

MISSOURI TIMES

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

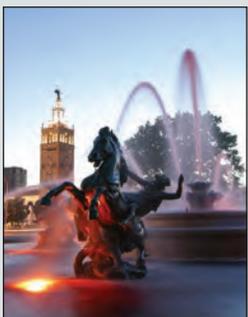
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Visitors tour the Center for Missouri Studies at the building's Grand Opening on August 10. [Photo by Jeff Bassinson]

'Miracle on Elm Street' Opens New Era for State Historical Society

The Center for Missouri Studies opened in grand style on August 10 with ceremonies and celebrations attended by about 1,200 supporters of the State Historical Society of Missouri. On a day chosen to coincide with the 198th anniversary of Missouri statehood, crowds witnessed elegant speeches and a ribbon cutting before pouring through the Center's south front doors for the public's first look at SHSMO's new headquarters.

The festivities began with a "Night of Gratitude" on August 9 for supporters who donated substantial gifts to help with building costs. SHSMO Trustee Beatrice Litherland Smith, the master of ceremonies for the evening, and others spoke about the persistence of Executive Director Gary Kremer and the determination of a bipartisan legislature to secure \$35 million in state bonds for the building.

"We call it the Miracle on Elm Street," Smith said, noting the long and difficult road to the building's completion. For years, efforts to raise money for a new headquarters ran into crises such as the Society narrowly dodging elimination from the state budget in 2005, or its staff volunteering to accept a 20 percent pay cut to avoid layoffs in the wake of the 2008 recession. Through it all the Society's trustees forged ahead, continuing talks with lawmakers to fund a new building and keep the organi-

zation financially secure.

"We all lived in Gary's vision," said SHSMO President and longtime Trustee Bob Priddy in his remarks following Smith's. Judge Stephen Limbaugh Jr., a State Historical Society trustee and former president, told the evening audience how key legislators such as Ron Richard, Kurt Schaefer, and Caleb Rowden—backed by staunch support from US Senator Roy Blunt, a SHSMO trustee and officer—finally gained passage of the bond issue in 2015.

The following morning, under a large tent in the University of Missouri's Peace Park, several speakers recalled how lawmakers worked across the aisle to make the Center for Missouri Studies possible. "If we are going to resurrect the mentality of the greater good, I think we have to be reminded of, and have documentation of, moments in history where that was the way the world was," said State Senator Rowden.

Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe presented a gubernatorial resolution on behalf of Governor Mike Parsons, who was out of the country on state business. Missouri Senate and House resolutions were presented by Senator Dan Hegeman and Representative Kip Kendrick.

— Continued on page 2

Columbia City Councilman Clyde Ruffin, representing Mayor Brian Treece, who was out of state, likened the State Historical Society to Ghana's legendary Sankofa bird, a mythical creature with its feet firmly striding forward, but its head turned backward, carrying an egg in its beak. "The word from the Akan tribe translates this to mean, 'go back to the past and bring forward that which is useful,'" said Ruffin. "The story of past, present, and future are cherished and celebrated here. More than dates or storing historical documents, it's the 'why' that is most important."

In his remarks, former Missouri Governor and US Senator Kit Bond recalled that in his first gubernatorial term, sketches of George Caleb Bingham's art were to be sold at auction. A campaign supported by tens of thousands of Missourians, many of them schoolchildren, succeeded in keeping Bingham's art collection in Missouri. Bond said the dedication of the new building offered further proof of the state's passion and resolve for preserving its history and heritage. "I entrusted the Society with my own papers as governor and senator—all 400 boxes," Bond said. "Good luck to someone who reads all of that someday!"

University of Missouri President Mun Choi and MU History Department Chair Catherine Rymph also addressed the morning audience. "Archives are our labs," Rymph said of her profession. "It's where the raw materials of our work are collected, preserved, and made accessible to any researcher who wants to use them."

This beautiful building is going to attract historians from near and far. There are so many critical points in our nation's past, and Missouri has been the center of that story."

SHSMO Executive Director Gary Kremer told the crowd that the long-awaited building would fulfill many purposes. "But one of the most important is that it will allow us to further our educational mission in ways we couldn't do before," said Kremer. "This is your Center for Missouri Studies. It houses your history," he said, urging the public to become regular visitors "of our new home."

After the speeches, the Society's trustees gathered at the south door, and Kehoe and Priddy cut the ribbon to officially open the building. As guests mingled inside and toured the first and second floors, feelings of awe and excitement prevailed.

"I'm so looking forward to coming here to do research," said journalist and author Steve Weinberg, who made frequent visits to the Society several years ago while working on a biography of business tycoon Armand Hammer. "This place is just beautiful!"

Columbia resident Pat Fowler said she was eager to see inside the building after watching it rise over the past two years. She said she has become a SHSMO member and plans to "hide out" in the research center. "It is so magical seeing wall-to-wall book shelves," Fowler said. "It brings me immense joy being in this room. The entire building is incredible. I feel so welcome here."



Top: The ribbon-cutting ceremony with SHSMO trustees and dignitaries at the Grand Opening of the Center for Missouri Studies on August 10, 2019.

Bottom left: Trustee Beatrice B. Litherland Smith welcomes honored guests at "A Night of Gratitude" on August 9, 2019.

Bottom center: Columbia City Councilman Clyde Ruffin and Joe Touhill at the dedication ceremony.

Bottom right: MU History Department Chair Catherine Rymph speaks at dedication ceremony.





Top left: Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe, Claudia Kehoe, former Missouri Governor and US Senator Kit Bond, Linda Bond, Missouri Senator Dan Hegeman, and MU History Department Chair Catherine Rymph listen to remarks by SHSMO President Bob Priddy.

Top right: The Center for Missouri Studies, August 3, 2019.

Center left: SHSMO Executive Director Gary Kremer and MU President Mun Choi discuss George Caleb Bingham's *Order No. 11* at the SHSMO Art Gallery.

Center right: Music by The Third Switch entertains guests at the Grand Opening celebration.

