

The State Historical Society of Missouri

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### COVER PHOTO



Snow-covered wagon, Savannah, Missouri, January 13, 2019. Heather Emmendorfer, photographer.

# SHSMO Launches Virtual Programs to Fill Social Distancing Void

By John Brenner

WITH ITS art galleries, assembly hall, and other meeting spaces, the Center for Missouri Studies was built with public programs in mind. No one expected public gatherings to come to a halt just months after the new building opened. But when they did, the State Historical Society's staff in Columbia and across the state moved quickly from in-person events to virtual programs offered online.

The first virtual program, a Show-Me Missouri Speakers Bureau talk on nineteenth-century suffragist Virginia Minor, ran on April 2, two weeks after COVID-19 forced the Society to temporarily close its six research centers to visitors and staff. In addition to Speakers Bureau events, which are cosponsored with the Missouri Humanities Council, SHSMO offered 19 programs for which it was

the sole sponsor between April and the end of the fiscal year on June 30. More than a dozen additional programs were held from July through November as COVID continued to restrict in-person gatherings. In total, the virtual programs have drawn more than 3,000 registrants.

"When we realized that people couldn't come to us, we knew we needed to meet them where they are," said Maggie Mayhan, SHSMO assistant director, community engagement. "And right now, that's online."

Mayhan, the chair of the Society's Programming Committee, said virtual programming presents an opportunity as well as a challenge. "Online, you're not limited by geographical boundaries," she said. "We had someone from the University of Queensland at our first program, and someone from London at the one after that. It's exciting to think about reaching people not just state-wide, but nationally and even internationally."

The virtual programs have ranged from workshops on genealogy and oral history to sessions on digital archives and talks on Missouri history topics. Popular programs have included virtual art tours with curator Joan Stack and a two-part series on the 1918–1919 influenza epidemic in Missouri by archivist Kathleen Seale. Many of the programs remain online at the Society's website ([shsmo.org](http://shsmo.org)) after they are aired so that visitors may view them at any time.

Mayhan said the move to virtual programming forced the staff to quickly learn some new technologies, particularly Zoom Webinar, which is used for many of the programs. But now that SHSMO has made the jump to virtual, she said there probably is no going back. Future programs are likely to be offered as "hybrid" gatherings with both in-person and virtual audiences.

"Of course we want people to come in, see our centers, and attend our programs," Mayhan said. "But we don't expect virtual programming will stop after people start to gather here again. We know now that we can reach people anywhere."

*John Brenner is the managing editor for the State Historical Society of Missouri.*



Screen shots from the Missouri Women's Suffrage Celebration virtual program in August (top) and a September virtual workshop on using the Society's online resources (bottom).

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## Budget Restrictions Force Reductions in Programs and Services at SHSMO

**D**UE TO staff cuts driven by funding reductions at the State Historical Society in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the *Missouri Times* will be published just two times this fiscal year. The second issue is planned for May 2021. In previous years, the *Times* has been a quarterly publication.

SHSMO members and patrons will be affected by other reductions in programs and services as well during the 2021 fiscal year. In Columbia, the research center is no longer open on Saturdays. Hours at the research centers in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis are now from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays. The Springfield Research Center may be visited by appointment on the first and third Fridays of each month.

In-person visits to use research facilities are by appointment only. Art exhibitions in Columbia remain open to the public, although large groups must reserve their time in advance. The art galleries are open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays.

Health considerations have led to other policy changes

that impact members. SHSMO's six research centers are following the guidelines set by their home campuses to limit the size of gatherings and require masks to be worn. Public events, including lectures, workshops, the annual Missouri Conference on History, and the National History Day contest, have moved online for this year.

As COVID-19 gained momentum last spring, it became clear that the threat was not just to public health, but also to the economy. In Missouri, state-funded institutions such as the State Historical Society now face reduced budgets. Withholdings from state revenues to SHSMO have totaled more than \$1.1 million, or about 34 percent of the Society's funding from the state.

SHSMO relies on state funding to cover the expenses of staff salaries and benefits. On July 10, the Society announced immediate layoffs of 11 full-time and three part-time staff, as well as the reductions in hours that its six research centers would be open to the public.

The State Historical Society hopes to begin increasing programs and services to their previous levels once the COVID crisis is past and funding is restored. —JB

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## Annual Meeting Moves Online for 2020

**T**HE STATE Historical Society's annual meeting went virtual this year, featuring a lineup of online programs on November 7. The public events included workshops, the annual business meeting, and the Fall Lecture presented by historian Amy Laurel Fluker. All events ran smoothly, a testament to the growing familiarity with virtual programming among both audience members and SHSMO's staff.

"It seems like just about everyone is getting the hang of Zoom these days," said Christina George, SHSMO senior strategic communications associate and information technology specialist. "That is very helpful!"

In total, the day's events attracted nearly 300 registrants and 161 unique online viewers. SHSMO members were able to cast their votes on motions and trustee



US Senator Roy Blunt's introduction of Fall Lecture speaker Amy Laurel Fluker as seen on an iPad.





Senior associate executive director Gerald Hirsch (left) delivers the 2020 annual report while staff members Sean Rost (center) and Maggie Mayhan (right) monitor its presentation on screen.

candidates through Zoom Webinar's public polls feature, while viewers of the Fall Lecture and workshops participated in Q&A sessions via Zoom's chat feature. The Society's staff members who orchestrated the day's events drew from their experience setting up more than 30 previous virtual programs, said Maggie Mayhan, assistant director of community engagement and coordinator for the annual meeting events.

