Archives Receives Grant to Digitize Early Supreme Court Records

New Civil War Exhibit Will Be Unveiled in April

Missouri Conference on History Scheduled for April

Archives Places Papers of Civil War Governors Online

Plans for the Future of Missouri’s Historical Records is Released

Archives Afield! Cedar County Probate Processing Project

Picture This: Infamous Missouri Mug Shots

Spring 2010
**From the State Archivist**

In these challenging times of tightened budgets and trying to do more work with less, it is sometimes refreshing to reflect on the more positive elements in our lives. As historians and genealogists, we are blessed in Missouri to have some of the best research institutions in the country. When I look at similar institutions across the nation, the Missouri State Archives’ commitment to making the records of our state open and accessible to the public is in stark contrast to many other institutions. The Missouri Digital Heritage website continues to build on the success of the Archives’ earlier indexing projects, adding photograph collections and state publications, among other resources. The addition of the 1959 death certificates has pushed just that one series to more than 2.2 million records.

One of the main reasons for this success is the Archives’ wonderful staff of caring professionals who work hard to preserve and make available the state’s most treasured and valuable records. A recent flurry of emails reinforces this fact. Conservation training workshops held across the state as part of our Missouri Historical Records Grant Program received rave reviews from both professionals and volunteers attending the sessions. One attendee said it was “one of the most productive days I have spent in a long time.” An onsite researcher who recently visited both our Jefferson City and St. Louis locations wrote that she had “worked in just about every state library/archives in the southeast (broadly defined) in the past 3 years, and I would say that my memories of Missouri will be by far the fondest.” A similar view was shared by an academic researcher who was able to access all of the state’s historical Blue Books on the Missouri Digital Heritage website. He may have directly complimented the availability of the records, but it was the diligent efforts of several staff members that earned these accolades.

Recent volunteer activities also emphasize how thankful we should be for their efforts. A significant number of our volunteers have been working their way through the indexes of Missouri’s land patents, adding difficult to read location information that will allow searches by range, section and township. Other e-volunteers are indexing the equally difficult early criminal court records of St. Louis. Over 100 onsite and online volunteers recently helped complete the 1959 death certificates project, and many of these are now indexing a massive collection of typed index cards for the Probate Court of St. Louis. In almost every one of these instances, the Archives would not have considered these projects without the assistance of our wonderful volunteers.

The Archives is also very fortunate to have such a supportive Friends organization. The Archives simply cannot do everything that it would like on its own. Over the years, the Friends have continued to support our public programming, *Archives Alive*, National History Day in Missouri (both regionally and at the state level), the William E. Foley Research Fellowship and numerous other projects. This very publication is funded by the Friends. Their financial support allows the Archives to reach out to the state’s students and researchers in ways that would not be possible otherwise. As we work together to build on past successes, it is my hope that you continue to play a vital part in our future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Dougan

State Archivist
Archives Receives Grant to Digitize Early Supreme Court Records

Since 1999, the Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Society has funded the creation of an annotated, online database for the historical case files of the Missouri Supreme Court. The society’s interns clean, flatten, index and describe case files each summer at the Missouri State Archives. As of 2009, a total of 12,000 criminal and civil cases from 1783 to 1889 had been indexed, making a wealth of historical information available online to search for free. Now, a $148,577 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) will enable the Archives to scan the original documents from 1821 to 1865 and link those digital images to the existing database entries.

Case files are often overlooked as a historical resource, but they are actually one of the richest resources available. Case files provide more than just the opinion of the court. They provide extensive details, sometimes veritable oral histories, which do not appear in any other records. Typically included among the files are documents such as transcripts from lower courts, briefs filed by attorneys or interested parties, depositions, and exhibits, including maps, photographs and handbills.

