

THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

WHERE HISTORY BEGINS



JUNE 2026



Denny Hoskins, CPA
Missouri Secretary of State

Friends of the
Missouri State Archives



Missouri Secretary of State
State Archives

THE FRIENDS OF THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

The Friends of the Missouri State Archives render support and assistance to the Missouri State Archives.

As a not-for-profit corporation, the Friends organization is funded through memberships and gifts.

PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO

Friends of the Missouri State Archives
PO Box 242
Jefferson City, MO 65102
www.friendsofmsa.org

FRIENDS OF THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vicki Myers, President
Gary Collins, Vice President
William Ambrose, Secretary
Tom Rafiner, Treasurer

Petra DeWitt	Sean Murray
Gary Kremer	Arnold Parks
Nancy Ginn Martin	Bob Priddy

EX OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State
John Dougan, Missouri State Archivist

STAFF

Maeve Prusnick, Outreach Archivist/Newsletter Editor
MSAOutreach@sos.mo.gov
(573) 526-5296

MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

600 W. Main St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 751-3280

www.sos.mo.gov/archives
archives@sos.mo.gov

WINTER HOURS (SEPTEMBER TO MAY)

Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Second Saturday: 9:00 am to 1:00 p.m.
Third Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

SUMMER HOURS (JUNE TO AUGUST)

Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Second and Fourth Saturdays: 9:00 am to 1:00 p.m.
Third Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



- 3** From the State Archivist
- 4** *Archives Afield!* Christian Von der Ahe: St. Louis Baseball Magnate
- 6** *Picture This!* Moving Images
- 9** Social Media Rewind
- 10** A History of Service Along Missouri's Waterways: The Missouri State Water Patrol
- 14** See You In Court
- 18** Missouri Game Changers: Negro Leagues
- 21** America 250: Time Capsule Collaboration
- 22** Upcoming Events: Thursday Evening Speaker Series
- 23** New at the Archives

ON THE COVER

Water Patrol Officers Terry Sanders and Scott Sayler assisting in Ste. Genevieve, 1993, *Source: Missouri State Water Patrol, Department of Public Safety, RG 111.02, Missouri State Archives*

ABOVE

Missouri State Archives staff members triaging records from a flooded aisle in the high-density stacks, 2026, *Source: Photographed by MSA staff member, Missouri State Archives*

 facebook.com/missouristatearchives

 instagram.com/missouristatearchives

 youtube.com/missouristatearchives

 flickr.com/missouristatearchives



FROM THE STATE ARCHIVIST



On Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, a flood was discovered on the first floor of our archives. It was caused by a leak in the heating system on the third floor of our records center, which led to water seeping down to the first and second floors. Unfortunately, it effected a significant number of records in the Archives stacks. Impacted records were primarily Adjutant General, State Auditor, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and some from the Secretary of State's Office.

Five hundred thirty-eight records boxes and 346 books were pulled from the stacks with varying levels of water damage, but luckily no records were lost. Thanks to the incredible efforts of Archives staff, all records were stabilized by the end of Thursday, Jan. 15th (four very full days of triage). One hundred five boxes of records and 77 books required the use of our blast freezer. Today, all are fully recovered.

We are grateful for the support of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, and to our volunteers across the world who donate their time and effort. Thanks to the Friends, we are digitizing more films and videotapes for long-term preservation and access. The Friends also purchased a replacement Forensic Recovery of Evidence Device (FRED), and they continue to fund outreach efforts like the Mid-Missouri National History Day Competition, actors

Above Top Left: John Dougan meeting with speakers at the Missouri State Genealogical Association conference, 2025, Source: Photographed by MSA staff member, Missouri State Archives

Above Top Right: Archives' blast freezer filled with compromised records, 2026, Source: Photographed by MSA staff member, Missouri State Archives

Above Middle Right: John Dougan draining water from a box of records, 2026, Source: Photographed by MSA staff member, Missouri State Archives

Above Bottom Right: Wet records on carts and baker's racks to dry following triage, 2026, Source: Photographed by MSA staff member, Missouri State Archives

for our *Archives Alive!* performances, and presenters for the Thursday Evening Speaker Series.

Volunteers continue to assist with cleaning, processing, and indexing documents, as well as completing research requests. Thanks to our incredible legion of eVolunteers, the 1975 Death Certificate Indexing Project was completed in a record 21 days, making 2026 the first time our Death Certificate Database was updated the same month as the records were released.

I will close by saying thank you one more time. Thank you! We greatly appreciate all the support we receive that helps us preserve and provide access our records.

John Dougan



ARCHIVES AFIELD!



CHRISTIAN VON DER AHE: ST. LOUIS BASEBALL MAGNATE

BY BILL GLANKLER, SUPERVISING ARCHIVIST

Christian Von der Ahe was the original owner (1882–1898) of the St. Louis Browns, the baseball team that would eventually become the St. Louis Cardinals. He is credited with several innovations that democratized the game, and he began the evolution of professional baseball into spectator-driven entertainment. Von der Ahe's story is essentially that of a man in the right place and the right time. His flamboyance and passion for promotion made him baseball's "first magnate."

Documents uncovered by the Missouri State Archives–St. Louis provide some details Von der Ahe's journey to become a successful business man, and also establish some facts about him that were in question.

