

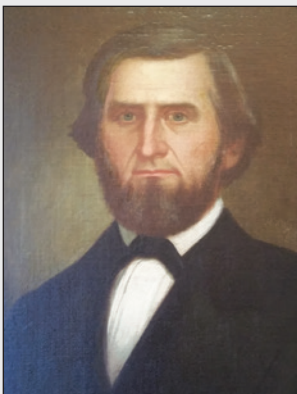
# MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

August 2016 Vol. 12, No. 2



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## Two-Time Pulitzer Prize Winner Explores the Lives of Custer and James in Center for Missouri Studies Fall Lecture on October 15

Nationally acclaimed biographer T. J. Stiles, who has chronicled the lives of George Armstrong Custer, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and Jesse James, will be the featured speaker at the Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series Fall Lecture on October 15.

During the 1 p.m. lecture, Stiles will describe how border state culture shaped the careers of Custer and James, bringing two men who fought on opposite sides of the Civil War into a surprising convergence. Missouri, the home state of James, also proved to be a pivotal place in Custer's life. The state was a battleground that shaped their future paths toward fame and legend.

Drawing upon his most recent book, *Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America*, which received the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for History, and his first book, *Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War*, published in 2002, Stiles will offer new insights into the lives of two famous historical figures known for pushing boundaries in nineteenth-century America.

Stiles's exhaustive research and masterful ability to captivate an audience have earned him numerous accolades. In addition to this year's Pulitzer Prize, he was awarded the 2009 National Book Award in Nonfiction and his first Pulitzer Prize in Biography in 2010 for *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*.



Author T. J. Stiles. A member of the Society of American Historians and a former Guggenheim fellow, Stiles lives in Berkeley, California. Photo by Michael Lionstar.

*T. J. Stiles will describe how border state culture shaped the careers of George Armstrong Custer and Jesse James, bringing two men who fought on opposite sides of the Civil War into a surprising convergence.*

His talk, which will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott and Conference Center in Columbia, is part of the State Historical Society of Missouri's 2016 annual meeting weekend. Be sure to attend the business meeting and annual report at 11 a.m. to help celebrate the tenure of Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., SHSMO's president, as he passes the gavel to the next Society leader.

Registration is now open for the noon luncheon at <http://shsmo.org/annualmeeting> or by phone at 573.882.7083. Please reserve a place for yourself and additional attendees by October 5. The luncheon is \$35 for members, \$40 for nonmembers.

All other events are free and open to the public, including the 11 a.m. meeting and the 1 p.m. lecture, which will be followed by a book signing.

The State Historical Society's gift shop is offering all three of Stiles's books at the special member rate of \$35. To preorder your copies, call 573.882.7083. The titles may also be added to your purchase during online registration.

# 10.15.16

## Center for Missouri Studies Fall Lecture and Annual Meeting

### Location

Courtyard by Marriott  
and Conference Center  
3301 Lemone Industrial Blvd., Columbia

### Schedule

**11 a.m. Annual Business Meeting**  
Salons A and B, free and open to the public

**12 p.m. Luncheon—Registration Required**  
Salons C and D, open to the public

**1 p.m. Program—Registration Appreciated**  
Grand Ballroom, free and open to the public

## Mahieu Acquisition Adds Retrospective Landscape, Student Works to SHSMO Art Collection

In July SHSMO received an important group of paintings by mid-Missouri painter Brian Mahieu. The artist is relocating to the state of Washington, and prior to his departure he presented the Society with the spectacular 2016 oil painting *Winter Sunset Looking North—Cottonwood Grove*, which will be on display in the Columbia center through the fall. Mahieu also gifted several paintings created in the 1980s when he was a student of longtime State Historical Society art curator Sidney Larson at Columbia College.

Frank Stack, local artist and professor emeritus of painting at the University of Missouri, said Mahieu's work is a wonderful addition. "I believe Brian Mahieu is now the finest landscape painter in Missouri, sensitive, energetic, and prolific," Stack said. "He is one of the best painters working in the country at the present time."

Mahieu's understanding of the Missouri landscape is tied to his struggle to find peace in his home state during a challenging battle with his sexuality for nearly two decades. The paintings are deeply personal, yet they resonate with audiences on a universal level.

*Winter Sunset Looking North* represents Mahieu's favorite Callaway County grove of trees by the Missouri River. He said the grove represented the promise of assimilation into society, an elusive



Brian Mahieu's *Winter Sunset Looking North—Cottonwood Grove*.

place of respite within a punishing environment. "I want my art to be transparent, primal, and tactile, and above all honest to my experiences. I want it to reach out and elicit a visceral experience in the viewer. To do that it needs to be created in nature, not in a studio."

## Commemorative Bicentennial License Plate Approved by Missouri Leaders

All Missourians can celebrate 200 years of statehood with a new automobile license plate that will be out in time for the Show-Me State's bicentennial. The plate, to be designed no later than January 1, 2017, will be issued to Missouri drivers from January 1, 2019, through the bicentennial year of 2021.

Jay Nixon, Missouri's governor, signed House Bill 2380 authorizing the bicentennial plate on July 1. The State Historical Society of Missouri will be represented on the advisory committee to plan the project and design the plate.

"It was essential that the process start when it did," said Gary Kremer, SHSMO executive director. "This is the first step of many to

help ensure that all Missourians are a part of the state's celebration."

Glen Kolkmeier, Missouri state representative from the 53rd District, sponsored the legislation, and Dave Schatz, senator from the 26th District, helped ensure the effort progressed on the senate floor.

