

# MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

August 2015 Vol. 11, No. 2



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### Registration Now Open for Center for Missouri Studies Event Featuring Little-Known Side of Legendary Explorer William Clark

When attorney and historian Jo Ann Trogdon first read William Clark's notebook detailing his journey in 1798 from Ohio to New Orleans, she knew she was on to something. She spent the next several years delving into Clark's little-known and perhaps unsavory activities before he embarked for the Pacific Northwest with the Corps of Discovery in 1804.

What she discovered will be the center of discussion at the inaugural presentation in the Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series. The event will coincide with the Society's 2015 annual meeting on Saturday, October 17 at The Broadway hotel in downtown Columbia.

Years of extensive research culminated in Trogdon's forthcoming book, *The Unknown Travels and Dubious Pursuits of William Clark*, published by the University of Missouri Press. To help analyze the whispered stories in Clark's past, William E. (Bill) Foley, professor emeritus of history at the University of Central Missouri and a Clark biographer, will join Trogdon for a discussion that is sure to leave attendees questioning the life and legacy of one of America's most celebrated explorers.

The program is a fitting topic for the Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series as the catalyst for Trogdon's investigation, Clark's

notebook with his personal notes and a map of the Mississippi River, has been in the State Historical Society of Missouri's collections since 1928 (C1075).

Registration is now open for the luncheon at <http://shs.umsystem.edu/annualmeeting> or by phone at 573.882.7083. Please reserve a place for yourself and additional attendees by October 9 for the luncheon: \$35 members, \$40 nonmembers. All other events are free and open to the public, including the 11:00 a.m. business meeting, which will provide a presentation of highlights from the past year made possible by contributions from members of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

A silent auction will also be held to support the James W. Goodrich Graduate Research Assistantship, National History Day in Missouri, and the Oral History program.

Watch the *Missouri Times* and the State Historical Society of Missouri's website for dates of future Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series presentations.

# 10.17.15

## Schedule

**10 a.m.**  
Silent Auction Opens

**11 a.m.**  
Business Meeting  
and Annual Report

**12 p.m.**  
Luncheon *Registration Required*

**1 p.m.**  
Center for Missouri Studies  
Speaker Series Presentation



William Clark scholars William E. (Bill) Foley and Jo Ann Trogdon. Trogdon's new book explores activities recorded in a notebook by Clark that is preserved within the State Historical Society of Missouri's collections. Trogdon photo by Edgar Ailor III.



*The Emigration of Daniel Boone* is now on display at the Research Center—Columbia.

## Rare Artwork Completes Only US Public Collection of Bingham's Engravings and Lithographs

The State Historical Society of Missouri recently acquired a lithograph by Claude Regnier of George Caleb Bingham's *The Emigration of Daniel Boone*. The print was published in both Europe and America in 1852 by Goupil and Company of Paris, France. The new acquisition is an unusual uncolored example of this extremely rare nineteenth-century print. In April the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees voted to purchase the lithograph, which completes the State Historical Society of Missouri's collection of George Caleb Bingham prints. The State Historical Society now is home to the only public collection in the nation with examples of all of Bingham's lifetime engravings and lithographs. The print of Boone is on display in the Main Gallery of the State Historical Society of Missouri's Research Center—Columbia.

## A Volunteer and a Card Catalog: Records Project Opens Family History to SHSMO Members

Marlene Lee of Columbia has been a dedicated volunteer at the State Historical Society since 2012. Last year, she began the daunting task of reorganizing thousands of membership cards dating back to 1906. The card catalog was maintained by hand until 2010, when the process went digital.

The project has allowed SHSMO to locate and update records of past and current members. On occasion it has also helped answer questions for patrons. One example is the membership history of Charlotte "Chockie" Burk Simons from northeast Missouri. Simons and her late husband,

David Forsythe, owned several weekly newspapers in Schuyler, Scotland, and Clark counties from 1959–1986. They faithfully sent issues to be preserved as part of the Society's newspaper collection.

Simons's father, Sam Burk of Kirksville, was a pioneer radio broadcaster and a former SHSMO trustee. When Simons inquired about the length of her family's relationship with the Society staff members were able to locate the cards of her parents and her paternal grandmother.

The cards were scanned and sent to Simons, who was ecstatic to have these pieces of

her family history demonstrating a long commitment to SHSMO.

"I do hope you have some time to do this for other people! I used to do research for people in the old *Democrat* files in Memphis. It is fun! Thank you so much for the cards," Simons wrote.

In preserving more than a century of information stored in the card catalog, Lee's hard work has resulted in some surprising personal rewards. "I found so many members of my family, teachers, neighbors, and friends. This has been, unexpectedly, one of the most remarkable tasks for me," Lee said.

