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Highlights:

Financial Report

Center for Missouri Studies

Research Centers

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From the President:



We live in historic times. Well, we always have—it is the human condition, after all. But these viral times are particularly memorable. On the positive side, the State Historical Society of Missouri has moved into a spectacularly beautiful and functional building. What a wonderful symbol not only of our expanded vision for the role that the Society can play in future years, but also of our broadened goal to promote a deeper understanding of Missouri history. Yet only months into occupying our new residence, the country was hit by a pandemic. We, along with everyone in the country, faced difficult circumstances. And Missourians that we are, we have confronted the complications that accompany our present situation. Our financial challenges have caused us to cut back on staff; that reality, and health considerations, require us to limit public programs and services. Fortunately, we have an incredible staff. They have been amazingly creative in developing informative online presentations on a whole host of topics that are of central interest to our patrons. In addition, they have devised sensible procedures that safely allow access to our on-site resources. They have been undaunted by the difficulties they face. In a word (or two), they have shown all the admirable attributes we associate with being resourceful Missourians—imagination, hard work, diligence, and steadfast resolve. May I say, with admiration, that they have shown mule-like stubbornness? They remind me of an old Ozarkian phrase that the fathers of two old friends frequently used: “Ain’t no hill for a stepper.” We will continue to take one step at a time, like good Missourians, and we will get through these hard times.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Virginia Laas".

Virginia J. Laas

President, Board of Trustees

Financial Report

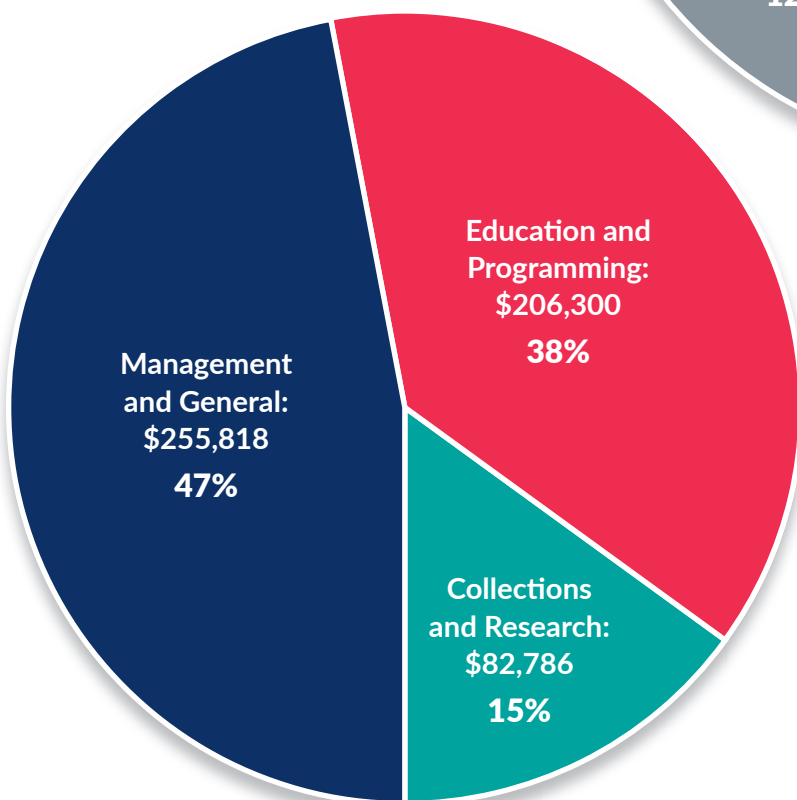
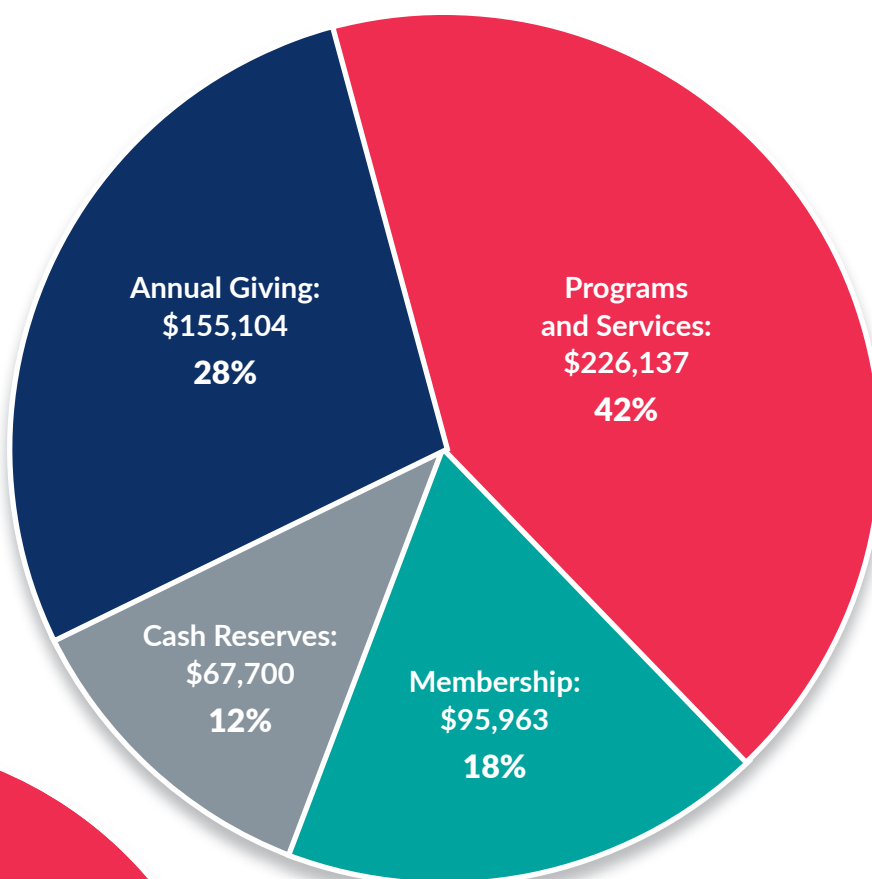
Fiscal Year 2020