The final resolution, which does not affect personalized license plates, designated an advisory committee for the project. In addition to the State Historical Society representative, the committee includes leaders from the Department of Revenue, State Highway Patrol, Department of Corrections, and Department of

Transportation, as well as the chairpersons of the transportation committees in both houses of Missouri's General Assembly.

SHSMO trustee Doug Crews has been an instrumental figure in the project. "A lot of people helped bring the idea of a bicentennial license plate this far," Crews said. "We are thankful to the Governor, Representative Kolkmeier, and Senator Schatz for their support. Now we get to work together to find a design that reflects the unique blend of people, regions, and places that make up Missouri."

For updates on the project, visit <http://missouri200.org>.

### Contact SHSMO

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### MISSOURI TIMES

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## Smithsonian Loan Inspires Show From Daniel Boone to Black Elk

In conjunction with the arrival of Chester Harding's circa 1820 portrait of Daniel Boone, a new exhibition, *From Daniel Boone to Black Elk: Native and Colonial Experiences in Contested "Middle Grounds,"* will open in mid-September in the main gallery of the Columbia Research Center. The show explores images reflecting the complex relationships that existed between Native and European Americans in the long nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Harding's painting is on a five-year loan to SHSMO from the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC. Boone sat for the portrait shortly before his death in Defiance, Missouri, on September 26, 1820.

The section of the exhibit on Boone contains artworks that reflect his mythic status as a white frontiersman who fought Indians for control of western lands. In contrast, watercolor illustrations for John Neihardt's book *Black Elk Speaks*, first published in 1932, represent the point of view of the Sioux artist Luther Standing Bear. Standing Bear's paintings include images of the Battle of the Little Bighorn and the Wounded Knee Massacre. The exhibition will run through February 18.



Original drawing by Luther Standing Bear.



## Society Expands Efforts throughout the State, Increases Staff at Three Research Centers

The State Historical Society of Missouri welcomed seven new full-time staff members this summer. They will help advance the Society's mission at its research centers throughout the state in roles ranging from communications to preservation of collection materials.

"I can't remember another time when the State Historical Society of Missouri had this many new staff members, in this many new positions," executive director Gary Kremer said. "I am excited to see what capabilities they each bring to the important work we do."

Abigail Anderson began working in June as SHSMO's senior advancement officer. A lifelong Missourian, she holds a master's degree in public affairs and nonprofit management from the

University of Missouri. She previously worked at William Woods University and the University of Missouri. Anderson

is based in Columbia and will play a leading role in the State Historical Society's campaign to build a new headquarters facility anticipated to open in 2019.

Rachel Forester, a new archivist at the research center in Kansas City, was born and raised in the Missouri Ozarks. Forester received her master's degree in public history with an emphasis in historic

preservation from Southeast Missouri State University. In addition to assisting visitors at the center, she will be processing its architectural holdings.

Whitney Heinzmann, also an archivist at the Kansas City center, is a native of southern Illinois. She graduated from the University of Illinois-Springfield with a master's degree in public history. Heinzmann's experience with projects such as the World War I website *Missouri Over There* puts her at the center of Kansas City's continuing expansion of its online resources. She will also assist with patron services.

The State Historical Society's new conservator, Erin Kraus, is based in Columbia. She holds a master's degree in art conservation from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Kraus comes to SHSMO from the Missouri State Archives. She will run the conservation lab for restoring and preserving collection materials such as historic documents and original artworks.

An eighth-generation southwest Missourian, Kathleen Seale is a new archivist at the research center in Springfield. Seale received her master's degree in history at Oklahoma State University. She will be assisting in all functions of the Springfield center from outreach efforts to daily interactions with patrons. —Continued on page 5

*"I can't remember another time when the State Historical Society of Missouri had this many new staff members, in this many new positions. I am excited to see what capabilities they each bring to the important work we do."*

—Gary Kremer, executive director

## Missouri Historical Review Thanks Historical Society Donors for Generous Financial Support

The *Missouri Historical Review* expands both the breadth and depth of knowledge about the history and heritage of the Show-Me State. The *Review* publishes in a wide range of history fields covering Missouri and its region in all time periods from the colonial era to the recent past.

Gifts provided by the following 2015–2016 donors will help to ensure the continuous publication of the only quarterly journal dedicated to new scholarship on the history of Missouri and Missourians. Thank you for your support!

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Patricia H. and Robert A. Wittie  
Join them in their commitment to excellent scholarship. To make a gift, call 573.882.7083. Donations may also be made at <http://shop.shsmo.org/priority-donation>.



Detail from George Caleb Bingham's portrait of Mary Ann Brent Brown (1821–1874), the wife of Boonville banker and merchant Elisha Warfield Brown.

## George Caleb Bingham Portraits Return to Mid-Missouri

The State Historical Society of Missouri has gratefully accepted the gift of two George Caleb Bingham portraits from Alyn and Marlyn Essman of St. Louis. Alyn, a well-known business leader and philanthropist who, together with his late wife, Marlyn, has long supported the arts, donated portraits of Mary Ann Brent Brown and her husband, Elisha Warfield Brown of Boonville, Missouri. The paintings reflect Bingham's mature style, and clothing styles suggest that they were painted circa 1860. The portraits will go on display in the art gallery of the Columbia Research Center later this month and will remain on exhibition throughout the fall.

### JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION!

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

## History Day “An Experience of a Lifetime”

Two students from Hollister Middle School in Taney County were among the contingent representing the Show-Me State at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland–College Park this June. Aubrey Henson of Taneyville and Kyla McClintic of Hollister joined an international assembly of students to showcase their project, “Jane Goodall: Inspiring the World through Chimpanzee Research.” In the following interview with their history teacher, Charlene Free, Aubrey and Kyla reflect on their experiences in delving into this year’s National History Day theme: Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History.

**Mrs. Free:** How did you decide to research Jane Goodall and her work with chimpanzees?

**Kyla:** Aubrey and I decided to research Jane Goodall and her work with chimpanzees after exploring topics related to Africa. A family member mentioned Jane Goodall, and we quickly became excited and dedicated to the topic. For eight months we researched Dr. Goodall and how she explored and encountered chimpanzees for over 50 years. It made me see the world differently and inspired me to care a lot more about nature and wildlife conservation.

**Mrs. Free:** What does National History Day mean to you?

**Aubrey:** This year’s NHD project is something I will never forget. Through the stressful parts, determination, and positivity, Kyla and I made it to the end. Not only did I learn a lot about Jane Goodall, but I also learned how to interview well and how to be a leader in the world and at my school. I enjoyed creating the exhibit, but I also learned to write a process paper full of good sources from the web and to use the sources from a college campus library.

**Kyla:** I’ve learned how to conduct research, build and create exhibits, and I’ve developed interview skills. History Day has also created so many unforgettable memories and experiences that have changed me. I’ve met so many new people. I wouldn’t take back any minute of these experiences. This organization has definitely changed my life in many ways.

**Mrs. Free:** What was the most challenging part of creating your exhibit?

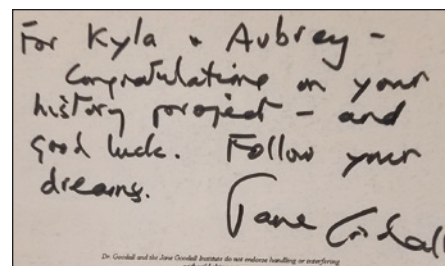
**Aubrey:** One of the most challenging parts was when we arrived in Washington, DC, and pulled out our exhibit. The display we had worked so hard on was heavily damaged. My heart broke! I was trying to hold back the tears, but emotions were pouring out after all the hard work we had put in. We worked for several hours putting it all back together, but deep down I worried that others would notice.

**Mrs. Free:** How did you create a channel of communication between yourselves and the Jane Goodall Institute?

**Kyla:** Aubrey and I went online to the Jane Goodall Institute and contacted Goodall’s spokesperson, Jacob Peterson. We set up an interview with him and asked a series of questions, which he responded to from Jane’s point of view. He was a very helpful source. We also wrote Goodall a letter explaining our History Day project, and how we are inspired by what

*“We could not have had a more positive and eventful exposure to thousands of people celebrating Exploration, Encounter and Exchange in History. We look forward with exhilaration to next year’s endless opportunities to celebrate Taking a Stand in History.”*

—Charlene Free, teacher



**Above** In June Kyla McClintic, left, and Aubrey Henson competed in the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest in Maryland. **Left** The pair wrote to British primatologist Jane Goodall, the subject of their project. Her encouraging reply was a focal point of the exhibit.

she is doing in the world. At first, we didn’t receive a response, so we wrote another letter. Soon, we received TWO letters back from Jane Goodall congratulating us on our project, which we displayed on our exhibit.

**Aubrey:** After winning at state, we mailed a picture and Jane sent back another note. We were so excited to hear from someone like her!

**Mrs. Free:** What was the most exciting part of representing Missouri at the University of Maryland?

**Kyla:** I enjoyed representing the Show-Me State by trading buttons with students from all 50 states, as well as several other countries. I also had a fun time during the Parade of States, holding up Missouri state signs and hollering chants.

**Mrs. Free:** What was your most outstanding memory of presenting your Jane Goodall exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum?

**Aubrey:** For me it was that Mr. and Mrs. Behring came to the museum to see our exhibit. It was very cool to think that the people who had donated so much time and money to history and the museums were standing by something I had created.

**Kyla:** My most outstanding memory was having multiple visitors come up and ask questions about the exhibit and about our topic. I loved educating people, some of whom knew nothing about Goodall or her work, and how she has truly changed the world.



## Women as Change Agents: The St. Louis Oral History Project

Progress continues on an oral history concept launched by Blanche Touhill, a State Historical Society of Missouri trustee and former University of Missouri–St. Louis chancellor, in 2013.

The venture documenting the advancements women have made in numerous fields such as the arts, business, politics, and the sciences was first supported by the International Women’s Forum. Now that the project conducting interviews with local IWF members is complete and additional funding was secured from the Zonta Club of St. Louis and the Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation, the St. Louis center had launched a second project collecting the stories of influential females titled *Women as Change Agents*.

Together the projects total more than 166 interviews documenting how these women have changed perceptions of women’s roles in these professions and more broadly as leaders in contemporary America.

Forty-five interview transcripts are online at <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/collections/transcripts/s1148>. Interviews with the following women will soon be available:

- Rebecca Bennett, founder and principal, Emerging Wisdom and InPower Institute
- Joan Lee Berkman, author and retired executive director of external affairs, Southwestern Bell and AT&T
- Jean Carnahan, the first woman to represent Missouri in the US Senate, former first lady of Missouri, and author
- Mary Frontczak, vice president, corporate and legal affairs, Bunge North America
- Margaret Hales, former president and chief executive officer, CityArchRiver
- Liz de Laperouse, Houlihan Development Company
- Marylen Mann, founder and former director, OASIS
- Mary G. McMurtrey, director, community engagement, St. Louis Community Foundation



Jean Carnahan, US senator from Missouri in 2001-2002. This official photo from her years in office is preserved in the SHSMO archives (C4015).

