

# MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

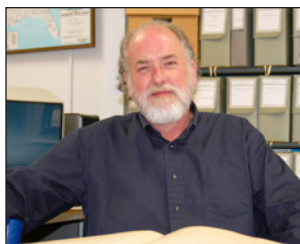
November 2015 Vol. 11, No. 3



Newspapers Page 3



Veterans Page 3



Retirement Page 10

## Winter Calendar

Pages 6-7

## Research Centers

Pages 5, 8-11

## Center for Missouri Studies Presentation Explores Clark's Complexities

The inaugural Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series presentation on October 17 invited attendees to contemplate the life and legacy of William Clark, one of America's most celebrated explorers, through a discussion of historian Jo Ann Trogdon's recently published book *The Unknown Travels and Dubious Pursuits of William Clark*. She and William E. Foley, a Clark scholar and professor emeritus of history at the University of Central Missouri, provided insight into how Clark's activities before his expedition with Meriwether Lewis may have been overlooked in previous scholarship.

Trogdon's book considers, among other points, whether Clark may have been complicit in the "Spanish Conspiracy," a plot to separate Kentucky and other territory from the early United States. Her research focuses on a notebook Clark kept of a journey in 1798 from Ohio to New Orleans, which was then under Spanish rule. The notebook has been in SHSMO's collections since 1928.

"My training as an attorney kept me digging deeper," Trogdon said. "What got me curious, though, was that Clark's diary and the ledger, when we got to New Orleans, they didn't mesh."

Trogdon told Foley that she could not have written her book without the aid of the State Historical Society or Foley's scholarship, which includes his books *The Genesis of Missouri* and *Wilderness Journey: The Life of William Clark*. "I hope that my book compels further study, and that it compels us to understand Clark as a fully complex individual," Trogdon said. "He was much more than Meriwether Lewis's partner in discovery."

To learn more about Trogdon's and Foley's work on William Clark, watch for an account of their presentation in the January 2016 *Missouri Historical Review*, or contact the SHSMO gift shop at 573.882.7083 or shsfofmo@umsystem.edu.



**Left** Jo Ann Trogdon signs a copy of her new book *The Unknown Travels and Dubious Pursuits of William Clark* for SHSMO trustee Bob Priddy. **Right** Trogdon, left, and William E. Foley were the featured speakers at the first Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series presentation on October 17.

## Meeting Honors Trustee, State Legislators, and New Scholarship

The State Historical Society of Missouri's annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series presentation, celebrated recent successes, honored scholars for exceptional works on Missouri history, and thanked key individuals for their advocacy.

Trustee Robert J. Mueller was named the 2015 Distinguished Service Award winner. "Bob asked us to critically evaluate our strengths and weaknesses for the future and develop a plan to maximize our services to the entire state," SHSMO

executive director Gary Kremer said. "The next chapter is so bright because for the last decade Bob has been helping us prepare for it."

Missouri legislators Mike Parson and Donna Lichtenegger were both honored with the 2015 Trustee Appreciation Award for their undaunted support of SHSMO in the General Assembly. Senator Parson said that ensuring Missouri's treasures are available for the children and grandchildren of all Missourians will have a lasting impact on the state. —Continued on page 2

## 2015 Annual Meeting and Awards—Continued

Representative Lichtenegger agreed, sharing a personal story about how a single historical record helped her piece together her family history.

At the annual membership meeting, trial lawyer Thomas Strong of Springfield was elected as a new member of the Board of Trustees.

### 2015 Book and Article Awards

Missouri History Book Award: David Lucander, *Winning the War for Democracy: The March on Washington Movement, 1941–1946* (\$1,500)

The Eagleton-Waters Book Award: Ken S. Mueller, *Senator Benton and the People: Master Race Democracy on the Early American Frontiers* (\$1,000)

Missouri Historical Review Article Award: Kevin Scharlau, “Navigating Change in the Homophile Heartland: Kansas City’s Phoenix Society and the Early Gay Rights Movement, 1966–1971” (\$750)

Mary C. Neth Prize: Linda Harris Dobkins, “What Men Expected, What Women Did: The Political Economy of Suffrage in St. Louis, 1920–1928” (\$500)

Lewis E. Atherton Prize: Matthew C. Hulbert, “Guerrilla Memory: Irregular Recollections from the Civil War Borderlands,” University of Georgia, Dissertation (\$1,000); Stanley Maxson, “‘Up to Freedom’: Slavery, Emancipation and the Making of Freedom in Howard County, Missouri, 1860 to 1865,” University of Missouri–Columbia, Thesis (\$500)



Representative Donna Lichtenegger shares how she pieced together her family history after she and Senator Mike Parson, right, received the Trustee Appreciation Award from SHSMO president Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., center.