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### MISSOURI TIMES

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## State Historical Society Collections Featured in Springfield Exhibit

Missouri State University's Special Collections and Archives Department, host of the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center—Springfield, has opened a new exhibit, *Traveling through History*. The exhibit showcases the travel and leisure activities of Missourians. Featured are rare books such as an 1840 edition of *The Journal of Lewis and Clark*, an 1883 edition of *Life on the Mississippi* by Mark Twain, and popular early twentieth-century travel guides including *Baedeker: Paris and Environs* (1913). The work of local artists and photographers that depict various means of travel available to Missouri vacationers also augment the display. Materials on the St. Louis and San Francisco "Frisco" Railway help complete the exhibition.

Several State Historical Society of Missouri items, such as a 1934 Missouri map and calendar produced for the Atlasta Service Station in St. James, Missouri, are included in the display. Other items shown include photographs and postcards related to Route 66, Missouri businesses, and tourist attractions. The show can be viewed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours until 9 p.m. on Tuesdays when classes are in session. The exhibit will be on display through September 11.



The *Traveling through History* exhibit is open now through September at the Missouri State University's Special Collections and Archives Department.

## State Historical Society's Famous Artworks Tour the Nation

George Caleb Bingham's 1849 masterpiece *Watching the Cargo* is now in New York for the third leg of a prominent national exhibition, *Navigating the West: George Caleb Bingham and the River*. The traveling exhibit opened at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on June 17. After attracting large crowds at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, Texas, and the St. Louis Art Museum, *Navigating the West* received rave reviews in New York, with praise for the exhibition in both the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Former Missouri governor and senator Christopher "Kit" Bond spoke during the two-day opening event on June 28–29, which was attended by SHSMO art curator Joan Stack.

Meanwhile in Salem, Massachusetts, Thomas Hart Benton paintings from SHSMO's collection also earned national attention at the June 6 opening of the exhibition *American Epics: Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood*. The show includes four of the Society's large Benton World War II paintings—*Negro Soldier*, *Exterminate, Again*, and *Invasion*—testifying not only to the importance of these pictures in Benton's oeuvre, but also to the national significance of SHSMO's art collection. *American Epics* closes at the Peabody Essex on September 7 and will then be on display at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City from October 10 until January 3, 2016. In 2016 the exhibition will travel to the Amon Carter Museum of American Art (February 6–May 1) and the Milwaukee Art Museum (June 9–September 5). Seven Benton lithographs from the SHSMO collection will also be included in the installation of the exhibition in Kansas City.



Former Missouri governor and senator Christopher "Kit" Bond and SHSMO art curator Joan Stack pose in front of *Watching the Cargo* at *Navigating the West*'s opening at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in June. Photo courtesy of Linda Bond.



Workmen demolishing the trading hall ceiling, exposing its iron trusses and opening the grand room to the sky.

## Photo Corner: St. Louis Merchants Exchange Building

In 1957 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* photographer Arthur Witman documented the demolition of an architectural treasure, the St. Louis Merchants Exchange Building. Erected in 1875 at Third and Chestnut in downtown St. Louis, the massive Italianate structure consisted of two buildings joined together by an enormous room. This grand room—the largest interior space in the country at the time of its construction—served as the trading floor of the oldest grain market in the United States. Large-scale events such as the 1876 Democratic National Convention were held there. The interior was lavishly decorated with painted, vaulted ceilings; a hand-carved walnut rostrum; a winding walnut staircase; marble fountains; and elaborate brass door fittings. During the demolition much of this finery was salvaged and repurposed. The intricate iron of the elevator doors and some of the wood paneling were used in Jay Landesman's popular Crystal Palace nightclub in Gaslight Square. Thousands of Witman's photos are in the Society's collections, with many available online. (Arthur Witman 120mm Photograph Collection, S0732).

## Afternoon of Fiction Transports Attendees to Ozarks in the Civil War

On July 18 two authors conjured vivid scenes of turmoil in the Research Center–Columbia's main gallery. Steve Wiegenstein and Steve Yates shared readings from their latest historical fiction novels, which transported attendees to what remains one of the biggest disruptions in the lives of Missourians: the American Civil War.

"In Missouri there were savage, tiny conflicts in which the alternative to victory was death. It was savage, and it was personal," Wiegenstein said.

The war's personal nature is one reason why both men chose to write about the aftermath of the Civil War in the Ozarks. "In some ways fiction is the best way to discover someone lost in history. It's a way to search for things that may not be in the archival record," Yates said.

A fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission provided for Yates's travel.

Signed copies of the books are available in the gift shop. For details, contact 573.882.7083 or shsofmo@umsystem.edu.

## Save the Date for the Missouri Conference on History in Columbia

The 58th annual Missouri Conference on History, hosted and sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri, will be held March 9–11, 2016, at the Courtyard by Marriott and Conference Center in Columbia. Save the date to ensure you are there to hear recent scholarship from seasoned scholars and network with up-and-coming historians. Every year the conference features sessions on a wide variety of historical topics, including public history and historic preservation, so please plan on attending.

Paper, panel, and student poster proposals in all history fields are invited no later than November 1. The conference is particularly interested in proposals for complete sessions, including panelists, chair, and commentator. Attendees who are interested in serving as a session chair or commentator are also encouraged to respond. For additional information, please visit <http://shs.umsystem.edu/mch/call>.

**JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION!**

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# NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MISSOURI

www.nhdmo.org

## Students Honor Missouri's 'Silent Heroes' at Normandy American Cemetery

This summer, National History Day in Missouri sent two of the fifteen student-teacher teams selected from around the country to participate in the annual Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Albert H. Small Student and Teacher Institute. Barrett Young and his teacher Kelly "Simon" Matney (Nixa High School) and Audrey Calovich and her teacher Lisa Lauck (Notre Dame de Sion in Kansas City) returned in July from the battle site in France, where they took part in studying and commemorating the D-Day invasion.

Each team studied someone from their own state who now lies in the Normandy American Cemetery—soldiers deemed "silent heroes" by the Normandy Institute. They learned the stories of these heroes while also reflecting on their own experiences in visiting the place where one of World War II's decisive battles was fought.

**Calovich and Lauck:** Our silent hero, Edmund Decker, was born in Kansas City on June 7, 1920. Before the United States entered the war, he traveled to Canada, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, and shipped overseas to fly Spitfires. Two years later he was transferred to the US Army Air Force, where he trained to fly P-47 Thunderbolts and was assigned to the 361st Fighter Squadron of the 356th Fighter Group. An accomplished pilot, his job was to strafe German trains and convoys. The day after his 24th birthday he was shot down over Beauvais, making the ultimate sacrifice. Decker earned many medals for his service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**Young and Matney:** Our silent hero, Robert Raymond Martee, was from Rich Hill, Missouri, and enlisted in the US Army in 1939. A sergeant by 1941, he spent time training Filipino soldiers before going to England in 1944, where he served as first lieutenant in the 90th Infantry Division, 359th Infantry Regiment. Eight days after D-Day, he was killed in action on

June 14 while repelling a German counterattack near Picaerville. Martee earned numerous medals for his service, including the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

**Calovich and Lauck:** We traveled to the Normandy American Cemetery, where each student gave a beautiful, heartfelt eulogy for their hero. You can't help but think that for some of these men, this may have been the first time someone from home had visited them where they rest and spoken their names again as if they lived yesterday. As you look out and see all the crosses, white against the green grass, you hear the chiming of the bells and the waves crashing just below the cliffs.

*"You can't help but think that for some of these men, this may have been the first time someone from home had visited them where they rest and spoken their names again as if they lived yesterday."*

—Audrey Calovich and Lisa Lauck

**Young and Matney:** Our first thought was, "How in the world could anyone have survived this beach on D-Day?" It is at least 300 meters from the beginning of sandy beaches to water's edge; there is a mix of loose, packed, and soggy sand to navigate; the land overlooking the beach gave the Germans a clear line of sight. The run alone would be enough to put many people out of commission; try to imagine doing it in a water-logged military uniform while dodging bullets and artillery shells.

The Normandy Institute teams had the opportunity to explore other places that added to their understanding of what US servicemen experienced during the war. They visited the Angoville-au-Plain church used as a makeshift hospital during the battle. Calovich noted there were "still bloodstains from injured soldiers on the pews and a stained glass window in dedication to the paratroopers that landed in Normandy."

To read more about the Normandy Institute experience, visit: <http://bit.ly/NHDblog>.



**Far Left** Barrett Young and his teacher Kelly "Simon" Matney (Nixa High School) pose with the "Big Red One" monument during their visit to Omaha Beach. It honors the fallen from the 1st Infantry Division, which led the landing's first wave. **Left** Audrey Calovich and her teacher Lisa Lauck (Notre Dame de Sion in Kansas City) honored their silent hero, Edmund Decker, with flags and other regalia at his resting place in the Normandy American Cemetery.



Thank you to the Missouri Humanities Council, which serves as cosponsor for National History Day in Missouri.

## Are You English? New Collection Shows Prominent Southeast Missouri Family's Deep Roots

One of the earliest American families in southeast Missouri was that of Thomas and Jane Wicker English. The Virginia natives moved from Washington County, Georgia, to Cape Girardeau County between 1803 and 1805.

They had enough resources to purchase a parcel of land in 1806, which they farmed until 1813 and then sold to acquire a larger property on Ramsey Creek, south and west of Cape Girardeau. Their 12 children grew to maturity and married members of several prominent families in the region: McFerron, Evans, Hunter, Mathews, Howard, Kinnison, and Camster.

Several members of the English family moved farther west to Texas and Arkansas. In Red River County, Texas, there is even a small community named English, founded and settled by family members from Missouri.

Thomas English died in 1829 and Jane English in 1842. Both are buried in the small English cemetery under a copse of trees on private property. A grandson, Thomas B. English (1811–1866), achieved prominence as an attorney, newspaper editor, member of the Missouri legislature, judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, and landowner in Cape Girardeau, Scott, and Stoddard counties.

Children and grandchildren of Thomas B. English and his wife, Sarah Cone Joyce English, married into the Medley, Wilkinson, Giboney, Bogy, Edwards, Lawbaugh, Shively, Rodney, Whitelaw, Renfroe, and Ivers families. By the end of the nineteenth century many Cape Girardeau and southeast Missouri families had an “English connection.”