During the business meeting, the executive committee of the Society's Board of Trustees announced that Vicki Russell has been appointed to replace Henry J. Waters III as fourth vice president. Russell, of Columbia, is the widow of Waters, who passed away in August. She will complete the term ending in 2022.

The Society's membership elected three new trustees and reelected five current trustees to three-year terms ending in 2023. The new trustees are Steven Louis Brawley of Kirkwood, Anne E. McGregor of Branson, and Kathy Osborn of St. Louis. The reelected trustees are Rodney J. Boyd of St. Louis, Edward C. "Ned" Matthews III of Sikeston, Kenneth B. McClain of Independence, Lucinda A. Rice-Petrie of Kansas City, and Kurt U. Schaefer of Columbia.

Waters was named posthumously as the recipient of the Society's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. A trustee from 1992 to 2020 and officer from 2004 to 2020, the former publisher of the *Columbia Daily Tribune* is remembered for his lively presence at SHSMO gatherings and numerous contributions to the organization.

Three awards for scholarship on Missouri history were also announced during the business meeting. Brooks Blevins, a historian at Missouri State University in Springfield, won the 2020 Missouri History Book Award for his book *A History of the Ozarks, Volume 2: The Conflicted Ozarks*. The *Missouri Historical Review* Article Award was given to Samuel C. Mahaney, author of "'Every Day I Like Farming Better': Ulysses S. Grant and His Experience as a Missouri Farmer," published in the July 2020 issue of the *Review*. Elisabeth Frances George, a doctoral candidate at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, was awarded the Lewis E. Atherton Prize for her dissertation "Lesbian and Gay Life in the Queen City and Beyond: Resistance, Space, and Community Mobilization in the Southwest Missouri Ozarks."

Fluker, the Robert W. Reeder I Professor of History at Youngstown State University, presented a lecture titled "Earnest Endeavor: Missouri Women and the Work of Civil War Commemoration." She is the author of *Commonwealth of Compromise: Civil War Commemoration in Missouri*, published last summer by the University of Missouri Press. She was introduced by US Senator Roy Blunt, a trustee and officer of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

The morning workshops included a program by SHSMO senior conservator Erin Kraus on her work to treat and preserve an 1817 petition for Missouri statehood as well as an "Ask the Archivists" program hosted by SHSMO archivists Whitney Heinzmann, A. J. Medlock, and Kathleen Seale. —JB

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## SHSMO Welcomes New St. Louis Archivist and Columbia Administrative Assistant

**T**HE STATE Historical Society of Missouri welcomed two new staff members this spring. Zack Palitzsch, a new archivist at the St. Louis Research Center, grew up in St. Charles County. He received a bachelor's degree majoring in English literature at Missouri State University and a master's degree in library and information science from Indiana University. He began an internship at the St. Louis Research Center in 2019 before joining the staff full-time in 2020. In his free time, Palitzsch likes to read and write fantasy, science fiction, and historical nonfiction. He also enjoys working with ceramics, skiing, and following the St. Louis Cardinals.



Zack Palitzsch.

Atsuko (Yuki) Palmer is an administrative assistant at the Columbia Research Center. She organizes membership information and keeps track of it in SHSMO's database. She also can be found in the Society's bookstore welcoming visitors to the Center for Missouri Studies. Palmer grew up in Tokyo, Japan, and received a bachelor's degree in literature with an emphasis on Japanese literature at Wayo Women's University in Ichikawa, Japan. She was formerly vice president of Slatmandu Corporation, a pet product company based in Tokyo. She moved to Missouri with her husband in 2017. Since that time, Palmer has enjoyed the natural beauty of the Missouri Ozarks. Closer to home, she appreciates the wonderful walking and bike trails in Columbia and is an avid tennis player.



Yuki Palmer.

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## Award-Winning Stoddard County Teacher and Students Ready for National History Day 2021 Contest

**A**S THE only sixth-grade teacher in Richland R-I School District in Stoddard County, Rebecca Arnold teaches math, science, and English to her students, but history holds a special place within her classroom. Her father taught high school and college history classes for more than thirty years. Her husband, Paul, teaches history at Richland High School and at the college level, and was Missouri's candidate for National History Day's Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award in 2014. This year, Arnold herself was selected for the Behring Award and placed as a national finalist.

"I have always enjoyed learning, and history specifically has fascinated me since I was a child," Arnold said. "My approach to teaching it is to make it relatable to my students' everyday lives. They must understand its

importance as it applies to them before they understand its importance on a state or national level."

National History Day helps Arnold meet that goal and fits in well with her curriculum and instruction. The NHD program brings a sense of immediacy to history while encouraging students to build abilities ranging from research and writing skills to handling stressful situations with confidence. Arnold said that in her classroom, studying Missouri's history is an important part of the process.

"Students can choose topics about world and American history, but we want them to first take a look at potential local topics and then topics related to Missouri," she said. "We believe it's important for students to have the skills to research topics that have impacted local

communities—this allows them to relate to the topic better.”

Although it has just 300 students from kindergarten through high school, Richland R-I has achieved the rare feat of earning the US Department of Education’s National Blue Ribbon for excellence on both the elementary and secondary levels. The district has been remarkably active and successful in National History Day in Missouri. Each year, students craft research projects that place well in regional contests and advance to higher levels of competition. Arnold attributes these accomplishments to a supportive school district with a culture of high expectations.

“We have a team of teachers and administrators that work together to emphasize the importance of learning history and creating good work habits,” she said. “And when our students succeed, our school board is committed to making sure they have the opportunity to compete at every level, regardless of their financial situation.

