

# MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

May 2015 Vol. 11, No. 1



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## Missouri Sons of the Revolution 1776 Chapter Passes Legacy to National History Day in Missouri Program through Endowment

On April 25 almost 600 students from across the state gathered in Columbia at the National History Day in Missouri state competition to showcase their exemplary scholarship. As the students explored the theme Leadership and Legacy in History, the contest honored the Kansas City Chapter, Missouri Sons of the Revolution 1776 for a generous gift that will support the youth program for years to come while allowing NHDMO to honor the chapter's traditions.

After many months of deliberation, the Kansas City chapter recently chose to disband due to declining membership. Before closing, however, the members decided to leave a lasting legacy to the NHDMO program. Every Presidents' Day a gift will be made to National History Day in Missouri from a designated fund established by the chapter.

The award, named for influential member Frank Wilkinson, is expected to last roughly 25 years. It aims to inspire thousands of Missouri students to conduct original research, express creativity in their projects, and become active citizens.

The chapter's support of NHDMO is an investment in the program's students and alumni that will help them serve their community, state,

and nation in a manner similar to Wilkinson, said SHSMO development director Severin Roberts.

Wilkinson's involvement with the chapter began in 1906 when his essay on George Washington won the organization's high school writing contest. Wilkinson went on to become an attorney and also taught at the Kansas City School of Law, where he counted future president Harry S. Truman among his students. Dedicated to civic responsibility,

*"We will work to ensure Frank Wilkinson's story, and that of the chapter, is carried on. We will help Missouri's young people continue to learn about history and where they come from."*

—Severin Roberts

Wilkinson advanced notable bills that influenced the state's legal landscape in areas including urban renewal, honest advertising, and education.

At the end of the final meeting of the Sons, a guest remarked, "It takes real leadership to do what they are doing, to close the organization and share its life with the State Historical Society of Missouri and assure the legacy of the Kansas City Chapter, Missouri Sons of the Revolution 1776."

Roberts agreed. "National History Day in Missouri's goals are a natural fit for the Kansas City chapter with their commitment to education, a history of success with an annual essay contest, and the desire to directly impact students," she said.

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**Left** Benjamin Koelkebeck, left, SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer, and Grant Goltra pause to celebrate after the two Joplin students were named as first-place winners at the National History Day in Missouri state contest. **Right** Finalists Michaela Scarrow, left, of Liberty and Grace Cogan of Weston cap off their experience with a photo by the Missouri Sons of the Revolution 1776 banner. The Kansas City chapter recently established an endowment to support the NHDMO program.



## State Historical Society Assists Actor on Path to Self-Discovery through Family History

In April the State Historical Society was featured on TLC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* television show. The episode traced the genealogy of actor and director Bill Paxton, whose fourth great-grandfather, Benjamin Sharp, was a spy during the American Revolution and took part in the American victory at Kings Mountain in South Carolina in 1780. Sharp eventually came to Missouri, settling in Warren County. The family then stayed in the Show-Me state for several generations.

"It feels good to be in Missouri, in the land of my father, his father, and his father," Paxton said. "I didn't realize I had a great-grandfather four times removed that had come to Missouri, and now here we are in the town where he spent the last of his life."

Paxton, known for his acting roles in movies such as *Twister*, TV shows including HBO's *Big Love*, and the History Channel's miniseries *Hatfields & McCoys*, met with SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer at the Warren County Historical Society to read his ancestor's original last will and testament. The document showed that Sharp owned slaves. He was not without compassion for them: "My faithful servants, Bill and Judy, shall not be separated," it stated. "Benjamin still believes in slavery as an institution, but he is also wanting to protect Bill and Judy," Kremer said.

Troubled but not surprised by the discovery that his ancestor was a slaveholder, Paxton seemed relieved to learn the will dictated that Sharp's heirs "treat them with humanity, and make their lives as comfortable and happy as the nature of master and servant will admit."

"We have a tendency to want to kind of hide the bad parts of our history. But we have to shine a light on all of it in order to understand who we are," Paxton said. "So your history is just your history. It's



Art curator Joan Stack, left, actor and director Bill Paxton, and executive director Gary Kremer tour the art gallery to view artworks by Thomas Hart Benton during Paxton's November visit to SHSMO's Columbia headquarters.

not what your forefathers did with their lives, but really what are you going to do with your life?"

Kremer has now appeared in two episodes of *Who Do You Think You Are?* In 2014 he assisted actress Cynthia Nixon in tracing her ancestry through Missouri.

## Series of Bicentennial Focus Groups Gather Celebration Ideas for Missouri's 200th Birthday

Planning for the bicentennial celebration of Missouri's statehood in 2021 is well under way at the State Historical Society. In an attempt to be as inclusive as possible, SHSMO is conducting a series of focus groups around the state to ask community members for their thoughts on how the bicentennial should be honored. Sessions have been held in Columbia, Hannibal, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Springfield to

generate interest in bicentennial events and collect ideas for how to best interpret and commemorate 200 years of Missouri history.

