

# FRIENDS OF THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES, INC.

## *Annual Report*

2010-2011

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.

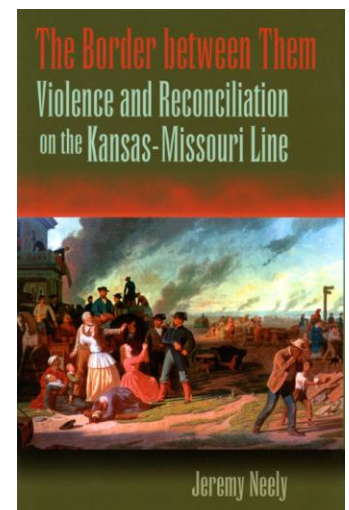
This report outlines the accomplishments of the Friends and the Archives from June 2010 to May 2011. Together these partners provide enriching activities for the public, educational opportunities for Missouri's children, and the resources necessary to preserve our shared memories.

### **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 975 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. More than 1,400 people attended the programming series in the past year, and over 1,850 individuals receive regular notification of upcoming programs. The 2010-2011 series included a variety of presentations, including the first five months of a speaker series designed to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. *Divided Loyalties: A Speaker Series on the Civil War in Missouri* was funded in part by the Missouri Humanities Council. The full 2010-2011 calendar of events included:

- *A Missouri Railroad Pioneer: The Life of Louis Houck* – Joel Rhodes
- *American Courage, American Carnage* – John C. McManus
- *Driving Across Missouri: A Guide to I-70* – Ted Cable and LuAnn Cadden
- *Ozarks Gunfights and Other Notorious Incidents* – Larry Wood
- *Missouri Wine Country: St. Charles to Hermann* – Don and Dianna Graveman
- *Lost Nation: The Ioway* – Kelly and Tammy Rundle
- *The Border between Them: Violence and Reconciliation on the Kansas-Missouri Line* – Jeremy Neely



Author Jeremy Neely kicked off the Civil War Speaker Series with his January 2011 presentation.

- *Negroes to Hire: Slave Life and Culture in Missouri Farms* – Gary Jenkins
- *Confederate Women and Military Justice in the St. Louis Area* – Thomas Curran
- *Through American and Irish Wars: The Life and Times of Thomas W. Sweeny, 1820-1892* – Jack Morgan
- *Guerrillas, Partisans, and Bushwhackers: Rethinking the American Civil War* – Daniel Sutherland

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.

Another resource made available during the past year is a web-based version of the exhibit unveiled in April 2010, *Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives*. All thirty-five panels from the exhibit are included in a navigable PDF format, complete with detailed audio narration. Users of the online exhibit are able to stop, rewind, and fast forward. In addition, the entire thirty-two minute audio tour can be downloaded to a personal media device. To view the online version of *Divided Loyalties*, created with the assistance of the Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, please visit [www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/CivilWar/DividedLoyalties.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/CivilWar/DividedLoyalties.asp).



Abraham Lincoln travels through time to teach students about the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in *Civil War Archives Alive!*.

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. This year, a new performance was unveiled to educate students on the Civil War. *Civil War Archives Alive!* was attended by more than 5,700 children, making the seventh season of *Archives Alive!* the largest yet. Among other things, students learned about Missouri's role as a border state, the impact of guerrilla warfare on ordinary citizens, the role slavery played in the state's culture and economy, and the significance of Missouri's battles and political climate on the outcome of the war. The 2011 season was co-sponsored by Hawthorn Bank, the Missouri Arts Council, and the Eldon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

All of the teachers who participated in *Civil War Archives Alive!* were presented with a CD of teaching resources. The CD, which was designed to make all of the Archives' educational resources available in a single place, includes a variety of tools: an audio tour of the Civil War exhibit, videos of lectures on Missouri history, lesson plans, and worksheets that teach students how to analyze and interpret primary documents, maps, and photographs.

Many school groups that come to see *Archives Alive!* also take tours of the Archives. Including these groups and others visiting the Archives, tours were provided to at least 2,413 people in the past year. A tour of the Archives includes the Alex M. Petrovic Reading Room, where 3,058 patrons researched Missouri history this year and staff responded to 28,063 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.

