

The State Historical Society of Missouri

Winter 2021-2022

MISSOURI TIMES



Inside



**Annual Meeting Features Talk
by Missouri Coaching Legend
Norm Stewart**

page 1



**Open for Business: Kansas City
Research Center Completes
Move to New Quarters**

page 2



**Three New Bingham Portraits
Added to Art Collection**

page 9

Doing Family History the "Right" Way:
An Interview with Basic Genealogy
Series Host Bill Eddleman **4**

New Staff Members Begin Work at
State Historical Society Research
Centers **6**

Oral History Project to Focus
on Title IX in Missouri **7**

La Belle Star Preserved for Posterity;
Becomes Part of Missouri Digital
Newspaper Project **8**

SHSMO Begins In-House Production
of Newspaper Microfilm Reels **10**

Intern Reflects on Value of State
Historical Society's Slave Bill Project **11**

Missouri 2021: A Look Back at
the State's Bicentennial **12**

Mildred Wallhausen Papers Document
African American Community in
Southeast Missouri **16**

Ludwig Abt Collection Tells Story of
Moberly Public Housing Project **17**

Rolla Research Center Completes
Grant Project for Rotoscope Film
Collection **18**

St. Louis Veteran's Papers Describe
Prosecuting Nazi War Crimes **19**

Volunteer Spotlight:
Beth Pendergast **20**

Missouri Times is published by
the State Historical Society of
Missouri for its membership.
To receive *Missouri Times*,
please register as a member
at shsmo.org.

MANAGING EDITOR

John Brenner

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Kimberly Harper

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Kristie Lee

CONTRIBUTORS

Bill Eddleman
Ann Lowe
Patsy Luebbert
Erin Purdy
Sean Rost
Kathleen Seale
Sarah Stouffer-Lerch
Trevor Stratton

CONTACT:

(573) 882-7083

ONLINE

shsmo.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

shsmo.org/contact/social

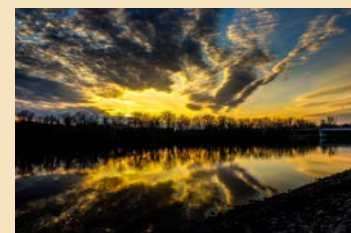
NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

nhdmo.org
nhdmo@shsmo.org

MISSOURI BICENTENNIAL

Missouri2021.org
contact@missouri2021.org

COVER PHOTO



Looking west at Drake Harbor,
Warsaw, Missouri, March 14, 2019.
Photo by John Moon.

Annual Meeting Features Talk by Missouri Coaching Legend Norm Stewart

By John Brenner

THE State Historical Society's trustees and staff welcomed SHSMO members in person for the 2021 annual meeting, a year after COVID-19 forced the 2020 event to be held online only. The 2021 meeting, held November 6 at the Center for Missouri Studies, featured a My Missouri Lecture Series speech by Norm Stewart full of poignant and humorous stories from his long coaching career and his life as a Missourian.

Stewart, 86, spoke for nearly 90 minutes. Joking that he was changing his assigned topic, "What Is a Missourian," to "Ramblings of an Old Man," he spun tales of growing up in Leonard and Shelbyville, Missouri, and coaching the men's basketball team at the University of Missouri for 32 seasons. Many of the stories gave insight into a character shaped by his Missouri experiences.

In one story about his upbringing, Stewart reflected on an encounter with his high school basketball coach after their team lost in the state finals by 40 points. "I'm sitting on the bench, embarrassed," Stewart said. "He came by, and he gave me one of the great lessons in life. 'You get your head up. Don't you ever put it down.'"

Other stories revealed Stewart's playful sense of humor, such as his explanation of how one of his Missouri players got around his steadfast rule to be on time.

"We started practice, and Tom Dore, seven foot two, isn't present when practice starts," Stewart said. "So we're practicing, and Tom comes in, comes over. I said, 'Where have you been?' He says, 'You're not going to believe this.' I said, 'I know that. Tell me where you've been.' And this is exactly what he said, he said, 'I ran over myself with my own car.' And I made this rule about that [other] rule: that if you can tell me a story I haven't heard, there's no penalty. So I said, 'Tom, stop—you're in, go get dressed.'"

During the business meeting, the membership elected one new trustee and reelected five current trustees to three-year terms ending in 2024. The new trustee is Sandra I. Enríquez, an assistant professor of history at the University of Missouri–Kansas City. The reelected trustees are Kathianne Knaup Crane of St. Louis, Steve Ehlmann of St. Charles, Jennifer Teichman Kerr of Lexington, Brian K. Snyder of Independence, and Blanche M. Touhill of St. Louis.



Former Missouri Tigers basketball coach Norm Stewart speaking at the State Historical Society's annual meeting on November 6. Stewart's teams at Missouri won 634 games and eight conference championships, and made 16 NCAA Tournament appearances, from 1967 to 1999. (Photo by Notley Hawkins)

Four awards for scholarship were also presented at the business meeting. Walter Johnson, a historian at Harvard University, received the 2021 Missouri History Book Award for *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States*. The Missouri Historical Review Article Award was given to Patrick Huber, author of "Remembering the Ste. Genevieve Race Riot of 1930: Historical Memory and the Expulsion of African Americans from a Small Missouri Town," published in the January 2021 issue of the *Review*. Amanda L. Izzo received the Mary C. Neth Prize for her article "To Help Them Brush Aside the Limitations That Hold Them Back": Ruth Porter, Liberal Interracialism, and St. Louis Community Organizing in the Civil Rights Era," published in the April 2021 issue of the *Review*. Jeff Stilley, a doctoral student at the University of Missouri–Columbia, was awarded the Lewis E. Atherton Prize for his dissertation, "Solidarity Infrastructure: Gender and Race Solidarity and Cross-Class Coalitions in the Kansas City General Strike of 1918."

Open for Business

Kansas City Research Center Completes Move to New Quarters

FROM THE reading room you can see one of the shuttlecocks on the lawn of the nearby Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, with the downtown Kansas City skyline in the distance. In the stacks you can peer down through three floors of boxed and shelved collections at the yellow Roobot automated retrieval service resting far below. There are big worktables for patrons to spread out on, and comfortable offices for the staff.

Lucinda Adams is still adjusting to all the space, and all the possibilities that come with it. “We finally have room to grow,” said Adams, SHSMO associate director at the Kansas City Research Center. “For our staff, but for our collections too. We can think about the future—not just five years from now, but 30 or 50 years.”

The Kansas City center moved to the third floor of Miller Nichols Library on the University of Missouri–Kansas City campus in August. The center had long since outgrown its former quarters in UMKC’s Newcomb Hall. In Newcomb, accessions of new collection materials lined the walls and floors. Many collections could not even be kept on site, but were stored instead in Columbia and other locations, which meant patrons requesting them waited days or weeks before they were delivered.

