

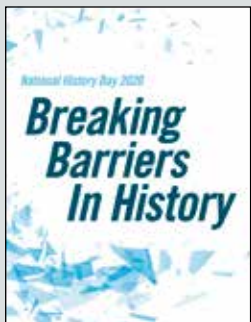
MISSOURI TIMES

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

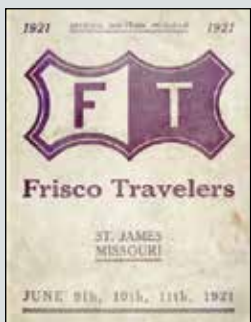
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Virginia Laas Elected President of the State Historical Society of Missouri

At the Annual Meeting on November 2, trustees elected Virginia J. Laas as president of the State Historical Society of Missouri. Laas, of Joplin, is the second woman to serve as the Society's president. The first was newspaper publisher Avis Tucker, who was president from 1992 to 1995.

"I have watched this organization take giant leaps forward over the past 24 years," said Laas. "Just like the Apollo 11 moon landing that we celebrated on its golden anniversary in July, we, too, have moved heaven and earth to be where we are today."

Laas is an author and professor emerita of history at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin. She is also currently on the board of the Post Memorial Art Library and the advisory board for the Sherwood/Rader Farm Civil War Memorial Park in Jasper County. She is a past president of the Missouri Conference on History. Laas has been a trustee of the Society since 1995, a member of the *Missouri Historical Review* editorial advisory board since 1999, and on the executive committee since 2003.

In addition to Laas, the trustees elected Robert M. Clayton III of Hannibal as first vice president. The Honorable US Senator Roy Blunt of Springfield became second vice president, Brent Schondelmeyer of Independence was elected third vice president, Henry J. Waters III of Columbia serves as fourth vice president, Beatrice B. Litherland Smith of Columbia was elected as fifth vice president, and Robert J. Mueller of Ste. Genevieve was voted as sixth vice president. Edward W. Scavone of Columbia was reelected as treasurer.

The following trustees were elected to serve on the board's Executive Committee: Laas, outgoing president Bob Priddy, Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., H. Riley Bock, Mueller, Steve Ehlmann, Doug Crews, Schondelmeyer, Clayton, and Scavone.

Trustees who were reelected for a new three-year term include James Leon Combs, Bryan Cook, Michael R. Gibbons, Larry L. McMullen, and Mary R. Russell. New to the board is Ann Covington, who was the first woman to serve on the Missouri Supreme Court in 1989 and as chief justice of the state's highest court in 1993. Covington is a curator emerita of the University of Missouri.

As the meeting ended, Executive Director Gary Kremer presented the State Historical Society of Missouri's Distinguished Service Award to Priddy, a trustee since 1985 whose presidential term marked the beginning of a new era with the completion of the Center for Missouri Studies building.

"Bob has been a constant supporter, our 'pied piper,' who has shared the important work of what we do with audiences across our wide Missouri and beyond our borders," said Kremer. "We can't thank him enough for his hard work and dedication."



Outgoing SHSMO President Bob Priddy passes the gavel to newly elected President Virginia Laas at the Annual Meeting on November 2.

Governor Parson Speaks at Annual Trustees Dinner



Missouri Governor Mike Parson speaks at the annual Trustees Dinner on November 1.

When Mike Parson addressed trustees, staff, and other honored guests at the Society's annual Trustees Dinner on November 1, it was the first time since the early 1960s that a sitting governor of Missouri had attended SHSMO's Annual Meeting weekend. Parson talked about the importance of Missouri history, noting the significance of the new Center for Missouri Studies as a place to share the state's story with future generations.

"The reason we are here tonight is because of what people did before us," said Parson. "To preserve history and pass it down, that's a calling."

Before Parson, the last Missouri governor to attend events connected to the Annual Meeting was John M. Dalton. Dalton held the office from 1961 to 1965.

Other guests at the Friday night dinner included US Senator Roy Blunt, Missouri First Lady Teresa Parson, and Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe. Four Missouri legislators received Trustee Appreciation Awards at the dinner: State Senators Caleb Rowden and Dan Hegeman, and State Representatives Kip Kendrick and Cody Smith.

Blunt introduced the Missouri governor and thanked him for supporting the Society's building project at a time when Blunt thought gaining state appropriations for a new headquarters was "Mission Impossible."

"It became possible with a lot of dedicated work and well-placed legislators who believed it could happen," said Blunt.

Parson recalled when he was a state senator and SHSMO Executive Director Gary Kremer came to visit him for the first time. "It was like a foggy vision to me," Parson said. "He asked for \$45 million and wanted us to put together a bond issue." Parson remarked that "endless" phone calls and visits from SHSMO's supporters, including legislators Kurt Schaefer, Mike Kehoe, and Ron Richards, as well as Judge Stephen Limbaugh, soon followed.

The governor said he looks forward to Missouri's bicentennial in 2021 and appreciates the State Historical Society's leading role in planning the celebration. "That is a milestone like no other! We won't get to see that again," Parson said.



Above, left to right: State Representative Kip Kendrick, State Senator Dan Hegeman (with Executive Director Gary Kremer), and State Senator Caleb Rowden receive Trustee Appreciation Awards at the Annual Trustees Dinner.

Right: Trustee Kathianne Knap Crane visits with Jean Ehlmann at the dinner.

Photos by Notley Hawkins



Former US Senator Claire McCaskill Delivers First My Missouri Lecture

The State Historical Society of Missouri launched the My Missouri Lecture Series on November 2 with a talk by former US Senator Claire McCaskill. The inaugural lecture, which also served as the keynote address for SHSMO's Annual Meeting, highlighted the schedule of events for the first annual gathering held at the new Center for Missouri Studies building in Columbia.

