

# MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

February 2017 Vol. 12, No. 4



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## Conservation Grant Advances SHSMO Lab's Preservation Efforts

A recent grant award of \$10,000 from the Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation will allow the State Historical Society of Missouri to purchase equipment that will promote safety, increase productivity, and meet best practices in the conservation lab.

The grant will cover costs for a fume hood, a digital camera with two lenses, and a height-adjustable table. "These items are going to greatly expand what I'm able to do in the lab. I'm excited to get started," said Erin Kraus, SHSMO's conservator.

The fume hood will allow Kraus to safely clean old documents and books. "Sometimes incoming collections were stored in humid conditions, so mold is an issue that must be dealt with before the collection can be processed," she said. "The fume hood will be great because I can increase access to materials by making sure they are safe for staff and patrons to handle."

A digital camera with zoom and macro lenses will enable documentation of conservation treatments. "Conservators must photograph every item that is treated both before and after the treatment as a record of what was done to the object," Kraus said. "With the new camera and lenses, I'll have much more control over the quality of my photographic documentation."

Kraus said the height-adjustable table will provide an improved work surface in the lab. Treatments often require repetitive motions or force the conservator to stand while working. Adjusting the table height will increase productivity and relieve back, neck, and shoulder strain.

"At the end of the day, items will be in better condition and they will be available for patrons to access more efficiently," Kraus said. "We are very thankful to the Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation for making these additions possible."



**Top** SHSMO conservator Erin Kraus uses tweezers to remove adhesive tape from paper. **Above** Kraus uses a cotton swab to spread a thin layer of methyl cellulose. This chemical compound makes the adhesive resoluble so it can be removed while preserving the paper and ink.



Missouri state treasurer Eric Schmitt visits with National History Day in Missouri students during the annual Day at the Capitol.

## 2017 Day at the Capitol

On February 1 National History Day in Missouri students from around the state were recognized at the Missouri State Capitol for their accomplishments. The annual event also allowed them to thank Missouri legislators for their support and to display their research. Learn how you can become involved with this program by volunteering as a state contest judge. See details on page 2.

## Letter from the State Historical Society of Missouri President

Thank you for being a member of the State Historical Society of Missouri at this exciting time in our own history.

We are embarking together on an adventure that will be nothing short of a refounding of our organization, the creation of a dynamic future for Missouri's past, and an opportunity for service to you and to future generations in ways we cannot envision today.

Ground will be broken soon for the Center for Missouri Studies, our new headquarters in Columbia, a bold building that will proclaim that history

is far more dramatic and alive than many people think. Our new building at Sixth and Elm Streets will bring us out of our long-obscure location in the basement of Ellis Library and give us untold opportunities to emphasize Missouri's role in our nation's history and greater chances to discover our personal stories.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to SHSMO's executive director, Gary Kremer, and past-president, Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. They have worked countless hours in the halls of the Missouri Capitol obtaining

the \$35 million that will pay for most of the new Center for Missouri Studies.

The way for us to show our thanks is to support the mission of the new Center. Loyal supporters like you enhance the Society's ability to collect and protect Missouri history and to educate and inspire people throughout the state, across the country, and around the world. We hope you will take the opportunity to be part of that effort by making a gift at [shop.shsmo.org/donation](http://shop.shsmo.org/donation) or by calling 573.882.7083.



Bob Priddy, SHSMO president

These are truly exciting times for all who are part of the State Historical Society. We're glad you are joining us on this adventure.

**Bob Priddy**  
President, Board of Trustees

## Volunteer Judges Needed to Help Missouri Students Take a Stand in History on April 29, 2017



Judges interview Kiareu Grimes, Carlie Niederkorn, and McClay Lewis after their NHDMO group performance. The trio represented Clearwater High School in the 2016 state contest.

Join National History Day in Missouri as a state contest volunteer judge on April 29! Visit the University of Missouri in Columbia, support creative Missouri students, and check out a variety of exhibits, documentaries, papers, performances, and websites that explore both leaders and everyday people in response to this year's contest theme, Taking a Stand in History.

Judges can expect to spend the day interacting with students from across the state in grades six through twelve and providing constructive comments on their work. This feedback contributes to their learning experience and helps prepare top finishers for the national contest in June.

A free catered lunch will be provided. Roughly 150 volunteers are needed. Thank you in advance for sharing your time with Missouri students! For more details or to sign up, visit [nhdmo.org/judges](http://nhdmo.org/judges) or call 573.882.7083.

### Contact SHSMO

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### MISSOURI TIMES

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## 2017 Missouri Conference on History to Highlight Ozark Heritage

Reserve your space at the fifty-ninth annual Missouri Conference on History this March 22–24 to explore diverse historical topics, including public history and historic preservation. Hosted by the Missouri State University History Department at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, the packed program will highlight new scholarship and discussions of challenges and opportunities in the history field. Registration is \$55.

Registration includes all general sessions as well as the keynote lecture and two evening events. On Wednesday night, join other attendees from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for the welcoming reception at the History Museum on the Square. The reception is sponsored by SHSMO. On Thursday the keynote luncheon will feature *The Lost History of the New Madrid Earthquakes*, a presentation by Conevery Bolton Valencius, a professor of history at Boston College. Valencius will explore the impact and continuing scientific importance of the great nineteenth-century quakes in the Mississippi Valley. This lecture is sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council and the MSU Department of History and College of Humanities and Public Affairs.

