

FRIENDS OF THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES, INC.

Annual Report

2015-2016

The Friends of the Missouri State Archives, Inc., is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization supporting the Missouri State Archives in its mission to foster an appreciation of Missouri history and illuminate contemporary public issues by preserving and making available the state's permanent records to its citizens and their government. Members offer their time, talent and resources to assist the Missouri State Archives in support of this mission. Together with the Archives, the Friends provide enriching public programming, educational opportunities for Missouri's children and the resources to preserve our shared heritage. This report outlines the accomplishments of both the Friends and the Archives from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016.

Outreach

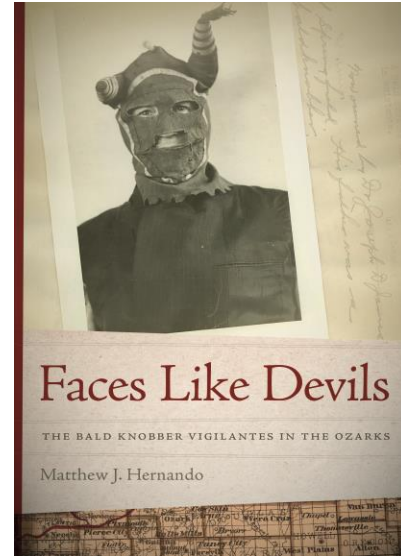
The Friends of the Missouri State Archives support an extensive public outreach effort. A major component of this is the Archives' newsletter, *The Missouri State Archives... Where History Begins*, distributed to anyone with an interest in Missouri history and the Archives. It contains articles on the work of the Archives, the activities of the Friends and Missouri's rich history. At present, 719 households across the nation receive the newsletter by postal mail, while another 254 receive it in a digital format via email. Back issues are available online through the websites of both the Friends (www.friendsofmsa.org/news/index.php) and the Archives (www.sos.mo.gov/archives/newsletter/).

Additionally, the Friends sponsor monthly public programming in the form of the Thursday Evening Speaker Series. These events highlight the work of professional historians, genealogists, musicians and folk artists. One thousand two hundred seventy-three attended the 11 offered programs on the 2015-2016 schedule (see full list below) for an average attendance of 116 per month.

2015-2016 Thursday Evening Speaker Series

- ❖ *"This Terrible Struggle for Life": The Civil War Letters of a Union Regimental Surgeon*, presented by Dennis W. Belcher on June 18, 2015
- ❖ *Bird: The Life and Music of Charlie Parker*, presented by Chuck Haddix on July 16, 2015

- ❖ *Faces Like Devils: The Bald Knobber Vigilantes in the Ozarks*, presented by former Friends sponsored William E. Foley Research Fellow Matthew Fernando on August 13, 2015
- ❖ *New Regionalism: The Art of Bryan Haynes*, presented by Bryan Haynes on September 24, 2015
- ❖ *Utopia: Revisiting a German State in America*, presented by Dorris Keeven-Franke on October 15, 2015
- ❖ *Trade and Trepidation: The Osage and Spanish St. Louis*, presented by Michael Dickey on November 12, 2015 (In Recognition of Native American History Month)
- ❖ *Unguarded Moments: Stories of Working Inside the Missouri State Penitentiary*, presented by Larry Neal on January 21, 2016
- ❖ *Buffalo Soldiers of the American West*, presented by Essex Garner on February 18, 2016 (In Recognition of Black History Month)
- ❖ *Missouri Women and Children in the Civil War*, presented by Robert Schultz on March 17, 2016 (In Recognition of Women's History Month)
- ❖ *19th Century Steamboats and the Missouri River Trade*, presented by Robert Swenson on April 14, 2016
- ❖ *The Unknown Travels and Dubious Pursuits of William Clark*, presented by Jo Ann Trogdon on May 12, 2016



Former William E. Foley Research Fellow Matthew Hernando spoke on the extra-legal activities of the Bald Knobbers in the Ozarks as part of the 2015-2016 Speaker Series

Many of these programs were recorded and are accessible online at <http://s1.sos.mo.gov/archives/about/presentations.asp>.

Despite the popularity of the Thursday Evening Speaker Series, *Archives Alive!*, a history-based theatrical performance for fourth- and fifth-graders, remains the Friends' most popular outreach program. The interactive performances bring Missouri history to life for students across the state. In 2016, the 27 offerings were attended by 5,342 children from 78 schools around the state, making this, the twelfth season of *Archives Alive!*, one of the highest ever attended seasons. Students learned about Missouri's earliest settlers and communities, famous Missourians and the

role of the state during the Civil War and World Wars I and II. Co-sponsoring the 2016 season along with the Friends were the Missouri Humanities Council, the Missouri Arts Council, Hawthorn Bank and the Rock Island Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Volunteer docent Patsy Luebbert talks to students in the reference room following a 2016 *Archives Alive!* performance

To obtain a more practical sense of the work accomplished at the Missouri State Archives, many groups tour the facility. In total, 58 tours were provided for 2,509 people between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016. These typically included stops in the Alex M. Petrovic Reading Room; the “stacks,” a secure area where Missouri’s historical documents are stored; the lobby, home of the original state flag and a series of paintings by L. Edward Fisher depicting the last two hundred years of Jefferson City’s history; and an interactive discussion of the state’s most treasured documents and famous Missourians in the Archives conference room. Volunteer docents provide many of these tours, enabling staff to devote more time to records preservation and access projects.

The Friends also contribute support to the Region 4 (Central Missouri) National History Day competition. This annual event, held each February, encourages students, grades six through twelve, to develop and present historical research in one of five categories: performance, documentary, exhibit, paper composition or website development. The categories are further split into junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades 9-12) divisions. The top two placing students in each category at the Region 4 contest advance to the state competition, where they compete for a spot in the national competition. One hundred sixty-seven students competed in the 2016 Region 4 competition, making it the highest attended such competition in the last five years.

