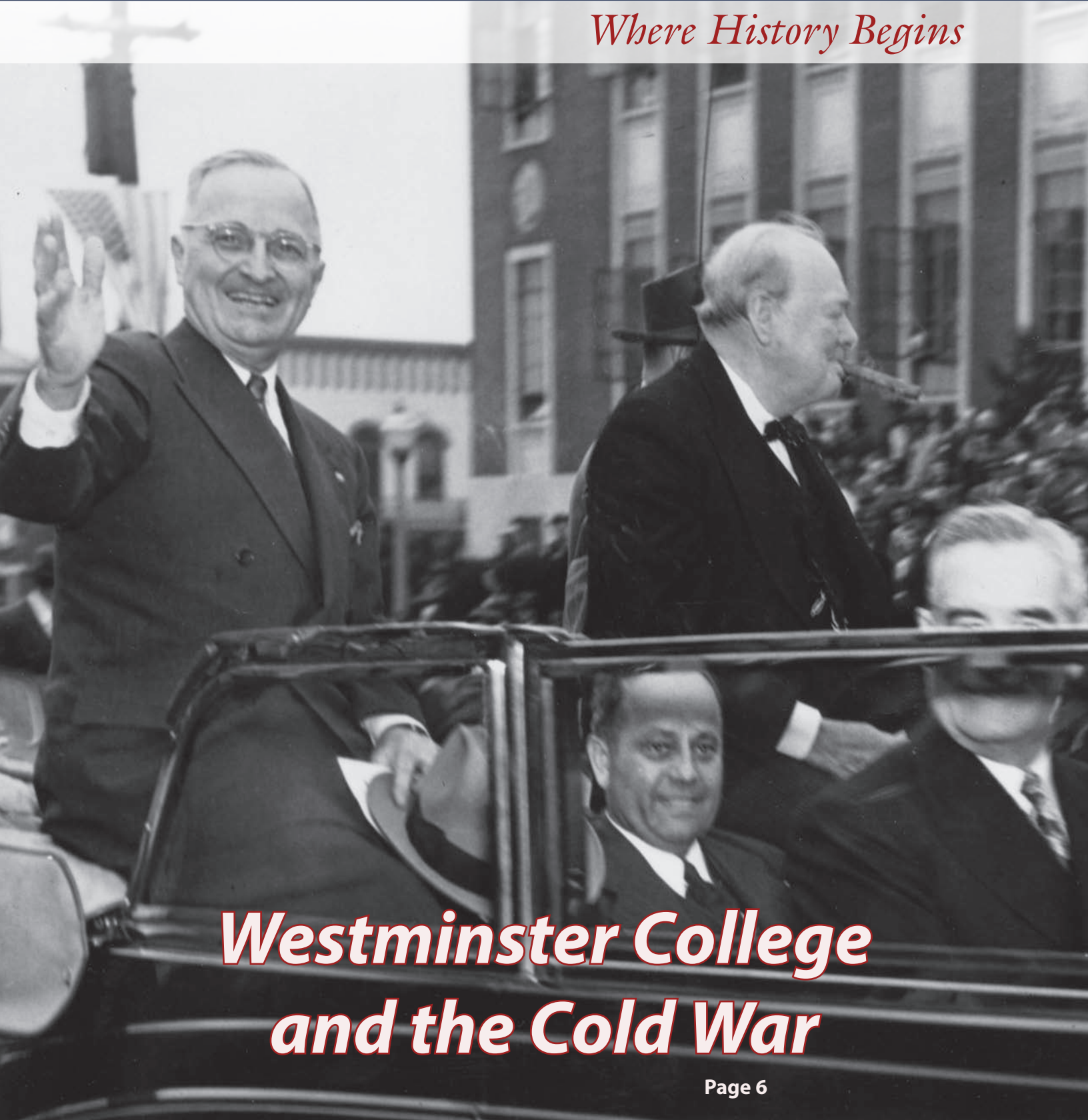


Spring 2013

# THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES . . .

*Where History Begins*



## ***Westminster College and the Cold War***

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**Missouri State Archives**  
600 W. Main Street  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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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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Friends of the Missouri State Archives  
PO Box 242  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0242  
[www.friendsofmsa.org](http://www.friendsofmsa.org)  
Missouri State Archives FAX: 573-526-7333

