

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

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New Center for Missouri Studies Building Project Moves Forward

On March 3 the State Historical Society of Missouri reached a major milestone in its effort to build a larger, more modern, and more accessible headquarters building in Columbia. State financing for the Center for Missouri Studies, a new building that will be adjacent to both the University of Missouri campus and downtown Columbia, was finalized with the Missouri Development Finance Board's issuance of \$35 million in construction bonds.

"This step makes the project real. We've worked countless hours to make this a reality," SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer said.

The new facility, to be built at the corner of Sixth and Elm Streets, is envisioned as a destination where visitors of all ages can be immersed in Missouri's history and culture. It will feature an art museum twice the size of the current gallery space and an expanded

research center to meet the needs of the growing number of visitors who use the State Historical Society's resources. The building will feature state-of-the-art climate controls and storage and retrieval systems to ensure the best possible care for irreplaceable collections.

The new building will replace the current Columbia headquarters in Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus. The State Historical Society of Missouri has been

located in Ellis Library since 1915.

"As we approach our 200th year of statehood, the Center will be a place where Missourians of all backgrounds can discover our complex cultural roots and come to a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Missourian," Kremer said.

The construction timeline is tentative, but a groundbreaking is anticipated in 2017. Watch the *Missouri Times* for updates on the project's progress.



At a reception for the *Exploring Mid-Missouri with Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School* exhibition, SHSMO's Greig Thompson addresses a crowd in the corridor gallery. The new facility's art museum is expected to double in size.

AAUW Encourages Students to Discover Women in History through Annual Special Prizes at National History Day in Missouri

Nearly 600 sixth- through twelfth-grade students shared their original research at the National History Day in Missouri state contest on April 30. Students from all corners of the state gathered at the University of Missouri in Columbia to take part in the excitement of the state competition and to exhibit their creative projects addressing the 2016 contest theme, Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History.

As part of the day's events, two students received special prizes for projects devoted to women's history. The awards, sponsored by the American Association of University Women, have been given at the state contest each year since 1992.

The 2016 winners were both from the junior performance division. Lily Casey, a student at St. Margaret of Scotland School in St. Louis, was selected for her study of a prominent American marine biologist, titled *Rachel Carson: One Woman's Fight against Pesticides*. —Continued on page 4



Betty Takahashi, NHDMO chair from the St. Charles branch of the American Association of University Women, travels to Columbia each year to present the AAUW's special prizes for women's history projects.

2016 Missouri Conference on History Shows Growth, Breaks Records for Support

The Missouri Conference on History set a new record this year for sponsorship and exhibitor support. More than \$8,700 was raised for the 2016 conference, hosted by SHSMO and held March 9–11 in Columbia at the Courtyard by Marriott and Conference Center.

At the conference's business meeting, a portion of the proceeds were donated to National History Day in Missouri, a program administered by the State Historical Society of Missouri in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council. The conference

traditionally contributes to National History Day if funding exceeds costs for running the annual event.

The conference attracted 200 participants. This year's program included a public interview of Gracia Yancey Backer, the first female majority floor leader in the Missouri House of Representatives, by Bob Priddy, a SHSMO trustee and the retired director of Missouri news service. Their candid conversation drew on Backer's experiences, her observations of women in Missouri politics, and her thoughts on recent political debates to provide context for interpreting the state's political climate.

"The greatest thing that has ever been said to me, and it was said a couple of days ago, was 'You don't know me, or you don't remember

me, but you helped me.' To me, that's what government is about, helping people," Backer said.

Former Missouri governor Roger Wilson attended the event and commended Backer during the question-and-answer session after the interview. "If there was a hall of fame for a good public servant, Gracia would be in the first class. The good ones go to work because it thrills them," Wilson said.

The keynote luncheon, sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council, featured Center for Missouri Studies fellow Patrick Huber. A professor of history at Missouri University of Science and Technology, Huber presented his work on the 1930 race riot in St. Genevieve, his hometown.

"I was glad to see one of our first Center for Missouri Studies fellowship winners share his new research with such a large audience," said John Brenner, SHSMO managing editor. "We're very pleased to support Patrick's work as his project continues to gather momentum."

The conference received numerous nominations for its annual awards. The 2016 winners are:

- Book Award: Benjamin Looker, Saint Louis University, *A Nation of Neighborhoods: Imagining Cities,*

Communities, and Democracy in Postwar America (\$500)

- Lawrence O. Christensen Article Award: Jeremy Neely, Missouri State University, "A Pure Son of Missouri": Freeman Barrows at the Crossroads of the Slaveholding Frontier" (\$250)
- Student Paper Prize: Sean Rost, University of Missouri–Columbia, "The Department of Balderdash and Near Socialism": Herbert Blumer and the Burrall Bible Class Controversy" (\$250)
- Lynn and Kristen Morrow Missouri History Student Prize: Zachary Dowdle, University of Missouri–Columbia, "Not in the Habit of Sleeping with Men": Politics and Masculinity in Antebellum Missouri" (\$150)

The Missouri Conference on History's steering committee gratefully acknowledges support from the 2016 host and administrative sponsor, the State Historical Society of Missouri; gold level sponsors the Missouri Humanities Council and the University of Missouri Press; silver level sponsor the Walters-Boone County Historical Museum and Galleries; and exhibitors Alice Anna Reese, the Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, Missouri Preservation, National History Day in Missouri, Southern Illinois University Press, and Truman State University Press as well as Phi Alpha Theta and Park University.