July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020

Membership Trust Fund Operating Revenues

- Annual Giving: \$155,104
- Programs and Services: \$226,137
- Membership: \$95,963
- Cash Reserves: \$67,700

Total: \$544,904



Membership Trust Fund Operating Expenses

- Management and General: \$255,818
- Education and Programming: \$206,300
- Collections and Research: \$82,786

Total: \$544,904

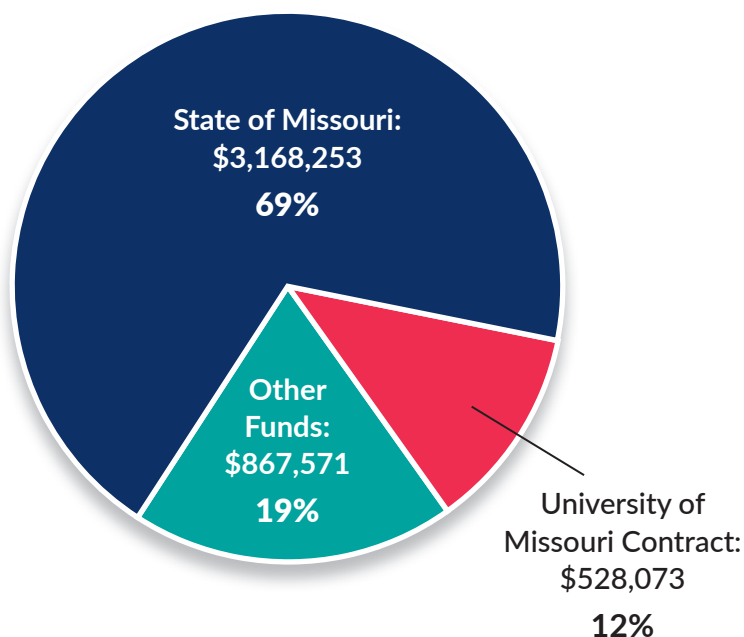
The State Historical Society of Missouri is funded through appropriations from the State of Missouri and a contract for services with the University of Missouri as well as revenues raised through the Society's Membership Trust Fund. Revenue from the state and university is applied to the costs of staff salaries and facilities; other expenses such as maintaining and increasing collections, providing education and public programming, and purchasing and servicing equipment must be covered by the Membership Trust Fund. A complete accounting of all funding sources is available in the audited financial statements posted online at <https://shsmo.org/about/financials>.

The graphs on this and the preceding page illustrate distributions of the State Historical Society's revenues and expenses. The two graphs on page 2 represent the main sources of revenue for and categories of expenditures from the Membership Trust Fund. The two graphs below represent the sources of public appropriations and the expenditures from these appropriations.

Funding Sources

- State of Missouri: \$3,168,253
- University of Missouri Contract: \$528,073
- Other Funds: \$867,571

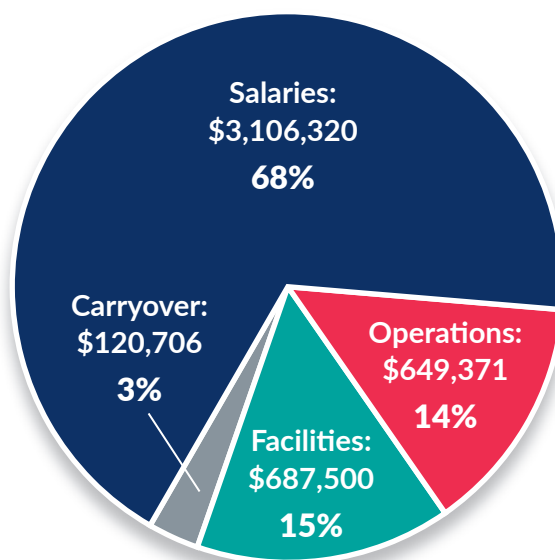
Total: \$4,563,897



Expenditures Compensated by Funding Sources

- Salaries: \$3,106,320
- Operations: \$649,371
- Facilities: \$687,500
- Carryover: \$120,706

Total: \$4,563,897



Comprehensive Campaign

At the close of the 2020 fiscal year on June 30, the State Historical Society of Missouri's Comprehensive Campaign had raised \$2,506,177 toward its goal of \$25 million, with another \$2,271,384.15 in outstanding pledges. The Comprehensive Campaign is intended to ensure the State Historical Society's future financial security through key endowments and program support.



