

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri and Western Historical Manuscript Collection



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MoHiP Theatre tackles our difficult past with *Song of the Middle River*

On the evening of Friday, February 6, nearly 400 people gathered in Boonville's Thespian Hall to see the latest MoHiP production, *Song of the Middle River*. The play, by Thomas Pawley III, Lincoln University professor emeritus, tells the story of Celia, a young slave woman who killed her master, Callaway County slave owner Robert Newsom, in 1855 after enduring his sexual abuse and control for many years. Court records document facts of the murder and Celia's conviction and subsequent hanging by local authorities.

Francis Blackchild, playwright and George Washington Carver fellow at the University of Missouri, directed the presentation using a reader's theatre format. Celia was played by the gifted young actress and University of Missouri

Department of Theatre student Mallory Raven-Ellen Backstrom. Distinguished actor and MU professor Clyde Ruffin held two roles; first, Josh the Griot, who introduced the story through song that wove wisdom and foretold disaster, and George, the love interest of Celia, whose honorable and forthright affection moved her toward attempts to end Newsom's sexual exploitation, which had already brought her two children and an elevated yet unenviable position within slave ranks and among white women in the household.

Veteran newscaster, published historian, and Society trustee Bob Priddy admirably took on the role of the frightening and frightened Newsom. KBIA radio producer Darren Hellwege played

William Powell, Newsom's neighbor, who threatened Celia into confession. Phebe Lauffer, Paige Sommerer, Steve Robertson, and Andrew Crawford played Newsom's adult children while Libbi Gordon read stage direction.

As part of the performance, talented Boonville musicians Cathy Barton and Dave Para performed lively and beautiful African American spirituals and freedom songs.

The next MoHiP Theatre production, *Lion of the West*, will be held in Thespian Hall on Friday, September 25, as part of the Missouri chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association's annual celebration. Written by James Kirke Paulding in 1831, the play was adapted by James Hackett during the nineteenth century and, more recently, by MoHiP Artistic Director Mary Barile.



photo by Meredith Wilson

Clyde Ruffin, Mallory Backstrom, and Bob Priddy perform *Song of the Middle River* at Thespian Hall in Boonville

From the Executive Director



The sharp downturn in the economy may well presage a new era for organizations such as The State Historical Society of Missouri. Nearly all indicators suggest we are in for some lean years that will carry funding challenges from limited resources. Within this context, the Society is aware of its position as trustee of the state, with the task to preserve the history and share the culture of Missouri. We need the support of our members as we move forward communicating our message to foundations, granting institutions, University and civic leaders, and state government. Your first opportunity to get involved comes this month, with Map Day, February 25, at the State Capitol.

Newly elected Representative Chris Kelly (District 24) suggested we arrange a map exhibit in the third floor Capitol Rotunda to more widely share samples of our holdings. Representative Kelly will introduce a resolution in the House to open the exhibit and proclaim the day "Map Day in Missouri." The Capitol exhibit will present an opportunity to learn more

about Missouri and the history of the Middle West. We hope you can attend and urge you to make the most of this event by visiting your legislators to engage their focus on the Society's valuable collections, the need for improved preservation, and the push for greatly increased access through cooperative efforts, new programs, greater outreach, and the possibility of a new facility. Now is the time to contact your representative and senator to let them know how important the Society is to you and the value you place on our services, grant programs, events, and publications. If you can't come to Map Day, please write or call your legislator to show your support for the event and ask their consideration of the Society as the budget process is finalized during this legislative session.

I will be at the Capitol from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Map Day; please come by to visit. The future of the State Historical Society depends on the active advocacy of members and supporters like you.

—Gary R. Kremer

State Historical Society News

Society receives Multiple Grants

The State Historical Society was recently awarded three grants that will improve many

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services and increase access to collections.

"Commemorating the Civil War in Missouri" is a \$25,894 project that will digitize and make available approximately 1,000 Missouri newspaper articles covering the Civil War and 5,224 manuscript records describing life in Missouri during the war. These newspaper pieces, diaries, and letters from the joint collection of The State Historical Society

of Missouri and Western Historical Manuscript Collection will offer researchers and students valuable first-person accounts of events and the response of Missourians during the conflict, and provide insight into our state's experience of the Civil War.

