

# MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri and Western Historical Manuscript Collection

**New Hours  
for the Society and  
Art Gallery  
Monday-Thursday  
8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.**



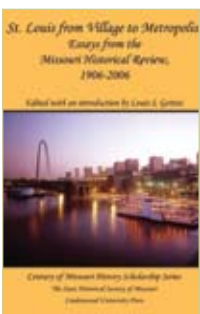
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## Budget crisis dominates annual meeting

*Executive Director Gary R. Kremer gave the following address at the annual meeting of the membership, October 31, 2009, in Columbia. Dr. Kremer announces the Society's response to the recent news that 25 percent of the Society's state appropriation for Fiscal Year 2010 will be withheld due to drops in state revenue. In addition to the restructuring and reductions outlined below, the Missouri Times newsletter will move from a quarterly to a biannual publication with issues in November and May.*



I want to begin by commenting on the fact that September 7, 2009, marked the fifth anniversary in my tenure at the State Historical Society of Missouri, and I am grateful to you to have the privilege of carrying on the legacy of my three most immediate predecessors: my good friend Jim Goodrich, Dick Brownlee, and Floyd Shoemaker. Those men served at the helm of this venerable institution for nearly ninety years. And while I know that I will not match them in longevity of service, I pledge to you and to them that I will continue to promote the cause that they, and you, hold so dear.

I want to remind you of some of what we have been through together in the last five years. Within months of my coming here in late 2004, we experienced a problem with vinegar syndrome in our microfilm, which threatened our entire newspaper collection, and you helped us raise \$200,000 to address that problem – for which I am grateful. Then in the spring of 2005 it got worse as we were “zeroed out” of the state budget for awhile. That certainly got our attention in a variety of ways, but you helped us get back in and weather the storm. And then we had three remarkable years of growth in state support from 2006 to 2009, including a near doubling of our state appropriation and \$600,000 in planning money for a new building.

*We seek to inspire our fellow citizens to appreciate the history of this great state. Help us if you can; further our collective cause if you will.*

And then the good times came to an end. The current recession has hit us hard, just as it has hit everybody in our state and our nation. In January 2009 we were notified that \$400,000 of the \$600,000 planning money was being withheld. And in February 2009 we were notified that 3 percent of our budget, \$78,569, was being withheld. And then, when the FY 2010 budget was approved by the legislature and signed by the governor, we discovered that our budget had been reduced by another 10 percent or \$161,960. And then on Wednesday of this week, we learned that our budget was being cut by another 25 percent, a total of 35 percent this year, an additional amount of \$364,010. And so you must be wondering: “How will we manage?”

Yesterday the executive committee of the board of trustees made some decisions that were endorsed today by the full board. And I want to say, by the way, thank you to the executive committee, particularly President Doug Crews but also to the other nine members of that committee, and all of the trustees for taking their jobs so seriously, for supporting me, the staff, and the membership in the ways they have. Please thank them with me.

Here's how we are going to address the challenge of having more than a third of our budget reduced this year. First of all, the use of state funds to microfilm newspapers has been suspended indefinitely. Second, the use of state funds to publish the *Missouri Historical Review* has been suspended indefinitely. Please don't misinterpret this: we are going to find the money from private sources. We have weathered the Depression, we have weathered two world wars, and we've never missed an issue of the *Review*, but we need to find other sources than state revenue to publish it.

## The \$75 Challenge for Members

See Page 4 for details.

### MISSOURI TIMES

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I hope you will help us. Third, the use of state funds for travel has been suspended indefinitely. Those were the easy decisions.

The executive committee voted yesterday to eliminate three positions. One has been vacant since earlier this year in anticipation of this problem, and one was previously held by Peggy Platner who has decided to retire after nearly forty years of working at the Society. Peggy will retire December 1. A third position will be eliminated as part of the reduction in force, and a fourth had already been lost after last January's cut.

Additionally, effective Monday, the staff of the State Historical Society has volunteered to take a 20 percent cut in pay for as long as is necessary to meet this financial crisis. I can't tell you how important this is to me, and I hope you appreciate it as well. This will mean that, beginning next week, the Society will be limiting its hours of operation to four days a week. We will be open Monday through Thursday and closed on Friday and Saturday until further notice. I would like to say I think this is only going to happen for a month or two, but I think it's going to be the rest of the year.

For now, we are also suspending a number of popular programs including the Missouri History Speaker's Bureau and the MoHiP Theatre. We will continue our effort to place more material online, primarily because the funds for these efforts come primarily from outside sources and grants. By the way, we hope that before this year is out we will have loaded full-text searchable pages of the *Review* from 1906 to 2000. These will be available anywhere you can access a computer. This will be a great boon to Missouri history research.

Traditionally, the State Historical Society of Missouri has relied upon public funding

for approximately 80 percent of its budget. Those days may be over, especially for the foreseeable future. We can and we must increase private financial support for this organization. That can happen in two ways.

First, we have to increase our membership and revenues from membership, and second, we have to increase donations to the cause that we all hold so dear. Our membership is roughly holding steady, but holding steady in an environment where public funding is decreasing is not good enough. We have a small endowment, whose principal in this economic environment generates a few hundred dollars a year. We can and we must do better than that.

