

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

SHSMO

OUR HOME — OUR HISTORY

## 2023 Annual Report



Highlights:

Financial Report

Center for Missouri Studies

Research Centers

Donors



## Board of Trustees

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

Megan L. Bever, Carl Junction

Roy Blunt, Springfield

H. Riley Bock, New Madrid

Rodney J. Boyd, St. Louis

Steven Louis Brawley, Kirkwood

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

Robert M. Clayton III, Hannibal

James Leon Combs, Bradleyville

S. Bryan Cook, Clayton, *Emeritus*

Ann Covington, Columbia

Kathianne Knaup Crane, St. Louis

Doug Crews, Columbia

Steve Ehlmann, St. Charles

Sandra I. Enríquez, Kansas City

J. Richard Franklin, Independence

Michael R. Gibbons, Kirkwood

Dan Hegeman, Cosby

Jennifer Teichman Kerr, Lexington

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

Virginia J. Laas, Joplin

Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., Cape Girardeau

Vivek Malek, Missouri State Treasurer, *Ex Officio*

Edward C. Matthews III, Sikeston

Kenneth B. McClain, Independence

Anne E. McGregor, Branson

Larry L. McMullen, Shawnee Mission, KS, *Emeritus*

Robert J. Mueller, Ste. Genevieve

Kathy Osborn, St. Louis

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

Bob Priddy, Jefferson City

Lucinda A. Rice-Petrie, Kansas City

Mary R. Russell, Jefferson City

Vicki Russell, Columbia

Edward W. Scavone, Columbia

Kurt U. Schaefer, Columbia

Brent Schondelmeyer, Independence

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

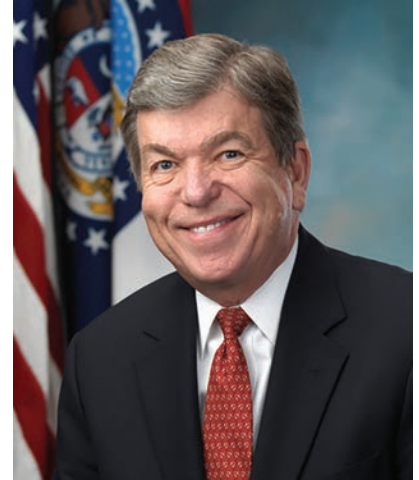
Beatrice Litherland Smith, Columbia

Brian K. Snyder, Independence

Blanche M. Touhill, St. Louis



## From the President:



Welcome to the 2023 Annual Meeting of the State Historical Society of Missouri. As we gather for the annual task of assessing the organization's performance and deciding how best to continue its mission of studying, preserving, and promoting the record of Missouri's past, this year we also celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Society's founding by a handful of foresighted Missourians back in 1898. What a long way we have come from a few modest rooms in the University of Missouri's Academic Hall to the remarkable Center for Missouri Studies, the hub for a network of six research centers with magnificent collections steadfastly assembled over one-and-a-quarter centuries and now accessible through technologies the founders could hardly imagine.

In the pages that follow, you will read a summary of the State Historical Society's programs, services, events, accomplishments, and other highlights of the past year, as well as recognition of the many generous supporters who have made it possible to reach this milestone anniversary with the dreams of the founders still lighting a path to a promising future. From the continued vibrancy of the Society's oldest initiatives (the newspaper collection, there from the beginning, now stands at more than 71 million pages) to the birth of new ventures such as the History on Elm programming series and the Missouri Congressional Papers Project, we have witnessed a very productive year.

Last October, I was honored to deliver the My Missouri Lecture as part of the 2022 Annual Meeting programs and festivities. In my talk, during which I reflected on half a century of serving our incomparable state as a public officeholder, I remarked that Missouri's legacy includes a rich history of prominent inventors ranging from George Washington Carver to Jack Kilby to J. C. Penney and Edwin Hubble. Those Missourians with the imagination to establish the State Historical Society of Missouri 125 years ago, as well as those with the vision to build what it has since become, probably deserve a place on that list as well. Thank you for joining us today in support of this ever-inventive organization and the hopes we all hold for it and the state it serves and represents.

Roy Blunt  
President, Board of Trustees

# Financial Report

## Fiscal Year 2023

July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023

### Membership Trust Fund

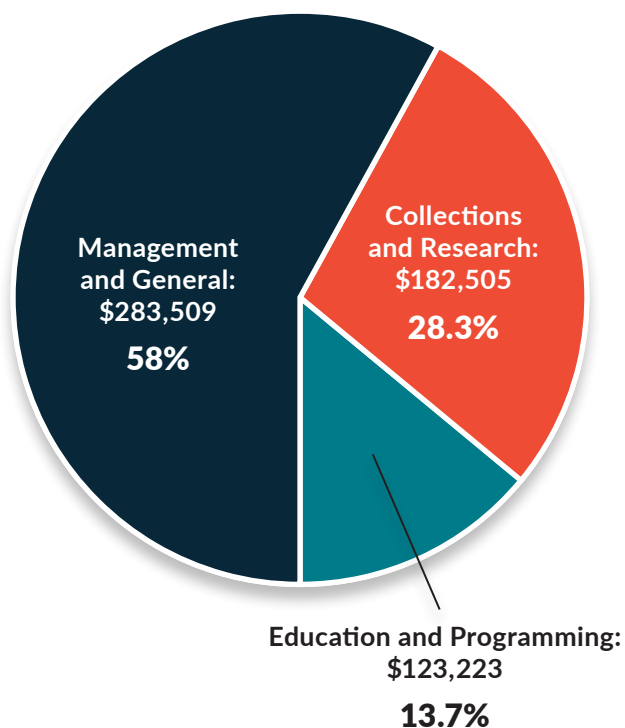
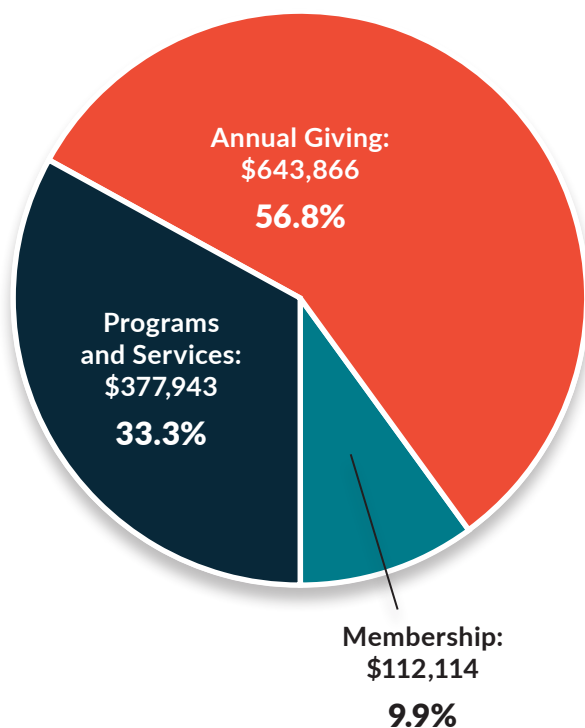
#### Revenues