## Cape Girardeau’s Frank Nickell Honored by Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation

The Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation (Missouri Preservation) presented an award to State Historical Society assistant director Frank Nickell on October 22. Nickell, head of the Society’s research center in Cape Girardeau, received Missouri Preservation’s Legacy Award. Longtime SHSMO members Mary Ann and Bert Kellerman were also given this prestigious honor.

Following its tradition of recognizing individuals from the host city of its annual

conference, the organization selected Nickell for his significant contributions fostering historic preservation in the region. Nickell taught history at Southeast Missouri State University for four decades. He served as chair of the history department, wrote and edited several books, and cofounded the university’s nationally recognized Historic Preservation Program. In addition, Nickell helped establish SEMO’s Center for Regional History and served as its director from 1990 until he retired from teaching in 2013.

Since joining SHSMO, Nickell has continued his work as a chronicler of local and regional history. He has committed himself to cultivating an appreciation of southeast Missouri’s history by engaging with its citizens through extensive public outreach. The Kellermans were recognized for their leadership in historic preservation. The couple established the Kellerman Foundation to educate the public on the region’s diverse heritage and encourage a legacy of historic preservation in southeast Missouri.

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### MISSOURI TIMES

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## Donors Support Lasting Traditions and New Ventures of the Review

In October the *Missouri Historical Review* began its 110th year of continuous publication. The only current quarterly journal dedicated to new scholarship on Missouri and its past, the *Review* has a long tradition of publishing well-regarded studies in all fields of history relevant to Missouri, the Middle West, and the West. With the launch of the Center for Missouri Studies last year, the *Review* has begun a new chapter as the cornerstone publication for the Center. Thank you to the following 2014–2015 donors for your support of the *Review* in its efforts to advance scholarship on Missouri’s heritage.

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## One Thousandth Oral History Interview Submitted by Missouri Veterans History Project

The Missouri Veterans History Project marked a milestone this month when the organization submitted its interview of Katy Kilroy to the Library of Congress. Kilroy, who currently serves with the Missouri Army National Guard and fought in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, was the project's one thousandth interview subject. Her grandfather, Joseph Frank Mica II,

brought the total to 1,001. Mica served as a machinist in the Navy during World War II. "At MVHP we are preserving history one story at a time," said Audrey Mack, the organization's executive director. "It was an honor to record and share Katy's story. Hearing about the family history of service from grandfather to granddaughter brought a unique opportunity to our mission."

The Missouri Veterans History Project provides a forum for veterans to tell their stories, share firsthand recollections, and add rich personal context to historical events. A copy of the recording is given to the veteran free of charge. The interview is then archived through a partnership with the State Historical Society of Missouri, the Library of Congress, and other organizations.

## Missouri Digital Newspaper Project Surpasses Goal of One Million Online Pages

The Missouri Digital Newspaper Project, started seven years ago to coordinate digitization of the state's historic newspapers, exceeded one million pages of content in early November.

The keyword-searchable pages are online and available free to the public at <http://shs.umsystem.edu/newspaper/mdnp>, thanks to support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and through Library Services and Technology Act grants to public libraries in Missouri.

"This milestone is the perfect reason to celebrate what an invaluable resource digitized newspapers are for researchers, while continuing to advocate for our progress toward the long-term goal of an online database of newspapers from every Missouri county," SHSMO associate director Gerald Hirsch said.

The project applies innovative modern technology to historic newspaper content, producing pages that meet National Digital Newspaper Program specifications—the highest standard. Many of Missouri's

digital newspapers are also available through the Library of Congress's Chronicling America site (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>), which ultimately aims to include newspaper pages from all states and US territories in its collection. The national site has reached a milestone of its own, surpassing 10 million digital pages in October.

"We are proud that the State Historical Society of Missouri was a significant partner in the national project's success to date," SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer said. "Our staff

works extremely hard to increase the resources available to all our patrons—whether they visit us in person or online."

To help ensure that Missouri's communities are aware of the resources available through the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project, Patricia (Patsy) M. Luebbert, NDNP administrator, and Julie Cox, grant project assistant, presented programs on the project in October at the Carter County Library, the Hickory County Library, and the Phelps County Courthouse. Another program will be held at the Palmyra Public Library on November 17. (See page 6 for details.) Watch <http://shs.umsystem.edu> and SHSMO social media for more information on other upcoming events.



