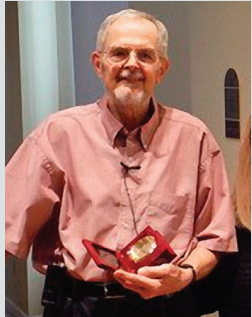


MISSOURI TIMES

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

FEBRUARY 2020 VOL. 15, NO. 4



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Artist Taps Missouri Roots to Paint Society's New Home

Last summer, Byron Smith stood behind his canvas in Peace Park, studying the new Center for Missouri Studies building across the street. Smith wanted to get it right. SHSMO had commissioned him to do an oil painting for the Center's grand opening celebration in August. For two years Smith had walked past the construction site each morning on his way to work as a custodian for the University of Missouri. As the sun rose over it, the building's colors and shape would take on new dimensions. A completely new scene would unfold midday when he walked back home.

Smith chose to paint the building in the late afternoon and before dusk. The "golden hour" allowed him to capture the best light and shadows on the building. Smith's painting *Center for Missouri Studies, View from Peace Park* is now on display inside the building at the SHSMO art galleries. Other works he has donated to the Society include his favorite painting of trees more than a century old on his family's land in Boone County. According to Smith's father, four pear trees were planted to honor the birth of the family's first child born out of slavery. Three of the trees are still standing.

"It's comforting to know that some of my work is here in this wonderful new building," said Smith. "I call this place my home, too."

Smith has been an artist for most of his 59 years. He remembers having a paint-by-number kit as a child, carefully making sure to stay within the grid and use the correct paint color. But like most curious children, he wondered how well he could draw without the numbers. When he began to make his own art, he found a love that would last a lifetime.



Center for Missouri Studies, View from Peace Park, oil painting by Byron Smith, 2019.

"I didn't mind if my artwork looked different than others," said Smith. He recalled a school-teacher who asked the class to draw flowers. Smith's classmates drew flowers with petals pointing to the sun. "Mine was droopy and showed a bit of emotion," recalled Smith. "The teacher liked it, and that gave me more confidence to use my own imagination. It's kind of like a composer who prefers the minor keys over the major keys."

Smith says his art has benefited from the mentorship of great teachers and artists in Columbia such as Sidney Larson and Frank Stack. He enjoys plein air painting and is inspired by the stories and places of central Missouri, where he has lived all his life. He has collected art and sold works since the 1990s and now operates in a space shared with Stack at Orr Street Studios in Columbia.

As Smith worked on his canvas, a homeless person came up to him in Peace Park, giving advice on how he should paint the building. Smith thought for a minute, "Well, maybe, he's right." But then he reminded himself that it was his painting. "I love that we all have different views of what we are looking at," he said.

A short video of Smith painting the Center for Missouri Studies is available for viewing at shsmo.org/collections/art/byron-smith.

Smith works on his painting of the Center for Missouri Studies in July 2019.

Descendants of Prussian Emigrants Reunited Through Philanthropic Gift

As the State Historical Society began raising funds to support its move to the Center for Missouri Studies building, an idea took root among the descendants of Johan Heinrich and Maria Elisabeth Plassmeyer, who immigrated to Missouri with their six children in 1857. Several of the Plassmeyers' descendants in Missouri reached out to their extended family to honor their ancestors while also helping SHSMO's cause. Together, cousins Norb Plassmeyer, Stan Mengwasser, and Ken Gelven contacted relatives of their great grandparents. Their efforts helped them to discover family members they had never met.

"It seemed to be a very daunting process, at first, finding our relatives who came from this lineage and then asking them to contribute to a fund-raising effort," said Norb Plassmeyer. "Through email and a closed Facebook page, we found more than 70 members of our family who agreed to honor our Plassmeyer descendants who served our country through military service, law enforcement, elected office, and other public service roles."

The family exceeded its original goal, awarding more than \$50,000 to the comprehensive campaign for the Center for Missouri Studies. In return, the State Historical Society of Missouri chose to honor the family by naming one of the new building's classrooms the Plassmeyer Room. The room will be used for workshops as well as classes on Missouri history.

"The Plassmeyer Room is a unique space honoring a family who wished to celebrate their immigrant heritage from the Westphalia region of Prussia to the Missouri town of Westphalia," said SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer. "Many members of this family have served our country, which is a testament to our immigrant heritage."



Left to right: Joan Mengwasser, Stan Mengwasser, Norb Plassmeyer, SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer, Ken Gelven, and trustee Doug Crews at the Center for Missouri Studies on December 17, 2019.



SHSMO oral historian Sean Rost teaches a course in Missouri history to MU undergraduates in the Plassmeyer Room on January 21.

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MANAGING EDITOR

John Brenner

EDITOR

Beth Pike

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kimberly Harper

SHSMO Membership Renewal

"For your convenience, we have included a remittance envelope within Missouri Times. Whether you are renewing your membership, giving the gift of history through a SHSMO gift of membership, or donating in tribute to a family member or friend, thank you for your generosity."

— Cristal Backer,
SHSMO Advancement Officer
for Membership and Annual Giving

Missouri's Oldest Newspapers Digitized for Bicentennial



An early edition of *Missouri Gazette* published July 15, 1815.

Two of Missouri's oldest newspapers, the *Missouri Gazette* in St. Louis and the *Missouri Intelligencer* in the Boonslick region, are now freely available online. SHSMO completed their digitization as part of its bicentennial efforts.

The *Missouri Gazette* was founded in 1808 by Joseph Charless, the official "Printer to the Territory." It was the first newspaper established west of the Mississippi River. Printed weekly, it covered local, domestic, and foreign news. The *Gazette* changed names and owners several times until it became the *Missouri Republican* in 1822.

The *Intelligencer* was founded in 1819 by Benjamin Holliday and Nathaniel Patten. In its early years it covered national and international news, and in an era in which most papers were closely tied to political parties, it was not aligned with any party. In 1826, Patten moved the paper from Franklin to Fayette, where it began supporting John Quincy Adams's presidential bid. Following political backlash and financial trouble, Patten moved the paper to Columbia, where he continued to publish it until 1835.

