

Missouri Times

The State Historical Society of Missouri &
Western Historical Manuscript Collection

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1898 Society members Patricia Purtell (left) and Maxine Christensen (right) examine a ribbon map during the opening reception for *The Stories They Tell: Understanding Missouri History through Maps*.



The map exhibit was made possible in part with a memorial contribution from the Gary Burns family. From left to right, Susan Burns, wife of Gary Burns; her mother, Dorothy Cline-Denney; Gary Kremer, Society director; and Susan's sister, Margaret Bell.

Receptions Mark Exhibition Openings

The Society recently held two opening receptions for gallery exhibitions—*The Stories They Tell: Understanding Missouri History through Maps* and *Light & Life in Missouri: Photos by Notley Hawkins*. Members of the 1898 Society attended a private reception on January 26, and a public reception was held on January 27, both in the Society's quarters.

The Stories They Tell: Understanding Missouri History through Maps consists of over thirty rare and unique maps organized by Walter Schroeder, associate professor emeritus at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The maps form a part of Missouri's cartographic legacy and trace the history of the state from 1818 to the present. This exhibition includes maps illustrating topics as wide ranging as boundary disputes, utopian towns, the Mississippi River, and cities that were never built. Schroeder, guest curator of the exhibit, was present at both receptions to discuss the maps.

The exhibit, on display in the Main Gallery through June 30, was made possible in part with a memorial contribution from the Gary Burns family. Burns passed

away last summer after working for the University of Missouri-Columbia for thirty-five years. Because of Burns's love of history and maps, his family decided to donate a portion of the funds collected in his name to the Society to sponsor the map exhibit. The public reception on January 27 honored the Burns family and the donors who contributed to the memorial fund.

A catalogue with illustrations of all the maps in the exhibit, along with detailed descriptions, is available for sale. To order a catalogue, call the Society at (573) 882-7083. They are \$5.00 each.

Light & Life in Missouri: Photos by Notley Hawkins features large-format color and black-and-white images by Notley Hawkins, a Columbia painter and photographer. The collection of sixty-six digital photographs, all taken within the last two years, documents life in mid-Missouri. Hawkins's use of lighting brings his subjects to life by capturing their mood, such as the excitement created by the lights and motions of carnival rides, the eerie feeling of cemeteries and old houses, and the serenity of beautiful sunsets and other panoramic landscapes. The artist was present at both receptions to speak about his work. The exhibit is on display in the North-South Corridor Gallery through May 12.

Newspaper Library Recent Acquisition

The Newspaper Library has recently acquired National Archives microfilm series M1894, the Descriptive Recruitment Lists of Volunteers for the U.S. Colored Troops for the State of Missouri, 1863-1865. The collection is especially valuable for those interested in African American and Civil War history.

The collection includes six reels of microfilm. The first reel contains three descriptive index books in which recruits' names appear in alphabetical order by the first letter of the surname. Researchers will find a description of each recruit, including complexion, hair color, and occupation; the name of the former slave owner; and the name of the recruitment station where each man signed up. Reels two through six list the recruitment stations in alphabetical order. First, each station has its own card that shows the cities included and the date range of recruitment. Next, an alphabetical list of recruits is given for each station, along with the numerical order of the recruits' individual cards. Finally, each recruit has a card, containing all the information from the index, as well as additional notes.



Staff Profile: Joan Stack

In October 2006, Joan Stack joined the staff of the Society as art curator. "I'm impressed by the breadth and depth of the Society's art collection," she said. "I'm

a big fan of George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton, and the Society is the perfect opportunity to work with their art."

As curator, Joan is responsible for caring for the art collection, properly housing the works, providing ample security in the galleries, and conserving the art as it ages. In addition, Joan promotes the Society's collection through exhibitions, publications, and other forms of outreach.

So far, Joan's favorite part of her job is learning more about the collection. "We need to study the works to gain a body of knowledge for scholars and art lovers," she said. "We need to find out what we have and why it's important."

In the future, Joan hopes to make the Society's art collection more accessible to the public by putting more of it on display. She wants to continue to build the collection by acquiring more works by late-nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century Missouri artists.

Before coming to the Society, Joan was associate curator of European and American art at the Museum of Art and Archaeology on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus. She has a BA and an MA, both in art history, from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a PhD in art history from Washington University in St. Louis.

Born and raised in Columbia, Joan has been exposed to art her entire life. Both her father, Frank Stack, and her brother, Robert Stack, are painters and cartoonists. "I just love working with art," she said. "I've grown up with it all my life."