Despite the setbacks and the challenges we've faced over the past five years and the ones we now face, I think I have a pretty good job. I get to hang out every day with an unbelievably talented group of people amidst fascinating historical documents, newspapers, rare books, and priceless works of art. It's the kind of atmosphere that allows me on occasion to ask myself the question "What does it all mean?" "What does it mean to be a Missourian? Who are we as a people?" And for me the answer is simple and personal. I am who I am largely because of who I have been. To paraphrase the great Missourian Mark Twain: "All the me that is in me began in a little village in Missouri a long time ago."

I come from a long line of working-class people who trusted God, their country, their community and each other – and Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman. My folks were awfully proud of the fact that Harry Truman was from Missouri.

I am the son of a woman who loved the color purple. Notice my shirt? I hated purple as a kid. We couldn't afford what we called "store-bought shirts," so my mother



Jay H. Buckley receives both the Eagleton-Waters and Missouri History Book awards for *William Clark: Indian Diplomat*.



Peter K. Johnson receives the Lewis E. Atherton Thesis Prize from President Doug Crews for "The Origins and Nature of Indian Slavery in Colonial St. Louis."



Carolyn Gilman wins the *Missouri Historical Review* Article Award for "L'Année du Coup: The Battle of St. Louis, 1780."

used to make our shirts, and she would often make me a purple shirt, which I would refuse to wear, except if I knew I was going someplace where my friends wouldn't be. But the color purple comforts and inspires me as did the life of my mother.

My mom was a Depression-era child who in 1933 at the age of eleven lost her mother. She was one of seven children, young kids, of an immigrant father and mother who were trying to make a living off a hard-scrabble farm in Osage County, Missouri—a farm that my grandfather had already lost once by 1933. When my grandmother died unexpectedly at a young age, in her forties, there was no money to pay for her funeral, which cost \$60. The neighbors took up a collection in the tradition of the time and collected \$20 dollars in nickels and dimes and pennies to help pay for the funeral, but they still owed \$40. And so my mom and her sister, who was thirteen, took a crosscut saw and went out and cut forty loads of firewood, and hauled them with a team and wagon to the undertaker to pay for their mom's funeral.

Any time I have a bad day, I think of that and I say to myself: "Buddy, you ain't never had a bad day. You will *never* have a bad day like that."

The next year my mom graduated from the eighth grade—there was no high school to go to—so her father, a stern German patriarch whom I remember with not total fondness, sent her off to an extended family member in St. Louis to work as a domestic servant.

By the way, when she graduated from the eighth grade, she couldn't afford a dress, so she made her own graduation dress out of flour sacks. She didn't have

any shoes, but when her mother died, in the collection from neighbors, was a pair of men's work shoes and they fit my mom. So, she wore her flour sack dress and work shoes to her graduation. The other kids laughed at her.

At the age of fourteen, she was working as a domestic servant, caring for a family of four and a two-story house—cooking, cleaning, caring for the kids, and washing and ironing for the sum total of \$2.50, plus room and board. Guess what she bought with her first check: a pair of shoes. My mother never complained.

I could go on with this . . . we all have stories like this. My point is not to suggest to you that my story is particularly different from those you could tell.

My mother never complained. She focused on what she had and what she had left, rather than what she had lost. She plodded on. I come from a long line of persistent plodders. My personal history is what I draw upon for perspective, for understanding, for strength, for inspiration, for wisdom—and isn't that what we all do? Isn't that our job at the State Historical Society of Missouri and the Western Historical Manuscript Collection? That is what we seek to do every day: to provide the necessary resources to people who strive to understand this state, its history, and themselves. When we are at our best, we seek to do more than that.

We seek to inspire our fellow citizens to appreciate the history of this great state as well as their own personal histories. There are few things more enduring and satisfying than feeling a kinship with the place you call home. Kinship in this instance derives from



Robert Smith, longtime trustee and former president of the Society, receives a resolution of appreciation for his many years of devoted service.

knowledge and understanding, and begets appreciation, which in turn fosters a desire to protect and preserve.

We who love the state of Missouri and seek to know it more deeply are fierce in our commitment to learn the secrets of its past, the possibilities of its present, and the promises of its future. *That* is why we exist. That is the noble purpose we serve, and we need your help to do it. Help us if you can; further our collective cause if you will.

Thank you very much for being here.

*To see video of the executive director's remarks at the annual meeting and more information about reductions in Society hours and services, go to our Web site at <http://shs.umsystem.edu>.*



MU Professor Emeritus W. Raymond Wood receives the Distinguished Service Award from Gary R. Kremer.



First Lady Georganne Nixon, third from left, greets MoHiP Theatre members: Mary Barile, writer, Pamela Judd, actress, and Heather Carver, director of *Miz Jane*, performed at the annual meeting.

## More from the annual meeting

The silent auction and wine raffle raised nearly \$1,500 and delivered the following terrific items. A Thomas Hart Benton poster representing his painting *The Sowers* was earned by Toni Messina. An autographed photograph of Kansas City Chief Dwayne Bowe went to high bidder Laura Erdel. Laura Jolley won a variety wine lot, with the lot of Missouri wines awarded to Carol Vaughn. A St. Louis Rams autographed football was won by Robert Smith, and a basketball signed by Mizzou Coach Mike Anderson went to Midge Pinkerton. Panera "Bread for a Year" was bought by Elenore Schewe. A reproduction of an 1836 map of Missouri received the highest bid from Stephen Limbaugh Jr., who also won the wine raffle. The highest bid on the Frank Stack watercolor painting came from Lawrence Christenson. Sincere appreciation and congratulations are extended to all of the winners.