Not at Miller Nichols. Although some 14,000 cubic feet of off-site collections remain to be brought in, there is plenty of room for them. The Roobot system, which SHSMO shares with the rest of the library, provides close to 28,000 cubic feet of storage to the State Historical



Miller Nichols Library, where SHSMO’s Kansas City Research Center is located. The State Historical Society undertook a \$3 million fund-raising campaign to finance the center’s move to Miller Nichols. Major donors included the Sunderland Foundation, the William T. Kemper Foundation, Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation, and Steve and Marianne Noll.

Society and retrieves materials within minutes. More than 1,500 items are already stored with the Roobot.

The new 5,100-square-foot Kansas City Research Center includes archival storage areas with state-of-the-art climate controls, areas for staging exhibits, and offices and workrooms for the staff. The spacious reading room offers not only nice views of the city, but ample shelf space for reference materials as well. The third floor of Miller Nichols Library also houses the LaBudde Special Collections and University Archives and the Richard L. Sutton Jr. Geosciences Museum, putting SHSMO’s research center within a mini-museum and archives district that helps draw visitors.



Associate director Lucinda Adams (left) and archivist Sarah Henkel in the entrance to the new Kansas City Research Center.



The reading room in Kansas City.



The Roobot automated retrieval system (both photos at left) quickly finds and delivers collection materials requested by patrons.

"It elevates our status to have a nice space," Adams said. "The way it looks now is up to the caliber of our collections. Our collections are unique, prestigious—now we have a research facility that is a match for them. It's a space that people will want to come to and donate collections to, and it puts us on a level playing field with other institutions."

Adams's immediate goals for the Kansas City center include moving the rest of its collections on-site and getting them entered in the computerized database the

Roobot follows in locating and retrieving materials. After that, she said she hopes to expand collection accessions and public programming for Kansas City audiences. Though not part of SHSMO's space, a conference room on the library's third floor with a seating capacity of 75 is available for programs and events.

"Just having the space increases our efficiency and our ability to help our patrons," Adams said. "We're going to be able to do so much more—moving here has expanded our opportunities." —JB

Doing Family History the “Right” Way

An Interview with Basic Genealogy Series Host Bill Eddleman

WHEN THE State Historical Society expanded its virtual programming during the COVID-19 pandemic, Cape Girardeau Research Center associate director Bill Eddleman created the Basic Genealogy Series, in which he shares advice and strategies for researching family histories. The popular online program has drawn more than 1,700 registrants, and past sessions archived on SHSMO's website have been viewed nearly 2,000 times. Upcoming sessions are announced at shsmo.org; past sessions may be seen at shsmo.org/on-demand/basic-genealogy.

A longtime genealogist himself, Eddleman is president of the Missouri State Genealogical Association and past president of the Cape County Genealogical Society. In the following interview he answers questions about the Basic Genealogy Series.

What are your goals for the series?

Mainly, to encourage people to research genealogy the “right” way. To get participants to learn to do things correctly so they can establish reliable connections to their ancestors. To get them in the habit of learning about the records they are using, and the ways they might access other records. The best thing is, the series is FREE. If you can’t “attend” on the day a session is presented, it will appear on SHSMO's website later.

Why did you decide to start it?

I interact with family historians on many skill levels. I always am surprised by how many people have done this for years, but don't know how to use or understand basic



Bill Eddleman.

records. A lot of this is a lack of knowledge of what they can find in records beyond online family trees (which are full of errors more often than not) and censuses (from which many do not get everything they can get).

What is your own background in genealogy? Was anything like the Basic Genealogy Series available to you when you started?

I've always been interested in my family's history, but I did not get serious about it until around 30 years ago. My uncle had done some sketchy research on my dad's family and sent me all his files when he moved to a retirement home. I puzzled through those, realized there were many errors, and set about learning how to

do the research to correct them. I later got interested in transcribing and abstracting original records—I've produced over 20 books published by various genealogical outlets. Then presenting to local groups got me interested in genealogical education. Thirty years ago, there was nothing remotely like the opportunities available today to learn genealogical research—no Internet, no digitized records, fewer indices of records. To examine censuses on microfilm, I had to travel to a local library or branch of the National Archives. Now I just access them online.

What are the most essential things to know if you are just getting started with genealogy?

Start with yourself—your birth and marriage documentation as appropriate, all the information you have about your life. I suggest people first write their autobiography, then add to it as they see fit. You probably also have information about a couple more generations in family documents right in your house. These may offer clues to earlier generations.

Are there any genealogical “brick walls” that still have you stumped?

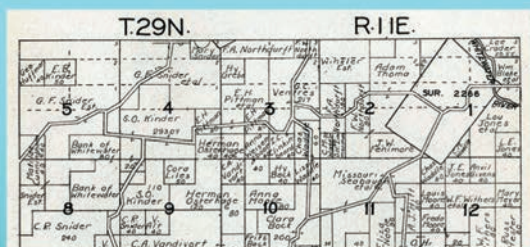
Any active genealogist who says they have no brick walls would be fibbing! I have a bunch of them. Yesterday I was researching a great-great uncle who fought in the Civil War, and I remembered once more that I have no idea where his mother (my great-great grandmother) died, or when. She is on the 1860 census with her second husband, and that is the last I can find of her.

How many more episodes in the series are planned? What's next?

There are three more sessions to come—the next one will be on using manuscript collections and will air sometime in January. There have been nine sessions so far, many of them on how to use different kinds of resources like censuses, court records, newspapers, and other kinds of historical records.

Did Your Ancestor Own Land?

- Lived in an area for an extended period
- Plat map
- Tax lists
- Census
- Patents
- Online/books
- If they owned land, they had to have gotten title in some way, and they had to eventually dispose of it in some way

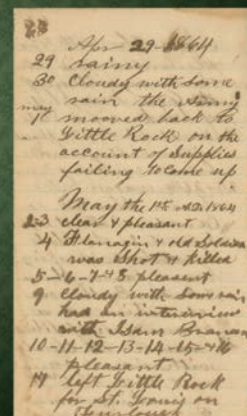


Informational graphics used in online sessions of the Basic Genealogy Series. At left is a slide from the sixth episode in the series, “Land Records: Finding Ancestors in Deeds”; below is an illustration from the tenth episode, a discussion of records found in manuscript collections that will air in January.

Items in Manuscript Collections: Personal Records



Skaggs, Henry Ellison, 1831-1899. Papers, 1862-1895. (R0247)
<http://shago.org/manuscripts/rolla/R0247.pdf>



New Staff Members Begin Work at State Historical Society Research Centers

ENCOURAGED by an improved financial outlook for the 2022 fiscal year, the State Historical Society has hired new staff members at five of its six research centers in recent months. The staff additions have allowed the Society to restore many of the hours its centers are open to the public after they were reduced last year due to budget constraints stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Haley Frizzle-Green is the new archivist at the Springfield Research Center. A longtime Springfield resident, she worked previously in the reference section of the Springfield-Greene County Public Library. She holds a

master's degree in library and information science from the University of Missouri–Columbia and a bachelor's degree in global studies and French.