The My Missouri series invites its speakers to reflect on what being a Missourian has meant to their personal lives and careers. McCaskill addressed that theme by focusing on the "strong old-fashioned values" she learned from her Missouri family.

McCaskill spoke about her grandmother, Mildred, describing a week of her life as a single mother at a time "when good folks didn't let that happen." Her grandmother had left her husband, an alcoholic gambler, and moved in with her sister and brother-in-law in Lebanon, Missouri.

"They were a nontraditional family in a very small town. Yet, they reflected Missouri's values," said McCaskill, who described how difficult their lives were as they struggled to make ends meet by running a small corner drugstore. "Yet, despite the long work hours, they were active in town, church, and civic projects. Instead of resting on my grandmother's day off, she baked bread all day and brought it to those who needed nourishment," said McCaskill, reflecting on the strong impression her family elders made on her.

"Hard work, community, family. There is a sharing of those values in our great state," said McCaskill, citing a Pew Research Center study suggesting that despite widening social and political divisions, most Americans hold similar values when it comes to their families and communities.

"Their values are very similar," McCaskill said. "People in rural and urban communities feel attached to where they live. They value being near family and are nearly identical in their concerns of poverty, job, drug addiction, and economic insecurity. But we are embracing a virulent form of tribalism where we can't agree on the facts."

McCaskill encouraged audience members to talk regularly with someone who disagrees with them. "President Truman said it best:

that it's our understanding that gives us an ability to have peace. We must rely on our values to knit us back together."

McCaskill was introduced by US Senator and SHSMO trustee Roy Blunt, who requested the opportunity to present his former Senate colleague. Although they belong to opposite political parties and often find themselves in disagreement, both Blunt and McCaskill

say they regard each other as friends. They kept in steady communication while representing Missouri in the Senate.

McCaskill recalled an early encounter with Blunt when she was a state legislator and he was Missouri's new secretary of state. After she opposed efforts to open additional offices for the secretary of state in Kansas City and St. Louis, McCaskill received a messenger from powerful Republican State Senator Dick Webster who told her that "every single piece of legislation you touch is now dead." In contrast, Blunt quietly visited her office to explain why he thought the additional offices were necessary. "Roy used the velvet glove," she said. "Much more effective."

The My Missouri Lecture Series will continue in 2020. Former US Senator John Danforth will be the next speaker in the series. His talk will be in St. Louis at a time and place to be determined.



Former US Senator Claire McCaskill delivers the inaugural My Missouri lecture at the Center for Missouri Studies on November 2.



Left to right: Missouri Governor Mike Parson, US Senator Roy Blunt, SHSMO Executive Director Gary Kremer, and Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe visit before the State Historical Society's Trustees Dinner.

Passing the Gavel to the New SHSMO President



Caption:

SHSMO trustee Virginia Laas tours the Center for Missouri Studies building under construction in October 2018.

What a time it has been to be president of the State Historical Society of Missouri! I got to make some speeches, write a few articles for the *Times*, and

preside over some meetings. I was there to cut the ribbon and collect compliments about the new building that others had worked so hard to bring about.

Now the gavel is passed to a new president, Virginia Laas. She's extraordinary. Let me tell you a little about her.

She is a well-respected historian with five books to her credit as author, coauthor, or editor. She's written for various journals and has contributed to other books. She's also active in civic groups back home in Joplin.

When her city was nailed by the big tornado in 2011, Virginia volunteered to become a bookkeeper and amateur accountant handling the huge number of donations to help Joplin's school system recover. Throughout the summer of 2011 she answered phones, helped people make donations, and made sure the monies were properly distributed. She told the *Joplin Globe*, "I think in some ways my strongest motivation was to help teachers . . . they needed people

just to do all the extra work so they could do their jobs."

Virginia kept track of monetary donations that eventually exceeded \$7 million. The school district's director of community development told the *Globe* that she didn't know how the schools could have operated in those months without Virginia.

We might have had presidents before who played golf, but we haven't had one in my memory who is as serious about it as she is. Virginia is in the Joplin Area Sports Hall of Fame and the Joplin Golf Foundation Hall of Fame. A formidable competitor and a former president of the Missouri Women's Golf Association, she's been chasing the little white ball since she was 8 years old.

She's sharp and fun to be around. She's enthusiastic about history and about life. Virginia is the right person at the right time as your State Historical Society of Missouri president.

— Bob Priddy

George Caleb Bingham Portrait of Howard County Farmer Donated to SHSMO Art Collection

The State Historical Society recently acquired a George Caleb Bingham portrait of Richard Henry Robinson, who farmed near Franklin in mid-Missouri. A descendant of Robinson generously donated the painting to honor family members Katherine Patterson and Marion Byers Smith, who helped preserve the painting.

Robinson was born May 4, 1811, in Bourbon County, Kentucky, the son of John M. Robinson and Susan McClanahan Robinson. In 1824 he and his family moved to Franklin, where he likely met the young George Caleb Bingham, who was living there at that time. He married Sarah Anne Sebree and the couple had at least five children, according to census records. Robinson had become a respected Howard County farmer by the 1830s, when Bingham was beginning to paint portraits.

The portrait of Robinson was painted in about 1838. A common interest in Whig politics may have brought Bingham and his subject together.

The painting is a striking example of Bingham's early style. Art historian E. Maurice Bloch recognized the picture as a transitional work reflecting Bingham's visit to Philadelphia in 1838. The artist's newfound familiarity with the techniques of American painters of the eastern states, such as Thomas Sully, allowed him to give Robinson a more lifelike quality that differed from the stiff, primitive aspect of Bingham's earlier portraits.

