forget my National History Day experience.



Cast Your Vote: NHD 100 Leaders in World History

The State Historical Society of Missouri is proud to be an Engagement Partner for the *100 Leaders in World History* project, sponsored by Kenneth E. Behring. This interactive, online educational experience is designed to encourage people to consider how leadership has shaped history, what makes a leader effective, and what types of leaders we need today. Visit www.100leaders.org to explore the leader gallery, see who is trending, and rate selected world leaders on five qualities of leadership!



Be Part of the National History Day 2015 State Contest

Please join us as part of the judging team for National History Day in Missouri! The state contest will be held April 25 at the University of Missouri–Columbia; 150 volunteers are needed to serve as judges. Students from every corner of the state in grades six through twelve conduct extensive research on a historical subject to produce a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. You will meet Missouri's best students, learn about interesting topics, and provide feedback on their projects as they prepare to represent Missouri on the national stage. To sign up, visit nhdmo.org/judges or call 573.882.0189.

Two Missouri Teams Selected for 2015 Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Student-Teacher Institute

Congratulations to Barrett Young and his teacher Kelly Simon Matney (Nixa High School) and to Audrey Calovich and her teacher Lisa Lauck (Notre Dame de Sion in Kansas City), who have been selected to join the 2015 Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Albert H. Small Student and Teacher Institute. This in-depth program for studying World War II and the Normandy invasion culminates in a day of remembrance at the Normandy American Cemetery, where Calovich and Young will each deliver a eulogy to the Missouri service member they choose to research and honor. Stay tuned for their stories in the August *Missouri Times*.



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

The Bloomsdale Pullover: A View of America from Highway 61

Many residents of southeast Missouri travel Interstate 55 on a regular basis. The path from Cape Girardeau to St. Louis is a familiar one, with travel time from one to the other totaling roughly two hours. That has not always been the case. In the nineteenth century there was no straight road from southeast Missouri to St. Louis.

A significant turning point in the construction of highways in Missouri and rural America was the Federal Aid Road Act of 1916, introduced by US Representative Dorsey Shackelford of Boonville, Missouri, and US Senator John Bankhead of Alabama. This legislation provided federal funds to support state construction of concrete highways to enhance “the happiness, comfort and prosperity of rural life.”

By the 1920s the rapid growth of automobiles in the United States and the subsequent “good roads movement” had led to straighter roads, all-weather roads, service stations, motels, and coordinated maps. Albert Preston Greensfelder of St. Louis recognized the economic potential of tourism and vigorously campaigned for coordinated parkways, roadside parks, and automobile accessibility to scenic attractions.

Greensfelder had a vision for the newly created Highway 61 on the west bank of the Mississippi River to become a scenic parkway similar to the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Appalachians. A great open road along the great American river would, in his view, become a major tourist attraction, promoting economic development for the residents of the entire Mississippi River valley.

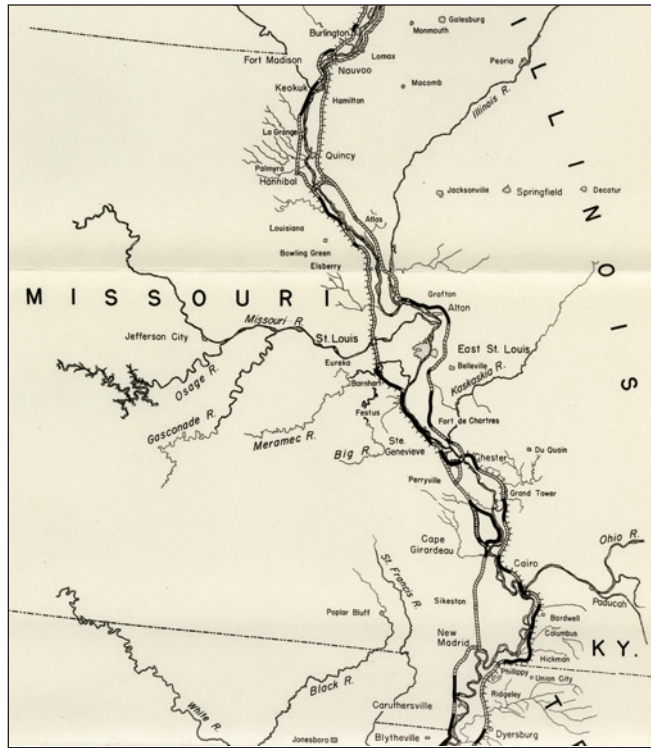
A pullover/rest stop along the Great River Road was constructed at Bloomsdale, Missouri, seven miles north of historic Ste. Genevieve. A wide parking lot, a landscaped picnic area with tables and fireplaces, a handsome stone wall, and a beautiful view of the picturesque Du Clos Valley made it a popular stop along the Great River Road. This is what Greensfelder had in mind for both sides of the Mississippi River from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