The Missouri Digital Newspaper Project is steadily increasing its online

collection of historically significant newspapers, with the goal of eventually offering publications from every county in Missouri. The first phase of the project is focusing on the years of statehood through 1946. More than 2.2 million digital news pages are now online. All but sixteen of Missouri's counties are now represented on the site.

In addition to digital content, SHSMO offers researchers more than 56 million pages of Missouri newspapers on microfilm. Some 300 current newspapers, from every county in the state, are added to the collection each week.



SHSMO staff Patsy Luebbert and Beth Pike host an informational booth at the Missouri Press Association Convention in Kansas City on September 26, 2019. Luebbert is the grant manager of the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project.

Distinguished Historian Alan Havig Remembered for Many Contributions to Missouri History

The State Historical Society of Missouri is saddened by the death on January 8 of Alan R. Havig, a professor of history at Stephens College and also a historian of the Society and a longtime supporter. Havig was born August 26, 1940, in Litchfield, Minnesota, the son of Harold Rolf Havig and Blanche Sylvia (Peterson) Havig. He was married to Bettina (Baker) Havig for over 52 years. A celebration of Havig's life will be held March 14, 11 a.m., at the Firestone Baars Chapel on the campus of Stephens College in Columbia.

Havig made numerous contributions to the State Historical Society over the course of his career. An active member of the Society, he served on the editorial advisory board for the *Missouri Historical Review* from the 1980s until 2017. He researched and wrote the 260-page book *A Centennial History of the State Historical Society of Missouri, 1898-1998*, and edited the anthology *Filling Leisure Hours: Essays from the Missouri Historical Review, 1906-2006*. In recognition of his extraordinary service and support, Havig received the Society's Distinguished Service Award, its highest honor, in 2008.

In 2015, Stephens College honored him by creating the Alan R. Havig Award for Distinguished Service. The award is given to individuals who make a lasting and significant impact on the college. Havig joined the college's faculty in 1967 after earning a PhD from the University of Missouri. He received Stephens College's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1985 and 1994, and its Distinguished Adviser Award in 1990. In 2002 Havig received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Havig is survived by his wife, Bettina; their daughter, Kirsten Havig of Laramie, Wyoming; and one sister, Margaret Daniher of Huntington Beach, California. Online condolences may be made at www.memorialfuneralhomeandcemetery.com.

CONTACT

(573) 882-7083

contact@shsmo.org

ONLINE

shsmo.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

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nhdmo.org

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missouri2021.org

contact@missouri2021.org

Missouri's Roman Goddess of Agriculture Gets the Spa Treatment

Crossing the Missouri River bridge into Jefferson City, you can't help but notice the odd appearance of the State Capitol building these days. For the past year, it has taken on a different look while being renovated. The towering dome is wrapped in white-colored canvas with large slits allowing the wind to blow through as construction crews work to restore the exterior of the building in time for the state's bicentennial in 2021.

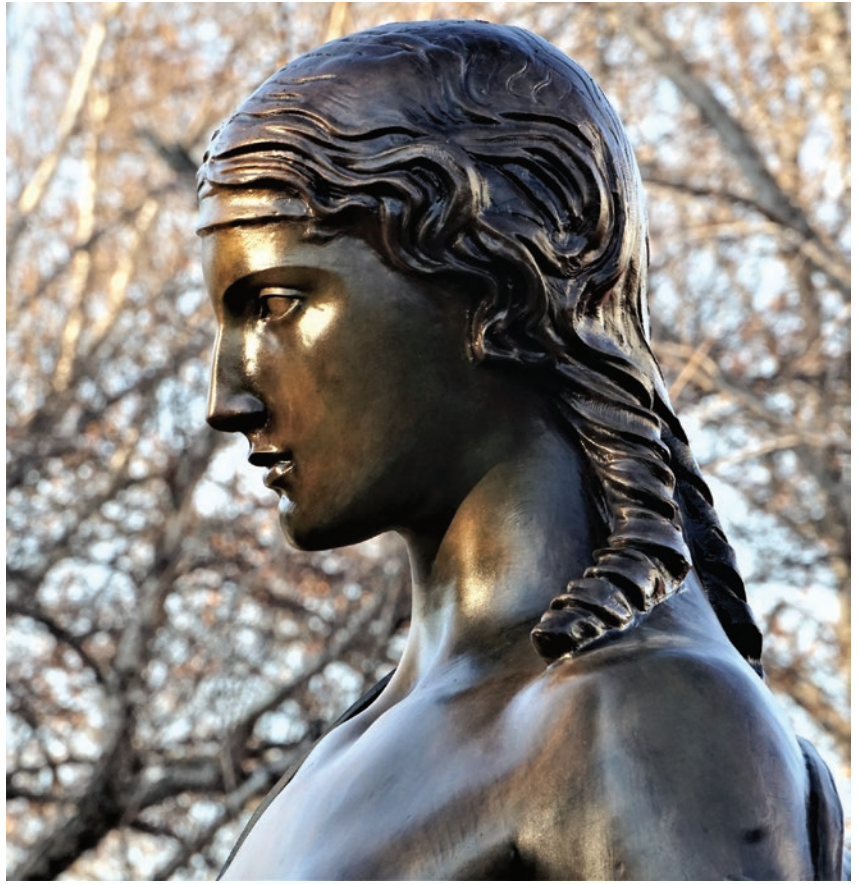
Also getting a complete cleaning was the ten-foot, fourteen-hundred-pound statue of Ceres that stands on the top of the dome. The striking figure of the Roman goddess of agriculture serves as a decorative lightning rod for the building. In 2019, conservators in Chicago cleaned the bronze statue, which is 94 percent copper. A laser cleaning treatment made it possible to remove contaminants while restoring Ceres' natural color tones and the patina of her bronze.

Ceres returned to her lofty pedestal in December before a crowd of schoolchildren, state officials, and other onlookers, some of whom were also watching a year earlier when the statue was brought down from the building. The restoration process allowed visitors some rare close-up views of the giant figure.

"She looks outstanding," said Bob Priddy, past president of SHSMO and one of the bystanders when Ceres was lifted back on top of the capitol. "Looking at her now, you would never guess that she had been struck by lightning more than 300 times!"

Priddy, who has written several books on the Missouri State Capitol, said seeing Ceres up close is an event that happens once in a lifetime. The only other occasion for the public to see Ceres up close was when the statue was installed in 1924. Without the modern cranes of today, crews tied a winch to a tree and hoisted Ceres to the top of the capitol in three sections using a pulley system.

