

The Missouri State Archives

Where History Begins

Summer 2018



Missouri Department
of Conservation
Photograph Collection

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The Friends of the Missouri State Archives

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

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On the Cover

Close-up of an upland sandpiper at the Paint Brush Conservation Area. *Photograph by Jim Rathert. May 1985. Missouri Department of Conservation Photograph Collection, Missouri State Archives.*

From the State Archivist

By John Dougan

A recent research project reminded me of the important nature of primary sources—they invariably lead to historical facts. While walking a narrow ridge on National Forest land last fall, I noticed an unusual hole in the ground just a short distance ahead. Having hiked in the area dozens of times and never seeing it before, I thought it might be a recently dug animal den. On closer examination, however, it turned out to be an open well. I'm not an archeologist, but, to my amateur eye, it appeared to date from before the Civil War, with walls constructed of hand-stacked, unmortared stone maybe 10-15 feet deep. And to my surprise, when I looked down, I found I wasn't even the first person to rediscover it; someone had dropped in a "horse apple" and there are no Osage orange trees nearby!

What started that day with a short hike turned into dozens of hours spent locating property owners and deeds and investigating their families in every available source. Although I was able to piece together much of the area's history, gaps remained, and I struggled to get past one central question—why was it there? The 800-acre tract has numerous historic house sites, each with a well, cistern or creek access, but this well was dug at the worst possible location with bedrock just a few feet down and deep valleys on each side. I fully expected to find property owners with children named Jack and Jill. What were these early settlers thinking putting a well at the top of a hill?

During an investigation of the surrounding area, I found the corner stones of an adjacent structure—possibly a small house—and numerous early area maps show a roadway always running through the vicinity. At one point, the owners split away a 15-acre wedge that included the well but no tillable ground. The soil is so poor that the 1880 Agricultural Census even shows a neighbor with several 40-acre tracts earning almost his entire income from just two acres of tobacco. The well



Spring fed well in Mark Twain National Forest. *Photograph by Patricia Dougan. April 2018.*

location still made absolutely no sense. No sense at least until April, when I took my wife and daughter out to take pictures for a presentation I was putting together. (I'm no photographer!)

The well had another story to tell that day. Despite very little snow or rainfall during the winter, the spring that feeds the well had filled it to within a few inches of the top. The first settlers knew exactly what they were doing more than 150 years ago! They channeled a source to meet their needs, and in the process provided a living example of the value in not just scratching the surface, but digging deeper—a lesson all researchers can appreciate. One source may solve a mystery, while another will lead you to pursue something completely new. This is why records preservation and access is so important. Why the Missouri State Archives and the Friends of the Missouri State Archives are important. So, from one researcher to another, avoid falling in research wells, but drink deeply from all the rich sources that you find.

History is, at its most basic, storytelling. Among its many valuable qualities, history documents and transmits our shared experience as communities, nations and—ultimately—humankind. Local government records are no exception, containing truly compelling stories that are often relatable because we recognize the setting. In 2005, the first *Archives Afield* essay appeared in this newsletter focusing on these cases. In the 45 issues since, 39 essays on the finds and activities of the Local Records Program have, hopefully, informed and entertained. However, these articles record only a tiny fraction of what Local Records Program archivists recover each month.

Beginning with this issue, *Archives Afield* will share more of these tales. Highlighted here are case files from various circuit courts around the state. While we still plan to present the occasional essay, we hope this new format is pleasing and informative. And who knows—maybe you'll discover something from your neck of the woods!

Franklin County

January 1899, Christian E. Droste, Application to Practice Law. Droste had already applied to practice law, once in Franklin County and again in Gasconade. At the time of this, his second Franklin County application, he claimed his residence as St. Louis County. The committee found, "He is now a conductor on a street car running from the limits of the city of St. Louis out into St. Louis County," "that he is unlearned in the law," "that he is not a resident of this circuit" and that they could not recommend him to be admitted to the bar.

Harrison County

No Date. Found loose document. The text refers to a "Nelson" and a "Lauderback" working the gold fields and leaving their families in destitute circumstances. Although not dated, the blue paper likely indicates it is from the 1850s and is referencing the California Gold Rush. (Editorial Note: Finding a stray document is typically frustrating for an archivist, but this example illustrates how they can be interesting, even out of context.)



Former Callaway County Local Records project site. Photograph by Carolyn Collings. No date.

March 1882, State of Missouri v. Mrs. Edward S. Miner, Disturbing the Peace. Ms. Miner carried a concealed weapon (pistol) into the Bethany schoolroom on January 28, 1882.

