

MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri

November 2018 Vol. 14, No. 3



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State Historical Society Sees Record Attendance at Center for Missouri Studies Fall Lecture, Honors Legislators and Authors with Annual Awards

More than 270 attendees joined SHSMO for the Center for Missouri Studies Fall Lecture by Caroline Fraser on October 13. The 2018 Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder* talked about Wilder's real-life experiences, encouraging the audience to read between the lines of the triumphant Little House books to see the harder realities behind the Missouri writer's fictionalized narrative of pioneer life.

During the annual festivities, the State Historical Society honored a number of steadfast supporters and outstanding scholars. The Society's Distinguished Service Award, established in 1968 to recognize exceptional service to and support of SHSMO, is the highest award given by the organization. The 2018 recipient was Missouri State Senator Ron Richard of Joplin, Missouri. Richard was instrumental in helping to obtain funding for the soon-to-be-completed Center for Missouri Studies building. He was also the principal force behind the Society's designation as the planning agency for the state's bicentennial in 2021.



Fall lecture guest speaker Caroline Fraser. *Event photos by Notley Hawkins*

"Since I assumed the directorship of the State Historical Society in September 2004, no single individual has been of greater assistance to me and the Society than Senator Richard," said Gary Kremer, SHSMO executive director. "He has counseled me when I needed advice; he has encouraged me when the circumstances looked bleak; he has interceded when we needed help."

Since 2012, the Board of Trustees of the State Historical Society of Missouri has also recognized individuals who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to the organization's mission. This year the trustees voted unanimously to honor three individuals:

Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe, State Representative Lyle Rowland, and State Representative Glen Kolkmeier.

The board selected Kehoe due to his long-term support in the Missouri Senate. "Throughout his tenure in a leadership position, Mike Kehoe has been one of the State Historical Society of Missouri's strongest supporters," Kremer said. "He has consistently and effectively advocated on our behalf with regard to the budget, and he was a strong supporter of the effort to pass a bond issue that made it possible to build the new Center for Missouri Studies."

Rowland was acknowledged for his instrumental role in SHSMO's efforts to fund the operating costs of a new Columbia headquarters. "Representative Rowland quickly grasped the need for the Society to obtain this funding and became one of our leading advocates in the House," Kremer said. "No matter how busy he was, he always took time to see me, and usually we ended up having an interesting conversation about the richness of Missouri Ozarks history."

—Continued on page 11



SHSMO recognized four legislators with 2018 awards during the annual meeting weekend. SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer, left, State Senator Ron Richard, US Senator Roy Blunt, Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe, Society president Bob Priddy, State Representative Glen Kolkmeier, and State Representative Lyle Rowland posed after the ceremony.

Letter from the State Historical Society of Missouri President

We know how important he is. I want you to know a little bit about our senior associate executive director, Gerald Hirsch. That's the number two job at the State Historical Society of Missouri. If you have been to one or more of our annual meetings in the last decade or so, you probably saw him, and you might have recognized him as one of our outstanding staff members. He's their leader. And more.

For some time, his role was principally administrative, but today he keeps his own hard hat and vest in his office

and regularly goes the five blocks north to check on the construction at the Center for Missouri Studies. He's our point man on that project.

On any particular day, visitors to his office will find a stack of blueprints on this or that table, often spread out as he makes sure things are being done properly. Gerald is the guy we have designated to keep up with all aspects of the new building. His fingerprints will be all over it when we open the doors. SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer says he has "amazing facility for

attention to detail...He has lived and breathed the whole project."

Gerald drives in each day from Jefferson City, where his family has lived for multiple generations. He worked at the Missouri State Archives for nine years before joining us in 2007. If you've ever had occasion to check the Archives' Missouri Death Certificate Database, thank Gerald. He oversaw that project. He also was a major factor in creating their local records databases.

He didn't know when he took a high school class in design and construction that it would be so useful until he immersed himself in the Center for Missouri Studies project, which he describes as "monumental" and full of "myriad details." He used to check on the construction each month, then as work got underway, weekly, and now—two or three times a week. "There should be no surprises when we walk into the building," Gerald said.

He has started to coordinate our move-in about six months from now. He's been supervising the staff's work inventorying and packing for



Bob Priddy, SHSMO president

a move that should take two or three months to complete. "The place is going to look pretty weird when we move out," he told me.

Personally, I can't wait for the weirdness.

I mention Gerald in this note because he represents about 50 people who work for your State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia and at our regional research centers. Our visitors know they're all incredibly dedicated, terrifically professional people. I'm in the office at least three or more times every month, and I'm so glad that I get to be around folks like these.

The fact that they give me chocolate sometimes has no bearing on my assessment.

Bob Priddy

President, Board of Trustees



Gerald Hirsch, SHSMO senior associate executive director, surveys progress on the Center for Missouri Studies in April 2018. He now visits the site several times a week to ensure the project is executed as efficiently as possible.

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Dues Increases and New Giving Categories Begin in January 2019

After seven years without an increase in dues, the Executive Committee of SHSMO's Board of Trustees approved an incremental change to most levels of membership. The committee also created new giving levels within the George Caleb Bingham Society. All changes will go into effect on January 1, 2019.

The new annual membership rates are: Individual, \$40; International-digital, \$40; International, \$60; Household/Organization, \$60; Contributing, \$100; and Supporting, \$150. There will be no increase to the Student/Teacher membership level, which will remain at \$25 per year. The Sustaining and Patron levels will also stay at \$250 and \$500 respectively. International members may either stay at their current annual dues level of \$40 by selecting the new digital international membership, or choose the \$60 level in order to continue receiving printed copies of the *Missouri Historical Review* and *Missouri Times*.