■ Programs and Services 33.3%	\$377,943
■ Annual Giving 56.8%	\$643,866
■ Membership 9.9%	\$112,114
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,133,923</b>

#### Expenses

■ Management and General 58%	\$283,509
■ Collections and Research 28.3%	\$182,505
■ Education and Programming 13.7%	\$123,223
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$902,100</b>

**Ending Net Assets** **\$231,823**



**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

## Funding Sources

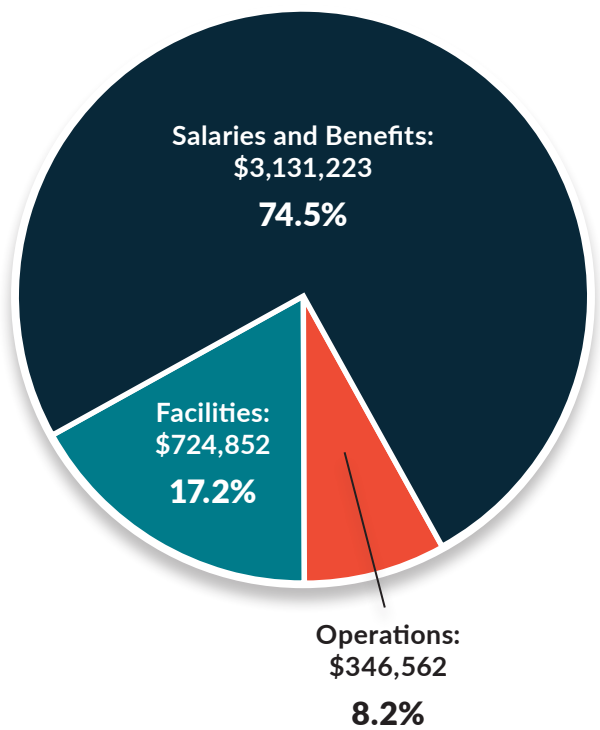
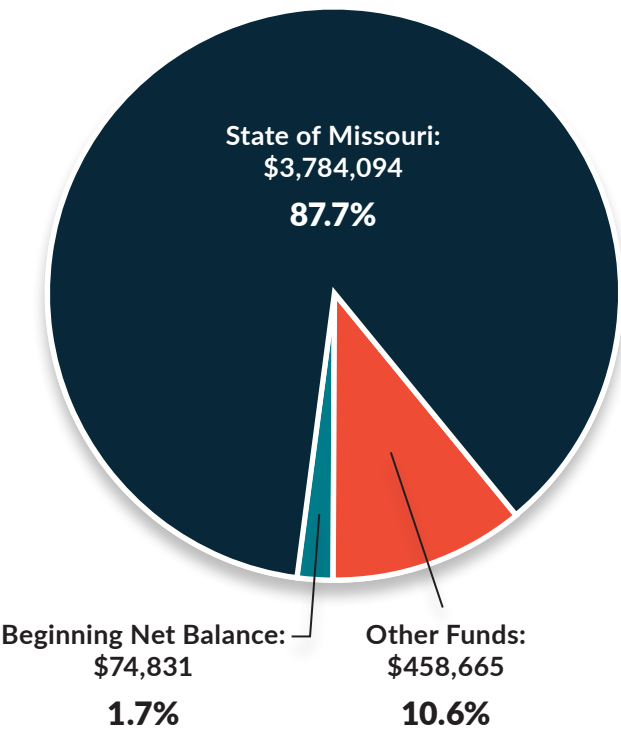
### Revenues

State of Missouri 87.7%	\$3,784,094
Other Funds 10.6%	\$458,665
Beginning Net Balance 1.7%	\$74,831
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,317,590</b>

### Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits 74.5%	\$3,131,223
Operations 8.2%	\$346,562
Facilities 17.2%	\$724,852
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,202,637</b>

**Ending Net Assets** **\$114,953**



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>.





