

# JASON KANDER SECRETARY of STATE



Laura Swinford, Editor



Dear Fellow Missourians,

I am pleased to present the 2013–2014 Official Manual of the State of Missouri, more commonly known to most Missourians as the "Blue Book." For more than 130 years, the "Blue Book" has stood alone as the most comprehensive source of history and information about our state, and I am honored to continue this great tradition with the publication of the first volume from my administration.

Every other year since 1878, Missouri's history and the work of countless public servants, be they state employees or elected officials, have been collected in the following pages. The vast majority of these are the unsung heroes of our state, the folks who work day after day to make sure our state government runs smoothly and efficiently while serving all Missourians.

And who better than Missouri's own Harry S Truman to represent the spirit of public service and history contained in this volume? President Truman's well-known work ethic, no-nonsense approach and deep love for his home state remain the gold standard that those of us in public service strive to achieve. So it is with great honor that I dedicate the 2013–2014 "Blue Book" to the memory of President Harry S Truman, truly one of Missouri's finest. To honor President Truman's legacy, I hope you'll enjoy the many photographs of his life displayed throughout the following pages.

Finally, this book represents the work of many talented and dedicated public servants in the secretary of state's office. It takes nearly a year to produce the "Blue Book," and this edition would not have been possible without the hard work of Julie Stegeman, Michael Douglas-Llyr, Kevin Flannery and Stephanie Fleming—thank you for this latest edition of Missouri's history.

Sincerely, Jason Kander

Secretary of State

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Truman holding his daughter, Margaret photo courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and Museum



Truman with H.R.H Princess Elizabeth, 1951 photo courtesy of Harry S.Truman Library and Museum



Truman family attending a formal dinner at the White House with President Kennedy.
photo courtesy of Harry S.Truman Library and Museum



President Harry S. Truman, Bess Wallace Truman, and Margaret Truman in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

photo courtesy of Harry S.Truman Library and Museum

# **Chapter 1**

# Missouri Almanac



Harry and Bess Truman returning to the White House after the renovation  $\ensuremath{\textit{Museum}}$ 

Photo Courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and

# Missouri's Finest— Harry S. Truman Jon Taylor



arry Truman was born a Missourian on May 8, 1884, and he proudly remained a Missourian the rest of his life. People and place were very important to Truman, and over the course of 88 years he connected with many Missourians through social, fraternal and political associations cultivated across the state. Truman reflected in his later years, "I've had every political office, nearly, from precinct to President of the United States, and I came back home to live at the end of it all." For a man with such a unique political trajectory, this should come as no surprise. Missouri was in his blood.

Missouri was still recovering from the Civil War when Truman was born. The conflict had ripped the state apart, leaving it with reconfigured political, social and economic orientations.

Both sets of Truman's grandparents had owned slaves, and for Solomon and Harriet Young, his maternal grandparents, especially, the war left deep marks because their Jackson County farm was raided by Kansas Jayhawkers on several occasions. Truman's mother, Martha Ellen Young, was present during these raids, and both she and his maternal grandmother, Harriet Louisa Gregg Young, would not let him forget that the family's silver was always somewhere in Kansas.

Harry Truman's father John A. Truman was born on December 5, 1851, in Jackson County. His parents, Anderson Shipp Truman and Mary Jane (Holmes) Truman, moved to Missouri in the fall of 1846 from Kentucky's Shelby County. They lived and worked on various farms in Jackson and Platte counties, including, after the Civil War, acreage not far from the large farmstead owned by the Youngs near present-day Grandview. The Youngs themselves arrived from Shelby County only five years before. Solomon Young was a freighter who transported and sold goods to the west's new settlers and the federal forts that dotted the frontier. Tying the families together, Martha Ellen Young married John A. Truman on December 28. 1881, at an impressive farm house the Youngs constructed after the Civil War. When that house burned in 1894, the family built a much smaller replacement home that is now a part of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site.

Shortly after they were married, John and Martha Ellen moved to Lamar, where John established himself as a livestock trader with a feed and sale stable near the Missouri Pacific Depot on Main Street. In Lamar, the couple celebrated the birth of Harry, their first



Harry S. Truman as a child photo courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

child. But the young family did not stay long in the Barton County town, and in 1885 they moved north to Harrison-ville where they lived briefly on a farm. The following year, Harry welcomed younger brother John Vivian to the family, and in 1889 their sister, Mary Jane. In 1889, the family returned to Grand-view and lived with the Young family in the home where the couple was married eight years earlier.

The maple trees on Grandpa Young's farm stood tall in Truman's memory as he recalled childhood adventures with his brother:

Vivian and I used to play in the south pasture—a beautiful meadow in bluegrass. At the end of the grove was a mudhole. This grove was row on row of beautiful maple trees, a quarter of a mile long and six rows wide. We had a little red wagon which we took with us on our adventures in the pasture. We finally wound up at the mudhole with a neighbor boy about our age and I loaded Vivian and John Chancellor into the little wagon, hauled them into the mudhole—and upset the wagon. What a spanking I received. I can feel it yet! Every stitch of clothes on all three of us had to be changed, scrubbed, and dried, and so did we!

Truman was 6 years old when the family moved to Independence in 1890. At that time Independence was the county seat of Jackson County and had been so since December 26, 1826, when the county was organized. Prior to the arrival of the Truman family, and even before the Civil War, Independence was a diverse community of individuals who had situated themselves along America's western frontier. The Santa Fe Trail was one of the most important trails that ran through the outpost, and residents participated in the commerce and trade associated with it. What was unique about Independence from the 1820s to 1860 was that it was not uncommon to find Anglos, Hispanics, Native Americans, free blacks and enslaved blacks all throughout the streets and entering into partnerships, many of which had international connections. The town's leaders did little to enhance their community's diversity, however, with their reaction to the arrival of Mormon Leader Joseph Smith, Jr., and a group of his followers in 1831. They were forcibly removed from the city in 1833 and from the state by Governor Lilburn Boggs's 1838 extermination order.

The expulsion did little to slow Independence's overall growth, though, and in the 1840s and 1850s, Independence maintained its role as a major provisioning center for America's westward expansion, particularly for travelers along the Oregon and California trails. The city attracted more and more people, including the state's largest slaveholder, Jabez Smith, and free blacks, like Emily Fisher and Hiram Young, who established successful businesses.

Independence was a complicated place, and the Civil War further complicated the landscape of the community, which retained its southern culture even after the war. In 1890, the town boasted 6,974 residents, but the diversity that was a hallmark of the early period between 1826 and 1860 had vanished. The small African-American population, for example, was pointedly segregated from the rest of the community.

Mary Ethel Noland, Truman's first cousin, who had moved to Independence with her family in 1883, noted that John and Martha Ellen moved their family to Independence to take advantage of the public schools, and because Independence was southern. She remembered, "Independence was the center of learning in Jackson County." She further recalled: "Independence was still the place to go if you wanted to find culture and Kansas City was a kind of a Yankee Town, you know, and we were still a little sore about what the Yankees had done to us. So Yankee was kind of a bad word." Truman's aunt concluded, "Independence was Southern and Kansas City was not."

