

CHAPTER 1
Missouri Almanac



Hay harvest, James Gill farm, c1910

Gill Photograph Collection

Missouri State Archives



Lawrence Janoski, Hogan St., St. Louis, 1918, Polish American.
Photo Courtesy of Sandra Janoski Walls

For the Sake of the Children: Missouri's Immigrant History

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Introduction

Fredrich Steines was a Prussian teacher who came to Missouri in search of the freedom and opportunity promised in the New World. He arrived in St. Louis in July 1834 with his wife and children, his parents, and several other members of his extended family. Within a month his wife and all four of his children had died from cholera. "Was it not, in great measure, for the sake of my children," he wrote in an anguished letter home to his relatives, "that I had attempted the great undertaking?" Steines' letter expresses the hope of most immigrants to Missouri that the sacrifices they make in uprooting themselves from their homes and settling in a foreign land will be rewarded by better lives for themselves and their children. Fortunately, not all immigrant experiences end so tragically, and most immigrants realize at least some of their dreams.

Immigrants figure significantly in the history of Missouri. They have contributed to the state's culture, politics and economy. They came in search of economic opportunity, political freedom and religious liberty. Most, like Fredrich Steines, came full of hope and expectation. Their stories share similarities, but the range of immigrant experience is wide and varied. The stories of individuals illustrate both the patterns and the varieties of the immigrant experience.

Most of Missouri's immigrants came for economic reasons, pushed from their homes by land shortages, crop failures, poor wages or faltering economies and pulled to Missouri because of opportunities here – for jobs, land or a new beginning. Bridget Byrne left County Mayo in Ireland at the age of thirteen or fourteen in 1869, believing she could find employment to support herself in St. Louis. First she worked as a maid for a wealthy family, then as a seamstress in a

garment factory. Hers is a story repeated countless times.

In contrast to those who came for economic opportunity, a smaller number came for political reasons. The "Forty-Eighters" who fled the German states following the failed democratic revolutions in 1848 arrived in St. Louis in the 1850s and formed an important part of the state's intellectual elite. Carl Schurz, for example, became an important journalist, serving as editor of the St. Louis *Westliche Post* for a time. In 1869 Schurz won election to the U.S. Senate from Missouri and went on to an illustrious national career in public service.

A desire for religious freedom motivated some, as well. In 1838 several hundred Lutherans arrived in St. Louis looking for a place to practice their religion without the oversight of the state church in Saxony. Some stayed in St. Louis while others settled in Perry County. Helped in the early years by their American neighbors, the settlements eventually prospered and these Saxons became the nucleus of the large and influential Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church. Later in the nineteenth century and again in the twentieth, European Jews fleeing religious and ethnic persecution also immigrated to Missouri.

A sense of religious calling motivated some immigrants. Roman Catholic priests came to Missouri to help establish churches and schools, and often became leaders in their communities. Italian-born Bishop Joseph Rosati developed a plan for opening the first hospital west of the Mississippi in 1829, enlisting the financial support of Irish businessman John Mullanphy and recruiting Sisters of Charity to run the hospital. Many immigrant nuns committed their lives to serving others, founding schools, orphanages and hospitals. Second- and third-generation immigrant women also joined religious orders,



Sisters of St. Mary of the Third Order of St. Francis.
Missouri State Archives

carrying on the work of those pioneering nuns and contributing to Missouri's educational, medical and economic development.

Whether they came for economic, political or religious reasons, word of better opportunities drew many immigrants to Missouri. News arrived in letters from previous immigrants and books extolling Missouri's virtues. Immigration societies promoted the state as an attractive destination and large employers such as railroads and meatpacking companies sent recruiting agents to Europe to find cheap labor. All were effective in enticing people to leave their homes for a new beginning in Missouri.

Once immigrants were settled, they often drew family and friends from the old country through a process called "chain migration." Immigrants wrote letters home of their experiences in Missouri and encouraged their friends and family members to join them. In every large immigrant group in Missouri, established immigrants helped those newly arrived by providing shelter, work and an entry into American society. In some areas of the German states in the mid-1800s, authorities prohibited the popular practice of reading immigrant letters from the pulpit in the village church because of a fear that the land would become depopulated. In 1855 twelve-year-old Elise Dubach's family decided to leave their home in Switzerland, where they lived comfortably on the income from their rented dairy farm, after a letter from Elise's Uncle Christian praised Missouri and marveled at the opportunity to own land in America. A few

months later Elise and her family joined Christian and his wife in the bustling, westward-looking town of St. Joseph. It was not an easy transition, however. Within two weeks, her mother died and her world changed forever as she became household manager for her father and two younger brothers. Elise later married, had children and grandchildren, and according to her own story lived a long and happy life.

Such stories of immigrant experiences that begin badly but end happily are common. Friedrich Muench immigrated to Missouri in the 1830s as part of a German settlement society. After some members of the group absconded with the society's money, he and his brother-in-law used their own funds to pay back what the rest had invested. He and his wife settled on a farm near Dutzow. Quite unprepared for life as a farmer after a classical university education, Muench clumsily harvested his first crops using a sword from the Napoleonic Wars. From that inauspicious beginning, however, he went on to become a successful farmer and an important agricultural innovator and writer.

Others not so fortunate failed in their dreams of a better life. Henrietta Geisberg Bruns came to Westphalia with her physician husband Bernard in the 1830s. Opposed to the move from the beginning, Jette, as she was called, never found happiness in Missouri. She lost five young children, three of dysentery within the space of three weeks, and an older son killed in the Civil War. To the end of her long life, Jette believed she should have resisted her husband more strongly and remained in Germany.

Through the stories of individual immigrants, ordinary and extraordinary, patterns emerge. Immigrants did not come in a steady stream but in distinct waves. Byrne, Muench and Dubach were part of the greatest mass immigration that came predominantly from the German states and Ireland beginning in the 1830s and continuing until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. The Civil War caused a brief decline in immigration, but following the war German and Irish immigration resumed in significant numbers. The next important wave came from eastern and southern Europe and peaked in the 1890s and early 1900s. Following the outbreak of World War I in 1914, immigration to Missouri and the nation decreased dramatically. Since then, federal legislation has shaped immigration to the state. After the first world war, the U.S. Congress acted to curb immigration by imposing tight restrictions on the number of immigrants allowed to enter the country. These limits remained in place until 1965, although there were some exceptions for European refugees following World War II and again for Cold War refugees.

Southern town. The men of this group provided many of the business and political leaders in the early years of statehood. Whatever their economic class, these settlers gave the state its early southern culture and political bent.

Small numbers of new immigrants as well as descendants of English, Welsh, German, Dutch and other nationalities who had come to Colonial America joined the early Scotch-Irish settlers in Missouri. A few of these early settlers were Jews from the German states or from the Austrian Empire. They spoke German and were generally referred to as "German Jews." Among them was the Block family, originally from Bohemia, who settled in Missouri in the early decades of the nineteenth century. Nathan Abeles, fiancé of one of the Block daughters, joined them but was too poor to support a family when he arrived. Unable to find a job as a clerk in St. Louis, he became a peddler. Starting with only fourteen dollars, within a year he had earned enough to marry and settle down.

