Vanishing Missouri

Published by Jason Kander, Secretary of State
in partnership with the Friends of the Missouri State Archives
The Missouri State Archives . . .
Where History Begins

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The Friends of the Missouri State Archives
The purpose of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives is to render support and assistance to the Missouri State Archives. As a not-for-profit corporation, the Friends organization is supported by memberships and gifts.

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Wreck on the Santa Fe Railroad, Chicago Express No. 2, Dean Lake, Chariton County, Missouri, October 28, 1903 (detail).
From the Vanishing Missouri Collection, Missouri State Archives.
Wow! What an exciting and productive last few months it’s been. At the end of April, the Friends of the Missouri State Archives sponsored our annual volunteer appreciation reception that not only attracted many of our in-house volunteers, but also filled our interpretive center with volunteers from data entry and document processing projects across the state. It’s always encouraging to connect with people willing to take action to make archival records more accessible.

The Friends’ annual meeting was an overwhelming success as well, with fantastic regional food and two interesting sessions on Ozark tools and tool-making provided by Dr. Jim Price of the Institute for Traditional Ozark Crafts. Bess Truman’s Ozark Pudding is now on my favorite desserts list. Robert Behnan (Jonas Viles Award winner) and Bill Moorman (Volunteer Award winner) were also recognized for their exceptional support of Missouri history and the Missouri State Archives. You’ll want to keep the first Saturday in June 2015 clear on your calendar to ensure you’re free to attend next year’s meeting.

The Archives is also thrilled that the annual meeting saw the election of three valued supporters to the Friends’ board of directors. Nancy Grant, William Ambrose and Nancy Ginn Martin bring diverse interests to the group, including the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Trail of Tears and the history of our state’s schools, in addition to extensive experience in historical and genealogical research. They also draw from a wealth of experiences with other local, state and national historical organizations. Their additions strengthen an already exceptional board.

To round out the summer, on July 28 a number of Archives staff, volunteers and Friends members gathered at the Canterbury Winery in Holts Summit to watch the season premiere of *Who Do You Think Your Are?*, TLC’s celebrity genealogy television program. Most of the episode focused on research done at the Missouri State Archives involving the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) records of Martha Casto, an ancestor of *Sex and the City* star, Cynthia Nixon. The storyline, including an ax murder and the first child born inside the prison's walls, was captivating. After receiving multiple inquiries for more details following the broadcast we added the featured documents to our website, along with general information on conducting MSP records research (www.sos.mo.gov/archives/whodo/default.asp). Not everyone will find stories quite as exciting, but who knows, that family tale about Uncle Bob doing time may just be true!
In 1837, John Gunther had a grand plan to make $10,000—over one quarter of a million in today’s dollars. He contracted with Augustine J. Friend, whose sawmill sat on Cow Skin River (later renamed Elk River) to provide the oak planking for the construction of 12 boats, each 20 feet wide and 100 feet long. Friend would realize $1,000 for his efforts. These represented phenomenal amounts of money in the cash-poor frontier Ozarks.

The boats would be flatboats, or barges, for transporting goods downriver. With a flat bottom and shallow draft, they could navigate rivers too small for larger craft. While Missouri’s historic flatboat trade is usually associated with freighting along the Missouri River or down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, Gunther aimed in a different direction. The Elk River flows westward into northeast Oklahoma where it joins the Neosho River, wending southward to join the Arkansas River. The Arkansas runs southeast, then east into Arkansas near Fort Smith. This looping water route through northeast Indian Territory traversed land occupied by numerous relocated Native American tribes, a population ripe for mercantile enterprises.

Gunther proceeded with his part of the agreement, clearing land near Friend’s sawmill for a boat yard, erecting a building, arranging for the sale of boats, hiring workers and buying materials. His efforts were for naught, however; by January 1838, Friend had delivered nothing, and moreover, had sold his sawmill in the fall of 1837, along with the boat yard, building and Gunther’s materials. In March 1838, Gunther filed a lawsuit in Barry County Circuit Court to recover $2,500 from Friend, including $1,000 spent on hiring and materials. A warrant ordered Friend taken into custody for the July term of court or released on $300 bail. Friend, however, had other ideas. Deputy John Patterson’s notation on the warrant explains that he “attempted to arrest the defendant July last, who resisted the same by force of arms and kept me from the same with a club—he is not to be found in the county since that time.” An additional warrant was issued the following November, and an undated statement by Sheriff Ross indicated that Friend was not found in the county.