In addition to Ceres, statues of Thomas Jefferson and other historic figures at the State Capitol building are also being restored



The newly restored Ceres statue on display on the south lawn of the State Capitol. The statue was returned to the top of the dome in December. *Color photos courtesy of Bob Priddy*

in time for Missouri's 200th birthday. SHSMO senior conservator Erin Kraus is pleased to see the results of the conservation work. "I work with Missouri history every day," Kraus said. "The conservation of Ceres is another great demonstration of our state's dedication to preserving its history for future generations."



Ceres is placed on a flatbed trailer for public viewing before being transported to Chicago for restoration work on November 15, 2018.



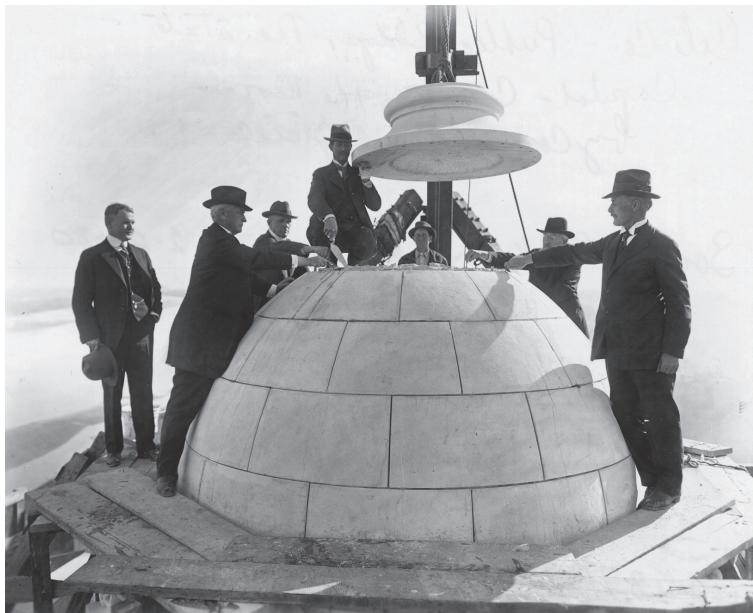
Ceres returns to the Missouri State Capitol, fully restored, in December 2019.



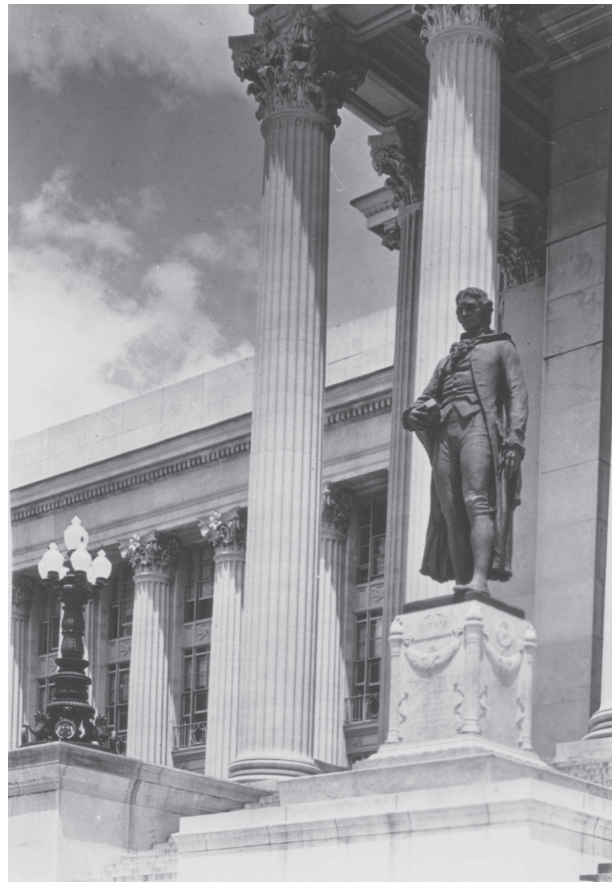
Ceres is lowered from the top of the Capitol dome, November 15, 2018.



The statue Ceres is lifted from the Missouri State Capitol dome for restoration work, November 15, 2018.



State Capitol Commission officials take part in the capping of the dome ceremony, 1917. *Gerald R. Massie Photographs Collection*



The Thomas Jefferson statue on the south steps of the Missouri State Capitol, date unknown. *Charles Trefts Photographs Collection*

Bicentennial Program to Launch Online Registry of Missouri Artists

Name a Missouri artist working between the years 1821 to 1951. Master artists like Thomas Hart Benton and George Caleb Bingham quickly come to mind. Yet given the state's diverse, complicated history, many lesser-known artists are beginning to emerge in a new online resource being developed by the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art's library, the Kansas City Art Institute, and the St. Louis Public Library. The idea to create an online portal of Missouri artists and their works began in 2018 after a visit to Nelson-Atkins by SHSMO's Michael Sweeney, Missouri's bicentennial coordinator.

"Michael came to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art to share with us ideas that communities across the state were planning to commemorate the bicentennial in 2021," said Amelia Nelson, who heads the Library and Archives of the Spencer Art Reference Library at Nelson-Atkins. "It sparked an interest in finding a way to use our collections to highlight Missouri's rich artistic and cultural heritage. Not just in urban areas, but in small towns and rural areas, too."

Once ignited, Nelson teamed up with M. J. Poehler of the Kansas City Art Institute and Adele Heagney of the St. Louis Public Library to begin brainstorming how this online artist registry might look. They agreed that a biographical dictionary featuring information on Missouri artists would fuel

scholarly research and provide a resource to anyone wanting to know more about artists in their town, or even about the person behind a painting found in a family's attic. The joint endeavor, known as Missouri Remembers: Artists 1821–1951, is one of the Missouri2021 Bicentennial's endorsed projects. The State Historical Society of Missouri serves as the official coordinator of the bicentennial commemoration.

Nelson said that a \$10,000 grant from the Missouri Humanities Council is helping Nelson-Atkins and its partners to get the project started. Most of the files already exist in their collections, so bringing these files to an online platform and providing a K-12 curriculum using the registry are among the goals of the project.