"If there was a hall of fame for a good public servant, Gracia would be in the first class. The good ones go to work because it thrills them."

—Roger Wilson, former Missouri governor

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Above SHSMO trustee Bob Priddy interviews Gracia Yancey Backer, the first female majority floor leader in the Missouri House of Representatives. The candid, public conversation was an attendee favorite. **Left** Keynote speaker Patrick Huber, professor of history at Missouri University of Science and Technology, presents his work on the 1930 race riot in St. Genevieve. The new research is a part of his 2015 Center for Missouri Studies fellowship.

Special Discounts Offered on Gift Shop Titles

In conjunction with the ongoing African American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series, SHSMO's gift shop is offering specials on books that examine topics in African American history. The discounted titles include:

- *All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African American Public Culture, 1830–1900*, by Martha Jones (\$25)
- *Black and White Justice in Little Dixie: Three Historic Essays*, by Doug Hunt (\$15)
- *Lloyd Gaines and the Fight to End Segregation* by James W. Endersby and William T. Horner (\$44)
- *Missouri's Black Heritage*, by Lorenzo J. Greene, Gary R. Kremer, and Antonio F. Holland (\$29)
- *On Slavery's Border: Missouri's Small-Slaveholding Households, 1815–1865*, by Diane Mutti Burke (\$29)
- *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom*, by Walter Johnson (\$39)
- *White Man's Heaven: The Lynching and Expulsion of Blacks in the Southern Ozarks, 1894–1909*, by Kimberly Harper (\$22)

SHSMO members who mention reading about the special discounts will receive the lower prices. The rates, which include standard shipping, will be in effect while supplies last. To order or to shop for additional titles, contact the SHSMO gift shop at 573.882.7083.



SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer, left, Center for Missouri Studies fellow Keona Ervin, and author Walter Johnson after the April 21 lecture.

The African American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series will continue into 2017. The series is hosted by the State Historical Society of Missouri's Center for Missouri Studies and the University of Missouri's Division of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity. Please visit SHSMO's website for announcements of future lectures.

In Memoriam: The State Historical Society of Missouri Honors Three Strong Leaders

Leroy Blunt, a former Missouri legislator and the father of US senator and SHSMO trustee Roy Blunt, passed away on March 21. Blunt, who was also the grandfather of former Missouri governor Matt Blunt, served four terms in the Missouri House of Representatives from 1979 to 1987. A lifelong Missouri resident, Leroy Blunt was a dairy farmer and also served on the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch Board, the Missouri State Milk Board, and the Strafford School Board. In 2006 he granted the State Historical Society an oral history interview, which is now included in SHSMO's Politics in Missouri Oral History Project (C3929).

Lawrence O. Christensen, a longtime State Historical Society of Missouri trustee, died on April 16. A respected scholar and a gifted educator, Christensen was also a former president of SHSMO.

Christensen's impact on the study of Missouri's history is immeasurable. He joined the faculty at the University of Missouri–Rolla (now Missouri University of Science and Technology) in 1969 and

remained there for the rest of his career, specializing in African American history and the history of Missouri.

As an educator, he was recognized by the university's curators as a Distinguished Teaching Professor; as a scholar, he was noted for books that included *Missouri: The Heart of the Nation*, coauthored with William E. Parrish and Charles T. Jones; *A History of Missouri, Volume IV, 1875–1919*, coauthored with Gary R. Kremer; and *Dictionary of Missouri Biography*, coedited with Kremer, William E. Foley, and Kenneth H. Winn. *A History of Missouri, Volume IV* received SHSMO's Missouri History Book Award in 1998, while the *Dictionary* earned the only recorded Missouri History Book Award—Special Award of Merit in 2000.

A member of the State Historical Society since April 1963, Christensen made many contributions to SHSMO over the past half century. In addition to being a former president and permanent trustee, he served on the *Missouri Historical Review's* editorial advisory board for nearly 30 years. He was a

prolific author for the *Review*, writing 18 feature articles for the journal between 1973 and 2014. He received the *Missouri Historical Review* Article Award in 1976, 1989, and 2001. Christensen earned the State Historical Society of Missouri Distinguished Service Award, the organization's highest honor, in 2002.

Robert C. Smith, past SHSMO president, passed away on March 8. A well-known lawyer, politician, and World War II and Korean War veteran, Smith served two terms as a state representative for Boone County, winning election in 1952 and 1954. In the 68th General Assembly, Smith served as speaker pro tempore. He made an unsuccessful bid in the 1958 Democratic primary for Missouri's Eleventh District, yet his political career did not end there. Smith served as Columbia's mayor from 1961 to 1963 and held a variety of other civic and political positions, including Boone County Democratic Committee chairman.