"There has been a lot of economic change since the last increase in 2012," said Gerald Hirsch, SHSMO senior associate executive director. "To ensure our ability to continue providing exceptional services and programs across the state, this is something it was simply time to do."

The George Caleb Bingham Society, SHSMO's leadership giving group, is introducing new levels: Leader, \$1,000; Advocate, \$2,500; Benefactor, \$5,000; and Visionary, \$10,000.

"It's important for us to have multiple ways to recognize our supporters," said Catherine Comley Adams, SHSMO assistant executive director for advancement. "Members of the Bingham Society help maximize the State Historical Society's ability to preserve Missouri's heritage and to encourage the discovery of new facets of our past."

Visit shsmo.org/join to see benefits at the various membership levels. For more information on how membership dues support the Society's programs and services, see SHSMO's 2018 annual report at shsmo.org/about/financials.

State Historical Society Acquires, Installs Thomas Hart Benton Sculpture in Columbia Gallery

On November 8 a newly acquired bronze sculpture of Thomas Hart Benton was installed in the main art gallery of the Columbia Research Center. The purchase, announced by SHSMO president Bob Priddy



SHSMO purchased a nearly two-foot-tall bronze sculpture of Thomas Hart Benton by artist Charles Banks Wilson at an auction on October 12.

during the Society's 2018 Annual Meeting weekend, cost \$2,750. Because this price falls outside of the organization's art acquisitions budget, donations are being sought to cover the purchase.

Oklahoma regionalist artist Charles Banks Wilson, a close friend and associate of Benton's, created the almost two-foot-high likeness. The sculpture reflects Benton's interest in exploring his world and sketching the things he saw. The Missouri artist is shown striding forward, staff in hand, with a sketchbook under his arm. In a 1990 interview with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Wilson said that he wanted the figure to represent the Tom he knew: "[Benton] covered hundreds of miles, maybe thousands, walking and looking for places to sketch."

Wilson was invited to submit a design for a large bronze sculpture of Benton by Kansas City's Benton Foundation in 1978. The foundation, headed by Frank Paxton Jr., raised money for the sculpture by selling castings of Wilson's nine-and-a-half-inch-tall model for \$1,500. By 1981, 69 small bronzes had been cast and over 40 sold. According to records at the Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site, by 1984 the foundation was working with Wilson to produce a larger model for the sculpture that would sell for \$5,000 per casting.

Wilson collaborated with Oklahoma sculptor Nick Calcagno to create the larger

model, a twenty-two-inch bronze, which was finished in 1989. Leslie Hindman Auctioneers reports that this casting helped fund Wilson's 1990 life-sized sculpture of

"I invite all of you to join me in making a gift. We don't often purchase pieces, but sometimes something comes along like this sculpture, which fits so well with the collection that we have to come together and find a way to make it happen."

—Bob Priddy, SHSMO president

Benton that now stands on the grounds of the Kansas City Art Institute. The State Historical Society's bronze is number six from what was likely a relatively small edition.

According to Leslie Hindman Auctioneers, the sculpture purchased by SHSMO came from the estate of Ann and Lee Constable, longtime Kansas City neighbors and supporters of Benton. Ann Constable also ran Constable Gallery, Ltd., which dealt in Benton's work.

Priddy was the first to pledge a small donation to help pay for the sculpture. "I invite all of you to join me in making a gift," he said. "We don't often purchase pieces, but sometimes something comes along like this sculpture, which fits so well with the collection that we have to come together and find a way to make it happen."

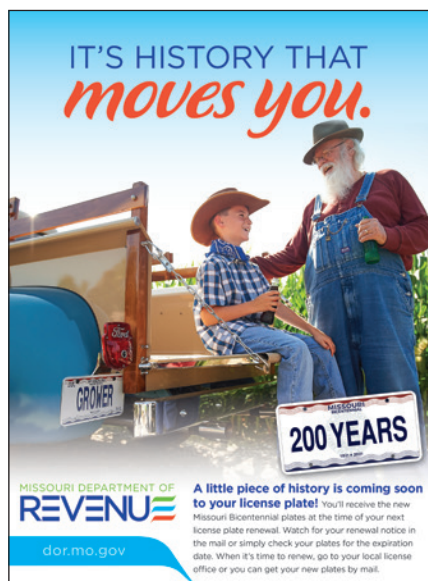
To join Priddy in supporting the art collection, contact the State Historical Society of Missouri at 573.882.7083 or contact@shsmo.org.

Bicentennial License Plate Released in October, Ahead of Schedule

The biggest statewide bicentennial project to date—the commemorative license plate—debuted on October 15. The State Historical Society of Missouri worked with the committee appointed by former Governor Jay Nixon to design the plate, and with the Missouri Department of Revenue to promote and publicize the plate's release.

State Representative Glen Kolkmeier of Missouri's 53rd District was instrumental in establishing the bicentennial plate, sponsoring the legislation to create it and pushing the project forward. Thanks in part to Kolkmeier's efforts and those of a number of state agencies, the new license plates were released about three and a half months ahead of the anticipated starting date.

Missouri registration holders will be notified when it is time for them to renew their license plates and receive the new design at their local license office. The typical embossed plate is \$3.36 for a set of two, which covers the cost of the license plate materials and labor. If you have questions about the new design or when you will get your bicentennial plates, visit missouri2021.org or contact the Department of Revenue directly at mvbmail@dor.mo.gov.



The Society helped consult on promotions, like this one, announcing the new bicentennial plate.

JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION!

