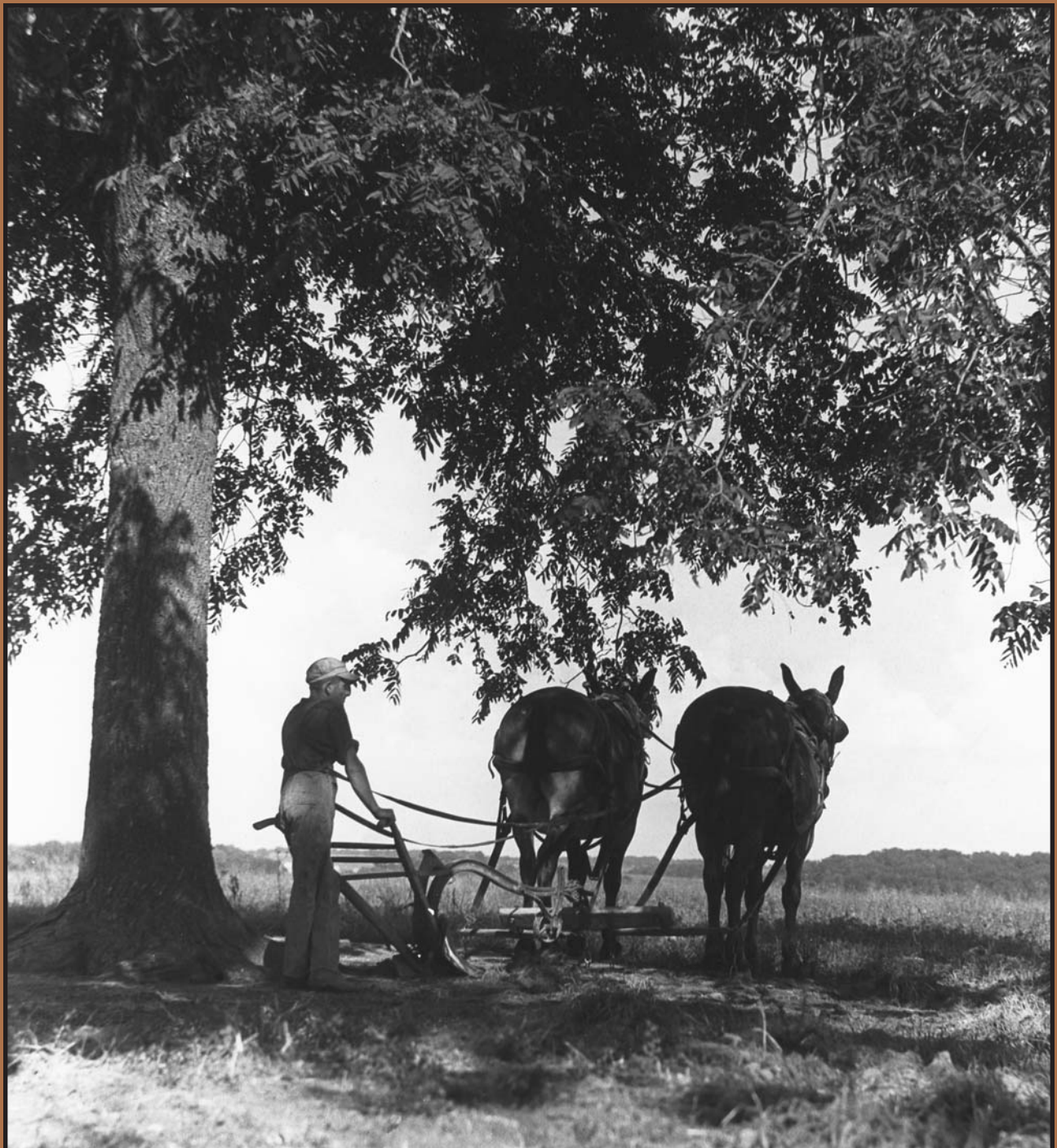


# Old Documents to a New Past: A Plan for the Preservation and Access of Missouri's Historical Records

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*A Report on the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board's  
Assessment and Strategic Planning Projects*



**FRONT COVER:**

Two prize Missouri mules rest under a tree on the Estes Farm in Christian County, Missouri, 1940.  
Photograph by Weldon King.

# Old Documents to a New Past: A Plan for the Preservation and Access of Missouri's Historical Records

A Report on the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board's  
Assessment and Strategic Planning Projects

Jefferson City, Missouri, 1999

This report was prepared and published with support from the  
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Additional copies may be obtained from the Missouri State Archives,  
A Division of the Office of Secretary of State, 600 West Main Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.





Dear Fellow Missourians:

Missouri . . . The word conjures up images reflecting the historic role our state has played in the development of the nation: the wide Missouri River influencing settlement, commerce and transportation; Lewis and Clark embodying our thirst for adventure on their expedition to the Pacific Ocean; our role as “Gateway to the West” played out in St. Louis; the dust settling behind a skinny orphan on a fast Pony Express horse personifying our vision in new frontiers; and our capital city rising out of the river bluffs, named to honor the spirit of democracy.

These images come readily to mind, they are the result of millions of documents and photographs housed throughout the state in historical societies, archival institutions, museums, and personal family collections. Our documented heritage promotes, and provides context for the images of the past, ultimately serving as a guide to the future.