## State Historical Society News

### A challenge for Society members

In the days since the withholding to the Society's state appropriation was announced, many members and friends have responded with monetary gifts to help with publication of the *Missouri Historical Review* and other programs. Along with a donation, one member sent a suggestion: Society staff should ask each member to contribute \$75. He pointed out that \$75 from each member—4,867 in total—would raise \$365,000, thus offsetting the 25 percent withholding.

We have decided to follow up on this suggestion. In becoming a member of the State Historical Society of Missouri, you have decided that preservation of the Show-Me State's history is important to you. You may find stories of the past interesting; your family may have lived in the state since the nineteenth century; you may be an art lover who enjoys the changing exhibitions; you may be researching your family's history—all reasons why our members join the Society. Please consider donating \$75 or more to help us continue to fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving, making accessible, and publishing material related to the history of Missouri. Multi-year pledges of support are especially welcome.

Donations can be made securely online by clicking **The \$75 Challenge** button on the Society's Web site, <http://shs.umsystem.edu>, or through the mail to The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry, Columbia, MO 65201.

All gifts are tax deductible, and each donation will be acknowledged with a letter that can be used as a receipt for tax purposes. Thank you for considering this challenge.

### Wall Street and Main Street will show at the Capitol, January 26

The Society and branches of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection will hold the second annual Day at the Capitol, January 26, 2010, showcasing the exhibit "*Wall Street and Main Street: Editorial Cartoons on the Economic Crisis of the 1930s from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch*." The drawings chronicle the history of the Great Depression through the eyes of Pulitzer Prize-winning *St. Louis Post Dispatch* cartoonist Daniel Robert Fitzpatrick. His works comment on the policies of Herbert Hoover, the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the New Deal, and additional Depression-era issues. Viewers may draw parallels with the current economic crisis as they ponder the bold drawings, poignant images, and wry wit of "Fitz."

Two scholars named as winners were unable to attend the annual meeting to accept their awards. Dr. Kimberly A. Schreck of Washington University in St. Louis was selected winner of the 2009 Mary C. Neth Prize for her article, "The Patriarch, His 'Wives,' His 'Slaves,' and His 'Children': Contested Wills in the Case of *Keen v. Keen*." The award is given biennially to the author of the best article on women or gender issues appearing in the preceding two volumes of the *Missouri Historical Review*. A cash prize of \$500 will be forwarded to Dr. Schreck. Dr. Adam Arenson from the Department of History at the University of Texas-El Paso won the 2009 Lewis E. Atherton Dissertation Prize for "*City of Manifest Destiny: St. Louis and the Cultural Civil War, 1848-1877*." The award is named in honor of a former trustee and president of the Society and a longtime professor in the University of Missouri Department of History. Arenson will receive a \$1,000 cash prize.

### Virginia Laas hosts Benton exhibit in Joplin

Over two hundred people from the southwest Missouri region attended a special one-day exhibition of *Thomas Hart Benton: Missouri Storyteller* at the George A. Spiva Center for the Arts in Joplin on October 11, 2009.

Guests had the rare opportunity to view some of the Benton treasures from the Society's art collection, including original paintings and drawings made by Benton to illustrate Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *Life on the Mississippi*. The exhibit also featured a selection of the Society's Benton lithographs, which is the most complete collection of its kind in the world. A highlight of the show was the original Benton drawing *Oak Tree*, a gift to the Society from the estate of the late Henry Warten, a prominent Joplin attorney.

The exhibit also showcased a selection of new easels provided to the Society through the generous donations of Joplin area residents with the assistance of Society trustee Dr. Virginia Laas, who also donated funds to cater the event.



Virginia Laas (left), Society trustee and event host, is joined by Missouri House of Representatives Speaker Ron Richard and his wife, Patty Richard.



## Trick-or-treat through Missouri history

More than 200 children and parents attended a festive, if slightly frightening, Halloween event the evening of October 27, 2009, at the Society. Various stations about the scarier parts of Missouri history—bats, caves, and bones—were paired with face painting, games, a cave maze, and sweet treats for a fun experience.

A highlight was Art Curator Joan Stack's portrayal of Eliza Bingham, the second wife of George Caleb Bingham who died in the state mental hospital at Fulton in 1876, after being committed to the institution by her husband. A spooky atmosphere was aided by dimmed lights, sound effects, and Stack's focus on the more eerie history to be found in the Bingham artworks on display in the main gallery. The Society partnered with the Mizzou MSA/GPC Craft Studio to stage the event, and numerous student and adult volunteers assisted.

## Reception marks launch of St. Louis anthology

*St. Louis from Village to Metropolis: Essays from the Missouri Historical Review, 1906-2006* was the focus of a reception at Lindenwood University in St. Charles on October 18. Professor Louis S. Gerteis of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who compiled the essays and wrote the introduction for the volume, spoke to the audience about the book and the study of St. Louis history. The 267-page anthology, which features essays by fourteen historians, is the fourth volume in the *Century of Missouri History Scholarship Series*.

The volume was jointly published by the State Historical Society and Lindenwood University Press. Members can purchase a hardback for \$20 and a paperback for \$10; prices for nonmembers are \$30 for a hardback and \$20 for a paperback.

*St. Louis from Village to Metropolis* can be ordered on the Society's Web site, <http://shs.umsystem.edu/publications/books>.

