

# FRIENDS OF THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES, INC.

## *Annual Report 2009-2010*

The Friends of the Missouri State Archives, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to support the Missouri State Archives in its mission to foster an appreciation of Missouri history and to illuminate contemporary public issues by preserving and making available the state's permanent records to its citizens and their government. To this end, members offer their time, talent, and resources to assist the Missouri State Archives in support of this mission.

This report outlines the accomplishments of the Friends and the Archives from June 2009 to May 2010. Together these partners provide enriching activities for the public, educational opportunities for Missouri's children, and the resources necessary to preserve our shared memories.

### **Outreach and Education**

The Friends of the Missouri State Archives, in partnership with the Archives, supports an extensive outreach program. As part of this program, the Friends underwrite a newsletter distributed to anyone interested in Missouri history and the Missouri State Archives. This newsletter contains articles on the work of the Archives, activities of the Friends, and Missouri's past. At present, *Missouri State Archives...where history begins* is provided to 950 households across the nation. Back issues of the newsletter can be viewed at the Friends' website, [www.friendsofmsa.org/news/menu.htm](http://www.friendsofmsa.org/news/menu.htm), and the website of the Archives, [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/newsletter/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/newsletter/).

Monthly public programming, referred to as the Thursday Evening Speaker Series, is also funded by the Friends and organized by Archives' staff. These educational programs are provided by professional historians, genealogists, musicians, and folk artists. Approximately 1,100 people attended the programming series in the past year, and 2,000 individuals request regular notification of upcoming programs. The 2009-2010 series included:

- *Painting Missouri: The Counties en Plein Air* – Billyo O'Donnell and Karen Glines
- *The Indomitable Mary Easton Sibley: Pioneer of Women's Education in Missouri* – Kristie Wolferman
- *Fading Memory: The Missouri State Museum's Struggle to Preserve Missouri's History through Flags* – Katherine Keil
- *Pot Roast, Politics, and Ants in the Pantry: Missouri's Cookbook Heritage* – Carol and John Fisher
- *Meriwether Lewis* – Thomas Danisi
- *Five Stars: Missouri's Most Famous Generals* – James Muench
- River Ridge String Band
- *The Civil Rights Legacy of Harry S. Truman* – Raymond Geselbracht



This year's most popular program was the River Ridge String Band's live performance.

- *Family History Day Workshop: Civil War Resources at the Missouri State Archives* – Patsy Luebbert
- *Open City: The True Story of the KC Crime Family, 1900-1950* – William Ouseley
- *The Santa Fe Trail in Missouri* – Mary Collins Barile

Live recordings of many of these public programs are available at [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/about/presentations.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/about/presentations.asp). This website is used to make educational programs available to audiences outside Jefferson City and includes numerous videos of interest to genealogists and historians.

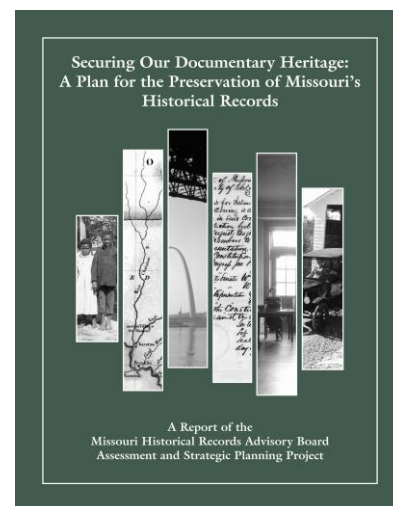


*Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives* opened in April 2010.

An additional special program held this year was the opening of the Archives' newest exhibit *Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives*. Designed by Curator of Exhibits and Special Projects Greg Olson, the exhibit draws on more than nine million pages of Civil War-related documents from the Archives to provide a picture of Missouri's Civil War history ranging from the Kansas Border Wars to the Reconstruction era. A video preview of the exhibit is available at [www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/DividedLoyalties/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/DividedLoyalties/). The exhibit will be on display at the Archives until May 31, 2011. Then, the exhibit will travel to venues throughout the state as part of the Archives' traveling exhibit program.