The Supreme Court case files are a collection in which the variety and significance of Missouri history becomes apparent, as cases evolve from French fur trappers to steamboat cases of the Mark Twain era to the rise of modern railroads. Within the collection are documents related to intriguing events such as Frank Blair’s challenge of the loyalty oath being administered after the Civil War and the construction of gunboats for service during the Civil War by wealthy St. Louis industrialist James Eads. In addition, the names of famous Missourians, such as American statesman Thomas Hart Benton and explorer, Indian agent and territorial governor William Clark, can be found intermingled with those of common citizens. Through these case files, a unique view is presented on a variety of topics – immigration, slavery and the effects of emancipation, westward expansion, local and state elections and even dueling.

Funding from the NHPRC will make possible the digitization and online accessibility of more than 9,000 of these case files, an estimated 864,000 pages of original Missouri history. Work on the project will begin April 1, 2010 and conclude September 30, 2012. For more information on the Supreme Court’s case files or to use the Missouri Supreme Court Historical Database, please visit www.sos.mo.gov/archives/judiciary/supremecourt/.

Case files are often overlooked as a historical resource, but they are actually one of the richest resources available.
The conflicts that surrounded the war were so divisive that they affected civilian and soldier alike. The unveiling of *Divided Loyalties* is open to the public. If you would like to attend, please call (573) 751-4236 to RSVP. The exhibit will be on display until May 31, 2011 and will begin to travel throughout Missouri in the summer of 2011.

**Missouri Conference on History Scheduled for April**

The Missouri State Archives, State Historical Society of Missouri, and Missouri Museums Association will co-sponsor the 52nd annual Missouri Conference on History from April 14-16, 2010 in Jefferson City, Missouri. The Missouri Conference on History brings together teachers of history and other professional historians to share in the presentation of research results, exchange information on teaching and curriculum, consider ways to promote interest in history and the welfare of the profession, and discuss other concerns common to all historians.

The conference will offer a variety of presentations on state, national and world history, including topics such as the Civil War, African-American activism, moral and social reform, Native Americans, slavery and the conservation of records. The keynote speaker will be Christopher Phillips, who will speak on “Lincoln’s Grasp of War: Neutrality, Conciliation, Slavery, and the Border State Dilemma, 1861-1863.”

Phillips is Professor of History at the University of Cincinnati, where he teaches courses in the era of the Civil War and Reconstruction with an emphasis on the American South. Of his five published books, four are centered on Missouri, including *The Making of a Southerner: William Barclay Napton’s Private Civil War*, *The Union on Trial: The Political Journals of William Barclay Napton, 1829-1883*, *Missouri’s Confederate: Claiborne Fox Jackson and the Creation of Southern Identity in the Border West*, and *Damned Yankee: The Life of Nathaniel Lyon*. 

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**New Civil War Exhibit Will Be Unveiled in April**

*Greg Olson*

*Exhibit Curator*

*Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives*, a new exhibit by the Missouri State Archives, will be unveiled at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2010, at the Kirkpatrick State Information Center, 600 West Main Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. The exhibit examines the upheaval and uncertainty that characterized Missouri during the Civil War era. Drawing on more than nine million pages of Civil War-related documents and court cases, the exhibit goes beyond the stories of battles and military strategy to consider the charged atmosphere of social conflict that permeated the state for two decades after the Kansas Border Wars of the mid-1850s.

The exhibit opens with a look at pre-Civil War Missouri and the important role the institution of slavery played in the state’s culture and economy. This section of the exhibit includes a look at the way in which slavery was protected in Missouri’s first constitution. It also shows how slaves were treated as property that could be bought, sold and distributed by probate courts. Court cases brought by slaves seeking their freedom are featured, like the famous suit filed by Dred and Harriet Scott in St. Louis.

*Divided Loyalties* illustrates how the issue of slavery divided Missouri’s white population. Though an 1861 state convention determined that the state would not leave the Union, Federal troops advanced on Jefferson City, forcing Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson and the Missouri State Guard to abandon the state capitol. The exhibit includes documents, both from Missouri’s pro-Confederate elected state government in exile and the federally-backed provisional government that took its place in June 1861.

Through state documents and court cases, *Divided Loyalties* shows that the Civil War in Missouri was not fought solely on the battlefield.
Phillips was elected a Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians in 2009 and is co-editor of Ohio Valley History, a peer-reviewed quarterly publication of regional history.