## Grant to digitize Missouri Republican newspaper

The State Historical Society of Missouri has been awarded a grant to digitize and make available over 7,000 pages of the *St. Louis Daily Missouri Republican* newspaper published from 1861 to 1865. This important historical resource documents the immediate Civil War years as reported in one of the largest St. Louis newspapers.

The Society will collaborate with the Missouri History Museum, the Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and the St. Louis Public Library

by combining the best available issues of the original newspaper into one digital resource. This project will enable researchers to search by keyword through pages and view digital images of each issue, and will be completed in time for the sesquicentennial recognition of the War Between the States.

In addition, issues from the remaining years of the Civil War era, from the Missouri-Kansas border war through Reconstruction, will be prepared for future digitization to allow researchers to study the events leading up to the war through the rebuilding of Missouri and the nation following the conflict.

This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of Secretary of State.

## Missouri Day honors editor Rebecca Schroeder and Missouri Heritage Readers series

The Society celebrated Missouri Day with a party and special evening event featuring the Missouri Heritage Readers series. Missouri Day, the third Wednesday of October, is set aside to celebrate the stories of Missouri's people, places, and events.

Over the noon hour, Society staff hosted a celebration on the University's Lowry Mall with a cake decorated with an outline of the state and offered trivia games to test participants' knowledge of state history. Students, university faculty and staff, and campus visitors stopped to partake of the refreshments and speak on-camera about

what Missouri and Missouri Day means to them.

An evening event highlighted the Missouri Heritage Reader series published by the University of Missouri Press. The series, currently at twenty-seven volumes, is edited by Rebecca Schroeder. Each volume highlights a particular aspect of Missouri history. Schroeder provided the impetus for the series and has been instrumental in its success. The Society and Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia have worked closely with Schroeder in producing many of the volumes and took this opportunity to honor the editor for her work and continuing efforts with a booklet of appreciation from the various writers who have participated. Several authors spoke about their research and work with Schroeder and signed copies of their books, which were available for sale. Society Director Gary R. Kremer and Clair Willcox, editor-in-chief at MU Press, also spoke on the contribution of the series to Missouri history.



Rebecca Schroeder holds the volume of authors' appreciation letters.

## Mark Twain and Tom Benton: Picture, Prose, and Song

### March 13 exhibition and opening-week special display in Society Main Gallery

Author Mark Twain and artist Thomas Hart Benton were kindred spirits who epitomized Missouri's cultural character. Benton's illustrations for Twain's books are one of Missouri's great artistic treasures, and a selection of these drawings will be featured in this exhibition. Visitors will also see portraits of Twain and Benton, as well as objects such as Mark Twain's pipe and Benton's handwritten sheet music. Through the first week of this show, March 13-21, the MU Department of Textile and Apparel Management's Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection will display related period dress and design.

### National History Day fundraiser held

Nearly fifty people came out to support National History Day in Missouri while playing trivia at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Columbia on October 23. Prizes donated by local businesses were awarded to the top two teams and raffled off between rounds. Former state coordinator Diane Ayotte came all the way from St. Louis to play and said, "I think it was great fun for everyone and worth the trip."

Monies raised will go toward costs of the state contest and student travel to Washington, DC for the national competition.

The Society and WHMC-Columbia staff are already planning next year's trivia fundraiser to build on the success of this year's event. Donations to NHD in Missouri are accepted throughout the year. If you can contribute to this worthwhile program, contact State Coordinator Deborah Luchenbill at [luchenbill@umsystem.edu](mailto:luchenbill@umsystem.edu) or (573) 882-0189.

### Request for research materials

The Society is always interested in obtaining family histories, diaries, letters, manuscripts, telephone books, town and county histories, and books on Missouri topics. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Dean Hargett by telephone (573) 882-7083 or e-mail: [hargettd@umsystem.edu](mailto:hargettd@umsystem.edu).

## Antoine Francois Saugrain's ledgers at Pettis County Historical Society

In August, Bob and Mary McCarty of the Pettis County Historical Society contacted the Society for assistance concerning two bound pharmacy ledgers dating from 1803 and 1815. The ledgers were in good shape but were written entirely in French, making it difficult to discern who originally owned them or how they turned up in Sedalia. Society liaison Kimberly Harper enlisted the aid of fellow staff members with condition assessments and translation, which led to the conclusion that the

ledgers had belonged to Dr. Antoine Francois Saugrain, the first practicing physician west of the Mississippi.

Saugrain was born in 1763 in Versailles, France, and first traveled to the United States in 1788 to take part in a scientific expedition in the Ohio valley. During the trip, the party was attacked by Native Americans, and Saugrain was taken prisoner. He escaped and returned to France, but later settled permanently in America following the French Revolution.

In 1805 President Thomas Jefferson appointed Saugrain "surgeon of the army" at Fort Bellefontaine in St. Louis. When smallpox swept the region, Saugrain was the first doctor west of the Mississippi to use Edward Jenner's cowpox vaccine.

Saugrain lived in St. Louis until his death in 1820. His son, Frederick, moved to Sedalia where he died in 1910 at the age of 102. It is surmised that the ledgers arrived in Sedalia with Frederick Saugrain and were later donated by a member of the family to the Pettis County Historical Society.

The names of Auguste Chouteau, Manuel Lisa, General William Clark, Meriwether Lewis, and other early St. Louis luminaries fill the pages of these ledgers. One entry noted that General Clark sent an African American servant to pick up his pharmacy order, and another lists the purchases of Meriwether Lewis before his final, fateful trip east to Washington.

