

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

May 2018 Vol. 14, No. 1



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State Historical Society Celebrates Topping Out of New Headquarters



Left Although Kurt Schaefer, SHSMO trustee and former Missouri state senator, could not attend the topping out of the Center for Missouri Studies on April 27 his name was on the last beam. Executive director Gary Kremer signed Schaefer's name to honor his instrumental role in acquiring the state funding for the project. **Right** SHSMO president Bob Priddy also encouraged those gathered to remember individuals who helped the Society envision a brighter future, including past president Lawrence O. Christensen and longtime trustee Bud Barnes. For more information about the ceremony and the building project, see Priddy's "Letter from the President" on page 2.

Missouri Students Make their Mark on History through National Program

Sixty Missouri students will advance from the National History Day in Missouri state competition to the national contest on June 10–14 in College Park, Maryland. These Missouri finalists and their award-winning history projects will represent a statewide program in which 5,000 sixth- through twelfth-graders participated in 2017–2018.

At the state contest on April 28, nearly 600 students presented original research projects in one of five competition categories: documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, or websites. Participants vied for the opportunity to be one of the delegates representing the Show-Me State at the national competition.

According to SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer, the program, sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council, encourages students to learn about history by doing hands-on research. Students select topics that range from local history to global issues, find sources on their topics, and craft presentations, either as individuals or as part of a group.

"The National History Day in Missouri program transforms the way kids view history," Kremer said. "Students learn about their world and themselves.

They also build confidence as they become experts on topics they choose."

This was the case with tenth graders Kelsi Glover and Samantha Ortiz of Neosho High School.

—Continued on page 4



Kelsi Glover, left, and Samantha Ortiz of Neosho High School advanced to nationals with their performance dramatizing the compromises that founding fathers such as Alexander Hamilton and James Madison made with each other while forming the nation's government.

Letter from the State Historical Society of Missouri President

I have stepped into the future, and it is beyond impressive.

Recently, the Society's Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees and others walked into the skeleton of our new building in Columbia for the topping off ceremony. A special steel beam was waiting for our signatures before it was lifted to the uppermost reaches and put into place. It's an ancient custom dating back to the Seventh Century BCE that celebrates the completion of a significant stage of a new structure's construction.

Unlike the ancient Romans who celebrated the completion of the *Pons Sublicius*, ancient Rome's oldest bridge over the Tiber River, we didn't sacrifice anyone to the gods. We just marked the occasion with signatures that we hope will not be seen for more than a century.

There are no walls or windows yet to which we can affix numbers, but someday this structure will become 605 Elm Street, part of the 65201 area code. We, people who have grown old in the dim basement of the University of Missouri's

Ellis library, stood within the steel skeleton and had difficulty grasping the reality that a year from now the State Historical Society of Missouri will be moving into the space defined by these beams.

Right now, the numbers are just numbers: a 76,600-square-foot building with a 79 percent larger gallery than the current one that can display only a fraction of the 20,000-item art collection; a library 101 percent larger than our present one; 72 percent more open stacks; and a 3,400-square-foot room



Bob Priddy, SHSMO president

where we'll hold our annual meetings and other events.

Soon the building will be enclosed and the interior features will start going in. At that point, we'll be able to appreciate what those numbers mean.

We appreciate your interest in this project and your ongoing support for the State Historical Society of Missouri. We're still hoping to make good progress on our goal of a \$20 million endowment before our grand opening. But no matter what happens on that front, we are within months of cutting a ribbon and walking into something incredible.

I guarantee you it will be that. We look forward to seeing you on that day.

Bob Priddy

President, Board of Trustees



Greig Thompson, SHSMO art collections manager, signs the last beam of the new Columbia headquarters before it is lifted into place at the topping out ceremony. The building is expected to be complete in March 2019.

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State Historical Society Reorganizes Functions, Welcomes New Staff

During the first quarter of 2018, the State Historical Society reorganized its Administration and Advancement Offices to better address the Society's needs, recognize the abilities of its staff members, and promote ongoing growth of the organization and its professionals. As part of its personnel changes, SHSMO also welcomed two new staff members.

After the departure of senior advancement officer Abigail Anderson in February, the State Historical Society of Missouri reevaluated its needs and current staff talents. Jeneva Pace, formerly manager of finance and accounting, is now advancement officer and board liaison. Pace, who joined SHSMO in 2012, brings nearly two decades of experience in governmental and alumni relations to her new role. She will work with membership program coordinator Wende Wagner and a new director of advancement, a position that the State Historical Society is

seeking to fill. The larger development staff will strengthen the Society's advancement efforts.

With Pace's reassignment, the Society's Administrative Office and gift shop are now overseen by Melissa Wilkinson, manager of business administration. This is a natural evolution for Wilkinson, who since joining SHSMO in November 2015 has worked to improve quality and efficiency in the organization's business practices.

In March, Aubrey Rowden joined Wilkinson in the business office as the part-time administrative coordinator. Rowden supports staff members and patrons while also serving visitors to the Columbia headquarters and helping to promote the Society's gift shop. A mid-Missouri native, Rowden holds a bachelor's degree in fine art from the University of Missouri and is the owner of a Columbia-based photography business, Love Tree Studios.—Continued on page 11

WHY WE GIVE: Columbia Couple Continues Tradition of Honoring Family History

Kathy and Charles W. Digges Sr. are local legends. They support their alma mater, the University of Missouri, as well as the Friends of Arrow Rock, the arts, and numerous other mid-Missouri causes. In fact, their support is so extensive that the *Columbia Business Times* named Charlie its Citizen of the Century in 2013.