At 5:30 p.m. on Thursday evening Missouri State University's Ozarks Studies Institute will offer a viewing and discussion of *The Ozark Jubilee*, a 1950s television program that was broadcast live from Springfield. Join Tom Peters, MSU's dean of Library Services; Wayne Glenn, a local historian and radio host; and Kaitlyn McConnell, the founder of the popular *Ozarks Alive* blog to learn about the show's impact on Missouri, the Ozarks, country and western music, and network television variety shows. *The Ozark Jubilee* program is free and open to the public. Registration is required; those not registering through the conference should RSVP at [shsmo.org/events](http://shsmo.org/events). For additional information on the Missouri Conference on History and to register, please visit <http://shsmo.org/mch>.

## Columbia Artist's Poignant Watercolor Honoring Ancestor on Display for Black History Month

As part of its celebration of Black History Month, the Columbia Research Center is currently exhibiting a watercolor with special meaning to local artist Byron Smith. Born in Columbia, Smith has deep family roots in central Missouri. Some of the artist's ancestors



Byron Smith's *Pear Trees*, a watercolor painted in 1998, depicts trees planted in 1881 in honor of the artist's ancestor. The trees still stand in mid-Missouri today.

were slaves brought to Missouri in the early nineteenth century by white settlers from Kentucky and Tennessee. After the Civil War, they bought land in Boone County and established communities in both urban and rural areas.

*Pear Trees in Memory of Ollie Bass*, a watercolor painted in 1998, relates a well-known story within Smith's family. The artist's ancestor, Minor Bass Jr., the son of a slave, celebrated the birth of his daughter, Ollie, on March 2, 1881, by planting four pear trees on his property. The gesture was especially poignant because Ollie Bass was born free.

Smith learned about these trees as a child and ate their fruit. He decided to paint the landscape because it resonated with his family's history. "This land is deeply rooted within me and inspires me to want to paint," Smith said.

Smith takes a special interest in painting places that have historical significance to his family. He has described his visits to these places as being like a pilgrimage. "In my paintings, I am able to record these experiences," he said. "Painting is a way of having a relationship with history." Smith recently donated *Pear Trees* and a number of other works to SHSMO. The Society will preserve his art and the important local history they represent.

## St. Louis Associate Director Selected, New Staff Members Added at Three Research Centers

After a decade of dedicated service to SHSMO, Nancy McIlvaney has been promoted to associate director of the St. Louis Research Center. McIlvaney began her new position in January, filling the vacancy left by Zelli Fischetti when he retired in October.

A fifth-generation St. Louisan, McIlvaney holds a master's degree in history and museum studies from the University of Missouri–St. Louis. She previously served as the curator

of special projects and was an adjunct lecturer in the museum studies graduate program at UMSL.

At SHSMO McIlvaney has been vital to preserving and digitizing St. Louis's iconic photograph collection.

"It is gratifying for all of us when the hard work and commitment of a staff member can be rewarded," said Gerald Hirsch, SHSMO senior associate director. "We are excited to see the new avenues

that we are able to explore through Nancy's leadership in St. Louis."

Vacancies in the Cape Girardeau and Kansas City centers were filled in the last quarter of 2016.

Meghan Bellitto, the new library information assistant at the Cape Girardeau Research Center, moved to Missouri in the fall of 2016 to study historic preservation at Southeast Missouri State University.

—Continued on page 11



Nancy McIlvaney, the new associate director of the St. Louis Research Center.



## Bicentennial Adds New Website and Logo

The launch of the bicentennial license plate project this past fall also inspired a redesign of the Missouri bicentennial website and logo. Patrons can now visit [missouri2021.org](http://missouri2021.org) for all bicentennial updates.

The website, which replaces the former [missouri200.org](http://missouri200.org) site, will keep readers posted on news concerning bicentennial plans. A suggestions page for submitting ideas about bicentennial projects and events has also been added.

Christina George, a SHSMO strategic communications associate, said that the updated logo encourages the public to think of

Missouri's history as a story that is constantly in progress. The logo's three stars represent the past, present, and future of the Show-Me State. "The new logo focuses on the bicentennial as an important moment in Missouri's history," George said. "Our story is one that is still being written. We all have a say in what it will mean to be a Missourian in the future."

The suggestions page invites the public to help determine what types of commemorations will be planned during the bicentennial. Alexandra Waetjen, SHSMO's education outreach coordinator, said that public input will be indispensable to the bicentennial's success. "There is no typical Missourian," Waetjen said. "There is no typical Missouri town. It will take ideas and planning from all of us to ensure that each facet of Missouri's heritage is commemorated in its own unique way."

SHSMO has begun commemorating the Show-Me State's cultural diversity on a social media page dedicated to the bicentennial. Visit [facebook.com/Missouri2021](https://facebook.com/Missouri2021) for information about upcoming statewide events as well as fun facts about Missouri.

### JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION!

**Facebook**  
[facebook.com/statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri](https://facebook.com/statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri)

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[flickr.com/statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri](https://flickr.com/statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri)

**Pinterest**  
[pinterest.com/shsofmo](https://pinterest.com/shsofmo)

**Twitter**  
[twitter.com/shsofmo](https://twitter.com/shsofmo)

**Youtube**  
[youtube.com/shsofmo](https://youtube.com/shsofmo)

## From the History Day Paper I Wrote a Decade Ago to the Letter by Thomas Jefferson I Transcribed Yesterday

By Anna Roberts

As any National History Day alum will tell you, the first step in a research project—finding a topic—is sometimes the most difficult. I certainly thought so in August 2011 as I searched for a senior history thesis topic, skimming books and even Googling random keywords in the hope that something, anything, would turn up.

As I brainstormed, I remembered a paper I had written for National History Day five years earlier. The contest theme had been Taking a Stand in History, and I researched Elijah Lovejoy, a newspaper editor who was driven from St. Louis and later murdered in

citations that a judge told me I had too many footnotes. I was absolutely hooked—on Lovejoy, and on history.

So I recognized Tabscott's name when I saw it in the results from one of my increasingly desperate Google searches. Intrigued, I followed the link to an article about John Berry Meachum, a free black pastor, educator, and businessman in antebellum St. Louis. I learned that Meachum, like Lovejoy, had taken a stand for African Americans' rights and liberties. According to legend, when Missouri outlawed schools for blacks, Meachum opened one on a steamboat in the Mississippi River. I had found my thesis

topic.

By the time I turned in my thesis, I had learned that not all stories about Meachum were true, but that he was every bit as heroic as Lovejoy—and every bit as flawed.

*"I see these complexities of human nature in my work as an editorial and research assistant for the Papers of Thomas Jefferson. As I work on the 'Retirement Series' of letters Jefferson wrote in his final years, I discover the thoughts of a man who declared that all men are created equal but also counted hundreds of human beings as his property." –Anna Roberts*

Alton, Illinois, for his outspoken abolitionist editorials. I examined every source I could get my hands on, interviewed Robert W. Tabscott, the founder of the Elijah P. Lovejoy Society, and finished a paper so chock-full of

Lovejoy campaigned for freedom for African Americans, but he also printed vitriolic anti-Catholic articles. Meachum bought slaves and allowed them to work for him to earn their freedom, but some of his slaves sued



Anna Roberts, National History Day in Missouri alum.

him for illegally holding them in bondage. As I continued to study Lovejoy and Meachum in graduate school, it became clear to me that these men were not simply heroes or villains. They were a little bit of both.

Today, I see these complexities of human nature in my work as an editorial and research assistant for the Papers of Thomas Jefferson. As I work on the "Retirement Series" of letters Jefferson wrote in his final years, I discover the thoughts of a man who declared that all men are created equal but also counted hundreds of human beings as his property.

As I transcribe letters, conduct research, and check transcriptions and editorial notes for accuracy, I witness an increasingly feeble Jefferson worrying about whether his family will be provided for after his death. But even as I begin to sympathize, I read letters in which enslaved people are talked about in ways that make me need to stop and take a deep breath to calm my rising anger. Are people like Jefferson heroes or villains? Like Meachum and Lovejoy—like all of us—they can be both.

From the History Day paper I wrote a decade ago to the letter I transcribed yesterday, history has taught me that people are complicated, and it is better to treat them with empathy and fairness than to pigeonhole them into categories like "hero" or "villain." That knowledge is invaluable no matter where life takes you.



Anna Roberts's experience in NHDMO was one of many factors that helped her choose a career path. In 2012 she graduated from Patrick Henry College in Virginia with a bachelor of arts degree in history. She received a master's degree in history from the College of William and Mary last year.

## Genealogist Spends Lifetime Assisting Family Historians, Donates Collection to Continue Legacy

Betty Kennedy Sewell recalls being asked by her mother to help another family member dig into the Kennedys' history for information on a distant relative. That was in 1959; nearly six decades later, she is still answering letters, emails, and phone calls—from other families as well as her own—seeking her assistance with a wide range of genealogical and historical questions.

The Sewell Genealogical Collection (CG0011) reflects her dedication and determination. The collection's 29 folders contain extensive correspondence, family charts, photographs, and documents such as copies of wills, deeds, estate sale lists,

death certificates, and family trees. Two large and carefully organized ledgers record the extensive research.

People have learned to seek her help, particularly with the records she has gathered on early southeast Missouri families such as the Kennedys, Shepherds, Zooks, Renfroes, Priests, Wickers, Englishes, Gislens, Fehrs, Samuelses, Lees, and Halls. Her popularity as a genealogist is undoubtedly due as well to her personal charm and grace, soft Southern

accent, and enduring patience in pursuing family connections.

Betty Sewell was born on March 8, 1930, in New Madrid County, Missouri, to Earl Kennedy and Bertha Zook Kennedy. Her family moved to Edna, Texas, while she

*The family received a telegram that Elmo was missing in action. This was all they knew about him until late December 1944, when they received a card from Elmo in the mail saying that he was a prisoner of the Japanese.*

was still a child, and she lived there until returning to southeast Missouri in 1943. Her family's long and distinguished history of military service contributed to her interest in genealogy. One ancestor, John Kennedy, fought in a Virginia militia unit during the Revolutionary War.