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Phone: 573-526-1981

Greg Olson, Curator of Exhibits and Special Projects and Newsletter Graphic Design  
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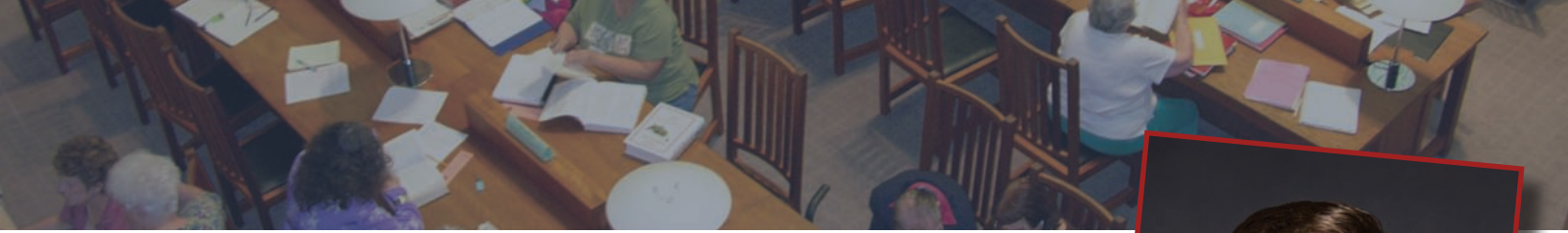
*Friends of the*  
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Missouri  
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Jason Kander • Secretary of State

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### On the Cover

President Harry Truman waves from the back of a convertible as he sits next to former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Fulton, Missouri, March 5, 1946. Photograph by Gerald R. Massie.  
From the collection of the Missouri State Archives.



# From the State Archivist



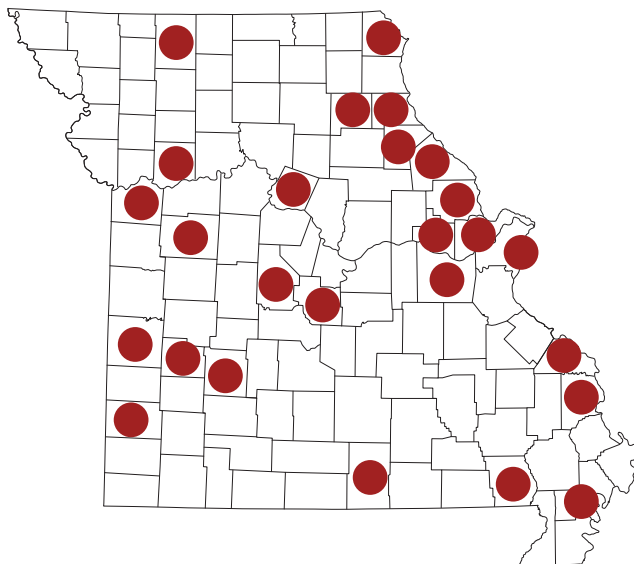
Although I frequently write about the past, I don't often have the opportunity to expound on the legacy of a single individual. In the case of the Missouri State Archives' Local Records Program director Lynn Morrow, however, it's most certainly warranted.

After creating the program nearly 23 years ago, Lynn retired last December, leaving behind a storied career that is the envy of the public history community. During his tenure, he and his staff turned the program into a nationally recognized model by advising, educating and encouraging local records' custodians in the use of sound records management and archival practices.

Looking back over Lynn's career, his tireless efforts resulted in the establishment of countless civic relationships, the completion of more than 800 local records projects (at least one in every county and the City of St. Louis) and \$6.5 million in records management and preservation grants awarded through the Local Records Grant Program. Moreover, most of the county records accessible on microfilm at the Missouri State Archives are available because of Lynn and the Local Records Program. Through these accomplishments and many others, his impact on Missouri's local records community is beyond measure.

Lynn is sorely missed, but the Local Records Program is already building on his legacy. The regional partnership between the program and Truman State University just completed processing of Shelby County circuit court records, 1835-1900, and is now beginning work on a record series from the Clark County circuit court. Twenty-one additional projects are now active in courthouses and government offices across the state and the Missouri State Archives-St. Louis continues to host a steady stream of national and international researchers, mining the tremendous historical resources available at that location.

Lynn's legacy lives on as we continue to use the resources he collected, developed and refined throughout his career. Thank you, Lynn, for your dedication to public history and your invaluable service to our state!



*The Missouri State Archives Local Records Program currently has projects in each of these Missouri counties.*



When working with public records, you never quite know what stories you will come across. Such was the case with the murders of Jesse B. and Zula Yancey in Cedar County, uncovered during the Local Records Program's ongoing probate file preservation project.

A diligent group of volunteers worked for six years to process

Cedar County probate files dating from 1843-1930. During a final check of the records, the volunteers noticed that the 1923 estate file of Jesse B. Yancey listed two death dates. To determine which was correct, the file was checked against the death certificate found through the Missouri Death Certificate database on the Missouri Digital Heritage website. On the certificate, Yancey's date of death is listed as July 15, 1923, and surprisingly, "gunshot wounds over entire body" is provided as the cause of death. This new twist instantly made Yancey's death more interesting. A web search for further information produced

an article from the Cedar County Republican, dated July 19, 1923, explaining the unfortunate series of events leading to the demise of Jesse B. and Zula Yancey.

