

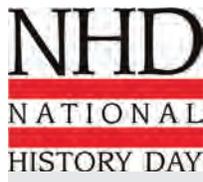
MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

May 2011 Vol. 7, No. 1



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2011: All About Bingham

The Society loans its most valuable painting to the Truman Library, publishes a book in partnership with the Friends of Arrow Rock, and participates in an important symposium—all to promote better understanding of "The Missouri Artist," George Caleb Bingham.



Society Executive Director Gary R. Kremer and Curator of Art Joan Stack take advantage of a rare opportunity to study *Order No. 11*, up-close and unadorned, as it rests out of its frame in preparation to travel.

In early March the State Historical Society of Missouri's best known painting, *General Order No. 11*, by George Caleb Bingham, left Columbia for the first time in fifty years. The special circumstance that justified the move was *Order No. 11*'s exhibition in a show at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence titled *From Steamboats to Steam Engines: George Caleb Bingham's Missouri, 1819-1879*. This important exhibition celebrating the 200th anniversary of Bingham's birth will remain on display through September 8.

As professional fine-arts movers drove the painting along Interstate-70 west toward Independence, an unmarked vehicle from the Missouri Highway Patrol escorted the truck to help protect this historical and cultural treasure for the state of Missouri. The Society also loaned its

Bingham masterpiece, *Watching the Cargo*, and several Bingham portraits to the exhibition, which was organized with skill and panache by the Truman Library's museum curator, Clay Bauske.

On the evening of March 9, a special preview of the exhibition opened to great fanfare with a reception at the Library attended by many important members of the Kansas City and Independence communities. Dr. Michael Divine, Director of the Truman Library, along with State Historical Society President Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. greeted guests and shared their enthusiasm for this cooperative effort to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of a quintessentially American artist whose extraordinary artworks brought national attention to Missouri's culture, society, and politics.

Special appreciation was extended to Ken and Cindy McClain of Independence whose generous donation to the Society provided support for the loan of *Order No. 11* and the additional Bingham artworks.

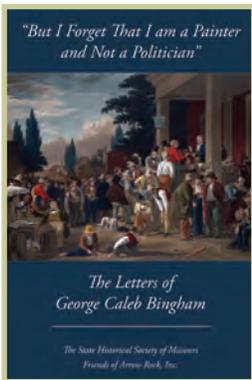


Ken and Cindy McClain on March 9 with *Order No. 11* as presented at the Truman Library's special preview of *Steamboats to Steam Engines: George Caleb Bingham's Missouri, 1819-1879*.

The Society releases *"But I Forget That I Am a Painter and Not a Politician": The Letters of George Caleb Bingham* in partnership with the Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc.



Symposium attendees gather to have their books signed by editor Lynn Wolf Gentzler, Dr. Joan Stack, who wrote the book's Introduction, and Roger E. Robinson, who compiled the letters during his work as the Society's Goodrich Graduate Research Assistant.



The Society and the Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc. were pleased to launch the newly published collection of the writings of George Caleb Bingham at the "Bingham in the Boonslick Symposium" in historic Arrow Rock on April 2.

Dr. Tom Hall, President of the Friends of Arrow Rock, welcomed more than 150 registered attendees who came to celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of George Caleb Bingham, view a special exhibit of Bingham artworks, and receive a copy of the book *"But I Forget That I Am a Painter and Not a Politician": The Letters of George Caleb Bingham.*

Three scholars' lectures formed the core of the symposium presented to a full audience seated in Arrow Rock's Lyceum Theatre. Dr. Margaret Conrads, the Samuel Sosland Senior Curator of American Art and Interim Director of Education for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City spoke about "Painting and Politics: Bingham's *Canvassing for a Vote.*" Dr. Joan Stack, Curator of Art Collections for the Society, and author of the book's Introduction, presented "Infant Deaths, Infertility, and Infighting Inlaws: *The Thread of Life* as a reflection of the private life of George Caleb Bingham." And Roger Robinson, who compiled the letters in his position as the Society's James W. Goodrich Research Assistant, presented remarks titled "Researching the Letters of George Caleb Bingham."

Nancy Pillsbury Shirley, a lifelong supporter of the arts, represented

the Harriet Pillsbury Foundation and spoke about her appreciation to be involved with the Bingham book. Gratitude was reciprocally extended by Dr. Tom Hall, who pointed out that the Pillsbury Foundation's support was key to meeting the costs of publication.

"But I Forget That I Am a Painter and Not a Politician" promises to be an important resource for historians, art historians, and general readers. As Society Executive Director Gary R. Kremer wrote in his Foreword to the book, "Now, for the first time, students of nineteenth-century American life can find between the covers of a single book Bingham's clearly articulated thoughts on the dominant issues that faced Americans in general, and Missourians in particular, more than a century and a half ago. Within the same pages, readers will also discover the personal Bingham—the father who delighted in his children, the husband devastated by the deaths of two beloved wives, and a man who sustained a close friendship (with his constant correspondent Missouri politician James S. Rollins) through letters spanning more than forty years.