Within her own generation, her brother, Albert Elmo Kennedy, was one of the few crewmen to survive the sinking of the USS *Houston* on February 28, 1942, during the Battle of the Sunda Strait between the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra. After the battle, the family received a telegram that Elmo was missing in action. This was all they knew about him until late December 1944, when they received a card from Elmo in the mail saying that he was a prisoner of the Japanese. He remained imprisoned for the rest of World War II.

The Sewell Collection is the product of a lifetime of research by a genealogist committed to the preservation of history, whose family has a direct connection to some of the great stories in America's past. Visit the Cape Girardeau Research Center to view the collection, or request it at any of the State Historical Society's other five centers.



Betty Kennedy Sewell recently donated six decades of family history research to the Cape center.

## New Research Guides Connect Patrons to SHSMO Collections and Online Resources

Patrons and researchers visiting the SHSMO website have new tools available for investigating Missouri's cultural, political, and genealogical history. Topical research guides, available at [shsmo.org/research/](http://shsmo.org/research/), gather links to resources on subjects such as African Americans, German Americans, and Jewish Americans, as well as the Vietnam War, World War II, and the Missouri Militia and National Guard.

Additional research guides are under development and will be added to the website as they are completed. Each guide provides subject-specific links to online manuscript collection inventories, *Missouri Historical*

*Review* articles, scanned photographs and illustrations, and other resources such as indexes of SHSMO's newspaper holdings and scans of editorial cartoons.

"Compiling these guides is exciting because we're making our resources more readily available to our patrons," said Heather Richmond, a SHSMO archivist. "It's also a fun project for us because we get to learn more about our own materials while investigating a specific topic in Missouri history."

One of Richmond's most recent projects is the World War II research guide, which includes links to inventories for collections of

letters, diaries, and memoirs about wartime military service.

"These records help researchers understand the effects the war had on Missourians fighting overseas as well as those providing strength on the home front," Richmond said.

The guides are intended to help patrons search more efficiently within SHSMO's collections, particularly its expanding online resources. For information on volunteering to work on projects to digitize collection materials for online access, please contact the State Historical Society at 573.882.7083 or [contact@shsmo.org](mailto:contact@shsmo.org). Watch the website for updates on available research guides.

**February School's Out, History's In! Presidents Day  
February 20 1:30 – 4 p.m. Columbia**

Learn more about the leaders celebrated each Presidents Day with the help of art curator Joan Stack and items from the Society's archives. Great for all ages, this event in the Columbia Research Center will encourage children to explore the history found in art, newspapers, letters, and books. Join us at 2 p.m. for the story of Vinnie Ream, a Missouri sculptor best known for her statue of Abraham Lincoln in the US Capitol. Ream's distinguished career demonstrates how Missourians can make their mark on the nation. See details at [shsmo.org/events](http://shsmo.org/events); registration is appreciated. For more on Vinnie Ream, please visit [shsmo.org/historicmissourians](http://shsmo.org/historicmissourians).



**Center for Missouri Studies Fellowship Lecture: Missouri Jewish History  
February 21 7 p.m. St. Louis**

Well into the twentieth century, tuberculosis remained a rampant disease that knew no boundaries or class distinctions. From 1926 until the early 1940s, the St. Louis Jewish community supported a summer camp for at-risk children, promoting fresh air, good food, and exercise while also subtly teaching about health. Join 2016 Center for Missouri Studies Fellowship recipient Diane Everman as she discusses the camp and its legacy in her talk, "Camp Fee Fee: The St. Louis Jewish Anti-Tubercular Preventorium." The presentation, which will be followed by a dessert reception, will be at the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, 12 Millstone Campus Drive, in St. Louis County near the intersection of Lindbergh and Olive Boulevards. Please register for this free event with the Saul Brodsky Jewish Community Library at 314.442.3720 or [CLEvy@JFedSTL.org](mailto:CLEvy@JFedSTL.org). The lecture is sponsored by SHSMO, the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, the Brodsky Library, and the Center for Jewish Learning.

**Accessing and Using State Historical Society of Missouri Materials in Springfield  
February 25 11 a.m. Joplin**

Doing genealogical, local, or historical research? Join archivists from SHSMO's Springfield Research Center to look at available resources. This program will provide an overview of SHSMO's statewide archives, including manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, art, and the editorial cartoon collections. Learn how to access many of these primary resources through the Springfield Research Center, and get time-saving tips for locating the best research materials for your project. This session will be held at the Joplin Public Library, 300 S. Main Street. Can't make this event? Attend a subsequent presentation at 7 p.m. on March 2 at the Springfield-Greene County Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell Avenue.

