2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The State Historical Society of Missouri
Dear Member,

The State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) recently completed one of the most exciting periods in its 118-year history. On March 3, 2016, $35 million in state revenue bonds were issued to help pay for the cost of building the SHSMO’s new Center for Missouri Studies. When completed in 2019, this new structure will serve as the SHSMO’s headquarters, allowing this venerable institution to expand its ability to serve as Missouri’s preeminent source for the study of state and local history.

Much work remains to be done. SHSMO staff members, working in cooperation with their counterparts from the University of Missouri, the State Office of Administration, and the architectural firm of Gould Evans, are in the final stages of designing the building. The plan is to award construction contracts before the end of 2016 and to begin actual construction early in 2017.

The $35 million available for the building project covers only about 70 percent of the actual building costs. Moreover, the SHSMO Board of Trustees has elected to launch a $20 million fundraising campaign to create an endowment that will guarantee this organization’s ability to expand its services to all of the state’s citizens.

On behalf of the SHSMO Board of Trustees and staff, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of the SHSMO mission and urge you to continue your support in whatever way you can. It is my hope that we will be able to build on the successes of the past year and broaden our ability to offer new programs to foster the study and understanding of our state’s rich history.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Kremer
Executive Director
Senior Fellow, Center for Missouri Studies
Revenue Sources
The ability to successfully carry out the mission to collect, protect, and share Missouri history and culture both today and in the future was strengthened by members of and donors to the State Historical Society of Missouri and legislators of the Missouri General Assembly.

In the spring 2016 session, the Missouri legislature voted to increase the State Historical Society’s state appropriation levels and membership and gifts increased by $177,359.32 from fiscal year 2015 to 2016. Thanks to the support of both groups the overall revenue for SHSMO increased 17 percent.

Membership Trust Fund
SHSMO’s Membership Trust Fund income comes from a variety of sources and is used to support numerous mission goals. Each is reported below. The majority of expenditures in 2015-2016 directly supported the preservation and dissemination of information about Missouri’s heritage. The investments in collections, education, and operations resulted in improved access to resources both in person and online, while also supporting unique public programming. This year generous donations to the capital campaign also helped cover the campaign’s initial startup expenses.

Income

Expenses

These graphs do not include totals from grants. The Membership Trust Fund cash balance of $114,755.98 is reflected as equity on the balance sheet.
Center for Missouri Studies

The Center for Missouri Studies fosters ongoing study of Missouri's past, encouraging connections among scholars in all fields concerned with interpreting the historical record of the state and its region. The Center extends the State Historical Society of Missouri’s multifaceted efforts to support scholarship and teaching, publish new works, provide educational programs, and broadly promote greater understanding of Missouri’s history and culture.

In 2019 the Center for Missouri Studies will become not only an educational initiative but also a physical place where history can be explored. State financing for a new building that will offer modern facilities and greater public access was finalized this past year with the Missouri Development Finance Board’s issuance of $35 million in construction bonds.

The new headquarters, to be built in downtown Columbia, is envisioned as a destination where visitors of all ages can be immersed in Missouri’s history and culture. It will feature an art museum twice the size of the current gallery space and an expanded research center to meet the needs of the growing numbers who use the State Historical Society’s resources. The building, which will be named the Center for Missouri Studies, will also feature state-of-the-art storage and retrieval systems and climate controls to ensure the best possible care for the Society’s irreplaceable collections.

National History Day in Missouri

The National History Day program once again challenged Missouri students in grades six through twelve to dig into history topics as they prepared original research projects for local, state, and national contests. Students competed in the categories of documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites. The theme for the 2016 competition was Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange.

A total of 6,000 Missouri students participated in NHDMO at the local school level, with 2,376 students advancing to the state’s nine regional contests. More than 550 students and their teacher sponsors competed in the state contest, hosted by the State Historical Society of Missouri at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Over 150 historians, educators, writers, museum staff members, cultural site personnel, and community members volunteered as judges to select the Show-Me State delegates for the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day competition, held in June at the University of Maryland–College Park. Missouri students earned one silver medal and two outstanding entry awards at the national contest.