Truman's experience in Independence was formative. The family lived



Harry Truman, Age Thirteen photo courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

in several homes in town—a significant change from the mostly isolated farm houses they previously lived in. For the first time, Truman lived in a neighborhood where he could not only play with his brother and sister, but with other children who were near his own age. One of those neighboring kids, Henry Chiles, remembered their playing days together:

We not only played cowboys, we really were cowboys. The Trumans, as I say, came off the farm and my father came off the farm, and we both had horses. Each one of us boys had a pony and we'd play real cowboys, and I am not fooling. We would rope each other and drag around. I remember one incident. When

we'd practice we would ride down the alley as fast as we could lariat a post, a fence post, and then if we caught it we would turn the rope loose and come on back. One time, some way or the other my rope got caught around the saddle horn and when I roped the post, come to the end of the rope, there we both were, me and the saddle, and the horse went on.

While Independence offered a neighborhood for Harry Truman to grow up in, it also provided his father another location to continue his livestock business. Henry Chiles remembered:

Everybody in those days had a few cows and—a little bit farther out this is big stock country he [John A. Truman] would buy cattle, one cow or two cows. One time in particular I remember, he came in with a calf across his saddle and the old mother cow following up. He didn't have to tie her, she just followed the calf. He had bought the cow and calf and come in. And he had a lot on the corner of Waldo that run back to the alley. Oh, it covered several lots wide and had a barn and he kept one to a dozen cattle in there all the time. He'd slick them up and if necessary he'd drive them to Kansas City and sell them to the stockyard. In those days we didn't have any trucks, of course, and the only way to get them there was to ship them on the train or drive them. So people within fifty miles of the stockyard didn't ever do anything but drive them right down Fifth Street into the stockyard.

The schools Truman attended in Independence and, more importantly, the teachers who instructed him left a lasting imprint upon his life. In 1892, at the age of eight, Truman began his educational career at the Noland School. One of his fellow classmates in that first grade class, Mize Peters, recalled:

He [Truman] and I were seatmates in the first grade. In those days two children sat together in an old bench with a dividing board that ran down the center. Possibly six or eight benches were fastened together with a child on either side of each bench. Miss Myra Ewing was our teacher whom we loved very much.

In his memoirs, Truman fondly remembered Miss Mira Ewing, who "became a favorite" of his.

In high school, Truman's history teacher Miss Maggie Phelps and English teacher Miss Tillie Brown also left impressions. Truman remembered that Brown was a "genius at making us appreciate good literature" and "made us want to read it." W. L. C. Palmer taught him science and later became the superintendent of Independence Public Schools, Palmer also married Ardelia Hardin, who taught Truman mathematics and Latin at the Independence High School. If Truman hadn't received his education in the emerging county seat, the alternative would have been for him to remain behind and attend a rural school in southern Jackson County where subjects like these would not have been taught. This was not an option his parents, particularly his mother, wanted for any of their children.

Throughout his life, Truman never forgot those teachers, and later in life

he remarked, "I do not remember a bad teacher in all my experience. They were all different, of course, but they were the salt of the earth. They gave us our high ideals, and they hardly ever received more than forty dollars a month for it."

In 1901, Truman was one of 41 students who graduated from the new Independence High School. The new school was an impressive two-story structure that had an auditorium, a library and a science laboratory. Above the main entrance, Superintendent Palmer had the Latin words inscribed "Juventus Spes Mundi," which meant "Youth Hope of the World." It was a far cry from the one-room school houses that dotted Missouri's landscape at the turn of the 20th century.



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Charlie Ross and Bess Wallace were two important individuals in Harry Truman's 1901 graduating class. Of the 41 students, Charlie Ross was selected as the top student in the class and Truman later tapped him to be his press secretary. Bess Wallace became his wife.

Bess Wallace was born on February 13, 1885, in Independence to Madge (Gates) and David W. Wallace. Unlike Harry, Bess spent all of her life in Inde-

pendence. Due to the entrepreneurial successes of her grandfather George Porterfield Gates, her family had strong connections to Delaware Street, which was home to some of the city's most influential people. Gates relocated to Independence from Illinois in 1866 after the Civil War. In 1876, he formed a partnership with William H. Waggoner and established a flour mill that came to be known as the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company. The mill made Queen of the Pantry Flour that was marketed across the South in the 1880s and remained operational until the 1960s.

In 1885, George P. Gates amassed enough wealth to add on to a home on North Delaware Street that he initially purchased in 1867. The newly remodeled home included 14 rooms and was plumbed for running water and gas. The structure was one of the most expensive homes in the city in 1885.

After Bess's father died in 1903, the family moved into the impressive residence at 219 North Delaware. Bess would call this place home for the rest of her life. Directly across the street was the home of Truman's aunt, Ella Noland. The Nolands came to Independence in 1883 and moved to North Delaware Street in 1900. Aunt Ella had three daughters: Nellie, Ethel and Ruth. Nellie and Ethel, though slightly older, became fast friends of Harry and Bess. In fact, Nellie Noland tutored both Harry and Bess in Latin while they were in high school. Mary Ethel Noland remembered:

I don't know whether they got much Latin read or not because there was a lot of fun going on, and Harry had become interested in fencing. He had two foils, or rapiers...and so we would sometimes practice fencing, which we knew absolutely nothing about, but it was fun to try, and we had a porch and we had room here to play and have fun, generally, which we did, with a little Latin intermingled, maybe.

Truman had aspirations to attend one of the armed services academies, but that never happened, and his father lost money in the grain futures market just when he graduated from high school, which prevented him from going to an area college or university. This did not stop Truman, however, from pushing ahead and learning new skills or widening his circle of friends and acquaintances.

He became a time keeper for a construction company and served a brief stint working for Commerce Bank. Here Truman picked up one of his most important life skills — keeping track of numbers. Throughout the rest of his life, he paid close attention to detail, and when he was called to work the family farm in Grandview in 1906 at the age of 22, he kept extensive farm records.

Truman probably did not envision being a farmer at such an early age, yet his family needed his help running the 600-acre farm, which was much larger than the average Missouri farm of 100 acres. Truman grew up on farms, and for a time he had lived on the Grandview farm, albeit in a different farm house. This farmstead was part of a much larger farming operation that his grandfather Solomon Young had operated prior to his death in 1892. The management of the farm fell to his widow. Harriet Young, but by 1906 the farm operations became too much and she enlisted the help of John and Martha Ellen along

with Harry and his siblings. Because of the farm's great size, hired hands were necessary in the upkeep as well.