In addition, in early St. Louis a relatively small number of Irish immigrants made a significant impact. Approximately one hundred Irish business and professional men, some of whom were French army veterans, entered St. Louis society shortly after the Louisiana Purchase. This group included prosperous merchants, the city's first sheriff and the publisher of the first newspaper, the *Missouri Gazette*. One of the most notable of these early Irish settlers was businessman and philanthropist John Mullanphy, who was said to be the richest man in the Mississippi valley when he died in 1833. Mullanphy became wealthy after he heard that the War of 1812 had ended. He raced to New Orleans, arriving ahead of the news, in order to buy up cotton that was nearly worthless because of the British blockade. He paid four cents a pound for all he could acquire, then shipped it to England a few days later after the blockade had ended, selling it there for thirty cents a pound.

Missouri Transformed: The Arrival of Germans and Irish

In the decade after statehood, global economic forces were at work in ways that would transform Missouri's landscape, architecture, economy, political culture and even its cuisine. In the wake of the Napoleonic Wars, the economies of the western German states were nearing crisis. The amount of land suitable for growing crops proved insufficient to support the increasing population. The cottage-based linen weaving industry used by farm families for decades to provide additional income collapsed as the European clothing



Mullanphy Emigrant Home, 14th and Howard, St. Louis.
Missouri State Archives

market was flooded with cheap garments manufactured in the newly industrialized Great Britain from cotton produced in the American South.

It was largely out of those western German states that the first large wave of immigrants began arriving in Missouri in the early 1830s. The arrival of Prussian lawyer Gottfried Duden in 1824 both heralded and precipitated this influx. Duden had come to believe that large-scale emigration was the best solution for German economic problems, and he came to Missouri in search of a good location for large German settlements. Duden spent three years living on a farm in Warren County during a period of extremely mild summers and winters. As a result, his book, *Report on a Journey to the Western States*, published after his return to Germany, was fulsome in its praise of Missouri. Duden's book was one of about fifty relating to life in the United States published in the German states during the first half of the nineteenth century, books that fired the imagination of many Germans. Interest was so great that it became known as "emigration fever," and it infected thousands of Germans seeking a better life. Germans organized emigration societies to help people arrange their journeys to America.

July 19th 1867

Adolphus Busch a native of *Germany*

who applies to be admitted a citizen of the United States, comes and proves to the satisfaction of the Court that he has resided in the United States at least five years, and in the State of Missouri at least one year, immediately preceding this application, during which time he has conducted himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; and the Court, moreover, being satisfied that said applicant has taken the preparatory steps required by the laws of the United States, concerning the naturalization of Aliens, and he declaring here, in open Court, upon oath, that he will support the **Constitution of the United States**, and that he doth absolutely renounce and abjure, forever, all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Power, Prince, State and Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to *the*

of whom he was a *subject*, therefore the said *Adolphus Busch* is admitted a **CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.**

Adolphus Busch Naturalization Record.

St. Louis Circuit Court

Several large groups came to Missouri as a result of the work of these societies.

In addition to the thousands arriving from the German states, some settlement societies were made up almost entirely of German speakers from the eastern United States. These groups drew both newly arrived Germans as well as German-speaking descendants of earlier immigrants. One such group founded the religious utopian community of Bethel in northeast Missouri. Envisioning a grand city in the west where German language and customs would be maintained, the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia founded Hermann in the late 1830s.

However, when Fredrich Steines arrived in St. Louis in 1834, Missouri had no grand cities. Steines found fewer than twenty German families and a few unmarried Germans among the city's population of about 7,000. Not all new German immigrants to Missouri settled in St. Louis, but virtually all of them passed through it because the city served as a transportation hub for the land to the west. Some stayed briefly while they earned money to buy land or made arrangements to travel farther into the state. Others remained permanently.

Within a period of a few years, St. Louis had become a city of immigrants. By the 1840s so many Germans lived in St. Louis that Emil Mallinckrodt wrote his brother that he heard so much German spoken on the streets that he could imagine himself back in Germany. Furthermore, the Germans he saw there were successful. These new immigrants provided St. Louis with countless skilled craftsmen and businessmen. Adolphus Meier was the son of a lawyer and worked in the shipping business as a young man. He opened a hardware store when he arrived in St. Louis in 1837. He exported tobacco and cotton and opened the first cotton-spinning mill west of the Mississippi in 1844. By 1850, nearly one-third of the city's 78,000 residents were German.

St. Louis Germans were not a homogeneous group, however. Divided by class, religion and different dialects, they were more likely to see themselves as Bavarian Catholic or Saxon Lutheran than simply German. The German-speaking Jews who arrived in the 1840s and 1850s also formed congregations according to nationality, for example: Bavarian, Bohemian or Polish.

Other Germans traveled farther inland, with most settling in the areas along the Missouri River between St. Louis and Jefferson City. Westphalia in Osage County, according to the 1860 Census, did not have a single family headed by a native-born American. Many Germans arrived with enough money to buy good land or the skills to earn it fairly quickly. They took advantage of the fertile land to establish farms and vineyards around villages near the river. Between 1830 and 1860 they transformed the river valleys and rolling hills of the state into a veritable German landscape, dotted with substantial stone, brick and wooden houses and barns on farms and in villages. Always, it seemed, there was a Catholic, Lutheran or Evangelical church on the most



Buehrle Family, Jefferson City, 1880s.

Photo courtesy of Ruth Brockmeier



Missouri Red Granite Monument Company.

Missouri State Archives

prominent hill in town, providing both a physical and symbolic center to the community.

The prosperous farms and the towns they supported effectively settled the Missouri frontier by 1860. In addition to St. Louis and the Missouri River valley, the areas of heaviest German concentration were along the Mississippi River, north of St. Louis in St. Charles, Lincoln and Pike counties and in the southeast in Perry, Cape Girardeau and Ste. Genevieve counties. Smaller concentrations of Germans settled in other areas, such as in St. Joseph. Although there had been a handful of other immigrants before the Civil War, including Poles, Bohemians and Belgians, the communities they established were quickly overrun by the wave of Germans. Still others, notably the Cornish and Welsh miners who came in the early years of statehood, remained in the state only a few years before moving on to find work in other states.

Germans quickly became the largest immigrant group in Missouri. While the 1830 Census counted only 155 “not naturalized” foreign-born residents in the state, by 1860 foreign-born Missourians numbered 160,525, almost 14 percent of the state’s total population and outnumbering Missouri’s slave population for the first time. More than half were German. Germans remained the majority of the state’s immigrants until the 1910 Census. German-language newspapers, theaters, churches and community groups sprang up everywhere they went. German stonemasons, farmers, vintners and stained glass artists changed the physical and cultural landscape of Missouri.

They also changed the political culture of the state. German immigrants were overwhelmingly antislavery. This brought them into conflict with the slave owners who effectively controlled Missouri politics. In the 1860 presidential election 70 percent of the voters supported a moderate approach and hoped to avoid conflict. Missouri elected Claiborne Fox Jackson governor as a moderate, but he quickly began talking of the dangers of the North and the advantages of secession. Through their participation in the political events of 1860–61, Missouri’s new German immigrants helped tip the balance against the plans of those politicians who wished to see Missouri secede from the Union.

Jackson supported a special convention to determine the state’s future. Outgoing Governor Robert M. Stewart appealed for moderation, and Missouri’s voters heeded his warnings, choosing no pro-secession delegates to the convention. Then Jackson mobilized the pro-southern state militia near St. Louis to capture the Union Arsenal. Rapid enlistment of large numbers of St. Louis Germans into the Union army led to the capture of the entire state militia and the virtual end of the secessionists’ hopes of having Missouri join the Confederacy.