"The Digital Access to History Project" (\$60,015) will allow purchase of a digital asset management system, server, and the storage equipment

needed to host digital images, audio, and video files from the joint collection of the Society and WHMC. This project will benefit researchers, historians, genealogists, students, and the general public interested in learning about Missouri's cultural heritage through the study and research of art, manuscripts, newspapers, and oral histories by creating online access to digitized primary source materials, especially newspapers. The Society holds the largest collection of historic newspapers in the state. Researchers across Missouri and throughout the world will be able to review material and draw connections between records from different sources, and create new research opportunities in digital humanities to achieve a greater understanding of Missouri's culture and contribution to the historical record.

Finally, the Society has received a grant of \$10,000 from the Missouri Humanities Council for the Missouri History Speakers' Bureau. The grant allows the Speakers' Bureau—currently offering 50 professional speakers



Music teacher Susan Altomari leads the children of Robert E. Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School in Columbia in singing the school song as part of an assembly honoring the Missouri composer John William "Blind" Boone on February 5. The Society's display about the musician was at the school for a week and served as a backdrop for the event.

on 75 historical topics—to schedule 33 programs for adult, nonprofit groups throughout the state at no cost to host organizations. These programs explore the critical role of Missouri and Missourians in the panorama of American history, challenge myths and stereotypes, build bridges of understanding among diverse peoples, and offer a more inclusive history for the citizens of the state.

2009 Brownlee Award Applications Invited

The State Historical Society of Missouri is proud to support the recording of history through resources of the Richard S. Brownlee Fund. The Society invites individuals, local historical societies, museums, and both governmental and nongovernmental agencies that document the history of Missouri and its people to apply for grants by June 30, 2009.

The Richard S. Brownlee Fund supports diverse research, documentation, and publication efforts. Past projects aided by Brownlee Fund grants have ranged from the *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* to journal articles, doctoral dissertations, oral history programs, and support for traveling exhibits.

The Brownlee Fund honors the dedication to history shown by the former executive director of The State Historical Society of Missouri. Under Brownlee's twenty-five-year leadership, the Society's holdings of newspapers, reference materials, and manuscripts tripled in size, and the art collection grew with new acquisitions of paintings from Missouri masters George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton, as well as increased holdings of editorial cartoons and a contemporary art collection.

The Society awards multiple Brownlee grants each year. Residency in the state of Missouri is not required.

Brownlee Fund applications can be found on the Society's Web site, shs.umsystem.edu/awards/brownlee/brownleeaward.shtml, and should be completed and returned to the Society no later than June 30, 2009. Winners will receive their awards at the Society's annual meeting in Columbia on October 30-31, 2009.

Oklahoma Conference Call for Papers

The Thirty-first Mid-America Conference on History is welcoming proposals for papers and sessions to be presented at its meeting, September 17-19, 2009, at the Holiday Inn and College of Continuing Education in Norman, Oklahoma.

Proposals should include a paragraph about the content of the submitted paper, and can include graduate works or ideas for overview sessions. The proposal deadline is May 30, 2009.

The Thirty-first Mid-America Conference on History is sponsored by the University of Oklahoma Department of History. To submit a proposal, please contact Robert Griswold, coordinator, at rgriswold@ou.edu, or by post at the history department, 403-A Dale Tower Hall, Norman, OK 73019. E-mail is the preferred form of correspondence.

E-mail Newsletter Sign-up

In an effort to make our output more eco-friendly and "green," The State Historical Society of Missouri is offering members electronic delivery of the *Missouri Times*. This service will utilize voluntary member participation.

Starting with the May 2009 issue, the *Missouri Times* will be sent to participating members as a small digital file (less than five megabytes) attached to an e-mail message. This file will be compatible with most



Indifference by Thomas Hart Benton

editions of the free Adobe Acrobat Reader program. For members who would prefer not to use an attached file, a link will be included with the e-mail directing readers to a copy of the newsletter available on the Society's Web site. The e-version will be delivered *in lieu of* the normal print newsletter to help reduce waste and increase reader convenience.

To add your name to the list of those who would like to receive the *Missouri Times* digitally, please send an e-mail message to ballewr@umsystem.edu with your name, address, and the e-mail address to which you would like the *Times* delivered. The Society will continue to add members as it receives information, but the deadline to sign up for the digital May 2009 newsletter is April 25, 2009.

Newsweek features Society's Indifference

Thirty-four years after his death, Thomas Hart Benton still manages to court the press with his unique and controversial style. *Newsweek* magazine, in a special edition commemorating the inauguration of Barack Obama as the forty-fourth President of the United States, featured the artist's *Indifference* in a series of essays discussing the impact of Obama's rise to the nation's top

office. The image was one of ten chosen by *Newsweek* that accompanied essays centered on major events in American history, from Jamestown and the founding fathers, to the Civil War, world wars, the civil rights movement, and experiences of the twenty-first century.