Do you have a great idea? There is still time to participate in a focus group. Please check the website, [missouri200.org](http://missouri200.org), for future dates in Cape Girardeau, St. Joseph, and West Plains. You can also contribute your ideas at [missouri200.org/suggestions](http://missouri200.org/suggestions).

### Contact the Society

#### E-mail

shsfo@umssystem.edu

#### Website

shs.umssystem.edu

#### Telephone

800.747.6366

573.882.7083

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#### Managing Editor

John Brenner

#### Editor

Mary Ellen Lohmann

#### Assistant Editor

Kimberly Harper

## Fort Barnesville Dedicated, Reynolds County Historian Honored



Frank Nickell, standing left, addresses the crowd gathered to honor Gerald Angel, seated in middle, at the Fort Barnesville marker. Photo courtesy of Lynn Morrow.

The State Historical Society of Missouri assistant directors Frank Nickell and John Bradbury traveled to Ellington, Missouri, on April 12 for the dedication of a new marker at Fort Barnesville. The site was a field fortification built in 1863 by the Union Army. The ceremony also honored Gerald Angel, the Reynolds County historian whose work on the fort's history led to its placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Nickell, head of SHSMO's Cape Girardeau center, and his Rolla counterpart Bradbury have been involved with the site since its discovery in 1995. Nickell was the principal speaker at the dedication ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the Reynolds County Museum.



## Center for Missouri Studies Expands in Second Year, Offering Three Fellowships in 2016

The State Historical Society of Missouri announces three Center for Missouri Studies fellowship opportunities for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2016. Each fellowship carries a stipend of \$5,000 for a project in one of three areas: History of Women in Missouri Politics, the Environment in Missouri History, or Missouri Jewish History.

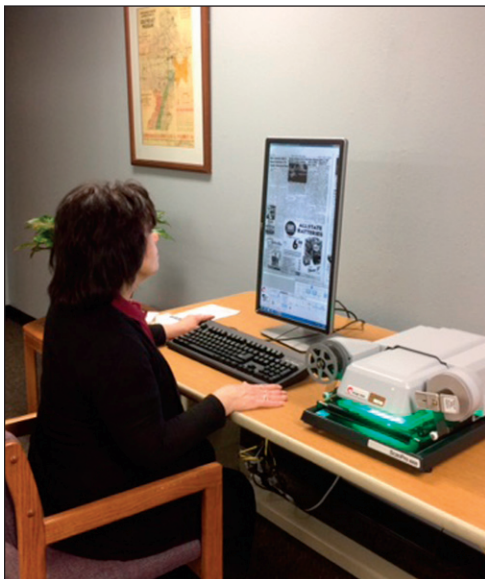
Essays must be completed by the end of calendar year 2016 and must reflect significant scholarship in primary sources, evidence familiarity with appropriate secondary sources, and contain endnotes that comply with *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition. The finished product will be considered for publication in the *Missouri Historical Review*, although successful completion of the project is no guarantee of publication. In addition, successful applicants will

be asked to make a public presentation based on their project at a mutually agreed upon time and place.

Applicants should submit a proposal/application no more than two pages in length that includes a description of the project and a list of main primary sources. For more details on how to apply, please visit <http://shs.umsystem.edu/thecenter/apply>.

The deadline for submitting applications is September 1. Please send all application materials to the State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry Street, Columbia, MO 65201, or [shsofmo@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsofmo@umsystem.edu). The awards will be announced no later than December 1, 2015.

For more information about the Center for Missouri Studies fellowships, contact John Brenner, managing editor, at [brennerj@umsystem.edu](mailto:brennerj@umsystem.edu) or 573.882.7083.



## Research Tools Upgraded in Cape Girardeau and Springfield Centers

The Society's Cape Girardeau and Springfield research centers recently received ScanPro microfilm machines, improving patrons' access to newspaper and other collections. A ScanPro can be used to read, print, and scan microfilm.

"The images are so clear on screen! It makes reading those old papers so much easier," researcher Mara Cohen Ioannides said.

Before the machine was installed in the Springfield center, patrons had to travel from the center's headquarters on the third floor of Missouri State University's Duane G. Meyer Library to microfilm readers on a different floor. Now they are able to stay in the Research Center and enjoy a clearer, easier-to-read screen as well as legible printouts and scans.

"This has been a wonderful addition to the research center," Springfield manuscript specialist Erin Smither said. "Our researchers love it. They are impressed by their ability to print or scan the one article they are looking for, the ability to straighten and enhance the image, and it is very easy to use. It is like night and day with what staff and researchers had to use before."

Frank Nickell, assistant director in Cape Girardeau, said that patrons in southeast Missouri have also been pleased with the updates. "The ScanPro is in, and it is terrific," he said. "We really like it! It has already been an asset to have for our researchers."

For more information on visiting the Research Center—Cape Girardeau and Research Center—Springfield, see [shs.umsystem.edu/about](http://shs.umsystem.edu/about).

