

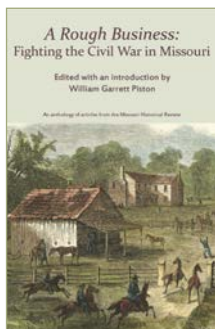
# MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

February 2012 Vol. 7, No. 4



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## National History Day in Missouri is the focus of SHSMO 2012 "Day at the Capitol"

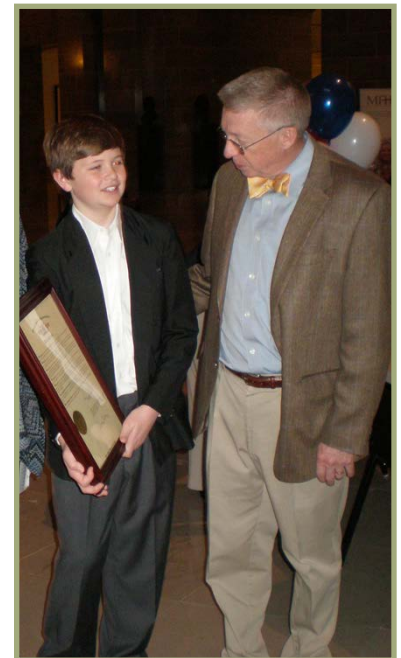
Eleven students, accompanied by supportive teachers and parents, traveled to the Missouri State Capitol on January 25 to talk about their positive experiences in the National History Day in Missouri program. NHD is a yearlong educational activity for children and young adults in grades 6-12. The program encourages young people to explore history and teaches them to understand historical issues, ideas, people, and events.

In Missouri, more than 2,600 students participate in local and regional competitions throughout the state, with over 600 advancing to the state contest on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia each April. Missouri's best contestants then receive an opportunity to compete at the national contest in June. All students at Day at the Capitol had finished with top honors at the state level, and several had also placed well in the national contest.

Legislators associated with the students' home districts spent time learning about the NHD program, the interests of the students and their chosen research topics, visiting with students, teachers, and parents, and viewing student exhibits and Web sites at the NHD display on the 3rd floor Rotunda. Governor Nixon was out of town the day of the event but arranged for his staff to give NHD students a tour of his Capitol office, and students, parents, and teachers went on guided tours of the full Capitol building—brushing up on their Missouri history and learning about significant artworks and the Missouri State Museum's historical exhibits.



William "Cody" Chlanda, of South Middle School in Joplin, poses with Senator Ron Richard and displays the proclamation offered by the Missouri Senate to honor Cody's NHD accomplishments.



John Swift of Columbia Catholic School visits with Representative Chris Kelly following receipt of a proclamation made by the House of Representatives to acknowledge John's scholarship in NHD.

Missouri State Museum's historical exhibits.

The general public, additional legislators, legislative staff, and media representatives were eager to talk with the young NHD scholars and congratulated them for working to improve their educational experience and, in the process, preserve and share Missouri history.

The following students made the 2012 Day at the Capitol a success by sharing their time and talents: Jason Ogle and Brandon Splitter, Carthage; John Swift, Columbia; Cody Chlanda and Benjamin Croy, Joplin; Emily Duncan, Liberty; Justin Hamilton and Jacob Schwenneker, Princeton; and Skyler Adams, Lauren Grunberg, and Tyler Hurt of St. Joseph.

The State Historical Society of Missouri is proud to acknowledge the Missouri Humanities Council for significant funding support and co-sponsorship of the National History Day in Missouri program.



## Missouri Veterans History Project

Since early 2010 the SHSMO has partnered with other organizations to form the Missouri Veterans History Project (MVHP). The goal of the project is to encourage volunteers to help collect first-hand recollections from Missouri veterans about their service. Copies of the oral histories are submitted to the SHSMO and also forwarded to the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project ([www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets)).

Staff members Jeff Corrigan and Tom Miller have conducted workshops, in Columbia and St. Louis, on the proper methods of recording veterans' oral histories. To date, 132 Missourians have been interviewed for the project, representing servicemen and women from all branches of the military serving in conflicts from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently, interviews are only taking place in Columbia and St. Louis, but the MVHP will expand with the support of additional community partners. At this time there is a greater need for volunteer interviewers to conduct oral histories than for veterans to interview.

The SHSMO also holds several additional veteran oral history collections. These collections reside in the Columbia Research Center but can be transferred by courier to Research Centers at Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis with a few days' notice. For information about the Society's holdings, contact Jeff Corrigan at [corriganj@umsystem.edu](mailto:corriganj@umsystem.edu).

The collection inventory for the Missouri Veterans History Project is available in the SHSMO Research Center-Columbia and on our Web site: <http://shs.umsystem.edu/manuscripts/invent/4052.pdf>. Please continue to check the inventory as the project grows. For more information about the MVHP, visit [www.mvhp.net](http://www.mvhp.net).



