

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

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From the President

Society greatly expands digital collections, acquires four-campus Western Historical Manuscript Collection, and tightens fiscal belt

On January 10 the Society announced the digital launch of six collections that placed thousands of historically significant documents, photographs, newspapers and artworks online, including over 400 artworks by Missouri's two most famous artists, George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton; more than 13,000 editorial cartoons by Bill Mauldin, Daniel Fitzpatrick, and Tom Engelhardt; 3,500 photographs of Missouri places and people; more than 1,950 issues of the *St. Louis Daily Missouri Republican* from the Civil War years (1861-1865); the *Columbia Missourian*, 1908-1922; and 150 transcript and audio files of interviews held with Missouri political leaders since 1996.

These collections add to materials made available online in 2010, which included thousands of Civil War-era documents and the Society's award-winning journal, *Missouri Historical Review*, from 1906 to 2001.

Digitization of collections occurred through nearly a half-million dollars in grants from external funding organizations, including Library Services and Technology Assistance grants, the National Endowment for the Humanities and Library of Congress, and private funding sources.

As our Executive Director Gary R. Kremer explained, "The time has long passed since we could expect researchers to travel to Columbia, and we are happy to offer Missourians the ability to access materials from their homes, libraries, schools, and offices. We have an incredibly rich documentary and artistic heritage, and it's time we all took greater notice of that reality."

Our commitment to expanding the public's access to valuable collections comes as the Society takes over management of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection (WHMC) on the four campuses of the University of Missouri system. This administrative reorganization through combining collections and services has been planned for the last few months and was announced by the University on November 10.



In consultation with our board, the executive director, and University of Missouri leadership, I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with then University President Gary Forsee, in early January, for the Society to assume sole management of WHMC. With best practices in mind, we will fulfill all research requests and information queries concerning the manuscript collections.

To facilitate our meeting those service goals, the Society was closed to the public January 11-15, 2011, for staff members to properly arrange the combined services in the Research Center within the Society's quarters.

Regrettably, this consolidation of resources, necessitated a reduction of our combined staffs by ten positions. The current economic reality is forcing the Society to operate on very lean resources, and the decision to eliminate staff positions has been most difficult.

Nonetheless, our digitization initiative will provide improved patron service, easier and faster access to a significant portion of the historical material within our care, and even enable us to offer innovative and creative responses to the reality of diminished state revenues in the future.

The State Historical Society of Missouri looks forward to continuing the high level of professional services that users of its collections have come to expect.

Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., Cape Girardeau
President

State Historical Society News

Over 400 artworks by Bingham and Benton available online



Images of hundreds of works from the Society's rich art collection are available at <http://statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri.org/collections/art.php>; most notably, major pieces by Missouri's two most famous artists, George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton.

Bingham's *General Order No. 11*, seen left, and *Watching the Cargo* are available online. Also, Benton's ten large World War II paintings, including works from the Year of Peril series, and more than two hundred original drawings illustrating Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer*, *Huckleberry Finn*, and *Life on the Mississippi* are accessible in digital form. Art historian and noted Benton scholar Henry Adams, who is professor of American Art at Case Western Reserve University, remarked after viewing the artworks online: "This is a marvelous resource. It's really quite an amazing collection."

This digitization project was supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library.

Society contributes 100,000 newspaper pages to *Chronicling America* Web site

In 2008 the Society was chosen to represent Missouri in the National Digital Newspaper Project (NDNP) with a \$315,971 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to fund selection and management of digitization of 100,000 pages from historic newspapers published during the period 1880-1922.

Society staff have completed the project and are pleased to announce the online availability of seven Missouri papers:

Columbia Missourian	1908-1922
Hayti Herald	1909-1922
Jasper County News	1901-1922
Kansas City Journal	1895-1899
Kirksville Weekly Graphic	1880-1896
St. Joseph Observer	1915-1922
St. Louis Republic	1900-1905

Newspapers can be accessed through the *Chronicling America* Web site, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>, and will soon be available on the Society's Web site. *Chronicling America* is jointly sponsored by the NEH and the Library of Congress. It provides access to information about historic newspapers and is a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic pages. Supported by the NEH, this rich digital resource will be permanently maintained by the Library of Congress. The NEH award program will fund the contribution of content, eventually, from all states and territories.