## Volunteers Help Extend SHSMO Services throughout the State

Each year volunteers contribute unique talents and hard work to the State Historical Society of Missouri's research centers, working with staff members to advance SHSMO's mission. In 2014–2015 students, retirees, teachers, former staff members, and friends volunteered more than 4,000 hours of their time. Thank you for your active role in collecting, preserving, and sharing Missouri's history and heritage. For more information on volunteering at the State Historical Society of Missouri, visit <http://shs.umsystem.edu/support/volunteer> or contact SHSMO at 573.882.7083 or [shsofmo@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsofmo@umsystem.edu).

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# NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MISSOURI

www.nhdmo.org

## Thank You, National History Day

By Zoe Honeck,  
Pembroke Hill School, Kansas City

In June 2014, I participated in my last National History Day contest. It felt weird to realize that after seven years of competing in this amazing organization, I would not be able to do it again. Now a high school graduate, I would not be spending my summer days trying to find the perfect topic, going thrift-store hunting for costume pieces, or transforming my living room into my stage. As corny as it may sound, National History Day allowed me to grow as a person, and I will always cherish the lessons and memories from my experience.

In sixth grade, I entered my first NHD contest. I was a shy, self-conscious middle-school student with no idea of what I was getting myself into, and I felt that I was out of my league. My performance of suffragist Alice Paul could not compare to some of the others, so I was not surprised when I did not advance. But the day was not a loss for me. That day, I found my love: competition.

Each year, my goal was to do better than the year before. Even if I did not qualify for the next stage, I considered it a success if I made improvements. By my junior year, my goal was to make it to the national contest. I was ecstatic when I did, representing Missouri with my performance “Little People Like Us” about Esther Brown, a native Kansas Citian who worked to integrate schools in South Park, an African American neighborhood in Johnson County, Kansas.

*“National History Day allowed me to grow as a person. It shaped who I am today, and I will always cherish the lessons and memories from my experience.”*

—Zoe Honeck

The chaotic week in College Park, Maryland, was spent trading buttons with other students in the hope of getting one from every NHD delegation, visiting as many historic landmarks and Smithsonian museums as possible, watching other performances, and meeting incredible people who shared my love of history.

Besides being really fun, NHD also greatly improved my research skills. Over the course of seven years, I easily spent more than 400 hours researching my contest topics, which ranged from Paul’s and Brown’s causes to the Photo League, a small photography organization in New York City that was crushed by McCarthyism. Researching was always my favorite aspect of NHD, and along with using conventional methods, I visited presidential libraries, explored museums, and learned the craft of interviewing.

One of my favorite moments came when I was researching the Photo League and found contact information for Sonia Handelman Meyer, a member of the organization from 1944 to 1951. I emailed her to request an interview, not very optimistic that she would reply. I was delighted when she wrote back the next day and said she would be happy to help me. What I thought would be just one or two emails turned into a friendship. We corresponded throughout the entire semester, and before every competition she would send me a good luck email. I would have never imagined something like this happening if it had not been for National History Day.

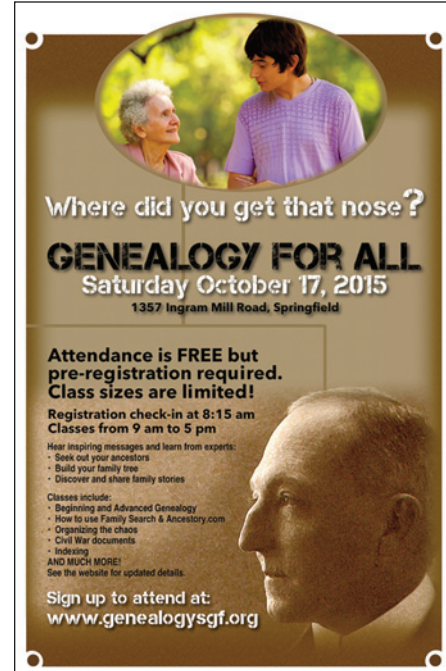


**Left** Zoe Honeck, left, now attends her first-choice school, Truman State University, where she serves with Alpha Phi Omega, a national service organization. **Right** Zoe visits one of the most iconic landmarks on the University of Maryland–College Park campus, the sundial on McKeldin Mall, during the national contest in June 2013.