Indifference is one part of Benton's eight-painting Year of Peril series, and was a commentary on Pearl Harbor; it and the other seven images were intended as propaganda toward a general call-to-arms for America. In the illustrated Year of Peril pamphlet, distributed in 1942, Benton described *Indifference* thus: "Because some of the inertia of a widely pervasive national sloth and some of the deadening effects of a widespread national habit of ignoring the unprecedented had crept into the minds of those who had the technical defense of America in their hands, young men died and machines were needlessly destroyed before we even knew that War was upon us."

Indifference, along with several paintings from the Year of Peril series, is currently on display in The State Historical Society of Missouri's Main Gallery. The gallery is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Saturdays.

Longtime Society staff member retires

When Ara Kaye joined The State Historical Society of Missouri in 1986, everything was done by hand; there was not a computer or word processor in sight. Having returned to her native Missouri from Vermont only two years previously, Kaye held two jobs: one in the Biscayne Mall and the second at the Society. She worked as a clerk in the Society's newspaper library, filling out 3-by-5-inch note cards in tiny handwriting to keep records of interlibrary loans.

"It was a pain in the you-know-what," Kaye said. But, she added with a smile, "When they brought computers in I got the first one" to handle the database.

The introduction of computers is just one of the many changes Kaye saw during her twenty-two-year tenure at the Society, which ended with her retirement on January 30, 2009. She also worked for two executive directors—the late Jim Goodrich and current director Gary R. Kremer—watched the Society's collections grow in size and scope, and has enjoyed seeing the organization's profile heighten in recent years, owing much to school tours, increased outreach programs, and a rising



Ara Kaye during the retirement celebration on her last day at work, January 29, 2009. Kaye is planning on making a scrapbook of photos taken that day.

interest in genealogy.

Kaye never tired of her job. "I like the people I work with, I like being on campus, and I like picking up trivia from the newspaper," she said. "It's amazing the

variety of information you can find there." While she has helped countless patrons settle estate matters, look for birth parents, or locate legal documentation of their own birth, some stories stand out. One example is the story of Thomas Burton, who late in life revealed that he was also the disappeared Ruskin Louis Friton. With Kaye's help, his daughter, Betty Eckgren, tracked Burton/Friton's family to St. Louis and in 2000 published what could be gleaned from his shrouded past in the book *A Changed Man*.

Meanwhile, Ara has kept busy outside of work. She and her husband, Irwin, are the proud parents of six children—"He wanted two and I wanted four, so he got his two and I got my four," she quipped—and she has dedicated time to researching her family's Saline County roots that center on an inn run by her great-great-grandparents near Arrow Rock in the mid-nineteenth century. She is currently compiling a history of the family cemetery near the inn.

The staff of The State Historical Society of Missouri will certainly miss Ara Kaye; hopefully, she will stop by to chat every now and then.

Cousins reunite during November visit to the Society

Twenty-one years had passed since cousins Kim Baskett of Watsonville, California, and Constance Whippman of London, England, last saw one another. They recently reconnected on a joint mission to uncover their family history and were impressed at the scope and detail found in records at The State Historical Society of Missouri. "We have been so pleased with the friendly and inventive research support of the staff here," said Whippman. Although both were born in California, Constance left the United States forty years ago to marry her English sweetheart. Interestingly, over the years, both women pursued careers in law: Baskett as a commissioner and judicial officer in California, and Whippman as a barrister in London. Their genealogical quest began in August 2008 when Whippman located Baskett through a Google search.

Using the Society's collections, Kim and Constance traced the history of their family back to early pioneer years in Missouri, and even further back to roots in South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. In the reference and newspaper libraries, the cousins found records on family births, deaths, marriages, census information,

obituaries, land ownership, and burial places. They also found published family stories and photographs and a family photo within the Society's image collections. In addition to finding important dates and pictures, Baskett and Whippman determined the historical and cultural context of their family's time in Missouri. A published history of Summersville, Missouri, contained photographs of an ancestor who played on the first

Summersville School girls' basketball team, circa the 1910s. They also learned that their great grandfather had twice served as the town postmaster and that many family members had worked in publishing, journalism, and the law. They confirmed the conflicted history of the family during the Civil War in which members supported both Union and Confederate causes; a



Constance Whippman, left, and Kim Baskett, right, search for family records in the Society's reference library.

bonus discovery was letters published in the *Missouri Historical Review* of a collateral family member who served as a colonel in the Confederate Army. Both women were pleasantly surprised at the role female family members have played in keeping local histories and family stories alive through detailed accounts and published genealogical works.