State Historical Society of Missouri

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Missouri Made: How National History Day in Missouri Encouraged Me to Empower Others

By Amanda Morrison

June 16 is a special day for me. On that date in 2014, I was in Washington, DC, enjoying a day of sightseeing before presenting my senior individual performance at National History Day nationals. My performance project that year was “Power, the Press, the Post: Katharine Graham and the Rights and Responsibilities of Journalism.” Four years later, on June 16, 2018, I was once again enjoying a day of sightseeing in and around Washington. This time I was participating in the Mount Vernon Leadership fellowship program at George Washington’s home. I am thankful for my happy June 16 memories from DC, and it seems only right that my inspiration, Katharine Graham, former publisher and CEO of the *Washington Post*, was born on June 16, 1917.

Since I placed ninth in the nation in 2014 with my performance about Graham’s decision to publish the Watergate reporting of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, I have been busy attempting to follow in her footsteps. I am passionate about paving a way for women in a world still dominated by men. I am now a junior at Temple University in Philadelphia, where I major in global studies and strategic communication, with minors in Spanish and political science.

In my activities both inside and outside of the college classroom, I regularly draw from my incredible experiences with National History Day. Thanks to NHD, I feel confident writing research papers and annotated bibliographies, crafting professional e-mail correspondence, presenting my research in class, and learning about new topics.

National History Day helped lay the groundwork for my deepest passion, which is to have a career in public service that supports and empowers women. In the years

“National History Day helped lay the groundwork for my deepest passion, which is to have a career in public service that supports and empowers women.”

—Amanda Morrison, NHDMO alum

that I participated in NHD, I was able to research and become inspired by women in American history, from Graham to journalist Nellie Bly. Studying these women empowered me to be the best woman I can be, and now I hope to similarly encourage other women.

On that note, this past summer I founded an organization called Missouri M.A.D.E.:



Above Amanda Morrison, National History Day alum, competed at nationals three times. This performance in 2014 earned her a ninth-place finish. **Below** Last summer Morrison founded Missouri M.A.D.E., a nonprofit group that encourages women to run for public office in her home state.

Molding A Diverse Electorate. This organization, which is currently in the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, aims to galvanize young women in Missouri to some day run for public office at the local, state, and federal levels.

This project is mainly a result of my participation in the Mount Vernon Leadership fellowship, in which I was required to create a personal capstone project to implement on my campus or in my community. I knew I wanted to somehow inspire and advocate for other women, and after researching and talking through my project with several friends, I arrived at my plan.

Missouri M.A.D.E. envisions a world in which government representation is more equitable and diverse, which means more women must run for and be elected to public office. We plan to host annual

leadership summits and create a newsletter to update Missouri constituents on the success of their female legislators through this organization.

After I graduate from Temple, I hope to begin working with nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations to inspire and empower women to succeed, both at home and internationally. While I am



not exactly sure where my future will take me, I know that Missouri will always be home and I will always be passionate about helping young people in my home state to pursue their passions. For me, NHD was a great stepping stone toward my dreams and goals, and I encourage those interested in the National History Day program to put themselves out there and participate.

NHD was my first exposure to the strength and power of females; throughout history, women have led a dedicated charge toward a better future. I hope to continue to follow in the footsteps of Katharine Graham and other women throughout history to ensure that the future is indeed female.

Associate Director Elected President of State Genealogical Association

Bill Eddleman, the associate director of the State Historical Society's Cape Girardeau Research Center, was elected to a two-year term as president of the Missouri State Genealogical Association at its annual meeting in Columbia on August 10–11. Eddleman has been a genealogist and local historian for over 25 years, and his family ties in southeastern Missouri pre-date

the Louisiana Purchase. He is a past recipient of the State Genealogical Association's Award of Merit and also currently serves as an officer of the Cape Girardeau County Genealogical Society.

Founded in 1979, the Missouri State Genealogical Association is a group of genealogists and local societies dedicated to enhancing knowledge and study

of family history, genealogical records, and principles of sound genealogical research.

Eddleman said he is eager to begin his duties as president. "It's a very active group, with an excellent board, outstanding annual conference, and dedicated membership," he said. "I look forward to enhancing its excellent programs and activities."



Bill Eddleman, associate director of the Cape Girardeau Research Center.

Family Bibles: Cape Girardeau Collection Traces Genealogy of Southeastern Missouri

Many people inherit a family Bible in which births, deaths, marriages, and other family history is recorded. In Missouri, these may be the only documents of many early family events.

A recent donation from the Cape Girardeau County Genealogical Society to SHSMO's Cape center of family records from several dozen Bibles preserves information on many families that moved west from North Carolina to southeastern Missouri. The collection, the Lorena Shell Eaker Genealogical Papers (CG0024), includes both handwritten transcriptions and photocopies of the original Bible records. Also included are the marriage record and sermon notes for Presbyterian minister William G. Peyton of Piedmont, Missouri, and membership records for Clubb Creek Baptist Church in Bollinger County from 1932 to 1970.

A well-known genealogist who worked on southeast Missouri families that had come to the state from western North Carolina, Lorena Shell Eaker was born on May 31, 1927, in Hahn, Missouri, to Vernon E. and Hallie (Fisher) Shell. She married Odis Cleo Eaker on June 27, 1942. Not long after the birth of their daughter, Eaker and her husband began their genealogical research of Bollinger County and early settlers from North Carolina.

After many years, the couple had gathered enough information to write and publish their first book, *The Shoe Cobbler's Kin, A Genealogy of the Peter (Ecker) Eaker, Sr. Family (1701–1976)*. The Eakers published a second volume of *The Shoe Cobbler's Kin* in 1985. Both books are housed in the Columbia Research Center and may be sent to any SHSMO center by request.

