

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

May 2013 Vol. 9, No. 1



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SHSMO Extends Reach to Cape Girardeau, Sixth Location in Missouri

The State Historical Society of Missouri is pleased to announce the opening of its new Cape Girardeau Research Center. The center, the Society's sixth, will serve the southeast region of the state from its location in Pacific Hall on the Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) campus. The Cape center, which officially opened March 21, is available to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. At the Pacific Hall facility, historians, researchers, and genealogists can access the SHSMO's vast manuscript, book, and newspaper collections, no matter where the materials are housed.

SHSMO's statewide reach has been well established with centers now in Columbia (headquarters), Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis, and with special services to Springfield. Yet according to Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., SHSMO president, the organization's governing board decided it needed a center in Cape Girardeau to increase SHSMO's presence in southeast Missouri. "The Southeast Missouri State University campus is the perfect place for a new center," Limbaugh said. "We can supplement and complement the work being done in the university's Center for Regional History and its Archives and Special Collections."

In fact it was due to this collaboration and the growing number of requests in the area that the Research Center-Cape Girardeau was established, according to Limbaugh. "Our partnership holds great promise for the collection, curation, and dissemination of materials relating to the rich history of southeast Missouri," Limbaugh said. "Cape and New Madrid counties were two of the five original counties established in the Missouri Territory prior to statehood. Our collecting efforts will go back all the way to the earliest times."

SHSMO Executive Director Gary Kremer echoed Limbaugh's sentiments, adding that he looks forward to improved access to the collections for southeast Missourians. "I am so pleased we are sharing the robust collection of SHSMO materials pertinent to southeast Missouri, including the Oliver Collection, the Congressman William 'Bill' Emerson Papers, and the Charles M. Barnes Papers," Kremer said.

The Research Center-Cape Girardeau is headed by Dr. Frank Nickell, retired SEMO history professor and former director of the SEMO Center for Regional History. "I've worked with Dr. Frank Nickell for many years and am pleased to have him as our first staff person in Cape Girardeau," Kremer said. "Frank will represent SHSMO to members, donors, and individuals wishing to entrust

their papers and materials to the manuscript and book collections."

Join in our excitement and visit the new center. The goal of the partnership is to encourage historical study of this dynamic area while providing southeast Missouri residents convenient access to SHSMO resources.

For more information, please call the Cape Girardeau Research Center at 573.651.2689 or the Columbia Center at 573.882.1187.



William "Zelli" Fischetti, Assistant Director Research Center-St. Louis, and Frank Nickell, head of the Research Center-Cape Girardeau, talk during a tour of the new facility.

Location & Information

SHSMO Cape Girardeau Research Center

347 N Pacific Street, Room 301, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Contact: Dr. Frank Nickell | **Phone:** 573.651.2689

Email: shsofmo-cg@umsystem.edu or fnickell@semo.edu

Website: shs.umsystem.edu

Requests: Review the collection listings online at shs.umsystem.edu/research and complete the request form.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Monday through Friday

Parking: Free to visitors.

Join the SHSMO Community in Honoring Three True Supporters

Dr. Adolf E. Schroeder

Few express the passion that Dr. Adolf E. Schroeder shared with all who he encountered in his ninety-seven years. His passing on March 29, after an illness of several weeks, hits hard as Schroeder was a longtime SHSMO supporter.

"Dolf was a remarkable individual, a brilliant and gifted scholar, and one of the nicest people I've ever met," Executive Director Gary Kremer said.

The son of German immigrants, Schroeder worked to preserve his rich heritage, eventually making it his life's work. After earning a doctorate in German literature from Ohio State University in 1950, Schroeder taught at three universities before finding his home at the University of Missouri (MU) in 1970. Upon his retirement in 1985, he was named professor emeritus of Germanic Studies.

The author and editor of many books and scholarly articles, Schroeder was instrumental in reviving interest in Missouri's German heritage.

Dr. Arvarh E. Strickland

Dr. Arvarh Strickland will be remembered as an educator, a historian, a SHSMO trustee, and a longtime advocate for minority hiring in higher education. The first black professor at MU, he never stopped learning lessons from the past to ensure a brighter future for tomorrow.

Strickland died April 30 at the age of eighty-two. He left a legacy that will continue on thanks to his investments in others and the diversity he cultivated on campus. "Arvarh Strickland was most well known for the countless number of students he mentored over the years, both in their academic pursuits and in their personal challenges," Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton said. "Because of his contributions, MU's history department is noted as one of the nation's leaders for doctoral degrees granted to African Americans."