"For much of his life, Bingham responded to the world around him with brush on canvas. Now, thanks to the efforts of the book's editor and associate director Lynn Wolf Gentzler and her colleagues at the Society, readers may acquire a deeper understanding of those opinions by sharing in Bingham's thoughts as he articulated them with pen and paper."

"But I Forget That I Am a Painter and Not a Politician": The Letters of George Caleb Bingham is available online at <http://shs.umssystem.edu>, at the Society, or by phone (800) 747-6366.

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At left, Columbia artist Byron Smith joins a conversation underway among Executive Director Gary Kremer, Society member Jonathan Kemper of Kansas City, and Preparator of Exhibits, Greig Thompson at the "Bingham in the Boonslick Symposium."

Annual Day at the Capitol celebrates Bingham



Gathered around a portion of the Society's Capitol display and Bingham birthday celebration are, left to right, Director Gary R. Kremer, Trustee Bryan K. Snyder (Independence), Curator Joan Stack, Trustee Hank Waters III (Columbia), Senior Manuscript Specialist Laura Jolley, Trustee H. Riley Bock (New Madrid), and Trustee Doug Crews (Columbia).

A large number of legislators, government officials, staff, and tourists joined in the Society's celebration of the 200th anniversary of George Caleb Bingham's birth in 1811. Reared in the state, Bingham made Missouri and Missourians the primary subjects in his artworks, and today he is considered one of America's greatest artists, with pieces permanently displayed in the White House and many top museums throughout the country. Of note, Bingham was a public servant, former legislator, and Treasurer and Adjutant General of Missouri. The Society showed three original 19th century engravings in the Capitol Rotunda, representing Bingham's famous pictures *Stump Speaking*, *County Election*, and *Martial Law (General Order No. 11)*. Perhaps initially lured by the delicious cake, visitors quickly engaged in conversation with Society staff, asked questions, and expressed appreciation for Bingham's artwork. Several individuals—Missouri state representatives and senators, tourists, state employees and students—spent significant time with staff learning about the engravings and paintings from which they were made. Several visitors offered that Bingham was their "favorite artist," and others noted the many ways the engravings represented early American democracy.

Visitors also appreciated receiving a facsimile of an original letter written by Bingham in 1861 in which the artist-politician states, "Old Abe appears reasonable in his inaugural. . ." If you are interested in learning more about Bingham's letters, you may purchase the Society's new book, *"But I Forget that I am a Painter and Not a Politician": The Letters of George Caleb Bingham*, at the Capitol Museum gift store or through the Society's Web site.

Trustee Roy Blunt hosts Neosho celebration of native son, Benton

Missouri Senator Roy Blunt was among over 175 visitors who came to the Newton County Historical Park and Museum on a sunny and breezy afternoon to view a one-day exhibition of original watercolors, drawings, and lithographs by Neosho-born Missouri artist Thomas Hart Benton. The exhibition, *Thomas Hart Benton: Son of Southwest Missouri*, was held in the Neosho Museum's historic one-room schoolhouse. The display consisted of artwork from the Society's collection, with many images reflecting Benton's experiences with the people and places of southwest Missouri.

Outside the schoolhouse, local musicians Nathan and Allen McCallister played traditional folk music, while museum staff and volunteers served birthday cake to celebrate the 122nd anniversary of Benton's birth on April 16, 1889. About 1:30 p.m., the director of the Newton County Historical Park and Museum, Wes Franklin, welcomed Senator Blunt, who, as a trustee of the The State Historical Society of Missouri, spoke of "bringing Benton home."

Senator Blunt also lauded the Society's commitment to sharing its artistic treasures with the people of the state and spoke of the additional resources provided to Missourians by the Society. He then introduced the Society's Curator of Art Collections, Joan Stack, who spoke with enthusiasm of the role Southwest Missouri played in shaping Benton's artwork. Other attendees included Society Trustee Virginia Laas, local dignitaries, and current and former members of the Missouri General Assembly.

Society extends sympathy to the family of Alice Brownlee

Alice R. Brownlee passed away in Columbia on Saturday, April 16, at the age of ninety-one. Mrs. Brownlee was the widow of Richard S. Brownlee, the Society's executive director, 1960-85, who died in 1990. Alice remained active and interested in the Society and its activities for more than six decades.

Society trustees and staff members extend their sincere sympathies to Mrs. Brownlee's son, Richard S. Brownlee III and his wife, Kate, of Jefferson City, and to daughter, Margaret Brownlee of Columbia.



Society Trustee Virginia Laas (Joplin) joins Senator Roy Blunt (Springfield) and Curator of Art Joan Stack in the one-room schoolhouse at the Newton County Historical Museum in Neosho.