Center for Missouri Studies

The start of the 2020 fiscal year on July 1, 2019, was a time of transition, excitement, and hope for the State Historical Society of Missouri. Although the official opening of the Center for Missouri Studies, financed with \$35 million in bond funds provided by the State of Missouri, was still six weeks away, some staff members had already taken up residence in the new building. Meanwhile, the large and complicated movement of thousands upon thousands of artworks, library holdings, and collections of manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, maps, and other materials across campus from the old headquarters in the University of Missouri's Ellis Library was well under way. The 2019–2020 year witnessed the achievement of long-cherished dreams and years of hard work to create a home with the space and facilities to more fully realize the Society's mission of collecting, preserving, exhibiting, publishing, and providing access to materials related to all aspects and periods of Missouri history, while also promoting interest in the rich cultural heritage of Missouri and its people.

The year did not disappoint. The opening ceremonies on August 10, 2019, which featured remarks made or proclamations read by luminaries including former US Senator and Missouri Governor Christopher "Kit" Bond,

Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe, state legislators Dan Hegeman and Kip Kendrick, University of Missouri President Mun Choi, Columbia Councilman Clyde Ruffin, and a representative of US Senator Roy Blunt, became one of the largest gatherings ever hosted by the State Historical Society, with a crowd estimated at about 1,200. The fall and winter months saw dramatic increases over previous years in patron visits to the Columbia Research Center, attendance at art exhibitions, and gatherings at public events such as lecture series, opening receptions for new exhibits, and programs associated with the 2019 Annual Meeting. As reflected in more extensive local and state media coverage, the building and its unique architecture brought greater visibility to the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO). The building's inviting interior even became a draw for other organizations, and the Society rented its meeting spaces to government agencies, educational and cultural groups, and other not-for-profit organizations that held a combined 45 events at the Center for Missouri Studies.

The State Historical Society also began using new facilities it had never possessed before, ranging from dedicated basement-level quarantine spaces for incoming accessions to a third-floor digitization lab to second-





floor classrooms earmarked for uses that included instruction in courses on Missouri history. Realizing a long-held goal, the Center for Missouri Studies hosted its first university-level course in Missouri history in the 2020 spring semester, enrolling 31 students. Like most other spring programs and activities, the course began with face-to-face meetings and ended online. After the COVID-19 pandemic restricted in-person gatherings, the State Historical Society pivoted by moving to virtual programming and adopting new guidelines that continue to allow patrons and visitors access to the resources within the Center for Missouri Studies in Columbia and the research centers in Cape Girardeau, Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis, and Springfield.

As the State Historical Society continues to grow into its new building in Columbia, the next construction project is on the horizon. During the 2020 fiscal year, the Society received commitments for \$2.8 million of the \$3 million needed to move the Kansas City Research Center from its present quarters in the University of Missouri–Kansas City’s Newcomb Hall to new facilities in UMKC’s Miller Nichols Library. The Sunderland Foundation has awarded \$2 million, while the William T. Kemper Foundation–Commerce Bank, Trustee has granted \$500,000, the Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation \$250,000, and Steve and Marianne Noll \$50,000. The relocation is part of a larger renovation plan at Miller Nichols Library and will provide the Kansas City Research Center with a 60 percent increase in floor space, improved storage facilities with a speedy automated retrieval system, closer proximity with other significant archives located at Miller Nichols, and much better visitor access. The move is anticipated to take place in the fall or late summer of 2021.

Educational Programs

Once the Center for Missouri Studies opened, the State Historical Society began using the building to host its educational events. In November 2019, the Society for the first time held the Annual Meeting in its own building. Cook Hall filled for the keynote speaker, former US Senator Claire McCaskill, who delivered the inaugural My Missouri Lecture. Three speakers in the African American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series each drew large crowds as well. In September, Charles Nilon, professor of urban wildlife management in the University of Missouri’s School of Natural Resources, spoke on nature, black residents, and contested green space in north St. Louis. In October, Columbia civic leader Bill Thompson spoke with longtime resident Sehon Williams in a public conversation about the history of Columbia’s Sharp End, the city’s African American community north of downtown. Chuck Haddix, author of *Kansas City Jazz: From Ragtime to Bebop—A History* and other books, spoke in November about jazz legend and Missouri native Charlie “Bird” Parker.

Numerous other lectures and public programs were hosted by the Society or presented by its staff at locations across the state. Other talks included “Mound City: The Place of Indian Past and Present in St. Louis,” given in St. Louis by historian Patricia Cleary, and “Missouri’s Art





and Artists,” presented in Jefferson City by SHSMO art curator Joan Stack. Staff at the State Historical Society’s six research centers provided more than 100 presentations, workshops, newspaper columns, radio and television interviews, and other public programs during the 2020 fiscal year.

When in-person events came to an abrupt halt in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Historical Society redirected its educational efforts to virtual programming. From April through the end of the fiscal year, SHSMO hosted 19 virtual programs with a total of 2,061 registrants and 1,381 unique viewers who joined in live while the programs were in session. The virtual programs ranged from genealogy workshops to sessions on working with digital archive collections to a two-part presentation on the 1918–1919 flu epidemic in Missouri by Rolla Research Center senior archivist Kathleen Seale.

The State Historical Society’s educational programs also included annual events such as National History Day in Missouri and the Missouri Conference on History, art exhibitions, publications, and initiatives to commemorate the state bicentennial in 2021.