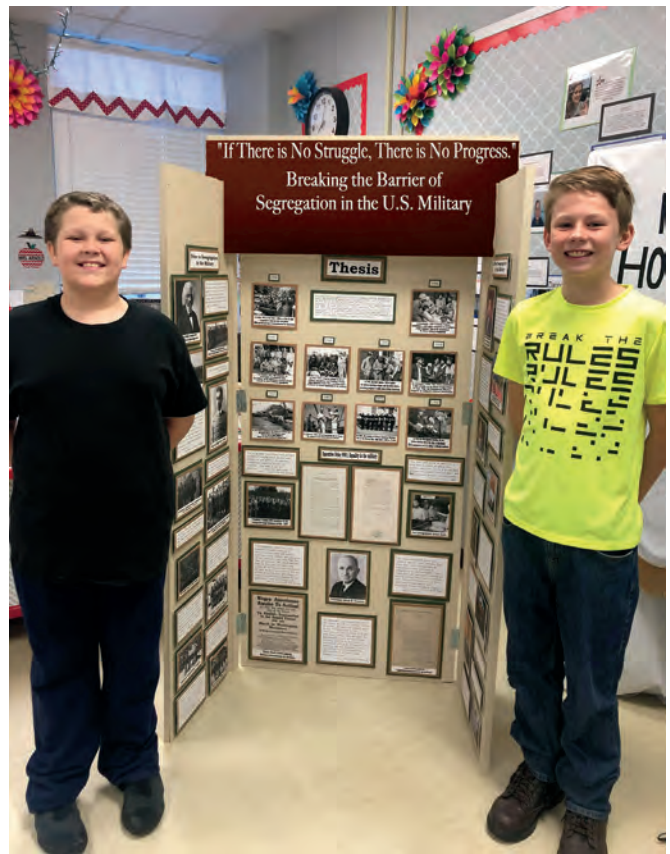
We live in a low socioeconomic region where our students are often faced with daily challenges at home that are beyond their control, but our board makes sure that if they qualify for nationals, they will have the resources they need to attend.”

Her students this year are still determining what their National History Day research topics will be. While the contest will again be online rather than holding out the possibility of an exciting trip to Washington, DC, for those who qualify for nationals, at least this time they know it in advance.

“Last spring everything got turned upside down and we had to convert all our projects into a digital format in a very short time because our school was going to shut down,” Arnold said. “With COVID-19, participating in anything is a challenge, but we will make adjustments to be able to continue to compete at the district, state, and national levels.” —JB



Students and teachers from Richland R-I visit the White House during the National History Day national contest in 2019. Pictured, left to right: Canasia McBride, Elizabeth Arnold, Ashland Wheeler, Rebecca Arnold, Amari Tilley, and Paul Arnold.



Richland students Jake Goodman and Gary Tilley with their exhibit on desegregation of the US military for the 2020 National History Day contest.



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# Renowned Sculptor's Portrait Bust of MU Coaching Legend Donated to Art Collection

By Kimberly Harper

THE WORK of one of Missouri's most renowned sculptors is now featured in the State Historical Society of Missouri's art collection thanks to the generosity of a University of Missouri legend. The Society recently received a life-size bronze portrait bust of Norm Stewart, men's basketball coach for the Missouri Tigers from 1967 to 1999. The bust, a gift from Stewart and his wife, Virginia, was donated in honor of its sculptor, Sabra Tull Meyer.

Meyer, a native of Columbia, Missouri, has produced many widely recognized works of art over the last 40 years, including 10 portrait busts for the Hall of Famous Missourians in the Missouri State Capitol, seven portrait busts in the Kansas City Chiefs Hall of Fame in Arrowhead Stadium, and a number of sculptures in public and private collections across the state and country. Missourians would also recognize her Lewis and Clark Monument in Jefferson City.

She holds three degrees from the University of Missouri, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1949 and earning a Master of Arts in 1979 and a Master of Fine Arts in 1982. Meyer has taught at William Woods University and Stephens College.

Stewart, born in 1935 in Shelby County, Missouri, was a standout on MU's basketball and baseball teams during



*Coach Norm*, the bust of University of Missouri coaching legend Norm Stewart created by sculptor Sabra Tull Meyer. Stewart and his wife, Virginia, recently donated the work to the State Historical Society.

his years as a student in the mid-1950s. While a student, he met his future wife, Virginia (Zimmerley) Stewart. After a brief career as a professional athlete and a stint as the men's basketball coach at the State College of Iowa (now University of Northern Iowa), he led the Missouri Tigers to 16 NCAA Tournament appearances and eight regular-season Big Eight championships during his 32 seasons at the helm of the MU basketball program. He was inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame in 2007.

Meyer's bust, *Coach Norm*, is on display in the art galleries at the Center for Missouri Studies. The artwork was commissioned in 1999 by current and former players and coaches as a gift upon Stewart's retirement from coaching. Norm and Virginia Stewart are longtime friends of Meyer.

*Kimberly Harper is an editor at the State Historical Society of Missouri.*



# Missouri Community Legacies Help Tell Our Bicentennial Story

By Beth Pike

IS THERE an organization or group in your community doing good things or a special place that is unique to your area? If so, Missouri 2021 needs to hear from you! To commemorate Missouri's 200 years of statehood, the State Historical Society is sponsoring the Missouri Community Legacies project to create a snapshot of traditions, creative expressions, and places that hold special significance for Missourians living in 2021.

Maybe there is a longtime or more recent tradition in your community that you can help document and submit as a Missouri Community Legacies project. Creative expressions might include quilt art, stories and legends, or food traditions. A meaningful place is a physical site of significance to a community, such as a park, cemetery, or street or building with a unique history. Organizations and institutions the Legacies project wishes to document may include religious groups, service clubs, sports leagues, other social and volunteer organizations, or professional associations.

