

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri and Western Historical Manuscript Collection



Page 2



Page 4

NHD NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Page 5

Fall Calendar

Pages 6-7

WHMC

Pages 8-11

Miz Jane to highlight annual meeting

A one-woman play, festive traditional music, some serious awards, and a silent auction will highlight this year's annual meeting on October 31 at the Tiger Hotel in downtown Columbia.

The morning workshop, from 8:30 to 11:15 a.m., will offer three sessions of special interest to the volunteers and staff working in local historical societies and cultural organizations. Claudia Powell, document conservation specialist at WHMC-Columbia, will open with "Preservation 101," teaching techniques basic to the care of paper: humidification, dry cleaning, repair, deacidification, and encapsulation. Linda Eikmeier Endersby, assistant director of the Missouri State Museum and Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, will follow at 9:30 with "Collections Preservation" to train participants to assess storage conditions of three-dimensional objects, learn safe-handling instructions, and understand and address agents of deterioration. At 10:30, Greig Thompson, the Society's chief museum preparator, will present "In Storage and On Display" to define acceptable and optimal conditions and housing materials for works on paper and artwork. He will also offer design and display techniques to make the most with limited exhibit funds.

Executive Director Gary R. Kremer will deliver the annual report at 11:30 a.m., highlighting 2008-09 projects and accomplishments and defining future opportunities. Special guests, contributors, and supporters will be acknowledged, and President Doug Crews and Dr. Kremer will present the Society's annual thesis and dissertation prizes and article and book awards. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., with the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award immediately following.

At 1:00 p.m. attendees will be treated to *Miz Jane*, a one-woman play about the life of Jane Lampton Clemens—a flirt, dancer, fine horsewoman, storyteller, and mother of Samuel,

aka Mark Twain. Jane faced the loss of children and husband, grappled with slavery, and raised a son who would forever shape American literature. Samuel often credited his sense of humor and storytelling to Jane. The play, which takes place not long after Sam leaves Hannibal for the wide world, reveals an American personality every bit as complex as Mark Twain. *Miz Jane* will be performed by Pamela Judd, theatre instructor at Murray State University. The play was written by MoHiP artistic director Mary Barile and will be directed by MU Department of Theatre associate professor Heather Carver.



Jane Clemens is the subject of this year's annual meeting MoHiP Theatre performance.

Talented Missouri artists Jane Accurso and Dierik Leonhard will provide music of the era. Accurso has deep Missouri Ozark and Arkansas musical roots and offers traditional as well as emerging styles of bluegrass, country, Cajun, and old-time, and brings lead vocals, guitar, and mandolin to the stage. Leonhard is fluent in all styles of banjo picking, is an excellent singer and fiddler, and has taught "Bluegrass 101" for many years in the Columbia Public Schools.

New to this year's annual meeting will be a silent auction and wine raffle with

bidding and ticket purchases open early in the day. Winners will be announced prior to the entertainment. Of note, an original work by artist Frank Stack and a framed original World War II poster by Thomas Hart Benton will be included.

Please join us. The annual meeting, luncheon, and entertainment fee for members is \$30 and \$35 for nonmembers. The workshop (in whole or part) is priced at \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Reservations will be taken from September 15–October 15 online at <http://shs.umsystem.edu/annualmeeting> or by calling (573) 882-7083. Free parking is available in the Cherry Street Garage across from the Tiger Hotel. The hotel is handicap accessible.

From the Executive Director



MISSOURI TIMES

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Five years! That's how long it has been since I assumed the position of executive director. What a whirlwind of activity has been packed into that time period! How quickly the time has passed!

Soon after my arrival at the Society in September 2004, Newspaper Library staff found that a significant portion of our collection had been "infected" with what is commonly known as "vinegar syndrome." If left untreated, this condition threatened our entire newspaper microfilm collection. The discovery occurred at a time when our operating budget was declining. Where would the more than \$200,000 needed to address the problem come from, especially at a time when the Society's state appropriation was already inadequate? The answer came from you: members raised the money through donations, large and small.

Six months later, we learned our very existence was in jeopardy when a key legislative committee suggested eliminating public funding for the Society as a cost-saving measure. Once again, members came forward, making the case to lawmakers that the Society has a statutory responsibility for protecting and preserving Missouri's rich heritage.

Having fought those battles, the State Historical Society launched an effort to persuade governmental officials that our historical underfunding had to be addressed. For three years, the Society worked successfully to increase public funding. Always our members were there to help us.

Now we face yet another challenge. Although it appeared for a time that the Society would receive legislative support for a much-anticipated new building, we now find ourselves needing both political and monetary support to move forward with plans for a new headquarters. And just as occurred five years ago, the Society

confronts these challenges as funding is decreasing: the General Assembly, faced with a fiscal crisis not seen since the Great Depression, has reduced our operating budget for fiscal year 2010 by 10 percent.

I am grateful to our members for helping to make the State Historical Society the premier research institution for Missouri History. I am especially thankful for the wonderful support, and the many kindnesses, members have shown me over the past five years.

I ask you to renew your commitment to the Society's progress once again. It is difficult for me to say which we need more from you—your political or financial support. The fact is, we need both. We cannot continue to offer popular programs such as Brownlee Grants, the Missouri History Speakers' Bureau, or MoHiP Theatre without your donations. We cannot continue to build from historical underfunding, much less move toward a new building, without your advocacy of our cause.