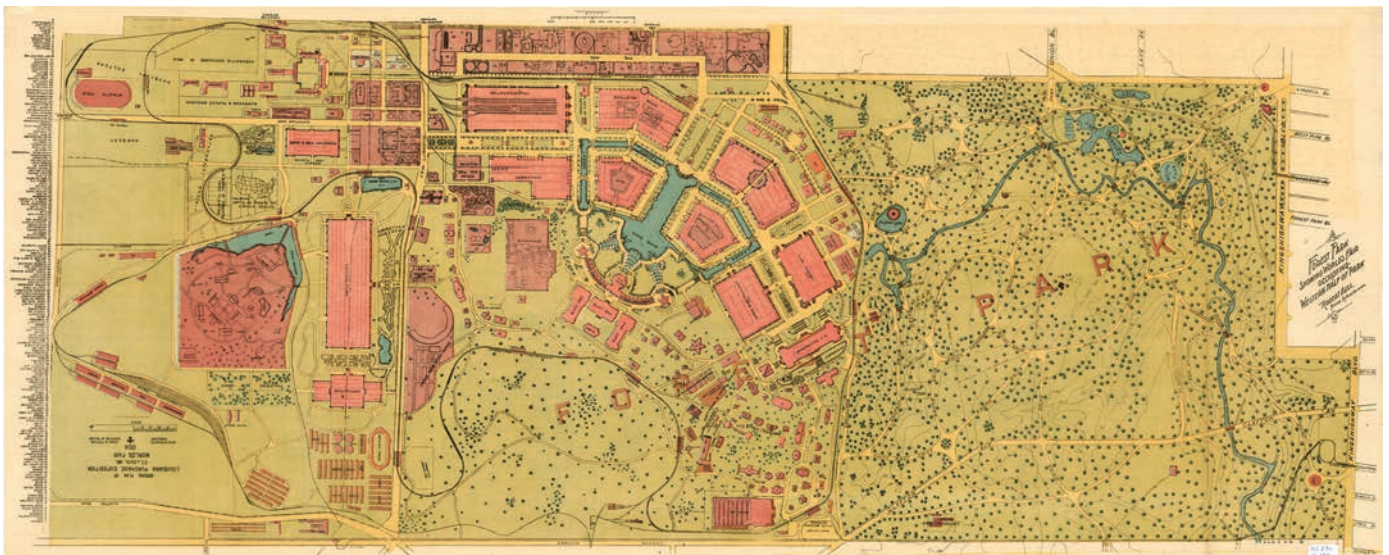
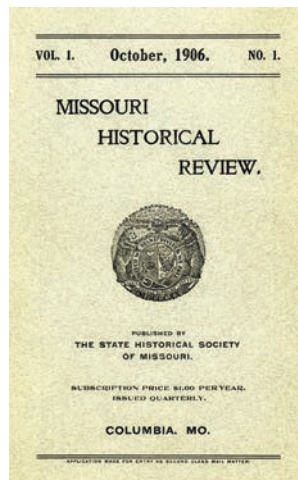


# Center for Missouri Studies

In 2023, the State Historical Society of Missouri is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its founding. The world, including Missouri, was a much different place in 1898 from what it is today. We can only guess how the founders, living in a time before radio, airplanes, interstate highways, or ubiquitous general-purpose computers, might have responded if asked to envision their brainchild 125 years into its future. H. G. Wells was in vogue in 1898, so perhaps a few members of the Missouri Press Association, which gave birth to the Society at its annual meeting that year, could picture something like today's newspaper collection, with its millions of online digitized pages and 60,000 reels of microfilm stored in a single room. But what would they think about the rest of the State Historical Society today?

From its humble start in a few rooms within the University of Missouri's Academic Hall (later Jesse Hall) to a modern network of six research centers across Missouri, the State Historical Society has grown and changed along with the state that nurtures and supports it, while giving back to Missourians a diverse and meticulous interpretive historical record of where they have been—and a wealth of ideas for where they might yet

go. The newspaper collection, now one of the largest archives of a single state's press in existence, remains a vital component of the Society's mission to preserve Missouri's history and inform the public about its past. But so also are the collections of manuscripts, maps, art, photographs, oral histories, and other materials; the educational programs, events, and exhibitions; the reference collections and library services for scholars, researchers, genealogists, and other patrons; the publications, websites, and podcasts. At 125, the State Historical Society of Missouri has come a long way from its beginning but is far from growing old.



## Educational Programs

The State Historical Society continued to expand its public educational programming during the 2023 fiscal year, offering programs in locations across the state and making full use of its new facilities at the Center for Missouri Studies. In all, the Society's staff offered more than 50 in-person educational programs, as well as another 12 virtual programs presented via Zoom.

In FY2023 the Society launched History on Elm, a new series at the Center for Missouri Studies that offers a program at noon on the first Tuesday of each month. Attendance for the first season's programs averaged close to 100 guests; the programs included a documentary film on the 1939 sharecroppers' strike in the Missouri Bootheel; a book talk by St. Louis author Benjamin Moore; and presentations by staff members Joan Stack, A. J. Medlock, and Kathleen Seale.



The year's largest programming event was on June 9 and featured the documentary film *The Story of the 1974 Ozark Music Festival*. More than 600 people attended the afternoon and evening film screenings in Cook Hall; admission lines snaked past on-site food trucks in the Center for Missouri Studies parking lot and a concert in the outdoor plaza by musicians Pat Kay, Ben Miller, and Emma Burney. Discussions led by film director Jeff Lujin and emceed by SHSMO staff member and community radio broadcaster Kevin Walsh were punctuated with remembrances from audience members who were in Sedalia for the wild 1974 concert festival that has come to be known as "Missouri's Woodstock." Other programs presented during the 2023 fiscal year included a My

Missouri Lecture Series talk at the Society's 2022 Annual Meeting by US Senator Roy Blunt; *MO Love: Letters from the Archive*, a Green House Theatre production based on love letters and other correspondence pre-served in SHSMO's manuscript collec-



tions; a live performance of Missouri "old-time" music; a program on Mark Twain by author and scholar Gary Scharnhorst; "Southwest Missouri Women in Media,"

a public panel of women media professionals who discussed their experiences within the industry; an African American Experience in Missouri lecture by historian Larry Gragg on the desegregation of Missouri higher education; and continuation of the popular series of genealogy virtual programs by Bill Eddleman, coordinator of SHSMO's Cape Girardeau Research Center.

In addition to its live and virtual programs, the State Historical Society also provides on-demand programming through its website and a wide range of other content through its social media platforms. The Videos On Demand webpages now include more than 90 recordings of past programs. The Society's Facebook page was visited nearly 300,000 times in FY2023; the most-viewed posts included

images of two towns on the Missouri River, Portland (Callaway County) and the post office in McBaine (Boone County). Videos on the Society's YouTube channel, which

include podcasts, recordings of programs and events, and other history-related content, were viewed nearly 50,000 times. The State Historical Society also maintains an active platform on Instagram.