In 1911, after Vivian married and moved to a neighboring farm, Harry and his father formed J. A. Truman & Sons, Farmers. John brought his extensive knowledge of livestock and trading, and Harry brought an interest in maintaining detailed financial records. In keeping gestation, hay and pasture books, Harry seemed interested in scientific farming and utilizing the expertise of the county extension agents that became active around this time. Truman described his farming experience:

Well, I went to the farm in 1906 and stayed there, contrary to all the prophecies, until April 1917, really until August 5, 1917. It was a great experience. Wish I'd kept a diary. It was my job to help my father and brother feed the livestock, sometimes milk a couple of cows, then help my mother get breakfast. After breakfast we'd go to the fields. In spring and fall there'd be plowing to do. We had gang plows made by the Emerson Plow Company two twelve-inch plows on a three-wheeled frame. It required four horses or mules to pull it and if an early start was had, about five acres could be broken up in a day-not an eight-hour one but in, say, ten or twelve hours. In the spring when the weather was cool and the teams could be kept moving the time was shorter. That sort of plow is the best demonstration of horsepower, pounds, feet, minutes. Sometimes the horses gave out and then the power was off until a rest was

had. Riding one of these plows all day, day after day, gives one time to think. I've settled all the ills of mankind in one way and another while riding along seeing that each animal pulled his part of the load. Sometimes in the early part of the year it would be so cold that walking was in order to keep warm, even when a sweater, two coats and an overcoat were worn.

It was always my job to plant the corn, sow the wheat and run the binder to cut the wheat and oats. I usually pitched hay up to my father on the stack also. My father hated a crooked corn row or a skipped place in a wheat field. We had no crooked rows and our wheat and oat fields had no bare places in them and when the binder had finished a wheat or oat field there were no uncut strips in the field. We used a crop rotation system in our farm program.

We'd plant corn after clover. Starting with wheat we'd sow clover on the wheat field in the spring and usually get a crop of clover hay that fall. The next year we'd spread all the manure from the farm and the little town adjoining it on the clover field. Nearly every family in the little town of 300 people had a cow or two and a horse. My father and I bought a manure spreader and kept it busy all the time when we were not doing other necessary things...It would take five years to make the complete rotation but it worked most successfully...

While Truman was busy as a farmer, he also spent time with other off-the-

farm pursuits that included the Farm Bureau, Grandview Commercial Club, Modern Woodmen and the Missouri National Guard. Among his most important pursuits, though, were joining the Masons and dating Bess Wallace in Independence.



Portrait of Harry S.Truman in the uniform of the Missouri National Guard photo courtesy of Harry S.Truman Library and Museum

In 1908, a family member visited the farm, and Truman noticed a little pin he was wearing and wondered what it symbolized. On his next trip, the family member delivered an application for membership in Belton Lodge 450 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Truman filled out the application, and he was accepted for membership in December 1908. He took his first degree in February, and by March he finished his third. He followed in the footsteps

of his grandfathers, both Masons, and his brother who was also a member.

Truman practiced his Masonic lectures while he plowed the fields on the farm. The habit was not without benefit; most observers believe he became prominent in the fraternal organization because he became very proficient in leading the rituals that were required to move from one degree to the next. Truman defined Freemasonry as "a system of morals which makes it easier to live with your fellow man, whether he understands it or not."

Truman's Masonic activities were very important to him and may have helped form his identity even more than his Baptist roots. Although he attended church on occasion, he probably attended more Masonic meetings and installation services than he did religious services. Many of the rituals were based on biblical texts and those texts discussed how fellow human beings were supposed to treat one another. Allen E. Roberts, who completed a book on Truman's Masonic career, noted:

As a Freemason, Truman also learned the meaning of Brotherly Love, Relief and truth. He put the first two into practice continually; Truth he continued to seek, which is a never-ending quest. He learned that time, patience and perseverance could accomplish almost anything. His understanding of Masonry's Virtues—Temperance, Cardinal Fortitude, Prudence and Justice shows up throughout his life.

In addition to providing at least a partial moral framework for his life, Truman's career as a lifelong Mason exposed him to many people around the county as his political career took off after World War I. When he first joined the Masons, he primarily traveled around Jackson County to complete installation ceremonies. In those travels he met many individuals, beginning the process of building name recognition. This is not to say that Truman saw his activity in the Masons as purely political; rather, he suggested the opposite in his close Senate race in 1940, remarking: "Never in my career have I used...the Masonic organization...to advance my political fortunes."

The second off-the-farm pursuit Truman pursued with much zeal was his courtship with Bess Wallace. Some have called the courtship his longest campaign—and there is great truth in that. The campaign began in December of 1910 and lasted until they were married in 1919 after Harry returned from service in World War I.

The courtship faced several different challenges. The first was distance. Even though only 15 miles separated Independence and Grandview, no direct route or reliable public transportation made the trip easy. Between 1910 and 1914, matters were further complicated by Truman's lack of an automobile. The second challenge was trying to convince Bess to marry him since he did not make much money as a farmer. This problem was exacerbated by a lawsuit that other heirs of Harriet Young brought after she died in 1909 because they only received a small sum of money from her estate. The settlement reached in 1914 did not favor the Truman family, and Harry wondered if farming was a suitable occupation for him to be an acceptable marriage partner for Bess.

Since the distance between Grandview and Independence was an obstacle to their relationship, the two carried out much of their courtship by mail. Between December 1910 and August 1917 when Truman shipped out to Fort Sill, Okla., where he trained for World War I, the couple exchanged at least 230 letters. Truman's letters to Bess—which have largely survived—reveal much about his early life and the 600-acre farm. Unfortunately, most of her letters to him were later destroyed.

In December of 1910, Truman visited the Noland family to see his Aunt Ella and favorite cousins, Nellie and Ethel Noland. The Nolands still lived at 216 North Delaware, right across the street from Bess Wallace's home at 219 North Delaware. In a neighborly holiday exchange of baked goods, the Wallace family had sent a cake over to the Nolands, and the cake plate needed to be returned. The Noland sisters, who were always interested in Truman's love life, urged him to return the cake plate. Ethel Noland recalled:

Mrs. Wallace was very neighborly and she loved to send things. Oh, we did back and forth, you know. She would send over a nice dessert or something, just to share it and here was a plate, well, we hadn't taken it back and I said, "Why don't you take that plate home, it's been around here a few days." "Well," he said, "I certainly will." And Bess came to the door, and of course nothing could have made a bigger occasion than that, to see her again and talk to her.

The first "Dear Bess" letter that Truman wrote was dated December 31, 1910. Truman was 26 years old and Bess was 25, and their relationship,

at least for him, turned serious just six months later. In June of 1911, he wrote:

Speaking of diamonds, would you wear a solitaire on your left hand should I get it? Now that is a rather personal or pointed question provided you take it for all it means. You know, were I an Italian or a poet I would commence and use all the luscious language of two continents. I am not either but only a kind of good-for-nothing American farmer. I've always had a sneakin' notion that some day maybe I'd amount to something. I doubt it now though like everything. It is a family failing of ours to be poor financiers. I am blest that way. Still that doesn't keep me from having always thought that you were all that a girl could be possibly and impossibly. You may not have guessed it but I've been crazy about you ever since we went to Sunday School together. But I never had the nerve to think you'd even look at me. I don't think so now but I can't keep from telling you what I think of you.

Truman sent this letter and waited, and then waited some more, but Bess did not immediately respond. Unfortunately, the letter she eventually sent has not survived. But in a subsequent letter, Truman told her: "You know that you turned me down so easy that I am almost happy anyway. I never was fool enough to think that a girl like you could ever care for a fellow like me but I couldn't help telling you how I felt."