I join the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board in presenting *Old Documents to a New Past: A Plan for the Preservation and Access of Missouri's Historical Records*. Ensuring the continued preservation of Missouri's historical records is a task undertaken by institutions and private citizens alike. We can take pride in our history as a state. It is time, here at the threshold of a new millennium, to display our “Show-Me” spirit and guarantee there is a documentary heritage for future generations of Missourians.

Sincerely,

Rebecca McDowell Cook  
Secretary of State  
State of Missouri





Elizabeth, Henrietta and Frederick Flamm on the porch of their home near Kimmswick, (now Arnold) Missouri, 1910.

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# Historical Records

As Shakespeare said: “There is a history in all men’s lives.” But how are we to know the history of humans and events, famous or common, if no records exist to tell

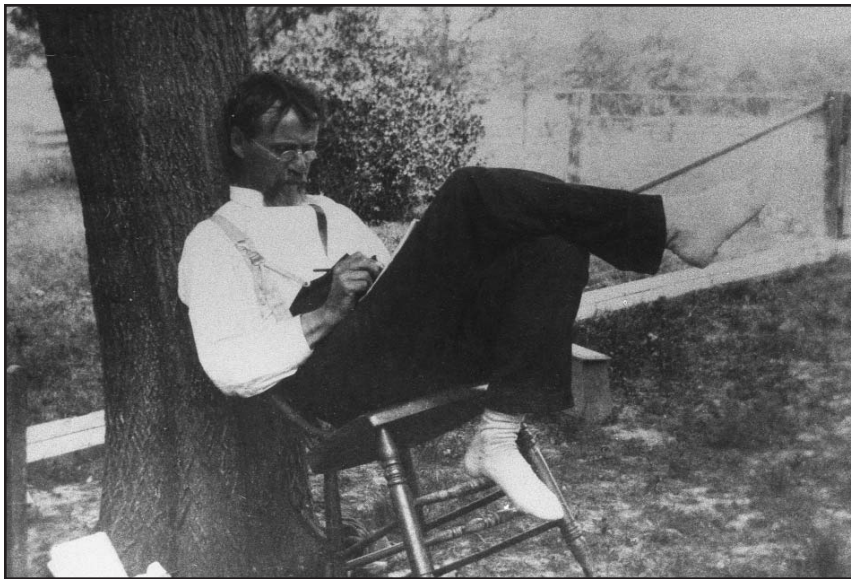
the story? Given this bleak scenario, it is a simple enough statement to make: historical records are important. If they disappear or are destroyed, they cannot be replaced, and knowledge of human experience goes with them. There are likely to be few arguments, even outside archival and historical circles, to the logic of safeguarding historical records.

The next question is, what *are* historical records?

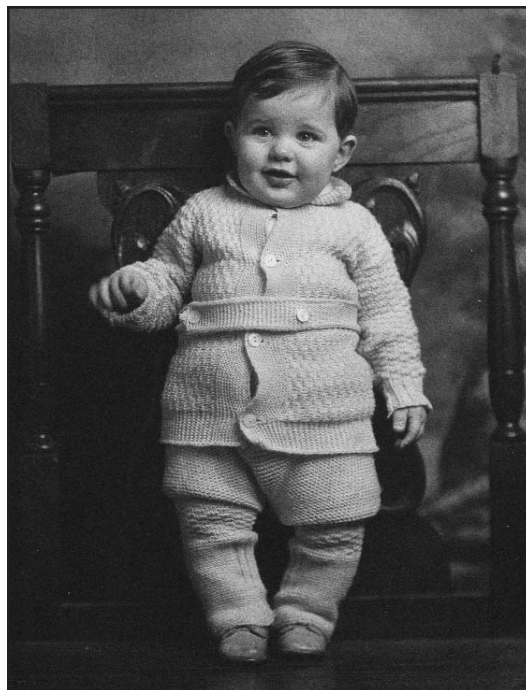
Historical records compose our “collective memory” and “cultural heritage.” They serve administrative, legal, and social uses, provide perspective and continuity to daily activities, and protect citizens’ rights. Birth records, marriage licenses, meeting minutes—these are all examples of documents created for a specific reason, that later evolve into recorded history for the role they play in our understanding of a particular person, event, era or institution.

There are as many different documents as there are human activities. Once restricted to simple, handwritten paper documents, new technologies have allowed for photographs, sound recordings, moving picture recordings, and finally, computer and electronic formats. With each new technology, the quantity of documents dramatically increases. Where once there was a scarcity of records and nearly everything was kept as evidence of the past, the overabundance of records today requires a careful selection process: archivists determine which records have probable future value, and focus preservation efforts on those.

There is a history in all lives; making that history available is the goal of preserving historical records. Participants in the achievement of this daunting task are many; archival institutions, historical societies, museums, and even individual citizens have a significant role to play in preserving a future for the past.



A.T. Still, founder of the alternate system of medicine termed “osteopathy,” writing his autobiography at home in Kirksville, Missouri, circa 1891.



A young child, photographed by Thomasson Studio of Dexter, Missouri.



# MISSOURI HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN

(7-206.)

Received July 30, 1880

Page No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Supervisor's Dist. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enumeration Dist. No. 202

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 31, 1880.  
 Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.  
 Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

211

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in \_\_\_\_\_, in the County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_, enumerated by me on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1880.