NHDMO student exhibit travels to Columbia Public Schools

A reproduction of Billy Swift's 2008 NHD exhibit, "Lloyd Gaines: Paving the Way to Integrated Schools," is traveling to middle and junior high schools in the Columbia Public School District in honor of Black History Month. The traveling exhibit is part of a long partnership between MU's Black History Month Committee and the WHMC-Columbia. For six of the last seven years, this project has featured the exhibit of an NHDMO student with an African American history subject.

Billy Swift is a student at Columbia Catholic School who competed in the junior individual exhibit category in 2008. His project won at the regional contest, took second place at the state contest, and competed at the national contest. Billy was also the recipient of two special prizes at the state level: the Local History Prize, presented by Local Records Preservation Program Director Lynn Morrow (Office of Secretary of State), and the Missouri State History Prize, presented by the Missouri State Museum.

Swift's exhibit examined the case of Lloyd Gaines, who applied to University of Missouri Law School in the 1930s and was denied entrance based on race. He then took the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, who ruled that either



Gaines had to be admitted to the Law School or Missouri had to build a school of equal status for African Americans. As Billy said in his process paper: "Gaines' case did not end segregation, but was the first step to integration. States could not afford to have separate schools that were really equal. Later, the Court found that separate could never be equal. Gaines paved the way for equal education."



The state contest is coming: judges and volunteers needed

The State Historical Society of Missouri and Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia proudly continue their sponsorship of the National History Day in Missouri state contest for 2009. Approximately 550 students in grades 6-12 from all over the state will converge on the University of Missouri campus on April 4 to display their historical research projects in various formats. Those who win at the state level will move on to the national competition in Maryland in June.

To run the state contest, the NHDMO staff must have the support of 150 judges and 50 volunteers. Judges should have knowledge of history and/or education or a familiarity with one of the presentation formats, such as drama, speech, communications, video production, or Web site design. Judges are placed in teams that balance knowledge of history with other talents. Additional volunteers can help with registration, selling t-shirts, hospitality, and much more.

For more information, please contact Deborah Luchenbill, state coordinator, at (573) 882-0189 or HistoryDay@umsystem.edu.

2009 National History Day in Missouri Regional Contest Dates

February 21

Region 2 — Kirksville
 Jeff Gall, jgall@truman.edu
 (660) 785-7747
 Kathryn Brammell, brammell@truman.edu, (660) 785-4665

February 27

Region 1 — Maryville
 Tom Spencer, tspence@nwmissouri.edu, (660) 562-1294

Region 8 — Rolla
 Jeff Schramm, schrammj@mst.edu
 (573) 341-4806

February 28

Region 3 — Independence
 Mark Adams, mark.adams@nara.gov
 (816) 268-8236

Region 4 — Jefferson City
 Shelly Croteau, Shelly.Croteau@sos.mo.gov, (573) 751-4303

Region 5 — St. Louis
 Peter Acsay, aacsay@msx.umsi.edu
 (314) 516-5700

March 6

Region 6 — Joplin
 Paul Teverow, Teverow-p@mssu.edu
 (417) 625-3114

March 7

Region 7 — Springfield
 George Hummasti, GHummasti@missouristate.edu, (417) 836-5913

March 13

Region 9 — Cape Girardeau
 Joel Rhodes, jrhodes@semo.edu
 (573) 651-2715

April 4

NHDMO State Contest
 University of Missouri-Columbia

June 14-18

NHD National Contest
 University of Maryland-College Park

February

February 25 1:00-4:00 p.m.
3rd Floor Rotunda, State Capitol, Jefferson City
Map Day in Missouri

Join supporters of the State Historical Society and Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the Capitol as February 25 is declared Map Day in Missouri. Enjoy a unique exhibit of physical, economic, and political maps that visually detail our history, and take the opportunity to meet with legislators, Society Trustees, staff, and members as we work to promote understanding and greater appreciation for Missouri's cultural heritage.



March



March 14 1:00 p.m.
Missouri Heritage Quilts

Interested in learning about the tradition of quilting in Missouri? Quilting historian and author Bettina Havig will provide an informative workshop on the Missouri Heritage Quilt Project. Begun in 1980, the project documents quilts made in Missouri prior to 1900. The presentation will focus on quilts selected for inclusion in a Missouri Heritage Quilts publication and travelling exhibit, and reference additional, notable quilts.

