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University of Missouri Cheerleader, 1930—One of many digitized images from Missouri counties available on the Virtually Missouri website.

Boone County Historical Society
Digital Heritage Initiative Will Remake Missouri’s Past

In today’s technological world, the Internet is the first place most people go to find information, yet many of the state’s richest resources cannot be found there. Secretary of State Robin Carnahan wanted to change this. As a result, the Missouri State Archives and the Missouri State Library created the Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative, a partnership between the Office of the Secretary of State, local governments, public libraries, and community institutions.

This partnership will digitize millions of pages of Missouri’s most significant historical records collections, including not just documents but photographs, maps and other materials.

The Archives and State Library both have a long history of making resources available online and helping repositories across Missouri to do the same. The Archives received 21.7 million web searches in 2006, a huge increase from previous years even with less than one percent of its holdings online. Examples of some of the Archives’ most popular online resources include: the Missouri Death Certificate Database, which has a searchable index of all death records from 1910-1956, along with images of many of the original documents; the Soldiers Database, with individual service cards from the War of 1812 to World War I; a collection of African-American portraits from 1880-1920; and the Civil War Provost Marshal Index Database, 1861-1866.

The State Library created Virtually Missouri, a website that networks together digital collections from more than 40 institutions. This project has made it possible to access millions of pages from repositories across the state, like the Adair County Library, Missouri Botanical Garden, and William Woods University’s Dulany Library, with a single search.

The Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative will provide the resources necessary to do even more. One of the first goals of the initiative will be to digitize the state’s Civil War records, in preparation for the sesquicentennial of the war in 2011. This will include not only the court cases, maps and other resources held at the Missouri State Archives, but local records related to the Civil War and slavery that can be found in counties throughout the state.

With all of these resources as close as a home computer, Missourians will have unprecedented access to their state and community history. Students, historians, genealogists and citizens will be able to learn more about...
Missouri’s common past and its democratic traditions, not to mention using the resources to develop online exhibits and educational curricula. There is much to look forward to in coming years as the Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative places Missouri’s past at the fingertips of its people in a way never seen before.

Archives Afield!
Linn County: Civil War, Civil Disobedience, and a Not So Civil Murder

For nearly a decade, the Missouri State Archives Local Records Program and the Linn County Circuit Court have been partners in a project to microfilm and index case files documenting the history of the county from its inception through the late 20th century. That project, which preserved documents from 1837 to 1991, is now complete. Among the records now available are cases dealing with slavery, medicine, the railroads, large scale drainage and road projects, and bank failures in the 1920s and 1930s.

Somewhat surprising were the number of cases found that related to the Civil War. Many of these cases derive from the constitutional provision that denied voting rights to Confederate soldiers and sympathizers after the war and placed limits on their professional lives. Numerous petitions by former Confederates seeking to regain their voting rights are included in the collection. There is even a list of questions posed to one about his activities and sympathies during the war: “How did you manifest your loyalty to the government during the war?” “Did you at any time during the rebellion write or send letters to any person serving in the rebel armies?” And, “In 1862 in the enrollment made by order of the U.S. military authorities were you enrolled as loyal or disloyal?”

Also, there are criminal cases for failure to comply with loyalty requirements, including one for preaching without filing a loyalty oath. The collection also features a murder case, filed in 1875, against a Union soldier for killing a farmer while searching for bushwhackers.

One of the most prominent cases in the collection is a sensational crime story – the 1894 case *State of Missouri v. Taylor and Taylor*, more famously known as the Meeks Murder Case. The Taylor brothers murdered four of the five members of the Meeks family, one daughter survived to raise the alarm. The murders were meant to silence Gus Meeks who was scheduled to testify against the brothers. The brothers were captured and tried. One escaped and was never found, but the other was hanged.

These are just a few examples of the stories that can be found in the records of the Linn County Circuit Court. Similar “finds” are being made throughout the state as field archivists work to preserve and make available the history of Missouri communities.
New Docent Program Provides Tours

Archives Alive!, an interactive history-based theatrical performance for school children, completed its third season with the benefit of a new group of docents. The Archives’ largest outreach program, Archives Alive!, attracts at least 4,500 students from across the state each spring. Most of these students also take a tour of the Archives. This year, a new docent program proved of inestimable help to the Archives staff by providing many of the tours.