Joan and her husband, Simon Slight, have one son, William, who is three years old. In addition to spending time with William and the family's two cats, Lewis and Freddie, Joan enjoys traveling to national parks and seeing wildlife. "Yellowstone and the Great Smoky Mountains are some of my favorites," she said.

News Notes

State Senator **Michael R. Gibbons** of Kirkwood has been elected to the Society's board of trustees. He will complete the unexpired term of Judge Robert G. J. Hoester of Kirkwood, who passed away in October 2006. An attorney, Senator Gibbons served as a state representative, 1992-2000, and was elected to the state senate in 2000, where he is the president pro temp.

Laurel Boeckman, senior reference specialist and head of the Reference Library, has retired after serving the Society for over thirty-two years. She began working at the Society as a reference specialist in 1974 shortly after graduating with an MA in library science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. In 1979, Laurel was promoted to senior reference specialist. Laurel and her extensive knowledge of the Reference Library will be missed by both patrons and staff. We wish her a happy retirement!

Information on speakers and topics for the **Missouri History Speakers' Bureau** is now online at www.umsystem.edu/shs/speakersbureau/speakersbureau.shtml. To schedule a speaker, to make a donation to the Speakers' Bureau, or for further information, contact Todd Christine at ChristineT@umsystem.edu or at (573) 882-7083.

Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln Exhibit on Display in Ellis Library

The University of Missouri-Columbia Libraries will host the American Library Association's traveling exhibit *Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation* from March 8 through April 20. The exhibit, which chronicles one of the defining themes in American history, will be in the colonnade of Ellis Library. *Forever Free* consists of reproductions of rare historical documents and photographs and a text that draws on the latest scholarship in the field.

On March 14, a reception will be held in room 201 of Ellis Library, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., to officially open the exhibit. A number of other events are planned as well, including a lecture titled "Civil War Medicine in 2007" presented by George Wunderlich, director of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine; a panel discussion about the causes of the Civil War; a slide presentation on Abraham Lincoln given by Gary Kremer, executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri; an internet discussion about the Civil War and Missouri's role in the conflict; and a movie about the Civil War followed by a scholar-led discussion. The dates and times for these events will be forthcoming at <http://mulibraries.missouri.edu/foreverfree>. For questions about the exhibit or any of the events, please check the Web site for contact information.

Portraits Donated to Society

Orval and Martha Henderson of St. Louis recently donated two oil paintings to the Society. The paintings are portraits of Alfred N. and Elizabeth Simmons. The couple married in Bullitt County, Kentucky, and moved to Cooper County, Missouri, prior to 1845. Simmons was a merchant in Boonville and subsequently engaged in farming. The portraits remained in the Simmons family for more than one hundred years. In 1968 the Hendersons bought the two paintings from Gibson Antiques in Boonville, Missouri.

In the past, these paintings have been attributed to George Caleb Bingham, but neither the style nor the surviving documents support this attribution. More likely, the pictures were painted by a lesser-known artist influenced by Bingham or by one of the many itinerant artists who traveled from town to town, searching for commissions wherever they might find them. The donated paintings augment the Society's collection of nineteenth-century Missouri portraits.

Gary Kremer (center) accepts the art donation from Martha and Orval Henderson.



Donors

The following individuals and organizations have graciously contributed materials and/or \$100 or more to the Society during the past year.

Steve Adamson, Placentia, CA
John C. Aisenbrey, Kansas City
Catherine A. Allen, Santa Fe, NM
Shirley Anderson, Chesterfield
W. F. Antry, Tulsa, OK
John Bradley Arthaud, San Antonio, TX

Barbara Bank, Columbia
Mary E. Barnham, Columbia
Mrs. Michael Barrett, Naperville, IL
Lawrence Barton, Glen Echo Park
W. H. (Bert) Bates, Kansas City
Robert Baumann, St. Louis
T. J. Beach, Weston
Raymond Beagle Jr., Kansas City
W. Conger Beasley Jr., Kansas City

Cora M. Beggs, St. Louis
Jane B. Benson, Dallas, TX
Barbara Bergkvist, Columbia
Bill Berry, Columbia
Jeanne Blackmar, Belleair, FL
Glen Blesi, St. Clair
Roy Blunt, Springfield
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D. Bruce Coryell, Independence
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Warren Dalton, Columbia
Gail Daly, Madrid, Spain
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Betty Jo DeLong, Jefferson City
John Richard Dengler, St. Charles
Department of Natural Resources,
Northern Missouri Historic District,
Brookfield