Heagney said they want the art registry to be representative of all cities and towns in the state. The free, searchable online database will include artists who lived in, or spent part of their careers within, the state of Missouri from 1821 to 1951, a period that doesn't overlap with other projects that document contemporary artists. "We hope that by bringing to light the artists in our collections, more contributors will want to add their artists from communities besides St. Louis and Kansas City," added Heagney.

For more information on projects being planned for the bicentennial, visit missouri2021.org.



Night Scene by Carl Rudolph Krafft (1884–1938). Painting in the collection of the Dayton Art Institute. Krafft was a founding member of the Society of Ozark Painters.

Fitzpatrick World War II Editorial Cartoons on Exhibit



SHSMO art curator Joan Stack leads a gallery walkthrough of the Daniel Fitzpatrick World War II editorial cartoons exhibit on December 7, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor.



Senior producer Ruth Ezell (left) of St. Louis public television station Nine Network visits with SHSMO senior conservator Erin Kraus (right) while filming a segment on Fitzpatrick's editorial cartoons that will air on the program *Living St. Louis* in early spring.

Volunteer Spotlight: **Susan Burns**

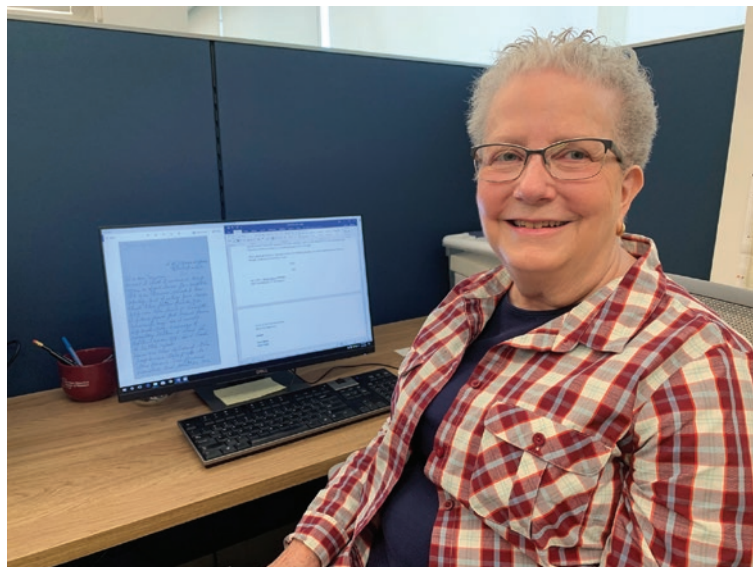
A decade ago, Susan Burns attended a genealogical conference where SHSMO's executive director Gary Kremer asked for volunteers to assist archivists at the State Historical Society. Volunteers are trained by staff to do a host of needed projects, from repairing fragile newspapers to indexing card files and working with micro-filmed newspapers. Burns had decided to retire after working for 38 years at the University of Missouri, mostly with the engineering school. Genealogy had been a long-time passion of hers. So, the time seemed right to take Kremer up on his request to help the State Historical Society.

"I like being around people, and I knew that is what I would miss most when I retired," said Burns. "Coming here each week helps me get out of the house."

Each Tuesday morning, Burns looks forward to transcribing World War II letters in the SHSMO collections. "It's fascinating to read how language has evolved and to hear from young soldiers with words like 'swell' often used to describe how life was going overseas to worried loved ones back home," she said.

Burns grew up in Poplar Bluff and later raised two children with her husband, Gary Burns, who also worked at the university. Her husband also shared a love of history, taking a special interest in maps. "He spent a lot of time at the State Historical Society in the map collection and cherished any kind of map, new or antique," said Burns.

When her husband died in 2006, Burns set up an endowment for SHSMO's map collection in his honor. The Burns Endowment ensures that the State Historical Society has a funding source that supports ongoing efforts to preserve maps and expand the public's access to them. The same year that her husband passed away, Burns was hit with another traumatic event in her life: she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Rounds of chemotherapy and treatment brought her to good health for 13 years until cancer returned last summer. She began chemo treatment right before Thanksgiving. When she feels good, Burns makes her way to the State Historical Society to help out. "My doctor told me that if I felt that I could keep doing my volunteer work, I should. So, if I'm not having a bad reaction to treatment, I try not to miss a Tuesday morning at the Historical Society," said Burns.



Susan Burns prepares to work on a transcription of World War II letters at the State Historical Society of Missouri Columbia Research Center on January 14.

In addition to her work at SHSMO, Burns is committed to giving back in other ways. She also volunteers at Meals on Wheels and Broadway Christian Church, and is a past board member of the Missouri State Genealogical Association. "We are so grateful to the Burns family for their many contributions to the Society," said Kremer.

Last fiscal year, volunteers donated more than 4,300 work hours to SHSMO's six research centers. Kremer said the volunteer program is a much-needed service that allows the Society to do more for its patrons. If you are interested in volunteering at any of the research centers (Columbia, St. Louis, Kansas City, Cape Girardeau, Rolla, or Springfield), please visit our website for more information at shsmo.org/support/volunteer.

New Staff and Promotions at SHSMO

SHSMO welcomes two new staff members to assist with Missouri 2021 Bicentennial programming. **Morgan Dennehy**, the new projects coordinator, will ensure that bicentennial programs run smoothly. Her previous experience includes managing accounts and client services at MBS Textbooks and the Bassett Law Firm, both in Columbia. Dennehy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with an emphasis in British literature from Southeast Missouri State.

Nick Hartman received his Bachelor of Science in Communications degree at William Woods University in 2019 and has completed internships at the Missouri Farm Bureau and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He will be assisting with communication efforts over the next two years.

A. J. Medlock was promoted to senior archivist for the St. Louis Research Center, replacing Claire Marks, who left

the position in early January. A. J. joined SHSMO in 2017 after working as an associate historian on the Soldiers Memorial Revitalization Project at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis. He has played a key role in the St. Louis center's growth in recent years.



Morgan Dennehy



Nick Hartman



A. J. Medlock

SHSMO

SPRING 2020 PROGRAMS



MARCH

Missouri Conference on History

March 11-13 | DoubleTree by Hilton Chesterfield-St. Louis

Anyone interested in historical research, the teaching of history, historic preservation, or other professional applications of history is invited to attend the annual Missouri Conference on History. The 2020 conference is hosted by Lindenwood University and sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri. Registration for the conference is required. For more information, visit mch.shsmo.org.

Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft

March 14-July 25 | Columbia | Center for Missouri Studies

SHSMO and the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection commemorate the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage with a collaborative exhibition of clothing and artwork that highlights trailblazing women in Missouri politics and the roles they played in the suffrage movement. An opening public reception will be held March 14 from 1:30-3 p.m.



APRIL

Historic Missourians Trivia Event

April 9 | Columbia | Center for Missouri Studies

Test your knowledge about Missouri history at the Center for Missouri Studies. SHSMO will be hosting a trivia night with the theme of Historic Missourians. Sign up to play, or put together a team of five and enter the fun competition. Registration is required. Learn more at shsmo.org/events.





National History Day in Missouri State Contest

April 25 | University of Missouri | Columbia

See how NHDMO transforms Missouri students as they compete at the state level for a chance to advance to the national contest. Volunteers and judges are always needed to help with the regional and state competitions. More information is available at nhdmo.org.

MAY

Land, Horses, Neat Cattle, Polls, and More: *Tax Lists and Your Genealogy*

May 20 | Springfield | Ozarks Genealogical Library

Learn the basics of using tax lists in genealogy research, including the types of information collected on tax lists, real estate, personal property, and combined tax lists. Join Bill Eddleman, associate director of SHSMO's Cape Girardeau Research Center, who will give specific examples of what to look for when researching tax lists. The workshop begins at 10 a.m. Learn more at shsmo.org/events.



ON EXHIBIT

Music in Missouri explores Missouri's contribution to American music. Large-scale photos and informational panels are on display at the Wencker Family Corridor Gallery on the second floor of the Center for Missouri Studies.

The second installments of several yearlong exhibitions are being shown in the SHSMO Guitar Family Galleries:

- **Battle Lines: WWII Cartoons by Daniel Fitzpatrick: *The United States Enters the War, December 1941-May 1943*** (now through March 20)
- **Landscape Visions by Oliver Schuchard** (now through April 4)
- **On the Big River: Tom Benton Illustrates Mark Twain** (now through May 2)

See additional public events at shsmo.org



Maria Brown performs "Red Cross Triumph and Tragedy: An Insight into Edith Cavell's Life" at the mid-Missouri regional NHD contest at Columbia College in 2019.

Jefferson City Student Finds Useful Tools to Compete in National History Day

The National History Day in Missouri regional contest season is just around the corner, and students are working hard to prepare their projects for competition. In February and March, students in grades 6 to 12 from around the state will present their history projects at regional contests in Maryville, Kirksville, Kansas City, Columbia, St. Louis, Joplin, Springfield, Rolla, and Cape Girardeau.

Seventh-grader Maria Brown, from Blair Oaks Middle School in Jefferson City, is preparing for the mid-Missouri regional contest at Columbia College on February 27. Last year, Brown participated in the NHDMO program and workshops for the first time. Advancing to the state contest, she took first place in the junior individual performance category with her enactment of British nurse Edith Cavell during World War I. Brown then competed at the national contest in College Park, Maryland.

This year Brown will continue in the performance category with a topic that involves a historic figure in her own family. "My topic person is a male, so as a female I had to consider how to portray his story. It's also always a challenge to find primary sources," said Brown, who was able to locate materials online and at her local library to complete that task. Participating in NHDMO's workshops has helped in improving her research skills and showing her how to use NoodleTools to organize the bibliography for her project.

If you would like to see projects by students like Maria Brown, consider being a judge for the NHDMO state contest on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus on April 25. For more information, visit nhdmo.org/judges.

Dr. Herman Schlundt Papers Offer Insight into Radium Experiments at Pickard Hall on MU Campus

Last November, the University of Missouri announced that Pickard Hall will be torn down after years of vacancy due to radiation concerns. Designed by M. F. Bell and built in 1892 as part of the iconic Francis Quadrangle on the Columbia campus, the building, which housed the Museum of Art and Archaeology until the museum was moved to a new location in 2013, was once the home of the Chemistry Department. Pickard Hall was closed in 2013 after the discovery of radioactive contamination believed to have been caused by research conducted until the 1930s by chemistry professor Herman Schlundt, whose papers are in the holdings of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Schlundt was born in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, on June 16, 1869. After earning his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin, he came to Missouri to teach chemistry in 1902 and

later became chairman of the department. By the time of his death in 1937, Schlundt was considered an expert on radium and the effects of radiation on the human body.

Schlundt was a contemporary of Marie Curie, who with Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel won a Nobel Prize in physics for the discovery of radium in 1903. When radiation was shown to kill cancer cells, the world believed that radium might offer cures for everything from cancer to blindness. Scientists were investigating potential health benefits from naturally occurring radiation in waters, and in 1904 Schlundt began studying the radioactivity in mineral waters in the Missouri Ozarks as well as in Yellowstone National Park.

Radium was also used in commercially produced luminous paints, and Schlundt was asked by the US Bureau of Mines and the Welsbach Company in New Jersey to experiment with ways

to successfully extract mesothorium, a potentially less expensive substitute for radium, from ores so that it could be used in manufacturing paint. Schlundt described his work in a bulletin titled "Mesothorium," published by the Bureau of Mines in 1922.

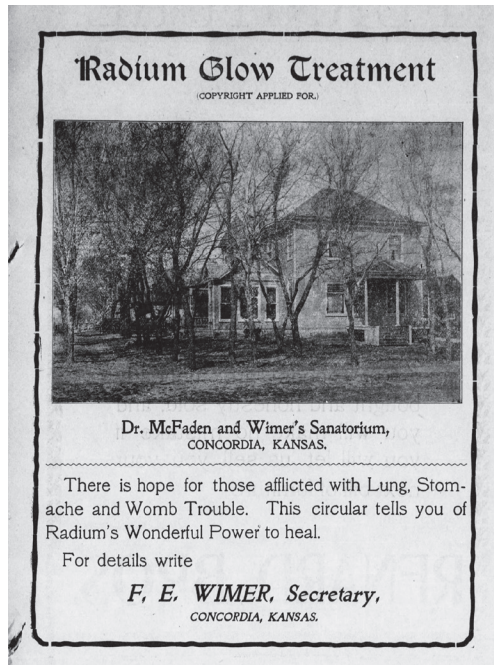
An article in the January 18, 1931, edition of the *Semi-Weekly Spokesman-Review* in Spokane, Washington, described the work being done in Schlundt's radium laboratory. The lab received large quantities of luminous watch dial paint in powdered form. Lab workers would refine this paint to recover usable radium. According to the article, "This refining, which takes approximately a month and a half, involves removal of the impurities of the paint by gradual crystallization and precipitation, a laborious but exceedingly remunerative task."