The painting will soon be on display in the art gallery at the Center for Missouri Studies.



SHSMO Art Collection Manager Greig Thompson uncrates a newly acquired painting of Richard Henry Robinson by George Caleb Bingham, September 30.

MISSOURI TIMES

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Missouri Bicentennial Mural Attracts Painters of All Abilities

When professional artists Aaron Horrell and Barb Bailey began kicking around ideas about how to celebrate Missouri's 200th year of statehood, they were already used to thinking creatively and giving back to their community. Their Paint for a Cause project has raised money for local charities since 2015. But what could they do to commemorate Missouri's upcoming bicentennial?

"Let's paint a large mural in Cape Girardeau," said Horrell, who was eager to get started on the planning. The artists' vision for the mural, however, kept getting bigger. "Why stop in Cape Girardeau?" they asked. To Bailey, the answer was obvious: "Let's take this project on the road!"

Last spring the painting envisioned by Horrell and Bailey began a two-year tour of Missouri. The Missouri Bicentennial project brings unfinished sections of the 30-foot mural to cities and towns across the state, where people of all backgrounds and levels of artistic ability may help complete the work. The mural, which depicts symbols of Missouri, has been drawn as a mosaic of small blank triangles. Anyone can paint the triangles. Paint and brushes are provided.

"We put the paint on the paintbrush and show people where to paint," said Horrell. "It's kind of like paint-by-numbers, but easier."

The artists' goal is to take the mural to every county in the state. They hope the completed work—15 panels in all—will find a home at a state office building in Jefferson City. The project will continue through June or July 2021. No fee is charged to paint, but the project welcomes donations to help with supplies and transportation costs.

The Missouri Bicentennial Paint-for-a-Cause project is endorsed by Missouri 2021, the statewide bicentennial commemoration effort led by the State Historical Society of Missouri. Horrell and Bailey are members of the Missouri Artisan Association's Best of Missouri Hands nonprofit organization. To learn more, visit missouri2021.org.

Jefferson City Mayor Carrie Tergin paints part of an eagle's wing while artist Aaron Horrell advises on technique during a tour stop at the Center for Missouri Studies on September 30.



A miniature model of the Missouri Bicentennial Mural is displayed next to paint supplies.



2019 Book and Writing Awards Announced at Annual Meeting

Lewis E. Atherton Prize, master's thesis:

Patrick Ayres, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, "Embattled Conservatism: Hamilton Gamble and Conservatism in Civil War Missouri"

Missouri Historical Review Article Award:

Brent M. S. Campney, "'The Drift of Things in Southeast Missouri': Demographic Transformation and Anti-Black Violence, 1900-1930" (*Missouri Historical Review*, April 2019)

Missouri History Book Award:

Brooks Blevins, *A History of the Ozarks: Volume 1, The Old Ozarks* (University of Illinois Press, 2018)

Mary C. Neth Prize:

Luke Ritter, "Mothers against the Bomb: The Baby Tooth Survey and the Nuclear Test Ban Movement in St. Louis, 1954-1969" (*Missouri Historical Review*, January 2018)

Eagleton-Waters Book Award:

Michael D. Robinson, *A Union Indivisible: Secession and the Politics of Slavery in the Border South* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017)

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African-American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series Draws Large Audiences

Ninety-seven-year-old Sehon Williams remembers when his hometown of Columbia, Missouri, had segregated schools and businesses, and the hospitals were off-limits to African Americans. For many years the town had a vibrant black community—Sharp End—but desegregation and urban renewal efforts ironically led to its decline. In October, Williams shared personal stories about Columbia's past in a public conversation with longtime Columbia civic leader Bill Thompson as part of the African-American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series.

Williams said that in some ways, the segregated community where he grew up during the 1920s and 1930s was a good place to be. "It was safe, and everybody looked out for each other," he said. "But you stayed in your area, and black people didn't cross Broadway unless they were going to work."

When Williams was drafted during World War II, he was married with a young child at home and another on the way. He was sent to Italy as a member of the 92nd Infantry, a segregated US Army division known as the Buffalo Soldiers. Williams said that one of his happiest moments was coming back to a new home that his wife purchased from the paychecks he sent from Europe.

"Most soldiers had to come home and restart their lives, find work and a place to live, but my wife surprised me by buying a home while I was away. That was unusual for any soldier," said Williams, who soon went to work for the US Postal Service. There he rose to management positions, retiring after a 33-year career.

"Yes, I fought prejudice in the workplace, but my community kept us grounded," Williams said. "We had camaraderie in the black neighborhoods that has been lost." Urban renewal programs begun in the 1960s soon destroyed nearly all of the black-owned businesses in Sharp End, he added. A substantial part of the black commercial district was demolished to make way for public housing.

"The worst part is that the footprint of public housing didn't even use 20 percent of its designated area," said Thompson. "It really broke the economy of the area and made it difficult for blacks to gain their own economic stability."

In September, Charles Nilon, professor of Urban Wildlife Management at the MU School of Natural Resources, delivered the first African-American Experience in Missouri lecture since the opening of the Center for Missouri Studies building. Nilon's talk focused on green spaces and urban ecology in north St. Louis's African American community.

"When we began our research, we were told by its residents that the north part of the city is the most misunderstood, stereotyped, and neglected part of St. Louis," said Nilon. "There was a distrust of conservation efforts; that their own views on how to manage vacant lots and abandoned buildings would not be taken into consideration."



An audience of more than 200 people attended the African-American Experience in Missouri lecture featuring Sehon Williams (right) and Bill Thompson (left) on October 15.

