



Highlights:

Financial Report

Center for Missouri Studies

Research Centers



## Board of Trustees

John R. Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State, *Ex Officio*

Bruce H. Beckett, Columbia

Roy D. Blunt, Springfield

H. Riley Bock, New Madrid

Rodney J. Boyd, St. Louis

Steven Louis Brawley, Kirkwood

Mun Y. Choi, Columbia, University of Missouri  
President and Chancellor, *Ex Officio*

Robert M. Clayton III, Hannibal

James Leon Combs, Bradleyville

S. Bryan Cook, Clayton

Ann Covington, Columbia

Kathianne Knaup Crane, Clayton

Doug Crews, Columbia

Steve E. Ehlmann, St. Charles

Scott Fitzpatrick, Missouri State Treasurer, *Ex Officio*

J. Richard Franklin, Independence

Michael R. Gibbons, Kirkwood

Jennifer Teichman Kerr, Lexington

Gary R. Kremer, SHSMO Executive Director, *Ex Officio*

Virginia J. Laas, Joplin

Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., Cape Girardeau

Edward C. Matthews III, Sikeston

Kenneth B. McClain, Independence

Anne E. McGregor, Branson

Larry L. McMullen, Shawnee Mission, KS

Robert J. Mueller, Ste. Genevieve

Kathy Osborn, St. Louis

Michael L. Parson, Missouri Governor, *Ex Officio*

Albert M. Price, Columbia, *Emeritus*

Bob Priddy, Jefferson City

James R. Reinhard, Hannibal, *Emeritus*

Lucinda A. Rice-Petrie, Kansas City

Ronald F. Richard, Joplin

Mary R. Russell, Jefferson City

Vicki Russell, Columbia

Edward W. Scavone, Columbia

Kurt U. Schaefer, Columbia

Brent L. Schondelmeyer, Independence

William W. Sellers, Leesburg, VA, *Emeritus*

Carol Silvey, West Plains

Beatrice B. Litherland Smith, Columbia

Brian K. Snyder, Independence

Blanche M. Touhill, St. Louis

## From the President:



We're baaack!!! We seem to have survived COVID. Well, we're 85 to 90 percent back, and we appear to be on the road toward normalcy. We are also sensible and somewhat cautious. We know how quickly circumstances can change. So, the standard advice remains—check before you come. As tough a year as this has been, there has been a bright side. Our staff members—in Columbia and in all the Research Centers—have been amazingly resourceful, inventive, and diligent in finding new ways to connect the Society to the world. They have used social media and the Internet to expand our reach to people who never before knew us. Just check out the new resources on our web page ([shsmo.org](http://shsmo.org)). You can attend workshops on how to take an oral history or get advice on advancing your genealogical research. There are virtual tours of Society exhibits (past and present). The podcasts of *Our Missouri* feature interviews with experts on topics in Missouri history. Some examples are: Brooks Blevins on the Ozarks, Diane Mutti Burke on slavery in Missouri, and Tracy Campbell on the history of the Gateway Arch. In addition, from our website, there are a host of Zoom events that are available for replay. Of particular relevance in these times of COVID, you may watch and listen to Kathleen Seale, senior archivist at the Rolla Research Center, in a two-part presentation on the flu epidemic of 1918. And finally, an important but unseen positive result of this difficult year has been the time provided to the staff to process, catalogue, and digitize collections. All of the above are just a sampling of the many new sources now available to extend our outreach to those we have never before touched.

Even though there have been some silver linings in this very difficult year, we still face uncertainty. It is beginning to feel a little like riding down the highway with a car full of small children, all calling out—Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Let's hope for the best and plan for all contingencies, while we maintain our good humor and continue to look for positive and new ways to reach out to new and old constituencies. We can look back to our Missouri heritage. We can still be as stubborn as Missouri mules.