In the age of segregation African Americans found that the

African Americans traveling south from St. Louis along Highway 61 frequently made their first stop at the Bloomsdale pullover, with future stops as recommended in Green's guide.

automobile and the open road provided opportunities for better lives. They learned, however, that the open road was not always open to them. Restaurants, motels, service stations, restrooms, hospitals, doctors, and mechanics often refused to serve African Americans. This hostility was distressing to African American travelers and restricted their freedom of movement.

Victor H. Green, a Harlem, New York, postal clerk, created a detailed travel guide for African Americans, *The Negro Motorist Green Book: An International Travel Guide*, which came to be called “The Green Book.” Published from 1936 to 1964, the book was a national guide providing African Americans the names and locations of sites where their travel needs could be met. Here were the names and addresses of service stations, motels, boardinghouses, restaurants, doctors, and hospitals that would serve African American travelers.



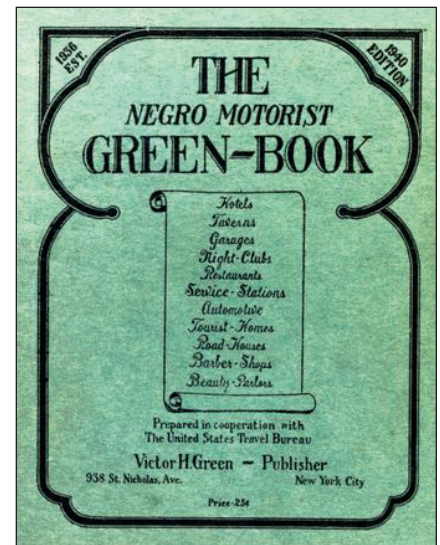
Above A 1952 map from the *Parkway for the Mississippi, Part II*, a report to the US Congress providing estimated and alternate routes for the Great River Road. **Below** Published from 1936 to 1964, *The Negro Motorist Green Book: An International Travel Guide* suggested locations where African Americans could meet their travel needs.

“The Green Book” was frequently distributed by Esso service stations. African Americans traveling south from St. Louis along Highway 61 frequently made their first stop at the Bloomsdale pullover, with future stops as recommended in Green’s guide.

These circumstances are clearly illustrated in Calvin Ramsey’s fictional children’s story *Ruth and the Green Book*. It is told from the perspective of a young African American girl from Chicago whose father purchases a new Buick to take his wife and daughter to his former home in the Deep South. Ruth is surprised and frustrated by the racism of the segregated region. When they are given a copy of “The Green Book” at an Esso station, Ruth directs her father to their destination by following the guide’s recommendations.

Patrons may trace historic routes and set travel plans with a copy of Victor Green’s *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, or empathize with an adolescent girl struggling with racism in Calvin Ramsey’s *Ruth and the Green Book* or in his play *The Green Book*, which is set in Jefferson City, Missouri. Copies of each are housed at the Research Center–Cape Girardeau.

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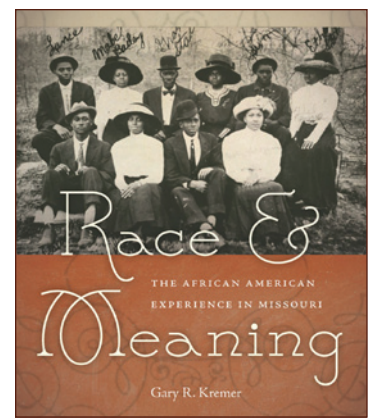


February

Race and Meaning: The African American Experience in Missouri

February 26 7 p.m. Missouri State Archives

The State Historical Society of Missouri Executive Director Gary R. Kremer will present a talk on his latest book, *Race and Meaning: The African American Experience in Missouri*, at the Missouri State Archives in Jefferson City. The event is part of the Thursday Evening Speaker Series supported by the Friends of the Missouri State Archives. Kremer's talk will address topics such as the transition from slavery to freedom for African Americans in Missouri, all-black rural communities, and the experiences of African Americans seeking new opportunities in Missouri's cities. The Speaker Series is free and open to the public.



