

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

November 2016 Vol. 12, No. 3



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Left The State Historical Society of Missouri's executive director Gary Kremer presents the 2016 Distinguished Service Award to past president Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. **Right** SHSMO president Bob Priddy accepts a ceremonial gavel from Limbaugh, signifying the start of a new chapter of Society leadership.



SHSMO Honors Limbaugh, Welcomes Priddy as New President

The State Historical Society of Missouri granted its Distinguished Service Award, the Society's highest honor, to Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. at the 2016 annual meeting on October 15 in Columbia. The award recognized Limbaugh's accomplishments during his historic tenure as the first president in SHSMO's history to serve two three-year terms as the volunteer executive.

Bob Priddy, a longtime SHSMO trustee, has succeeded Limbaugh as president. Priddy's term began with a "passing of the gavel" ceremony and an inspirational address to SHSMO's membership at the Center for Missouri Studies Fall Lecture.

SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer presented the Distinguished Service Award to Limbaugh at the annual luncheon.

"Perhaps no one has done more for the State Historical Society of Missouri in its 118 years than Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. has, and we will forever be grateful," Kremer said.

Limbaugh was instrumental in securing \$35 million in state financing for construction of a new SHSMO headquarters in Columbia, to be known as the Center for Missouri Studies. He also helped expand the Society's network through its management of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection and the opening of new research centers in Cape Girardeau and Springfield.

One of Limbaugh's predecessors in receiving the Society's top award was his grandfather, Rush H. Limbaugh Sr., a past president of SHSMO. The elder Limbaugh earned the award in 1955.

In his first remarks as the organization's new president, Priddy expressed enthusiasm for working with Kremer and gratitude to the outgoing president.

"I am excited to be working with Gary—and continuing to work with Steve in his new role as past president—as we take the next giant step toward providing a great future for our past," Priddy said.

"We want to encourage Missourians in every county to be contributors to this incredible advance in making Missouri history visible and meaningful, and a resource for all."

—Bob Priddy, SHSMO president

Priddy, the former news director of MissouriNet and a Missouri history author and scholar, vowed to focus on increasing public

awareness of SHSMO's work and strengthening the organization's financial future through an endowment program.

"During these next three years, the State Historical Society wants to spread this good news to every corner of Missouri," Priddy said. "We want to encourage Missourians in every county to be contributors to this incredible advance in making Missouri history visible and meaningful, and a resource for all."

He will be helped in his efforts by a newly elected board of officers: Virginia J. Laas, first vice president; —Continued on page 10

New Films Feature George Caleb Bingham

Two new film projects on George Caleb Bingham feature SHSMO collections and the expertise of the Society's art curator, Joan Stack. Wide Awake Films, a production company based in Kansas City, has released its documentary *The American Artist: The Life and Times of George Caleb Bingham*, while the BBC program *Great American Railway Journeys* has produced an episode including Bingham that will air in 2017.

The American Artist, which premiered October 15 in Arrow Rock, brings the man behind the famous paintings to life. It demonstrates how Bingham's ambition propelled him into Missouri's contentious politics before and during the Civil War and suggests the lasting impact of this experience on his art.

"To us—filmmakers who've made a name for ourselves by creating documentaries that are historically accurate right down to the buttons on a Virginia Confederate soldier's uniform—it's been a wonderful trip, journeying back to Bingham's time to tell his story," said Shane Seley, the film's director.

The documentary, which includes an on-camera interview with Stack, will be shown in Columbia on December 3. See pages 6-7 for further details.

Great American Railway Journeys highlights American history through the travels of host Michael Portillo, a British media commentator and former member of Parliament. Portillo has said

that the show was inspired by a travel guide to the United States published in the 1870s.

When Portillo stopped in Jefferson City on July 25, Stack met him at the Capitol to discuss Bingham's painting *Watching the Cargo* and the prints *In a Quandary* and *The Jolly Flatboatmen*. Intrigued by the social and political messages these artworks communicated to nineteenth-century audiences, he asked how Bingham's images of the Missouri River reflected and shaped the public's understanding of the western frontier. The episode is scheduled to air in Great Britain in early 2017. Many PBS stations in the United States are expected to broadcast the program once it is made available internationally.



The *American Artist* crew creates a scene of George Caleb Bingham in his studio.



Contact SHSMO

E-mail

contact@shsmo.org

Website

shsmo.org

Telephone

800.747.6366
573.882.7083

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Managing Editor

John Brenner

Editor

Mary Ellen Lohmann

Associate Editor

Kimberly Harper

Missourians Invited to Help Select Bicentennial License Plate

All Missourians are encouraged to help select the design of a new automobile license plate, which will be released in time for the Show-Me State's bicentennial in 2021. Options for the plate design were presented at four public hearings across the state, and online voting will be open through December 1 at missouri2021.org.

The license plate design will be determined by January 2017, and new plates will be issued to drivers starting in January 2019.