During the antebellum period a second major immigration to Missouri took place, also driven by economic and political forces beyond our borders. British policies in Ireland excluded virtually all Irish Catholics from land ownership and encouraged Anglo-Irish landlords to produce food for export. Consequently, when pota-

to blight struck the chief food crop of the Irish peasants in 1845, the results were disastrous. The blight continued through 1846 and 1847, and the lack of any meaningful relief measures resulted in a major famine. By 1847 the British solution to the famine was to ship the Irish peasants elsewhere, and more than 100,000 were sent to North America in that year alone. By 1848 landlords were evicting their starving Irish tenants by the thousands. During those horrible years, between one-half and two million died in Ireland while more than a million emigrated. By 1860, more than 43,000 Irish had come to Missouri. Nearly 70 percent settled in St. Louis, and there were small enclaves of Irish immigrants in communities throughout the state. Outside St. Louis the largest concentrations were in Jackson and Buchanan counties.

These immigrants typically arrived with little money. Furthermore, they came from rural areas and brought few skills useful in an urban environment. Prevented from buying farms by their lack of funds and unable to get well-paying jobs because of their lack of skills, they faced a situation only slightly less harsh than in Ireland. Although there were a few attempts to establish Irish farming communities, led in part by Father John Hogan, none succeeded. Consequently, virtually all of Missouri's Irish immigrants settled in cities and towns.

The St. Louis Irish took laboring jobs on the busy docks or in the various mills and factories in the booming city. Some left the city to help build the state's railroads. A dozen Irish laborers worked as gardeners on Henry Shaw's country estate, which later became the Missouri Botanical Garden. Young Irish women often found jobs in domestic service.

The Irish dispersed throughout the city, but in Old North St. Louis – an area just north and slightly west of downtown – “Kerry Patch” became a neighborhood symbolizing the city's Irish. The Sisters of Mercy arrived in 1856 to serve the poverty-stricken neighborhood. They cared for the poor and ill, and opened an industrial school for girls, an orphanage, and a Sunday school for African American women and girls. For decades, Kerry Patch remained one of the city's poorest neighborhoods. As the Irish became more financially secure, they moved out of their ethnic neighborhoods into more affluent areas.

St. Louis' new immigrants, especially those who were poor, uneducated and Roman Catholic, were not always welcomed. In fact, the combined numbers of Germans and Irish arriving in St. Louis in the 1840s and 1850s led to a hostile reaction among some of their American neighbors. The anti-immigrant Know Nothing Party gained control of city government in the



Bridget (Bertie) Byrne married Andrew McCullen, a second-generation Irish-American, in St. Louis in 1887. They lived in the Irish neighborhood of Kerry Patch.

Photo courtesy of Mary Barnett Nielsen

1840s and quickly shut down public transportation on Sunday afternoons to prevent the Germans from going to their theaters and beer gardens. In 1855 the administration of the city's Know Nothing mayor, Washington King, passed Sunday closing laws to control German Sunday activities. The Irish, too, were the focus of anti-immigrant sentiments. Although the city's sizeable population of Catholics meant the Irish were subjected to less hostility than in other cities, an 1844 riot that destroyed medical laboratories at St. Louis University had strong anti-Catholic overtones. Once large numbers of “famine Irish” arrived, according to historian William Faherty, the Know-Nothings came to identify St. Louis Catholicism with the new Irish immigrants. Election riots in 1854 concluded with an anti-immigrant mob attacking Irish homes and businesses and threatening to destroy Catholic churches in the city.

Industrialization and the “New” Immigrants

The Civil War caused a decline of almost one-third in Missouri's population, and the state's leaders looked outside Missouri's borders to alle-

viate the labor shortage. Before the war's end, Governor Hamilton Gamble appointed an agent to promote Missouri as a destination for European immigrants. In 1865, the General Assembly followed Gamble's recommendation and created the Missouri Board of Immigration to publish information describing the state's resources and advantages and to appoint agents to travel to the eastern United States and Europe to promote and aid immigration to Missouri. Because German immigrants were particularly sought, the board printed materials in German to better advertise the state. Gamble himself made recruiting trips, and private businessmen also helped promote the state. Efforts proved successful, and the 1870 Census showed more than 222,000 foreign born Missourians, an increase of nearly 40 percent over 1860. Germans and Irish remained the overwhelming majority of Missouri's immigrants until the end of the century. The 1880 Census reported 48,898 Missourians born in Ireland, and more than 106,000 from the German states. These later immigrants added to the growing population of St. Louis and filled in less populated rural parts of the state. Many who came during the 1880s settled in cities and towns as cheap land became less available.

During these decades more immigrants than before came from southern and eastern Europe. These new immigrants often faced hostility even from some older immigrants they might have expected to welcome them. For example, although there were areas of cooperation between the two groups, bitter differences arose between German Reform Jews already established in Missouri and the Orthodox Jews arriving from eastern and southern Europe. Very soon two separate Jewish communities existed in St. Louis, and in Kansas City Orthodox Jews opposed the policies of the German Sabbath School and opened new schools.

Although there were immigrant communities in Kansas City and St. Joseph neither became an "immigrant city" like St. Louis, where more and larger immigrant communities developed. Bohemian Hill was settled by Czechs, Austrians, Hungarians, Slovaks, Croats and Serbs; The Hill became home to a large concentration of Italians. Many immigrant neighborhoods centered on a church: Bohemian Hill around St. John Nepomuk and the Greek neighborhood around St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church near Forest Park. In a 1916 survey of immigrant housing, published in *The Immigrant in St. Louis*, sociologist Ruth Crawford, a member of the faculty of the St. Louis School of Social Economy, reported neighborhood enclaves of Italians, Poles, Jews, Russians, Spaniards, Austro-Hungarians, Croatians and Syrians. She described appalling housing conditions: until 1914, for example, the entire district



Italian immigrants studying English.

Western Historical Manuscript Collection – University of Missouri – St. Louis

then called "Dago Hill" had no sewers and in one tenement 175 Italians lived in 34 rooms.

Immigration to rural Missouri after the Civil War was fostered by recruitment by the railroads, which were extending their tracks dramatically. From 1865 to 1890 the number of miles of track in Missouri grew from 800 to more than 6,000. Railroads needed settlements along the new lines to provide workers, goods to transport and markets for goods produced elsewhere. As a result, they recruited both in Europe and the eastern United States to bring people into these areas. This effort brought more diversity to rural Missouri, depositing pockets of Bohemians, Scandinavians, Slavs, Hungarians and Italians around the state. For example, Danes and Swedes settled near Rolla. Slightly to the east, Welsh and Irish settlers worked the clay and iron deposits. More Germans, some new immigrants and some second- or third-generation Americans of German descent, came from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois during this period as well, most notably to St. Joseph and the southwestern part of the state, including Joplin and Freistatt. In the same area, a group of Polish immigrants transformed Bricfield into Pulaskifield. Members of that group included the Anton and Anna Pointek family, who fled intolerable political conditions in their partitioned homeland. Because they were unable to pay the ship's fare for the entire family, the oldest son worked for his passage and they smuggled the youngest child onboard, stowing him away in a trunk. One of the last groups to arrive as part of the railroad expansion was the Italian community at Knobview in the 1890s (later renamed Rosati), resulting in the development of one of the most important areas of the state's wine industry.

Railroads were not the only large businesses to recruit immigrants from Europe. When the



Italian immigrants gardening, St. Louis.

Western Historical Manuscript Collection – University of Missouri – St. Louis

first slaughterhouses opened in Kansas City in 1871, the city's population was a mere 32,000. As the stockyards grew so did the city, and by 1890 the population was 132,000, including many new immigrants. Following a failed strike by German and Swedish workers at the stockyards in 1893, the owners sent recruiters to southern and eastern Europe to find new workers to replace the fired strikers. Croats, Slovenes, Serbs, Russians, Lithuanians, Poles and Slovaks flooded into the city. Seen as scab labor by the earlier immigrants and disdained by Americans as dirtier, less intelligent and less honest, they faced incredible hardships.