Sarah Henkel has joined the Kansas City Research Center as an archivist. A St. Louis native, she holds a history degree from Maryville University and is currently working on a master's degree in public history at the University of Missouri–Kansas City. She previously worked as an archivist at Inotiv.

Tiffani Homer, SHSMO's new advancement coordinator, joins the staff in Columbia, where she will work with the Society's members and donors. An Illinois native, she



New staff members Haley Frizzle-Green (left) and Nicholas Raya. Frizzle-Green is an archivist at the Springfield Research Center; Raya is a library information specialist at the research center in Columbia. (Photo by Notley Hawkins)



Tiffani Homer (left), Katelyn Ziegler, and Troy King. All three are new staff members at the Center for Missouri Studies in Columbia. (Photo by Aubrey Rowden)

holds a bachelor's degree in communication and rhetorical studies from Illinois College in Jacksonville and a master's degree in public affairs reporting from the University of Illinois–Springfield.

Another new member of the staff in Columbia is Troy King, a Center for Missouri Studies associate. Born in Kansas City, King grew up in Belton, Missouri, and everyone in his family is a native Missourian. King says his goal at the State Historical Society is to help preserve Missouri's history and to learn more about those who carry out that mission.

Ann Lowe is the new archivist at the Cape Girardeau Research Center. Born in Minnesota, she grew up there and in Iowa and Missouri, and also lived in South Korea for 10 years. She has a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of Missouri–St. Louis and a master's degree in library and information science from Simmons University.

Erin Purdy joins the staff of the St. Louis Research Center as an archivist. She grew up in Georgia and holds a master's degree from Armstrong State University in Savannah as well as a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. Her previous experience includes

work as a curator for Broward County Library Special Collections in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Nicholas Raya and Katelyn Ziegler are new library information specialists at the Columbia Research Center. Raya was previously a volunteer and a graduate research assistant at SHSMO. A native of Hutchinson, Kansas, he holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Kansas and is currently studying for a master's degree in library and information science at the University of Missouri. Ziegler, who holds a bachelor's degree in history from MU, previously worked as an intern in SHSMO's art department. As an intern she developed exhibitions of the editorial cartoon, photograph, and newspaper collections.

The Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis research centers are now open by appointment on Tuesdays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Cape Girardeau and Springfield research centers are open by appointment Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Columbia Research Center is also open by appointment on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The weekend hours will increase to every Saturday in March 2022.

Oral History Project to Focus on Title IX in Missouri

By Sean Rost

2022 WILL mark the fiftieth anniversary of Title IX, a federal law that expanded educational and athletic opportunities for many individuals who had previously been denied on the basis of their sex. To commemorate the long road to Title IX and the evolution of the law since its enactment in 1972, the Oral History Program is focusing on the history of this civil rights landmark in several new interviews for the Missouri Sports & Recreation Oral History Project.

Established in 2018, the Missouri Sports & Recreation Oral History Project documents the history of sports and recreation in Missouri as well as notable competitive activities and events involving Missourians. Oral histories within the project highlight a range of topics, particularly organized sports, recreation, parks, coaching, sports administration, and sports journalism.

Interviewees include Jodie H. Adams, the former director of the Springfield–Greene County Park Board;

Kelly Yates, founder of Gateway Field Hockey and a member of Southwest Missouri State College's field hockey team that won the national championship in 1979; Sallie Beard, former athletic director at Missouri Southern State University; and Barbara Cowherd, former head volleyball coach and associate athletic director at Drury University. Additionally, a 2019 oral history with Jack Miles, former executive director of the Missouri State High School Activities Association, features an extensive conversation about MSHSAA's implementation of Title IX policies beginning in the 1970s.

In summer 2022, the *Our Missouri* podcast is tentatively planning a short series on Title IX in Missouri that will explore athletic opportunities for women prior to the 1970s.

Sean Rost is the oral historian at the State Historical Society of Missouri.

La Belle Star Preserved for Posterity; Becomes Part of Missouri Digital Newspaper Project

By Patsy Luebbert

A YEAR AGO, David P. Ross, a longtime supporter of SHSMO, contacted us about digitizing the *La Belle Star* and making it freely available on the Society's Missouri Digital Newspaper Project page. The Society was eager to take on the project, but the question was how to raise the approximately \$16,000 needed to digitize and preserve the *Star* on microfilm.

And so it began. Ross, with the Society's support, led fund-raising efforts that collected \$8,000 by last April, and the first 63 years of the paper—almost 26,000 pages of newsprint—were digitized and made available to the public. By the end of August, Ross had raised the rest of the money, and the complete run of the *Star* will soon be digitized.

The *La Belle Star* operated in Lewis County, Missouri, for nearly 125 years, with 65 of those years under publisher and editor Charles W. Mulinex. Mulinex moved to La Belle in 1882 at the age of 26 and launched the *Star* on April 14, 1883, out of a "small 12x14 room on the second floor of the Thompson bank building" that was "equipped with only a small Washington hand press, a job press, and a few fonts of wooden type."

Mulinex operated the paper until his death on June 1, 1948. It was then bought by longtime associate editor Sadie Wells, who had been with the *Star* since 1893 and would continue to work there until her retirement in 1954. Wells sold the paper to J. C. Noel a few months after she bought it, and the *Star* then

changed hands several times over the next few years. In 1962 William and Harriet Bledsoe purchased the *Star* and continued publishing it until Harriet sold the paper in 2003 to Mike and Sue Scott of Fremont, Nebraska. The *La Belle Star* published its last issue on September 26, 2007. Mike Scott lamented, "There just isn't enough business in the area, or enough subscribers to support the newspaper anymore."

The State Historical Society of Missouri is beyond grateful for David Ross's efforts and wishes to thank him and all the donors to this project. Inventor Thomas Edison could have been describing them when he said, "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

The Missouri Digital Newspaper Project is keyword-searchable and free to the public. To access the site's more than three million pages from



David Ross with a holiday edition of the *La Belle Star*.

356 newspaper titles, visit <https://shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/mdnp>.

Patsy Luebbert is SHSMO's grant manager for the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project.