Rather than end their relationship, Bess's rejection of Truman's proposal merely seemed to increase his resolve to pursue her. Bess enjoyed playing tennis, and he built her a tennis court in the maple grove on Grandpa Young's farmstead. In December of 1911, he received a standing Sunday invitation to visit Bess at her home at 219 North Delaware.



You know that you turned me down so easy that I am almost happy anyway. I never was fool enough to think that a girl like you could ever care for a fellow like me but I couldn't help telling you how I felt.

"

Over the next couple of years, the relationship progressed, and in November 1913 he made a second proposal:

Do you want to be a farmer? Or shall I do some other business. When Mamma wins her suit and we get all the lawyers and things out of the way I will then have a chance for myself...You may be sure I'm not going to wait till I'm Montana's chief executive to ask you to be Mrs. Governor, but I sure want to have some decent place to ask you to... Let's get engaged anyway to see how it feels. No one need know it but you and me until we get ready to tell it anyway. If you see a man you think more of in the meantime, engagements easy enough broken....

This time Bess accepted Harry's "let's get engaged...to see how it feels" offer.

Less than a year later, tragedy struck when Harry's father fell ill, and in November 1914, John A. Truman passed



Harry Truman, Bess Wallace, and others in car. photo courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

away. At this point Harry had to make a choice—continue to work the farm or look for other opportunities. He chose the latter when he traveled to the Dakotas and Texas to look for other farming opportunities, which never panned out. In 1916, he obtained money, likely from his mother, to invest in a lead and zinc mine in Commerce, Okla. He traveled on site to manage the mining operation, where he tracked the mine's financial affairs and hired a mining crew that contained about a dozen or more workers. It was the largest gamble he had taken up to this point in his life, and it was a gamble that took him away from Bess and the farm.

... I'm naturally a hopeful, happy person...If I can't win straight, I'll continue to lose....

The mine was a complete failure, but Bess continued to support him. Her

family had taken risks as well, and she probably understood the potential for failure. After the mining venture failed in September of 1916, Truman returned home and promptly invested in an oil company that failed too. He told Bess:

I seem to have a grand and admirable ability for calling tails when heads come up. My luck should surely change. Sometime I should win. I have tried to stick. Worked, really did, like thunder for ten years to get that old farm in line for some big production. Have it in shape and have had a crop failure every year. Thought I'd change my luck, got a mine, and see what I did get. Tried again in the other long chance, oil. Still have high hopes on that, but then I'm naturally a hopeful, happy person...If I can't win straight, I'll continue to lose....

In 1914, World War I began, and in 1917 Truman enlisted to serve. He joined Battery D in the 129th Field Artillery in France. He was in command of a little over 200 troops who were responsible for getting four 75mm artillery pieces placed on the battlefield while being pulled by draft animals. It was a challenging job and Truman excelled. Some historians regard Truman's experience as Captain of Battery D as his first significant success in that it proved his ability to be a leader of men. This is a fair assessment, and the Battery D boys, as they came to be known, supported him and later helped him launch and maintain his political career for the rest of his life.

When Truman returned to Missouri from France, he married Bess Wallace on June 28, 1919, and moved into her family's home at 219 North Delaware.



Harry S.Truman's identity card for the American Expeditionary Forces.

photo courtesy of Harry S.Truman Library and Museum

The marriage, coupled with his service in the war, took him permanently off the farm. The agricultural and business experience was formative, though, having given him the opportunity to hone his negotiating skills. On the farm, he bargained with hired hands and with fellow neighbors as they shared labor during the threshing season. In the 1950s, almost fifty years after he had been a farmer, he reflected back on his experience and said that it was his job to be the "family peace maker" and to help negotiate how the work would be shared.



Truman at Fort Riley.
photo courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

He referred to that skill he learned while on the farm as "diplomacy." Farming also gave him important experience keeping books and tracking details. These skills served him well his whole life.

As a newlywed in Jackson County, Truman opened a haberdashery with Army buddy Eddie Jacobson in downtown Kansas City. The business failed in 1922, but Truman found a new opportunity in his association with another Army buddy, Jim Pendergast, who was the nephew of the Kansas City Democratic political boss, Thomas J. Pendergast. Pendergast dominated Kansas City politics during the 1920s and 1930s by putting together coalitions of working-class Irish and African-Americans as well as select members of Kansas City's professional classes. Hoping to expand his influence into eastern Jackson County, Pendergast was happy to befriend Truman.

What Pendergast probably did not realize was that Truman was a good administrator who paid close attention to detail. Still, Truman could temper this attention to detail in order to work with a county government that flirted with and sometimes wallowed in a sea of corruption.

Truman was elected as the eastern judge for Jackson County in 1922. In 1924, he ran again but was defeated. Regardless, life changed for both Harry and Bess when Margaret, the couple's only child, was born in February 1924. In 1926, Truman ran for the presiding judge and won. He was re-elected to the position again in 1930. As presiding judge, he oversaw a road building program in the county, the construction of the courthouse in Kansas City



Harry and Bess Truman Wedding Photo photo courtesy of Harry S.Truman Library and Museum

and the remodeling of the courthouse in Independence.

As county judge, Truman learned the importance of working with all types of individuals, including African-Americans. What made the Pendergast machine somewhat unique was that instead of excluding African-Americans from the political process, Pendergast appealed to them to support the machine. They did, and Truman, in turn, as a county official, supported funding an African-American hospital and an African-American children's home. While he continued to broaden his base of contacts, especially in the Democratic Party, which dominated politics in the state, Truman continued to participate in the Masonic fraternity.

When he returned from service in World War I, he pursued the York Rite of Freemasonry. On June 7, 1923, Truman earned the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta, and

on June 15, 1923, he received the Order of the Temple. He also continued his work in the Blue Lodge and served as District Deputy Grand Master and District Lecturer of the 59th Masonic District of Missouri from 1925 to 1930. Grand Lecturer James R. MacLachlan selected Truman as Lecturer because of his excellent work as a ritualist. In 1930, Grand Master William R. Gentry appointed Truman Grand Pursuivant, which began a 10-year period of service that Truman delivered to the Grand Lodge of Missouri and culminated in his election as Grand Master of Masons of Missouri in 1940.

By 1934, Harry Truman had greatly expanded his network of contacts through his political and Masonic efforts. That same year, Pendergast wanted to push his own level of influence from Jackson County to the entire state, and subsequently sponsored Truman's U.S. Senate campaign. Although Pendergast could deliver enough votes in Jackson County to ensure victory, Truman did not take them for granted and campaigned in every county in the state. It was hard for some Missourians to look at Harry Truman as anything more than a Pendergast political



Truman with fellow judges at Jackson County barbeque.

photo courtesy of Harry S.Truman Library and Museum

lieutenant, but Truman relished the opportunity to connect with residents of the state and give them a different perspective. One of his friends, Stanley R. Fike, noted: "He had been active in the Masonic work throughout the state. He had a pretty wide acquaintanceship that helped a great deal to organize support he had. The Pendergast organization in 1934 was very strong, but Truman had some strength of his own through his friendships."

