Highlights:

Financial Report
Center for Missouri Studies
Research Centers
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From the President:

Welcome to the 2022 Annual Meeting of the State Historical Society of Missouri! If there is anything positive to be said about living through a pandemic, it is that it caused us to think imaginatively about how to remain connected to the world. In the last two years, we have expanded our existing programs and invented new ways of communicating with our membership. Check out our presence on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram! Explore our webinars and podcasts. The Missouri Historical Review Author Series provides fascinating in-person interviews with experts on particular facets of Missouri history; the same may be said for the African American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series. New presentations by scholars on a wide variety of Missouri subjects appear regularly on Our Missouri podcasts, and there are online collections aimed specifically for K through 12 students. And now that we are fully open again, all the resources of the institution are once more available, including our fabulous art gallery and manuscript collections. In addition to our gorgeous headquarters in Columbia and our regional research centers on the campuses of the University of Missouri–St. Louis, the Missouri University of Science and Technology at Rolla, Missouri State University at Springfield, and Southeast Missouri State University at Cape Girardeau, we have opened a beautiful new facility for our Kansas City Research Center in the Miller Nichols Library on the campus of the University of Missouri–Kansas City. All this, and more, is proof positive of something we have always known: our staff is incredibly resourceful, creative, and hardworking. It has been a pleasure to be associated with them. Enjoy the advantages of membership in the State Historical Society of Missouri!

Virginia J. Laas
President, Board of Trustees
The State Historical Society of Missouri is funded through appropriations from the State of Missouri, grant and foundation funding, and a contract for services with the University of Missouri as well as revenues raised through the Society’s Membership Trust Fund and donations. 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

#### Revenues

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**Notes:**
- State of Missouri: $3,263,436
- Other Funds: $1,252,998
- Beginning Net Balance: $99,507
- Salaries and Benefits: $2,666,131
- Operations: $1,119,278
- Facilities: $765,053

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The question facing the State Historical Society as observances of Missouri’s bicentennial year drew to a close was this: what do we do for an encore? Part of the answer, in response to ongoing public interest, was to extend several bicentennial programs and activities into 2022. The state’s commemorations, in which the Society played a leading role, culminated early in the past fiscal year, as Missouri observed its two hundredth anniversary of statehood on August 10, 2021. But some activities, most notably the widely popular Missouri Bicentennial Quilt touring exhibit, lasted throughout the 2022 fiscal year. The State Historical Society’s bicentennial art and archival exhibitions also remained on display into 2022, and SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer’s eagerly awaited bicentennial history of Missouri was released late in 2021. Throughout FY2022, the bicentennial continued to generate recognition for the state and the Society, as extensive media coverage of Missouri’s milestone anniversary included mentions of the State Historical Society of Missouri in more than eight hundred published news stories as well as numerous broadcasts.

The State Historical Society ushered in another new facility early in the fiscal year, opening its eye-catching Kansas City Research Center quarters at Miller Nichols Library on the University of Missouri–Kansas City campus in August 2021. Growth within the still-new Center for Missouri Studies building in Columbia continued as well. Since opening in 2019, the architectural landmark has not only increased visitors to the Society, but also attracted numerous other organizations, which rented the building’s various meeting spaces more than forty times during the 2022 fiscal year. Beyond Columbia
and Kansas City, the network of research centers across the state expanded operations in virtually all areas in FY2022, carrying out the Society’s mission of collecting, preserving, exhibiting, publishing, and providing access to materials related to all aspects and areas of Missouri history, while also promoting public interest in the heritage of Missouri and its people.

That mission benefited greatly from a brighter state budget picture in FY2022 than in the previous fiscal year, when economic pressures stemming from the Covid pandemic forced withholdings of more than $1.1 million from the Society’s budget. Release of the withholdings, a generous state budget for the 2022 fiscal year, and memberships, donations, and grants enabled the State Historical Society to rebound from staff cuts in the summer of 2020 by restoring ten staff positions during the last half of FY2021 and five more in FY2022. New staff members who joined SHSMO last fiscal year included archivist Ann Lowe at the Cape Girardeau Research Center; library information specialist Nora Purdy at the Columbia Research Center; Center for Missouri Studies associate Troy King in Columbia; conservator Diane McKinney; and assistant director for finance and accounting Kurt Himmelmann.