Donors to the *La Belle Star* Digitization Project

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Robert R. Anderson | David Lillard | William Steffen |
| Joyce Bilderback | William Logan | Richard Swartz |
| Raymond Blair | MOINK LLC, La Belle, MO | Town & County Bank, Quincy, IL |
| Mary J. Bozarth | Craig O'Dear | Truman Heartland Community Foundation |
| David Bradley | George Ott | Joyce Wilson |
| Harry Culp | Prairie Wind Foundation | Boyd L. Wright |
| Laura Doran | Linda Lou Robinson | Randolph Wright |
| Sarah Freeman | David P. Ross | Willie Wright |
| William T. Kemper Charitable Trust | Gretchen Ross | |
| Lewis County Mutual Insurance | Elva Spicknall | |

Three New Bingham Portraits Added to Art Collection

By Kimberly Harper

THE ROLLINS family is reunited once again. Thanks to the generosity of private donors, the Society recently acquired three portraits by Missouri master artist George Caleb Bingham. The portraits, each oil on canvas, depict well-known nineteenth-century politician and University of Missouri founding father James Sidney Rollins and his parents, Anthony Wayne Rollins and Sarah "Sallie" Rodes Rollins. The portraits of Rollins's parents were painted in 1837; the one of Rollins himself is from 1834. The works were purchased from the estate of Ellen Westfall Mering, a Rollins descendant.

James S. Rollins was born in Madison County, Kentucky, in 1812. He came to Boone County, Missouri, in 1830, where he began a law practice with Judge Abiel Leonard. He then traveled back to Kentucky for formal training in the law at Transylvania University, where he befriended politician Cassius Clay. Upon Rollins's return to Missouri, he became active in Whig Party politics at both the state and national level. A mutual interest in politics may have led Rollins to befriend George Caleb Bingham, who came to Columbia in 1834 to set up a portrait studio.

"Not only does the acquisition of the Rollins paintings give us a better understanding of George Caleb Bingham's development as a painter, it also helps us better understand the forty-five-year relationship between the Bingham and Rollins families," said SHSMO curator Joan Stack. "It's a relationship that, among other things, led to the State Historical

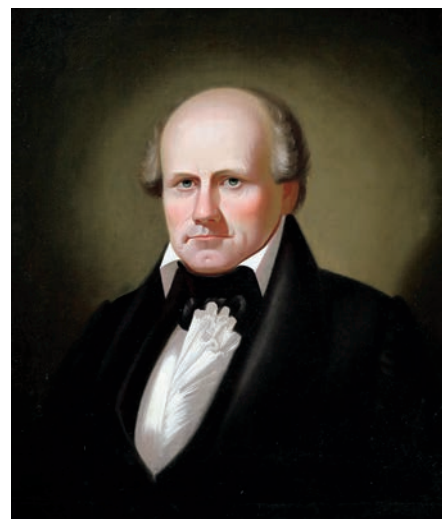


The recently acquired Bingham portraits of James Sidney Rollins (left) and his parents, Sarah "Sallie" Rodes Rollins and Anthony Wayne Rollins.



Society of Missouri's acquisition of Bingham's *Order Number 11*."

The three portraits join other items previously acquired by the State Historical Society from the Rollins family that include not only the famous *Order Number 11* painting but also



Bingham's letters to James S. Rollins, a sketchbook of Bingham's that once belonged to Rollins, and various other artworks.

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

SHSMO Begins In-House Production of Newspaper Microfilm Reels

ONE OF the Society's signature attractions has long been its archive of Missouri newspapers—among the largest collections of one state's press in existence. In the Center for Missouri Studies, newspaper microfilm reels fill towering cabinets that stand sentinel behind a row of viewing stations which overlook the two-story lobby and grand staircase. Amassing all those reels of microfilm—more than 58,000 and counting—has been a significant line item in the annual budget since soon after the first one was bought in 1938. An investment in new technology is now reducing that cost considerably.

The new equipment, an SMA 35+ Archive Writer and SMA Unomat processor, allows SHSMO to use digital image files to create its own microfilm in-house. "Using digital images and the Archive Writer has fundamentally changed the process we use to preserve Missouri's newspapers," said Gerald Hirsch, SHSMO senior associate executive director.

Microfilm, the best medium for long-term preservation, used to be purchased from outside vendors, but beginning with the 2008 recession the cost rose sharply. By 2020, one set of microfilm (three reels must be made to ensure that copies can circulate while a permanent master reel is safeguarded) had reached \$283.70. The projected cost using the new equipment was only \$183.87.

The highly specialized writer and processor, bought in 2020 for \$120,500, will more than pay for itself in time. A \$40,000 award from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the

Missouri State Library helped cover the initial cost for the equipment.

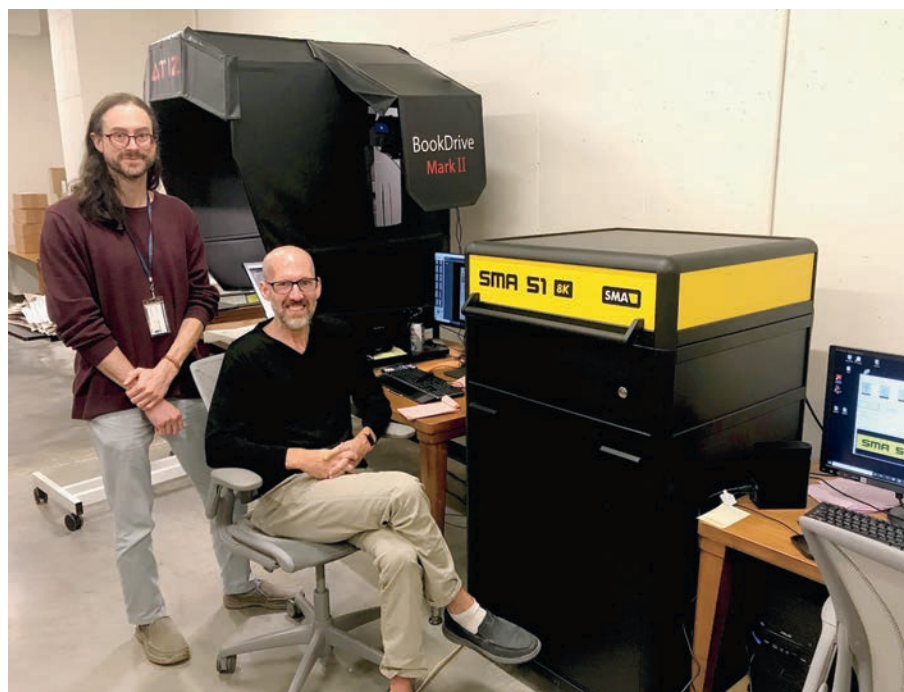
The Society receives digital files directly from some newspaper publishers, but the rest are captured by an ATIZ BookMark scanner purchased in 2018 with funding from the Gaylord Foundation. The Archive Writer exposes the digital images of newspaper pages onto microfilm. The processor then develops the film in a darkroom.

The State Historical Society has now produced nearly a thousand of its own microfilm reels. The manufacturer of the equipment provided some initial training in using it. Senior librarian Kevin George and library information specialist Daniel Haase then worked to master the learning curve involved in making professional-

quality reels. George describes the process as "tweak and try."

"The training got us started, but we've mostly learned through trial and error," George said. "To get the right results, sometimes you have to vary the camera focus and the light exposures even within the same group of documents. But as we use it more, we learn how to make the right adjustments and not be petrified of harming a very expensive piece of equipment."