On that first campaign, Truman traveled into the Bootheel, where he campaigned in tiny towns like Risco, trying to convince people to support him. His efforts, along with the help from the Kansas City political machine, put him over the top in the August primary against his Democratic challengers and again in the general election. Truman was 50 years old when he was first elected to the United States Senate. Harry, Bess and Margaret split the next 17 years of their lives moving back and forth from Independence and Washington.

Truman was elected to the Senate during the Great Depression, and when he arrived in Washington, President Roosevelt had already unleashed the New Deal to try and help Americans and the United States recover from what would end up being a 12-year long economic downturn. Many Missourians felt the impact of that economic downturn, and Truman did everything that he could to support Roosevelt's New Deal. Unfortunately, that support was not reciprocated. Roosevelt and some of his advisors became increasingly concerned about the corruption that was seemingly rampant in Kansas City, and they believed that since Truman was affiliated with the machine that he too was involved. In April of 1939, Pendergast was indicted on income tax evasion, and in May he was sentenced to serve one year of prison time at Fort Leavenworth. That indictment coupled with earlier indictments against others brought the Pendergast machine to its knees.

Its downfall occurred at about the same time that Truman was thinking about running for re-election to the Senate. He delayed making a decision about whether he would run or not, but finally in January of 1940 he decided to seek re-election. Truman's biggest challenge was that he could no longer rely upon the support of the machine anymore. In an attempt to distance himself from the machine, he relocated his campaign headquarters from Kansas City to Sedalia. Then he did something that was unique among Missouri politicians—he crafted a campaign strategy to appeal to particular groups of constituents within the state. This approach contrasted sharply with the patronage politics that had been dominant.

Opting for interest-group politics in its place, Truman built a campaign that utilized his personal and political experiences with Missouri and Missourians to appeal to women, African-Americans, labor and farmers. Just as in his

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I believe in the brotherhood of man; not merely the brotherhood of white men, but the brotherhood of all men before [the] law. I believe in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

"

first statewide campaign, he took his pitch directly to the people. Ironically, these groups were some of the same constituencies that Roosevelt's New Deal appealed to.

Truman officially kicked off his reelection campaign on June 15, 1940, in Sedalia in a day-long event that culminated with the junior senator delivering an evening speech to a packed courthouse square. Interestingly, earlier that same day Truman had delivered an address at the dedication ceremony of "Sedalia's City Hospital No. 2 for Negroes." In that speech he told the predominately African-American group:

I believe in the brotherhood of man; not merely the brotherhood of white men, but the brotherhood of all men before [the] law, I believe in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. *In giving to the Negroes the rights* that are theirs, we are only acting in accord with our ideals of a true democracy. If any class or race can be permanently set apart from, or pushed down below, the rest in political and civil rights, so may any other class or race when it shall incur the displeasure of its more powerful associates, and we may say farewell to the principles on which we count our safety.

In the evening speech, delivered to a predominately white audience, Truman was not as forceful, but reminded those present that "In all matters of progress and welfare, of economic opportunity and equal rights before [the] law, Negroes deserve every aid and protection." Discussing race in Missouri in 1940 was a bold move. No other Missouri politician had dared broach the issue. But Truman came out of an urban

political machine that valued the political votes of African-Americans, and in 1940 he needed every vote to count.

Truman wanted African-Americans to have equality before the law, but social equality was a different matter. In July of 1940, he delivered an important keynote address to the National Colored Democratic Association meeting in Chicago. In this speech Truman defined what equality between the races meant to him:

I wish to make it clear that I am not appealing for social equality of the Negro. The Negro himself, knows better than that, and the highest types of Negro leaders say quite frankly, that they prefer the society of their own people. Negroes want justice, not social relations.

For Truman there were limits to the extent he thought equality should go, and he never changed his mind about the issue of social equality. Still, his conscious effort to appeal to African-Americans was unique.

He narrowly won the August primary in 1940, avoiding a loss could have spelled the end of his political career. He had an easier time winning in the November election against the Republican candidate, and with the victory, the Roosevelt administration looked at him differently. The senator, elected on his own and without Pendergast support, proposed creating a committee to look into contracts for the national defense program. His colleagues in the Senate and President Roosevelt supported the idea and the Truman Committee, as it came to be known, was established on March 1, 1941, and continued to function throughout World War II. Truman's excellent work on the committee

earned him much acclaim, and it was one of the reasons Roosevelt picked him to be his running mate in 1944. On November 8, 1944, Senator Truman became Vice President-elect Truman.



The newly nominated Vice-President Harry S. Truman standing with his 91-year old mother, Mrs. Martha E. Truman in Independence, Missouri.

photo courtesy of Harry S.Truman Library and Museum

In April of the next year, Roosevelt died, and Truman became president. Many believed that Truman was not up to the task to be president. The situation he stepped into was daunting; Roosevelt had been elected to the presidency an unprecedented four times. Yet Truman came to the presidency with his experiences as a Missourian, including as a student in Independence high school, a farmer, a Mason, a failed lead and zinc mine owner, a veteran, a county administrator and a U.S. Senator. It was a wealth of experience that he drew upon as he served as president from 1945 to 1953.

The challenges Truman faced were enormous. He presided over the end of the Second World War and ordered the use of atomic weapons. He crafted the policy of containment, which guided future presidents' management of the Cold War over the next fifty years. To his credit, he understood that the United States was going to play an important role in the post-World War II world, and he searched for the values that would guide the world in combating what he called "communist imperialism." For him, those values were found in the Missouri town where he grew up.



Senator Harry S. Truman at Lunch with President Franklin Roosevelt. photo courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

In November of 1950, during a challenging point in the Korean War, Truman returned to Independence to dedicate a replica of the Liberty Bell that had been awarded to the city for its participation in a bond drive for the Korean War. He delivered the speech at the Memorial Building just around the corner from 219 North Delaware. He connected his Jackson County roots with the role he thought the United States needed to play in the Cold War. Standing across the street from the First Presbyterian Church where he first attended Sunday School and with the lo-

cation of Independence High School to his right, he told the crowd:

Today, the nations and peoples who believe in freedom face a bitter enemy. We are confronted by communist imperialism—a movement reactionary despises liberty and is the mortal foe of personal freedom... Freedom has never been an abstract idea to us here in the United States. It is real and concrete. It means not only political and civil rights; it means much more. It means a society in which man has a fair chance. It means an opportunity to do useful work. It means the right to an education...Written around the crown of this bell are the words, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof." Those words are 2,500 years old. I learned the first line over there in that Presbyterian church. They come from the Bible. They reflect a deep belief in freedom under God and justice among men...

Our concept of freedom has deep religious roots. We come under a divine command to be concerned about the welfare of our neighbors, and to help one another. For all men are the servants of God, and no one has the right to mistreat his fellow men...

While Truman applied the values learned over many years in churches and Masonic rituals to the global challenges of "communist imperialism," he also sought to impart their lessons at home in the United States. This endeavor included making sure that farmers and African-Americans had important

roles to play in the Cold War and in the Democratic Party.

Following years of overproduction and failed crops in the 1920s and particularly the 1930s, World War II made farmers prosperous, and Truman wanted to continue that prosperity. He believed that strong American farms and farmers also served as a bulwark against Communism, and in the presidential campaign of 1948, he strongly appealed to the Midwestern farmer. Some historians have argued that it was the Midwestern farm vote that propelled Truman to the presidency in the close election.