H. C. \_\_\_\_\_ Enumerator.

Inhabitants	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Relationship to head of household	Occupation	Health	Education	Safety	Place of Birth of the person, whether in United States, or Foreign birth.	Place of Birth of the person, whether in United States, or Foreign birth.	Place of Birth of the person, whether in United States, or Foreign birth.
54	J. B. Linnace	M	24			Carpenter				Pa	Pa	England
	Mary E	F	21		Wife	Keeping house				Ind.	Ind	Ind
55	H. Gaillard	M	63			Farmer				France	France	France
	Caroline	F	16		Daughter	Keeping house				Mo	"	"
56	M. C. Miller	M	24			Farmer				Ind.	N. C.	N. C.
	Mary A	F	32		Wife	Keeping house				Ind.	Ind	Ind
	Sarah M.	F	12		D.	At home				Ill.	Ind	"
	Mary J.	F	10		D.	"				"	"	"
57	J. Poling	M	40			Farmer				Ohio	Ind	"
	Catharine	F	39		Wife	Keeping house				N. Y.	Ind?	Ind?
	Mary J.	F	16		D.	At school				Mo	"	"
	O. B. Cook	M	4		"	"				"	"	"
	H. E.	M	2		S.	"				"	"	"
	J. M.	M	1		S.	"				"	"	"
58	H. O. King	M	25			Farmer				Ill.	"	"
	Mary	F	58		Wife	Keeping house				"	"	"
	B. J.	M	23		S.	Farmer				Mo	"	Ind.
	M. C. Cook	M	17		Servant	Boarding				"	Mo	Mo
	M. C. Thompson	M	5		"	"				"	"	"
59	J. Barrow	M	34			Farmer				Ind.	"	"
	Mary	F	32		Wife	Keeping house				"	"	"
	H.	M	16		S.	At home				"	"	"
	B.	M	7		"	"				"	"	"
	H.	M	5		"	"				"	"	"
	W. M.	M	3		"	"				"	"	"
	G.	M	2		S.	"				"	"	"
60	H. Barrow	M	63			Farmer				Ind.	"	"
	Willetta	F	53		Wife	Keeping house				Mo	"	"
61	J. L. Waller	M	42			Farmer				Mo	Pa	Ind.
	Ellen	F	34		Wife	Keeping house				Mo	Mo	Mo
	S. O.	M	15		S.	At school				Ill.	N. Y.	N. Y.
	J. A.	M	13		"	"				Ind	Mo	Ill.
	H. H.	M	10		"	"				"	"	"
	Mary E	F	6		D.	"				"	"	"
	Laura E	F	5		"	"				"	"	"
	H. C.	M	3		S.	"				"	"	"
	A.	M	1		"	"				"	"	"
	H. Smith	M	34		Servant	Farmer				"	"	"
62	J. Hines	M	46			Farmer				Germany	Germany	Ind.
	Annemaria	F	39		Wife	Keeping house				Ind	Ind	Ind
	Jos	M	15		S.	At home				"	"	"
	Sarah	F	12		D.	At school				Ind	Ind	Ind
	Jos	M	9		S.	"				"	"	"
	Leroy	M	2		D.	"				"	"	"
63	H. P. Kirby	M	53			Wagon maker				Ill.	Pa	Pa
	Mary A	F	46		Wife	Keeping house				"	Ind.	Ind.
	E.	M	19		S.	"				"	Ind.	Ind.
	H.	M	17		"	"				"	Ill.	Ill.
	J. K.	M	15		"	"				"	"	"
	H.	M	12		"	"				"	"	"

Notes: D.—Do not write in column 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14, an affirmative mark only will be used—other than /, except in the case of divorced persons, column 11, when the letter "D" is to be used.  
 Note E.—In column 12 will only be asked in cases where an affirmative answer has been given either to question 10 or to question 11.  
 Note F.—In column 13 will only be asked in cases where a girl's occupation has been reported in column 11.  
 Note G.—In column 14 will only be asked in cases where a girl's occupation has been reported in column 11.

Population Schedule of the Tenth Census of the United States for the State of Missouri, 1880, listing name, race, sex, age, relationship to head of household, occupation, education, and place of birth.

# MISSOURI HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN



An 1838 map of Missouri.



# Missouri's Historical Records: A Cultural Crossroads

Missouri's location at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers had overriding significance in the settlement of the area. The interior of North America, a portion of which later became Missouri, was open to settlement by peoples of varied backgrounds. French trappers were among the first to venture west, followed quickly by farmers, slaves, businessmen, politicians, and others. Many came to Missouri passing through to points west, but others came to take advantage of the region's rich natural resources. This included a wide variety of ethnic groups which provided Missouri with a unique cultural landscape, from the French who founded towns along the Mississippi River, such as St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve and Cape Girardeau, to towns of German heritage, like Hermann and Westphalia on the Missouri River. The distinc-

tive Ozark mountain culture and the Southern traditions of Missouri's "Bootheel" are additional expressions of our state's cultural diversity.

The repositories that house Missouri's records are as diverse as the collections they maintain. Local historical and genealogical societies collect a variety of information relevant to their communities. Large repositories such as the Missouri Historical Society, the State Historical Society of Missouri, and the Missouri State Archives hold diverse collections of national interest. The Truman Presidential Library and Museum honors the life and times of Missouri's president, Harry S Truman, and the National Archives-Kansas City possesses federal records with regional appeal. These repositories and the historical records they maintain are important research avenues for understanding the cultural crossroads that is Missouri.