Publications

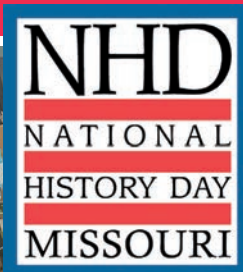
In the 2020 fiscal year, the State Historical Society published the 114th volume of the *Missouri Historical Review*, the only quarterly journal dedicated to scholarship on the history of Missouri and its people. Contributors to Volume 114 ranged from established veteran scholars such as Carl J. Ekberg, Bonnie Stepenoff, and Walter Schroeder to promising younger historians such as Amy Laurel

Fluker, Heidi Dodson, and Zachary Dowdle. The *Review* published articles on a wide range of subjects and time periods. Some topics covered included the connection between France’s defeat in the Seven Years’ War and the founding of St. Louis; water landscapes in the Bootheel and their interrelationship with African American communities; the influence of the politics of slavery during the early years of the University of Missouri; Missouri’s unique experience of reconciliation and public commemoration in the years after the Civil War; the Americanization of a German immigrant to Jefferson City in the late nineteenth century; and a reevaluation of Ulysses S. Grant’s experiences as a Missouri farmer in the years before the secession crisis.

The Society’s newsletter for its members, the *Missouri Times*, underwent two transformations during FY 2020, first expanding to 16 pages in August to cover the Center for Missouri Studies grand opening ceremonies, and then increasing again to 24 pages in May as part of a conversion to a more illustration-friendly design. The *Times* continued to offer a menu of news stories, features, and announcements that keep the membership informed on the Society’s programs, events, and accomplishments.

Work continued on the Missouri Encyclopedia, a comprehensive online reference work for general audiences that will officially launch as part of Missouri’s bicentennial observances in 2021. In the 2020 fiscal year, further refinements were made to the design of the Encyclopedia’s demonstration site established in late 2018, and the number of articles on the site more than doubled. The demonstration site may be viewed at www.missouriencyclopedia.org.





National History Day in Missouri

More than 5,000 students in grades 6 through 12 participated in Missouri's National History Day program during the 2020 fiscal year. The state-level contest in April and the national contest in June were held as virtual events due to pandemic-related travel restrictions. More than 130 volunteer judges and a very resilient group of students made the move on short notice to an online state contest a success. About 600 students participated in the state contest, with 57 finalists advancing to the nationals. Three Missouri students placed as finalists at the national contest, and three more received outstanding entry awards. The World War II History Prize was awarded to Louisa Blackmore of St. Louis for her dramatic performance, "The Remarkable Ruby Bradley." Chelsea Swasho and Rylee Taylor of Essex, Missouri, received the American Labor History Prize for their documentary,

"Freedom Found on a Bootheel Roadside: The 1939 Sharecroppers Strike." Their documentary was also selected for an online showcase sponsored by National History Day and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History, as was "Gaines v. Canada: The NAACP's Legal Strategy to End Segregation in Education," a documentary by Ian Morgan of Springfield. Rebecca Arnold, a sixth-grade teacher at Richland Elementary in Essex, was a finalist for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award. The State Historical Society administers the National History Day program in Missouri.

Missouri Conference on History

The sixty-second annual meeting of the Missouri Conference on History, held in Chesterfield on March 11–13, was one of the last events of the year before the COVID-19 pandemic began forcing shutdowns in Missouri. With his university having already enacted a travel ban, Harvard historian Walter Johnson, the keynote speaker, delivered his talk on St. Louis in the Civil War via Skype. Under difficult circumstances, the conference still drew nearly 100 participants for a program that included a reception at the National Museum of Transportation that was hosted by the State Historical Society, a social reception hosted by the Missouri Humanities Council, and panel sessions by scholars, teachers, and other professionals in history-related fields. The State Historical Society of Missouri served as the administrative sponsor for the conference, which was also hosted by Lindenwood University.



Center for Missouri Studies Fellowships

Two Center for Missouri Studies competitive fellowships were awarded for the 2020 calendar year. Greg Olson, an independent scholar in Columbia, Missouri, received a fellowship for his proposed study, “White Man’s Paper Trail: Extinguishing Indigenous Land Claims in Missouri.” Olson will examine the treaties with Native Americans through which the United States sought legal claim to the lands that became the state of Missouri. Kelly L. Schmidt, a doctoral student at Loyola University in Chicago, received a fellowship for her proposal, “‘We Heard Sometimes Their Earnest Desire to Be Free in a Free Country’: Enslaved People, Jesuit Masters, and Negotiations for Freedom in Early Missouri.” Her study will focus on enslaved communities near St. Louis and St. Charles that were foundational in establishing the Catholic Church in the region. Each fellowship provides a \$5,000 stipend and an opportunity to publish an article in the *Missouri Historical Review*.

Annual Awards

The State Historical Society recognizes individuals at each year’s Annual Meeting who have made outstanding contributions to the organization. At the 2019 meeting, SHSMO awarded its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, to its outgoing president, Bob Priddy of Jefferson City. Priddy’s term as president marked the



beginning of a new era with the opening of the Center for Missouri Studies building in August 2019. The Society also awarded its annual Trustee Appreciation Award to four Missouri legislators who played key roles in securing the state’s support for the building project. State senators Caleb Rowden and Dan Hegeman as well as state representatives Kip Kendrick and Cody Smith were named recipients of the award in 2019.

