



PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS AT THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

Relating to the 2022 National History Day Theme

Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas

The Missouri State Archives is the official repository for state records of permanent and historical value. It has many unique resources that are available to research Missouri topics for National History Day projects. Below are just a few suggestions to help select a project. Not all of the resources available on a specific topic may be included.

Finding aids are available for many resources at the Missouri State Archives. They are online at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default>.

When citing records from the Missouri State Archives, please use the following link for reference: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/citations>.

Missouri Digital Heritage (MDH) is a collaborative portal that allows access to over 9 million digitized records from Missouri's historical collections. You can find MDH at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh>.

Always check your public library for secondary sources on any topic you choose to research.

For more information on the collections contact Missouri State Archives reference at archives@sos.mo.gov or call (573) 751-3280.

Early Missouri Land Records

- Records of the Territory of Louisiana (1805-1811) and the Territory of Missouri (1812-1821) include payment vouchers and collectors accounts.
 - Vouchers, 1805-1820
 - Non-Residents Lands, 1814-1820
 - Collectors Accounts, 1811-1821
- U.S. Recorder of Land Titles
 - Papers of original claimants submitted before the First Board of Land Commissioners to determine the validity of French and Spanish land grants made before the Louisiana Purchase

- First Board of Land Commissioners, Papers of Original Claimants, 1777-1851
- Second Board of Land Commissioners, Papers of Original Claimants, 1785-1857

Missouri Highway Commission

- John Mark Graham Highway Department Photograph Collection Territory of Louisiana and Missouri
 - Images of bridge construction, floods, and road construction taken by John Mark Graham of the Highway Department.
 - Department of Highways and Transportation

Missouri/Nebraska Border Dispute

Upon admission to the Union in 1821, Missouri's western boundary was the line from the southern boundary of the state to the mouth of the Kansas River and continuing along the same line to Missouri's northern border. Four years later, the United States concluded the Platte Purchase and gave the new land to Missouri. This pushed the state's western border to the Missouri River. In 1867, Nebraska was admitted to the union with its eastern boundary set as the Missouri River. It was July of that very same year that a large flood caused the first border debate between the two states. This flood changed the course of the River and 5,097 acres of land, known as McKissick's Island, which had been west of the Missouri River suddenly was east of the River. Both Missouri and Nebraska claimed this land. Not until 1999 was this problem resolved.

Office of the Governor - Warren Hearnes 1965-1973: Miscellaneous Correspondence, Studies,

Missouri-Nebraska Boundary Compact - Chapter 7: Sections 7.001 (RSMo 1959) and 7.002

- 1st Approved by Missouri General Assembly April 18, 1990 (H.B. 1063), with revised versions in 1995 and 1997. Approved by Nebraska in 1998 and Congress in 1999.
- Congressional Approval of Boundary Compact - 1999 US Public Law 106-101- <https://www.congress.gov/106/plaws/publ101/PLAW-106publ101.pdf>).
- House Bill 1063 (1990) – Laws of Missouri, p. 511
<http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/molaws/id/68282/rec/166>
- House Bill 35 (1995) – Laws of Missouri, p. 234
<http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/molaws/id/75277/rec/186>
- Senate Bill 123 (1995) – Laws of Missouri, p. 229
<http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/molaws/id/75277/rec/186>
- Senate Bill 29 (1997) – Laws of Missouri, p. 211
<http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/molaws/id/77836/rec/195>
- MO/NEB Boundary line maps – on DVD in Reading Room
 - 14 images titled McKissick's Island in the Oversize Map Collection

- 12-page booklet of maps along the Missouri/Nebraska border
- map of McKissick's Island in Nebraska; key to McKissick's Island map.
- Detailed descriptions of changes in the border between Missouri & Nebraska caused by the meandering of the Missouri River, 1999. Coverage: Portions of Missouri Counties of Holt & Atchison; Nebraska Counties of Richardson, Nemaha, & Otoe; Kansas County of Doniphan, & Iowa County of Fremont.
- State of Missouri v. State of Nebraska – Stipulation from the U.S. Supreme Court, October Term 1904 – Regarding the Report of the Boundary Line Commission that should have been completed. Located in Rare Docs – Box 3153.
 - Includes surveys of the boundary under dispute as exhibits.