I urge you to go to our Web site and make a donation to your favorite State Historical Society program or fund. I also urge you to contact your legislators and tell them just how much the State Historical Society of Missouri means to you. We are not unmindful of the fact that many Missourians have been hurt by the current economic recession, but we are also deeply committed to our statutory responsibility to the people of Missouri to protect and promote the rich historical and cultural legacy that has been entrusted to us.

Thank you for your support in the past and for your anticipated support in the present and future. My guess is that the next five years will be just as unpredictable, eventful, and rewarding as the last five.

—Gary R. Kremer

State Historical Society News

Sidney Larson, Art Curator, 1961-2004

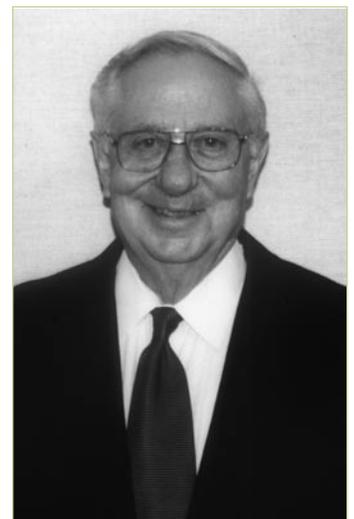
Colleagues and friends joined family members for a celebration of life service on June 20 at Columbia College, where Sidney Larson influenced more than ten thousand aspiring artists over fifty years. Sid Larson—artist, teacher, mentor, and conservator—died May 21, 2009. Society executive director Gary Kremer recognized Larson's forty-three years of service to the Society as

art curator and acknowledged Larson's leadership in building the Society's art collection that today enjoys national recognition.

The Society is honored that Larson's family chose the Sidney Larson Fund at the Society as a memorial. Members, art colleagues, and friends have sent memorial gifts to continue expansion of the collection featuring Missouri artists and subjects. Ongoing tributes to the fund are encouraged.



A self-caricature by Sidney Larson





State Treasurer Clint Zweifel studies the work of George Caleb Bingham recently installed in his office.

State Treasurer Clint Zweifel welcomes Bingham back to treasurer's office

On June 5 State Treasurer Clint Zweifel's office received five framed reproductions of artwork by George Caleb Bingham on loan from the State Historical Society of Missouri, where the originals are housed.

Bingham, a former Missouri state treasurer (1862–65), is one of America's most important nineteenth-century artists. His paintings hang in esteemed galleries such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Portrait Gallery, and the White House.

"It is my honor to serve the people of Missouri as their state treasurer," Zweifel said. "These works from George Caleb Bingham allow us to connect to the history of Missouri and the history of my office."

Reproductions of four hand-colored engravings now hang in Treasurer Zweifel's reception area, and a reproduction of the painting *Order Number 11* hangs in the treasurer's personal office.

The public is encouraged to visit Treasurer Zweifel's office in the Missouri State Capitol, Room 229, to view these beautiful pieces of Missouri history.

Grants Increase Access, Improve Preservation

Last year the Society received a grant through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of Secretary of State, for a retrospective conversion project of catalogued records and finding aids. Phase I of that project is now complete, bringing over 63,000 records, or 80 percent, of the Society's reference material into the MERLIN online catalog system. Whether you are searching for information on major themes in American history, such as westward expansion, or American and Missouri historical biographies, or researching community and genealogical studies, you will find what the Society has to offer through searching in MERLIN, which can be accessed through the Society's Reference Collection Web page, <http://shs.umssystem.edu/reference/index.shtml>.

In June the Society received \$70,952 to complete Phase II of the project, which will concentrate on the addition of rare and special book collections, as well as state documents, University material,

a significant number of maps, sheet music, and microfilmed collections.

Also, the Society was recently awarded a planning grant of \$7,115 to survey Civil War-era issues of the *Missouri Republican* newspaper. The Society is partnering with the Missouri History Museum, the St. Louis Mercantile Library, and the St. Louis Public Library to consider records for digitization and research methods, review vendor profiles, and determine costs specific to digitization. The project will result in a proposal to digitize specific issues and move forward the preservation of Missouri's historic newspapers. This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library.

Finally, the Society has been selected to receive the Institute of Museum and Library Services *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of essential texts, charts, online resources, and additional material assembled by preservation experts throughout the country. The Bookshelf is distributed by the American Association for State and Local History. All of the Society's collections—book, microfilm, manuscript, photographic, documentary, and art—will benefit from the Bookshelf, but particular emphasis has been placed on formal management policies and procedures for the art collection.