Anyone interested in the teaching of history, historical research, historical preservation or any other professional application of history is welcome to attend the conference. For more information on the conference program and details on how to register, please visit shs.umsystem.edu/mch/.

Archives Places Papers of Civil War Governors Online

In anticipation of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in 2011, the Missouri State Archives has digitized and placed online the official papers of the men serving as Missouri’s governor during 1861 to 1865: Claiborne Fox Jackson, Hamilton Rowan Gamble, Willard Preble Hall and Thomas Clement Fletcher.

Claiborne Fox Jackson was serving as governor when a state convention was called in 1861 to decide whether Missouri would secede or remain in the Union. Jackson believed the state convention would vote for secession, so he aligned himself with the pro-Southern majority. Jackson was wrong. Instead, the convention vacated the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state and the legislative assembly. Hamilton Rowan Gamble was appointed provisional governor, and a statewide election was called for in November. Jackson ignored the convention’s order and declared Missouri a free republic, dissolving all ties with the Union. He summoned the former assembly to meet in November and, although less than a quorum of either house responded, a formal ordinance of secession was passed and senators and representatives to the Confederacy were appointed. The Confederate States of America admitted Missouri on November 28, 1861. Jackson went to southern Arkansas with the Confederate sympathizing members of the state government after the Battle of Pea Ridge. He died near Little Rock on December 6, 1862.

After being named provisional governor, Hamilton Rowan Gamble’s chief concern became keeping Missouri in the Union while simultaneously resisting federal control. The toll on his health, together with a fall on the ice at the executive mansion, led to a case of pneumonia from which he died on January 31, 1864.

Willard Preble Hall had been chosen by the 1861 state convention to serve as lieutenant governor. Upon Gamble’s death, Hall became Missouri’s 17th governor. A former U.S. Representative and veteran of the Mexican War, he served as governor until Thomas Clement Fletcher was sworn in on January 2, 1865 and then returned to his law practice in St. Joseph.

Thomas Clement Fletcher was the first native Missourian to serve as governor. In this capacity, he dealt with amnesty for Confederate soldiers and sympathizers, emancipation of Missouri slaves, railroad bond defaults and the reorganization of the public education system. Fletcher supported the establishment of Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City, now known as Lincoln University, and also established the Missouri State Board of Immigration. This board helped rebuild the state’s population, which declined during the Civil War years.

By making available the records of these four governors, the Missouri State Archives hopes to enable researchers to study the actions of state government during the Civil War and make it possible for students and interested citizens to have access to the historical records of their state’s leaders. Members of the Archives staff are currently preparing the papers of Reconstruction-era governors for inclusion on the Missouri Digital Heritage website and plan to have those available.
before the start of the Civil War’s sesquicentennial in 2011. To view the papers of Missouri’s Civil War governors and other documents made available by the Archives, please visit www.missouridigitalheritage.com.

Plan for the Future of Missouri’s Historical Records is Released

The Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) has published a strategic plan for the future development of Missouri’s historical records community. Securing Our Documentary Heritage: A Plan for the Preservation of Missouri’s Historical Records identifies the greatest challenges being faced by the state’s historical records repositories and ways records keepers can meet those challenges together.

The plan is the result of a yearlong assessment and planning effort conducted by the MHRAB, with the assistance of the Missouri State Archives and the State Historical Society of Missouri. With funding from a $19,466 grant provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the MHRAB conducted a statewide survey, performed at least 39 on-site appraisals of local records repositories, and held seven regional public forums. These measures were designed to gain feedback on the condition of Missouri’s historical records, issues of concern to the historical records community and ideas for improving access and saving the state’s records for future generations.

Securing Our Documentary Heritage will help the MHRAB, Archives, State Historical Society, and other institutions focus their activities and grant funding on the programs of greatest benefit to the preservation of Missouri’s past. In addition, the information gathered while creating the plan enabled the MHRAB to update its website with resources of use to records keepers, including links to grant opportunities and an online directory of the state’s historical records repositories.