Constitutional Conventions–

This series contains the printed Convention which are arranged in numerical order by the days in which the Convention met. Within the 55 handwritten volumes

- DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS, 1875. RG 005 - Office of Secretary of State Records of the 1820 State & Constitutional Convention
- 1820--The first Missouri constitutional convention met at the Mansion House Hotel in St. Louis. Written in only 38 days, the first Missouri Constitution was adopted on July 19, 1820.
- 1845--As Missouri's population increased, the state outgrew the constitutional limits on the creation of new counties. A Second constitutional convention assembled in Jefferson City from November 1845 until January 1846. Missouri voters refused to ratify the proposed constitution in August 1846.
- 1865--From January 6 to April 8, 1865, delegates met at the St. Louis Mercantile Hall to draft a new constitution. The resulting document was known as the "Draconian Constitution" for its loyalty oath conditions. Designed to exclude all but the most resolute Unionist from public life in Missouri following the Civil War, the document was ratified on June 6, 1865. In 1867, the U. S. Supreme Court struck down the oaths of loyalty in *Cummings v. Missouri* (71 U. S. 277).
- 1875--Missouri citizens approved a constitutional convention in 1874. Delegates met in Jefferson City from May 5th to August 2nd, 1875. The subsequent Constitution required the legislature to appropriate 25% of the general revenue to support public schools and mandated the establishment of separate schools for children of African descent. Missouri voters ratified the constitution on October 30, 1875.
- 1922--Delegates assembled for a fifth constitutional convention in Jefferson City from May 15, 1922 to November 6, 1923. Instead of a constitution, 21 amendments were proposed. Because voters refused to approve all of the amendments at the special election of February 26, 1924, none of the amendments were ratified.
- 1945--The final Missouri constitutional convention convened in Jefferson City on September 21, 1943. The completed document was approved by the delegates on September 28, 1944. Submitted to the voters as a single proposition, the Constitution was ratified by voters on February 27, 1945 and has since been amended numerous times.

<https://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll1>

Conservation Federation of Missouri

Founded in 1935, the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) is a citizen organization proactively involved in the conservation in Missouri. An initiative petition campaign begun by CFM resulted in the creation of the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1936 (Constitutional Amendment #4). Records of activities and affiliates of the Conservation Federation and its work regarding conservation in Missouri. Includes information about advocacy efforts, committees, conventions, and other meetings and publications. Also includes some photographs. Inclusive dates, 1934-2018.

MS289 MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS: Conservation Federation of Missouri Collection:

- ADMINISTRATIVE, 1938-1990
 - Contains material related to Board of Directors, Organization Constitution & By-Laws, Correspondence, and various activities including Earth Day, Environmental Education, and Wildlife Week.
- CONVENTIONS/MEETINGS, 1947-1955
 - Contains meeting minutes, reports, resolutions and other information related to Statewide Conventions, Conferences and other meetings.
- AFFILIATES, 1948-1951
 - Contains information related to specific affiliate organizations.
- PUBLICATIONS, 1938-2020
 - Contains information related to and copies of Conservation Federation publications, especially Missouri Wildlife.
- PHOTOGRAPHS, 1934-1962
- ADVOCACY, 1937-1996
 - Contains materials related to specific bills, legislative campaigns and initiative petitions as well as papers documenting the work of specific committees within the Conservation Federation organization.
 - Folder: Members & Volunteers (Volunteers, Activities, Helpers)
 - Citizens' Committee for Conservation

Related Collections:

MS410 Edward Kopplin Conservation Collection

RG000.103 Missouri Department of Conservation State Documents

RG103 Missouri Department of Conservation (archival records)

RG103.01 Conservation Video Reel Content Listing

RG103.02 Conservation Deeds

RG103.03 Missouri Department of Conservation Photograph Collection

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

In 1867, 355 St. Louis women petitioned the Missouri General Assembly for voting rights of persons of color and for women. Virginia Minor led the effort. The petition may be found in the house journal that year.

- Missouri Digital Heritage
In 1873, Virginia Minor Court Case- Minor et al. v. Happersett, Missouri Supreme Court, 1873
- <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/Records/Archives/ArchivesDb/supremecourt/>
The General Election on November 3, 1914 contained a ballot initiative asking for women's right to vote. The referendum fails by a vote of 182,257 to 322,463. Election

- results were printed in the Missouri Blue Book.
- Missouri Digital Heritage
Governor Gardner signs Senate Bill 1 into law on April 5, 1919 allowing women to vote “for electors for president and vice-president of the United States.”
- Missouri Digital Heritage
Marie Byrum of Hannibal, Missouri becomes the first woman to cast a vote in a Missouri election on August 31, 1920
- Marie Byrum poll book in Reference

Elected Officials

Mary L. Gant

Became the first woman elected to the Missouri Senate in 1972.

- Mary Gant Papers
- 1972 Election Results

DeVerne Calloway

Became the first African American woman elected to a state office when she was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1962.

- Blue Book
- Candidate Information
- 1962 Election Results

Walthall Moore

Elected as a Representative from St. Louis, Walthall became the first African American to serve in the Missouri legislature.