Holt County

April 1844, James Smith v. James Morrow, Debt. This case involves a \$200 debt for the purchase of a land claim in Benton Township. Filed documents include an article of agreement between the litigants whereby James Smith sells to James Morrow his land claim on "Squaw Creek." (Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge was recently renamed the Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge.)

1866, State of Missouri v. Elizabeth Sampsell, no charges brought. The defendant threatened Jason S. Bumps on August 23, 1866, when she said "#\$% damn your old abolition heart I'll roast you alive I'll burn you out tonight I'll roast you alive I came here to clean you out and I'll do it." Mr. Bumps went to Mayor J. S. Hart and the justice of the peace who promptly had Ms. Sampsell arrested but eventually ruled there was "sufficient evidence to arrest but not sufficient to convict - defendant is discharged."

Roundtable

Most of the cases in this series were rehoused in yellow envelopes when they were assigned vault numbers (it is assumed this occurred during an earlier WPA project). Many of these documents show evidence of fire damage from before the rehousing. For example, the January 1861 divorce case file of Elizabeth Johnson v. John Johnson includes her fire damaged petition for divorce, filed January 25, 1861, and an affidavit by Holt County Circuit Clerk E. VanBuskirk, dated April 23, 1862, which explains that the petition had been copied as the original was "partially destroyed by fire." The fire therefore must have occurred sometime in 1861 or early 1862.

Lafayette County

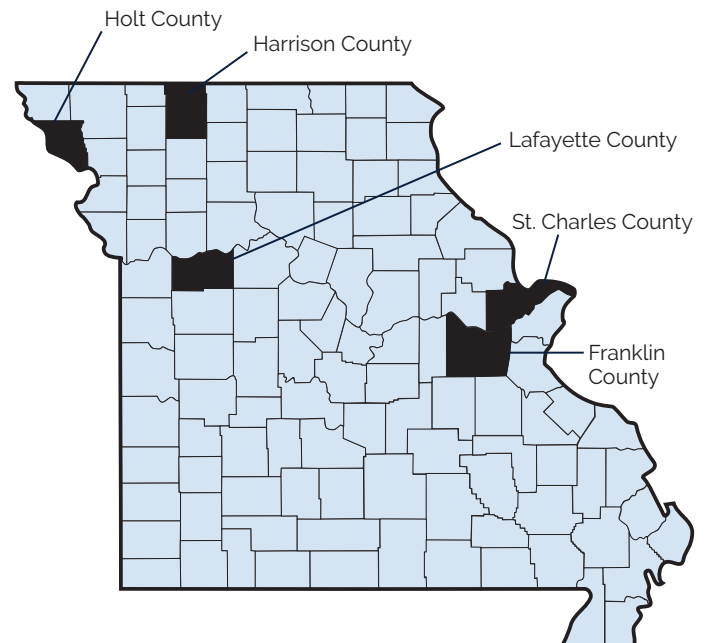
March 1888, State of Missouri v. Patrick Lyons, Murder. The defendant was a saloon barkeep accused of killing a miner named Frank Craven by hitting him in the head with a metal beer faucet. The documents explain Craven and a group of 12-15 miners started drinking after work outside of a mine west of Lexington, consuming an 8-10-gallon keg of lager according to one witness. Later in the evening, by all accounts given as evidence, the men arrived at the saloon looking for a fight. After a member of the party threw a chair against the bar, the defendant ordered the men to leave. When they refused, a fight broke out in which Craven hit the defendant with a rock before the defendant hit Craven with the beer faucet. A doctor was called who later stated he gave Craven cocaine to help his pain, but that he found him dead a day or so later when he went back to check on him.

1891, State of Missouri v. Harrison Sickler, Displaying an Honest Sign on a Bawdy House. The defendant was charged with running a bawdy house in Higginsville, but also faced a second charge because he put a deceitful sign on the building that read "Central Hotel". (Editorial Note: Every so often, a charge comes along that is "new.")

St. Charles County

March 1884, Mary Gleeson v. Excelsior Manufacturing Company, Negligence. The plaintiff's husband, John Gleeson, was the company's night watchman before

he fell through a hatchway on the second floor of their building on January 17, 1882. He died from his injuries and the plaintiff sought \$5,000 in damages. The defendants, the company's owners, argued that employees take on all the risks of their employment and that the watchman in particular was responsible for closing hatchways left open by other employees at the end of the day. They further argued that a porter or "hatchman," whose job was to close all the hatches, had left the hatchway open. Therefore, even though the hatchmen were employees of the company, the company was not negligent or liable. The plaintiff argued that Gleeson was exercising "ordinary care" in his duties when he fell and that there was negligence on behalf of the company because of the lack of a railing around the hatchway. One jury instruction given states "the law implies the duty upon the part of the master to use ordinary care to supply appliances with which the servant is to discharge his duties ... which are reasonably safe and suitable." Unfortunately, the file contains no record of the outcome.