The Cape Girardeau and Springfield centers now offer patrons a ScanPro unit for accessing microfilm records.

## Multi-Organization Collaboration Results in Masterpiece by Young Artists

The State Historical Society hosted a reception on March 3 celebrating its collaboration with Lee Expressive Arts Elementary and the Columbia Art League. The year-long project resulted in a ceramic relief mural created by Lee Elementary's fifth graders constructed with the help of Greig Thompson, SHSMO's chief museum preparator. Students spent the 2014-15 school year preforming a number of preparatory studies for the mural and learning about the varied natural and cultural history of central Missouri, which the artwork depicts.



Greig Thompson, middle, SHSMO's chief museum preparator, discusses the process used for hanging a clay mural with the Columbia Art League's Diana Moxon, right, executive director, and Karen Shortt-Stout, education director. The one-of-a-kind piece was created by fifth graders at Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School through a partnership with the State Historical Society and the Columbia Art League.

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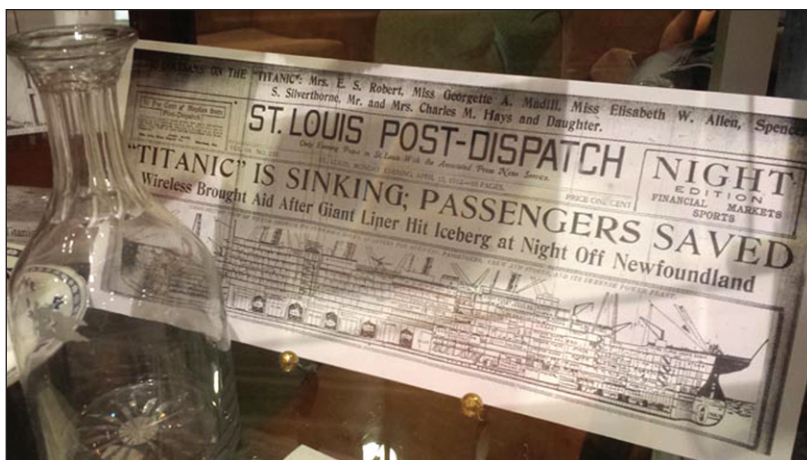
**Youtube**  
[youtube.com/shsofmissouri](https://youtube.com/shsofmissouri)

## Research Center—Springfield Explores the *Titanic's* Missouri Connections in Local Library Exhibit

To mark the 103rd anniversary of the *Titanic* sinking, the Research Center—Springfield offered an exhibit at the Springfield-Greene County Library District's The Library Center from April 1 to May 1.

*Missouri and the Titanic* highlighted the doomed ship's Missouri connections, chronicling the travails of nine Missourians—seven St. Louis natives, Margaret Brown of Hannibal, and reporter Carlos Hurd of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, who was traveling on board the rescue ship *Carpathia*. The show featured materials from SHSMO's collections that included Missouri survivor accounts, highlights from *Post-Dispatch* coverage, photographs, and citizen reactions to news of the disaster. Artifacts from the personal collection of manuscript specialist Erin Smither supplemented the exhibit.

To learn more about *Missouri and the Titanic*, contact shsofmo-springfield@umsystem.edu or 417.836.3782.



The *Missouri and the Titanic* exhibit at the Springfield-Greene County Library District's The Library Center showcased Missouri connections to the tragedy through the personal stories of nine Missourians and newspaper coverage including that of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.



Greig Thompson, chief museum preparator, organizes the Engelhardt editorial cartoon collection in the new Delta Designs cabinets purchased during the third phase of the Engelhardt Challenge.

## Engelhardt Challenge Provides New Home for Editorial Cartoons

The Engelhardt Challenge fund-raising effort has fulfilled another goal: state-of-the-art storage for works by notable editorial cartoonists Tom Engelhardt and Daniel Fitzpatrick.

The Society has installed two Delta Designs cabinets customized to meet SHSMO's needs. The cabinets will ensure that the artworks are stored under optimal conditions, preserving them for future generations.

"This is the best care we can give to these collections, and that is the primary consideration," said Greig Thompson, chief museum preparator. "Delta has an extensive list of customers. In Missouri it includes the Nelson-Atkins, the St. Louis Art Museum—all the major institutions."

The Engelhardt Challenge, created by gifts and a matching fund established by an anonymous donor who is also a friend of Engelhardt, was launched in 2012 to support the preservation and display of artworks by the longtime *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* cartoonist. The Engelhardt

Challenge has now entered its third phase of support for SHSMO's editorial cartoon collection, which includes more than 17,500 artworks by Engelhardt, Fitzpatrick, Bill Mauldin, and others. The first phase covered expenses for purchasing a large-format overhead scanner to digitize the recent donation of Engelhardt's drawings and completing the labor-intensive process of properly archiving the images. The images were scanned and cataloged, and metadata descriptions were created so that the collection could be made available online for researchers and the public.