The design options were selected by the Bicentennial License Plate Advisory Committee, created by House Bill 2380. The committee members include leaders from the State Historical Society, Department of Revenue, State Highway Patrol, Department of Corrections, and Department of Transportation, as well as the chairpersons of the transportation committees in both houses of Missouri's General Assembly.

State Representative Glen Kolkmeier of Missouri's 53rd District and Dave Schatz, senator from the 26th District, have played key roles in creating the new bicentennial plate.

"While there are limitations on what we are able to do with the design, I am amazed at how fast the Bicentennial License Plate Advisory Committee has worked to ensure the public can have a voice in the process," SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer said.

Thank You, SHSMO Volunteers

In 2015–2016 the following individuals generously offered their time and unique talents to SHSMO in support of its mission to collect,

Jane Allen
Patrick Atkinson
Doug Beck
Amber Boynton
Susan Burns
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Kathy Love
Addison Lucchi
Rudena Mallory

protect, and promote understanding of Missouri's heritage. Volunteers provided more than 5,600 hours of dedicated service in the past year. The long-term impact of their contributions is immeasurable.

Emily Monroe
Sam Mueller
Natalya Narishkin
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Susan Vale
Jonathan Vincent
Annie Wallach
Katie Wibbenmeyer
Timothy Wilcox
Richard Kent Withers

Art Photographer Donates Vibrant Missouri Scenes to State Historical Society Collection

On September 14, 2016, mid-Missouri photographer Notley Hawkins donated a collection of large-format color photographs of Missouri and its people to the State Historical Society of Missouri. Many of these photos appeared in the exhibition *Light and Life in Missouri*, held at SHSMO's art gallery in 2007.

Hawkins has deep roots in the state, having studied with former Society art curator Sid Larson at Columbia College. After completing his bachelor of arts degree in 1987, he continued his art studies in New York, Maine, and Vermont, receiving a master's degree in fine arts from the University of Missouri in 1990.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Hawkins worked primarily as a painter, but by the mid-2000s he had shifted his attention to photography. He now works as a freelance photographer, dividing his time between professional commissions and art photography. His subject matter varies dramatically from rural farms to street fairs, and Hawkins is drawn to imagery that communicates the complex character of Missouri.

As a former landscape painter, Hawkins has a special interest in photographing nature, which he often shoots from unconventional



SHSMO art curator Joan Stack, left, photographer Notley Hawkins, and Greig Thompson, the Society's art collections manager, with one of Hawkins's donations.

angles. His photographs encourage viewers to think creatively about their surroundings and see beauty in everything from mud puddles to gas stations.

Columbia Research Center Adds Administrators for Collections and Reference

The Columbia Research Center was restructured this summer to increase patron services and strengthen long-term planning for SHSMO collections. Laura Jolley, an archivist with the Society since 2008, has been promoted to assistant director of manuscripts. Tatyana Shinn has joined the staff as assistant director of reference, a position that had been vacant for several years.

"Laura has been a natural leader among the archivists, and we wanted to reward her efforts and allow her to expand her natural capabilities in this new role," SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer said. "She now has a team of seven full-time staff reporting to her, and she is at the helm of the collecting program."

Shinn began her new position in September. She previously worked as a digital projects specialist at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. A native of Russia, she holds a PhD in sociology from Moscow Lomonosov State University.

Before moving to Rolla, Shinn lived in Texas, where she discovered her interest in local history and genealogy during her tenure in the reference department at the public library in San Angelo. She managed that library's research and patron services for more than ten years.

"Yana's previous experiences have allowed her to hone her skills as a reference librarian and a reference services coordinator," SHSMO's senior associate director Gerald Hirsch said. "We are looking forward to all that she will do for our patrons."

Shinn says her experience at Missouri S&T taught her the importance of providing access to historic documents and collections, something that she plans to continue doing at the Society.

"I look forward to learning the vast collections of the State Historical Society of Missouri and doing what I enjoy the most—helping people connect with the right resources to fill in the blanks in their family history or research projects," Shinn said.

Missouri Conference on History: Call for Papers, Panels, and Awards



The fifty-ninth annual Missouri Conference on History, hosted by the Missouri State University History Department, will be held March 22–24, 2017, at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield. Each year the conference features sessions on a wide variety of historical topics, including public history and historic preservation.

The conference is currently seeking papers and is particularly interested in proposals for complete sessions, including panelists, chair, and commentator. Attendees who are interested in serving as a session chair or commentator are also encouraged to respond. For additional information, please visit <http://shsmo.org/mch>.

The Missouri Conference on History also recognizes outstanding scholarship through a variety of annual awards, including the Book Award, Lawrence

O. Christensen Article Award, and Lynn and Kristen Morrow Missouri History Student Prize. Nominations for the book and article awards are due on or before December 1. See <http://shsmo.org/mch/awards> for further details.