After Odis's death on June 3, 1990, Lorena Eaker began focusing on early settler migration patterns from North Carolina to southeast Missouri and Bollinger County. In 1994 she published *German Speaking People West of the Catawba River in North Carolina (1750–1800)*. Another book, *One Wise Man: A Genealogy of Fredrick Wise of Lincoln County, NC and His Descendants*, followed in 2002. In addition to producing books, Eaker spent much of her time speaking at genealogical societies, county archives, and libraries, helping others to research their own families. With the exception of the Bible records held in the Cape Girardeau center, Eaker's research files are held in the Lincoln County, North Carolina, Historical Society.

Lorena May Shell Eaker passed away on September 16, 2017, in Church Hill, Tennessee, and is buried in Bollinger County Memorial Park Cemetery in Marble Hill, Missouri.

Archivist Tip: Proper Care for Family Bibles

Anyone fortunate enough to own a family Bible should take care to preserve the book and the information written in it. Family records inside may be preserved for distant relatives, area genealogists, or others by donating a digital photo of the records and the Bible's title page (showing the copyright date) to the State Historical Society of Missouri or another archive. There are also genealogical websites for sharing family Bible images. If you find a Bible containing family information at an estate sale, flea market, or similar place, consider donating it to an archive.

Most old Bibles have little monetary value—many were printed in the thousands or even millions and sold through itinerant salesmen. Archives are likely to remove any handwritten family information from donated Bibles, along with the page listing the publisher and copyright date, before discarding the book to save storage space.

For preservation, Bibles and other old books should be stored in a dark, cool place with low relative humidity. An interior room is best, and attics, basements, or rooms with heating, cooling, or water pipes should be avoided. Good ventilation prevents mold growth. Store in good-quality paperboard boxes or a drawer to protect the books from dust and light. Although it is best to store most books upright, oversized books should be stored flat or on their spines. Always wash hands before handling old documents, and keep food and beverages away from them. If pages need repair, consult an archive or document conservator on proper methods.

Names.	Nationality.	Where Educated.	Occupation or Profession.
1 W. G. Peyton	English and Scotch	W.D.	Blacksmith
2 Mrs. Peyton	Scotch	W.D.	
3 M. C. Hill			Farmer
4 M. C. Hill		W.D.	Farmer's wife
5 W. G. Peyton	Scotch	W.D.	Blacksmith
6 Mrs. Peyton			Farmer's wife
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

Family record of William G. Peyton of Piedmont, Missouri. Handwritten documents are often the only ones preserving early vital records.



November *Our Missouri* Podcast: World War I Series
 Online: shsmo.org/our-missouri

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the guns on the battlefield fell silent to mark the signing of the armistice that ended World War I. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of that historic event, the *Our Missouri* podcast invites listeners to explore “Missouri and The Great War” through a three-part series. Each episode focuses on a different aspect of the war, examining how soldiers and civilians experienced it both overseas and on the home front, and how public memory as reflected in monuments and other commemorations has changed over time. Featured guests include Andrew Huebner, author of *Love and Death in the Great War*; Jonathan Casey of the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City; and Petra DeWitt, author of *Degrees of Allegiance: Harassment and Loyalty in Missouri’s German-American Community during World War I*. *Our Missouri*, a newly launched SHSMO podcast series about the state’s people, places, culture, and history, posts new episodes twice a month on the Society’s website at shsmo.org/our-missouri. The podcast can also be accessed by subscribing through Apple iTunes or Google Play.

Benton’s Perilous Visions Now through Spring 2019 **Columbia**

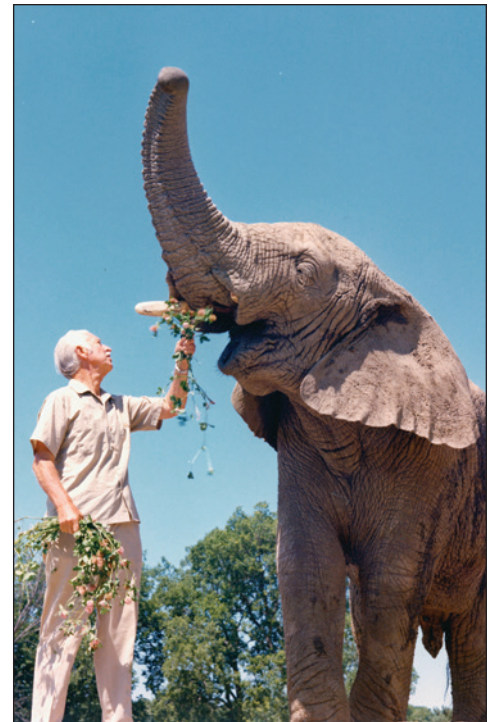
Ten Thomas Hart Benton paintings, including the *Year of Peril* series, are on display together for the first time in nearly two decades. Executed between 1941 and 1944, the works in the *Benton’s Perilous Visions* exhibition manifest the anxiety, horror, grief, and resolve that Benton and his audience experienced during the war. Visit the main gallery of the Columbia Research Center to explore Benton’s paintings and their allegorical images, visions of events that came to fruition, and expression of fears that thankfully were never realized on US soil.

December **Gift Shop Open House**
December 1 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Columbia

Share your love of Missouri with items from the State Historical Society gift shop. Whether it is an indulgence for yourself or the perfect present for that hard-to-shop-for person, the gift shop in the Columbia Research Center offers books, art, notecards, and other gifts that highlight your state heritage. Browse in the shop while enjoying light refreshments. SHSMO members receive a 10 percent discount on all purchases. If you are unable to attend in person, please see selections online at shop.shsmo.org.