During the past fiscal year, the Society’s six research centers engaged in a focused initiative to expand and enhance the organization’s collections related to the history of women and women’s organizations. The effort coincided with the thirty-fifth anniversary of one of SHSMO’s most prominent women’s history projects, the National Women and Media Collection. Another of the year’s highlights was the start of the African American Heritage in the Ozarks project, an initiative to gather, organize, and promote collections of primary and secondary sources that preserve the history of the region’s African American life and culture; the project was launched with a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act through Missouri Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Other highlights included milestones met in the Society’s ongoing expansion of a wide array of digitization projects, and the welcome return of in-person programming and more visitors to the research centers as Covid-related restrictions on public gatherings lessened. One clear reflection of visits from the public was the increase in sales at the Ron and Patty Richard Bookstore—a rise of 196 percent in in-person sales (and 129 percent in online sales) over the previous fiscal year, for a total of over $66,000 in sales.
Educational Programs

The State Historical Society welcomed the chance to return to in-person public events in FY2022 and continued to expand the virtual programming it initiated during the Covid pandemic as well. The Society also experimented with “hybrid” events—programs held on site and simultaneously streamed online.

The November 2021 Annual Meeting at the Center for Missouri Studies featured a lively keynote talk by legendary University of Missouri men’s basketball coach Norm Stewart, who entertained his audience for nearly ninety minutes with stories from his long and memorable coaching career and his years as a basketball and baseball player. In January, SHSMO held its first in-person Missouri Historical Review Author Series lecture, featuring historian Greg Olson, who spoke on Missouri’s history of treaties with Native Americans to gain legal title to the land that now makes up the state. In March the Society’s Center for Missouri Studies hosted the first film screened as part of the African American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series, filmmaker Alana Marie’s The Kinloch Doc, which examined the rise and decline of Kinloch, Missouri’s first Black city, in the northwest suburbs of St. Louis. Other public programs offered by the State Historical Society included “The Role of Black Nurse Activists in Improving the Health of St. Louis,” a panel discussion held in St. Louis; “Life in Missouri in 1821,” presented in several locations in southeast Missouri; and “Dr. Minnie Pinto: St. James’ First Female Dentist,” given as part of the Picturing Women Inventors series at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

The State Historical Society offered fourteen new virtual programs during FY2022, including six installments of Cape Girardeau Research Center associate director Bill Eddleman’s popular Basic Genealogy Series; the last of these installments attracted the largest audience for a virtual program to date, with 553 registrants. Recordings of virtual programs are placed on the Society’s website for continued viewing, and the thirty-eight virtual programs now available on demand have been viewed almost thirty thousand times.

In addition to its online, on-demand programs, the State Historical Society provides wide-ranging content on its active social media platforms. In FY2022 the SHSMO Facebook page made 443 posts that reached more than 410,000 people. Another Facebook page for Missouri 2021, the state bicentennial effort, reached more than 460,000 people through its 328 posts. The National History Day in Missouri page reached nearly 40,000 people; the Society’s Richard Bookstore page reached more than 20,000 people and recorded the largest increase among the Society’s Facebook sites, growing by 34 percent over the previous year. The State Historical Society also has active platforms on Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube. In FY2022, SHSMO’s YouTube channel was used 30,247 times by viewers who spent 4,205 hours watching on-demand programs and studying digitized resources.
Publications

The *Missouri Historical Review* completed its 116th year of publication during the 2022 fiscal year. Volume 116 included articles on such topics as slavery within the early Catholic Church in Missouri; the lives of roustabouts who worked on Mississippi riverboats during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; desegregation of the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in Rolla in 1950; the first-of-its-kind zoo and museum tax district formed in St. Louis in 1970; the Ozark Music Festival, Missouri’s contribution to the Woodstock era of countercultural concerts; women in a religious convent in northwest Missouri who ran one of the nation’s top dairy cattle operations in the mid-twentieth century; and the Civil War journal of Missouri Confederate J. J. Sitton, who was wounded and captured at the Battle of Westport in October 1864. An article from the January 2021 issue, “Remembering the Ste. Genevieve Race Riot: Historical Memory and the Expulsion of African Americans from a Small Missouri Town,” by Patrick Huber, won the Missouri Conference on History’s 2022 Lawrence O. Christensen Award for best article on a Missouri history topic. The Review, a quarterly journal devoted to new scholarship on Missouri and its history, has been in continuous publication since 1906.