Elaine Derendinger, Franklin
Petra DeWitt, Rolla
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David Eaglesfield, Gladstone
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Environment, Energy, & Natural Resource
Division, Fort Leonard Wood
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Ted Fisher, Columbia
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Billy Franke, Macon
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Goodrich, MI
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Center, Springfield

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William K. Hall, St. Louis
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Miriam Hemphill, Columbia
Orval and Martha Henderson, St. Louis
George Hicks, Kansas City
Cindy Higgins, Eudora, KS
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Mary Patricia Holmes, Boonville
Ronald Horstman, Gerald
Pat Huber, Rolla
Loren Humphrey, Columbia
Donna Huston, Marshall

John Irvin, Chillicothe

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Kevin Kelly, Columbia
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Gary R. Kremer, Jefferson City

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M. Daniel Lane, Blue Springs
Jeanne Legge, Forsyth
Estate of Gene Charles Lemmon, Miami,
FL

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Harold Linder, Anthem, AZ
Marcine Lohman, Perrysburg, OH
Eldridge Lovelace, St. Louis

Ronald B. Luther, Newport Beach, CA
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,
Sunset Hills
Edward Lynch, Houston, TX

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Amahia Mallea, Grand Forks, ND
Howard Marshall, Fulton
James Mayo, Bloomfield
Marie McCollom, O'Fallon, IL
David G. McDonald, Columbia
Paul McGhee, Dexter
Kerry McGrath, Urbandale, IL
Robert E. McHenry, Adrian, MI
John W. McKinney, Chesterfield
Mary H. McMillan, Raleigh, NC
Larry L. McMullen, Shawnee Mission, KS
Glenda McMurry, Independence
Walter D. McQuie Jr., Montgomery City
Kerby Miller, Columbia
Tom Miller Sr., Washington
Missouri Southern University, Joplin
Frank D. Mitchell, Chariton, IA
Roscoe Mitchell, Houston, TX
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William A. Moore, Fairfax, VA
Lawrence G. Morehouse, Columbia
Moundville UMC, Moundville
Robert Mueller, Ste. Genevieve
Jeanne Murphy, Prairie Village, KS

Leonard L. Naeger, St. Louis
Barbara Nathman, Vian, OK
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Chapter, Columbia
Bill Nichols, Lebanon
Marlene Nolte, Lake Isabella, CA
Dorothy Tinnin Norris, Cabool
Bettie Neville Noyce, Oakland, CA
Robert Landen Nussbaumer, St. Louis
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Sterling and Pam Oliver, Mexico
Vera Olson, Kansas City
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Peggy Platner, Columbia
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Landon Rowland, Kansas City

St. Louis County Library, Special
Collections, St. Louis
Wayne Sanders, Columbia
Elizabeth Gentry Sayad, St. Louis
Steve Schafer, Minneapolis, MN
Adolf and Rebecca Schroeder, Columbia
Walter A. Schroeder, Columbia
Raymond Stanley Scott, Steelville
Mary Sellers, Columbia
Harvey D. Shell, Columbia
Lindsey Shull, Leawood, KS
Robert Siler, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Mrs. Lester D. Sims, Mulvane, KS
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Becky L. Snider, Columbia
Mark Stauter, Rolla
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Whitney Thomas, Littleton, CO
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Blanche Touhill, St. Louis
John Townsend, Franklin
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Karen Krueger Tyler, Portland, CT

David Utz, Philadelphia, PA

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Walnut Creek Historical Society, Walnut
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Robert Lyle Williams, Houston, TX
Victor Williams, Ethel
Ken Winn, Jefferson City
Evlyn Wolf, Amity
David Wolk, New Melle
Robert Gail and Margie McDaniel Woods,
Festus
William T. Woolsey, Springfield
Scott O. Wright, Kansas City

Vilas Young, Maryville

“Family History Day”

The Society will sponsor a family history day with two workshops on Saturday, March 3, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The first workshop, presented by senior reference specialist Ara Kaye, will focus on genealogy. Winifred Bryan Horner, professor emeritus of English at the University

of Missouri-Columbia, will discuss memoir writing in the second workshop.

Family History Day is free for members and \$10.00 per family for nonmembers. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Call (573) 882-7083 or visit www.umsystem.edu/shs/familyhistory.shtml to register. Come learn about your past and leave your mark for the future!

National History Day in Missouri



These students are excited to begin their performance at the NHDMO contest.