Missouri History Speakers' Bureau

August 26: Florissant: "Butcherin' Up the English Language a Little Bit": Dizzy Dean, Baseball Broadcasting, and the 'School Marm's' Uprising' of 1946"

September 1: New Franklin: "There's More to Missouri Cemeteries than Burials"

September 9: Imperial: "Jefferson Barracks: Gateway to the West"

September 12: Diamond: "African American Customs and Traditions throughout Missouri History"

September 15: Fulton: "Gospels in Glass: Stained Glass Windows in Missouri Churches"

September 17: Kirkwood: "Harry and Bess: Missouri's Greatest Love Story"

September 29: Neosho: "Everyday Life in Civil War Missouri"

October 1: St. Joseph: "Arsenic as a Nineteenth-Century Beauty Aid (with a Little Murder on the Side)"
Independence: "The Railroad History of West Central Missouri"

October 3: Moberly: "Memories of Missouri: George Caleb Bingham & His Students"

October 6: Webb City: "There's More to Missouri Cemeteries than Burials"

Independence: "Covering the Dead: The Indian War of 1812 in the Missouri Territory"

October 10: Clinton: "The Railroad History of West Central Missouri"

October 15: Stockton: "French Creole Music and Language from the Missouri Mines: 1723-2008"

El Dorado Springs: "French Creole Music and Language from the Missouri Mines: 1723-2008"

October 17: Hannibal: "French Creole Music and Language from the Missouri Mines: 1723-2008"

Eldon: "Memories of Missouri: George Caleb Bingham & His Students"

October 18: Salisbury: "The Frown of Fortune: George Sibley and Breach of Promise on the American Frontier"

October 24: St. Charles: "The Frown of Fortune: George Sibley and Breach of Promise on the American Frontier"

For more information, call (573) 882-7083 or e-mail shsfo@umssystem.edu.

MoHiP's *Lion of the West*, September 25

The Society's Missouri History in Performance (MoHiP) Theatre will present James Kirke Paulding's *Lion of the West* at Thespian Hall in Boonville, September 25. Cathy Barton and Dave Para will begin the evening at 7:30 p.m. with music of the period and the performance will start at 8:00 p.m.

In 1831 Paulding—friend of Washington Irving and author in his own right—won a competition for the best play to portray an American character. The play, *Lion of the West*, would undergo many alterations and name changes, but one thing remained: it introduced Colonel Nimrod Wildfire to the American public. Wildfire was based on David Crockett, congressman and frontiersman, and *Lion* became a popular theatrical offering across the country.

Paulding often “borrowed” descriptions and text from other authors, and in the case of the play, Paulding was influenced by Timothy Flint, a minister who lived near St. Charles, Missouri, and who described the characters and the speech of Missourians of the time. Paulding's Kentucky screamer in the form of Wildfire was just as likely influenced by a Missouri boatman.

Not everyone appreciated Paulding's interpretation of the Western character. An English military officer saw *Lion* in 1832 and was impressed by the play, but heard rumors about the response to Wildfire in a St. Louis production:

“I was informed that the effect of his performance in the West was such as to excite a strong feeling against him; and so incensed the ‘half-horse, half-alligator boys,’ the yellow flowers of the forest,’ as they call themselves, that they threatened ‘to row him up Salt River,’ if he ventured a repetition of the objectionable performance.”

Lion of the West is a lively, loud, and fast-moving farce complete with backwoods heroes, damsels in distress, and English snobbery. Modern audiences will have a chance to see what Missourians laughed with—and at—onstage in St. Louis, 1832.



Fun with Art Explorers

Art Curator Joan Stack portrayed Eliza Thomas Bingham, wife of artist George Caleb Bingham, as she guided participants through the Society's Art Gallery on July 11.

The event began as the group packed a suitcase for a trip back to the nineteenth century. Everyone then entered the Bingham Room to discuss how individual pictures provide windows on the past. After naming many of the animals that people in *Watching the Cargo* might have encountered, the kids sorted “Beanie Babies” into native and non-native Missouri species. Participants then examined Bingham's allegorical painting, *The Thread of Life*, and discussed its probable relationship to the birth of his son. This topic led to examining replica baby items from the nineteenth century, and the group enjoyed hands-on experience with replica dolls and money from the period, authentic marbles, and a framed three-dollar bill produced in Missouri during the Civil War. After looking at *Order No. 11*, each participant held an actual Civil War bullet and compared the likeness of President Lincoln on a U.S. penny with Bingham's portrayal of a bust of Lincoln in the background of his portrait of artist Vinnie Ream, the sculptress of the bust. Finally, each child was given a cardboard telescope that they decorated with stickers of animals and objects that might have been seen in Bingham's time. The event ended with a discussion of evening recreation during the 1800s, long before television, computers, or i-pods. Lights were dimmed, and Stack entertained guests with standard nineteenth-century entertainment—storytelling. The happy group went home with goodie bag treats.





NHDMO contestants and supporters at the state meeting.

Missouri Students Excel at National Contest

Fifty-five of Missouri's best students represented the state as delegates to the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest June 14-18 at the University of Maryland, College Park. They competed against more than 2,400 students from around the country. Seven Missouri entries—eight students—made it to the final round at NHD. Missouri had one second-place winner, two Special Prize winners, and two Outstanding State Entry winners. In all, twenty-four of Missouri's thirty-three participating entries placed in the top half of all national participants, with another one within one place of that mark. Regardless of how students ranked at NHD, they should be extremely proud of their accomplishment.

Kassidy Murphy of Risco R-2 Schools, Risco, took the silver medal (second place) for her Junior Individual Documentary, "Formula for a First Lady." Michael Murphy and Melanie Tipton were her sponsors. Mark Castera from Rockhurst High School in Kansas City won the American Labor History Special Prize for his Senior Historical Paper, "Samuel Gompers: The New Face of Labor." Christopher Elmore was his sponsor. Finally, Chi Zeng of Clayton High School in Clayton won the Legacy Award from the Creativity Foundation for outstanding service, creative promise, model student behavior, and participation in NHD. Zeng competed with Dee Luo in the Senior Web Site category with the entry "Henry Ford: Grabbing History by the Wheel." Janet Baldwin was their sponsor.