Christ or Chris, as he was known, was born in Germany about 1851 and came to New York about 1867 as part of the continuing flow of German immigrants to the United States that began in the 1830s. It is unclear exactly when he arrived in Missouri, but we know that by May 1868 he had moved to St. Louis and was working as a clerk in Charles Gelling's grocery store for \$20 per month. In 1869, Von der Ahe sued Gelling for \$45.55 wages, but the case was dismissed. Documents in *Christian Von der Ahe v. Charles Gelling*, St. Louis Circuit Court, April 1869, No. 12092, which is held by the Missouri State Archives–St. Louis, tells us that he was boarding at Schluch's on Franklin Avenue between 5th and 6th Streets at the time of the lawsuit. It also verifies that he worked for Gelling beginning May, 21 1868.

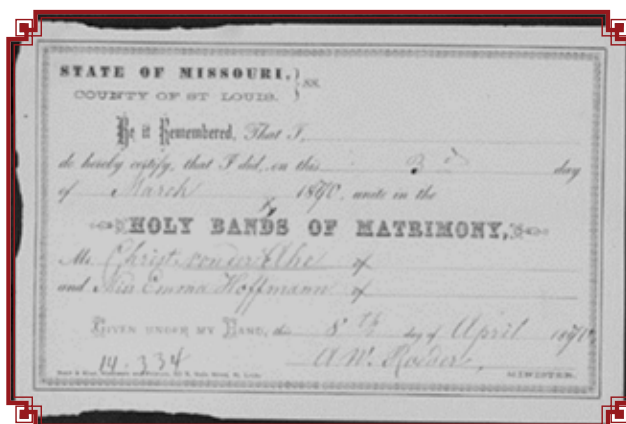
Marriage certificates held by the St. Louis City Recorder of deeds verify that he married Emma Hoffman March 3, 1870. He was naturalized as a U.S. citizen November 2, 1871 (St. Louis Circuit Court, Naturalization Books, Volume V, p. 343). Although some sources said he left St. Louis for New York sometime around 1869 or 1870 and then returned to St. Louis, our documents suggest he likely remained in St. Louis from his arrival in 1868.

Left: An illustration of Chris Von der Ahe, owner of the St. Louis Browns, Source: National Baseball Hall of Fame

What Von der Ahe did for the game of professional baseball is fairly well known and began with the grocery store, beer garden, and saloon he opened in 1872. Located at the corner of Grand and Dodier Streets, it was just a block and a half from the Grand Avenue Grounds, the primary site of professional baseball in St. Louis, which debuted in 1875. Spectators and players frequented his establishment after games for drinks and entertainment. Although he knew little, if anything, about baseball, he recognized its potential for profit, especially from the sale of concessions.

Driven by his entrepreneurial spirit, Von der Ahe took over the lease of the ballpark, funded major renovations, renamed it Sportsman's Park in 1880, and formed the Sportsman's Park and Club Association in 1881, which was instrumental in creating the American Association to compete with the existing National League.

In an effort to increase attendance and his profits, Von der Ahe undertook several innovations throughout his tenure as owner of the St. Louis Brown Stockings (later Browns). He promoted Sunday play; lowered admission rates; began selling beer at the ball park



Above: Marriage certificate for von der Ahe, 1870, Source: St. Louis City Recorder of Deeds, Marriage Certificates, Missouri State Archives

PICTURE THIS! MOVING IMAGES

BY ERIKA WOHLK, VISUAL MATERIALS ARCHIVIST

The Missouri State Archives is home to approximately 5,000 MOTION PICTURE RECORDS. These “movies” run the gamut from film to electronic files.

In this article, you’ll be introduced to the various formats and how we share them. **GRAB YOUR POPCORN BUCKET!**