Nilon said that research he and graduate students have conducted in north St. Louis has uncovered unique bird species and other wildlife in open spaces. Some of those spaces are the unplanned results of activities such as removing abandoned buildings. Planned green spaces can lead to unintended consequences such as raising property values beyond what neighborhood residents can afford. "We are learning how MU researchers can serve their needs and how ecology can be a benefit in these open spaces in north St. Louis," said Nilon.

The series continues in November with a talk on jazz legend Charlie Parker by Chuck Haddix, a Kansas City-based jazz historian, curator, and radio host.

Recordings of the Williams-Thompson interview and other previous lectures in the series may be viewed online at www.youtube.com/user/shsofmo.



Charles Nilon speaks about conservation projects and contested green spaces in north St. Louis at the Center for Missouri Studies on September 17.

Volunteer Spotlight: Kathy Love

Kathy Love is a storyteller who also knows a good tale being told. For a few hours each week, you may find her on the front porch of her “summer home” in Shannon County. With a glass of iced tea and Saki the cat curled up by her feet, Love sits listening to an old radio show hosted by Marshall Dial.

From 1985 to 1993, listeners in the Bootheel region tuned in each week to Dial’s popular radio program, *The Stories They Tell*. The show featured interviews with a variety of guests from southeast Missouri and nearby Kentucky and Tennessee. The guests’ stories offered different perspectives on local history topics, ranging from centenarians who talked about growing up in the late 1800s to the son of a coal miner who explained how a union was established in the region. Tapes of the interviews, donated to SHSMO by Dial’s widow, Mary Lynn Dial, are now being transcribed. Some of the transcriptions are already available on the Society’s website as part of the Marshall Dial Oral History Collection.

Love is one of those transcribers. One of her favorite interviews was with Jim Cheatam, the son of a riverboat pilot and a towboat pilot himself, who taught school groups about the history of river traffic as far back as 1705.

“The most interesting parts of his interviews were based on his own experiences,” said Love. “He recalled in vivid detail how he fell overboard while trying to separate barges and got tangled in rigging. A quick-thinking pilot put his tow in reverse to open enough space between the barges so Cheatam could be rescued.”

Born and raised in Joplin, Love graduated from the University of Missouri before beginning her career as a feature writer for the *Salem [MO] News* in 1979. While working at the newspaper, she made her first foray into SHSMO’s collections. She remembers reading old newspapers on microfilm during her research for

a story on the Trail of Tears. Later, when she became editor of the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine, she relied on the Society’s archives to research the earlier years of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Love began volunteering at SHSMO in 2016. When foot surgery made it difficult to visit the Columbia research center, arrangements were made for her to work at home.

“The staff made it easy for me to continue volunteer work by allowing me to transcribe interviews remotely, even while spending several months in New Mexico to see my daughter’s family,” said Love.

Love has written two books since her retirement. One is *Sage Grouse, Icon of the West*, published in 2017, and the most recent is a children’s book, *Shawnee, Wild and Tame*, based on a true story about the wild horses of Missouri.

At SHSMO, Love enjoys visiting the Thomas Hart Benton collection in the art gallery. She recalls a former conservation agent who used to tell her stories about escorting Benton by boat to spots along the Current River where he wanted to draw.

“I enjoy the intrinsic nature of my work here and having an insight into the past,” said Love. “The new headquarters is inspiring, as well. The building is taking its rightful and well-deserved place in Missouri history.”



Kathy Love transcribes interviews from the Marshall Dial Oral History Collection at her home on September 12.

Opening Receptions for Oliver Schuchard and the Lithographs of Thomas Hart Benton

Photographer Oliver Schuchard can still hold court to discuss the craft of good photography and the emotional artistry that is part of each image. Schuchard, professor emeritus of photography at the University of Missouri, taught students for 30 years while also carrying out a distinguished freelance career. Working in medium and large formats, he has been prolific as an award-winning photographer, author, and teacher.

On a warm September evening inside a packed room of the Society’s art galleries, Schuchard met with visitors who came to see the opening installment of *Landscape Visions of Oliver Schuchard*, which features his black-and-white landscape photography. Many of these images are included in his book *Landscape in Black and White: Oliver Schuchard Photographs, 1967-2005*, which is sold in the bookstore at the Center for Missouri Studies.



Oliver Schuchard discusses his artistic influences at the opening exhibit featuring his landscape photography on September 14.

“To be more than an aspiring artist, there needs to be heart and mind that goes beyond the right kind of camera or film that is used,” Schuchard told the crowd. The current show will run until December; a second installment of Schuchard’s work will open on December 18 and continue through April 4, 2020.

A few days after Schuchard’s show about 100 attendees enjoyed an evening of live jazz and blues at a reception for the first installment of *Thomas Hart Benton: The Complete Editioned Lithographs*. SHSMO holds one of the few complete collections of the renowned Missouri artist’s lithographs published during his lifetime. The exhibition, featuring more than 90 master prints dating from 1929 to 1974, reflects how Benton’s art, including his portrayals of working-class lives and the rural Midwest, changed over the course of his career.

“Benton’s art reflects things he actually saw,” said SHSMO curator Joan Stack. “Music was also something that he was really interested in, and there’s a lot of rhythm in his images. If he were alive today, Benton would have enjoyed seeing people study his work in our new, fabulous art gallery while live Missouri music was playing in the background.”

The second installment of Benton’s lithographs will open on November 26 and run through February 22, 2020.