2007 NHDMO Regional Contest Dates:

February 23

Region 2 Hannibal – Johnny Abbott
jabbott@hlg.edu; (573) 221-3675, ext. 338

February 24

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

Region 5 St. Louis – Peter Acsay
acsayp@msx.umsl.edu; (314) 516-5700

March 2

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

Region 8 Rolla – Jeff Schramm/Pat Huber
schrammj@umr.edu; (573) 341-4808

March 10

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

Region 7 Springfield – John Chuchiak
johnchuchiak@missouristate.edu; (417) 836-5425

March 16

Region 1 Maryville – Joel Benson
jbenson@mail.nwmissouri.edu; (660) 562-1613

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

April 14

NHDMO State Contest:
University of Missouri-Columbia

June 10-14

NHD National Contest:
University of Maryland-College Park

If you would like to judge or help out in other ways at any of the History Day contests, please contact Diane Ayotte or Lucinda Barnhart at historyday@umsystem.edu or at (573) 882-0189. For more information about History Day, visit www.umsystem.edu/whmc/nhd/nhdmain.html.

New Web Site Category

National History Day will institute a fifth presentation category—Web sites—at the 2008 national contest, allowing students the opportunity to work with a totally different kind of presentation form to showcase their historical research. Many states, including Missouri, will be testing the Web site category at regional and state competitions this year, but *Web site winners will not advance to the national contest in 2007.*

Judging of Web sites at the state level will be similar to that for the papers category. The deadline for submission will be about three weeks before the contest, allowing the judges the opportunity to review the entries prior to contest day. As with the historical papers category, only individual students may compete in Web sites, and only Web site finalists will be interviewed at the state contest.

Please Note: This is only for 2007! Since students who enter the Web site category at the state competition cannot advance to NHD in 2007, NHDMO is allowing them to also enter the documentary category with the same topic. This will allow them to have a chance to go to nationals.

Each regional coordinator will have specific information about how and where judging will take place at each regional contest. Please check with your coordinator ahead of time to receive that information.



Judge Petra DeWitt (above), University of Missouri-Rolla history department, looks up from her deliberations to smile for the camera. These students (below) are ready to take on all competition at the NHDMO contest.



Gary Kremer presents a NHDMO award to Stephanie McAtee, St. Louis, while teacher Christy Connor looks on proudly.

NHDMO State Contest: Come One, Come All!

The State Historical Society and Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia will sponsor the National History Day in Missouri state contest again this year. Approximately five hundred students in grades 6-12 from all over the state will gather on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus on April 14 to display their historical research projects in various formats such as multimedia documentaries, original dramatic performances, museum-style exhibits, and Web sites, as well as traditional research papers. The students have worked all year on their projects and have already succeeded at local and regional contests to qualify for the state competition. Those who win at the state level will move on to the national competition in Maryland in June.

To run the state contest, the NHDMO staff must recruit almost one hundred judges and about thirty other volunteers to help for all or part of the day. Judges should have a knowledge of history and/or education or a familiarity with one of the presentation formats, such as drama, speech, communications, or video or Web site production. Judges are placed in teams that balance history with other talents. Other volunteers help with registration, selling T-shirts, serving food, and guarding the doors while judging is in progress. Many of our volunteers come back year after year because it is so much fun to see the excitement of these young people!

For more information, please contact Diane Ayotte or Lucinda Barnhart at (573) 882-0189 or HistoryDay@umsystem.edu.

Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia



Searing Papers Accent National Women and Media Collection

WHMC-Columbia is pleased to announce that the Laura Redden Searing (1839-1923) Papers are now available to researchers. Searing was a journalist and poet who lost her hearing at a young age

due to a bout with meningitis. After attending the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb in Fulton, Missouri, she became the editor of the *St. Louis Presbyterian* and wrote several articles and poems for the *St. Louis Republican* under the pen name Howard Glyndon.

Shortly after the beginning of the Civil War, Redden was sent to cover Washington, DC, for the *Republican*. In 1862 she published her first book, *Notable Men*, a collection of biographies of members of Congress. Two years later she published a book of poems, *Idylls of Battle*. She also composed the words to the song "Belle Missouri," which became the war song for the state.

In 1865, Redden went to Europe to study the French, German, Italian, and Spanish languages. She also wrote for various American newspapers and magazines and collected material for the U.S. Department of Agriculture on orange and silkworm culture. She kept company with some prominent men and women who lived and traveled in Europe, including Empress Eugenie of France, publisher Howard Ticknor, and writer Bayard Taylor.

In the 1870s, Redden studied speech and lip reading with Alexander Graham Bell and at various institutions. Although never able to master lip reading, Redden regained

a limited ability to speak. She advocated the teaching of speech and sign language in all schools for the deaf.