Strickland graduated from Tougaloo College in 1951. A teacher, Korean War veteran, and a 1962 University of Illinois doctoral graduate, Strickland was hired by MU in 1969 to teach black history. Due to his attention, his advocacy, and his passion, Strickland was tapped for many important roles on campus from chairing the History Department to assisting with minority recruitment.

Strickland served as a SHSMO trustee from 1974 until his death. He received the Society's Distinguished Service Award in 1997.

Robert Wood Wilson

Innovations in sharing news are central to the legacy of SHSMO trustee Robert Wood Wilson. Over the years, he advanced Missouri journalism through his newspaper, *The Milan Standard*.

Wilson, seventy-eight, of Milan, Missouri, died April 14.

"Bob was a devoted newspaperman, through and through. He loved his community and his community's newspaper. He supported all that was good in Milan and north Missouri," said Doug Crews, former SHSMO president and current executive director of the Missouri Press Association (MPA).

Wilson started his career while in grade school, when he worked for his father at *The Milan Standard*. After graduating from MU in 1959, Wilson returned home and put his business degree to use. Within five years he was partner, editor, and publisher of the *Standard*.

Wilson left an imprint on many publishing ventures, including his own Wilson Publishing Company. He served on the MPA board for nearly twenty years and was president in 1999. Wilson was named to the MPA Hall of Fame in 2010.

Local and State Societies Collaborate at Joint Meeting



At a joint meeting of Washington County's three historical societies, John Robinson III, Bellevue Historical Society; Cindy Merx, Au Mines Historical Society; Genelle Cole, Mines au Breton Historical Society; and Severin Roberts, The State Historical Society of Missouri, pose for a picture after Roberts's presentation on SHSMO.

Robert M. Clayton III Elected to Board of Trustees

Adding another public service role to his résumé, Robert M. Clayton III of Hannibal has been elected as the newest member of the SHSMO Board of Trustees.

His active part in the governance of SHSMO began in March 2013, yet Clayton's love of history has a long tradition expressed both in his membership on the board of the Mark Twain Home Foundation and in his undergraduate studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in history. Clayton also holds a juris doctor degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Clayton, a sixth-generation Missourian, leads a professional life rooted in public service. Currently, he is a judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District. Clayton was previously chairman of the Missouri Public Service Commission and a partner at Clayton & Curl, LLC.

Elected as a state representative in 1994, Clayton was a vital part of the Missouri House of Representatives throughout his eight-year tenure in the legislature. He sponsored the house companion bill to legislation that created the Missouri Historic Preservation Tax Credit, which encourages investment in historic buildings.



Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. shares details about one of the original Missouri state flags on special display at the Oliver-Leming House.

Flag Centennial and Conference on History Showcase Southeast Missouri

The Missouri Flag Centennial Celebration held March 21-22 in Cape Girardeau defied boundaries with keynote speaker US Senator Roy Blunt addressing those gathered to celebrate the 1913 adoption of Marie Watkins Oliver's flag design via Skype on March 21.

Blunt, a SHSMO trustee, had to remain in Washington, DC, for essential budget votes, and this technological solution allowed his presence both at the event and on the Hill. Other state and local officials were among the 200 in attendance at the Flag Centennial Dinner, a featured part of the two-day celebration held in conjunction with the Missouri Conference on History.

Speeches and presentations by special guests, including Blunt, Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) President Kenneth Dobbins, Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder, and Penny Oliver-Chapell, the great-granddaughter of Marie Watkins Oliver, were among the other highlights of the commemoration. Dobbins announced an official partnership between SEMO and SHSMO in his address. He shared that the collaboration will encourage historical study of the vibrant southeast Missouri area through a new SHSMO Research Center-Cape Girardeau on the campus.

According to Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., SHSMO president, the celebration showcased the region's unique attributes while honoring our unity as a state under the same flag Oliver created 100 years ago. "It's not only a celebration of the flag, it's also a celebration of our rich local history," Limbaugh said.

A regional history fair allowed guests to learn more about the local area, and tours of the Oliver-Leming House, newly restored by Drs. Bert and Mary Ann Kellerman, offered a peek into the early twentieth-century world of the flag's creator. At the landmark, one of the two original Missouri state flags was on special display, courtesy of the Champ Clark House and Museum in Bowling Green.

The Flag Centennial fit seamlessly with the annual program of the Missouri Conference on History, which gathered historians, independent scholars, and students to present research, exchange information on curricula, and consider ways to promote interest in history and the welfare of the profession.

The fifty-fifth annual Missouri Conference on History, sponsored by SHSMO in partnership with SEMO's Department of History and the Missouri Humanities Council, featured papers and panels on all aspects of history, including Missouri and Midwestern, American, European, and non-Western, as well as the public history fields of historic preservation, museums, historic sites, and archives.