SHSMO

WINTER 2019–2020 PROGRAMS



NOVEMBER

Thomas Hart Benton: *The Complete Editioned Lithographs*
(second installment)

November 26–February 22, 2020 | Columbia | Center for Missouri Studies

The State Historical Society of Missouri holds one of the few complete collections of the lithographs Thomas Hart Benton published in editions during his lifetime. Over 90 master prints dating from 1929 to 1974 reflect the many changes that took place in Benton's attitudes and artwork over the course of his life.

DECEMBER

December Pop-Up: *Sugarberry Blooms*

December 7, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. | Columbia | Center for Missouri Studies

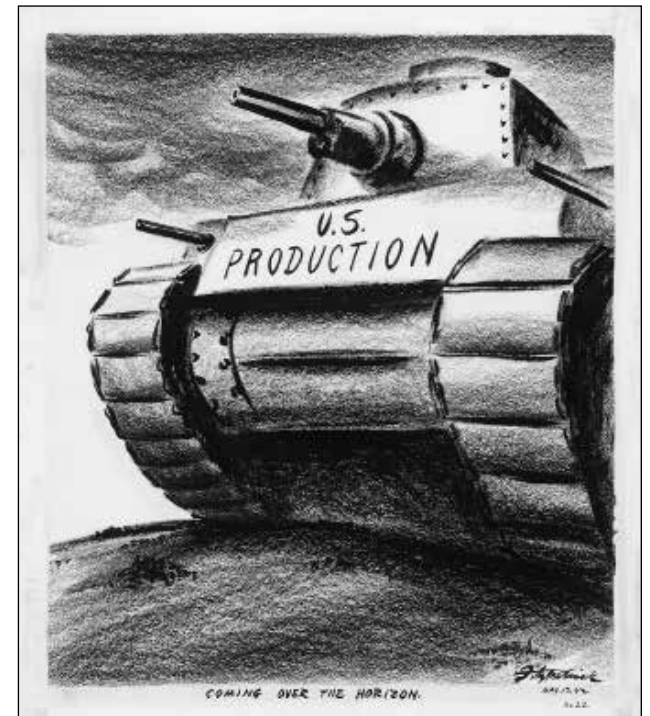
Just in time for holiday decorating, Sugarberry Blooms will be selling wreaths and evergreen bundles in the lobby of the Center for Missouri Studies. Stop by the bookstore to shop for holiday gifts and enjoy hot chocolate and pastries.

Battle Lines: *WWII Cartoons by Daniel Fitzpatrick*

***The United States Enters the War, December 1941–May 1943* (second installment)**

December 7–March 20, 2020 | Columbia | Center for Missouri Studies

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, Daniel Fitzpatrick, chronicled the progression of WWII with powerful and poignant editorial cartoons. The three installments of this yearlong exhibition present visual commentary on the events of the war as they happened. A curator's walk-through of the exhibit will be held on December 7.





Landscape Visions by Oliver Schuchard (second installment) December 18–April 4, 2020 | Columbia | Center for Missouri Studies

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 his dedication to the aesthetics and craft of black-and-white landscape photography over the course of his distinguished career.

JANUARY

On the Big River: Tom Benton Illustrates Mark Twain (second installment) January 11, 2020–May 2, 2020 | Columbia | Center for Missouri Studies

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*.



LOOKING AHEAD

Annual Day at the Capitol February 5, 2020 | Jefferson City

Meet National History Day in Missouri students as they share their passion for history with legislators at this daylong event in the Missouri State Capitol.

Missouri Conference on History March 11–13, 2020 | Chesterfield

The 2020 conference, hosted by Lindenwood University and administered by the State Historical Society of Missouri, brings together teachers of history and other professional historians in panel sessions to share their latest work.

See additional public events at shsmo.org

New Theme Announced for 2020 National History Day in Missouri

Each year, students and teachers eagerly anticipate the next contest theme for National History Day. The wait is now over: the 2020 competition theme will be “Breaking Barriers in History.” Students across the nation—including several thousand in Missouri—have begun research projects delving into historical examples of trailblazers who expanded the boundaries of human achievement.

National History Day has launched its own online platform for student website entries in the 2020 contest. The new platform should make it easier for students competing in the popular website category to display their projects. Other competition categories include documentaries, exhibits, papers, and performances.

More than 6,000 Missouri students in grades 6 through 12 participate in National History Day each year, with around 3,000 presenting their work at regional contests in Maryville, Kirksville, Greater Kansas City, Columbia/mid-Missouri, St. Louis, Joplin, Springfield, Rolla, and Cape Girardeau. About 600 students will advance from the regionals to the state contest at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

The 2020 state contest is scheduled for April 25. State finalists will compete at the national contest on June 14–18 in College Park, Maryland.

Judges are needed! National History Day in Missouri is supported by volunteer judges, who offer valuable feedback to students. Please consider volunteering at one of our competitions.

For more details about the program, contest dates, and how to get involved, visit the National History Day in Missouri website:

nhdmo.org.



Q: How Many Limestone Blocks Do You Count?

A: 7,400 blocks of limestone were carefully installed to fit the exterior of the Center for Missouri Studies.

Masonry work on the Center for Missouri Studies was completed in late August and landscaping around the building was finished in late fall. About 555 tons of limestone quarried from Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, make up the rectangle-shaped blocks of stone on the building's exterior.



Greg Triebisch and Ryan Barnes of Heitkamp Masonry of St. Louis prepare to install a 150-pound stone block on the exterior of the Center for Missouri Studies, August 2019.

St. Louis Soldier's Diary Captures Excitement of Armistice that Ended World War I

November 11 is celebrated each year to commemorate the service and sacrifices of US military veterans. The federal holiday, established in 1938, was renamed Veteran's Day in 1954. But the original name for it, Armistice Day, honored the agreement that ended World War I at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. A World War I diary written by St. Louis-born William J. Phelan captures the excitement of the first Armistice Day.