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

Virginia J. Laas

President, Board of Trustees



# Financial Report

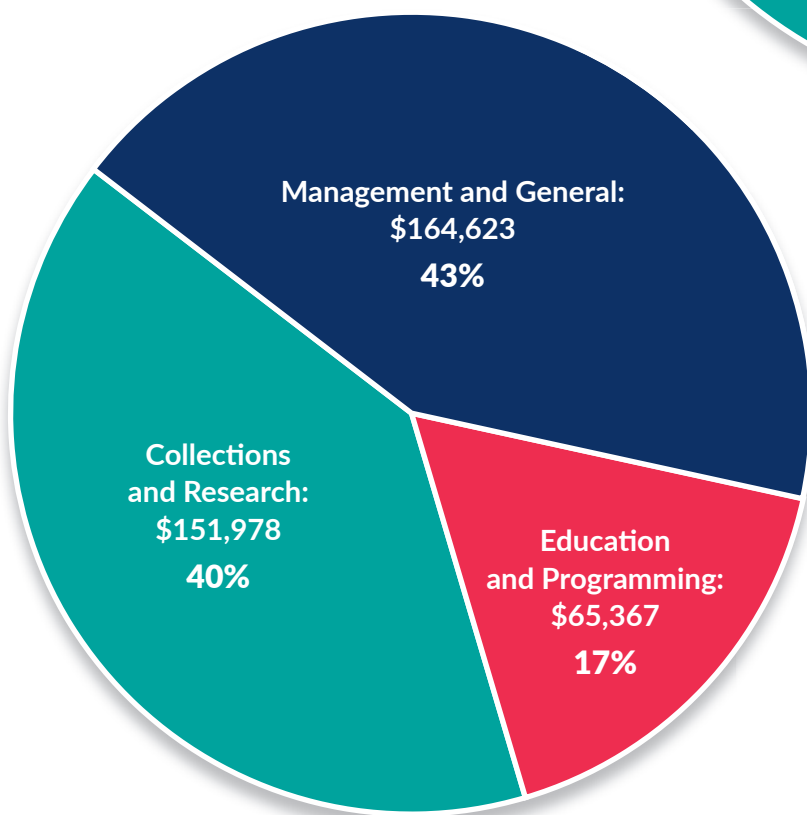
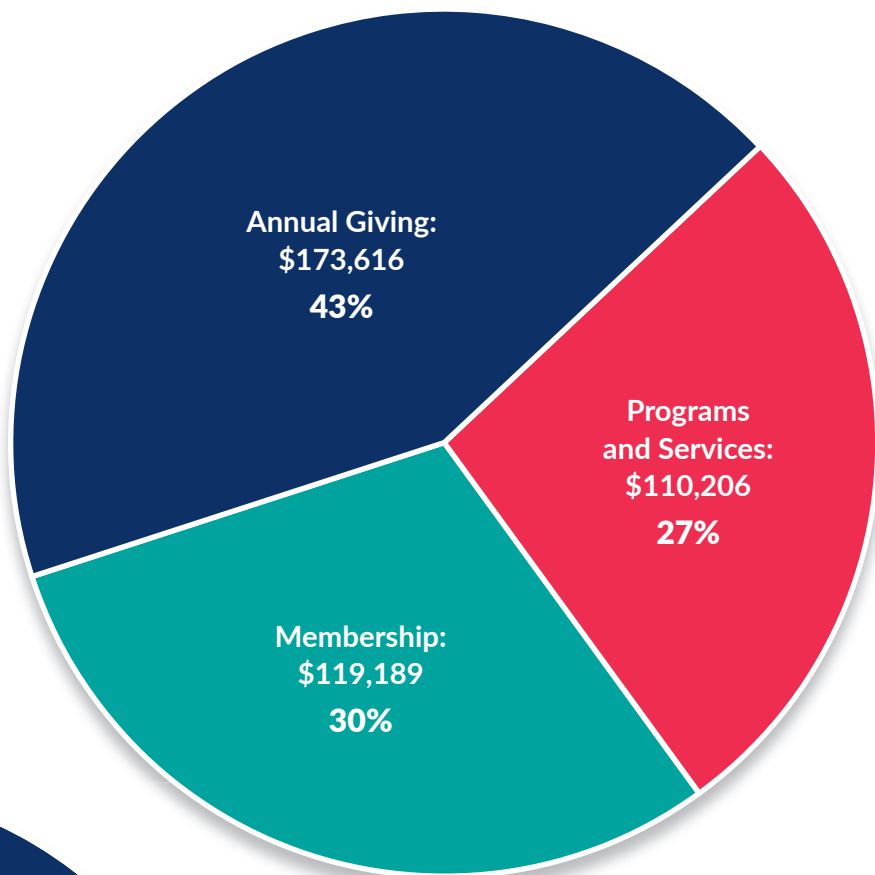
## Fiscal Year 2021

July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021

### Membership Trust Fund Operating Revenues

- Annual Giving: \$173,616
- Programs and Services: \$110,206
- Membership: \$119,189

**Total: \$403,011**



### Membership Trust Fund Operating Expenses

- Management and General: \$164,623
- Education and Programming: \$65,367
- Collections and Research: \$151,978

**Total: \$381,968**

**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>.

**Funding Sources**

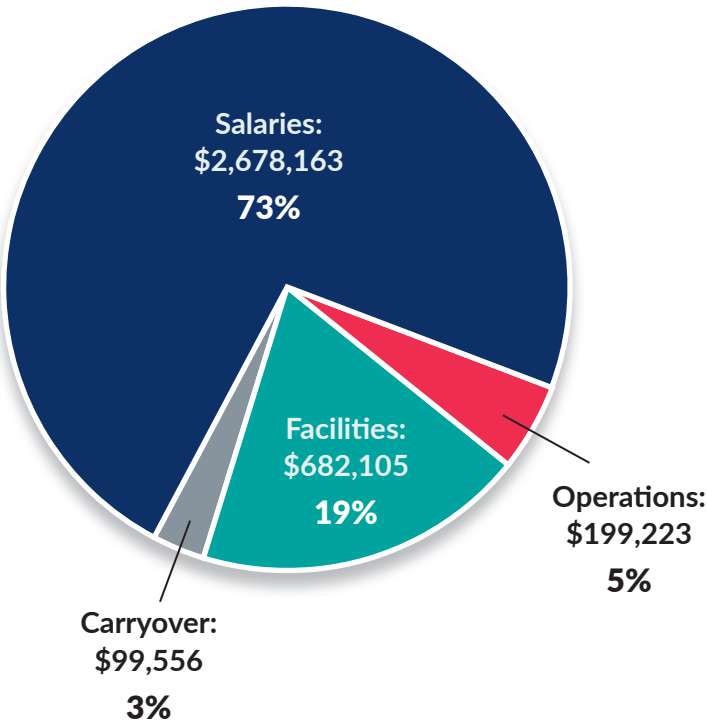
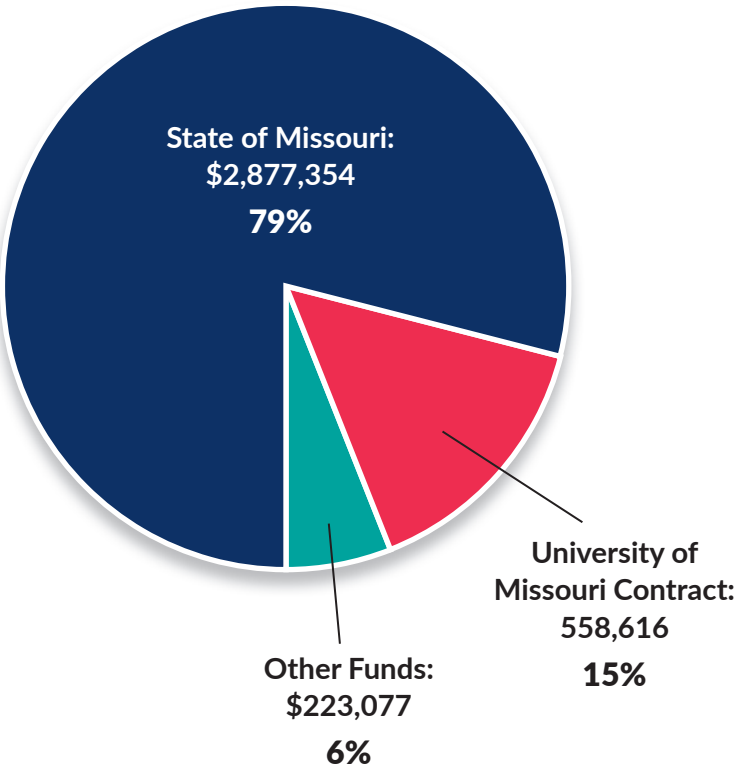
- State of Missouri: \$2,877,354
- University of Missouri Contract: \$558,616
- Other Funds: \$223,077