It would require a gifted genealogist to keep track of the widespread English lineage. Fortunately, Patricia Shively Shipman Elmore, an English descendant, took up the challenge. For nearly four decades Elmore accumulated extensive records from “an old cedar chest and other places,” including the memories of her cousins, and produced a history of the English family.

A former school librarian, Elmore recognized that she had established a valuable archival history of a family significantly involved in the development of southeast Missouri. Weeks before her death in January of 2015 she expressed her desire to preserve her collection



Three English cousins, Patricia Shively Elmore, left, Pat Russell Nance, and Mary Ann Smith, stand in the middle of the English Cemetery in October 2000. The small cemetery southwest of Cape Girardeau was being mapped and documented that fall.



with the State Historical Society of Missouri. Consequently, the Patricia Shively Elmore English Historical and Genealogical Collection will soon be available for patrons at all the State Historical Society of Missouri research centers by request from its home in Cape Girardeau.

Included in the collection are hundreds of folders of biographical information about members of the English family, numerous photographs, two extensive scrapbooks from the 1890s, and detailed diaries of trips from southeast Missouri



**Above** The English Cemetery surrounded by trees on a hilltop outside Cape Girardeau. Early burials there make this one of the oldest cemeteries in southeast Missouri. **Left** Patricia Shively Elmore spent nearly 40 years researching her family. Shortly before her death in January 2015 Elmore shared her wishes that the papers be preserved at the State Historical Society.

to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1922 and Yellowstone National Park in 1923. There are also newsletters from a variety of genealogical societies.

A highly skilled genealogist and historian, Elmore has given us a wonderful historical and genealogical resource that will enhance the study of southeast Missouri for generations to come.

For details on how to request this collection in your area, visit <http://shs.umsystem.edu/research/requestform>.



## August

### **Making Every Leaf Count Workshop** August 22 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Nevada

Explore new avenues in locating, documenting, and citing sources, and learn methods for organizing and storing research materials in this workshop brought to you by SHSMO, the Cedar and Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society, and the Bushwhacker Museum. The Society's librarian Amy L. Waters will provide tips on finding your family's history and organizing it for future generations. The cost is \$5. The workshop will be held at the Bushwhacker Museum at 212 W. Walnut Street in Nevada, Missouri. Preregistration is encouraged by August 15 by email (Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net), phone (417.922.3596), or mail (218 W. Walnut Street, Nevada, MO 64772, attention: Workshop).

### **Audubon's Paper Menageries Walk-Through** August 29 1:30 p.m. Columbia

Join SHSMO art curator Joan Stack at this free event at the Research Center-Columbia to discover the stories behind the wildlife pictured in the current exhibition, *Audubon's Paper Menageries: Birds and Quadrupeds*. Over 20 original hand-colored engravings and lithographs from the 1820s through the 1860s showcase John James Audubon's imaginative and engaging illustrations for his impressive multivolume works, *The Birds of America* and *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*. Experience the wonder nineteenth-century audiences must have felt as life-size birds seem to flutter from the pictures and wild creatures glower and hiss at their human observers.

## September

### **MU Art-i-Fact Gallery and Museum Crawl** September 17 4 – 8 p.m. Columbia

Visit MU galleries and museums while enjoying music, snacks, and art. Famous works by George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton will be on display at the Research Center-Columbia as well as the exhibits *Four Turbulent Decades* and *Audubon's Paper Menageries*. This event is sponsored by Art-i-Fact, a consortium of University of Missouri organizations where art, science, and culture are open for exploration.

### **Your Genealogy, Your History Workshop** September 26 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. St. Joseph

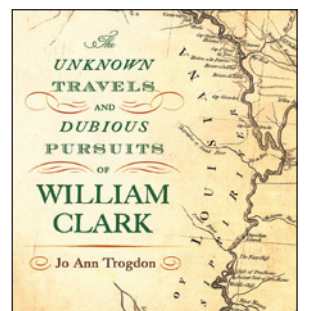
This free workshop sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri and the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society will provide an introduction to SHSMO and its holdings on Missouri's northwestern counties. Attendees will also learn about useful physical and electronic resources found at other Missouri repositories and participate in a discussion about the relationship between genealogy and local history. This class is suitable for beginning to advanced genealogists, as well as those who want to learn more about their family's place in history. It will be held at the East Hills Library at 502 N. Woodbine Road in St. Joseph. Registration is encouraged by September 18, but not required. Contact the Northwest Missouri Genealogical Society library at 816.233.0524 or email admin@nwmogenealogy.com to secure your spot.



## October

### **Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series** and 2015 Annual Meeting October 17 Columbia

Attend the inaugural presentation in the Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series! The featured program on the little-known, perhaps dubious activities of William Clark before he set out for the Pacific Northwest with the Corps of Discovery will shed new light on the life of one of America's most celebrated explorers. Registration is now open for the luncheon at [shs.umssystem.edu/annualmeeting](http://shs.umssystem.edu/annualmeeting) or by phone at 573.882.7083. All other events are free. Don't miss the 11:00 a.m. business meeting, which will include a presentation of highlights from the past year made possible by contributions from members of SHSMO. For more details, see page 1.