The diary, now housed at the St. Louis Research Center, begins in September 1917, when Phelan departed St. Louis's Union Station for the army training base at Camp Funston, Kansas. Assigned to the 314th Regiment, 89th Division, Phelan set sail for Europe aboard the USS *Carpattia* on June 12, 1918. The ship arrived at Liverpool, England, on June 24. Phelan's regiment then crossed the English Channel to Cherbourg, France, and was transported through northern France by train to reach the battlefield.

The next several diary entries give Phelan's vivid descriptions of trench warfare during the Battle of Saint-Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

On November 6, Phelan heard the first rumors that a ceasefire was coming:

11/6—About 7 pm our attention was attracted by shots fired from rifles star shells and flare on all sides of us and far back we could see in the rear areas. Regiment had moved up and we were awaiting transportation to follow. I immediately called the message center . . . and was told that 2 German generals had come across the lines to conclude an armistice. God, hope that this is true.

11/8—Aeroplane dropped French newspaper verifying above mayor of aero squadron dropped in and told us conditions of Armistice that had been made public. We hope and pray that they will accept but are dubious account of conditions which verily mean an unconditional surrender. We await the 72 hours given Germany to accept terms breathlessly

11/9—Watchful waiting

11/11—We officially received word that armistice would go in effect at 11 am. Oh boy! Thank God. This is the news we have been working and fighting for. This is the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Magic!!

Phelan and the 89th Division remained overseas as part of the Army of Occupation for several months following the Armistice. In May of 1919, following a royal sendoff from the French, he boarded the USS *Montana* and set sail for Hoboken, New Jersey, arriving there on May 26.

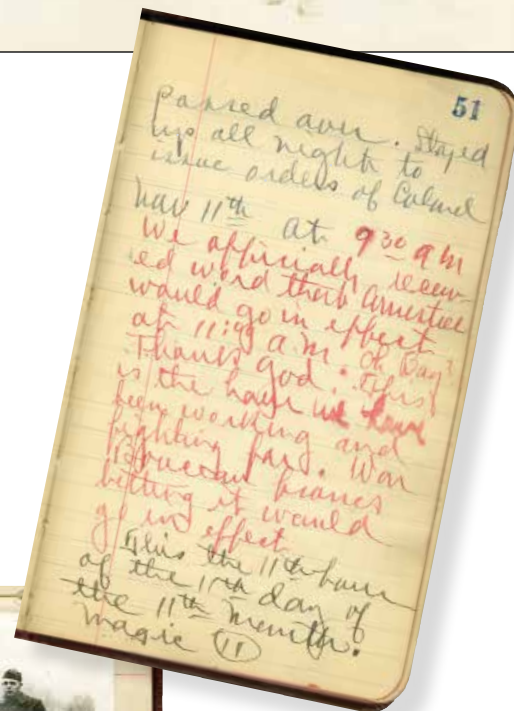
Back in the States, Phelan married Rosalie M. Lenden. They had one child, Elizabeth, who was born in 1926. Phelan died in St. Louis in April 1974. His diary is digitized and available online at digital.shsmo.org.



Top: William J. Phelan poses on horseback with his companion, Battalion Sergeant Major Cecil E. Cather.

Right: Phelan used red ink in his diary to record the time that the Armistice would go into effect: November 11 at 11 a.m.

Below: Noncommissioned staff of the 314th Regiment Engineers, 89th Division.



SHSMO Welcomes New Staff Members in Columbia and St. Louis

Two new staff members joined the State Historical Society of Missouri this fall. Elizabeth Winter came on board in September as an archivist at the St. Louis Research Center. She completed a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Missouri in 2019 and graduated from Truman State University. Winter also worked as a library assistant for one of the largest public library systems in Pennsylvania. Born and raised in Chesterfield, Winter enjoys Missouri's rural landscapes and camping trips to Mark Twain National Forest and other natural areas in southern Missouri.

Justin Carlos is the new maintenance custodian for the Center for Missouri Studies building in Columbia. He began work in October. Born and raised in Columbia, he attended Moberly Area Community College and worked for five years at the University of Missouri as a custodian and landscaper before moving to Consolidated Water of Boone County as a lineman. Carlos is a fourth-generation Missourian and resides on a small farm in Harrisburg with his wife. He enjoys landscaping, fishing, hunting, and tinkering on older-model cars for off-road events.



Elizabeth Winter



Justin Carlos

Civil War Letters of Polk County Confederate Describe Battles at Pea Ridge and Vicksburg

When the Civil War broke out, James Washington Woodard lived with his wife and four children on a farm in Polk County, Missouri. Sympathetic to the Confederacy, Woodard, like many of his neighbors, joined the Fifth Missouri Infantry Regiment in January of 1862. He rose to the rank of lieutenant before he was killed on June 29, 1863, five days before the Confederate surrender at Vicksburg. A collection of Woodard's papers recently donated to the Springfield Research Center provides insight into his wartime experiences.