Missouri Conference on History draws large crowd in Kansas City

The 53rd annual Missouri Conference on History was held in Kansas City, April 14-15, at The Holiday Inn, Country Club Plaza. The Society serves as the administrative sponsor for the conference, and the 2011 host organization was the University of Missouri-Kansas City Department of History. Professor Diane Mutti Burke led the effort and welcomed the largest conference crowd in many years. Attendees enjoyed a wide variety of papers on many aspects of history, with the Civil War in Missouri as a special focus. The keynote address was a stimulating talk by Walter Johnson, Winthrop Professor of History and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Johnson spoke about the conditions of slavery in the lower Mississippi Valley.

The Missouri History Article Award went to Rebecca S. Montgomery of Texas State University for her article, "With the Brain of a Man and the Heart of a Woman: Missouri Women and Rural Change, 1890-1945," which appeared in the 104th volume of the *Missouri Historical Review* (April 2010).

The Book Award was presented to Diane Mutti Burke for *On Slavery's Border: Missouri's Small-Slaveholding Households, 1815-1865* published by the University of Georgia Press.

The Lynn and Kristen Morrow Missouri History Student Prize was awarded to Clinton McDuffie, University of Missouri-Kansas City, for the paper, "Sport and Nationalism: The 1904 St. Louis Olympics and National Identity." The Student Paper Award was won by Michael A. Ridge Jr. of the University of Iowa for his work, "The Future Great City of the World Seeks to Fulfill Its Destiny with Mexico, St. Louis and Mexico, 1878-1907."



Walter Johnson of Harvard University delivers the keynote address at the 2011 Missouri Conference on History.

The Society participates in dedication of the James T. Scott Monument



Members of the public, University of Missouri faculty, and members of the Second Missionary Baptist Church viewed *A Voice Silenced* in the Columbia City Hall.

On April 30 hundreds of Columbia citizens and visitors from across the country turned out for the James T. Scott Monument Dedication, which honored the African American victim of a lynch mob 88 years earlier in the city.

Accused—but neither tried nor convicted—of raping a teenage daughter of a University of Missouri professor, Scott was unlawfully removed from the Boone County jail and paraded to the Stewart Road Bridge just west of the university campus. There he died in the early morning hours of April 29, 1923. No one was ever held accountable for his murder, and he was buried in what was for many years an unmarked grave in the Columbia Cemetery. Later evidence strongly suggested his innocence in the attack on the girl.

The Society endorsed the event, and Columbia Research Center staff members collaborated with local scholar Doug Hunt on a four-panel exhibit titled, *A Voice Silenced: The James T. Scott lynching in 1923*. Many event attendees viewed the exhibit at a reception held at the Columbia City Hall Building. The exhibit contextualized and summarized the events surrounding Scott's death and featured items from the Society's map, manuscript, newspaper, photograph, and reference collections

Call for Volunteers with special skills

Volunteers at the State Historical Society of Missouri help make the history of our state more accessible. Every day, volunteers assist the Society by helping researchers access the collections through the research centers in Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis. In addition, volunteers also help behind the scenes in preparing valuable collections of manuscripts and photographs for public use.

Opportunities are now available for volunteers with particular expertise who can assist with scanning photographs and transcribing oral histories. The Society is actively working to scan and place online thousands of images of historical Missouri from our collection. A volunteer with a background in photography and creating digital images would aid this project.

Working closely with the Society oral historian, volunteers can help transcribe and proof oral history transcripts on a variety of topics, including politics, the environment, interviews with veterans, and with people who attended one-room schoolhouses. A volunteer with a good ear and attention to detail is important when putting the spoken word onto paper.

Please contact Seth Smith, Reference Specialist at the Society, at smithset@umsystem.edu or (573) 882-1187 for more information if you are interested in these or other volunteer opportunities.

NHD in Missouri State Contest



Senior Group Exhibit students from Lafayette High School, St. Joseph, with their exhibit, *Bleeding Kansas: The Debate Over Slavery*.

On a hot but beautiful Saturday in April, 600 sixth through twelfth grade students participated in the National History Day in Missouri state contest on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia. The students represented 86 schools and were coached by 95 teachers.

As part of the year-long program, students researched and analyzed historical topics related to the national theme, "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences," and presented their findings in one of five categories: museum-style exhibits, multimedia documentaries, interpretive Web sites, dramatic performance, and research papers.

There were a total of 90 medal winners in first through third place, with the top 58 first and second-place winners in each division and category advancing to the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland, College Park, in June. Additionally, 19 students won special prizes at the state contest. For a complete list of winners, please visit the NHD in Missouri Web site, <http://mo.nhd.org>.

Fall Teacher Workshops

NHD in Missouri, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council and with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, will sponsor two late summer/early fall teachers' workshops on the MU campus and several mini-workshops across the state. Workshops will introduce the NHD program, focus on the 2012 theme, "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History," look at Missouri's resources for research, and discuss how to use NHD in the classroom. At the workshops in Columbia, successful NHD students will present and discuss their entries. Keep an eye on the NHDMO Web site, <http://mo.nhd.org>, for dates, registration details, and additional information to be posted in late spring. Several Webinars will also be available for teachers during fall 2011.