In 1993 Smith received the State Historical Society of Missouri's Distinguished

Service Award in appreciation of his gifted leadership as president from 1989 to 1992. He recorded an oral history interview for the Politics in Missouri Oral History Project (C3929) on November 3, 2004, for which a transcript and audio clips are available online. The Society also holds Smith's papers (C4178; C4179) in its growing collection.

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Celebrating Women's History—Continued

"She was a lifelong explorer of the natural world and believed fervently in the need to protect it," Casey wrote in a description of Carson. "She encountered the damaging effects of pesticide use, and after publishing *Silent Spring*, she encountered fierce opposition to her research, especially from the chemical industry."

Katie North of St. Clair Junior High School in St. Clair was selected for her presentation of *The Explorations and Encounters of Laura Ingalls Wilder*. "Wilder is one of my favorite authors and she lived in Missouri, like me, so I wanted to learn more about her life," North wrote.

The AAUW is a national organization established in 1881 to promote equality and education for women and girls. Its programs include public policy advocacy, research on issues related to gender equity, and educational funding and awards.

AAUW first partnered with NHDMO in the early 1990s as part of the Missouri Women's History Project, which sought to promote the teaching of women's history in Missouri schools.

In 1992 the AAUW voted to sponsor monetary awards at the NHDMO state contest for exceptional entries focused on women. Three awards of \$100 each are presented annually to students in the dramatic performance and documentary contest categories who choose women's history topics and apply for the special honor. In 2016 there were no entries for documentaries; therefore, only two prizes were named.

"We encourage students to adapt their history day project research of outstanding women to fill this gap in the coverage of history," said Grace Butler, a past president of the Missouri Chapter of AAUW.



Katie North of St. Clair Junior High School received an AAUW special prize. She also placed first in junior individual performance.

NHDMO coordinator Maggie Mayhan sees the AAUW's prize as a mutually beneficial partnership between the two organizations. "Not only do these awards build awareness for women's history, but the students who compete become passionate about their topics," she said.

The American Association of University Women looks forward to continuing its tradition of sponsoring special prizes for NHDMO projects. The 2017 contest theme, Taking a Stand in History, should invite further investigation into women's significant contributions to our shared past. To learn more about how to support NHDMO, call SHSMO at 573.882.7083 or write to contact@shsmo.org.

Redesigned State Historical Society of Missouri Website Receives New Address

Patrons visiting the State Historical Society of Missouri's website and digital collections will notice that the site has a new look as well as a new web address: shsmo.org. The address was simplified to help users find SHSMO resources more easily.

A news section is now featured on the home page to bring essential information about State Historical Society of Missouri events and services closer to visitors' fingertips. "Since the news section launched

in late February, we have noticed online researchers starting to interact with our resources in different ways," said strategic communications associate Christina George. "People are discovering the new manuscript finding aids faster, learning more about our upcoming events, and we can feature outside news coverage of the State Historical Society as well."

As part of the upgrades, SHSMO email addresses will also change. The main email

address is now contact@shsmo.org, and a complete list of addresses for individual staff members is available at <http://shsmo.org/about/staff>. All old email and web addresses will continue to work and will automatically redirect to the new addresses.

Please share your thoughts or questions about the news section and other online features by writing the State Historical Society of Missouri at contact@shsmo.org or calling 573.882.7083.



Unidentified couple from Barbara Mellers Photograph Collection (P0231-61)

Honor Gifts Help Spread the Love of Missouri History and Culture

When it comes time to celebrate a birthday, wedding, anniversary, graduation, retirement, or other special occasion, consider observing it with a gift to the State Historical Society of Missouri in honor of your loved one. Honor gifts support the collections and the educational mission to share the history and culture of Missouri.

A memorial gift to the State Historical Society is a personal remembrance that honors the life of a friend, colleague, or loved one. These gifts are a thoughtful testament to someone who valued the work of collecting, preserving, and studying Missouri's history.

If you wish to ask that a memorial gift be made in lieu of flowers, the State Historical Society of Missouri suggests the following statement: "The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations in memory of [Name of Deceased] be made to

the State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry St, Columbia, MO, 65201, or by calling 573.882.7083."

When you make a memorial or honor gift to the State Historical Society of Missouri, a letter will be sent to the honoree or family acknowledging your generosity and a tax receipt will be sent to you.

The amount of the donation will not be specified unless you request it, and you may customize a message to the recipient. All tribute gifts are also listed in the the State Historical Society of Missouri's annual report, unless otherwise requested.

To discuss making a donation, please contact Wende Wagner, Membership Program Coordinator, at 573.882.7083.

Cape Girardeau Glamour Girl Meets Businesswoman: “Miss Jane” Barnett and “Tommie” Davis

A recently donated collection provides a remarkable look into the business and life partnership of two Cape Girardeau women, Mary Jane Barnett and Elaine “Tommie” Davis, from the 1930s to the early 1980s. Together, Barnett and Davis owned the long-standing Co-op Cut Rate Drug Store and gained the community’s acceptance in an era when same-sex couples often found it necessary to hide their relationships from public view.