Two issues of the Society’s news magazine, the *Missouri Times*, were published during the 2022 fiscal year. The full-color publication provides news and feature stories informing members and the public on the State Historical Society’s events, programs, and accomplishments. Staff increases will enable the Society to expand to three issues of the *Missouri Times* in FY2023.

The State Historical Society’s online publishing program continued its growth during the 2022 fiscal year. The Missouri Encyclopedia, a comprehensive reference work for general audiences launched in 2021 as part of the state’s bicentennial observances, surpassed 200 online articles in the summer of 2022. Historic Missourians, a site featuring biographies written for younger audiences, added several new articles on Missourians such as Negro Leagues baseball star Buck O’Neil, wildlife artists Charles and Elizabeth Schwartz, journalist and educator Sara Lockwood Williams, legendary football coach Don Faurot, and suffragist, activist, and political figure Emily Newell Blair. In June 2022 the African American Heritage in the Ozarks project launched Emancipation Day in the Ozarks, an interactive online site.
More than twelve hundred Missouri students in grades six through twelve competed in the 2022 National History Day in Missouri contest. Nearly five hundred of those students advanced from nine regional contests to the state contest, held as an online event in April. Fifty-five Missouri students then represented the state in the national contest, also held online, in June. Joplin students John Jasper, David Bhend, and Brock Pyle of Southwest Middle School earned an outstanding entry award at the national contest for their junior group website, “Cuban Missile Crisis: Diplomacy on the Brink of Nuclear War”; Elizabeth Arnold of Richland High School in Essex, Missouri, also received an outstanding entry award for her senior individual documentary, “Governed with Greater Justice: The Debate and Diplomacy of the Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902.” Allison Arnold, also of Richland High School, won the History of Agriculture and Rural Life special prize for her junior individual documentary, “A Traitor to the Planter Class: Thad Snow.”

Missouri teachers received recognition as well, with Brian Wiedmer of North Andrew Middle School in Rosendale and Kimberly Brownlee of Liberty North High School receiving nominations for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award; Brownlee was named a top finalist for the award. More than one hundred volunteer judges, including historians, educators, writers, museum staff, cultural site personnel, and others, contributed to the annual event.

The National History Day in Missouri staff began an online newsletter in the summer of 2022 and created an Instagram page to help promote the program, which also is publicized through Facebook and Twitter. The program received a competitive $10,000 grant from Missouri Humanities for the 2023 contest and will use the funds to support teacher and student workshops and to defray the costs of contest materials. National History Day plans to return to in-person events at the regional, state, and national levels in 2023.

“National History Day has made me a better teacher by helping me become a better student and providing a community of teacher-learners who are supportive, curious, and intelligent.”

—TEACHER IN THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MISSOURI PROGRAM

“My favorite part was getting to research my own topic and learn more about all the topics that my friends worked on.”

—STUDENT IN THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MISSOURI PROGRAM
Missouri Conference on History

Two years ago, in 2020, the Missouri Conference on History narrowly escaped postponement, wrapping up shortly before widespread shutdowns of public gatherings began due to the Covid pandemic. In 2021 the pandemic forced the conference to move online. The event returned to normal in 2022, with about 150 attendees who were thankful to meet in person for two days of panel sessions by scholars, teachers, and other professionals in history-related fields. The 2022 conference, hosted by the Missouri State Archives and held in Jefferson City from March 16–18, featured a keynote address by Brooks Blevins, the Noel Boyd Professor of Ozarks Studies at Missouri State University, titled “Hail, Hillbilly: Race and the Ozarks Image.” It was the sixty-fourth annual gathering of the conference, which is administrated and sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri. The conference, held at various locations across Missouri, moves to Springfield in 2023.

Annual Awards

At its Annual Meeting on November 6, 2021, the State Historical Society presented awards to four scholars for outstanding contributions to the study of Missouri and its history. Walter Johnson, a historian at Harvard University who grew up in Columbia, Missouri, received the 2021 Missouri History Book Award for *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States*. Patrick Huber, formerly a professor of history at Missouri University of Science and Technology and now historian and editor at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee, was awarded the *Missouri Historical Review* Article Award for “Remembering the Ste. Genevieve Race Riot of 1930: Historical Memory and the Expulsion of African Americans from a Small Missouri Town,” published in the January 2021 issue of the Review. Amanda L. Izzo, assistant professor in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies at Saint Louis University, received the Mary C. Neth Prize for her April 2021 *Missouri Historical Review* article “‘To Help Them Brush Aside the Limitations That Hold Them Back’: Ruth Porter, Liberal Interracialism, and St. Louis Community Organizing in the Civil Rights Era.” Jeff Stilley, a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Missouri–Columbia, was awarded the Lewis E. Atherton Prize for his dissertation, “Solidarity Infrastructure: Gender and Race Solidarity and Cross-Class Coalitions in the Kansas City General Strike of 1918.”
Center for Missouri Studies Fellowship Awards