In July of 2010 the Society was awarded its second NDNP grant to place another 100,000 pages of Missouri newspapers online by 2012. This second project will cover the period 1836-1922 and focus on papers from communities along Missouri's three main rivers: the Mississippi, Missouri, and Osage.

Contact the Society

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Lynn Wolf Gentzler

Assistant Editor
Laura O. Wilson

Daily Missouri Republican offers online coverage of the Civil War

Over 7,800 pages of the St. Louis *Daily Missouri Republican* published during the American Civil War, 1861-65, are now available on the Society's Web site: <http://www.statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri.org/collections/dailymissourirepublican.php>.

One of the few daily Missouri newspapers to print continuously throughout the war, the *Daily Missouri Republican* provides researchers with important contemporary descriptions of significant events and profiles of Missourians who played key roles in local and national engagements.

Digital images of the *Daily Missouri Republican* were created through a partnership among the Society, the Missouri History Museum, St. Louis Mercantile Library, and the St. Louis Public Library. This project was supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library.

In the coming months, over 23,000 newspaper pages will be digitized and made available for the antebellum period, 1854-60, and 9,850 additional pages will be added from the years 1860-72.



Digitized Editorial Cartoon Collections bring insight



From the Tom Engelhardt Collection, drawn for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, November 18, 1962, depicting the personal stories and real people involved in the statistical "unemployment rate."

More than 13,000 digital images of editorial cartoons drawn from 1917 through the 1970s have been digitized and placed online for easy access. The Society began collecting editorial cartoons in 1946, and this resource continues to grow with a current count of more than 21,000 works from cartoonists Daniel Fitzpatrick, Bill Mauldin, and Tom Engelhardt.

The works reflect the attitudes and opinions of the artists and Missouri citizens from World War I, through the Great Depression, World War II, and events that shaped America's development as a world leader and her troubles at home with social unrest and civil rights issues prevalent during the 1960s and 70s.

To access the editorial cartoon collections online, go to: <http://statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri.org/collections/editorialcartoons.php>

This digitization effort was supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library.

Images and Photographs Move Online

Over 3,500 photographs and negatives from the Society's collections have been digitized and are available online with access provided through a keyword searchable database. Subjects cover public buildings, landscape and riverfront scenes, bridges, churches, homes, parks, county courthouses, and include numerous collections such as the Charles Trefl Collection, *Columbia Daily Tribune* Collection, Otto and Joe Kroeger Collection, Maximilian E. Schmidt Collection, Richard Lee Collection, and S. C. Steinberg Collection.

Images can be accessed at <http://statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri.org/collections/photographs.php>

At right: From the Charles Trefl Collection, Agriculture category, a photograph taken in St. Louis County likely during the 1930s of children helping unload pumpkins from a wagon to a barn.



\$2,400 Donation to Microfilm the *Raytown News*

The Society recently received a generous donation of \$2,400 to cover the costs of microfilming a large collection of the *Raytown News*. The dates cover 1927-1962 from this Jackson County newspaper and include important decades in Missouri and U.S. history, such as the Great Depression, World War II, and the presidency of Harry S. Truman. The *Raytown News* was a weekly paper, first published on December 30, 1926, and ran until September 4, 1974, when it was purchased by the *Liberty Tribune* Company and became the *Raytown News-Tribune*.

In tandem with Society staff, this microfilming collaboration was coordinated by Larry Short at the Raytown Historical Society where the bound volumes are archived. The newspapers are being readied for filming, and the microfilm should be available to researchers in late spring. The Society welcomes these types of donations and supported projects from individuals and institutions for continued comprehensive preservation of newspapers on microfilm. Contact the Society if you have questions as to whether the newspapers your organization holds are preserved on microfilm for future generations.