Missouri Veterans History Project

### Contact the Society

E-mail  
[shsofmo@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsofmo@umsystem.edu)

Web site  
[shs.umsystem.edu](http://shs.umsystem.edu)

Telephone  
(800) 747-6366  
(573) 882-7083

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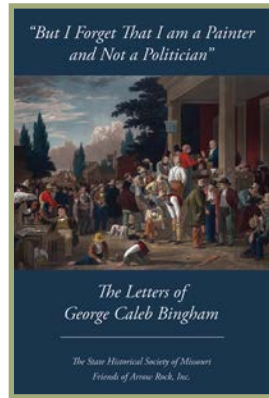
**Editor**  
Lynn Wolf Gentzler  
**Assistant Editor**  
Laura O. Wilson

## The Kansas City Star names The Letters of George Caleb Bingham a Top Book of 2011

*The Kansas City Star* released its list of the best books published in 2011 in December, and the SHSMO's publication "*But I Forget That I am a Painter and Not a Politician*": *The Letters of George Caleb Bingham* was among those chosen. The book was published in partnership with the Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc. with support from the Harriet Pillsbury Foundation.

Get your copy through the SHSMO gift shop at <http://shsofmo.org/store/publications.html>

From the Star: "This is our annual roundup of the year's best reading. These are the books—100 novels, works of nonfiction, children's titles and more—that made the most impression on our contributing reviewers and other professionals who do not fear to acknowledge that they spend a good amount of time consorting with the ideas, experience and escape that can still be found as fields of ink on paper and bound between two covers."



## 34th Annual Mid-America Conference on History Call for Papers

The 34th Annual Mid-America Conference on History will be held September 20-22 in Springfield, Missouri. Paper and session proposals on all fields and phases of history, including overview sessions and graduate student papers, will be considered. Proposals should include a paragraph about the content of each paper. The deadline for proposals is June 1. Contact Worth Robert Miller, Department of History, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO 65897 or [BobMiller@MissouriState.edu](mailto:BobMiller@MissouriState.edu).

For more information, go to <http://history.missouristate.edu/>.

## Gift of Sidney Larson Materials

The State Historical Society of Missouri received an important gift from Mary Wells Larson of material associated with her late husband, Sidney Larson, the Society's Curator Emeritus who passed away in May of 2009.

The gift consists of papers and photographs related to Larson's forty-three-year career as the SHSMO's art curator, as well as other items related to his work as an artist, conservator, and assistant to famed Missouri painter Thomas Hart Benton. In addition, the donation includes five major paintings by Larson, as well as a drawing and palette given to him by his friend and teacher, Missouri artist Fred Shane.



Executive Director Kremer, Mary Wells Larson, and Curator Joan Stack pose with a painting by Sidney Larson at the Larson home.

## Curator's Walk Through A State Divided: Missouri and the Civil War

On Saturday, January 28, Curator of Art Collections Joan Stack led fifty interested audience members on a guided tour of the SHSMO exhibit *A State Divided: Missouri and the Civil War*. The presentation, with in-depth focus on several featured artworks and artifacts, brought forth "new" information to listeners and gave many opportunities to understand Civil War Missouri in all its complexity and contradiction. Lively discussion took place throughout the presentation, and many audience members lingered after the formal talk to ask questions and share information with one another and Dr. Stack. Exhibit pieces that elicited the most interest included *Harper's Weekly* illustrations of important battles occurring in Missouri; a revolver used by one of Quantrill's Raiders; and portraits of Missouri's two Civil War governors—one elected and sympathetic with the Confederacy, the other, a Unionist appointed by state convention.



Joan Stack leads an interested, knowledgeable, and large audience through *A State Divided* on January 28. The exhibition will remain on display in the Main Gallery of the Research Center-Columbia through February.

## MU Academic Affairs buys microfilm scanners

The Society is most grateful for four microfilm scanners recently purchased by the University of Missouri's Office of Academic Affairs for use in SHSMO Research Centers. These "ScanPro" machines improve patron and researcher services by offering simpler and faster access to the Society's extensive microfilm collections. The equipment is also used regularly by staff members to complete research requests and electronically return results to off-site patrons, as well as to create digital images that in-house patrons can take away with them. Over the past few years, the SHSMO has been fortunate to receive funding for microfilm scanners from the Boone County Community Trust, A. P. Green Foundation, Heinkel Charitable Trust, and the Stafford Family Trust. With the addition of the recent gift from MU's Office of Academic Affairs, all Research Centers—Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis—now offer this important equipment.

The Office of Academic Affairs' purpose is to serve as a catalyst for change that promotes quality and access to the University's academic programs by supporting research and scholarship, and promoting cooperative initiatives that enable the campuses to accomplish their goals. The SHSMO appreciates the fact that University administrators identified enhanced access to historical records, manuscripts, and newspapers as fulfillment of this mission.

## Purchase of Benton Letters



Illustrated Letter, Thomas Hart Benton, c. 1910.

The SHSMO recently purchased two important Thomas Hart Benton illustrated letters made possible with the support of several generous donations.

Benton wrote the first to his mother in 1906 during his education at the Western Military Academy in Upper Alton, Illinois, and the second to his parents a few years later while he was an art student in Paris.

The letters and drawings represent an important developmental period for Benton and reveal elements of his future signature style. This material adds depth and increases understanding of the SHSMO's significant collection of Benton artworks.