For more information contact the Pettis County Historical Society and Museum by calling (660) 829-3102. The Society is located at 228 Dundee Avenue in Sedalia.

At left, Bob and Mary McCarty with the Saugrain ledgers during their visit to the Society.





## Judges and volunteers needed for State Contest April 10, 2010

The State Historical Society of Missouri and Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia are again proud to sponsor the National History Day in Missouri state contest for 2010. Over 500 students in grades 6-12 from all over the state are expected to meet on the University of Missouri campus, April 10, to show and discuss their historical research projects in a variety of formats.

On April 10 we will need the help of 150 judges and an additional 30 volunteers. Judges should have knowledge of history or education, or experience with one of the presentation formats, such as drama, speech, communications, or video or Web site production. Judges are placed in teams to balance historical knowledge with other talents. Additional volunteers help with registration of competing students, selling t-shirts and other NHD items, serving food to judges and volunteers, and watching the doors of competition rooms.

For more information, contact State Coordinator Deborah Luchenbill at (573) 882-0189 or [HistoryDay@umsystem.edu](mailto:HistoryDay@umsystem.edu).

## NHD in Missouri receives support from the Missouri Humanities Council

The Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) has awarded \$4,525 to National History Day in Missouri to support outreach activities and teacher workshops around the state. The Missouri Humanities Council is the only statewide agency in Missouri devoted exclusively to humanities education for citizens of all ages and has served as the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities since 1971.

The first MHC-sponsored workshop, "Innovation in Missouri History: NHD in Missouri Educator Workshop," was held October 17 on the University of Missouri campus.

The workshop focused on Missouri innovators and innovations, state research resources, changes to the Web site category, and examples of successful student projects. Dr. Linda Endersby, assistant director of the Missouri State Museum, discussed several Missouri innovators and their connections to national and global innovation. Staff members Mary Beth Brown and Seth Smith talked about the resources and research methods available at the Society and WHMC. Deborah Luchenbill, state coordinator, provided an introduction to the program and information on new requirements in the Web site category. Former NHD students Chris Ghan and Bethany Henry discussed the process of researching a topic and creating entries, how the program has influenced their educational experience, and tips and thoughts for supporting teachers.

## 2010 NHDMO Regional Contest Dates

### February 20

Region 2 Kirksville – Jeff Gall  
[jgall@truman.edu](mailto:jgall@truman.edu)

### February 26

Region 1 Maryville – Tom Spencer  
[tspence@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:tspence@nwmissouri.edu)  
Region 8 Rolla – Jeff Schramm  
[schrammj@mst.edu](mailto:schrammj@mst.edu)

### February 27

Region 4 Jefferson City – Shelly Croteau  
[Shelly.Croteau@sos.mo.gov](mailto:Shelly.Croteau@sos.mo.gov)  
Region 5 St. Louis – Peter Acsay  
[acsayp@msx.ums.edu](mailto:acsayp@msx.ums.edu)  
Region 7 Springfield – George Hummasti  
[GHummasti@missouristate.edu](mailto:GHummasti@missouristate.edu)

### March 12

Region 6 Joplin – Paul Teverow  
[Teverow-p@mssu.edu](mailto:Teverow-p@mssu.edu)  
Region 9 Cape Girardeau – Joel Rhodes  
[jrhodes@semo.edu](mailto:jrhodes@semo.edu)

### March 13

Region 3 Independence – Mark Adams  
[mark.adams@nara.gov](mailto:mark.adams@nara.gov)



Garrett McBride poses with his teacher, Bob Stevens, and the exhibit on General Pershing.

## Student recognized by Pershing Museum

Garrett McBride, student at Holy Infant School in Ballwin, Missouri, participated in the St. Louis regional 2009 National History Day contest with an exhibit on General John J. Pershing. Born in 1860 in Linn County, near Laclede, Missouri, Pershing served as commander of the American Expeditionary Force in World War I, was named general of the armies in 1919, and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1931 for his book, *My Experiences in the World War*.

In preparing for the competition, Garrett conducted research at the General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site in Laclede. Staff at the affiliated Prairie Mound School Museum have invited Garrett to display his finished exhibit. Find out more about the history of General Pershing in Laclede by going to [www.mostateparks.com/pershingsite/interp.htm](http://www.mostateparks.com/pershingsite/interp.htm).

## Grand standing not welcome

Robert Perry Christeson spent most of his life collecting materials about the fiddle and dance traditions of Missouri, and he had very strict ideas about what constituted “old-time style.” According to Christeson, “In this state, fiddling and square dancing are allied, tied together, fed by each other, [and] supported by each other.” He believed Missouri produced some of the most talented fiddlers in the country and that their music encouraged a type of dance not seen in most places, called jig dancing. Though the jigging tradition is largely lost, Christeson’s passion for collecting albums, books, and music has helped safeguard both the historical record and art form of old-time fiddling.

Robert P. “Bob” Christeson was born to Ethel May and Commodore Frank Christeson on September 5, 1911, in Dixon, Missouri, a small Ozarks community in Pulaski County. Bob grew up with uncles who played the fiddle, called square dances, or had some good jigging moves. Bob asked his father for a fiddle one Christmas and was told that in order to learn, he needed to hang out with other fiddlers, just “loaf,” and listen. In the years that followed, the Christeson family hosted musical sessions at home with Bob on the fiddle and his mother on piano. Bob remembered that once he began to play, the furniture was moved aside and dancing ensued.