**March Election Aftershock: George Caleb Bingham's Indians, Fur Traders, and the Unexpected Presidency of James K. Polk  
March 4 10 a.m. Arrow Rock**



In 1844 the dark horse candidate James K. Polk defeated the pundits' favorite, Henry Clay, in the presidential election. George Caleb Bingham, a Clay supporter, feared Polk's expansionist ambitions and war-mongering policies. In this talk SHSMO's art curator, Joan Stack, will argue that Bingham's 1845 paintings *The Concealed Enemy* and *Fur Traders Descending the Missouri* may reflect the artist's anti-Polk anxiety. The lecture will be held at the Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitors Center, 39521 Visitor Center Drive.

**Fashioning a Collection: 50 Years, 50 Objects  
March 9 5 - 6:30 p.m. Columbia**

Join SHSMO in celebrating the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection's 50th anniversary at the opening reception of the special exhibition, *Fashioning a Collection: 50 Years, 50 Objects*. The artifacts on display will include flat textiles as well as men's, women's, and children's clothing and accessories that represent the collection's diverse holdings and archival resources. Explore how these objects continue to enhance teaching, research, and educational outreach at the University of Missouri. The show will run from March 7 to May 22 in the main gallery of the Columbia Research Center.



**African American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series:  
Sowande' Mustakeem March 14 6:30 p.m. Columbia**

The series continues with a talk by Sowande' Mustakeem, assistant professor of African and African American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, on the role of race and gender in a late nineteenth-century murder case. Mustakeem will discuss the death of Effie Jackson, a Kansas City woman killed by a rival for the affections of a man; Jackson's case will serve as a basis to explore laws and institutions designed to police working-class African Americans. The event will be held in Stotler Lounge of the University of Missouri's Memorial Student Union. The lectures are a collaboration between SHSMO and MU's Division of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity.

**Missouri Conference on History March 22-24 Springfield**

Join other history enthusiasts at the fifty-ninth annual Missouri Conference on History and Midwest Regional Meeting of Phi Alpha Theta. The 2017 conference, hosted by the Missouri State University History Department, will be held at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield. Sessions will cover a wide variety of historical topics, including public history and historic preservation. Registration is required. See more information on page 2.



**Looking ahead National History Day in Missouri  
State Contest April 29 Columbia**

Come witness the knowledge, enthusiasm, and creativity of nearly 600 students from across the state as they share their History Day research projects. They will compete for state honors in categories including documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites that explore the 2017 contest theme, Taking a Stand in History. Sign up as a contest judge at [nhdmo.org/judges](http://nhdmo.org/judges) and share your time to help students improve their work. Top finishers at the state contest will advance to the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland, College Park in June.

**Bluegrass Pickin' One More Time April 30 Rolla**

Join SHSMO and Mid-Missouri public radio station KMST in honoring Mona Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers, Jim Orchard and the Ozark Bluegrass Boys, and Jimmie Allison and the Ozark Rounders at an afternoon of live bluegrass at the Havener Center on the Missouri University of Science and Technology campus in Rolla. See page 10 for more details.

## Missouri Looks Back at Its First 100 Years: Donald Dwight Davis and the Centennial News Bureau

Before social media or television, newspapers were the pioneers of buzz. In 1921, with radio in its infancy and motion pictures still silent, the newspaper was the tool of choice for Donald Dwight Davis, the native Kansan chiefly responsible for publicizing Missouri's centennial celebrations, which reached their peak in a historical pageant with a cast of hundreds at the state fair in Sedalia.

To promote the state's centennial, Davis, just 24 years old, built a publicity campaign that harnessed the power of Missouri's

newspaper industry. Through a newly created Centennial News Bureau, he issued ready-for-print historical articles, literary pieces, and advertising templates. In exchange for the free use of this content, newspaper publishers agreed to run full-page ads for the Centennial Exposition at the state fair. The ads and articles appeared in papers across the state.

Davis researched the state's history at the State Historical Society of Missouri's library, submitting his work to Floyd C. Shoemaker, the head of the Society, for editorial approval.

Davis recounted Missouri's first 100 years in articles such as "Arrival of an Overland Train at Santa Fe" and "The Battle of Wilson's Creek—1861." Illustrations by A. B. Chapin based on artwork from the State Historical Society collections and photographic reproductions of artworks in the new state capitol building, completed in 1917, adorned numerous centennial pieces.