**Total: \$3,659,047**

**Expenditures Compensated by Funding Sources**

- Salaries: \$2,678,163
- Operations: \$199,223
- Facilities: \$682,105
- Carryover: \$99,556

**Total: \$3,659,047**



**Comprehensive Campaign**

At the close of the 2021 fiscal year on June 30, the State Historical Society of Missouri’s Comprehensive Campaign had raised \$4,041,969 toward its goal of \$25 million. 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 State Historical Society of Missouri will remember the 2021 fiscal year as the time when it not only persevered with its mission during the COVID-19 pandemic but also embraced the unique opportunity to lead Missouri into its statewide commemorations of two hundred years of statehood. Despite the challenges posed by COVID—especially budget restrictions and limits on social gatherings—the Society held, organized, and supported a wide range of bicentennial events and programs all over the state and throughout the year, culminating in large celebrations at the State Capitol, the Center for Missouri Studies, and other locations in August 2021. With adaptations such as requiring appointments to visit the research centers and holding meetings and programs as virtual events rather than in-person gatherings, the State Historical Society delivered all of its regular services and programs as well.

With the pandemic affecting state funding, the State Historical Society began the 2021 fiscal year facing withholdings of more than \$1.1 million from its state budget. The Society responded with layoffs of 11 full-time and three part-time staff and by reducing the hours that its six research centers would be open to the public. A brighter financial outlook for the 2022 fiscal year allowed the State Historical Society to hire new staff in the spring and summer of 2021 and to restore most of its public hours. The new staff members include library information specialists Isabelle Graves, Daniel Haase, Nicholas Reya, and Katelyn Ziegler, all in Columbia; manuscript specialist Aleksandra Kinlen in Columbia; advancement coordinator Tiffani Homer in Columbia; archivist Sarah Henkel in Kansas City; archivist Erin Purdy in St. Louis; and archivist Haley Frizzle-Green in Springfield. Four previous staff were also rehired during





the 2021 fiscal year. Public hours are now 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays by appointment at the Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis Research Centers and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays by appointment at the Cape Girardeau and Springfield Research Centers. The Columbia Research Center is also open again by appointment on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Society responded to COVID-related restrictions on social gatherings by converting public programs to virtual events. The 2020 Annual Meeting, 2021 Missouri Conference on History, and 2021 National History Day in Missouri contest were all held virtually; 34 more virtual programs offering speakers, workshop presenters, and other educational opportunities also took place during the fiscal year. Even the Ron and Patty Richard Bookstore in the Center for Missouri Studies redoubled its efforts to connect with people online; revenues from online shoppers increased by 170 percent over the previous fiscal year, offsetting nearly all of the sales losses caused by reduced foot traffic due to the pandemic.

Highlights for the year included the wide array of events, activities, programs, and community engagement opportunities offered throughout the state in connection with Missouri's bicentennial, as well as preparations for the Society's Kansas City Research Center to move to larger and better headquarters on the campus of the University of Missouri–Kansas City. Like the bicentennial, the move to a new home in Kansas City culminated in August 2021—the Kansas City center opened the doors of its new facility in UMKC's Miller Nichols Library on August 24.

## Missouri Bicentennial

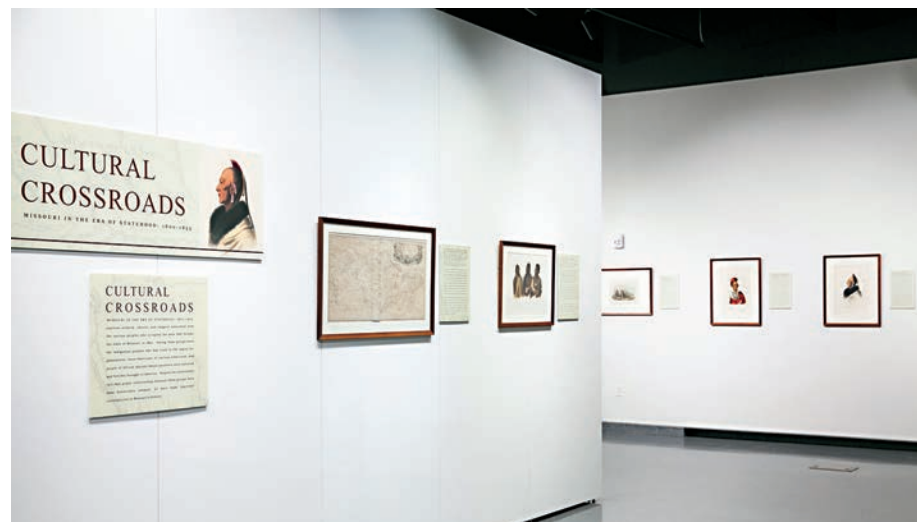
Commemorating Missouri's bicentennial was the focal point for many of the State Historical Society's educational efforts during the past fiscal year, and years of planning and organizing were consummated with major events held on or near Statehood Day on August 10. SHSMO bicentennial coordinator Michael Sweeney led the Society's efforts. Some of the largest and most visible August events included Together for '21 Fest, four days of live music, book talks, exhibits, film screenings, children's programs, and other activities held in Columbia and organized by SHSMO and the University of Missouri; the First State Capitol Bicentennial Bash at the First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site in St. Charles; the two-day Missouri Statehood Day Commemoration at the Capitol in Jefferson City; and eleven days of bicentennial-themed events and activities at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia.