On July 15, 1923, according to the article, Yancey, his wife and their four children were on their way to pick berries at a local farm when they were approached by their neighbor, Nellie Brown. Apparently, a rumor was circulating that an extramarital affair occurred between Mrs. Brown's husband, Robert "Bob" A. Brown Jr., and Zula Yancey. The article

insinuates Mr. Brown and Mr. Yancey previously discussed this rumor and it was determined a non-issue.

Something agitated Mr. Brown that day, however, and he reportedly told the Yanceys not to pass by his house again. On their way home, they failed to heed Mr. Brown's words and met their unfortunate fate. Anticipating

trouble, Mr. Yancey tried to send his four children to the house of a nearby friend, but before the youngest two could get out of the wagon, Jesse and Zula were shot. Jesse fell from the wagon and the startled horses bolted to the bottom of the hill with Zula and the two children still aboard. When the wagon came to a stop, the children rushed to the friend's house for assistance, but in the end, it did little good. Jesse Yancey died from his wounds later in the day, while Zula died the following day, proclaiming her innocence of infidelity until the end.

Various witness reports state that Brown fled the scene threatening suicide.

He was apprehended two days later and sent to the Vernon County Jail for safekeeping, where a preliminary hearing was scheduled for August 3, 1923. According to an article from The Jerico Springs Optic, dated August 10, 1923, hundreds of citizens came to the courthouse to hear the evidence against Mr. Brown.

Cedar County circuit court record books indicate, the case went to trial before Judge Thurman on September 7, 1923, during a special court term held in El Dorado

| MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH<br>BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS<br>CERTIFICATE OF DEATH  |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. PLACE OF DEATH<br>County: <u>Cedar</u> Registration District No. <u>165-</u> File No. <u>20991D</u><br>Township: <u>Frank</u> Primary Registration District No. <u>5231</u> Registered No. <u>31</u><br>City: _____ (No. _____) St. _____ Ward _____                               |                                  |
| 2. FULL NAME <u>Jesse Yancey</u><br>(a) Residence, No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____<br>(Usual place of abode) Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U.S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.   |                                  |
| PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS  |                                  |
| 3. SEX <u>male</u>  | 4. COLOR OR RACE <u>white</u>    |
| 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word) <u>Married</u>   |                                  |
| 5A. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED, HUSBAND OF (or) WIFE OF <u>Zula Yancey</u>  |                                  |
| 6. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) <u>1884</u>  |                                  |
| 7. AGE YEARS MONTHS DAYS  | IF LESS THAN 1 day, hrs. or min. |
| <u>42</u>   | <u>7</u>                         |
| 8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <u>Farmer</u> 173<br>(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)<br>(c) Name of employer   |                                  |
| 9. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Mo</u>   |                                  |
| 10. NAME OF FATHER <u>Thomas B Yancey</u>   |                                  |
| 11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Pa Co Mo</u>  |                                  |
| 12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Mary E. Owens</u>  |                                  |
| 13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN) (STATE OR COUNTRY) <u>Pa Co Mo</u>  |                                  |
| 14. INFORMANT (Address) <u>Stoughton Mo</u>   |                                  |
| 15. FILED <u>at</u> _____ 19 <u>E. S. Smith</u> REGISTRAR<br><u>Mary Rogers</u>   |                                  |
| MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH  |                                  |
| 16. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) <u>July 15</u> 19 <u>23</u>   |                                  |
| 17. HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from _____ 19____, that he was alive on _____ 19____, and that death occurred on the date stated above, at _____.  |                                  |
| THE CAUSE OF DEATH* WAS AS FOLLOWS:<br><u>gun shot wound over entire body</u><br><u>Homicidal inflicted by known parties</u><br><u>death instantaneous</u>  |                                  |
| CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) _____ (duration) yrs. mos. ds.   |                                  |
| 18. WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED _____<br>IF NOT AT PLACE OF DEATH: _____<br>DID AN OPERATION PRECEDE DEATH: _____ DATE OF _____<br>WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY: _____<br>WHAT TEST CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS:<br>(Signed) <u>J. A. Brown</u> M. D.<br>_____, 19____ (Address) <u>Stoughton Mo</u> |                                  |
| *State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS AND NATURE OF INJURY, and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. (See reverse side for additional space.)  |                                  |
| 19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL  | DATE OF BURIAL                   |
| <u>Stoughton Cem</u>  | <u>7/16</u> 19 <u>23</u>         |
| 20. UNDERTAKER  | ADDRESS                          |
| <u>J. L. Mafu</u>   | <u>Stoughton Mo</u>              |

Jesse Yancey, Certificate of Death, 1923, Missouri State Archives.