Visit [Missouri2021.org](https://missouri2021.org) to learn more about legacy projects such as Juneteenth in Kansas City, the city's commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States. Or the Phelps County Historical Society in Rolla, founded in 1939, which continues to exhibit artifacts and offer programming and publications that highlight the county's history. Or the Historic Highways commemoration in Ste. Genevieve County and the restoration being done in Aurora at the Phariss Memorial Cemetery, which was established before the Civil War. An example of creative expression selected as a Missouri Community Legacies project is the Maplewood Barn Theatre in Columbia, which for four decades has performed live shows with community actors at a historic park.

Please send submissions for your community legacy



Above: Members of Twin Citizens of Greater Kansas City take part in the city's Juneteenth parade in 2018. Right: Sculptor August Leimbach finishes the Madonna of the Trail statue in Lexington in 1928. The site of the statue is now included in the Community Legacies project.



to the project's website at <https://missouri2021.org/mo-community-legacies/>. Submissions should include a three- to five-page double-spaced written report describing your subject, as well as five to 10 photographs with descriptive captions. Video, audio, or even a notepad may also be used to document an event, tradition, or place. Other supplementary materials may include flyers, posters, or other paper materials. Materials will be accepted in either digital or physical form.

The deadline for submissions is December 31. Those selected for the project will be published on the official bicentennial website along with accompanying images. All entries will find a permanent home at SHSMO, where they will provide a resource to researchers, students, and others interested in Missouri's life and culture during the bicentennial year.

If you have any questions, send an email to [contact@missouri2021.org](mailto:contact@missouri2021.org). We look forward to hearing about the places, events, activities, or groups that are important to you. The Community Legacies project is a great way to become involved in the bicentennial and learn about the unique and special places Missourians call home.

*Beth Pike is senior strategic communications associate for the Missouri Bicentennial.*

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# In the Lab with Benton

## SHSMO Conservator Shows Technique for Restoring Missouri Master Artist's Work

Story by Beth Pike and John Brenner

Photos by Aubrey Rowden

**E**VER WONDER how artworks in frail condition are restored? When the State Historical Society of Missouri received a fragile original drawing by Thomas Hart Benton in 2019, paper conservator Erin Kraus was called on to repair and preserve the work. The accompanying photos offer a behind-the-scenes look at how she did it.

The drawing, *Worth Square and Madison Square Park, New York City*, was made by Benton sometime between 1924 and 1929 while he was living in New York City. It shows a view of the bustling streets near the Flat Iron Building. The artwork was donated by Steven Loftus, a Dallas businessman and graduate of Smith-Cotton High School in Sedalia and the University of Missouri in Columbia who died last summer at the age of 59.

Kraus assessed the graphite, ink, and ink wash drawing as being in poor condition. The paper, not of high quality to begin with, had become more acidic with age, causing it to turn orange and brittle. Tape used to mount the drawing on the back of a window mat contributed to a large tear, and there were small tears and paper losses along the edges as well.

A series of alkaline water baths reduced the orange cast and made the paper more stable. The tears were mended with wheat starch paste and Japanese tissue. Paper losses were filled with Japanese tissue and then toned with watercolors. "The toning skews the color a bit just to make the fill less apparent to the viewer—that way you truly see what the artist intended us to see," Kraus said. "It is not my intention to hide the fills or make it look like the piece was never damaged. They can be identified with close examination."

SHSMO art curator Joan Stack said she is excited about the acquisition and conservation of the drawing. "This is one of the earliest Benton artworks in the collection," she said. "It provides valuable documentation of an important period of the artist's development."



1) Thomas Hart Benton's *Worth Square and Madison Square Park, New York City* before treatment. The paper is discolored, a large tear is visible in the upper center of the work, and small tears and paper losses are visible around its edges.



2) Paper conservator Erin Kraus makes her initial inspection of Benton's drawing.





3) The paper used by Benton had become acidic with age. Kraus stabilizes it by giving it one of four subsequent baths of increasing alkalinity.



6) Tears were mended using wheat starch paste and Japanese tissue. Paper losses were filled with Japanese tissue as well and then toned using watercolors.



4) After washing the drawing, Kraus let it dry overnight between wool felts.



7) Some of the fills benefited from inpainting. Magnification is often required for this delicate work.



5) The drawing had been mounted to the back of a window mat with two pieces of tape, and a sizable tear developed when the paper pushed through the mat. Here Kraus secures the tear from the front before mending it on the back.



8) Benton's drawing after treatment was completed.

# Yvonne Starks Wilson Papers

## Chronicle Career of State Legislator and Community Advocate

By Whitney Heinzmann

**T**HE Yvonne Starks Wilson Papers document the life and career of a pathbreaking educator who went on to a second career in Missouri politics. Housed at the State Historical Society of Missouri's Kansas City Research Center, the collection includes materials from Wilson's long career in the Kansas City Public Schools, her years as a state legislator from 1999 to 2010, and her extensive public service and community involvement.

Yvonne Delores Starks was born on March 22, 1929, in the Leeds neighborhood of Kansas City, Missouri, to Chester R. and Virginia D. (Ruff) Starks. After graduating from Kansas City's Lincoln High School in 1946, she attended Lincoln University in Jefferson City, where she received a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She later completed a master of arts degree in sociology in 1971 and an education specialist degree in school administration in 1976, both at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

From 1950 to 1985, Wilson was a teacher, school principal, and director of elementary education in the Kansas City, Missouri, school district. Notably, she was the first African American to serve as president of the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals. During these years she also met and married her husband, James "Jim" Wilson.