Missouri had six additional entries qualifying for National History Day finals this year:

- Rachel Hauser, Holy Infant School, Ballwin, teacher Bob Stevens, placed 4th with her Junior Web Site, "Marie Curie: Researcher and Role Model."
- Eric Peer, Home School, Carthage, teacher Julie Peer, placed 7th in the Junior Individual Exhibit category for his entry, "Julia Lathrop and Better Babies." Eric was also honored with the Outstanding Entry for Missouri in the junior division.
- Emily Duncan, Liberty Junior High School, Liberty, teacher Inga Nordstrom-Kelly, placed 7th in the Junior Web Site category for her project, "Rebel Rose: A Life of Espionage and Secrecy."
- Bradley Dice, Liberty Junior High School, Liberty, teacher Inga Nordstrom-Kelly, placed 10th in the Senior Web Site category for his project, "Buckminster Fuller: The Actions and Legacies of a Comprehensive Anticipatory Design Scientist." Dice also won recognition as Outstanding Entry for Missouri in the senior division.
- Ashwath Kumar, Smithton Middle School, Columbia, teacher Tom Prater, placed 12th with his Junior Individual Performance, "Jawaharlal Nehru: His Influence on India Today."
- Brittany Golden and Andrew Schesser, Carthage High School, Carthage, teacher Kathleen Swift, placed 14th in the Senior Group Performance category for their project, "The Actions of Annie White Baxter: A Lasting Legacy for Women's Suffrage."



Eric Peer of Carthage sets up his exhibit at the national competition.



National History Day in Missouri has joined the social networking sphere with a fan page on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account, become a fan, look over the updates and pictures from the national contest, and receive information throughout the contest year. From your Facebook account, do a search for National History Day in Missouri to find the fan page.

August

August 18 7:00 p.m., Daniel Boone Regional Library, Columbia **Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem in Boone County**

Axe murderer in Columbia! Notorious sex survey! Law student shoots engineering student! Find out more about these infamous events in Boone County's past with Mary Beth Brown, manuscript specialist at WHMC-Columbia.

September

September 1 7:00 p.m., Hughes Senior Center, Lebanon **Civil War in the Ozarks**

Join the discussion as John F. Bradbury Jr., interim associate director of WHMC-Rolla and coauthor of *The Civil War's First Blood: Missouri, 1854-1861*, shares the local experience of an American conflict. Public program sponsored by the Laclede County Genealogical Society.

September 12 1:00 p.m., WHMC-Columbia, 23 Ellis Library, MU Campus **Stories from the Heart: Missouri's African American Heritage**

Master storyteller Gladys Coggs well will read selections from her new book, *Stories from the Heart: Missouri's African American Heritage*. Published by the University of Missouri Press, this collection of family and traditional tales brings to print down-home stories about African American life.

September 13 2:00-3:30 p.m., Museum of Art and Archaeology, Pickard Hall, MU Campus **The Corps of Discovery**

The Society and WHMC-Columbia in partnership with the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology present a Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery reenactment. Actors portray Reuben and John Field, soldiers in the historic western expedition, complete with period costumes and material. Designed for children grades 1-8 with accompanying adults. Registration required. Please call the Museum of Art and Archaeology at (573) 882-9498.

September 17 4:30-8:00 p.m., University of Missouri Campus **MU Campus Gallery and Culture Crawl**

Excellent exhibitions and delightful activities at the Museum of Art & Archaeology, the Society, the George Caleb Bingham Gallery, the Museum of Anthropology, and MSA/GPC Craft Studio. Enter to win cool prizes through the postcard and stamp program. Cards are available at <http://mugallerycrawlmissouri.edu> or any Crawl location.

September 17-18 St. Joseph Museum, St. Joseph **Document Conservation Workshop**

This hands-on workshop led by Claudia Powell, document conservation specialist at WHMC-Columbia, will be given three times over two days: 1:30-3:30 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. on September 17 and 9:30-11:30 a.m. on September 18. The training will address paper preservation techniques. Registration fee is \$10 and includes a take-home kit. For more information or to register, call the St. Joseph Museum/University of Missouri Extension at (816) 232-8471 or (816) 279-1691.

September 19, 2009 - March 2010 **Twentieth-Century Missouri Portraits: From Famous to Familiar**

Portraits of and by Missourians make up this exhibition of rarely seen artworks from the Society's permanent collection. See likenesses of Mark Twain, Harry Truman, and Thomas Hart Benton, as well as poignant images of everyday Missourians.

September 25 7:30 p.m., Thespian Hall, Boonville **Lion of the West**

A MoHiP Theatre production. Please see page 4 of this newsletter for program information.

October

October 11 2:00-4:00 p.m., George A. Spiva Center for the Arts, Joplin **Thomas Hart Benton: Missouri Storyteller**

Historian and Society trustee Virginia Laas will host a reception for a special exhibition of works by renowned Missouri artist Thomas Hart Benton from the Society's collection. This exhibition of lithographs, watercolors, and drawings about Missouri and Missourians will feature a drawing owned by the late Joplin attorney Henry Warten. Curator Joan Stack will talk about Benton, his influential style, and the stories of Missouri portrayed in his artworks.