Oral History Program wins NEH Preservation Grant

In December the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the Society a nearly \$5,000 Preservation and Access Grant to protect the oral history collection. These audio and video records document many aspects of political and social history, as well as environmental movements and issues, Missouri's rich rural life, and veterans' experiences, including former prisoners of war during World War II.

For more information about the grant project or larger program, contact Jeff Corrigan through the Society's Columbia Research Center at (573) 882-1187.

Avis Tucker, former Society president, dies

Longtime Warrensburg newspaper publisher, philanthropist, and businesswoman Avis Tucker passed away December 17, 2010, of natural causes at the age of ninety-five. Tucker was the first woman to serve as president of the State Historical Society, 1992-1995, and supported the Society as a Trustee from 1970 until her death. During Tucker's presidency, the Society first presented its annual Missouri History Book Award. Tucker received the Society's Distinguished Service Award in 1996.

Avis took over as publisher of the paper in 1966 when her husband, William, died suddenly of a heart attack. The Tuckers purchased the paper in 1947, and it remained in the family until Avis sold the business in 2007. Avis Tucker was the first woman president of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, the first female president of the Missouri Press Association, received the National Newspaper Association's McKinney Award—given to a woman who exhibits distinguished service to the community press—and was the first female inductee into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame. In May 2010 Tucker was named chair emeritus of the Missouri Press Association's Foundation Board.

Society extends sympathy to family of Volunteer Rita Terry

Rita Terry, of Columbia, passed away on Christmas Day 2010 after a sudden illness. For the last five years, Rita supported the Society as an active and regular volunteer, most often working on indexing projects and the creation of finding aids.

A transplanted Easterner, Rita grew to love the interesting topography and land features in Missouri, admitting that before she came to the state, she pictured it as much of the Midwest—flat and boring. Rita had begun working on her own family history, a fairly-recent convert to genealogy, after becoming interested in the field through volunteering at the Society. Rita was retired from a career as a writer, editor, and librarian, first with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and later with University Hospital. She held an MA in library science from the University of Missouri and brought expert skills and a most pleasant demeanor to Society staff and patrons.

"Presumed Innocent" program on 1923 Columbia lynching draws large crowd



Professor Hunt, far left, listens as Columbia attorney Dan Viets raises an issue in discussion with audience members.

MU students find political commentary in the art of George Caleb Bingham



Curator Joan Stack lectures to students in MU class, History 1100.5

During the fall 2010 semester, MU instructor Mike Snodgrass asked students in his History 1100.5 class, "America to 1865," to review four of the Society's works by George Caleb Bingham: *Canvassing for the Vote*, *Stump Speaking*, *The County Election*, and *The Verdict of the People*.

Snodgrass set the context, supported by Curator of Art Collections Joan Stack, by explaining to students that Bingham's work celebrates the West (mid-19th-century Missouri) and life of the common man. In particular, Bingham's work covering antebellum American politics provides a lot of information about how elections were conducted at the time. Snodgrass asked his students to study each artwork to identify illustrations of the democratic process in antebellum America and explain the pertinent symbolism. Lastly, using this information, Snodgrass asked students to form an opinion about whether Bingham appears to have as much faith in the democratic process and "the people" as Andrew Jackson claimed to have. Student answers were to be written in a two-page essay due November 8, with the cautionary note: "No late papers will be accepted!"

More than eighty people gathered to learn more about the lynching of James Scott in Columbia in 1923. MU Professor Emeritus Douglas Hunt discussed the book he has written on the subject, *Summary Justice: The Lynching of James Scott and the Trial of George Barkwell in Columbia, Missouri, 1923*, and provided details about this violent chapter in mid-Missouri history. James Scott was accused and arrested for the crime of raping 14-year-old Regina Almstedt near the Stewart Road Bridge just west of the University of Missouri. Although proclaiming his innocence, Scott was taken from the jail and lynched by a mob of Boone Countians. Hunt described the varying accounts of the lynching that are still current in the town's African American and white communities.

Reverend Clyde Ruffin, pastor of Second Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia, spoke about the recent successful drive to fund a monument to mark James Scott's grave in Columbia Cemetery. Fundraising has been expanded to include erecting a memorial in the cemetery noting the location of several unmarked graves containing African American slaves.