The Mary Jane Barnett Papers (CG0004), donated by Evelyn Boardman, provide written and photographic records of the two women’s long experience of living and working together in Cape Girardeau. Mary Jane “Miss Jane” Barnett was born in Litchfield, Illinois, on July 19, 1908. She attended MacMurray College for Women in Jacksonville, Illinois, from 1926 to 1930. The transcript of her studies reflects an emphasis in music and theater, along with classes preparing her to become an educator.

On August 27, 1930, Barnett signed a contract with the Universal Producing Company of Fairfield, Iowa, to direct amateur theater productions. During its decade of operation, the company hired mostly women as directors for its productions. Barnett stayed with Universal for a year before moving to Missouri to teach school in Hornersville, Diehlstadt, and finally Sikeston.

While living in Sikeston, she met Tommie Davis, a native of East Prairie, Missouri, who was born on October 18, 1911. Davis’s high school memory book indicates that she used



A 1945 portrait of Mary Jane Barnett from Kassel’s Photo Studio in Cape Girardeau.

her given name of Elaine only when it was required.

After graduating from Southeast Missouri State Teachers College (now Southeast Missouri State University), Davis taught for a short time in East Prairie and at the college before opening the Co-op on Main Street in Cape Girardeau in 1933. The store was a predecessor to modern pharmacies that not only dispense prescriptions but also carry other products to attract customers and increase sales.

The exact date when the two women met is unknown, but by 1938 Barnett had joined Davis as her business and life partner. They

shared responsibility for the store, each lending it different strengths, and employed successful marketing strategies which Davis recorded in her scrapbook. Barnett, staying true to her theatrical past, managed all things glamorous. There are photographs of her “Beauty Bar” displays, which evolved and expanded to include fragrances and costume jewelry. Davis oversaw the alcohol, tobacco, and men’s gifts section of the Co-op.

To support theater and the arts in the community, Barnett and Davis established the Davis-Barnett Awards in 1958. For 22 years, these scholarships were presented annually to outstanding members of Southeast Missouri State University’s theater department.

In their private life, Tommie Davis and Mary Jane Barnett loved entertaining. There are 606 photographs in the collection that depict them with family and friends enjoying life at their home on Sunset Boulevard in Cape Girardeau.

Their relationship lasted until Davis’s death in 1981, and the business continued operations under Barnett’s management until it closed a decade later. The items the couple saved, which now make up the Mary Jane Barnett Papers, offer fascinating insights into a same-sex partnership and a successful local business over five decades. This unique collection, held at the Cape Girardeau center, can be made available by request at all State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center locations throughout the state.



Left Mary Jane Barnett at the Co-op Cut Rate Drug Store cosmetics counter in a photo taken in about 1938. The store, which operated from 1933 to 1991, was located in downtown Cape Girardeau on North Main Street. **Right** Elaine “Tommie” Davis in a photo from about 1940.





May Springfield Streetcar Strike of 1916-1917
May 19 10 a.m. Springfield

Join SHSMO's Erin Smither for a closer look at Springfield's streetcar strike of 1916-1917. This talk, hosted by Learning Is Fun Together (LIFT), will examine the causes of the strike, the ways protesters benefited from community support, and the kidnapping and murder that influenced the demonstration's outcome. Free and open to the public, this presentation will be held at Wesley United Methodist Church, 413 E. Walnut Street in Springfield.

Advanced Oral History Workshop
May 19-20 Fredericktown

The Missouri Folk Arts Program, University of Missouri Extension, and SHSMO are partnering to offer an advanced workshop designed to enhance oral history interviewing skills. The session will start with tips for doing research and creating an interview outline, and will then provide practice with interviewing and hands-on experience in working with recording equipment. On the second day, participants will watch while an oral history interview is conducted live. This workshop is intended for those who have previously attended Introduction to Oral History with SHSMO's Jeff Corrigan or who have prior oral history experience. It will be held at Ozark Regional Library-Fredericktown, 115 S. Main Street, Fredericktown, MO 63645. Please contact the MU Extension Center at 573.783.3303 or KlineJU@missouri.edu with any questions or to reserve your spot.

Roundtable Discussion: St. Louis Research Resources in African American History
May 20 4 p.m. St. Louis

The community is invited to a free roundtable discussion highlighting St. Louis African American history resources. The session, which will include the State Historical Society of Missouri, is part of the African Americans in the Nineteenth Century West Symposium, hosted by Saint Louis University on May 20-21. It will be held in the Pere Marquette Room, DuBourg Hall, Saint Louis University. For details, visit <http://libraries.slu.edu/pages/aawest> or contact the Research Center-St. Louis at stlouis@shsmo.org or 314.516.5143.

June Behring National History Day Contest
June 12-16 College Park, Maryland

Top winners from the state contest will represent Missouri at nationals, held on the University of Maryland-College Park campus. In past years Missouri's students have represented the Show-Me State well at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest, bringing home medals in both the junior and senior divisions. Last year, one student even won a gold! Watch NHDMO social media for the 2016 contingent's accomplishments; find them easily on nhdmo.org.