## Show Me Missouri: Conversations about Missouri's Past, Present, and Future

Show Me Missouri: Conversations about Missouri's Past, Present, and Future is a speakers bureau program jointly organized and managed by the Missouri Humanities Council and the State Historical Society of Missouri. If your civic organization, museum, historical society, library, or similar institution or group is looking for an expert to give a presentation on a topic related to the history, culture, geography, and/or people of Missouri, please consider the Show Me Missouri speakers bureau.

Show Me Missouri will offer a selection of "basic programs," which are presentations addressing topics that have been chosen by our speakers. The list of speakers and descriptions of the basic programs can be found on the SHSMO Web site, <http://shs.umsystem.edu>, under the Education & Outreach section, or you may request a list by contacting program scheduler Barbara Gill at (314) 781-9660 or [Barbara@mohumanities.org](mailto:Barbara@mohumanities.org).

Examples of program titles include *African American Civil Rights in Post-Civil War Missouri*, *Native American Art, Symbol and Meaning*, *Missouri's Ancient Rock Art*, *The Majesty of the Osage*, *The Road to Brown v. Board of Education: Legal Cases Along the Way in Missouri*, *Picturing a State Divided: George Caleb Bingham and the American Civil War*, *Visualizing Tom Sawyer in the Twentieth Century: Thomas Hart Benton Illustrates Mark Twain*, and *The Father of Southeast Missouri: The Life and Times of Louis Houck*.

Special presentations can be created for your group for an additional charge and subject to the availability of scholars or experts willing to present a customized program.

Both non-profit and for-profit organizations can apply, but for-profit groups will be charged higher program fees. Please see the Web site, or contact Barbara Gill for specific program and fee information.



### George Caleb Bingham Society Charter Members

Thank you to the following individuals who have contributed \$1,000 to the SHSMO as members of the new George Caleb Bingham Annual Giving Society. This level of support is important to ensure stable funding of core projects and to create bold initiatives.

H. Riley and Jill Bock	Virginia J. Laas	Curt Poff
Rodney and Emily Boyd	David Lightfoot	Al and Marjo Price
Steven and Anita Byers	Stephen Limbaugh Jr. and	Bob and Nancy Priddy
Lawrence and Maxine Christensen	Marsha Limbaugh	Lucinda Rice-Petrie
Bryan and Anne Cook	Edward C. "Ned" Matthews III and	Ron and Patty Richard
Doug and Tricia Crews	Sarah Matthews	Brent Schondelmeyer and Lee Williams
Leo and Kay Drey	Ken and Cindy McClain	Ike and Patty Skelton
Richard and Ann Franklin	Eric and Sabrina McDonnell	Bea Smith
Douglas Hurt	Larry McMullen	Jeffrey and Jill Smith
Gary and Lisa Kremer	Robert and Linda Mueller	Will and Jan Trogdon
		Hank Waters and Vicki Russell

### The Civil War through artists' eyes

On an unseasonably warm Saturday, January 7, The Friends of Arrow Rock welcomed Joan Stack, SHSMO Curator of Art Collections, to the Visitor's Center at the Arrow Rock State Historic Site. Stack presented the inaugural lecture of the organization's 2012 First Saturday Lecture Series, which focuses on the Civil War in Missouri. A packed house of nearly seventy enjoyed Stack's program, "Picturing the Battlefield: Civil War Images of War Torn Missouri," which concentrated on artwork depicting the Civil War in Missouri, with an emphasis on two pivotal battles: the Battle of Lexington and the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Using examples from SHSMO's collection, as well as other artworks, Stack explored how Missouri battle pictures fit into the history of war imagery in Western art. She also discussed the strategies used to communicate political, geographic, and cultural messages in the works. A lively discussion followed.



At right, Joan is joined by Dr. Thomas B. Hall III, President, Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc.

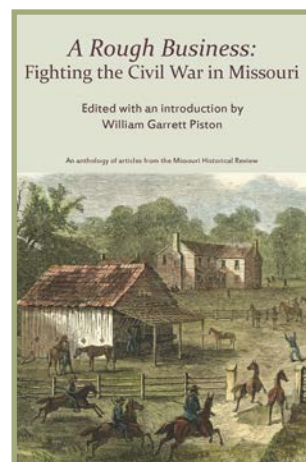
### 2012 Missouri Conference on History set for March 29-30

The 54th annual Missouri Conference on History will take place at the Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia on March 29-30. The conference, which is co-sponsored by SHSMO and the University of Missouri Department of History, will bring together scholars, students, and history professionals to examine historical themes and topics regardless of place and time period. It draws participants primarily from Missouri and surrounding states, but this year's program also includes scholars from the University of North Dakota, St. Norbert College (Wisconsin), Louisiana State University, and the University of Delaware.

The conference does not have an official theme, but includes two special events dealing with the difficult history of race and place in St. Louis. At the Thursday luncheon, Colin Gordon, professor of history at the University of Iowa and author of *Mapping Decline: St. Louis and the Fate of the American City*, will present the keynote address, "St. Louis Blues: The Urban Crisis in the Gateway City." That evening, the conference will screen *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth: An Urban History*, a recent, award-winning documentary on the history of public housing in St. Louis during the late twentieth century. A roundtable including Professor Gordon and Dr. Brian Woodman, one of the film's producers and an employee of the SHSMO Research Center-St. Louis, will follow the screening. Dr. Woodman conducted extensive research in the Society's collections to support the making of the film.