In 1985, Wilson began working as a consultant/program director for Metropolitan Community College. In

1991, in recognition of her dedication to education, Lincoln University presented her with an honorary doctorate of humanities. In 1990 she became founding director of the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center and Museum, a position she held until 1995.

All these experiences prepared Wilson to serve in state government. After winning an August 1999 special election, Wilson served as state representative for Missouri District 42 until 2005, when she was elected to the state senate. As a senator, Wilson, a Democrat, served as minority caucus secretary. She resigned her seat in 2010 to care for her husband, who passed away in June 2013.

Even after retiring from politics, Wilson continued to gain recognition. She was inducted into the Starr Women's Hall of Fame in 2017, and in 2018 the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department renamed a park in the Leeds neighborhood in her honor. Wilson died on October 14, 2019.

The Wilson Papers reflect not only her professional accomplishments,



Yvonne Starks Wilson (pictured in both photos) had a long and notable career as an educator and legislator. Her papers were recently donated to the Kansas City Research Center.

but also her personal connections and commitment to the betterment of her community. Wilson was active in numerous organizations, including the Spirit of Freedom Fountain Foundation, Mid-America Regional Council Early Learning Board, Kansas City Sister Cities Association, Swope Community Builders, Sheraton Estates Neighborhood Association, Jack and Jill of America, and the Greater Kansas City (Missouri) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. The collection includes photographs and newspaper clippings, as well as a few folders containing some of her favorite jokes, anecdotes, and sayings created in preparation for her memoirs, which were published in 2019 under the title *Living off Grandma's Sayings: From Leeds to the Legislature*.

Whitney Heinzmann is an archivist at the Kansas City Research Center.



# Tall Order: St. Louis Tip Toppers Collection Documents Club for People of Height

By A. J. Medlock

THE ST. LOUIS Research Center recently acquired the records of St. Louis Tip Toppers, Inc. Founded in 1941, the club provided friendship and fellowship for tall people through social activities and charitable causes.

The St. Louis Tip Toppers were one of numerous groups across the United States that began after Kae Sumner Einfeldt, a 6'2" artist employed by Walt Disney Studio, established the first club for tall people in California in 1938. To become members, men had to be at least 6'4" and women 6'0". The height requirements were lowered in subsequent years.

Left: St. Louisan Roberta Holler was crowned the winner of the Miss Tall International Pageant in 1990.

Right: The cover of the May 1945 *Tips on Toppers*. The newsletter sought to carry out the Tip Toppers' goal of instilling social confidence among its members, particularly women self-conscious about their tallness.

One of the highlights of the collection is *Tips on Toppers*, a newsletter published by the St. Louis Tip Toppers from 1943 to 2012. The essays, photographs, and cover art featured in this newsletter reveal how members, especially women, found a renewed sense of self-confidence together in a world they believed idealized the beauty of average-sized people.

Club president Herman Siener provided the clearest example of how members blossomed after joining the club, commenting in 1949 that "all of us have noticed new girls who came to their first meeting wearing flat shoes and letting their shoulders slump in a southerly direction. After a few months, we have seen them wearing high heels and throwing their shoulders back. How many of us were formerly self-conscious

about our height and are now proud of it? Our club has made progress!"

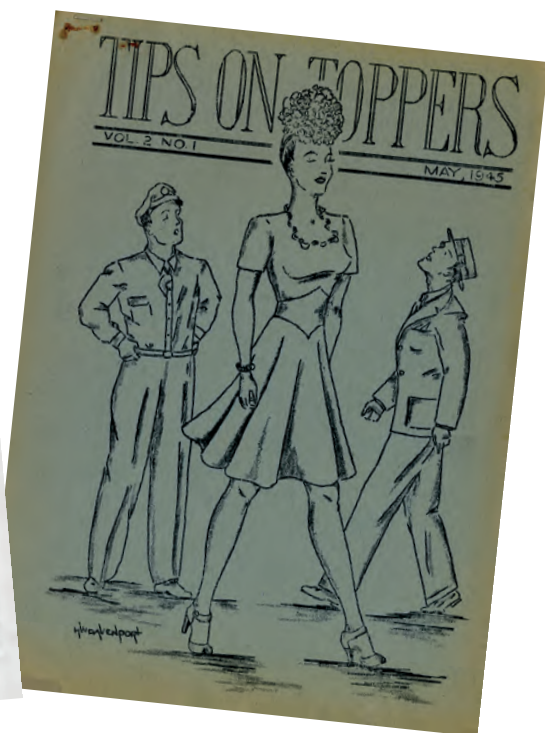
Indeed, the cover art of *Tips on Toppers* illustrates club members' embrace of their tall identity. The May 1945 cover features a woman in a skirt and high heels with a confident smile on her face. Two shorter men look up at her in awe. The cover suggests that being tall is an asset, not a hindrance.

Later issues featured the Miss Tall St. Louis Pageant, a St. Louis Tip Topper-sponsored beauty contest. The winner competed in the Miss Tall International Pageant, held at the annual Tall Clubs International Convention. In 1990, Roberta Holler became the only Miss Tall St. Louis to win the international contest.

By the late 2000s, the St. Louis Tip Toppers witnessed a significant drop in membership; club leaders attributed the decline to the American public's fading interest in clubs. This trend led the Tip Toppers to discontinue the Miss Tall St. Louis contest in 2008 and end *Tips on Toppers* in 2012. In 2016, St. Louis Tip Toppers, Inc. disbanded.

The St. Louis Tip Toppers Records contain meeting minutes, correspondence, scrapbooks, and publicity kits chronicling the club's founding and the evolution of the Tall Movement in St. Louis and the United States from 1941 to 2012. For more information on how to access this collection, contact the St. Louis Research Center at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org).