Redden published her second book of poetry, *Sounds from Secret Chambers*, in 1873, and she spent the next two years traveling to Cuba, New Orleans, and the American West. After a brief and unhappy marriage to Edward Searing that produced one child, Elsa, she and her daughter moved to California. They stayed there for most of the remainder of their lives.

The papers contain the correspondence, writings, and photographs of both Searing and her daughter. Correspondence in the collection includes letters from such noteworthy individuals as Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Ulysses S. Grant, John Greenleaf Whittier, Celia Thaxter, and Emily Howland. Another highlight of the collection is Elsa Searing's detailed correspondence describing her treacherous journey to the Alaskan goldfields in 1899.

The Searing papers are part of the National Women and Media Collection, which is celebrating its twentieth anniversary in 2007. A yearlong exhibit at WHMC-Columbia features records of various media organizations and journalists, including Searing, Mary Paxton Keeley, Theo Wilson, Sylvia Porter, Tad Bartimus, Donna Allen, and Eleni Epstein.

Reel Adopters Urgently Needed

Beyond basic needs such as archival housings and a stable environment, audiovisual materials often require additional preservation care. WHMC-Columbia holds several collections with 16 mm film that has vinegar syndrome, an irreversible decomposition of acetate-based magnetic tape. To prevent the "infection" of stable materials in our holdings, the deteriorating films must be transferred to VHS and DVD formats within the next six to eight months. The cost to transfer 16 mm film is approximately \$0.10 per foot, plus a \$40.00 fee to provide both a VHS master and a DVD access copy of the film.

Film reels in the Daniel R. Fitzpatrick, W. Stuart Symington, and John P. Tandarich collections need immediate attention. Fitzpatrick was a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist, Symington served four terms in the U.S. Senate, and Tandarich is a prominent soil scientist. The three collections contain fourteen reels of 1,600-foot film, four reels of 1,400-foot film, and four



W. Stuart Symington (right)

reels of 400-foot film, all of which require immediate transfer. The total cost to care for and provide access to these films is \$3,850. More about the films, including a breakdown of costs, is available at www.umssystem.edu/whmc/aad/info.html.

Donations can be made payable to the "University of Missouri" and mailed to WHMC-Columbia, 23 Ellis Library,

University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65201-5149. Please indicate which item(s) you want to adopt. Contributors to the Adopt-A-Document program are acknowledged in the *Missouri Times* and on the WHMC-Columbia Web site. A certificate of appreciation is included in the collection alongside the adopted item. All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you!

Donna Billingsley Joins WHMC-Columbia

Donna Billingsley has joined the staff at WHMC-Columbia as administrative assistant. Billingsley follows Sue McCubbin who recently retired after twenty-six years. A native Missourian with a bachelor of journalism degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, Billingsley has lived in Columbia for thirty years and worked at the university for seven years.

Billingsley also tutors English and proofreads theses and dissertations. She enjoys teasing, traveling, and jewelry-making.

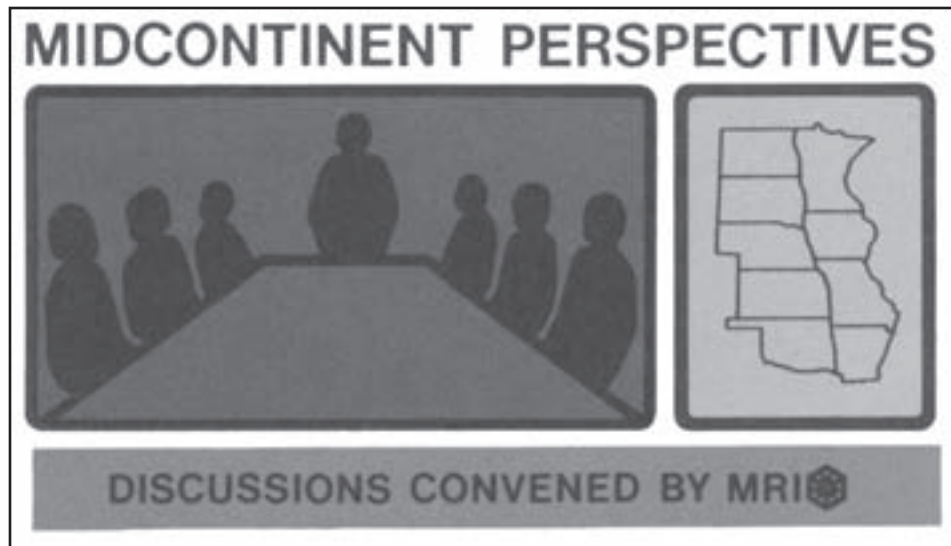
Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City

Lecture Series Promote Discussion of History and Its Impact on the Future

In addition to collecting and preserving historical documents for research use, the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City supports and encourages the examination of ideas that help us understand the past and the present and anticipate the future. WHMC-Kansas City does this through publications and sponsored lectures.

