

FRIENDS OF THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES, INC.

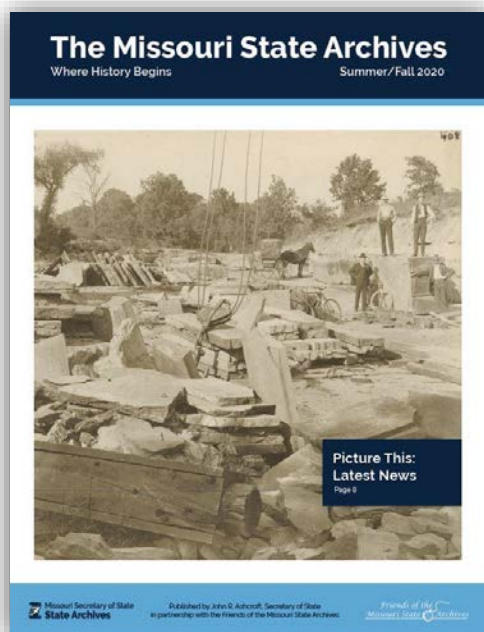
Annual Report

2020-2021

The Friends of the Missouri State Archives, Inc., is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization supporting the Missouri State Archives in its mission to foster an appreciation of Missouri history and illuminate contemporary public issues by preserving the state's permanent records and making them available to its citizens and their government. Members offer their time, talent and resources to assist the Missouri State Archives in support of this mission. Together with the Archives, the Friends provide enriching public programming, educational opportunities for Missouri's students and resources to preserve our shared heritage. This report outlines the activities of the Archives and Friends from June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021.

Outreach

The Friends support an extensive public outreach effort on behalf of the Missouri State Archives. A major component of this is the Archives newsletter, *Where History Begins*, featuring articles on upcoming and past activities, new collections and Missouri's rich history. At present, the Friends mail a print copy to 712 households across the nation, while another 329 receive a digital version by email. Issues going back to 2001 are available through the Friends website (www.friendsofmsa.org/news/index.php).



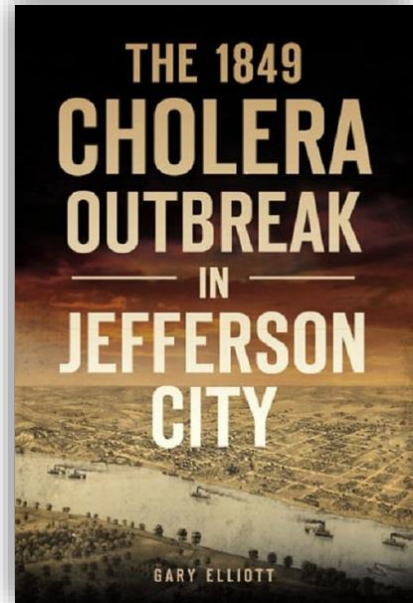
Fall/Summer 2020 edition of *Where History Begins*

The Friends also sponsor monthly public programming in the form of the *Thursday Evening Speaker Series*. These events highlight the work of historians, genealogists, musicians, folk artists and more. Total attendance at the seven 2020-2021 series programs was 578, for an average of roughly 83 per offering (see list of programs on the following page).^{*} The largest single program attendance came on Sept. 24, 2020, when Friends board member Bill Ambrose presented *Finding the Trail of Tears in Missouri* for an audience of 111.

^{*}Due to COVID-19, no programs occurred in July 2020 or January, March, April, May and June 2021. The remaining six were live-streamed without an in-person audience.

2020-2021 Thursday Evening Speaker Series

- ❖ *Along the Booneslick Road: Key Link to the Link to the West*, presented by David Sapp on June 18, 2020
- ❖ *R.L.Y Peyton: An American Journey*, presented by Tom Rafiner on Aug. 20, 2020
- ❖ *Missouri's Suffragist History*, presented by Debra Greene on Aug. 11, 2020
- ❖ *Finding the Trail of Tears in Missouri*, presented by Bill Ambrose on Sept. 24, 2020
- ❖ *Missouri Census Records*, presented by Christina Miller on Oct. 29, 2020
- ❖ *Shoes Older than the Pyramids*, presented by Candace Sall on Nov. 12, 2020 (In recognition of Native American History Month)
- ❖ *The 1849 Cholera Outbreak in Jefferson City*, presented by Gary Elliott on Feb. 4, 2021



Author Gary Elliott presented *The 1849 Cholera Outbreak in Jefferson City* as part of the 2020-2021 Speaker Series

Visit www.sos.mo.gov/archives/about/presentations for recordings of many past Friends programs.

Offering a practical sense of the work performed by staff and volunteers, the Archives provides tours for many visiting groups. With interruptions from COVID-19, however, just 41 visitors went on one of only five tours provided between June 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021. Tour stops typically include the Alex M. Petrovic Reading Room; the secure records storage area known as the “stacks”; and the lobby, home of the original Missouri state flag. Tours for school groups also generally include an interactive discussion of the state’s most important documents and famous Missourians.