- Tracy Mulderig, data strategist, Nestlé Purina North America
- Susan Talve, rabbi, Central Reform Congregation
- Gloria L. Taylor, founder, Community Women against Hardship
- Bonnie Wimmer, volunteer counselor, Catholic Community Services

## Springfield Research Center Delves into Complex History of the 1916–1917 Streetcar Strike

In the fall of 1916 the city of Springfield was on the verge of civil unrest. Earlier in the year, workplace tensions had led Springfield Traction Company streetcar workers to unionize. Their anger was reignited when the company fired Stanley H. Jones, the secretary for the local affiliate of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, on September 14.

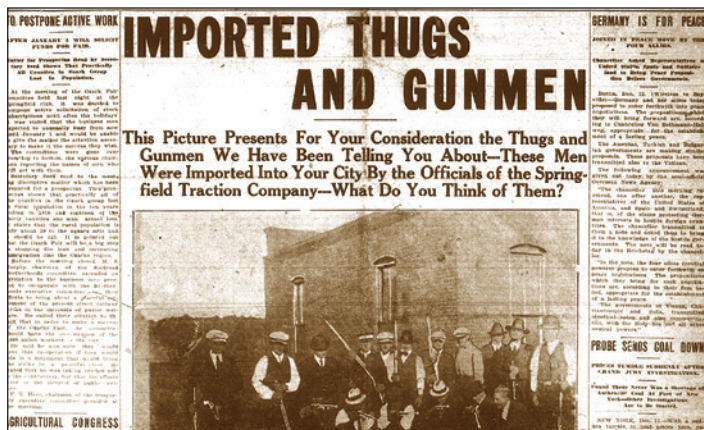
Workers demanded Jones’s reinstatement, but were rebuffed by company officials. At midnight on October 5 they voted to strike. The strike lasted for 252 days, during which there were two riots, two dynamited streetcars, and the kidnapping and murder of the infant son of one of Springfield’s prominent families.

Public opinion in Springfield proved a powerful force during the conflict. Many citizens sympathized with the strikers, feeling that the Springfield Traction Company had shown little concern for customer comfort or safety. Some of them blamed strikebreakers for

the violence, believing them to be dangerous scabs imported from Chicago and other places. People who continued to ride the streetcars and employees who continued to work for the company faced abuse.

Any remaining public support for the company was diminished after fourteen-month-old Lloyd Keet was snatched from his bed on May 30, 1917, for ransom money. Authorities eventually found the baby’s lifeless body hidden in the cistern of an abandoned home. Men in Springfield to break the strike were implicated in the crime. Faced with public outrage over the involvement of strikebreakers in the murder, the company settled the strike on June 16.

At 7 p.m. on October 6 Erin Smither, an archivist at SHSMO’s Springfield Center, will examine the chain of events that sparked the strike. The talk will be at the Polk County Genealogical Society, 120 E. Jackson St., Bolivar. For more information, contact the Springfield center at 417.836.3782 or [springfield@shsmo.org](mailto:springfield@shsmo.org).



The anger toward outsiders imported to Springfield as strikebreakers can be seen in this story from the *Springfield Laborer's* front page on December 12, 1916.

## Staff Expansion—Continued from page 3

A recent Columbia transplant, Alexandra Z. Waetjen is in the newly created position of education outreach coordinator. Waetjen holds a master’s degree in museum studies from Johns Hopkins University. She will work to increase the State Historical Society’s educational programs and will also play a lead role in efforts to plan for the bicentennial of Missouri’s statehood in 2021.

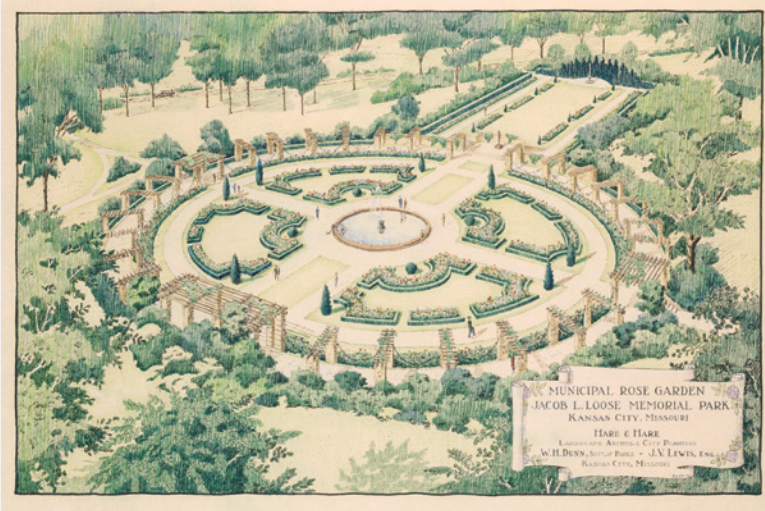
St. Louis native Kaylin Waltrip is a strategic communications associate at the Columbia headquarters. She earned a master’s degree in advertising and marketing communications from Webster University. Waltrip will work to enhance SHSMO’s social media presence and develop new content and initiatives for the website.

Learn more about the State Historical Society of Missouri’s staff members through a new feature of the website. Staff biographies are now available at <http://shsmo.org/about/staff>.