Christeson graduated from high school in 1928 and went on to Drury College, then the University of Missouri, earning an agricultural degree in 1933. With the Depression in full swing, Bob could not find a job after graduation. His family lost the home in Dixon and was forced to move back to the farm on the Big Piney River. Christeson returned home to help and landed a job as a county extension agent in 1935, launching a long career in agriculture that took him all over the country. While working in Las Cruces, New Mexico, as a statistician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the late 1940s, Christeson attended local square dances. He noticed that New Mexico and Texas fiddling was different from what he had grown up with, and while at one of these dances, he tried to show a young fiddler how to play in the “old time style,” but



found he could not remember. Years of school, work on the farm, military service, and travel from job to job had left Bob no time for fiddle playing. Once Christeson discovered his favorite pastime was slipping away, he bought a wire recorder and determined to record, collect, play, and promote Missouri’s old-time fiddle and square dance traditions.

The Robert P. Christeson Collection reflects broad collecting in written and recorded music and contains over 1,300 albums, hundreds of audio tapes, and 112 original wire recordings. There are hundreds of song books, some from the early nineteenth century, and thousands of pages of sheet music covering everything from two-steps to waltzes and even band and march music. The correspondence begins in 1947-48 at the point he started methodically gathering material on Missouri fiddlers and traditional music.

Christeson’s visits with and recordings of fiddlers resulted in two books and a double album set of fiddle tunes. In 1973 *The Old-Time Fiddler’s Repertory* was published by the University of Missouri Press and included 245 tunes collected from thirty-three fiddlers. This book contains written music for the tunes Christeson felt most strongly about saving and is categorized by breakdowns, waltzes, and quadrilles. Christeson published a second volume in 1984, this time collecting 215 fiddle tunes from forty-one fiddlers. One can listen to this set on *The Old-Time Fiddler’s Repertory: Historic Field Recordings of*

*Forty-one Traditional Tunes*, published by the University of Missouri Press in 1976.

Christeson’s collecting taught him the unique playing style of Missouri and Midwestern fiddlers, and while a solid fiddler himself with an ear for music, his real talent was an incredible knowledge of the music, its origins, and changes over time. He was a man who held on to the past and was bothered when bluegrass, western-style dancing, and grand standing fiddle tunes like the *Orange Blossom Special* were passed off as “old-timey” at folk festivals and fairs.

Customs changed despite his resistance, but Bob Christeson’s collecting, teaching, and deep involvement with fiddle and folklore organizations ensured that the old-time music and dancing of the Missouri Ozarks would not be forgotten.

### WHMC-Columbia Recent Acquisitions

#### • Jacqui Banaszynski Papers

Articles, research materials, interview notes, and correspondence of a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and educator who worked for several Midwest and Pacific Northwest newspapers.

#### • Andrew Harlan Scrapbook

Civil War-era correspondence and newspaper clippings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Harlan, a U.S. Representative from Indiana who was publicly read out of the Democratic Party, later relocated to Savannah, Missouri, where he served as a judge and Republican member of the state house of representatives, 1864-68.



## A rare and valuable gift: 1878 bird's eye view of Kansas City, Missouri

Lee and Kathryn Pickering and family presented the lithograph *Birds Eye View of Kansas City, Missouri* to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City in tribute to the heritage of the greater Kansas City community, on the occasion of John A. Dillingham being honored as the 2009 "Outstanding Kansas Citian" by the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, September 24, 2009.

Thirty years ago the foremost authority of lithographic city views, John Reps, a professor of city and regional planning at Cornell University, came to Kansas City doing research for his book, *Views and Viewmakers of Urban America*. Reps's goal was to document all the city views, artists, and publishers he could find. A massive and invaluable undertaking, John listed almost 4,500 views of U.S. and Canadian cities, including two original bird's eyes of Kansas City: the 1869 Albert Ruger view completed to highlight the new Kansas City Bridge—there are multiple extant copies; and the ca. 1878 view, which at the time was the only known copy. The recent gift to WHMC-KC is the second copy, now beautifully restored by Tom Edmondson of Heugh-Edmondson Conservation Services.

When John Reps first saw the ca. 1878 view, he felt it had been drawn by Augustus Koch, but unsigned works require significant detective work to piece together the evidence needed for a reasonable conclusion. Bird's eyes present features that are common to an artist such as the elevation at which the drawing is projected, the ratio and size of the piece, and the internal information in the drawing—what was included and what left out. In *Views and Viewmakers*, Reps observed, "Koch drew his cities with considerable care, consistently depicting his subjects as if seen from very high viewpoints. The horizon lines appear close to the tops of the

images, and the body of each print is thus full of urban detail. Koch also used a distinctive format, making his horizontal dimension not much greater than the vertical."

Most likely Koch came to Kansas City in 1879. He was first listed in the 1880 city directory as an artist and lithographer residing with his wife, Rosillia, daughter, Aurelia, and sons, Alphonso and Eugene, at 1819 Locust. In 1895 the family moved to Chicago.