Schlundt Papers continued on page 12



An exterior view of Pickard Hall on the University of Missouri–Columbia campus, circa 1900. Glass Plate Negative Collection

Schlundt Papers continued from page 11



Schlundt did not limit his efforts to corporate research. He also studied the time it takes for radium to pass through the human body, using himself in the experiments by drinking radium-infused water.

Schlundt remained the chairman of the chemistry department until his death in 1937 from kidney disease and chronic encephalitis. In 1966, Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the US Atomic Energy Commission, praised Schlundt's work in a speech at the dedication ceremony for MU's nuclear reactor. Seaborg recalled Schlundt's success in separating radium from carnotite ores and even providing Marie Curie with mesothorium for her

experiments. Upon visiting Schlundt's old lab in Pickard Hall, he asked why the building wasn't marked as a historical site.

Schlundt's papers were donated to the university by his daughter, Anna, in 1946. The papers largely consist of correspondence files that document his radium research. His work to extract mesothorium from ore waste inadvertently led to the destruction of one the university's most beautiful, historic buildings, but his passion for understanding the effects of radiation on the human body increased our understanding of the hazards of radiation and led to improved safety standards.

An advertisement for radium glow treatment, *Concordia Blade-Empire* (Concordia, Kansas), August 5, 1904, page 7.

Heart of America Kennel Club Collection Broadens Scope of Research in Kansas City

Dog lovers and canine enthusiasts will find an interesting collection at the Kansas City Research Center that spans 70 years of material from the Heart of America Kennel Club in Kansas City (HOAKC). The club, established in 1948, is an all-breed kennel club consisting of canine breeders, exhibitors, and owners in Kansas City and the surrounding area. It was accredited by the American Kennel Club and held its first all-breed show on February 27, 1949.

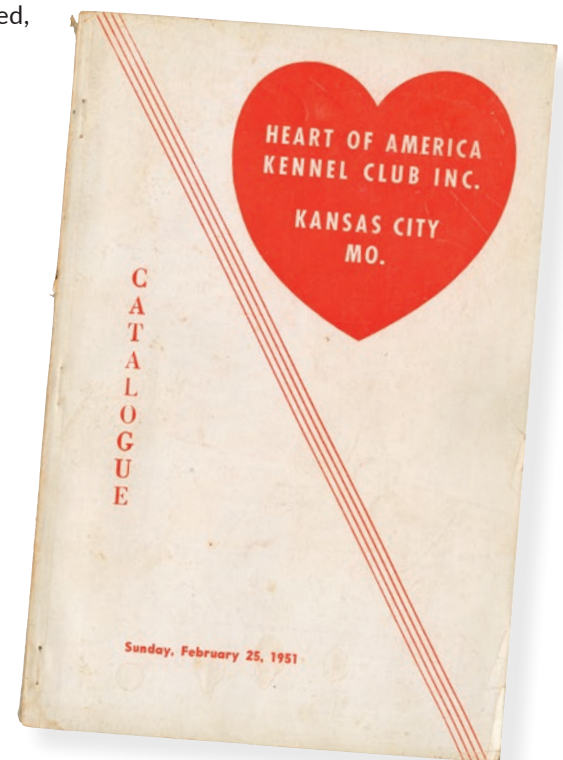
Today the Heart of America Kennel Club remains active in the community and collaborates with the Leavenworth, Kansas Kennel Club on shows each year. The State Historical Society holds two collections of materials from the HOAKC.

The first collection, donated by Richard D. Rees in memory of his wife, Janet Lee Rees, consists entirely of all-breed dog show catalogs. These catalogs list club information including officers, board members, and committees as well as schedules, judging programs, point systems, and prizes

for the events. Dick and Janet Rees bred, trained, and showed Boston Terriers at all levels of competition, and both also served as board members for the HOAKC.

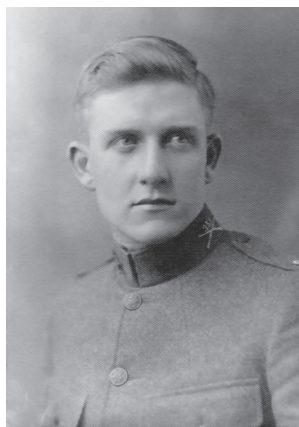
A second collection, donated by Loraine Boutwell in memory of her husband, Victor S. Boutwell, primarily contains premium lists, judging programs, and other documents related to HOAKC events such as all-breed dog shows, obedience trials, puppy matches, and combined specialty clubs that include multiple shows for individual breeds.

Collections like the Heart of America Kennel Club materials help broaden the scope of community activities represented in the archives at the State Historical Society of Missouri. The HOAKC collections document a thriving community in Kansas City that might otherwise be unfamiliar to many of its residents.



A Heart of America Kennel Club catalog published in 1951.
Heart of America Kennel Club Catalogs Collection

SHSMO Welcomes Donations of Family Documents Related to Missouri History



Lieutenant Lawrence L. O'Kelley in a photo taken during World War I.

For nearly one hundred years, the journal of Lieutenant Lawrence L. O'Kelley was stored in a box unknown to the rest of the family until his death. The army veteran's leather-bound journal ended up with a grandson, Mike O'Kelley, who treasured his grandfather's personal reflections on serving in France and seeing combat during World War I. O'Kelley approached several museums about donating the journal, but none were interested.

"Since my grandfather was born in Ash Grove, Missouri, I called the archivist at the State Historical Society who gave me great advice on conserving it," said O'Kelley, of Huntingtown,

Maryland. "When I asked if she would be interested in adding it to the collections, she was thrilled!"