**August Close-Up on Photographs Workshop August 25 1–4 p.m. Chillicothe**

Overwhelmed by your photograph collection? Looking for tips on how to preserve it? The State Historical Society of Missouri's Laura Jolley, assistant director of manuscripts, will provide an introduction to caring for photographs. Topics include organizing and storing collections, basic preservation, and managing digital images. This workshop is suitable for caretakers of historic photograph collections as well as those who want to learn how to best keep their contemporary photographs for future generations. The session, hosted by the Grand River Historical Society Museum in conjunction with the Livingston County Library, is free and open to the public. It will be held at the museum, 1401 Forest Drive, Chillicothe. Register by calling the Grand River Historical Society at 660.646.1341.



**Evolving Environments Walk-Through August 27 1:30 p.m. Columbia**

Guest curator Carol Grove, adjunct assistant professor of American Art and Architecture at the University of Missouri, will explain how balancing sensitivity to the environment and the needs of individuals led the Kansas City-based firm Hare and Hare to become national pioneers in landscape architecture. The father-and-son team of Sidney J. and S. Herbert Hare created “order, convenience, and beauty” in cityscapes, parkland, and domestic landscapes from 1910 to 1960. Featuring items from the Research Center–Kansas City collections, the *Evolving Environments* exhibition celebrates Hare and Hare’s lasting impact through original drawings, photographs, and planning documents for parks, zoos, cemeteries, and residential areas still enjoyed today, including Kansas City’s Country Club District and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The exhibition at the Columbia center runs through December 23.

**September Introduction to Oral History Workshop September 12 1:30–4:30 p.m. St. Louis**

SHSMO’s oral historian Jeff D. Corrigan will demonstrate the fundamentals of taking oral history projects from initial idea to finished product. Topics will include planning, drafting questions, using proper equipment, and legal and ethical considerations. A series of question-and-answer examples from oral histories will also be used to hone interviewing skills and spark discussion. The event will be at the Missouri History Museum, 5700 Lindell Boulevard. Spots are limited. To save your space, email MHM’s Tamaki Anna Harvey Stratman at tamaki@mohistory.org.



**The African American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series September 15 6:30 p.m. Columbia**

The fall lineup for the lecture series kicks off with Lea VanderVelde, the Josephine R. Witte Professor of Law at the University of Iowa. She will discuss her most recent book, *Redemption Songs: Suing for Freedom before Dred Scott*, a groundbreaking study of more than 300 freedom suits litigated in St. Louis. Through the careful evaluation of 12 cases, the book offers insights into the practice of slavery and the lives of those enslaved in Missouri. Free and open to the public, the lecture will be in Stotler Lounge, Memorial Union, on the University of Missouri campus.

**Art-i-Fact Gallery and Museum Crawl September 22 4–7 p.m. Columbia**

Make the State Historical Society’s Columbia Research Center your first stop as you explore the galleries, museums, and gardens of the MU campus at the #ColorCrawl. Art-i-Fact, a consortium of University of Missouri organizations where art, science, and culture are open for exploration, invites you to release your inner child through a night of coloring and culture while enjoying a variety of activities and snacks.



**October Springfield Streetcar Strike of 1916–1917 October 6 7 p.m. Bolivar**

Join SHSMO’s Erin Smither for a closer look at the Springfield streetcar strike of 1916–1917. This talk, hosted by the Polk County Genealogical Society, will examine the causes of the strike, the ways protesters benefited from community support, and the kidnapping and murder that influenced the demonstration’s outcome. Free and open to the public, this presentation will be held at the PCGS Research Facility at 120 E. Jackson Street in Bolivar. For more details on the strike, see page 5.

**Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series Fall Lecture and SHSMO’s Annual Meeting October 15 Columbia**

At 1 p.m. on October 15 learn about the impact of nineteenth-century Missouri on the lives of Jesse James and George Armstrong Custer. Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner T. J. Stiles will share how this Civil War battleground state shaped their paths to fame and legend. The event, which coincides with SHSMO’s 2016 annual meeting, will be at the Courtyard by Marriott and Conference Center, 3301 Lemone Industrial Boulevard. See page 1 or visit <http://shsmo.org/annualmeeting> for details.

**Newspapers: Pages of Your History October 20 St. Joseph**

Newspapers have been called the first draft of history. For hundreds of years their pages have preserved essential records of politics, local issues, events, and people. Yet the newest chapter in the history of print journalism is a digital one. This program by Patsy Luebbert, administrator of the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project, will explore the joys and frustrations of searching historic digital newspaper content through online sources while also explaining why going digital is not always the right answer. Make sure to catch one of the two sessions: the first will be at 1 p.m. in the Downtown Library, 927 Felix Street, and the second at 6:30 p.m. in the East Hills Branch Library, 502 N. Woodbine Road.

**Looking ahead Making Every Leaf Count: Finding, Organizing, and Protecting Your Genealogy Research November 10 6–9 p.m. Marshall**

Explore new avenues in finding, documenting, and citing sources in this free workshop. Amy L. Waters, State Historical Society of Missouri librarian, will provide tips for finding your family’s history and organizing it for future generations. This class is suitable for beginning or advanced genealogists. Join SHSMO at the Marshall Public Library, 214 North Lafayette. Registration is encouraged. Contact the library at 660.886.3391 to secure your spot.





Left The oldest copy of the *Van Buren Current Local* in the State Historical Society archives, published on May 24, 1884. Right The most recent *Current Local* available in the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project is the issue published on December 29, 1994.