Bottom left: Sam Hamra, Mike Middleton, and June Hamra at the Grand Opening.

Bottom right: Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe presents a gubernatorial proclamation to the State Historical Society of Missouri. [Photos by Notley Hawkins]

Notes from the State Historical Society of Missouri President

There will come a time, I suppose—although I cannot yet envision it—when I will not approach the Center for Missouri Studies and think, “Oh, My Lord!”

The thought came to me one morning in mid-June as I stood on the sidewalk across from the south entrance. Workers high above were putting the remaining stone facing in place. I had visited the building many times during the construction process, awed by what I was seeing. But until that moment in June, the building had not grabbed me emotionally.

It burst from the ground and soared higher than its three-story height. It was—symphonic! It was the Empire Brass Quintet with Organ and Henry Purcell’s “Rondeau” from *Abdelazer*. How odd that something so modern should provoke a thought of something so magnificently baroque.

The nineteenth-century German writer Johann Wolfgang

von Goethe described architecture as “frozen music.” We aren’t sure what kind of frozen music the Center for Missouri Studies is, but we suspect a lot of brass would be involved. Offenbach and Copland, some Wagner and Beethoven mixed with some Bird and Basie and Hawkins with a little rocking guitar by Berry. And in all of that is heard the

quiet dulcimer, banjo, and guitar of Cathy Barton and Dave Para doing a Bob Dyer song about our history and our river.

We have watched with excitement as the “score,” drawn on paper by our architects, Gould Evans, has been arranged into a three-dimensional composition on a half-city block by River City Construction. This is getting a bit thick, isn’t it? Please excuse the gushing. I hate gushing. But something happened that morning as I stood in the shade of a tree in Peace Park and watched this incredible structure rearing up in front of

me. We’ve cut the ribbon. The speeches have been made. The doors are open. It is business as usual at the headquarters of the State Historical Society of Missouri. Except, it’s not “as usual.” Everything we had in our old quarters is in the new building—and more. But this is more than old wine in new skins. It is a new beginning for the Society, and for the way Missouri history is preserved and made available to all who come seeking to understand who and what we are.

Abraham Lincoln told Congress in 1862, “We cannot escape history.” And the Center for Missouri Studies is a bold embodiment of those words. Our unique building at the north edge of the University of Missouri campus makes sure we cannot ignore history. Our shared history is a confluence of the events and emotions, people and places, motives and sacrifices that we add to each day. Here is where history, geography, folklore, anthropology, journalism, and other disciplines join like flowing streams into one great reservoir of understanding.

We cannot ignore the soaring notes of history. Nor can we ignore its discordant noise. This is a place where we can strive to hear what all that sound tells us about ourselves.

Welcome to the symphony. Welcome to the statement. Come often.

—Bob Priddy



SHSMO President Bob Priddy stands in front of the near-completed Center for Missouri Studies, July 2019.

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MANAGING EDITOR

John Brenner

EDITOR

Beth Pike

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kimberly Harper

SHSMO
THE STATE
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SOCIETY OF
MISSOURI

More than 2 Million Pages of Missouri Newspapers Now Online

The Missouri Digital Newspaper Project continues to grow its collection of digitized historic newspapers. The first two phases of the project focused on the years of statehood through 1966. During the 2019–2020 grant cycle, 370,000 pages will be added online. More than 2.2 million pages have now been digitized for this project. In this next grant cycle, titles are being selected from 15 counties, mostly in the Missouri Ozarks. The majority of these counties do not yet have digital newspaper content.

There is much to learn about Missouri’s cultural heritage through the study and research of newspapers. These images are freely available to the public and are keyword-searchable by visiting shsmo.org.



The front page of the *Washington Missourian*, July 11, 1940.

Groups Rescue 'Part of Who We Are' in Recovering Photos from Missouri Storms

Mother Nature is unpredictable and terrifying at times. Missouri has faced more than its share of extreme weather this year, with damaging tornadoes and raging floodwaters affecting many parts of the state. In May, tornadoes swept across southwest and central Missouri, with one killing three people in Barton County and another ravaging Jefferson City. The one that struck the capital city tore through a historic district of hundred-year-old homes and businesses, as well as other neighborhoods.

In the aftermath of such devastation, moments of healing emerge. Recovering pieces of personal history offers one way to find small victories in the face of adversity. A couple is reunited with a photo of their wedding day, or a vacation photo is found and returned to its family. Often libraries, newspaper offices, and police departments become places where rescued items are dropped off. In the days following the Jefferson City tornado, photos, an oil painting, baseball cards, and a pair of glasses found their way to the local public library.

"A patron messaged us on Facebook with the idea of our library being a lost-and-found location for photos after the tornado," said Natalie Neville, marketing manager for Missouri River Regional Library. "As a library, we are well-versed in storing and cataloging items, so it seemed like a good fit for us to help with the recovery of our community."

Several tornadoes across the state, including the one in Jefferson City, occurred on the anniversary of the disastrous Joplin tornado on May 22, 2011, that killed 161 people and destroyed one-third of the city. In the eight years since that tragic event, more than 32,000 documents and photographs scattered by the tornado have been recovered by the National Disaster Photo Rescue organization. Roughly 18,000 of these photos and special documents were reunited with their owners after being found as far as 75 miles from ground zero. The all-volunteer organization, which meets online and at First Baptist Church in Carthage, has expanded its mission to include weather disasters in Van and Garland, Texas; Washington,

Illinois; Conway, Arkansas; and Moore, Oklahoma. "We thought it would last six months back in 2011, but we continue to get calls to help survivors locate their valuable photos and other meaningful documents, including old military records and birth certificates," said Thad Beeler, the organization's executive director. "We are seeing the world at large—family by family. We are a community with a story, so losing our photos and records, we lose part of who we are. Reuniting these keepsakes is a raw emotion for all of us."