Native Americans of the Oklahoma tribe, camped at Ferguson, Missouri in 1903.

# The MHRAB

Quotes from the MHRAB-sponsored Survey of Historical Records Repositories, regarding "Contents and Scope of Collection," 1996-1998.

A system of state historical records advisory boards was created in 1975 by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-awarding division of the National Archives and Records Administration. The Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) began meeting in 1978, but was formally created by Missouri Governor John Ashcroft's Executive Order #85-11 in 1985. The MHRAB gained statutory standing in 1989 with the General Assembly's passage of House Bill #686, and their amending legislation the following year, House Bill #1496.

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*"The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial collects and preserves archival materials that document the exploration and settlement of the American West, and particularly the role of St. Louis as Gateway to the West."*

JEFFERSON NATIONAL  
EXPANSION MEMORIAL,  
ST. LOUIS

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Board members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate; and administrative responsibilities are handled by the secretary of state who holds the position of coordinator on the board. Federal regulations require board members to have experience or interest in the collection, administration and use of historical records, and a dedication to the preservation and access of Missouri's documented heritage. Over the years, archivists, curators, records managers, legislators, librarians and family historians have served as MHRAB members.

The Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board has three primary roles. First, state statute defines the board as "the central advisory body for historical records planning

and for projects relating to historic records, developed and carried out within the state of Missouri." Second, the MHRAB provides state-level review of grant proposals submitted to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission by Missouri records repositories; and third, the Board serves as the review panel for the state Local Records Preservation Program.

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*"Our genealogical department has probates, wills, birth and death records, census information, veteran and family histories, obituaries and local histories from the county's inception in 1841."*

ANDREW COUNTY MUSEUM &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
SAVANNAH

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*"Eclectic in nature, the collection provides a broad insight into the county's social, cultural, economic, and educational development. The time scope of the collection includes the county's inception as trails' head to its present role as part of a major metropolitan area."*

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
INDEPENDENCE

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*The Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board promotes and supports identification of, preservation of, and access to all historical records in Missouri.*

Mission Statement, 1996

**The Missouri Historical Records  
Advisory Board, 1999**

Honorable Gracia Backer,  
Missouri House of Representatives, New  
Bloomfield

Mary Louise Brown,  
Archivist and Curator of Collections,  
Anheuser-Busch Companies Corporate  
Archives, St. Louis

Martha R. Clevenger,  
Director of Collections and  
Conservation, Missouri Historical  
Society, St. Louis

Rebecca McDowell Cook,  
Secretary of State, **Coordinator**

Steven P. Gietschier,  
Director of Historical Records,  
*The Sporting News*, St. Louis

Dr. James Goodrich,  
Executive Director, State Historical  
Society of Missouri, Columbia

Julie M. March,  
Director, The History Museum for  
Springfield-Greene County, Springfield

Robert P. Neumann,  
Director, Greene County Archives,  
Springfield

Anne G. Rottmann,  
Head Librarian, State Capitol Legislative  
Library, Jefferson City

Dr. Bonnie Stepenoff,  
Assistant Professor,  
Southeast Missouri State University,  
Cape Girardeau

Jeannette A. Wessel,  
Records Manager, St. Louis County  
Government Records Center, Overland

Addison M. Williams, Jr.,  
Family Historian, Jefferson City

J. Christopher Wilt,  
Executive Director, Jackson County  
Historical Society, Independence

Dr. Kenneth H. Winn,  
Missouri State Archivist,  
**Deputy Coordinator**

Dr. Benedict K. Zobrist,  
Director Emeritus, Harry S. Truman  
Library and Museum, Independence

Flock of sheep in the shade of a tree near Owensville, Missouri, 1950.  
Photograph by Gerald R. Massie.





# Assessing the Needs of Missouri's Records

In 1988, Missouri's State Historical Records Advisory Board submitted to the people of Missouri and to the NHPRC, *A Future for the Past – An assessment of Missouri's historic records programs by the State Historic Records Advisory Board*. The project was funded by a grant from the NHPRC and matching funds from the Records Management and Archives Division of the Office of Secretary of State. This report proved extremely useful in identifying issues and proposing solutions for the safekeeping and accessibility of Missouri's documented history. It continues to be a valuable reference tool for archivists and records keepers in our state.

Subsequently, in 1993, Missouri's board sought and was awarded an NHPRC Level-One Planning Grant to further assess needs and set forth strategies for securing an improved records environment. As part of the planning process, the board held two retreats, formed subcommittees, brought in outside counsel (Larry Hackman, State Archivist and Assistant Commissioner of Education, New York; and Edwin Bridges, State Archivist and Director of the Department of Archives and History, Alabama),

and conducted regional "open meetings" in the state's three largest metropolitan areas (St. Louis, Kansas City, and Springfield). A wide range of opinions was solicited and received.

Additionally, Missouri participated in the 1996-1998 national "Survey of Historical Records Repositories," sponsored by the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators (COSHRC). Survey results provided information about the number of repositories, types of material collected by each, and the educational backgrounds and needs of records keepers – allowing important conclusions to be drawn about the overall needs of historical records repositories in our state.