The Cold War also focused intense scrutiny on America's civil rights record. If the values Truman talked about in his Independence speech were to ring true in the United States, America had to improve its dismal track record on civil rights. As president and with his past political support from the African-American community, Truman was uniquely positioned to tackle this issue. In December of 1946, after meeting with African-American leaders, Truman created the President's Committee on Civil Rights and instructed the members to undertake a thorough review of America's civil rights record. In Octo-



Harry S.Truman and Joseph Stalin at Potsdam. photo courtesy of Harry S.Truman Library and Museum

ber of 1947, the committee submitted its report, "To Secure These Rights," to the president. Noting a significant number of civil rights abuses in the United States, the report was damning. It urged the federal government to do more to secure the civil rights of all its citizens.

One of the recommendations included in the report was that the U.S. military, which remained segregated during the Second World War, be integrated. On the road to the 1948 election, Truman issued Executive Order 9981, requiring the military to integrate. A special committee was established to oversee the military's compliance with the executive order, and in May of 1950 it released a report titled "Freedom to Serve," which discussed how each branch of the service had complied with the order. "To Secure These Rights" and "Freedom to Serve" were the most important documents issued under the direction of the president on civil rights up to that point in the 20th century. Truman's interest in civil rights served two purposes: It solidified African-American support for the Democratic Party, and it put the world on notice that that the United States, aware of its imperfect track record, would work to improve civil rights.

None of this is to say that Truman, the city of Independence, the state of Missouri and the United States have always lived up to the values expressed in "To Secure These Rights" and "Freedom to Serve." In the 19th century, the Mormons were forcefully removed from Missouri. More than 100 years later, during Missouri's urban renewal projects of the 1950s and 1960s, working-class blacks and whites were forced to relocate. Despite Truman's

struggles with social equality between blacks and whites, he was not afraid to attempt to address racial issues, and the courage to address those challenging issues was found in his Missouri roots.

Those experiences growing up and working in Missouri influenced how Truman viewed the Cold War and how he worked to broaden the Democratic Party. He genuinely loved the state that he was from, and after his presidency came to a close in 1953, he returned to 219 North Delaware to live out his life among the people that had given him his political start as a county judge. It had to have been a humbling experience, but he literally took it in stride as he enjoyed taking morning walks among the people and places that had left their mark on his life. In February 1953, the city welcomed him back with a large dinner where he delivered this speech:

I've been taking my morning walks around the city and passing places that bring back wonderful recollections. The Presybterian church at Lexington and Pleasant Streets where I started to Sunday School at the age of six years, where I first saw a lovely little golden-haired girl who is still the



I was born and raised in the 'show me' state and I learned how 'show me' works, and I have [been] showing them...



lady—Margie's mother. lovely I pass by the Noland School where I first went to school in 1892...Just south of this building stood the old Columbian School, which was brand-new when I was ready for the third and fourth grades...I pass the site of the old Independence High School at Maple and Pleasant. Ours was the first class to be graduated there, in 1901-fiftytwo years ago. And so it goes. What a pleasure to be back here at home—once more a free and independent citizen of the gateway city of the Old Great West.

As a national politician, Truman spoke of Missouri often, particularly on the campaign trail in 1948 when he won the presidency on his own. He told a crowd gathered in St. Louis that "I have been from one end of the country to the other—north and south, east and west—and none of them has been any better than this. And that is the way it ought to be in Missouri. I was born and raised in the 'show me' state and

I learned how 'show me' works, and I have [been] showing them..."

Harry Truman became president at an important time in our nation's history. Missouri's places, people and the values he learned in the state's civic and religious institutions influenced some of the decisions he made as president. He did not arrive at the presidency as a blank slate—he brought with him Missouri's "show me" attitude. Today, Truman's legacy is honored with a state holiday and numerous buildings bearing his name. Missouri is home to three nationally significant places associated with his life and legacy: the Harry S Truman Library and Museum, the Harry S Truman National Historic Site and the Harry S Truman Historic District, National Historic Landmark, which specifically commemorates how Truman interacted with and was influenced by his neighbors—his fellow Missourians. Truman recognized the importance of Missouri's people, places and values when he said:

Missouri is just as good as there is, and they don't make'em any better.



Former President Harry S.Truman (left), seated in his office at his home. Painter Thomas Hart Benton (right) is sketching Mr.Truman for his painting "The Old President." photo courtesy of Harry S.Truman Library and Museum

# Remembering Harry

would like to thank the Missouri State Archives and the Harry S. Truman Library for allowing portions of their extensive and priceless photography collections to be shared in this volume.

In the spirit of these remarkable images, this year's statewide photo contest asked Missouri's amateur and professional photographers to evoke Truman's spirit in their submissions. A committee from the secretary of state's office narrowed down the hundreds of fantastic entries from all over the state to five photos in three categories, each a well-known quotation from President Truman:

"Carry the battle to them"—representing sporting events and competitions in Missouri

"The most peaceful thing in the world is plowing a field"—showing images of Missouri agriculture and natural environments

"I don't believe in little plans"—images of Missouri's unique celebrations and parades

As you'll see, this year's outstanding entries show the amazing diversity and beauty of our state and its residents. Thank you to all the Missourians who submitted photos this year, and congratulations to those who were judged to be outstanding entries.

Sincerely,

/Jason Kander

## CARRY THE BATTLE TO THEM!

### Sporting Events and Competitions

"Carry the battle to them. Don't let them bring it to you...."



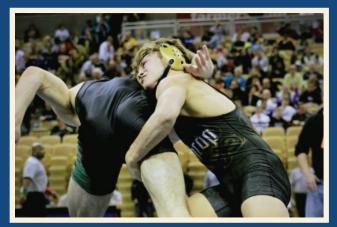
FIRST PLACE— Mounted Drill Team at Barx Timed Event Arena in Vienna, Missouri.

Barbara Good, Versailles

SECOND PLACE— Colton Harris's Pitch

Kristy Rich, St. James





THIRD PLACE— State Wrestling Competition.

Pam Shrewsbury, Lathrop

I st RUNNER UP— Radar's Winning Jump at the Clark County Mule Festival.

Lonny Thiele, Poplar Bluff





2<sup>nd</sup> RUNNER UP—— The Lifter.

Kyle Juvers, Columbia

# THE MOST PEACEFUL THING IN THE WORLD IS PLOWING A FIELD

# Missouri Agriculture and Natural Settings

"The most peaceful thing in the world is plowing a field. Chances are you'll do your best thinking that way. And that's why I've always thought and said, farmers are the smartest people in the world..."



FIRST PLACE— Cotton Harvest by Ryan Moore, at Moore and Moore Farms

James Hunter Marshall, Hornersville

SECOND PLACE—Planting Day—April 29, 2013

Pam Shrewsbury, St. James



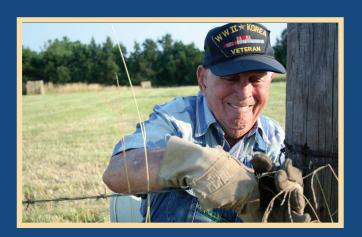


THIRD PLACE—Sunset Over a Pond.