For more information on the National Disaster Photo Rescue project, visit nationaldisasterphotorescue.org. Also, you can learn more about the seventh deadliest tornado in US history through SHSMO's Oral History collections. The Joplin Tornado Oral History Project includes interviews with people who experienced and/or were affected by the 2011 tornado.



Historic homes along Capitol Avenue were heavily damaged by the May 22, 2019, tornado in Jefferson City, Missouri. [Photo by Jeff Bassinson]

Tips on Photo Recovery from Storm Damage

- Be safe. Wear protective gloves and a face mask if you are working in debris.
- If photos are wet and muddy, rinse them off with clear, plain water, but not running water.
- Do not scrub photos. Gently shake off excess mud.
- Dry photos immediately after washing or freeze between wax paper, stacked loosely, until later.
- To dry: lay out flat, photo-side up, not touching other photos. Spread out on wax paper or plain paper towels (not printed). Leave the photo for a few days in a room without direct sunlight. Air can circulate in the room, but do not use a fan to blow air directly on the photos.

Source: National Disaster Photo Rescue

CONTACT
573.882.7083
contact@shsmo.org

ONLINE
shsmo.org

SOCIAL MEDIA
shsmo.org/getsocial

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY
nhdmo.org
nhdmo@shsmo.org

MISSOURI 2021
missouri2021.org
contact@missouri2021.org

SHSMO Opens First Art Exhibitions in New, Expanded Galleries

Guests at SHSMO's Grand Opening celebration got the first public look at the sparkling new art galleries on the first floor of the Center for Missouri Studies. Permanent exhibits of works by master artists George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton were ready in time for the August 10 event. A historic portrait of Harry Truman and his family greeted visitors just inside the gallery entrance. Several seasonal art exhibitions also opened and will remain on display this fall.

Moving a 30,000-piece collection is no easy undertaking. Art Collections Manager Greig Thompson and Assistant Art Preparator John Schneider began by taking a fresh inventory of a collection begun in 1902. That meant many updates to the database recording the Society's art holdings, not to mention quite a few "finds" of works that have not been on exhibit for a long while.

Thompson noted one discovery with an especially personal meaning for him: a bookplate reproducing Albrecht Dürer's *Saint Jerome in His Study* that Walter Williams, founder of the University of Missouri's School of Journalism in 1908 and the university's president from 1931 to 1935, had placed in a book that was eventually donated to SHSMO. "Walter Williams was my great, great uncle," Thompson said. "I knew we had his bookplate from the early 1900s, but I had not seen it for a long time."

Schneider found unexpected rewards in the inventory as well. He said he was particularly struck by SHSMO's collection of original drawings created by various artists who worked on Walt Disney projects. The cartoons, however, bear the trademark signature of the famous artist from Marceline, Missouri. "I took inventory of our political cartoon collection, particularly the ones from the 1940s," said Schneider. "I discovered several cartoons of Disney animal characters in our art collection that are not part of our editorial collection. These cartoons happened to be Disney cartoons, which was way cool!"

The State Historical Society hired ARTworks of Kansas City, a company that specializes in moving art for museums, galleries, and art dealers, to transport the collection to its new home. The collections were grouped by size, wrapped with sheets to separate each work, and then placed in their own crates or cartons. The company used a specially designed truck that allowed the cargo to float on a cushion of air as it was being moved. Once the art was unloaded, ARTworks owner Michael Otto, an artist himself, and his moving team also assisted in installing major works such as Bingham's *Order No. 11* in the new galleries.

The SHSMO galleries will be open to the public during regular business hours Tuesday through Saturday at the Center for Missouri Studies. For a listing of upcoming exhibits, check out our fall calendar in this issue.



ARTworks crew members move George Caleb Bingham's *Order No. 11* from the loading dock to the art galleries at the Center for Missouri Studies on June 26. Bingham's iconic work was one of the first paintings to be transported to the new building.

Painting the Trumans

When artist Greta Kempton set out to paint a portrait of President Harry S. Truman, his wife, Bess, and daughter, Margaret, she began a work that would be seen, studied, and enjoyed for years to come. Commissioned by Richard R. Nancy, a former Missouri state treasurer, for the State Historical Society, the portrait was unveiled at the Society's Annual Meeting in 1952. Recognized as the first painting of the Trumans as a family, it remains a hallmark of SHSMO's art collection.

Paintings by Kempton—she made five of Harry Truman, one each of Bess and Margaret, and numerous portraits of other Washington notables—are in private and public collections around the world. In the nation's capital, her works can be seen at the White House and the National Portrait Gallery; in Missouri another portrait is on display at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum in Independence. All were done in oil on canvas.

Kempton reflected on her experiences with the Trumans in an article for the *Missouri Historical Review* in April 1973. Noting that she and President Truman met because he had admired her portraits of other Washington figures, she remarked, "We never lacked for conversation because he took my work seriously and had limitless curiosity about my technique. He wanted to know about colors, about the brushes used and about the work of other painters."

Knowing that the portrait of the Trumans would be displayed in their home state at the State Historical Society "made me want to show the Trumans in all their warmth the way they were known, loved and respected by their friends, neighbors and fellow citizens before and after their White House days," said Kempton.

The Austrian-born Kempton, who lived most of her professional life in New York, continued painting until she was well into her eighties. She died at the age of ninety in 1991.



SHSMO Art Curator Joan Stack talks about the portrait of the Truman Family with her father, artist Frank Stack, at the Grand Opening on August 10. [Photo by Notley Hawkins]

Volunteer Spotlight: Patrick Atkinson

Patrick Atkinson finds there's no better way to quench his thirst for knowledge than by keeping an active mind—at any age. The retired University of Missouri theater professor leads a busy schedule, volunteering with a number of organizations in Columbia. Several times a week he helps build mobility carts for people without access to wheelchairs in developing countries. During tax season, you can find him at the public library assisting others as they complete their tax forms. He also has been a steady volunteer for SHSMO, coming in twice a week since 2013.