Right: Figure 1. Common Film Types

Not pictured: Super 8

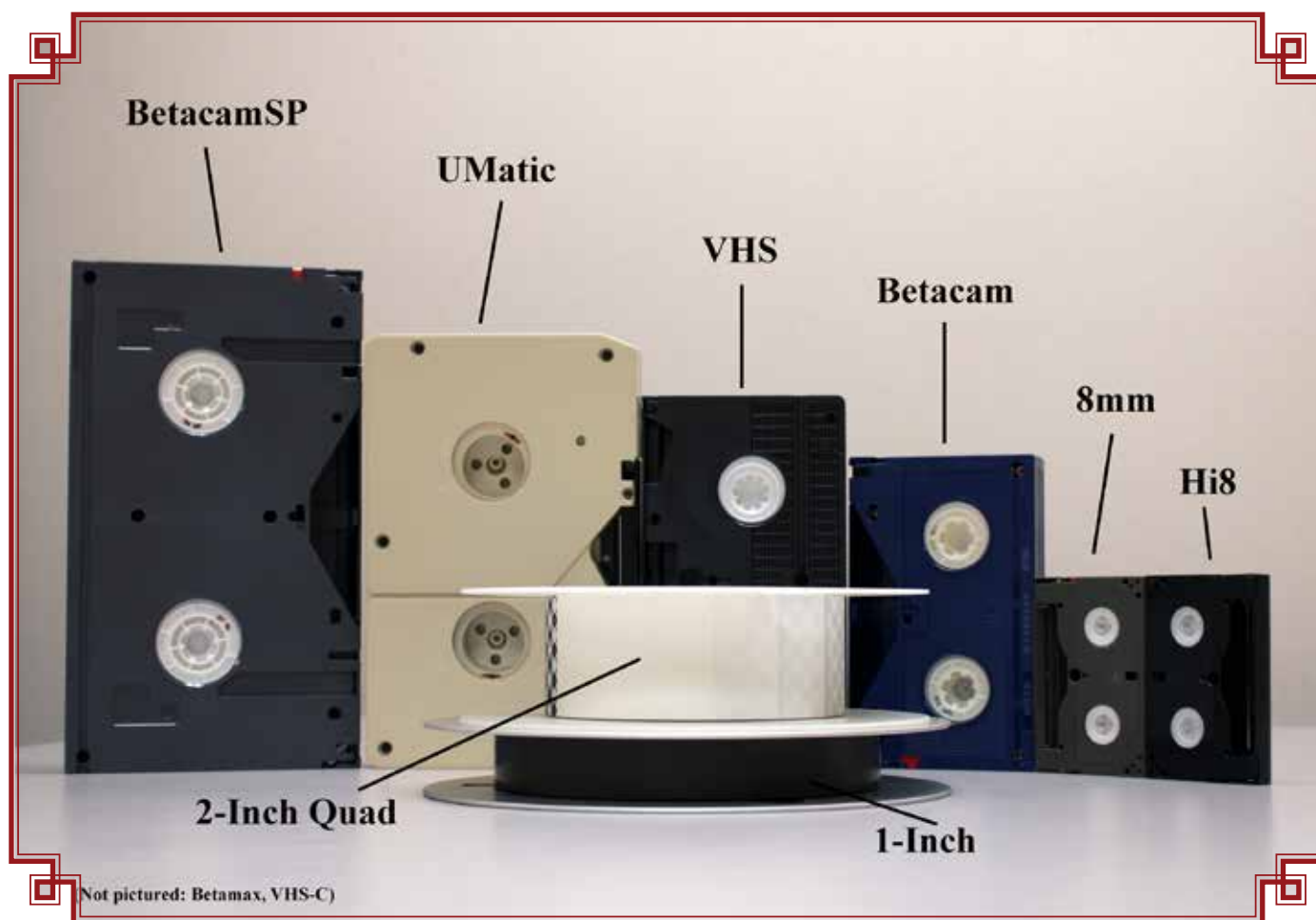
8mm

16mm

35mm

Soundtrack





Above: Figure 2, Common Analog Tapes

MOTION PICTURE TYPES

The oldest movies at the Archives are films that date to the 1920s. Back in the day, film reels were projected onto a big screen in a theater. First, they were silent. Then, along came soundtracks.

Film is a long, wound strip of plastic on which a series of still images is exposed. When the developed images are shown sequentially from one to the other quickly enough, it looks like the subjects are moving; hence, the term "motion" picture.

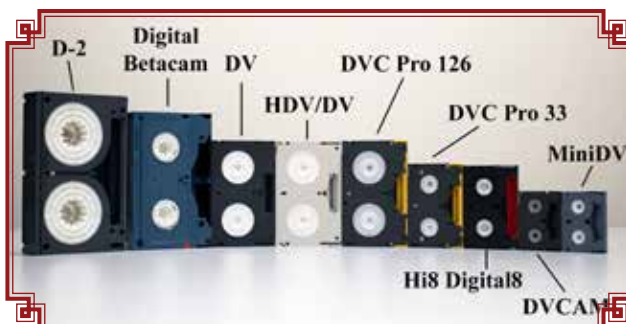
Film can be nitrate, acetate, or polyester. Nitrate is dangerous – it can spontaneously combust! Acetate is safer, though it, too, has issues. Acetate film can become acidic and degrade during a process called "vinegar syndrome." This is why storage conditions (temperature and relative humidity) are paramount when preserving films.

Over the last few years, we tested our motion picture film to determine how acidic the films in our collections have gotten on a scale of zero to three. Out of the 1,023 reels tested, 270 read zero (yay!) and 21 read three (boo!); the rest were somewhere in between.

In 2022 and 2023, we prioritized digitizing some of the worst reels so that their content could

be captured before the film degraded beyond recovery. Fortunately, all but one of the reels were successfully digitized. The one that couldn't be saved had actually been converted to VHS in the 1980s, and we made a digital conversion from that tape instead. Though some quality was lost, the footage is watchable.

Analog tapes entered the scene with limited use in the 1950s–1960s, and saw widespread usage beginning in the 1970s. There are professional quality formats (Betacam, BetacamSP, UMatic, 2-inch Quad, 1-inch) and consumer quality (VHS, 8mm, Hi8, Betamax, VHS-C). In other words, some formats were used almost exclusively by news



Above: Figure 3, Common Digital Tapes



Left: Figure 4.
Other Digital
Storage Media
for Films

agencies and production companies while regular consumers were offered a somewhat lower quality product. That doesn't mean the consumer tapes weren't great because, c'mon, who didn't love popping a tape into the VCR and watching your favorite movie over and over again?

The Archives' collections include all of these formats except Betamax and VHS-C. We have just under 2,000 analog tapes. A few decades after the advent of analog tapes came digital tapes, which gained popular use in the mid-1990s. These tapes store their moving pictures as digital files such as .mp4 and .avi. The Archives has all the formats pictured in Figure 3 with an abundance of MiniDVDs.