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





**Left** At Genealogy for All, archivist Erin Smither shares details about resources available at SHSMO's six research centers. **Right** The daylong event provided a range of programs which taught genealogists to work with a variety of historical materials that family researchers often find helpful.

## Genealogy for All Event Draws Family History Researchers to SHSMO Collections

The State Historical Society of Missouri's archivist Erin Smither introduced genealogy researchers to the Society's statewide collections and other resources at Genealogy for All, a daylong program on October 17 in Springfield. The free event, affiliated with the RootsTech conference hosted each year in Salt Lake City, was attended by about 150 people.

The day's sessions, held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, included playful questions such as "Where did you get that nose?" as participants learned effective ways to investigate the history of their families. Classes included instruction by experts from across the history field in using resources such as RootsTech videos, FamilySearch, and Ancestry.com. Other sessions covered organizing research projects, military research, preserving family photos, and several more topics.

Researchers' goals for the day were fourfold: learn to document personal stories, learn to record family history using the latest technology, learn to preserve family resources, and learn to organize research and memorabilia so that it can be shared with future generations. Attendees were able to participate in as many as four classes throughout the day.

Smither, the archivist at SHSMO's research center in Springfield, gave a presentation highlighting the Society's resources such as reference materials, oral histories,

manuscripts, newspapers, and maps. She encouraged researchers to use the collections and gave pointers in how to request delivery of materials from the State Historical Society's research centers in other parts of the state to Springfield.

Smither said the newspaper collection was especially intriguing to genealogists who were unaware that the collection could put many more of the state's historic newspapers at their fingertips.

"I subscribed to Newspapers.com, but it did not have anything from any of Missouri's small towns," one woman said. "I am so glad that I have access to these materials here."

Smither was on hand all day to share literature and answer questions about the Society and its mission. She said attendees were especially interested in the State Historical Society of Missouri's courier service for delivering requested materials from one research center to another, asking many questions about how to tap into more of SHSMO's resources.

Genealogy for All is expected to become an annual event in Springfield. Next year's session will be held on October 15, 2016, and the State Historical Society of Missouri will be in attendance. For more information about the event, please visit [genealogysgf.org](http://genealogysgf.org) and check back frequently for details regarding the 2016 program.

## Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy Exhibit Visits Springfield, Showcases Petition for Statehood

An 1817 Missouri statehood petition now preserved in SHSMO's collections was featured in a traveling exhibit that visited Springfield in October.

The exhibit, *Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy, 1215-2015*, was hosted by Missouri State University and sponsored

by the American Bar Association and the Library of Congress. It ran in Springfield from October 12 to 23.

Auxiliary displays in the exhibit highlighted holdings from Missouri collections that illustrated the "rule of law" as it relates to Missouri. The

statehood petition, one of several that circulated in the Missouri Territory, is from the Washington County region. The petitions were gathered and presented to Congress in 1818, marking the first attempt to have Missouri admitted as a state.





## November

**Newspapers: Pages of Your History**  
**November 17 5 p.m. Palmyra**

The newest chapter in the history of print journalism is a digital one. A one-hour program by Patricia (Patsy) M. Luebbert, administrator of the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project (<http://shs.umsystem.edu/newspaper/mdnp>), will explore the joys and frustrations of conducting online searches for historic digital newspaper content. It will also explore why going digital is not always the best answer. The session will be held at 5 p.m. on November 17 in the Palmyra Public Library, 212 South Main Street.

### Thomas Hart Benton's Missouri

**November 19 6 p.m. Cape Girardeau**

Join SHSMO assistant director Frank Nickell for an exploration of the bygone world that shaped the life of Missouri artist Thomas Hart Benton. Nickell will share stories about the Show-Me State and the Midwest in Benton's time, deepening your understanding of the artist and his work. The presentation at Southeast Missouri State University's Crisp Museum is offered in connection with the exhibition *Thomas Hart Benton's American Mythologies*. The show, created through a partnership between SHSMO and SEMO, explores the popular history of the nineteenth- and twentieth-century Midwest and West through Benton's art. It will run until January 24 at the Crisp Museum, 518 South Fountain Street.

## December

### Vernacular America in the 1930s and 1940s

**December 1–May 2016 Columbia**

Extraordinary images of ordinary Americans from the Depression and World War II eras will be celebrated in the forthcoming exhibition *Vernacular America in the 1930s and 1940s: The Art of Ben Messick and Fred Shane* at the Research Center–Columbia. Messick's interest in the profundity of everyday life had its roots in his humble beginnings in Strafford, Missouri, where he lived until he joined the armed forces in World War II. He found a kindred spirit in artist and educator Fred Shane, who was born in Kansas City. Shane used his wit and a keen observational eye to create works featuring Missouri's townsfolk.