October 21 5:00-7:00 p.m., **Celebrate Missouri Day through the Missouri Heritage Readers**

Established in 1915, Missouri Day is set aside to study Missouri history, its people, and places. What better way to celebrate than with the *Missouri Heritage Readers*, a 27-book series under the editorial direction of Rebecca Schroeder. Authors will be on hand to sign books, discuss their personal writing experiences, and explain how each volume celebrates an aspect of our rich cultural heritage



This cartoon by Chester Gould will be a part of The Golden Age of the Comic Strip exhibition.

October 23 7:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, Columbia **Trivia Contest to Support NHD in Missouri**

Enjoy a night of trivia as WHMC-Columbia hosts a competition with great prizes to support National History Day in Missouri. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., the table fee is \$80, and teams should number no more than eight players. For more information or to register, contact (573) 882-7231.

October 27 6:00-8:00 p.m. **Trick or Treat through Missouri History**

Visit the Society for a unique Halloween adventure! Kids can wear costumes as they trick or treat through the halls, stopping at various stations to find out about Missouri bats, bones, ghosts, and more. Enjoy craft activities, learn about the spooky side of history, and fill a "goodie bag" with treats. In partnership with the MSA/GPC Craft Studio. Free for kids of all ages.

October 31 Tiger Hotel, Columbia **Annual Meeting and Miz Jane**

Bring a friend to this year's annual meeting, to include preservation and exhibit workshops, a MoHiP Theatre performance with music, recognition of recent Missouri history research and scholarship, a silent auction, and midday meal in the beautiful Tiger Hotel ballroom. For a full listing of the day's events, see page 1.

November

November 3 7:00 p.m., Walters-Boone County Museum, Columbia **Civil War in Mid-Missouri through Letters and Diaries**

William T. Stolz, assistant director of reference at WHMC-Columbia, will share what can be found in journals and correspondence of ordinary Missourians as they recorded their extraordinary experiences during the American Civil War. The program is sponsored by the Genealogical Society of Central Missouri.

November 7, 2009 - May 2010 **The Golden Age of the Comic Strip**

The 1930s-1950s were vibrant years for the production of newspaper comics, and this exhibition will showcase the Society's rarely seen examples, many of which were collected by the well-known former editor of the *Mexico Ledger*, L. Mitchell White, and his son, Robert M. Works by some of the greatest artists of the genre will be displayed, with original pen and ink drawings for classic strips such as *Mutt and Jeff*, *Little Orphan Annie*, and *Blondie*, and cartoons from the workshop of Walt Disney.

November 11 4:00-6:00 p.m. with reception following, Jesse Wrench Auditorium, Memorial Union, University of Missouri Campus **Mormon Passage through Missouri**

Fred E. Woods, the Richard L. Evans Professor of Religious Understanding at Brigham Young University, will deliver the lecture "Mormon Passage through Missouri." Professor Woods has a special interest in pioneer migration. This event is sponsored by the Society and the MU Department of History.



The Truman Family (1952) by Greta Kempton will be featured in the exhibit Twentieth-Century Missouri Portraits.

Richard Drace White: Object of a Quest

WHMC-Columbia has gone global! Since the beginning of 2009, the reference staff has received e-mails or been visited by researchers from as far away as Australia, China, Colombia, England, Germany, Japan, Scotland, and Singapore. The topics of interest are as diverse as the cultures themselves and range from T. S. Eliot to Laura Ingalls Wilder to family genealogy. A most-interesting recent research project has been that of Charles Drace-Francis of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mr. Drace-Francis initially contacted WHMC-Columbia via e-mail in 2001 to inquire about the Richard Drace White (1877-1953), Papers, 1895-1953, which comprise an unpublished autobiography, correspondence, and photographs of White, who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and spent forty years in the U.S. Navy. White, a native of Danville, Missouri, served in the Spanish-American War and World War I, during which he was severely wounded in a shipboard explosion while commanding the *Orizaba*. At various stages of his career, White worked as a naval attaché at embassies in Paris, Rome, and Vienna before retiring in 1934. With the outbreak of World War II, White was recalled to duty and served as the U.S. Navy attaché to Lisbon, Portugal, and Madrid, Spain. White retired a second time with the rank of rear admiral. He died in November 1953 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. An interesting sidenote is that White's sister, Sarah, married Theodore Dreiser, novelist and author of *An American Tragedy*.

While serving in Lisbon, White befriended David and Norah Francis. David Francis was the British consul in Lisbon and, later, in Barcelona. In 1943, with the birth of Charles Francis, White was asked by the family to serve as the boy's godfather. Later, about 1949-50, Admiral White asked Norah Francis to incorporate Drace into Charles's surname; thus he became Charles Drace-Francis.

Drace-Francis had long suspected White might be his father because of his taking the Drace name and White's strong interest in his upbringing, but not until a DNA test in August 2008 did the suspicions become more acute. The test, taken by Drace-Francis and his brother, Martin, showed a 96 percent probability they did not share the same father. Armed with this new information, Charles decided to visit WHMC-Columbia.