Executive Committee Proposes Bylaws Change

The Executive Committee moved adoption of the following amendment to the State Historical Society's bylaws at its April 19 meeting in Jefferson City: "Article VI, Section 3. Terms of Office. The terms of all offices of the Society shall be for a term of three years except for the Executive Director who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees. The President may serve only one no more than two terms. Election as President for an unexpired term shall not disqualify one for election for a two full terms. The officers of the Society, except the Executive Director, shall serve without compensation." The proposed amendment will be discussed and voted on by the Board of Trustees at their meeting on August 16. The meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the Stoney Creek Inn, 2601 South Providence Road, Columbia.

2013 Award Winners

Join us in applauding the exceptional work of Missouri historians and students. The following awards were presented at the Missouri Conference on History:

- **Article Award**
Holly A. Baggett
"The Creation of a Community: A History of Gay and Lesbian Springfield, 1945-2010"
- **Book Award**
Thomas C. Danisi
Uncovering the Truth about Meriwether Lewis
- **Lynn and Kristen Morrow Missouri History Student Prize**
Sarah Lirley McCune, University of Missouri-Columbia
"Dishonor, Desertion, and Suicide: Respectability and Death Investigations in Late Nineteenth-Century St. Louis"
- **Student Paper Award**
Paula Hunt, University of Missouri-Columbia
"Elijah Lovejoy: Publishing, Faith, and Abolition in 1830s St. Louis"

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MISSOURI TIMES
is published by *The State Historical Society of Missouri*

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Benton Paintings, Complex Friendship with Truman on Display

Benton and Truman: Legends of the Missouri Border, a special exhibit at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence, features SHSMO's Benton paintings *Negro Soldier*, *The Sowers*, and *Starry Night*. On display through October 14, this exhibition explores Missouri icons Thomas Hart Benton and Harry S. Truman as kindred spirits whose attitudes, ideas, and approach to life reflect aspects of the state's unique character and history.

The two came together in the 1950s, when Benton painted a monumental mural for the entrance hall of the Truman Library. While this collaboration is an important part of the exhibition, other parallels between the two men are also explored. SHSMO artworks are part of a section of the exhibit devoted to the pivotal role World War II played in the lives and careers of Truman and Benton.



Negro Soldier, currently on loan to the Truman Library, will introduce Benton and SHSMO to a broader audience.



SHSMO Art Curator Joan Stack pauses in front of a framed collection of Civil War era envelopes, ca. 1861-65. The everyday items became a popular way for citizens to show their patriotism to friends and family.

Walk-through Showcases Insights into Civil War Era Emotion Using Everyday Objects

More than thirty people explored the Civil War era mind-set on March 9, as Art Curator Joan Stack led a walk-through of our featured exhibition, *Money, Mail, and Memoria: Ephemera of the Civil War Era*. The show illustrates the culture of the period with visual material not usually thought of as "fine art." Images on currency, envelopes, sheet music, and the pages of newspapers affected the way people understood issues of race, regional identity, and even the war.

Visitors strolled down the hall and engaged in an in-depth conversation about the objects in the exhibit. At the end of the event, manuscript specialist John Konzal joined Stack to show other items from the collection in a temporary tabletop display set up especially for the tour.

Members Make SHSMO. Thanks for Growing Support!

Our spring membership and fund drive is well on its way! As you know, donor gifts and membership dues support the day-to-day efforts of our labor-intensive work preserving your history. While SHSMO's state appropriation currently takes care of our staffing costs, we are still down in funding. Gifts and dues are more important than ever, so spread the word with friends and family who still need to become members!

From putting together exhibits showcasing art from the more than 15,000-piece collection to ensuring high-quality, complete copies of our Missouri newspapers are properly preserved, we rely on membership dues and grants to carry out our mission.

We had the pleasure of talking to a patron who was visiting the Columbia gallery exhibit *Nelly Don: Self-Made, Ready-Made*, a collaboration with MU's Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection. It was his first visit. He explained that his family has a long history in Missouri, and we did a quick check of the Surname Index. With ten references to his surname, he was off and running, enthused by Missouri history's relevance to his family narrative.

This happens every day.

Patrons rely on us to preserve and share their stories. They use the collections to fill in their family histories, to complete sixth-grade assignments and compete in the National History Day in Missouri contest (and frequently receive national awards), to write papers for undergraduate degrees, to work on theses for advanced degrees, and to write books. Patrons use our photographs and materials in papers and books published around the world.

Entrepreneur's Legacy, Success Explored during Women's History Month

The State Historical Society partnered with the University of Missouri's Department of Textile and Apparel Management (TAM) to bring the documentary *Nelly Don: A Stitch in Time* to mid-Missouri on March 16.