CERTIFICATE

1. PLACE OF DEATH

County..... *Cedar* Registration District N  
Township..... *Linn* Primary Registration I  
City..... (No.....)

2. FULL NAME

*Jesse Yancey*  
(a) Residence, No..... St.,  
(Usual place of abode)

## News and Notes

Springs. The state sought a life sentence against Brown on a charge of first-degree murder for the death of Jesse B. Yancey. Brown pled guilty despite his attorney's contention that he was not in his right mind at the time of the shooting due to "great stress and strain." He was sentenced to life in the Missouri State Penitentiary and, according to admission record books, delivered to the prison in Jefferson City the next day, September 8, 1923.

A second first-degree murder charge was later filed against Brown for the death of Zula Yancey. The preliminary hearing in that case was scheduled to be heard by Cedar County Justice of the Peace T. F. Mead in November 1923. Case documents list 24 potential witnesses on behalf of the state, including six doctors and at least one of the older Yancey children. Brown waived his right to a preliminary examination, however, requesting no evidence be heard prior to trial. For some unknown reason, the prosecuting attorney then filed a nolle prosequi motion discontinuing the action, and the case was dismissed by the court.

According to his August 1958 death certificate, Brown died 35 years into his sentence at the age of 83, from a combination of bronchopneumonia and senility. Along with the death certificates of Jesse Yancey and Brown, the Missouri Death Certificate database also contains that of Zula Yancey. Not surprisingly, Zula's certificate indicates she too was a victim of homicide.

Unfortunately, little is known about the ultimate fate of Robert's wife, Nellie. Though news articles claimed she was in poor mental health at the time of the murders, no official records were located to confirm this point. She is still listed as Nellie Brown on a guardianship probate file opened for her children in July 1929, following her death in March of the same year.

What started as a simple examination of dates on a probate estate file, led to a fascinating story of intrigue and double murder. By using local circuit and probate court records, Missouri death certificates, Missouri State Penitentiary inmate registers and newspaper accounts, it was possible to reconstruct this local controversy nearly 90 years after the murders, proving once again that you never know what you might find in those old courthouse files.



### ***Nominations for Jonas Viles Award Due April 30***

The 2013 Jonas Viles Award will be presented at the Friends of the Missouri State Archives annual meeting on June 8, 2013. This annual award is given to an institution or person that has made a significant contribution to the preservation of Missouri's heritage. Nominations are accepted from archives staff, Friends of the Missouri State Archives members and the public.

To submit a nomination for the Jonas Viles Award, please visit [www.friendsofmsa.org/news/menut.htm](http://www.friendsofmsa.org/news/menut.htm) and complete the nomination form before April 30.

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### ***Missouri Marriage Record Indexing Project!***

The Missouri State Archives is working in conjunction with FamilySearch to create a free index to more than 3 million of the state's marriage records, from the territorial period through December 31, 1969. Although the records are now available at the county level, and on microfilm at the Missouri State Archives, this project will create the first free, online statewide index. Once accessible through the Missouri Digital Heritage (MDH) website, the index will link to digital images of the actual records, allowing instant access at no cost.

Volunteers interested in assisting with online indexing of marriages are encouraged to contact the Missouri State Archives volunteer coordinator at [archvol@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archvol@sos.mo.gov).

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### ***Region 4 National History Day in Missouri Contest***

This year's Region 4 National History Day in Missouri Contest attracted approximately 180 students from seven central Missouri schools. Students competed in the junior (grades 6-8) or senior division (grades 9-12) as individuals or in groups in paper, website, performance, documentary and exhibit categories. Thirty-six students and 26 projects were advanced to the April 20 National History Day in Missouri Contest at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The Region 4 National History Day in Missouri Contest is sponsored by the Missouri State Archives and the Friends of the Missouri State Archives.



# Picture This

By Amy Moorman, Visual Materials Archivist

## Westminster College and the Cold War

Fulton's Westminster College is a small liberal arts institution with an enrollment of just over one thousand students, but its campus has famously played host to several historically significant events related to the Cold War. On March 5, 1946, former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed a crowd that overflowed the gymnasium of the college. After an introduction by President Harry Truman, Churchill spoke of the post-World War II political landscape in his speech titled "Sinews of Peace." He celebrated the rise of the United States as a global power, but warned of the coming tension with the Soviet Union.

"A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately lighted by the Allied victory. Nobody knows what Soviet Russia and its Communist international organization intends to do in the immediate future, or what are the limits, if any, to their expansive and proselytizing tendencies... From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent."