Lastly, the Archives collects moving pictures on other types of digital storage media such as optical

(DVD, CD), USB drives, and external hard drives. The best, longest-lasting, most stable storage for digital files is on a solid-state hard drive, or SSD. External hard drives used to be large like the one on the bottom of the stack of hard drives in Figure 4 that holds one terabyte (TB). Now they're smaller, like the one on the top of the stack that can hold 8 TB. The SD card in Figure 4 is for illustrative purposes only; SD cards are NOT recommended for permanent storage.

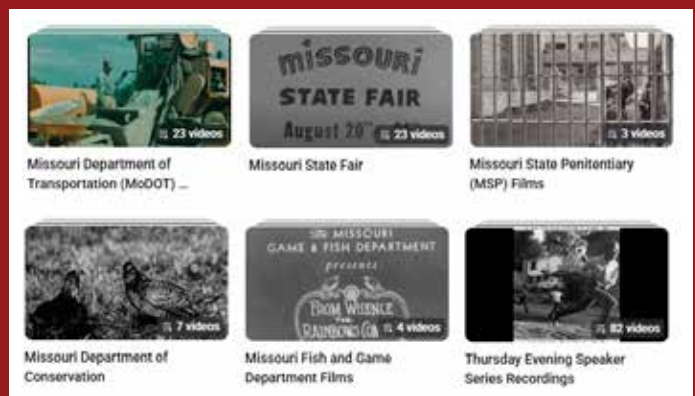
All of the Archives' digital film and tape conversions, as well as back-up copies of some born digital films, are stored on SSDs. We keep one SSD in a temperature- and humidity-controlled stainless-steel vault and another SSD copy offsite so that if something happens to one copy, the other should be secure.

ACCESS

The Archives has a YouTube Channel where we share our motion picture content with the public. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/c/missouristatearchives>.

Much of the content is sorted into playlists by state agency or topic. You'll see sets of films for the Missouri State Fair, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), and other state agencies. We also have a playlist for the Friends of the Missouri State Archives Thursday Evening Speaker Series presentations, which is up to 82 videos and growing every month.

We add batches of film and tape conversions to the YouTube Channel every year. This year, the Friends of the Missouri State Archives is generously paying for us to send off a couple dozen films and tapes to vendors for digitization. Please stay tuned to YouTube and Facebook for updates on our newest content!



SOCIAL MEDIA REWIND

The Archives prides itself on our social media presence. Through our Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, and YouTube pages, we deliver timely, well-researched, educational posts to a global audience. Our Facebook page now has over 27,000 followers. Last summer, our posts caught the attention of KRCG 13, and we now collaborate with the network to create a weekly Heartland History segment for their Wednesday morning broadcasts.

We hope you will connect with us virtually. Until then, please enjoy a selection of teasers from our most viewed posts from 2026 thus far. For full text and additional images, follow us on Facebook.



THE FROZEN MISSISSIPPI January 17, 2026

#OnThisDay in 1854, the Mississippi River was frozen. According to the St. Louis Republic, Missourians and Illinoisians alike took advantage of the ice to easily cross the Mississippi River: "There are a large number of our citizens who have never been across the river...there is now a chance offered that may not occur again for a number of years. Illinoistown was filled with St. Louisans all day."



STONE COUNTY FORMATION February 10, 2026

#OnThisDay in 1851, Stone County was organized from the western section of Taney County. The following year, the county seat of Jamestown was platted. Jamestown was later renamed Galena, after the abundant mineral known for containing lead. Interestingly, the "Stone" in Stone County has nothing to do with the region's mineral deposits nor the area's prominent cave systems. Rather, it is in honor of an English-born pioneer named William Stone.



80 YEARS SINCE SINEWS OF PEACE March 5, 2026

#OnThisDay in 1946, Winston Churchill delivered his Iron Curtain Speech in Fulton, Missouri, on the campus of Westminster College. Churchill was invited to visit Westminster by fellow wartime leader, President Harry Truman. He accepted the invitation and, in the college gymnasium, delivered a speech on the changes to the global order following World War II.



flickr

missouristatearchives

THE MISSOURI STATE & WATER PATROL

BY AMY C. NICKLESS
PROCESSING ARCHIVIST

A HISTORY OF SERVICE ALONG MISSOURI'S WATERWAYS



From 1959–2010, the Missouri Water Patrol served as the state's law enforcement agency on its waterways and adjacent shores. In 2011, the Water Patrol merged with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The long, storied history of the Water Patrol is illustrated in one of the latest collections processed at the Missouri State Archives.

The Missouri State Water Patrol was originally formed as the Missouri Boat Commission on June 16, 1959. The new commission was tasked with making the state's waters safe for boating and other water-related activities through law enforcement, inspection, educational programs, and ensuring all boats within the state were registered with

Above: Water Patrol Officer Rod Sederwall, circa 1990. *Source: Missouri State Water Patrol, Department of Public Safety, RG 111.02, Missouri State Archives*



Above: Water Patrol In-Service Training, 1989. Source: *Missouri State Water Patrol, Department of Public Safety, RG 111.02, Missouri State Archives*

the Department of Revenue. Beginning in 1963, the personnel of the Missouri Boat Commission were led by an executive secretary, and until approximately 1965, officers were known as deputy boat commissioners. After 1965, they became known as Water Patrol officers.

In 1974, the Missouri Boat Commission was transferred from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Public Safety, and the agency was renamed the Division of Water Safety. With this reorganization, the original goals of the organization were maintained plus Water Patrol officers were organized into a military-style hierarchy of ranks, and were divided into districts within the state (originally four, later six), each operating as a unit. Each district was answerable to the commissioner, who replaced both the original multi-person commission and the executive secretary. In 1989, the agency's name was officially changed to the Missouri State Water Patrol.