In cooperation with the Midwest Research Institute (MRI), WHMC-Kansas City has reissued the Midcontinent Perspectives Lectures in electronic format to make the lectures' valuable information accessible and to honor the creator of the series, Dr. Charles N. Kimball. Midcontinent Perspectives was a lecture series sponsored by MRI as a public service to the midcontinent region. Its purpose was to present new viewpoints on economic, political, social, and scientific issues that affect the Midwest and the nation. The series was financed by the Kimball Fund, named for Charles N. Kimball, president of MRI from 1950 to 1975, chairman of its board of trustees from 1975 to 1979, and president emeritus until his death in 1994. Initiated in 1970, the fund has been supported by annual contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Today it is the primary

Charles N. Kimball



The Midcontinent Perspectives Lectures, created by Charles N. Kimball in 1974, are now available in electronic format.

source of endowment income for MRI. The Kimball Fund provides front-end money to start high-quality projects that might generate future research contracts of importance. It also funds public interest projects focusing on civic or regional matters of interest.

From the beginning in 1974 until 1994, Kimball arranged and convened the sessions of Midcontinent Perspectives at four- to six-week intervals. Attendance was by invitation, and the audience consisted of leaders in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The lectures, in monograph form, were later distributed to several thousand individuals and institutions throughout the country who were interested in MRI and the topics addressed.

Upon Kimball's death in 1994, with substantial financial underwriting and support provided by the Charles N. Kimball Fund and friends of Kimball, WHMC-Kansas City established the Charles N. Kimball Lecture Series. The series, a tribute to our late friend, acknowledges Kimball's support of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City and his enduring interest in the exchange of ideas.

Kimball was a consummate networker who brought people and ideas together because he knew that ideas move people to action. His credo, "Chance favors a prepared mind," reflects the belief that the truest form of creativity requires that we look two directions at once—to the past for guidance and inspiration and to the future with hope and purpose. The study of expe-

riences, both individual and communal—in other words, history—helps us understand and articulate the present and create our future—prepared to face challenges and seize opportunities.

Sponsored by the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City, the series is not intended to be a continuation of Kimball's popular Midcontinent Perspectives, but it does share his primary goal: to encourage reflection and discourse on issues vitally important to our region. The topics of the lectures may vary, but the particular focus is on understanding how historical developments affect and inform our region's present and future. The lectures are presented by people from the Kansas City region semi-annually, in April, near the anniversary of Kimball's birth, and in October. Presentations may also occur at other times of the year if opportunities present themselves.

The texts of these two lecture series, Midcontinent Perspectives and the Charles N. Kimball Lecture Series, are available at www.umkc.edu/WHMCKC.

The next Kimball Lecture will be held Tuesday, April 10, at 4:00 p.m. in the Pierson Auditorium on the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus. The speaker, Sidney L. Willens, will discuss "Hell-raising with Humor: Lorraine, Mayo, and Me."

Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Rolla

WHMC-Rolla Acquires Records of Scott County Milling Company

Through the generosity of the Bowman family of Sikeston, WHMC-Rolla has acquired the historical financial records of the Scott County Milling Company of Sikeston and its predecessor firms. The records, with inclusive dates of 1893 to 1918, contain more than ninety volumes of daybooks, journals, ledgers, cash books, daily statements, and other data.

Judy Bowman, whose husband, David Gray Bowman, is the great-grandson of founder William C. Bowman, arranged for the donation of the records to the Society for placement in the WHMC-Rolla. A few selected volumes have been retained by the family for personal use and display at the Historic Depot Museum in Sikeston. These books will be copied at a later date for the convenience of researchers at Rolla.

The Scott County Milling Company traces its roots to the firm of Greer & Bowman, which was incorporated in 1896 and became the Greer-Ebert Milling Company in 1901. The latter firm consolidated with the Bowman-Matthews Milling Company in 1904 to create the Scott County Milling Company. The Dexter Milling Company (1901-1907), also controlled by the Bowman family, was later absorbed into the larger firm. The company's impressive physical plant on the west side of Sikeston, with its enormous storage towers, is now a part of Cargill.