Isolated, unable to speak English and dependent upon representatives of the stockyard owners for virtually everything, they were easy targets for the unscrupulous. Often paid as little as one-quarter the prevailing wage and forced to work in brutal conditions, their lives here were nothing like what they had imagined when they left their homes with a dream of a new life. Men and women worked at a frantic pace on the "killing lines," sometimes in freezing temperatures with their feet soaked in several inches of animal blood. In these desperate poverty-ridden circumstances many died.

Others, through hard work, ingenuity and good fortune, endured and succeeded. Immigrants in many times and places needed ingenuity to survive, and the newcomers to Kansas City were no exception. Like many urban

residents, those fortunate to live in houses used backyards to raise gardens and keep animals. Here their rural European backgrounds provided useful skills. Chickens supplied eggs and meat; cows and goats produced milk, butter and cheese as well as meat; rabbits and pigs were raised for meat. Women who lived near the stockyards gathered grain for animal feed from what had fallen from the railroad cars, and perhaps even more ingeniously, went each morning to milk the old dairy cows that had arrived the previous night before they were slaughtered.



Catherine Heislen Kroeger, Jefferson City, c1913.
Missouri State Archives

Even businesses in smaller towns recruited cheap labor from abroad. An example is the cement factory in Ilasco, near Hannibal. Like the Kansas City stockyards, the world's largest cement company enticed workers from eastern and southern Europe. Here the company established and maintained a "company town," controlling ownership and leasing of lands and operating shops providing goods and services. John Moga, an immigrant from Romania, came to work as a blaster in the cement factory at Ilasco in 1903. He became a citizen in 1913 and served in the U.S. Army during World War I. He died in 1920 in a quarry explosion, leaving a wife and four children. The company refused to pay damages, saying his death was his own fault. Here, too, in a seemingly inevitable part of the immigration process, many Missourians, including members of earlier immigrant groups, looked down on the new immigrants. This new kind of corporate recruitment of immigrants was different from the recruitment of Germans by books such as Duden's. However, letters home from these later immigrants still caused subsequent chain migration as family members and neighbors followed them to Missouri.

While Europe provided virtually all of Missouri's immigrants in the first century of statehood, a few came from other places, including Latin America and Asia. Alla Lee, probably the first immigrant from China to settle in Missouri, arrived in St. Louis in 1857. Within a year he had married Sarah Graham, a young Irish immigrant. He may have been the only Chinese immigrant in Missouri until about 250 Chinese came from San Francisco in 1869. A smaller group arrived from New York the following year. Both groups relocated in an attempt to find an environment less hostile than in the other two cities. In addition to growing hostility toward the Chinese, particularly on the West Coast, the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 helped spread Chinese immigrants throughout the country as railroad workers looked for new employment. Because of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which prohibited additional immigration from China, the Chinese remained a very small group concentrated in Hop Alley, a single square block bordered by 7th, 8th, Market and Walnut streets in St. Louis. Most earned their living running hand laundries.

The period between 1840 and 1914 saw the state's largest influx of immigrants. In each Census after 1860, the state had more than 210,000 first generation immigrants, with the highest total, 234,869, in 1890. In that year almost half of Missouri's immigrants lived in St. Louis. By contrast Jackson County, with the second largest number of foreign-born, had only 22,000. At the end of the century, the majority of Missouri's

immigrant population was still German; the Irish, with about 15 percent, were the second largest group. While the percentage of new immigrants never surpassed the 1860 Census, if we add to those numbers the second-generation immigrants, children of foreign-born parents, the percentages are staggering. For example, in 1870 first- and second-generation immigrants totaled 40 percent of Missouri's population.

World War, Cold War and Closed Borders

World War I marked a turning point in the lives of many, if not most, of Missouri's immigrant population. War against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire evoked hostility toward those Missourians who had come, or even those whose parents had come, from those nations. The German language was stricken from the curriculum in St. Louis schools. German-language church services all but disappeared, even in rural Lutheran and Evangelical churches. Demands that the immigrants "Americanize" or "go back where they came from" increased. Beer was foreign and, therefore, unpatriotic. An ad in a Springfield newspaper in favor of prohibition proclaimed, "The Kaiser Must Go! The Saloon Must Go! They are the Foes of Democracy and of Sane Legislation." The period between the Civil War and 1917 had been something of a Golden Age for these immigrants, a time when they could maintain their language and their cultural traditions while knowing that they were at the same time fully American.

Suspicion that immigrants were somehow "different" meant that some saw them as disloyal or not really American. Such sentiments were not limited to Missouri, and following the end of the war Congress acted. Responding to growing opposition to new immigrants, in 1921, Congress passed the first legislation restricting immigrants from countries other than China and revised this legislation in 1924. These laws established limits, effective in 1929, on the maximum annual number of immigrants from each nation. These figures were based on the number of immigrants from each country already in the United States. Immigration slowed to a trickle, and the quota system ensured that virtually all new immigrants would be European. Other than exceptions for certain groups of refugees following World War II, this system continued until legislation in 1965 established hemispheric quotas and gave preference to attracting skilled workers and reuniting families. In 1978 hemispheric quotas were abolished in favor of a limit on total immigration.

As a result of the federal restrictions, Missouri's immigrant population declined steadily between



Guadalupe Center, Mexican woman and children, 1926, Kansas City.
Kansas City Public Library, *Missouri Valley Special Collection*

1921 and 1965. The state's total white, foreign-born population dropped from 228,896 in 1920, 5.5 percent of the total population, to a low of 65,744 in 1970, less than 1.5 percent of the total population. The Census during those years did not record the number of non-white foreign-born residents. Even at the low point, however, there were an additional 311,692 Missouri residents with at least one foreign-born parent, which brought the total of first- and second-generation immigrants to more than 8 percent of the population. While numbers declined, there was little change in the countries of origin. In 1980, German immigrants were still more than twice as numerous as Italians, the second largest national group.

One exemption to federal quotas between World War II and 1965 was political refugees. Small in number compared to earlier waves of immigration, some of these immigrants, especially from the Soviet Union and countries within the Soviet sphere in central, eastern and southern Europe, found their way to Missouri. Like the German "Forty-Eighters" of a century before, Hungarians fleeing a failed democratic revolution in 1956 came to St. Louis. By 1960 there were small but significant numbers from the USSR, Hungary and Yugoslavia. In that year, Soviet immigrants outnumbered those from all other European nations except Germany and Italy.

Following the removal of quotas based on national origin in 1965, immigration to the state slowly grew through the 1970s and 1980s before increasing rapidly after 1990. The removal of quotas led to a more diverse population of immigrants in Missouri than ever before. The Missouri Hospital Association reported in 2007 that more than ninety languages and dialects were being

spoken in St. Louis. According to the 2000 Census, Asians comprised the largest continental group, with Europeans second, Latin Americans third and Central and North Americans fourth. Mexican immigrants became Missouri's largest national immigrant group, although with 25,191 reported in the 2000 Census they do not begin to approach either the numbers or population percentages of the Germans and Irish from 150 years ago. While first generation German immigrants comprised about 5 percent of the state's population in 1880, Mexican immigrants in 2000 made up less than one-half of one percent of Missouri residents.

The St. Louis' Chinese community provides one example of changing immigration patterns.