"He's exceptionally versatile," said State Historical Society Archivist Heather Richmond. "Patrick has been essential to the World War II Letter Project, transcribing almost 2,000 pages over the past several years. And he's accomplished it with such speed and accuracy."

Atkinson's work has helped the Society's archivists transcribe and digitize the popular World War II Letters Project collection, a cache of more than 4,000 letters written by US servicemen and women. More than 3,000 of them are now online. The letters were sent to Kansas City radio personality Ted Malone, who requested them for a book project while hosting the ABC show *Between the Bookends* in 1945. The book never materialized, but the correspondence found its way to SHSMO through various donors.

The State Historical Society is a natural fit for Atkinson, who did a lot of history research during his 31 years as a member of MU's faculty. His area of expertise in theater is scenic design and lighting. "When you design shows, you look at them historically, whether they are Greek, Shakespeare, or as modern as 20 years ago," he said. "You have to do the research. There are many, many hours and weeks spent researching the time period of each production."

Atkinson, a Florida native, said that when he started volunteering with the Society, he did not realize how captivated he would be by Missouri's history. Offering an example, he said he had no idea how divided Missouri was during the Civil War, having formed a different perspective on the war based on what he was taught while growing up in the South. "It opened my eyes to both sides," said Atkinson, who has scrolled through microfilm of the state's Civil War-era newspapers.

Atkinson has also contributed some of his own photographs to SHSMO's collections. While digitizing photographs from the Historic Inventory of Columbia, Missouri (P0052) collection, he was



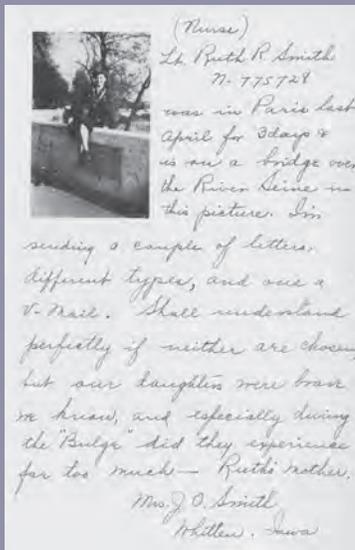
Volunteer Patrick Atkinson researching in the Jerry Pitts M-K-T Railroad Collection at SHSMO.

struck by images that were shot in 1978, shortly before his family moved to Columbia.

"There were 600 to 800 images of laundries and stores in central Columbia 40 years ago," Atkinson said. "The laundries are gone, as well as many of the shops. It was fascinating to see how the downtown area has changed over the decades."

The photos inspired him to take his own pictures of Columbia's downtown earlier this year. Viewed next to the 1978 photos, his images capture examples of the downtown area's transformation over four decades. Atkinson's photographs now comprise the Survey of Buildings and Businesses in Columbia, Missouri Photographs (CA6524) collection.

"I've lived in this community for so long, and I'm intrigued by its history and colorful past," Atkinson said. "Working in the stacks to uncover bits and pieces of new information can be a challenge, but I always find what I'm looking for, eventually. I just enjoy helping people and contributing to our state's history."



Volunteers Transcribe WWII Letters Sent Home

"We boarded a small English troop ship at Plymouth, England and headed for France. 'This is it' we all said . . . they fired approximately ten thousand, three hundred rounds into this hill 192 (Purple Heart Hill.) The shells were going so thick over our heads that it sounded like a very high, fierce wind. The entire hill was just a solid mass of flame while the shells were bursting. We were all wringing wet with sweat and shivering like dogs."

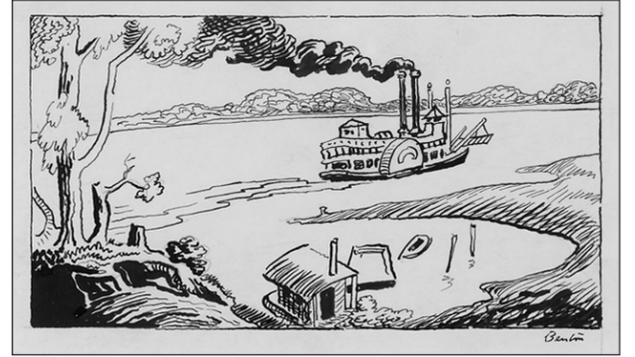
—Sgt. Melvin E. Bush, Indian-Head Division, 38th Infantry Regiment, excerpt of May 17, 1945, letter describing D-Day.

A page from the Ruth R. Smith Letters, 1945. Smith served as a US Army nurse in France and Germany during World War II.

SEPTEMBER

Battle Lines: WWII Cartoons by Daniel Fitzpatrick
The Onset of War, August 1939–November 1941
Now through November 27 (first installment) | Columbia

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Daniel Fitzpatrick chronicled the progress of World War II with powerful and poignant editorial cartoons. The three installments of this yearlong exhibition can be seen in the Guitar Family Gallery of Editorial Cartoons and Illustrations, Center for Missouri Studies. The exhibition presents visual commentary on the events of the war as they happened. The first installment, *The Onset of War, August 1939–November 1941*, is on display during the 80th anniversary of the beginning of World War II in Europe.



On the Big River: Tom Benton Illustrates Mark Twain
Now through December 7 (first installment) | Columbia

This yearlong exhibition in three installments showcases examples of Thomas Hart Benton's original watercolors and drawings for the Limited Editions Club publications of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *Life on the Mississippi*. As a Missourian, Benton brought his own understanding of the landscape and people of the state to his illustrations, creating perceptive images that complement Twain's prose. The exhibition is being held in the Guitar Family Gallery of Bingham and Benton Works on Paper, Center for Missouri Studies.