"History Day has created so many unforgettable memories and experiences that have changed me.... This organization has definitely changed my life.”

- Kyla McClintic of Hollister
Publications
In 2015–2016 the State Historical Society of Missouri produced the 110th volume of its quarterly journal, the Missouri Historical Review, which has remained in continuous publication since 1906. Volume 110 featured articles on a wide range of topics covering all Missouri time periods from pre-statehood to the Cold War era. “‘A Pure Son of Missouri’: Freeman Barrows at the Crossroads of the Slaveholding Frontier,” by Jeremy Neely, received the 2016 Lawrence O. Christensen Award at the Missouri Conference on History for best article on a Missouri history topic. Dedicated to publishing original scholarship, the Review serves SHSMO’s general membership as well as scholars, and the editorial staff strives to develop content that appeals to each of these distinctive audiences. The Missouri Times quarterly newsletter provided substantive coverage of the year’s key programs and events such as gallery exhibitions, open houses, workshops, National History Day in Missouri, the Center for Missouri Studies, SHSMO’s annual meeting, and the Missouri Conference on History. The newsletter also informed SHSMO members of additions and improvements to the Society’s collections.

Fellowships
The Center for Missouri Studies awarded three fellowships in 2016. Sarah Lirley McCune, a PhD candidate in history at the University of Missouri, received the History of Women in Missouri Politics fellowship for her proposal to study how women in the late nineteenth century both shaped and were shaped by the politics surrounding social issues such as domestic violence, alcoholism, and suicide. Diane Everman, an archivist at the St. Louis Jewish Community Archives, won the Missouri Jewish History fellowship and will research a Jewish children’s camp in the 1920s to 1940s that sought to reduce the spread of tuberculosis. Luke Ritter, a lecturer in history at Troy University in Alabama, received the fellowship in the Environment in Missouri History. He will examine the prominent role of St. Louis women as leaders of environmental protection causes in the 1950s and 1960s, such as the Baby Tooth Survey to investigate contamination from nuclear weapons testing. Each fellowship provides a $5,000 stipend to complete a study in an underexplored area of Missouri history. The studies are disseminated through public presentations and will be considered for publication in the Missouri Historical Review.

Missouri Bicentennial
August 10, 2021, will mark the 200th anniversary of Missouri becoming the 24th state to join the Union. SHSMO has been chosen by the Missouri General Assembly to lead the state’s observances of this historic event, and one major project is already under way. The Society is participating in the design of a commemorative automobile license plate, to be issued to Missouri drivers staring on January 1, 2019. This is the first step of many to help ensure that all Missourians are a part of the state’s celebration. Updates on the planning process will be posted online at http://missouri2021.org.
Missouri Conference on History
The 2016 Missouri Conference on History, hosted by SHSMO and held in Columbia, attracted 200 participants to its general and special sessions. The keynote luncheon, sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council, featured 2015 Center for Missouri Studies fellowship winner Patrick Huber. He presented his work on the 1930 race riot in Ste. Genevieve, his hometown. Another program highlight was a public interview of Gracia Yancey Backer, the first female majority floor leader in the Missouri House of Representatives, by Bob Priddy, a SHSMO trustee and the retired news director of Missourinet news service. The Walters-Boone County Historical Museum and Galleries sponsored an opening-night reception at its facility. More than $8,700 was raised for the conference, enough to cover its costs and also provide a donation to National History Day in Missouri.

Educational Programs
SHSMO provided more than 150 presentations, tours, workshops, and public programs in 2015–2016, inviting a wide range of audiences to experience Missouri’s vibrant history and interact with the Society’s collections. The programs, coordinated by SHSMO’s six research centers, were held across the state. They ranged from the Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School Partners in Education program, which provided every Lee student with an opportunity to tour the Columbia art gallery, to the Center for Missouri Studies inaugural speaker’s lecture, in which scholars Jo Ann Trogdon and William E. Foley presented a discussion of the explorer William Clark.

In February the Center launched the African American Experience in Missouri lecture series, cohosted with the University of Missouri’s Division of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity. Top scholars from around the nation offered context for understanding present-day race relations by examining the history of African Americans within the state.