The second phase supported the publication of a new book, *Four Turbulent Decades: A Cartoon History of America, 1962–2001*, which was released in March by SHSMO. In addition, an exhibition of Engelhardt's works will run from May 9 through October 17 at the Research Center—Columbia.

For more information on how to contribute to the Engelhardt Challenge, contact SHSMO at 573.882.7083.

## Sons of the Revolution 1776 —Continued

"We will work to ensure Frank Wilkinson's story, and that of the chapter, is carried on. We will help Missouri's young people continue to learn about history and where they come from."

The Kansas City chapter also has entrusted the State Historical Society of Missouri with its entire set of records. In addition, Wilkinson's family is working with the Society to archive his personal papers, said SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer.

"Frank Wilkinson's collection includes his scrapbooks, his multifaceted political papers, and letters from President Truman," Kremer said. "He believed in curating his own history, and the Kansas City chapter honors him by establishing this endowment that focuses on the intersection of history and the future leaders who understand its importance—National History Day in Missouri students."

Spanning 1896–2006, the Kansas City Chapter, Missouri Sons of the Revolution 1776 Records (K1264) illuminate the connections of early Kansas City residents to America's forefathers and represent many prominent families. The collection can be found at SHSMO's Research Center—Kansas City, along with the papers of many of the chapter's members.



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



## State Historical Society's Research Center—Cape Girardeau Moves into Expanded Quarters

The Research Center—Cape Girardeau of the State Historical Society of Missouri has moved into new and expanded quarters on the first floor of Pacific Hall on the Southeast Missouri State University campus. A public open house and a special preview offered members and donors an opportunity to tour the new facility, meet the staff, and then walk half a block to the historic Oliver-Leming-Kellerman House for a celebration of the occasion.

About 150 people from across southeast Missouri attended the April event, contributing to its success by making donations to support the work of the Cape center. The beautiful evening encouraged many of the visitors to relax on the porch of the Oliver house, the birthplace of the Missouri state flag, as they listened to the soft jazz of the Jerry Ford ensemble. The event was cosponsored by the Kellerman Foundation.

The evening also included a recognition of the tireless work of Frank Nickell, assistant director of the Research Center—Cape Girardeau, who has studied and taught the region's history since his arrival at Southeast Missouri State in the late 1960s. Cape Girardeau's mayor Harry Rediger presented Nickell with a plaque in honor of his long and continuing commitment to studying the history of the region. Nickell also received an award of appreciation from SHSMO president Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. for a lifetime of exemplary service to the preservation and dissemination of the rich history and heritage of southeast Missouri.



Frank Nickell, left, assistant director of the Research Center—Cape Girardeau, accepts a plaque from Cape Girardeau's mayor Harry Rediger as SHSMO trustee Edward C. "Ned" Matthews looks on. Nickell was honored for his longtime commitment to the study of southeast Missouri's history.

Thanks in part to Nickell's leadership, the Research Center—Cape Girardeau can now provide researchers in southeast Missouri with a comfortable place to work, convenient parking, the use of computer services, a new ScanPro unit for accessing microfilm, and a workable courier service that will make available relevant historical collections from all State Historical Society research centers across Missouri. The Cape Girardeau center's expansion opens a new chapter to southeast Missourians in

the study of regional and state history, promoting more publication and greater understanding of the region's past.

The Research Center—Cape Girardeau staff has installed an archival storage area for 200 boxes of processed historical documents in the new Pacific Hall quarters. This shelving, along with an additional storage area rented in the former federal courthouse, provides the Cape Girardeau center with adequate space for its needs at present and in the near future.



**Left** The Research Center—Cape Girardeau now offers patrons an expanded reading room, convenient parking, a new ScanPro unit, and a workable courier service providing access to all SHSMO collections. **Right** Members and donors were invited to a special preview of the new facilities on April 15.

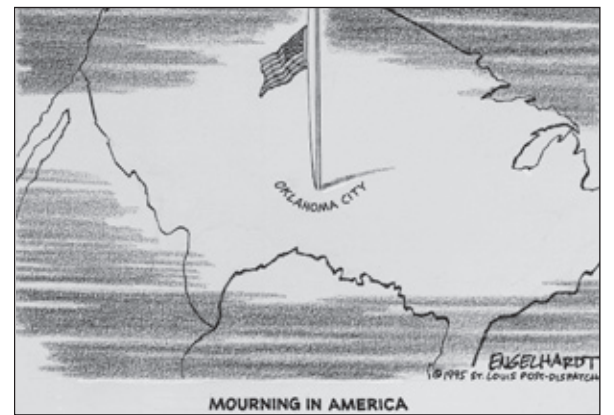


## May

### 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 as portrayed through the evocative images of longtime *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* political cartoonist Tom Engelhardt. The exhibit will feature editorial cartoons spanning Engelhardt's career that demonstrate his unique historical perspective and his ability to stir the public conscience. Take advantage of this opportunity to see Engelhardt's poignant artwork on topics such as the civil rights movement, the environment, and the Vietnam War.