Attendees are invited to bring one or two quilts to the workshop for review and discussion. If you plan to bring a quilt, please call the Society at (573) 882-7083 before March 1. For more information on Bettina Havig, visit <http://www.bettinahavig.com/>

March 17 7:00 p.m.
MoHiP Theatre Development Workshop

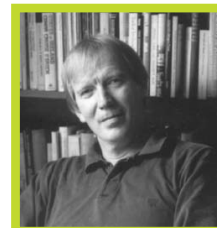
If you love history and theatre, you don't want to miss the Missouri History in Performance Theatre (MoHiP) workshops organized by Society artistic director Mary Barile. The workshops provide new writers, experienced playwrights, and interested readers with an environment for developing new reader's theatre scripts. Practice with performance techniques and public reading of works in progress is encouraged. Workshops are held the third Tuesday of each month and are free and open to the public.

April

April 15-17 University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield
Missouri Conference on History

Join The State Historical Society of Missouri and Missouri State University Department of History in Springfield for the 51st Annual Missouri Conference on History. More than forty researched presentations will be given by historians on topics such as World War I, women's inclusion in the armed forces, modern Germany, medical history, the University of Missouri, and early modern Europe. Twenty-seven different colleges and universities, including twelve in Missouri, are represented on the program, as well as eight historical agencies and three K-12 schools.

Two speakers will be featured at the 2009 conference: Virginia Laas of Missouri Southern State University will present "A Place on the Firing Line or in the Petticoat Brigade: Emily Newell Blair's Search for Women's Voice and Power in Politics" during the Thursday luncheon, and at the dinner that evening University of Missouri's Kerby Miller will give the keynote address "Irish' and 'Scotch-Irish' in Ireland and America: Only 'Two Traditions'?" Teachers, preservationists, public history professionals, and all those interested in history are invited to exchange ideas and promote the study of the past. The Missouri Conference on History is hosted this year by Missouri State University Department of History.



Kerby Miller



Virginia Laas

April 21 7:00 p.m.
MoHiP Theatre Development Workshop

May



May 2 2:00 p.m.
Travels with Keith Crown: A Roundtable Discussion of the Life and Art of an Extraordinary Painter

In conjunction with the exhibit, *Keith Crown: A Retrospective*, The State Historical Society of Missouri invites art lovers and gallery patrons to join the artist's family, friends, and colleagues for a conversation about his life as a painter, teacher, and arts advocate. Art curator Joan Stack will lead the discussion, as the panel provides insight into Crown's aesthetic philosophy, working methods, and life history. The event will take place in the Society's Main Gallery, and the audience is encouraged to participate by asking questions and sharing observations. This presentation honors Crown's seventy-year career, and, together with the exhibition, is one of several events being held to celebrate the artist's ninetieth birthday on May 27.

April 21 7:00 p.m.
MoHiP Theatre Development Workshop



Gladys Coggswell tells a story to the students of Eugene Field Elementary School in Hannibal.

At the conference, Coggswell spoke about what storytelling means to her and the ways stories can educate and restore memories and well-being. "Storytelling is not just for entertainment, but also for education," she said. For example, "Children [and adults] have a tendency to listen to things presented in story form and to retain the information more if told by story." While Coggswell was recovering from a stroke a few years ago, she explained, others told her stories when she had difficulty talking and recalling past events. "I could listen to stories and it made me feel better."

The conference program was recorded to include in the WHMC-Columbia collection, which holds the papers of Gladys Coggswell and the records of the Missouri Folklore Society. The Coggswell papers consist of correspondence, photographs, clippings, folklore stories, and audio and video recordings of Coggswell's performances. The collection is rich in storytelling materials, yet also contains information on African American history, especially black women's organizations and achievements during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Coggswell has led many workshops, coordinated festivals, and is the founder of By Word of Mouth Storytelling Guild for people interested in preserving and perpetuating the oral tradition of storytelling.

Sponsors for the "African American Stories in Missouri" program were the Missouri Folklore Society, WHMC-Columbia, and The State Historical Society of Missouri, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council, and with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Celebrate Black History Month with storytelling

What is storytelling? What makes a good story? How does storytelling enrich our lives and our culture? How have African American families and communities shared stories? A discussion of these questions is now available in streaming audio clips on the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia Web site, <http://whmc.umsystem.edu/exhibits/stories/index.html>.