## Missouri Digital Newspaper Project: Spotlight on the *Van Buren Current Local*, 1884–1994

In reaching one million pages of content last November, the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project built its archive through partnerships with local papers and libraries across the state. A Library Services and Technology Act grant given to the Carter County Public Library led to digitization of roughly 35,000 pages from the county's historic newspapers, helping MDNP to hit its benchmark.

The Carter County newspapers selected for the project were the *Carter County News*, *Carter County Journal*, *Grandin Herald*, *Van Buren Current Local*, and *Van Buren Echo*. Most of the pages came from the *Current Local*. Present-day editor and publisher Ryan VanWinkle granted permission for his paper to be digitized from its nineteenth-century origins to 1994, making it the newspaper with the most recent content available in the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project.

The *Current Local* also has the oldest roots of those papers included in the Carter County grant. The *Van Buren Times*, thought to be the county's first newspaper, was published by Clay A. Mosely. The date of the *Times*'s first issue is unknown, and no copies of it are believed to remain. What is known, however, is that Mosely relaunched the paper on May 10, 1884, as the *Current Local*.

The third issue of the *Current Local*, dated May 24, 1884, is the first available in SHSMO's collection. It contains an article, "Kind Words from Our Neighbors," in

which other journalists in the region praised Mosely's reinvention. A commentary from the *Piedmont Leader* stated, "The holy suffering Moses! The Van Buren Times has ceased publication, and in its stead comes out the *Current Local*, a bright four column quarto. Hurrah for Bro. Mosely and Carter county, and long may the *Local* wave!"

Due to ill health, Mosely did not stay long at the *Local*, ending his association by November 8, 1884. He left the paper in the hands of William H. Powers, who had previously worked at the *Reynolds Outlook*

*"The holy suffering Moses! The Van Buren Times has ceased publication, and in its stead comes out the Current Local, a bright four column quarto. Hurrah for Bro. Mosely and Carter county, and long may the Local wave!"*

—*Piedmont Leader*

and came in ready to make changes. A writer for the *Poplar Bluff Citizen* approved, stating that the revamped paper came out "crammed with original news from base to dome. What has so awakened old Carter county, and particularly the *Local* so suddenly from its comatose condition?"

Powers, it seems, brought a fresh feel to the paper. He continued to publish the *Current Local* until January 1889, when he sold it to Casper M. Edwards. The paper then bounced between the leadership of George Munger and his younger brother Orrin.

By 1905 the *Current Local* had changed owners once again. O. W. Chilton ran the paper for nine years before deciding to become the local postmaster in 1914. Around this time tragedy struck another county newspaper, as a fire in the *Carter County Journal* office destroyed the business and home of its editor, Otho Lloyd Clark. Chilton saw this as a chance to leave the *Current Local* in experienced hands. Clark bought the paper from Chilton and published it until 1922.

Although there have been additional transitions in publishers and editors, the paper is still in publication today. It reported on the timber industry boom the county experienced from 1887 to 1921 as well as the reforestation of the area that began in the 1930s. Events both international and local, from world wars to 4-H Club happenings and improvements to Routes 60 and 21, can be found in its pages.

The *Current Local* has evolved throughout its history not only to stay relevant, but to better serve its community. A new issue of the newspaper rolls off the presses every Thursday. Meanwhile, historic issues from 1884 to 1994 are now freely available and keyword searchable at <http://digital.shsmo.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/VanBurenCurr>.



## Donation Gives a Fan's View of Kansas City Sports

The Sam Gould Sports Collection (K1362) contains photographs, correspondence, artifacts, and news clippings relating to the life of Sam Gould, the owner of Sam's Parking Company near Municipal Stadium (formerly known as Muehlebach Field) in Kansas City from the 1950s to the 1970s. The collection offers materials on the history of Kansas City sports teams that played in the stadium, including the Blues, Athletics, Monarchs, Chiefs, Royals, and others. Gould's philanthropic efforts within the Kansas City Jewish community are also represented.

Gould's life was intertwined with the history of twentieth-century Kansas City professional and semiprofessional sports organizations. In 1923 his family moved from the city's northeast area to Brooklyn Avenue, across from the newly opened Muehlebach Field. Gould spent much of his boyhood serving as a parking lot attendant, errand runner, and bat boy at the Kansas City Blues minor-league baseball games.

In 1950 Gould purchased a vacant lot north of the stadium. Over the next 22 years he operated a parking company with his wife, Lucy. The company grew along with the city's burgeoning professional baseball and football sports franchises. Recognizing their economic potential, Gould was an ardent supporter of Kansas City's professional sports teams.

Gould's passion for sports led him to become a commissioner for the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission in January 1972, and



The 1937 Kansas City Blues, including manager Dutch Zwilling, first row, fifth from the left. The minor-league team was owned by George Muehlebach Jr., and the ballpark was named Muehlebach Field.

to his selection as a Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat Honoree by the Kansas City Royals in 2009. A prominent member of the Jewish Community Center, his philanthropic efforts on behalf of the area's Jewish community included funding the installation of lights for the center's Little League and adult softball fields.

Gould kept binders of news clippings and other research materials on the history of his company, the Kansas City Athletics, Municipal Stadium, and the evolution of Kansas City's baseball and football teams into national franchises.

His wife, Lucy, died on July 10, 1994, and Sam Gould lived on until September 20, 2015.

## Kansas City Center Adds Early 20th Century Industrial Images to SHSMO Digital Collections



Taken on March 22, 1914, this photo shows construction of the Grand Lobby in Kansas City's Union Station. Work on the building, designed by Jarvis Hunt, a proponent of the City Beautiful Movement, began in 1911.