The college was again in the spotlight after the fall of the Soviet Union a half century later. On November 9, 1990, former President Ronald Reagan dedicated a sculpture created by Churchill's granddaughter, constructed from a portion of the dismantled Berlin Wall. His speech, "The Brotherhood of Man," celebrated the efforts of Winston Churchill and declared, "Today we rejoice in the demise of the Berlin Wall that was permanently breached just one year ago."

Finally, on May 6, 1992, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev delivered a speech at Westminster about the end of the Cold War, thus bringing Missouri's Cold War connection full circle. Speaking from the same lectern used by Churchill in 1946, the former Russian president concluded:

"In the major centers of world politics the choice, it would seem, has today been made in favor of peace, cooperation, interaction, and common security. And in pushing forward to a new civilization we should under no circumstances again make the intellectual, and consequently political, error of interpreting victory in the 'Cold War' narrowly as a victory for oneself, one's own way of life, for one's own values and merits."

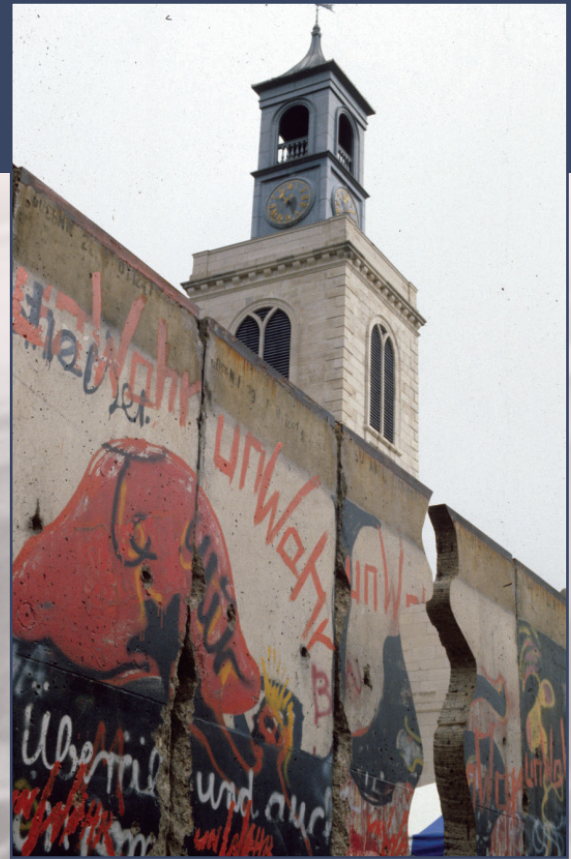
Most historians would not first think of Missouri when examining the legacy of the Cold War, but the truth about history is that significance is sometimes found in unlikely places. More Missouri State Archives' photographs documenting the Cold War legacy of Westminster College are available online at [www.flickr.com/photos/missouristatearchives/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/missouristatearchives/).







Above: President Harry Truman and former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill on their way to Westminster College, where Churchill delivered his "Sinews of War" speech in Fulton, Missouri, March 5, 1946. Photograph by Gerald R. Massie.



Right: View of Edwina Sandys' "Breakthrough" sculpture, with the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury's tower in the background, Fulton, Missouri, November 9, 1990.



Far left: Former President Ronald Reagan speaks at the dedication of the "Breakthrough" sculpture in Fulton, Missouri, November 9, 1990.



Left: Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivers his "Sinews of War" speech in Fulton, Missouri, March 5, 1946.

Above: Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev delivers his speech, "River of Time and the Imperative of Action," about the end of the Cold War, in front of Berlin Wall sculpture "Breakthrough" in Fulton, Missouri, May 6, 1992.

Background: President Harry Truman and former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Fulton, Missouri, March 5, 1946. Photograph by Gerald R. Massie. All photographs from the collection of the Missouri State Archives.