Gladys Coggswell is a master storyteller in the Missouri Folk Arts Program, and she recently chaired the session "African American Stories in Missouri" at the annual meeting of the Missouri Folklore Society. The program focused on the significance of stories and storytellers in African American culture and the importance of stories for learning and cultivating shared understanding. It also featured several

contributors to Coggswell's forthcoming book, *Stories from the Heart: Missouri's African American Heritage*. The book will be published by the University of Missouri Press this year.

During the session, Coggswell explained how storytelling is a method to embrace and preserve rich African American oral traditions. Storytelling is a shared experience, not only by families and communities as stories are told and passed down through generations, but also for the listener and the person telling the tale. In the foreword of her book, Coggswell writes, "All those whose stories are recorded here are African Americans, and their stories reflect not only the struggles endured but the resilience, creative spirit, mother wit, strong sense of family and tradition, hard-won wisdom, and humor in victory and defeat that distinguish their people."

WHMC-Columbia News

New Payment Methods Accepted

WHMC-Columbia now accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit card payments for research fees, photocopies, and donations. Researchers interested in paying by credit card should

contact the reference staff at (573) 882-6028 or whmc@umsystem.edu.

Place Name Files Now Online

Know Peculiar? Been to Argyle or Red Bird? Curious about Happy Valley or

Topsy? The Ramsay Place Names Files, 1928-1945, are now available on the WHMC-Columbia Web site, <http://whmc.umsystem.edu/exhibits/ramsay/ramsay.html>. The card file was compiled by students of the late Robert L. Ramsay (1880-1953), University of Missouri

professor of English, and contains information on the origins of names of towns, hamlets, waterways, post offices, schools, and railroad stations located in all 114 Missouri counties. The file is a valuable tool for historians, geographers, genealogists, and general researchers.

The architects of the Asa Beebe Cross family

The Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City is well known for its large collection of materials relating to the built environment, including over 400,000 drawings of Kansas City buildings or designs by Kansas City architects that were built elsewhere. But the range of these records is greater than drawings and includes correspondence and contracts, diaries and notes, photographs and motion picture film, and even the papers of associated family members. One such collection is the Asa Beebe Cross (1826-1894) Papers dating from 1855 to 1940.

Asa Beebe Cross, son of Thomas B. and Millicent Beebe Cross, was born in Camden, New Jersey, on December 9, 1826. Cross moved to Missouri in the 1850s, where he first lived in St. Louis and studied architecture with John Johnston. While in St. Louis, he became associated with Matthew Rippey, who owned and operated a lumber yard. In 1858 Cross relocated to Kansas City, where he opened A. B. Cross & Company, a lumber yard, in association with M. Rippey and Company and in partnership with George Rippey.

Cross gradually shifted his business emphasis from lumber sales to building as an architect and contractor—he is thought to be Kansas City's first professional architect. He was joined in business by his stepson, William E. Taylor Jr., who specialized in railroad construction until his death in 1883 at age twenty-seven. Cross became

a noted architect, building many of Kansas City's public and private buildings, some of which unfortunately have fallen to urban renewal and highway construction. Among his most notable razed buildings are the second Jackson County Courthouse in Kansas City, the Union Depot that predated the city's current station, and the Vaughan's Diamond Building, perhaps the most visible and photographed Kansas City building in the nineteenth century. Among Cross's buildings that survive are the Seth Ward Home (now known as the Bent-Ward House), the Wornall House Museum, and the Vaile Mansion museum in Independence, Missouri.

Just prior to his move to Kansas City, Cross married Rachael Genevieve Taylor, a young widow with one son, William E. Asa and Rachael Cross had five children: Frank and Louis died in infancy; Elizabeth (Lizzie), Catherine (Kate), and Mary Emma (Emma) survived both of their parents. Rachael Cross died July 24, 1890, and was followed by Asa B. Cross on August 18, 1894.

Lizzie Cross married Walter L. Ray and was living in Cincinnati at the time of her father's death. Mary Emma Cross never married and was buried in Kansas City on March 3, 1934. The fourth child, Catherine (Kate) Cross (1866-1924), married Alfred E. Barnes (1869-1928) from London, England, on July 3, 1891. Barnes worked with his father-in-law on the construction of the Jackson County Courthouse before moving to Texas and



"Major" Asa Beebe Cross, 1882

the southern United States to further his construction career. Kate Barnes remained in Kansas City where she reared their two sons, Alfred E. Barnes Jr. (1892-1960) and Asa B. C. Barnes (1894-1991). Alfred E. Barnes Jr. became a partner in the famed architectural firm of Hoyt, Price and Barnes, which built a number of prominent Kansas City buildings, including the Kansas City Power and Light Building and the R. A. Long Mansion, now the Kansas City Museum.