Teacher of Merit Awards

The Society was pleased to make three state teacher of merit awards to NHD in Missouri teachers. These awards are given for providing extraordinary dedication to teaching and creativity in the classroom, along with participation in the NHD program. The 17th annual Joseph Webber Teacher of Merit Award went to Widget Ewing, teacher at Columbia Catholic School in Columbia. Ms. Ewing has also been nominated for the History Channel Award for Service, the winner of which is announced at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day contest in June. The second annual Patricia Behring Missouri Teacher of the Year Awards went to Julie Hulley, teacher at Neosho Middle School in Neosho for the junior level (grades 6-8) and Kenneth Elkins, teacher at Central High School in Springfield for the senior level (grades 9-12). Both Ms. Hulley and Mr. Elkins are nominees for the national Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award, also announced at the national contest in June.



Senior Group Performance finalists from Wheaton R-3 Schools, Wheaton, performing "Robert LaFollette and the Fight for Progress."



Missouri's 2011 delegates to National History Day.

Summer 2011 public programs

May

May 21 1:00 p.m. *Caught Between Three Fires* lecture and book signing in the Society's Main Gallery

Violent circumstances forged leaders who shaped Missouri's political and military history. Cass County's uncivil war—intimate, cruel, and total—suffered no man, woman, or child to escape loss or injury—their individual stories weaving history's fabric. In *Caught Between Three Fires*, author Tom A. Rafiner attempts to recreate a lost history, erased by total destruction, Order No. 11, and time's purposeful neglect.

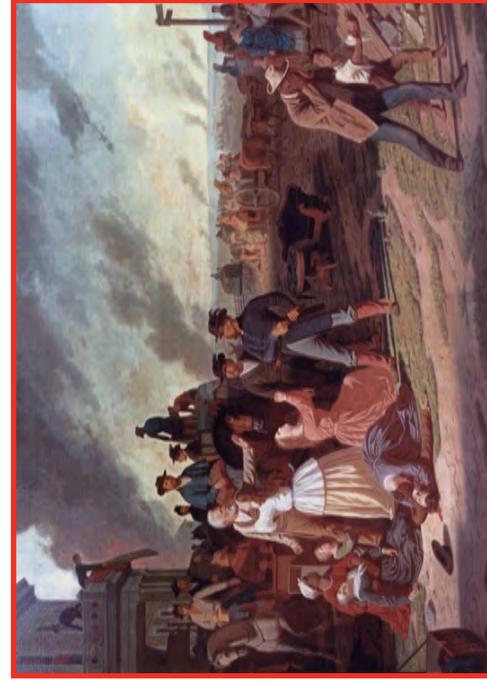
May 24 6:30 p.m. *Gary R. Kremer and Mark Hersey: George Washington Carver* Kansas City Public Library

George Washington Carver was a renowned scientist and teacher, yet he is one of the most misunderstood figures in American history. His expansive life and accomplishments are featured in a special presentation by two scholars with new and distinctive biographies on the iconic inventor. Mark Hersey, an assistant professor at Mississippi State University, is the author of *My Work Is That of Conservation: An Environmental Biography of George Washington Carver*. Society Executive Director Gary Kremer is the author of *George Washington Carver: A Biography*.

June

June 2 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. *An Evening with George Caleb Bingham*

Three Events, Two Venues, One Great Time



at the Truman Library ...

***Editor's Guide to Bingham's Letters* 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. in the Whistlestop Room**

Lynn Wolf Gentsler, Associate Director, will discuss the monumental process of compiling, editing, and annotating 246 letters into the new book, *"But I Forget That I Am a Painter and Not a Politician": The Letters of George Caleb Bingham*.

and *Step Back in Time with Eliza Bingham* 5:00, 5:30, and 6:00 p.m. from the Atrium

Curator of Art Dr. Joan Stack will provide a lively tour of the Truman Library's exhibit, *Steamboats to Steam Engines: George Caleb Bingham's Missouri, 1819-1879*, in character as Eliza Thomas Bingham, Bingham's wife from 1849 to 1876.

at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate ...

***George Caleb Bingham Live* 7:00 p.m.**

Brought to life through extraordinary portrayal by actor Robert Gibby Brand.



Incentive Packages are available at each level. Reservations can be made online at: <http://shs.umsystem.edu> or by calling (573) 882-7083.

June 4 through August

***Women, Children, and George Caleb Bingham: A Selection of Artworks* Special Interim Reinstallation of the Society's George Caleb Bingham Gallery**

While *General Order No. 11, Watching the Cargo*, and other of the Society's Bingham's are on display at the Truman Library, the Bingham Gallery will exhibit a fascinating group of paintings, prints, and drawings relating to women and children. Of note is a remarkable work borrowed from the Missouri State Museum: a needlework portrait of George Washington made by Bingham's teenage daughter, Clara, in the 1850s.