### Picturing Politics: Political Images by George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton

**December 15–June 2016 Columbia**

Missouri artists George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton had politics in their blood. Bingham was an active Whig who served in the Missouri state legislature, while Benton, named after one of Missouri's first senators, was the son of a Missouri congressman. Both men drew artistic inspiration from Missouri politics, creating images that contained political messages and commentaries on contemporary issues. *Picturing Politics* also marks the return of Bingham's *Watching the Cargo* to the Research Center–Columbia from a national tour, as well as the engravings and lithographs of Bingham's Election series and political lithographs by Benton such as *Mr. President*, a portrait of Harry Truman.

## January-February

### In Sync with Thomas Hart Benton

**Exhibition: January 8, 2016–June 2016**

**Concert and Events: February 2–4, 2016 Columbia**



In association with the "We Always Swing" Jazz Series, SHSMO presents the mini-exhibition *In Sync with Thomas Hart Benton*, which will showcase several of Benton's artworks that relate to music. Drawings and lithographs depicting musicians and a handwritten example of Benton's own system of notations for the harmonica will be on display. A three-day event February 2–4 in Columbia will include "A Musical Tribute to Thomas Hart Benton" performed by Orrin Evans' Captain Black Big Band. The ten-piece jazz ensemble will play at the MU College of Arts and Science "Signature Concert" at the Missouri Theatre, 203 South Ninth Street, at 7 p.m. on February 4. The performance, which was originally commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is part of a larger celebration of Benton that will include free film screenings, panel discussions, and the SHSMO art exhibition. Society members receive a special discount on concert tickets. For further details, please see <http://shs.umsystem.edu/outreach/events>. The celebration is sponsored in part by the Missouri Humanities Council, Missouri Arts Council, Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the City of Columbia's Office of Cultural Affairs, as well as local businesses and individuals.

## March

### Missouri Conference on History

**March 9–11 Columbia**

The Missouri Conference on History brings together historians, teachers of history, and other history professionals to share in presentations of new scholarship and discussions of the field's challenges and opportunities. Anyone interested or involved in history education, historical research, historical preservation, or other professional applications of history is encouraged to attend. Paper, panel, and student poster proposals in all history fields are invited no later than December 15. 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>.



### Through the Lens: Visions of African American Experience

**March 24 6 p.m. Kansas City**

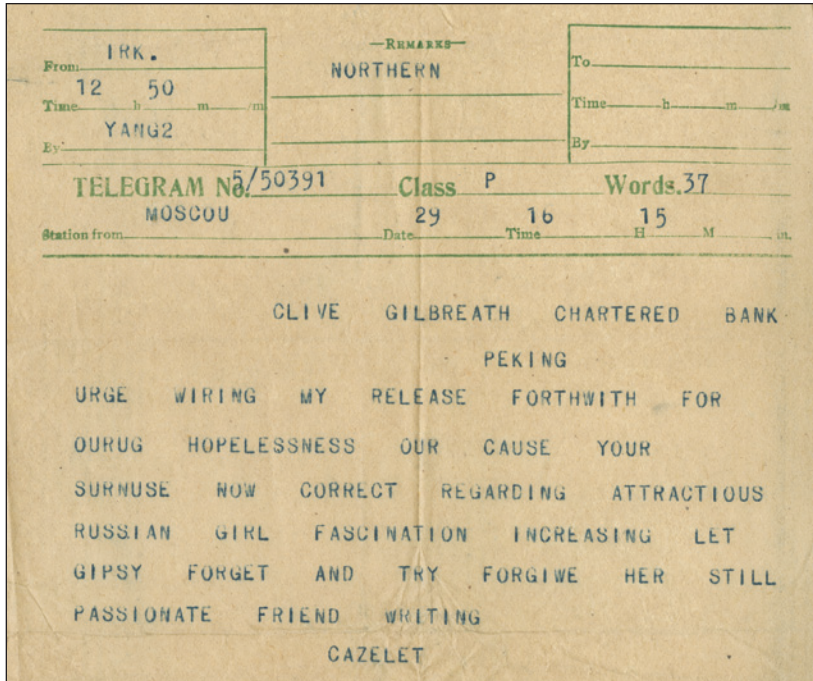
In his long career with *The Call* and as a freelance photographer, William L. Fambrough Sr. captured the people, places, and events of Kansas City and its African American community. Join SHSMO as Fambrough's son, William L. Fambrough Jr., describes how his father gained the nickname "One-Shot Fambrough" and earned the community's trust while capturing thousands of images that are indispensable to understanding Kansas City's history. The event will be at the Second Baptist Church, 3620 East 39th Street, Kansas City. Take advantage of the opportunity to see the exhibition *Through the Lens: Visions of African American Experience*, currently on display at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The show, which includes Fambrough's work, is a collaboration between SHSMO, Nelson-Atkins, and the Black Archives of Mid-America.