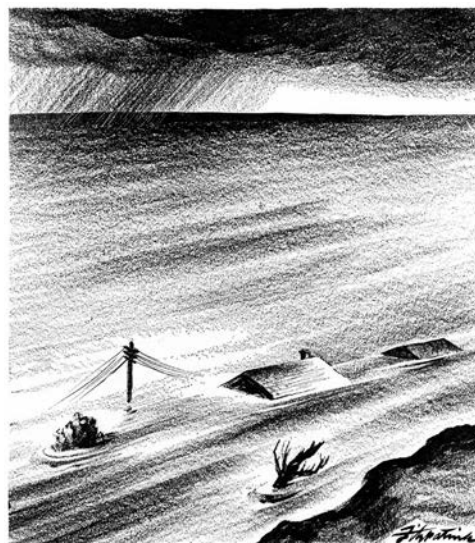




## Exhibitions

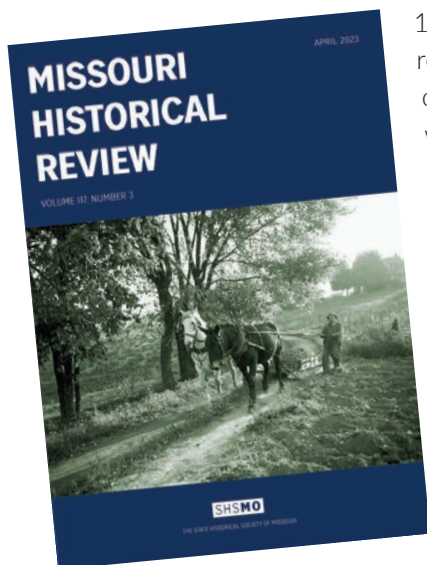
Exhibitions created by the State Historical Society's staff drew crowds to the Society's own facilities throughout the 2023 fiscal year and also traveled across the state as touring displays. Art exhibitions at the Center for Missouri Studies included *Domesticated Animals and American Identity: A Selection of Artworks by George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton*; *Mr. Pruitt's Possum Town: Trouble and Resilience in the American South*, a photography exhibit in collaboration with the University of Missouri School of Journalism; *New and Notable: A Selection of SHSMO Artworks Acquired in Recent Years*; and *Fragile Earth: 50 Years of Environmental Editorial Cartoons*. Other art exhibitions were shown at the University of Missouri–Columbia's Ellis Library and at the Spiva Center for the Arts in Joplin.

Two floor-to-ceiling exhibitions were staged in the Wenneker Family Corridor Gallery on the second floor of the Center for Missouri Studies: *In Their Own Words: Celebrating the National Women and Media Collection*, an observance of the distinguished collection's 35th anniversary; and *African American Heritage in the Ozarks*, a component of a larger research initiative to study the Ozark region's history of African Americans and their communities. Other notable exhibitions during FY2023 included *Broadcasting the Ozarks: A History of RadiOzarks Enterprises* in Springfield; *Music in Missouri* in St. Louis; *Rabbi Ferdinand Isserman Sounds a Warning: Missourians and the Holocaust* in Rolla; and a traveling display of the Missouri bicentennial quilt.



## Publications

The *Missouri Historical Review* quarterly journal marked its 117th continuous year of publication with a diverse slate of articles from contributors ranging from well-established historians to first-time authors. Some of the topics



published in Volume 117 included Cherokee refugees in Missouri during the Civil War; a women-run photography studio that came to prominence during the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair; an experiment with compulsory voting in late nineteenth-century Kansas City; the first Jesuit priests in Missouri's first permanent Euro-American settlement,

Ste. Genevieve; the peace

movement on the University of Missouri's Columbia campus during the Vietnam era; and a quest to find the definitive answer for where, exactly, General John J. Pershing was born. The journal's staff also contributed a two-part annotated excerpt from a memoir in the Society's manuscript collections of three young men's adventures traveling down the Mississippi on a small boat in the summer of 1895.

An article published in the April 2022 issue of the *Review*, "Slavery and the Shaping of Catholic Missouri, 1810–1850," by Kelly L. Schmidt, received the Lawrence O. Christensen Award for best article on a Missouri history topic at the 2023 Missouri Conference on History. The *Review*, a scholarly journal devoted to new scholarship on Missouri history, has been published by the State Historical Society since 1906.

*Missouri Times*, the Society's news magazine, returned to its normal schedule of three publications per year in FY2023 after being limited to two yearly issues due to staff

reductions during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Missouri Times* provides members and friends of the State Historical Society with news coverage and feature stories about the organization's significant programs, events, collections initiatives, and accomplishments. Publication highlights during the 2023 fiscal year included a timeline of the Society's own history to commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding in 1898.

The Society's online publishing platforms expanded during the past fiscal year as well. Historic Missourians, a site featuring biographies written for younger audiences, engaged in a "Historic Mizzourians" initiative to create new entries for notable Missourians with personal ties to the University of Missouri. Supported by a generous donation from Carolyn P. and Robin R. Wenneker, the initiative has resulted in online biographies of figures such as philanthropists and conservationists Ted and Pat Jones; newspaper publisher and MU curator Avis Tucker; activist and educator Hazel Tebeau, the first Black woman to earn

a graduate degree at MU; and broadcaster and athlete Mike Shannon, who attended the university on a football scholarship before his promising baseball career intervened. Another online platform, the Missouri



Encyclopedia, surpassed 250 entries in 2023 and continues to seek new contributions on a wide range of Missouri history topics as the project matures into a full-scale reference work dedicated to the state and its past.





## National History Day in Missouri

In 2023, National History Day in Missouri returned to in-person contests for the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic. At the local level, 1,324 students in grades six through twelve participated in nine regional contests across Missouri, which followed the 2023 contest theme “Frontiers in History: People, Places, and Ideas.” Top three finishers from each competition category at the regional contests advanced to the state contest in Columbia in April, where they competed for a chance to move on to the national contest at College Park, Maryland, in June. The state contest involved more than 500 competitors and a volunteer corps of more than 100 adults—historians, educators, writers, museum staff, cultural site personnel, and community members—



who served as judges, administrators, and other helpers for the event. Fifty-nine students advanced to represent Missouri at the national contest.

Missouri students at the national contest not only enjoyed a week meeting their counterparts from other states, but also went on guided tours of Washington, DC, landmarks; for some, it was a first opportunity to visit the nation’s capital. In the contest, Springfield student Emma Lewis of Central High School received

a third-place bronze medal for her junior-division website “The Harlem Renaissance: A Frontier for 20th Century Black Identity.”