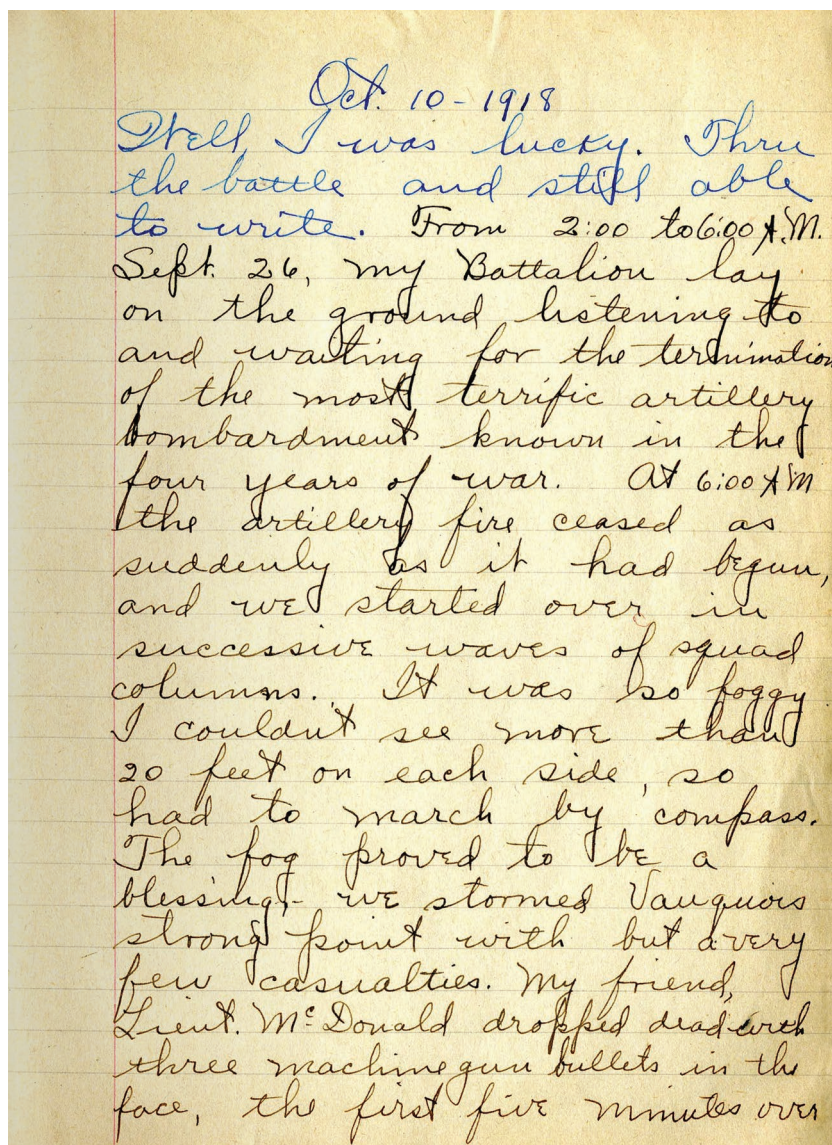
O'Kelley and his wife stopped by the Springfield Research Center on one of their trips across the country to donate the diary as well as his grandfather's honor certificate for serving in the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne during the final Allied offensive in the fall of 1918. He is now assured that his grandfather's collection will be well preserved in a place where it will be useful to scholars, students, and anyone else researching or learning about the First World War.

"Parting with documents connected to family can be difficult," said Erin Smither, SHSMO senior archivist in Springfield. Unless properly stored, family papers can be damaged from mold, water leaks, fires, pests, and other causes. Gifting significant historical records to SHSMO ensures the donor that their collection will be stored safely, organized, and made available to family members and researchers now and in the future.

How do you know whether a family document is of value to the State Historical Society? Smither advises potential

donors to contact one of the Society's research centers to see if any letters, diaries, photographs, or other records might be a significant addition to the collected historical record of Missouri and its people. SHSMO cannot guarantee the acceptance of every collection, but all materials are evaluated for their potential value to researchers and patrons. Collections larger than ten cubic feet require extra scrutiny due to space constraints.

Smither encourages anyone with potential research materials that document the history of the southwest Missouri region to contact her. She says that the Springfield center is in particular need of materials relevant to the histories of Barton, Cedar, Dade, Dallas, and Stone Counties. For more information about gifting collections or making monetary donations to help preserve and support Missouri's cultural and historical heritage, visit shsmo.org.



This October 10, 1918, entry from O'Kelley's diary records the death of a friend during the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne.

New Life Evangelistic Center Records Shed Light on the Jesus Movement in St. Louis

Among the newest collections available at the St. Louis Research Center are the papers of the New Life Evangelistic Center (NLEC). Established by minister Larry Rice in 1972, New Life emphasizes care for the poor by providing food and clothing, emergency shelter, job training programs, and spiritual care. Legal problems forced New Life to close its St. Louis shelter on 1411 Locust Street in 2017, but efforts are underway to reopen it. New Life continues to provide services through its administrative office in Overland, Missouri.

The St. Louis center's NLEC records contain correspondence, meeting minutes, and photographs depicting the founding and expansion of NLEC's ministry from 1972 to 2018. Among the notable features in the collection are issues of the *ZOA Free Paper*, NLEC's in-house publication. The newspaper chronicles New Life's beginnings as an offshoot of the Jesus Movement, a religious movement that took hold among a segment of the nation's youth in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Jesus Movement rejected traditional organized religion in favor of encouraging closer personal relationships with Jesus. By the early 1970s it had spawned coffeehouses, communes, and marches that echoed the countercultural movement of the 1960s.

Rice fashioned the *ZOA Free Paper* after similar underground newspapers that had sprouted on the West Coast at that time, including the *Hollywood Free Paper* in Los Angeles. "Zoa" is the Greek word for life. In the first issue of the *ZOA Free Paper*, Rice editorialized that he wanted NLEC and its publication to encourage St. Louisans to reject the "establishment" in favor of seeking zoa (life in Jesus Christ).