## June

### Introduction to Oral History Workshop

June 16 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Ozark Regional Library Fredericktown

Move beyond personal papers and official records and open up a treasure chest filled with firsthand experiences. Working with oral historian Jeff D. Corrigan, you will learn the fundamentals of developing oral history projects from initial idea to finished product. The workshop will focus on the pre-interview, interview, and post-interview phases, including planning, technology, drafting questions, and more.

The fee is \$5.00 per person, which includes lunch. The program is sponsored by the Ozark Regional Library Fredericktown, Historic Madison County, and University of Missouri Extension Madison County. To register, call 573.783.3303 or email [klineju@missouri.edu](mailto:klineju@missouri.edu). The Ozark Regional Library Fredericktown is located at 115 S. Main Street, Fredericktown, MO 63645.

### Audubon's Paper Menageries: Birds and Quadrupeds

June 20 – November 28 Research Center–Columbia

John James Audubon (1785–1851) traversed North America studying and painting the nation's birds and animals. Working with printmakers, he translated these experiences into spectacular hand-colored engravings and lithographs depicting American wildlife. Audubon's *Paper Menageries: Birds and Quadrupeds* features selected original prints from Audubon's gigantic books, *The Birds of America* (1827–1838) and *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America* (1845–1848). Viewers will see bison, bears, hawks, and bluebirds. Perhaps the most poignant image is the life-sized, hand-colored engraving of a pair of passenger pigeons, members of a species that became extinct in 1914. Join the State Historical Society for a curator's walk-through at 1:30 p.m. on August 29.

## July

### An Afternoon of Fiction Set in the Missouri Ozarks

July 18 2 – 4 p.m. Research Center–Columbia

Join two authors with Missouri roots for readings from their latest projects, followed by a discussion on writing with topics ranging from choosing historical fiction to literary license and historical accuracy.

Steve Wiegenstein will read highlights from *This Old World*, which was recently announced as a finalist for the M. M. Bennetts Award for Historical Fiction. Set in the utopian town of Daybreak, the novel depicts a troubled community deeply changed by the American Civil War. As the characters write the next chapter of their story, the men and women struggle with leadership, lust, and their own flawed humanity. Steve Yates also explores the aftermath of the Civil War in *The Teeth of the Souls*, which tells the double life and love story of Leighton Shea Morkan. Leighton's affection for his childhood confidante and former slave, Judith, endures despite his marriage to another woman. A sequel to *Morkan's Quarry*, the novel follows Springfield through a triple lynching on Easter 1906.



## August

### Evening Research Hours

August 6 4:45 – 8 p.m.

Research Center–Columbia

Take advantage of the opportunity to linger among SHSMO's historical records and research collections on this evening of extended hours. The Research Center–Columbia will be open until 8 p.m. for patrons to conduct research.

### Missouri State Genealogical Association Conference

August 7 – 8 Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center

Join SHSMO in Columbia at the annual gathering of family history researchers. Expand your horizons in the sessions, visit with staff members in the exhibit hall, and network with other genealogists, all under one roof. For details, visit [www.mosga.org](http://www.mosga.org).

### 2015 Annual Meeting

October 17 The Broadway Columbia

Save the date of Saturday, October 17, 2015, for the State Historical Society of Missouri's Annual Meeting in Columbia. William E. (Bill) Foley, professor emeritus of history at the University of Central Missouri, and attorney and historian Jo Ann Trogdon will present a program on the multifaceted William Clark, best known for teaming with Meriwether Lewis to lead the Corps of Discovery on its expedition to the Pacific coast. Foley specializes in the history of the American West and Missouri. He has written and edited numerous books, including *Wilderness Journey: The Life of William Clark*, which was hailed as the first comprehensive look at Clark's life beyond the legendary expedition. Trogdon has based her new book, *The Unknown Travels and Dubious Pursuits of William Clark*, on the personal journal of Clark held at the SHSMO Research Center–Columbia. The book, which will be published in June by the University of Missouri Press, paints a complex picture of the famous explorer and his sometimes questionable activities prior to leading the Corps of Discovery in 1804.

## Looking ahead





**Left** Harry S. Truman greets the press during his trip to mid-Missouri for the University of Missouri's commencement in 1950. Burton L. McNeil Photographs (P0025-05). **Right** Dante Tranquille's May 1949 photo of two artists drawing near the St. Louis riverfront. Dante O. Tranquille Photographs (P0148-036).

## Growing Digital Photographs Collection Adds Over 1,500 Missouri Images to Online Archives

Over the past ten months, photograph specialist Anne Cox has spearheaded an effort to increase the photographs available online through the State Historical Society of Missouri's digital collections.

"Digitization is an important piece of the access puzzle," Cox said. "By posting digital reproductions of our photos online, we can provide access to materials beyond geographic limitations and research center hours."

