Contents

3 From the State Archivist
4 Archives Afield! The Sharp Family Slaves
5 Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1963: Using the Advanced Search Feature
6 Picture This: Bushmann Postcard Collection
8 Divided Loyalties: Shootout at Hunnewell
9 Calendar of Events
10 Donations and News

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On the Cover
The Bugle Call, Jefferson Barracks (detail).
From the Gene Bushmann Postcard Collection, Missouri State Archives.

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Spring 2014, page 2
Spring is finally here, and, at least in the historical and genealogical communities, it seems to be a time for conferences, meetings and workshops. The Missouri State Archives’ Local Records archivists are training elected officials to ensure valuable records are retained and preserved for future research; the analysts from Reference Services are teaching research methodologies at the St. Louis Genealogical Society and Genealogy KC conferences; and both groups are providing archival educational opportunities for local historical and genealogical organizations across the state. After the winter we had, it’s just great to get out there, learn new things and share the good work done by our staff!

This March the Missouri State Archives hosted a record 203 attendees at this year’s Missouri Conference on History in Jefferson City. History enthusiasts of all types—academics ranging from undergraduates to tenured professors, archivists, archaeologists, historic preservationists, museum curators, publishers and others—joined together to share and learn. Many of the conference presentations reflected a wealth of previously untapped records ignored for decades, or, in some cases, centuries, while others highlighted new trends in historical research. It always helps, too, when a nationally known keynote speaker like University of Iowa law professor Lea VanderVelde lauds the records available from the Missouri State Archives and their accessibility on the Missouri Digital Heritage website. As good as the presentations were, just as much learning occurred between sessions when attendees could ask deeper questions, connect with experts and colleagues and, of course, discuss new avenues of research involving unexamined sources.

Successful conferences, meetings and workshops require an extraordinary amount of work to put on, but they provide a tremendous benefit to all involved. I encourage you to investigate the conferences and workshops of your favorite historical and genealogical organizations. Whether it’s the Friends of the Missouri State Archives’ annual meeting on June 7, a monthly meeting of your local society, the Missouri State Genealogical Association’s annual conference in August or even the May 2015 National Genealogical Society Family History Conference in St. Charles, plan to attend. Your research will thank you.

From the State Archivist
Early Missourian Benjamin Sharp is buried in the woods adjacent to my husband’s Warren County family farm. Through my volunteer work processing Warren County Circuit Court records with the Archives’ Local Records Program, I discovered a wealth of information about him and his large family in both the probate estate and circuit court case files. Together with information culled from marriage, deed, census and other documentation from the Missouri State Archives, I have been able to shed new light on the Sharp family and their slaves.

Benjamin Sharp was born in Pennsylvania in 1762 and, at the age of 14, volunteered for military service, eventually serving during the Revolutionary War. He married Hannah DeBough Fulkerson in 1786 and together they had 12 children. In 1816, most of the family moved to St. Charles County in the Missouri Territory—an area which subsequently became Montgomery County in 1818 and Warren County in 1833.

The roles and relationships in a slave society could be quite confusing. Slaves were bought, sold or hired out on a regular basis and all activities were carefully regulated, creating a significant level of complexity. The heavy reliance on credit during the period makes tracing slave transactions even more convoluted. For instance, in the United States Census of 1830, Sharp’s household consisted of 10 white persons and 14 slaves. In 1835, Sharp turned management of the family farm over to his son-in-law, Beston Callahan, and authorized Callahan to use three of his slaves—Fancy, Monroe and Bill. In 1837, Sharp sold two slaves, William and Maria, to Frederick Hamilton, another son-in-law. Hamilton used William, Maria and another slave, Mary Eliza, as collateral on promissory notes he issued to the amount of $730. He then sold William and Maria back to Sharp before repaying his debt.