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.umsystem.edu/outreach/events and pick your winners. Then email your selections to shsofmo@umsystem.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.umsystem.edu.

World at War—Women at Work

March 6 – June 6 Research Center—Columbia

In collaboration with SHSMO, the University of Missouri's Textile and Apparel Management Department presents *World at War—Women at Work*. This exhibit explores the changing roles of American women during World Wars I and II as portrayed through period dress, the popular press, and political propaganda. The display from TAM's Historic Costume and Textile Collection will be integrated with related contextual images, including relevant artwork from the State Historical Society art collection. All are invited to the **reception on March 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Missouri Conference on History

March 11 – 13 DoubleTree Hilton and Conference Center, Chesterfield

The Missouri Conference on History brings together teachers of history and other professional historians to share in the presentation of new scholarship, to exchange information on teaching and curricula, and to consider ways to promote public interest in history and advance the welfare of the profession. All persons interested or involved in history education, historical research, historical preservation, or any other professional application of history are welcome. For more information, visit shs.umsystem.edu/mch or call SHSMO at 573.882.7083.

An Evening with Tom Engelhardt

March 12 5:30 – 7 p.m. DoubleTree Hilton and Conference Center, Chesterfield

Four Turbulent Decades: A Cartoon History of America, 1962–2001 will be launched at the Missouri Conference on History. The book, published by SHSMO, features works by Tom Engelhardt, longtime political cartoonist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, selected from the SHSMO collection by curator Joan Stack. This event includes an interview of Engelhardt by SHSMO trustee and recently retired Missouri State Historical Society director Bob Priddy as well as a book signing. Free for registered MCH conference attendees, the public is also invited to attend. Proceeds from the \$25 registration fee will support SHSMO's political cartoon collection. Register now at shs.umsystem.edu/mch or contact SHSMO at 573.882.7083.

The Shifting Sociopolitical Meanings of George Caleb Bingham's Jolly Flatboatmen

March 28 2 – 4 p.m. St. Louis Mercantile Library

SHSMO Curator Joan Stack examines the social, political, and economic implications of artist George Caleb Bingham's three "Jolly Flatboatmen" paintings by exploring how their imagery relates to academic precedents, political cartoons, and the "language" of dress in the nineteenth century. Tickets are \$10 for Mercantile Library members or \$12 for nonmembers. Please call 314.516.7248 to register.



New Workshop: Discovering Your History Online

March 28 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. St. Charles Community College

Join the St. Charles County Historical Society and SHSMO on March 28 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. To register for the fee-based workshop, contact the St. Charles County Historical Society at 636.946.9828 or contact@SCCHS.org.



April

National History Day in Missouri State Contest

April 25 University of Missouri—Columbia

Take part in the National History Day in Missouri state contest. Nearly 600 students will be in Columbia after advancing from regional contests across the state. Experience their creative documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites that explore this year's contest theme, "Leadership and Legacy in History." Top finishers will represent the Show-Me State at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest June 14–18 at the University of Maryland, College Park. NHDMO is sponsored by SHSMO in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council. Be part of the contest experience! Sign up to judge: <http://www.nhdmo.org/judges.html>.

Four Turbulent Decades: The Cartoons of Tom Engelhardt

May 9 – October 17 Research Center—Columbia

Explore pivotal events ranging from the President Kennedy assassination to the 9/11 attacks with the evocative images of longtime *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* political cartoonist Tom Engelhardt. This special exhibition celebrates the forthcoming book of his artworks as well as Engelhardt's unique perspective on history. Plan on joining SHSMO for the **opening reception at 1:30 p.m. on May 9.**

Looking ahead

See all events at shs.umsystem.edu

Society's Black Press Collection Fills in Missing Pieces for Historians, Genealogists

In August 1955, fourteen-year-old Emmett Till was murdered in Money, Mississippi. An African American, Till was killed because Carolyn Bryant, a white woman, believed he was flirting with her in violation of southern racial taboos. When Bryant told her husband, he and his half brother abducted and murdered Till. After a sensational trial covered by both white and African American journalists, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam were acquitted in September 1955, though they later admitted to the murder. African American newspapers covering the trial provided a different viewpoint from the mainstream coverage.