## November

### **Introduction to Oral History Workshop** November 2 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Independence



Move beyond personal papers and official records to discover the unique encounters with the past that oral history can provide. Working with SHSMO oral historian Jeff D. Corrigan, you will learn the fundamentals of taking oral history projects from initial idea to finished product. The workshop will focus on the pre-interview, interview, and post-interview phases, including drafting questions, using proper equipment, and more. This session will be at the Truman Library at 500 West US Highway 24 in Independence. Contact the Truman Library for details at 816.268.8200.

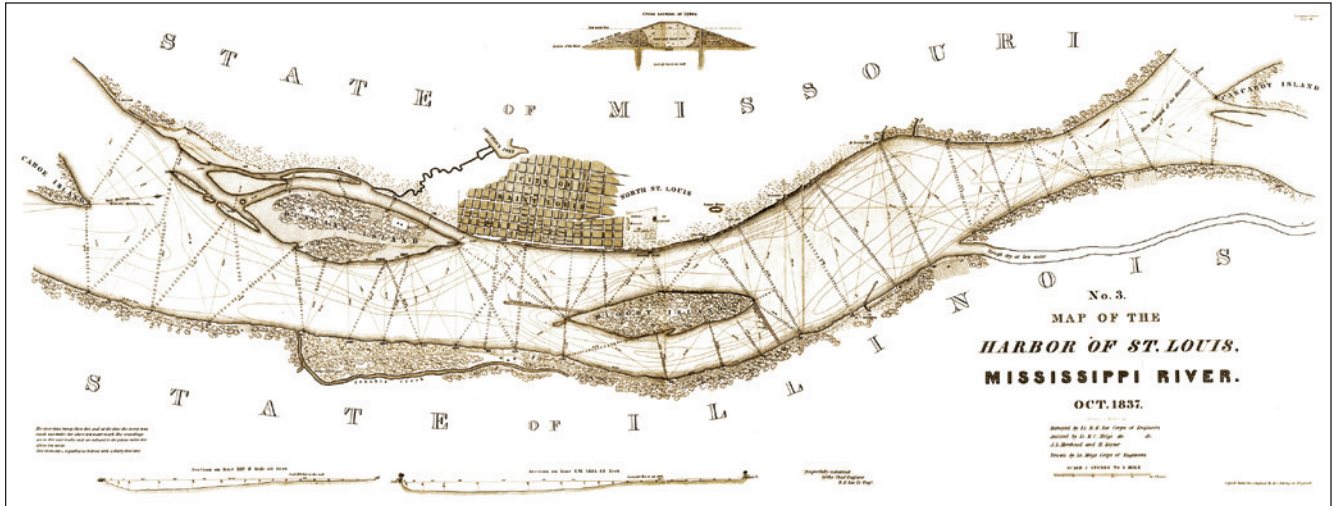
### **Thomas Hart Benton's American Mythologies** November 6 – January 24 Cape Girardeau

The State Historical Society of Missouri is partnering with Southeast Missouri State University's Crisp Museum to offer the *Thomas Hart Benton's American Mythologies* exhibition free of charge in southeast Missouri. The show explores the popular history of the nineteenth- and twentieth-century Midwest and West in this display of Benton's vast landscapes, scenes of mighty rivers, and bigger-than-life characters whose legends remain in the American psyche. Take in the exhibition at the Crisp Museum at 518 S. Fountain Street in Cape Girardeau. Join SHSMO's art curator Joan Stack at the opening reception from 4–8 p.m. on November 6.

### **Politics in the Age of Term Limits and Other Turmoil** November 12 10:30 a.m. St. Louis

P. Wayne Goode Jr. and Bob Priddy each spent more than 40 years working in the Missouri capitol. Goode helped shape the Show-Me State as a legislator, while Priddy ensured government transparency as the dean of Missouri political reporters. Through a public exchange they will share behind-the-scenes stories that reveal how the Missouri we know today came to be, illuminating the state's politics as they have unfolded from the 1960s to the present. This session will be at the Missouri History Museum at Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park, St. Louis.

## Looking ahead



This October 1837 map by Robert E. Lee, Montgomery C. Meigs, Maskell C. Ewing, and William James Stone depicts the Mississippi River near St. Louis. (SHSMO-C, Map 751.235 Un3 1837)

## Digitization Increases Access to Maps Ranging from Transportation to Troop Movements

The State Historical Society of Missouri's Research Center–Columbia is making many of its maps accessible online, scanning and uploading portions of its map collection as well as selected maps from individual manuscript collections. The Society is home to thousands of maps and atlases chronicling the history of the state. Until recently, most of these valuable materials have been available only to patrons who visit one of SHSMO's research centers in person.