Landscape Visions by Oliver Schuchard
Now through December 14 (first installment)
Artist's Reception, Saturday, September 14, 1:30 p.m. | Columbia

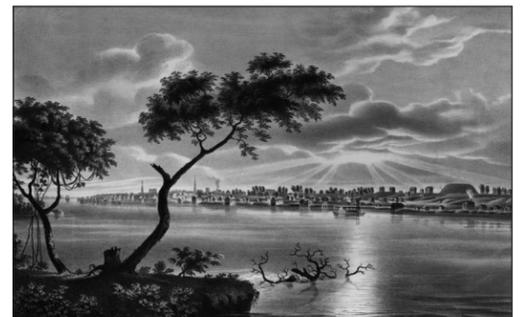
Award-winning photographer Oliver Schuchard has made Missouri his home for more than four decades. Over the years, Schuchard has often turned his camera to diverse landscapes in his adopted state and elsewhere. This exhibition, in two installments, displays Schuchard's dedication to the aesthetics and craft of black-and-white landscape photography over the course of his distinguished career. It can be seen in the Guitar Family Gallery of Natural and Cultural History, Center for Missouri Studies.

Make History: Be Part of National History Day
September 5 | 6:30 p.m. | Columbia

Join us for an evening of films, exhibits, and stories. Learn how you can uncover history as you take part in the National History Day competition by producing a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Your project may earn you a visit to the state contest at the University of Missouri in Columbia or the national contest near Washington, DC. Facilitated by SHSMO staff. Recommended for students in grades 6–12 and their parents and teachers. The event will be held at the Daniel Boone Regional Library, Columbia, Children's Program Room.

James Neal Primm Lecture in History:
Mound City: The Place of Indian Past and Present in St. Louis
September 9 | 7 p.m. | St. Louis

Center for Missouri Studies Fellow Patricia Cleary will explore St. Louis's complicated relationship with its Native American past in this program centered on the destruction of the city's Big Mound site. Cleary, a professor of history at California State University, Long Beach, is supported by the State Historical Society's Center for Missouri Studies fellowship program. The public is invited to this free event in Lee Auditorium at the Missouri History Museum, 5700 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis. The Primm Lecture Series is sponsored by the University of Missouri–St. Louis History Department and the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis in honor of the late UMSL history professor James Neal Primm. [Photo courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis]



OCTOBER

National History Day Workshop
October 12 | 9 a.m. | Lee's Summit

Be ready for the 2020 National History Day season by joining Mark Adams, NHD Kansas City area regional coordinator and the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum's education director, for this free workshop. Attendees will have a chance to learn about the contest theme, explore great project resources, and ask questions to be better prepared for the NHD contest. Teachers and students will find it to be an informative and interactive session. Please register by emailing: mark.adams@nara.gov.



LOOKING AHEAD

Annual Meeting Weekend
November 1–2 | Columbia

Join SHSMO for the Society's first Annual Meeting at the new Center for Missouri Studies building. The event includes the annual business meeting and awards presentations, a luncheon, and the inaugural My Missouri lecture featuring former US Senator Claire McCaskill, who served as the top-ranking Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee and a senior member of the Armed Services Committee. Before she was elected to the Senate in 2006, McCaskill was Missouri's state auditor and served as Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney.



Missouri Conference on History
March 11–13 | St. Louis

Save the date for the 62nd annual Missouri Conference on History! Lindenwood University in St. Charles will host the 2020 conference. SHSMO serves as administrative sponsor for the MCH.

Outstanding Missouri Students Awarded at National History Day Competition

Sixty-four National History Day in Missouri student delegates advanced to the national finals in College Park, Maryland, in June. Three of their projects were awarded bronze medals, two teams received outstanding entry awards, and several other students were finalists in their categories.

Bronze Medalists:

Junior Individual Documentary: Josef Schuller (Joplin), “The Bridge Over Funchilin Pass: The Only Option for Retreat.”

Junior Group Documentary: Alizeh Hammad and Sania Hammad (Joplin), “Deeds Not Words: The Tragedy Suffered and the Triumph Secured by the British Suffragettes.”

Senior Individual Performance: Aubrey Chrisenbery (Joplin), “A Blessing or a Curse? The Triumph and Tragedy of Thalidomide.”

Outstanding Entry Awards:

Junior Group Exhibit: Ava Lawless, Rebecca Detweiler, and Claire Glaude (Columbia), “The Radium Girls: The Triumphant Tragedy of the Girls Who Glowed.”

Senior Individual Performance: Riley Sutherland (Kansas City), “Divided by Politics, United by Purpose: Anna Maria Lane and Elizabeth Murray.”

Finalists:

Junior Group Performance: Michaela Sybert, Kendall Nester, Jaclyn Riedinger, Collin Patterson, and Brylie Brincks (Rosendale), “Ten Days to Sacramento.”

Junior Group Performance: Elana Hadi, Kat Garrison, Katie Su, and Hannah Young (Springfield), “Alice Paul: The Fight for the Nineteenth Amendment.”

Junior Group Documentary: Ashland Wheeler and Elizabeth Arnold (Essex), “Our Time Has Come to Lay Down the Bible and Pick Up the Rifle: How West Virginia Miners Turned Tragedy into Triumph at Blair Mountain.”

Junior Group Exhibit: Ava Lawless, Rebecca Detweiler, and Claire Glaude (Columbia), “The Radium Girls: The Triumphant Tragedy of the Girls Who Glowed.”

Senior Individual Performance: Riley Sutherland (Kansas City), “Divided by Politics, United by Purpose: Anna Maria Lane and Elizabeth Murray.”

Senior Paper: Genevieve Huber (Rolla), “Lucile Bluford: Pioneering Journalist and Civil Rights Activist in Segregated Missouri.”

Student and Teacher from Liberty Honor Fallen Hero from War in the Pacific

Twelve pairs of students and teachers—six from the mainland, and six from Hawaii—stood solemnly on July 28 for a ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Oahu. They were there for the culmination of the Sacrifice for Freedom: World War II in the Pacific Student and Teacher Institute, in which each student spends six months researching an American whose life was sacrificed during the war.