The State Historical Society of Missouri is thankful that the state's history and cultural heritage are also important to the couple. Charlie has been a dues-paying member of the Society since 1954.

In recent years, Kathy and Charlie have donated more than \$1,000 annually, which makes them a part of SHSMO's George Caleb Bingham Society. They have also included

the State Historical Society of Missouri in their will, making them members of the 1898 Society, a legacy group that Charlie helped found while serving on the Society's Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2005.

The Diggeses are making another significant contribution to SHSMO's future as platinum-level donors (\$50,000 to \$99,999) to the Center for Missouri Studies Comprehensive Campaign, a

"It's a dream come true to have the new building under construction. We hope that it can provide adequate space for the beautiful artwork and exhibitions, along with the education and preservation projects." —Kathy Digges

transformational fundraising effort to ensure the organization's continued financial security through key endowments and program support.

Charlie's interest in Missouri history started early. Born in Columbia in 1919 to Frances Cook Digges and Charles W. Digges III, a dentist, he remembers his mother's excitement as she investigated their family's history.

"When I was a small child, my mother would go to the State Historical Society of Missouri to do genealogy research," Charlie said. "I was inspired by her love of genealogy and by her family's history."

In the 1920s and 1930s, researching one's family history presented different challenges than it does today. There were no online databases with instantaneous keyword searches; instead, researchers depended on books, card catalogs, and hard copies of newspapers. SHSMO's reading room was on the main floor of Ellis Library, and the newspaper library was stored on the lower level.

"This was long before computers, and yet somehow she was able to research 26 different family names, which lead down to her two sons, me and my brother, Sam Cook Digges," Charlie said.

Charlie and Kathy still have pages and pages of Frances's notes. The hurried cursive written in pencil is now almost indecipherable.

"I'm not sure what to do with all those pages," Kathy admitted. "There are amazing letters Charlie's mother wrote to him mixed in. There's one that starts out, 'Charlie, you are two now...' and goes on to describe his grandfather in detail, all kinds of things about him, just so Charlie would remember them." —Continued on page 10



Charlie and Kathy Digges are longtime supporters of the State Historical Society of Missouri. They donated to the Center for Missouri Studies Comprehensive Campaign to ensure that SHSMO will have a fine gallery for its art collection.

Missouri 2021: Two New Programs Kick Off for State Bicentennial

The State Historical Society of Missouri has launched two new programs exploring Missouri's history and culture at the occasion of its bicentennial in 2021—the My Missouri 2021 Photograph Project and the Missouri 2021 Endorsement Program.

The My Missouri 2021 Photograph Project invites professional and amateur photographers to submit their work for an exhibition that will run during the bicentennial. Two hundred images will be selected and exhibited at the Society's future headquarters building in Columbia and other sites around the state in 2021. The photos will also be featured in a digital collection on the Missouri 2021 website (missouri2021.org).

The project will create a lasting visual retrospective of the state's physical and cultural landscape at the time of its bicentennial. The 200 selected photos will become part of SHSMO's permanent bicentennial collection, where they will remain available to researchers, teachers,

students, and the general public. Learn more at missouri2021.org/my-missouri.

The Missouri 2021 Endorsement Program creates a media partnership with local organizations seeking to develop and host their own bicentennial activities or to brand existing community offerings for the bicentennial year. Endorsed programs and events receive acknowledgment from the State Historical Society and are granted permission to use Missouri 2021 logos according to established guidelines. Endorsed programs or events will also be publicized on the Missouri 2021 website. For details on submitting an application, see missouri2021.org/endorsement.

Under the Missouri 2021 banner, SHSMO is coordinating a statewide commemoration that incorporates both rural and urban communities in projects, programs, and events. Missouri 2021 welcomes queries or comments at contact@missouri2021.org.

JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION!

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Missouri 2021

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Brownlee Grants: State Historical Society of Missouri Supports Ten Local History Organizations

The State Historical Society of Missouri received an overwhelming response to its call for 2018 Brownlee Grants applications. SHSMO received 55 submissions from 33 different Missouri counties requesting funding from the available pool of \$5,000. Ten institutions received funding, largely for the purchase of archival supplies.

The Society's conservator, Erin Kraus, said she is encouraged that so many institutions applied with the intent of expanding their conservation efforts. "Storage materials can make the difference between objects lasting for centuries versus just decades," she said.

Grant recipient Kathy Smith, executive director of the Historical Society of Lee's Summit Museum, said the museum will use its award to extend the life of its collections and control the effects of past flooding. The museum also experiences ongoing water issues in its historic building, a former post office built in 1939.

"We installed the proper devices to ensure we would have humidity control," Smith said. "This did help in preserving our artifacts but did not prevent some mold and mildew damage."

To help control the problem, the museum has worked with a conservator recommended by the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art to develop a plan for the



The materials used to repair and store historic maps such as this one can affect how the item ages. This year's SHSMO Brownlee Grants will support a range of archival work to ensure that Missouri's local treasures last for future generations.

site and to eradicate mold and mildew. But like many organizations, the Lee's Summit organization has more needs than funds.