A. J. Medlock is the senior archivist at the St. Louis Research Center.



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# Cape Girardeau Receives New Civil War Research Collection

By Bill Eddleman

STATE HISTORICAL Society patrons interested in Confederate military units now have access to the materials of noted Missouri Civil War researcher James E. McGhee. McGhee, a well-respected student of the Civil War in Missouri, published numerous books and research papers, culminating in *Guide to Missouri Confederate Units, 1861–1865*, published by the University of Arkansas Press in 2008.

Jim McGhee was born in Bloomfield, Missouri, on August 28, 1939. He enlisted in the US Air Force, rose to the rank of captain, and later served in the Missouri National Guard for 13 years. McGhee received a master's degree in history from Southeast Missouri State University and later earned a law degree. He lived in Dexter prior to moving to Jefferson City in 1993, where he worked as an attorney in the Division of Employment Security at the Missouri Department Labor and Industrial Relations until his retirement. He passed away on November 19, 2018, in Jefferson City and is buried in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield.

McGhee's widow, Kathy, recently donated his research files and other materials to the Society's Cape Girardeau Research Center. The research files consist of compilations of materials on Confederate military organizations as well as campaigns in Missouri and elsewhere in which Missouri troops fought. Organization of the files is by military unit. The materials include McGhee's notes,



This portrait of Martha Ann (Giboney) Kitchen, daughter of early Cape Girardeau settlers John Giboney and Elizabeth Hannah, is one of the images in the James McGhee Civil War Research Collection. In 1845 she married Solomon G. Kitchen, who became a Missouri State Guard and Confederate cavalry commander in the Civil War.

copies and transcriptions of diaries, service records, and other manuscript materials, newspaper articles, and copies of images. While most of the materials are not original, they were very well organized, and staff have placed them in a vertical file for use by researchers. The archival portion of the collection consists of

photographs, documents, and a few other original materials.

The James McGhee Civil War Research Collection is available for use at the Cape Girardeau Research Center.

*Bill Eddleman is the associate director of the Cape Girardeau Research Center.*



# Newly Cataloged Records of Nineteenth-Century African American Groups Added to Reference Collection

By Amy L. Waters

**D**URING THE months last spring and summer when the Center for Missouri Studies and other buildings on the MU campus were closed due to the COVID pandemic, the State Historical Society's library staff worked from home. The break from normal schedules allowed the Columbia staff to work on materials that had gone uncataloged for decades, but have now been added to the reference collection.

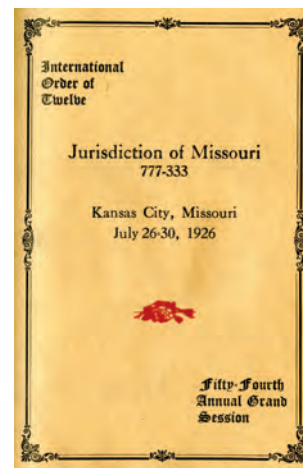
The items include books and pamphlets from various African American organizations in Missouri. The materials that survive from these organizations are primarily the proceedings of their meetings, which were typically held once a year in one of Missouri's larger cities.

Many of these groups were masonic organizations established as counterparts to white groups. They organized following the end of the Civil War during an era marked by racial segregation. The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Missouri, also known as the Prince Hall Masons, was established in 1866. Other masonic organizations followed, including the Knights of Pythias, Royal Arch Masons, and Knights Templar. Another white organization, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, had a black counterpart in the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows. The Missouri Grand Lodge was established in St. Louis in 1871. Female auxiliaries, such as Order of the Eastern Star, Order of Calanthe, and Heroines of Jericho, are also



Left: A photo of Sir W. G. Mosely, grand commander of Station B, Kansas City, from the proceedings of a Knights Templar meeting in Moberly, Missouri, in August 1914.

Below: The cover for a pamphlet reporting the proceedings at a Knights and Daughters of Tabor meeting in Kansas City in July 1926.



represented among the collected materials.

Several uniquely African American organizations are included. The United Brothers of Friendship and Sisters of the Mysterious Ten was a benevolent association established in Kentucky in August 1861 by a group of free and enslaved African Americans. The Grand Lodge of Missouri was established in 1870, while its female auxiliary, Temples of the Sisters of the Mysterious Ten, was founded in 1884. The International Order of Twelve Knights and Daughters of Tabor predates the Civil War but was reorganized in 1872 by Moses Dickson. Dickson, who served as a grand master of the Prince Hall Masons and helped establish Lincoln University, started the African Amer-

ican benevolent Christian organization in Independence, Missouri.

The newly cataloged materials add to our understanding of the African American experience in Missouri during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Proceedings of the annual meetings for these organizations often include a list of the deceased members for the previous year, making them potentially useful to genealogists. The names of the deceased members, along with any photographs from the publications, are being indexed and added to the Society's Missouri Surname Index.

*Amy L. Waters is senior librarian at the Columbia Research Center.*

# Scott Collections Document Rolla Family's Musical and Literary Ventures

By Kathleen Seale

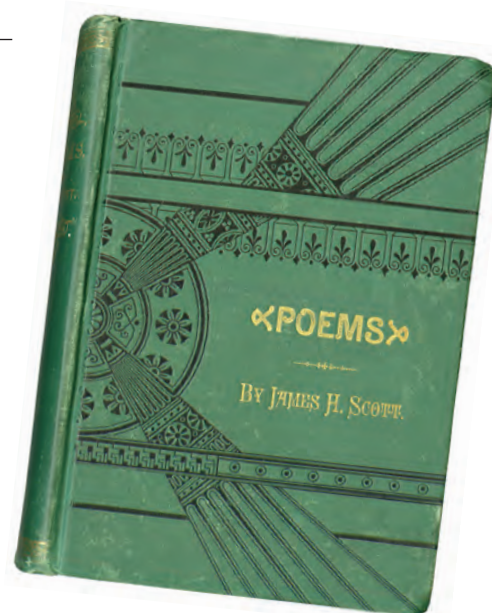
AFTER LIVING briefly in Rolla in the early 1870s, the family of James H. Scott and his wife, Eleanor (Kelly) Scott, returned in 1884 and began making its mark within the town's music, literature, and business circles. Two collections housed at the Rolla Research Center, one of them only recently processed, contain records of the couple and their children, Ephraim H., Luella Cora, and John W.