Many of the digitized materials from the map collection are already available for viewing on the SHSMO website. This includes maps depicting colonial America, the Missouri Territory before statehood, locations of Native American tribes, and westward expansion. Charts detailing the fortifications and outposts that accompanied these migrations have also been included online.

The Digital Map Collection offers interesting examples of the evolution of Missouri's state borders, foreshadowing the national crisis that would soon envelop the young democracy. Included are maps showing troop movements and campaigns during the Civil War, as well as renderings of battlefield diagrams, which can provide researchers with important contextual references.

The extensive history of Missouri's transportation networks is also well represented within the project. Detailed charts pinpointing riverboat wrecks along the ever-shifting river channels are now making the jump from map cabinets

to the Internet. Researchers can study the transformation of footpaths and game trails into railroads and highways, following notable routes of immigration and commerce such as the Great Osage, Santa Fe, Oregon, and Boone's Lick Trails.

While the Digital Map Project is still in its initial stage, it is not the website's first demonstration of mapped content. An extensive portion of the Society's plat maps and county atlases are already available for use online. The digital Plat Maps of Missouri Collection represents more than 70 Missouri counties and contains property diagrams published between 1875 and 1917. The plat maps

also supplement the use of another digital resource, the Aerial Photography Collection, which contains aerial survey photos of Missouri farmland taken by the US Department of Agriculture during the 1930s through the 1960s. Digitizing these maps is an ongoing project that will reward patrons with exciting new content at every turn.

The Digital Map Collection, as well as the Plat Maps of Missouri Collection and Aerial Photography Collection, are keyword searchable and may be accessed through the State Historical Society's digital collections portal at <http://statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri.org/cdm/>.



Map of the United States published by N. and S. S. Jocelyn in 1823 depicts states, territories, and unexplored regions. (SHSMO-C, Map 800 J583 1823)

## Recent Reading Room Renovation Gives New Look to Kansas City Research Center

The Research Center–Kansas City completed a major facelift in June. The departure of the University Archives from the center’s space last fall provided an opportunity to renovate and reorganize the reading room. With the assistance of University of Missouri–Kansas City interior designer Melanie Earhart, the staff designed a space that is better enjoyed and more easily used by patrons and staff alike.

The overhaul, which took several months to carry out, resulted in a reading room that is inviting, professional, and functional. Gone are the exhibit cases, boxes, couches, and chairs once familiar to researchers visiting the center. In their place are new research tables, a new reference desk, and a dedicated table to service the vast collection of architectural materials in the Kansas City holdings. Fresh paint and carpeting create an inviting atmosphere that both researchers and staff members appreciate. The new environment also improves preservation and security measures.

Based on the positive response from the public, the center hopes to add small exhibit cases to highlight collections and make gift shop items available for purchase. SHSMO invites you to visit the newly renovated Research Center–Kansas City in Newcomb Hall on the University of Missouri–Kansas City campus.



The reading room before and after recent renovations. The space, now organized for optimal use by both patrons and staff, boasts new research tables, a reference desk, and a dedicated table for the Research Center–Kansas City’s extensive architectural materials.

## Kansas City Native Joins State Historical Society of Missouri Staff as Historian

Michael Sweeney joined the Research Center–Kansas City staff as a historian in June. Sweeney holds a PhD in American



Michael Sweeney, SHSMO historian.

Studies from the University of Kansas and a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Missouri. Prior to joining the State Historical Society of Missouri, he was the collection librarian for the Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City.

Sweeney says that archives and libraries provide individuals with opportunities to tell their own stories and find their place in history. His interest in African American history has led Sweeney to believe that the historical experiences of minorities in the United States—racial and ethnic groups, women, the disabled—too often have been less valued than the histories of those with power in society. His interest in preserving

and increasing access to documents, photographs, and other resources comes in part from wanting to democratize local history. Sweeney hopes the State Historical Society of Missouri can continue to increase access to its holdings through digitization, public programs, physical and online exhibits, and partnerships.

A Kansas City native, Sweeney looks forward to learning more about his hometown and the surrounding region. In his spare time, he enjoys visiting national parks, monuments, and historic sites throughout the United States. He hopes to one day learn the accordion and master the Hawaiian language.



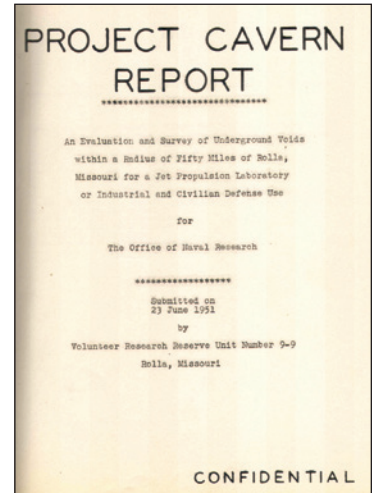
## Cold War Study Considered Missouri Caves as Potential Underground Defense Sites

In connection with recent research on the area's caves (see *Missouri Times*, May 2015), retired Missouri Geological Survey deputy state geologist Jerry D. Vineyard donated a copy of *Project Cavern Report*. The publication, compiled in June 1951 for the Office of Naval Research by the Volunteer Research Reserve Unit at Rolla, provides conclusions about the suitability of caves, caverns, and mines as sites for jet propulsion laboratories and manufacturing facilities.