"We are out of tubs and need shelving to keep our collections from getting wet should

we flood again," Smith said. "Five hundred dollars goes a long way to help us protect the balance of our artifacts."

For those stretching their budget, Kraus suggests getting started with the right materials and expanding in phases. "The storage materials used with historical collections are crucial to their long-term preservation," she said. "Proper storage can provide protection from dust, light, water, pests, and physical forces that will harm historical objects."

In addition to the Historical Society of Lee's Summit Museum, 2018 Brownlee Grants are supporting the Cape River Heritage Museum in Cape Girardeau; the Rusche Park Board of the City of Marthasville; the Friends of Historic Boonville; the Hallsville Historical Society; the Harrison County Genealogical Society in Bethany; the Macon County Historical Society Museum in Macon; the Missouri Pacific Historical Society in St. Louis; the Reynolds County Museum in Ellington; and the Stone County Historical and Genealogical Society in Galena.

The State Historical Society of Missouri plans to offer Brownlee Grants again in 2019. Watch SHSMO publications and the shsmo.org website for the call for proposals, which should be announced this fall.

National History Day in Missouri State Contest Empowers Students—Continued from Page 1

The pair placed second in the senior group performance category with their project, "Conflict and Compromise: Creating a Nation," which explored the complex political negotiations required to form the governmental structure of the United States.

Glover and Ortiz covered everything from how the founding fathers disagreed over the ways that the states should be represented in the legislature to how power would be divided among the branches of government. The students also included ways that individual egos may have influenced the compromises required to reach the nation's current design.

Glover, who has participated in National History Day in Missouri since she was in seventh grade, said one particular primary source helped guide their project.

"We found the transcript of the actual constitutional convention," Glover said. "It had everything they actually said, so it helped us decide what we wanted to say during the performance."

Watch NHDMO on Facebook and Twitter to stay up-to-date with the 2018 national contest delegates, including Glover and Ortiz. A strong showing is expected; in 2017 Missouri students brought home two out of five gold medals offered at nationals.



At the National History Day in Missouri state contest on April 28, Minjung Lee, left, of St. Louis gets help in setting up her senior individual exhibit, "The Failure of Diplomacy between the United States and Japan: 1940-1941." A tenth grader at Thomas Jefferson School, Lee worked with her teacher Lisa Gilbert to advance from regionals to the state competition.

Family Papers of St. Louis Dentist Document Practice That Weathered the Great Depression

The St. Louis Research Center recently processed the Kallenbach Family Papers (S1216), which document one family's experience in opening a dentistry practice and sustaining it through challenges such as the Great Depression. The collection, spanning from 1897 to 1960, consists of the family papers of Louis and Bernita Anna Kallenbach and their sons, Maurice and Travis.

Born in 1875, Louis Kallenbach began his dental studies at Morris Sims Medical College in St. Louis and completed them across the state at the Kansas City Dental College, from which he graduated in 1901. That year was a busy one for him, as he also opened a practice in Walnut, a small town in southeast Kansas, and married Bernita Anna Quick of Kansas City, Missouri.

In 1907 Louis moved to St. Louis ahead of his family, opening a new practice and establishing a household where his wife and the two boys could join him. In one letter dated July 29, 1908, Louis discusses how challenging it was to start a new business and make decisions about family life without "my dearest Anna."

"Work is still slow and may be so for a while, all the men here are complaining.... This afternoon will work on that \$10.00 job, so may be able to make my office rent at least, for this month. We may have to figure pretty close for a while, but hope to come out all right. As to that house, hardly know what to say, wish you could see it before I do anything definite."

Louis also jokes about missing his wife for more selfish reasons. "I have enjoyed real good health so far but I know I have lost in weight, am afraid to get on the scales. When you dear, and my boys get here, I think I shall gain weight."

By 1909, St. Louis-area directories list the Kallenbachs' family residence on Russell Avenue and the practice at 1504 South Jefferson Avenue, near Lafayette Park. Although he changed locations a few times, moving to 1825 South Jefferson Avenue in 1911 and to 1703 South Grand Avenue in 1920, Louis served the St. Louis community for nearly 35 years.

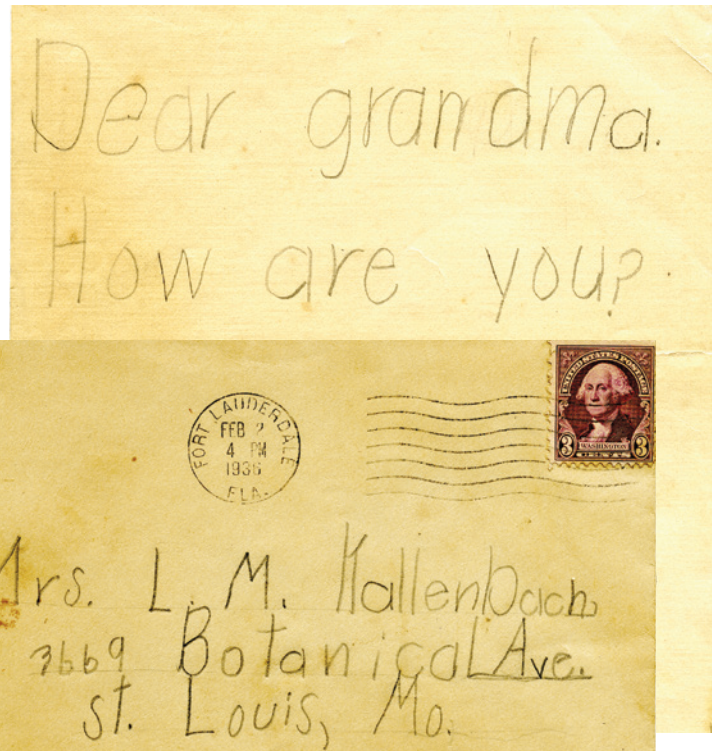
By the time the Great Depression hit, Louis had spent decades investing in his practice. He and his wife rode out the global economic crisis, but not without difficulty. A letter from Maurice to his parents dated November 20, 1931, offers a glimpse into the family's strained finances:

Mother and Dad, dear, please forget about Xmas as far as we are concerned for this year at least. You wrote in your last letter that your Xmas must be necessarily confined to the Grand-Children this year due to the financial trend of things, and I cannot see it that way at all. You both have been sacrificing your good times and giving up things that you

wanted for the sake of your children. Now it is up to your children to sacrifice for their own children. Why don't you both confine Xmas to yourselves. Give each other something nice that you know the other wants. That is the way it should be.

Despite hard times, Dr. Kallenbach persevered, outlasting the Depression and continuing his practice until he retired in the 1940s. Travis Kallenbach followed in his father's footsteps, joining the practice in 1932. In retirement, Louis and Anna moved to Florida, where they passed away in 1965 and 1977 respectively.

In addition to the family's life during the Depression, the collection also documents such topics as family sickness; caring for aging parents, including Louis's mother, Louisa Eckhardt Kallenbach; and the births of Louis and Anna's grandchildren. It includes correspondence and telegrams sent to or received from relatives, friends, and business associates concerning Louis Kallenbach's dental practice. The collection was donated by Melinda Matthews.



Bernita, the daughter of Travis and Ethel Kallenbach, sent this letter to her grandmother Anna in February 1936. Although the letter is postmarked Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Bernita probably lived in the St. Louis area, where her father practiced dentistry.

Increased Access: St. Louis Women as Change Agents Oral History Project Available Online

The Women as Change Agents Oral History Project (SA1207) now boasts 91 online transcripts at <https://shsmo.org/manuscripts/collections/transcripts/sa1207>. This collection records the thoughts of influential female leaders in Missouri, revealing how they have changed public perceptions of women's roles.

Blanche M. Touhill, a State Historical Society trustee and chancellor emerita of the University of Missouri–St. Louis, launched

the project in 2013 with the International Women's Forum–St. Louis Oral History Collection (SA1148). This collection of more than 65 interviews documents the advancements St. Louis-area women have made in numerous fields such as the arts, business, politics, and the sciences.

The Women as Change Agents Collection continues the work of the IWF collection, preserving interviews with notable Missouri

women who are not Forum members. View the collection to see the reflections of women ranging from Marie-Hélène Bernard, president and chief executive officer of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, to Molly Tovar, director of Washington University's Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies and professor in the university's Brown School for social work, public health, and social policy.



May Bluegrass Pickin' One More Time
May 20 2–6 p.m. Rolla

See Jimmy Orchard and the Ozark Bluegrass Boys, Jimmie Allison and the Ozark Rounders, and Mona Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers perform live in Rolla. The State Historical Society of Missouri and longtime mid-Missouri radio host Wayne Bledsoe pay tribute to these musicians with an afternoon honoring the region's longest-running bluegrass festival, *Bluegrass Pickin' Time*. The festival at the Havener Center on the Missouri University of Science and Technology campus will include performances by each group as well as an open jam session. Registration at shsmo.org/events is appreciated. The event is free and open to the public, but a suggested donation of \$5 will support the preservation and promotion of SHSMO's bluegrass collections. The First State Community Bank in Rolla and the Phelps County Bank are sponsoring this event.

June Museum After Hours: Missouri Bicentennial
June 6 7 p.m. Jefferson City

Missouri celebrates its 200th birthday on August 10, 2021. The State Historical Society is committed to coordinating a yearlong, statewide celebration that brings together rural and urban communities in projects, programs, and events contributing to a better understanding of the state and its complex heritage. Join SHSMO's Michael Sweeney to learn what plans are in place and how you can join in the commemoration. The program will be held in the Missouri State Museum's History Hall, located in the east wing of the Missouri State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Avenue. To access the Capitol after 5:30 p.m., enter through the garage on the east side of the building.

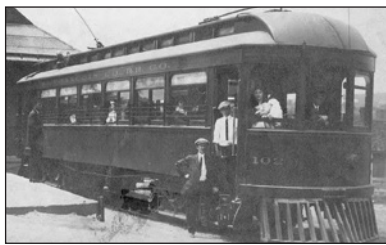


Being Bussabarger Walk-Through June 9 1:30 p.m. Columbia

Join SHSMO art curator Joan Stack for a walk-through of the retrospective exhibition *Being Bussabarger: Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics, Sketchbooks, and More* on its final day. Painter, sculptor, and ceramicist Robert Bussabarger (1922–2013) lived and worked in Missouri for over 50 years. The wide range of media within the Society's collection of Bussabarger's art demonstrates the depth and breadth of his talent.