Center for Missouri Studies Fellowships were awarded for the 2022 calendar year for one scholarship project in Missouri women’s history and one in post-World War II immigration to the state. Connie Yen, director of the Greene County Archives and Records Center in Springfield, will study the history of police matrons in Missouri. Several Missouri cities, including St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, Joplin, St. Joseph, and others, added police matrons to their police departments beginning in the late nineteenth century in an early step toward employing policewomen within law enforcement. Craig R. Amason, special projects coordinator for the Duane G. Meyer Library at Missouri State University in Springfield, is studying the impact of immigration in McDonald County. McDonald, in Missouri’s southwest corner, has become home to immigrant and refugee populations from Central and South America, Somalia, Sudan, Micronesia, and Myanmar. Many of these newcomers work at poultry processing facilities in the multi-state Ozarks region. Each fellowship provides a $5,000 stipend and an opportunity to publish an article in the Missouri Historical Review.

Missouri Bicentennial

Missouri’s two hundredth anniversary of statehood arrived early in the 2022 fiscal year, and the State Historical Society’s years-long effort to spearhead commemorations of this historical milestone culminated in statewide events on August 10, 2021. Major celebrations on or near that day included the Together for ‘21 Fest in Columbia; a festival in St. Charles hosted by the First State Capitol State Historic Site; commemorative exhibits and activities at the 2021 Missouri State Fair in Sedalia; and an array of ceremonies, events, and activities in Jefferson City, where SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer delivered the keynote address for the state’s formal bicentennial program on the south lawn of the Missouri State Capitol Building. In all, the State Historical Society and the Missouri Bicentennial Commission sponsored and supported more than 300 activities, events, and commemorations throughout the state during the 2021 calendar year.

Bicentennial-related activities continued throughout the rest of the 2022 fiscal year. Dr. Kremer’s bicentennial history of Missouri, This Place of Promise: A Historian’s Perspective on 200 Years of Missouri History, was released in November 2021; Show-Me a Bicentennial, a commemorative book written by Beth Pike, SHSMO assistant director of communications and outreach, and published by the State Historical Society, followed in early 2022. The popular Missouri Bicentennial Quilt toured the state, with a six-week stop at each of SHSMO’s six research centers before arriving in the fall of 2022 at the Missouri Quilt Museum in Hamilton, Missouri, where it will remain on exhibition as a loan from the State Historical Society. Bill Eddleman, associate director of the Society’s Cape Girardeau Research Center, produced and hosted Missouri Bicentennial Minutes, a series of radio programs exploring southeast Missouri as it was in 1821. The Missouri Bicentennial Mural, a fifteen-panel, thirty-foot-long artwork painted by more than sixteen thousand people during mural tour stops around the state, was installed in the Harry S. Truman State Office Building in Jefferson City last summer; other dedication ceremonies were held for the Bicentennial Chess Board in Jefferson City in May and the historic main gate restoration at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia in June.
Research Centers

Staff at the State Historical Society of Missouri’s six research centers worked together in FY2022 on a common goal of acquiring, processing, and publicizing collections of women and women’s organizations. This focus resulted in fifty-eight processed manuscript collections totaling 155.61 cubic feet of records that document politicians, journalists, activists, educators, businesswomen, and organizations such as the National Organization for Women, American Association of University Women, and Women in Communications, Inc. The women reflected in these collections worked to improve life in their communities, state, and nation. Their papers show a determination to enact change and to educate those around them.

Focusing on a theme this past year created an opportunity for the staff to tell the unique stories found in women’s collections. These stories were told through exhibits and published articles. The library staff in the Columbia Research Center created an exhibit titled Influential Women and Their Impact on Famous Literature. This exhibit featured historic women in Missouri and highlighted the books on women in the Society’s library collection such as The Rediscovered Writings of Rose Wilder Lane and Pioneer Girl Perspectives: Exploring Laura Ingalls Wilder.