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Educator Workshops Connect National History Day in Missouri Teachers with SHSMO Archivists



Above Lee Elementary students visit art curator Joan Stack at the SHSMO art galleries. Stack took part in the *Great Content for Your Classroom* workshop. **Right** Ciara Pate with her National History Day project on the Stonewall riots in New York in 1969. Workshops this fall have brought teachers and archivists together to show students how to work with primary sources.



National History Day in Missouri has teamed up with the State Historical Society of Missouri's research centers in Columbia and Springfield to offer two educator workshops in November.

On November 11, NHDMO joined SHSMO and MU Libraries' Special Collections on the University of Missouri campus in presenting *Great Content for Your Classroom: Using Primary Sources with SHSMO and MU Special Collections*. Educators learned how to access and search both organizations' digital and material collections. They also explored strategies for helping students use primary sources to make National History Day projects stand out. To top off the day, SHSMO's art curator Joan Stack led a gallery tour that highlighted the current show and shared ideas for using the art collection in student research projects for the National History Day contest.

The Springfield workshop was scheduled for November 18, pairing NHDMO with SHSMO and Meyer Libraries' Special Collections at Missouri State University.

The program, *Using Digital and Material Collections in Your Classroom*, was designed to bring archivists and educators in southwest

"One of the most important investments we can make is in students' education and giving them the tools to be active, involved citizens."

—Maggie Mayhan,
NHDMO coordinator

Missouri together to delve into SHSMO's varied collections and find strategies for creating great student research experiences.

The two collaborations were an important step in promoting the NHD program and explaining the benefits of using primary resources in education, said Maggie Mayhan, coordinator of National History Day in Missouri.

"One of the most important investments we can make is in students' education and giving them the tools to be active, involved citizens," Mayhan said. "Primary resources are a great way to empower them to discover history for themselves."

Beaches and Battleships

In February 2016 the *Missouri Times* featured a story on National History Day medalist Jay Mehta, a student at the Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City. Mehta represented Missouri at the National World War II Museum after winning a writing contest for his essay about an officer aboard the *USS Missouri* during World War II.

His visit to the museum may have ended last winter, but his journey with the "Mighty Mo" had only just begun. In March he visited the historic battleship.

"When I left Pearl Harbor, I remember scribbling down a note to myself," Mehta said. "To me, it sums up how I felt immediately after leaving the park and what thoughts were rushing through my mind about the war in the Pacific. The note reads as follows: 'The fire of World War II was ignited by blood and smothered by a signature.'"

Follow Mehta to Pearl Harbor and learn more about his experience aboard the famous ship through the guest post that he contributed to *See & Hear*, the National World War II Museum's blog: <http://bit.ly/2cJrgzE>.



Jay Mehta, 2015 National History Day gold medalist, aboard the *USS Missouri*.



Left A poster from the 1969 Labor Day Bluegrass Pickin' Time festival. **Right** Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers in the 1970s. The band was one of the first bluegrass groups in the state. They were known, like most in their genre, for a gospel component and also a tradition of unscripted and open-ended jams.

Rolla Research Center Builds Bluegrass Collection, Sponsors Live Performance in April 2017

Mona Jones, Missouri's "First Lady of Bluegrass Music," has given the State Historical Society of Missouri the copyrights and studio master recordings of five albums by Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers, as well as papers and photographs from her family's promotion of Bluegrass Pickin' Time, the region's longest-running bluegrass festival until it ended in 2011.

The Joneses were Missouri followers of Bill Monroe, a Kentuckian who with his band the Blue Grass Boys defined "traditional" bluegrass, differentiating it from country, mountain, and gospel music. By the 1940s, Monroe's style and sound had set the standard for the genre: mandolin, guitar, fiddle, bass, and banjo—fast-paced and always unamplified—with vocals in four-part harmony.

Missouri's thriving bluegrass scene today is due in good measure to Bill and Mona Jones. Inspired by Monroe's festival at Bean Blossom, Indiana, they started Bluegrass Pickin' Time in 1969 at the Fairview Community Center near Dixon in Pulaski County. The informal first event at Fairview grew into a popular festival, held on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend. It moved to the Jones's 40-acre property in 1988, remaining there for the rest of its run.

With the best regional bands and legendary jams that broke out spontaneously on the grounds, Bluegrass Pickin' Time was not to be missed. It became a place for musicians who might otherwise never have met to gather and play, and was a model for multi-

band, multi-day bluegrass festivals that began cropping up throughout Missouri and the region.

Bass player and festival promoter Bill Jones fronted the Bluegrass Travelers with Mona and, later, daughter Carol. His high standards and dedication to bluegrass kept the festival traditional and family-friendly for its entire run. Mona and Carol Jones were notable female players in a genre in which women might sing but did not often play. With traditional-sounding voices and powerful guitar work, they inspired many other female players.