### SHSMO new book: *A Rough Business: Fighting the Civil War in Missouri*

The Society's new anthology of fourteen articles, chosen by Dr. William Garrett Piston, explains that no region of our state, no racial or ethnic group, and neither gender escaped the trials of the American Civil War. Missouri—on the border between Union and Confederacy—and divided by the allegiances of its residents to the cultures of North and South, could not avoid conflict during the war. The articles, originally published in the *Missouri Historical Review*, share a deliberate emphasis on military history—Dr. Piston argues for "its centrality to understanding the most significant conflict in our nation's history." The book covers the inauguration of Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson and his secessionist efforts through the early battles of the war to the effects of guerrilla warfare on the civilian population, both those with Unionist and Confederate leanings, to the aftermath of the war when freed people moved from rural environs to town and forced a new relationship between the races. Along the way, authors describe the impact of military rule in St. Louis and Kansas City and in rural regions such as Saline and Platte counties, and recount Union military movements through the Ozarks as well as a failed Confederate raid on Cape Girardeau. To purchase your hardback or soft cover copy of this important new book, call (573) 882-7083 or visit the online gift shop at [shs.umsystem.edu/publications](http://shs.umsystem.edu/publications).



### Final Call! Judges and Volunteers Needed

The National History Day in Missouri (NHDMO) program is still looking for judges and other volunteers for the April 21, 2012, state contest. NHDMO, the state affiliate of the National History Day program, is a year-long academic program for sixth through twelfth-grade students. In addition to expanding participants' knowledge of their chosen topics, the program helps prepare students for college, the workforce, and good citizenship. They conduct historical research, interpretation, and creative expression as participants in the program, and they present their findings at a series of contests. The State Historical Society of Missouri sponsors NHDMO, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council. Over 2,600 students in Missouri participate annually, and over 600 are expected to advance from regional contests to the state competition, held in Columbia.

Students' research focuses on this year's national theme, "Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History." Within the theme, they can choose any topic they wish—local, state, national, or international—from any era of history. Students explore historically significant revolutions and/or instances of reaction or reform, place them into historical context, and analyze their impact in history. They present their research and analysis in one of five formats—research papers, museum-style exhibits, dramatic performances, multimedia documentaries, or interpretive Web sites—at a series of regional, state, and national contests.

For the state contest on April 21, NHDMO must have almost 150 judges and about 50 other volunteers to help out for all or part of the day. Judges should have knowledge of history and/or education or a familiarity with one of the presentation formats, such as drama, speech, communications, and video or Web site production. Judges are placed in teams that balance history with other talents and new judges with experienced judges. Other volunteers can help with registration, selling t-shirts, "guarding" the doors while judging is going on, and more. Seeing the excitement and the fantastic work of these young people is so much fun that many of our volunteers come back year after year!

For more information, please see the Web site, <http://mo.nhd.org/volunteersalumni>. You can contact the state coordinator at (573) 882-0189 or [HistoryDay@umsystem.edu](mailto:HistoryDay@umsystem.edu).

Below: At the 2012 SHSMO Day at the Capitol, NHD students from Lafayette High School, St. Joseph, meet with State Representative Pat Conway. Left to right are Skyler Adams, Lauren Grundberg, and Tyler Hurt, with teacher Derek Frieling. Right: State Coordinator Debbie Luchenbill with Kathy, Jacob, and Brad Schwenneker from Princeton, Missouri.



### 2012 NHDMO Regional Contest Dates

- February 24**  
Region 1 Maryville, Tom Spencer  
[tspence@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:tspence@nwmissouri.edu) (660) 562-1294  
Region 7 Springfield, Gail Emrie  
[gailmrie@missouristate.edu](mailto:gailmrie@missouristate.edu) (417) 836-5913  
Region 8 Rolla, Jeff Schramm  
[schrammj@mst.edu](mailto:schrammj@mst.edu) (573) 341-4806
- February 25**  
Region 2 Kirksville, Jeff Gall  
[jgall@truman.edu](mailto:jgall@truman.edu) (660) 785-7747  
Region 4 Jefferson City/Columbia, Shelly Croteau  
[Shelly.Croteau@sos.mo.gov](mailto:Shelly.Croteau@sos.mo.gov) (573) 751-4303
- March 2**  
Region 6 Joplin, Paul Teverow  
[teverow-p@mssu.edu](mailto:teverow-p@mssu.edu) (417) 625-3114
- March 3**  
Region 3 Greater Kansas City, Mark Adams  
[mark.adams@nara.gov](mailto:mark.adams@nara.gov) (816) 268-8236
- March 9**  
Region 9 Cape Girardeau, Laurie Hamblin  
[lhamblin@semo.edu](mailto:lhamblin@semo.edu) (573) 651-2715
- March 24**  
Region 5 St. Louis, Peter Acsay  
[acsayp@msx.umsu.edu](mailto:acsayp@msx.umsu.edu) (314) 516-5700

### NHDMO State Contest

**April 21** University of Missouri-Columbia

### Kenneth E. Behring

### National History Day Contest

**June 10-14** University of Maryland-College Park



## February

through April 28

Research Center-Columbia, Corridor Gallery

The run of this special show has been extended due to its removal during clean up and renovations to the Columbia Research Center's Corridor Gallery following the fall 2011 arson incident in Ellis Library. The exhibition shows the important work of Missouri artist Fred Geary (1894-1946), a leading figure in the American woodcut revival of the 1930s and '40s who showed exceptional skill and expertise in this medium.