Other public partnerships included events such as a three-day celebration of Thomas Hart Benton with the “We Always Swing” Jazz Series and a program on photojournalist William L. Fambrough Sr., whose images of Kansas City’s mid-twentieth-century African American community are housed in SHSMO’s collections.

Online, SHSMO increased its outreach through social media campaigns for educational initiatives such as Black History Month and Women’s History Month. The Historic Missourians page (http://shsmo.org/historicmissourians), which offers short biographies of noteworthy Missourians, continues to be a popular resource for users of all ages. This year the site added biographies on prominent individuals including Harriett Woods, the first female lieutenant governor of Missouri; Redd Foxx, a pioneering comedian; and US congressman Jerry L. Litton.
The State Historical Society of Missouri’s research centers in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis, and Springfield manage extensive collections of manuscripts, paintings, photographs, newspapers, maps, and other materials that preserve the historical record of Missouri and stimulate ongoing study of the past. In 2015–2016, SHSMO’s research centers received 4,374 patron visits to conduct on-site research and assisted an additional 7,187 patrons with off-site research. An estimated 4,090 people visited the art gallery in Columbia.

The 2016 fiscal year was marked by significant expansion of online resources as well as improvements to their access portal, the SHSMO website. The site and the growing body of online collections and finding aids were accessed by 691,718 users, with 69 percent of patrons visiting more than once. A change of the website and email addresses to shsmo.org greatly simplified the organization’s online identity.

**Manuscripts**

The tangible records of Missouri lives—the correspondence, photographs, and journals of both famous and lesser-known Missourians as well as the organizational records of churches, businesses, civic groups, and other institutions—are preserved within the SHSMO manuscript collections. This year 224 collections from across the state, totaling 638 cubic feet of materials, were added to the Society’s archives. SHSMO’s staff at all six centers processed and made accessible to researchers 239 collections totaling 407 cubic feet.

Major acquisitions included the Kenny Hulshof Papers, William C. E. Becker Structural Drawings, Sappington Family Genealogical Collection, Sharon Kinney Hanson Papers, Ellen Foley Papers, and an addition to the Gregory L. and Mary Folse Hutchison Collection.

The papers of Bill and Mona Jones, popular musicians who founded the Bluegrass Pickin’ Time festival near Dixon, Missouri, provide insight into the colorful history of Missouri bluegrass through flyers, handbills, photographs, ephemera, and the rights to five albums produced by the Joneses’ band, The Bluegrass Travelers. Materials from James W. Orchard, perhaps the best-known bluegrass musician in Shannon County, also enrich the collection.

Other major acquisitions in the past year included the Southwest Missouri Resource Conservation and Development Council Papers recording the activities of an environmental group that served fifteen counties in Southwest Missouri, and the early records for the Big Piney Regular Baptist Church, Mount Zion Baptist Church, and Little Piney Association of Regular Baptists from the 1830s and 1840s.
Oral History

The St. Louis–area Women as Change Agents project documenting advancements women have made in numerous fields such as the arts, business, politics, and the sciences added 49 new video oral history interviews. The venture is a continuation of a concept launched in 2013, and the two oral history projects now include more than 178 recordings. In 2015–2016, the State Historical Society of Missouri's oral history collection expanded to include new interviews in the environmental, newspaper, one-room schoolhouse, and political oral history collections. New this year is the Missouri Lives Oral History Project, which seeks to document unique and interesting Missourians.

The Missouri Veterans History Project marked a milestone in late 2015 by submitting its thousandth interview to SHSMO and the Library of Congress. The collaborative project ended the fiscal year with 1,045 veteran oral history interviews completed.

“I actually came across the interviews of two close family friends who have since passed away. I look forward to completing this project and getting the collection inventory online so that others can discover these stories as well.”
- Katie Wibbenmeyer, SHSMO volunteer

Volunteers

In 2015–2016 the following generous individuals offered their time and unique talents to SHSMO in support of its mission to collect, protect, and promote understanding of Missouri’s heritage. Volunteers provided more than 5,600 hours of dedicated service in the past year. The long-term impact of their contributions is immeasurable.