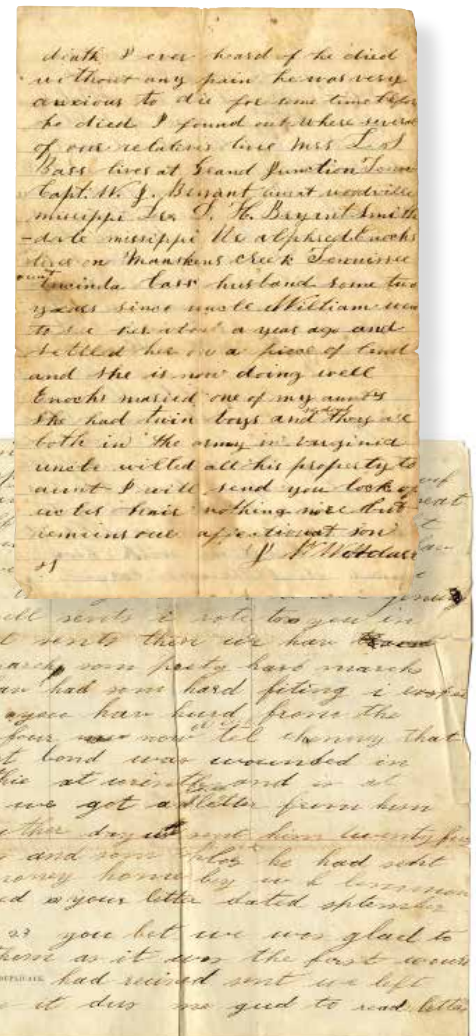
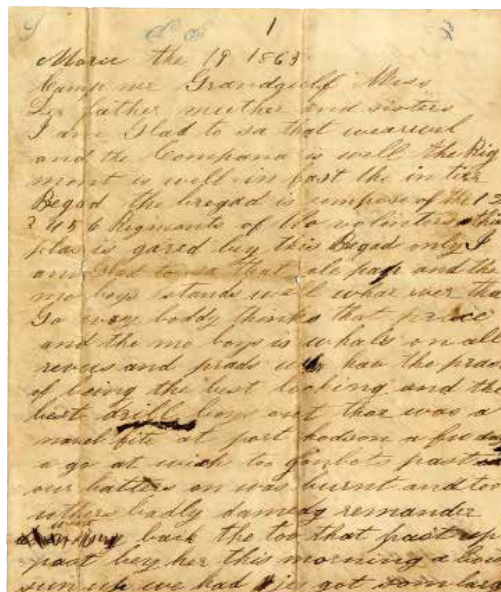
The Woodard Papers include six letters written by Woodard in Mississippi during 1862 and 1863. The letters describe the fighting he took part in at Corinth, Grand Gulf, and Vicksburg. One letter discusses the march of General Sterling Price's Missouri troops across Arkansas following the Battle of Pea Ridge, which Woodard refers to as "Elkhorn." The men survived for several days on parched corn and were sorely undersupplied.

Woodard was one of seven brothers, all of whom fought in the war. Only three survived. Woodard's letters include reports on the health of his brothers and brothers-in-law. He also instructs his wife and family members not to use their real names in correspondence with him, to avoid prosecution in Missouri for aiding the Confederacy.

Woodard's land in Missouri was nevertheless seized by the state, but documents

in the collection from after the war detail the transfer of land to his widow, Alzana, from family members. Alzana Woodard remained a resident of Polk County until her death in 1909. She never remarried.

To view the letters, visit digital.shsmo.org.



Letters written by James Washington Woodard to family members in Polk County, Missouri, during the Civil War.

Souvenir Programs Look Back at Frisco Railroad Towns in Missouri

The St. Louis–San Francisco Railway, which operated from 1876 until 1980, was a major railroad for travelers in the Midwest and Southwest. Frequent passengers included salesmen, local merchants, and other businessmen. In 1912 a group of these business travelers formed an association based in St. Louis called the Frisco Travelers. A collection of the organization's souvenir programs from its annual meetings is available at the Rolla Research Center.

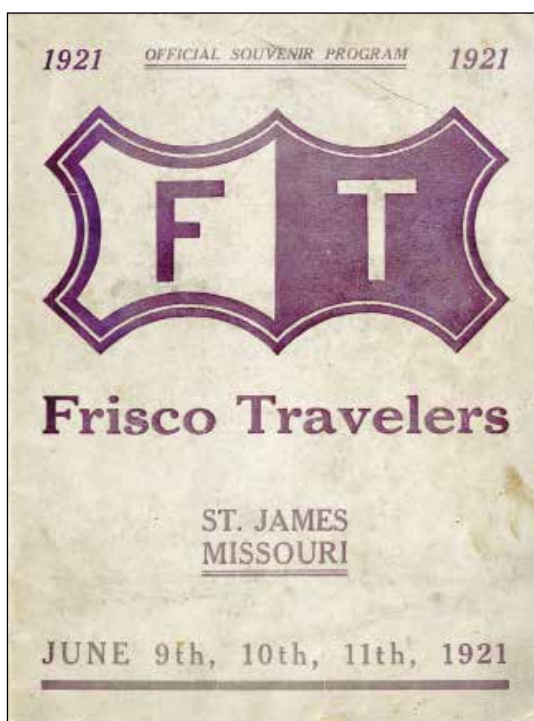
Members of the Frisco Travelers came from Missouri counties stretching from Jefferson City to St. Louis. Prominent Missouri businesses, including the Anheuser and Lemp brewing companies, the Campbell and Sligo iron companies, and the Shapleigh and Simmons hardware companies, were represented among its members. Local grocery, dry goods, drug, and tobacco companies joined, as well as out-of-state businesses such as the National Biscuit Company and Deere & Company, which made John Deere tractors. Advertisements from towns along the Frisco line are featured in the programs.

The Frisco Travelers held annual meetings around the state. The multi-day festivities included parades, track and field events, dances, and concerts. Photographs, advertisements, and articles featuring the host town and its businesses were included in the program each year. The programs also offer member rosters, schedules of events, and other information of interest to researchers interested in trade and business associated with the Frisco railway.

Top: Photographs of a 1919 convention of the Frisco Travelers in Hermann.

Bottom left: Cover of a 1921 annual meeting program of Frisco Travelers.