Marlin Perkins: Wild Life Opening Reception
December 6 6 p.m. St. Louis

Missouri native Marlin Perkins lived a truly wild life. In addition to serving as the director of the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago and then the St. Louis Zoo, Perkins also hosted two popular television programs—*Zoo Parade* (1949–1957) and the award-winning *Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom*, which ran for 26 seasons starting in 1961. Pulling from the more than 2,000 photographs housed in the St. Louis Research Center’s Marlin Perkins Papers (S0516), this exhibition explores some of the most legendary, dangerous, funny, and touching moments of Perkins’s life as they were captured on camera and in writing. With over 40 photographs, hand-written documents, and a few surprises, the exhibit highlights Perkins’s contributions to wildlife conservation through his work at the zoo, on television, and in the wild. This event will include an exhibit walkthrough led by the curator, SHSMO’s graduate assistant Miles Jenks.



Our Missouri Podcast Online: shsmo.org/our-missouri

In December, SHSMO’s new podcast series, *Our Missouri*, will feature Bill Eddleman, associate director of the Cape Girardeau Research Center, discussing genealogy and his current term as president of the Missouri State Genealogical Association, and Michael Sweeney, SHSMO bicentennial coordinator, explaining the partnerships and programs currently under way in anticipation of Missouri’s bicentennial observances in 2021. Episodes are posted twice a month on the Society’s website, and the podcast may also be accessed through Apple iTunes or Google Play.



January *Exodus: Images of Black Migration in Missouri and Beyond, 1866–1940*

January 11–February 28 Columbia

Through this exhibition in the University of Missouri’s Ellis Library Colonnade, viewers can explore how thousands of African Americans came to and through Missouri while seeking greater political, economic, and social opportunity. Images from SHSMO’s collections offer insights into the movement of African Americans from their first great exodus out of the South after the Civil War to relocations sparked by violence, repression, natural disasters, and the turmoil of the Great Depression. Viewed together, the artwork, including fine art prints by George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton, creates an overall picture of American life in an era of dramatic change. **Join SHSMO’s Joan Stack and Faith Ordonio for a curators’ presentation at 4 p.m. on February 4 in Ellis Library, Room 114A.** Thank you to University of Missouri Libraries and the MU Black History Month Committee for sponsoring this event.

Looking ahead **Missouri Council for the Social Studies Conference**
February 22–23 Jefferson City

Join SHSMO’s executive director, Gary Kremer, at the Missouri Council for the Social Studies Conference where he will provide the keynote address, “Missouri’s Complicated Racial Past: Causes and Consequences.” Visit with Society staff members at their exhibitor’s booth to discuss ways to use resources from SHSMO, the National History Day in Missouri program, and the Missouri 2021 bicentennial website in your classroom. The conference will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Jefferson City. Visit mosocialstudies.com/conference for more information.

Missouri Conference on History **March 6–8 Kansas City**

The sixty-first annual Missouri Conference on History, hosted by the University of Missouri–Kansas City and Park University and sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri, will be held March 6–8, 2019, at the Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza in Kansas City. Paper, panel, and student poster proposals in all fields of history, including public history and historic preservation, are invited. The conference is particularly interested in proposals for complete sessions, including panelists, chair, and commentator. In 2019 the Missouri Humanities Council is offering a new program of financial assistance to both undergraduate and graduate students: travel grants will cover the conference registration fee, lodging at the conference hotel, and up to \$150 of additional related expenses. Learn more about the Missouri Conference on History at shsmo.org/mch.



Women in the News: Kansas City Research Center Collection Showcases World War II Radio Program

A mention of World War II propaganda often evokes thoughts of posters or films intended to frighten the public into supporting government policies. Yet some of the era's patriotic indoctrination was upbeat.

Women in the News, a daily radio program in Kansas City, was part of that unifying and affirming effort. The program celebrated extraordinary women in the Kansas City area, across the United States, and around the



An ad for *Women in the News* with Alice Gay, the on-air name used by Elinor Fox Kamen.

world. Scripts from *Women in the News* are available in the Elinor Fox Kamen Collection (K0944), which provides a fascinating view of life on the American home front during World War II.

Under the pseudonym Alice Gay, Elinor Fox Kamen told the stories of women who made sacrifices to contribute to an Allied victory. Her reports offer a feminine perspective on the challenges faced by Americans during the war years.

Women in the News reveals that women's contributions to the war effort varied widely. Kamen frequently interviewed Red Cross or military personnel such as Yna McClintock, who worked as a special Red Cross emissary from the American Association of University Women to South America. McClintock, originally from Mexico, advocated for closer cooperation between the United States and Latin America, believing that it would help ensure victory.

Another guest, nurse Yvonne Llewellyn of France, spoke of smuggling babies and French soldiers out of German-occupied France. As France fell to the Nazis in 1940, Llewellyn continued to evacuate infants from the hospital where she worked—miraculously, all were saved. Llewellyn herself had narrowly escaped a German firing squad years before during World War I.

Kamen also interviewed American women on the home front. One of them, a Mrs. Todd of Kansas City, had two sons enlisted in the Marine Corps, and the interview focuses on her deep pride in her sons' courage as well as her fears for their safety.

Women in the News recognized the many women who entered traditionally male professions while millions of men were serving in the military. Kamen celebrated the women who took on factory and office work as heroes in their own right. One of her subjects was Kay Rutherford, an editor for an aviation magazine. As an accomplished pilot who had worked previously for the *Kansas City Star*, she was well qualified for the position once it became available to her during the war.