When Sharp died in 1845, he still owned Maria and William, as well as Judy, Monroe, Louisa and Martha. Much like today, the estate had to settle all outstanding debts before property—and slaves—could be distributed amongst the heirs. Slaves could also be sold with the proceeds distributed according to a final settlement. Another possibility allowed by law was the annual hiring out of slaves to the highest bidder until all claims were settled. In part because of these complications, Sharp’s estate was not settled until a full four years after his death. His probate file indicates that four of his slaves, Louisa, Monroe, Maria and William, were hired out. As part of the final settlement, William and Louisa were sold to Charles A. Kuntze, Maria to C.C. Redman and Monroe to William D. Sharp (Benjamin’s grandson and the executor of his estate).
Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1963: Using the Advanced Search Feature

By Mary Mitchell, Research Analyst

Many researchers are familiar with the basic search feature of the Missouri State Archives Post-1910 Death Certificate Database (www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/). It allows users to search by first name, last name, county and year of death, or any combination thereof. Below the “Search” button, however, is a less frequently used link to the “Advanced Search” feature. This option allows users to search not only by the above parameters, but also by names beginning with, containing or ending with letters selected by the researcher. This is particularly helpful if the name sought has alternate spellings.

A patron recently visited the Archives with two names she was unable to find in the online death certificate database using just the basic search feature. With staff assistance, and use of the Advanced Search feature, she found them almost immediately. In the first case, the first syllable of the last name was misspelled on the certificate, so it was found using an “Ends With” search. In the second, a nickname starting with the same letter as the first name was listed as the first name, so it was located through a “Starts With” search.

If a first or last name is prone to be misspelled at either the beginning or ending, the “contains” search may be helpful. For example, the surnames “McFeeter,” “McFeeder” and “MacFeeter” can be found by searching for last names containing “fee” (searches are not case sensitive.)

It is important to remember when using the advanced search feature that it is not necessary to fill in all blank fields. If a researcher provides information not listed in the index, the record will not be found. Usually it is best to fill in only as many fields as necessary to produce a manageable list of results.

Each January the Missouri State Archives acquires another year of death records as they turn 50 years old. Soon thereafter, the records are scanned and a large team of volunteers transcribes the name, date and county information for use in the index prior to online placement of the images. Thanks to their efforts, the certificates from 1963 were available on the Missouri State Archives website starting in February.

Missouri Marriage Record Indexing Project!

Missouri State Archives volunteers continue to work in conjunction with FamilySearch to create a free index to more than 3 million of the state’s marriage records, from the territorial period through December 31, 1969. Although the records are now available at the county level, and on microfilm at the Missouri State Archives, this project will create the first free, online statewide index. Once accessible through www.MissouriDigitalHeritage.com, the index will link to digital images of the actual records, allowing instant access at no cost.

Volunteers interested in assisting with online indexing of marriages are encouraged to contact the Missouri State Archives volunteer coordinator at archvol@sos.mo.gov.

Hamilton died insolvent in 1845, Barnes and Yeldell requested the slaves he transferred to Sharp be sold to pay their claim against Hamilton. William Sharp denied his grandfather knew of any fraudulent intent. He testified that Sharp held Hamilton’s notes, which remained unpaid and amounted to $1,100 with interest, so Sharp took the slaves back in satisfaction of the debt.

According to Benjamin Sharp’s will: “My faithful servants Bill and Judy [Sharp] shall not be separated but shall be left the possession of all the livestock that may belong to them with all his tools and little household stuff, together with his youngest child Martha, to comfort and assist them during life.” As the executor of the estate, William D. Sharp understood they were to be freed upon completion of the initial inventory. According to the United States censuses of 1850 and 1860, Bill and Judith Sharp were free and listed as living next to the C.A. Kuntze family. The former Sharp slaves, William and Louisa, are mentioned in the 1860 probate file of Charles A. Kuntze and were still living near Bill and Judy Sharp per the United States Census of 1870.

Other Sharp family slaves appear in a prenuptial agreement made between Elvira Sharp and James Hughes in 1834 and an 1843 Supreme Court case involving Conrad Carpenter (married to Sharp’s daughter, Emeline), who was found guilty of murdering his slave, Minerva, but that’s a tale for another time.

Cathie Schoppenhorst is a volunteer with the Local Records’ Warren County Circuit Court project and a historical interpreter at Boone Monument Village.
Gene Bushmann Postcard Collection

As described in previous articles, picture postcards proliferated in the early 20th century due to the introduction of cheaper materials and postage. They remain a popular collector’s item to this day, however, because they document the history of specific locations through imagery.

But why were postcards created in the first place? To whom were they marketed?

Postcards were, in large part, created for tourists. They allowed people visiting a new place to send home a snapshot of their journey. Even if they weren’t mailed, postcards represented an inexpensive keepsake for travelers. Distributed by a wide variety of businesses, such as hotels, railroads and local attractions, postcards were a great advertising tool for local tourist industries.