Nevertheless, Friend was close enough to burn Gunther’s house on January 6, 1839, with the help of several friends. Gunther named Augustine J. Friend Sr., Augustine J. Friend Jr., Andrew Friend, Nicholas Friend, Jonas Wells, William Wells and Charles Butler as the perpetrators and identified approximately 150 individual woodworking tools and additional items destroyed by the fire. The quantity of tools, some of them specifically for boat building, indicated that Gunther was an established and accomplished carpenter. He estimated his total loss at $2,000.

The legal cases involving Gunther and Friend were heard at the first session of the Newton County Circuit Court in July 1839. The change in venue was likely due to delays in Barry County (such as the inability to find Friend) and the formation of Newton County from the western part of Barry County; Gunther and Friend both became residents of the new county. The first indictment handed down in Newton County was against Friend and his accomplices for house burning.

Records for this early period in the Ozarks are incomplete and leave many unanswered questions, particularly about Gunther. Was he the namesake of Barry County’s Gunter Creek, historically spelled Gunther? Did he resume his trade as a skilled carpenter, or did the loss of tools reduce his circumstances permanently? Questions about Augustine Friend are more easily answered, as the Friend family was in the Ozarks as early as January 1819 and settled throughout southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas. In October 1840, Augustine Friend deeded the land where he lived in Newton County, including mills and improvements, to William and Nicholas Friend for $150. Family history sources list his death that same year.

Regardless of their histories before and after, both Gunther and Friend were men of their time. Friend, coming from an extensive family network of frontiersmen, understood frontier justice—if someone threatened you, you took action. Gunther, looking to the future, understood the expanding frontier and its changing demographics as an avenue of opportunity, albeit a rocky one.

This tale, drawn from the files of the Barry County Circuit Court, is yet another forgotten story recovered through the efforts of the Local Records Program. Barry County is singular along the southern border, as its court records have largely survived the Civil War and fires since its establishment in 1835. In 2014, the Missouri State Archives and Missouri State University launched a joint effort to arrange and make these records accessible to the public. Once imaged, they will be available online, with microfilm available in Barry County, at Missouri State University in Springfield and the Missouri State Archives in Jefferson City.
Naturalization records play an important role in understanding the history of immigration in Missouri. Congress passed the first naturalization law in 1790, and from that time through 1906, immigrants could file naturalization papers in any court. County courts, including circuit, criminal, chancery, probate, common pleas and equity, saw the largest volume. Naturalization records were not standardized from court to court, and the amount of information included varies. Most just list a person’s name, country of origin, age and date. Rarely is a specific hometown mentioned.

Becoming a naturalized citizen was a two-step process. After establishing two years of residency in the United States, an alien, or foreign immigrant, could file a declaration of intent, or “first papers.” Then, three years later, an alien could file a petition for naturalization, or “second papers.” It was not required that the declaration and petition be filed in the same county or court. Unfortunately, many declarations of intent filed during this period no longer exist because they were not considered permanent by the record keepers of the day.

Although the process was the same for most immigrants, there were exceptions. Starting in 1862, honorably discharged Army veterans were exempted from the two-step process. They could file their declaration of intent simultaneously with their petition for naturalization. Women’s naturalization records from 1803 to 1922 are particularly rare. Before this date, women and minor children automatically became citizens when their husband or father was naturalized. Conversely, women lost their American citizenship when they married a non-citizen. From 1824 to 1906, minor children whose fathers had not been naturalized could skip the two-step process if they had lived in the United States for more than five years prior to their 23rd birthday.

If there is a question about when an ancestor became a United States citizen, the Federal Censuses taken in 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 all asked for a person’s year of immigration or naturalization status. The 1920 census also asked for the year of naturalization. This information can greatly help narrow the parameters of a search.