David Gray Bowman, assisted by Elizabeth Burke Bowman Howe, presents a volume to Dr. Mark C. Stauter of WHMC-Rolla.

After all of the volumes have been acquired, they will be cataloged and made available to researchers. Their documentation of the development of agriculture in the drained and cleared swamplands of southeast Missouri will be of great value to historians of the state and region.

Nineteenth-Century Account Books

The article about the records of the Scott County Milling Company makes reference to daybooks, journals, and ledgers, which were the building blocks of accounting when all of the data was entered by hand. Here is a brief review of the origin and purpose of these records.

The daybook, sometimes called a waste book, was kept at the sales counter. A brief record of all transactions, in the order in which they occurred, was entered into these books. Data included the name of the customer, the items purchased, and their cost.

The journal was compiled at the close of the workday, and it was in essence a better-organized daybook. If a patron made purchases at different times during the day, they could be combined under a single entry.

The ledger was an indexed volume of individual accounts, with chronological accounts entered under the name of a person or firm. After compiling the journal, the proprietor or clerk then entered the data for each customer onto the appropriate page in the ledger, noting in the journal the ledger page to which the information had been transferred. When this process was complete, the firm had both chronological and alphabetical records of sales.

Recent Acquisitions

Recently catalogued collections at WHMC-Rolla include:

R1135	Southwest Missouri Teachers' Association, booklet, 1941
R1136	Myrtle Mitchener, political flyer, 1914
R1137	Albert G. Morris, papers, 1898-1903
R1138	Heart of the Ozarks Fair and Stock Show, booklet, 1952
R1139	St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company, Passenger Traffic Dept., rate circulars, 1905
R1140	Norwood (Mo.), centennial history, 1981
R1141	Freemasons, Neosho Lodge No. 247 (Neosho, Mo.), bylaws, 1964
R1142	Henry County Fair Association, booklet, 1963
R1143	Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.), Company 1730 (Bunker, Mo.), newsletter, 1939
R1144	Church Baseball League (Rolla, Mo.), rule book, 1909
R1145	Rolla (Mo.), photographs, 1950
R1146	Roseland Theater (Flat River, Mo.), photograph, 1940
R1147	John Miller Leach (1830-1907), diary, 1861-1863
R1148	Camp Yocum (Galena, Mo.), pamphlet, ca. 1920
R1149	Marshfield Saddle Club, booklet, 1961
R1150	Marshfield Lions Club, booklet, 1947
R1151	Texas County (Mo.), booklet, 1924
R1152	Mount Olive Grange No. 859 (Webster County, Mo.), records, 1873-1879
R1153	Libra Club (Lebanon, Mo.), records, 1960-2005
R1154	Farmers Cooperative League, booklet, 1909
R1155	Wheaton Fruit-Growers Association, booklet, n.d.
R1156	Hidden Valley Lake (Laclede County, Mo.), brochure, n.d.
R1157	Malden Army Air Field (Malden, Mo.), newspaper, 1944

Old Radio Show Collection Processed

For some time, WHMC-St. Louis has held a large collection of reel-to-reel tapes containing broadcasts of radio dramas, variety shows, and news programs from the medium's heyday as the central venue for mass entertainment in America, beginning in 1931 and lasting to the early 1970s. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer Jerry Cooper, a retired history professor from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the tapes now have a comprehensive online catalog. Cooper also contributed an essay contextualizing the history of American radio and detailing the scope of the collection.

The collection's inventory has been alphabetized by the first letter of each program. The inventory lists programs titled with a performer's name alphabetically by the performer's first name. Wherever possible, Cooper contributed program notes that offer details about the nature of the program, its history, and the years it was broadcast.

The American Radio Collection, composed of 514 reel-to-reel tapes, is a valuable piece of American social and cultural history. Today commercial radio aims its programs at specific audiences. News, commentary, and call-in shows try to win loyal audiences to this "niche programming," as it is sometimes called. Contemporary broadcast radio rarely seeks to appeal to a broad audience. Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion* is a rare live broadcast aimed at a national audience, but it attracts only a small following, largely white and middle class.

"In the old days, it was different," writes Cooper. "The purpose of 'commercial' radio, of course, was to earn money by broadcasting programs sponsored by a variety of products and services. However, the economic reasons underlying broadcast radio in America did not constrain development of interesting, entertaining, exciting programming that captured a wide national audience with a daily mix of shows. Commercial radio proved so successful that by 1943, twenty years after its beginnings, 83 percent of all households in the United States had radios, as did nine million automobiles."