On April 22, 2016, the Friends sponsored a reception to honor docents, onsite record processing volunteers, reference volunteers, eVolunteers and Local Records Program volunteers. Thirty-two individuals from across the state attended the event. After brief remarks from Missouri State Archivist John Dougan, the volunteers enjoyed refreshments and door prizes provided by the Friends.

Last but definitely not least, the Friends unveiled their redesigned website in September 2015 (www.friendsofmsa.org). Along with viewing a calendar of upcoming events, past editions of the newsletter and organizational information, visitors can now renew their membership, make a donation and/or purchase select Missouri-themed items through an online store.



Redesigned Friends of the Missouri State Archives Website

Preservation and Access

In recent years, the Missouri State Archives has focused on providing online access to its collections. To view the many resources available on the Archives' website, visit www.sos.mo.gov/archives/.

Since 2008, the Archives has also helped develop the Missouri Digital Heritage (MDH) website (www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/). This statewide collaborative effort, led by the Archives and the Missouri State Library, makes historical resources from institutions across the state available through a single, searchable online portal. MDH has significantly increased the number of collections available online from not just the Archives, but numerous other Missouri historical record repositories as well. As of May 31, 2016, the MDH website had been visited more than 591 million times, including more than 20 million visits since June 1, 2015. Among the new additions to the website in the past year are:

- Charles Lindbergh's Missouri State Guard Service Collection;
- Unity Farm Records, 1919-2008;
- Missouri Disasters, 1785-present; and the
- Antoine Saugarin Physician Ledgers, providing detailed records of the first practicing physician in the Missouri Territory.

In July 2015, *Family Tree Magazine*, America's largest circulation genealogy magazine, recognized MDH as one of the 101 best genealogy websites, and one of the top 11 state genealogy websites. This is the thirteenth consecutive year Archives' websites were represented on these lists.

Research and Scholarship

The Missouri State Archives and the Friends are not only committed to preserving and providing access to Missouri's documentary heritage, but also to aiding research utilizing the resources of the Archives. Between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016, Archives staff have responded to 22,261 requests for information from more than 2,500 researchers across the country, and even a few from overseas.

The Friends-sponsored William E. Foley Research Fellowship annually supports the use of Missouri's public records in scholarly research. Any project that uses Archives' collections to better our understanding of state and/or national history is eligible for up to \$1,500 in travel and research expenses.

Dr. Megan Bever, Assistant Professor of History at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, was awarded the 2016 William E. Foley Research Fellowship. She plans to examine the Union Provost Marshal Papers, 1861-1865; the Session Laws of the Missouri General Assembly, 1861-1865; the 1860 Industrial Schedule; and the financial records from the Archives' Missouri-

Kansas Border War Collection during the course of researching her proposed project, entitled *Drinking, Self-Control, and Loyalty in the Civil War Era*.

Membership and Board of Directors

Support for the Friends of the Missouri State Archives comes through annual membership dues and donations, including a direct mail fundraising campaign each December. The 2015 campaign raised more than \$16,955—the largest amount ever taken in by the Friends through the annual appeal and a 6% increase over the previous record set in 2013. The organization currently has 468 dues paying members, up from 454 in June of 2015.

Although every member in good standing has one vote on matters requiring the approval of the full membership, executive powers are vested in the board of directors. The 2015-2016 board of directors consisted of President Vicki Myers, Vice President Gary Collins, Secretary William Ambrose, Treasurer Tom Holloway, Evie Bresette, Eugene Bushmann, Wayne Goode, Nancy Grant, Ruth Ann Hager, Gary Kremer, Nancy Ginn Martin, Sean Murray, Arnold Parks, Rachael Preston, Bob Priddy, Robert Sandfort, David Sapp and Frank Thacher II. Ex-officio members included Secretary of State Jason Kander and Missouri State Archivist John Dougan.

An executive committee composed of members of the board of directors has the authority to make decisions on behalf of the board between regularly scheduled meetings. Serving in this capacity over the past year were Vicki Myers, Gary Collins, William Ambrose, Tom Holloway, Robert Sandfort and Rachael Preston.

The program committee advises Archives' staff on the selection of programs and the planning of special events. Gary Collins, Gary Kremer and Rachael Preston served on this past year's program committee.

The audit committee ensures that expenditures and receipts are reconciled and in order. Serving on the audit committee this past year were Rachael Preston and David Sapp.



Speaker Terence O'Malley poses with Archives staff and volunteers following 2015 annual meeting fashion show

Board activities are reviewed by the membership at an annual meeting. The 2015 meeting was held June 11 at the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center. After the business portion, attendees enjoyed an Ozark themed BBQ luncheon, followed by a program on famed Missouri dress designer and manufacturer, Nelly Don, presented by Terence O'Malley. After the program, Archives' staff and volunteers modeled original Nelly Don dresses for the attendees.

To recognize the service of Missouri State Archives' volunteers and other strong supporters of the state's history, the Friends present awards each year at the

annual meeting. A committee consisting of Nancy Grant, Sean Murray, Robert Sandfort and former board member Ruth Ann Hager determined the 2015 recipients.

The 2015 Volunteer Award went to Cathie Schoppenhorst for her involvement in Local Records Program projects in Warren County. She assisted with the processing of both 19th century probate court estate files and circuit court case files.

The 2015 Jonas Viles Award was presented to Lynn Morrow for his contributions made as the director of the Local Records Program from 1990 to 2012. Under his leadership, the program became a national model for the preservation of local government records.

For more information on the activities of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, please call (573) 526-1981, or visit us online at www.friendsofmsa.org/.