**DIVIDED LOYALTIES**  
A COLUMN ON THE  
CIVIL WAR IN MISSOURI

**FANNIE  
CAMPBELL'S WAR**

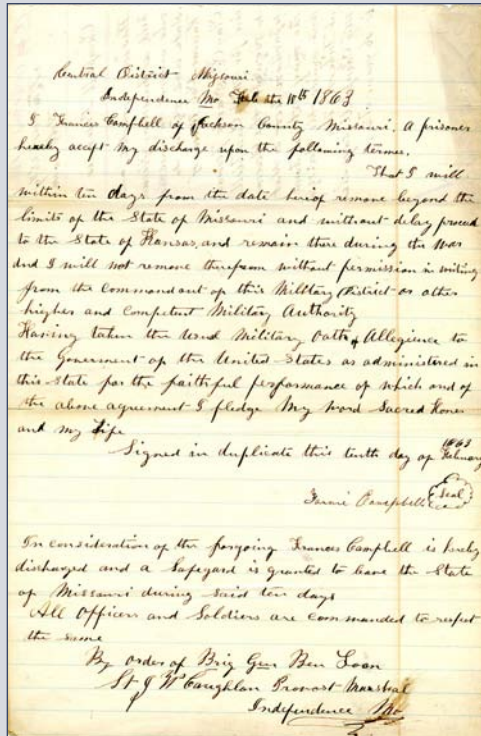
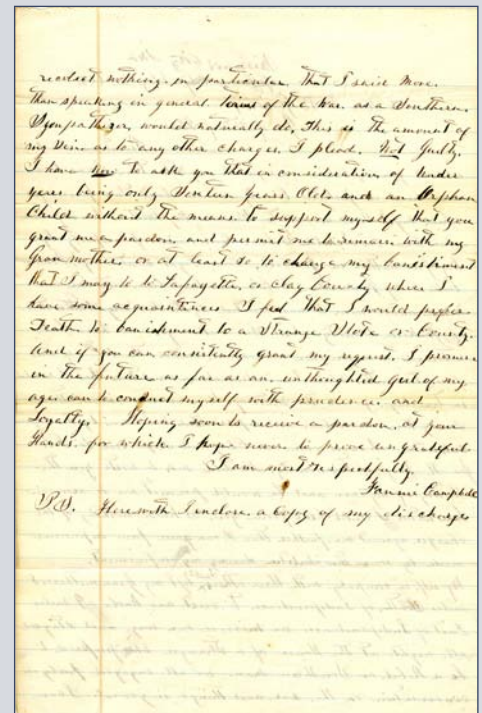
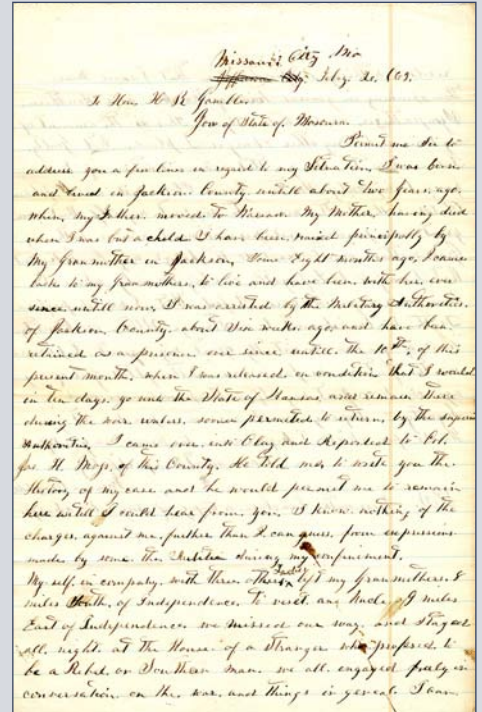
In a letter dated February 20, 1863, Fannie Campbell, a 16-year old orphan, pleaded with Governor Hamilton Gamble to overturn her sentence of banishment to Kansas by Missouri military authorities. As Campbell explained, she was a native of Jackson County, but, about two years earlier, had moved with her father to Warsaw, in Benton County. Eight months previously, probably on the death of her father, she returned to Jackson County where she lived with her grandmother

on a farm eight miles south of Independence.

Although Campbell told Gamble she was not aware of the charges against her, she assumed they stemmed from a visit she and some other women attempted to make to her uncle, who lived nine miles east of Independence. Campbell and her friends became lost and had to spend the night "at the House of a Stranger who professed [sic] to be a Rebel or Southern man." According to

Jackson County military authorities arrested Campbell roughly two weeks after she returned to her grandmother's farm, and she remained a prisoner until February 10, when she agreed to leave the state within 10 days in exchange for her release. Colonel James H. Moss, commanding the 82nd Regiment of the Enrolled Missouri Militia, agreed to allow Campbell to remain in Clay County until she received a reply from Gamble.

With no record of Gamble's decision in the case yet located, Fannie's story remains unfinished. The 16-year-old girl was just one of thousands of civilians caught up in Missouri's vicious, internal war, in which paranoia over questions of loyalty escalated as the war dragged on. In addition to documents on Missouri troops during the Civil War, the records of the Adjutant General in the Missouri State Archives also contain many accounts of the struggles and hardships of civilians during the conflict.



Military pass granting Fannie Campbell safe passage to leave the State of Missouri, February 10, 1863. Missouri State Archives.

Fannie Campbell to Missouri Governor Hamilton Gamble, February 20, 1863. Missouri State Archives.