The inventory of the American Radio Collection can be found online at www.umsl.edu/~whmc/guides/whm0256.htm.



Eads Bridge and the St. Louis Levee

J. Orville Spreen Photos Added to Online Database

WHMC-St. Louis recently added J. Orville Spreen's collection of photographs depicting old St. Louis street scenes and historic places to its online database at www.umsl.edu/~whmc.

Spreen began working for the Wabash Railway at the age of fifteen in February 1912, and by the time he retired in 1962, he had become a top executive at the railroad. In addition, he took photographs throughout St. Louis at the behest of the Junior Chamber of Commerce Historic Markers Committee. In the early 1940s, this committee researched St. Louis and designated historic sites.

Spreen also documented on film each construction stage of the Gateway Arch, Busch Stadium, and the Mansion House Apartments. More importantly, he photographed all of the buildings razed in the course of these projects. Spreen captured an essence of old St. Louis that no longer exists, including many of the cobblestone street scenes and riverfront businesses and amusements. Spreen's descriptions, all included in the database, give the exact locations of the streets and buildings as well as the angle from which the photographs were taken and notes about the history of the buildings.



CORE Demonstration

Oldham Papers Donated

WHMC-St. Louis recently acquired the papers of Charles Oldham, a civil rights activist. Oldham organized picket lines and demonstrations that helped open college admission for African Americans at Washington University in St. Louis and was one of the demonstrators arrested at the Jefferson Bank protest in 1963.

The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) elected Oldham as its national chairman in 1957, and he participated in the Freedom Rides in the South in the 1960s. The Freedom Riders were often beaten and firebombed in the course of their efforts to change racist laws and practices in that part of the country. Oldham, a lawyer, represented hundreds of African Americans in cases involving trespassing on "whites only" areas.

Oldham, a Caucasian, met his wife, Marian Clarke O'Fallon, an African American woman, on a picket line in St. Louis demonstrating against segregated restrooms in the city. Marian Oldham was active in the St. Louis Teachers' Union, and she became a member of the University of Missouri's board of curators in 1977.

Charles Oldham served fifteen days jail time and was fined \$1,000 for violating a court injunction that barred the presence of picketers in the lobby of Jefferson Bank, which had refused to hire African American employees. The protests continued, however, and the bank relented, changing its hiring practices in March 1963.

The collection includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, home movies, and photographs of the Jefferson Bank demonstration and the Oldham family. It adds much to the documentation of this important civil rights event in St. Louis history.



**THE STATE HISTORICAL
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Upcoming Events:

February 27

Performance: "Missouri Places," by Mary Barile and the Missouri History in Performance Theatre, 5:30 p.m., The State Historical Society of Missouri

March 3

Workshop: "Family History Day," 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., The State Historical Society of Missouri

March 13

Society opens at 9:00 a.m.

March 13

Talk: "Pigment to Pixels: The Art of Notley Hawkins," by Notley Hawkins, 5:30 p.m., The State Historical Society of Missouri

March 13

Talk: "Women in Columbia, 1820-1950," by Mary Beth Brown, 7:00 p.m., Daniel Boone Regional Library

April 3

Talk: "Use a Map with Care: Errors in Historic Missouri Maps," by Walter Schroeder, 5:30 p.m., The State Historical Society of Missouri

April 10

Society opens at 9:00 a.m.

April 10

Talk: Charles N. Kimball Lecture, "Hell-raising with Humor: Lorraine Mayo, and Me," by Sidney L. Willens, 4:00 p.m., Pierson Auditorium, University of Missouri-Kansas City

April 14

National History Day in Missouri State Contest, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., University of Missouri-Columbia campus

Through May

Exhibit: *Miss Fannie Tolson: Paving the Way for All*, East Entrance Display Case, The State Historical Society of Missouri

May 8

Society opens at 9:00 a.m.

Through May 12

Exhibit: *Light & Life in Missouri: Photos by Notley Hawkins*, North-South Corridor Gallery, The State Historical Society of Missouri

Through June 30

Exhibit: *The Stories They Tell: Understanding Missouri History through Maps*, Art Gallery, The State Historical Society of Missouri

Through December

Exhibit: *National Women and Media Collection*, Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia

Society members receive a subscription to the *Missouri Historical Review* and *Missouri Times*, a discount on research assistance, a 10 percent discount on all publications and merchandise sold by the Society, and an invitation to the Society's annual meeting. For membership information, visit www.umsystem.edu/shs or call (573) 882-7083.