The newly added collections reinforce several popular research themes:

### **Columbia and the University of Missouri**

The University of Missouri School of Journalism Scrapbook (P0162) is particularly useful for its coverage of the early days of the journalism school, student life, university traditions, and sports, including Mizzou's inaugural homecoming football game. The scrapbooks, spanning roughly 1909–1913, contain nearly 700 images believed to have been taken by Siegel Mayer, a journalism student and photographer for the university's yearbook, the *Savitar*.

The Dante O. Tranquille Photographs (P0148) consist of 104 images taken by Tranquille, a photojournalist who worked in New York at the *Utica Observer-Dispatch*. He visited Missouri in May 1949, probably to attend the MU journalism school's Missouri Photo Workshop. Of particular interest to researchers are Tranquille's images of the St. Louis riverfront, African Americans, housing

later torn down during urban renewal projects, Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad trains, trailer homes for MU's military veterans, and downtown Columbia.

The Burton L. McNeil Photographs (P0025) include 18 photographs of Columbia in the 1950s taken by McNeil, a photographer for Julie's Studio in Columbia. The collection focuses primarily on a 1950 visit by Harry S. Truman, in town to receive an honorary degree from the University of Missouri and serve as the commencement speaker. Additional images depict the Boone County Courthouse, Stephens College, Ellis Fischel Hospital, Hickman High School, Williams Barber Shop, and Columbia street views.

### **St. Louis Tornadoes**

These collections show damage and rebuilding in St. Louis following two separate tornadoes. The St. Louis Tornado Photographs (P0277) consist of 40 images following an 1896 tornado, while the Mary Ann Younk Photograph Collection (P0008) features 15 photographs of damage to houses and buildings after a tornado struck on September 29, 1927.

### **Louisiana Purchase Exposition**

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition Snapshots (P0093) provide candid images of visitors to the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. In contrast, the George Nathan Newman Stereograph Collection (P0017) reveals a more formal side to the fair, focusing

on the structures and exhibits. These 35 photographs are the first stereographic images added to the Society's digital collections.

As part of their promotional efforts, the fair's organizers sought to publicize the best aspects of their host state. *The State of Missouri: An Autobiography*, edited by journalist Walter Williams, future president of the University of Missouri, presented the state's virtues. The State of Missouri Collection (P0018) includes over 450 photographs created for the book and is particularly strong in scenes of agriculture, industry, and buildings in Missouri cities and towns. Many of the images retain crop lines and other markings used in the publication process.

### **Missouri State Capitol**

The Lester Parker Photograph Collection (P0022) is a series of 103 photos showing the state capitol under construction and views of the artists working on its murals and decorations. Parker used these images as reference material to create paintings of the capitol. Consequently, a number of the photos have paint drips, pencil lines, or cut-outs.

These collections, and more, can be accessed through the Society's digital collections portal at <http://statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri.org>. Stay tuned to the State Historical Society of Missouri's social media channels for updates on future additions.

## Kansas City Native Joins Staff as Manuscript Specialist

Jennifer Huffman joined the Research Center–Kansas City staff as a part-time manuscript specialist in January 2015. Huffman earned her master’s degree in library and information science in 2014 from the University of Missouri–Columbia. It was during one of her courses, Archival Management, that she discovered her interest in archival work.

“Class would meet on weekends at the National Archives for hands-on experience, and for the first time I didn’t mind going to school on a Saturday,” Huffman said. She learned to design exhibits and process collections. “Processing a collection from the Leavenworth Penitentiary really piqued my interest.”

Born and raised in Kansas City, Huffman has enjoyed learning more about her hometown. Working in the Missouri Valley Special Collections at

the Kansas City Public Library for two years expanded her knowledge of local history. It also allowed her to gain more experience in processing collections and creating finding aids.

Huffman said the instruction and support she has received from the Research Center–Kansas City staff has enabled her to continue growing as a professional archivist.

“They have been very helpful in showing me the ropes and answering all my questions,” Huffman said. “I’ve really benefited from their expertise.”

In addition to her work with the State Historical Society of Missouri, Huffman is also employed as a library technician with the US Courts Library for the Eighth Circuit.

In her free time, Huffman likes to go to Worlds of Fun, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Royals baseball



New manuscript specialist Jennifer Huffman.

games, and Kansas City’s many different culinary attractions. She enjoys hiking, yoga, and reading, as well as spending time with family and her pets. An avid traveler, Huffman spent a year teaching English in a remote part of the Marshall Islands with only 200 inhabitants.

## Kansas City Region’s National History Day in Missouri Contest Sets New Mark



Hannah Scott of Odessa High School with her senior individual exhibit. She found many of her sources at the Research Center–Kansas City. Scott advanced to the state contest in Columbia, where she earned the right to represent Missouri at the national contest in June. This is Scott’s third trip to nationals.

A record number of students—510—took part in the Greater Kansas City National History Day in Missouri regional contest on February 28. More than 30 schools entered students in the contest, held at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library

and Museum in Independence. First, second, and third-place entrants advanced to the state finals in Columbia on April 25.