Another of Kamen's guests was Mrs. Benjamin Tracy, the leader of the Red Cross mechanized motor corps, who helped teach young women to be auto mechanics through vocational classes at the Manual High School in Kansas City.

At times, Kamen also covered the contributions of women who were usually the targets of social disapproval. One of her guests was the burlesque dancer Gypsy Rose Lee. Kamen's segment highlighting the career of the well-known "strip tease artist" went beyond Lee's stage career to discuss her accomplishments as a seamstress and civilian defense worker.

Like other wartime propaganda programs, *Women in the News* sought to inspire patriotism and sacrifice. Kamen celebrated women while encouraging all Americans to do whatever they could to support the troops. Together, Elinor Fox Kamen and the women she brought to the Kansas City airwaves set the stage for social change in the coming generations.

Longtime St. Louis Center Archivist Retires

In October, State Historical Society senior archivist Kenn Thomas retired after 33 years of service in the St. Louis Research Center. A St. Louis native, Thomas was a graduate student at the University of Missouri–St. Louis when he began working for SHSMO part-time in 1985.

He holds a master's degree in English and speech communication from UMSL and a bachelor's degree in English. A former freelance writer for the *Post-Dispatch*, the *Globe-Democrat*, and the *Riverfront Times*, Thomas's early focus was on music and popular culture.

Then in the 1990s, his lifelong fascination with conspiracy theories prompted him to begin examining sociological aspects of their occurrence.

Since then Thomas has written over a dozen books and has served as the editor and publisher of *Steamshovel Press*, a parapolitical conspiracy magazine. Much of this work is preserved in the Kenn Thomas Papers (S1195), which he finished processing before his retirement.

Thomas also penned hundreds of articles promoting St. Louis collections for both Society

and specialty publications.

"Kenn's passion really comes through when you talk to him about collections that record St. Louis history through great



Kenn Thomas, senior archivist, retired after 33 years in the St. Louis center.

journalism," said Gary Kremer, SHSMO executive director. "One collection that comes to mind is the Charles Klotzer Publications (SA1107), which contains a large sampling of nonmainstream magazines and newspapers from the greater St. Louis area, including the *St. Louis Jewish Light* and the *American Rationalist*."

Thomas said his goal at the Society was "just to preserve and maintain the collections here, which emphasize twentieth-century social issues, black history, women's history, and the history of social service organizations, and to provide researcher access."



Left Microfilm collections in Rolla received new archival boxes during recent upgrades. **Right** The St. Louis center's Reading Room, before (top) and after the space was reorganized and new furniture was added.

Center Improvements: Rolla and St. Louis Facilities Revamped

Patrons visiting the research centers in Rolla and St. Louis will notice new updates. Both locations recently installed new microfilm cabinets, and St. Louis has also added new furniture. The improvements allow more high-use collections to be stored onsite, reducing wait times for researchers.

In St. Louis, the more efficient storage, as well as relocation of the University of Missouri–St. Louis archivist to other quarters, has created a much larger workspace for visitors. The work area now features three new tables and two patron desks.

Rolla's onsite collections of microfilm and other materials are now housed in new archival boxes. The wider boxes allow more folder storage and eliminate wasted space.

The improvements will allow the State Historical Society of Missouri to offer visitors more efficient services and a more pleasant overall experience that will be consistent from one research center to the next.

Historical Society Remembers Avid Art Collection Supporter

Katherine “Kath” Agnes Engelhardt, a tireless volunteer and supporter of community service, passed away on May 14. Born in Massachusetts, she spent her early life in New England before working in France for the US Air Force. After returning to the States, Kath moved to New York, where she met Tom Engelhardt, then a freelance cartoonist from St. Louis, Missouri. They married in 1960 and moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where Tom drew editorial cartoons for the Newspaper Enterprise Association.

The family moved to St. Louis when Tom accepted the position of editorial cartoonist at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1962. Kath spent the rest of her life influencing the St. Louis area through her generous spirit.

Kath earned a bachelor's degree from Fontbonne University in 1982 and a master's degree in business administration from Saint Louis University in 1990. In addition to serving as an administrator for Saint Louis University's Department of Community and Family Medicine, she was actively involved with several volunteer and community organizations, including Altruism International of St. Louis and St. Martha's Hall Women's Shelter.

Kath shared Tom's belief in the importance of editorial cartoons and was immensely



Kath and Tom Engelhardt (seated) with their family and Society art curator Joan Stack (standing, second from right) at the 2012 annual meeting. Kath organized the donation of Tom's artwork to SHSMO the next year.

pleased that his cartoons would find a permanent home within SHSMO's art collection. When Tom retired from the *Post-Dispatch* in 1997, Kath organized the process of moving his cartoons out of the newspaper building ahead of the planned donation.

Following the tradition of other *Post-Dispatch* editorial cartoonists, Tom had already donated many of his cartoons to the Society and wanted SHSMO to receive the bulk of his approximately 8,000 cartoons. In 2013 the Engelhardt family transferred more than 7,000 editorial cartoons to the organization to preserve Tom's legacy.

In 2015 SHSMO published *Four Turbulent Decades: A Cartoon History of America,*

1962–2001 and put on an exhibition of Tom's cartoons. To celebrate, Kath planned a Columbia bus tour for their St. Louis friends and neighbors to see the show as well as a local event, just as she had done for many other exhibitions, displays, and special events showcasing Tom's talents.

That same year, Kath and Tom also joined the State Historical Society as George Caleb Bingham Society members. Supporting SHSMO is now a tradition the Engelhardt family embraces by frequently contributing gifts in the couple's honor.

Kath is survived by Tom, her husband of nearly 58 years, their four children and spouses, and several grandchildren.