June 11 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. *Civil War Road Show* Springfield-Greene County Library Center

John Bradbury, Assistant Director, Rolla Research Center, will be a consultant at the

June 12-16

***Kenneth E. Behring National History Day* University of Maryland-College Park**

More than 50 students from Missouri will participate in NHD following their first- or second-place win at the state contest. The Awards Ceremony at the conclusion of the four-day national contest will be aired live June 16, 8-30

second "Civil War Road Show" sponsored by the Springfield-Greene County Library, 4653 S. Campbell in Springfield, as part of its *Community & Conflict: The Impact of the Civil War in the Ozarks* digital project. Patterned after the *Antiques Road Show*, this event invites the public to bring in Civil War antiques, documents, and photographs for evaluation. For more information, call (417) 882-0714.

July *The Graphic World of George Caleb Bingham* Curator's Walk-Through

July 9 1:30 p.m.



Organized in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Bingham's birth, this exhibit looks at the artist's collaborative relationships with publishers, printmakers, and financiers. Explore the world of nineteenth century printmaking and publishing with a walk-through of the exhibit with Curator Joan Stack. Printmaking Professor Chris Daniggelis from the MU Art Department will also be on hand to demonstrate some of the techniques used to make the Bingham prints.

July 16 through November *Fred Geary: Missouri Master of the Woodcut* Society Corridor Gallery

Missouri artist Fred Geary became actively involved in the nationwide woodcut revival of the 1930s and 1940s, and the Society's collection of over fifty of the graphic masterpieces reveals his exceptional skill in the medium. Depictions of Missouri landscapes and landmarks, as well as a wide range of other subjects, display the expertise of this extraordinary artist.

Save the Date

The Society's exhibition commemorating the Civil War in Missouri will open in September.

September 15 *Art-i-Fact Fall Crawl* MU Campus

Take it all in at the 7th annual Art-i Fact Fall Crawl. Attendees will experience a wide variety of exhibitions and activities at galleries and museums across the MU Campus, including the State Historical Society Galleries. Free and open to the public. Watch for updates and more information at <http://mugallerycrawl.missouri.edu/>.

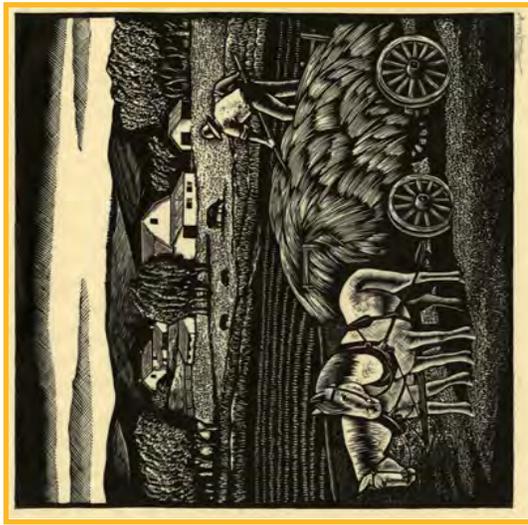
The Volunteer Awards Dinner will be held at the Society on September 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The Society's Annual Meeting will be held November 5 at The Tiger Hotel in Columbia.

our day national contest will be aired live June 16, 8:30 a.m., at <http://www.nhd.org>. Watch to learn more about how your Missouri students fared and the many opportunities they had at this intense and fun-filled learning experience.

June 25 *Missouri Wine Country: St. Charles to Hermann* 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. wine tasting and program at Good Nature, Columbia

Before prohibition, Missouri was the second largest wine-producing state in the nation, and for a short time during the Civil War, it was number one. Today the state's lush green area overlooking the Missouri River is officially recognized as America's first wine district. Parts of this area have produced wine since the 1830s, when German immigrants from the Rhine River valley settled in Missouri. Join authors Dianna and Don Graveman to learn more about eastern Missouri wines.



August 27 1:30 p.m.

Fred Geary: Missouri Master of the Woodcut Curator's Walk-Through

Oregon Trail comes alive for Lee Elementary fourth graders

For students attending Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School in Columbia, Missouri, delving into primary resources is something they get to do on a fairly regular basis. For the past ten years, teacher and art specialist Ann Mehr, PhD, has brought her classes to the Society's Columbia Research Center, exposing them to Missouri history through thousands of papers, photographs, diaries, and maps, as well as several art exhibitions.

On April 27, 2011, approximately 40 Lee Elementary fourth graders came to learn more about the Oregon Trail. Staff helped students gain greater understanding of the 2,000 mile trek by reading letters written by those who traveled the trail in the 1840s and 1850s, reviewing newspaper accounts, and pouring over maps to reveal the trail and its many obstacles. "The experience with primary source materials helped bring all their studies about the Oregon Trail into focus," said Ann Mehr, adding, "Handling actual materials adds the human element that is not present in computer or textbook examples."

The Oregon Trail and westward expansion is well documented in collections at the Society, as Missouri and Missourians played a significant role in the story. Western towns such as Independence, Westport, and St. Joseph, Missouri, were starting points and preparation sites for the long journey west. Those who initially forged the way to Oregon during the 1830s were largely Methodist and Presbyterian missionaries. By the 1840s settlers were heading out from Missouri and Iowa as they felt they had outgrown the Midwest. Being leery of the treeless landscape of the prairies, as well as fearful of little rainfall and Indian occupation, they decided to take their families farther west for the reportedly vast resources.