Ayodeji Nilson, Jared Kassman, and Quinn Harman of Liberty Middle School received an outstanding entry award for their junior group website “Edward Jenner: Father of the Vaccine and the Frontier of Immunization.” Rohan Deshpande of Marquette High School in St. Louis County received an outstanding entry award for his senior-level documentary “Economic Redevelopment over Community Preservation: The Frontier of Urban Renewal that Transformed Our Cities.” Collin Sybert of North Andrew Middle School in Rosendale received the White House History special prize for his junior individual dramatic performance “The Atomic Age.”

Oak Grove High School students Alesia Dickey, Kathleen Hudson, and Brenna Hamilton were selected to show their exhibit “The Living Room War: Advancing Frontiers in Media” at the NHD 2023 exhibit showcase, hosted by National History Day and the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. Central High School students Ian Morgan and Keavan Coale were selected to show their documentary “A Frontier in Litigation: Charles Houston, Thurgood Marshall, Nathan Margold, and the Fight to End Segregation in Education” at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Missouri teachers also took the spotlight, with Phillip Reed of Northwest High School and Beth Winton of John Warner Middle School both nominated for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award.



## Missouri Conference on History

The Missouri Conference on History met for the sixty-fifth consecutive year in 2023. The gathering of scholars, teachers, and other professionals in history-related fields met in Springfield from March 16 to 18 and had 135 registered participants. Anne Twitty, associate professor of history at the University of Mississippi and a visiting scholar with the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri in Columbia, delivered the keynote address, "Learning the Law and Its Limits in Missouri's Freedom Suits." The conference, administered and sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri, rotates among various locations across the state. The 2024 conference will be held in Columbia and hosted by SHSMO.



## Annual Awards

The State Historical Society of Missouri presented awards at its October 29, 2022, Annual Meeting to the Society's outgoing president, Virginia J. Laas, as well as to three Missouri history scholars. Laas received the Distinguished Service Award, the Society's highest honor, in recognition of her leadership during a three-year presidential term that coincided with grave chal-

lenges stemming from the COVID-19 epidemic, as well as for her longtime contributions as a trustee, officer, executive committee member, and member of the *Missouri Historical Review* editorial advisory board. Laas began as a trustee in 1995. Benjamin Moore, professor emeritus and cofounder of the Center for Bosnian Studies at Fontbonne University, received the Missouri

History Book Award for *The Names of John Gergen: Immigrant Identities in Early Twentieth-Century St. Louis*. Elyssa Ford, associate professor of history at Northwest Missouri State University, claimed the *Missouri Historical Review* Article Award for "'Fine Herds of Cattle': Rural Nuns and Farmwork at a Missouri Convent, 1874–1963." Elizabeth Eikmann, a doctoral student in American Studies at Saint Louis University, received the Lewis E. Atherton Prize for her dissertation, "In Her Image: Photography, Whiteness, and Womanhood in St. Louis, 1877–1920."





## Center for Missouri Studies Fellowship Awards

Three fellowship awards were made to scholars of Missouri history for the 2023 calendar year. Two of the recipients are pursuing studies of rural-urban conflict in the state's past, and another is studying aesthetic expression in Depression-era Missouri. Brooks Blevins, the Noel Boyd Professor of Ozarks Studies at Missouri State University, was awarded for his proposal, "The Missouri Scenic Rivers Act and the Rise of the Rural Right." Blevins will examine conflicts over environmentalism and property rights that arose in the late 1960s during legislative efforts to pass a scenic rivers bill in Missouri in the wake of the 1964 federal bill establishing the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Jenny Barker-Devine, professor of history at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois, received a fellowship for her pro-

posed study, "'Protection for All Citizens': Civil Defense and the Problem of Evacuating Missouri's Urban Centers during the Cold War, 1960–1980." She will study conflicts that surrounded Missouri's efforts to form a plan for evacuating urban residents and sheltering them in rural locations in the event of a nuclear attack. Sarah S. Jones, an interpreter and educator at the Missouri State Museum in Jefferson City, won a fellowship for her proposal, "Missouri's Post Office Murals: Artistic Expression, Local Collaborations." Jones plans to examine murals painted for post offices as part of a program under the US Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts during the New Deal. Each fellowship provides a \$5,000 stipend and an opportunity to publish an article in the *Missouri Historical Review*.

## Richard S. Brownlee Local History Grants

The State Historical Society of Missouri awarded Richard S. Brownlee Local History Grants to nineteen organizations across the state in 2023. Given in honor of Brownlee, a former executive director of the Society, the awards of up to \$500 per recipient are given to assist local history organizations with preserving historical records and providing programming activities. The 2023 award winners included the Adair County Historical Society, Christian County Museum & Historical Society, Cooper County Historical Society, Field House Museum, Historic Bethel German Colony, Kellerman Foundation

for Historical Preservation, Maramec Spring Park, Missouri Pacific Historical Society, Nodaway County Historical Society, Opportunity 1888 Foundation, Inc., James Shipley Museum of African American History, National Museum of Transportation, Ozark County Genealogical & Historical Society, Perry County Historical Society, Historical Society of Polk County, Skidmore Depot Museum, Stone County Historical/Genealogical Society, Sweet Springs Historical Society, and Webster Groves Historical Society.







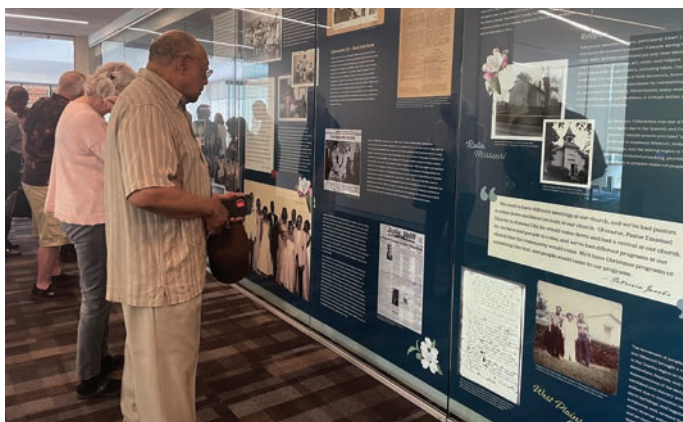


# Research Centers

The State Historical Society's research centers observed the organization's 125th anniversary with a series of commemorative programs. After retiring from the US Senate in January 2023 and beginning a three-year term as the Society's president the following month, Roy Blunt headlined the event in May hosted by the St. Louis Research Center, a reception celebrating not only SHSMO's milestone but also the legacy of William L. Hungate, a US congressman and federal judge whose papers are housed at the St. Louis center. In Columbia, Gary R. Kremer, the Society's executive director, and Bob Priddy, a trustee and past president, presented "SHSMO Celebrates 125 Years" as part of the History on Elm programming series. Open houses at the research centers in Kansas City, Rolla, and Springfield rounded out the festivities for the 125th anniversary.