## Looking ahead



March 9 - 11, 2016





**Above** Olive Gilbreath McLorn, date of photo unknown. **Left** Olive received this telegram from William L. Cazalet in 1918, seeking a release from their engagement. The hasty end to their courtship coincided with William's need to flee Russia and the Communist revolution.

## Love Lost and Other Adventures in War and Revolution: The Olive Gilbreath McLorn Papers

Olive Gilbreath McLorn was an ambitious and independent adventurer at a time when women rarely strayed far from home. Born in 1885 in La Plata, Missouri, she was educated at Wellesley College, earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1908, and then spent the next 27 years traveling in Europe, Russia, China, and Japan. Besides publishing two novels based on her travels, Olive also wrote articles for *Harper's*, *Asia Magazine*, and the *Yale Review*.

A glimpse of her cosmopolitan life can be found in letters to her from William L. Cazalet, a British national born and raised in Russia. The letters, housed in the Olive Gilbreath McLorn Papers (C3477) at the State Historical Society of Missouri's research center in Columbia, reveal a tumultuous love affair set against the backdrop of World War I and the Russian Revolution.

William, a director of the Moscow department store Muir and Mirrielees and a widower nearly 20 years Olive's senior, began courting her in 1915 when they met during her travels in Russia. He wrote to Olive almost daily when they were apart, calling her "Gipsy" and vowing to wait for her as she returned to the United States, pursued her career, and considered his offer of marriage. She did not accept until early 1917, when she began planning a return trip to Russia.

The revolution soon interfered with these plans. A February

exemplary crowd..." But when the Bolsheviks took over in the October Revolution, William warned Olive to stay away. Even before October, he wrote, "Have I any right to write you to share my future and ask you to give me a child, when the future in this country looks so dark..." Indeed, his entire Russian fortune was eventually confiscated by the Bolsheviks.

There were other problems as well. The relationship was fraught with misunderstandings and missed opportunities, exacerbated by the long delays in mail service. They fought frequently about her family's disapproval of William, her career, and the level of physical affection in their future relationship.

By late 1917, William's letters were despondent. Finally, in a telegram dated January 29, 1918, he ended their engagement: "Urge wiring my release forthwith... your surnuse [*sic*] correct regarding attractious Russian girl... let Gipsy forget and try [to] forgiwe [*sic*]..." He had been courting nineteen-year-old Anastasia Behrs, Leo Tolstoy's niece by marriage. As conditions deteriorated in Russia, they hastily married on February 24, 1918, and fled the country together.

Six weeks into his marriage to Anastasia, William expressed deep regret to Olive, writing, "I love you best." They continued secretly exchanging love letters, William now residing in England, Olive in China. By 1923, Anastasia had left William. Olive visited him in England, but their relationship was not what it once was. Only three letters exist after 1924—the last one from William discusses Olive's impending marriage to David McLorn in England in 1934.

After marrying, the McLorns lived in China off and on until World War II, when they were taken prisoner by the Japanese. The couple later settled in La Plata. David McLorn died in 1974, and Olive in 1981. Her letters, donated to SHSMO in 1975, offer numerous research opportunities for those interested in travel writing, Russian history, gender studies, and many other fields of study.

*"Have I any right to write you to share my future and ask you to give me a child, when the future in this country looks so dark..."*

—William L. Cazalet

seems to point to a fait accompli... No pillaging whatever has occurred, nor any smashing of window glass: in fact an

## Kansas City Research Center Builds Regional Presence through Photo Exhibit, Partnerships

SHSMO is a partner in an exhibition at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art that will run from November 18 until April 3, 2016. The show, *Through the Lens: Visions of African American Experience, 1950–1970*, includes works from the collection of photos by William L. Fambrough Sr. housed in the Kansas City center.