The Society presented awards as well to five scholars for outstanding work on Missouri and its history. Brooks Blevins, author of *A History of the Ozarks: Volume 1, The Old Ozarks*, received the Missouri History Book Award. Michael D. Robinson, author of *A Union Indivisible: Secession and the Politics of Slavery in the Border South*, received the biennial Eagleton-Waters Book Award, given to the best book published on the political history of Missouri. The *Missouri Historical Review* Article Award was presented to Brent M. S. Campney for “‘The Drift of Things in Southeast Missouri’: Demographic Transformation and Anti-Black Violence, 1900–1930,” published in the April 2019 issue of the *Review*. The biennial Mary C. Neth Prize, awarded for the best article on women or gender issues in the *Missouri Historical Review*, was presented to Luke Ritter for “Mothers against the Bomb: The Baby Tooth Survey and the Nuclear Test Ban Movement in St. Louis, 1954–1969,” published in January 2018. Patrick Ayres, a graduate student in history at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, was awarded the Lewis E. Atherton Prize for best master’s thesis on a Missouri history topic.



Missouri Bicentennial

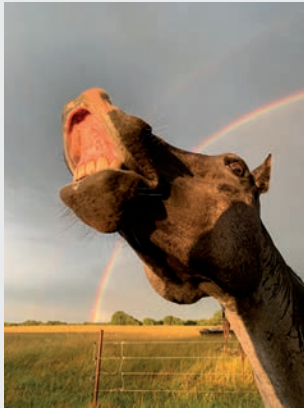
As the state approaches its bicentennial in August 2021, the State Historical Society of Missouri continues to play a coordinating role in efforts to commemorate the anniversary. SHSMO is building connections between local organizations throughout the state, promoting the work of statewide organizations and agencies, and supporting the activities of the Missouri Bicentennial Commission. The State Historical Society is also an active member of the Bicentennial Alliance, a coalition of organizations and government agencies that creates and supports bicentennial-related opportunities. Missouri 2021, the Society's bicentennial effort, remains the source of information about the entire bicentennial commemoration, which is shared with the public through its website, social media, and interactions with news organizations.

Bicentennial programs and projects include community engagement projects, local and regional commemorations, and statewide opportunities to learn about the history, life, and culture of Missouri. A partial list of projects includes:

Missouri Bicentennial Quilt. More than 200 quilt block submissions were received by September 2019, including contributions from 97 different Missouri counties. The Missouri Star Quilt Company donated labor and materials to assemble the final quilt. The Bicentennial Quilt began a tour of the state at Ste. Genevieve on June 10, 2020. It will eventually become the property of the State Historical Society.



My Missouri Photo Contest



Missouri Bicentennial Poster. This contest sponsored by the Missouri Bicentennial Commission launched in April 2020 and is open to Missouri students in grades 3 through 12. Four winning designs—two from elementary school students, and two from older students—will be chosen for use during the state's commemoration.

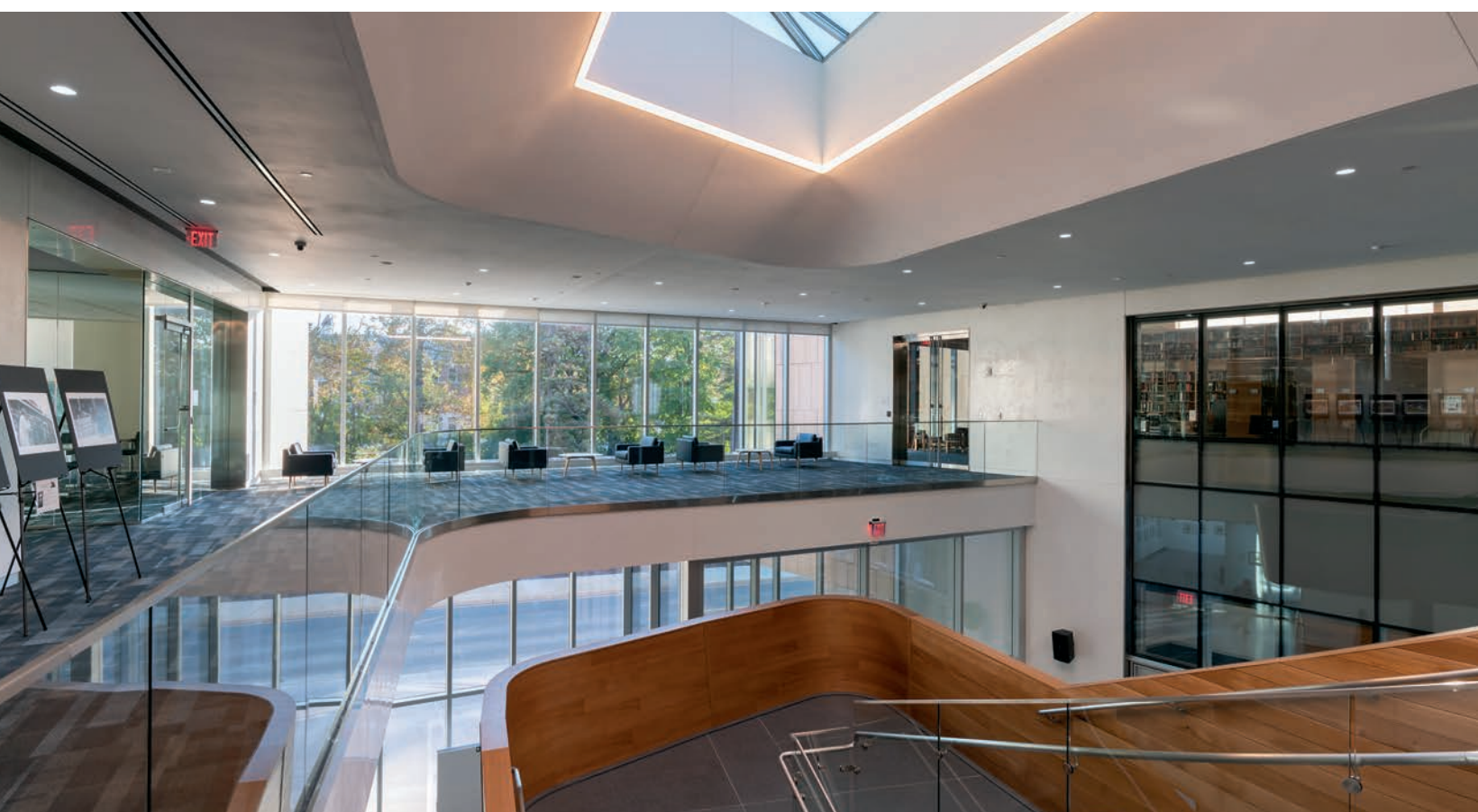
Missouri Bicentennial Mural. More than 12,000 people have participated in painting this mural featuring Missouri state symbols. The mural, a project of juried Best of Missouri Hands artists Aaron Horrell and Barb Bailey, is circulating throughout the state in sections to allow as many Missourians as possible to try their hand at painting it.