**Fred Geary:**  
**Missouri Master of the Woodcut**



Reminder: Research Center-Columbia is closed Mondays.

## George Washington Carver: Scientist and Symbol

February 23 5:30 p.m. Research Center-Columbia by Gary R. Kremer and Charles Nilon

Director Gary Kremer and MU School of Natural Resources Professor Charles Nilon will present a program on George Washington Carver that moves us past a simplistic understanding of Carver as the first African American scientist who studied the peanut at Tuskegee Institute. Nilon will discuss Carver as a scientist and focus on his work in conservation, while Kremer will explain how Carver does not align easily as hero or myth but is better understood as an extraordinarily complex man living in an extremely complicated society.

**KFRU News Talk**  
**1400 AM**

February 22  
8:30 to 9:00 a.m.  
Gary and Charlie  
will be on



Columbia Morning with David Lile

## March

1942: Thomas Hart Benton's Year of Peril



March 3 Research Center-Columbia, Main Gallery

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the creation of Thomas Hart Benton's *Year of Peril* series, the State Historical Society will mount an exhibition of all eight of the large, war propaganda paintings Benton created at the outset of the U.S. involvement in WWII. Also included will be editorial cartoons and war posters created by other artists in 1942.

## New Revelations of the Gentry Family by Elizabeth Gentry Sayad

March 8 12 Noon 1300 Woodrail Ave., Country Club of Missouri, Columbia

Join us for lunch and a program by St. Louisan Elizabeth Gentry Sayad—author, historic preservationist, and descendant of Columbia pioneer Richard Gentry. Mrs. Sayad will speak about her heritage, which was recently demonstrated, February 4, at Florida's Okeechobee Battlefield Historic Park during a rededication of the battle's commemorative marker. Elizabeth's great, great grandfather Richard Gentry supplied hundreds of horses, raised a regiment of Missouri volunteers, and ultimately lost his life leading the charge against the Seminoles on Christmas Day 1837.

On March 8 Mrs. Sayad will share more Gentry family history, with a focus on her relationship with a great uncle, North Todd Gentry, who told her many interesting stories when she was a young girl. The book, *The Writings of North Todd Gentry: Stories from Columbia's Colorful Past*, will be available for purchase and signing by editors Warren R. Dalton Jr. and David A. James.

\$15 per person with reservations required by March 5. Please call the SHSMO at (573) 882-7083.

**The Golden Lane:**  
**How Missouri Women Gained**  
**the Vote and Changed History**  
by Margo McMillen

March 8 5:30 p.m. Research Center-Columbia

In June 1916 the Democratic National Convention met in St. Louis. Inside the Jefferson Hotel, the men ate breakfast and met in committees. Outside, thousands of women quietly stood shoulder to shoulder, along both sides of Locust Street, in dresses that brushed the pavement with yellow sashes that said "Votes for Women." The all-male delegations may not have been comfortable with this "Golden Lane," but they were moved to add women's suffrage to the national platform.

Join Margot McMillen for an accessible history of a privilege too often taken for granted.

## Missouri Conference on History

March 29-30 Courtyard by Marriott, Columbia

The 54th annual Missouri Conference on History is co-sponsored by the SHSMO and the MU Department of History.

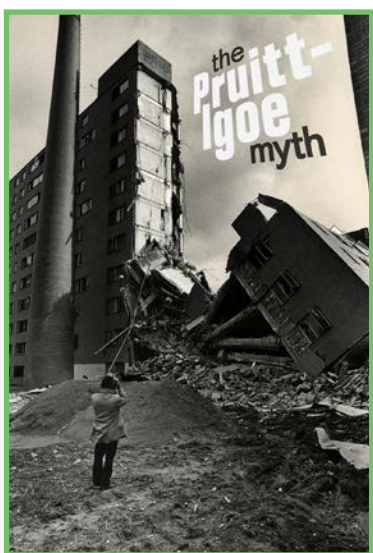
The 2012 conference will feature a keynote address at lunch on Thursday, March 29, by University of Iowa Professor of History Colin Gordon (above right), who will speak about his book *Mapping Decline: St. Louis and the Fate of the American City*. The work is highly regarded for coupling extensive research with use of the latest digital mapping technology.