The exhibition, a collaboration with the Black Archives of Mid-America as well as Nelson-Atkins, will be highlighted at an event on March 24 in which guest speaker William L. Fambrough Jr. offers further insight into the life and career of his father, a news photographer who worked for *The Call* and as a freelancer. Most of the images in the Society's William L. Fambrough Photograph Collection (K0642) chronicle Kansas City from the 1940s to the 1970s.

Lucinda Adams, SHSMO assistant director in Kansas City, said the center is seeking opportunities to expand and improve its services to patrons, showcase its collections revealing the region's complex heritage, and reach the community in new ways.

"I want to ensure that the research center's holdings reflect the ethnic and geographic diversity of the people it serves," Adams said. "To that end, we are seeking opportunities to grow our collections in ways that speak to the lives, history, and culture of the area's dynamic Latino/Latina and African American communities."

To better serve patrons, the Kansas City center's reading room received a thorough renovation in the past year, and new staff members have been added. The number of online inventories has increased, and the center continues to add resources for studying the Kansas City metropolitan area's history. The staff is also building relationships on the University of Missouri–Kansas City campus and within the larger community,

with the *Through the Lens* partnership being just one example.

"We are collaborating with organizations like the Nelson-Atkins Museum and Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area and thereby finding new ways to introduce the public to the Society and its collections," Adams said. "We are also expanding our role with the National History Day in Missouri program by participating in outreach opportunities with teachers and encouraging students to choose local topics."

"In the coming months and years, we will better engage the 16 counties that the Kansas City Research Center serves and make a concerted effort to tell the story of not only Kansas City, but also western Missouri," Adams said. "We encourage the public to please stop by and tell us their vision for our research center."



**Above** The Fambrough Photograph Collection chronicles Kansas City's African American community from the 1940s to the 1970s. **Left** A rare picture of the photographer himself, William L. Fambrough Sr.

## New Digital Collection: J. C. Nichols Company Scrapbooks Feature Local Landmarks

The J. C. Nichols Company Scrapbooks (K0054) document the history and activities of Kansas City's premier real estate developer. More than 400 images from the collection are now available online from the State Historical Society of Missouri. The digitized images come from 30 books compiled in 1954 by company employee Faye Littleton. Her scrapbooks cover the company's various residential developments in the Country Club District—Sunset Hill, Mission Hills, Brookside, and Fairway, to name a few—and the public art erected by the company to make each development a distinctive community. The online collection also features photos of community activities and residences. Of particular interest are images showing the creation and growth of the Country Club Plaza shopping district, perhaps the most widely recognized J. C. Nichols Company development.



Young men celebrate the Country Club District Field Day on May 12, 1922. This image from the *Kansas City Star* was saved in the J. C. Nichols Company Scrapbooks.



## Assistant Director Retires, Begins New Role as Center for Missouri Studies Senior Fellow

After 35 years of service, John F. Bradbury Jr., assistant director at the Research Center–Rolla, retired from the State Historical Society of Missouri this fall. He will continue, however, to contribute to SHSMO as a part-time Center for Missouri Studies senior fellow.

“We’ve benefited from John’s breadth of knowledge about everything from Missouri history to the Civil War in the Ozarks,” State Historical Society executive director Gary Kremer said. “He started as a manuscript specialist at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection in Rolla shortly after it opened in 1980, and he has spent the last six years running our center in Rolla.”

Bradbury’s passion for writing and research has led to significant expansion of the body of scholarship in his areas of interest. He has written, edited, and compiled more than 90 scholarly articles and books, and is also the author of countless book reviews, newsletter stories, and outreach pieces. Highlights include his recent research on Phelps and Pulaski County caves for the *Old Settlers Gazette*; the 2002 photographic essay *Rolla: The Old Town*, published by G. Bradley Publishing Company; and *The Civil War’s First Blood: Missouri, 1854–1861*, a book published by Missouri Life, Inc. in 2007. He has served as co-editor of the *Newsletter of the Phelps County Historical Society* since 1990.

Over the past three and a half decades, Bradbury presented more than 200 programs concerning local and regional history to historical societies, civic groups, service clubs, school classes, and class reunions. His willingness to share his love of history with others enabled him to build relationships in the region and add numerous collections of historical materials to SHSMO’s archives.