Campbell, they "all engaged freely in conversation on the war and things in general," though she claimed to recall nothing "more than speaking in general terms of the War, as a Southern Sympathizer would naturally do. This is the amount of my sin..."



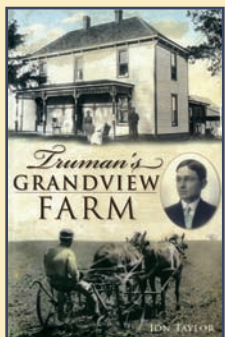
# Spring 2013 Program Calendar

## **St. Louis Crime Chronicles: The First 200 Years, 1764-1964 April 18, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**

In the summer of 1936, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's nomination for a second term as president was duly noted on the front pages of St. Louis newspapers, but gathering much bigger headlines that day was the indictment of St. Louis socialite Nellie Tipton Muench. Raised in Columbia, the daughter of a Confederate veteran and Baptist preacher, Nellie was accused of kidnapping, baby snatching and fraud. Author Bill Lhotka will discuss Nellie's rise to infamy, as well as several other stories involving historic figures typically absent from books on crime, including Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Boone and Senator Thomas Hart Benton. Lhotka, a long-time St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter, has combed through old police blotters and other records to uncover the stories of notorious crimes and criminals in local St. Louis history—as well as some new surprises!



## **Truman's Grandview Farm May 23, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**

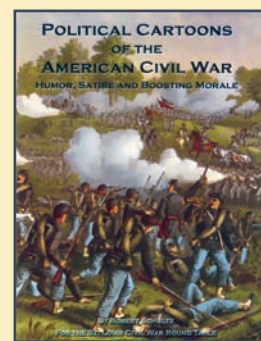


The rolling hills of southern Jackson County still shelter the white and green farmhouse Harry S. Truman occupied in the days before his journey to the presidency. Following his father's death in 1914, the duties of the 600-acre farm fell to then 22-year-old Harry, who bore them until he enlisted to serve in World War I. It was at the farm that his nine-year courtship with Bess Wallace blossomed through the letters the

couple exchanged between Grandview and Independence. During the 12 years he worked the farm, Truman also joined the National Guard, honing his negotiating skills that later proved an asset in his political career. Join us for an evening with author Jon Taylor as he discusses his book, "Truman's Grandview Farm," in which he elegantly draws on photographs, letters and even farm receipts, to piece together a picture of the farmer from Missouri whose humble beginnings prepared him to lead the nation.

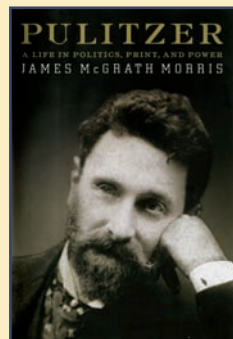
## **Political Cartoons of the American Civil War: Humor, Satire and Boosting Morale June 20, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**

Magazine and newspaper cartoons have always provided insight into the political issues of the day. This was particularly true during the Civil War, when their popularity dramatically increased because they reflected the tragic events in humorous and sometimes disturbing ways. In his new book, "Political Cartoons of the American Civil War," author Robert Schultz analyzes the political turmoil of the war through a large body of thought-provoking and cutting editorial cartoons from publications such as Harper's Weekly, Vanity Fair, Punch and Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. The cartoons help explain the events and opinions surrounding the war by illuminating the social, political and cultural climate of the time. Schultz will discuss select illustrations, offering a unique perspective on the explosive political atmosphere of the time.



## **Friends Annual Meeting June 8, 2013, 11:30 a.m. G2 Gallery, Jefferson City, Missouri**

The 2013 Friends of the Missouri State Archives annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 8, at the G2 Gallery located inside Jefferson City's historic Lohman Opera House. The business meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed



by a luncheon and a program by James McGrath Morris, award-winning journalist and author. Morris will speak about his new book, "Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power," which recreates the legendary life of Joseph Pulitzer, from his rise through American politics and into journalism. This is a limited space, RSVP event. For further information and reservations, please call Brian Rogers at (573) 526-

1981. The cost is \$25 per person, payable at the door the day of the event or mailed to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, PO Box 242, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