The Wenneker Gallery on the second floor of the Center for Missouri Studies currently features the exhibit In Their Own Words: Celebrating the National Women and Media Collection. This collection was established in 1987 by Marjorie B. Paxson and Jean Gaddy Wilson, both MU School of Journalism graduates, who believed the papers of women journalists, editors, publishers, and educators should be saved for research purposes. The NWMC
consists of more than one hundred collections of women journalists and organizations. The exhibit, opened last summer, chronicles the struggles and triumphs of these women through their own accounts of their experiences.

As an extension of the In Their Own Words project, the Columbia Research Center staff and volunteers digitized various materials from the Christy Bulkeley, Marjorie Paxson, Sara Lockwood Williams, Maurine Beasley, Marie Anderson, Kay Mills, and Tad Bartimus papers in preparation for the thirty-fifth anniversary of the National Women and Media Collection. The letters and journals of these women provide insight into the lives of female journalists determined to overcome barriers in a male-dominated profession and establish themselves in a time when few if any career paths existed for them.

Staff from all the research centers contribute to SHSMO’s publications the Missouri Times and the Missouri Historical Review. Several staff-written articles on the Society’s women’s collections were published this past year. In the winter issue of the Times, the Cape Girardeau Research Center’s Ann Lowe and Bill Eddleman wrote about the papers of Mildred Wallhausen, a newspaper publisher and columnist from Mississippi County who spent her career trying to improve the lives of others. Kansas City archivist Whitney Heinzmann wrote “Careers Made in Flight: Personal Papers of TWA Flight Attendants” for the Times’s spring issue. In the April issue of the Review, editor Kimberly Harper contributed an article on Dorothy Jurney, a key figure in revolutionizing the women’s section in newspapers during the 1950s and 1960s; Jurney’s papers are in the NWMC. Finally, Rolla archivist Kathleen Seale wrote “Philosophy of Service: Constance McPherson and the Peace Corps, 1962–1964,” an essay on the McPherson Family Papers that was published in the Review’s January issue. These articles publicize the collections housed at SHSMO, highlighting their value as records of the past and resources for future research.

“You have helped me out greatly in piecing together my family history for myself and hopefully to pass down to my children . . . Appreciate what you do.”

—PATRON AT THE ROLLA RESEARCH CENTER
Digitization Projects

The State Historical Society of Missouri’s research centers in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis, and Springfield continued the organization’s mission to digitize its collections and put them online where they can be easily accessed from any location with Internet connection. All six centers participate in this effort by adding materials to the Society’s digital collections management system, ContentDM. During the 2022 fiscal year, the centers added nearly twenty thousand items—manuscripts, artworks, photographs, publications, and more—to the online collections. SHSMO’s dedicated corps of volunteers made this achievement possible, gifting the Society with hundreds of work hours to scan, transcribe, and create metadata for online collections. Some of the holdings digitized in the past year included:

- Civil War collections such as the Patton-Scott Family Papers, the Missouri Confederate Archives, the diaries of William N. Hoskin and Francis M. Gordon, and the “A Little Dab of History without Embellishment” memoir by William H. Gregg, a member of William Quantrill’s guerrillas.
- The Society’s entire run of the *Journal of Education Published Quarterly by the Missouri State Association of Negro Teachers*, which is part of the African American Experience in Missouri Collection.
- More than 3,300 artworks, including works by well-known nineteenth-century artists such as Karl Bodmer, George Catlin, and James Audubon, in a project funded with a grant awarded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services.
- Photographs and illustrations from the Schlief-Boudreau Family Photograph Collection, the Elsey Carriage Company Collection, the Missouri Postcard Collection, and other holdings.
- The James T. Thorp Scrapbooks, a transportation collection that included materials on steamboats and histories of the Missouri River.
- More than a thousand pages of material for the new Missouri Slavery Documents Collection, which contains bills of sale and other documents essential to African American genealogical research.
Patron Services

In total, SHSMO’s six research centers were visited more than 2,500 times by patrons during the 2022 fiscal year—an increase of more than 500 visits over the previous year. The centers’ staffs responded to approximately 1,800 in-person requests for assistance with research, while also answering about 1,700 queries made by phone or email and 63 requests received through the Interlibrary Loan service. Patron traffic to the State Historical Society’s website continued to grow in FY2022, with more than 700,000 visitors accessing the Society’s online collections, publications, and other resources nearly 1.1 million times.

