

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid 403

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### CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF MISSOURI, 1958-1967

*Abstract:* Records (1958-1967) include correspondence, newspaper clippings, and reference files.

*Extent:* 0.4 cubic ft. (1 Hollinger box)

*Physical Description:* Paper and photographs

*Location:* MSA Stacks

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Access Restrictions:* No special restrictions.

*Publication Restrictions:* Copyright is in the public domain for official government records. Researchers are responsible for following applicable copyright laws for non-governmental records. Items reproduced for publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

*Preferred Citation:* [Item Description], [Date]; [Series]; Civil War Centennial Commission of Missouri, 1958-1967, Record Group 403; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Agency transfer.

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by MSA staff.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Civil War Centennial Commission of Missouri was created on July 2, 1958, by proclamation of Governor James T. Blair Jr. He gave three reasons for the establishment of the Commission: (1) to dovetail with a comparable Centennial Commission on the national level, (2) to recognize the anniversaries of Civil War events in Missouri, and (3) to commemorate the importance of “the preservation of the American Union as an instrumentality of freedom.”

In creating the Commission, Governor Blair specified that it be composed of no more than ten members, who were to serve without pay for an indefinite term. Governor Blair appointed the chairman, Dr. Bert Maybee, a dentist from Kansas City, and the chairman was to appoint the other members.

The Civil War Centennial Commission of Missouri is not mentioned in any of the Missouri Official manuals of the period, and it is not clear whether its place was directly under the governor as an independent commission or whether it was placed subordinate to the State Park Board. The director of the latter, Joseph Jaeger Jr., was an active member of the commission.

During its existence, the Civil War Commission of Missouri received two legislative appropriations. House Bill No. 574 passed by the 70<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1959 appropriated \$10,000, specifying that the money be given to the State Park Board for the “necessary personal service additions, repairs and replacements, and other incidental expenses of the Civil War Centennial Commission of Missouri.” The 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly also appropriated \$10,000 for the Commission in 1961. Furthermore, in 1959 the State Park Board received funds for the development of the Civil War Battle of Lexington State Park and in 1961 for a Civil War memorial in Carthage.

Although the terms of the Commission members were for an indefinite period, the life of the Civil War Centennial Commission of Missouri effectively expired in the summer of 1965 as the Centennial drew to a close. There is a letter from the chairman dated April 19, 1965, mentioning that as the commission was about to expire, there was a balance of funds of about \$1500 remaining. It was decided to use much of those funds for a plaque at Wilson’s Creek Battlefield. There are a few items of correspondence in 1966 and 1967 but apparently providing for the plaque was the last official act of the Commission.

The records of the Civil War Centennial Commission of Missouri date from 1958 to 1967. They include correspondence, primarily to or from commission member James R. Fuchs, archivist at the Truman Library during this period. The correspondence relates to activities of the Commission and commemorative events projected or held in Missouri during the Civil War Centennial.

There are also extensive files of newspaper clippings and reference materials acquired by Mr. Fuchs or the Commission. Reference materials include a chronology and an index of Civil War battles and events that occurred in Missouri. There are three bibliographies and several source papers concerning the Civil War. Records also include commemorative maps, pamphlets, and announcements concerning the Centennial. Further reference materials are bulletins, press releases, and newsletters from the national Civil War Centennial Commission in Washington, DC.

## SERIES

The records are broken down into the following series:

Correspondence, 1958 – 1967

Reference Files, n.d.

Newspaper Clippings Files, n.d.

## CORRESPONDENCE, 1958-1967

*Extent:* 0.1 cubic ft. (1 partial Hollinger box)

*Arrangement:* Chronologically by date of letter

### Scope and Content

This series includes correspondence to and from Commission member James R. Fuchs of the Truman Library and Commission chairman Dr. Bert E. Maybee concerning commission meetings, the National Centennial Commission, lecture presentations, commemorative events, appropriations, and the American Landmarks Celebration. It also covers plans for the commemoration of the battles of Wilson's Creek, Lexington, Carthage, Pilot Knob, Westport and Athens, Missouri, and the marking of Camp Jackson.

Plans for a plaque at Wilson's Creek, a diorama at Lexington, the dedication of the Lone Jack Battlefield Museum, and preservation of the "Cannonball House" in Athens, Missouri, are discussed. One letter discusses the recision by the State Highway Commission of their offer to list prominent Civil War battles on the 1961 Missouri highway map. Other correspondence concerns the Adams Dairy's plans to show a series of TV films regarding the Civil War. There are also letters concerning George H. Palmer, who received the Medal of Honor at the Battle of Lexington in 1861.