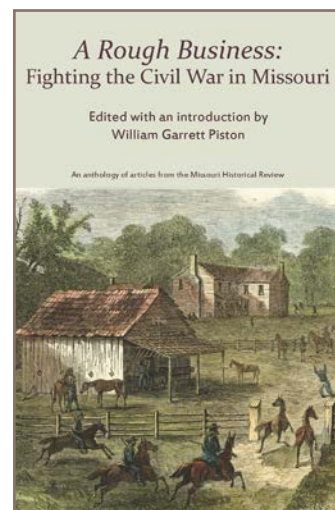
Also, the conference will host a screening of Chad Freidrich's award-winning documentary, *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth: An Urban History* on Thursday evening, 7 p.m. The public is invited at no charge.

To attend conference sessions, including the keynote address, payment of the registration fee is required and should be made by Friday, March 23.

For more information, visit the conference Web site at [shs.umsystem.edu/mch](http://shs.umsystem.edu/mch).



March 12 Kickoff Event



**A Rough Business:**

**Fighting the Civil War in Missouri**

5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Drury University

Presentations and book signing and sales will be held in Lay Hall Auditorium on the Drury University campus in Springfield. For details, contact (573) 882-7083 or visit <http://shs.umsystem.edu>.

**Why the Civil War was Different in Missouri**  
by Dr. William Garrett Piston

Hear from the editor of this new anthology—Bill Piston, professor of history at Missouri State University and a noted scholar on the peculiarities and complexities of Civil War Missouri.

**Picturing the Battlefield: Artists' Visions of the Battle of Wilson's Creek**  
by Dr. Joan Stack

Wilson's Creek is the most frequently depicted Missouri Civil War Battle. This presentation explores 19th century images of the battle, investigates their relationship to classical traditions, and examines 20th century changes in the imagery.

## April

**National History Day in Missouri**

April 21 University of Missouri campus, Columbia

SHSMO, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council, will host the state-level contest of NHDMO for over 600 students with projects on the 2012 theme, "Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History." See page 5 for ways to get involved.

**Charles N. Kimball Lecture Series Judge Duane Benton**

April 26 4:00 p.m. Student Union, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Judge Duane Benton of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, will give the 2012 Charles N. Kimball lecture. For more information, contact David Boutros at the SHSMO Research Center-Kansas City (816) 235-1543.

## Looking ahead

**Donkeys and Elephants: Animal Symbols in Political Cartoons**

Opening May 22 Research Center-Columbia, Corridor Gallery

With the election season upon us, this exhibit will show political cartoons from the 20th and 21st centuries.

## College Periodical Collection

In 1895 a young Oklahoman left home to attend Scarritt College in Neosho, Missouri. Hoping to become a “top steer roper,” he spent much of his time practicing with his lasso. One day the headmaster’s mare, trailed by its colt, wandered onto the school grounds. On a dare, the young man lassoed the colt, which bolted, tore down the tennis court net, jumped a fence, and disappeared from sight. The would-be champion roper was promptly dismissed from the school. Although his career ended prematurely at Scarritt College, Will Rogers went on to become one of the most beloved American humorists and social commentators of all time.

Scarritt College catalogs are among the many items researchers can find in the SHSMO Research Center-Columbia’s uncataloged college periodical collection. The largest collection of its kind in the state, it is not comprehensive—meaning not all issues of every publication are included—but it is quite extensive. There are catalogs, bulletins, announcements, and yearbooks from a number of colleges, academies, seminaries, and trade schools still in existence, as well as from institutions no longer in operation. The various periodicals often offer course descriptions, admission requirements, and, in some cases, student lists. While the collection does not include transcripts or student records, it is useful for researchers interested in the history of education in Missouri; those who want to research the history of a particular school; or those looking to document a family member’s enrollment at a school that no longer exists. Because the collection is not fully catalogued, researchers should first contact staff at the Columbia Research Center to inquire as to whether the collection includes the material they seek.

Missouri was once home to numerous military academies. Wentworth Military Academy and College in Lexington and the Missouri Military Academy in Mexico are the only ones that remain. Marmaduke Military Academy in Sweet Springs, Bles Military Academy in Macon, Camden Point Military Institute in Platte County, Kemper Military School in Boonville, and Kirkwood Military Academy are among the bygone academies whose materials are part of the collection.

Religious schools and seminaries are also well represented with a wide variety of material from many institutions and denominations, including Pierce City Baptist College, Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Central Wesleyan College in Warrenton, Principia College (Christian Scientist) in St. Louis, Evangel University (National Assemblies of God) in Springfield, Missouri School of Religion in Columbia, and Bishop Robertson Hall in St. Louis. The Society also has a copy of the first annual catalog of Freethought University in Liberal, Missouri. Founded in 1887 by atheist G. H. Walser, this short-lived

experiment in education sought to “meet the wants of Freethinkers.”

Professional and trade schools are also represented. The Sedalia Telegraph Institute and Railroad Business College, founded in 1874, taught telegraphy, typewriting, shorthand, and penmanship. Graduates found work as telegraph operators, station agents, and train dispatchers. Kansas City’s Rahe’s Auto and Tractor School billed itself as the “world’s greatest automobile and tractor school.” As expected, students learned how to work on engines, automobiles, electrical systems, and tractors. The school also offered courses in welding, repair shop management, and “power farming,” which meant learning how to safely and efficiently operate a tractor. There are quarterlies and catalogs from the Kansas City Veterinary College; bulletins, catalogs, and journals from the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville; and addresses and catalogs from the Benton College of Law in St. Louis.