“Thank you and your team for maintaining such a valuable web site! It is a treasure for all of us family researchers.”

—GENEALOGIST AND WEBSITE PATRON

Cataloging

The research centers tackled two sizable cataloging projects in FY2022. In Columbia, the University of Missouri Libraries introduced a new digital platform for its system-wide catalog, and the staff of the Columbia Research Center oversaw the complex process of migrating the State Historical Society’s entire catalog of holdings from the university’s old platform to the new one. Meanwhile, the Kansas City Research Center staff began building a database for the Roobot automated retrieval system, entering records in the new system for 2,754 items in its collections. In addition to performing these upgrades, SHSMO continued to increase its catalog. During the 2022 fiscal year, 470 new bibliographic records for monographs and journals were added to the catalog for all six research centers. The staff also created records for 19 maps and 56 audiovisual items. Records for 620 items not previously in the OCLC global library system were added to the WorldCat database, and 1,886 catalog records were added for newspapers on microfilm.
Manuscripts

In FY2022, the State Historical Society’s six research centers accessioned 304 manuscript collections. The newly acquired materials totaled roughly 625 cubic feet. The Society also acquired more than 10 terabytes of digital files. The research centers processed and made accessible to patrons approximately 160 collections totaling about 445 cubic feet of materials. Some of the new manuscript collections added during the 2022 fiscal year include:

- The initial installment of the papers of US Senator Roy Blunt, including press releases and press clippings for the years from 1997 to 2010.
- The Agricultural Institute of St. Louis Records, materials dating from 1945 to 1983 that include correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, bylaws, and photographs pertaining to the organization’s research experiments, studies, and investigations supporting the general welfare of US rural populations.
- The papers of Andrea Stone, a journalist from New York who worked for USA TODAY, AOL News, the Huffington Post, and Al Jazeera America. Stone’s papers have been added to the National Women and Media Collection.
- The Old Appleton Mill Deeds Collection, which includes warranty deeds and other records for a mill on Apple Creek, the boundary between Perry and Cape Girardeau Counties, that remained in operation from its construction in 1824 until after World War II.
- The records of the True/False Film Fest, an annual festival in Columbia for documentary films and filmmaking.
- Records of the American Civil Liberties Union–Western Missouri.
- The Tuberculosis and Health Society of St. Louis Records, which contain reports, meeting minutes, and other documentation for an organization that sought to prevent, alleviate, and control tuberculosis in the St. Louis area.
- The memoirs of Mary Rasmussen Goggins, a Danish immigrant who came to the United States in 1916 and later wrote a long-running column for the Reynolds County Courier.
- The Missouri River Cultural Conservancy Cooper-Wheeler Collection, which includes video recordings of performances by local and regional musicians documenting the Central Missouri River Region.
- The RadiOzark Enterprises LP Collection, which includes recordings of radio programs such as the Smiley Burnette Show, the Tennessee Ernie Ford Show, and Strangest of All with Frank Edwards.
- Records for the St. Louis chapter of Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, which contain correspondence, press releases, and newspaper clippings of the group’s efforts to abolish the death penalty within Missouri.
Newspapers

Founded in 1898 by the Missouri Press Association, the State Historical Society has a long relationship with the state’s newspaper publishers, and one of its signature attractions has always been its Missouri newspaper archive—among the largest collections of one state’s press in existence. The newspaper collection, now approaching sixty thousand reels of microfilm, added content in the past year from 199 current newspapers published across Missouri. A growing portion of the newspaper collection is also available online through the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project, which surpassed four million digitized newspaper pages during the 2022 fiscal year.

To defray the cost of preserving newspaper content on microfilm, the Society has begun producing its own microfilm reels with high-tech equipment purchased in recent years. In FY2022, 651 newspaper reels were produced in-house. The equipment was purchased with funding from the Gaylord Foundation and a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the Missouri State Library. LSTA grants also support the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project.