In 2013 the Missouri House of Representatives passed a resolution directing the State Historical Society to "develop plans, ideas, and proposals to commemorate and celebrate" Missouri's first two hundred years of statehood. The Society quickly took on a leadership role in coordinating the state's observances of the anniversary, 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. Missouri 2021, the Society's bicentennial effort, became the source of information about the entire bicentennial commemoration, communicating with the public through its website, social media, and interactions with news organizations.

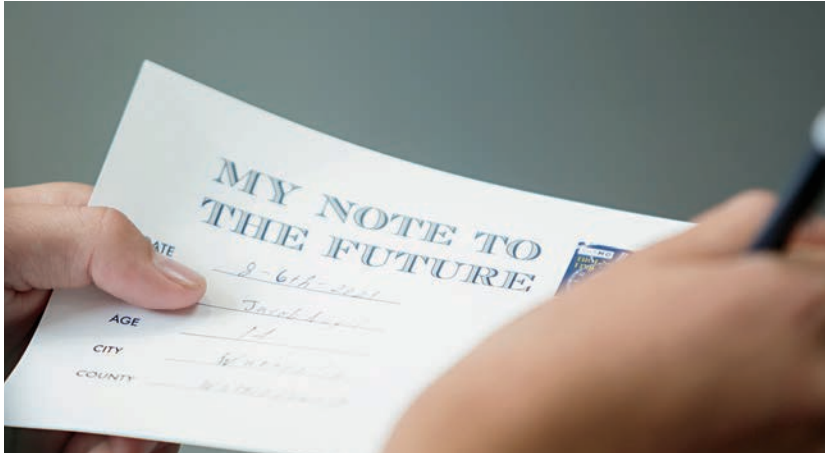
















The State Historical Society also became an active member of the Bicentennial Alliance, a coalition of organizations and government agencies that created and supported bicentennial activities and events at locations throughout the state.

In the end, Missouri engaged in a truly statewide celebration of its history and culture. Beginning several years before the two hundredth anniversary on August 10, 2021, and continuing after it, the State Historical Society has fostered programs, events, observances, traveling exhibits, and other endeavors that have reached and connected Missourians in every corner of the state. The array of notable projects includes a bicentennial license plate, a statewide ice cream social, a bicentennial poster contest for students, a Missouri mural completed by thousands of volunteer painters, a bicentennial quilt with quilt squares representing each Missouri county, a statewide photo contest, an Explorers Program encouraging travel to Missouri sites of interest, a Missouri on Mic program recording the stories and experiences of today's Missourians for future generations, a time capsule, the online Missouri Encyclopedia, art exhibitions, and an Endorsement Program supporting local community engagement projects throughout the state. Some of these programs, including the quilt and photograph traveling exhibits, will continue throughout the rest of 2021.

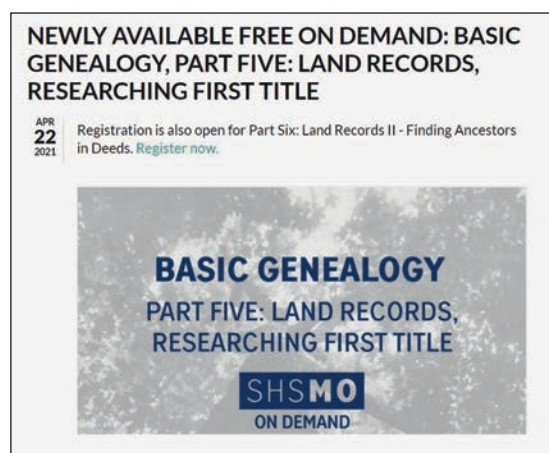
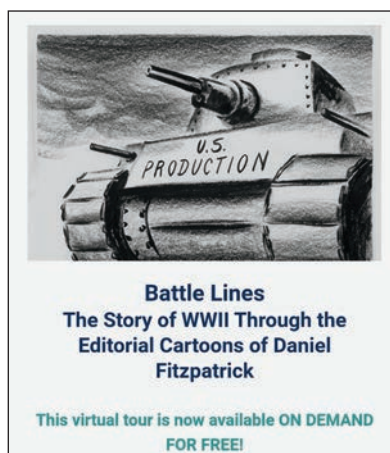


## Educational Programs

Restrictions on in-person events did not mean that the State Historical Society's educational programming went dormant during the 2021 fiscal year. In fact, the year was marked by significant growth and new educational initiatives as the Society learned to tap the remarkable potential of Zoom and virtual programming to reach audiences across Missouri and well beyond the state's borders. Programming series introduced during FY2021 included:

- The *Missouri Historical Review* Author Series, featuring interviews with authors of recent *MHR* articles in which they describe the inspirations behind their writing and research and respond to questions about their work.
- Basic Genealogy with Bill Eddleman, associate director of SHSMO's Cape Girardeau Research Center, a multipart series in which the veteran genealogist shares research tips, strategies, and advice for compiling family histories.
- Missouri 2021 Presents, a monthly broadcast highlighting bicentennial commemorations around the state.