Jane Allen
Patrick Atkinson
Doug Beck
Amber Boynton
Susan Burns
Ed Conrad
Kathleen Conway
Kevin Cook
Emery Cox V
Marty Eisenman
Sharon Foltz
Carol Fulkerson
Emma Gibson
Johanna Grothoff
Kelly Hangauer
Sharon Kinney
Hanson
Susan Hewitt
Elizabeth Janda
Alyssa Kyle
Brian Lasseter
Marlene Lee
Mark Loehr
Kathy Love
Addison Lucchi
Rudena Mallory
Emily Monroe
Sam Mueller
Natalya Narishkin
Ann O’Dell
Andrew Olden
Lora Olson
Heather Paxton
Beth Pendergast
Peggy Ann Platner
Marc Reyes
Linda M. Ridgeway
Katie Rogers
Mike Smith
Ruth Smith
Lisa Stockton
Brenda Thacker
Allison Treen
Lawrence Treen
Susan Vale
Jonathan Vincent
Annie Wallach
Katie Wibbenmeyer
Timothy Wilcox
Richard Kent
Withers
Art

The society offered the following art exhibitions in 2015–2016. All shows were at the Columbia Research Center unless otherwise indicated.

- **Picturing Politics: Political Images by George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton** (December 15, 2015–September 3, 2016)
- **In Sync with Thomas Hart Benton** (January 12–June 25, 2016)
- **Sites of Black Memory in Columbia, Missouri: Remembering Sharp End and Columbia’s Historic Black Neighborhoods** (February 1–March 4, 2016), Ellis Library Colonnade, University of Missouri
- **Two Missouri Artists Explore Rites and Sites of Black Memory** (February 1–March 2, 2016), Jesse Hall, University of Missouri
- **Vernacular America in the 1930s and 1940s: The Art of Ben Messick and Fred Shane** (December 1, 2015–May 14, 2016)
- **Thomas Hart Benton’s American Mythologies** (November 6, 2015–January 24, 2016), Crisp Museum, Southeast Missouri State University
- **Visions from John Neihardt’s Black Elk Speaks: The Illustrations of Sioux Artist Standing Bear** (November 2015), Ellis Library Colonnade, University of Missouri
- **Ozark Bounty**, a painting in oil circa 2002 by Nora Ellen Robinett.
- **MU: Delta Gamma House**, an architects’ rendering in gouache on toned board circa 1935 by Bill and Welch Architects.

SHSMO loaned sixty artworks to organizations across the United States, promoting the art collection and enhancing its reputation among new and larger audiences. Fourteen of these pieces were displayed in national exhibitions that toured in numerous cities. Bingham’s *Watching the Cargo* was shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in the summer and fall of 2015 on the last stop of the traveling exhibition *Navigating the West: George Caleb Bingham and the River*.

Four Thomas Hart Benton paintings in the *Year of Peril* series were selected for the *American Epics: Thomas Hart Benton in Hollywood* show, organized by the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. The exhibition traveled to the Essex; the Amon-Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas; the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City; and the Milwaukee Museum of Art in Wisconsin. The latter two locations also displayed seven Benton lithographs from the SHSMO collection. Benton’s *The Sowers* and a World War II–era poster *Again* appeared at the Beach Museum in Manhattan, Kansas, and the Grey Art Gallery, New York University, in New York for the exhibition *Art for Every Home: Associated American Artists, 1934–2000*.

Photographs

SHSMO’s staff is reorganizing the photo archives, which resulted in the creation of 118 collections in 2015–2016. Digitization of the photo collections continues, with 11,660 images available online at the close of the fiscal year. Additions were contributed by the Columbia, Cape Girardeau, and Kansas City research centers. The St. Louis online photo database is nearing 40,000 images and includes the work of many local photographers, including Arthur Witman, Francis Scheidegger, and Arthur W. Proetz.
Newspapers

The State Historical Society of Missouri’s founding by the Missouri Press Association in 1898 ensured that newspapers would be a focal point of the collections. The Society’s enduring commitment to preserving Missouri’s history as it is reflected in newspaper coverage has resulted in a vast archive that is now one of the largest collections of a single state’s press. In 2015–2016 SHSMO preserved an estimated 465,000 pages of Missouri’s newspapers, including many single-issue papers.