The Missouri State Archives’ online Naturalization Database (www.sos.mo.gov/archives/naturalization/) was created as an index to records from counties that kept naturalization records separate from other court records. Counties not included in the index may still have naturalization records intermingled with other court records.

The Naturalization Records Database includes over 110,000 entries from 22 counties and the City of St. Louis, as well as a few filed in the Missouri Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Missouri. Each entry includes a citation, allowing researchers to find the record on microfilm. The database is searchable by name, native country, county and date range. To order a copy of a naturalization record found in the database, send a copy of the citation to the Missouri State Archives, along with a check or money order for $1.00 and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
Vanishing Missouri

The Office of the Missouri Secretary of State publishes the Official Manual of the State of Missouri, also known as the “Blue Book,” every two years to provide important information about the state’s government, culture and history. It has been published since 1878, making this series an invaluable historical resource.

For every edition of the Blue Book since 1987, the Office of the Missouri Secretary of State has held a photograph contest with the winning images included in the manual. These photographs provide visual interest to the publication and also allow Missourians to contribute to the preservation of their state’s visual history. Each contest is designed around a theme to capture a unique aspect of Missouri’s heritage.

The Vanishing Missouri Photo Contest solicited pre-1940 images of Missouri. Upon launch of the contest in 1991, then-Secretary of State Roy Blunt noted that “over time, a pictorial record can make the connections which bring together our common history as Missourians.”

Vanishing Missouri was included in three Official Manual editions (1991-1992, 1993-1994 and 1995-1996). In total there were nearly 2,000 photographs submitted for the contests. While not all the images were published, the Missouri State Archives retains each submission as part of its Official Manual Photograph Contest Collection.

The photographs donated to the Missouri State Archives through Vanishing Missouri are varied, including family portraits, images of agriculture and industry, as well as historic buildings and events.

Although the Vanishing Missouri photographs are not yet available on Missouri Digital Heritage (www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/), they have recently been digitized and indexed to provide increased public access at the Missouri State Archives Jefferson City location. Editions of the Official Manual published between 1878 and 2000 are available online at www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdhSplash/default.asp?coll=bluebook.
Missouri Building at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, Missouri, 1904.

Steamboat on the Osage River at Tuscumbia, Missouri, c. 1915.

Above: Customers at Main Street Saloon, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, 1912.
Below: C. W. Schoch farm along Highway 36, near Brookfield, Missouri, c. 1930.
By July 22, 1862, the peculiarly vicious nature of the Civil War in Missouri had become clear to the state’s political and military leaders. On that date, in Special Orders No. 101, Gov. Hamilton R. Gamble explained that the state was infested with “numerous bands of guerrillas…who are engaged in robbing and murdering peaceable citizens for no other cause than that such citizens are loyal to the Government under which they have always lived…” In response, Gamble authorized Brig. Gen. John M. Schofield to organize the state’s militia forces “for the purpose of putting down all marauders and defending the peaceable citizens of the State.”

On the same day as Gamble’s order, Schofield issued General Orders No. 19. Under its provisions, “every able-bodied man capable of bearing arms and subject to military duty” was ordered to report to the nearest military post with any arms he might own and a horse, if he had one. By the end of 1862, this force, called the Enrolled Missouri Militia (EMM), numbered over 52,000 men.

Although subject to the Articles of War and the regulations of the U.S. Army, the EMM was a work in progress, as evidenced by Special Orders No. 62, issued on September 8, 1862, by Col. William R. Penick, 5th Regiment Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, commander of the post at Independence. Penick instructed Col. William D. Rogers, 44th Regiment EMM, to take command of all enrolled militia at the post and march to Little Blue and establish a camp. He was then to scour the county for arms and ammunition in the hands of rebels and their sympathizers and to seize horses and wagons of rebels for use of the militia. Penick also ordered Rogers to “destroy all bushwhackers and guerrillas he may fall in with.” In this irregular war, because the EMM forces lacked uniforms and friend and foe looked very much alike, Rogers was instructed, “as a precautionary measure,” to “cause a band of white cloth of one and a half inches broad, to be placed upon the hats of every man in his command.”