When Davis Houck, a Florida State University professor who in 2008 co-authored *Emmett Till and the Mississippi Press*, found out that reporters from the *St. Louis Argus*, an African American newspaper, attended the trial, he tried to find copies of their reports. He learned that most newspaper archives were missing the August-September 1955 issues of the *Argus*. With the help of research assistant Jessica Primiani, he discovered that the State Historical Society of Missouri's collection from the time period is complete. SHSMO's newspaper collection enabled Houck to see articles and photos previously unknown to him, giving him a more thorough understanding of media coverage of the trial.

In addition to the *Argus*, the Society has many other African American newspapers. These papers can be helpful to scholars, genealogists, or anyone interested in Missouri's history. Researchers can see how the African American press covered events such as the Emmett Till murder trial. Genealogists may not be able to locate death notices for African Americans in some of the larger mainstream newspapers, so African American newspapers may be the only place to find them.

Black newspapers were published in cities across the state, including Charleston, Sedalia, St. Louis, and Kansas City. While the Society only has sporadic issues for some of the newspapers, there are long runs for others. Most of the newspapers have folded, but some continue to publish and are collected by SHSMO.



The *St. Louis Argus* from September 23, 1955, available at SHSMO, is missing from many collections.

One of the earliest black papers available is the *Columbia Professional World*, which began publishing in 1901. The first issue has news about Lincoln Institute, news for farmers, and death notices from across the state. Although the newspaper ran through 1920, the Society's holdings only go through December 25, 1903. It is available on microfilm and online at: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89066321>.

African American colleges also published newspapers. Lincoln Institute, founded in 1866 to provide blacks with access to higher education, became a university in 1921. In 1932 students started a campus newspaper, the *Lincoln University Clarion*, which is still published today. In addition to information about university events, the paper also carried national news that the editors thought would be important to students. For instance, because of the possibility that students would be called

on to serve in the military during World War II, the November 27, 1942, issue included information about a petition to desegregate the army, draft registration, and other articles about the military. At SHSMO, issues are available from 1935 to 1975 on microfilm and online at: <http://statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/LUClarion>.

African American newspapers still in publication that are collected by the Society include the *Kansas City Call*, *Kansas City Globe*, *St. Louis American*, and *St. Louis Evening Whirl*. A listing of SHSMO's holdings of resources on African American newspapers and communities can be viewed at <http://shs.umsystem.edu/research/guides/africanamerican.shtml>. Donations and loans of newspapers that have not yet been archived on microfilm are gratefully accepted. For information on donating newspapers contact 573.882.1187 or shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

Woman's City Club of Kansas City Records Show Women's Contributions to City's History

The women's club movement of the late nineteenth century offered women a place to come together to work for better conditions for their communities and themselves. One of these organizations, the Woman's City Club, provided the opportunity to fight for civic improvements, investigate municipal affairs, lobby for women's suffrage, promote social change, and study the duties of public citizenship.

When the Woman's City Club of Kansas City was formed on March 31, 1917, the country was on the brink of World War I, women did not have the right to vote, and Kansas City was growing at a rapid pace. Modeled after the Boston WCC, the Kansas City club was instrumental in the civic progress of the city, tackling issues such as health and hygiene, garbage and sewage disposal, and public education. Founded by 30 prominent Kansas City women including Phoebe Routt Ess, Mary L. Coburn, and Mabel Lewis Kitchen, the WCC sought to better the community through philanthropic and civic efforts.

Initial club membership was nearly 300 women; by November 1917, membership had more than doubled. After electing Coburn as their first president, club members devoted themselves to the war effort and rallied the community to boost public morale. The WCC building supplied office space to the Women's

Committee of the Council of National Defense, which served as a center for coordinating resources and industry in support of the war effort.

The club played a role in World War II home front relief efforts as well. Operating a bond booth in their clubhouse, the WCC raised \$201,290 in 1943 by selling war bonds and stamps.

The WCC operated through various committees. The hospital committee worked with City Hospital, later known as General Hospital, to improve conditions for patients. A Maternity Aid Center was established in 1925 in conjunction with the hospital to provide supplies for home births as well as medical interns to help with deliveries. In 1929 the club established the Mother's Milk Station at General Hospital, which provided milk for premature babies and for mothers unable to nurse. Nursing mothers were compensated 10 cents per ounce of milk donated, and it is estimated that the distribution of nearly 25,000 ounces of milk saved 500 babies.