- Missouri Blue Book
- Dictionary of Missouri Biography
- Death Certificate
- 1920 Election Results

Annie White Baxter

In 1890, she was elected as Jasper County Clerk making her the first woman elected to any office in the State of Missouri and the first female county clerk in the United States.

- Register of Civil Proceedings
- Bond of Civil Officers
- Civil Officers Elected
- Death Certificate

PRISON REFORM

Katherine (Kate) Richards O’Hare worked to improve prison conditions after spending time in the Missouri State Penitentiary for violating the Espionage Act after giving an anti-war speech in 1919

- Digital photos in Criminals and Inmates (Kate Richards O'Hare)
- Missouri State Penitentiary Data Base (Kate Richards O'Hare)
<http://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/msp/Detail.aspx?id=42503>
- Books in Reference
- Missouri State Penitentiary Collection
- Department of Corrections Collection

MISSOURI STATE HOSPITAL

In 1847, the Missouri General Assembly voted to establish an asylum for the mentally insane in Central Missouri. Callaway County won the bid to build the hospital, and in 1851, the Fulton State Hospital opened as the first public mental hospital west of the Mississippi River.

- Governors Papers – Gov. Thomas Reynolds and Gov. Meredith M. Marmaduke (Reference)
- House and Senate Journals
- *Evolution of a Missouri Asylum* – Missouri Digital Heritage
- Photograph Collections – Missouri Digital Heritage

CIVIL RIGHTS

Ester vs. Clamorgan (1809) and Ester vs. Carr – Missouri Supreme Court (Territory of Missouri)

Jacques Clamorgan gave Ester, a freed slave, land in and around the area of Laclede's Landing. He took the land from Ester, when Missouri became a territory. Ester sued Clamorgan and won the return of her land in a series of court cases.

- Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Records
<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/Records/Archives/ArchivesDb/supremecourt/>
- Corbett, Katharine T. *In Her Place: A Guide to St. Louis Women's History*. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1999. (Located in the Archives Reading Room)

Gaines vs. Canada (1937)

Missouri Supreme Court Case - University of Missouri denied Lloyd Gaines admission to the University's law school because he was black. The case went to the United States Supreme Court.

- Missouri Supreme Court – September 1937: Gaines vs. Canada SC36235
- Vertical File – Reference: Gaines vs. Canada

Bluford vs. Canada (1941)

Missouri Supreme Court Case - University of Missouri denied Lucille Bluford to the University's School of Journalism because she was black.

- Missouri Supreme Court – May 1941: Bluford vs. Canada SC38316
- Vertical File – Archives Reference: Bluford vs. Canada

Shelley vs. Kraemer (1946)

Missouri Supreme Court Case that involved the Shelley family who bought a home in a neighborhood in which a majority of the property owners had signed a restrictive covenant. The covenant stated that no home was to be sold to any person who was black, which led to the suit by the neighborhood to undo the sale of the property to Shelley. The case went to the United States Supreme Court.

- Missouri Supreme Court – September 1946: Shelley vs. Kraemer SC40692
- Department of Natural Resources – National Historic Register Places: NRSLC151 – Shelley House – St. Louis
- Vertical File – Archives Reference: Shelley vs. Kraemer

Missouri Commission on Human Rights

The Missouri Commission on Human Rights is charged with providing equitable and timely resolutions of discrimination claims through enforcement of the Missouri Human Rights Act. It was instrumental in documenting the reality of racial discrimination in Missouri and contribution to the Civil Rights movement. Established in 1957, the Commission is under control of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

- RG 328 Missouri Commission on Human Rights
 - Minutes of Commission Meetings, December 6, 1963—May 26, 1979
 - Tape Recordings of Meetings, 1974—1977 (CONTENTS RESTRICTED – Use must be approved by the Executive Director of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.)
 - Publications and Legislation, 1960—1972
 - Scrapbooks, 1958—1975
 - Labor and Industrial Relations
 - Untitled Series
- RG 108 Labor and Industrial Relations, Missouri Commission on Human Rights, boxes 1-4. Materials from MCHR created during Richard J. Chaumier's term 1968 – 1972; there are some restricted Files.
- RG 3.46 Office of Governor, Warren Eastman Hearnes, 1965-1973, box 118. Human Rights Commission, 1965-1972.

FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY

Missouri Compromise

In 1820, amid growing sectional tensions over the issue of slavery, the U.S. Congress passed a law that admitted Missouri to the Union as a slave state and Maine as a free state, while banning slavery from the remaining Louisiana Purchase lands located north of the 36° 30' parallel. The Missouri Compromise would remain in force for just over 30 years before it was repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. In 1857, the Supreme Court ruled the compromise unconstitutional in the Dred Scott case, setting the stage for the nation's final path toward the Civil War.