Kelly Sanders Smith, Jefferson City

I st RUNNER UP— Richard James Mending Fences on the Family Farm.

Diana James, Vienna





2<sup>nd</sup> RUNNER UP—— T.J. Pruett of Fredercktown at Barks Plantation Plow Day

Lonny Thiele, Poplar Bluff

# I Don't Believe in Little Plans

# Unique Celebrations and Parades

"You can always amend a big plan, but you can never expand a little one. I don't believe in little plans."



FIRST PLACE— Stiltwalker, St. Louis Pride Celebration.

Corey Linehan, St. Louis

SECOND PLACE— Return of the Dugout Canoes, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, Homeward Bound Event.

William L. Stine Jefferson City





THIRD PLACE— Funeral Procession for Burial of Civil War Veteran, 2nd Lt. John P. Byrne; Last known Union Soldier to Receive the Grand army of the Republic Burial Service

Linda C. Brown, Memphis

I st RUNNER UP— Celebration of Appleton City Being Named "Train Town USA" at the Second-Oldest Depot on the MKT Line

Cynthia C.Arms Appleton City





2<sup>nd</sup> RUNNER UP—— President Truman Visiting Independence; State Trooper A.F. (Slim) Closson (behind Truman) was assigned to his protective detail.

Kay Closson, Jefferson City

# State Symbols of Missouri



#### The Great Seal of Missouri

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

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

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



#### The State Flag

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

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

## Missouri Day

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



#### The State Floral Emblem

On March 16, 1923, a bill was signed naming the **white hawthorn blossom** the official state floral emblem of Missouri. Known as the "red haw" or "white haw," the hawthorn (*Crataegus*) is a member of the great rose family, which resembles the apple group. The hawthorn blossoms have greenish-yellow centers and form in white clusters. More than 75 species of the hawthorn grow in Missouri, particularly in the Ozarks. (RSMo 10.030)

#### The State Bird

On March 30, 1927, the native **bluebird** (*Sialia Sialis*) became the official state bird of Missouri. The bluebird, considered a symbol of happiness, is usually 6½ to 7 inches long. While its upper parts are covered with light blue plumage, its breast is cinnamon red, turning rust-colored in the fall. The bluebird is common in Missouri from early spring until late November. (RSMo 10.010)





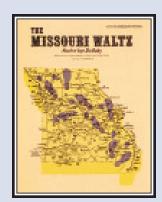
#### The State Tree

On June 20, 1955, the **flowering dogwood** (*Cornus Florida L.*) became Missouri's official tree. The tree is small in size, rarely growing over 40 feet in height or 18 inches in diameter. The dogwood sprouts tiny greenish-yellow flowers in clusters, with each flower surrounded by four white petals. The paried, oval leaves are olive green above and covered with silvery hairs underneath. In the fall, the upper part of the leaves turn scarlet or orange

and bright red fruits grow on the tree. (RSMo 10.040)

# **The State Song**

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



#### The State Mineral

On July 21, 1967, the mineral **galena** was adopted as the official mineral of Missouri. Galena is the major source of lead ore, and the recognition of this mineral by the state legislature was to emphasize Missouri's status as the nation's top producer of lead. Galena is dark gray in color and breaks into small cubes. Mining of galena has flourished in the Joplin-Granby area of southwest Missouri, and rich deposits have been located in such places as



Crawford, Washington, Iron and Reynolds counties. (RSMo 10.047)



#### The State Rock

**Mozarkite** was adopted as the official state rock on July 21, 1967, by the 74th General Assembly. An attractive rock, mozarkite appears in a variety of colors, most predominantly green, red or purple. The rock's beauty is enhanced by cutting and polishing into ornamental shapes for jewelry. Mozarkite is most commonly found in Benton County. (RSMo 10.045)

#### The State Insect

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





#### The State Musical Instrument

The **fiddle** became the state's official musical instrument on July 17, 1987. Brought to Missouri in the late 1700s by fur traders and settlers, the fiddle quickly became popular. The instrument was adaptable to many forms of music, could be played without extensive formal training and was light and easy to carry. For generations, the local fiddle player was the sole source of entertainment in many commu-

nities and held a position of great respect in the region. (RSMo 10.080)

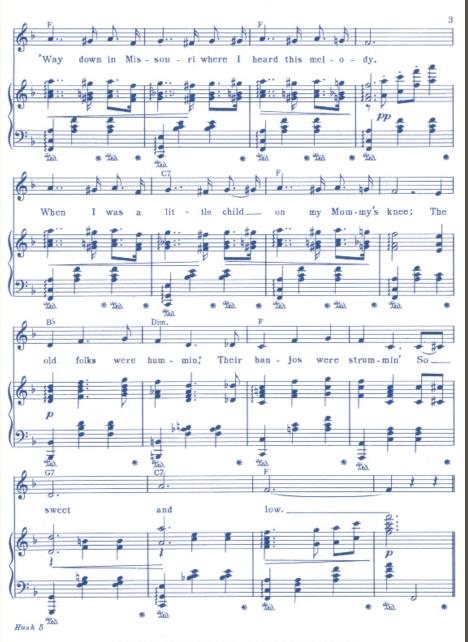




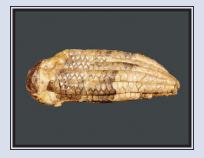
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Visit Your Record Store For Recordings Of "Missouri Waltz"



#### The State Fossil

The **crinoid** became the state's official fossil on June 16, 1989, after a group of Lee's Summit school students worked through the legislative process to promote it as a state symbol. The crinoid (*Delocrinus missouriensis*) is a mineralization of an animal which, because of its plant-like appearance, was called the "sea lily." Related to the starfish, the crinoid which covered Missouri lived in the ocean more than 250 million years ago. (RSMo 10.090)

#### The State Tree Nut

The nut produced by the black walnut tree (Juglans Nigra), known as the **eastern black walnut**, became the state tree nut on July 9, 1990. The nut has a variety of uses. The meat is used in ice cream, baked goods and candies. The shell provides the soft grit abrasive used in metal cleaning and polishing, and oil well drilling. It is also used in paint products and as a filler in dynamite. (RSMo 10.100)





#### The State Animal

On May 31, 1995, the **Missouri mule** was designated as the official state animal. The mule is a hybrid, the offspring of a mare (female horse) and a jack (male donkey). After its introduction to the state in the 1820s, the mule quickly became popular with farmers and settlers because of its hardy nature. Missouri mules pulled pioneer wagons to the Wild West during the 19th century and played a crucial role in moving troops and supplies in World Wars I and II. For

decades, Missouri was the nation's premier mule producer. (RSMo 10.110)

#### The State American Folk Dance

The **square dance** was adopted as Missouri's official American folk dance on May 31, 1995. Square dances are derived from folk and courtship dances brought to the United States by European immigrants. Lively music and callers are hallmarks of square dancing. The caller directs the dancers by singing the names of figures and steps to be performed. (RSMo 10.120)