George and Haase's growing prowess is good news not only for SHSMO's patrons, but for libraries across Missouri that depend on the Society for microfilm reels of local newspapers. All are now assured a reliable supply of microfilm at a lower price. —JB



Kevin George (left) and Daniel Haase with some of the equipment used to make microfilm reels. The SMA Unomat processor is next to Haase, and the BookMark scanner is in the background.

Intern Reflects on Value of State Historical Society's Slave Bill Project

By Trevor Stratton

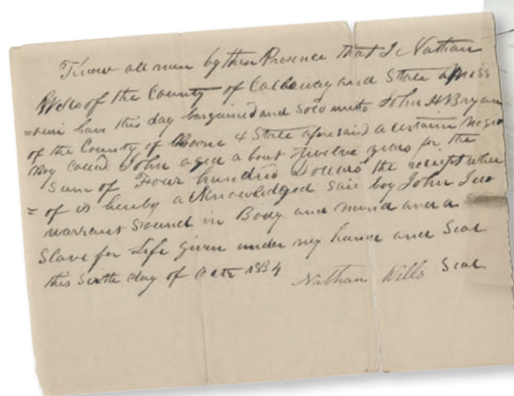
THROUGHOUT the past year, I have been lucky enough to work with the State Historical Society of Missouri. I began my work here as a preservation and conservation intern under Erin Kraus, the former senior conservator. I then moved to the manuscript division, where I am supervised by Laura Jolley, the assistant director of manuscripts. Thanks to Erin, Laura, and everyone else at SHSMO who has helped me, I have received an array of valuable opportunities and educational experiences. Still, out of all these special things I have worked on over the past year, nothing has been more meaningful than my current project.

I have been working to locate, compile, and digitize each of the bills of sale of enslaved people within the Society's archives—more than a hundred of these records have been found. Before this project started, these documents were hard to collect in one place because they were spread across numerous collections. You had to sift through each box of records to locate every individual bill of sale. Most archival collections are formed on the basis of who created or gathered the materials rather than the subject matter within them. This works best the majority of the time, but sometimes another approach is required to find related items on an important subject or to gather a certain type of document.

Once it is found, each bill of sale for an enslaved person will be

Right: Trevor Stratton sorts through documents in a manuscript collection at the Center for Missouri Studies.

Below: This bill records the sale of a 12-year-old boy named John for \$400 in Boone County, Missouri, on October 6, 1834.



scanned to make a digital copy. The images of the documents will then be uploaded to SHSMO's digital collections website so that they can be accessed online. Metadata will be created that allows researchers to search names, dates, keywords, etc., quickly and conveniently to find specific kinds of material. The metadata might be the single most valuable part of this project, as it helps patrons connect documents that previously would have been very difficult to pull together.

This project is so important to me because it feels as if I am doing something truly meaningful. There is an extraordinary sum of information contained within these documents, but the documents and the lives they record have been virtually invisible

since the 1800s. As a history student who maintains a particularly strong interest in the subfield of public history, providing easy access to significant historic material is at the center of my professional ambitions. Furthermore, as a prospective archivist, a project like the bills of sale provides me with knowledge of the field that will stay with me throughout my career. I look forward to continuing my work at SHSMO to make these documents more accessible for everyone.

Trevor Stratton is an undergraduate in history at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He completed an internship with SHSMO last summer and is now a volunteer at the Society.

MISSOURI 2021

A Look Back at the State's Bicentennial



AS THE days wind down in 2021, bicentennial programs continue to commemorate two hundred years of Missouri statehood. Recent and ongoing activities include book publications, exhibitions at the Center for Missouri Studies, and the Bicentennial Quilt traveling exhibit still making its way across the state.

Books connected to the bicentennial include *This Place of Promise: A Historian's Perspective on 200 Years of Missouri History*, by SHSMO executive director Gary R. Kremer. The book, published by the University of Missouri Press, was released in November. It joins other bicentennial books such as *Contesting the Constitution: Congress Debates the Missouri Crisis, 1819–1821*, edited by William S. Belko, and the two-volume *A Fire Bell in the Past: The Missouri Crisis at 200*, edited by Jeffrey L. Pasley and John Craig Hammond.

The art exhibition *Cultural Crossroads: Missouri in the Era of Statehood* will remain open through February 11,

2022, at the Center for Missouri Studies. The exhibition features artwork, objects, and imagery related to a wide range of people who were associated with what became the state of Missouri in 1821. *Show Me a Bicentennial!* remains on display in the second-floor Wenneker Family Corridor Gallery until spring. It documents the programs and events that have commemorated Missouri's bicentennial. The quilt exhibit also will be displayed into 2022, making a stop at each of the State Historical Society's six research centers.

Directed by Missouri's legislature to lead the state in its observances of the bicentennial, the State Historical Society embraced its role in organizing a sweeping range of programs and activities that have engaged Missourians from every part of the state. The photos that follow offer a retrospective on the state's celebration of a milestone in its history. More information on many of the programs pictured may also be found in permanent online archives at missouri2021.org and shsmo.org. —JB



Left: Artists Barb Bailey and Aaron Horrell discuss the Missouri Bicentennial Mural.



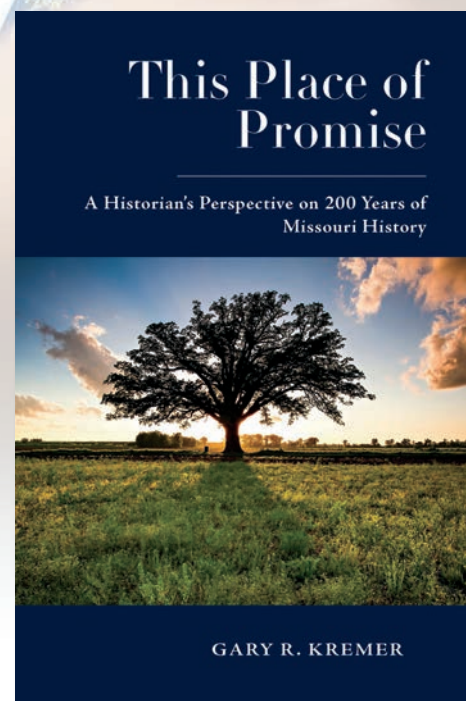
Blues singer Little Dylan and his band from St. Louis perform at the Together for '21 Fest.



Top: SHSMO bicentennial coordinator Michael Sweeney (left) and visitors to the Missouri Bicentennial Quilt exhibit (right). Above: Two bicentennial quilts representing Missouri counties.



Sections of the Bicentennial Mural on display at the State Capitol on August 10.



Right: Gary Kremer's bicentennial history, *This Place of Promise*.

Below, clockwise from top left: Governor Mike Parson and others reveal the Missouri bicentennial stamp; a Missouri master storyteller's performance; Missouri storytellers pose with a sign for the bicentennial; SHSMO trustee Bob Priddy with a scale model of Thomas Hart Benton's *A Social History of Missouri State Capitol* mural.