The Water Patrol took part in several high-profile events. From 1983 until at least 2007, Water Patrol was a participant in Operation Cashcrop, a nationwide cooperative effort to hunt for illegal cultivation of cannabis. Water Patrol worked alongside numerous law enforcement agencies

“

In 1989, the agency's name was officially changed to the MISSOURI STATE WATER PATROL.

focused on large-scale, illegal commercial growers, most of whom operated in southern Missouri.

The Flood of 1993, which began in April and ended in October inundating the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and their tributaries. Water Patrol officers assisted in water rescues, sandbagging, and debris removal in addition to preventing looting. Much of Water Patrol's efforts were concentrated in eastern Missouri in the metropolitan St. Louis, Hannibal, and Ste. Genevieve areas. During the height of flooding from July to August 1993, it was common for officers to spend long stretches of time away from home, lodging in hotels, and accumulating extremely high overtime hours. The Flood of 1993 is still considered one of the most devastating natural disasters in United States history as measured by total flooded area, deaths, crop and property damage, or record river levels.

In 1997, Water Patrol took part in a 160-day statewide manhunt for triple murder suspect Alis



Above: Boat Commission boats and officers, circa 1960, Source: *Missouri State Water Patrol, Department of Public Safety, RG 111.02, Missouri State Archives*

Ben Johns. On April 7, Water Patrol officers located Johns in Benton County. A hostage situation ensued when Johns tried to use his girlfriend and accomplice as a human shield, leading Patrolman Eric Gottman to shoot Johns. Gottman and his partner took the couple into custody.

When the state of Louisiana sent out a nationwide call for assistance during the aftermath of 2005's Hurricane Katrina, Water Patrol responded. Ten officers along with four boats were deployed on September 2. While in New Orleans, the teams patrolled flooded streets from September 4-7, mostly in the historic districts of the city, providing security and conducting water rescues. During this time, Water Patrol partnered with Louisiana law enforcement agencies, other visiting law

“

When the state of Louisiana sent out a nationwide call for assistance during the aftermath of 2005's Hurricane Katrina, WATER PATROL RESPONDED.



Above: Water Patrol Class of 1979 featuring first female Water Patrol officer, Barbara Bickers (bottom right), 1979. Source: Missouri State Water Patrol, Department of Public Safety, RG 111.02, Missouri State Archives



Above: Missouri Water Patrol Officers assisting with a house rescue in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, 2005. Source: Missouri State Water Patrol, Department of Public Safety, RG 111.02, Missouri State Archives

enforcement agencies, and military troops sent to assist. Water Patrol also provided a tour of the devastated area to a BBC journalist. The officers returned on September 8.

When the Water Patrol collection was processed, the thematic organization was retained. The series include: Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings, News Releases, Portraits, Publications, Scrapbooks, and series focusing on each decade of service. Images include officers on the job and in training, equipment, class portraits, public relations and outreach efforts, water safety classes, members of the public boating, boating accidents, and more. Of special note are hundreds of photographs from

Water Patrol's efforts in the Flood of 1993 and assisting with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In fact, this collection is 80% or more imagery.

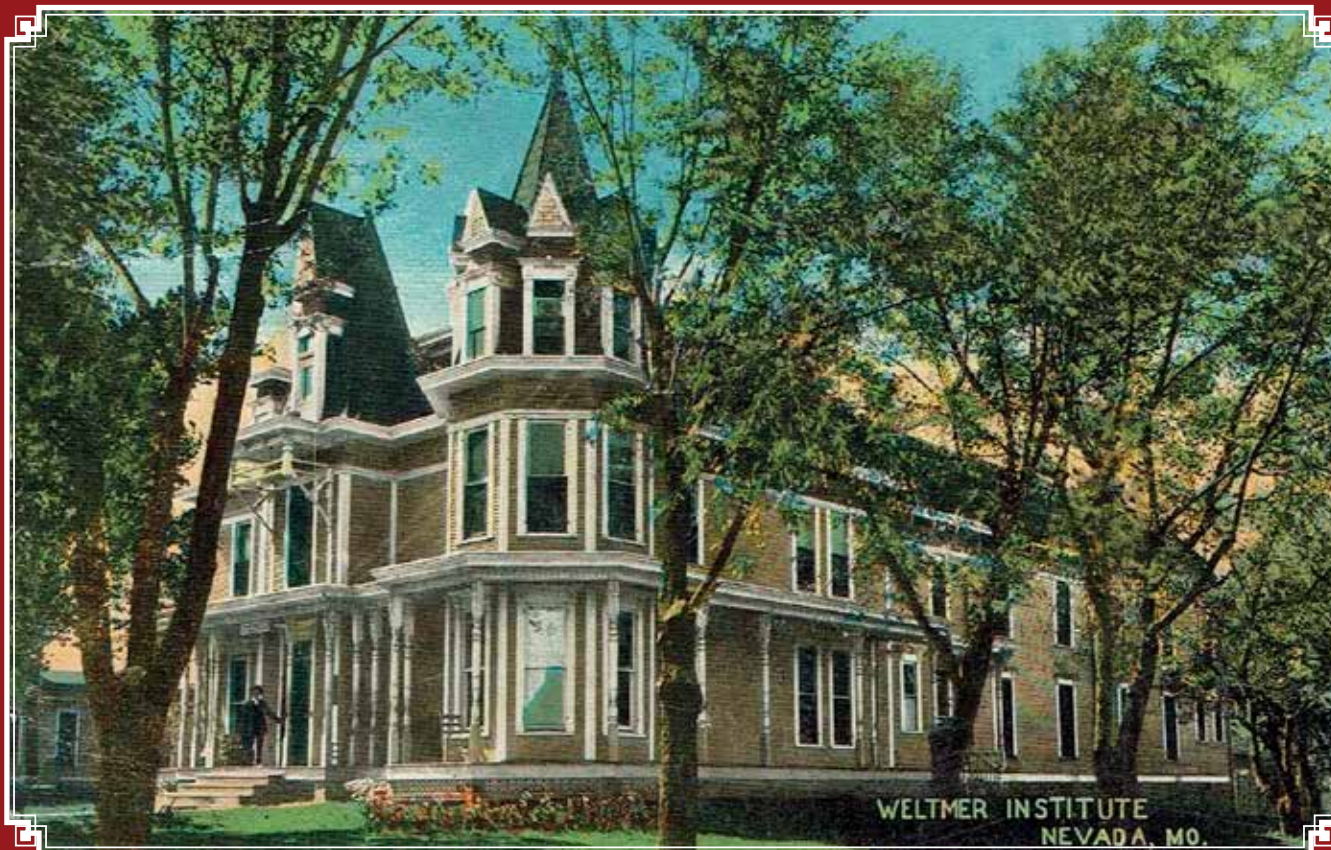
On January 1, 2011 Water Patrol was placed within the Missouri State Highway Patrol, where it was assigned to the Field Operations Bureau as the Water Patrol Division. During the 51 years the organization operated independently, the authorized number of patrol officers grew from eight to ninety-seven. It also oversaw law enforcement and rescue efforts for over 272,770 acres of lakes, 5,500 miles of shorelines, 519 miles of the Mississippi River, and 533 miles of the Missouri River.