# The State Aquatic Animal

The **paddlefish** (*Polyodon Spathula*) became Missouri's official aquatic animal on May 23, 1997. Only three rivers in Missouri support substantial populations of the paddlefish: the Mississippi, Missouri and the Osage. They are also present in some of the state's larger lakes. The paddlefish is primitive, with a cartilage skeleton, rather than bone. They commonly exceed five feet in length and weights of 60 pounds;

20-year olds are common, and some live 30 years or more. (RSMo 10.130)

#### The State Fish

On May 23, 1997, the **channel catfish** became the official fish of Missouri. The channel catfish (*Ictalurus Punctatus*) is slender, with a deeply forked tail. Young have spots that disappear with age. The catfish does not rely on sight to find its food; instead, it uses cat-like whiskers to assist in the hunt. The channel cat is the most abundant large catfish in Missouri streams. Its diet includes animal and plant material. Adults are normally 12 to 32 inches long



and weigh from a half-pound to 15 pounds. (RSMo 10.135)



### **The State Horse**

On June 4, 2002, the Missouri fox trotting horse became Missouri's official state horse. Missouri fox trotters were developed in the rugged Ozark hills of Missouri during the early 19th century. Bloodlines can be traced from early settlers to Missouri from the neighboring states of Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Arkansas. The distinguishing characteristic of the fox trotter is its rhythmic gait, in which the horse walks with the front feet and trots with the hind feet. This gait

gives the rider a smooth gentle ride. (RSMo 10.140)

## The State Grape

On July 11, 2003, the **Norton/Cynthiana grape** (*Vitis Aestivalis*) was adopted as the official state grape. This adaptable, self-pollinating variety has been cultivated since the 1830s and is likely North America's oldest grape variety still commercially grown. Norton/Cynthiana has long been prized by Missouri vintners for its hardy growth habit and intense flavor characteristics, which produce lush, dry premium red wines of world-class quality and distinction. (RSMo 10.160)



#### The State Dinosaur

Hypsibema missouriense is a type of dinosaur called a Hadrosaur or "duck billed" dinosaur. It was a herbivore with jaws that contained over 1,000 teeth. Hypsibema had evolved specialized teeth to handle the tough, fibrous vegetation of the time. Hypsibema lived in Missouri during the Late Cretaceous Period. Hypsibema was first discovered in 1942 by Dan Stewart, near the town of Glen Allen, MO,



and became the state's offical dinosaur on July 9, 2004. (RSMo 10.095)



# The State Amphibian

On June 5, 2005, the **American Bullfrog** (Rana catesbeiana) became the official state amphibian. The bullfrog is the largest frog native to Missouri and is found in every county. Most Missourians are familiar with the deep, resonant "jug-of-rum" call, which is typically heard on warm, rainy nights between mid-May and early July. The idea for the bullfrog designation came from a fourth grade class at Chinn Elementary School in Kansas City. (RSMo 10.170)

#### The State Game Bird

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



whistle is made by males in the spring and summer to attract females. (RSMo 10.012).



#### The State Invertebrate

On June 21, 2007, the **crayfish** (also known as crawfish and crawdad) became the official state invertebrate. Crayfish are an important food source for Missouri fishes. Missouri supports more than 30 species of crayfish (including seven species that occur nowhere else in the world). Crayfish are found in every county of the state and contribute to our unique biodiversity and conservation heritage. The nomination of cray-

fish for state invertebrate came from Mrs. Janna Elfrink's elementary school class in Reeds Spring, Missouri. (RSMo 10.125)



## The State Reptile

On June 21, 2007, the **three-toed box turtle** (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*) became the official state reptile. Most Missourians are familiar with this land-dwelling turtle. Three-toed box turtles, as their name implies, typically have three hind toes. The hinged bottom shell allows the turtle to retreat inside as if enclosed in a box. Males have red eyes and females have brown eyes. (RSMo 10.175).

#### **The State Grass**

**Big bluestem** (Andropogon gerardii) was designated as Missouri's stategrass on June 11, 2007 as a result of efforts by the Fourth Grade class at Truman Elementary School in Rolla. Big bluestem is native to Missouri and occurs throughout the state, with the exception of a few southeastern-most counties. It is a major component of Missouri's tallgrass prairies where it impressed the first explorers by sometimes growing tall enough to hide a person on horseback. The name bluestem comes from the bluish-green color of the leaves and stems that turn an attractive reddish-copper color in autumn. (RSMo 10.150).





#### The State Dessert

The **ice cream cone** became the state of Missouri's official dessert on August 28, 2008. The 1904 World's Fair in St Louis was the birthplace of the treat and has become a staple at many community events across the state, such as the State Fair. The University of Missouri–Columbia has played a large role in the development of ice cream products for over a century. Missouri presently ranks tenth in ice cream production. (RSMo 10.180).

Louise and Omar Putman Collection, photograph by Louise Putman-Missouri State Archives

## The State Symbol for Child Abuse Prevention

The **blue ribbon** became the state of Missouri's official symbol for child abuse prevention on August 28, 2012. It is a symbol of efforts to increase awareness of the prevalence and warning signs of child abuse and the prevention methods and measures available to reduce the incidence of child abuse in Missouri. (RSMo 10.185).



# Missouri at a Glance

#### **General Information**

Entered the Union: August 10, 1821 (24th state).

Capitol: Jefferson City.

Present Constitution adopted: 1945.

**Motto:** "Salus populi suprema lex esto" which is Latin for "The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law."

Nickname: The Show Me State.

**Origin of state name:** "Missouri" is most likely a French rendition of the Algonquian word meaning "town of large canoes."

Land area in square miles (national rank): 68,741.52 (18).

Number of counties: 114 with one independent city (St. Louis).

**Largest county:** Texas—1,177 square miles.

Smallest county: Worth—267 square miles.

#### **Population**

Ten largest cities:	
Kansas City	464,310
St. Louis	318,172
Springfield	
Independence	
Columbia	
Lee's Summit.	
O'Fallon	
St. Joseph	
St. Charles	IIIIIII III III III III III III III II
St. Peters	
Missouri population	
National rank	
Male/female population (percentage)	49.0731.0
Ethnic population (by percentage) White	92.0
white	
Black	
Asian	
Native American	
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	
Other / Two or More Races	
Hispanic (not considering race)	
Urban/rural distribution (by percentage) (2010 census)	
Resident live births (Missouri Vital Statistics 2012)	
Resident deaths (Missouri Vital Statistics 2012)	55,824
Total personal income and national rank (2012)	\$235.2 billion (20)
(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)	
Per capita income and national rank (2012)	\$39,049 (32)
(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)	
Median household income and national rank (2011)	\$45,247 (37)
(American Community Survey)	
Real Gross Domestic Product and national rank (2011)	\$216.1 billion (22)
(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)	

#### Geography/Climate

Highest point (in feet above sea level: Taum Sauk Mountain, Iron County)	1,722
Lowest point (in feet above sea level: St. Francis River, Bootheel)	230
Approximate mean elevation in feet above sea level (national rank)	800 (32)
Normal daily mean temperature	
Percentage of full sunshine days per year	. 30%-est.