Individually and collectively, the Joneses have received multiple local, state, and national awards for their contributions to

With the best regional bands and legendary jams that broke out spontaneously on the grounds, Bluegrass Pickin' Time was not to be missed. It became a place for musicians who might otherwise never have met to gather and play, and was a model for multi-band, multi-day bluegrass festivals that began cropping up throughout Missouri and the region.

bluegrass. Mona sold the festival venue following the deaths of Carol and Bill, and retired from the Bluegrass Travelers in 2011. She still plays at church and informally around Dixon.

One of the Dixon festival's most steadfast friends was Jim Orchard, the eminent Shannon County fiddler and mandolin player. Orchard began playing professionally in 1950 and had a long association with

the Current River Opry. He was master of ceremonies and stage manager at Dixon for 39 years, and has emceed and played at countless other festivals across the United States.

In 2002 at Eminence, he organized the largest gathering of Bill Monroe's remaining Blue Grass Boys. Orchard and his band now play weekly at the VFW hall ("Music at Little Carnegie Hall") in Summersville. He has shared his own papers and recordings with the Society. With Mona, he has helped identify players and bands in photographs from the Dixon festival, and has assisted SHSMO's staff in documenting the first generation of bluegrass musicians in Missouri.

To honor their contributions to bluegrass and its preservation, the State Historical Society of

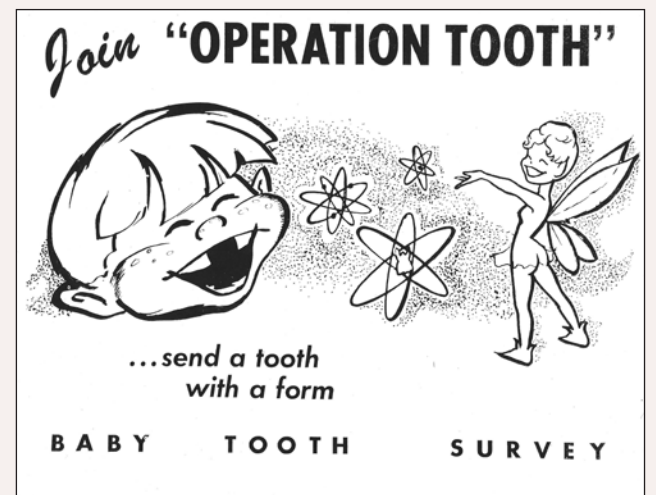
Missouri and Mid-Missouri public radio station KMST will bring Jones and Orchard together on April 30, 2017, for "Bluegrass Pickin' One More Time," an afternoon of live music at the Havener Center on the Missouri University of Science and Technology campus in Rolla. Watch shsmo.org for more information.

November

Center for Missouri Studies Fellowship Lecture: The Environment in Missouri History

November 21 4 p.m. St. Louis

Luke Ritter, 2016 fellowship winner, will present his research at 4 p.m. on the Saint Louis University campus. Ritter's talk, "St. Louis's Nuclear Women: The H-Bomb and the Baby Tooth Survey," will be held in Room 142 of Adorjan Hall, 3800 Lindell Boulevard. The lecture will be followed by a reception. Limited metered parking is available on the street, and Laclede Avenue Garage, centrally located on campus, offers additional visitor parking.



Homeschool Day November 30 1-4 p.m. Columbia

Close out Native American Heritage Month with a celebration! This event, designed for the flexible learning styles of homeschoolers, will offer students of all ages a chance to learn about Missouri history through art, maps, and other primary resources. Participants will explore native and colonial interpretations of life in the Missouri Territory, view landscape architecture and historic maps to see how local places and environments have changed over time, and even participate in a scavenger hunt!

Homeschool Day is designed to be a free and adaptable experience at the Columbia Research Center; families may come and go as they choose. Those interested in participating are requested to RSVP at shsmo.org/events. Parking passes are available for those registering before November 21.



December

The Missouri Artist: George Caleb Bingham

December 3 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Columbia

During his lifetime, George Caleb Bingham was known as "the Missouri Artist." Bingham produced many remarkable drawings, portraits, landscapes, and scenes of social and political life on the frontier. Yet the full legacy he left behind is much broader. A 10 a.m. lecture in the Columbia Research Center's main gallery by Charles E. Valier, chairman of the Bingham Trust, will offer new insights into the political career of Bingham, who served as a Missouri legislator, state treasurer, and adjutant general. In the afternoon there will be a 1:30 p.m. showing of Wide Awake Films' new documentary *The American Artist: The Life and Times of George Caleb Bingham* in Jesse Wrench Auditorium of MU's Memorial Student Union. Light refreshments at the Columbia Research Center will follow both events. Registration is appreciated but not required at shsmo.org/events.