SEE YOU IN COURT

BY ETHAN TYRRELL, REFERENCE ARCHIVIST



Above: Portrait of Sidney Weltmer, 1908, as published in *Realization: Story of a Climber* (1912) by Ernest Weltmer



Above: Postcard of the Weltmer Institute circa 1910. Source: *The Bushwhacker Museum*

Whether Sidney Abram Weltmer was a knowing snake oil salesman or merely misguided in his attempts to fill in the gaps left in ineffective or inaccessible medical treatments is a subject for debate. Whatever his motivation, his brand of healing known as “Weltmerism” left behind a trail of litigation and made him one of Missouri’s more unusual historical figures.

Weltmer opened the American School of Magnetic Healing, later known as the Weltmer Institute of Suggestive Therapeutics, in Nevada, Missouri, with business partner Joseph H. Kelly in 1897. Theories of electromagnetic healing were nothing new, even at the time, but Weltmer’s practice became a sensation. Weltmerism combined hypnosis with physical touch, manipulating afflicted portions of the body to treat ailments. Weltmer made bold claims that his treatment could cure people of a broad range of conditions, from addiction to tuberculosis. These claims were spread in Weltmer’s writings, and the marketing was successful.

Nevada became a popular destination thanks to the American School of Magnetic Healing. Weltmer’s clinic treated tens of thousands of patients, undoubtedly making Weltmer and Kelly quite wealthy. For \$25, a person could even attend

a 10-day training program to open their own magnetic healing center. Beyond the healers the clinic employed, Weltmer and Kelly also had a large team of typists on their staff. The typists were tasked with sending out advertising materials as well as treatments via mail to patients who couldn’t make it to Missouri.

If any of this, from the “magnetic healing” to treating patients over mail, sounds unlikely or fraudulent, many at the time thought the same thing. Patients who sought care from the Weltmer Institute were likely desperate, looking for a miracle, which Sidney Weltmer promised he could provide. For some, the bodily manipulation may have provided physical relief, or the hypnotic treatments may have provided a placebo effect. Others got nothing. We can see this in the main way Weltmer has survived in public records: lawsuits.

Sidney Weltmer and Joseph Kelly are seen in court cases at all levels of the judicial system, sometimes as plaintiffs, other times as defendants. In *Sue L. Longan v. Weltmer and Kelly* (1899), the plaintiff sued the clinic owners for damages as a result of her treatment. Longan went to the Weltmer Institute to treat an issue with her stomach. She claimed that the “treatment” provided by a healer amounted to



Plate No. 11.

This cut shows position of hands in treating heart or lungs. Right hand over upper Dorsal Plexus, left hand over heart or lungs.



Left and Below: Images displaying Weltmerism techniques. Source: *The Bushwhacker Museum*

*Take a
closer look!*

↓

· Plate No. 2.

This cut shows two positions of the subject and operator. In the first position the subject's eyes are fixed upon the point of a pencil held in the hand of the operator. In the second position the subject is reclining with eyes centered on the finger of the operator. In both positions the suggestion given is sleep.

violently twisting her body and resulted in injury. The case reached the Supreme Court of Missouri, where Weltmer was found responsible worsening Longan's condition.