The research was part of a larger Cold War inquiry into the feasibility of putting critical defense installations underground, where they would be safe from prying eyes and enemy attack. Caves had many virtues: hundreds of feet of limestone overhead shielded the sites from harm, and excavation costs were minimal. However, no complete inventory of caves existed.

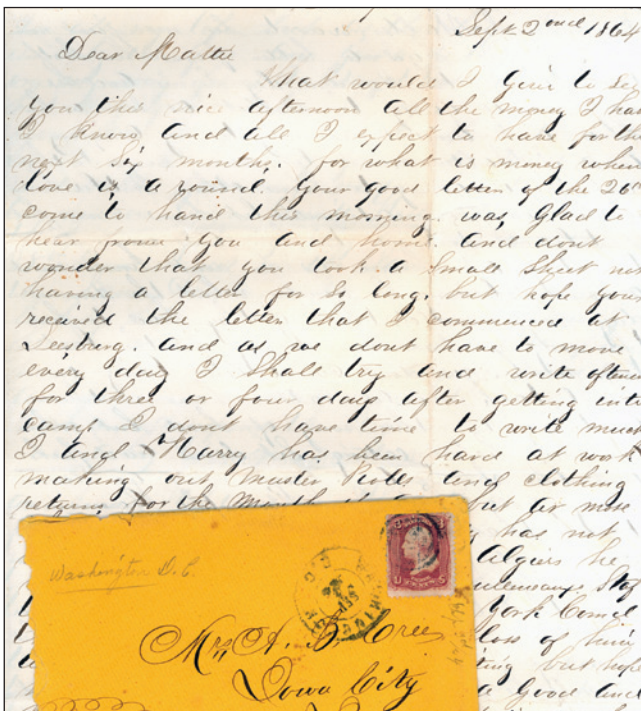
The navy group located more than 300 caves in the northern Ozarks and designated an area along the Gasconade River near Rolla and Waynesville for further study due in part to its proximity to Route 66, Fort Leonard Wood, and experts at the School of Mines. Investigators entered most of the caves in Phelps and Pulaski counties and mapped many of them.

In the end the caves were never used as defense sites. But the *Project Cavern Report* compiles the group's isometric drawings of possible laboratory designs, cost projections, and a spreadsheet providing capacity, accessibility, and other information on caves in several counties. The report (RA1616) includes photographs showing features of the caves deemed most suitable for underground installations.



This summary report presents findings on the suitability of Missouri caves for defense installations. The facilities were never built.

## New Donations at the Research Center—Rolla Expand Civil War Collections



**Above** Captain Alfred B. Cree wrote faithfully to his wife, Mattie, during his military service, which included duty in Missouri in 1862 and 1863. He penned this letter from West Virginia before he sustained the first of two severe wounds.

**Right** In this photograph made upon his return to Bern, Switzerland, Christian Johann Burki proudly wears his Union uniform.



Two recent donations crossed state lines to augment the Civil War resources held at the Research Center—Rolla. Freddie Daum of Norcross, Georgia, donated a group of items associated with Christian Johann Burki, a native of Bern, Switzerland. In 1861 Burki enlisted in the 15th Missouri Infantry at St. Louis. The regiment, known as the “Swiss Rifles,” participated in numerous battles throughout the Western Theater.

Burki mustered out as captain of his company in 1865 at Victoria, Texas. He returned to Switzerland, where he died in 1873. When his widow immigrated to the United States a decade after his death, she brought two carte-de-visite photographs of her husband in uniform that were made in St. Louis and Bern. The images, as well as a commemorative poem celebrating the safe return of Burki and his comrades to Switzerland, are now part of SHSMO's collections (Christian Johann Burki Collection, RA1613).

The other donation is a letter written in camp in 1864 by an Iowa infantry officer. Alerted to the letters of Captain Alfred B. Cree at the State Historical Society of Missouri (R0301) by his friend William Griffing, Carl M. Volz of Washington, Illinois, contributed a letter from Cree to his wife, Mattie. Cree wrote from Charlestown, West Virginia, where his regiment, the 22nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry, was engaged in Union general Philip H. Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley campaign.

The letter (Alfred B. Cree Letters Addendum, RA1612) contains camp news and comments on fellow officers and mutual acquaintances from Iowa City, Iowa, which Cree and Mattie called home. Cree complained only of worms and bugs in the hardtack, which he joked was probably a government ploy to supply meat and bread together in the same ration. Two weeks after writing Mattie, Cree sustained the first of two wounds that nearly ended their correspondence forever. After the war, he returned to Mattie in Iowa City and lived there until his death in 1901.