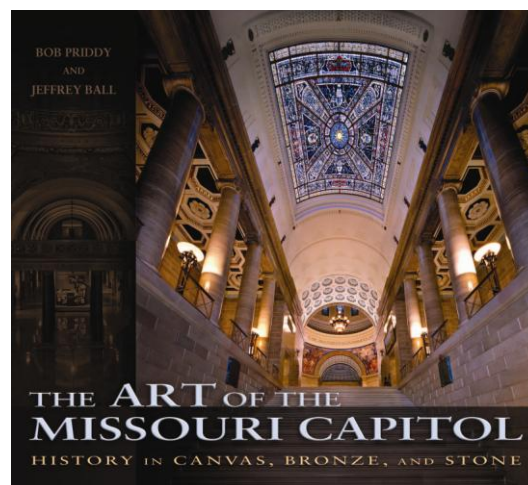
Many of these tours are provided through a docent program supported by the Friends. This program enables Archives' staff to devote more of their time to responding to research requests and making historical records available to the public. This year, the Friends sponsored a reception during National Volunteer Month to honor the docents and other Archives volunteers. In addition to providing tours, volunteers at the Archives process records on-site, participate in computer-based transcription projects from home, and prepare county documents for preservation microfilming in communities throughout the state.



Some of the guests at the volunteer reception show off the door prizes donated by the Friends.

Another educational outreach program supported by the Friends was National History Day. The Friends were the sole financial supporters of the Region 4 (central Missouri) National History Day competition, sponsored by the Archives, and contributed to the statewide National History Day competition. National History Day encourages students from grades 6-12 to conduct and present historical research in one of five categories: theatrical 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, approximately 150 students participated in the Region 4 contest in February 2011. Of the students who advanced to April's state competition, seven from Region 4 were recognized. One of those students was selected to represent Missouri at the national competition. John Andrew Swift placed second in the junior individual exhibit category at state and was awarded \$500 by the Friends to assist with the expense of traveling to the national competition.

Finally, the Friends have served as fiscal administrator in an effort to produce a comprehensive book on Missouri's capitol. That effort, driven by the Missouri State Capitol Commission, culminated this year with the publication of *The Art of the Missouri Capitol: History in Canvas, Bronze, and Stone* by Friends board member Bob Priddy and art historian Jeffrey Ball. The book is the definitive account of the Missouri capitol's artistic decoration, telling the stories of the art's creation, the men who produced it, and the Missourians who lived the history that inspired it. Historical and artistic commentary on the building's most significant paintings, murals, and sculptures is provided, along with 270 images.



The Friends helped publish a book on the capitol's artistic treasures.

## 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. New collections are added to MDHI throughout the year. This year, the Archives added the papers of former governors Benjamin Gratz Brown and Joseph Washington McClurg to the Missouri Digital Heritage website ([www.missouridigitalheritage.com](http://www.missouridigitalheritage.com)), along with the Bureau of Labor and Statistics Annual Report, also known as "The Red Book." First published in 1879, "The Red Book" provides information on the history of Missouri's industry and labor.

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 eastern U.S. research. This is the eighth year that the Archives has been recognized by *Family Tree Magazine*.

The digitization efforts of the Archives were also recognized by the Mormon History Association (MHA). The MHA presented a Special Citation to the Archives for making over 700 pages of original documents related to the 1830s conflict between Missouri's Mormons and non-Mormons available online. This award recognizes people or institutions who have made a significant contribution to the study of Mormon history.

Preservation and access efforts are also encouraged in historical records repositories throughout the state. The Archives, on behalf of the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board, operates the Missouri Historical Records Grant Program (MHRGP). The 2010-2011 cycle of the MHRGP, which is funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, awarded seventeen grants totaling \$56,800 to repositories across the state for projects such as preservation microfilming, conservation treatment, and indexing of documents. The MHRGP also provides free workshops to Missouri records keepers on the preservation of records and how they can be made available to the public.