In response to claims of injury or even death, Weltmer and Kelly went on the offensive in the courtroom. In a Vernon County Circuit Court case, *Sidney A. Weltmer et al. v. C. M. Bishop et al.* (1899), the Weltmer Institute proprietors sued Rev. C. M. Bishop and the St. Louis Christian Advocate for publishing claims that the healers at the Weltmer Institute had killed patients. Weltmer sought \$20,000 in damages. The case was moved to Bates County. While the Archives does not have copies of Bates Circuit Court cases from that time, newspapers confirm the jury ruled in favor of Weltmer and Kelly and ordered Bishop to pay \$750.

Despite court records showing Weltmer being, at worst, a danger to those who sought his treatments or, at best, litigious to those who dared question his methods, there was one notable instance in which Weltmer went to court to defend the First Amendment (though, arguably for his own gain). The case centered around Weltmer and Kelly's

lucrative mailing scheme. Charles Emory Smith, the U.S. Postmaster General, ordered the Nevada, Missouri, post office to stop sending out letters from the American School of Magnetic Healing, citing an act of Congress relating to the delivery of lottery materials. Weltmer and Kelly sued, and the case made it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1902.

In *American School of Magnetic Healing v. McAnnulty*, the Supreme Court ruled that the post office had no right to prohibit Weltmer from sending mail. While the materials sent by the Weltmer Institute were often blatantly inaccurate, the postmaster had no right to decide what sorts of statements could or could not be sent by mail. For Weltmer and Kelly, this meant they could continue to profit on promises of healing, but for the country, this was a victory for free speech.

Sidney A. Weltmer died in 1930, and without the clinic's longtime leader, the business struggled. The Weltmer Institute ultimately ceased operations in 1933. Magnetic healing has maintained some fringe popularity, but the days of a town's economy experiencing a boom from the practice have long passed.





Above: Panoramic photograph of 1924 Kansas City Monarchs, Source: University of Kansas, Kenneth Spencer Research Library



Above: Photograph of the 1916 St. Louis Giants, Source: Missouri History Museum



MISSOURI GAME CHANGERS

NEGRO LEAGUES

On February 13, 1920, a group of baseball team owners led by Andrew "Rube" Foster met in a YMCA in Kansas City, Missouri to discuss the establishment of a new professional baseball league. By the meeting's conclusion, the eight teams were joined together as the Negro National League, the first of what would become known as the Negro Leagues.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, baseball, like the country overall, was segregated. Black players were not allowed to play in the Major Leagues, leading to the formation of all-Black touring teams that were loosely connected without a central league. Attempts had been made at



Above: Audience watching a Negro Leagues game at Muehlebach Field in Kansas City, MO., Source: American Jazz Museum

establishing a league for these teams going back to 1887, but none of these had succeeded.

Eight teams made up the 1920 Negro National League, and two of them, the Kansas City Monarchs and the St. Louis Giants (later the Stars), were based in Missouri.

Beginning in 1924, the champion of the Negro National League faced the champion of the Eastern Colored League, which began play in 1923, in the Negro World Series. In the inaugural championship series, the Kansas City Monarchs defeated the Hilldale Athletic Club.

The Negro National League dissolved in 1931, in part due to financial strains brought on by the Great Depression. Its remaining teams joined other leagues. In 1947, Jackie Robinson, who began his professional career with the Kansas City Monarchs, signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers, breaking baseball's color line. As Major League Baseball integrated, the remaining Negro Leagues teams folded.

In 1990, a group of former Negro Leagues players, including Buck O'Neil, a former Monarch who became a Major League scout, established the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in downtown Kansas City.



Left: Satchel Paige's Kansas City Monarchs jersey on display at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Source: Division of Tourism Photograph Collection, RG 104, Missouri State Archives



Left: Photo of statues in the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, 1998, Source: Division of Tourism Photograph Collection, RG 104, Missouri State Archives



AMERICA 250 TIME CAPSULE COLLABORATION

Last year, in collaboration with America 250 Missouri, the commission commemorating 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Missouri Secretary of State's Office and the Missouri State Archives created an exhibit highlighting revolutionary people, products, and concepts from the Show-Me State.

Now, as we prepare for the 250th celebration, we are calling for the public to join us with a new project. From now through December 31st, 2026, we are accepting items of Missouriana to be placed in the **Missouri America 250 time capsule**.

Our "time capsule" will look different than what most people picture. Rather than being buried or encased in cement, our time capsule will live in our rare documents vault – the perfect place for artifacts to grow old.

Missouri organizations and businesses, as well as Missouri citizens are invited to contribute up to **three flat items**: one to represent your past, one to represent your present, and a note to future Missourians.

Items should measure no larger than 8.5 x 14 inches – i.e. no larger than legal size paper – and combined be no more than a quarter inch thick. Organizations are also encouraged to submit a challenge coin or lapel pins smaller than 2 x 2 x .5 inches.

Early submissions are encouraged because space will be limited. Some items submitted may not be accepted (see list). Submissions will be reviewed by a panel to ensure they meet the guidelines.

Those interested in submitting items for the time capsule should complete the online submission form on the Secretary of State website: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/Outreach/250TC>

Contributions will be accepted through December 31, 2026. After completing and emailing in the submission form, your submission will be reviewed and you will be notified. All decisions will be made by January 2027.

The Show-Me America 250 Time Capsule will be sealed in early 2027, at an event in Jefferson City hosted by the Missouri State Archives. Once "sealed", the time capsule will remain closed until 2076, when it will be opened to the public.