January State Historical Society of Missouri: Accessing and Using SHSMO Materials in Springfield January 14 11 a.m. Joplin

Doing genealogical, local, or historical research? Join archivists from SHSMO's Springfield Research Center to look at available resources. This program will provide an overview of SHSMO's statewide archives, including manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, art, and the editorial cartoon collections. Learn how to access many of these primary resources through the Springfield Research Center, and get time-saving tips for locating the best research materials for your project. This session will be held at the Joplin Public Library, 300 S. Main Street.

From Daniel Boone to Black Elk Walk-Through

January 28 1:30 p.m. Columbia

Join SHSMO's art curator, Joan Stack, for a walk-through of *From Daniel Boone to Black Elk: Native and Colonial Experiences in Contested "Middle Grounds."* The show explores artworks reflecting the complex relationships between Native and European Americans in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Highlights include Chester Harding's circa 1820 portrait of Boone, which is on loan from the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, and watercolor illustrations by Sioux artist Luther Standing Bear for John Neihardt's classic book *Black Elk Speaks*. This event will be held at the Columbia Research Center. In the case of inclement weather, the walk-through will be postponed until February 4.



Looking ahead School's Out, History's In! Presidents' Day February 20 1:30 p.m. Columbia

Learn more about the leaders celebrated each Presidents' Day with the help of art curator Joan Stack and items from the Society's archives. Great for all ages, this event in the Columbia Research Center will encourage children to explore the history found in art, newspapers, letters, and books. The story of Historic Missourian Vinnie Ream, a sculptor best known for her statue of Abraham Lincoln in the US Capitol, will demonstrate how Missourians can make their mark on the nation. Registration is appreciated but not required at shsmo.org/events.



Missouri Conference on History March 22-24 Springfield

Join other history enthusiasts at the fifty-ninth annual Missouri Conference on History and Midwest Regional Meeting of Phi Alpha Theta. The 2017 conference, hosted by the Missouri State University History Department, will be held at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield. Sessions at the conference will cover a wide variety of historical topics, including public history and historic preservation. If you are interested in submitting a paper or a proposal for a complete session, please visit <http://shsmo.org/mch>.

Bluegrass Pickin' One More Time April 30 Rolla

Celebrate the musical talents of Mona Jones, Missouri's "First Lady of Bluegrass Music," and Jim Orchard, distinguished Shannon County fiddler and mandolin player, during this afternoon of live bluegrass at the Havener Center on the Missouri University of Science and Technology campus in Rolla. See page 5 for more details.

Funeral Home Records from Marshall and St. Louis Offer New Leads for Family Historians

Researchers into the past often find funeral home records to be an indispensable source of information. Among its many such records, SHSMO's Columbia Research Center recently completed the processing of two significant collections, the Smithers and Wagoner Funeral Records from St. Louis and the Paris M. Walker Funeral Home Records from Marshall.

The Smithers and Wagoner records (C4187) cover the years 1863-1899, while the Walker records (C4279) are from 1902-1935. Missouri funeral records prior to 1910 are rare and therefore of special interest. Burial rituals, however, are as old as civilization itself.

Many ancient cultures, such as the Egyptians, developed a ritual for preparing the dead for their journey to the afterlife. In North America, Native Americans practiced various ceremonies and rituals to prepare the dead for entry into the spirit world. Burials in caves, in canoes, or above ground are just a few examples.

When Europeans settled in North America, they brought with them their own burial customs. Until the mid-1800s, most families in the United States used their own homes to prepare a loved one for burial. After that time, funeral homes were established to provide this service for the families of the deceased.

With the advent of funeral homes as businesses, records of the deceased began to be kept and organized. Compulsory registration of births and deaths in each Missouri county was first required on July 1, 1883, but was repealed in 1893 due to noncompliance. Legislation requiring registration was again passed in 1909, and the following year it became commonplace for funeral homes to keep records of deaths.

Funeral home records hold vital information, particularly for those doing genealogical research. In Missouri, they can be especially helpful if the genealogist has exhausted all other sources such as the Ancestry Library, Family Search, Find-A-Grave, census records, the Missouri State Archives Birth and Death Records database, county records, and legal documents.

The Smithers and Wagoner Funeral Records include 11 folders with hundreds of burial records, providing the name of the deceased, place of residence, place of burial, and other funeral details. The later records also include cause of death and age at the time of death.

Smithers and Wagoner traces its origins to May 1866, when Henry Hoover Wagoner arrived in St. Louis and entered the undertaking business with John A. Smithers. In 1900, Wagoner's son joined him and the business changed its name to the Wagoner Undertaking Company. They operated on Olive Street. Most of the records in the collection begin in 1866.

The Paris M. Walker Funeral Home Records chronicle the 1902 to 1922 operations of a Marshall, Missouri, funeral home. These records are compiled in eight volumes. Volume 1 consists of a ledger with entries and charges for funerary supplies. Volumes 2 through 8 contain funeral records with entries that include name of deceased; date of funeral; cause of death; date of death; occupation of the deceased; marital status; religion; age, including years, months, and days; internment details, including the name of the cemetery, lot or grave number, and section number; and death notices in newspapers.