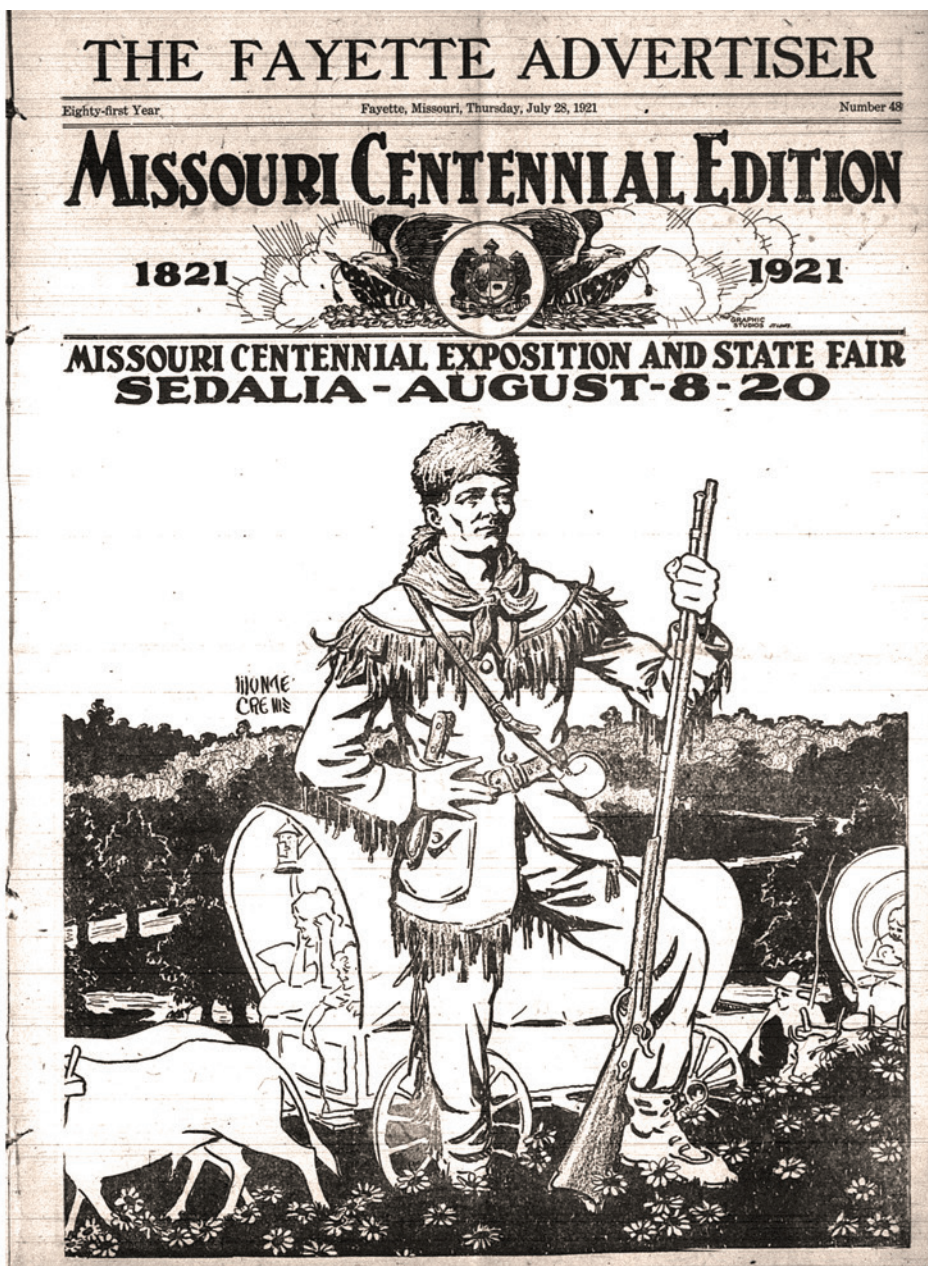
Many of Missouri's newspapers integrated the Centennial News Bureau's work with their own to create distinctive local centennial editions. City and county history articles were a common feature in these special issues. The centennial issues sometimes included accounts written by community elders. In at least one case editors solicited reminiscences from their own parents: the August 5, 1921, issue of the *Bunceton Weekly Eagle* included a column titled "Fifty Years Ago—And More" by Mrs. T. A. Nelson, "Mother of Editors of Eagle."

The newspaper accounts not only noted the successes of founders and pioneers, but also at times recognized privations and injustices of the past in pieces like "Memories of the Days of the Whip and Lash," published in the August 4, 1921, *Mississippi Sawyer* of Canton. The article told the story of Louis Dade, a Lewis County resident and former slave.

Buoyed by his success with the state centennial, Davis went on to a long career in the media industry. He served as the president of the WHB Broadcasting Company in Kansas City from 1931 to 1952, and was president of Kansas City radio and television station KMBC from 1952 to 1961. His papers, including his 1921 diary, are available as manuscript collection K0934.

Three proof books that marketed the Centennial News Bureau's work are available in the Columbia Research Center, and a number of the special newspaper editions are preserved on microfilm. The centennial publications are of particular interest today as Missouri's bicentennial draws nearer and plans for commemorating it take shape.

*Many of Missouri's newspapers integrated the Centennial News Bureau's work with their own to create distinctive local centennial editions.*



The Fayette Advertiser's centennial edition featured artwork by native son Monte Crews. He became a successful commercial illustrator and artist.

## Marnett Collection Preserves Legacy of Kansas City Railroad Enthusiast, Illustrates Local History

The Henry R. Marnett Railroad Collection (K0734) is one of the most recent additions to SHSMO's holdings on the widely popular subject of railroads. Housed at the Kansas City Research Center, the collection is focused on the Kansas City area, but includes materials on trains and depots across Missouri and the United States, as well as items regarding the Marnett family, travel, and ferroequinology (the study of railways and trains).

A native of Kansas City and a 1936 graduate of Paseo High School, Henry R. Marnett attended Kansas City, Kansas, Junior College before serving in the US Army during World War II. Returning to Kansas City and civilian life, he graduated from the American Institute of Banking and then worked for the Southeast State Bank for 37 years, retiring as vice-president in 1984. He also completed a degree from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin in 1969.