Opposite page, top left to bottom right: a performer with the Kay Brothers; the All-State Festival Choir performs at the State Capitol; the Kay Brothers and Burney Sisters perform together; a fiddling jam session; a Group Atlantico dancer performing; MU student journalists with KBIA do interviews for the Missouri on Mic program; Jefferson City mayor Carrie Tergin at the Scoops Across Missouri ice cream social; blacksmiths demonstrating their craft at the Together for '21 Fest; dancers with Group Atlantico.





Mildred Wallhausen Papers Document African American Community in Southeast Missouri

By Ann Lowe and Bill Eddleman

A NEW collection donated to the Cape Girardeau Research Center features almost 1,000 photographs and negatives documenting the civil rights struggle and the African American community in southeast Missouri in the 1950s and 1960s. The Mildred Wallhausen Papers (CG0050) also include articles, correspondence, programs, and newsletters focusing on African Americans in southeast Missouri. Art Wallhausen Jr., son of Mildred Wallhausen, donated the papers.

Mildred Wallhausen was born in Brooklyn, New York, on April 3, 1914, the daughter of Gustav and Julia Herrle Knoop. She had one brother, but after the death of their mother, separate couples adopted the children and they never saw each other again. Mildred was brought up by Harry and Florence Elizabeth Bronson Van de Water of Queens, New York, and later Van de Water's sister, Frances Bronson Savell and her husband, James Meroe Savell. Savell served as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

Mildred took a temporary job with the *Daily American Republic* in Poplar Bluff in the 1930s. While working at the paper, she met her future husband, Art L. Wallhausen Sr. He purchased Charleston, Missouri's *Enterprise-Courier* in 1935 and later married Mildred. Mildred worked for the *Enterprise-Courier* in a wide range of jobs, including file clerk, stuffer, mailer, office supply store manager, circulation manager, business



A photo of an NAACP rally in Mississippi County, Missouri, in 1962, from the Mildred Wallhausen Papers.

manager, reporter, photographer, editorial writer, society editor, and ultimately publisher.

After her husband passed away in 1969, she was the author of a weekly column, "Millie's Soapbox," until 2002. Most of these writings are included in scrapbooks in the collection. She was selected for the Missouri Press Association (MPA) Hall of Fame in 2000, in recognition of more than 60 years of exemplary contributions to the newspaper industry.

Wallhausen worked tirelessly to enhance quality of life and encourage participation in community affairs, and she was active in the NAACP and numerous church and social service organizations. She passed away on February 19, 2009, in her home in East Prairie, Missouri.

The collection includes photos of civil rights leaders Roy Wilkins, Charles Williams, Helen Currin, Bill Purnell, Farris Horn, Elliot Dugan, Allen Brown, and others. There are also group pictures from organizations such as the Delta Area Economic Opportunities Corporation, the NAACP, Wyatt Neighborhood Service Center, Church of Christ of God, and various baptisms, weddings, and the occasional church party. Articles from state and regional papers on civil rights topics are included as well.

The Mildred Wallhausen Papers are available for research at the Cape Girardeau Research Center.

Ann Lowe is an archivist at the Cape Girardeau Research Center, where Bill Eddleman is associate director.

Ludwig Abt Collection Tells Story of Moberly Public Housing Project

By Sarah Stouffer-Lerch

BY THE time he retired in 1965, architect Ludwig Abt had created an indelible legacy, not only in his adopted hometown of Moberly, Missouri, but across the Midwest as well. The State Historical Society's Ludwig Abt Collection contains more than seven decades' worth of his drawings, blueprints, surveys, site plans, and related materials for schools, post offices, churches, businesses, and residences that he designed in Moberly and other towns.

Born in Hoechst, Germany, in 1882, Abt came to Moberly with his wife, Jessie, in 1911. Notable structures designed by Abt and his partner, Joseph K. "J. Kay" Cleavinger, included Moberly's Fourth Street Theater and the auditorium at Moberly Junior High School. Another venture—the Moberly Housing Authority project—remains significant to the town decades after its completion.

Planning for the project began in 1958. In the 1950 census, 38 percent of Moberly's 4,638 dwellings

had been listed as substandard. The Moberly City Council chose Abt & Cleavinger to design housing for the town's low-income residents.

Public housing, begun in earnest with the Housing Act of 1937, was transformed in the 1950s and 1960s, as policy changes made more families eligible for residency. To accommodate this influx of occupants, the US Housing Authority experimented with different housing project designs.

As in other towns, the Moberly Housing Authority encountered resistance. After the MHA gained federal approval to purchase the first of two plots of land in 1959, 80 local residents gathered in opposition, concerned that public housing nearby would bring in "undesirables" and lower property values.

Aside from offering reassurances, the MHA and its architects sought to address these concerns within the very design of the housing project. Although regional housing authority officials in Fort Worth, Texas, had wanted Moberly to have

barracks-style buildings, the MHA fought for simple but modern residential duplexes instead.

Construction on the Moberly project's two sites began in 1962. The larger site, Allendale Manor, included 63 duplexes and a playground area designed by Kansas City firm Hare & Hare. The smaller site, Countryview Gardens, consisted of 12 duplexes.

The first 20 families moved into the newly completed residences in June 1964. Both Allendale Manor and Countryview Gardens remain in use today.

Original architectural drawings for the housing project are within the Abt Collection at the Columbia Research Center. The collection was donated by Karl and Cecy Rice on behalf of the Randolph County Historical Society in 2002.

Sarah Stouffer-Lerch is an undergraduate at Ohio State University. She was an intern at the State Historical Society of Missouri in 2021.



A schematic diagram of Abt & Cleavinger's design for the public housing project in Moberly, Missouri.

Rolla Research Center Completes Grant Project for Rotoscope Film Collection

By Kathleen Seale

SHSMO's Rolla Research Center has completed a grant project supported by the National Film Preservation Foundation to preserve a unique film technology. The Rotoscope Collection includes film reels for a single-camera, single-projection system able to show 180-degree views on screen.

The Rotoscope film technology was developed by two native Missourians, Rowe E. Carney and Tom F. Smith. It is named after its inventors, R-O for Rowe and T-O for Tom.

Nearly 50 reels of film were donated to SHSMO in 2018. The reels, filmed for the successful prototype of the projection system, include demo footage with scenes from around Missouri as well as shots from a moving roller coaster, a plane ride, and numerous car rides. Demonstration shows were given in 1961, with movie executives and

theater owners invited to view films projected onto a massive curved screen at a theater in Rolla.

Once the collection was acquired, the question became how to provide access to the films. The film reels needed to be processed and digitized, but digitization of the film was not possible in-house. Funding to digitize a portion of the collection was obtained through the National Film Preservation Foundation. Four of the reels were then successfully cleaned, repaired, and rehoused before print and digital copies were created.