Field archivist Linda Meyers teaches a workshop on arranging and describing historical resources.

## Scholarship

The Friends are committed to not only helping provide access to Missouri's historical documents, but assisting researchers in utilizing 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.

The inaugural Foley Fellows published their works in the past year. Adam Arenson, who is now Assistant Professor of History at the University of Texas at El Paso, released *The Great Heart of the Republic: St. Louis and the Cultural Civil War*. In this book, Arenson reveals St. Louis' role in the cultural civil war sweeping the North, South, and West in the nineteenth century. Bonnie Stepenoff, Professor of History at Southeast Missouri State University, published *The Dead End Kids of St. Louis: Homeless Boys and the People Who Tried to Save Them*. The book tells the story of boys trying to make it on the streets of St. Louis during the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century.



The first Foley Fellows, Adam Arenson and Bonnie Stepenoff, recently published their books.

Jesse Nasta was selected as the 2011 Foley Fellow. Nasta is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He plans to examine how the mobility of African Americans challenged legal definitions of freedom and slavery. Nasta's analysis will explore "how the enslaved inverted the law to pass as free, how the free used the St. Louis courts to protect their freedom, and, ultimately, what gave substance to legal freedom in the antebellum Upper South."

## 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 2010-2011 nominating committee consisted of R. Crosby Kemper III, 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.



Dennis Stroughmatt performs at the Friends annual meeting.

Activities of the board and committees are reviewed by the membership at an annual meeting. The 2010 annual meeting of the Friends was held on June 12 at the G2 Gallery inside the historic Lohman Opera House in Jefferson City. After the business meeting, attendees enjoyed a luncheon and the talents of French Creole fiddle master Dennis Stroughmatt. Stroughmatt has studied French culture from Louisiana to Quebec, beginning with his study of the French Creole population along the Mississippi River

south of St. Louis as an undergraduate student at Southeast Missouri State University. Over the past ten years, he has traveled around the world to share what he has learned of the songs, stories, and language of the Mississippi River Creoles.

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.

Jon Bergenthal was given the 2010 Volunteer Award for his numerous contributions as an e-volunteer. Bergenthal's most significant contribution has been checking the transcribed indexes of the St. Louis Criminal Court record against the actual record. When he finds names that are not indexed, he adds to the compiled transcribed index so they will be accessible. Bergenthal has also worked on transcribing the St. Louis Criminal Court indexes, the Missouri Reports, the Missouri Appeals Reports, the registers of inmates received into the Missouri State Penitentiary, and various death certificate and WPA indexes. He is known for taking the hardest e-volunteer jobs and turning them into quality research resources.



Jon Bergenthal (left) receives the 2010 Volunteer Award from President Robert Sandfort and Secretary Sandra Walls.

Dr. Frank Nickell received the 2010 Jonas Viles Award because of the impact made throughout his career on the



The Jonas Viles Award is presented to Dr. Frank Nickell (left).

preservation and study of Missouri history. Nickell is an associate professor of history and director of the Center for Regional History at Southeast Missouri State University. He is the co-founder of *Big Muddy: A Journal of the Mississippi River Valley*, editor and author of numerous books and articles, and writes and hosts the radio series “Almost Yesterday.” In addition, he has been a state director, district director, and member of the national coordination committee of National History Day; served as co-director of the Southeast

Missouri State University Press; and been a state scholar for four exhibits in the Missouri Humanities

Council’s tour of Smithsonian exhibits. Nickell is well-respected by his colleagues and by his students, many of whom praise him for his role as a mentor.

An additional special event was held by the Friends this year to raise funds for the William E. Foley Research Fellowship. On May 19, 2011, Friends members and other history lovers attended a special reception prior to award-winning author Daniel Sutherland’s public presentation as part of the Civil War Speaker Series. The reception, which featured live music provided by Richard Stokes and Bill Nugent, was held at the Central Bank Financial Center and sponsored in part by Hawthorn Bank.

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



Board members enjoy the special reception to benefit the William E. Foley Research Fellowship.