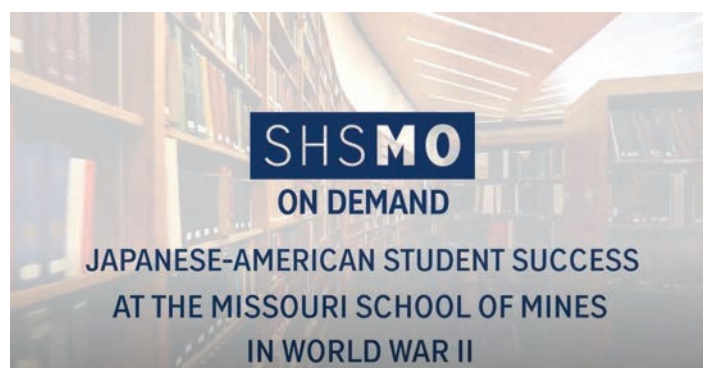
The November 2020 Annual Meeting, held for the first time as a virtual event, offered easy remote access to the business meeting, Fall Lecture, and programs such



as an “Ask the Archivist” workshop and a conservation workshop on preserving the Society’s 1817 petition for statehood. The Fall Lecture featured Youngstown State University history professor and native Missourian Amy Laurel Fluker, whose talk was titled “‘Earnest Endeavor’: Missouri Women and the Work of Civil War Commemoration.”

Numerous other lectures, workshops, and exhibits were presented by the Society’s staff during the 2021 fiscal year. Popular programs included “Missouri Mysteries,” an exploration of ghostly legends tied to the Show-Me State; the 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Missouri; Missouri Sports in the 1920s (with separate programs for adults and children); and a virtual tour of the Society’s new Art Gallery and Center for Missouri Studies led by SHSMO art curator Joan Stack, who explained the aesthetics of the building designed by Kansas City architectural firm Gould Evans. In total, the State Historical Society of Missouri hosted 34 virtual programs that attracted 4,758 registrants. Visitors to the SHSMO website continue to view recordings of the many programs from FY2021 that are now available on demand.

In tandem with its virtual programming successes, the State Historical Society continued to experience substantial growth on its social media platforms. By the end of the 2021 fiscal year the Society had 22,702 followers across its social media channels, an 18 percent increase over FY2020. The largest increase came from YouTube, where traffic rose by 260 percent. Driven in part by videos from virtual programs, the number of SHSMO videos published on YouTube rose from six in the 2020 fiscal year to 30 in FY2021, attracting 22,437 views for a total viewing time of nearly 3,000 hours. The Society is also active on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.





## Publications

SHSMO Executive Director Gary R. Kremer's much-anticipated bicentennial history of Missouri, *This Place of Promise: A Historian's Perspective on 200 Years of Missouri History*, was previewed through an excerpt in the July 2021 issue of the *Missouri Historical Review*. The book, published by the University of Missouri Press, is scheduled for release in late 2021.

The State Historical Society published the 115th volume of the *Missouri Historical Review*, the only quarterly journal dedicated to scholarship on the history of Missouri and its people, during the 2021 fiscal year. Topics ranged from William Clark, husband-wife Civil War correspondence, and the 1849 St. Louis cholera epidemic to Harry Truman, Progressive-era social welfare reform, and the 1930 Ste. Genevieve race riot. Contributors included established Missouri historians such as Larry Gragg, Patrick Huber, and William E. Foley as well as first-time MHR authors such as Amanda Izzo, Courtney Kisat, and John Craig Hammond. The volume's final issue in July commemorated Missouri's bicentennial with a themed edition examining various aspects of Missouri's transition

from territory to state. An article from January 2020 (Zachary Dowdle, "Preventing a 'School of Nullification': Politics, Slavery, and the Presidency of the University of Missouri, 1839–1856") received the Missouri Conference on History's 2021 Lawrence O. Christensen Award for best article on a Missouri history topic.

Two issues of the *Missouri Times* newsletter were published during FY2021. The winter issue featured a centerspread photo essay on restoring a Thomas Hart Benton artwork in SHSMO's conservation lab; the summer issue's centerspread offered an interview with eminent Ozarks historian Brooks Blevins. Both issues provided significant coverage of the Society's adaptations to social distancing requirements and other changes necessitated by the COVID pandemic. They also reflected the new format begun the previous year, with expanded page counts and greater use of illustrations and graphics.

The Society's staff also continued to expand the Missouri Encyclopedia, a comprehensive online reference work for general audiences, and Historic Missourians, a website featuring biographies of Missourians written for younger readers. The Encyclopedia, online as a demonstration site since late 2018, had its official launch as part of Missouri's bicentennial observances in 2021. Historic Missourians underwent a complete redesign and reopened on a mobile-friendly online platform with several new articles added to the site.







## National History Day in Missouri

The State Historical Society of Missouri continued its sponsorship of National History Day in Missouri in FY2021. The program supports students in grades 6 through 12 who conduct their own original historical research projects and then compete in regional, state, and national contests. With the COVID pandemic limiting travel and social gatherings, the program was held online in 2020–2021. It still attracted 1,044 student participants in regional contests held throughout Missouri. Top finishers at the regional contests advanced to the state contest, which included 435 participants presenting 283 research projects sponsored by 79 teachers. Sixty Missouri students advanced from the state competition to the national contest, where two projects were finalists and three others were selected for highly competitive virtual showcases. SHSMO provided student contestants with a variety of engagement opportunities such as a virtual event series, social media contest, jamboard connections, and live broadcast of the state contest awards ceremony.