Bottom right: A 1920 advertisement in an annual meeting program of the Frisco Travelers.



Columbia Research Center Sees Large Increase in Number of Patrons since Grand Opening

Patron visits to the Columbia Research Center have gone way up following the Center for Missouri Studies' grand opening in August. In August and September, the research center was visited by patrons 355 times, compared to just 163 visitors during those months in 2018.

Groups and individuals of all ages have enjoyed touring the new research center as well as SHSMO's art galleries, which



A student and teacher from Locust Street Expressive Arts School look at a nineteenth-century book on biblical history in the Columbia Research Center.

have experienced a fivefold increase in visitors. One group of fourth-graders from Locust Street Expressive Arts School in Columbia were excited to learn about Helen Stephens, Missouri's two-time gold medalist at the 1936 Olympics, known as the "Fulton Flash." Students were wide-eyed when they looked into a small exhibit case with the Olympian's running shoes, her 1936 Olympic diary, and other items. The Stephens exhibit in the research library has since been replaced by an exhibit from SHSMO's Stark Brothers collection that includes an 1899 sales catalog, early advertisements, and photographs from the nursery and orchard company based in Louisiana, Missouri.

The State Historical Society provides tours to classes and groups who would like to see the building and learn more about the Society's collections and research.



SHSMO Archivist John Konzal talks with students from Locust Street Expressive Arts School about items on display from the Helen Stephens collection on September 25.

Tours of the art gallery are also available. Two weeks' notice is required. Need a rental space for your next function? Staff members can show you the rental options for nonprofit organizations. Fill out the online form at shsmo.org to schedule a tour.

Family Papers Tell a Story of the Iron Mountain Railroad in Southeast Missouri

The Belchamber Family Papers, recently donated to the Cape Girardeau Research Center, tell a unique story about a family that farmed and worked on the Iron Mountain Railway in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The collection includes hundreds of photographs and documents preserved by the family's descendants.

Daniel Belchamber was born on November 26, 1826, in Dorking, Surrey, England, and immigrated to Canada. He married Phebe Ann Latour on November 9, 1852, in what is now Ontario. The couple came to the United States, where their son

James was born in Port Huron, Michigan, in 1856.

Three years later the couple moved to Bollinger County, Missouri, where they eventually had six more children, as documented by records kept in a family Bible within the collection. Belchamber farmed 200 acres in Bollinger County and also served two terms as county assessor in the late 1860s.

Two sons and a daughter did not live to adulthood. All three of the surviving sons worked for a time on the Iron Mountain Railroad. James began as a watchman in 1872 before becoming an engineer in 1880. John began work on the railroad at age nineteen, but contracted tuberculosis and died two years later. Daniel Jr. began as a fireman for

the railway but later worked as an engineer on the Kansas, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad.

Most of the documents and photos in the collection are from the family of James Belchamber. His two daughters, Leona and Lula, worked for Will Mayfield College at Marble Hill, Missouri, as librarian and registrar, respectively, before the family moved to St. Louis. In addition to its materials on the railroads, the collection includes a number of items documenting life at Will Mayfield College in the early 1900s. There are also numerous photos



Lula Belchamber, daughter of James and Vinnie Belchamber, in about 1908.

of the local community and family and friends of the Belchambers.



Train engineer James Belchamber in the cab of a locomotive engine, circa 1890.

Large Grant Awarded to Support Kansas City Research Center Relocation

The Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation recently committed \$250,000 to support the relocation of the State Historical Society's Kansas City Research Center to Miller Nichols Library on the University of Missouri–Kansas City campus. The grant is an important first step in the campaign to relocate the Kansas City Research Center from its current location in UMKC's Newcomb Hall.

The move to the northwest corner of Miller Nichols Library will allow the Kansas City center to expand from 3,100 square feet to approximately 5,100 square feet. Most of SHSMO's Kansas City collections will be stored on-site, with an automated system providing five-minute retrieval times. Many of the Kansas City collections are currently stored at the University of Missouri's records center in Columbia, and delivery to patrons at the Kansas City center can take up to two weeks.

Researchers and other visitors to the new center in Miller Nichols will enjoy expansive views of downtown Kansas City as they research people and events that changed the course of the city's and region's history.

Lucinda Adams, associate director of the State Historical Society of Missouri, says the new facility will bring Kansas City's history home. "This plan will allow the State Historical Society to enhance patrons' experience at the Kansas City Research Center, improve its services to the UMKC



Architectural rendering of the proposed corridor gallery.

campus, and better engage the local community and wider public," said Adams.

The Society has also received a commitment of \$50,000 from Steve and Marianne Noll to support the Kansas City center's relocation efforts.

Established in 1980, the Kansas City Research Center holds the largest local history collection in Kansas City. Its holdings cover a wide range of topics, including more than 17,000 sets of architectural drawings, the J. C. Nichols Company

Records, the Miller Nichols Papers, the Jewish Community Archives, and the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Records. All of these collections document the vibrant history, growth, and development of Kansas City and Missouri.



Architectural rendering for the proposed reading room.



Architectural rendering of the proposed entry area.

Support History This Holiday Season by Shopping at SHSMO



Looking for a unique Missouri gift to give for the holidays? Perhaps there is a special book you would like to read from award-winning Missouri authors. Or maybe you wish to send out greeting cards created by local artisans. You can find these gifts and much more at the Center for Missouri Studies bookstore, or online at shop.shsmo.org. Proceeds benefit the work of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Several pop-up events for shoppers also will be held in the Center's lobby over the winter months, including one by Sugarberry Blooms, which will be selling wreaths and evergreen bundles to help deck the halls. The one-day pop-up shop will be held on December 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.