Marnett displayed a great passion for researching and photographing trains and depots. He started by collecting images taken around the Kansas City metropolitan area. It was not long before he expanded his collection to include trains, railways, and depots in many other parts of the state and the nation. Like

*One group of slides in the Marnett Collection spans most of the twentieth century and is accompanied by a handwritten index listing dates, locations, and types of trains captured in the images.*

many train enthusiasts, Marnett captured numerous images on Kodachrome film.

Marnett eventually compiled nearly 11,000 slides in carousels for presentations. He would research specific train lines and document a variety of subjects such as the history of different companies, types of engines, and locations of depots and stations.

His presentations often added materials gathered from magazines and other publications to his own photographs. One group of slides



A young Henry R. Marnett, standing and wearing hat, with neighborhood children at 40th and Park Streets in March 1929.

in the Marnett Collection spans most of the twentieth century and is accompanied by a handwritten index listing dates, locations, and types of trains captured in the images.

The index indicates that Marnett's documentation of trains and depots surged in the 1970s. In addition to Marnett's own photographs, negatives, and slides, the collection contains sequences of copied photographs, artists' renditions of trains, postcards, miscellaneous materials collected from railroad travel, and other ephemera related to his hobby and his family.

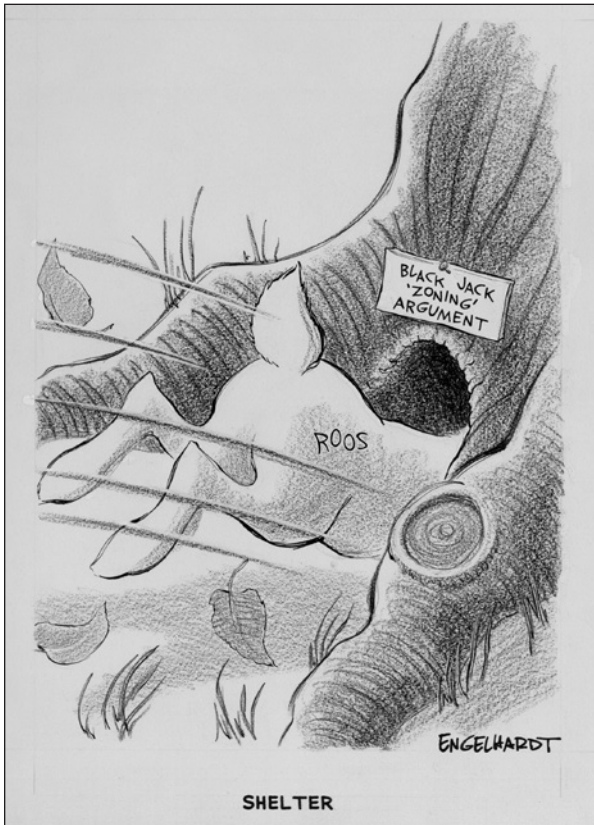
In retirement, Marnett volunteered at the Truman Library, the Jackson County Historical Society, and the Independence Regional Health Center. In 2010 he received the Jane Fifield Flynn Lifetime Achievement in Historic Preservation Award from the Jackson County Historical Society in recognition of his longtime commitment to local historic preservation. Marnett died on February 25, 2014, and is buried at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens in Kansas City.



A copy of *Night Departures from Kansas City* by Larry Fisher is housed in the Marnett Collection. Based on an acrylic painting, it depicts activity at Kansas City's Union Station. The Santa Fe's red 'San Francisco Chief' and the Union Pacific's yellow 'City of St. Louis' are among the westbound departures.



## St. Louis Integration Controversy Documented through New Black Jack Housing Collection



*Shelter* by Tom Engelhardt ran in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on June 4, 1971. It depicts the St. Louis county supervisor, Lawrence K. Roos, ducking for cover in the "Black Jack Zoning" Argument."

The St. Louis Research Center recently received a collection documenting the 1970s Black Jack housing controversy. Paul Mittelstadt, the former director of housing for the Inter-Religious Center for Urban Affairs in St. Louis, donated the collection (SA1206), which documents an ill-fated attempt to encourage housing integration.

Mittelstadt's group formed the nonprofit Park View Heights Corporation to sponsor subsidized housing in a predominantly white area of north St. Louis County. It identified a 12-acre site in the unincorporated county at Old Jamestown and Parker Roads to zone for multifamily use.

Area residents who opposed the plan formed the new city of Black Jack around the site and had it rezoned for single-family units. The Parkview Heights Corporation and the US Justice Department then filed suit against Black Jack for racial discrimination. By the time

the corporation prevailed in 1976, the Nixon-Ford administration had eliminated the subsidized housing program that the Park View Heights

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The collection includes a timeline of events, research on housing conducted by the Inter-Religious Council in 1968, newspaper accounts of the controversy and legal proceedings, and correspondence leading up to the agreement between the Park View Heights Corporation and the city of Black Jack.

It can viewed at the St. Louis Research Center, or at any of the State Historical Society's other locations upon request.