## Annual Awards

Each year at its Annual Meeting, the State Historical Society presents awards to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the organization and to the study of Missouri and its history. At the 2020 meeting, the Society awarded its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, posthumously to Hank Waters, former publisher of the *Columbia Daily Tribune* and a longtime SHSMO officer and trustee. Three scholarship awards were also presented at the meeting. Brooks

Blevins, a historian at Missouri State University in Springfield, won the 2020 Missouri History Book Award for his book *A History of the Ozarks, Volume 2: The Conflicted Ozarks* (University of Illinois Press). Samuel C. Mahaney received the *Missouri Historical Review* Article Award for “‘Every Day I Like Farming Better’: Ulysses S. Grant and His Experience as a Missouri Farmer,” published in the July 2020 issue of the *Review*. Elisabeth Frances George, a doctoral candidate at the University of Buffalo, the State University of New York, was awarded the Lewis E. Atherton Prize for her dissertation “Lesbian and Gay Life in the Queen City and Beyond: Resistance, Space, and Community Mobilization in the Southwest Missouri Ozarks.”

## Missouri Conference on History

Due to the pandemic, the sixty-third annual Missouri Conference on History, scheduled to meet in Columbia on March 10–12, 2021, was instead held online. The conference nevertheless attracted more than 200 registrants for two days of panel sessions by scholars, teachers, and other professionals in history-related fields plus an opening plenary by SHSMO Executive Director Gary Kremer, who spoke on topics drawn from his forthcoming book. Jarod Roll, a professor of history at the University of Mississippi, delivered the keynote address, “The Unorganized of Missouri Are Always With Us’: Southwest Missouri Metal Miners and the Long History of White Working-Class Conservatism.” The conference also featured a presentation by *Voices of Arrow Rock, Spirit of the Missouri Frontier* which included discussion and excerpts from the theatrical production.





# Research Centers

Following the opening of the Center for Missouri Studies in Columbia during the 2020 fiscal year, the State Historical Society continued its facilities upgrade by completing construction on a new space for the Kansas City Research Center in August 2021. The Kansas City center's staff worked throughout the first half of 2021 to prepare for the move from its former 3,100-square-foot quarters in UMKC's Newcomb Hall to a 5,100-square-foot facility in the campus's Miller Nichols Library. Preparing for the move included rehousing collections, creating new inventories for some collections, making materials compatible with the new Roobot automated retrieval system, and planning for opening events and exhibit themes. The larger facility permits storage of many collections that had previously been housed off-site in Columbia and other locations. More on-site collections, faster retrieval of materials requested, better parking access, and even the sweeping views of the city skyline from Miller Nichols's third floor have all added to the experience of patrons visiting the Kansas City Research Center.

Collectively, the Society's six research centers greeted nearly 2,000 in-person visitors over the course of the fiscal year while also answering approximately 2,200 research queries made by phone or email. As social distancing measures related to the COVID pandemic continued to send people online, the State Historical Society again experienced heavy traffic on its website. In the 2021 fiscal year, 670,413 visitors accessed the Society's web pages a combined 973,637 times, viewing a total of 4,603,486 pages. More than 85 percent of this traffic came from new visitors.

The research centers also continued to respond to growing opportunities online by digitizing many of the Society's collections and other resources. In October 2020 the SHSMO Digital Collections website was selected as one of *Family Tree Magazine's* Best State Websites. During the 2021 fiscal year, staff members,



**“Finding materials in your office has been such a blessing to a huge family in Steelville... Nothing better than to help kids hear their great-great grandpa.”**—PATRON AT THE ROLLA RESEARCH CENTER



with significant assistance from the Society's corps of volunteers in scanning, transcribing, and creating metadata, engaged in digitization projects that included:

- Holdings within the National Women in Media collection such as the journalism school diary of Marjorie B. Paxson, a trailblazer among the ranks of women journalists, and the journals of Christy C. Bulkeley, the first woman to become a chief executive officer in the Gannett newspaper chain.
- The Rotoscope Collection, 180-degree one-reel films produced in the 1950s and early 1960s with technology created by Missouri inventors Rowe Carney Jr. and Tom Smith. The film collection was digitized in November 2020 with funding from a National Film Preservation Foundation grant.
- The Henry C. Fike Civil War diary. Fike's diary entries, along with correspondence to and from his wife, Cimbaline, while he was stationed in Missouri during Price's Raid in 1864 formed the basis of a January 2021 *Missouri Historical Review* article and subsequent online program with the article's authors.

- Initiation of a new online Transportation collection, which began with scanning of the Edmund Gray steamboat diaries and the steamboat images within the James T. Thorp scrapbooks. These materials are slated to go online in 2022.
- Additions to the online Genealogy collection such as the Paris M. Walker Funeral Home Records from Marshall, Missouri (already online) and the Ste. Genevieve Marriage Records (to go online in 2022).

In the 2021 fiscal year the Reference Library added 844 new records for monographs and journals to the catalog for all six research centers. Catalog records were created for 19 maps and atlases, and records for 620 items were added to the WorldCat database widely used by libraries and research institutions. The Society also began using its own in-house technology to create microfilm, producing 612 newspaper reels.

## Manuscripts

The State Historical Society's six research centers added 218 manuscript collections during the 2021 fiscal year. These collections totaled roughly 535 cubic feet of physical materials plus over 900 gigabytes of digital files. The research centers also processed and made accessible to patrons approximately 150 collections totaling about 550 cubic feet of materials. Some of the new manuscript collections added during the year include:

- The John Henry Pohlman Papers, which include case files from a US military legal officer who prosecuted Nazi war crimes in Dachau, Germany, as part of the 7708 War Crimes Group.
- The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Records, which document the organization since its beginning in 1963.