Picturing Politics Walk-Through
June 18 1:30 p.m. Columbia

Missouri artists George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton had politics in their blood. Bingham was a Whig who served in the Missouri state legislature, while Benton, named after one of Missouri's first senators, was from a politically active family. Both men drew artistic inspiration from Missouri politics, creating images that contained political messages and commentaries on contemporary issues. At this curator's walk-through, SHSMO's Joan Stack will share the stories behind works such as Bingham's *Watching the Cargo* and *Election* series, and Benton's lithographs including *Mr. President*, a portrait of Harry Truman. *Picturing Politics*, which runs through July 2016, is currently on display in the main gallery of the Research Center-Columbia.

Vernacular America through June 18 Columbia

Take advantage of the time remaining to see extraordinary images from the Depression and World War II years celebrated in *Vernacular America in the 1930s and 1940s: The Art of Ben Messick and Fred Shane*. The exhibition is at the Research Center-Columbia. Messick's interest in showing the beauty of everyday life reflects his humble beginnings in Strafford, Missouri. Shane, a Kansas City native, was an artist and educator who taught at the University of Missouri. His works in the exhibition feature townsfolk in Columbia and small Missouri communities.



August Open House and Extended Research Hours
August 4 3-8 p.m. Columbia

Enjoy an evening at the State Historical Society of Missouri! The Research Center-Columbia will be open until 8 p.m. for patrons to conduct research. From 3 to 7 p.m. you are also invited to enjoy refreshments, peruse the art gallery, and view a special display of items from the SHSMO's diverse archives, which include an evolving collection of maps, personal correspondence, rare books, family papers, and photographs.

Looking ahead

The African American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series: Lea VanderVelde September 15 Columbia

The lecture series fall lineup kicks off with Lea VanderVelde, Josephine R. Witte Professor of Law at the University of Iowa College of Law. She will discuss her book *Redemption Songs: Suing for Freedom before Dred Scott* (Oxford University Press), a groundbreaking study of more than 300 freedom suits in St. Louis. Through the careful evaluation of 12 cases, the book offers insights into the practice of slavery and the lives of those enslaved in Missouri. Free and open to the public, the lecture will be in Stotler Lounge, Memorial Union, on the University of Missouri campus.



Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series Lecture and SHSMO's Annual Meeting
October 15 Columbia

You are invited to help guide the mission of the State Historical Society of Missouri forward, visit with colleagues, and enjoy a Center for Missouri Studies presentation. The event will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott and Conference Center in Columbia. A room block is available for out-of-town guests at the rate of \$119 per night, plus tax. To receive this discount, mention SHSMO while booking your room before the deadline of September 13. Watch the *Missouri Times* and <http://shsmo.org/annualmeeting> for details as they are completed.

Research Center—Columbia Volunteers Preserve Oral Histories of Missouri’s Veterans

The State Historical Society of Missouri is home to thousands of oral history recordings with Missouri veterans whose service ranges from World War II to the most recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. With such a large collection, it would not be possible to process the interviews and make them available to the public without the skilled efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers.

In 2000, SHSMO began collecting oral history interviews from veterans who were former prisoners of war. The collection (C3975) started with members of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Heart of America Chapter, based in Kansas City.

In 2006 the State Historical Society of Missouri began conducting oral history interviews focused on recording the

experiences of Missourians who served in the armed forces (C4020). In 2010 another project (C4052) was launched in partnership with the Missouri Veterans History Project.

Carol Fulkerson, a SHSMO volunteer who lives in Fulton, said she enjoys processing the veterans’ collections because it gives her a chance to hear their stories.

“As a volunteer I have the luxury of taking my time to listen to some of the interviews in their entirety. I’ve heard some truly amazing and remarkable stories,” Fulkerson said.

“It’s entirely possible that Carol has had a hand in processing every veteran’s oral history interview that has been conducted over the past few years,” said SHSMO oral historian Jeff Corrigan. “We simply could not have done it without her.”

“I actually came across the interviews of two close family friends who have since passed away. I look forward to completing this project and getting the collection inventory online so that others can discover these stories as well.”

—Katie Wibbenmeyer

Katie Wibbenmeyer, originally from St. Louis, completed an oral history internship with SHSMO in the spring of 2014 and continues to work with the collections as a volunteer. She is currently assisting with a collection that includes the military stories of almost 1,000 Missouri veterans. “These interviews are important historically,” Wibbenmeyer said. “But they also help connect families to their pasts.”

“I actually came across the interviews of two close family friends who have since passed away,” Wibbenmeyer said. “I look forward to completing this project and getting the collection inventory online so that others can discover these stories as well.”