In November 2015 the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project exceeded one million pages of online historic newspaper content. The project draws support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from Library Services and Technology Act grants to public libraries in Missouri. Free public access to the keyword-searchable pages is provided at http://shsmo.org/newspaper/mdnp. The State Historical Society of Missouri also appreciates the partnership of the following publications in preserving today’s news as a resource for tomorrow’s historians. The papers below provide complimentary subscriptions. They are listed in alphabetical order by the city of publication.

The Messenger, Adrian
Albany Ledger
Santa Fe Times, Alma
Appleton City Journal
Arnold-Imperial Leader
The Commonwealth, Ash Grove
Boone County Journal, Ashland
Aurora Advertiser
Douglas County Herald, Ava
Belle Banner
Star Herald, Belton
Bethany Republican Clipper
Bland Courier
Bolivar Herald-Free Press
Boonville Daily News
Bowling Green Times
Branson Tri-Lakes News
Linn County Leader, Brookfield
Buffalo Reflex and
Dallas County Republican

News Xpress, Butler
Cabool Enterprise
California Democrat
Lake Sun, Camdenton
Citizen-Observer, Cameron
Lewis County Press News
Journal, Canton
Southeast Missourian,
Cape Girardeau
Car Junction’s Jasper County Citizen
Carrollton Democrat
Caruthersville-Hayti Democrat Argus
Barry County Advertiser, Cassville
Cassville Democrat
Centralia Fireside Guard
Enterprise-Courier, Charleston
The Mississippi County Times, Charleston
Clarence Courier

The Countian - St. Louis, Clayton
Clinton Daily Democrat
Clinton Eye
Cole Camp Courier
Columbia Missourian
Columbia Tribune
The Concordian
Crane Chronicle
Cuba Free Press
Daily Statesman/ Dexter Statesman
Dixon Pilot
Prospect-News, Doniphan
East Prairie Eagle
Edina Sentinel
El Dorado Springs Sun
The Star, El Dorado Springs
The Advertiser, Eldon
Reynolds County Courier, Ellington
Shannon County Current Wave, Eminence
Excelsior Springs Standard
Fairfax Forum
Democrat Leader, Fayette
Fayette Advertiser
Jefferson County Leader, Festus
West Side Leader, Festus
Taney County Times, Forsyth
The Guidon, Fort Leonard Wood
Democrat News, Fredericktown
Fulton Sun
Ozark County Times, Gainesville
North Missourian, Gallatin
Glasgow Missourian

Schuyler County Times, Glenwood
Jackson County Advocate, Grandview
Times Tribune, Grant City
The Vedette, Greenfield
Hale Horizons
Caldwell County News, Hamilton
Hannibal Courier-Post
Cass County Democrat Missourian, Harrisonville
Hermann Advertiser-Courier
The Index, Hermitage
Higginsville Advance
The Countian-Jefferson, Hillsboro
Holden Image
Hopkins Journal
Houston Herald
Humansville Star-Leader
The Pulse, Independence
Mountain Echo, Ironton
Cash Book Journal, Jackson
Tri-County Weekly, Jamesport
Catholic Missourian, Jefferson City
News Tribune, Jefferson City
The Pathway, Jefferson City
Word and Way, Jefferson City
Hometown Journal, Kahoka
The Media, Kahoka
Catholic Key, Kansas City
Daily Record, Kansas City
Kansas City Globe
Kansas City Star
Northeast News, Kansas City
The Pulse, Kansas City
The Kearney Courier
Stone County Gazette, Kimberling City
Tri-County News, King City
Kirkville Daily Express
Knob Noster Item
Macon County Home Press, La Plata
Lake Today, Lake Ozark
Lamar Democrat
Rural Reporter, Lathrop
Lawson Review
Lebanon Daily Record
“This milestone is the perfect reason to celebrate what an invaluable resource digitized newspapers are for researchers, while continuing to advocate for our progress toward the longterm goal of an online database of newspapers from every Missouri county.”

- Gerald Hirsch, SHSMO senior associate director
“The only thing new in the world is the history you don’t know.”

Harry S. Truman