“The Shriek of a Shell, an Earsplitting Report, and Flash of Fire”: Springfield Diary Provides Soldier’s Account of World War I

Two weeks after sustaining serious injuries at the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne, Roy O’Kelley was finally recovered enough to return to the diary he had been keeping as he fought with the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. “Well, I was lucky,” he wrote from a hospital on October 10, 1918. “Thru the battle and still able to write.”

The remarkable wartime diary kept by O’Kelley, a native of Mount Vernon, Missouri, who grew up in Ash Grove, is now preserved in the State Historical Society’s Springfield Research Center as the Lawrence Leroy O’Kelley Diary Collection (SP0020). Donated by Mike O’Kelley, Roy’s grandson, the collection consists of several postcards and the diary recorded in France from April to October of 1918.

The diary describes the movements of American forces, culminating in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in northern France that began on September 26 and ended with the armistice on November 11. The offensive involved more than a million American servicemen; 26,277 of them died in the fighting.

The battle began with what O’Kelley, a lieutenant in the 139th Infantry Regiment of the 35th Division, describes as the “most terrific artillery bombardment known in the four years of war.” The men made an assault on Vauquois, a hill which presented a

difficult obstacle, in fog so thick that O’Kelley says he marched by compass.

In his account of the battle, O’Kelley offers haunting descriptions of the deaths of friends and comrades, each one listed by name and how he fell. “The ground we were fighting over was surely a desolate looking waste,” he wrote. “The great Forest of Argonne, so green and luxuriant the day before, was now nothing but a great stretch of blackened blasted stumps. Everywhere were dead Germans, Americans and horses, fallen airplanes, wrecked tanks, steel helmets, rifles, bayonets, grenades and unexploded shells.”

After spending the night in a shell hole, the next day he survived “a perfect hail of machine gun bullets and shrapnel” in an attack in which two majors were killed, leaving a captain in command of the battalion. They were also attacked with poison gas, but O’Kelley’s gas mask protected him.

He wrote that after climbing a hill, he and another man, a Sergeant Coates, were caught in the open and sighted by German artillery. “Sgt. Coates and I hooked our arms and tumbled over the edge of the hill. Just as we reached the bottom, I heard the shriek of a shell, an earsplitting report, and flash of fire. I woke up the next day in a hospital about 20 miles behind the lines.”

“I had been mussed up considerably,” O’Kelley continued. “I had a sufficient



Informal portrait of US Army lieutenant Roy O’Kelley.

number of arms and legs, but three of my slats [ribs] had been caved in; I’d stopped a few little fragments of shrapnel, and I couldn’t talk, walk, hear or even eat.” He learned that Sergeant Coates had been killed.

By mid-October, O’Kelley was able to walk with the aid of two canes as well as to write entries in his diary. His detailed descriptions of his service during World War I will be of interest to scholars and other audiences wanting a firsthand account of the war that ended a century ago. For more information, or to view this collection, contact the Springfield Research Center at 417.836.3782 or springfield@shsmo.org.

State Historical Society of Missouri Welcomes New Staff Members in Columbia Research Center

Two part-time staff members have joined the State Historical Society of Missouri to assist with the transition to the new Center for Missouri Studies headquarters.

Danielle Griego joined the staff in July as the education

programs assistant. While helping with current public programming, Griego is also assisting with plans for an expanded event and exhibition schedule in the new facility.

Born and raised in New Mexico, Griego received her PhD

in history from the University of Missouri, where she specialized in medieval history. Griego also holds a bachelor’s degree in anthropology and archaeology from the University of New Mexico and a master of philosophy in medieval history from the University of Cambridge.

“My goals at the State Historical Society are to help create a tight-knit historical community across the state, to make history accessible and non-intimidating to the public, and to teach the value of knowing about past events,” Griego said.

Clinton Lawson started as a research center associate in May. He is assisting patrons in the Columbia center, allowing other

staff members to spend more time preparing collections for the move in summer 2019.

Lawson received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in American history from the University of Missouri–Kansas City and is currently completing a PhD in history from the University of Montana. His area of study is modern American history, specifically medicine, pharmacy, and black market economies.

Lawson is a native Missourian with deep mid-Missouri roots. “My sixth great-grandfather is buried in Boonville,” Lawson said. “When I was a kid I had a Missouri mule named Zeek, and I entered him in mule-jumping contests at fairs throughout Monroe County.”



Danielle Griego, left, education program assistant, and Clinton Lawson, research center associate. Both new staff members are based in the Columbia center.

Project Cavern: Underground Survey of Ozarks Preserved in Rolla

The recently processed Project Cavern Report Records (R1437) provide a wealth of information on the ground under the northern Ozarks. The Rolla collection includes field notes and the final report from a 1950s US Navy survey of Missouri's subterranean voids. The study's mission was to identify potential sites for a jet propulsion laboratory or other underground facilities for industrial or civilian defense purposes.

In March 1951, 15 members of the Volunteer Research Reserve Unit Number 9-9 (VRRU 9-9) from the Office of Naval Research were tasked with surveying and evaluating underground voids within 50 miles of Rolla. The Rolla area was chosen for the proximity of the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy (now

the Missouri University of Science and Technology), which would provide access to further research facilities and scientific personnel, and for the number of nearby caves, caverns, and mine shafts.

The unit was led by Navy Reservist Commander R. A. Cooley. It included four civilians among the 15 members. The team worked from lists of area caves compiled by Willard Farrar, an employee of the Missouri Geological Survey, and a survey of Missouri caves conducted by J. Harlen Bretz.