The report that follows reflects the issues raised during the Level-One Planning Grant project, and identifies several areas where attention should be focused to improve the condition of records' preservation and access in Missouri. Recommendations are given with strategies applied to accomplish each proposal. This is a collaborative plan. In essence, cooperative strategies *are* the plan; additional issues rest on the success of shared efforts.



State Representative Alex Petrovic examining records in the basement of a Jefferson City power plant in 1964. The following year Petrovic introduced House Bill #294 which established the Division of Records Management and Archives Services within the Office of Secretary of State.

# Issue 1: Success through Cooperative Strategies



Square-dancing was a popular pastime for Missouri children in the 1950's; (Gerald R. Massie Collection).

Missouri's manuscript curators, museum staff, archivists, librarians, historians, genealogists, records managers, historical societies, state and local governments, and other stakeholders have formed strong independent groups to serve their specific needs. These organizations share common interests and concerns, and it is the core of this proposal that Missouri's records keepers join forces to advocate the preservation of our state's historic records.

The Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board, in cooperation with the state's records community, needs to explore the potential for cooperation and collaboration, making the most of common goals. By communicating freely with one another, the task of caring for collections becomes more effective, and the quality of care improves for Missouri's records of permanent value.

## Recommendation

That a statewide cooperative records community be developed with the *MHRAB* providing leadership to citizens, state and local governments, historical records repositories and records managers to secure the preservation and accessibility of Missouri's records.

## Strategies

- Obtain continued funding from the *NHPRC* so that the *MHRAB* can effectively lead cooperative efforts; and seek "matching funds" from the Missouri Legislature to equal those granted by the *NHPRC*.



- Encourage participation in the MHRAB's goals through dissemination of Board funding priorities and the extension of workshops to secure submission of projects most appropriate to the building of quality records programs in our state.
- Identify stakeholders of various records collections, and work with such organizations through annual meetings and conferences to encourage their participation in the planning and implementation of projects.
- Coordinate planned information sharing among members of the records community to convey current "best practices."
- Develop an MHRAB website with links to the NHPRC and to sites of records organizations across Missouri to raise the profile and highlight the mission of the MHRAB.

Cooperation builds a snowman on a winter day;  
(Gerald R. Massie Collection).



# Issue 2: Education for Records Keepers

While training and educational opportunities exist for some custodians of Missouri's records through memberships in



A child receives instruction in wool carding from her grandmother in southern Missouri, 1950. Photograph by Gerald R. Massie.



regional and national archival organizations, or attendance at professional conferences and workshops, there continue to be many employees and volunteers serving Missouri's historical records repositories who do not benefit from educational offerings, due primarily to a lack of funds. In the COSHRC

---

*“How best to preserve our fragile 19th century papers?”*

---

survey, smaller repositories indicated a tremendous need for training, workshops and technical literature. Many historical societies are staffed by dedicated volunteers who are committed to the preservation of records in their care, but who often lack sufficient training to deal with the problems that arise. Smaller repositories must be allowed to benefit from the ongoing educational capabilities of better-funded, larger institutions. Outreach support provided by Missouri's major repository

---

*“We lack professional staff trained in archival and preservation practices.”*

---

ries can help fill the needs of local organizations, and ensure quality care for the records all institutions hold.

## Recommendation

That the *MHRAB* lead the state's major

**archival institutions and professional organizations in cooperative strategies to establish outreach activities and expand the educational base of local repositories.**

## Strategies

- Participate in the National Forum on Archival Continuing Education (NFACE) designed to improve the allocation of educational opportunities in the field by identifying resources, areas of need, and fostering greater collaboration in the delivery of these products.

---

*“We do not have enough knowledge for storing and handling the records.”*

---

- Investigate funding opportunities, identify available expertise and encourage cooperative efforts to sponsor and provide sites for workshops.

Quotes from the MHRAB-sponsored Survey of Historical Records Repositories, regarding most pressing problems, 1996-1998.

# Issue 3: Preservation of Records

Many factors contribute to the deterioration of paper and the loss of electronic records. Typically, historical repositories do not have adequate storage facilities, staff properly trained in preservation techniques, or disaster plans in place when the need arises. All three elements are needed to insure the longevity of historical records. What is also needed, however, is adequate funding to support ongoing conservation and preservation projects.

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*“All of our collection is in jeopardy. The physical condition of many records is rapidly deteriorating.”*

---

It is imperative that priorities be established for the conservation of records throughout our state. Records in need of the most care should be selected for treatment and considerations made for copying designated records into other formats. Historical repositories that do not have proper environmental conditions for records, or staff trained in preservation techniques, need to be targeted for education and grant workshops. Every institution should have a disaster preparedness plan on file. Finally, the role of the Missouri State Archives’ conservation lab should be broadened, so that advice and support can be offered to smaller historical repositories unable to afford private conservation.