Ellen Quinlan Donnelly Reed (1889-1991) is featured in the film along with her rags-to-riches career. A Kansas City entrepreneur, Reed created the Nelly Don clothing line and stood at the helm of one of the nation's most successful garment manufacturing companies from the 1920s through the 1960s.

The film's director, Terrence O'Malley (great-great nephew of Reed), introduced the documentary. After the showing, 60 guests viewed original Nelly Don fashions in the Columbia Research Center's art gallery, courtesy of TAM's Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection.

Nelly Don: Self Made, Ready Made, on display until May 18, is cosponsored by SHSMO and TAM together with SHSMO member and volunteer Jean Ann Ferguson.

"It was her first time in the workplace. With it being all females they became friends. They laughed together, cried together, and shared their stories while they sewed. She spent her career sewing, and Nelly Don started it all."

—Visitor Evelyn Dischner Turner said of her mother, Virginia



Left Two participants pose with the National History Day (NHD) sign in Speakers Circle. **Right** This dramatic performance covered one of the first great American turning points, the Revolutionary War complete with Paul Revere and John Hancock.



State Contest Successful, Fifty-Six Projects Advancing to Nationals

Thanks to the efforts of 561 participants and more than 120 volunteer judges, the 2013 state contest was a huge success. Missouri is fortunate to be sending fifty-six students to the Kenneth E. Behring National Contest in College Park, Maryland, June 9-13. These students represent the best of the best from more than 2,500 participants across the state.

First- and second-place state winners announced at the April 20 awards ceremony advance to nationals, including many who also received one of the twenty-one special prizes. But their work is not over; participants take the judges' comments to heart and continue to improve their exhibits, performances, papers, websites, and documentaries to show the best work in the state.

Missouri's students returned from the 2012 national contest with one first-place Junior Individual Website winner,

three Special Prize winners, two Outstanding Affiliate Entry winners, and an entry displayed at the National Museum of American History. In all, 64 percent of Missouri's entries placed in the top half of all national participants.

Judge Toni Messina of Columbia shared her enthusiasm for the growing program on Facebook. She said, "[I am] proud to have been part of the process. Way to go, future contributors to the field!" These sentiments were echoed throughout the weekend both on the University of Missouri's campus and through social media.

Join SHSMO in congratulating the finalists by supporting the program. Membership, gifts, and volunteers make NHD possible. To get involved contact the Columbia office at 573.882.7083. For a complete list of winners, please visit www.nhdmo.org.



A student thanks her teacher at the ceremony before leaving with family.

Exceptional Educators Rewarded for their Efforts

SHSMO is proud to recognize three educators who provided extraordinary dedication to their teaching and creativity in the classroom.

The winner of the 2013 Joseph Webber Teacher of Merit Award is Kelsie Blakley, Liberty High School in Liberty. The Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Jason Navarro, Wheaton Senior High School in Wheaton and Ivan Obert, South Middle School in Joplin. Both Navarro and Obert will be considered for the national Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced in June.

These exceptional individuals go the extra mile and help history come to life in classrooms across the state. Please thank them and the educators in your area who teach more than the history found in textbooks.



Thank you to the Missouri Humanities Council, which serves as cosponsor for National History Day in Missouri.

Contest Dates Mark Your Calendar

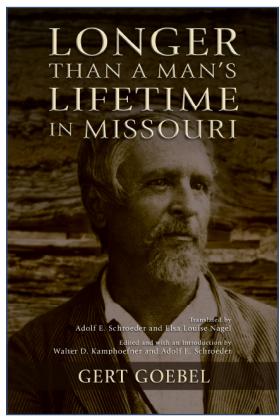
June 9-13
Kenneth E. Behring
National History Day Contest:
University of Maryland-College Park



May

Money, Mail, and Memoria: Ephemera of the Civil War Era through August Corridor Gallery Columbia Research Center

Many limit discussion of Civil War art to paintings, sculptures, photographs, and fine prints. This exhibit focuses on popular imagery from more unexpected contexts. Pictures decorated currency, newspapers, sheet music, books, popular prints, and other media. Much of this neglected art of the Civil War era helps us better understand the political, social, and cultural climate of the period.



Memoirs of German Immigrant Due for Release Late May Columbia Research Center

Longer Than a Man's Lifetime in Missouri, by Gert Goebel, edited and with an introduction by Walter D. Kamphoefner and Adolf E. Schroeder, is available for pre-order through the Society and is scheduled for release late this month. Published in partnership with the Brush and Palette Club of Hermann, the book is a translation by Adolf E. Schroeder and Elsa Louise Nagel of Goebel's original 1877 German edition titled *Länger als ein Menschenleben in Missouri*.