***“But when you add the fact that John is a skilled writer and an impeccable researcher, we had to figure out a way to keep him around a bit longer. Luckily, John has agreed to continue with us part-time as a Center for Missouri Studies senior fellow.”***

—Gary Kremer

“John’s network in his hometown of Rolla is unparalleled, and his ability to personally connect with material donors



**Above** The State Historical Society of Missouri’s assistant director John F. Bradbury Jr. retired this fall after 35 years at the Research Center–Rolla. **Left** Thomas A. Peters, left, dean of library services at Missouri State University, Bradbury, John McAlear, and Sally McAlear visit at the open house for the Springfield research center. The new facility opened in 2014 in collaboration with MSU thanks to Bradbury’s advocacy and leadership.

is a real talent of which we have been the benefactor,” Kremer said.

Bradbury’s collaborative nature also enabled the State Historical Society of Missouri to create key partnerships in southern Missouri, including opening

SHSMO’s newest research center in Springfield on the campus of Missouri State University.

“All of these are reasons enough to miss him after his recent retirement,” Kremer said. “But when you add the fact that

John is a skilled writer and an impeccable researcher, we had to figure out a way to keep him around a bit longer. Luckily, John has agreed to continue with us part-time as a Center for Missouri Studies senior fellow.”

One of Bradbury’s projects as a senior fellow will be to work on a book showcasing the Civil War memoir of Missouri guerrilla William H. Gregg, one of the State Historical Society of Missouri’s most-requested manuscripts. A publication date for the Gregg book has not been set. A search is under way to hire Bradbury’s successor as assistant director.



## Exhibition Showcases SHSMO Photos, Celebrates 50th Anniversary of the Gateway Arch

As St. Louis commemorates the completion of its iconic Gateway Arch 50 years ago on October 28, 1965, vital documentary photographs preserved in the SHSMO Research Center—St. Louis will be on display this fall and winter.

*Arch Perspectives*, an exhibition currently being shown at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis, features the story behind the arch, which was not finished until roughly 30 years after St. Louisans passed the bond issue to create it. Running through January 24, 2016, the show includes images by longtime *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* photographer Arthur Witman, whose papers and photographs reside at the St. Louis center.

Witman, who joined the *Post-Dispatch* in 1932, culminated his career at the paper with his longest and perhaps most noted assignment—documenting the rise of the shining silver arch above St. Louis’s downtown and riverfront. Given complete access to the site, Witman made regular visits from 1963 to 1967 and captured the landmark at various stages of construction, from every angle and height.

Witman’s dogged and imaginative coverage of the colossal architectural project pushed the boundaries of photographic equipment in the 1960s. Although he was credited earlier in his career with pioneering the use of 35-millimeter cameras in news photography and worked primarily with slide film, Witman also used a Panox panoramic camera, the only one of its kind in St. Louis, to create 140-horizontal-degree photographs of the Gateway Arch.

In his 37 years with the *Post-Dispatch*, Witman covered other notable assignments such as Winston Churchill’s “Iron Curtain”

speech in Fulton, Missouri, and the presidential campaigns of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, and Adlai Stevenson. After organizing a press photographers association in St. Louis, he helped found the National Press Photographers Association in 1946 and later served two terms as its president.

Witman’s specialty, however, was covering local and regional stories for the *Post-Dispatch’s* Sunday photo supplement, *Pictures* magazine. His photograph collections at the State Historical Society of Missouri include a wide-ranging sample of news and cultural events in Missouri in the mid-twentieth century, as well as the Arthur Witman Arch Construction Photographs (S0702).



**Above** Three workers use a large wrench during construction of the Gateway Arch in 1965. **Right** On permanent assignment at the arch construction site, Witman recorded the massive project from every angle, including aerial shots of the changing city landscape.



## New Media Specialist Joins St. Louis Research Center, Continues Passion for Film Preservation

Josephine A. Sporleder joined SHSMO’s staff at the Research Center—St. Louis in October as a media specialist. A 1997 graduate of Webster University with a bachelor of arts degree in film and film history, Sporleder also attended the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation, where she developed a passion for taking care of film in advanced stages of decomposition.

Sporleder’s career has taken her many places. She has worked for the WPA Film Library in Orland Park, Illinois, and at Fotokem Film and Video and Sony Pictures Entertainment in Los Angeles. After returning to Illinois in 2010, she worked at the Missouri History Museum and Washington University’s Film and Media Archive.

Sporleder says she is thrilled to be back in the archival community, surrounded by film and colleagues who share her love of history. She divides her professional time between the State Historical Society of Missouri and Animal House: Cat Rescue and Adoption Center. She lives in Swansea, Illinois, near her family.





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