Picture This

By Erika Woehlk, Visual Materials Archivist

Missouri Department of Conservation Photograph Collection

We are pleased to announce the latest addition to the Archives' online collections: the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Photograph Collection. Containing over 4,500 black and white prints and one special document shown on the opposite page, it was received from the MDC in early 2011. The entire collection has now been fully processed, digitized and placed on Missouri Digital Heritage (<http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16795coll24>).

Missouri voters passed Constitutional Amendment No. 4 by initiative petition in November 1936 creating the Missouri Conservation Commission and the MDC. Then in 1976 voters passed a second initiative creating a 1/8th of 1 percent (0.00125) sales tax to help fund the department. The MDC is run solely by monies gathered through this tax and the sales of hunting, fishing and other permits. Because the department is not funded through the state budget, it is referred to as a "non-political" organization. This leadership model has been lauded and emulated by other states since its inception. Today, the Missouri Department of Conservation oversees more than 975,000 acres of land with a mission "to protect and manage the forest, fish and wildlife resources of the state and to facilitate and provide opportunities for all citizens to use, enjoy and learn about these resources."

The photographs in the Collection reflect the Department's mission, with subjects including flowers and trees, wildlife such as birds, mammals and reptiles, and MDC events and staff portraits. Primary photographers are Don Wooldridge, Jim Rathert, Russ Reagan and Dawn Drainer-Stegeman. Most images are from the 1950s, '60s and '90s; however, there are some pre-department images going back to 1903. (The full range is 1903–1995.) Many appeared in the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine over the years, issues of which can also be found on Missouri Digital Heritage.

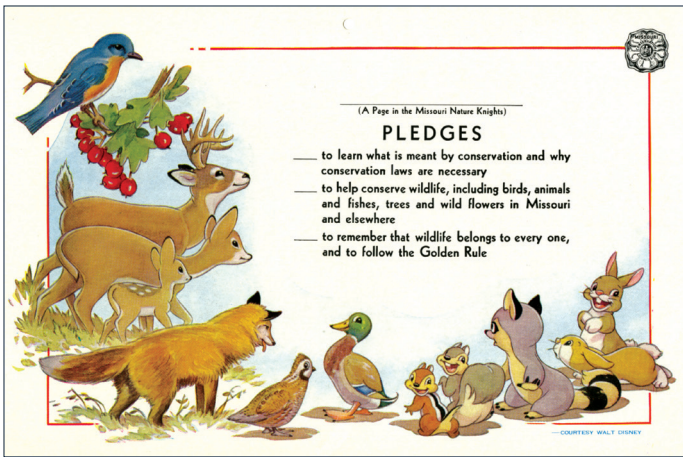
We hope your interest in Missouri's natural history will flower through use of this collection!



Taxidermy mount of the world record-holding atypical buck found near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in 1982. *Unknown photographer.*



An adult great horned owl about to take flight from a snowy tree. *Photograph by Jim Rathert. February 1985.*



Famous artist (and Missourian) Walt Disney created this illustration for the Conservation Commission's Nature Knights Program in March 1939. Aimed at schoolchildren statewide, the program allowed students to advance from page to squire to knight and finally to conservationist. Evoking characters from *Bambi* and *Snow White*, Missouri kids were privileged to have their own Disney drawing!



Two beavers are released from wire cages into the wild as part of a species restoration effort. *Photograph by Rex Gary Schmidt. September 1943.*



A Fountain Grove hunter stands in knee-deep water retrieving duck decoys. *Photograph by Don Wooldridge. October 1951.*



A raccoon taunts the photographer by sticking out its tongue. *Photograph by Don Wooldridge. No date.*



Close-up shot of an adult bald eagle, once a species of conservation concern in Missouri and now successfully re-established. *Photograph by Don Wooldridge. No date.*

Summer 2018 Program Calendar

Growing Up in a Land Called Honalee: The Sixties in the Lives of American Children

Thursday, June 21, 7 p.m.

In his latest book, *Growing Up in a Land Called Honalee: The Sixties in the Lives of American Children*, author Joel P. Rhodes examines how the multiple social, cultural and political changes between President John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961 and the end of the United States involvement in Vietnam in 1973 manifested themselves in the lives of preadolescent Americans. He connects the formative world of those born between 1956 and 1970, exploring how this group understood the historical forces of the 1960s as children. By exploring important issues and iconic images from the period, Rhodes focuses not only on the immediate imprint that the 1960s had on these young people, but also how their perspective on the era influenced them as adults. Join us as Rhodes combines a certain bittersweet nostalgia with a fascinating analysis of the lives of mid-century Americans.