Goebel emigrated in 1834 from Coburg, Germany, to Franklin County, where he became a farmer, county surveyor, and state legislator and enrolled for military service in the county's Home Guard. His memoir offers remarkable descriptions of German settlement in Missouri up to the 1870s, as well as commentary on politics and Civil War events within the state. Goebel's narrative is illuminated and enhanced by the editors' extensive annotations.

Reconstructing Bingham's Order No. 11

May 21 Boone County Historical Society (BCHS)

Drawing enlightenment from James J. Froese's painting, SHSMO Art Curator Joan Stack is "Reconstructing Bingham's Order No. 11: (Or How Thomas H. Benton, Abraham Lincoln and James J. Froese Help Us Rethink Missouri's Most Iconic Civil War Painting)."

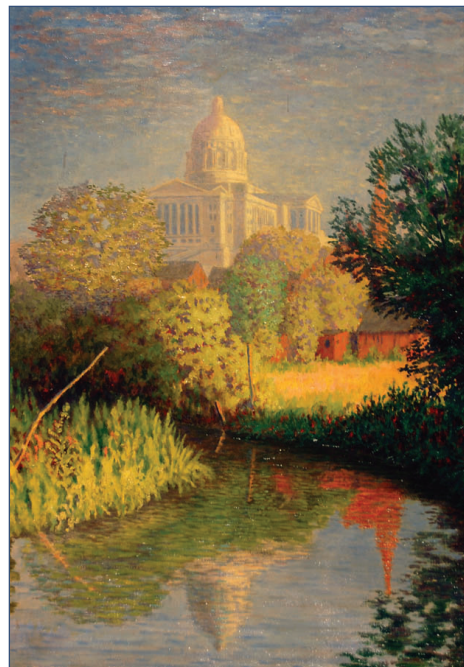
Share in her findings at a lecture presented in conjunction with the Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table and the BCBS's retrospective exhibition: *In Memory of James J. Froese (Aug 1936 - May 2012) - The Life Works of Captain Jim Redwing River Walker Froese*, running May 10-June 30.



KWOS "Open Air" 950 AM

Join the conversation with hosts John Marsh and Warren Krech as they visit with SHSMO Executive Director Gary R. Kremer the mornings of **May 20, June 17, July 15, and August 19.**

June



The Missouri State Capitol in Art/Art in the Missouri State Capitol

June 1 through December Main Gallery Columbia Research Center

Jefferson City's skyline is marked by the impressive Missouri State Capitol building officially dedicated in October 1924. A new exhibit showcases images representing the Missouri landmark as well as the building's past and present interior décor.

Impressionist paintings by Jefferson City artist and businessman Lester Parker from the 1920s are featured, along with works by Missouri's famed artists George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton.

Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest

June 9-13 University of Maryland-College Park

Fifty-six Missouri students representing the best of the best from more than 2,500 participants across the state will showcase their research into the "Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events" in the hopes of winning a national award.



Close-up on Photo Collections: Care & Management

June 22 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Columbia Research Center

Overwhelmed by your photograph collections or looking for easy tips on preservation? Manuscript specialist Anne Cox will provide an introduction to caring for photographs. Topics include collection management, organization and storage, description, basic preservation, and dealing with digital images.

This class is suitable for caretakers of historic photograph collections, or those who want to learn how to best keep their contemporary photographs for future generations.

Sign up soon at 573.882.7083 as the session is limited to twenty people; final deadline is June 14. Cost is just \$15 for members and \$25 for nonmembers; the workshop fee includes a boxed lunch.



Reminder: All six Research Centers are closed May 25-27 in observance of Memorial Day.

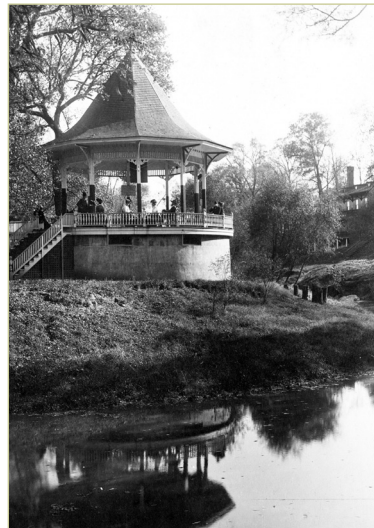
Looking ahead

Remembering Gen. Order No. 11

June 29 through December Bingham Room, Main Gallery Columbia Research Center

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War edict that inspired George Caleb Bingham's painting, an exhibition of related artworks will feature John Sartain's 1872 engraved plate, Fred Shane's drawing of Quantrill's raid, together with James J. Froese's abstract interpretation of Bingham's painting created ca. 1970.