New research shows National History Day participants are better able to **succeed** in school and learn skills to become informed citizens, sought-after employees

Students who participate in the National History Day (NHD) educational program perform better on high-stakes tests, are better writers, more confident and capable researchers, and have a more mature perspective on current events and civic engagement than their peers, according to the first national evaluation of the widely used curricular program. Participants also show a greater ability to collaborate with peers, manage their time and persevere – all skills employers say are lacking in today’s workforce. The full report, *National History Day Works*, is available at www.nhd.org/NHDWorks. Some of the important findings include:

NHD students outperform their non-NHD peers on state standardized tests, not only in social studies, but in reading, science, and math as well. For example, in 2008-2009 in Texas, twice as many NHD students achieved “commended performance” as non-NHD students (87 percent vs. 37 percent) on the social studies assessment of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). At a South Carolina middle school where NHD was part of the curriculum for all eighth graders, students scored higher than students in a non-NHD middle school on the Language Arts, Math, and Science segments of the 2008-09 PASS test.

NHD students are better writers, who write with a purpose and real voice, and marshal solid evidence to support their point of view. NHD students outscored comparison-group students on both pre- and post-writing assessments, receiving more high scores (5s or 6s) on a 6-point scale, and fewer low scores. NHD students’ essays had more sentence variety, richer vocabulary, a more authentic voice, and better organization.

NHD students are critical thinkers who can digest, analyze, and synthesize information. Performance assessments show that NHD students overall were significantly better than their peers at interpreting historical information, with an average of 79 percent vs. 61 percent correct.

NHD students learn 21st-century skills. They learn how to collaborate with team members, talk to experts, manage their time, and persevere.

NHD has a positive impact among students whose interests in academic subjects may wane in high school. Analyses show that among Black and Hispanic students, NHD students outperform non-NHD students, posting higher performance assessment scores and levels of interests and skills. Compared to non-NHD boys, and to all girls, boys participating in

NHD reported significantly higher levels of interest in history, civic engagement, and confidence in research skills, on both pre- and post-surveys.

Conducted by San Francisco-based research firm Rockman, et al, the study looked at performance assessments, surveys, and standardized test scores to evaluate students’ research and writing skills, ability to interpret historical information, academic performance, and interest in past and current events. Researchers then compared their evaluations of students who participated in National History Day to their peers who did not participate in the program.

The study, conducted at four sites around the country, found that on nearly every measure, NHD students’ scores or ratings were higher than their peers who did not participate in the program. The sites evaluated included school districts in urban, suburban, and rural settings: Aldine Unified School District, Houston, TX; Chesterfield Co. Schools, Chesterfield, SC; a large public school district in Colorado; and Paterson Public Schools, Paterson, NJ. The survey included a slightly higher sample of Black and Hispanic students compared to the population breakdown in U.S. public schools.

NHDMO 2011 Contest Schedule

Dates	Region	Coordinator
February 19	2, Kirksville	Jeff Gall, jgall@truman.edu (660) 785-7747
February 25	1, Maryville 8, Rolla	Tom Spencer, tspence@nwmissouri.edu (660) 562-1294 Jeff Schramm, schrammj@mst.edu (573) 341-4806
February 26	4, Jeff City, Columbia 5, St. Louis 7, Springfield	Shelly Croteau, Shelly.Croteau@sos.mo.gov (573) 751-4303 Peter Acsay, acsay@msx.umsl.edu (314) 516-5700 Gail Emrie, gailemrie@missouristate.edu (417) 836-5913
March 4	6, Joplin	Paul Teverow, Teverow-p@mssu.edu (417) 625-3114
March 5	3, Greater Kansas City	Mark Adams, mark.adams@nara.gov (816) 268-8236
March 11	9, Cape Girardeau	Joel Rhodes, jrhodes@semo.edu (573) 651-2715
April 9	Missouri State Contest University of Missouri	Deborah Luchenbill, luchenbill@umsystem.edu
June 12-16	Kenneth E. Behring, National History Day Contest University of Maryland-College Park	

March

Trivia Night for National History Day To Be Rescheduled

The Trivia Night set for March 5 to benefit National History Day in Missouri is being rescheduled. Details available soon!