It appears that for most of Koch's time in Kansas City, he worked for Ramsey, Millett and Hudson (which became Hudson-Kimberley around 1888 and Franklin Hudson Printing in 1904). He made twenty-two signed lithographs for the firm; however, there are an additional thirty-one views that Koch drew during his years in Kansas City (most likely for Ramsey, Millett and Hudson/Hudson-Kimberley), as well as two more produced by Ramsey, Millett and Hudson that are probably his work, for a total of fifty-one views drawn by Koch during his sixteen years in Kansas City. It is reasonable to assume that the ca. 1878 Kansas City view was his first work for Ramsey, Millett and Hudson.

This is an important document and intriguing in its scale and detail. Of course, by 1878 Kansas City was well into the era of the photograph, but bird's eye views provide a perspective not available in a street-level, or building-top photograph. It is particularly useful to compare various bird's eyes, photographs, and maps at different times to trace changes to the city structure and scope. Bird's eye views are often beautiful as well as useful, a fascinating combination that must be why John Reps became obsessed with the art of this historical record.



## WHMC-Rolla acquires records from Sligo Furnace



The Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Rolla has acquired records from the Sligo Furnace Company, the last iron-making enterprise in the Ozarks. Materials consist of a time book and a plat of the smelter complex near Salem in Dent County.

The Sligo Furnace Company was formed in 1880 to exploit deposits in Crawford, Dent, and Phelps counties along the line of the St. Louis, Salem and Little Rock Railway (later the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway's Salem Branch). The company's investors and first officers were the Crawfords of Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Missouri, capitalists interested in the iron and railroad industries, and David Carson, the former superintendent of Maramec Iron Works in Phelps County, Missouri. The Crawfords and Mr. Carson determined to build a furnace in Dent County at a site within reach of the railway and close to deposits of ore and limestone, and timber for charcoal making. The Sligo Furnace Company (a Missouri corporation) was capitalized at \$30,000, an amount raised to \$100,000 after land was acquired and construction begun on the furnace.

The furnace consisted of an iron-cased stack loaded from above. A forced-air blast raised the temperature, and molten metal trickled into a crucible tapped twice daily to produce "pigs" of raw iron. Rebuilt in 1898, the furnace produced 100 tons of iron daily at its peak. Once started, the process was more or less continuous. The spectacular tappings of the furnace were well attended by residents and visitors.

Wagons hauled ore from mines to points along the rail line between Salem and Steelville, thence to a spur built to the furnace at Sligo. In 1907 the company incorporated the Sligo & Eastern Railroad to haul timber from as far east as Iron County; the villages of Bixby, Buick, and Dillard had grown up along the line by the time the railroad became a common carrier in 1914.

From the beginning, making charcoal to fuel the furnace was a corollary operation. Workers produced the charcoal on site in large conical-shaped kilns, each containing about fifty cords of wood. The company recovered wood alcohol and other distillates from the charcoal-making process, making Sligo what now would be termed an integrated plant.

The company town of Sligo grew up just west of the furnace and eventually comprised about a thousand residents

living in a hundred frame houses, a small business area with a general store, feed store, hotel, barbershop, and other shops, a "clubhouse" for important guests, and a school and church funded and built by the company. The "mansion," or superintendent's house, overlooked the complex.

Sligo lasted longer than any other charcoal iron furnace in Missouri. Most furnaces went out of business in 1893 when a protective tariff on iron was discontinued, but Sligo smelted and stockpiled 900,000 tons of iron before sales picked up after 1897. Despite increased competition from the Great Lakes iron industry, Sligo profited by selling higher grade iron to be blended with inferior metal at foundries making railroad wheels and axles. Capitalist Edward F. Goltra, an officer of the American Car & Foundry Company (ACF) at St. Louis, bought the company in 1898 and eventually sold his holdings to ACF. In 1921 ACF determined that Sligo was unprofitable due to increasing costs of charcoal making as the supply of easily-accessible timber was depleted. The process of closing and scrapping the furnace was completed by 1923. This "blowing out" ended the livelihoods of hundreds of workers, some of whom had labored at Sligo their entire adult lives, and also ended iron smelting in the Ozarks, an industry that had begun at Ashebran's furnace in Iron County in 1815.

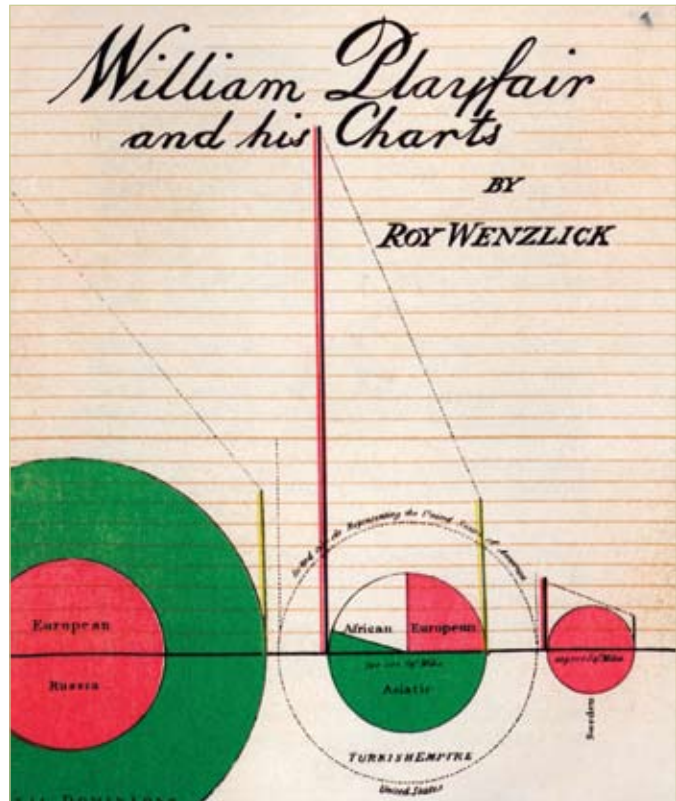
Robert W. Marshall Jr., the great grandson of Sligo's last superintendent, John Dey Marshall (1879-1928), brought the collection to WHMC-Rolla in August 2009. The materials are among the few company records still extant and consist of a time book for employees and a blueprint plat of the complex in 1908. The time book contains entries from April 1898 to March 1900, recording the names of nearly eight hundred employees, the type of labor performed, wage, hours and days worked per month, and deductions for rent, merchandise from the store, and feed for teams. The plat of Sligo (28" x 56") shows the furnace and associated structures, charcoal kilns and storage sheds, chemical plant and laboratory, residences and structures of the village, and tracks of the Sligo & Eastern.