Volunteers have already given over 75 tours at the Archives. The generous donation of their time is greatly appreciated and has enabled the Missouri State Archives staff to devote more of its resources to responding to research requests and making historical records available to the public.

Docents will continue to assist with tours throughout the year. If you are interested in becoming a docent, please contact Dr. Shelly Croteau at shelly.croteau@sos.mo.gov or (573) 751-4303.

Inaugural Foley Fellowships Awarded to National Scholars

First awarded this year, the William E. Foley Research Fellowship was created to help support the use of public records in scholarly research. Any researcher with a project that utilizes the holdings of the Missouri State Archives or its St. Louis branch to further knowledge of state or national history is eligible for a reimbursement of up to $2,000 for travel expenses and duplication fees. In this way, the Friends of the Missouri State Archives hopes to encourage scholars to explore the common heritage of Missourians.

The 2007 Foley Fellows are Adam Arenson, a Ph.D. candidate at Yale University, and Dr. Bonnie Stepoff, a professor of history at Southeast Missouri State University. Arenson, who completed his M.A. and M.Phil. in History at Yale University and his A.B. at Harvard College, has published articles in the New York Folklore Journal and California History, along with forthcoming pieces in the Pacific Historical Review.

In addition, he has an essay in the edited volume The Library as Place: History, Community and Culture and has presented at numerous conferences, including the annual meetings of the American Historical Association and American Studies Association.

The Friends of the Missouri State Archives is supporting Arenson’s work on his dissertation, entitled “America’s Barometer: The Cultural Politics of St. Louis as National City, 1848-1877.” According to Arenson, his project “describes the visions of the nation put forward in St. Louis, the challenges faced, and how the fate of this fascinating city resonated with the path of the nation as a whole.” His study will contain chapters on topics like the Great Fire that struck St. Louis in 1849, local reaction to the Dred Scott case, and the
effect of Abraham Lincoln’s assassination on the city.

Bonnie Stepenoff earned her Ph.D., M.L.S. and M.A. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. A recipient of the Missouri Historical Review Best Article Award, she has published extensively, including articles in many scholarly and popular journals, and has presented at conferences from Missouri to the Netherlands. Stepenoff has written three books, her most recent, From French Community to Missouri Town: Ste. Genevieve in the Nineteenth Century, having won the Missouri Conference on History Book Award.

Stepenoff’s current project is a book-length manuscript on homeless boys in St. Louis from 1860-1960. In the book, she will tell the story of these boys; what brought about their plight; the condition of their lives in group homes; their involvement in organized crime; and their ultimate fate.

Database to Missouri’s Court Records is Available Online

Since 1985, the Missouri State Archives has assisted courts across the state to preserve historically significant judicial records and make those records accessible to the public. This work has culminated in the Missouri Judicial Records Database.

The keyword searchable database provides an index and abstract of civil, criminal and probate cases that are available on microfilm at the Missouri State Archives. Currently, the database contains over 145,000 cases from almost 30 counties, St. Louis City and the Missouri Supreme Court. More will be added as field archivists complete Local Records Program projects in other counties. Ultimately, all the counties of Missouri will be represented in this comprehensive guide to the state’s legal history.

Missouri has one of the most significant judicial history collections in the nation. This new database provides access to records that reveal details on the state’s famous people, like Daniel Boone, Thomas Hart Benton, and James Eads; and significant events, including the Civil War, trade to the Rocky Mountains, the operation of steamboats, and the creation of railroads.

Cases range from the late 18th century to the middle of the 20th, with some early documents written in French or Spanish, reflecting the state’s colonial roots. Together, they reveal the courageous spirit of Missourians: the story of German immigrants who risked traveling far from home for a better life; fur traders who dared to forge across the untamed American West; and slaves who sought freedom from a system that oppressed them.

A project of this magnitude is not possible without the help of many people. Hundreds of volunteers, in association with local governments, libraries, universities, and civic organizations, worked thousands of hours to help make Missouri’s judicial history available.

To learn more about the Missouri Judicial Records Database, please visit www.sos.mo.gov/archives/judiciary/allcourts/default.asp.

The Missouri State Archives’ mission is to foster an appreciation of Missouri history and illuminate contemporary public issues by preserving and making available the state’s permanent records to its citizens and their government.