Businesses also used postcards for the promotional advertising of their products. Unlike tourist postcards, these were not produced for sale, and often contain less interesting imagery. They were generally distributed in bulk mailings and are today what we might consider “junk mail.” These postcards were valuable to advertisers and consumers alike, because they documented what an area had to offer commercially.

The most recent postcard collection acquired by the Missouri State Archives, the Gene Bushmann Collection, contains nearly 1,700 images of the St. Louis area. Subjects include government buildings, banks, riverfront and street scenes, hotels, clubs, schools and colleges, residential scenes, airports, hospitals, cemeteries, churches, businesses and theatres, all spanning most of the 20th century.

Although the collection is comprised predominantly of what would be considered tourist postcards, it does include a few promotional advertisement postcards as well. Both types are historically important because they offer a glimpse into the social history of St. Louis.

The Bushmann Collection is currently being processed, but when completed, a finding aid will be available on the Missouri State Archives website, at www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default.asp.
Clockwise from left: Homer G. Phillips Hospital, St. Louis; The Bugle Call, Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis. Hotel De Soto, St. Louis; Olive Street, Looking West, St. Louis; St. Frances Catholic Colored Orphan Asylum, St. Louis; Lovers Bower, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis.
On April 18, 1864, Colonel J.T.K. Hayward, commander of the Eighth Military District, reported on the “Affair at Hunnewell, Mo.” to General Clinton B. Fisk, commander of the District of North Missouri. Hayward’s terse account in the Official Records stated that on that date, “Three bushwhackers came into Hunnewell to-day, armed to the teeth, and came to plunder.” In the aftermath of their visit, “One citizen is dead and 1 mortally wounded, and Captain Farnam [sic] badly wounded. They killed 1 bushwhacker and captured 1 and 1 escaped.” Almost a month later and still in “great pain,” Captain James M. Foreman, Co. D, 70th Regiment Enrolled Missouri Militia, provided his own vivid account of what happened in the small town in southeastern Shelby County.

On April 17, 1864, Foreman found his stable doors broken open and two horses gone. He tracked the thieves from his home in Paris in Monroe County to Hunnewell, which he reached the following day. Earlier on the day of his arrival, three heavily armed men rode into town and settled in a local saloon. A former Union soldier, Ben Ezell, told Foreman he recognized the three men as horse thieves he had earlier helped track in Illinois. Foreman telegraphed Lieutenant Colonel Daniel M. Draper, 9th Regiment Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, for instructions. Draper ordered Foreman to arrest the three, so Foreman enlisted the aid of Ezell and three other citizens. When they reached the saloon, which Foreman called a “groserey,” Ezell covered one of the men, John Maupin, a one-armed Confederate veteran, with a shotgun. Foreman told a second man, H.G. Snider, that he was under arrest. That’s when things started to go wrong.

As Foreman turned away from Snider, Ezell shot Maupin, and Maupin shot Ezell. At the same time, Snider shot Foreman in the back. Before Foreman could turn to his assailant, Snider was out the door. Foreman then saw Maupin shoot one more of his men, so Foreman shot the already wounded Maupin, who still managed to exit the saloon. Foreman was shot again, this time in his right arm, possibly by the third horse thief, Baker. One of Foreman’s wounded men “cried out that he was a dead man,” so Foreman scooped up the man’s gun and made his way out of the saloon. Both Ezell and Maupin were lying dead near the door.

Snider was captured without further incident, and he was later sent to Macon, where he was executed. However, the third thief, Baker, escaped. One of the wounded citizens who helped Foreman died nearly two weeks later. In all, Foreman explained in his account, “I was struck four times with small balls and I am not quite well yet[,] Now the rebels is crowing about it an go so far as two say that I cannot live her . . .”