The exhibit opening, which was sponsored by the Friends, was a key event at the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual Missouri Conference on History. The conference, held in Jefferson City during April 2010, was co-sponsored by the Archives, Missouri Museums Association, and State Historical Society of Missouri. Over 150 historians, teachers, archivists, curators, and other professionals attended. A variety of presentations on state, national and world history were offered for attendees, including topics such as the Civil War, African American activism, moral and social reform, Native Americans, slavery, and the conservation of records.

Another featured event at the conference was a breakfast sponsored by the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB), with funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). At the breakfast, State Archivist John Dougan presented a "State of the State's Records Address" based on the discoveries made during a statewide assessment and planning effort. From July 2008 to December 2009, the MHRAB conducted a survey, held regional meetings, and performed on-site appraisals to discover the condition of Missouri's historical records and learn more about the challenges being faced by the men and women preserving the state's past. The information gathered was used to produce a strategic plan for the future of Missouri's historical records community. The plan, which outlines steps that need to be taken to preserve the state's heritage, can be found at [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mhrab/plan.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mhrab/plan.asp).



A strategic plan for the preservation of Missouri's historical records was issued in December 2009.

One of the projects that has already developed from the MHRAB's planning effort is the 2009-2010 Missouri Historical Records Grant Program (MHRGP), which is also funded by the NHPRC. The MHRGP provided preservation training workshops across the state in January 2010 and implemented a regrant program so that historical records repositories throughout the state could complete their own preservation and access projects. On behalf of the MHRAB, the Archives awarded fourteen grants totaling \$56,000 to repositories across the state in October 2009.

Even with all of these activities, *Archives Alive!*, a free history-based theatrical performance for school children, remains the most popular outreach program supported by the Friends. The interactive performance brings Missouri history to life for fourth and fifth grade students from across the state. The program's sixth season included twenty-four performances from March to May 2010 and was attended by 4,802 children. Among other things, students participating in *Archives Alive!* learn about the founding of Missouri, the lives of explorers and immigrants in the region, Missouri's role as a border state in the Civil War, and the lives of famous Missourians, such as Harry Truman and Jesse James. This year's season was co-sponsored by Hawthorn Bank, the Missouri Arts Council, and the A. J. Schwartze Community Foundation, with additional funding provided by the Eldon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Patrons visiting the Archives conduct their research in the Alex M. Petrovic Reading Room, which is also a stop on Archives tours.

Most school groups also take tours of the Archives. Including these groups and others visiting the Archives, tours were provided to at least 2,888 people in the past year. A tour of the Archives includes the Alex M. Petrovic Reading Room, where 3,636 patrons researched Missouri history this year and staff responded to over 31,200 research requests; the "stacks," a secure area where Missouri's historical documents are stored; the lobby, which houses the original state flag and paintings by L. Edward Fisher; and an interactive discussion of famous Missourians and reproductions of the state's most treasured documents.

Many of these tours are provided through a docent program supported by the Friends. This program enables Archives' staff to devote more of their time to responding to research requests and making historical records available to the public.

In addition to supporting a docent tour program, the Friends furthered education this year by providing financial support to the Region 4 (central Missouri) National History Day competition, sponsored by the Archives, and the statewide National History Day competition, sponsored by the State Historical Society. National History Day encourages students from grades 6-12 to conduct and present historical research in one of five categories: individual or group performance, documentary, exhibit, paper composition, and website development. Students participating in regional competitions have the chance to advance to the state competition, and, subsequently, the national competition. This year, over 350 students participated in the Region 4 contest in February 2010, triple the number who participated last year. Of the students who advanced to April's state competition, seven from Region 4 were recognized. Two students

received special prizes, and five placed within the top six finishers in their research category, with two being selected to represent Missouri at the national competition.

Finally, the Friends continued to serve as the fiscal administrator in an effort to produce a comprehensive book on Missouri's capitol. This effort is driven by the Missouri State Capitol Commission, whose purpose is to preserve and restore the capitol for future generations, while documenting the history, art, and architectural significance of the building.

## Preservation and Access

In addition to encouraging a greater understanding of Missouri history, the Friends work with the Archives to preserve the past by providing resources to help make valuable historical records available to the public. The Internet is often used to achieve this goal because it enables researchers worldwide to utilize the resources of the Archives.