Professor Bonnie Stepenoff
Southeast Missouri State University
Missouri’s Mormon War Records Placed Online

In 1838, years of escalating tension between Missouri’s Mormon and non-Mormon settlers erupted into a brief, but vicious, military confrontation, commonly referred to as the “Mormon War.” The events leading up to and following this critical moment in Missouri history are recorded in documents held at the Missouri State Archives, all of which are now available online.

Joseph Smith founded the Church of Christ in New York State during 1830. The following year he proclaimed western Missouri to be “Zion,” the gathering point for Christ’s second coming. As a result, Smith’s followers, referred to as Mormons because of their adherence to “The Book of Mormon,” began to migrate to Jackson County in large numbers.

As the number of Mormons increased in western Missouri, the state’s “Old Settlers” grew increasingly uncomfortable with what they perceived as clannish behavior on the part of Mormons, which placed power in the hands of a single man, Joseph Smith. The Mormons claimed they had done nothing wrong and were being persecuted for their beliefs. The Old Settlers took the law into their own hands in 1833, driving the Mormons from Jackson County.

Eventually, the state legislature, in an attempt to find a solution satisfactory to both sides, created Caldwell County in 1836 for the purpose of Mormon settlement. However, Caldwell County could not hold the swelling Mormon population. When Mormons began to move into neighboring counties, violence broke out again.

The escalating violence culminated in Governor Lilburn Boggs issuing an executive order that called for Mormons to “be exterminated or driven from the State.” Within the next year, around eight thousand church members were forced to leave Missouri and their property behind.

Images of over 700 pages of original documents related to these events are available through the website of the Missouri State Archives. Completed with the help of the Genealogical Society of Utah and the St. Louis Mercantile Library, the Missouri Mormon War website contains transcripts of all the handwritten documents and is searchable by keyword.

Included on the website are Governor Boggs’s “Extermination Order;” the criminal hearing of Joseph Smith and other church leaders for treason and other crimes; correspondence from military officers in the field; the report of the legislative joint committee appointed to investigate “disturbances” between Mormons and non-Mormons; and petitions from settlers on both sides asking for protection and relief from loss of property.

A visit to the website provides a chance to view original documents related to famous Missourians, like future U.S. Senator David Atchison and future Mexican-American war hero Alexander Doniphan, along with prominent Mormons like David Whitmer, one of the Three Witnesses to the Book of Mormon, and Sidney Rigdon, counselor to the First Presidency.

To learn more about Missouri’s role in early Mormon history and the religion’s impact on the state, please visit the website at www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/mormon.asp.
inent American painter George Caleb Bingham. Although the town’s prominence declined after the Civil War, it was revived as a model of historic preservation in the 20th century and remains a cultural tourist hot spot today. Michael Dickey will discuss his award-winning book on Arrow Rock, from its rise to prominence on the frontier to its current role as a National Historic Landmark. Dickey, the historic site administrator at Arrow Rock since 1995, used a variety of sources — documents, oral histories, maps and archaeological evidence — to complete this book, the first comprehensive history of the area ever to be published.

**A Sculptor’s Journey Through Missouri History**

**September 6, 2007, 7:00 p.m.**

Sabra Tull Meyer is one of Missouri’s premier sculptors, having created life-like bronze sculptures for over 30 years. Her work can be seen throughout the state, most notably in the rotunda of the State Capitol, where several of her busts grace the Hall of Famous Missourians, including those of Edwin Hubble and Dale Carnegie. Perhaps the greatest achievement of her career will be the Corps of Discovery monument scheduled to be unveiled this year at the Jefferson Landing State Historic Site. This bronze sculpture of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, York, George Drouillard and the Newfoundland dog Seaman stands eight feet tall and weighs 5,000 pounds. Meyer will discuss her journey through both art and history to create these pieces, including the careful research necessary to replicate period dress and equipment, her use of re-enactors as models and the method for turning 2 ½ tons of molten bronze into a piece of the past.
Archives receives additional registers from the Fulton Reception and Diagnostic Center for the years 1931 to 1986. The Archives also received the Intermediate Reformatory Registers at Algoa for the years 1932 to 1962, and a variety of other record series. This addition to the penitentiary records offers genealogists and historians alike a wonderful opportunity for research.