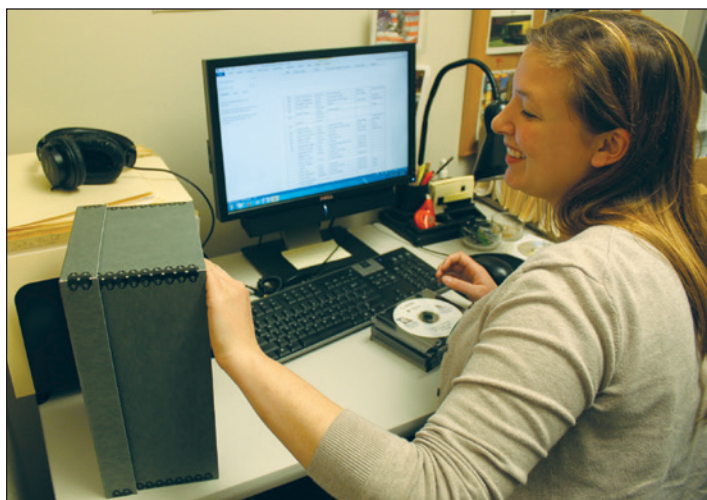
Sam Mueller, a Columbia College history student from Ashland who is in the US Army Reserve, first started volunteering with the oral history program last August. Now working as a State Historical Society of Missouri intern, he plans to continue working on oral history projects once his internship is completed. His most recent project has been transcribing a 2013 SHSMO oral history interview with William C. Banton II, the first African American brigadier general in the US Air Force Reserve.

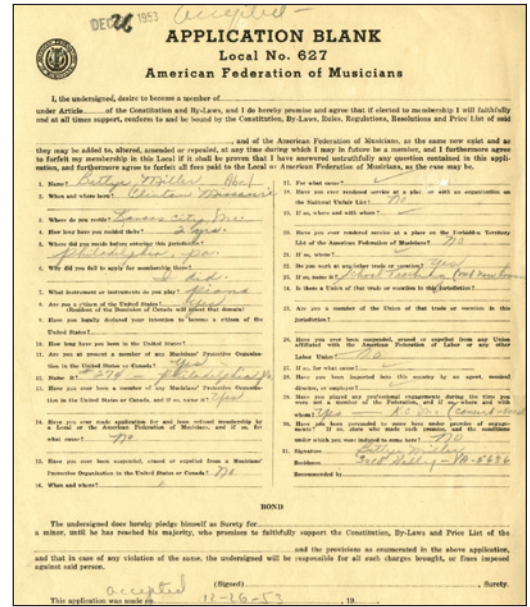
In the past five years, volunteers have captured the memories and recollections of over 1,000 Missouri veterans. These oral history interviews are preserved by the Society and are also available through the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. To view online finding aids for the collections mentioned in this article, please visit the following sites: <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/3975>; <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/4020>; <http://shs.umsystem.edu/manuscripts/columbia/4052>.



Above Intern Sam Mueller, left, volunteer Carol Fulkerson, and oral historian Jeff Corrigan talk about the status of current projects. Mueller is working on a transcript of an interview with the first African American brigadier general in the US Air Force Reserve, and Fulkerson assists with the Missouri Veterans History Project.

Right Volunteer Katie Wibbenmeyer processes one of more than 1,000 DVDs containing the stories of Missouri veterans.





Left A group of Kansas City musicians at a recording session. **Right** Jazz pianist and singer Bettye Miller's application for the Local 627 American Federation of Musicians from December, 26, 1953. Shortly after her move to Kansas City she met Milt Abel. They became a pair both on and off stage, and went on to national acclaim.

Kansas City's J. C. Nichols Company Collection Revamped and Musicians Records Organized

The legacy of the J. C. Nichols Company and the history of Kansas City's integrated American Federation of Musicians Local 34-627 are currently the focus of the Kansas City Research Center's staff and volunteers. Efforts are underway to preserve materials in these two significant collections and provide additional access to them.

J. C. Nichols Company Records (K0106)

The J. C. Nichols Company, founded by Jesse Clyde Nichols, was the premier real estate company in the Kansas City metropolitan area during the twentieth century. Under the leadership of J. C. Nichols and his son, Miller Nichols, the J. C. Nichols Company was a primary force in the growth of Kansas City and was recognized worldwide for its efforts in real estate and neighborhood development.

The collection's photographs, consisting of roughly 11 cubic feet of material and thousands of images, are among the most widely used resources at the Kansas City center. The images document the company's residential and commercial developments, including the

Country Club Plaza, recognized as the first retail shopping center in the United States planned for automobiles. The photographs are essential for understanding the growth and development of the built environment of Kansas City.

Volunteers Rudena Mallory and Ruth Smith are lining the photographs with acid-free paper and rehousing them in new folders and boxes. Mallory and Smith are also gathering significant information concerning locations, dates, and people in the images. The research center will digitize a selection of photographs from the collection in the coming months and add these to the State Historical Society's online resources, providing even greater public access to researchers, teachers, and students. Digitization of these photographs is made possible through a generous gift from the Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation.

Kansas City Federation of Musicians Local 34-627 Records (K0431)

The Kansas City Research Center is also processing the Kansas City Federation of Musicians Local 34-627 Records, which provide an unparalleled entry into the history of music in the Kansas City area. Due to segregation, Kansas City had two unions for musicians during much of the twentieth century: the all-white Local 34, chartered in 1896, and the all-black Local 627, chartered in 1917. By order of the American Federation of Musicians, the two unions merged in 1970 to form Local 34-627.