You may view the Archives' website at [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/). The Friends also maintain a website, [www.friendsofmsa.org/](http://www.friendsofmsa.org/), that includes online versions of the newsletter, a calendar of events, and a membership form.

In April 2008, the Archives began to expand its web presence through the Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative (MDHI). This statewide partnership, led by the Archives and the State Library, makes historical resources from institutions across the state available through a single, searchable online portal. MDHI has led to a significant increase in the number of record collections available online from the Archives and other historical records repositories.

This year, several Archives collections were added to the Missouri Digital Heritage website, [www.missouridigitalheritage.com](http://www.missouridigitalheritage.com):

- Bagnell Dam Construction Photographs – a collection of 845 aerial and general views of all phases of the Bagnell Dam construction project
- Camp Crowder Photograph Collection – a series of 274 photographs and newspaper clippings detailing events within the camp
- Missouri's Union Provost Marshal Papers – an index to records related to Missouri within the National Archives and Records Administration's War Department Collection of Records, along with digital images of those in the collection's Union Provost Marshals' File of Papers Relating to Two or More Civilians series
- Official Manual of the State of Missouri-The Blue Book – all volumes of the "Blue Book" from 1878-2000



Upstream View from East Hillside, 1930 – One of many photographs now available online from the Bagnell Dam Construction Photographs collection

- Papers of Civil War Governors – the official papers of the men serving as Missouri’s governor during 1861 to 1865, including Claiborne Fox Jackson, Hamilton Rowan Gamble, Willard Preble Hall, and Thomas Clement Fletcher
- Registre d’Arpentage – a group of 710 surveys created to certify and locate grants made by the French and Spanish governments from 1798 to 1806

The Missouri Digital Heritage website was acknowledged as one of the nation’s finest online resources for genealogists, historians, and educators. *Family Tree Magazine*, America’s largest circulation genealogy magazine, recognizes the best 101 websites for family history research each year. The magazine designated the Missouri Digital Heritage website as not only one of the top 101 this year, but one of the top ten websites for local searches. The availability of several key Archives collections were applauded: Naturalization Records, 1816-1955; Missouri Land Patent Records, 1831-1969; Missouri Birth and Death Records Database, Pre-1910; Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1958; and Soldiers’ Records: War of 1812-World War I. This is the seventh year that the Archives has been recognized by *Family Tree Magazine*.

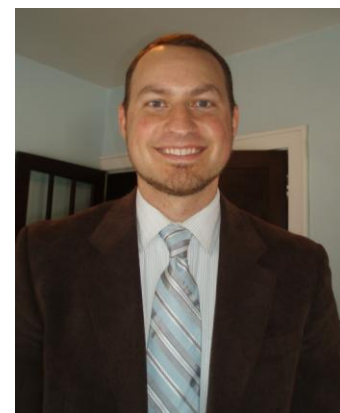
In the coming year, the Archives’ website will expand even more as over 9,000 historic case files from the Missouri Supreme Court are digitized and connected to an annotated, online database. Interns supported by the Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Society have cleaned, flattened, indexed, and described the cases in the database. Now, funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission will enable the Archives to scan the original documents from 1821 to 1865 and link the digital images to existing database entries. Work on this project began in April 2010 and will be completed in September 2012.

## Scholarship

The Friends are committed to not only helping provide access to Missouri’s historical documents, but assisting researchers to utilize those resources. As a result, the Friends maintain a list of consultants available to assist family historians with genealogical research. This list is available at [www.friendsofmsa.org/support/menu.htm](http://www.friendsofmsa.org/support/menu.htm).

The Friends also sponsor the William E. Foley Research Fellowship to support the use of Missouri’s public records in scholarly research. Any project that utilizes the holdings of the Archives to further knowledge of state or national history is eligible for up to \$1,500 in travel and research expenses.

Marcus McArthur was selected as the 2010 Foley Fellow. McArthur is a Ph.D. candidate in American history at Saint Louis University. He plans to examine the experiences of Missouri clergy accused of disloyalty and treason by Union officials during the Civil War after they refused to choose a side. Through this examination, McArthur hopes “to shed new light on three aspects of American historiography: the fate of religious liberty under Union rule, the role of America’s clergy during the war, and the place of Missouri in the broader Civil War historical narrative.”



Marcus McArthur will research religious liberty and the clergy during the Civil War as the Foley Fellow.