Always mindful of their civic responsibility in the fight for women's suffrage, WCC members considered it their duty to educate women on how the vote could change the government. In 1918 the group endorsed a movement to nominate a woman to the Kansas City school board. The WCC also offered courses such as "Principles of

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
THE WOMAN'S CITY CLUB OF KANSAS CITY

(In accordance with Article III of the By-Laws, a candidate must be proposed in writing by two members of the Club, one of whom must have known her for a year.)

Date March 4 1918

To the Chairman of the Membership Committee,
The Woman's City Club, Kansas City, Missouri

The undersigned, knowing the candidate—
(Maiden Name)
Bess Truman

Married Name
Bess Truman

and believing her to be desirable in every way, hereby propose her for membership.

Residence
219 North Delaware - Jefferson

Business

Business Address

Proposed by
Mary L. Coburn

Proposed by
Phoebe E. Hooper

Members proposing names are required to write to the Membership Committee, giving:

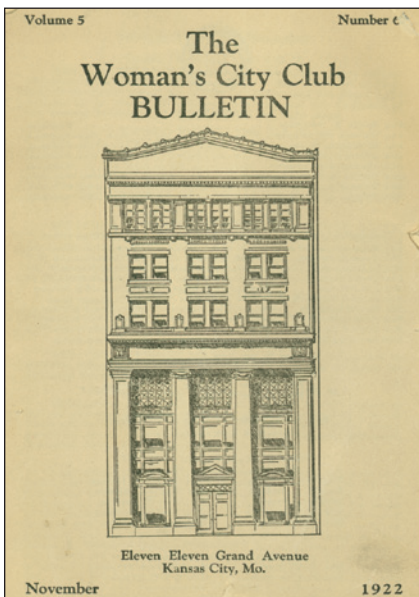
1. Length of acquaintance with applicant and length of residence in city.
2. Church or Club affiliations.
3. Husband's business.
4. Any further information concerning applicant.

Unless this information is at hand the name proposed will not be considered by the Committee.

Bess Truman's membership application for WCC.

Government" to prepare women for their voting privileges and provided citizenship classes for immigrants.

Due to a decline in membership, the Woman's City Club disbanded in 2010 after making countless contributions that have shaped the cultural, philanthropic, and civic landscape of Kansas City. The records of the Woman's City Club (K0257) are held at the Research Center—Kansas City and occupy approximately 37 cubic feet. They include board of director's minutes, financial documents, membership applications, newsletters, scrapbooks, and other materials from 1917–2010.



Left The Woman's City Club issued a monthly bulletin to notify its members of upcoming events and programs. The cover illustration shows the club's second headquarters, on Grand Avenue. **Right** The WCC regularly held events for children that focused on educational programming.

Montgomery-Diehl Family Collection Brings Historic Newburg and Rolla to Life

Linda Ryan of Jacksonville, Illinois, recently donated a fine selection of images from the family collection of John Lee “Lee” Montgomery and Mary Josephine “Mollie” Diehl Montgomery of Phelps County. Mollie Diehl’s family came from Prussia via Pittsburgh to the Maramec Iron Works in 1860, while Lee Montgomery’s family moved to Phelps County from neighboring Pulaski County in the 1870s.

The St. Louis–San Francisco “Frisco” Railway drew both families, first to Arlington and Newburg in the 1880s, and then to Rolla in the first half of the twentieth century. Some of the Diehl men were railroaders, but both families became associated with commercial enterprises in the towns, and Mollie Diehl served as Newburg’s postmistress from 1904 through 1910. The marriage of Lee Montgomery and Mollie Diehl in 1907 united the two families.

The Montgomery-Diehl family collection (RA1609) contains several hundred photographs and postcards accompanied by extensive genealogical



The Newburg Brass Band gives a street performance on July 3, 1909. This celebration is part of the everyday life depicted in the Montgomery-Diehl family collection.

and historical annotations by the donor. The collection includes portraits of family and friends as well as many views of local scenes and social activities in Newburg and Rolla.

There are notable images of Newburg, a town created by the Frisco Railway

in 1883 as a division point on the St. Louis–Springfield main line. The railroad facility was at capacity and about to undergo major expansion when Lee and Mollie Montgomery lived there, but images of the Newburg Brass Band, Fourth of July parades, and social gatherings illustrate that there was life beyond railroading in Newburg. The town’s love of baseball is reflected by photographs of Newburg baseball teams, including an image made in 1914 at Springfield’s Doling Park after the Newburg men beat a fearsome Frisco roundhouse team.