Hannah Scott of Odessa High School went on to Columbia with her senior individual exhibit “Lucile Bluford: The Conscience of Kansas City and Her Leadership in the Call for Change.” Much of her research was done at the Kansas City center. Scott placed first in Columbia and will represent Missouri next month in the NHD national contest at College Park, Maryland.

Research Center–Kansas City assistant director Lucinda Adams and senior manuscript specialist

Tracey Howerton were among the 84 judges involved in the Kansas City contest. Two college interns and a dozen volunteers also assisted.

Adams and Howerton were impressed by the quality of entries and the enthusiasm of

*The students’ projects, which addressed the 2015 contest theme “Leadership and Legacy in History,” included interpretations of Kansas City–area figures such as Tom Pendergast, Charlie Parker, and Thomas Hart Benton.*

the students, many of whom, like Scott, conducted research at the Kansas City center during the course of the school year. The students’ projects, which addressed the 2015 contest theme “Leadership and Legacy in History,” included interpretations of Kansas City–area figures such as Tom Pendergast, Charlie Parker, and Thomas Hart Benton.



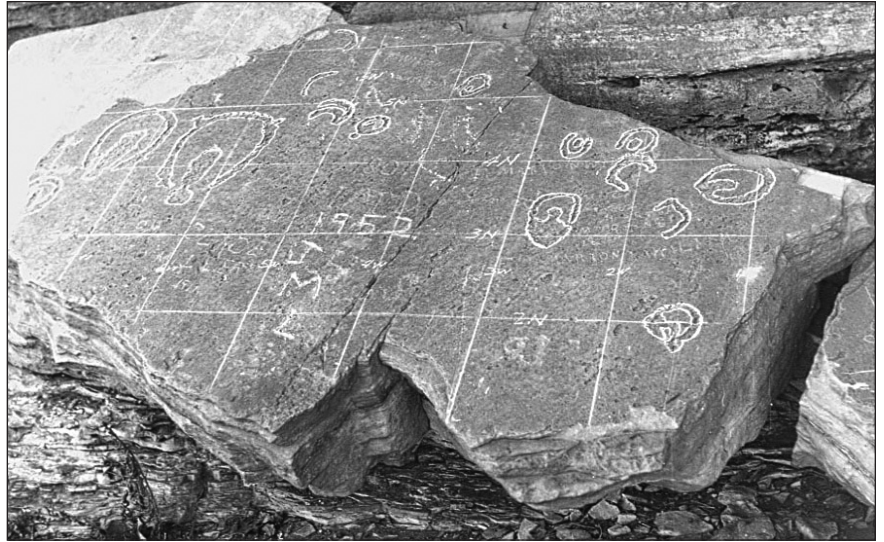
## Digging into the Past: Modern History of Caves in Gasconade River Region Explored

Missouri contains more than 5,600 caves within its borders and is sometimes referred to as the Cave State. Some of the caves have attracted visitors for thousands of years, making them a profitable place for study by historians.

Research Center–Rolla assistant director John Bradbury has been looking into the modern history of nearby caves. The region along the Gasconade River and tributaries in neighboring Phelps and Pulaski Counties is one of the most cavernous areas of the state, with over 500 caves dotting the hills.

Bradbury has focused on the historic use of a few favored caves: Gourd Creek, Poole Hollow, and Saltpeter in Phelps County as well as Miller, Onyx, Campground, and Maxey/Inca in Pulaski County. These caves have garnered considerable interest, not only because of their unusual scenic nature, but also for varied social and entrepreneurial reasons.

Nitre, a component of gunpowder present in cave earth from bat guano, led early hunters and trappers—Daniel Boone among others—to dig in Gasconade River caverns before the War of 1812. Another round of digging occurred in the 1870s after chemists at the Missouri School of Mines at Rolla



Petroglyphs at Miller Cave on the Big Piney River in Pulaski County, ca. 1965. Robert L. Elgin collection (R1261).

discovered cave earth was worth more than twenty dollars a ton as agricultural fertilizer. In the 1890s, onyx was mined in several Pulaski County caves. Specimens were exhibited at the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition and the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

Excavations in the larger caves have unearthed evidence of thousands of years of occupation. One of the earliest archaeological investigations was a float-reconnaissance of Gasconade

River caves in 1894 by St. Louisans A. J. Love and William J. Seever. Donated to SHSMO in 1941, Seever's memorandum of the event is one of the earliest records of archaeology in the Gasconade River region. Twentieth-century excavations in many of the same caves visited by Seever established the cultural and chronological framework for prehistory along the Gasconade.

Scores of items by rural newspaper correspondents show the popularity of caves as places for social gatherings, recreation, and "spots for the curious" in the late nineteenth century. Saltpeter Cave, a day's outing from Rolla, was a favorite destination of chaperoned picnic parties for young adults, club members, and students from the Missouri School of Mines. Campground Cave at Waynesville was the site of camp meetings and revivals, while guests of Gasconade River resorts took boats to explore Onyx Cave. After automobile tourism emerged, Maxey Cave (renamed Inca) and Onyx Cave (Onyx Mountain Caverns) became commercial attractions conveniently accessed from Route 66.