Art

No part of the State Historical Society was happier than the Art Department to see Covid-related restrictions on social gatherings lifted last year: attendance at the Center for Missouri Studies Art Gallery nearly tripled in FY2022 over the previous year, totaling almost four thousand visitors. More than six hundred of those visitors attended the gallery in August 2021 for two exhibits related to Missouri’s bicentennial. The Art Department also offered five other exhibits during the 2022 fiscal year, including Domesticated Animals & American Identity: A Selection of Artworks by George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton and Black Health and Wellness: A Selection of Historical Images (shown at the University of Missouri’s Ellis Library). A loan of seventy-six photographs by O. N. Pruitt resulted in another exhibition, Mr. Pruitt’s Possum Town: Trouble and Resilience in the American South, presented in collaboration with the Missouri School of Journalism and sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, which opened late in the 2022 fiscal year. Picturing Missouri Sharecroppers: Finding Counterparts to Pruitt’s Images in Missouri, an exhibit from SHSMO’s collections of works by St. Louis Post-Dispatch photographer Arthur Witman and editorial cartoonist Daniel R. Fitzpatrick, is being shown in conjunction with Mr. Pruitt’s Possum Town.

SHSMO made twenty-four art acquisitions during FY2022. The new works included a collection of student paintings and preparatory sculptures donated by Sabra Tull Meyer; an important abstract expressionist painting donated by the estate of St. Louis painter John Wehmer; an oil portrait by Wallace Herndon Smith of cartoonist Daniel Fitzpatrick donated by the St. Louis Art Museum; a large original World War I poster donated by Charles and Jan Swaney; a nineteenth-century medal and campaign ribbon honoring Henry Clay donated by Joe Lindell; a large painting by John Weller donated by Matthew Schuchard; and a nineteenth-century impression of John Sartain’s engraving of George Caleb Bingham’s Martial Law/Gen. Order No. 11 donated by William B. Stone.

Art curator Joan Stack presented eight public lectures during the year, spoke in the Art Gallery for eighteen educational and community groups, made monthly radio appearances on the Columbia show Pepper & Friends, and gave numerous newspaper and television interviews. She also wrote six feature articles on Missouri art for Missouri Life magazine and contributed two articles to SHSMO’s Missouri Times. The Art Department continues to work with elementary students through the Society’s Partners in Education program with Locust Street School in Columbia.
Oral History

Oral historian Sean Rost’s projects during FY2022 included wide-ranging interviews; outreach programs to share best practices, historical information, and recordings and transcriptions from the Society’s oral history collections; continuation of the Our Missouri podcast series; and processing of collections. Notable interview subjects included Sue Finley, a retired commander in the US Navy; historians William Parrish, Diane Mutti Burke, and Alex Primm; seven sessions related to the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark Title IX civil rights law; and sixteen interviews in coordination with the Society’s African American Heritage in the Ozarks Collection. In total, Rost conducted thirty-three oral history interviews for seven different collections during the fiscal year.

Nineteen new episodes of Our Missouri were recorded during the 2022 fiscal year, including series on the Bicentennial Book Club, Water and Waterways, and the National Women and Media Collection. Launched in the fall of 2018, the podcast series had premiered eighty episodes that had been downloaded roughly twenty-eight thousand times through June 2022.

Outreach efforts included presentations such as “The Santa Fe Trail,” “How Nineteenth-Century Missourians Interpreted the Life of George Washington,” and the Halloween-themed “Missouri Mysteries,” as well as interviews with media outlets for the “Emancipation Day in the Missouri Ozarks” online interactive map and oral history workshops at several Missouri colleges and universities. Assisted by volunteers and student interns, Rost also processed forty oral history interviews during FY2022, six of which will eventually be accessible online.

Conservation

The State Historical Society welcomed a new conservator, Diane McKinney, in January 2022; McKinney succeeds former conservator Erin Kraus, who took another position outside the Society. Under McKinney, the conservation lab completed treatment of sixty-eight items from three of the Society’s research centers during the 2022 fiscal year. The conservation treatments included building custom boxes for books, preparing newspapers for digital scanning, and removing foreign objects such as tape from maps and other materials. One particularly challenging project was conserving the large, double-sided National Map Company’s map of Missouri in the 1920s, which was treated to remove tape and soluable inks. Items treated in the lab by volunteer Katherine Miromonti included five piano rolls from the John William “Blind” Boone Heritage Foundation Collection.
Woman in cart at Glenwood City Park, Glenwood, Missouri, circa 1910s. Photo by Otis Goodenough. [Keith Kerby Photograph Collection, P0229-036]

Cover: The Center for Missouri Studies at twilight. Photo by Notley Hawkins.