Students were able to handle and look at firsthand accounts of the journey. A diary from 1857 included

the memories of a young girl in which she tells of her experiences moving west from Canada, Kentucky, to Brunswick, Missouri. One particular passage points out her family's encounter with the vastness of the prairie, "Oh: words are inadequate to describe the beauty of the first prairie after we crossed the river. There was between 3 and 4 thousand acres of land, level as land can be, just as far as the eye can see. The tall grass was waiving and, the large birds was flying. Oh: there is nothing can compare with the beautiful prairie. It so far surpassed my imaginations that I did not care about looking at anything else, there was a large pond in the middle and all kinds of birds were flying around Canvass back duck, wild



geese, Cranes, Turkeys, chickens, and some very large birds that I did not know the name of. On the tip of the hill there was a large herd of cattle, 300 in number feeding on the prairie." It was emphasized to the students that this is a great contrast to today, when very little native prairie still exists.

The 1859 travel account of Anson Bradbury describes seeing Independence Rock in Wyoming. This was a prominent landmark seen by thousands of emigrants on their way west. To quote from Anson's account, "After leaving camp a short distance arrived at Independence Rock this Rock is isolated and is 1800 ft long 600



wide & 125 high Hundreds of names of Emigrants hunters & explorers are engraved and painted on its surface." B. F. Nichols's account describing his trip by wagon train from St. Joseph, Missouri, to the Willamette Valley in Oregon in 1844 also makes a reference to Independence Rock. "Again we move on and up the Sweet Water and pass Independence Rock on which we find engraved many names and dates, some running back to July 4. in past years. That was a little too thin for us. No emigrants for the West had ever started early enough in the season to reach Independence Rock as early as July 4th, a way back on the Republican fork of Blue river."

Students had the opportunity to read many other detailed descriptions of landmarks seen along the trail by westward pioneers.

In addition, staff showed the students several photographs illustrating points of interest, what the oxen and wagons looked like, and engravings that revealed the high number of wagon trains that crossed the prairie. According to their teacher, the visual materials helped bring the experience of the Oregon Trail alive for the fourth graders.

Top: Two Lee Elementary students carefully review handwritten letters dating from the mid-nineteenth century.

Middle: Senior Manuscript Specialist Laura Jolley joins in discussion with Lee Elementary students engaged in discovering points of interest on a map of the Oregon Trail.

The Swedes in Kansas City

Let's ignore the debate about whether the Vikings came to America before Columbus. Of more immediate interest are the first Scandinavians who came to Kansas City—before the Civil War as farmers, skilled artisans, and laborers. Like other immigrant groups, they settled in Kansas City's West Side and the West Bottoms to work in the packinghouses and railyards. As they progressed socially and financially to more lucrative occupations, they dispersed to other areas of the city, particularly the Roanoke neighborhood and an area called Swede Hill centered at 39th and Bell. In general they did not maintain a close-knit community but for their social clubs, churches, and newspapers. Between the late 1870s and World War I, there were five Swedish newspapers in Kansas City, all of which are represented in the State Historical Society's newspaper collection.

The Kansas City Research Center recently received a very interesting collection of research notes, original documents, and oral histories from Niel M. Johnson, adding significantly to Swedish collections already within the holdings. Niel's grandparents emigrated from Sweden in the later part of the 19th century to settle in west-central Illinois. Niel and his late wife, Verna Gail, married in 1952 and moved to Independence in 1977 where he was an archivist and oral historian at the Truman Library until his retirement in 1992. From the early 1980s—their first trip of six to Sweden was in 1983—they were active in Scandinavian organizations in the Kansas City area. Niel served as president of both the Scandinavian Club of Greater Kansas City and the American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of Sweden, for which he conducted more than thirty oral interviews in the 1980s of local Swedish Americans.

The Niel Melvin Johnson (1931-) Papers hold research notes on various Swedish organizations and individuals. Also included are organizational records of the Nyttä, Nöja, och Enighet (NN&E); Pioneer Clubs (Pionar Klubben); Independent Order of Svithiod of America, Gotha Lodge #24; Independent Order of Vikings – Thorvald Lodge #89; the Wethonkitta Club, and the New Sweden '88 Committee for which Niel was coordinator in the region. Tapes of oral histories are part of the collection, covering the many interviews Niel conducted for the American Friends organization.

Other Scandinavian-related collections in the Kansas City Research Center include:

- First Evangelical Covenant Church (Swedish Mission Church) Records, dating from 1887;
- Scandinavian Association of Greater Kansas City Records which contain records of Nyttä, Nöja, och Enighet and the Swedish Pioneer Club;

- Godfrey Swenson Film Collection - Swenson was a prominent contractor of such buildings as the Jackson County Courthouse in downtown Kansas City and the Kansas City Power and Light Building;

- Oscar David Nelson (1895-1981) Papers, the son of Swedish immigrants who rose from office boy for Butler Manufacturing to be president of the company; and the

- Elmer F. Pierson (1896-1982) Papers, founder in 1937, with his brother, John T., of the Vendo Company, a manufacturer of vending machines.