“Numerous bands of guerrillas…who are engaged in robbing and murdering peaceable citizens for no other cause than that such citizens are loyal to the Government under which they have always lived…”

Special Orders No. 62 and other documents relating to the Enrolled Missouri Militia are available in the records of the Adjutant General at the Missouri State Archives.
The Battle of Fort Davidson, also known as the Battle of Pilot Knob, was the opening engagement of Gen. Sterling Price's Missouri Raid during the Civil War. On the morning of September 27, 1864, a force led by Price attacked the installation, just outside of Pilot Knob in Iron County. Although outnumbered by more than ten-to-one, the Union defenders held off repeated Confederate assaults and slipped away during the night. Walter E. Busch, natural resources manager for the Fort Davidson State Historic Site and a prolific author on Price and the Battle of Pilot Knob, will lead the audience through this and other intriguing events associated with the general's historic raid through Missouri.

Dear Harry, Love Bess: Bess Truman’s Letters to Harry Truman, 1919-1943
October 16, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

One evening in 1955, Harry Truman came home to find Bess burning her letters to him. “What are you doing? Think of history,” he said. “Oh, I have,” she replied and tossed in another stack.

Bess Truman thought her business was hers and nobody else’s, so she destroyed her half of the more than 2,600 letters she and Harry exchanged during their courtship and marriage. While making an inventory of the Truman home in the 1980s, archivists discovered 184 letters Bess had missed. Her grandson, Clifton Truman Daniel, will share them, along with portions of Harry’s responses, family photographs and stories. These letters provide new insight into the life and personalities of Bess and Harry Truman during the formative years of his political life. Despite Bess’s shy and self-effacing manner, her lively correspondence offers a glimpse of a caring and witty woman who shared her concerns about family, politics and day-to-day activities with her husband.

There will be a public reception from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in the atrium of the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center preceding the program.

All programs will be held at the Missouri State Archives, 600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, and are free and open to the public.
**Missouri Digital Heritage**

**Newly Available Through the Missouri Digital Heritage Website**

- **Records of Gov. David Rowland Francis, 1889-1893**
  

- **George Engelmann Correspondence**
  

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**Missouri State Archives**

Jason Kander  
* Secretary of State

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**What’s New at the Archives?**

For a list of new acquisitions, visit us at [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/accessions.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/accessions.asp)
Civil War Archives Alive! Completes Fourth Season
By Brian Rogers

Just over 6,100 fourth- and fifth-grade students attended this year’s Civil War Archives Alive! performances, making it once again the most popular annual outreach program supported by the Friends of the Missouri State Archives. The history-based theatrical presentations brought children from 96 schools around the state to the Missouri State Archives to enjoy the comedic, yet informative, antics of local Jefferson City actors Alan Bailey, Laura Morris, Mark Rehagen and Mark Wegman. The cast revisited their roles from the 2011-2013 seasons, wherein contestants on the game show Blast from the Past meet President Abraham Lincoln after he hitches a ride in the Time-O-Matic 6000 time machine.

The 2014 season marks the fourth year in a row the Civil War-themed version of the program drew record, or near record, crowds to learn about Missouri’s role as a border state, the impact of guerrilla warfare on ordinary citizens and the effect of slavery on the state’s culture and economy.

The Friends of the Missouri State Archives sponsored the 2014 season with donations from Hawthorn Bank and the Eldon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The generosity of these groups made 29 performances possible, and for this, the Missouri State Archives is extremely grateful.

Since its inception in 2011, Civil War Archives Alive! has remained a favorite among students and teachers alike, with many schools making return trips each year. If you are interested in commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Civil War by supporting this invaluable program in 2015, please contact Emily Luker at (573) 526-5296 or emily.luker@sos.mo.gov.
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With the support of our “Friends,” the Missouri State Archives fosters an appreciation of Missouri history by sponsoring educational and entertaining programs, and making accessible materials from the state’s largest collection of original documents, maps and photographs.

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