Missouri Courthouses Walk-Through June 30 1:30 p.m. Columbia

SHSMO's exhibition *Missouri County Courthouses: Building Memories on the Square Revisited* explores how Missouri's built environments reflect local values. Join art curator Joan Stack and Carol Grove, adjunct assistant professor of American Art and Architecture at the University of Missouri, at a gallery walk-through. They will highlight how the architecture of prominent community buildings serves both practical and symbolic functions. The exhibition, presented in collaboration with the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation, will run in SHSMO's corridor gallery through September.



July Unrestricted Warfare: The 1916–1917 Springfield Streetcar Strike
July 12 2 p.m. Marionville

Join the State Historical Society of Missouri's Erin Smither for a closer look at Springfield's streetcar strike of 1916–1917. This program 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. The Marionville Branch Library, 303 West Washington Street, will host the talk, which is free and open to the public.

August Researching Your Missouri Ancestors
August 10 9:15–11:15 a.m. Columbia

Join SHSMO's Amy L. Waters and Christina Miller of the Missouri State Archives for an informative session exploring new avenues for finding your Missouri family. Attendees will learn about physical and electronic resources available in mid-Missouri repositories. This pre-conference session for the Missouri State Genealogical Association Conference, which is planned for August 10–11, is included in the conference registration. The conference will be held at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, 2601 South Providence Road. The public may also register for only this program. For details, visit www.mosga.org.

Close-Up on Photographs and Family Papers
August 16 12–1 p.m. Chillicothe

Overwhelmed by your photograph collection and family papers? Looking for tips on how to preserve them? SHSMO's associate director Lucinda Adams will provide an introduction to caring for photographs and family papers. Topics include organizing and storing collections, basic preservation, and managing family materials. The program, hosted by the Grand River Historical Society Museum in conjunction with the Livingston County Library, will be held at the library, 450 Locust Street, in the courtroom on the second floor. Register by calling the Livingston Public Library at 660.646.0547. Free parking is available behind the building.



Looking ahead Schoolcraft in the Old Ozarks
September 18 7 p.m. Springfield

It was almost 200 years ago that New Yorker Henry Rowe Schoolcraft and his companion Levi Pettibone launched a memorable journey into the wild and mostly unsettled region now called the Ozarks. In "Schoolcraft in the Old Ozarks," Brooks Blevins, Noel Boyd Professor of Ozarks Studies at Missouri State University, will discuss the region—the Old Ozarks—as Schoolcraft and other early travelers found it two centuries ago. Blevins will also sign copies of his new book, *A History of the Ozarks, Volume 1: The Old Ozarks*, which will be released by the University of Illinois Press in June. The program will be held at the Library Center, 4653 South Campbell Avenue. SHSMO, the Springfield–Greene County Library District, Missouri State University Libraries, and the Missouri State University Ozarks Studies Institute are sponsoring the lecture.

Center for Missouri Studies Fall Lecture and Luncheon October 13 Columbia

Save the date of October 13 for the Center for Missouri Studies Fall Lecture and Luncheon. Author Caroline Fraser will present a program based on her 2018 Pulitzer Prize-winning biography, *Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder*. In a review of the book for the *New York Times*, Patricia Nelson Limerick, director of the University of Colorado's Center of the American West, wrote, "For anyone who has drifted into thinking of Wilder's 'Little House' books as relics of a distant and irrelevant past, reading *Prairie Fires* will provide a lasting cure." Fraser's talk will follow SHSMO's annual business meeting and luncheon. All events will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott–Columbia, 3301 LeMone Industrial Boulevard. Visit shsmo.org/annualmeeting for more information, including registration, which will open this summer.

Rolla's Rotoscope: New Collection Preserves Local Film Technology, Legacy of Inventors

In the 1950s and 1960s, the work of inventors Rowe Carney Jr. and Tom Smith drew the film industry to Rolla, Missouri. Representatives from United Artists, MGM, Twentieth Century Fox, Columbia Pictures, and other Hollywood production houses came to view Carney and Smith's Rotoscope, a new device for filming and projecting panoramic motion pictures. A recent donation to the Rolla Research Center preserves the story of these visual pioneers and their innovative technology.

The Rotoscope was a camera and projector attachment that allowed for the filming and projection of a 180-degree view using a single reel of 35mm film. In creating it, Carney drew upon his family's long experience with motion pictures and the film industry. His father, Rowe Carney Sr., known as "Doc," owned and operated several movie theaters in Phelps and Laclede Counties as early as 1936, as well as the Uptown Theatre on Pine Street in Rolla, which was built in 1941. Carney grew up working in his father's cinemas in Rolla and St. James.

In his late twenties, Carney gradually took over the management of the family theaters. Trying to keep up with current cinematography, he traveled to New York City in 1952 and was inspired by *This Is Cinerama*,



Rowe Carney Jr., left, and Tom Smith check the camera attached to Carney's car. Through experimentation, the pair created a system of lenses, mirrors, and other equipment that could capture a 180-degree view and then project it from one reel of 35mm film onto a special screen.

a film created to showcase a new widescreen process that used three reels of 35mm film, three synchronized projectors, and a curved screen designed to engulf the audience. Though Carney was impressed by the film, he realized that making it had been expensive, and that the synchronization of the multiple cameras and projectors involved had not been perfected. He became convinced that he could create a similar film experience that was cheaper to produce and better to watch.

Returning to Rolla, Carney hired Smith, a natural engineer with a gift for tinkering with the projector systems used by movie theaters, to help him run tests and experiments. The two worked together to create a system of lenses, mirrors, and other equipment that could capture a 180-degree view and then project it seamlessly from one reel of 35mm film onto a specially designed curved screen.