By 1960, Chinese laundries had virtually disappeared, replaced by restaurants as the most common business. The new Chinese population, though still small, was dispersed throughout the city and suburbs, and many were managers, technicians, physicians or other professionals. During the 1970s and 1980s, immigrants from Vietnam and South Korea, some of whom were ethnic Chinese, also arrived, increasing both the numbers and diversity of the Asian community.

A large percentage of the Koreans found work in existing Chinese restaurants or established their own. The Vietnamese were predominantly political refugees fleeing their homeland after the fall of the U.S.-backed government. Many arrived with few or no possessions, trou-



Chinatown, St. Louis, 8th and S. Market, 1938.
Missouri State Archives



The Saengerbund group in Jefferson City, Missouri, c1910, is an example of a German singing and social group whose purpose was to preserve German chorale singing traditions.

Photo courtesy of Henry Gensky.

mized by their flight and the time they spent in refugee camps. Even for educated professionals, language barriers often made initial attempts to find employment difficult.

St. Louis' Chinese community became increasingly dominated by professionals, a trend strengthened by the People's Republic of China crack-down on the democracy movement after demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in 1989. In response, the U.S. government lifted virtually all restrictions on Chinese students and faculty studying and working in this country.

More than half of the immigrants currently in Missouri arrived during the 1990s. This increase was the result of the same factors that have driven immigration throughout history. Many immigrants escaped unstable and violent political situations in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Bosnians who fled civil war in their newly created nation, for example, constituted Missouri's second largest group of European immigrants in 2007, after Germans.

Like earlier immigrants, the most recent are concentrated in the prime working age. Only 42 percent of native born residents of the state, as opposed to 59 percent of immigrants, fall within the 25 to 54 age group. The explanation for this is simple: immigrants come to work. They are drawn by economic opportunities. For example, Missouri's meat processing industry has been the

most important factor in attracting recent Hispanic immigrants, just as it did German, Scandinavian and Slavic immigrants to Kansas City a century ago. The Kansas City metropolitan area, home to the state's oldest Hispanic community, has about 30 percent of the 2007 Hispanic population. Modern meat processing plants scattered around the state, have brought large numbers of immigrants into rural Missouri for the first time in nearly a century.

Most of these rural immigrants come from Mexico, although there are migrant workers from the Caribbean and South America who harvest crops in Missouri's Mississippi delta counties. While there is a perception that most of today's immigrants are undocumented, that is true of only about 15 percent of Missouri's Hispanic population, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. This estimate was corroborated by University of Missouri Extension researchers. As with the European immigrants who preceded them, Missouri's Hispanic immigrants typically come as two-parent families intending to make the state their new home. They bring the dreams of immigrants of all periods in our nation's history, dreams of better lives for themselves and their children in a land of political and religious freedom and economic opportunity.



Rich Fountain, Missouri, Osage County.

Missouri State Archives, Gerald R. Massie, photographer

Assimilation and Cultural Persistence

The stories of individual immigrants show that many factors account for the differing experiences immigrants have: whether they came alone or as part of a family or an organized group; where and when they settled; their gender, socio-economic class, language, religion, level of education, vocational skills, and age at the time of immigration. Of course, the experience of immigration has some elements that affect almost all who find themselves uprooted from one life and put down again in a new world. They find themselves in an alien culture, with values, behaviors and traditions at odds with the established residents. At times they are likely to be confused, homesick, mocked and even threatened. All will be caught in the tension between the pressure to assimilate to the new culture and the desire to maintain their own. This tension is at the heart of the immigrant experience. Almost all will find ways to adjust to their new surroundings while holding onto some of what they have brought with them.

Immigrants begin to assimilate into their new culture almost as soon as they arrive, but the speed and manner of that assimilation varies

greatly for a number of reasons. Isolation from the larger society is the most significant factor. When immigrants have been able to live largely among their own group, they preserved their traditions much longer. Germans who settled in large numbers in more isolated areas such as Osage County in the 1840s found it easier to maintain their language and customs far longer than those who settled among Americans or immigrants from other groups. German-language newspapers thrived, and German remained the language spoken in the home and in church for as long as a century after their arrival until World War II and even after in some communities. Italians on The Hill in St. Louis also held onto their language and customs for a relatively long period. Age, English proficiency, educational level, job skills and socio-economic class also affect how rapidly immigrants become integrated into the larger society.

Hostility directed toward immigrants is also a factor, but its effects vary. It is, however, an unfortunate fact of life for many of Missouri's immigrants. From the anti-immigrant campaigns of the Know Nothings in the 1840s and 1850s and the attacks on German Americans during World War I to the hate crimes directed at Hispanic immigrants in the twenty-first century, hostility causes some immigrants to try to blend in quickly, while others become even more

determined to maintain their ethnic heritage. Anti-immigrant sentiments are not limited to the native born population. Members of “older” immigrant groups often look down on “newer” immigrants as less intelligent, less hard-working and less willing to assimilate than themselves. It is one way for earlier immigrants to see themselves climbing the socio-economic ladder.

In general, people have understood assimilation, or “Americanization,” as a process in which immigrants give up their old beliefs and behaviors and adopt those of the larger society. Assimilation is more complex than that, however. It is always a process that changes both the immigrant and the larger society. The Germans and Irish transformed Missouri in profound ways in the mid-1800s, while they also underwent change as they adapted to their new lives. Missouri’s wine industry and ethnic heritage tourism clearly attest to the two-way nature of assimilation.

Immigrants change the lives of those around them. This can happen in the public sphere in dramatic ways, such as Missouri’s course of action before and during the Civil War. It can also be seen in less profound ways, such as food or holiday traditions. Hamburgers, spaghetti and tacos are ubiquitous in our diets, all of them brought by immigrants. Immigration enriches society, contributing more workers as well as new food,



The May Pole dance is a traditional German folk dance typically held in the spring around the festival of May Day. This image of the Blackburn High School May Pole dance in 1923 demonstrates how German traditions continued even after World War I in Missouri.

Missouri State Archives

music and ideas. To say that we are a state of immigrants is to repeat a cliché, but it is accurate. We can no more understand Missouri’s history and heritage without acknowledging the role of immigration past and present than we can without recognizing the importance of political movements, religion or the role of economic factors in shaping our state. Understanding the nature and processes of the immigrant experience can help us design public policies that maximize the benefits of current and future immigration to our state while minimizing the inevitable difficulties.

Missouri State Archives



Alex M. Petrovic Reading Room of the Missouri State Archives

The Missouri State Archives is the repository for state and local government records of historical value. Highlights among manuscripts and original documents in the Archives include French and Spanish land grants, testimony concerning the New Madrid earthquake of 1811–1812, documents concerning Frank and Jesse James, maps of Missouri's first surveyed roads, and material pertaining to Harry S. Truman. Visit www.sos.mo.gov/archives for information about public records you can find at the Missouri State Archives.

For More Reading

Many of the stories told in this essay come from family and community histories held at the Missouri State Archives or in libraries and historical society collections. A few general histories of Missouri provide significant detail about the immigrant experience and numerous books and articles have been published about specific immigrant groups or individual immigrants in Missouri. Several are listed below for readers interested in further reading.

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Dear Fellow Missourians,

Some of my fondest memories come back to life in the pages of our old family scrapbooks. Whether it's a picture of my brothers and me piling into our station wagon for a family reunion or all the neighbors gathering together to celebrate Grandma Carnahan's 80th birthday party at an old-time log cabin raising, these photographs bring back fond memories of family and friends and remind us of the beauty of our state.