To encourage the study of Missouri history in schools, the Friends support the Region 4 (Central Missouri) National History Day competition held each spring. Participating students, grades six through 12, develop and present historical research in one of five categories: performance, documentary, exhibit, paper or website. Entries are split into junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades 9-12) divisions, and further into individuals and groups for every category but papers. The top two entrees in each division advance to the state competition, where they compete for a spot at nationals. One hundred sixteen (116) students participated in the virtual 2021 Region 4 competition held over several days in February.

By placing first or second at the state competition held virtually in mid-April 2021, the following Region 4 contestants qualified for the upcoming virtual national competition, scheduled throughout June 2021:

- ❖ Allison Kim, Joan Kwon and Saloni Chaurasia (Rock Bridge Senior High School, Columbia), first place, Senior Group Exhibit, *The Talking Cure: Communication to Heal*
- ❖ Nora Pushechnikova (Rock Bridge Senior High School, Columbia), second place, Senior Historical Paper, *America's Jungle: How Upton Sinclair's Expose Transformed the Food and Drug Industry*



Preservation and Access

Since June 1, 2020, the Archives has accessioned several new record series, including Board of Nursing records, records from the Missouri School for the Blind, the Ann Noe Manuscript Collection and the Otto Construction Company Manuscript Collection.

In recent years, the Archives has placed great importance on providing online access to its collections. Among the many records now available through the Archives' website are Missouri Death Certificates, Abstracts to U.S. Land Sales and Military Service Records for Missourians serving in the Civil War through World War I. For a complete listing of the records available through the website, visit www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/resources.

Since 2008, the Archives has also provided content for the Missouri Digital Heritage (MDH) website (www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/). This collaborative effort, led by the Archives and the Missouri State Library, makes historical resources from institutions across the state available through a single, searchable online platform. MDH has significantly increased the number of collections available online from not just the Archives, but numerous other Missouri historical record repositories as well. The Archives added several new MDH collections in the past year, including the Secretary of State Office Publications Division Official Manual Photograph Contests Collection, the Vanishing Missouri Photograph Collection and the Mark Schreiber Collection. As of May 31, 2021, users have visited MDH pages approximately 720 million times, including more than 20.4 million visits since June 1, 2020.

In November 2020, *Family Tree Magazine*, America's largest circulation genealogy magazine, again recognized MDH as one of the top state genealogy websites. This is the 19th consecutive year the publication has recognized the online presence of the Archives.



Research and Scholarship

The Friends are not only committed to aiding the Missouri State Archives in preserving and providing access to the state's documentary heritage, but also to aiding research that utilizes the Archives' many collections. Between June 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021, Archives staff and volunteers responded to 13,244 information requests and assisted 773 in-house researchers.

To promote the use of Missouri's public records in scholarly research, the Friends offer the annual William E. Foley Research Fellowship. Any project that uses the Archives collections to improve understanding of state and/or national history is eligible for the \$1,500 award, but proposals citing specific records of interest only available on-site at the Missouri State Archives or its St. Louis branch are given preference.

The 2021 Foley Fellow is Dr. Lauren N. Henley, historian and assistant professor of leadership studies with the University of Richmond. The award will aid her travel to the Archives' Jefferson City location in researching her latest project, tentatively titled *Striking it Rich: Black Children and Allotment Policies in Jim Crow America*.

Membership and Board of Directors

Support for the Friends comes through annual membership dues and donations. Though received year round, most gifts come in response to direct mail fundraising campaigns each May and December. The December 2020 effort raised \$15,481, while the May 2021 effort has, as of June 10, 2021, raised \$2,180. Combined this is \$17,661 out of the total \$21,004 in membership dues and donations brought in since May 1, 2020. Also as of June 10, 2021, the Friends membership stands at 334.

Every member of the Friends in good standing has one vote on matters requiring the approval of the full membership, but executive powers are vested in the board of directors. The 2020-2021 board consisted of President Vicki Myers, Vice President Gary Collins, Secretary Bill Ambrose, Treasurer Tom Holloway, Evie Bresette, Cathy Dame, Wayne Goode, Nancy Grant, Ruth Ann Hager, Gary Kremer, Nancy Martin, Sean Murray, Arnold Parks, Rachael Preston, Bob Priddy, Robert Sandfort and David Sapp. Ex-officio members included Secretary of State John R. Ashcroft and Missouri State Archivist John Dougan.

An executive committee has the authority to make decisions on behalf of the board between regularly scheduled meetings. Serving in this capacity over the past year were President Vicki

Myers, Vice President Gary Collins, Secretary Bill Ambrose, Treasurer Tom Holloway, Rachael Preston and Robert Sandfort.

The program committee advises Archives staff on the selection of *Thursday Evening Speaker Series* programs and the planning of special events. President Vicki Myers, Secretary Bill Ambrose and Rachael Preston served on the 2020-2021 committee.

The audit committee each year ensures that Friends expenditures and receipts are documented and reconciled. Serving on the 2020-2021 committee were Bill Ambrose and David Sapp.

The Foley Fellowship selection committee considers proposals submitted each year against an April 1 deadline. The past year's committee consisted of President Vicki Myers, Sean Murray, and Arnold Parks.

The full membership reviews board activities at the annual meeting. The 2020 meeting was held virtually on June 20, 2021.

For more information on the activities of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, visit www.friendsofmsa.org/.