Foreman apparently recovered sufficiently from his wounds to continue his military career. On September 1, 1864, the former captain enlisted in the 42nd Regiment Infantry, Missouri Volunteers as a private. He served until June 28, 1865, primarily in North Missouri and Tennessee, attaining the rank of sergeant. Foreman’s account of his short, vicious gunfight at Hunnewell is one of many records of the Civil War in the collection of the Adjutant General’s papers at the Missouri State Archives.
Damming the Osage: The Conflicted Story of Lake of the Ozarks and Truman Reservoir
June 12, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

The native people for which the Osage River is named were pushed west, displaced by eastern tribes and a growing American populace. The native prairies of the river’s watershed were shattered by the construction of two massive dams, turning the main stem of the river into huge reservoirs. Authors Leland and Crystal Payton find the tales of these transformations compelling, turbulent and, in some cases, criminal. In journals of soldiers, explorers and missionaries, as well as in old newspaper accounts and court documents, they discovered a cast of passionate and sometimes doomed personalities. Damming the Osage presents objections to building multipurpose dams and describes fascinating instances involving bank fraud, slush funds and governmental misdeeds. Illustrated with hundreds of color photographs, period maps and vintage images, the book tells the dramatic saga of human ambition pitted against natural limitations and forces beyond man’s control.

Longer than a Man’s Lifetime in Missouri
July 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Gert Goebel arrived in Franklin County, Missouri, in 1834, an 18-year-old caught up in the early stages of an immigration wave that eventually brought more than 100,000 Germans to the state. Four decades later, Goebel drew from his experiences as a pioneer farmer, enthusiastic and wide-ranging hunter, county surveyor and state legislator to write a vivid and insightful memoir describing German settlement, politics and Civil War events within Missouri. He demonstrated a keen eye and sense of humor in observing the wisdom and faults of German settlers and “Old Americans” alike while shrewdly assessing relations between these two communities. First published in German in 1877, Goebel’s narrative has long been known to scholars as a significant record of 19th century Missouri history. This translation by Adolf E. Schroeder and Elsa Louise Nagel, annotated and with an Introduction by Schroeder and coeditor Walter D. Kamphoefner, offers a historical treasure to English-language audiences. Join us as John Brenner, editor of the Missouri Historical Review, shares highlights from this culturally important and fascinating volume.

Faculty and staff events: Spring 2014
Program Calendar

The 2014 Friends of the Missouri State Archives annual meeting will be Saturday, June 7, in the atrium of the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center in Jefferson City. Dr. Jim Price of the Institute for Traditional Ozark Crafts, an international authority on frontier tools, will be on hand for an interpretive session from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Those attending the session are invited to bring old tools and other items of their own for identification and discussion (limit of two items per attendee). After the interpretive session will be a brief business meeting at 11:30 a.m., followed at 12:00 p.m. by an Ozark-inspired luncheon and show-and-tell style program by Dr. Price.

This is a limited space, RSVP event. For further information and to make reservations, call Brian Rogers at (573) 526-1981 by Friday, May 30. The cost is $25 per person, payable at the door the day of the event or mailed to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, PO Box 242, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

To learn more about the Institute of Traditional Ozark Crafts, visit its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Institute-For-Traditional-Ozark-Crafts/307595563437.
Sandy Walls Steps Down from Friends’ Board of Directors

Friends of the Missouri State Archives’ Treasurer Sandy Walls recently announced that after 25 years of service she is stepping down from the board of directors. She joined the board in 1989, while still holding an administrative aide/Friends’ liaison position with the Missouri State Archives. Her tireless efforts only increased upon her retirement in May of 2002. Over the years, she has helped organize countless Friends’ events, including the Thursday Evening Speaker Series, annual meetings, fundraisers and exhibit openings.

From both the Friends and staff of the Missouri State Archives, thank you, Sandy, for your extraordinary contributions to the history of our great state! We wish you the best of luck with all your future endeavors.

Missouri Digital Heritage
Newly Available through the Missouri Digital Heritage Website

Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy Student Register, 1873-1922
http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16795coll2

Missouri Constitutions, 1820-1945
http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16795coll1

What’s New at the Archives?
For a list of new acquisitions, visit us at www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/accessions.asp

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- Elizabeth Foster Tilton, Santa Barbara, CA

THOMAS HART BENTON ($500+)
- Gene Bushmann, Jefferson City
- Randy Washburn, Versailles

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- James Budde, Kansas City
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- James Crabtree, Jefferson City
- Linda Crawford, Las Vegas, NV
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- Patricia Sanchez, Oxnard, CA
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- Gayle Slagell, Glendale, AZ
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Alan Wright, St. Louis

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Spring 2014, page 10
Ross & Rayna Moore, Apple Valley, CA
Mallory Newton, West Lafayette, IN
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Thomas Pawley III, Jefferson City
Gwen Prince, Lee’s Summit
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