# Genealogical Treasure in the Reference Collection

By Robyn Burnett, Reference Archivist

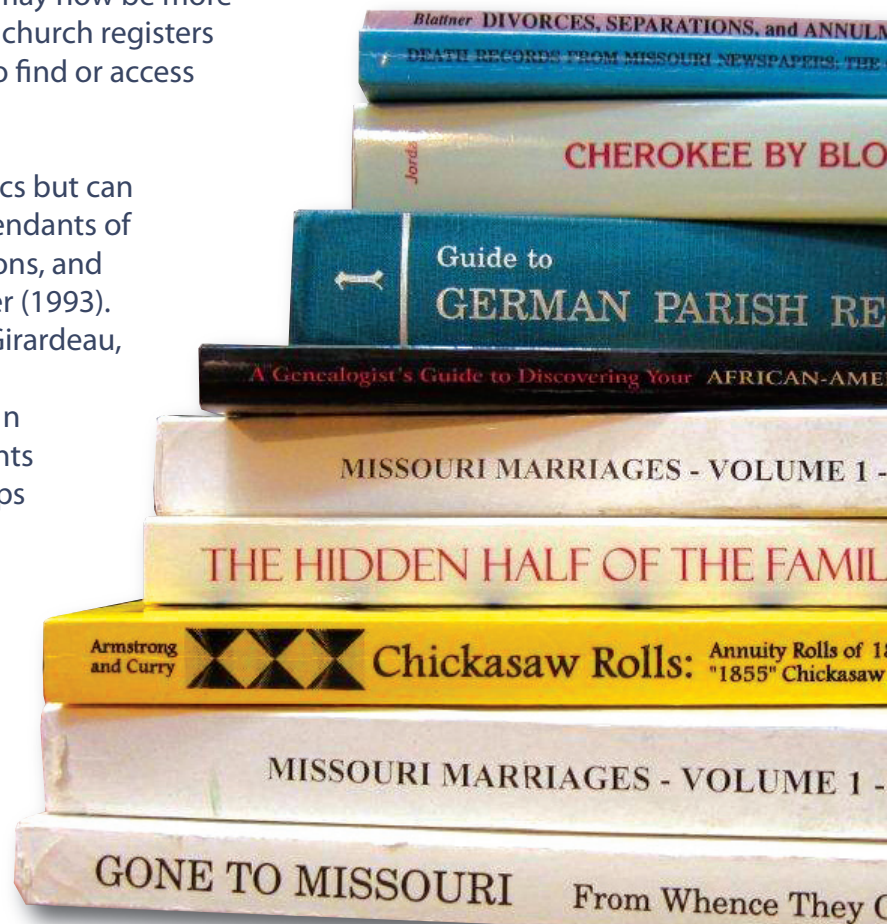
Frequent visitors to the Missouri State Archives' reading room know that we have many genealogical resources organized by county in our printed reference collection. Perhaps less well-known are the valuable genealogical books cataloged using the Dewey Decimal System. These published materials include compilations of records from multiple Missouri counties, statewide indexes or even records from beyond Missouri's borders. Here are some examples of the "hidden gems" in our book collection.

"Missouri Marriages before 1840," compiled by Susan Ormesher (1982), is a name index covering all Missouri counties except St. Louis. Additionally, we have several indexes to newspaper death notices covering different time periods and regions, such as "Death Records from Missouri Newspapers: The Civil War Years, Jan. 1861–Dec. 1865," compiled by Lois Stanley, George Wilson and Maryhelen Wilson (1990). These individuals also indexed death notices from newspapers across the state in other volumes spanning 1808-1870.

Index compilations, transcriptions and records abstracts can also provide valuable genealogical information. Thirty volumes of "Missouri Pioneers" (N. Hodges, Mrs. J. Vinyard and Mrs. H. Woodruff, beginning in 1967) and seventeen volumes of "Missouri Miscellany" (Mrs. H. Woodruff, beginning in 1976) contain abstracts of original records found in Missouri courthouses and "hidden genealogy" gleaned from out-of-print books, old newspapers, government publications and church records. Marilyn Moore's 1991 "Gone to Missouri" includes a name index to these volumes. These and other similar compilations in our collection provide information on a wide variety of records—taxpayer lists, will books, mortality schedules, cemetery transcriptions, names taken from atlases and much more. Some of these records may now be more easily accessible in other formats, but others, such as church registers and abstracted newspaper articles, may be difficult to find or access elsewhere.

Some of our reference books cover more narrow topics but can still provide information of great interest to the descendants of those concerned. One example is "Divorces, Separations, and Annulments in Missouri 1769-1850," by Teresa Blattner (1993). Another is "The 49ers as Reported by Andrew, Cape Girardeau, Cole, Cooper, Greene & Grundy County Newspapers," compiled and transcribed by Kenneth Weant (2009). In these articles, readers can find news of former residents who sought their fortune in the gold rush—or perhaps married or died in faraway places.

These examples barely scratch the surface of the genealogical riches to be discovered in our printed reference collection. The Missouri State Archives' reference staff is always happy to check a particular work for a researcher, but to really take best advantage of these materials we encourage you to come and spend a day digging for genealogical treasure. Who knows, you might "strike gold" of your own!





# Donations to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives (as of March 15, 2013)

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