In March of this year, Drace-Francis traveled four thousand miles from Scotland on a quest to solve a mystery—the identity of his father. Eight years removed from his initial inquiry, Charles arrived in Columbia to examine the collection

and its contents. The box containing the forty-two folders is unassuming, a standard white records center box; however, the material is the true treasure, possibly holding the answer to his search.

Though the autobiography did not mention Charles or the Francis family, the correspondence included two references to Charles in letters White wrote to his niece, Grace Vogt, in the late 1940s. The first letter, dated November 18, 1947, mentions the writer's recent visit with his godson in London, "I saw my English godson while I was in London the last visit. He is a pretty fine boy." Drace-Francis vividly recalled the visit and remembered White was "very keen on my improvement." A second letter, written January 21, 1949, from Morocco, held the following passage: "Since Carlotta [White's first wife] and I failed to give the world a namesake to me, I have to depend on my family and friends to fill the gap. I am fast making up the lapse. I think I told you I have one in an English boy. But my name that they gave him is only one of his four names, so I only have a quarter interest in him (except he is my godson)."

While neither letter contained evidence proving the relationship, the contents of White's 1942 daybook was promising. Entries in the book show White met Norah Francis several times during the spring and summer of that year. David Francis had recently been transferred to Barcelona, a dangerous post at the time due to the pro-German sentiment of the Spanish government. The last entry mentioning Norah Francis is dated June 16, 1942, and indicates White had dinner with her in Estoril, Portugal. This date is exactly nine months before Charles's birth on March 15, 1943.

The papers offered additional clues, though they did not, as in the case of many searches, provide a definitive answer to the mystery. Drace-Francis is now trying to establish whether there are surviving male descendants of Richard Drace White's siblings, in hopes of finding a possible DNA match.

On his last day in Columbia, Drace Francis presented a gold pen and pencil set inscribed with Richard Drace White's initials to be added to the collection. The set had been given to Norah Francis in 1952 by Admiral White, who would die the next year, as a memento for her son.

After completing his research, Drace-Francis spent three days on a driving tour of Missouri, visiting White's hometown of Danville, along with stops in Fulton, Hannibal, Montgomery City, St. Charles, and St. Louis. In a recent e-mail, Drace-Francis commented, "I found WHMC extremely efficient and the filing and cataloging were exemplary so that it was very easy to find one's way about the archives."



Richard Drace White in 1950

TWA Skyliner: Digitizing a legacy

Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City has undertaken microfilming and digitization of more than 15,000 pages of the Trans World Airline (TWA) *Skyliner* magazine, which contains not just the history of TWA, but the whole airline industry. Filming has been completed from 1940 to the last issue in 2002, and with the help of friends loaning missing issues, the 1920s and 1930s will be filmed soon. Preservation microfilming of *Skyliner* assures that both the information and the original magazines are available for the future.

Through the generosity of many donors, over \$7,300 has been raised to digitize the microfilmed *Skyliner*. Issues from 1936, the 1990s, and the 2000s have been scanned and placed online at www.umkc.edu/WHMCKC/; the 1960s will follow shortly. At \$2 a page, digitizing is expensive. Selected early years will be scanned until the money is secured to finish the whole series—approximately \$20,000 will be needed. Individuals and groups are invited to sponsor the digitization of an issue, month, or year of the *Skyliner*.

Beyond the gift of money is the important contribution of magazine issues donated or loaned. A number of supporters and organizations have been most helpful, including the Platte County Historical and Genealogical Society's TWA Museum, the American Airlines C. R. Smith Museum, Marie Trainer of the TWA Museum, and especially Ona Gieschen, who has coordinated locating missing issues and soliciting of funds.

Before its publication, *TWA Skyliner* had many precursors. Transcontinental Air Transport's *TAT Plane Talk* was first published on January 1, 1929. A four-page monthly publication, *Plane Talk* was intended to inform the traveling public, TAT stockholders, and employees of the sophistication and safety of its operation. Each issue was printed in the TAT company colors of red, white, and blue with many charts, maps, and pictures.

In December 1929 *TAT Plane Talk* became *TAT Maddux Plane Talk* but was apparently discontinued after April 1930.

The next airline publication was a 5.5" by 8.5" pamphlet with a question mark on the cover. The editorial page carried the following message from the Transcontinental and Western Air President Richard W. Robbins:

"We desire to take this opportunity on the occasion of the first appearance of our house organ, to extend the thanks of the management of Transcontinental & Western Air to our personnel from coast to coast and from the Great Lakes to the Southwest for the splendid efforts in giving TWA the position and standing it holds today.

We want to take this opportunity also, to congratulate our personnel for the universal interest that was shown in the publication of this house organ. We want it to be a 'meeting ground' for members of the TWA family

who do not have frequent opportunity to meet and discuss mutual problems.

My best wishes of the success of this publication."

The first number was proclaimed as "A Monthly Publication by and for the employees of TRANSCONTINENTAL & WESTERN AIR." The issue was not dated but appears to be June 1932 and carried a "What's in a name" contest offering a cash prize. Submitted names for this "house organ" included *Air and Wind Men*; *Air-O-Gust*; *Airy Lines*; *Hi-Stuff*; *Slipstream*; *Sputters*; *Tail Wind Advocate*; *Thoughts, Wits, and Airways*; *TWA Ever Thus*; and *Twaddle*.