More information on these and other funeral records held in the State Historical Society of Missouri Manuscript Collection is available through a keyword search of "Funeral Records" at <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts>.

Office of **SMITHERS & WAGONER,**
1001 OLIVE STREET
St. Louis *Sept 22 1884*

PARTICULARS FOR THE FUNERAL

Of <i>Mary H. Darrah</i>	Aged <i>65</i>	
Residence <i>2309 Lucas Place</i>		
Ordered by <i>Wm. H. Stators</i>		
Bill to		
Kind of Coffin <i>Style K" Casket</i>	<i>4 Box</i>	<i>1 50 00</i>
Size	<i>5-6</i>	
Inscription for Name Plate <i>at Rest or R.D.O.</i>		
Shrouding <i>#697 Riddle White Wrapper</i>		<i>20 00</i>
Flowers		
No. of Door Pieces <i>1 B.B.</i>		<i>1 50</i>
No. of Pall Bearers <i>6</i>		<i>7 50</i>
No. of Family to be Trimmed <i>2 Crapes</i>		<i>1 25</i>
Washing and Dressing		
<i>Embalming</i>		<i>1 50 00</i>
Delivering Box <i>To Bell</i>		<i>3 00</i>
Cemetery <i>Lot #1082 4 Evergreen</i>		<i>6 00</i>
Hearse <i>our</i>		<i>10 00</i>
No. of Carriages <i>6</i>		<i>30 00</i>
Time of Funeral <i>10 A.M. Wednesday 24th</i>		<i>24 25</i>
Physician's Certificate <i>McMurray</i>		
Cause of Death <i>Gastro Enteritis</i>		
What Minister <i>Presb.</i>		

3043 Washington Ave

Funeral home records, like this page from Smithers and Wagoner on the services for Mary H. Darrah in 1884, can offer genealogists vital information for tracing the whereabouts of ancestors, including place of burial and date of death.



Dean Hargett preparing for a race.

Librarian Receives University of Missouri System Fitness Award

Dean Hargett, SHSMO technical services librarian, won the inaugural 2016 University of Missouri Staff Advisory Council's Healthy for Life T. E. Atkins Wellness Award. The award honors an individual who embodies the University of Missouri System Wellness Program's "Culture of Health."

Hargett was nominated by two of his colleagues, who were inspired to improve their well-being by his "quiet commitment to fitness and an active lifestyle." He has served as the State Historical Society of Missouri's wellness ambassador for the past several years and has consistently urged his colleagues to live healthy lives. When the university launched its wellness program, Hargett created a Fitbit fitness tracker employee group and encouraged colleagues to participate.

An avid cyclist, Hargett commutes to work by bike and takes long weekend rides with his cycling group. "I don't cycle and try to live right for the accolades," Hargett said. "But it's nice to be rewarded, and especially since it comes from my coworkers, this recognition means a lot."

Donnelly Reed Papers Reveal Life and Career of Pathbreaking Kansas City Businesswoman

Rising from modest beginnings as the daughter of an Irish immigrant railroad worker, Ellen “Nell” Quinlan Donnelly Reed attained a college education and then founded a business, the Donnelly Garment Company in Kansas City, that in the 1950s became the world’s largest manufacturer of women’s dresses.

SHSMO’s collection of her papers (K0444) contains personal and professional correspondence, printed and published advertisements, and photographs related to her life and career. The papers cover topics including business, politics, and civic activities, offering materials representative of the era in which the garment industry in Kansas City was at its height.

Born in 1889 in Parsons, Kansas, Nell moved to Kansas City in 1905. Shortly after her arrival, she met a fellow tenant of her boardinghouse, Paul Donnelly. They married the following year. Although Nell had attended a business college in Parsons, she wanted to further her education. With the support of her new husband, Nell enrolled at Lindenwood College in St. Charles. After

Nell strived to create clothing that made every woman feel attractive and confident, and by 1953 the Donnelly Garment Company was the world’s leading manufacturer of women’s clothing.

she graduated in 1909, the couple resettled in Kansas City.

Nell had learned to sew at an early age, but it was not until 1916 that she began working commercially. Her first order of 16 dresses for the George B. Peck Dry Goods Company sold out in three days. Recognizing the popularity and sales potential of Nell’s dresses, the company placed a second order nearly 19 times larger than the first one.

To meet the store’s deadline, Nell developed a production line. Paul established a line of credit and a space for Nell to expand her assembly. Nell’s clothes were so successful that within a few years her business had reached \$250,000 in sales and she had hired employees. In 1919 Nell and Paul established the Donnelly Garment Company, and by 1931 the company employed 1,000 people.