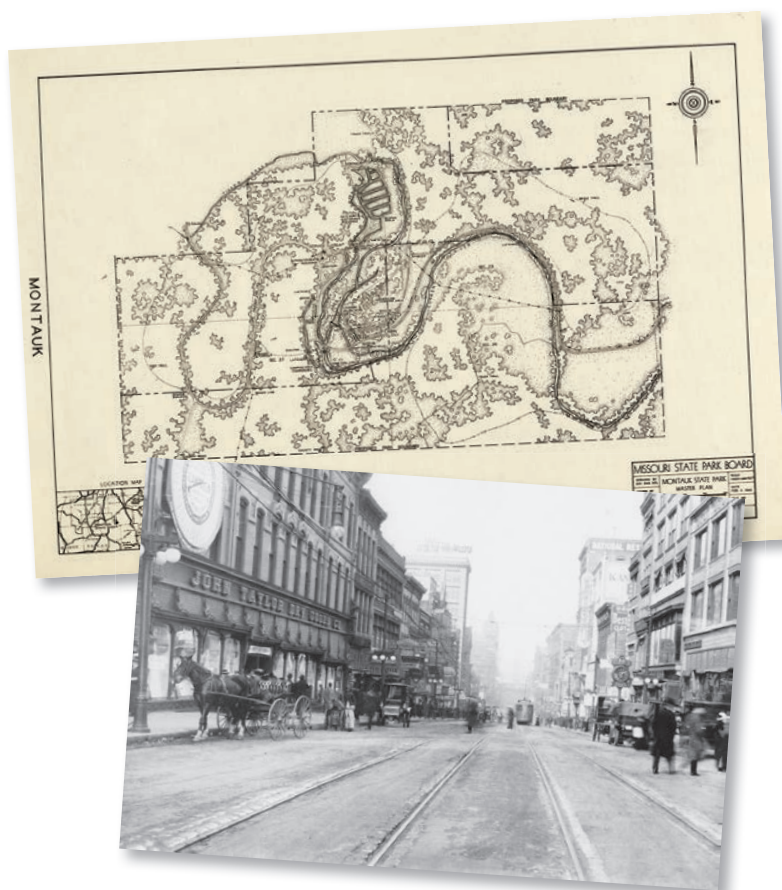


- An addition to the American Audio Prose Library Records that includes master recordings of interviews conducted by Kay Bonetti Callison with important national and international literary figures such as James Baldwin, Margaret Atwood, Chinua Achebe, Norman Mailer, and Toni Morrison.
- The Mildred Wallhausen Papers, consisting of photo negatives of events involving African American residents of Charleston, Missouri, in the 1960s and 1970s and scrapbooks of news columns written by Wallhausen, publisher of the *Charleston Enterprise-Courier* until her death in 2009.
- The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis Records, with meeting minutes spanning from 1918 to 2020 and including topics such as efforts to remove radioactive waste stored in St. Louis and St. Louis County and merger plans between the city and county proposed by civic groups several times over the last century.
- Personal papers and photographs of Harry Anton “Dick” Voight and family, which relate to work along the Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi Rivers, work in the US Coast Guard, and life in the West.
- An addition to the Jesse Lauck Architectural Records, architectural drawings and documentation of apartment complexes such as the “Poet” apartments and other buildings in the Kansas City area.
- The Joe Bachant Papers, which contain the papers of an environmentalist who worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation for much of his career.
- The LifeBridge Partnership Records, a mostly digital collection of records from the organization formerly known as the St. Louis Crippled Children’s Society, which document efforts to help individuals with disabilities as well as discussions of how the organization updated health policies and fund-raising strategies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 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 60 million news pages on microfilm and continues to collect published editions from some 300 current newspapers across the state.

In the 2021 fiscal year the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project (MDNP) added more than 333,000 pages of digital newspaper content from seven counties along the Mississippi River and four counties in central and northern Missouri: Clark, Ralls, Jefferson, Perry, Madison, New Madrid, Dunklin, Johnson, Callaway, Worth, and Nodaway. MDNP has now surpassed 3 million pages of news content, all keyword-searchable and freely available to the public. 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 three years, the State Historical Society of Missouri has been the sole recipient of LSTA funds for newspaper content.



## Art

The State Historical Society obtained a major grant for its Art Department during the 2021 fiscal year, receiving an award of \$141,030 from the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences. The award allowed the Society to create digital copies of some 3,000 of its artworks and place them online for easier access, creating new learning experiences for audiences within and beyond Missouri. The project included works by artists such as George Catlin, James Otto Lewis, Karl Bodmer, and John James Audubon. The grant period ran from November 1, 2020, to October 31, 2021.

The SHSMO Art Department commemorated Missouri's bicentennial year with an exhibition devoted to the state's natural environment at the time of statehood in 1821. *Native Creatures: Missouri's Indigenous Mammals and Birds* opened in late January 2020 and ran through the rest of the 2021 fiscal year. The exhibition featured works by artists including Audubon, Bodmer, Charles Schwartz, and Jay "Ding" Darling. Another bicentennial-themed exhibition, *Cultural Crossroads: Missouri in the Era of Statehood*, opened in time for Missouri's two hundredth anniversary in August 2021 and remains on display this fall.

The State Historical Society also offered the following art exhibitions during the 2021 fiscal year:

- *Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft*, in collaboration with the Historic Costume and Textile Collection, MU College of Human Environmental Sciences.
- *Battle Lines: World War II Cartoons By Daniel Fitzpatrick, Installment Three—The Final Years of World War II, May 1943–August 1945*.
- *On the Big River: Tom Benton Illustrates Mark Twain* (third installment).
- *Historic Images of Black Families: Representation, Identity, and Diversity* (held at Ellis Library on MU's Columbia campus).
- *David Plank: Missouri on the Wing* (first installment).