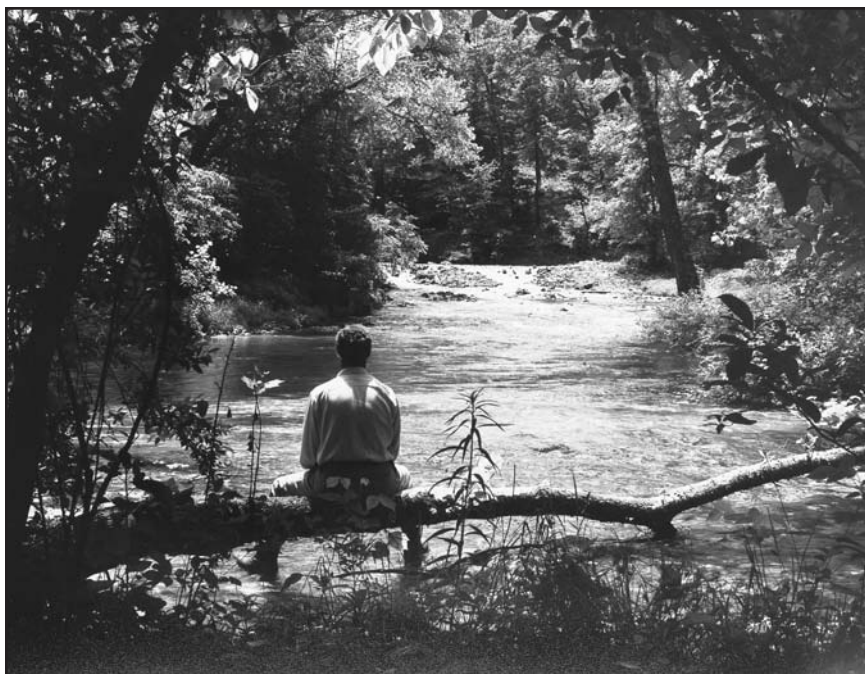
## Recommendation

That priorities are determined for records preservation projects in the state and that preservation/conservation efforts be increased for all historical records repositories.

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*“Items in storage are not stored under the best of conditions in terms of temperature and humidity.”*

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Watching the flow of a Missouri river; (Gerald R. Massie Collection)

## Strategies

- Develop a list of Missouri's preservation priorities.
- Provide workshops for smaller institutions in preservation techniques and extend advice on securing funding so that shelving, environmental controls, and other physical preservation elements can be obtained.
- Establish priorities for preservation microfilming projects.
- Encourage the development of disaster preparedness plans for all institutions.
- Increase the role of the state conservation lab so that institutions with less funding may benefit from conservators' skill and expertise.

Quotes from the MHRAB-sponsored Survey of Historical Records Repositories, 1996-1998.

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*"The plat maps are old and beginning to tear easily."*

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Inside the Nyhart Store in Bates County, Missouri, 1913.





# Issue 4: Expanding Access to Records

Missouri history offers endless topics for research. Getting started in a research project is impossible, however, without knowledge of where relevant records are housed. Important documents can be scattered throughout the state, posing the possibility of missing vital information because its existence is unknown, or missing information due to the researcher's rapidly depleting limited travel funds. Missouri's historical repositories must find ways to publicize their collections, make such collections easier to access, deliver information in various formats, and allow records to be sent to researchers at nearby institutions.

Electronic technology provides numerous opportunities for the exploration and development of new options for information sharing. State initiatives are under discussion to make more online information available to

Missourians through computerized catalogues and through the Internet.

Making copies of records available to researchers around the state can further enhance access. Records are microfilmed for a variety of reasons – preservation, security copying, and a need to free storage space. Duplicate film of microfilmed collections is available at the Missouri Historical Society, the Missouri State Archives, and the State Historical Society, as well as libraries, and local genealogical and historical societies, to which the public has easy access. In some cases, film is available for inter-library loan. Development or expansion of these services should be investigated by the creating or holding agencies. In addition, more records should be made electronically available via the Internet.

Margaret Stephens feeding her chickens, Middle Grove, Missouri, 1923.




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*“The very few of us who have been with our Society since its founding are aware of what is available in our collection, but it is not always easy to find a particular document on a moment’s notice. And our younger members haven’t a clue at this point as to what the collection contains.”*

---

## Recommendation

That access to Missouri’s records be improved and use encouraged through connecting records databases and inventories to more widely accessible networks; and by providing copies of records in usable formats.

## Strategies

- Make existing automated finding aids available statewide on public library catalogues and the Internet.
- Encourage historical records repositories to inventory their records and participate in similar online projects by offering regrant funds in this area.
- Examine the feasibility of interlibrary loan programs for microfilmed records to increase availability of film for use at public libraries across the state.
- Electronically publish significant or high use Missouri documents on the Internet.

Quote from the MHRAB-sponsored **Survey of Historical Records Repositories, 1996-1998.**



Lederer's Fruit Store in Springfield, Missouri, 1910.



# Issue 5: Managing Missouri's Electronic Records

Public records, regardless of format, must be maintained or disposed of in accordance with public policy principles. The scheduling and disposition of paper records has long been a standard, often legally mandated requirement. Although the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board's needs assessment report, released in 1988, does not identify electronic records as a primary concern, the issue of the 1990s has been the real and potential problems associated with the creation, management and use of new records technologies. The importance of developing policies and procedures to deal with new technologies has been underscored by the

recent PROFS electronic mail case in which the federal courts ruled that electronic messages are official records, and held the White House and National Archives accountable for their safekeeping.