With over 44 cubic feet of materials, the collection covers the period from 1889 to 1983 and contains meeting minutes, membership applications, performance contracts, correspondence, photographs, and ephemera. The records also include information concerning the business and performance history of the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra.

During processing, records will be organized and selectively indexed to provide patrons with convenient aids for finding information on specific musicians. Intern Tim Wilcox, a library science student at Emporia State University, is assisting with the project.



Publicity for George E. Lee's All-Star Harmony Kings. The two musicians featured are likely band leader George Lee and his sister, Julia Lee, a pianist and singer.

Springfield Center Staff Celebrates “The Unsinkable Molly Brown”

Two recent programs offered by Erin Smither, archivist at SHSMO’s Springfield Research Center, commemorated “The Unsinkable Molly Brown.” On March 20 the McDonald County Historical Society hosted *An Afternoon with Molly Brown* at the Pineville Community Center, with Smither sharing stories about Brown’s adventures while living in Hannibal, Missouri, and as a survivor of the *Titanic*. Smither also spoke on Brown at the Polk County Genealogical Society on May 5.

Born on July 18, 1867, in Hannibal, Margaret “Molly” Tobin Brown was raised by working-class parents. Dreaming of a better life, she moved to Leadville, Colorado, in 1886. Shortly thereafter she married J. J. Brown, a mining superintendent at the Ibez Mining Company. Together they had two children, Lawrence and Catherine.

The couple struck gold in 1893 when the precious metal was discovered in the company’s Little Jonny Mine. The Browns soon moved to Denver, Colorado, where Molly became an active social reformer, joining the Denver Woman’s Club and the Denver Women’s Press Club. Although she was accepted into Denver’s elite society, she was not welcomed into its highest echelon, the Sacred 36, until after she became famous for her courage during the *Titanic*’s sinking.

A frequent world traveler, Brown was in Europe in 1912 when she received word that her grandson was ill and booked passage on the maiden voyage of the RMS *Titanic*, the largest and most extravagant ship of its

time. On the evening of April 14, the *Titanic* struck an iceberg. When it became clear that the ship would sink and the passengers should be evacuated, Brown helped others board Lifeboat 6 before she was shoved into the boat by one of the ship’s officers. Brown maintained morale among her fellow survivors as they waited for rescue.

The *Titanic* disaster took the lives of 1,502 passengers. In her recollections of the fateful night, Brown recalled watching the ship as it was claimed by the sea: “Suddenly a rift in the water, the sea opened up, and the surface foamed like giant arms spread around the ship, and the vessel disappeared from sight.” She recounted confronting the only man in the lifeboat, ship’s quartermaster Robert Hichens, who stood above them at the tiller “shivering like an aspen” and predicting throughout the night that they would starve or freeze to death.

Instead, survivors waiting with Brown and on other lifeboats were rescued in the morning by the RMS *Carpathia*. Once aboard, Brown continued caring for those around her, tending to their immediate needs by searching for blankets on the *Carpathia* and then beginning to raise money for less fortunate survivors while they still huddled on the rescue ship.

Having become the most famous survivor of the *Titanic*, Brown’s activism and philanthropy kept her in the public eye. In 1914 she worked to draw attention to the Ludlow Massacre, in which striking coal miners and their families were attacked



Portrait of activist Margaret “Molly” Tobin Brown, ca. 1900. [Courtesy of the Library of Congress]

in Ludlow, Colorado, by members of the Colorado National Guard and employees of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. An estimated two dozen people were killed.

During World War I, Brown donated her summer home in Newport, Rhode Island, to the local chapter of the American Red Cross to support the war effort. She then traveled overseas to serve as a director for the American Committee for Devastated France. The French government awarded her the French Legion of Honor for her work.

The indomitable Brown spent her final years advocating for women’s suffrage and workers’ rights. She died in her sleep in New York City on October 26, 1932. For more information about Brown, see her *Historic Missourians* biography at <http://shsmo.org/historicmissourians>.



A group photograph from the 1919 National American Woman Suffrage Association’s convention in St. Louis. This was the NAWSA’s last national gathering.

St. Louis Collections Augmented by Early Twentieth-Century Photo of Women’s Suffrage Activists

The St. Louis collections, already rich in women’s history, recently added a four-by-sixteen-inch print depicting the 1919 National American Woman Suffrage Association’s convention in St. Louis. The group photograph represents a critical point in the organization’s history, as it was NAWSA’s last annual convention under that name. At the gathering, Carrie Chapman Catt proposed that the organization transform itself into the League of Women Voters in anticipation of the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution, which was passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920.

The photo was donated by Josie Sporleder, SHSMO’s media specialist, and it has been added to the St. Louis Historic Photo Collection (S0534). To learn more about local efforts in the suffrage movement, see the finding aid for the League of Women Voters of Missouri Papers (S0232) at <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/stlouis/s0232>. A variety of related collections may also be found by searching the Women Collection Descriptions at <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/descriptions/desc-women>.