Katherine Mackenzie, a junior at Liberty North High School in Liberty, and her teacher, Kimberly Brownlee, were Missouri’s representatives at the Institute, which is coordinated through National History Day and sponsored by a consortium of organizations within the Pearl Harbor Historic Site Partners. Mackenzie studied the life of Corporal Carl W. Alderson, a farm boy from Cass County, Missouri, who served in the US Army Air Forces. Corporal Alderson was a member of the Army Air Corps and served in HQ & Base Service Squadron of the 72nd Service Group, which provided maintenance for the B-29 bombers on Tinian Island. While on duty, he died in a truck accident, two months shy of his 21st birthday.

The student-teacher teams arrived in

Oahu on July 23 and spent the rest of the week visiting sites that provided context for understanding events in the Pacific during World War II, particularly the attack on the island’s Pearl Harbor. The week included a tour of the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, a visit with forensic scientists at the Department of Defense’s POW/MIA Accounting Agency Laboratory, and climbing the steps of the Ford Island Field Control Tower, which broadcast the first warning that Pearl Harbor was under attack. The group also visited the site of the Honouliuli Internment Camp for Japanese Americans, and stayed overnight aboard the USS *Missouri*, the ship on which the Japanese surrender took place in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945. The *Missouri* is now anchored at the spot where the USS *Oklahoma* was sunk in Pearl Harbor.

On the program’s final day, the students went to the cemetery to deliver eulogies of the fallen heroes they had studied. Standing at Alderson’s tombstone, Mackenzie tearfully reflected on his life, observing that “like so many others, Alderson’s death, and more importantly, his life,

serve as a reminder that even seemingly small sacrifices contribute to the fight for what *should* be in an imperfect world.”

“This program helped me understand that history is not as distant as it seems, not only physically, but also in that it tends to repeat itself,” Mackenzie said. “Hearing people’s stories at each location we visited, along with our research, brought history together.”



Students and teachers on board the USS *Missouri* as part of the World War II in the Pacific Student & Teacher Institute.

New Photograph Collection Shows Scenes from Great Flood of 1927

The Baltzer Photograph Collection, recently donated to the St. Louis Research Center, contains nearly 451 photographs chronicling the lives of two brothers from St. Louis, Victor and Arwed Baltzer. The photographs and negatives were purchased at an estate sale in East Lansing, Michigan, by Bill Castanier, who then donated them to the Society.

Arwed Baltzer, a 1915 graduate of the University of Missouri, was an expert in the field of dairy husbandry. After serving as an officer in the US Cavalry during World War I, he worked at Purdue University before spending much of his career with Michigan State University's Extension Service. Victor, who served in the US Army Air Service as an aerial photographer, was a salesman and farmer.

Many of the photos in the collection show pastoral landscapes and livestock scenes, such as fields with cattle, pigs, and horses. Others capture farmers picking crops by hand or using mules to plow fields. Some of the photographs depict scenes on the campuses of the University of Missouri in Columbia and Washington University in St. Louis. The brothers also photographed the Noser Mill Covered Bridge in Franklin County, Missouri. In one photo taken in 1927, the water level was so high during a flood that it nearly submerged the road across the bridge. The covered bridge once served as the main access point to Noser Mill, a town that no longer exists, but once housed a large grist and sawmill as well as its own post office.

The Baltzers photographed one of the most destructive floods in US history, the Great Flood of 1927. Images of the flood are represented in the collection. The flooding killed hundreds of people and displaced as many as 640,000, with African Americans being hit particularly hard. Most levees on the lower Mississippi were breached or completely submerged, flooding more than 16 million acres of land in at least 11 states.

The Baltzer Photograph Collection may be viewed at the St. Louis Research Center. For more information on how to access this collection, contact the St. Louis Research Center at stlouis@shsmo.org.



Top: Victor and Arwed Baltzer in an undated photo. Center: Floodwaters at the Union Milling Company, Franklin County, Missouri, in 1927. Bottom: Flooding near the Noser Mill Bridge. All photos from the Baltzer Photograph Collection.

New Staff Positions at Center for Missouri Studies

Familiar faces are taking on new assignments for SHSMO. Maggie Mayhan is the new assistant director of community engagement. Mayhan is leading the event rental program for campus and community events at the Center for Missouri Studies. Mayhan formerly served as coordinator for National History Day in Missouri and also co-chaired SHSMO's committee for programming and events.

Danielle Griego is the new educational program coordinator for SHSMO. Her duties will include coordinating National History Day in Missouri, organizing the Missouri Conference on History, and working on outreach programming. Griego's goal is to make history accessible and fun to diverse audiences. Before this position, she was the educational program assistant and helped administrate the Missouri Conference on History. Griego came to SHSMO a year ago after receiving her Ph.D. in medieval history from the University of Missouri in Columbia.



Danielle Griego



Maggie Mayhan

Oregon County Masonic Records Offer Glimpse of Missouri's Prohibition Era

Two Masonic lodges and Order of the Eastern Star chapters in Oregon County recently donated records dating from the early 1870s to 2018 to the Rolla Research Center. The majority of the records are from the Woodside Lodge in Thomasville, which formed in 1871 and merged with the West Plains Lodge in November 2018. The remaining materials are from Alton, the only other Masonic lodge in Oregon County.

The donated records, which include meeting minutes, reports, membership information, by-laws, certificates, and photographs, provide fresh insight into Oregon County's people and history. There are also publications from the Grand Chapter

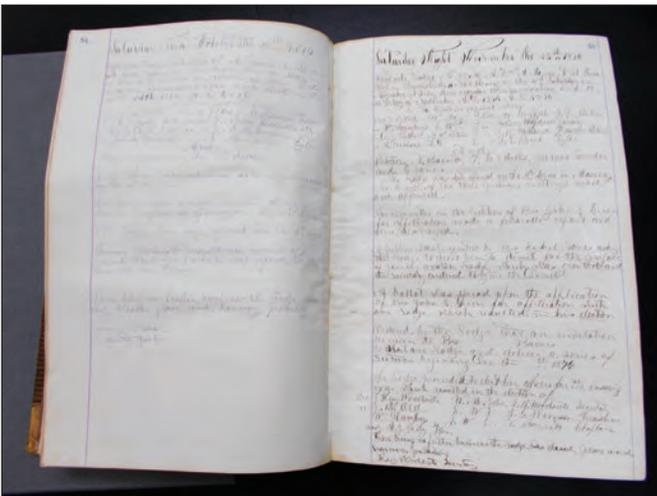
of the Missouri Order of the Eastern Star and the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Missouri. The Order of the Eastern Star, the largest fraternal organization open to both men and women, began in Missouri in 1875.