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*“working on the automation of our cataloging system”*

---

The archival community has recognized that the role of the archivist must change to meet technology's needs, yet for the most part meaningful dialogue has yet to be established between information-system personnel and their archives and records management counterparts. Complex and dynamic issues have arisen with the use of rapidly evolving technologies in state and local governments, and participation in the development of a sound strategy will maximize the MHRAB's role in our statewide information infrastructure.

## Recommendation

That the MHRAB provide leadership in promoting statewide standards for the creation and preservation of electronic records, and provide education on technology issues for potential electronic media users.

---

*“cataloging, processing and automation of data to generate adequate access and finding aids”*

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Switchboard maintenance at Camp Crowder, Missouri in 1943.  
U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph.



## Strategies

- Work cooperatively to introduce management and preservation concerns to entities producing records in electronic formats.
- Prepare informational bulletins or pamphlets on issues related to the creation and preservation of electronic records.
- Provide workshops on electronic records issues for targeted audiences and on request.
- Work in concert with the State Records Commission to devise strategies for the long-term preservation of electronic records of permanent value.

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*“30,000 glass plate negatives - we don't have appropriate storage and accessibility - would like to digitize”*

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Quotes from the MHRAB-sponsored **Survey of Historical Records Repositories**, regarding most pressing problems confronting organization, 1996-1998.



The Missouri State Fair, circa 1950's; (Gerald R. Massie Collection).

# Issue 6: Uncovering Missouri's Past in Judicial Records

Judicial records have received the active support of genealogical societies, academic institutions, state and local historical societies, the Missouri and local bar associations, foundations, and community volunteers. The records of Missouri's appellate, circuit, probate and supreme courts provide some of the earliest and most comprehensive information about the political and social history of the state, including slavery, business, politics, social morality, vigilantism, and gender issues.

Although judicial records in Missouri are exempt from public records law, in 1965 the legislature passed RSMo 109.290 specifying that the director of Records Management and Archives Services could, upon request, provide program services to the judicial branch of state government. In 1971 it was decided by the Chief Justice of Missouri's Supreme Court

that the State Archives would be the official repository for all records of the Court; and in 1983 the Supreme Court required all circuit and probate courts to offer their records to the Archives before scheduling records for destruction. In 1984, the Archives' Judicial Records Program began when the Division of Records Management and Archives Services,

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*“Local Records’ field archivists have given us a real jumpstart on the preservation of our county’s historic records, which date back to 1795. The records have been properly arranged, catalogued, and microfilmed. An author recently visited us to research many interesting documents found in the case files on the history of slavery.”*

CHARLES P. HUTSON  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT,  
CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

---

Scott County Courthouse in Benton, Missouri.



and the State's Court Administrator's Office developed an agreement to microfilm historically significant probate and circuit court records. Filmed records are dispersed throughout Missouri and the United States, and are available at the Missouri State Archives and major research libraries.

As important as these efforts have been to focus attention on judicial records, they do little to address the enormity of rapidly deteriorating records, or the disorder and poor indexing that makes many of these records virtually inaccessible.





Supreme Court Library,  
Jefferson City, Missouri,  
circa 1940's. Photograph by  
Gerald R. Massie.

## Recommendation

That the *MHRAB* provide leadership in cooperative efforts to broaden preservation and access initiatives for court records.

inclusion and supporting the creation of electronic images of selected records.

- Secure necessary funding to address the need for large-scale judicial records efforts.

## Strategies

- Identify judicial records projects that make use of interested groups as advocates and involve these stakeholders in preservation and indexing initiatives.
- Increase access to selected judicial records via the Missouri Secretary of State and the State Courts Administrator's Internet websites, and promote links to related repository websites by defining criteria for

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*“Circuit and probate court records, deeds, wills and marriage records must be preserved, not only for family historians, but for the body of information such records reveal when studied collectively, of interest to academics in history, sociology, law and other related fields.”*

FAMILY HISTORY ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE REPORT, 1999

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# National Historical Publications and Records Commission Grants to Missouri, 1976-1999

- William Woods University**, Fulton, MO: A grant of \$4,610 for a Multi-Institutional Consultancy Project on the collections of William Woods University, Westminster College and the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library. (99-072)
- Southwest Missouri State University**, Springfield, MO: \$58,620 for a project to arrange and describe 18 of the most important collections from its Ozark Labor Union Archives. (98-043)
- Curators of the University of Missouri**, Columbia, MO: A grant of \$57,860 to process the records of the architectural landscape and city planning firm of Hare and Hare, held by the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. (96-078)
- Missouri Botanical Garden**, St. Louis, MO: \$15,456 for a six-month project to process the Joseph Ewan Papers. (94-123)
- Missouri State Historical Records Advisory Board**, Jefferson City, MO: \$22,720 for a planning grant to sustain and increase its activities, assess progress on implementing the recommendations of its 1987 assessment report, and develop a five-year strategic plan, which will include specific approaches for addressing the key problems of electronic records and judicial records. (94-035)
- Secretary of State**, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, MO: \$121,113 to upgrade and automate descriptions of its holdings. (93-104)
- Jewish Federation of St. Louis**, St. Louis, MO: \$34,398 to accession, arrange, and describe approximately 350 cubic feet of materials (74 collections). (93-003)
- Concordia Historical Institute**, Clayton, MO: \$27,500 to appraise, arrange, and describe the papers, ca. 1924-82, of Walter A. Maier and his assistant, Eugene Bertermann, two figures involved with the development of religious radio broadcasting. (91-137)
- The Nelson Gallery Foundation**, Kansas City, MO: \$85,776 to implement an archival and records management program for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art by surveying records, establishing retention schedules, and processing materials of archival value. (91-133)
- Secretary of State**, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, MO: \$3,296 to hire a consultant to provide guidance in the automated description of the holdings of the Missouri State Archives. (91-100)
- Missouri Botanical Garden**, St. Louis, MO: \$80,096 to establish an archival and records management program. (91-037)
- Missouri State Historical Records Advisory Board**, Jefferson City, MO: \$7,500 to support the board's travel and meeting expenses. (90-039)
- St. Louis Mercantile Library Association**, St. Louis, MO: \$3,274 to duplicate and preserve glass plate, nitrocellulose, and early diacetate negatives produced by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat in the 1920s and 1930s. (88-107)
- St. Louis Mercantile Library Association**, St. Louis, MO: \$15,000 to preserve nitrate negatives in the John W. Barriger III collection on American railroads. The negatives provide