## Membership

The Friends of the Missouri State Archives are supported by memberships and donations. Members and other contributors support the Archives throughout the year with both their money and their time. During the past year, the following members served on the Board of Directors: Robert Sandfort, President; Wade Nash, Vice President; Sandra Walls, Secretary; Tom Holloway, Treasurer; Gary Collins; James F. Dowd III; Ann Carter Fleming; Louis Gerteis; Wayne Goode; R. Crosby Kemper III; Gary Kremer; Sean Murray; Vicki Myers; Rachael Preston; Bob Priddy; David Sapp; Sally Sprague; and Frank B. Thacher II.

The executive committee has the authority to make decisions on behalf of the board between regularly scheduled meetings. Serving on this board were Robert Sandfort, Wade Nash, Sandra Walls, Tom Holloway, Vicki Myers, and Bob Priddy.

The program committee offers advice to Archives' staff on the selection of programs and planning of special events. Vicki Myers, Sally Sprague, and Sandra Walls served on this committee.

The nominating committee selects potential board members for appointment and suggests officers for election. The 2009-2010 nominating committee consisted of Wade Nash, Bob Priddy, and Frank B. Thacher II.

The audit committee ensures that expenditures and receipts are reconciled and found to be in order. Serving on the audit committee this year were Vicki Myers and Sandra Walls.

Activities of the board and committees are reviewed by the membership at an annual meeting. The 2009 annual meeting of the Friends was held at the Missouri State Archives on June 13 and emphasized the preservation of Missouri's African American heritage. Keynote speaker Gladys Caines Cogswell shared tales from her new book, *Stories from the Heart: Missouri's African American Heritage*. Cogswell, who is a master storyteller with the Missouri Folk Arts Program and founder of the By Word of Mouth Storytelling Guild, is recognized across the state for her work in encouraging and preserving African American storytelling traditions.



Gladys Caines Cogswell demonstrates African American storytelling traditions at the 2009 Friends annual meeting.



Lynda Stubblefield receives the Volunteer Award.

Each year, the Friends present awards at the annual meeting to recognize the service of volunteers and the influence of strong supporters of Missouri history. The recipients of these awards are determined by a committee, which included Vicki Myers, Sally Sprague, and Sandra Walls.

The 2009 Volunteer Award was given to Lynda Stubblefield, who has volunteered more hours than any other in-house volunteer in the history of the

Archives. Beginning in 2003, Stubblefield donated one month of her time to the Archives each summer. Upon her retirement from teaching in 2008, she began volunteering four days a week, resulting in her spending more than 1,550 hours, and counting, working at the Archives. Stubblefield has processed over 4,000 applications of veterans admitted to the Missouri Veterans Home, assisted with the Missouri Death Certificate Project, and worked with the Linn County Circuit Court case files. Stubblefield has also unfolded, labeled, and cleaned more than 2,000 Supreme Court case files and assisted in training interns working on the Missouri Supreme Court Historical Database.

D. J. Nash received the 2009 Docent Award for providing tours of the Archives to visiting school children. Nash became the Archives' first tour docent in 2006 and assisted in the recruitment of other docents. The docent program became of inestimable help to staff. Nash has given more than 200 tours of the Archives' lobby, educating students on the original Missouri state flag and paintings of L. Edward Fisher.



D. J. Nash, winner of the Docent Award, provides a tour at the Archives.

The 2009 Jonas Viles Award was presented to St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann. Ehlmann is a former member of the Friends Board of Directors and author of *Crossroads: A History of St. Charles County, Missouri*. One of Ehlmann's most beneficial contributions to Missouri history has been his efforts to help preserve the historical records of the St. Charles Circuit Court. While serving as St. Charles County Director of Administration, Ehlmann discovered the early records of the court in a county building and helped the Archives gain access to them so that they could be preserved and made accessible to the public. He made arrangements for field archivists to have workspace in a county office in order to pursue what became the St. Charles Circuit Court Historical Records Project. This project has led to the discovery of records related to famous Missourians, such as William Clark and Daniel Boone, and significant events, including Revolutionary War claims, debates related to federal restraints on slavery, and trade with the Spanish Southwest.

For more information on the activities of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, please call (573) 526-1981.