Their test films included scenes shot in front of the Uptown Theatre in Rolla, a roller coaster ride in St. Louis, and aerial views from a plane ride over Vichy, Missouri. Carney also attached a camera to the hood of his car to film scenes in Rolla and Phelps County, St. Louis, and Jefferson City.

In 1957 the pair applied for patents on the curved screen and camera and projector attachments. The applications were approved by the US Patent Office in 1962, and patents were later granted by Japan, Germany, Great Britain, Canada, Mexico, France, and Italy.

The Rotoscope was first shown in May 1961 at the Rollamo, a theater owned by the Carney family in Rolla, and then at the Rowe

Theater in St. James. Tickets cost 75 cents for adults and 35 cents for children. Newspapers from the time called the technology "Fantastic" and "Sensational." They quoted film executives stating, "This process has great possibilities in the movie industry," and "It's as good as Cinerama but more practical." But despite the industry's initial curiosity, Carney and Smith were unable to convince film companies to adopt the technology. As a result, the Rotoscope never caught on outside of Phelps County.

Carney lived until 1996, and the patents on his inventions remained in effect until 1999. Meanwhile, his son, Gene Carney, kept the original equipment and films. Demonstrating that the Carney trait of tinkering was alive and well, Gene brought the Rotoscope back to life, building his own telecine machine to digitize and play his father's original film. Like his father, he even shot his own film with a camera mounted to the hood of his car.

The Rotoscope Collection (R1499) contains all of Carney and Smith's original films, as well as digitized copies made by Gene Carney. Photographs, including images of director George M. Merrick in Arlington, Missouri, possibly taken while he shot test scenes, are also preserved. Correspondence with potential partners such as Warner Brothers, Eastman Kodak Company, and the US Army is preserved in the collection. Patent applications, diagrams of the invention, movie guides, film scripts, and promotional materials are also in the collection.

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This 1961 advertisement invites the community to the premiere of the Rotoscope at Rolla's Rollamo Theater, owned by the Carney family.

Inspiring Change: Papers of Kansas City Pastor Show Activist Legacy in the Midst of World War

Today's champions of social justice tirelessly protest, admonish, and inspire change in society and in oneself. While some may think this kind of activism is something new, it has a long history in Kansas City. The newly processed Raymond Bennett Bragg Papers (K0468) document the reform efforts of a minister who served the city's All Souls Unitarian Church from 1952 to 1973.

The processing was generously supported by a donation from All Souls.

Born in Massachusetts in 1902, Raymond B. Bragg was a college student when he discovered the philosophy and ethics of humanism as expressed through the Unitarian Church. He soon became a Unitarian and enrolled at Meadville Theological School in Chicago to prepare for the ministry. By his graduation in 1928, he was already serving as the pastor for a church in Evanston, Illinois.

Raymond Bragg's personal papers reveal a man ahead of his time who might have felt at home with today's social justice activists. The collection offers fresh perspectives on a social reformer who supported causes within and beyond Kansas City that continue to resonate today.

From the beginning of his ministerial career, Bragg sought to inspire change. In 1933 he helped write *A Humanist Manifesto*, a seminal statement of the post-World War I humanism movement, which advocated an egalitarian society of mutual cooperation founded on rationalism. Now known as *Humanist Manifesto I* to distinguish it

from the series of later Humanist Manifestos, it was signed by a group of eminent philosophers and religious thinkers that included John Dewey and then published in the *New Humanist* magazine. In the 1930s, Bragg, in his role as executive secretary of the Western Unitarian Conference, traveled in Europe and observed the growing power of fascist dictatorships. While in Germany to appraise Nazism under Adolf Hitler, he met Ilse Meryn, whom he soon married. In 1935 the couple moved to Minneapolis, where Bragg became associate pastor at the First Unitarian Society.

His experiences in Europe made Bragg a passionate defender of free speech and a vigorous opponent of not only fascism but also communism. After World War II he campaigned for the reunification of Germany and adopted humanitarian causes such as assisting the thousands of refugees displaced by the war.

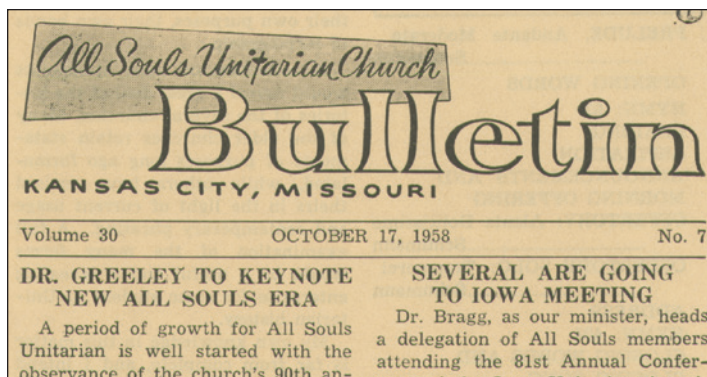
Other interests were closer to home. A father to two girls, Susan and Kate, Bragg worked with child protective organizations and became an advocate for deaf education after Kate was born without hearing. He also advocated for better hospitals and fought for better treatment for those with mental health issues. A board member of the American Unitarian Association, Bragg served as the executive director of the Unitarian Service Committee from 1947 until 1952.