The anniversary year was marked by numerous projects supported with an array of grant awards. The

largest, a grant of \$347,612 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, supported the Society's Missouri Congressional Papers Project, allowing the Society to process the papers of US legislators, including Hungate, John Danforth, Thomas Eagleton, Bill Emerson, and Dewey Short. The grant is funding two full-time archivists to work on the project for two years. Other grant-supported projects included the African American Experience in the Ozarks initiative, which received funding from an American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) grant administered by Missouri Humanities, and a grant from the McDaniels Foundation to support the RadiOzarks collection and exhibition in Springfield. SHSMO also received a contract for research from Brewer Science to study the Vichy, Missouri, airport, and financial support from Missouri Humanities for the National History Day in Missouri program.

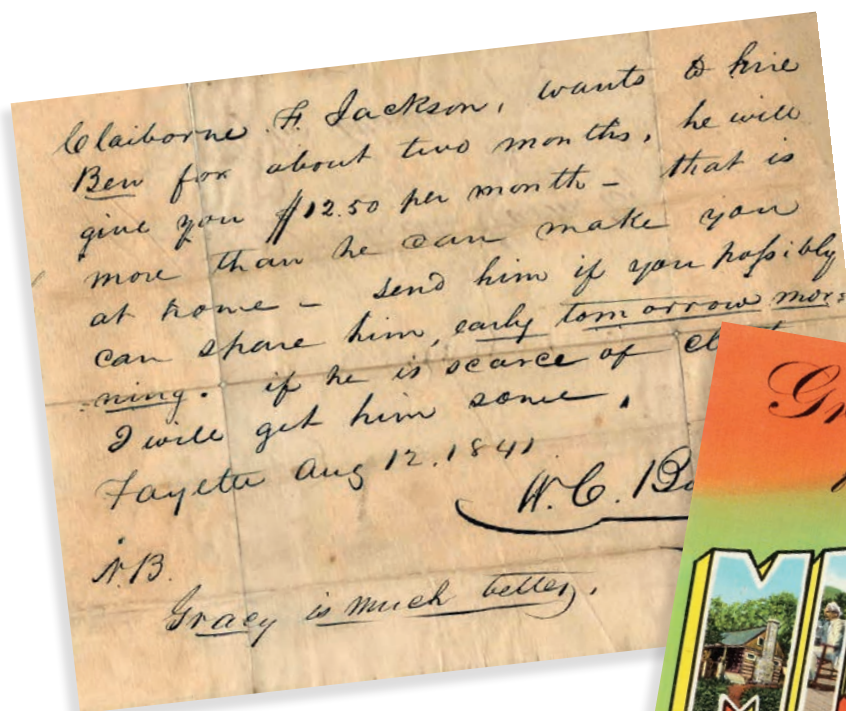


## Digitization Projects

The State Historical Society's six research centers added about 17,000 new items to the rapidly growing digitized collections during the 2023 fiscal year. Once digitized, the items can be put online at the Society's websites, where they are easily accessed from anyplace with internet connection. The digitized materials included photographs, manuscripts, publications, artworks, maps, and other items. Digitization has been a prioritized initiative in recent years, and the rapid growth of the digital collections has been made possible through the efforts of SHSMO's devoted volunteers, who gift the Society with hundreds of work hours spent scanning, transcribing, and creating metadata for online collections. Some of the holdings digitized in the past year include the following:

- The Missouri Slavery Documents initiative, an accumulation of documents from more than 130 collections that brings to light the histories of people enslaved within Missouri, including names, dates, locations, and ages. Now completed, the Missouri Slavery Documents Collection provides nearly 2,000 online items that are particularly helpful for those conducting African American genealogical research.

- Materials from 12 different National Women and Media collections, with items ranging from professional papers to love letters and summer camp work.
- Completion of the Missouri Postcards digitization project, providing online access to hundreds of historic postcards within the Society's collections.
- Photos from the Hinchey-Cochran Collection, which also includes family papers, business records, and correspondence of the extended Hinchey family in southeast Missouri.
- Materials from the African American Heroines of Jericho, Guiding Star Court No. 15, Joplin, Mo. Records, some of which were also used in the African American Heritage in the Ozarks project.
- Almost 900 images related to the history of transportation in Missouri.
- 180 additional Civil War images.





## Patron Services

The six SHSMO research centers received more than 3,000 patron visits during the 2023 fiscal year, a significant increase over the approximately 2,500 visits in FY2022. Almost 2,000 more requests for research assistance were made by phone or email, and 149

requests were received through the Interlibrary Loan Service. Patron traffic to the Society's web pages continued to be brisk: online collections, publications, and other resources were visited more than 900,000 times in FY2023.

---

**“Thank you so much for your reply. I will be in touch in the future after our committee meets . . . We are excited to know that there may be some information that may help us to connect the dots concerning our history.”**

—PATRON AT THE ROLLA RESEARCH CENTER

---

## Cataloging

In FY2023 the Columbia Research Center staff completed the sizable task of transitioning SHSMO's catalog of holdings—nearly a quarter of a million individual records—to the University of Missouri's new library services platform, Folio. The catalog continued to grow through additional bibliographic records for monographs and journals (more than 1,000 records added from all

six research centers), newspapers on microfilm (more than 5,500 records added, including 3,000 for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and 1,600 for the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*), maps, and audiovisual materials. Records for 159 items not previously in the OCLC global library system were added to the WorldCat database.