A set of 121 photographs depicting the urban landscape of Kansas City are now available online at [digital.shsmo.org](http://digital.shsmo.org) thanks to ongoing digitization efforts in the Research Center–Kansas City. Eighteen images from the Harrison H. George Photograph Collection depict the area surrounding the Kansas City Stockyards. The remaining 103 photos are from the George A. Fuller Company Photograph Collection, which documents many significant construction projects in the Kansas City area.

### Harrison H. George Photograph Collection (K0377)

The Harrison H. George Photograph Collection consists of photographs taken from 1900 to roughly 1903. George lived in Kansas City and worked for the US Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Husbandry from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. His photographs, 41 in total, capture views of the city's famed stockyards as well as sites in Kansas City, Kansas, such as the Armour and Company meatpacking plant, Bond Shoe Company, and the Armourdale State Bank of Commerce. There are also photos of the devastating flood of 1903, including images of the Swift and Company plant under water, a wrecked locomotive, and debris above the Central Avenue Viaduct.

### George A. Fuller Company Photograph Collection (K0080)

Founded in 1882, the George A. Fuller Company of Chicago was a pioneer in building skyscrapers, with clients across the country. The company built a number of famous structures, including New York City's Penn Station and Savoy-Plaza Hotel, and the Lincoln Memorial and the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

The newly digitized photographs depict the company's construction sites in the Kansas City area. The images document the progress of construction, from the removal of previous structures to the completion of the new building. Included in the online materials are photographs of Union Station, the Railway Exchange Building, Children's Mercy Hospital, temporary barracks at Fort Riley, Kansas, and the William Rockhill Nelson Memorial Chapel at Mount Washington Cemetery in Independence, Missouri.



## Victory Mail and Morale: Cape Girardeau's Weldon Stein World War II Collection

It has been written that all wars begin as one thing, and become something else. They also accelerate change within a society. The magnitude, intensity, and length of World War II support these generalizations. Before the war came to its end in 1945, the United States had approximately 12 million men and women in uniform, with nine million of those overseas.

The lethality and consequent risks of this war contributed to the desire of military personnel and their families to maintain lines of communication. Thus, they wrote letters. Did they ever! Carson Herrington of the Smithsonian asserts that "the importance of mail during World War II was second only to food." Mail played such a significant role in maintaining morale on the battlefield and the home front that the US government worked on an unprecedented global scale to establish a secure and rapid system of mail delivery to and from members of the Armed Forces.

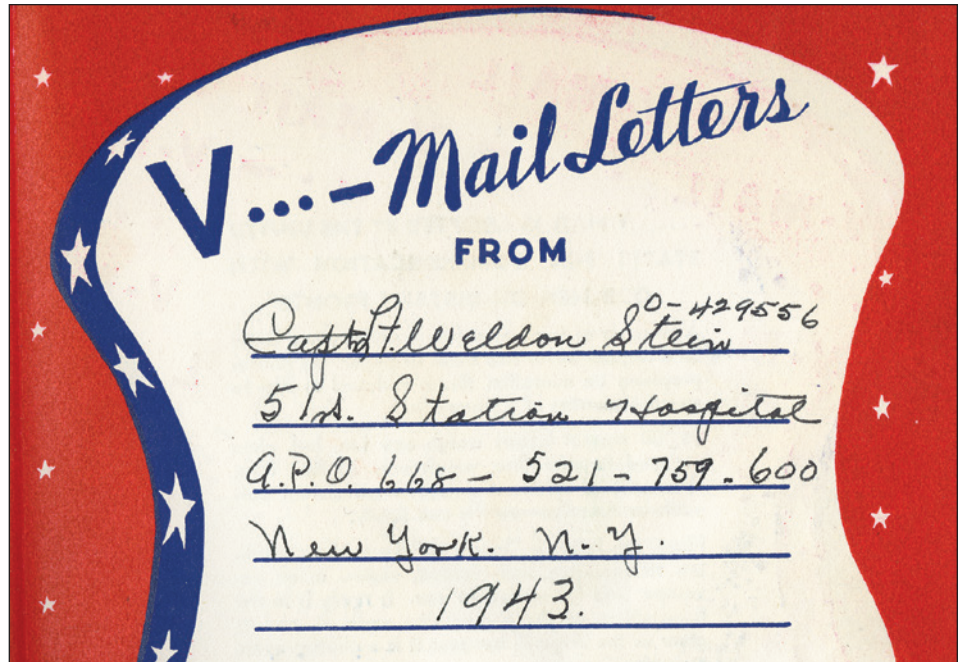
As with other aspects of the war, new technological developments revolutionized the delivery and distribution of the mail. Basing its efforts upon the British "Airgraph" system, the US Post Office operated the V-Mail, short for Victory Mail, system from June 1942 to November 1945. Service was free to members of the military and inexpensive to civilians. In the three years that the V-Mail system functioned, more than a billion letters were processed and delivered.

A recent acquisition by the Cape Girardeau Research Center provides a remarkable illustration of the vital role of V-Mail to a Missouri family during World War II.