Their success, however, drew unwanted attention to Nell’s wealth and status. On December 16, 1931, she and her chauffeur

were kidnapped and held for ransom. The case became an instant news story. Word of Nell’s abduction quickly reached James A. Reed, a well-known attorney and former US senator who had also become Nell’s paramour.

Reed allegedly contacted John Lazia, a leading organized crime figure in Kansas City, for assistance. Although Lazia claimed no responsibility for the abduction, Reed reportedly threatened him to obtain his cooperation in finding Nell. After 34 hours she and her chauffeur were freed, and four suspects were later apprehended. The accused stood trial for kidnapping, with Reed serving as prosecutor; two were sentenced to life in prison, one was given a 35-year sentence, and one was acquitted.

Less than a year later, Nell divorced Paul and bought his share of the company, making her the sole owner. She married James A. Reed in 1933.

The Donnelly Garment Company remained successful through the Great Depression and World War II. During the war, every industry struggled to obtain the materials needed

to continue normal business. Like many companies, the Donnelly Garment Company shifted its focus to military production, manufacturing military

clothing, namely undergarments, instead of women’s dresses.

After the war, women’s fashion became more innovative as new roles for women emerged. No longer limited to producing just housedresses and aprons, the company offered a wide variety of tasteful women’s clothing. Nell strived to create clothing that made every woman feel attractive and confident, and by 1953 the Donnelly Garment Company was the world’s leading manufacturer of women’s clothing.

Nell left the Donnelly Garment Company three years later. The company, renamed Nelly Don, Inc., remained in business until 1978. In retirement Nell remained active in local and national politics and supported the arts. She lived until 1991, passing away at the age of 102. An avid outdoorswoman, she donated land in Jackson County that is now named the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area in memory of her husband.



Donnelly Reed based her success on producing fashionable and reasonably priced dresses for women. Fashion plates like these for the 1941 Spring Line provide examples of her traditional style.

A Historic Missourians biography of Nell is available at <http://shsmo.org/historicmissourians>. In addition to her own papers, SHSMO’s Kansas City Research Center also houses the James A. Reed Papers (K0443).

Exhibit on Pioneering *Stars and Stripes* Editor Ruby Rose Stauber to Open in Springfield

The State Historical Society of Missouri's Springfield Research Center will sponsor an exhibit next month on groundbreaking military journalist Ruby Rose Stauber. The exhibit, featuring Stauber's recently acquired papers, will run from December 1 to the end of the month.

Rose Stauber was born August 6, 1928, on her family's farm near Noel, Missouri. She graduated from Noel High School, earned a teaching degree at Southwest

Missouri State University, and taught junior high school classes in Springfield before enlisting in the US Army in 1951.

Military service became her career, with deployments in Germany, Vietnam, and stateside. While in the army, she

completed a master's degree in journalism at the University of Missouri in 1968. In the military she served as a public affairs officer of the V Corps and an editor with the army's magazine *Military Review* and its newspaper *Stars and Stripes*, reaching the rank of colonel. When she was named the editor-in-chief of the newspaper's European edition in 1979, she became the first woman to hold the position.

Stauber retired from the army in 1982. In retirement she turned her focus to genealogy and local history. She has written books on the history of McDonald County, Missouri, and Delaware County, Oklahoma, where she currently resides.

Stauber's papers (SP0015), housed at SHSMO's Springfield center, contain photographs,

personal letters, research from Stauber's books, McDonald County history records, and genealogy materials, including information about her great

"No one really discouraged me or tried to scare me off by suggesting that there was danger, but I sensed that they thought I didn't know what I was getting into."

— Rose Stauber

uncle Cyrus Avery, the "Father of Route 66."

In one letter to her parents sent while she was stationed in

Vietnam, Stauber reflected on being one of the few women officers in the army. "No one really discouraged me or tried to scare me off by suggesting that there was danger," she wrote, "but I sensed that they thought I didn't know what I was getting into."

The Stauber exhibit will be shown at the Library Center, 4653 South Campbell Avenue, in Springfield. For more information, please contact the Springfield center at 417.836.3782 or springfield@shsmo.org.



Rose Stauber in army uniform.



Stauber saw many changes during her army career. She enlisted in 1951, when females were placed in the Women's Army Corps. In 1978 WAC units were absorbed into regular army divisions. One year later Stauber was named the first woman editor-in-chief of the *Stars and Stripes* European edition.

The State Historical Society of Missouri's 2016 Annual Meeting—Continued from page 1

Robert M. Clayton III, second vice president; Roy Blunt, third vice president; Brent Schondelmeyer, fourth vice president; Henry J. Waters III, fifth vice president; and Edward W. Scavone, treasurer.

"We want Missourians to know how important this work is," Priddy said. "And we want you and all Missourians to know they can take part in making this long-standing dream grow into a spectacular symbol of the greatness of our past and the importance of the lessons it can teach us about the future."