Researchers interested in the history of women and minorities will find a small amount of materials of interest. All-female schools such as Hosmer Hall in St. Louis and Cottey College in Nevada are featured. A significant, but extremely limited number of catalogs are available from all-female schools that operated during the nineteenth century: Mr. and Mrs. Smith’s Female Seminary in St. Louis, Camden Point Female Academy in Platte County, Danville Female Academy, the Synodical Female College in Fulton, and Elizabeth Aull Seminary in Lexington. Few African American materials are in the collection, but there are a sizable number of yearbooks, announcements, and catalogs from Sedalia’s George R. Smith College, a historically black college. Ragtime musician Scott Joplin was one of many African Americans who attended the school.

The college periodical collection is complimented by the Society’s reference print library and various college manuscript, university, and education collections.



Editors of the Bles Military Academy Monthly (Macon, Missouri), from the *Book of Views*, June 1901.

## Frederick Marion Wanger World War I Collection

Two interesting and related collections recently came to the SHSMO Research Center-Kansas City: the Frederick Marion Wanger (1888-1956) Family Papers and the Frederick Marion Wanger (1917-1970) World War I Collection. Together they detail the life of a World War I veteran.

Fred M. Wanger was born October 26, 1888, in Fairfax, Atchison County, Missouri, to Frederick Steven and May Thompson Wanger. After graduation from Fairfax High School in 1905, Wanger attended Platt Commercial College in St. Joseph, Missouri. He held the position of clerk with the probate court of Buchanan County until World War I.

Wanger was inducted into the army on October 1, 1917, at Camp Funston, Kansas. He attained the rank of sergeant and served as company clerk of Company A, 356th Infantry Regiment, 89th Division.

After nine months of training at Camp Funston, Company A, composed almost entirely of Missourians, departed on May 23, 1918, for Europe, arriving June 17 at Liverpool, England, aboard the English ship *Coronia*. After a march through the English countryside and additional training, they crossed the English Channel to La Havre, France, arriving at 3:00 a.m. on June 21.

They began their deployment August 4 in the Toul Sector opposite the strongpoint of Montsec Hill:

*As usual it was raining and dark and absolute silence prevailed, except for the tramp, tramp, tramp of the dough-boys as we plowed our way through the mud. We marched over a much camouflaged road, lighted up every few minutes by flares and rockets and from the hills around us many search lights played upon the heavens in an effort to locate a Boche flyer who was hovering over us.*

*Now and then the stillness would be broken by the report of a distant cannon or the rattle of a machine gun somewhere along the line. We arrived at Raulecourt about 10 P.M., and stayed there a night and day, moving out to our position at Newton Cross Roads the next night.*

The night of August 15, the company moved to the front line opposite Xivray and Montsec, and early in the morning of August 19, the German artillery opened up on their position—their “baptism of fire.” From then until the end of the war, Company A brought honor on themselves and their country in numerous battles: August 10 - September 12, 1918, Sector Northwest of Toul; September 12 -15, St. Mihel Offensive; September 14 - October 8, Sector from Xammes to Bois de Dampvitoux; September 23, Raid in Dom Martin Woods; October 9 -19, Meuse-Argonne Offensive (in reserve); and October 22 - November 11, 1918, Clearing of Bois de Bantheville.

A point of particular pride for the company was the awarding of the Medal of Honor, the highest award in the United States Army, to Capt. Marcellus H. Chiles, Pvt. David B. Barkeley, and Sgt. Harold I. Johnston for acts of personal bravery above and beyond the call of duty. The awarding of this medal to three members of one company was considered a record throughout the American Expeditionary Forces.

After the war, Fred Wanger returned to his civilian job as clerk of the probate court of Buchanan County. He graduated from the St. Joseph Law School in 1923, was admitted to the Missouri Bar, entered the private practice of law, and served as the police judge of the City of St. Joseph from 1941 until his death.

The Family Papers contain letters, photographs, and other documents relating to Wanger’s life, family, and career as a police judge (ca. 1890-1956; 1 cubic foot).

The World War I Collection includes letters, photographs, manuscript and printed history of Company A, artifacts and other documents related to Company A, its service in the war and after, reunions, and the American Legion (ca. 1917-1970; 1 cubic foot).



Twenty-first annual reunion of Wanger’s Company A, on November 11, 1939, in St. Joseph.

**The Way We Worked exhibition builds partnerships**



Left: Professional synchronized swimmers (center, matching suits) performed on opening day of the Rolla Swimming Pool in 1945. Booker H. Rucker Collection. Below: George Barnitz of Lake Spring won a free dairy cow during Dairy Promotion Day in 1929. Frank Barnitz Family Collection.



This past November and December, the Research Center-Rolla helped develop a local history exhibit to accompany the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibition *The Way We Worked*. SHSMO-Rolla staff member Leann Arndt volunteered to research and design the local exhibit; assistant director John Bradbury contributed regional expertise and editorial assistance.