*"It's cruel and unfair that [Roosevelt] couldn't have lived to see the end of this part of the war, and the loss to the world is more than many people at home realize. . . . That man was more than just president of the U.S. To countless millions, and I have seen lots of them over here, he was a symbol of freedom and democracy—more so than any other living man."*

—Weldon Stein

Weldon Albert Stein was born in Cape Girardeau on November 29, 1911. He was a graduate of Cape Girardeau Central High School and Southeast Missouri State College (now Southeast Missouri State University),



**Above** A page from Weldon Stein's book of World War II V-Mails. When sent through Victory Mail, a letter was microfilmed, the roll of film was sent overseas, and then the images were printed for delivery.

and in the spring of 1935 he received a master's degree in business administration from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. From 1936 to 1942 he was employed as a statistician and financial analyst in Chicago. He married Dorothy Virginia Bristow (1908–2000) of St. Louis in 1941 and enlisted in the US Army a year later. Their daughter Kay Stein donated the collection to the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Weldon Stein served as a supply officer for military hospitals in North Africa and Europe. His correspondence is distinctive among World War II letters. In his 22 months overseas, Stein wrote hundreds of letters to his wife, parents, sister, friends, and former professors. The exceptional clarity and grammatical precision of his letters were attributed to Harold O. Grauel, a professor

of English at Southeast Missouri State College, with whom he regularly corresponded.

He valued communication from family and

friends and regularly requested that his family send him V-Mail letter forms, "a box or couple of packets of it each month," as he said the forms were hard for him to acquire. He was always eager for news from home, especially about his young daughter, the St.



Lieutenant Weldon Albert Stein in uniform.

Louis Browns baseball team, and his dog, "Tip."

The postal revolution of World War II made it possible for American military personnel to maintain a closer relationship with family and friends at home than in any previous war. By early 1943 Stein and his wife were writing each other on a daily basis. On April 11, 1943, he wrote that the previous day's mail had brought him 15 letters from family and friends.—Continued on page 11



## World War II—Continued

That volume of mail plus the receipt of the local newspaper, the military newspaper *Stars and Stripes*, and an assortment of magazines kept Stein well informed of events at home.

While intensely engaged in his duties, Stein was able to express his opinions on a wide variety of topics: the progress of the war, his contempt for Germany, his dislike of Americans on the home front who were providing minimal support for the war effort, his support of Henry Wallace in the election of 1944, and his reaction to the death of President Roosevelt in April 1945. On that subject Stein wrote:

*I've been pretty depressed since news of Roosevelt's death came. Was just going to bed about midnight when someone came by and said they'd heard it over an Italian station. The next morning we got it over the BBC and then, of course, from the paper. I feel sorry for Truman although I'd feel that for anyone*

*who had to follow FDR; no one can take his place at this point. It's cruel and unfair that he couldn't have lived to see the end of this part of the war, and the loss to the world is more than many people at home realize. . . . That man was more than just president of the U.S. To countless millions, and I have seen lots of them over here, he was a symbol of freedom and democracy—more so than any other living man. We in the states may have regarded him as president but to these people he was far more than that. He was their hope for the future; that's why I felt it was very important for him to be re-elected—not because he was the only man who could have been our president but because he was the only man in our country who could be to the world what he was. I'm only thankful that he lived this long, and even so, the course of the world's future may still be altered as a result of his death.*

The war in the Pacific ended on September 2, 1945, and American military personnel

gradually returned home. The process seemed extremely slow to those still in Europe, but in a V-Mail dated September 4, Stein alerted his family: “Get out the ice cream freezer, 'cause I'm on my way!” After three years, Stein's stint in the military had come to an end.

Following the war, Stein was employed by the Federal Reserve System in St. Louis and Washington, DC. In 1953 he became an analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency, a position he held until his death in 1964 at the age of 53.

The Weldon Stein Collection (CG0008) at the Cape Girardeau center consists of Stein's personal diary, 159 V-Mail letters he received from his wife, and three notebooks of letters he sent home to his family. It is an exceptional collection of articulate letters, providing insight into the transitional experiences of a family in the midst of World War II and demonstrating the significance of the V-Mail system.

## New St. Louis Exhibit Toasts the Local German Community

The large numbers of Germans that immigrated to St. Louis in the nineteenth century led to a flourishing brewing industry. The legacy of Lemp, Anheuser-Busch, and scores of smaller breweries ensure that the region's history is intertwined with that of local beer production. To explore this relationship, a new exhibit, “Ein Prosit!” (*A Toast*) to St. Louis Brewery Workers circa 1900, opened July 15 in the Stairwell Gallery of the Research Center—St. Louis. It will run through the end of 2016.

The show highlights photographs of brewery workers and artifacts from the Henry Tobias Brewers and Maltsters Union No. 6 Collection (S0615) and *Mit Feder und Hammer! (With Feather and Hammer): The German Experience in St. Louis Records* (S0941).

The Brewers and Maltsters Local No. 6 Collection preserves the records

of the oldest St. Louis labor union in continuous operation, which is also believed to be the oldest surviving union in the state.

Formed in 1886, the group originally held a charter in the Knights of Labor, and in 1887 they chartered with the American Federation of Labor. A selection of the 576 photographs that document the evolution of the industry is featured in the exhibition.

The *Mit Feder und Hammer!* records contain images and research saved from a traveling exhibit on the local German experience. First shown in St. Louis in 1983, it was later displayed in the Federal Republic of Germany from 1984 to 1989. This five-box collection provides a visual record of the development of the German American community in St. Louis from roughly 1830 to 1983.



**Above** Toasting book from the Lemp Brewing Company. Founded in 1840 by John Adam Lemp, it was known for its popular Falstaff beer. The brewery fell victim to Prohibition in 1922. **Left** Workers outside the Green Tree Brewery, circa 1905. Located at Sidney and Ninth Street, Green Tree was owned by Max Feuerbacher and Joseph Schneider until the latter sold his interests in 1865 to launch the Chouteau Avenue Brewery.







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