In 1952 Bragg moved to Kansas City and All Souls Unitarian Church, where he remained for the rest of his life. At All Souls he delivered sermons that encouraged his congregants to reflect on the issues of the day. The sermons, many of which are available in the collection, had titles such as "The Russian Menace," "Must We Hate Our [Foreign] Enemies," and "Have Things Ever Been This Bad?" Although these topics might not sound radical to a twenty-first-century audience, in the context of the 1950s, Bragg's preaching was often considered controversial.

Among the controversies was his support for Leslie Hill, a teacher who was fired for admitting he was an atheist. Although many Americans of the time associated atheism with communism, Bragg corresponded with Hill and worked with his legal defense team.

In the early Cold War era, Bragg's advocacy for social equality, free speech, and freedom of religion led to accusations of radicalism. Yet he remained staunchly anti-Communist, with his unwavering belief in democracy and liberty inspiring him to give sermons such as "What Communism Can't Do."

Raymond Bragg's personal papers reveal a man ahead of his time who might have felt at home with today's social justice activists. The collection of roughly 3,500 letters; church papers, publications, and programs; sermons and prayers; photographs; and news clippings offers researchers fresh perspectives on a social reformer who supported causes within and beyond Kansas City that continue to resonate today.



Top This *Brookline Chronicle* article from May 22, 1952, announces Raymond Bennett Bragg's impending move to Missouri. The newspaper clipping from his home state of Massachusetts is one of many collected in the Bragg Papers (K0468). **Above** Although the Bragg Papers are a collection of personal papers, they record more than 20 years of All Souls Unitarian Church history, including church publications, programs, and, papers.

Springfield Center Receives Previously Unseen Photos of “The Father of Route 66”

April 30 marked the ninety-second anniversary of the birth of Route 66. Photographs at the Springfield Research Center provide a new window into the early life of Cyrus Avery, an instrumental figure in the creation of America’s “Mother Road.”

Born in Pennsylvania in 1871, Cyrus Stevens Avery moved to Missouri with his family in 1881, where he would remain for his formative years. After graduating from William Jewell College in Liberty, he moved to the Oklahoma Territory in 1901 and pursued occupations ranging from selling insurance and real estate to investing in oil.

Recognizing that modern highways brought prosperity to communities, he became an outspoken advocate of the Good Roads Movement. After he was elected the presiding commissioner of Tulsa County, Oklahoma, in 1913, he began working to improve the local road system. Avery’s efforts led to his appointment on the Oklahoma Highway Commission, where he continued to champion improved roads.

Avery attended a meeting at the Colonial Hotel in Springfield, Missouri, on April 30, 1926, at which an impasse was resolved over the designation of a new highway that would begin in Chicago, cross Illinois, Missouri, and six other states, and end in Santa Monica, California. Historians are uncertain about who suggested that the route be designated Highway 66, but the group recognized the number was catchy and unanimously recommended its adoption by the Bureau of Public Roads in Washington, DC.



Above Cyrus Avery, right, with his wife, Essie, and sons Leighton and Gordon, circa 1907. **Below** Avery, right, with his sisters, Bertha and Caroline, in the 1880s. The images were donated by Avery’s great-niece.

As a member of the board tasked with creating the Federal Highway System, Avery helped determine the route’s path. Once the road was established, he pushed for the creation of the US Highway 66 Association, which worked to have all 2,448 miles paved. As a result of his efforts to build and promote the highway, Avery came to be known as the “Father of Route 66.”

SHSMO’s collection of materials on Avery were acquired through a donation in 2016 from Rose Stauber, his great-niece. The Rose Stauber Collection (SP0015) includes previously unseen photos of Avery from the years before his time as a public official. The images show him as a young man, sometimes posing with his sisters or as a young father with his children.

Though he only lived 20 of his 92 years in Missouri, Cyrus remained in touch with his



family there, often visiting the Stauber farm in Noel. While owning a farm and raising cattle in Oklahoma, Avery remained active in civic affairs, often running for office either at the state or local level. He was also a Lock Joint Pipe Company salesman from 1950 until his retirement in 1958. Avery died in Los Angeles on July 2, 1963.



Kathy and Charlie Digges at a local Columbia event.

Why We Give: Digges Family—Continued from Page 3

The State Historical Society of Missouri’s collection holds 1,574 sets of family papers like theirs. Many of those documents reference both the Digges and Cook families, especially Charlie’s grandfather, Sam Baker Cook, a newspaper publisher, Missouri’s secretary of state from 1901 to 1905, and the president of the Central Missouri Trust Company (now Central Banccompany) from 1905 to 1931. Yet the art collection is what drew Charlie’s interest as an adult.

“I became aware of the many paintings which the Society owns but cannot display because of lack of space in their current location,” Charlie said. “The collection of

works by Thomas Hart Benton and George Caleb Bingham alone is tremendous.”

“That’s why we were happy to contribute,” Kathy said. “It’s a dream come true to have the new building under construction. We hope that it can provide adequate space for the beautiful artwork and exhibitions, along with the education and preservation projects.”

“It will make such a difference that people can park there, go in, and look at paintings or discover their family history,” Charlie said.

“Being age 99 gives me a unique perspective on the history of Missouri and Columbia. I hope to make it to 100 and, the good Lord willing, I promise to be at the grand opening!”