The Society gained 32 new art acquisitions during FY2021, including a loan of George Caleb Bingham's 1837 portrait of Caleb Smith Stone. The portrait, an

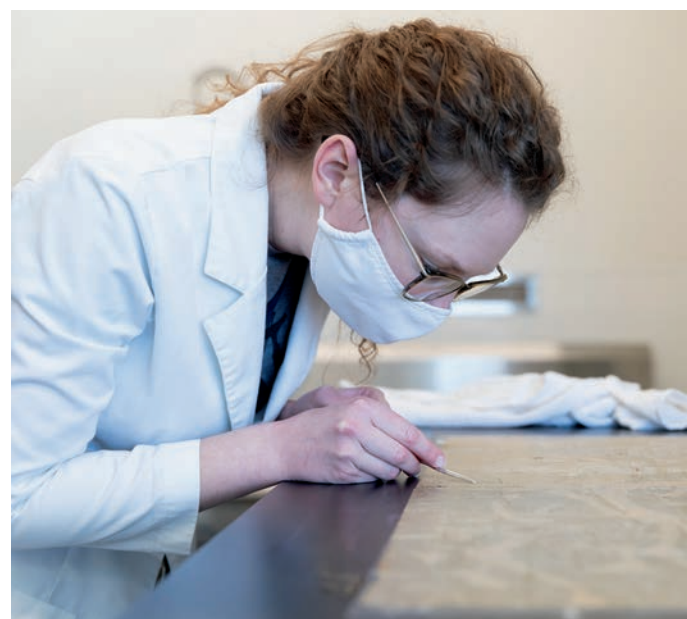
irrevocable permanent loan from MU's Robert J. Trulaske Sr. College of Business, is currently on display in the Society's Art Gallery. Some of the other works acquired include:

- A nineteenth-century James Monroe Peace Medal, donated by Joe Lindell.
- Five abstract oil paintings donated by the estate of the artist, Richard Saunders.
- Two life-size metal sculptures representing the handmaidens of Hephaestus, the Greek god of fire, by former SHSMO art curator Sidney Larson, donated by Vicky Riback Wilson.
- An etching by Jay "Ding" Darling, donated by Jim and Kitty Rogers.

Just after the close of the 2021 fiscal year, the Society completed another significant acquisition: three additional portraits by Missouri master artist George Caleb Bingham. The portraits, each oil on canvas, depict well-known nineteenth-century Missouri politician and MU founding father James Sidney Rollins and his parents, Anthony Wayne Rollins and Sallie Rodes Rollins. The portraits of Rollins's parents were painted in 1837; the one of Rollins himself is from 1834. The works were purchased from the estate of Ellen Westfall Mering.







## Oral History

In FY2021, oral historian Sean Rost conducted 24 interviews for seven different SHSMO collections and also recorded and aired 20 episodes of the *Our Missouri* podcast. Notable interview subjects included Stephen Aron, historian and president of the Autry Museum of the American West; Sallie Beard, former coach and athletic director at Missouri Southern State University; William “Andy” Dalton, attorney and former commissioner on the Missouri Conservation Commission; Betty Jo White, the first woman to complete a residency in general surgery in osteopathic medicine; and Sidney Reedy, librarian and first African American student to integrate parochial schools in Jefferson City.

The 20 episodes of *Our Missouri* included series on the centennial of woman suffrage (summer 2020), Missouri’s border wars (fall 2020), and the Bicentennial Book Club (spring-summer 2021). By the end of the fiscal year, the podcast program had premiered 58 episodes attracting roughly 19,000 downloads since its start in September 2018.

The Oral History Program also processed 20 previous oral history interviews, five of which will eventually be accessible in digital form through SHSMO’s website. Rost shared best practices, historical information, and interview recordings and transcripts from the Society’s collections through community and media outreach events. A few examples include a presentation on athletics and the 1918 influenza outbreak, a guest appearance on *Colleague Conversations* with the Missouri Association

for Museums and Archives, a presentation on the Santa Fe Trail with the Kansas City Museum, and numerous interviews with Missouri media outlets on the state bicentennial and various state history topics.

## Conservation

Senior Conservator Erin Kraus completed treatment on 101 objects from five of the Society’s research centers during the 2021 fiscal year. One of the most noteworthy treatments was on the 1817 Missouri Petition for Statehood within the Missouri Collection (C3982). The document, one of two known surviving statehood petitions from 1817, is the earliest record of Missourians requesting admission into the Union; it has been in the State Historical Society’s collections since at least 1912. The treated and restored document was later displayed during state bicentennial commemorations, and was also featured in an article in the July 2021 *Missouri Historical Review*.

Other conservation projects included building custom boxes for 115 library books, flattening 382 newspapers in preparation for digital scanning, and treating 1,021 collection items for mold. Kraus also provided conservation advice in response to 24 public inquiries. During the fiscal year she was assisted in the conservation lab by four interns, three from the University of Missouri and one from Ohio State University.



Boy with dog hitched to wagon, Concordia, Missouri, street fair, 1912. [Leonard D. and Marie H. Rehkop Collection of Algert T. Peterson Photographs (C3888-E0102)]

Cover: *Missouri Art Now: A Bicentennial Celebration*, traveling exhibit on display at the Center for Missouri Studies in May 2021.

SHSMO

605 Elm Street, Columbia, MO 65201 | (573) 882-7083 | [shsmo.org](http://shsmo.org)

CAPE GIRARDEAU COLUMBIA KANSAS CITY ROLLA ST. LOUIS SPRINGFIELD