## Manuscripts

The State Historical Society's six research centers accessioned 243 manuscript collections during the 2023 fiscal year, with a total volume of nearly 900 cubic feet. The Society also acquired nearly a terabyte of new digital files for its born-digital collections. Some of the new manuscript collections added during FY2023 included:

- The Roy Blunt Papers, which contain press catalogs, press clips, press releases, constituent mail, photographs, scrapbooks, audiovisual material, invitations and scheduling information, personal correspondence, briefing memos, and other miscellaneous political materials from Blunt's career in both the US Senate and the US House of Representatives.
- An addition to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Western Missouri Records consisting of organizational records, administrative files, case files, and position files for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Western Missouri regional chapter.
- The LifeWise StL Records, which contain meeting minutes, correspondence, reports, photographs, and VHS tapes chronicling LifeWise StL's 120-year history of providing social welfare services to St. Louis's poor and immigrant population.
- An addition to the John F. Bradbury papers, which include the late Rolla Research Center

director's research files, original documents, photographs, reference items, and maps related to the history of the Ozarks. Key subjects include the Civil War, St. Louis–San Francisco Railroad, and Route 66.

- The Riley Family Papers, a collection of financial, legal, and personal documents, mainly from the New Madrid law firm of Riley & Riley (Henry C. Riley Sr. and his son, Henry C. Riley Jr.). The collection was found sealed in a safe unopened since the 1960s.
- The papers of Donald R. Whitman, who served in the US Air Force and witnessed the detonations of Ivy Mike, the world's first hydrogen bomb, and Ivy King, the largest pure-fission bomb ever tested by the United States, before going on to a career with the National Weather Service in Kansas City.
- The papers of Hazel Henderson, founder of Ethical Markets Media and a renowned futurist, evolutionary economist, worldwide syndicate columnist, and the author of nine books. Her papers include news articles, story files, books, research files, correspondence, personal papers, and audiovisual material.
- The Nelly Don, Inc. Collection, which contains approximately three cubic feet of corporate documents related to the Kansas City–based apparel company and its subsidiaries between 1950 and 1978. The collection complements others related to Nelly Don and related companies that are already housed at the Kansas City Research Center.
- The Kuk Sool Won, St. Louis Records, which include photographs, scrapbooks, and tests documenting the school and its dedication to teaching Kuk Sool Won, a traditional Korean martial arts system founded in 1958 by In Hyuk Suh.





- The Columbia Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Collection of photographs and the Guild's swatches and samples, weaving notes and patterns, newsletters, meeting minutes, reports, financial records, and miscellaneous materials.
- Additions to the Cullimore Family Papers that include in-depth genealogical materials. Of note among the additions are the papers of Don G. Cullimore, noted outdoor writer, editor, and Ozark conservationist. The collection includes research papers of Lee and Don Cullimore on historical and environmental topics such as the Irish Wilderness, damming Missouri rivers, and the establishment of wilderness areas.

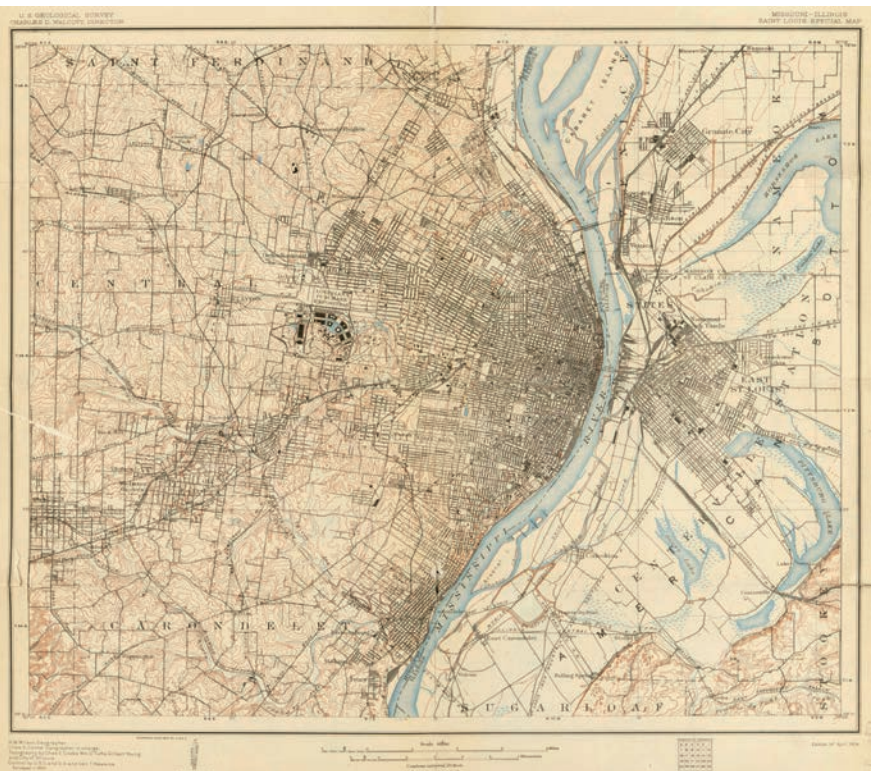
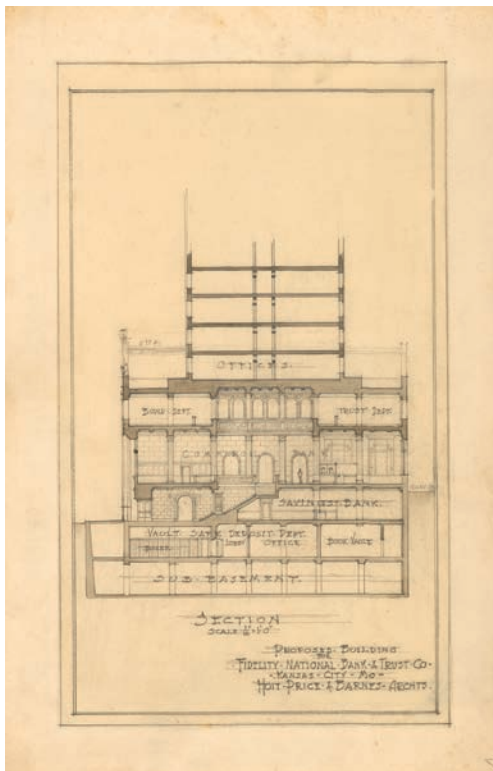
Major manuscript collections initiatives during the 2023 fiscal year included the Missouri Congressional Papers Project and the Route 66 Collecting Initiative, which was launched in the fall of 2022 in anticipation of the famous highway's centennial in 2026. In addition to the Congressional Papers, one of the largest processing projects addressed the papers of Adolf Schroeder, professor of German at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and his wife, Rebecca, editor of the Missouri Heritage Readers book series. Documents in the collection include the Schroeders' work with Euro-American oral histories, Missouri folklore, and folk music, and consist of 19 cubic feet of paper records as well as numerous audio and videotapes. In all, the research centers processed and made accessible to patrons approximately 280 collections totaling about 600 cubic feet of materials.