Sponsored by the City of Rolla and Arts Rolla, both the Smithsonian exhibit and the local exhibit focused on the ways individuals and communities identified themselves by their work. Over 5,200 people viewed the local exhibit while it was on display in Rolla.

In past years, the Smithsonian, the Missouri Humanities Council, and local partners have collaborated to bring high-quality traveling exhibitions on various national themes to Missouri's small towns and rural audiences. Local hosts provide the venue and volunteers to involve the community and schools, sponsor special events, and create a community exhibit that complements the Smithsonian's broader context. Ste. Genevieve and Rolla hosted *The Way We Worked* in 2011, and the exhibition continues on to Poplar Bluff, Fulton, Lawson, and Savannah through June 2012.

The local exhibit at Rolla highlighted occupations and employment in nine broad categories that were driving forces in the development of Crawford, Dent, Maries, Phelps, and Pulaski counties. Under the headings Agriculture, Timber, Mining, Railroads, Government, Tourism, Education, Medicine, and Trade & Industry, interpretive text and over two hundred drawings and photographs, dating from 1862 to 2011, illustrated those topics on large banners.

The exhibition provided opportunities for the Research Center-Rolla to renew existing relationships and establish new ones in the community and to review a wide range of photographic and archival materials representing the five-county area. Groups generously contributing images and historical information included local historical societies and state agencies such as the George O. White State Nursery in Licking and the Missouri Veteran's Home in St. James; federal agencies including the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence at Fort Leonard Wood and the United States Geological Survey in Rolla; and companies such as McGinnis Wood Products in Cuba, Brewer Science in Rolla, and Tacony Manufacturing in St. James. SHSMO-Rolla also loaned images from many collections. Several private photograph collections shared by individuals and families contained views worthy of permanent preservation.

SHSMO-Rolla acquired images from the Frank Barnitz and Parry/Tilford family collections, showing rural and agricultural life from the early 1900s into the 1980s in Phelps and Dent counties. The photographs include relatively common subjects such as cattle herds, a gasoline-powered sawmill, and a barn-raising, but, surprisingly, these types of images are under-represented in SHSMO-Rolla collections. Portraying small-town life in mid-twentieth century are views from the Jack Frost and Booker H. Rucker family collections. The photographs in the Frost collection show small-town pursuits including grocery stores, a riding stable, and cab companies, and in the Rucker collection, a most notable event—the opening of Rolla's first public swimming pool in 1945.

Right: The local *The Way We Worked* exhibit showing Government, Mining, and Agriculture subject panels designed by SHSMO-Rolla staff members.



**I Remember You Exhibit**

*I Remember You, St. Louis*, an exhibit of photographs by Arthur Proetz, is on display in the stairwell gallery at SHSMO-Research Center-St. Louis.

Arthur Proetz was a St. Louis native, born in 1890, and he spent most of his life in the city. He took an interest in photography at an early age because of the proximity of his home to Gustav Cramer's dry plate business. The exhibit includes 43 images, dating from 1900 to 1938, selected from the collection of over 1,700. Photographs reflect images of a 1923 St. Louis Air Show; the 1927 tornado; the Pageant and Masque; the Veiled Prophet ball; and construction of the *Admiral* riverboat. The exhibit will remain on display until May 1.



The *I Remember St. Louis* exhibit includes this photograph, taken by Dr. Arthur Proetz, of musicians leaving a riverboat after a City Club excursion in 1914.

**Images in Photograph Database Surpass 20,000**

Image scanning of the photograph database at the Research Center-St. Louis has reached 20,000 images available to view by researchers. Another 88,000 photograph records appear in the database with written descriptions but no image, and staff members continuously add to this total. Links to many individual collection photo databases appear within the online inventory.

**Elizabeth Sayad Oral History**

The SHSMO Research Center-St. Louis recently conducted an oral history interview with Ms. Elizabeth Gentry Sayad. Ms. Sayad has sponsored the Mississippi Riverboat Races and is a promoter of the arts and an accomplished pianist. Ms. Sayad's great-great-grandfather, Richard Gentry, was a commissioned colonel who died leading the Missouri Volunteers regiment against the Seminole Indians at the Battle of Lake Okeechobee on Christmas Day in 1837.

**New material and increased access to significant collections**

An addendum to the papers of noted conservationist and landowner Leo Drey has been made. This new material includes correspondence and news clippings files kept by Drey and has been indexed to subject categories for easy access. Subjects include the Biosphere Reserve, Creve Coeur Lake, Forest Park, and sustainable forestry.

The Gloria Simpson Collection has been recently processed and includes 178 images dating from 1870 to 1947—early street scenes and historic buildings, school bands, and sculpture and other art. Simpson worked for commercial photographer Frank White, and many of the images were taken by him. The collection also includes images taken by Emil Boehl and a World War II scrapbook compiled by Mrs. Simpson. The collection was donated by Mrs. Simpson's son, James Simpson.



This 1876 Emil Boehl photograph reflects a view down Fourth Street from Morgan Avenue in St. Louis. Gloria Simpson Collection.



**The State Historical  
Society of Missouri**  
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