The directory provides information about the holdings and location of historical research centers in the state. Any Missouri institution that has original records in its care is eligible for inclusion in the directory.

Please visit the MHRAB’s website at www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mhrab/mhrab.asp to view the strategic plan, online directory, grant opportunities and other features. If you would like to receive a printed copy of the plan or submit your institution for inclusion in the directory, please email mhrab@sos.mo.gov or call (573) 526-1981.

The MHRAB is the central advisory board for historical records planning and for projects relating to historic records that are developed and carried out within Missouri. The board is coordinated by the Office of the Secretary of State and the Missouri State Archives. Through programs and projects like those featured here, the MHRAB strives to fulfill its mission to “promote and support identification of, preservation of, and access to all historical records in Missouri.”
Montgomery’s estate inventory included six slaves (three male, two female, and one child unidentified) ranging in age from two years old to 40 years old.

Also of interest are allusions to the Civil War. In the case of the Benjamin Smithson estate, the administrator reported that much of the property was lost during the war, except for an 120 acre land warrant. The John W. Montgomery estate listed $120 in Confederate money. Dr. Samuel Bender had claims against the Montgomery estate, but could not produce the original claims because at the time that the claims were held in the clerk’s office (1862), the area was raided by General Joseph Shelby and Colonel John Coffee. The claims were lost or destroyed during the raid. Papers in the estate of John E. Ross referenced notes being stolen by bushwhackers during the Civil War.

Something else that has come to light while processing these files are the bequests by aspiring philanthropists within the county. In September 1864, David S. Stapleton’s second will stipulated that the bulk of his estate was to be given to a school and be called Stapleton’s College (He also wanted a 12-foot monument erected on his gravesite!). There is no record as to whether these requests came to fruition or not.

W. W. Graves’ November 1897 will had 31 stipulations, which included several nieces and nephews listed as heirs/beneficiaries. He also requested that a $700 note and part of the pro-
ceeds from the sale of his property, including land in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Michigan and Florida, go to William Jewell (Baptist) College for ministerial education and that additional proceeds went to Webb City College.

These examples illustrate the type of information that can be gleaned from probate files to enhance both family and general history projects. A major part of all Local Records processing projects is the creation of a database containing detailed information drawn from the files, which is made available to the public through the Missouri State Archives website once the project is completed. As a result, researchers interested in topics other than family history can search probate files without having to know about the individuals beforehand.

This project, like many other Local Records projects, relies on volunteer labor. In Cedar County, Janet Jones, volunteer coordinator for the project, has been with the project since the beginning. Jones especially enjoys records from the 1860s and 1870s that involve information relating to the Civil War and was excited to find her great-grandfather’s probate file among the records being processed. Volunteers have processed approximately 20 cubic feet of probate records in Cedar County and are currently working with files from the 1890s. Volunteers work in the basement of the Cedar County Courthouse, just outside the assessor’s office. Because of the work of Jones and other volunteers, a unique part of Missouri’s history is available to the public.

Picture This: Infamous Missouri Mug Shots
Erin Sehorn
Visual Materials Archivist

The Missouri State Archives has a large collection of mug shots that correspond to the prison records of inmates who were once housed in the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). Mug shots are photographs of a person’s face, taken after he or she is arrested, used by police for identification. Generally, mug shots depict a front-view and profile of the individual. These photographs provide police and investigators, along with victims, a means of identifying crime suspects. This article provides a look at some of the more notorious inmates found in the collection and a brief account of their crimes.

Bonny Brown Heady and Carl Austin Hall kidnapped and murdered Bobby Greenlease, the six-year-old son of prominent Kansas City banker Robert C. Greenlease in September 1953. After a weeklong, alcohol induced driving spree, the two were arrested in St. Louis. Once imprisoned at MSP, Hall showed signs of remorse for the crime; Heady, however, seemed unaffected. Heady and Hall were executed in the gas chamber on December 18, 1953.