Records created by the Missouri State Penitentiary, now the Jefferson City Correctional Center, are as vast as the number of inmates received within its walls over the past 170 years. Built in 1836 along the Missouri River in the City of Jefferson, the prison was designed to house 160 inmates. Throughout the 20th century the inmate population continued to grow, making Missouri’s prison one of the largest in the country. In response to this problem, a new prison was constructed in 2004. The Missouri State Archives has within its holdings the records of the State Penitentiary from its earliest days and just recently acquired 50 cubic feet of additional records pertaining to the men and women behind bars.

Every aspect of a prisoner’s life is recorded, from the kind of contraband confiscated to the location of every tattoo or scar on the body. This prodigious record keeping has resulted in almost 400 cubic feet of records spanning the years 1836 to 1986 and covers not only the State Penitentiary, but other correctional facilities such as the Intermediate Reformatory at Algoa, the Missouri Training School for Boys in Boonville, and the State Industrial Home for Negro Girls in Tipton. Other penitentiary record series include Punishment Registers, Execution Files, Bertillon Measurement Records, and Escape Registers. The inmate registers can be in order of inmate number, the length of sentence (Time Registers) and even by county. Information on any given inmate can potentially be recorded in up to five different record books during their length of stay.

The most frequently used penitentiary records are the Registers of Inmates Received. The registers record name, inmate number, nativity, physical description, occupation, education, religion, former imprisonment, nature of crime committed, sentencing date, date received, and finally how they were discharged. In later years one can also discover the name of a spouse or parents and their address. This past April the Missouri State

Benedict Zobrist, emeritus director of the Truman Library, died April 20 at the age of 85. Director at the time of President Truman’s death, he was responsible for seeing that Truman’s office papers and those of hundreds of members of his administration were preserved. Zobrist was also a founding member of the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB), which is attached to the Office of the Secretary of State and administered by the Missouri State Archives. The MHRAB is the central advisory board for historical records planning and projects within the state. Zobrist’s work on the board and constant support of the Archives made a significant contribution not just to those entities, but to Missouri and American history as a whole. “Ben’s” passion for the past and commitment to historical scholarship will be missed, as will his good-natured companionship and steadfast friendship.
Friends Toast Another Successful Fundraiser

Sandra and Kenneth Walls hosted the third annual “Wine by the Fire,” a Friends social event and fundraiser, at their home in Jefferson City on February 22. Surrounded by pleasant company and a warm fire, guests took in the musical talents of area musicians Richard Stokes and Bill Nugent. The generous donations of attendees will be used to provide free programming to the community, promote preservation of the past, and expand online access to Missouri’s historical records.

First Annual Folk Arts Festival Held in Memorial Park

The Friends of the Missouri State Archives sponsored the first annual Folk Arts Festival in order to bring Missouri heritage to life for the community. Held in Jefferson City’s Memorial Park on May 12, this festival provided an opportunity for people of all ages to view live demonstrations of traditional basket weaving, wood carving, loom weaving and chair caning. Nearly 300 spectators enjoyed shopping for traditional crafts while listening to performances of Native American flute music, blues and old time fiddle tunes.

Wine donated by the Missouri Grape and Wine Program.
Donations to the Missouri State Archives
January – April 2007
Immigration, Family History and County Records

Lohman, Marcine,
Iron County Missouri Death Index and Immanuel Evangelistic Lutheran Church of Pilot Knob, Missouri, by Marcine Lohman.

Newson-Horst, Adele,

Nicklas, Brooks
Beyond My Dreams, by Brooks Nicklas.

White, Iona Gomel
Family Group Record for Anthony DeLong and Ruhama O’Dell, by Iona Gomel White.

New Book Accessions
January – April 2007
Immigration, Family History and County Records

Beyond the Frontier: A History of St. Louis to 1821, by Frederick A. Hodes.
The Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory, prepared by the Commission of the Five Civilized Tribes.
The History of Portage des Sioux Township, Missouri: The Land Between the Rivers, by Donald Mincke.
Index to the Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory.
Searching for Scotch-Irish Roots in Scottish Records, 1600-1750, by David Dobson.

Military History
Bushwhackers of the Border: The Civil War Period

in Western Missouri, by Patrick Brophy.
In the Devil’s Dominion: A Union Soldier’s Adventures in “Bushwhacker Country,” by Charles W. Porter.
The Saber and the Ring: A Saga of Civil War Days, by Patrick Brophy.