My brothers Randy and Russ, and me

That is what inspired the idea of dedicating this year's photo contest to Missourians' family photos. Our state is blessed with a diverse mixture of people, cultures and regions. And many cherished memories come to life through our family photos.

So the theme for the 2007-2008 Blue Book photo contest focuses on family life in Missouri and is aptly titled the "Missouri Family Scrapbook."

We received thousands of photos from Missourians in every corner our state. Of course, I wish we could print them all. Choosing winners among the many wonderful entries was a real challenge, but it was a great pleasure to review them all. Special thanks to everyone who submitted photos and to those in the Secretary of State's office who assisted with the selection process.



My brothers Russ and Randy, my mom Jean, and me on a family vacation

I hope that you enjoy these photographs which show just a small slice of family life in Missouri and I hope they help you recall happy times you and your family have shared in our great state.

Very truly yours,

Robin Carnahan

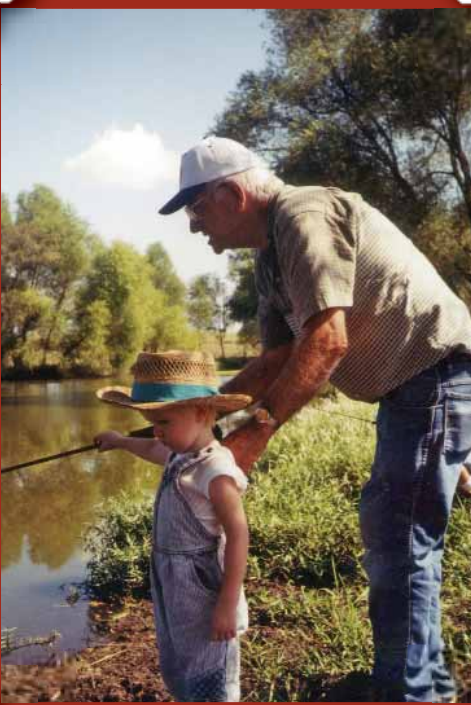
THE MISSOURI
FAMILY SCRAPBOOK

Family Legacies

1st place

Pam Coones — Fair Play

Three-year-old Luke Coble on his first fishing trip with his granddad, at a pond near Bolivar.



2nd place

Patrice Rhodes — St. Louis

Cousins Corion James, Preston Whitfield, Haliagh Shaw and Brooke Taylor after ice skating on the St. Louis Blues official practice rink in St. Louis.



3rd place

**Kerensa Morrow-Kempf —
Jefferson City**

Michael Morrow and his grand-
daughter Gabby enjoy kite flying
on a farm in New Bloomfield.



4th place

Kim Gulley — Independence
Rhapsody Gulley and her friend
Trey Palmer at play near the
bank of the Little Blue River,
near Atherton.



Family Milestones

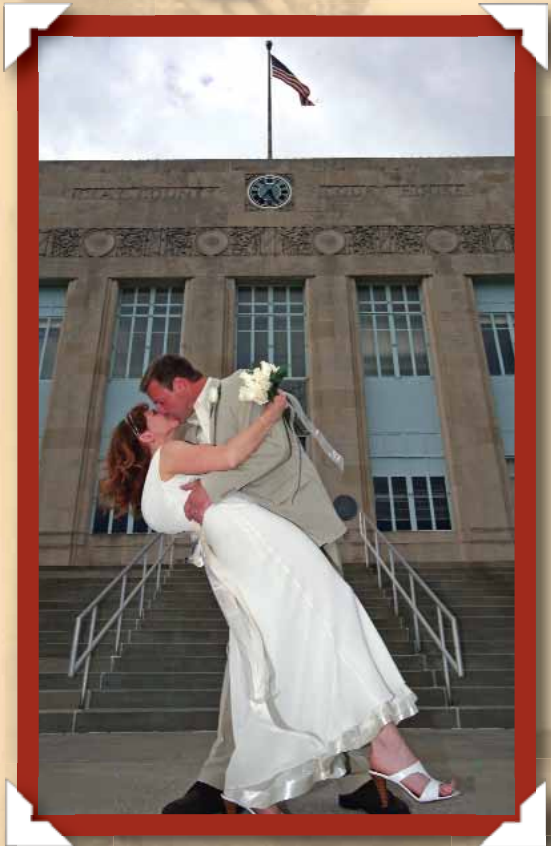


1st place

Tina Sherman — Festus
Casey Lynn Gilliam
celebrating her first
birthday.

2nd place

Simonie Wilson — Liberty
Simonie and Scott Wilson on the
Liberty town square after
having just been married there.



3rd place

Kimberly King — Bethany
Northern Missouri natives
Clarence and Carolyn Rinehart
celebrate their 70th wedding
anniversary.



4th place

Chanel Burge — Jamesport
Andrew Adkison sneaks a
glance at family and friends
during his Gallatin High
School graduation ceremony.



Family Vacations

1st place

Chrissy Gillis — Unionville
Graydon Knight enjoys a “Frog-jumping” contest at the Putnam County Independence Day celebration.



2nd place

Penny Banner — Cabool
Rachael, Amber and Stephen Snow in the Piney River, at Dog's Bluff access.



*all the cousins out in at the
 Aunt Gini says to let*



3rd place

Donna Schmidt — Russellville

Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the late Ray and Anna Kliethermes, gathered on the Kliethermes Bridge at St. Anthony.



4th place

Wilma Wideman — Park Hills

Zachary Dunn, James Russell and Caleb Dunn (almost in the water) at Lake Wappello.



*all the greatest time and can't wait to
pay another visit. We wish you could be*

Family Holidays



1st place

Joel West Ray — Cape Girardeau
Boy Scouts (Troop #5) post Memorial Day colors at Cape County Park.

2nd place

**Tina Sherman—
Festus**

Gavin and Casey Gilliam examining their Easter goodies with help from their dog, Romeo.



3rd place

Mara Perry — St. Louis

Olivia Perry picking out her first Halloween pumpkin at Rombach's Pumpkin Patch in Chesterfield.



4th place

Dawn Taylor — Pilot Grove
Tim Taylor and his son Carter show off their freshly-built snowman.



State Symbols of Missouri



THE GREAT SEAL OF MISSOURI

The Great Seal was designed by Judge Robert William Wells and adopted by the Missouri General Assembly on January 11, 1822. The center of the state seal is composed of two parts. On the right is the United States coat-of-arms containing the bald eagle. In its claws are arrows and olive branches, signifying that the power of war and peace lies with the U.S. federal government. On the left side of the shield, the state side, are a grizzly bear and a silver crescent moon. The crescent symbolizes Missouri at the time of the state seal's creation, a state of small population and wealth which would increase like the new or crescent moon; it also symbolizes the "second son," meaning Missouri was the second state formed out of the Louisiana Territory.

This shield is encircled by a belt inscribed with the motto, "United we stand, divided we fall," which indicates Missouri's advantage as a member of the United States. The two grizzlies on either side of the shield symbolize the state's strength and its citizens' bravery. The bears stand atop a scroll bearing the state motto, "Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto," which means, "The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law." Below this scroll are the Roman numerals for 1820, the year Missouri began its functions as a state.