James Scott, a Methodist minister who served at churches in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri, was an avid musician and writer who built reed organs and also wrote poetry. He published some of his writings in 1887 in a book simply titled *Poems*. He noted that he had "written a book, but owe no apology for having done so, and shall offer none." Many

of the poems suggest religious, moral, and patriotic themes that touch on the times in which he lived.

Some of Scott's poems include "The Maiden's Dying Song," "Andersonville," which lamented the notorious Confederate military prison, "Father, the House Is Come," and "Come Home to the Mountains." His work "The Duel" memorializes two suitors vying for the love of the beautiful Mab, who stops the duel at the last moment and spurns both men. Other poems, such as "In the Beginning," are joint efforts by Scott and his daughter, Luella.

Scott's children shared his interests in music and writing. In 1883 his eldest son, Ephraim, established the Western Conservatory of Music at Fifth and Main Streets in Rolla. The conservatory was a center for vocal



*Poems* can be found within the James H. Scott Papers.

and instrumental music education. Ephraim eventually moved the institute to Chicago in 1910. Luella was a teacher in Rolla before marrying in 1890.

John, the third child, was the owner of Scott Drug on Pine Street, which boasted a music section selling instruments and sheet music. An accomplished musician, John founded and directed the Rolla town band, symphony orchestra, and cornet band. He also organized the Missouri School of Mines (now Missouri University of Science and Technology) Reserve Officer Training Corps band in 1926.

The Scott Family Papers include records of the Rolla town bands, symphony orchestra, and Western Conservatory of Music, as well as papers of the Scott family and their relatives. The newly processed James H. Scott Papers contain copies of James Scott's poetry and unpublished writings. These collections offer insights into the cultural life of a Missouri town in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

*Kathleen Seale is the senior archivist at the Rolla Research Center.*



A military band parades near Scott Drug in Rolla, circa 1940s. The store's signs advertising books as well as its pharmacy are visible on the building at the upper center of the photo.



# Introducing the SHSMO Missourian Society

SHSMO is pleased to introduce the **Missourian Society**, recognizing those individuals who have supported the State Historical Society of Missouri so generously through one-time or cumulative gifts. These great friends have demonstrated their belief and commitment to the State Historical Society's mission and their wish to help sustain its work.

Membership in the Missourian Society is open to individuals and nonprofit organizations with cumulative giving of \$25,000 or more, or \$50,000 or more in a testamentary gift.\*

Eligibility in the Missourian Society is established with lifetime giving to any designated area of the State Historical Society or toward unrestricted giving that allows SHSMO to use gifts where they are needed most.

Missourian Society members know they are leaders and friends who help pave the way for future citizens by lovingly preserving Missouri's past. Missourian Society members are invited to special events at SHSMO's six research centers across the state. They are recognized on the State Historical Society's website and in its annual report. They receive a pin, with their level designated by the following levels and colors:

Membership Levels (Stone)	Outright Gift or Pledge	Testamentary Gifts
Researcher (Garnet)	\$25,000	\$50,000
Archivist (Amethyst)	\$50,000	\$100,000
Conservator (Citron)	\$100,000	\$200,000
Curator (Sapphire)	\$250,000	\$500,000
Steward (Emerald)	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
Guardian (Diamond)	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000

By making a gift or pledge today, you may be eligible to join the Missourian Society's charter class.

Contact SHSMO's advancement team at [givingtoshsmo@shsmo.org](mailto:givingtoshsmo@shsmo.org) to discuss your individual situation, or to learn more, visit online at [www.shsmo.org/missourian-society](http://www.shsmo.org/missourian-society).

\*Testamentary gifts include documented bequests, gifts of life insurance/beneficiary, or other types of deferred gift.

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Susan Vale

BY HEATHER RICHMOND

After retiring in 2011 from her job as a planning and graphics technician at the City of Columbia Planning Department, Susan Vale volunteered with the State Historical Society. Already familiar with the Society from conducting research for a historic preservation class, she thought

later worked on archaeological projects with a field crew in Kampsville, Illinois, and as part of the Cannon Reservoir Human Ecology Project studying early Native American culture in northeast Missouri. By then her job was to produce illustrations and maps for scholarly publications.

Vale's mapping experience brought her to Columbia's Planning Department, which began using digital mapping software during her 25 years there. Because of her knowledge of maps, her first volunteer project at SHSMO involved rehousing and inventorying a large map collection.

More recently, Vale has worked on several scanning projects for SHSMO's digital collections. Her sharp eye for detail led to an important insight into a collection of early twentieth-century funeral home records for SHSMO's new genealogy digital collection.

While scanning the collection, she observed some curious patterns among the data. "Reading these

records, it was obvious that these reflected the deceased's status," Vale noted. "A young person who died, especially a girl under twenty, was usually given an expensive coffin and a robe, candles, multiple carriages, with white horses, etc., if the family could afford it."