March 10 - September 8 Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, Independence

Steamboats to Steam Engines: George Caleb Bingham's Missouri, 1819-1879

Organized by the Truman Library in partnership with the Society, this exhibition celebrates the bicentennial of artist George Caleb Bingham's birth and features several of the Society's most important Bingham paintings, including *General Order No. 11* and *Watching the Cargo*.

March 12 Exhibit Opening, Society Main Gallery

The Graphic World of George Caleb Bingham

Learn more about the business of the art world during the 19th century through an exhibit of engravings and lithographs by Missouri artist George Caleb Bingham (1811-1879). Organized in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Bingham's birth, this exhibit explores the artist's collaborative relationships with publishers, printmakers, and financiers. Enjoy the opportunity to see popular prints such as *The Jolly Flatboatmen*, *County Election*, and *The Emigration of Daniel Boone*, as well as unique and infrequently exhibited artworks and documents, including the original steel engraving plate for *Martial Law/General Order No. 11* and one of only three known proofs of the rare lithograph *Verdict of the People*.

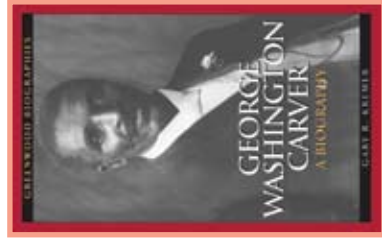


March 27 10:30 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Jefferson City

George Washington Carver: A Biography by Gary R. Kremer

Dr. Kremer will speak about his new book on the renowned African American scientist and teacher George Washington Carver, whose career at Tuskegee Institute spanned nearly fifty years and included innovative accomplishments such as crop rotation and hundreds of new products using peanuts, sweet potatoes, and other native Southern plants.



On the Radio

**Mondays: February 21, March 21,
April 18, May 16 8:20 - 9:00 a.m.**

"Open Air," KWOS 950 AM

Tune in to hear Warren Kretch and John Marsh visit with featured guest Society Executive Director Gary Kremer.

February 25 8:40 - 9:00 a.m.

"Columbia Morning," KFRU 1400 AM

Dr. Kremer will be David Lile's guest on the News Talk program. Listen to learn more Missouri history and get up to date on Society events and activities.

April 2 Society Book Launch

"But I Forget That I Am a Painter and Not a Politician": The Letters of George Caleb Bingham

In association with the Bingham in the Boonslick symposium (below), and in partnership with the Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc., and support from the Harriet Pillsbury Foundation, the Society will release its newest book, which offers



The State Historical Society of M

letters written by Bingham to family and friends, most notably James S. Rollins, and for publication in newspapers.

Bingham in the Boonslick Symposium **Arrow Rock Historic Site Visitors Center**

Hosted by the Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc., this symposium will feature presentations by Dr. Margaret Conrads, Curator of American Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; Dr. Joan Stack, Society Curator of Art Collections; and Roger Robinson, Society Goodrich Research Assistant. General admission tickets of \$75 include lunch at Huston Tavern, the exhibition catalog, and a tour of the Bingham house. Patron tickets for \$125 per person or \$200 per couple offer a reception at Prairie Park following the symposium and the new Bingham book. For more information, call (660) 837-3231, or visit <http://friendsar.org/bingham.html>



April 13 - 15 **Holiday Inn at Country Club Plaza, Kansas City** **Missouri Conference on History**

Make plans to attend the 53rd annual meeting of the Missouri Conference on History, cosponsored by the Society, the University of Missouri-Kansas City Department of History, the National Archives at Kansas City, and the National World War I Museum.

For more information or to register, visit: <http://shs.umsystem.edu/mch/>

April 16 **1:00 - 4:30 p.m.** **Newton County Historical Museum, Neosho** **Benton Birthday Celebration**

The annual Newton County historical community's birthday celebration for native son Thomas Hart Benton will include ten Benton artworks from the Society's collection—exhibited in the historical park's one-room schoolhouse located at 120 North Washington Street, Neosho. For more information about this special event, call (417) 451-1755.