Join, Save, Buy: U.S. World War I Posters on the Home Front, Commemorating the Centennial Anniversary of World War I

Thursday, July 12, 2018, 7 p.m.

Upon entering World War I in 1917, the United States government and its civilian agencies produced roughly 3,000 different wartime posters. These artistic renderings depicted the ideals of patriotism, beauty, adventure and protection, and strongly contributed to the successful mobilization of citizens during the Great War. In *Join, Save, Buy: U.S. World War I Posters on the Home Front*, Amanda Langendoerfer, Associate Dean of Libraries for Special Collections and Museums at Truman State University's Pickler Memorial Library, along with Assistant Professor of History Dr. Jason McDonald and University Art Gallery Director Dr. Heidi Cook will examine a selection of never-before-exhibited World War I posters from Truman State's E.M. Violette Museum Collection. Their program will provide an opportunity to view samples from one of the U.S. government's major historical marketing endeavors and to recognize the impact of the war on American citizens, both home and abroad.



Báxoje in Blue: loway Men in the Union Army

Thursday, August 23, 2018, 7 p.m.

Báxoje in Blue examines the lives of 50 loway, or *Báxoje*, men who left their tiny reservation on the Kansas/Nebraska border to fight for the Union Army in the Trans-Mississippi West. Because they all served in integrated regiments with their white neighbors, their experiences differed from those Native men who served in the segregated Indian Home Guard units. Author Greg Olson will investigate the reasons the loways sent 75 percent of their military age men to fight for a county that would not grant them citizenship. He will follow the soldiers through the Civil War and discuss the ways in which these loway men were forever changed by their wartime experiences.



Left: George Campbell, or *Washóshe*, was a private in Company B, Thirteenth Kansas Volunteer Infantry. Photo courtesy of Pete Fee. No date.



Civil War Claims Commission Records

By Christina Miller, Senior Reference Archivist



Authorized March 19, 1874, the "act to audit and adjust the war debt of the state," created a commission with two members appointed by the governor and the acting quartermaster-general as *ex officio* chairman. Their responsibility was to audit irregular and mixed claims of citizens, and pay claims of officers and soldiers that had remained unpaid since the end of the Civil War. Per the law, both citizens and soldiers had "up to the first day of August, 1874" to file a claim or "be forever barred."

A certificate of state indebtedness would be issued for all claims allowed by the commission, but, according to the law, the claim would not be payable by the state until at least a portion was first paid by the U.S. government. If the federal government refused to pay on a claim, the state was then not liable.

Corruption and speculation on the certificates was common over the next few years as Missouri's representatives attempted unsuccessfully to pass a bill through Congress to provide payment on the approved claims. By 1876, seven people, including commission chairman John D. Crafton, had been indicted on fraud charges for knowingly approving fraudulent claims and forging the signature of the governor.

With Congress continuing to refuse to pay the Missouri claims, the Missouri attorney general filed suit in federal court in an effort to force a jurisdictional change from

Congress to the U.S. Court of Claims. The U.S. Supreme Court denied the suit in 1907, thereby ending Missouri's effort to receive payment for any of the approved claims.

Recently processed by volunteers, the claim files held by the Missouri State Archives are arranged by county, then alphabetically. Records may include claim forms for items seized in support of the Union war effort, affidavits, power of attorney documents and correspondence. Forms typically include details about the items supplied, as well as dates, to whom the supplies went and the claimed value. Soldiers' claims may include requests for back pay or payment for the use of their own horses, wagons and feed.

Additional information about the Commission can be found in the correspondence files of the Office of the Adjutant General of Missouri.

A finding aid with collection details is available online at www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Archives/resources/findingaids/RG133.10.pdf. To request a search of the claim files, contact the Missouri State Archives reference services at archives@sos.mo.gov and include the county and name you would like searched.



Friends Host Capitol Reception



On the evening of Thursday, March 15, 2018, the Friends of the Missouri State Archives hosted a public reception in the third floor rotunda of the Missouri State Capitol in conjunction with the 2018 Missouri Conference on History. Highlighting the event, Friends board member, veteran newsman and author of *The Art of the Missouri Capitol: History in Canvas, Bronze, and Stone*, Bob Priddy, provided tours of the House Lounge, focusing on Thomas Hart Benton's celebrated mural, *A Social History of Missouri*.