VRRU 9-9 was to provide complete mapping of each cave, determine site accessibility via road or rail, examine the groundwater conditions, describe the condition of the cavern roof, and check the humidity and air circulation.

A jet propulsion lab would require approximately 30,000 square feet, whether in a natural formation, a mine, or further excavation of an existing cavern. A list of 345 caves around Rolla was created, but only about 120 of them were actually visited by the team within the survey's time frame.

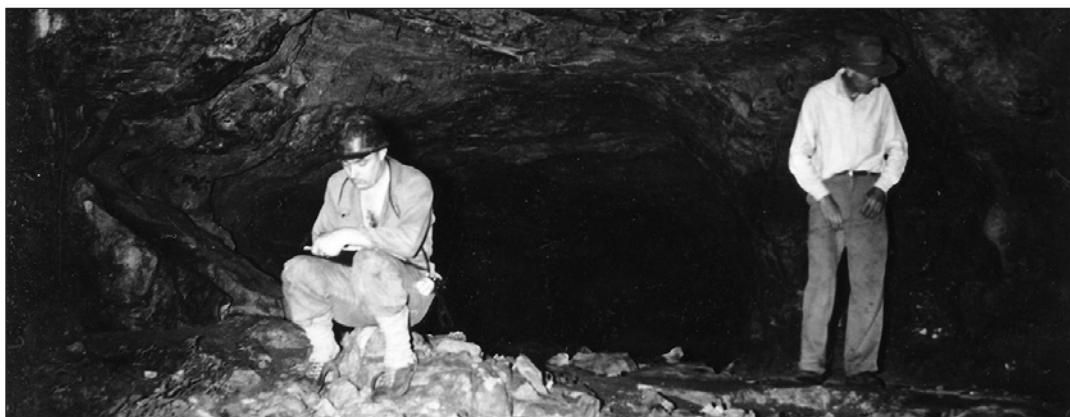
On June 23, 1951, the team submitted its report. Onyx Cave in Pulaski County, Missouri, was proposed as a potential site for the jet propulsion lab. Its location, size, and configuration made it Missouri's frontrunner for selection by the national committee. Yet Onyx Cave was ultimately passed over for a site in Pasadena, California, which became a vital part of the US space program. Today it is known as the National Aeronautics and Space



In June 1951, the Project Cavern Report was compiled by the Office of Naval Research from the findings of the Volunteer Research Reserve Unit Number 9-9, headquartered in Rolla.

Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology.

The Project Cavern Report Records include area maps denoting the caves, caverns, mine shafts, and other underground voids that VRRU 9-9 identified. There are also tables describing each location explored, as well as the team's judgment on each site's suitability for underground facilities. A number of photographs show cave openings, roof structures, and images of the unit members conducting the survey. To learn more, see the finding aid online, visit the Rolla center, or request the collection at any of SHSMO's six research centers.



Two members of the Volunteer Research Reserve Unit Number 9-9 in Steckler Cave in Pulaski County, 1951.

SHSMO Fall Lecture and Annual Meeting—Continued from Page 1

SHSMO honored Kolkmeier for his role in creating Missouri's new bicentennial license plate, which was released ahead of schedule on October 15. "Representative Kolkmeier has been the major force behind that effort," Kremer said. "He chaired the advisory committee created to design the new plate and also led the effort to arrange public meetings throughout the state that provided Missourians an opportunity to offer input on the new design."

At the annual meeting of the membership, Richard, Jennifer Teichman Kerr of Lexington, and Carol Silvey of West Plains were elected as new members of the board of trustees. The membership reelected seven trustees:

Robert M. Clayton III, Kathianne Knaup Crane, Steve Ehlmann, Brent Schondelmeyer, Brian K. Snyder, Blanche M. Touhill, and Henry J. Waters III. Trustee Beatrice B. Litherland Smith took on a new leadership role, replacing Albert M. Price as sixth vice president.

SHSMO also announced the annual book and article awards:

Missouri History Book Award: Keona K. Ervin, *Gateway to Equality: Black Women and the Struggle for Economic Justice in St. Louis* (\$1,500)

Missouri Historical Review Article Award: Luke Ritter, "Mothers against the Bomb: The Baby Tooth Survey and the Nuclear Test Ban Movement in St. Louis, 1954–1969" (\$750)



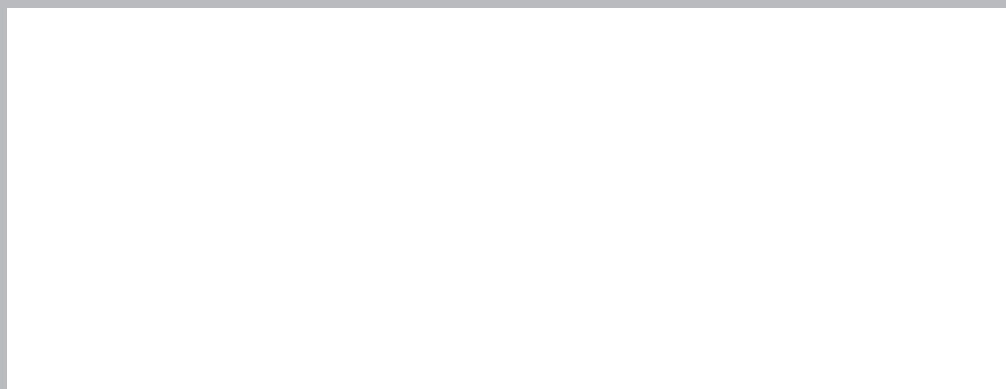
SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer, left, and Keona K. Ervin, 2018 Book Award winner. Event photos by Notley Hawkins



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