April 19 **Society's Annual Day at the Capitol**

The Society will take the art of George Caleb Bingham to the Missouri State Capitol in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Missouri artist's birthday. Visit us on the Third Floor of the Capitol Rotunda during the afternoon of April 19 to view these special artworks and enjoy a piece of Bingham birthday cake!



May



May 14 **2:00 p.m.** **Society Main Gallery** **Reception for Glenn Chambers**

Join us to honor and learn from wildlife photographer Glenn Chambers. Internationally known, but perhaps more importantly, this artist enjoys a devoted fan following here in Missouri and has the respect of conservationists and naturalists throughout the Midwest. *Wildlife Photography by Glenn Chambers* will remain on exhibit through May.

May 21 **1:00 p.m.** **Society Conference Room** **Caught Between Three Fires**

The Civil War in Missouri - Order No. 11 mandated the evacuation of most civilians in Jackson, Cass, and Bates counties and a portion of Vernon County—impacting the entire state. In his new book, author Tom Rafner examines the circumstances that led to the order and focuses on individuals and families who lived on the border, where they fled, and why many chose not to return.

Save the Date **June 25** **4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** **Good Nature, 910 Alley A, Columbia** **Missouri Wine Country**
Enjoy a wine tasting and listen to authors Don and Dianna Graveman discuss their book, *Missouri Wine Country*.

Longtime Congressman makes records available to the Society

The long and distinguished political career of Isaac Newton “Ike” Skelton IV is documented in his professional and personal papers, which are now accessible at the Society’s Research Center. The papers fill more than three hundred boxes containing constituent correspondence, press releases, clippings, subject files, memoranda, speeches, photographs, and other material. Hundreds of audio and video recordings are also part of the collection.

Born in Lexington, Missouri, Skelton graduated from Wentworth Military Academy and the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he received AB and LLB degrees. He was named as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the *Law Review*. He served as Lafayette County prosecuting attorney and as a Missouri state senator prior to representing Missouri’s Fourth U.S. Congressional District from 1977 to 2011. Representative Skelton was chair of the Committee on Armed Services during his final two terms in Congress. Researchers must obtain written permission from Ike Skelton to view his papers. Contact Research Center staff at (573) 882-1187 or shsofmo@umsystem.edu for details.

Right: Ike Skelton, Tom Eagleton, and Jerry Litton gather on September 1974 in Richmond, Missouri, at the “Dinner for Ike State Senate Re-election Campaign.”



Gift of Henry Hoberg Letters



Professor Calvin J. and Mrs. Caroline Kendall Roetzel recently donated a unique collection of letters to the Society’s Manuscript Collection. Consisting of twelve original letters, most dating from the Civil War years 1862-65, and written in German, largely using German Gothic script, this collection provides important information about the broad American tragedy experienced at the individual level through personal communication.

Both Professor and Mrs. Roetzel have strong ties to the letters. Calvin Roetzel transcribed, translated, and annotated all of the letters, and Caroline Roetzel is the great granddaughter of letter author and recipient, Henry Hoberg.

Henry Hoberg’s parents, Friedrich and Anna Hoberg, immigrated to the United States from the Westfalian province of Prussia in 1850 and settled in Hopewell in the south-central region of Missouri—already a stronghold of German immigrant communities. Their first decade in the new country was dominated by the coming Civil War, and all three of their sons eventually involved themselves in the conflict for the Union, with only Henry alive by the war’s end.

These letters will provide students and scholars of the Civil War with insight into the everyday lives of enlisted men who fought in this great fratricidal conflict.

At left, Caroline Kendall Roetzel and Calvin J. Roetzel donate the Henry Hoberg Collection to Society Executive Director Gary R. Kremer on November 11, 2010.