## Renowned Missouri Conservationist Remembered for His Foresight and Philanthropy

Leo A. Drey loved the Ozarks. The hours he spent floating the region's rivers and streams led him to declare, "I love their peace and solitude, the call of the whippoorwill at dusk, the blue, blue springs, the singing rapids, the illusion of wilderness as the canoe glides along the timbered banks." On May 26, Missouri lost one of its greatest environmental champions when Drey passed away at the age of 98 at his home in University City.

The son of a businessman, Drey was born in St. Louis on January 19, 1917. A graduate of Antioch College, he served in the US Army during World War II, returning to St. Louis after the war. In 1950 he left the Wohl Shoe Company to pursue his passion for conservation.

During countless hiking and canoeing trips in the Ozarks, Drey "saw the lands being abused and I thought that it should be better taken care of." Using his inheritance, he began the gradual and highly speculative acquisition of timberland in Missouri's south central Ozarks. Drey used his land to successfully demonstrate the wisdom of selective timber harvesting rather than using destructive clear-cutting methods. By 1954 he owned nearly 150,000 acres of land that he called Pioneer Forest. Drey eventually became the largest private landowner in Missouri.

Drey's interest in conservation and environmental issues drew him into active leadership. He founded, supported, and served on the boards of numerous environmental groups, including the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, the Missouri Parks Association, and the Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region. Drey championed the passage of important state and federal legislation such as the act that created the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, which made the Current and Jacks Fork the first federally protected rivers in the country.

He quietly helped preserve sites such as Grand Gulf State Park, Dillard Mill State Historic Site, and Dripping Springs Natural Area that are leased to the state of Missouri. When Anheuser-Busch announced plans to buy Greer Spring for a commercial bottling operation, Drey purchased the spring, then sold it at

*"I love their peace and solitude, the call of the whippoorwill at dusk, the blue, blue springs, the singing rapids, the illusion of wilderness as the canoe glides along the timbered banks."*

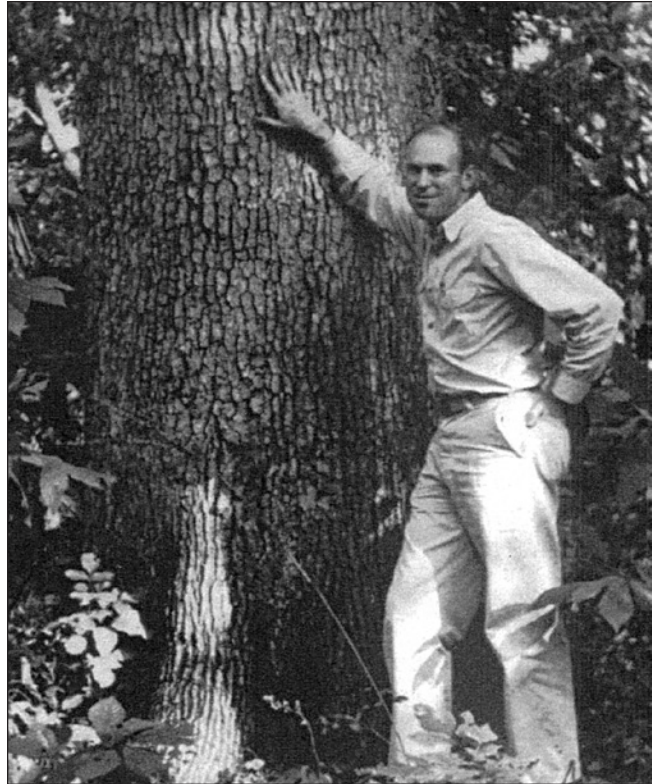
—Leo Drey

a loss to the US Forest Service. He donated easements through parts of his commercial forest to help create the Ozark Trail, a 150-mile-long hiking trail through Missouri and Arkansas.

In 1968 Drey established the L-A-D Foundation to "hold and protect areas of outstanding natural or cultural resource value in the Missouri Ozarks." In 2004 he and his wife, Kay, whom he married in 1955, donated almost

all of the Pioneer Forest to the L-A-D Foundation to continue their work of sustainable forestry.

The State Historical Society of Missouri's Leo A. Drey Papers (S0531) reflect his interests and activities in the lumber industry, the environment, conservation, and outdoor recreation. The collection chronicles many of the environmental groups in which Drey was involved, providing insights into their origins and goals. His papers also document several environmental battles fought in Missouri, including opposition



**Top** Leo A. Drey's passion for Missouri forests led him to become an advocate for sustainable land management practices. **Above** Kay and Leo Drey devoted themselves to conservation and environmental protection.



to a power line across the Current River, the development of Earth City, and the Meramec River Dam.

Oral history interviews recorded in 1998 (C3966) allow researchers to listen to Drey as he discusses issues ranging from land use to the creation of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

Due to his lifetime commitment to conservation, Drey received many awards and honors, including the US Department of the Interior's Conservation Service Award, the Conservation Federation of Missouri's Forest Conservation Award, and the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Quality Award. He is survived by Kay and their three children, Laura, Leonard, and Eleanor. Drey leaves behind an unparalleled legacy as one of Missouri's most important conservationists.

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