Charles “Sonny” Liston entered the MSP in 1950 after committing several robberies. This illiterate son of a violent sharecropper seemed destined for a life of crime. Luckily, Father Alois Stevens and Father Edward Schlattmann directed Liston toward the boxing ring while he served his time, and his talent garnered the attention of a
Charles “Sonny” Liston
Department of Corrections and Human Services Collection, Missouri State Archives

James Earl Ray
Department of Corrections and Human Services Collection, Missouri State Archives

Save the Date!
Dennis Stroughmatt to Perform at Friends Annual Meeting

Dennis Stroughmatt will be performing at the 2010 Friends of the Missouri State Archives annual meeting on Saturday, June 12. Stroughmatt has gained wide acclaim for his work in bringing to life the songs and stories of the French Creoles of “Upper” Louisiana, who remain in towns along the Mississippi River south of St. Louis. Over the past seven years, he has traveled across the world to share the music, language and culture of Mississippi River Creoles with thousands of music lovers, historians, students and families. A recognized African Creole and French Creole fiddle master, Stroughmatt will undoubtedly make the annual luncheon of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives an event to remember.

Details regarding the cost and reservations for this event will be mailed directly to Friends members and individuals in the surrounding area who have requested notice of programs being held at the Archives. You may also learn more about the event by calling (573) 526-1981.
Open City: True Story of the KC Crime Family, 1900-1950
April 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Open City: True Story of the KC Crime Family details an historical account of the birth and growth of organized crime in Kansas City during the first 50 years of the 20th century. William Ouseley, a retired supervisor of the Organized Crime Squad, Kansas City Field Division, waged a 21-year battle against the modern day Kansas City “crime family.” He researched the facts, stories and legends that led to Kansas City’s reputation as a wide-open, anything goes city, dominated by a powerful political machine and the organized crime syndicate. Ouseley’s FBI experience makes possible an in-depth analysis of the historical materials that make up this book. Ouseley shares the story of a captive city, unbridled politicians, powerful and colorful mob bosses, gangland murders, racket activities and courageous police officers and reformers.

The Santa Fe Trail in Missouri
May 13, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
For 19th century travelers, the Santa Fe Trail was an indispensable route stretching from Missouri to New Mexico and beyond. The section from St. Louis to Westport, known as “The Missouri Trail,” offered migrating Americans their first experience with the West. Anyone who wanted to reach Santa Fe first had to travel the width of Missouri. In The Santa Fe Trail in Missouri, Mary Collins Barile offers an introduction to Missouri’s section of the trail, providing an account of its historical and cultural significance. Barile shares how the route evolved from Indian paths, trappers’ traces and wagon roads and how the experience of traveling the Santa Fe Trail varied even within Missouri. The book highlights the origin and development of the trail, offers a brief description of what travelers could expect to find in frontier Missouri and describes some of the major people associated with the trail.

A Missouri Railroad Pioneer: The Life of Louis Houck
June 24, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Known as a lawyer, journalist, entrepreneur, historian and philanthropist, Louis Houck is also considered the “Father of Southeast Missouri.” Houck brought the railroad to the region and opened the area to industrialization and modernization. In this new biography, Joel Rhodes tells how this self-taught railroader constructed a network of 500 miles of track through the wetlands known as “Swampeast” Missouri from 1880 to the 1920s. These “Houck Roads” provided a boost for population, agriculture, lumbering and commerce that transformed Cape Girardeau and the surrounding area. In telling the story of Houck’s railroading enterprise, Rhodes chronicles Houck’s battle with the Jay Gould railroad empire and offers key insight into the development of America’s railway system, from the cutthroat practices of ruthless entrepreneurs to the often-comic ineptness of start-up rail lines.
Donations to Friends of the Missouri State Archives
as of January 31, 2010

Institutional Donors
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Joplin Museum Complex
Midwest Genealogy Center
Ozarks Genealogical Society
Tri-County Genealogical Society

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Spring 2010
University of Missouri Press Offers Discount to Friends Members

The University of Missouri Press is offering a discount to individuals or organizations that join the Friends of the Missouri State Archives in 2010. New or renewing Friends members will receive 30% off of their next book purchase from the press. This generous offer is being extended to the Friends in order to acknowledge their dedication to the preservation and study of Missouri history.