Lee and Mollie Montgomery moved to Rolla in the 1920s and looked after their family of seven children. In addition to family photographs, the collection includes postcards, snapshots, and other photos of Rolla street scenes, businesses, school classes, and local events through World War II. There are local views and Route 66 scenes by Rolla photographer I. J. Baumgardner, snapshots of Rolla Telephone Company employees, and views of the Pennant Tavern, a “full service” facility for Route 66 travelers built by the Pierce Petroleum Company in 1928. It was co-owned for a few years after the war by Lee Diehl “Diehl” Montgomery, Lee and Mollie’s son.

A selection of Diehl Montgomery’s photographs and papers (R1298) are already in the Society’s holdings. His parents’ collection is a fine complementary prologue to the historic imagery of Phelps County.



The Newburg Ball Club at Doling Park in Springfield, Missouri, on July 12, 1914. Notes accompanying the photograph indicate the team won its game that day, defeating Springfield 9-7.

Young Women’s Christian Association Holdings Processed, Photographs Available Online

In the wake of the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, a local chapter of the Young Women’s Christian Association was established and quickly became an integral part of the community. During World War I, the YWCA established Hostess Houses at US Army barracks, planned soldier’s night parties, sponsored Red Cross classes, and raised money for the war effort through the sale of Liberty Bonds at Jefferson Barracks and elsewhere in St. Louis. When the Great Depression struck, the YWCA offered job training programs, employment services, counseling, and temporary housing. In later years, the group focused on racial equality and fair housing while also offering recreational and educational programs.

Fortunately, the history of the St. Louis chapter has been preserved and made more widely available for use online.

In 1994 the YWCA of Metropolitan St. Louis began donating its records in stages to the Research Center–St. Louis. The research center staff recently completed processing an addendum to its holdings on the Young Women’s Christian Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (SA1025). An additional 600 new folders and 3,200 photographs have been added to previously processed YWCA records. More than 160 images have also been digitized and made available online.

The YWCA collection covers the time period from 1905 to 1992. It reflects the daily activities, programs, and public relations work of the YWCA. Holdings within the collection include a World War II scrapbook with news clippings and photographs, rotogravure newspaper sections documenting YWCA activities, and flyers, bulletins, and notices from the group. One promotion offers half-price tickets to the movie *Nanook of the North* when purchased at the YWCA.

The collection also contains a 1948 booklet, *Behind The Lace Curtain*, reporting on the “Red complexion of propaganda disseminated in, by and through the Young Women’s Christian Association.” Written by Joseph P. Kamp and published by the Constitutional Educational League, the pamphlet played upon the “Iron Curtain”

metaphor for the Soviet Union and its satellites popularized by Winston Churchill in a 1946

speech in Fulton, Missouri. In response to the accusations that it was spreading communist propaganda, the National YWCA passed an anticommunist resolution at its national convention.

The correspondence preserved in the collection also includes a telegram issued after the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. The St. Louis chapter’s president, Mrs. John D. Williams, and another top executive, Mrs. James A. Scott, addressed the telegram to King’s widow, Coretta Scott King.

The YWCA of Metropolitan St. Louis collection provides researchers with an understanding of women’s changing roles in the twentieth century. The new addendum enables patrons to revisit the major issues of the times through photographs, publications, and papers.

The YWCA of Metropolitan St. Louis collection provides researchers with an understanding of women’s changing roles in the twentieth century.



Installing the YWCA Central Branch sign at 1411 Locust Street in St. Louis, 1964. The YWCA of Metropolitan St. Louis was founded in 1904.

Teachers Donate Normandy School District Photographs and Papers from 1924 to 2004

Educators Patricia and Earl Samel recently donated photographs and educational materials that document the history of the Normandy School District in north St. Louis County. Patricia Samel worked as a reading teacher for the district. Her husband, Earl Samel, taught physical education and founded Normandy’s summer camp, Camp Viking. The collection (SA1145 and SA1146) contains many photographs of the Normandy area and its schools from 1924 to 2004, including the class of 1944 and its reunions over the years. The donation also contains a collection of books used in Normandy classrooms, including textbooks and children’s literature.



A recently donated photograph of Normandy High School in 1924.



Day at the Capitol Thanks Missouri's Leaders

Earlier this month National History Day in Missouri students from around the state were recognized for their accomplishments. The annual event also allowed them to thank Missouri legislators for their support and to display their research!



Be a leader in 2015! Sign up to judge at the state contest on April 25. Details on page 4.