Missouri Community Legacies. This program provides a field kit to help local groups and school classes document local traditions and creative expressions, meaningful places, and organizations and institutions of significance to communities, counties, and regions across Missouri.

Four Years to Statehood. This collaborative project between Bicentennial Alliance partners, the Missouri Council for History Education and the Missouri Humanities Council, creates lesson plans to help teachers in educating students about Missouri's struggle for admission into the Union.

Bicentennial Bridge. This pedestrian and bicycle linkage of Jefferson City with Adrian Island on the Missouri River will include interactive exhibits and a public park on the island. The bridge is scheduled for completion in time for the bicentennial celebration in August.

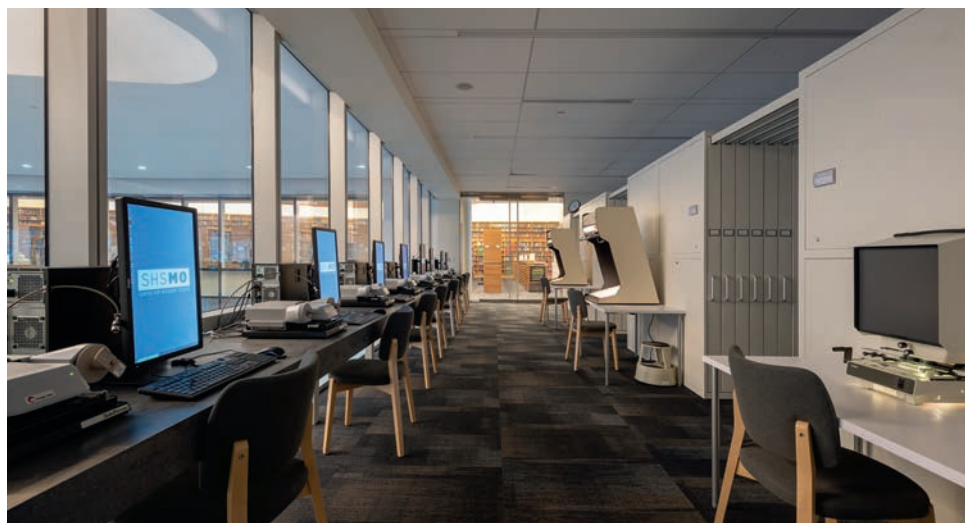
The State Historical Society, the Bicentennial Alliance partners, the Missouri Bicentennial Commission, and others are also developing commemorative events to be held on or around Statehood Day on August 10, 2021. A complete list of Missouri 2021 bicentennial events, projects, and updates are online at Missouri2021.org.



Research Centers

In the 2020 fiscal year, the growth of the State Historical Society of Missouri's research centers was exemplified by the Columbia Research Center completing its move to the Society's new headquarters on Elm Street and the Kansas City Research Center beginning plans to relocate in 2021 to a larger and more modern facility at UMKC's Miller Nichols Library. The St. Louis Research Center finished a two-year renovation of its reading room, stacks, and work areas to create a more accessible and efficient environment for patrons and staff.

After the grand opening of the Center for Missouri Studies building, the Columbia Research Center's staff spent two months completing the transfer and reorganization of reference, manuscript, and other collections. The work included integrating nearly 130 cubic feet of frequently used collections that had been stored off-site with collections transferred from the Society's previous home in Ellis Library. New policies and procedures for researchers, students, and other visitors



to the Columbia center were put in place to ensure that patrons and staff get the full benefit of what the new facilities can offer.