## Rolla Research Center to Host Bluegrass Festival in April, Currently Seeking Event Volunteers

SHSMO and Mid-Missouri public radio station KMST will present "Bluegrass Pickin' One More Time," a live bluegrass festival, on April 30 in Rolla at the Missouri University of Science and Technology's Havener Center. Featuring Mona Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers, Jim Orchard and the Ozark Bluegrass Boys, and Jimmie Allison and the Ozark Rounders, the event will celebrate their contributions to the bluegrass music tradition and Missouri history.

Carole Goggin, the library information assistant at the Rolla Research Center, has been a driving force behind the program. "Carole's been a part of every phase of this project," said Alexandra Waetjen, SHSMO's education outreach coordinator. "She has worked with the bands, selected the venue, and is helping us ramp up promotions. We wouldn't be able to do this without her dedication to the festival."

Goggin, an avid bluegrass fan, began volunteering at the Rolla Research Center in August 2014 before joining the staff part-time in 2015. Her interests in genealogical



Bluegrass Pickin' Time's master of ceremonies Jim Orchard, left, oversees the grand finale of the 1997 event. Orchard, a fixture of the festival for 29 years, will perform in Missouri S&T's Havener Center on April 30.

and historical research led Goggin to her current work at the Rolla center.

Interested in contributing to the bluegrass festival? Please contact the State Historical

Society of Missouri at 573.882.7083 or [contact@shsmo.org](mailto:contact@shsmo.org). Flexible volunteering opportunities are available before and during the April event.

## Students at UMSL Translate SHSMO Collection of Downed World War II Tail Gunner's Papers

The St. Louis Research Center has received a small collection of papers and audiovisual materials related to the life of David Butcher, a US Army Air Force staff sergeant who joined the French Resistance for nine months after his plane was shot down over France on July 4, 1943. Butcher settled in Ferguson, Missouri, after the war.

Assigned as a tail gunner to the 384th Bombardment Group of the Eighth Air Force, Butcher was shot down over Le Mans, France, on his first combat mission. Alone among his crewmates, he survived after parachuting to the ground near the village of Poillé-sur-Vègre. He was found by 12-year-old Jean-Jacques Auduc and hidden by the boy's family on their farm.

The Auduc family and 140 others from the area were "helpers" who belonged to the organized French Resistance. In 1943 and 1944, Butcher worked alongside them as a fellow Resistance fighter. He had to rely on hand gestures as he tried to quickly learn French while sharing his skills in radio communication.

With a set of forged identity papers in hand, Butcher moved frequently between safe houses to evade the Gestapo and continue the cell's radio transmissions. When the Resistance fighters received a warning that the Germans were close to discovering them, Butcher and several others fled, undergoing a treacherous hike across the

*When the Resistance fighters received a warning that the Germans were close to discovering them, Butcher and several others fled, undergoing a treacherous hike across the Pyrenees Mountains during snowstorms.*

Pyrenees Mountains during snowstorms. Aided by sympathetic Basque villagers, they made it safely to Spain. Butcher's group learned later that they had escaped one week before the Gestapo arrested the others, including three members of the Auduc family, who remained behind.

From Spain, Butcher made his way back to his military unit in London and resumed flying missions. After the war, the French

made him an honorary citizen of Poillé-sur-Vègre and erected a memorial there honoring him and his fellow crew members.

The David Butcher Papers (SA1166) contain several French-language holdings, including news clippings, audio, and video recordings detailing Butcher's experiences in Nazi-occupied France. Some have been translated with the help of Anne-Sophie Blank, a professor of French at the University of Missouri at St. Louis. Blank assigned Butcher's papers to her upper-level French students, who

translated them as the final project in their Methods in Translation class during the spring 2016 semester.

After the class ended, several of Blank's students conducted further research. One student majoring in history is writing his senior thesis on Butcher, and his research includes interviews with members of Butcher's family. Blank will also present a paper on the translation project in collaboration with the State Historical Society at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, March 9–11, 2017, in Chicago.



**Above** In 1943 David Butcher hid from the Gestapo for a month in this safe house in Château-du-Loir, France. **Left** Butcher answers questions during a video interview by a McCluer High School student. During a return visit to France in 1984, the Auduc family gave Butcher the beret he is wearing.

## Staff Added in Cape Girardeau, Kansas City, and Columbia —Continued from page 3

Bellitto holds a bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology and a graduate certificate in museum studies, both from Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville. A local history enthusiast, she has previous work experience at a genealogical library and in collections management. Bellitto will assist with patron services and preservation work on the collections at the Cape center.

Michele Loran, the new archivist in Kansas City, earned a master's degree in library and

information studies with an emphasis in archives management from the University of Wisconsin. She is originally from the San Francisco Bay area and completed her undergraduate studies in history and art history at Chapman University near Los Angeles. In Kansas City she will process collections, work on digitization projects, and assist researchers.

In Columbia, John Schneider, a contract employee at SHSMO since 2015, has been

hired as the new assistant preparator. He will work with SHSMO's art collection and will prepare artworks to be moved to the new headquarters building. Schneider spent his formative years in Montgomery City before joining the US Marine Corps. After receiving an honorable discharge, he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Missouri. Schneider is currently working toward a master of fine arts degree in printmaking at MU.



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