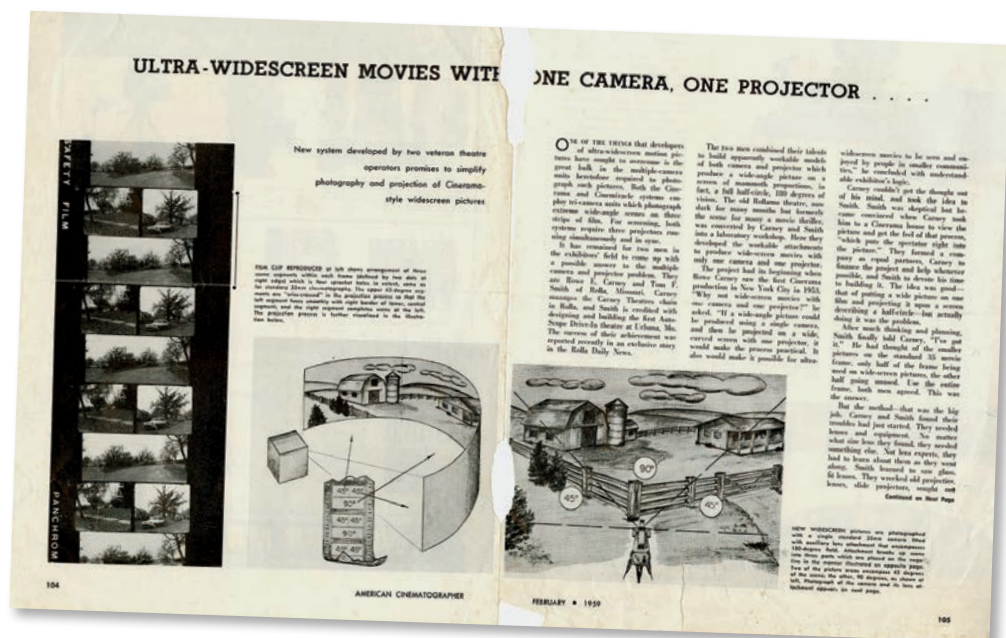
The process of preserving and digitizing a reel of film is a long one. The film was initially sent to Scene Savers for conservation and digitization. As part of the grant project, film print copies of the four reels were also created—yet another specialized project as not many

places create or reproduce 35mm film anymore. In digital format the film can be projected using a digital projector and the original projector attachment. The attachment was included in the collection, which was donated by Gene Carney, son of the inventor Rowe Carney.

Digital copies of the four reels are available for research at any of SHSMO's six research centers. To learn more about the Rotoscope, the history behind it, and the ongoing mission to digitize more of the film, please contact the Rolla Research Center. A recorded program, *Rotoscope: 180-Degree View*, is also planned soon for the Society's On Demand web programs page (<https://shsmo.org/on-demand>).

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

This article on the Rotoscope ran in the February 1959 issue of *American Cinematographer*.



St. Louis Veteran's Papers Describe Prosecuting Nazi War Crimes

By Erin Purdy

DURING HIS last semester of Yale Law School in 1942, John Henry Pohlman enlisted as a private in the US Army. He graduated and passed the Missouri Bar in May, and then worked in St. Louis until called into active duty on September 3. Pohlman's letters home to St. Louis, now with his other papers at SHSMO, preserve the extraordinary story of his experiences during World War II and as a prosecutor of Nazi war criminals after Germany was defeated.

For two years, he worked as a personnel officer at army training camps while volunteering as a legal officer. In November 1944, Lieutenant Pohlman and the Second Infantry Regiment, Fifth Infantry Division were deployed to France, joining Patton's Third Army in Metz. Pohlman participated in the Allied invasion of France and western Germany, and witnessed the Battle of the Bulge.

After the end of hostilities in Europe on May 8, 1945, the army established the Office of Military Government, United States (OMGUS) in occupied Germany. OMGUS was responsible for denazification of Germans and overseeing Nazi war crimes trials. Although Pohlman had work waiting for him in a St. Louis law office, he remained in the military and worked for OMGUS.

In the small town of Dachau, the site of a former concentration camp in southern Germany, Pohlman and other Army 7708 War Crimes Group lawyers gathered evidence, searched for suspects, interviewed witnesses,

and prosecuted defendants. He wrote regularly to his family during the 1947 Dachau trials, discussing everything from trial procedure to his feelings about the atrocities.

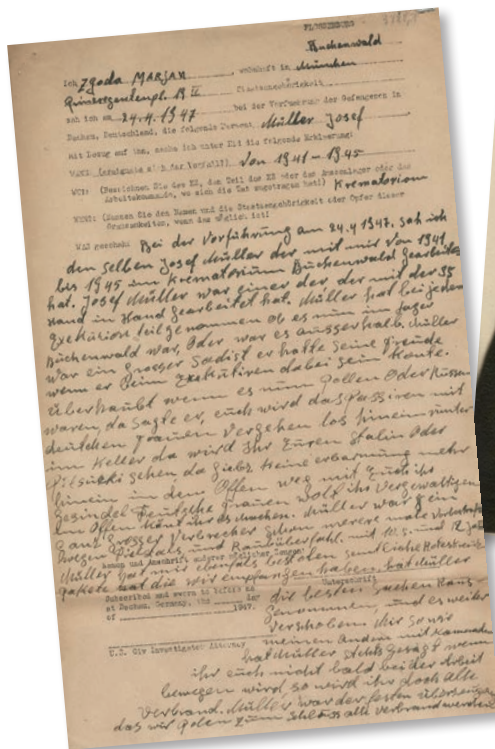
Pohlman's case files contain notes on the investigations and evidence such as photos, sketched maps of death marches, and letters from suspects. Some files include the original, handwritten statements of the witnesses, most of whom had survived Nazi death camps.

Pohlman served as an assistant or chief prosecutor in 25 cases. As chief prosecutor he brought cases against 25 accused, nine of whom were sentenced to death.

In May 1948, Pohlman left the army to serve as a civilian judge in Munich. That same year he met Betsy Rogers, a fellow Yale Law



Above: Lieutenant John Henry Pohlman.



Left: A witness statement from Pohlman's case files on Nazi war crimes.

School graduate who also worked for OMGUS. They traveled to Paris, through Bavaria, and over the Alps together. In his final letter home, dated February 10, 1949, he wrote to his parents that he and Betsy were engaged.

Eleven days later, Pohlman was fatally injured while driving alone through Bolzano, Italy. The judge's car was allegedly sabotaged by criminals. The 31-year-old veteran died on February 22.

His personal papers were sent home to his family, who donated them to SHSMO in 2020. The collection is housed at the St. Louis Research Center.

Erin Purdy is an archivist at the St. Louis Research Center.