For more information about the unique history of the area's caves, see "A Social History of Some Phelps County Caves" in the *Newsletter of the Phelps County Historical Society* (October 2014). A revised and expanded version will also appear in the forthcoming *Old Settlers Gazette*, the annual publication of the Old Stagecoach Stop at Waynesville.



Gourd Creek Cave south of Rolla was a Civil War hideout and Greenback Party gathering place. St. Louis archaeologist Gerard Fowke excavated it after World War I for the Smithsonian Institution. *Industrial Survey of Rolla, Missouri*, 1931.



## What's in a Name? Research Center—St. Louis Staff Solves Patron's World's Fair Mystery

Earlier this spring the State Historical Society of Missouri's Research Center—St. Louis received an email from researcher Melanie S. Mabry seeking information about the Lalla Keru diary (S0149). The journal is filled with the personal reflections of a St. Louis woman after eight visits to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, also known as the 1904 World's Fair. The young woman's impressions of the fair help to personalize the modern understanding of the world-famous event.

"We went to the Moro village where the people build their houses in the water," she wrote. "I asked a Moro child to let me take his picture and he stood straight as a soldier and when I snapped it he said 'let me see.' I explained to him that it had to be finished. I then took a nickel out and asked if he knew what it was. 'Mehcan money' was the reply. When I gave it to him he said 'thank you.'"

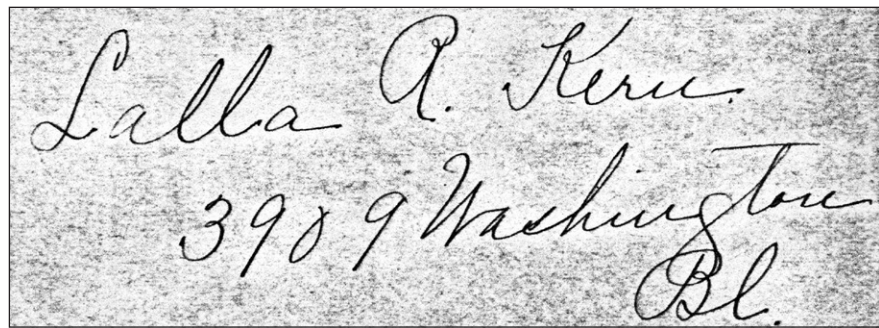
Mabry, a University of Missouri—Kansas City student, was searching for information about Keru and kept

coming up empty. When the St. Louis staff received Mabry's request for further details, they also started looking at a variety of sources to find leads. They started with collections at the St. Louis location, moved to other branches, and even performed a search on Ancestry.com. All to no avail.

Then the breakthrough came. Manuscript specialist Nancy McIlvaney suggested an alternative spelling. Perhaps the letter "u" in the last name could be an "n" instead. When the search was

repeated for Lalla Kern, a wealth of information was found. The historical record shows that Kern lived from 1882 to 1924. She was a teacher at Dozier School, just north of the fairgrounds, when she penned the diary. There was even a record of her living with an aunt and uncle.

Thus, an inquiry from an avid researcher and the creative problem-solving of McIlvaney led to correction of the collection name that has stood since 1982.



Thanks to the help of Melanie S. Mabry, a University of Missouri—Kansas City student, the Research Center—St. Louis recently corrected the record of Lalla Kern's 1904 journal. When accessioned in 1982 the diary was designated as the Lalla Keru Collection based on the young woman's penmanship.

## Second Grant from Zonta Club of St. Louis Expands Women's Movement Oral History Project

The Zonta Club of St. Louis has generously given the State Historical Society of Missouri a second \$5,000 grant to conduct video oral history interviews with women who came of age during the women's movement. During the second phase of the project, club members and other notable women from the St. Louis area will be interviewed. The grant supports the project by providing the supplies necessary to conduct the interviews as well as covering the expenses for video editing and transcription. Once complete, the transcripts will be available on the State Historical Society of Missouri's website.

### Notable Recent Acquisitions

The Research Center—St. Louis recently received several interesting donations:

**Dismas House Records (S0192).** A 33½ phonograph record of a talk given by Father

Charles Dismas Clark, founder of the prisoner halfway house that bears his name.

**Westmoreland Place Photographs (SA1151).** A collection of photographs taken in 1902 of a house at 2 Westmoreland Place in one of the city's exclusive private neighborhoods. The images, donated by Sally

Hill, are of the exterior and interior of the home and offer a rare look at a bygone era.

**St. Louis Metropolitan Police Circus Photograph (SA1155).** A panoramic photograph of St. Louis Metropolitan Police Circus members from 1946.



Panoramic photograph of St. Louis Metropolitan Police Circus members from 1946. St. Louis Metropolitan Police Circus Photograph (SA1155).





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