Despite disruptions caused by the relocation in Columbia early in the 2020 fiscal year and the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns after mid-March, the six research centers collectively responded to more than 2,500 requests for materials or other research assistance, while greeting nearly 3,000 in-person visitors and answering a similar number of phone and email queries. Traffic to the Society's website was once again heavy, particularly

“Over the past several years, I have probably spent close to six weeks at the Kansas City Research Center. The professionalism, knowledge and helpfulness of the staff there is amazing. I commend the entire staff. It is a very well-run organization—and the professionals there always make users feel welcome.” 10/31/2019 5:48 PM

“Thank you for answering my inquiry so quickly. In my genealogy search, I am gaining a deeper understanding of American history, more than I ever learned in school, and I am grateful for the work of archivists, historical societies and librarians.” 3/10/2020 9:04 AM



“It’s always a pleasure to work with the excellent archivists at SHSMO.” 1/22/2020 9:02 AM



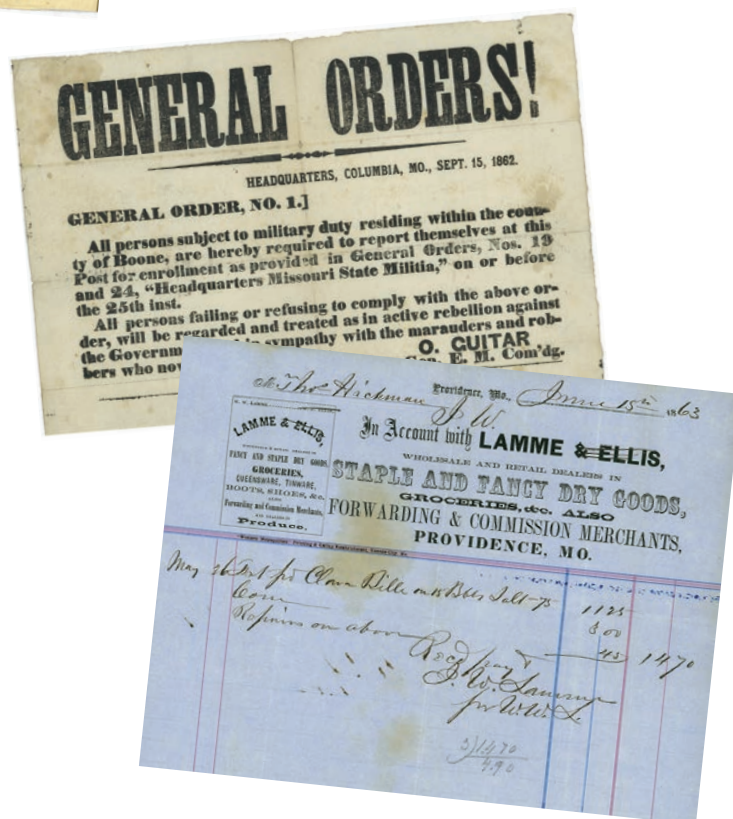
“Wow. Thank you so much for doing this so quickly. There appears to be lots of useful information here for my research.” 10/31/2019 11:07 AM

after social distancing measures were enacted, with 1,045,701 unique visits recorded.

In February the Society completed digitization of its World War II Letters collection, putting online in its entirety this significant body of correspondence to and from more than 3,000 enlisted men and women from nearly all 50 states. The ongoing large-scale effort to make materials more widely accessible online also included other highlights such as uploading the St. Louis Center’s database of approximately 26,000 images, completing the online collection of 277 history interviews recorded from 1985 to 1993 by Missouri Bootheel broadcaster Marshall Dial on his radio show *Stories They Tell*, and expanding the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project by nearly half a million new pages with additions from 42 more publications, including two of Missouri’s oldest newspapers, the *Missouri Gazette* and the *Missouri Intelligencer*.

Other major projects for the year included:

- Adding records for 35 plat maps and 697 monographs and journals to the Society’s catalog, as well as 15,325 new records for newspapers on microfilm.
- Collecting feedback from visitors to the Columbia center through the Patron Satisfaction Survey. In FY2020, 146 patrons completed the survey, with 98 percent rating services excellent or good.
- Providing regular tours of new facilities to visiting individuals and groups.



“I was ecstatic to find out that my father had a recorded interview from 1974 (the year before he died) in the archives. The interview focused on his and his parents’ experiences in America following their immigration. It was wonderful to hear his voice, his laugh, and the stories he told, some of which were new. Thank you!!!” 7/27/2019 1:39 PM

Manuscripts

Together, the State Historical Society's six research centers added 165 manuscript collections during the 2020 fiscal year. These new accessions totaled nearly 400 cubic feet of materials. One notable initiative begun in 2020 was an outreach project to collect correspondence, diary entries, and other materials recording the experiences of Missourians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The six centers also processed and made accessible to patrons approximately 100 collections totaling about 110 cubic feet of materials, in addition to preparing collections formerly stored off-site to make them accessible in the new Columbia headquarters.

Major new manuscript collections added during the year include:

- The Val Farmer Papers, containing the papers of a clinical psychologist and syndicated columnist who specialized in rural health. The collection is notable for its extensive correspondence from families weathering the Midwest farm crisis of the 1980s.
- The papers of Yvonne Starks Wilson, who served as a Missouri state representative and state senator following a noteworthy career as a Kansas City public school teacher and administrator.
- The Elaine Viets Papers, which include correspondence, copy-edited manuscripts, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, and books from Viets's career as a *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* columnist and author of mystery novels.
- The Morrow and Skaggs Families Papers, documenting the Morrow and Skaggs families in Miller County, Missouri, and containing genealogical materials, correspondence, and photographs.
- The Bruhl Family Photographs collection, with materials in English and German, featuring 159 photographs of the Bruhls in southeast Missouri and related families, some of whom remained in Germany and France.
- The Herbert Kleyboecker Papers, which offer correspondence from a US Army private who

served during World War I and was wounded in October 1918 during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

- The New Life Evangelistic Center Records containing correspondence, publications, meeting minutes, reports, photographs, and news clippings relating to the ministry of the NLEC and the Reverend Larry Rice to the poor and the homeless.
- The Mason Family Papers, which feature the early and mid-twentieth-century correspondence of a Fayette, Missouri, family.
- The Woolf Brothers Company Records, which include scrapbooks and business and legal records of a men's clothing store in business in Kansas City from 1879 until the early 1990s.
- The Irene Whitley Marcus Papers containing the personal papers and collected items of a historian of Kansas City's African American community.