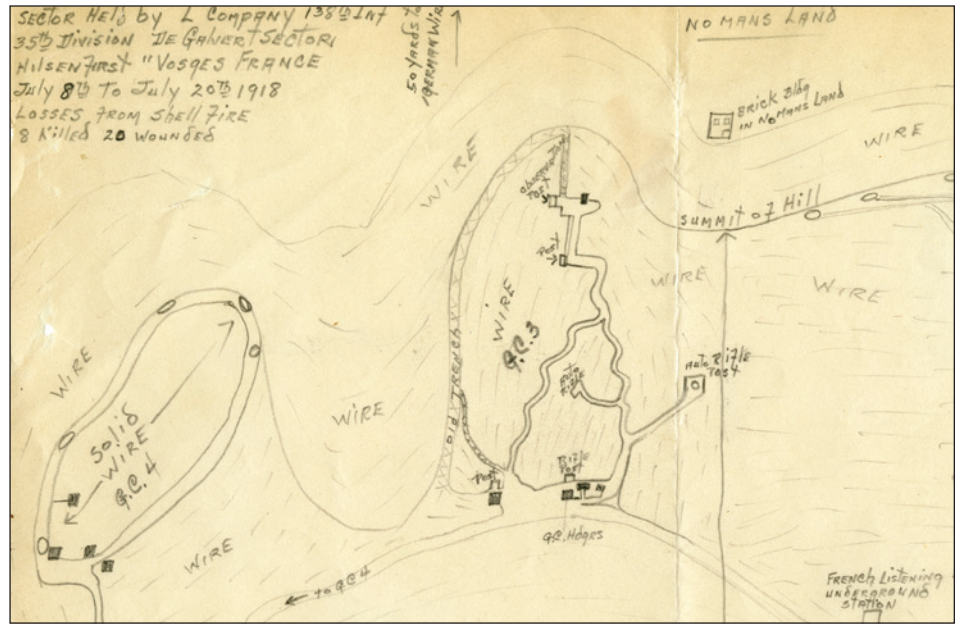
St. Louis Research Center Acquires World War I Relics

The Research Center—St. Louis has added a collection of photographs and postcards depicting scenes in Europe from the First World War. The images, donated by Frank Zeisler, feature local monuments and tourist sites as well as battlefield scenes such as gas attacks and trench warfare.

The collection (SA1174) includes 293 postcards and 122 prints ranging in size from eight by ten inches to two-and-a-half by three inches. It also includes one hand-drawn battlefield map, sketched with a pencil, which appears to show the trenches in a section of the DeGalbert sector in the Vosges Mountains of France.

The map contains a no-man's-land, an estimate of the distance to the German barbed-wire lines (50 yards), and the location of the closest first aid station. The amateur cartographer also included information on his unit, titling the map "Sector held by L Company of the 138th Infantry, 35th Division." The division consisted of men from Missouri and Kansas. The map is dated July 8–20, 1918, and includes a casualty report with eight killed and 20 wounded from shell fire.

Zeisler's donation also includes a book, *The Horror of It: Camera Records of War's Gruesome Glories* by Frederick A. Barber. The title, published by Historical Foundations in 1932, is a photographic study of warfare.



Above This hand-drawn map appears to show territory in the Vosges Mountains of France held by L Company of the 138th Infantry, 35th Division in July 1918. It indicates that the German lines were a mere 50 yards away. **Left** A group of World War I soldiers in Europe. The photograph is one of the 416 new visual representations of the war included in a donation by Frank Zeisler.

New Volunteers Bolster Digitization of St. Louis Research Center's Calloway Papers



Ernest Calloway, left, and his wife, DeVerne Calloway, working on the layout of an issue of the *New Citizen*. The couple purchased the St. Louis-based political paper, formerly the *Citizen Crusader*, in 1961.

Two new volunteers are helping to digitize collections at the Research Center—St. Louis thanks to the efforts of Mark Loehrer, a SHSMO intern specializing in digitization. Loehrer recruited Emory Cox of the St. Louis County Public Library and Brenda Thacker, a graduate assistant and history teaching assistant at the University of Missouri—St. Louis.

Cox is digitizing the DeVerne Calloway Papers (S0012), while Thacker is working on the papers of Ernest Calloway (S0011). The Calloways influenced Missouri politics in a number of ways through their activism and civic leadership. Most notably, DeVerne became the first African American woman in the Missouri legislature, winning election in November

1962. Ernest was president of the St. Louis National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, research director of Teamster's Joint Council No. 3, and a professor of urban affairs at Saint Louis University. The Calloways also published the *Citizen Crusader*, later named *New Citizen*, a newspaper covering black politics and civil rights in St. Louis.

Learn more about the Calloways through collection finding aids at <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/stlouis/s0011> and <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/stlouis/s0012>. A transcript of a 1971 oral history interview with DeVerne is also available by visiting <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/collections/transcripts/s0829/t0016>.



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