Niel M. Johnson studying a 1905 *Kansas City Svenska Tribunen* newspaper on February 22, 1988.



Fiftieth birthday anniversary party given on February 17, 1940, for Mr. Oscar Peterson by his friends. Taken at the Nyttä, Nöja, och Enighet (NN&E).

Records of the Valle Mining Company

Staff at the Rolla Research Center are microfilming the historic records of the Valle Mining Company--daybooks, ledgers, and cash books that document a century of mining, as well as the persistent pre-industrial manner of production that continued largely without change from the colonial period into the twentieth century.

The historic mining community known as Valles Mines is about nine miles southeast of present-day DeSoto in Jefferson County. The current boundary between Jefferson and St. Francois counties bisects the historic mining area; mining occurred on both sides of the line. It is named after Francois Valle, who came from Canada to Kaskaskia, Illinois, in the 1740s to become Ste. Genevieve's most prominent citizen. His various entrepreneurial enterprises included mining, and he had slaves working at Mine La Motte in Madison County by 1757. It is believed he established a trading post in 1749 on the multi-thousand-acre tract later known as Valles Mines.

With Mine La Motte and Mine a Breton in Washington County, Valles Mines was among the first mining clusters developed during the colonial period. The mines are within the southeast mineral district of Jefferson, Madison, St. Francois, and Washington counties, a highly mineralized area featuring lead, zinc, barite, and iron ores. Nearly pure galena (lead ore) in shallow deposits attracted the first miners. Mining became a seasonal occupation for many Kaskaskia and Ste. Genevieve residents working individually or in partnerships; some were hired laborers; still others were slaves. Miners extracted ore from shallow pits, smelted it in log furnaces to form pigs (ingots), and moved the metal to Ste. Genevieve and other Mississippi River landings. Major discoveries at Valles Mines in the 1820s led to the sinking of the first shafts, development of a permanent community, and in 1826, an on-site post office.

The first Valle Mining Company is believed to have been organized in 1821. By then the Rozier surname had become associated with Valles Mines through marriages of Valle women to male descendants of Ferdinand Rozier. A native of France, Rozier came to Ste. Genevieve in 1811 via Kentucky. He traded in furs and lead, engaged in riverboating, and was the agent for lead stored in Ste. Genevieve warehouses. By his death in 1864 the Rozier name was as prominent as Valle.

The present Valle Mining Company was incorporated in 1869 by Valle and Rozier descendants. Valles Mines grew to include a superintendent's house and office, and stores, churches, and mills supporting the community. The villages of Avoca, Bisch Town, and Halifax also grew up within or just outside the tract.

After the Civil War, zinc became valuable and as important as lead at Valles Mines. The last major development occurred in 1890 when the Mississippi River & Bonne Terre Railway built a branch line to the Valle Mines tract; mining ceased in the 1920s.

The Valle Mining Company collection consists of materials dating to 1839. As late as 1841 some of the entries were recorded in French. The records document lead and zinc received, expenses at Valles Mines and Ste. Genevieve, and shipments to St. Louis, New York, and other markets. Documents show

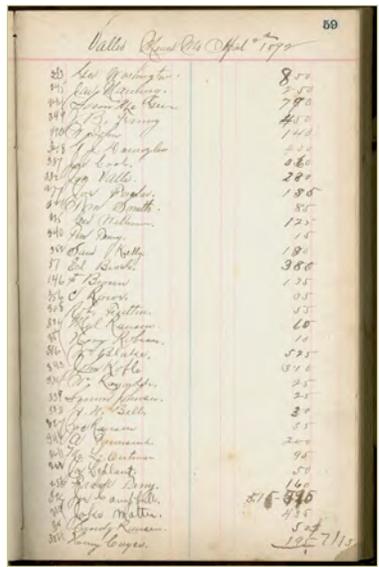
the interrelated operations of the Valle Mining Company, the Rozier family at Ste. Genevieve, and, later, the Carondelet Zinc Works. They also record thousands of small transactions involving hundreds of individual miners, some of whom are identified as African American. The transactions reflect the pre-industrial origins of Valles Mines and the archaic arrangement by which independent miners lived on-site, were advanced tools and groceries by mine owners, and paid or credited at the company's store for the mineral produced.

Although by later standards the techniques were primitive, the shafts shallow, and the works crude, Valles Mines became one of the most significant areas of lead production in Missouri by the Civil War. Because the ore was high-grade and operations less capital-intensive, miners at Valles Mines worked when other mines were idled.

Today the Valle Mining Company operates the site as a private park and home of the Lost History Museum: <http://www.vallesmines.com>.