*[In the field]
March the 22, 1863*

Dear Brother-in-law and Sister

I shall let you know where we are now. We started out from Helena February 24th. We have two gunboats, four or five battleships, and I do not know how many transport ships there are with us. We traveled down the Mississippi a few miles and entered the canal which flows into Moon Lake. From Moon Lake we came again to a small river which carried us into the Tallahatchie. This river is so narrow and crooked that it is impossible for the big boats to travel on it. We arrived here below at a Confederate [f]ort on the eleventh of March. On the afternoon of the eleventh our gunboats opened fire all at once, but they drew back again for a little while because the Confederates shot a bombshell among our cannons and killed three instantly and wounded fourteen one of whom died the following night.

H. C. Hoberg



Photograph, Irene Whitley Marcus (1919-) Collection (KC0452)

Irene Marcus Collection provides insight into Kansas City's Exemplary African American Education Leaders

Education is a fundamental responsibility of society—to train a workforce, foster citizenship, and engender society's leaders.

This role was clearly understood by the African American community in Kansas City, with development of high-quality schools led by teachers of extraordinary ability and talent. Pictured above is the 1921 faculty of Lincoln High School, posed in front of the school building at the northeast corner of 19th Street and Tracy Avenue, Kansas City. These men and women exercised tremendous influence in the African American community, among them:

Nathaniel Clark Smith (1877-1934) second row, third from left, who taught music and is regarded as "America's Greatest Colored Bandmaster." Short, gruff, and always in uniform, Smith demanded discipline from his students in music fundamentals. Jazz was not part of Smith's curriculum, but many of his students were among the first generation of Kansas City jazz musicians.

John Henry Bluford Sr. (1880-1946) first row, third from right, taught science at the school for twenty-five years. His daughter, Lucile Bluford, was the well-respected editor and publisher of the *Kansas City Call*.

Principal John Robert Edward Lee (1864–1944) first row, center, was born a slave in Texas and through intelligence and education became a nationally recognized civic leader, teacher, and educational association founder. He came to Lincoln High School in 1915, where he developed an industrial department that served as a model for Missouri schools. The year of this photo he left formal education to become extension secretary for the national Urban League.

Identification of remaining faculty members is tentative based on comparisons with other photos.

First Row: Mr. W. T. White, Mrs. S. P. Goss, H. O. Cook, Miss C. E. Brydie, Principal J. R. E. Lee, Miss E. L. Simpson, Mr. J. H. Bluford, Mr. G. S. Ellison, Mr. R. A. Marsden.

Second Row: Mr. C. R. Westmoreland, Miss G. M. Hill, Major N. C. Smith, Mrs. C. Anderson, Mr. J. L. Johnson, Miss M. C. Gossin, Mr. T. M. Dent, Miss R. Cowden, Mr. T. E. Gaillard, Miss M. Diggs.

Third Row: Mr. W. D. Foster, Mr. H. D. Massey, Mr. J. E. Herriford, Mr. J. O. Morrison, Mr. R. H. Jackson, Mr. W. R. Howell, Miss L. B. Buchanan, Mr. W. E. Griffin, Mr. J. L. Love.

Fourth Row: Sgt. ?, Mr. A. B. Pittman, Miss H. M. Brown, Mr. E. B. Thompson, Miss N. E. Venerable.

Alhambra Grotto: Phelps County Resort



Alhambra Grotto, an exotic place name on historic Phelps County maps, still turns up in computer-based searches. Now known simply as “the Grotto,” the etymology of this named tract west of Newburg along Little Piney Creek has been mostly forgotten. Two publications of Alhambra Grotto of the “Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm,” a Masonic organization based in St. Louis, reveal the name’s derivation. Obviously useful for Masonic history, both publications have application for the study of place names, local history, and modern tourism in the Ozarks.

The proper name of the Phelps County tract was Alhambra Grotto Recreation Park. Historic ground before the odd place name arose, the property was just a few miles east of the mouth of the Little Piney, the first inhabited location in modern Phelps County. At the site of the future grotto, Judge William C. York’s two-story frame house (still extant) was a landmark on the overland stage route to Springfield after 1857. William James, operator of the Maramec Iron Works, bought the site in 1873 and built the Ozark Iron Works and accompanying village of Ozark in 1873. James’s 1876 bankruptcy finished Ozark, but the Knotwell Iron Company briefly revived iron-making (and the village, now styled Knotwell) in the 1880s.