Missouri's 1820 Constitution:

<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll1/id/41/rec/1>

- MISSOURI COMPROMISE REMONSTRANCE: A grand jury of the St. Charles Circuit Court was one of seven in Missouri that protested Congressional restriction of state's rights in the Missouri Compromise by citing a "declaration of American rights, the constitution of the united States, the treaty of Cession [Louisiana Purchase], and the blood of our fathers who achieved our independence."

Missouri-Kansas Border War

Diplomacy and debate eroded in the struggle over the fate of slavery in Kansas Territory and erupted into partisan bloodshed in 1856. The rising number of fugitive slaves and tensions fueled by vengeful irregular violence swept across the border and threatened to push the leaders of Missouri and Kansas toward open warfare. The start of the national Civil War in 1861 brought even greater devastation, wrought less by the scattered battles between Union and Confederate armies than the widespread guerrilla war that raged through 1865, destroying several communities and displacing thousands of families showing the breakdown of diplomacy and its consequences.

- Special Collections RG 5.32 MO-KS Border War, 1858-1862 (on disk); Papers of Governor Robert Marcellus Stewart:
https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=rmstewart
- Wyllys C. Ransom vs. George C. Bingham
 - Title Wyllys C. Ransom vs. George C. Bingham Description These documents, created between 1866 and 1867, relate to the Jackson County, Missouri court case Wyllys C. Ransom vs. George C. Bingham. Ransom accuses Bingham of slander, asserting that Bingham publicly and repeatedly said he was a “murderer, robber, thief and a house burner” during the Civil War. Portions of testimony are from Ransom’s fellow officers in the Kansas Volunteers. Ransom seeks \$30,000 in damages.
- John C. Caldwell vs. Richard H. Porter
 - Title John C. Caldwell vs. Richard H. Porter Description These documents, created between 1855 and 1857, relate to the Jackson County, Missouri court case John C. Caldwell vs. Richard H. Porter. On January 1, 1855, Caldwell purchased a slave named Eliza for \$800 from slave dealer Clifton R. Barnes with plans to sell her for a profit in Louisiana. Caldwell later discovered that Eliza was “unsound both in body and mind” and accused Barnes of “fraud and wilfull misrepresentation.” Caldwell took Eliza back to Missouri but Barnes refused to rescind the sales contract.
- State vs. Thomas Brown
 - Title State vs. Thomas Brown Description These documents, created between 1855 and 1856, relate to the Jackson County, Missouri court case State vs. Thomas Brown. Brown is accused of attempting to take four slaves out of Missouri with the intention of procuring their freedom. The slaves were caught in DeKalb County, Missouri in November 1855; a witness recounts that “Brown stated he took those

Negroes for the love he had for them.” In a signed statement dated November 28, 1855, Thomas Brown pleads guilty to the charges.

Dred Scott Decision (1857)

Dred Scott, a slave, who had lived in the free state of Illinois and the free territory of Wisconsin before returning to the slave state of Missouri, sued for his emancipation (freedom). The case, which started in the Old Courthouse in St. Louis, went all the way to the US Supreme Court, where in 1857, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney declared that all blacks -- slaves as well as free -- were not and could not ever become citizens of the United States. The court also declared the 1820 Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, thus permitting slavery in all of the country's territories. This case deepened the conflict between free and slave states, and helped to move the country toward the Civil War.

- Case File and related information - Vertical Files – Reading Room
- St. Louis Circuit Court Case
- MO Supreme Court Case
 - 1848 Case – Emerson, Irene v. Scott, Dred and Scott, Harriet
 - 1852 Case – Scott, Dred v. Emerson, Irene
- U.S. Supreme Court Case
- Missouri’s Dred Scott Case, 1846-1857, Missouri State Archives - <https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/africanamerican/scott/scott>
- *Slavery, Law and Politics: The Dred Scott Case in Historical Perspectives*, Dan E. Fehrenbacher (R346.7301 F322) – Archives Reading Room
- *They Have No Rights: Dred Scott’s Struggle for freedom*, Walter Ehrlich (R346.73 Eh89) – Reading Room
- *Dred Scott: A Brief History with Documents*, Paul Finkleman (R342.73 F4957) – Reading Room
- *Old Courthouse* web page on Dred Scott case *Library of Congress* web page – Primary documents – Dred Scott v. Sanford
<https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/DredScott.html>

Freedom Suits

The Missouri State Archives has many freedom suits that occurred before Dred Scott. Information about these lawsuits may be accessed at

<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/Records/Archives/ArchivesDb/supremecourt/>