The annual meeting included the reelection of trustees James Leon Combs, Bryan Cook, Michael R. Gibbons, Virginia J. Laas, Larry L. McMullen, Robert J. Mueller, Bob Priddy, James R. Reinhard, and Mary Russell to three-year terms.

The weekend's events also included the presentation of the 2016 Trustee Appreciation Award to Missouri Speaker of the House Todd Richardson. Richardson was recognized for his outstanding support of the Society's building project.

"Speaker Todd Richardson understands the responsibility the State Historical Society of Missouri has to preserve and protect this state's history," Kremer said. "He has been a longtime supporter, for which we are very thankful."

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner T. J. Stiles was the featured speaker after the luncheon. Stiles spoke on George Armstrong Custer and Jesse James, the subjects of two of his three published biographies, explaining how both men were shaped by border-state

culture in their native states of Ohio and Missouri.

2016 Annual Awards

Missouri History Book Award: Carl J. Ekberg and Sharon K. Person, *St. Louis Rising: The French Regime of Louis St. Ange De Bellerive* (\$1,500)

Missouri Historical Review Article Award: Sharon Romeo, "'First Morning of Their Freedom': African American Women, Black Testimony, and Military Justice in Civil War Missouri" (\$750)

Lewis E. Atherton Prize, Dissertation: Heidi Dodson, "'We Cleared the Land with Our Own Hands': Space and Place in African American Community Building and Freedom Struggles in the Missouri Bootheel, 1890-1968" (\$1,000)

Fischetti Retires after Long Career Leading St. Louis Center

On October 24 the State Historical Society of Missouri celebrated the career of Zelli Fischetti, who retired last month after nearly 26 years of dedicated service to the preservation of Missouri history and culture.

Fischetti, the associate director at SHSMO's St. Louis Research Center, started working at the center in January 1990 as a graduate assistant. He became a full-time employee a year later and was promoted to associate director in 2000.

Fischetti has spent his career helping others to understand the evolution of greater St.

Louis through unique collections that document the area's wide array of people and places. "One of the early collections Zelli was a part of

was the Art Witman collection," said Gary Kremer, the Society's executive director. "It is an amazing photographic collection that includes images of the construction of the iconic Gateway Arch."

Many well-wishers were in attendance to recognize Fischetti's accomplishments, including SHSMO trustees Steve Ehlmann

and Blanche Touhill as well as Society supporters Steve Belko, executive director of the Missouri Humanities Council; Kay Drey, civil rights and environmental activist; Tom Engelhardt, retired *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* editorial cartoonist; Orval L. Henderson Jr. and Martha L. Henderson, leading supporters of the SHSMO Missouri Militia Project; and Elizabeth Gentry Sayad, author and community leader.

Since 2013, Touhill and Fischetti have worked tirelessly to collect oral history interviews with influential St. Louis-area

women. In the interviews, these leaders explain their roles in changing perceptions of women who work in fields such as the arts, business, politics, and the sciences.

"The St. Louis collections hold countless resources in underexplored areas of Missouri history," Kremer said. "Thanks to Zelli's leadership and ability to collaborate, many of those accounts are coming to light through projects like the Women as Change Agents oral history collection."

"Zelli is one of the most kind, generous, and competent people I have ever known."

—Blanche Touhill, SHSMO trustee



SHSMO trustee Steve Ehlmann, left, and associate director Zelli Fischetti listen to remarks during Fischetti's retirement celebration in October.

Touhill and Fischetti have added the stories of 166 women to the project. Touhill said that Fischetti's work has been essential to the project. "Zelli is one of the most kind, generous, and competent people I have ever known," Touhill said.

A national search is being conducted to find a successor to Fischetti who can build on his legacy at the research center in St. Louis. In retirement, Fischetti plans to travel across Europe. Upon his return to the States, he will begin work as a volunteer with Kay Drey.



Left SHSMO supporters Tom Engelhardt, left, retired editorial cartoonist, and activist Kay Drey joined SHSMO in thanking Zelli Fischetti for his years of service devoted to preserving Missouri's vibrant history. **Above** Senior archivist Kenn Thomas, left, Fischetti, and Brian Woodman, former SHSMO film and video specialist, catch up at the event held in UMSL's St. Louis Mercantile Library.

St. Louis Research Center Online Photograph Collection Surpasses 40,000 Mark, Continues to Grow

Years of hard work by the St. Louis Center's staff have produced an online photo database of the visual history of the city and its surrounding counties that reached 40,000 images in September. The dynamic collection stands as an important record of the area's changing landscapes.

The collection encompasses images created by many different photographers in St. Louis, including photojournalist Arthur

Witman, Kirkwood photographer Francis Scheidegger, St. Louis surgeon and amateur photographer Arthur Proetz, labor activist Paul Preisler, and many others.

The online photos are keyword searchable, with thumbnail images that can be enlarged by clicking on them. The collection may be accessed at <http://shsmo.org/photograph>. Please check back often, as additions to the database are ongoing.



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