Missouri/United States History
The Enemy Among Us, by David Fiedler.
A History of Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory, by David E. Johnston.
Late Account of the Missouri Territory, compiled from notes taken during a tour through that country in 1815 and a translation of letters from a distinguished French emigrant, written in 1817, by D.T. Maddox.
Trans-Allegheny Pioneers: Historical Sketches of the First White Settlements West of the Alleghenies, by John P. Hale.

Miscellaneous
Archives and Justice: A South Africa Perspective, by Verne Harris.
Film Preservation, by Karen F. Gracy.
A Gazetteer of the State of Georgia, by Adiel Sherwood.
Understanding Archives and Manuscripts, by James M. O’Toole and Richard J. Cox.
Recent Accessions
January – April 2007

The Missouri State Archives provides this listing for the research community to advise it of recent accessions of state and local government records. The reference staff at the Archives facility can provide further information on Missouri State Archives holdings.

Accessions are listed by the amount received in cubic feet or microfilm reels, with each cubic foot equaling approximately 2,750 pages of documents, and each microfilm reel containing between 1,500 and 2,500 images per reel.

**Executive, Legislative and Judicial Records**

**General Assembly.**
House of Representatives. Records from 93rd General Assembly, 2nd Session. 2006. . . . 9 cubic ft.

**Department of Corrections and Human Services.**

**Department of Economic Development.**
Division of Tourism. Motion Picture Film. .................................................. .15 cubic ft.

**Department of Transportation.**

**Missouri Court of Appeals.**

**Secretary of State.**
--------. Declaration of Candidacy. 2006. ......................................................5 cubic ft.

**Supreme Court of Missouri.**
Case Files. 2005. .......................................................... .25 cubic ft.

**County and Municipal Records**

**Adair County.**
Circuit Court. Case Files. September 1877-October 1879. .............................. .10 reels

**Bates County.**

**Boone County.**
Circuit Court. Case Files. 1971-1972. ............................................................21 reels

**Caldwell County.**
Callaway County.
Probate Court. Case Files Index and Case Files. 1873-1932. ................. .8 reels

Cass County.
Probate Court. Case Files. 1835-1991. ........................................ .8 reels

Cedar County.
City of Stockton. City Clerk. Records. 1895-1996. .......................... .1 reel

Cole County.
Circuit Court. Records. Index. 1821-1870 .................................... .1 reel
Sheriff. Offence Records. 1969-1975 ......................................... .2 reels

Cooper County.
Circuit Court. Records. Case Files and Index. 1861-1862; Naturalizations. 1906-1936. .4 reels

DeKalb County.
Probate Court. Case Files. 1878-1980. ....................................... .110 reels

Douglas County.
Justice of the Peace. Case Files. 1885-1946. ................................. .20 reels

Gasconade County.
Probate Court. Case Files. 1919-1943. ...................................... .10 reels

Gentry County.
Recorder of Deeds. Records. 1885-2006. .................................. .3 reels

Greene County.
Circuit Court. Case Files (Civil War-Civil/Criminal). 1856-1873. .......... .6 reels

Harrison County.

Hickory County.

Jackson County [Kansas City].
Circuit Court. Case Files. 1959. ........................................ .182 reels

Lafayette County.
County Clerk. Records. 1825-1974. ......................................... .14 reels

Linn County.
Circuit Court. Naturalizations. 1860-1942. ................................. .1 reel

Macon County.
Montgomery County.
Circuit Court. Case Files. 1982-1996. .................................................. 6 reels

Morgan County.

Osage County.
Circuit Court. Case Files. 1960-1973. .................................................. 5 reels

Platte County.

Randolph County.

Ray County.

St. Charles County.

St. Louis County.
County Clerk. County Court Records. July 1929-May 1934. ................... 11 reels

Ste. Genevieve County.

Warren County.

Webster County.
Probate Court. Case Files. 1932-1971. ............................................... 6 reels
Donations to Friends of the Missouri State Archives as of April 30, 2007

Institutional Donors
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Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society, Fulton
Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence
Southeast Missouri State University Historic Preservation Association, Cape Girardeau

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Sylvia Cohen, Syracuse, NY
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Yes, I want to support the appreciation of Missouri’s heritage by assisting the Friends of the Missouri State Archives:

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  ○ The World’s Greatest Fair (DVD) directed by Scott Huegerich and Bob Miano

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  ○ Two tickets to the Friends Annual Meeting and Dinner

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