The Thomasville lodge was named after John R. Woodside, a Kentucky native who moved to Oregon County in 1845. He and his son, J. Posey Woodside, served in the Missouri State Guard and Fourth Regiment Missouri Infantry (Confederate) during the Civil War. Both men were wounded and imprisoned during the war.

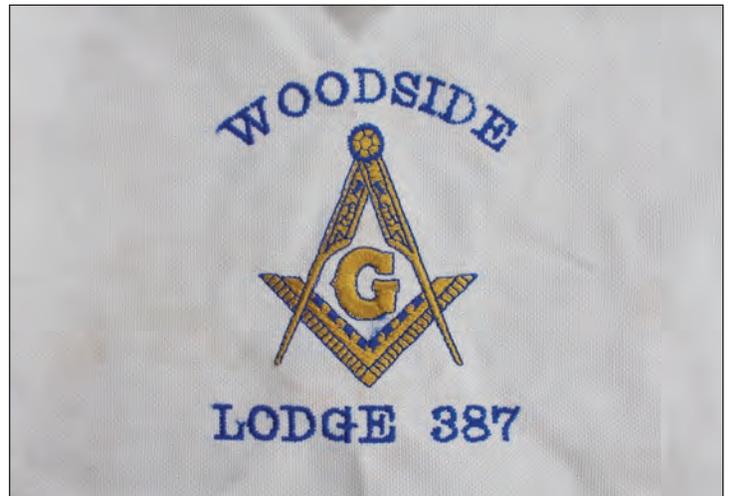
One folder holds records of three Masonic trial procedures from the 1920s for the lodge in Alton. One case involved

Lee Braswell, who falsely petitioned for membership after being denied entry into another Masonic lodge. Braswell had not fulfilled a one-year Missouri residency requirement. Another case dealt with a member who acted with "un-Masonic conduct" when he "unlawfully, willfully, and feloniously" brewed and sold "intoxicating liquor, to wit: Hootch, Moonshine and Corn Whiskey." The third case also concerned a member charged with illegally selling alcohol.

These records are part of SHSMO's Social and Fraternal Organizations in Missouri manuscript collections, which also includes records for Kiwanis clubs, Lions clubs, Rotary clubs, and Masonic lodges.



A ledger book for the Thomasville Masonic Lodge. Entries date back as early as 1871.



An emblem for the Woodside Lodge No. 387 in Thomasville, Missouri.

Kansas City Historian Photographs the Spirit of Kansas City

Images of the people, places, and events that shaped Kansas City from 1983 to 2018 fill the newly acquired Bruce Mathews Collection at SHSMO's Kansas City Research Center, donated by Bruce Mathews. A lifelong resident of the Kansas City metropolitan area, Mathews is a local historian and professional photographer. He has written or co-written several books, including *Kansas City's Historic Union Cemetery*, *Kansas City: Our Collective Memories*, and *Windows of Kansas City: As Art, History and Inspiration*.

In 2011, Mathews received the Kansas City Spirit Award, an annual award presented to individuals for exemplary contributions to the city. Dedicated to the photographic preservation of Kansas City's history, he works year-round to capture iconic local scenes. Mathews has photographed many of the 48 publicly operated fountains at Liberty Memorial and other prominent places that make up the Kansas City skyline. He also photographs popular Kansas City area events, including

parades, sporting events, and happenings at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum. SHSMO Archivist Whitney Heinzman counts more than 3,000 unique images in the collection, many of which emphasize the city's architecture. "While the photographs in the collection document Kansas City through the eyes of one photographer, the subjects become a timeless reminder of how the city has developed and changed for generations," said Heinzman.



Left: Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, date unknown.

Right (top): Kansas City Firefighters Memorial, 2006.

Right (bottom): Former Kansas City Monarchs baseball player Buck O'Neal with Kansas City Royals mascot Sluggerrr at Greater Kansas City Day, 2004.

Below: Kansas City skyline, 2005. All photos from the Bruce Mathews Collection.



State Historical Society Reopens Columbia Research Center with New State-of-the-Art Facilities

The Society's manuscript collections are secure in a new, modernized facility that provides optimum temperature and humidity controls. Compact shelving allows for more efficient storage of collections. It is a dramatic new setting for materials SHSMO began collecting as early as 1905, starting with the Thomas A. Smith Papers. Since then, the Columbia Research Center has added more than 8,000 linear feet—nearly one and a half miles—of records to its holdings.

Moving the State Historical Society's archival collections to the Center for Missouri Studies building took two years of painstaking planning. The Society's staff created an inventory of each manuscript box and volume. Each item was given a unique number identifying the collection, the size of the item, where it was located, and whether it needed any special preservation measures. Many materials were rehoused in new boxes. Some were wrapped in acid-free paper for protection, and oversized architectural records were shrink-wrapped in large folders. SHSMO

Conservator Erin Kraus and a conservation intern unrolled large items and stored them in map cases, stabilizing those that needed to remain rolled. Ultimately, 8,800 boxes and volumes were inventoried.

Another challenge was to ensure that all collections were moved to their proper locations in the new building. A color-coding system was used to map out each type of material and devise a system for where various materials would be placed. Large and heavy items were placed on low, static shelves. These included glass plate negatives, audiovisual materials, and oversized scrapbooks and architectural drawings. All shelves and tiers in the new building were labeled with the color-coding system. Many collections that had been housed off-site, including some frequently used ones, were brought back on-site at the new building, making them much more easily accessible. With the carefully planned move and the most up-to-date equipment and technologies for the research center, SHSMO is well prepared to collect and preserve manuscript material far into the future.