---

**“Very pleased with the fast response from SHSMO of Columbia, I was not sure where to start my search.”**

—PATRON AT THE COLUMBIA RESEARCH CENTER

---



## Newspapers

The newspaper collection continued its robust growth during FY2023, with issues of 241 current newspapers accessioned from publishers and through support from the Missouri Press Association and NewzGroup, a Missouri-based media monitoring service. The Society continues to collect both print and digital newspaper editions. The newspaper archive has now surpassed an estimated 71 million pages preserved on microfilm. Some of the microfilm reels are produced in-house with technology funded by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant; the State Historical Society made 543

reels at its own facilities during FY2023. Sales of duplication microfilm reels to outside institutions and individuals generated just under \$70,000 during the last fiscal year.

The Missouri Digital Newspaper Project now includes nearly four hundred publication titles dating from 1808 to 1964. A current focal point for the project is adding digitized historical Black-owned newspapers from across the state. By the end of the 2023 fiscal year, approximately 8.7 million pages of content from Missouri newspapers were online and freely available to the public.

## Art

Visitors continued to fill the Society's Art Galleries for seasonal exhibits, special events, and permanent displays such as works by Missouri master artists George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton. The Art Department also made the State Historical Society's presence felt across the MU campus, Columbia community, and around the state with off-site presentations, media appearances, and traveling exhibitions.

One of the year's highlights was the delivery and installation of a life-size marble sculpture of Senator Thomas Hart Benton. Transported from its former home at the US Capitol in Washington, DC, the 5,000-pound artwork by nineteenth-century artist Alexander Doyle now resides in the galleries at the Center for Missouri Studies. Other notable art acquisitions during the 2023 fiscal year included two painted plaster busts representing Missouri artists Joanne and Jerry Berneche by Sabra Tull Meyer; an original drawing by Jerry Berneche



donated by the artist's family; two watercolors from the late 1800s by Amanda Petronella Austin, a student of George Caleb Bingham; a ceramic vessel by Missouri artist Robert Bussabarger; and an 1887 portrait by noted Illinois painter Clara Bell Owen.

The eight art exhibitions presented during FY2023 included six popular shows at the Center for Missouri Studies as well as *Black Resistance in the Depression Era: The Missouri Sharecroppers' Strike of 1939*, shown in Ellis Library on the University of Missouri's Columbia campus, and *Thomas Hart Benton: The Complete Editioned Lithographs*, which traveled to Joplin for display at the Spiva Center for the Arts as part of the opening celebration of the Harry M. Cornell Arts and Entertainment Complex. Total visits to the galleries in Columbia reached approximately 4,750, a 29 percent increase over FY2022. The galleries hosted 33 tours for public and private educational groups ranging from preschoolers to college students.



## Oral History

In FY2023, SHSMO's oral history program benefited from the hiring of a second oral historian, Doug Genens, and a staff historian, Bridget Haney, who contributes to oral history projects and other research. Under the direction of Sean Rost, assistant director for research, the program conducted more than 30 oral history interviews during the fiscal year. Highlights included interviews of Roger Allison and Rhonda Perry, founders of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center; Stephen N. Limbaugh Sr., retired US District Court judge; Cheutong Yang and Cherpao Lo, Hmong immigrants who now farm in south-west Missouri; and 24 additional subjects for the African American Heritage in the Ozarks project.

Eighteen new episodes of the *Our Missouri* podcast were recorded, including series on the 50th anniversary of the landmark Title IX civil rights law as well as on

African American history and heritage in the Ozarks. The popular podcast was downloaded roughly 8,000 times during the fiscal year; total downloads stood at approximately 37,000 for 97 episodes produced since *Our Missouri* began in 2018.

Staff members also provided numerous presentations and workshops to outside organizations, educational institutions, and the public during the 2023 fiscal year. The presentations, which included topics ranging from "Navigating Nostalgia in the Digital Age" to "Missouri Mysteries" to a program on the history of Columbia's Ridgeway Elementary School, afforded opportunities to share interview recordings and transcripts from the Society's collections as well as best practices for others interested in conducting oral history.

## Conservation

During the 2023 fiscal year, the conservation lab completed treatments of manuscript collections, newspapers, books, and photographs for the Society's network of six research centers. The lab prepared 3,979 newspaper sheets and 1,027 sheets of prison newsletters for scanning of loaned newspaper titles. A volunteer under the direction of conservator Diane McKinney assisted in assessing and rehousing 118 newspapers within

SHSMO's collections. Lab treatments were performed on thirty-six pages of material within the Dewey Short Congressional Papers and twenty-three photographs from various collections. Staff also made nine book or pamphlet supports for materials on public display and performed mold remediation on fifty-nine items from three different research centers.





Meeting of the Missouri Press Association, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, May 25-27, 1898. The State Historical Society of Missouri was established at the meeting; the Society is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2023.  
[Missouri Press Association Photograph Collection, P0475]

Cover: The Center for Missouri Studies. [Photo by Notley Hawkins]

**SHSMO**

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

CAPE GIRARDEAU COLUMBIA KANSAS CITY ROLLA ST. LOUIS SPRINGFIELD