An early advertisement in the *ZOA Free Paper* promoted NLEC's Catacombs Coffeehouse, built in an old coal tunnel under New Life's original headquarters at 2107 Park Avenue in Lafayette Square. The coffeehouse was portrayed as a Saturday-night hangout for children and teens, with one ad featuring a photograph of NLEC youths listening to a rock band. Up to that point, traditional Christian denominations had frowned on

secular-sounding music. One of the major innovations of the Jesus Movement was to combine modern music with Christian lyrics, a form of worship now found in many churches.

By the mid-1970s, the Jesus Movement, like the broader countercultural movement, was in decline, and many of the institutions it inspired began to fold. Rice's ministry proved to be a long-lived exception. As New Life seeks to reopen its facility in St. Louis, it continues to operate online and on low-powered television channels to communicate its message.

The NLEC papers offer a valuable source of information on the Jesus Movement in St. Louis and ministry for the poor and home-

less in Missouri. For more information on how to access this collection, contact the St. Louis Research Center at stlouis@shsmo.org.



The cover of the first issue of the *ZOA Free Paper*, 1973. New Life Evangelistic Center (NLEC) Records

Oliver & Oliver Law Firm Records Now Available to Researchers

The Cape Girardeau Research Center recently completed the first major step in processing the records of its largest manuscript collection to date, the Oliver & Oliver Law Firm Records. Originally stored in over 400 bankers' boxes in the basement of a local building, the collection was donated by J. Fred Waltz of the firm of Oliver, Oliver & Waltz in 2013. It has taken several archivists a little over six years of recording each acquisition to prepare it for further work to make it more useful to researchers.

The collection holds materials dating from the 1880s through the 1970s. The Oliver family came to Cape Girardeau County from North Carolina in the 1820s and became prominent in southeast Missouri. The Oliver Records, which include personal correspondence and records on tenant farming in addition to papers

on the law firm's cases, document the family's involvement in local community organizations and offer insights into local and state politics. Topics include Boy Scouts of America, the Rotary Club, the Cape Girardeau Country Club, Oliver family genealogy, the Missouri Bar Association, Sons of the American Revolution, and Democratic Party politics. The Society's staff has discovered correspondence between the Olivers and such illustrious figures as presidents Grover Cleveland and Harry S. Truman, congressmen Champ Clark and Willard D. Vandiver, and several Missouri governors and university presidents.

Legal cases with substantial holdings include a peonage or debt slavery case involving parties in the Missouri Bootheel, lawsuits over land condem-

nation to establish the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, numerous civil cases, settlements of estates, and cases concerning the Little River Drainage District.

The Cape Girardeau center's staff is continuing its work on the collection. One of the next goals is to refine the draft finding aid so researchers can locate specific materials more easily.

The Oliver & Oliver Law Firm Records are open to research by appointment only until finding aids have been completed. Researchers should contact the Cape Girardeau Research Center if they wish to access it. Some boxes may not be accessible during this phase of processing.

For more information, contact the Cape Girardeau Research Center at capegirardeau@shsmo.org.

Online Research Tools Reveal New Clues about Mystery Doctor from Denmark

Thirty-five years ago, SHSMO received the personal papers of Hans Peter Andersen, a Danish immigrant who established a medical practice in Bloomsdale, Missouri, shortly after graduating from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis in 1919. Andersen was in his late thirties by the time he entered medical school in 1917, however, and little was known about his earlier years.

The Hans Peter Andersen Papers at the Rolla Research Center have puzzled and enticed researchers and staff archivists since Roger Martin and Judy Worley donated the collection to the Society in 1985. In addition to medical reports such as diagnoses from autopsies performed by Andersen and others at Washington University and a collection of letters from medical colleagues during World War I, the Andersen Papers contain letters from earlier years, before he arrived in Missouri.

Little was known about Andersen's life before he arrived in St. Louis in late 1917 to begin medical school. The earlier letters in the collection, mostly correspondence with family members back in Denmark, are written in Danish and have not been translated. More mysteriously, the letters from 1909 to 1911 were sent to Andersen at addresses all over the country. An online

search of census records in other states has revealed why: Andersen had joined the circus. He worked for several years as a cook with the Barnum and Bailey Circus, based in Bridgeport, Connecticut. While with Barnum and Bailey, Andersen traveled to Los Angeles, Seattle, Dallas, Chicago, Kansas City, and a number of other cities.

Born in October 1880 in Copenhagen, Denmark, Andersen set sail from his homeland in 1907 bound for Canada. In 1908 he boarded a train in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, traveled to Emerson, North Dakota, and began living in the United States. Too old for military service when the United States entered World War I in 1917, Andersen embarked on his medical education in St. Louis and assisted at local hospitals while receiving letters and photographs from younger colleagues who served the war effort overseas. One letter writer in particular, Bert C. Ball, was a ward orderly at Base Hospital No. 21 in France. Ball's letters discuss life in the army, mutual friends, hospital work, influenza cases, and his hope for an armistice.

In 1918, Andersen applied to become a naturalized US citizen. On his paperwork, he listed his next of kin as his wife, Rena. She had three children from a previous marriage, and two of them came to live

with her and Andersen. Graduating from medical school in 1919, Andersen set up a practice in Bloomsdale in Ste. Genevieve County. Materials in the Andersen Papers reveal a tragedy two years later: in 1921 he rushed Rena to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis for complications linked to a pregnancy. She delivered a baby, but died due to complications associated with eclampsia. It is unclear whether the child survived. Andersen is listed as the attending physician at the time of Rena's death.

No records have been found regarding Andersen after 1921. Whatever became of the doctor after this sorrowful time remains a mystery, another chapter in a life yet to be uncovered.



A collection of postcards sent to Andersen from Denmark during World War I, including one marked "Opened By Censor." Hans Peter Andersen Papers

Register Now for the Missouri Conference on History

Join us March 11–13 for the Missouri Conference on History at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Chesterfield. The annual conference is dedicated to sharing current research, exchanging information on teaching and curriculum, and promoting the field of history. Register now to attend the conference. An early bird discount is available to those who register before February 16. Registrations after March 2 do not guarantee a meal at the luncheons, so sign up soon by visiting mch.shsmo.org.

This editorial cartoon from 1960 by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*'s Bill Mauldin depicts political battles over construction of the Gateway Arch, as represented by Republican president Dwight Eisenhower (left) and Missouri Democratic congressman Clarence Cannon (right).
Editorial Cartoons Collection



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