unusually valuable documentation of 20th-century U.S. railroad history. (86-135)

**Washington University School of Medicine**, St. Louis, MO: \$2,600 for consultation on the school's historical photographs and architectural drawings. Washington University has the nation's oldest medical school west of the Mississippi River. (86-117)

**Missouri State Historical Records Advisory Board**, Jefferson City, MO: \$25,000 to analyze the current condition of historical records in the state, identify problems, frame potential solutions, and outline actions that can be taken. (86-115)

**University of Missouri-Columbia**, Columbia, MO: \$30,640 to preserve, microfilm, and catalog photoprints representing the best American photojournalism from 1943 to the present. The photos are winners of the Pictures-of-the-Year competition, sponsored by the university's school of journalism and the National Press Photographers Association. (85-123)

**St. Louis Mercantile Library Association**, St. Louis, MO: \$76,150 to arrange and describe the Barriger Railroad Papers Collection, assembled by John W. Barriger, III, over a 60-year career in railroading. (84-133)

**Webster Groves Historical Society**, Webster Groves, MO: \$2,290 for consulting services to advise on the design of the society's new meeting room/archives building, to evaluate collection and acquisition policies, and to assist in planning a local records survey. (84-132)

**Kansas City Museum Association**, Kansas City, MO: \$60,695 to develop a coherent program and access system for its archives and manuscripts. (84-074)

**St. Louis Art Museum**, St. Louis, MO: \$32,493 to establish an archives and records program for the museum. (81-153)

**Webster County Court**, Marshfield, MO: \$4,000 for a consultant to evaluate the

county's records needs and make recommendations for the records' preservation and maintenance. (81-100)

**University of Missouri-St. Louis**, St. Louis, MO: \$30,032 to identify and preserve historical records relating to African-American history in St. Louis City and County. (80-052)

**Missouri Botanical Garden**, St. Louis, MO: \$13,378 to process the papers of George Engleman, a leader in 19th-century American botany, and Henry Shaw, St. Louis entrepreneur and philanthropist, both of whom were instrumental in developing the Missouri Botanical Garden. (79-120)

**University of Missouri-Columbia**, Columbia, MO: \$1,177 to preserve and process selected correspondence and notes in the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection relating to John G. Neihardt's association with the Oglala Sioux Holy Man, Black Elk, and members of his family. (79-062)

**Total (Records Projects) \$811,064**



A Miss Missouri Pageant in the 1960's; (Gerald R. Massie Collection).



# Acknowledgements

**M**embers of the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board and the Board's various subcommittees are acknowledged for their work in planning prior to submission of the 1999 Plan: Henrietta Ambrose, Webster Groves; Edwin Bridges, State Archivist and Director of the Department of Archives and History for the state of Alabama; Eddie G. Brooks, Sr., Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City; Nicholas C. Burckel, Washington University, St. Louis; Dominic Capeci, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield; Jean Deken, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis; Diana L. Duff, National Archives, Kansas City; Stuart Dunkel, Records Management and Archives Services, Jefferson City; Bob Gilmore, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield; Larry Hackman, State Archivist and Assistant Commissioner of Education for the state of New York; Sharon Kinney Hanson, Jefferson City; James Mayo, Bloomfield; Arthur F. McClure, II, Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg; Peter J. Michel, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis; Lynn Morrow, Missouri Local Records Preservation Program, Jefferson City; Barbara J. Potts, Jackson County Historical Society, Independence; The Honorable Theodore B. Scott, Circuit 30, Supreme Court Committee on Electronic Records, Buffalo; Arvarh E. Strickland, University of



Del Womacks and his trick horse in Blue Springs, Missouri during the early 1900's.

Missouri, Columbia; and Kenneth H. Winn, Missouri State Archivist.

Appreciation is extended to the **Staff of the Missouri State Archives:** Jenifer Burlis-Freilich, Administrative Programs Coordinator 1994-1999; Dr. Shelly Croteau, Assistant State Archivist; Christyn Elley, State Records

Archivist; Johnna Flahive, Intern; Laura Jolley, Photo Archivist; Sandra Walls, Administrative Aide; and Laura Wilson, Administrative Programs Coordinator.

**All Images** are from collections held at the Missouri State Archives.



An evening near Clever, Missouri, 1939.