This collection contains papers relating to several members of the Cross family, particularly Catherine Cross Barnes and her two sons.

Included are account books for the A. B. Cross and Company lumber yard, correspondence from family members, and business-related letters pertaining to the career of William E. Taylor Jr. Photographs include portraits of the Cross family and friends.

Also in the collection are diaries kept by Kate Cross before her marriage. The diaries chronicle daily family activities and incidents that occurred in the Kansas City area. Kate also maintained clipping books of news articles related to Cross and Taylor architectural plans and projects as well as more personal items. As a whole, the collection provides a revealing study of a professional gentleman and his family.



Main Street north from 11th Street, ca. 1898. The Vaughan's Diamond Building is at center.

WHMC-Rolla receives addition to Robert L. Elgin Papers

The family of the late Robert L. Elgin donated the last of his papers to Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Rolla in December 2008. The new materials augment collections donated earlier by Elgin.

Bob Elgin was a native of Platte County, Missouri, and a 1937 civil engineering graduate of the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy (formerly University of Missouri-Rolla, now Missouri University of Science & Technology). Commissioned as a naval officer during World War II, Elgin served with Seabee battalions in the South Pacific building air fields and base facilities. After leaving the Navy as a commander, United States Naval Reserve, Elgin returned to Phelps County to become the first director of operations at Maramec Spring Park, site of the historic ironworks operated by the James family, 1829-1876. In 1962 he formed Elgin Surveying & Engineering, Inc., and in 1965 he became Phelps County surveyor, a position he held for thirty-six years. Bob Elgin died in June 2007.

Beyond surveying, Elgin was interested in archaeology (prehistoric, historic, and industrial), native crafts and customs, nineteenth-century technology, Route 66, and historic preservation. His files reflect all of those interests. Elgin's first donation consists of miscellaneous travel and tourism ephemera, including an original copy of the 1930s *Tourist Map of Phelps County*, published in a series of county maps by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The collection also includes a rare Route 66 item—a fan promoting products of the Pierce Petroleum Company (later acquired by the Sinclair Oil Company), one of the first major firms to do business along “The Mother Road.”

About 1960 Elgin began to visit and photographically record nineteenth-century structures in Missouri, primarily in Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps, and Washington counties, but also in Maries, Montgomery, Osage, and his native Platte County. His subjects included historic homes, barns, churches, cemeteries, stores, and mills, along with ancillary structures such as brush arbors, smokehouses, and grave markers. In many cases, site plans, elevations, floor plans, and detail views accompany the photographs. Many of the structures, especially the log homes, were in ruins or in the process of demolition when Elgin recorded them. His photograph collection will be of use to anyone interested in vernacular architecture in the northern Ozarks.

The last accession of Elgin material consists of three sections. The first contains reports from the early 1960s when Elgin formed a partnership with architect Ken Coombs of Kansas City to specialize in the preservation of historic sites. The firm produced preliminary reports and restoration plans for many of Missouri's famous historic sites, including the First State Capitol at St. Charles, the Bingham House at Arrow Rock, Watkins Woolen Mill at Lawson, the Felix Vallé House at Ste.

Genevieve, and the Civil War battlefield at Lexington. Many of the reports were generated for the Missouri State Park Board and represent the first studies of what are now key sites in the Missouri park system. The firm was dissolved about 1965 when Elgin's surveying business seemed more promising than historic preservation.

The second section includes Elgin's research on historic charcoal iron furnaces in Missouri. He began his study of iron furnaces with research on the ruins at Maramec Spring when he was director of operations there. Later, he studied all of the major smelting sites in southern Missouri, including the Iron Mountain and Pilot Knob furnaces (Iron County), Midco (Carter County), Moselle (Franklin County), Nova Scotia (Dent County), Scotia (Crawford County), Sligo (Dent County), and Tong–Ashbran (Washington County).