Newspapers

Since its founding in 1898 by members of the Missouri Press Association, the State Historical Society has emphasized the collection and preservation of Missouri newspapers. The Society now offers patrons more than 56 million news pages on microfilm and continues to collect published editions from some 300 current newspapers throughout the state.

The Missouri Digital Newspaper Project continued in FY 2020, adding another 473,351 pages. More than 2.7 million digital Missouri newspaper pages are now online. Forty-two new titles were added during the 2020 fiscal year, including publications from 15 counties that were not previously represented in the digital collection. The Missouri Digital Newspaper Project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services Technology Act. The Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State, administers the LSTA grants. For the past two years, the State Historical Society of Missouri has been the sole recipient within the state of LSTA funds for newspaper content.

Art

With larger spaces designed specifically for exhibiting works of art, the State Historical Society welcomed nearly 6,000 visitors to its new art galleries in the Center for Missouri Studies during the 2020 fiscal year. That was more than twice the number of visitors to the galleries in Ellis Library the previous year; it would have been larger still had the Society not been forced to close its doors in March due to the pandemic. The new galleries drew increased coverage of art exhibitions and events from media outlets in Columbia, St. Louis, and elsewhere across the state.

In addition to permanent displays of works by Missouri masters such as Thomas Hart Benton and George Caleb Bingham, the art collection staff presented six exhibitions during FY 2020. The exhibitions included the following shows:

- *Landscape Visions by Oliver Schuchard* (two installments).
- “On the Big River...” *Tom Benton Illustrates Mark Twain* (two installments, with a third delayed until the 2021 fiscal year).
- *Battle Lines: WWII Editorial Cartoons by Daniel Fitzpatrick* (three installments).
- *Thomas Hart Benton: The Complete Editioned Lithographs* (two installments).
- *US Cartoonists Chronicle the History of African American Voting Rights* (held in the Ellis Library Colonnade).



- *Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft*, in partnership with the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection, University of Missouri College of Human Environmental Sciences.

The State Historical Society acquired 36 artworks during the 2020 fiscal year. The new works included:

- *Jessie Wick, Thursday Regan, and Julie Gordon*, three lithographs by Thomas Hart Benton, donated by William W. Sellers.
- *Portrait of Richard Henry Robinson*, oil painting by George Caleb Bingham, donated by an anonymous descendant of the sitter.





- *Sketch of Madison Square Park*, drawing by Thomas Hart Benton, donated by Steven Loftus.
- *Halcyon*, by Douglass Freed, painting donated by the artist.
- Osage Tomahawk Pipe, donated by Joseph Lindell.
- *Coach Norm*, bronze bust by Sabra Tull Meyer, donated by Norman E. and Virginia Stewart.

The Art Department also promoted the State Historical Society in ways ranging from loans of artworks to participation in not-for-profit cultural organizations fostering the study of material objects. In 2020 the Society received George Caleb Bingham's *Portrait of Col. Caleb Smith Stone* on permanent loan from the University of Missouri's Robert J. Trulaske, Sr. College of Business; eight other works are also currently on loan at SHSMO.

Oral History

In the 2020 fiscal year, oral historian Sean Rost conducted 31 interviews at locations across the state and expanded the *Our Missouri* podcast series begun in 2018. Interview subjects for the oral history collection and the podcasts included retired NASA astronaut Linda Godwin; George P. Smith, a Nobel laureate and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri in Columbia; Missouri historians Brooks Blevins

and Keona Ervin; former MU and professional football player Gus Otto; and former one-room-schoolhouse teacher Angela Remes, who was interviewed at age 106. Rost also created a new oral history program, the Missouri Food Project, which documents the history of food production, distribution, and consumption in Missouri.

The *Our Missouri* podcast series recorded 22 new interviews during FY 2020 and has now premiered 38 episodes that have been downloaded more than 10,000 times. The podcast includes series on the Ozarks, St. Louis, the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo 11* moon landing, and the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote. The oral history program also completed transcriptions of 39 interviews that were recorded in previous years.

Conservation

The conservation lab finished treatments on 202 objects from four of the Society's six research centers during the 2020 fiscal year. The lab also constructed custom boxes for 49 library volumes. Conservator Erin Kraus's top priority during the year was setting up the new lab facilities in the Center for Missouri Studies building. New equipment and more space, as well as added safety features and improved ergonomic design, enhance the lab's functionality while ensuring the well-being of staff, interns, and volunteers who work on conservation projects. The lab is now equipped with materials to treat one of the most notable holdings in the Society's collections: an 1817 petition for Missouri statehood.



Evicted sharecroppers gather around a fire during the 1939 sharecroppers' strike in southeast Missouri. Arthur Witman Photograph Collection.

Cover: A display in the Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft exhibition at the Center for Missouri Studies during the spring of 2020.

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