Above: Small transactions with independent miners credited for their production of mineral, such as these in April 1892, characterized operations at Valles Mines into the twentieth century. Credit: Valle Mining Company Records (SHSMO-R1278)

Left: Operations at Valles Mines were old-fashioned but profitable for a century. Credit: Robert L. Elgin Collection (SHSMO-R1261)



St. Louis Research Center acquires Park Collection

The St. Louis Research Center recently acquired a large collection of records concerning the St. Louis County Parks system from the period 1956 to 1990. Wayne C. Kennedy, the director of the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation from 1962 to 1991, donated the records, which document the history and development of St. Louis parks.

Under Mr. Kennedy's watch, the St. Louis County park system expanded ten-fold—from 1,600 acres to nearly 13,000—beginning with the accrual of the six-acre R-9 Community Center and Suson Park in 1962 and Laumeier Park the following year, through the 1970 purchase of the Queeny Park area and the 1986 acquisition of White Haven, once home to Ulysses S. Grant. By the time Kennedy retired in 1991, he had left a legacy that not only expanded the number and size of the St. Louis County parks, but also established an unmatched commitment to the development of their recreational and educational programs.

Kennedy's career with Parks and Recreation began while he worked as assistant principal for the junior high school in Mehlville School District. He started with the district as a history, math, and PE teacher, coming to St. Louis from Remsen, Iowa, in 1947 and earning a master's degree from St. Louis University. Kennedy played an important role in the largely volunteer construction effort by Mehlville to create a community center, later dubbed the R-9 Community Center after the rural district to which Mehlville belongs. Kennedy's experience with this project inspired him to pursue a career as the recreation supervisor of St. Louis Parks and Recreation, created as one provision of the 1950 county charter. Kennedy became director of the department after the previous director, Charles Skow, passed away.

Kennedy accumulated property for the parks system through bond issues and gifts. Major bond issue campaigns occurred in 1969, 1977, and 1986, and significant gifts included Sidney Saloman's donation of Suson Park, named after his children Susan and Sonny; and Matilda Laumier's bequest in 1963 of Laumier Park. Leicester Busch and Mary Faust gave Faust Park in 1968, doubling the gift with a bequest from Mary in 1996. It became, along with Jefferson Barracks and Bissell House, part of a historic program to preserve the "Thornhill" estate, home of Missouri's second governor, Frederick Bates. The 18-acre complex contained a



Above, children enjoy the carousel at Forest Park Highlands Amusement Park in 1947. Forty years later, in 1987, the carousel was moved to Faust Park in St. Louis County.

Virginia-style house built in 1818, several historic farm buildings, and a family cemetery. Faust Park also came to house the St. Louis Carousel, which held 60 hand-carved animals from the late 1800s. Kennedy worked to protect these historic properties from the economic development of the Chesterfield area. His commitment to preservation is also reflected in the Parks Department's partnership with the Museum of Transportation, which helped preserve its historic collections.

Kennedy retired in January 1991. St. Louis County named a recreational facility after him—270 acres in South County near the Meramec River.

The collection contains documentation of land negotiations, development reports, correspondence, event literature, photographs, and maps reflecting the history of the St. Louis park system over the past fifty years.

Newly Processed Collections

YMCA Addenda, 1876-2003, 44 volumes, 6,104 photographs

Documents, videos, photographs (including negatives), slides, books, and ephemera. Organized by branch and divided into fifteen series. The collection covers important topics such as the Great Depression, African American history, and World Wars I and II.

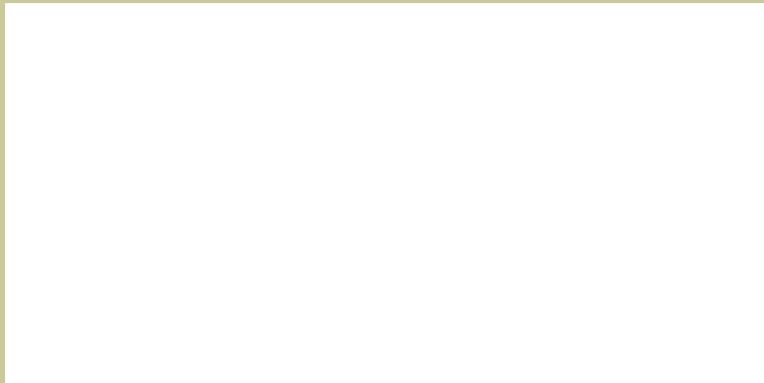
Kay Drey Civil Rights Subject File, 1960-2000, 44 folders

Donated by Kay Drey in May 2006, this subject file includes material on racism in St. Louis schools, housing issues, hate groups, capital punishment, and crime.



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June 30, 2011, deadline for application

2011 marks the beginning year of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, and the State Historical Society is inviting applications to the Brownlee Fund for projects that support observance of this important period in our past.

Grants are available to local Missouri historical societies and museums, both public and private, to fund a variety of proposals - events, exhibitions, publications, markers, and program speakers. The maximum amount per grant award is \$500.

For more information go to:

<http://shs.umsystem.edu/awards/brownlee/brownleeaward.shtml>