Absentee owners held the property until about 1914, when the Ozark

Summer Resort opened in the former headquarters of iron mongers. Close by the banks of the Little Piney and the tracks of the St. Louis-San Francisco (“Frisco”) railroad, the resort extended a rail-borne recreation zone along the Gasconade and Piney rivers that developed in the late nineteenth century with the seasonal exploits of St. Louis sportsmen. In the twentieth century, the region became a summer destination for families seeking recreation and respite from the baking city.

St. Louis Masons organized the “Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm” in 1913. Roughly analogous to the Shriners, the group received a charter as Alhambra Grotto in 1914. Billing itself as a “Play Ground for Master Masons,” the headquarters was the former Liederkranz Society Hall across from Tower Grove Park. Boasting banquet halls, billiard and game rooms, bowling alleys, and Masonic chambers, it hosted all manner of activities for Masons and their families.

In 1931 Alhambra Grotto purchased two hundred acres in Phelps County encompassing the old York residence, ruins of the Ozark/Knotwell furnace, and the iron company building. The Masons developed Alhambra Grotto Recreation Park by remodeling the buildings to include electric lighting and accommodations for two hundred guests. The York home became a dining hall, and a cluster of cottages was erected around it. A deep well and 40,000 gallon concrete reservoir constructed above the old iron furnace supplied water to all the buildings. In 1931 the Frisco Railroad built a depot at the stop, naming it Alhambra Grotto, to coincide with a special train carrying

two thousand Masons and their families to the park’s grand opening. Also that year, U.S. Highway 66 was completed across the top of the property. Park managers built a driveway into the park from Route 66 to accommodate automobile travelers, thereby linking the property to the modern age of tourism.

The ambitious development featured largely in the September 1931 issue of the *Alhambra*, the Alhambra Grotto’s monthly magazine, and also in the *20th Anniversary Souvenir* booklet of the order, published in 1933. Both publications are in the Society’s Rolla research center (R1253). They feature photographs of the buildings, grounds, and the depot, as well as the story of Alhambra Grotto in Phelps County. The venture’s timing was not propitious. Hard times during the Great Depression and World War II reduced the number of vacationers and capital to continue development, although army officials and contractors building Fort Leonard Wood stayed at the park, and the site was opened to soldiers as the Masonic Service Center at Alhambra Grotto. The park needed extensive renewal following the war, but the parent organization concentrated on its St. Louis property. In 1960 Alhambra Grotto sold the Phelps County property to Dr. Robert Myers, whose family owns it today. The diminutive name “Grotto” is the only local clue to the former Masonic resort.

Master Masons organized Alhambro Grotto in St. Louis in 1913. The Alhambro Grotto Recreation Park (two miles west of Newburg as shown on the tourist map of Phelps County, ca. 1935), was prominently featured in the *20th Anniversary Souvenir* of the organization in 1933.



St. Louis Zoo Films

St. Louis Research Center staff member Dr. Brian Woodman is working with a large collection of 16mm films from the St. Louis Zoo. The films include footage of the animal shows, feeding and medical care of the animals, construction of zoo facilities, and visitors enjoying the zoo experience. Woodman is overseeing film cleaning and restoration, rehusing in archival containers, and digitization of the films.

Woodman received his PhD in Film/Media Studies from the University of Kansas and has worked with film collections in several archives around the United States. For the past few years, he has served as documentary co-curator for the St. Louis International Film Festival.

Woodman is coproducer of the documentary film *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth* which will premier this month at the Oxford film festival and the Big Sky documentary film festival.



Graduate Student tackles large YMCA Collection

University of Missouri-St. Louis Museum Studies graduate student Eric Barr is finishing research on a large collection of the St. Louis YMCA materials. Processing the papers is part of the program's training offered in cooperation with staff at the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center in St. Louis. The collection contains board minutes, correspondence, program files and other information from each of the many YMCA branches in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Eric is currently entering information about the extensive photograph collection into the photograph database.



Left: An image from the YMCA Collection of a fencing class held around 1920. Above: A North Side YMCA Boys Harmonica Band performs circa 1924.



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