Records for some children, however, indicated that only a bare minimum had been spent. "These cheap funerals had something in



Susan Vale by a pond featured in one of her artworks. Her art is shown at left.



SHSMO would be a good place to begin turning to interests that she now had more time to explore.

"When I retired, I wanted to get back into that university atmosphere again, doing a little lab work," Vale said. "Working with the collections at SHSMO suits me perfectly."

Her interest in history and archival collections began when she was an anthropology major at Western Washington State University. She

common," Vale said. "All the deaths were charged to, took place at, and were interred at the 'Mo Colony.' I did a little research on my own time and discovered that this institution is in Marshall and at that time was named the Missouri State Colony for the Feeble-Minded and Epileptic."

Vale had unlocked the collection's information on these young residents of the Colony, which opened a new doorway to a nearly forgotten aspect of Missouri's past. The collection will soon be available to historians and genealogists online.

Vale's intellectual curiosity is matched by her artistic talent. Wanting to try something less structured than the technical drawing she had done in her career, in retirement she began painting impressionistic landscapes with acrylic paints. One of her paintings, *Statement in Pink* (2017) is now part of SHSMO's art collection.

Her versatility is a reminder that volunteers contribute to the Society not only through their work, but also through their varied interests. Volunteers such as Susan Vale make SHSMO a truly vibrant community.

*Heather Richmond is a SHSMO archivist and coordinator for the Society's volunteer program.*



# Looking Ahead

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Please check [shsmo.org](https://shsmo.org) for updates on programs.

## On the Big River: Tom Benton Illustrates Mark Twain, Installment Three

December 18, Art Gallery, Center for Missouri Studies

This is the final installment of a yearlong exhibition showcasing examples of Thomas Hart Benton's original watercolors and drawings for the Limited Editions Club publications of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *Life on the Mississippi*.

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## "Finding Ancestors in Newspapers"

January 23, 10 a.m., Online via Zoom

Discover how to glean information about your ancestors from newspapers during this informative workshop by Bill Eddleman, associate director of the Cape Girardeau Research Center. The workshop will be hosted on Zoom via the Cape Girardeau Public Library. Registration is available beginning in January at <https://www.capelibrary.org/calendar>.

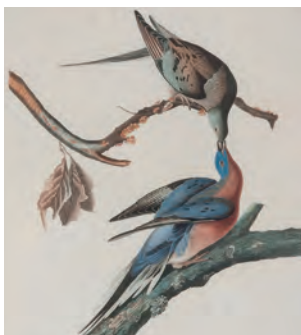
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## Our Missouri Podcast

SHSMO's podcast *Our Missouri* closes out 2020 with the remainder of a seven-part series examining the origins and history of the sports "Border War" between the Missouri Tigers and Kansas Jayhawks. The series also looks at the conflicts that defined Missouri's borders and identity before, during, and after the Civil War.

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## Native Creatures: Missouri's Indigenous Mammals and Birds

January 26, Art Gallery, Center for Missouri Studies

As we commemorate Missouri's bicentennial, *Native Creatures: The Indigenous Mammals and Birds of Missouri* explores images of the animals that inhabited Missouri at the time the territory became a state in 1821. Images created in that era by Karl Bodmer and John James Audubon depict animals and birds that are still found in Missouri, as well as some that are now extinct or extirpated. Later works by artists such as Charles Schwarz represent Missouri's biological diversity and encourage viewers to consider how settlement, industrialization, and agriculture have changed our ecosystems.

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## Our Missouri Bicentennial Book Club

In honor of the state's 200th birthday, *Our Missouri* will feature a series throughout 2021 highlighting 20 influential books on Missouri's history. "Bicentennial Book Club" will explore how authors examine major topics in the state's past. Join the podcasts to hear about award-winning publications and the legacy of historians such as Michael Fellman, Lorenzo Greene, Mary C. Neth, and James Neal Primm. New episodes are posted twice a month at <https://shsmo.org/our-missouri>. Listeners can also subscribe via Apple iTunes, Google Podcast, or Stitcher.

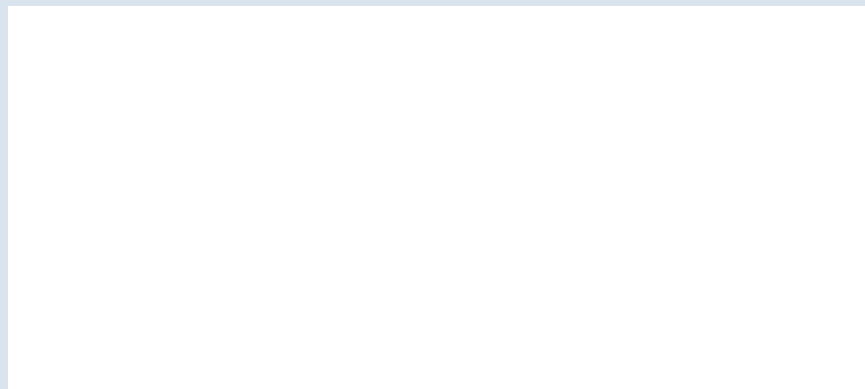
## SAVE THE DATE

### Missouri Conference on History

March 10–12, Online via Zoom

### National History Day in Missouri State Contest

April 2021, Online via Zoom – please visit [shsmo.org](https://shsmo.org) for details as they become available.



605 Elm Street, Columbia, MO 65201 | (573) 882-7083 | [shsmo.org](http://shsmo.org)

CAPE GIRARDEAU COLUMBIA KANSAS CITY ROLLA ST. LOUIS SPRINGFIELD



An eagle seen from Highway YY near Cabool, Missouri, October 28, 2018. Wanda Moore, photographer.