New SHSMO Staff—Continued from Page 2

At the Cape Girardeau center, Garret Kremer-Wright has joined the staff as a full-time archivist. His assignments include processing collections and assisting researchers. A Jefferson City native, Kremer-Wright received a master's degree in history (public history concentration) from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and a bachelor's degree in historic preservation from Southeast Missouri State University. Before joining SHSMO in February, he was an archivist for the Catholic Diocese of Jefferson City, the Orange County Regional History Center in Orlando, Florida, and the Center for Arkansas History and Culture in Little Rock.

"I have enjoyed becoming familiar with the collections," Kremer-Wright said. "I am working on the Oliver Papers, which include cases from the legal firm, correspondence between the family members, and organizations the Oliver men were involved in. There is a wealth of research value within this collection."



Garret Kremer-Wright, left, Cape Girardeau Research Center archivist, and Aubrey Rowden, administrative coordinator based in Columbia.

"I Would Like to Be Back Home Again": Letters of WWII Prisoner Donated to Cape Girardeau Center

On November 27, 1941, US Army Sergeant William H. Eddleman wrote a wishful letter from his post in the Philippines to his parents in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. "The Oriental situation is still uncertain," he noted. "Well I hope it stays quiet for 6 more months as I will be leaving here then. All men are going back now after two years so I should be leaving in May. I like this place all right but I would like to be back home again."

Little did he know that ten days later he would be among those fending off an invasion following Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Japanese warplanes struck the Philippines within hours after the attack on Hawaii that drew the United States into World War II.

Eddleman's letters are included in a

automobile plant. Finding it not to his liking, he joined the US Army in the early 1930s.

Among the letters in the collection are several written in 1934 when William's regiment, the Twenty-Seventh Infantry, was stationed in Hawaii. Although he expressed doubt about a career in the military in some of the letters, he reenlisted and shipped out with the Thirty-First Infantry Regiment to the Philippines in June 1940.

Instead of getting his wish to come home in 1942, Eddleman fought in the Battle of Bataan, surrendered with the other defenders that April, and survived the infamous Bataan Death March. He was among the prisoners shipped to Camp O'Donnell and then to Cabanatuan prison camp. His parents received notice that he was missing in action

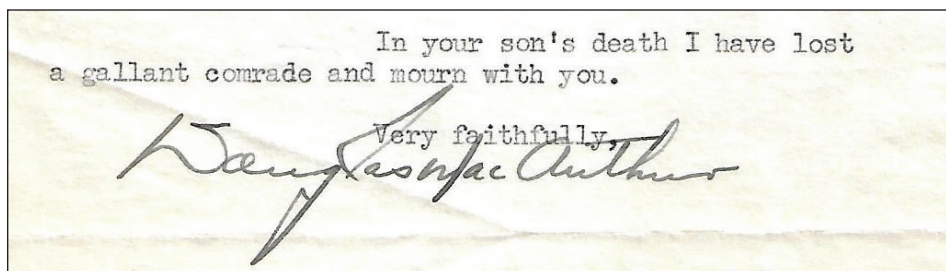
a letter from Abie Abraham, a World War II veteran living in Lyndora, Pennsylvania. Abraham was searching for information about any Eddleman family members who might still be in the area. In his letter, he stated, "In a POW camp I saw a good soldier from Co 'E' 31st Infantry die of dysentery. I would appreciate hearing from his folks if they are still around. William Eddleman fought bravely in the defense of Bataan."

The postmaster knew one of William's brothers, Walter C. Eddleman, and forwarded the letter to him. Walter began corresponding with Abraham, who provided details of his friendship with William H. Eddleman, Eddleman's imprisonment, and the circumstances of his death.

Abraham had recorded burial details for many of his fellow prisoners on scraps of paper he hid from their Japanese captors. After the Philippines were liberated, MacArthur chose Abraham to supervise the reinterment of soldiers who died during the death march or in the camps.

Abraham lived until 2013, when he was 98 years old. He is one of the former POWs featured in the *New York Times* best-seller *Ghost Soldiers: The Epic Account of World War II's Greatest Rescue Mission*, by Hampton Sides, and in the 2005 movie *The Great Raid*, which is based in part on Sides's book. Copies of his letters to the Eddleman family are included in the donation.

The Eddleman collection provides details about the service of a career soldier that might otherwise be unavailable after the loss of military records in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. The collection is available to patrons at the Cape Girardeau Research Center or at any other State Historical Society of Missouri center by request.



This is the final sentence of the condolence letter sent by Douglas MacArthur to Barbara A. Eddleman.

collection of over 40 family letters recently donated to the Society. Also in the collection are World War II-era letters written by other children of Christopher C. and Barbara A. Eddleman. Over the years, the letters came into the possession of the Eddlemans' grandson, William R. Eddleman, associate director of the Cape Girardeau Research Center, who made the donation.

William H. Eddleman, born February 27, 1909, near Biehle in Perry County, Missouri, came of age during the Great Depression. First, he traveled to Detroit to work in an

in May 1942 and that he was a prisoner in March 1943. Eddleman, however, had died in camp the previous August.

The army reinterred his remains in the Manila American Cemetery after the war. The collection's documents include official government correspondence concerning the family's application for his death benefit and a 1945 condolence letter signed by General Douglas MacArthur.

Eddleman's family knew little about his imprisonment until the mid-1970s. At that time, the Cape Girardeau postmaster received



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