Looking for ideas on what will make the cut? We're in search of items that tell a distinctly Missouri story – images of famous people born here or who made their careers here, postcards of notable locations around the state, photos of unique historical activists or events, documents representing Missouri entities like business trademarks or sports memorabilia.

WHAT WON'T MAKE IT?

For the safety of our collections, we are unable to accept the following:

- Anything with a battery (or electrical circuit)
- Digital files
- Non-Archival Plastics
- Food
- Plant and Animal materials (e.g. seeds, leaves, insect specimens)
- Liquids and Gels

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ACCESS THE SUBMISSION FORM, VISIT

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/Outreach/250TC>



UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN THE WEST BY STEPHEN L. KLING, JR.

2026 Annual Meeting: Saturday, June 13, 2026

11:30 a.m. — Friends Annual Business Meeting

12:00 p.m. — Catered Lunch

1:00 p.m. — Speaker Presentation

This is a ticketed event

THE GIRARDEAUS BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG SLINKARD

Thursday, July 16, 2026, 7 p.m.

NUKED: ECHOES OF THE HIROSHIMA BOMB IN ST. LOUIS BY LINDA C. MORICE

Thursday, August 20, 2026, 7 p.m.

QUEERING KANSAS CITY JAZZ BY AMBER R. CLIFFORD-NAPOLÉONE

Thursday, September 17, 2026, 7 p.m.

MISSOURI'S MURDEROUS MATRONS BY VICTORIA COSNER

Thursday, October 8, 2026, 7 p.m.

AT WAR WITH KING ALCOHOL BY MEGAN L. BEVER

Thursday, November 19, 2026, 7 p.m.

HOW TO STAY UPDATED

Check out our social media pages listed below, or send your full name and current email address to MSAOutreach@sos.mo.gov to receive email reminders about upcoming Friends programming!



flickr

SPRING 2026 MCH UPDATE

In 1919, the Missouri General Assembly passed House Bill 595, which called for biography and service records of World War I (WWI) Veterans to be compiled and published. Originally filed in the county clerk's office, the **WWI Biography and Service Records** collection contains entries for over 10,000 Missourians who served in WWI from 59 participating counties. The records may include name; rank and branch of service; dates entered and discharged; prior service; locations served; battles fought; date and place of birth; name of spouse, parents, children; level of education; religious, social, or fraternal organizations; and ancestors who participated in previous wars. They are organized by county, then alphabetically by surname and given name.

The Missouri State Archives partnered with the City of Kirksville to digitize 74 historic photographs. The **City of Kirksville Photograph Collection** showcases photographs of historic Kirksville, focused primarily on City Hall when it was the city's post office building.

The Kirkwood Historical Society contributed **Journeys into Kirkwood History**. The collection of 400 items covers 175 years of city history from the mid-1800s to the present day.

University City Building Permits and Their Applications contains building permits (1918–1972) and building permit applications (1933–1965) for every home, commercial building and sign constructed within city limits. The records are searchable by permit/application number, street number, street name, and subdivision name.



Above: Image of Kirksville Post Office under construction, 12/1904. Source: City of Kirksville Photograph Collection, Kirksville City Clerk and Missouri State Archives

EXHIBIT IN THE KSC LOBBY

May 18–August 5, 2026, the Secretary of State's Office will host **Some Were Neighbors: Collaboration, Complicity, and Resistance** in partnership with the Missouri Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission, and the Missouri State Archives.

Some Were Neighbors was created by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2013. The exhibit addresses the question: How was the Holocaust possible? The twenty-one-panel exhibit examines the role of ordinary people in the Holocaust and the multitude of motives and tensions that influenced individual choices.

The exhibit will be on display in the lobby of the Kirkpatrick State Information Center in Jefferson City, and available during business hours (M–F, 8am–5pm). The Archives holds extended hours on the third Thursday of every month (open until 7pm), and the second and fourth Saturdays from June–August (open 9am–1pm)*. The Office will be closed for state holidays on May 25 (Memorial Day), June 19 (Juneteenth), and July 3 (observed Independence Day).



Above: Image of exhibit on display in Germany, 2019. Source: United State Holocaust Memorial Museum

**For space reasons, the exhibit will not be on display during the Friends Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 13, 2026.*



PO Box 242
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0242

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JEFFERSON CITY,
MO 65101
PERMIT #609

BECOME A MEMBER OF FRIENDS OF THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

With the support of our "Friends," the Missouri State Archives fosters an appreciation of Missouri history by sponsoring educational and entertaining programs, and making accessible materials from the state's largest collection of original documents, maps and photographs. **Yes**, I want to support the appreciation of Missouri's heritage by assisting the Friends of the Missouri State Archives:

_____ **\$25** Lewis & Clark Friend _____ **\$50** Laura Ingalls Wilder Contributor
_____ **\$75** Daniel Boone Supporter _____ **\$100** Mark Twain Benefactor _____ **\$250** Dred & Harriet Scott Associate
_____ **\$500** Thomas Hart Benton Patron _____ **\$1,000** Harry S. Truman Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Receive newsletter by email? _____ Yes _____ No

Telephone Number (with area code): _____ This is a: _____ New Membership _____ Renewal

Make check payable to: Friends of the Missouri State Archives

Mail to: Friends of the Missouri State Archives, PO Box 242, Jefferson City, MO 65102

The Friends of the Missouri State Archives is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.



Join or renew your membership online at www.friendsofmsa.org