Additional information on the enterprise at Sligo can be found in the Robert L. Elgin research collection, Elzie Brand's "A History of East End and the Community," and the Margaret Vickery papers, all available at WHMC-Rolla.

## Wenzlick Collection supports research on William Playfair

The Roy Wenzlick Collection at Western Historical Manuscript Collection-St. Louis was recently cited in the noted statistical journal, *Computational Statistics*, an international publication promoting methodological research in biometrics, econometrics, data analysis, graphics, simulation, and algorithms. The collection was used to support the article "Commemorating William Playfair's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday," which was co-authored by WHMC-St. Louis Associate Director William (Zelli) Fischetti with Joergen Symanzik and Ian Spence.

The Wenzlick Collection documents the work of Roy Wenzlick and Company, a realty business that maintained records of rental information, operating, construction, and material costs, and residential value data in St. Louis and several cities in surrounding states. From 1958 to 1963, the company appraised St. Louis County real estate for a countywide tax revaluation program in an effort to gain greater equalization. From 1932 to 1973, Roy Wenzlick published the journal *Real Estate Analyst*, which compiled data and predicted trends in housing and construction using graphs and charts. Throughout his career, Wenzlick had many reasons to make use of the graphical statistic expressions created by William Playfair (1759-1823), such as the line, bar, and circle graphs as well as the pie chart, and Wenzlick became somewhat of a devotee of Playfair. At one point, Wenzlick created a booklet on Playfair and gave it as a Christmas present to his friends and acquaintances in the real estate business. The article appearing in the September/October 2009 issue of *Computational Statistics* is a tribute to Playfair, and among many documents and images drawn from the Wenzlick Collection, the booklet is reproduced in its entirety.



## Recent WHMC-St. Louis accessions

### • Charles Samuel Rannells Papers

Papers of a St. Louis attorney, 1830s to 1870s. Rannells, a Kentucky native who arrived in St. Louis in 1841, was an attorney and a prominent participant in local business and political communities during a period of exponential growth for the region. He found friends among the city's elite, shared in its prosperity, served in public office, and constructed a network of legal connections that extended across the country.

### • Joe Wood Collection, 1934-1964

News clippings and over three hundred photographs from *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* photojournalist. Wood, a native of Elvins, Missouri, photographed political events, general news stories, and sports for the *Globe-Democrat*.

### • Leo Drey Foundation Records

Records of the Leo Drey Foundation, which promotes sustainable forest management and the protection of natural and cultural areas in Missouri and the Ozarks. WHMC-St. Louis already holds the papers of Leo A. Drey and his wife, environmentalist Kay Drey.

## Donation from Talking Tapes

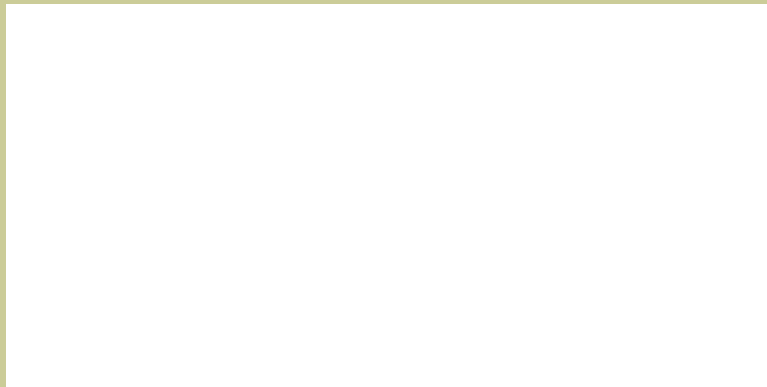
In July 2009 WHMC-St. Louis received a \$5,130 donation from Talking Tapes/Textbooks on Tape of Des Peres, Missouri, in honor of the group's board of directors. Staff members plan to use this generous donation to further collecting and processing goals.

Talking Tapes/Textbooks on Tape serves those unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, cognitive, or learning disabilities, and is the country's second-largest nonprofit provider of textbooks and educational support materials on tape to school-age children with special needs and individuals with disabilities. It also has become the largest nonprofit in the nation recording textbooks on two-track cassettes playable on standard cassette players. Talking Tapes/Textbooks on Tape donated scrapbooks, and audio and video tapes covering the period 1947-1995 to WHMC-St. Louis in May 2008.



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