Volunteer Spotlight

Beth Pendergast

BY KIMBERLY HARPER

Beth Pendergast's connection to the State Historical Society of Missouri began early in life. When she was in high school, Pendergast won the Society's 1975 Floyd C. Shoemaker History Award for best student paper on Missouri history. Her paper, "Smithton, Missouri," was published in the January 1976 *Missouri Historical Review*. But Pendergast's relationship with SHSMO was just getting started.

As an undergraduate at the University of Missouri, she worked at the Society for three years as a student employee. Then in her senior year Pendergast wrote a history thesis. "I spent almost as many hours researching at the Society as I spent when I worked there!" she joked.

In 2016, Pendergast reconnected with SHSMO as a volunteer. After retiring from her job with Shelter Insurance three years later, she devoted more time to volunteering. When the COVID-19 pandemic began she transcribed primary source documents remotely from home; now she is back at the Center for Missouri Studies to greet visitors at the welcome desk, answer phone calls, and transcribe collections. Pendergast is currently working on the journal of steamboat captain Edmund Vale.

When asked about her favorite projects, Pendergast named the Jean Schwarting Anderson Papers, World

War II Letters, and John Dougherty Letter Book. Anderson, a Missouri native, was a US Navy WAVE during World War II.

"Anderson's letters are candid and casual and full of life as this was her first experience away from home," Pendergast said. "But she also missed [her family] and found ways to connect with them in her letters so that they could be part of her daily life. I felt like I knew her through her letters. I found out that she had died in 2019 and was a very active woman all her life. When I learned this, I felt like I had lost an aunt."

The Dougherty Letter Book, Pendergast's favorite project so far, offers insight into the frontier, the lives of Indigenous peoples, and government bureaucracy. "Dougherty's experiences as an Indian agent in the late 1820s are vividly documented through his letters and transactions," she said. "He reported to William Clark, superintendent of Indian Affairs in St. Louis, about most of the Native American tribes along the upper Missouri River, which included Sioux, Ioway, Fox, Sac, Pawnee, and Pawnee Loup among others."

As an agent, Dougherty "wrote about extreme hunger and poverty among the different tribes and violent actions between rival tribes that included death and dismemberment of captives," Pendergast said. "He participated in more than one rescue mission with dismal results.



Beth Pendergast has volunteered with the State Historical Society since 2016.

Although he used language which is now considered inappropriate, his letters indicate a desire to perform his job well."

Pendergast, who enjoys traveling, recently experienced a moment of serendipity. As she tells it, "One day, I stopped at the Richard Bookstore to peruse the used books and came across a biography of Joshua Pilcher who was Dougherty's rival for Indian agent at various locations for years. Between the biography and my work on Dougherty's letters I decided to plan a vacation visiting sites that were mentioned. I have not yet taken the vacation, but it's definitely planned."

When she isn't traveling, Pendergast enjoys reading history, writing historical fiction, making tatted lace, and spending time with her children and grandchildren. "I have to admit that 'Granny' is one of the sweetest words I've ever been called," she says, "although 'Mom' is pretty special too."

Looking Ahead

Please check the Society's website at shsmo.org for further announcements on upcoming events.



Bicentennial Quilt Traveling Exhibit

December 14, 2021, through September 15, 2022, various locations

The popular Bicentennial Quilt continues its tour of the state with stops at all six SHSMO research centers in 2022. The quilt includes squares representing each of Missouri's 114 counties and the independent city of St. Louis. Dates for the quilt exhibit are: December 14–January 28, Center for Missouri Studies, Columbia; February 1–March 11, St. Louis Research Center; March 15–April 29, Cape Girardeau Research Center; May 3–June 14, Rolla Research Center; June 15–July 29, Springfield Research Center; August 2–September 15, Kansas City Research Center.



Cultural Crossroads: Missouri in the Era of Statehood

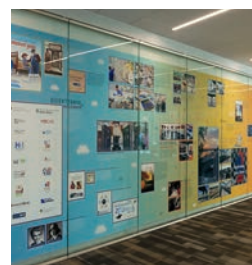
Through February 11, Art Gallery, Center for Missouri Studies

The Cultural Crossroads exhibition features artwork, objects, and imagery related to a wide range of people who were associated with what became the state of Missouri in 1821. Works by George Caleb Bingham, Karl Bodmer, and James Otto Lewis are included, as well as an 1817 Missouri petition for statehood.

MOda 200: Missouri Style Makers, Merchants and Memories

March 11–June 25, Art Gallery, Center for Missouri Studies

The Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection and the State Historical Society of Missouri collaborate to commemorate Missouri's bicentennial anniversary with this exhibition of clothing, textiles, artwork, and accessory artifacts that highlight the evolution of Missouri style and the important role of the apparel industry—from rural dressmakers to urban retail and manufacturing giants—in the state's economic development.



Show Me a Bicentennial!

Through June 2022, Wenneker Family Corridor Gallery, Center for Missouri Studies

The exhibit explores the state's bicentennial observances from the initial Missouri House resolution directing the State Historical Society to "develop plans, ideas, and proposals to commemorate and celebrate" 200 years of history through the statewide celebrations in August 2021.

SAVE THE DATE

Missouri Conference on History

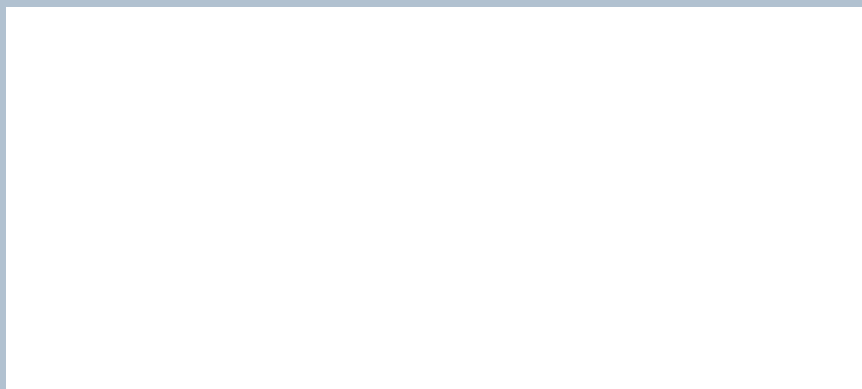
March 16–18, Jefferson City

The 64th annual Missouri Conference on History will take place at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Jefferson City. Each year the conference's sessions feature presentations in all fields of history, including public history and historic preservation. For program announcements and information regarding registration, please follow the conference's web page at www.mch.shsmo.org.

Join Us Online

SHSMO.ORG

**Free Digital Collections,
Virtual Programs,
Workshops, and
More!**



605 Elm Street, Columbia, MO 65201 | (573) 882-7083 | shsmo.org

CAPE GIRARDEAU COLUMBIA KANSAS CITY ROLLA ST. LOUIS SPRINGFIELD



Skaters in Forest Park, St. Louis, date unknown. Charles Trefts Photographs (P0034).