Light refreshments from Sweet Chipotle Catering were available throughout the evening and attendees were able to enjoy a display of the Missouri State Archives' exhibit, *Pillars of the State: The Centennial of the Missouri State Capitol, 1917-2017*.

Many thanks to everyone that attended, as well as Bob Priddy and all of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives membership for making this event possible!



Left: Thomas Hart Benton painting *A Social History of Missouri* in the Missouri State Capitol House Lounge. Photograph from the *Commerce and Industrial Development Collection*. No date.



Right: Bob Priddy discussing Thomas Hart Benton's *A Social History of Missouri*. Photograph courtesy of John Tandy. March 2018.



Volunteer Spotlight: eVolunteers

By Kelsey Berryhill, eVolunteer Coordinator



One of the main priorities of the Missouri State Archives is to provide access to materials, both in person and online. Created in 1999, the eVolunteer program has indexed much of the information now available in the databases on our website. Without these folks, our online presence would be meager to say the least. As of this summer, the program has over 1,700 volunteers who work on a variety of projects, including the indexing of Missouri marriages, the annual release of Missouri Death Certificates and various in-house volumes of county, military and census records.

One of our most prolific eVolunteers is Tom Waters. Beginning with the death certificate project in 2005, he's remained with the program over the years because of his "love [of] family history and seeing various types of records made available." In addition to participating in the annual death certificate project, Tom's also worked on records from the Joplin Children's Home, the 1870 Mortality Schedules, Supreme Court of Missouri Basement Case File Indexes, the marriage project and much more.

Our eVolunteers use both a web-based indexing portal and images distributed via email. They can do as little or as much indexing as they like from the comfort of their own home. (Staff jokingly say it must be nice to work in your pajamas!) Although there are many eVolunteers who live near the Archives, the program has active volunteers from all across the United States, and even a few located internationally!

Ongoing & recurring eVolunteer projects include:

- Post-1910 Death Certificates (Annually)
- Missouri Marriages, 1820-1945, in association with FamilySearch (Ongoing)
- Missouri State Penitentiary, 1931-1983 (Ongoing)
- World War I Bonus Claim Cards (Ongoing)

For more information regarding these projects, contact Kelsey Berryhill, the Missouri State Archives eVolunteer Coordinator, at archvol@sos.mo.gov.

Donations to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives

(December 1, 2017 to May 24, 2018)

Harry S. Truman (\$1,000)

Tom Hobbs, Greenfield

Thomas Hart Benton (\$500)

Evie Bresette, Kansas City
Randy Washburn, Versailles

Dred & Harriet Scott (\$250)

Petra DeWitt, Rolla
Nancy Grant, Hartsburg
Stephen Limbaugh Jr., Cape Girardeau
Joan McCauley, Newport Beach, CA
Vicki Myers, Jefferson City
Walter & Patty Schroeder, Jefferson City
Frank & Julia Thacher, Boonville

Mark Twain (\$100)

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Marc Bennett, St. Joseph
Marilyn Bradford, Jefferson City
Mae Bruce, Jefferson City
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William & Rosalie Buehrle, Jefferson City
Robyn Burnett & Ken Luebbering, Jefferson City
Rebecca Carpenter, Fenton
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Gary Collins, Jefferson City
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Patricia Luebbert, Loose Creek
Charles Machon, Iberia
Matt Mancini, St. Louis
Patrick & Marianne Mills, Jefferson City
Patricia Mitchell-Fitzgerald, Webster Groves
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Beverly Ratcliffe, O'Fallon
David Sapp, Columbia
Greg & Vicki Schildmeyer, Jefferson City
Diane Schroeder, Long Beach, CA
Katheryn Scott, Orange Beach, AL
Gayle Slagell, Glendale, AZ
Pat Stamm, St. Louis
Larry & JoAnn Steinmetz, Jefferson City
Lynda & Don Stubblefield, Jefferson City
Fred Vahle, Warrenton
Dennis & Merritt Van Landuyt, Gravois Mills
Katherine Watkins, Raymore
Cynthia Williams, Lee's Summit
Kenneth Winn, University City
Heinz & Mary Lou Woehlk, Kirksville
Louis Wolff, Orange, TX
Alan Wright, St. Louis

Daniel Boone (\$75)

Jon Bergenthal, St. Louis
Sandra Chan, Tucson, AZ
Shirley Christian, Overland Park, KS
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Robert Fox, Webster Groves
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Cleopha Howard, Jefferson City

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Richard & Barbara Huddleston, Fulton
Cristina Jacobs, Popano Beach, FL
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Become a Member of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives

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