An employee of Corrigan Moving Systems places the first load of manuscripts on storage shelves at the Center for Missouri Studies.

New Donation Documents Long-Lived Construction Firm in Cape Girardeau

A recent donation to the Cape Girardeau Research Center documents the role of the Regenhardt family and its construction business in the history of the Cape Girardeau area. The collection includes contracts, financial documents, and lists of materials used in building Academic Hall on the campus of what is now Southeast Missouri State University; newspaper clippings; postcards, family documents, and photos.

William Regenhardt was born on February 20, 1828, in Ahlshausen, Braunschweig, Germany. At age 21, he left Germany, sailing from the port of Bremen. Arriving in New Orleans in 1849, he gave his destination as Cape Girardeau. Once settled in Missouri, William married Johanna Dörmeier in 1853 and became a stone mason. The Regenhardts were to make their mark as builders in Cape Girardeau.

When the Civil War broke out, William served as a corporal in Captain Michael Dittlinger's Company C of the Cape Girardeau Home Guard Volunteers for three months in 1861. He rose to the rank of captain of Company B, 56th Regiment, Enrolled Missouri Militia and later 39th Regiment, Mis-

souri Militia from October 7, 1862, to June 15, 1870. After the war, he continued doing business as a builder and was active in civic affairs until his death in 1903.

William's son Edward F. Regenhardt (1867–1926) is remembered for his construction of roads and buildings in the Cape area. Edward's firm, Regenhardt & Maule, built Academic Hall on the Missouri State Normal School—Third District campus (known today as Southeast Missouri State University). The edifice replaced the original building that burned in 1903. Receipts in the collection document materials used in the construction.

The project used rock quarried from Regenhardt's nearby Normal Quarry. When the building was completed, architect J. B. Legg's January 12, 1906, report to the school's Board of Regents stated, "While Mr. Regenhardt spent eleven and one-half months more in the construction of this building than was allotted him by contract . . . I am glad to inform you that there is not a crack or settlement in the entire building and to further say that in my thirty-seven years of experience in the construction of good buildings . . . it is the only building that

I know of without a crack or settlement."

The Regenhardt Construction Company continued for another generation under Edward's sons. One son, Theodore R. Regenhardt, had a daughter, Alice A. (Regenhardt) Lewis, who married Freeman D. Lewis. The Lewis family is remembered in Cape Girardeau as the owners of Wimpy's Drive-In and Grocery, which served its signature hamburgers from 1942 to 1973. A popular meeting place, Wimpy's also provided a first job for many young residents of Cape Girardeau.

Patrons may view the Regenhardt Family Papers at the Cape Girardeau Center or at one of SHSMO's other research centers by requesting them in advance.



Wimpy's Drive-In Restaurant and Grocery, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in the early 1960s.

Springfield's Summer of Terror Captured in Robert Lipscomb Collection

For three months in 1953, the residents of Springfield, Missouri, lived in fear as deadly snakes roamed the Queen City of the Ozarks. Town residents armed with hoes, pitchforks, and long poles patrolled the streets, and children were not allowed to play outside. The Great Cobra Scare of 1953 is legendary in Springfield history. *Life* and *Time* magazines sent reporters to cover the story. Eleven cobras were eventually apprehended, but no one knew where they came from until 35 years later.

A resident killed the first snake with a hoe on August 15. Reo Mowrer, owner of Mowrer Animal Company, a pet shop located a block away from where the snake was killed, identified it as a harmless species and swore it had not escaped from his shop. When the second snake was killed, Herbert Condray, a science teacher at Jarrett Junior High School, correctly identified the highly venomous cobra native to India. Over the next three months, nine more snakes were killed or captured in garages, yards, and under houses, or were run over by cars. Weapons used to dispatch them included hoes, shovels, rocks, and firearms. Although they were not sure what

to do, city officials felt they had to act. On October 5, Del Caywood, the acting city manager of Springfield, rented a truck with a sound system and drove around town blaring a "snake-charming" song called "Cobra Blues," hoping it would lure any snakes out of hiding. The mob following the truck waited for any cobra to show itself. A snake was killed that day, but it is unlikely "Cobra Blues" played any part, since snakes have no sense of hearing. The city got back to normal when no further cobras were found, but Springfield's residents were left wondering what had happened during those three stressful months in 1953.

It took more than three decades to learn the truth. In 1988, Carl Barnett confessed to freeing the snakes to get even with the pet shop owner, who had refused to give him a refund on a tropical fish that died hours after he purchased it. Fourteen-year-old Carl had no idea what kind of snakes were in the crate behind the pet store when he released them. One of the captured cobras was stuffed by local taxidermist John Smades. When his work was finished, he invited Brice Lipscomb over to have a look. Lipscomb took the opportunity to pose for a photograph with the cobra.

Fast-forward to the summer of 2019 when 93-year-old Robert Lipscomb, the son of Brice Lipscomb, confirmed that the

The Great Cobra Scare of 1953 is legendary in Springfield history. Life and Time magazines sent reporters to cover the story. Eleven cobras were eventually apprehended, but no one knew where they came from until 35 years later.

snake in the photograph was the tenth cobra killed. The photos and newspaper articles from the 1953 cobra scare are part of the Robert Lipscomb Photograph Collection, which also includes an oral history with Robert in 2019, as well as photographs from his 35-year career with the Missouri Department of Conservation and a photograph of President Truman walking in a Springfield parade celebrating the reunion of the 35th Infantry Division on June 8, 1952. Photographs of various locations around Springfield and Rolla are also included in this collection.



Left: Brice Lipscomb poses as a "snake charmer" with a stuffed cobra, Springfield, Missouri, 1953.

Right: President Harry S. Truman walking in a Springfield parade that included a reunion of his World War I army division, the 35th Infantry. Robert Lipscomb Photograph Collection.

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