Correspondents include Harry S. Truman; Mrs. Martha Tracy, regarding her father, Benjamin Franklin Chisham, a Union veteran; Joseph Jaeger Jr., director of the State Park Board and Commission Member; State Librarian Paxton P. Price; Georgia State Archivist Mary Givens Bryan; Superintendent Lester Wickoff of Wentworth Military Academy; Missouri Representative Robert E. Young; Orval L. Henderson Jr., historian of the Missouri State Park Board; Richard L. Brownlee, Director of the State Historical Society of Missouri; "Corporal" John W. McNutt II, using his letterhead entitled "Volunteer Infantry: The German Regiment Home Guard"; and Howard Adams of the Adams Dairy.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents
36B/5/1	1	1	June 3, 1958 – December 22, 1958
36B/5/1	1	2	January 3, 1959 – December 16, 1959
36B/5/1	1	3	February 11, 1960 – November 19, 1960
36B/5/1	1	4	January 3, 1961 – September 29, 1961
36B/5/1	1	5	January 15, 1962 – December 11, 1962
36B/5/1	1	6	January 24, 1963 – October 22, 1963
36B/5/1	1	7	April 1, 1964 – September 14, 1964
36B/5/1	1	8	April 19, 1965 – August 2, 1965

36B/5/1	1	9	September 3, 1966
36B/5/1	1	10	January 7, 1967 – January 16, 1967

## REFERENCE FILES, n.d.

*Extent:* 0.2 cubic ft. (1 partial Hollinger box)

*Arrangement:* By subject and thereunder chronologically

### Scope and Content

This series includes a 28-page compilation entitled a “Chronological List of Civil War Battles and Events in Missouri” and a number of other reference materials. These include a 15-page work entitled “Index to Battles, Campaigns, Etc. in Missouri from the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies” compiled by Lt. Col. C.L. Hilsabeck as of April 10, 1957, and three bibliographies: “The War Between the States: A Selected Reading List” (10 pages), “The American Civil War: A Selected Reading List,” compiled by Donald H. Mugridge of the Library of Congress (24 pages), and M.T. Hall, Bookseller, Catalog No. 7: “Neale Books, Civil War, American and Military History” (12 pages).

Other records include a quote concerning the battle of Athens, Missouri (1 page), “The Conscience of a Conservative – Claiborne Fox Jackson” (1 page), “Washington Peace Convention of 1861” (8 pages), a press release concerning the “Battle of Carthage” (2 pages), the “North – South Skirmish Assoc., Inc.: General Information and Fact Sheet” (4 pages), and a publication from the Aero Service Corporation, “Notes on many things you will want to know about Realistic Scale Models...with or without a recorded commentary...and 3 – dimensionally – formed raised relief maps of campaign areas, battlefields and other historic sites” (22 pages).

Records also include pamphlets, maps, and announcements. There is material concerning the commemorations of the Battles of Wilson’s Creek and Lexington and a copy of an address by Richard S. Brownlee to the General Assembly on May 11, 1961. Additional materials consist of Civil War in Missouri (apparently a speech by Mr. James R. Fuchs) and miscellaneous photographs, including a copy of an original taken at the Battle of Sharpsburg on September 6, 1862.

Materials from the National Civil War Centennial Commission include press releases, bulletins, and newsletters.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents
36B/5/1	1	14	Chronological List of Civil War Battles and Events in Missouri, 1861 – 1865
36B/5/1	1	15	Reference Materials on the Civil War
36B/5/1	1	16	Pamphlets, Maps, and Announcements
36B/5/1	1	17	Civil War Centennial Material from other States

36B/5/1	1	18	Notes on the Civil War in Missouri (apparently for a speech by Mr. James R. Fuchs)
36B/5/1	1	19	Miscellaneous material including photographs
36B/5/1	1	20	US Civil War Centennial Commission; Press Releases (Dec 28, 1958 – Sept 8, 1962)
36B/5/1	1	21	US Civil War Centennial Commission; Bulletins (Nov 7, 1958 – June 1962)
36B/5/1	1	22	US Civil War Centennial Commission; Newsletters (May 1958 – August 1962)
36B/5/1	1	23	US Civil War Centennial Commission; Newsletters (September 1962 – June 1965)

## NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS FILES, n.d.

*Extent:* 0.1 cubic ft. (1 partial Hollinger box)

*Arrangement:* By subject

### Scope and Content

This series includes newspaper clippings concerning the Civil War Centennial Commission of Missouri, specific commemorative events in Missouri, and general articles about the Civil War in Missouri and elsewhere. Three articles list appointments to the Commission and four describe planned activities and meetings. Other articles describe centennial commemorations of the battles of Lexington, Carthage, Westport, and Wilson's Creek and discuss plans for a national park at Wilson's Creek.

The largest group of newspaper articles refer to a variety of aspects of the Civil War from the soldiers' lives, descriptions of specific battles, analyses of the war, and specific figures such as Robert E. Lee.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents
36B/5/1	1	11	Newspaper Clippings Re: Civil War Centennial Commission of Missouri
36B/5/1	1	12	Newspaper Clippings Re: Centennial Events in Missouri
36B/5/1	1	13	Newspaper Clippings Re: the Civil War in general