Membership in the Friends of the Missouri State Archives is open to anyone interested in sharing the story of Missouri’s past and saving the state’s historical records for future generations. All donations are tax-deductible. Contributions are used to fund research fellowships for scholars utilizing records housed at the Missouri State Archives; educational outreach activities, such as the Thursday Evening Speaker Series and Archives Alive!, a history-based theatrical performance for school children; and the processing work necessary to preserve and make available the state’s historical documents. If you are interested in joining the Friends, please complete the membership form located in the back of this newsletter or visit the Friends website at www.friendsofmsa.org.

Recent Accessions: November 2009 – January 2010

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

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

Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Records

Adjutant General.
Motion Pictures. Atomic Bomb and Radiation Effects. ........................................ 28 16 mm. reels

Department of Economic Development.
Division of Tourism Slides. 1990-2005. ................................................................. 5 cubic ft.

Department of Health and Senior Services.
Death Certificates. 1959. ....................................................................................... 13 cubic ft.

General Assembly.
Records (2009) of the Missouri House of Representatives, 95th General Assembly, 1st session. ................................................................. 2 cubic ft.
Legislative Papers.

Secretary of State.

County and Municipal Records
Cape Girardeau County.
Court of Common Pleas. Case Files. April 1865-November 1870. ..................8 reels

Cass County.
Probate Court. Records. 1835-1991. ..........................................................22 reels

Cedar County.

Howell County.

Jackson County. City of Independence.
City Clerk. Death Records. 1897-1909. ..........................................................3 reels

Johnson County.
Circuit Clerk. Case Files (Civil). 1840-1880. .......................................................10 reels

Laclede County.

Lawrence County.
Circuit Court. Case Files. 1862-1899. ..........................................................21 reels

Lincoln County.
Probate Court. Case Files. May 1819-February 1861. ........................................24 reels

Macon County.

Marion County. City of Palmyra.
City Council Minutes (1854-1919); Ordinances and Resolutions (1867-1908). .......4 reels

Montgomery County.
Collector of Revenue. Real Estate Taxes. 1900-1999. ........................................71 reels
Donations to the Missouri State Archives

November 2009 – January 2010

Immigration, Family History, and County Records

Dilger, Nancy P.


Hankey, Roy W.

*The Stewarts: Ancestors and Descendants*, by Roy W. Hankey.

Jackson, M. Yvonne


Mattmann, Lloyd

Reilly, Catherine Alsup
      An Alsup Journey (DVD Documentary), by Catherine Alsup Reilly.

Schlup, Peter
      Transcriptions of:
      Cooper County 1880 Census
      Moniteau County 1880 Census
      Moniteau County 1900 Census
      Moniteau County Marriages, Volume 4, 1981-2000

Wyrick, Doris
      A Collection of Family Members (Family recollections from the descendants of George Washington Edwards Sr., 1842-1928), by Doris Edwards Wyrick et al.

Military History

Hopper, Curtis
      The Day Dixie Died: Southern Occupation, 1865-1866, by Thomas and Debra Goodrich.
      Dissonance: The Turbulent Days between Fort Sumter and Bull Run, by David Detzer.
      Faces of the Confederacy: An Album of Southern Soldiers and Their Stories,
          by Ronald S. Coddington.
      One Continuous Fight: The Retreat from Gettysburg and the Pursuit of Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, July 4-14, 1863, by Eric J. Whittenberg, J. David Petruzzi and Michael F. Nugent.
      William Lowndes Yancey: The Coming of the Civil War, by Eric H. Walther.

Nickell, Frank
      From Farm to Front: An Innocent Goes to War, 1942-1946, by Lawrence E. Breeze.

Weant, Kenneth
      Transcriptions of:
      Missouri Enrolled Militia Infantry Regiments (St. Louis Regiments), 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Regiments, Volume 1
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