Elgin's interests in prehistory and archaeology are represented by an extensive collection of photographs and notes regarding American Indian petroglyph and pictograph sites in five Missouri counties. Much of the data was used



Bob Elgin recorded the Peenie petroglyph site on the Bourbeuse River in Gasconade County in 1958. Here he prepares a group of figures for mapping.

in the study by Carol Diaz-Granados and James E. Duncan, *The Petroglyphs and Pictographs of Missouri* (2000), in which the authors made special acknowledgement of Elgin's contributions. Along with his research on the sites, Elgin prepared drawings for the shelter protecting the petroglyphs at Washington State Park and also drew up a development plan for Graham Cave State Park in Montgomery County. In 1993 the Missouri Association of Professional Archaeologists recognized Elgin's achievements as an avocational archaeologist, notably in the field of “rock art,” with the Carl and Eleanor Chapman Award.

With the passage of time, many of the sites recorded by Elgin have been destroyed or degraded. His photographs and slides may be the only surviving record of many of them. The Elgin collections at WHMC-Rolla will be of use to scholars and students of Missouri's past for many years to come—fitting tribute to a man described by his family as a “lifelong student” himself.



The Allied Printing Trades Council

The Allied Printing Trades Union label, which adorns publications printed by union labor, now appears on a processed collection at Western Historical Manuscript Collection-St. Louis.

The printing industry organized with unions as far back as 1820. Called typographical societies or associations, the groups grew in cities throughout the country, representing a variety of crafts and skilled labor related to printing. In May 1852 the National Typographical Union was formed, uniting most crafts within the industry. It changed its name to the International Typographical Union in 1869.

In 1888 several trades seceded to form a separate international. The International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union of North America

formed on October 10, 1889, and received a charter from the American Federation of Labor on November 9, 1895. The St. Louis Printing and Pressmen Union #6 was granted a charter on August 1, 1890.

The Allied Printing Trades Council developed out of the International Typographical Union in 1893, when it created a separate insignia to acknowledge the work of new locals. By the early 1900s, printing pressmen, book binders, stereotypers, electrotypers, and photoengravers had formed their own international unions. In 1910 they formed the International Allied Printing Trades Association. Papermakers and lithographers joined in 1911 and 1912. In addition to promoting the Allied label, a registered trademark in forty-

seven states by 1914, the association presided over interunion disputes, including feuds between mailers and women bindery workers in St. Louis. The St. Louis Allied Printing Trades Council had formed on November 20, 1893.

The Allied Printing Trades Council consisted of five international unions: the International Typographical Union, the International Printing Pressmen Union, the International Photo Engravers Union, the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders Union, and the International Electrotypewriter and Stereotypers Union. These five formed the International Allied Printing Trades Association and issued the Allied Printing Trades Union label, the only such label representing all crafts in the industry.

John J. Ebeling of the Allied Printing Trades Council donated the council's records to WHMC-St. Louis on May 21, 1986. The collection includes label contracts and deposit records from 1914 to 1953; council meeting minutes from 1908 to 1969; secretary's reports; correspondence and legal briefs with the War Labor Board; and directories of union printing establishments from the 1940s. Labor historians will find the records a valuable primary source in documenting how separate branches of the printing industry formed a united labor group.

WHMC-St. Louis News

Staff Profile: Amanda Klaus

Amanda Klaus is the newest addition to the staff of WHMC-St. Louis. A 2008 graduate of Truman State University in Kirksville, Amanda has a BA in history, with minors in art history and literature. She is currently enrolled in the museum studies program at University of Missouri-St. Louis and has been processing collections and photographs at the WHMC-St. Louis office, most recently scanning photos from the collection of St. Louis mayor Bernard Dickmann and compiling an

inventory of the architectural drawings of Woermann Construction.

While at Truman, Amanda served as an assistant to the curator of the Still National Osteopathic Museum. Named after the founder of osteopathy, Andrew Taylor Still, the museum is part of the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. Amanda's duties included processing collections, building exhibits, and helping patrons with research.

During her time at Truman, as a member of the history honor society, Phi Alpha Theta, Amanda volunteered to organize,

clean, and store the E. M. Violette collection. Violette was a history professor at Truman who accumulated artifacts from around the world. The university houses the eclectic collection in a surgery suite of an old hospital on campus. Artifacts include a bullet that lodged in a tree during the Civil War Battle of Antietam; a flag from a Nazi battleship; and a scarab, possibly from a tomb in Saqqara, Egypt.

Amanda herself recently returned from Egypt, one of only eight students chosen to be part of a faculty-led study abroad. In addition to giving a presentation on Saqqara, she cruised the Nile and



visited Alexandria. Preparing for her museum studies work, Amanda already has a large library of history books and considers herself "too organized for my own good."



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