Three men split the prize money for *Line Squalls*, which appeared from July 1, 1932, with a lone airplane gracing the front page until October 1, 1935, when the publication became *SPEED* and placed a symbolic, speedy DC-2 plane



Cover of the April 1936 TWA Skyliner

on the cover.

Finally, *TWA Skyliner* 1 came off the press April 1936 and, with only two interruptions, continued until 2002. For the years 1946 and 1947 the paper was known as *Starliner* and between September 1970 and April 1974, it was published as *TWA TODAY*.

The final issues of the *TWA Skyliner* were published in 2001 and 2002, during and after the merger of TWA with American Airlines.

In many ways President Robbins's goal was achieved: the *TWA Skyliner* was, and in its new online form continues to be, "a 'meeting ground' for members of the TWA family."

If you would like to support digitization of the *TWA Skyliner*, contact Ona Gieschen, TWA Seniors Club Historian, PO Box 901439, Kansas City, MO 64190. Checks should be made to WHMC-KC with "Skyliners Fund" in the memo line. All donations are tax deductible.

Country fair souvenirs

In one fashion or another, the carnivals, country fairs, and festivals underway across southern Missouri this season have origins in the last half of the nineteenth century. Important dates on the calendars of rural residents, country fairs have an ancient tradition associated with public gatherings for important liturgical, civic, and seasonal events. Country fairs as they developed in largely rural North America tended to be annual summer or fall harvest celebrations, with the added appeal of “farmers” markets, extended holidays, and public entertainment. Sponsored and promoted by formal and informal volunteer associations of rural farm families, stockmen, implement dealers, and merchants, fairs were agricultural and pastoral in emphasis and identified with distinct agricultural regions or civil districts. County seats became the usual location, but regional trade towns have also promoted “county” fairs. Large and small fairs have had common themes, but each is a unique expression of rural life and local culture.

In the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Rolla collecting area, such events began in the late nineteenth century, although Cape Girardeau and Greene County hosted agricultural exhibitions or country fairs before the Civil War. Some developed in the principal trade towns out of associations styled “agricultural and mechanical,” while others derived from stock breeding groups and the racing of fast horses. As small family farms emerged in rural areas, the competitive spirit extended to the judging of livestock, agricultural and horticultural products, and the products of the domestic and culinary arts. Premiums or prizes for best-of-show in various categories brought awards ranging from ribbons to cash. Premium lists, first published to stimulate participation in the contests and attendance at the fairs, gave rise to a common bit of printed ephemera from the events—souvenir booklets combining programs of activities and lists of premiums, subsidized by local advertising.

WHMC-Rolla collections represent country fairs in fourteen counties in southern Missouri. Souvenir booklets such as those from the Carthage Fair and Horse Show and Golden Valley Horse Show indicate origins of the events in horse-racing circles, while those from Belle, Cuba, and Pleasant

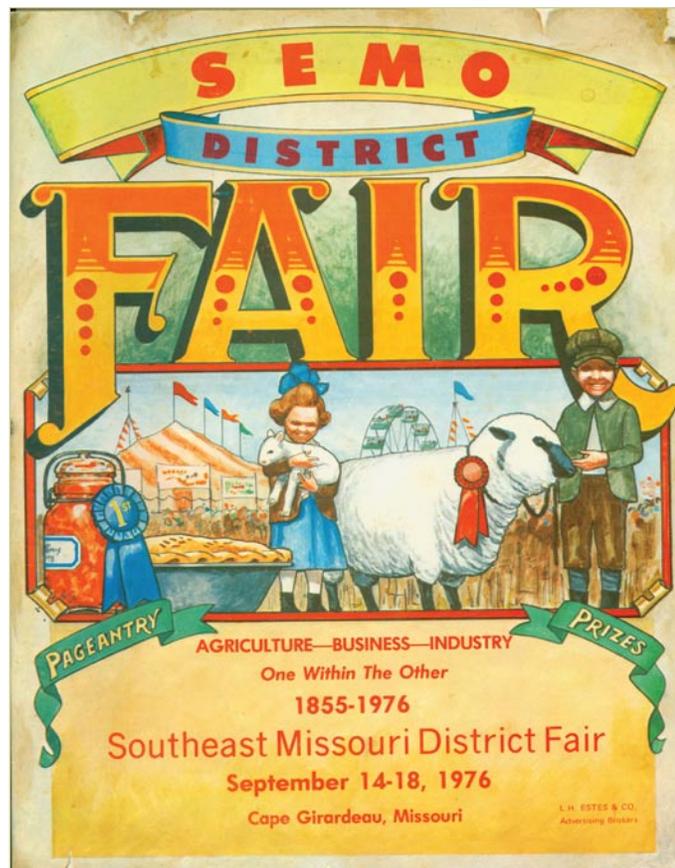
Valley are examples of fairs at places other than county seats. Greene County’s Ozark Empire Fair, Cape Girardeau’s Southeast Missouri District Fair, and Howell County’s Heart of the Ozarks Fair and Stock Show developed into much larger regional celebrations. In the Bootheel, the American Legion Fair at Caruthersville grew significant enough to draw state and national figures such as Harry S. Truman, a fair visitor as senator, vice president, and in 1945 as president. In 1951 the souvenir booklet included a reproduction of Truman’s letter of regret that he was not able to attend. In 1956 Emmett Kelly, a native of Texas County famous as the circus clown Weary Willie, headed the bill and graced the cover of the souvenir

program of the Old Settlers Reunion and Texas County Fair.