Annual Membership Meeting October 12 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia



Left A group enjoys an afternoon in the gazebo next to Regent Spring in Clay County, Missouri. **Right** Workers take a moment to pose for the camera in a Dunklin County cotton field.



Photograph Collection with Mysterious Origins Depicts the Turn of the Century

Publications and photographs at the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) have long been intertwined. Images relating to Missouri history were first purposefully collected by SHSMO Secretary Isidor Loeb in 1901 as part of an appeal to Missourians to grow the collection.

Advancements in printing technology in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries allowed for photographs to be widely reproduced in books, newspapers, and periodicals. Photos and other images from our collections began filling the pages of numerous publications and continue to be used by authors, editors, and publishers to illustrate their works.

The SHSMO Research Center-Columbia's collection of photographs has benefited from several large donations of photos specifically created or collected for use in a magazine, book, or other publication. The State of Missouri Photograph Collection is one of our earliest collections of this type. This set of photographic prints was published as illustrations in *The State of Missouri: An Autobiography*, edited by Walter Williams and published by E. W. Stephens in 1904. The book was produced by the Missouri Commission to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Intended both as a history of Missouri and a proud account of the state's best contemporary features, it was

distributed widely through the exposition and public schools.

Yet the exact origins of the State of Missouri Photograph Collection are unknown. Records indicate some of the photographs were donated by Walter Williams or his wife, Sara. While a donor is not indicated for all the images, the entire collection was likely entrusted to us by Williams after the completion of the book. Both Williams and Stephens were deeply involved in establishing SHSMO in 1898 and continued to contribute to our early development. Consequently, it would have been natural for them to donate the photographs to us following publication of the book.

Despite the partial mystery of the images' history, this collection provides a geographically broad overview of Missouri at the turn of the century. Although the photos are undated, *The State of Missouri* indicates that they were all created around the time of the book's publication in 1903-04, which is supported by visual clues in the photographs themselves. Each county is represented through images of its people, landmarks, or scenery. The collection also covers Missouri's major cities, notable people, government, industry, business, education, and arts.

Since these photographs were included in a book, information about what is shown in the photographs is

frequently provided in the book's text and annotations. Yet individuals are rarely identified by name, and captions more often focus on groups or general descriptions of the scenes portrayed.

Kathleen Conway, SHS volunteer, recently digitized and cataloged photographs from the collection. She noted that many of the images, even landscapes, include people.

"It's almost as if they wanted to show the vastness of nature in comparison to the smallness of man," Conway said.

The collection provides researchers with insights into the agendas of early twentieth-century authors and publishers. As these photographs were intended to show the best of historic and then-contemporary Missouri, they demonstrate how Williams and the book's contributors saw the state and the ways they wished to present it to others.

Photographic prints in the collection retain crop lines and other markings used for editing in a pre-Photoshop era. The images were reproduced in the book at sizes substantially smaller than the original prints; researchers will find much greater detail when viewing the original photographs.

The public is invited to make use of the more than four hundred photographs in the State of Missouri Photograph Collection, a snapshot of the state as it was in 1904.

More Precious than Rubies: A Tribute to the Jewish Women's Organizations in Kansas City

Women join clubs for many reasons, and strikingly, many of their organizations are focused on service, education, and society. Just as women nurture their families, they also, through their volunteering, nurture the community. And nurture they do.

A new temporary exhibit at the Jewish Community Campus honoring the women of the Kansas City Jewish Community showcases their endeavors through photographs, documents, and other items from the SHSMO Research Center-Kansas City's collections. Each piece helps tell a greater story—that the local Jewish community would not look like it does today without women's loving dedication to the community's needs.

The Research Center-Kansas City, in cooperation with the Jewish Community Archives of Greater Kansas City, opened the six-month exhibit on March 17 to highlight four major organizations: Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, the National Council of Jewish Women, Brandeis University National Women's Committee, and Jewish Women International (formerly B'nai B'rith Women). **Greater Kansas City Chapter of Hadassah Records (K0593)**

Stirred by Henrietta Szold, a Jewish scholar and activist, to embrace "practical Zionism; proactive work to help meet the health needs of Palestine's people," Hadassah was formed in 1912 from the merger of chapters of the Daughters of Zion. Yet it was Szold's visit the following year as national president that energized the local chapter. She met with a group of women at the home of Mrs. A. H. Lehman and asked for assistance to send and maintain nurses in Palestine and supply medical essentials to the people.

The Kansas Citians took up the cause, established a chapter, and funded two nurses. The appeal of the message was unique and genuine, practical and directed, and touched even those women who previously had not been part of the Zionist movement. Hadassah would provide humanitarian aid to distant members of the Jewish family, but a second goal was to foster Zionist ideals through education in America.

Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005, the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem remains the only facility in the region that accepts patients regardless of ethnicity.



Above Furthering the Jewish community is a long tradition as seen in this 1940 installation of officers.



Left Dorothy Copakin (left), with guide, Sally Rose, and Dora Raineu, speaking to a group of Chen recruits in April 1956. The Hadassah members traveled to Israel to see the work firsthand. **Right** Children still benefit from the effort of these groups today, as did these girls and boys at an event in October 1994.



Due in part to their practical and identifiable projects dedicated to Judaism, Zionism, and American ideals, Hadassah is one of the most influential and longest-lasting Zionist organizations in Kansas City. **Greater Kansas City Section, National Council of Jewish Women Records (K0145)**

"Dedicated in the spirit of Judaism to advancing human welfare and the democratic way of life," the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) founded its Kansas City chapter in August 1893.

Its establishment was also made possible thanks to the hospitality of its creators. Mrs. Louis Lieberman opened her home in response to a letter from Hannah G. Solomon, founder of the parent organization. The following January, seventeen charter members instituted the Greater Kansas City Section of the NCJW and elected Mrs. Lieberman their first president.

The council's early programs were a response to the influx of immigrants. The Bertha Haas Shoe Fund provided poor children with shoes, stockings, and

underwear. A Mission Sunday School opened in 1895 to give Jewish children a religious education. The fear of diseases spreading among tenement residents was a major concern, thus the council opened a free bathhouse in early 1907, and by November more than 8,000 baths had been taken.

This trend continued through the decades, with countless programs focused on the community. NCJW helped found the Naturalization Council, established a thrift shop as a source of income for philanthropy, hosted weaving workshops for the blind, helped initiate an urban coalition, initiated a national "Adolescent Girls in the Juvenile Justice System Survey," and created the CASA project in 1985 to alleviate the overloaded court system by advocating for child victims.

By providing a coordinated program of education, services, advocacy, and social action, the NCJW continues to fulfill needs within the Jewish and the general communities today—uniting Jewish women interested in the works of religion, philanthropy, education, and social reform.



The Frisco Railroad depot at St. James, ca. 1910. The Phelps County passenger and freight depot is a classic example of structures common during the period.

St. James Railroads, Heritage Celebrated through Collections

The last passenger/freight railroad depot remaining in Phelps County provided an ideal backdrop for “The Depot and Railroad Heritage of St. James.” SHSMO Research Center–Rolla staff members Leann Arndt and John Bradbury presented the program at the recently renovated structure in St. James to forty-two people gathered for the Phelps County Historical Society’s spring meeting on April 7.

A pictorial review of the depot created a visual timeline for the audience. Arndt’s archival research provided basic details, including the probable date of the depot’s construction, 1886. Guests were made aware of architectural changes to the depot from significant remodeling over the years that paralleled the changing needs of the railroad company and its patrons.

A comparison of the St. James depot with those at Crocker and Steelville placed the Phelps County structure within a common design standard for combination passenger/freight depots in small towns along the St. Louis - San Francisco “Frisco” Railroad.

Bradbury shared insights into how the railroad’s presence affected daily life in St. James during the age of steam. He also spoke on the history of the Frisco and its corporate ancestors in Phelps County. For small southern Missouri communities such as St. James, the Frisco was the railroad for over a century. It is still remembered favorably and nostalgically, even though the line was acquired by the Burlington

Northern over three decades ago in 1980, now part of the BNSF Railway.

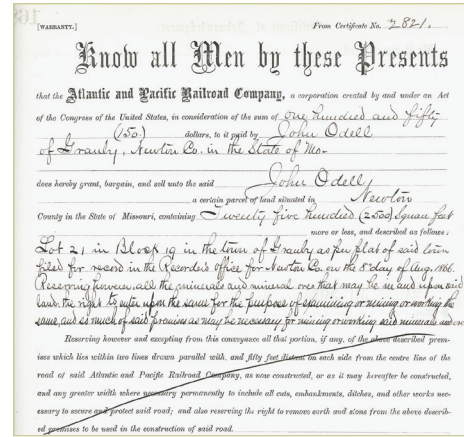
The program featured railroad images from public and private collections, including SHSMO Research Centers at Rolla and Columbia; Special Collections and Archives, Missouri State University; and the James Memorial Library collection of historic images now at SHSMO–Rolla.

Recent Donations

Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company Records Shed Light on Rich History

A volume recording the sale of lands in Missouri by the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company (A&P) donated by Steve Muckala of Marshfield adds information about the mostly obscure activities along the southwestern branch. The A&P, an immediate corporate predecessor of the Frisco Railroad, was a post-Civil War transcontinental scheme incorporating the Pacific Railroad of Missouri and its southwestern branch with the original land grants. Land sales had helped the A&P partially rebuild its worn-out Missouri properties and extend the rails into Kansas and toward Texas.