The helmet above the shield represents state sovereignty, and the large star atop the helmet surrounded by 23 smaller stars signifies Missouri's status as the 24th state. The cloud around the large star indicates the problems Missouri had in becoming a state. The whole state seal is enclosed by a scroll bearing the words, "The Great Seal of the State of Missouri." (RSMo 10.060)



THE STATE FLAG

Nearly 100 years after achieving statehood, Missouri adopted an official flag on March 22, 1913. The flag was designed by the late Mrs. Marie Elizabeth Watkins Oliver, wife of former State Senator R.B. Oliver. The flag consists of three horizontal stripes of red, white and blue. These represent valor, purity, vigilance and justice. In the center white stripe is the Missouri coat-of-arms, circled by a blue band containing 24 stars, denoting that Missouri was the 24th state. The Oliver flag embraced national pride, and at the same time expressed characteristics of Missouri and Missourians.

The three large stripes were symbolic of the people of the state—the blue stripe represented vigilance, permanency, and justice, the red represented valor, and the white stripe symbolized purity. The Missouri coat-of-arms appeared in the center of the flag, signifying both Missouri's independence as a state, and its place as a part of the whole United States. Having the coat-of-arms in the center of the national colors represents Missouri, as it is—the geographical center of the nation. By mingling the state coat-of-arms with the national colors of red, white, and blue, the flag signified the harmony existing between the two. Twenty-four stars surrounded the coat-of-arms, representative of Missouri's position as the 24th state admitted to the Union. (RSMo 10.020)

MISSOURI DAY

On March 22, 1915, the 48th General Assembly set aside the first Monday in October each year as "Missouri Day," due to the efforts of Mrs. Anna Brosius Korn, a native Missourian. In 1969, the 75th General Assembly changed the date to the third Wednesday in October. Missouri Day is a time for schools to honor the state and for the people of the state to celebrate the achievements of all Missourians. (RSMo 9.040)



THE STATE FLORAL EMBLEM

On March 16, 1923, a bill was signed naming the **white hawthorn blossom** the official state floral emblem of Missouri. Known as the "red haw" or "white haw," the hawthorn (*Crataegus*) is a member of the great rose family, which resembles the apple group. The hawthorn blossoms have greenish-yellow centers and form in white clusters. More than 75

species of the hawthorn grow in Missouri, particularly in the Ozarks. (RSMo 10.030)



THE STATE BIRD

On March 30, 1927, the native **bluebird** (*Sialia Sialis*) became the official state bird of Missouri. The bluebird, considered a symbol of happiness, is usually 6½ to 7 inches long. While its upper parts are covered with light blue plumage, its breast is cinnamon red, turning rust-colored in the fall. The bluebird is common in Missouri

from early spring until late November. (RSMo 10.010)

THE STATE TREE

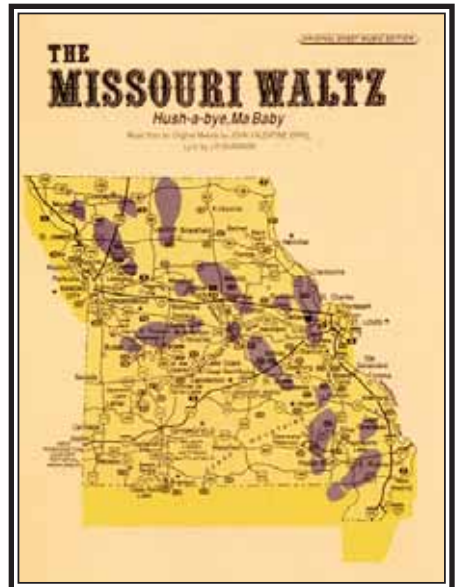
On June 20, 1955, the **flowering dogwood** (*Cornus Florida L.*) became Missouri's official tree. The tree is small in size, rarely growing over 40 feet in height or 18 inches in diameter. The dogwood



sprouts tiny greenish-yellow flowers in clusters, with each flower surrounded by four white petals. The paried, oval leaves are olive green above and covered with silvery hairs underneath. In the fall, the upper part of the leaves turn scarlet or orange and bright red fruits grow on the tree. (RSMo 10.040)

THE STATE SONG

The **"Missouri Waltz"** became the state song under an act adopted by the General Assembly on June 30, 1949. The song came from a melody by John V. Eppel and was arranged by Frederic Knight Logan, using lyrics written by J.R. Shannon. First published in 1914, the song did not sell well and was considered a failure. By 1939, the song had gained popularity and six million copies had been sold. Sales increased substantially after Missourian Harry S Truman became president. (RSMo 10.050)





Lyric by
J. R. SHANNON
(ASCAP)

"Hush-a-bye, Ma Baby" *Music from an Original
Melody by*
THE MISSOURI WALTZ *John Valentine Eppel*
SONG *Arr. for piano by*
FREDERIC KNIGHT LOGAN
(ASCAP)

INTRO. *Slowly and dreamily*

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand features a series of chords and arpeggiated figures, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes. The tempo is marked 'Slowly and dreamily' and the dynamics are 'p' (piano).

F
Dreamily

Hush - a-bye, ma ba - by, slum-ber-time is com-in' soon; Rest yo' head up-

The piano accompaniment for the first line of lyrics features a right hand with chords and a left hand with a steady accompaniment. The dynamics are 'p sost.' (piano sostenuto). Chords are marked with 'F' and 'C7'.

on my breast while Mom-my hums a tune; The sand-man is call - in' where

The piano accompaniment for the second line of lyrics features a right hand with chords and a left hand with a steady accompaniment. The dynamics are 'p sost.' (piano sostenuto). Chords are marked with 'C7', 'F', and 'Bb'.

shad-ows are fall - in', While the soft breez-es sigh as in days long-gone by.

The piano accompaniment for the third line of lyrics features a right hand with chords and a left hand with a steady accompaniment. The dynamics are 'p sost.' (piano sostenuto). Chords are marked with 'F', 'G7', and 'C7'.

* If necessary, the lowest note in right hand chords and octaves, may be omitted.

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'Way down in Mis - sou - ri where I heard this mel - o - dy.

When I was a lit - tle child — on my Mom-my's knee; The

old folks were hum - min'; Their ban - jos were strum-min' So —

sweet and low.

Hush 5

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand. Chord symbols are placed above the piano staves: F, C7, Bb, Dim., F, G7, C7, and F. Dynamics include *pp* and *p*. The tempo is marked *Hush 5*. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

Visit Your Record Store For Recordings Of "Missouri Waltz"



THE STATE MINERAL

On July 21, 1967, the mineral **galena** was adopted as the official mineral of Missouri. Galena is the major source of lead ore, and the recognition of this mineral by the state legislature was to emphasize Missouri's status as the nation's top producer of

lead. Galena is dark gray in color and breaks into small cubes. Mining of galena has flourished in the Joplin-Granby area of southwest Missouri, and rich deposits have been located in such places as Crawford, Washington, Iron and Reynolds counties. (RSMo 10.047)



THE STATE ROCK

Mozarkite was adopted as the official state rock on July 21, 1967, by the 74th General Assembly. An attractive rock, mozarkite appears in a variety of colors, most predominantly green, red or purple. The rock's beauty is enhanced by cutting and polishing into

ornamental shapes for jewelry. Mozarkite is most commonly found in Benton County. (RSMo 10.045)

THE STATE INSECT

On July 3, 1985, the **honeybee** was designated as Missouri's state insect. The honeybee, (*Apis Mellifera*) yellow or orange and black in color, is a social insect which collects nectar and pollen from flower blossoms in order to produce honey. The honeybee is common to Missouri and is cultivated by beekeepers for honey production. (RSMo 10.070)



THE STATE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

The **fiddle** became the state's official musical instrument on July 17, 1987. Brought to Missouri in the late 1700s by fur traders and settlers, the fiddle quickly



became popular. The instrument was adaptable to many forms of music, could be played without extensive formal training and was light and easy to carry. For generations, the local fiddle player was the sole source of entertainment in many communities and held a position of great respect in the region. (RSMo 10.080)



THE STATE FOSSIL

The **crinoid** became the state's official fossil on June 16, 1989, after a group of Lee's Summit school students worked through the legislative process to promote it as a state symbol. The crinoid (*Delocrinus missouriensis*) is a

mineralization of an animal which, because of its plant-like appearance, was called the "sea lily." Related to the starfish, the crinoid which covered Missouri lived in the ocean more than 250 million years ago. (RSMo 10.090)



THE STATE TREE NUT

The nut produced by the black walnut tree (*Juglans Nigra*), known as the **eastern black walnut**, became the state tree nut on July 9, 1990. The nut has a variety of uses. The meat is used in ice cream, baked goods and candies.