Souvenir booklets also reflect changes in local fairs in more recent times and the last days of the tradition in some cases. Auto racing and tractor pulls have replaced horse racing and pulling contests in most places, and entertainers are more likely to be country and pop celebrities rather than local fiddlers, bluegrass players, or brass bandmen. The agricultural emphasis of fairs has diminished along with the small family farm, but the pastoral element remains strong in the stockraising counties. The trend seems to be for successful fairs to become larger, more regionally oriented, and sponsored in part by municipalities and local governments. Smaller fairs have always struggled financially; many have lapsed and been revived, or

are now defunct. This year, 2009, twelve counties in southern Missouri will not stage countywide fairs. In some cases they have been subsumed by larger regional events, but elsewhere they are the result of shifting demographics, the high cost of public events, and the changing character of rural life. If the trend continues, the once-common souvenir booklets and printed ephemera of fairs big and small are ever more significant records of local history and country life.

For further description of these and other WHMC-Rolla collections concerning seasonal events and recreational pursuits in southern Missouri, see Recreation and Sports in the broad topical categories on our Web page: <http://web.mst.edu/~whmcinfo/topics/>.



Staff and collections support Pruitt-Igoe documentary



This 1972 photo shows the rubble of one section of the Pruitt-Igoe housing project, as the rest awaited destruction. The complex became symbolic of failed urban renewal.

Brian Woodman, who holds a doctorate in film and media, has been a staff member at Western Historical Manuscript Collection-St. Louis since 2008, and in that time has largely focused on two significant collections: the papers of Laura X, founder of the Berkeley, California, Women's History Research Center and National Clearinghouse on Marital and Date Rape, and the collection of three-term (1981-1993) St. Louis mayor Vince Schoemehl. Woodman has also supplied technical expertise for the WHMC-SL video oral history collection.

Recently, Brian began work as a producer on a video documentary about Pruitt-Igoe, the failed St. Louis area housing project. Working with director Chad Freidrichs and coproducer Paul Fehler, Brian has utilized multiple collections from WHMC-SL for research into the topic, gathering information and images from such diverse sources as the

Arthur Proetz and Paul Preisler collections and the records of architect George McCue and journalist Selwyn Pepper. In addition to images of Pruitt-Igoe, photographs of "slum" areas and urban renewal activities throughout the metropolitan area have been accessed, as well as riverside Hooverville shanties that are emblematic of the long-standing history of poverty and poor housing conditions in parts of St. Louis.

When planners built Pruitt-Igoe in St. Louis in 1954, proponents heralded it as a triumph of modern architecture and the post-WWII federalist intent to improve the lives of underprivileged citizens. But by the time explosive charges destroyed the complex in 1972, Pruitt-Igoe represented a great failure in American public housing and urban renewal. To this day, it remains a controversial symbol of bureaucratic

inefficiency, systemic racism, and the struggle to solve problems of poverty in America.

The documentary explores the social, economic, historical, cultural, and architectural issues of housing complexes, with focus on Pruitt-Igoe's initial legislation, poor quality and inefficiencies of construction, and the reactionary and scattershot approach to its problems. Brian hopes WHMC-SL collections used in the film will increase understanding of the problems of public housing in the past and contribute to finding future solutions. He suggests that further research will determine public housing efforts are prone to fail without a significant societal commitment to affordable housing for all. Finally, Brian would like to express his appreciation to the full staff at WHMC-SL for their support of this important documentary.

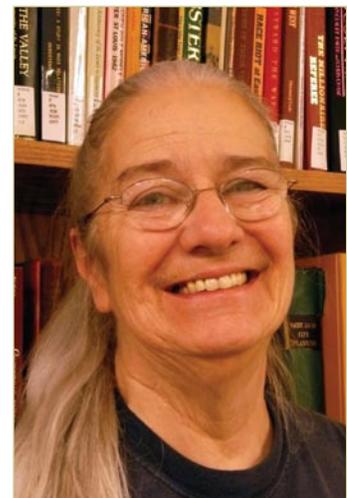
Staff profile: Susan Beattie

WHMC-SL manuscript specialist Susan Beattie is a native of the St. Louis area. She had a successful career in advertising before closing her small agency to return to school as a nontraditional undergraduate student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis Department of History. Beattie became familiar with WHMC resources as a contributor to Katharine Corbett's *In her Place: A Guide to St. Louis Women's History*, after working extensively with several documentary records, particularly the League of Women Voters Collection.

Beattie furthered her studies with a master's degree in history and museum studies from UMSL. Collaborating with State Historical Society of Missouri colleague

Nancy McIlvaney, the two worked for UMSL for several years on a museum development plan for Jefferson Barracks, a historic military installation in St. Louis County. Beattie's extensive background in advertising and marketing was a valuable tool in writing successful grant proposals and providing contracts for support in funding the Jefferson Barracks project through the Missouri Veterans Commission, the Missouri National Guard, and the United States Air Force.

"I thought, as an UMSL grad and researcher myself, that I really knew WHMC," Beattie said. But, she admits, "I'm constantly surprised at the ways in which our collections can be used."





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