But by 1875 the A&P was in financial trouble, resulting in a corporate reorganization that separated the southwestern branch from the parent railroad and created the Frisco Railroad in 1876. Despite the legal separation, the A&P’s record book shows sales of over 13,000 acres along the former branch in 1876-77.



Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company sales derived from the lands originally granted the Pacific Railroad of Missouri and its southwestern branch.

There are numerous entries of the A&P’s warranty and quitclaim deeds issued for lands in eleven counties in southwestern Missouri. Sales in rural areas mostly consisted of forty- and eighty-acre tracts

Renault Lead Company Lead Ore Records Fill Chronological Gap

Supplementing a previously existing SHSMO collection is a volume donated by former WHMC–Rolla associate director Mark Stauter. It is a record of lead ore received by the Renault Lead Company from mines around Palmer in southwestern Washington County, the last significant mining in an area that had been worked sporadically since Missouri’s colonial and territorial periods.

It adds to the other surviving records included in the Lead Mining Companies, Washington County, Missouri, Records.

Lighthearted 1937 Musical Comes to Life through St. Louis Post-Dispatch Coverage



Above Mrs. Arthur H. Feuerbacher as Wallis Simpson in the coronation rocking chair with pages Mrs. Edward Bischoff and Mrs. John Brownrigg. The gentleman is Charles Swingley as King Edward VIII. Below Chorus Members as Buckingham Palace Guards.

A recent viewing of *The King’s Speech* felt like photographs from the Research Center–St. Louis collection set in motion. In the movie, King George VI must overcome his stutter to deliver an inspirational speech after he inherits the British throne from his brother, who has abdicated to marry an American, Wallis Warfield Simpson. In contrast, the SHSMO photographs document an April 10, 1937 burlesque at the St. Louis Woman’s Club in which Edward VIII remains on the throne and Simpson is crowned “Queen of Great Britain and her lands beyond the seas.”

The Love Life of Edward the VIII, or Things as They Might Have Been, a lighthearted musical spoof of events in England four months earlier, was covered in the society pages of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The article and photos that photographer Arthur Witman captured of the show are preserved in the St. Louis collection.

The idea of an American queen seemed to excite the populace of St. Louis as three hundred people attended the show. In fact, Simpson was still married to another man when the play was staged, but she was granted a divorce seventeen days after and said her vows to Edward, whose new royal title was Duke of Windsor, less than two months later on June 3, 1937.

The show was a lively production filled with palace guards dancing in high-heel boots and short breeches and featuring dialogue between Edward and Wallis in which Edward sang, “What a dummy love has made out of me.” Simpson replied, “You’ll excuse the dust of a queen from the USA.”

The *Post-Dispatch* reported, “The crown jewels—sword, crown, scepter, orb (a bracelet banded grapefruit), the Ampulla (a gilded gravy boat with an Easter chicken replacing the eagle) and green spurs cut from wood... For \$350 instead of \$2,000,000, the juniors of the Woman’s Club had crowned a ‘queen.’” Many spectators joined in the fun by coming in costume.

CAST

- Wallis Warfield Simpson
Mrs. Arthur H. Feuerbacher
- Edward VIII
Charles Swingley
- Queen Dowager Mary
Mrs. William Glasgow O’Fallon
- Queen Elizabeth
Mrs. Hugh Bowen
- Princess Elizabeth
Eleanor Babler
- Princess Margaret
Ruth Babler
- King George VI
Jerome F. Kircher
- Baron Rothschild
Joseph W. Folk
- Archbishop of Canterbury
Victor Cullen
- Palace Guards, Beefeaters, Pages,
Knights of the Garter
Chorus Members



New Collections:

- McGough, Barbara, Papers, 1976–2011.** Documents from a champion of the lesbian and feminist movement expanded.
- Drey, Kay, Papers, Addenda, 1971–2010.** New details added on topics including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Metrolink, Fort Leonard Wood, the Art Museum and Mallinckrodt sites, energy and water management, global warming, and cell-phone towers.
- Black Pages, 2013.** Bob Baumann donated literature on jazz at the Sheldon, Audubon Society newsletters, and much more.
- Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), 1974–1993.** Current holdings enriched on the group dedicated to peace and freedom by nonviolent means.
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender oral history interviews, 1980 and 2013.** Donated by James Andris, these firsthand accounts provide insight into the LGBT movement.
- Boernstein, Henry and Marie, Portraits, 1838.** Digital images given by Dr. Steve Rowan.



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