The shell provides the

soft grit abrasive used in metal cleaning and polishing, and oil well drilling. It is also used in paint products and as a filler in dynamite. (RSMo 10.100)

THE STATE ANIMAL

On May 31, 1995, the **Missouri mule** was designated as the official state animal. The mule is a hybrid, the offspring of a mare (female horse) and a jack (male donkey). After its introduction to the state in the 1820s, the mule quickly became popular with farmers and settlers



because of its hardy nature. Missouri mules pulled pioneer wagons to the Wild West during the 19th century and played a crucial role in moving troops and supplies in World Wars I and II. For decades, Missouri was the nation's premier mule producer. (RSMo 10.110)

THE STATE AMERICAN FOLK DANCE

The **square dance** was adopted as Missouri's official American folk dance on May 31, 1995. Square dances are derived from folk and courtship dances brought to the United States by



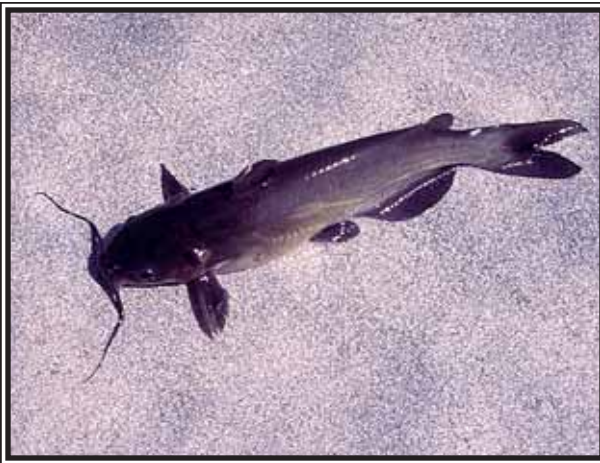
European immigrants. Lively music and callers are hallmarks of square dancing. The caller directs the dancers by singing the names of figures and steps to be performed. (RSMo 10.120)



THE STATE AQUATIC ANIMAL

The **paddlefish** (*Polyodon Spathula*) became Missouri's official aquatic animal on May 23, 1997. Only three rivers in Missouri support substantial populations of the paddle-

fish: the Mississippi, Missouri and the Osage. They are also present in some of the state's larger lakes. The paddlefish is primitive, with a cartilage skeleton, rather than bone. They commonly exceed five feet in length and weights of 60 pounds; 20-year olds are common, and some live 30 years or more. (RSMo 10.130)



THE STATE FISH

On May 23, 1997, the **channel catfish** became the official fish of Missouri. The channel catfish (*Ictalurus Punctatus*) is slender, with a deeply forked tail. Young have spots that disappear with age. The catfish does

not rely on sight to find its food; instead, it uses cat-like whiskers to assist in the hunt. The channel cat is the most abundant large catfish in Missouri streams. Its diet includes animal and plant material. Adults are normally 12 to 32 inches long and weigh from a half-pound to 15 pounds. (RSMo 10.135)

THE STATE HORSE

On June 4, 2002, the **Missouri fox trotting horse** became

Missouri's official state horse. Missouri fox trotters were developed in the rugged Ozark hills of Missouri during the early 19th century. Bloodlines can be traced from early set-

tlers to Missouri from the neighboring states of Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Arkansas. The distinguishing characteristic of the fox trotter is its rhythmic gait, in which the horse walks with the front feet and trots with the hind feet. This gait gives the rider a smooth gentle ride. (RSMo 10.140)



THE STATE GRAPE

On July 11, 2003, the **Norton/Cynthiana grape** (*Vitis Aestivalis*) was adopted as the official state grape. This adaptable, self-pollinating variety has been cultivated since the 1830s and is likely North America's oldest grape variety still commercially grown. Norton/Cynthiana has



long been prized by Missouri vintners for its hardy growth habit and intense flavor characteristics, which produce lush, dry premium red wines of world-class quality and distinction. (RSMo 10.160)



THE STATE DINOSAUR

Hypsibema missouriense is a type of dinosaur called a Hadrosaur or “duck billed” dinosaur. It was a herbivore with jaws that contained over 1,000 teeth. Hypsibema had

evolved specialized teeth to handle the tough, fibrous vegetation of the time. Hypsibema lived in Missouri during the Late Cretaceous Period. Hypsibema was first discovered in 1942 by Dan Stewart, near the town of Glen Allen, MO, and became the state’s official dinosaur on July 9, 2004. (RSMo 10.095)



THE STATE AMPHIBIAN

On June 5, 2005, the **American Bullfrog** (*Rana catesbeiana*) became the official state amphibian. The bullfrog is the largest frog native to Missouri and is found in every county. Most Missourians are familiar with the deep, resonant “jug-of-rum” call, which is typi-

cally heard on warm, rainy nights between mid-May and early July. The idea for the bullfrog designation came from a fourth grade class at Chinn Elementary School in Kansas City. (RSMo 10.170)

THE STATE GAME BIRD

The **bobwhite quail** (*Colinus virginianus*), also known as the northern bobwhite, became the official state game bird on July 13, 2007. The northern bobwhite is found throughout Missouri in a variety of habitats. In the fall and winter, northern bobwhites form loose social groups better known as a covey. A covey will generally contain ten to twelve quail, but can have as many as twenty or thirty birds. The familiar two- or three-note "bobwhite" whistle is made by males in the spring and summer to attract females. (RSMo 10.012).



THE STATE INVERTEBRATE

On June 21, 2007, the **crayfish** (also known as crawfish and crawdad) became the official state invertebrate. Crayfish are an important food source for Missouri fishes.

Missouri supports more

than 30 species of crayfish (including seven species that occur nowhere else in the world). Crayfish are found in every county of the state and contribute to our unique biodiversity and conservation heritage. The nomination of crayfish for state invertebrate came from Mrs. Janna Elfrink's elementary school class in Reeds Spring, Missouri. (RSMo 10.125)





THE STATE REPTILE

On June 21, 2007, the **three-toed box turtle** (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*) became the official state reptile. Most Missourians are familiar with this land-dwelling turtle. Three-toed box turtles, as their name implies, typically have three

hind toes. The hinged bottom shell allows the turtle to retreat inside as if enclosed in a box. Males have red eyes and females have brown eyes. (RSMo 10.175).



THE STATE GRASS

Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) was designated as Missouri's stategrass on June 11, 2007 as a result of efforts by the Fourth Grade class at Truman Elementary School in Rolla. Big bluestem is native to Missouri and occurs throughout the state, with the exception of a few southeastern-most counties. It is a major component of Missouri's tallgrass prairies

where it impressed the first explorers by sometimes growing tall enough to hide a person on horseback. The name bluestem comes from the bluish-green color of the leaves and stems that turn an attractive reddish-copper color in autumn. (RSMo 10.150).