

# FRIENDS OF THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES, INC.

## *Annual Report*

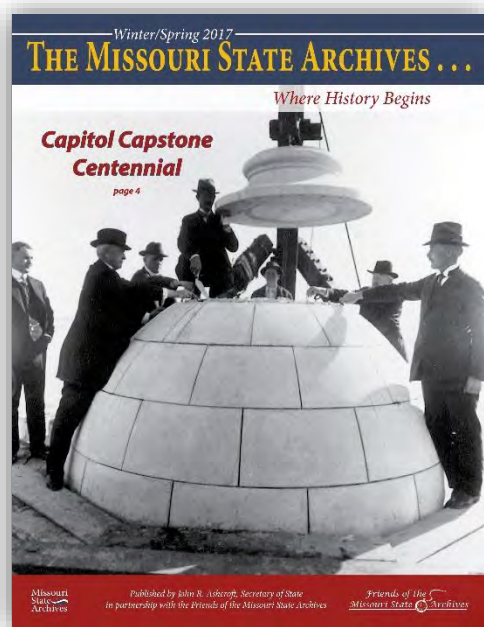
### *2016-2017*

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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, 2016 to May 31, 2017.

## 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 or the Archives. It contains



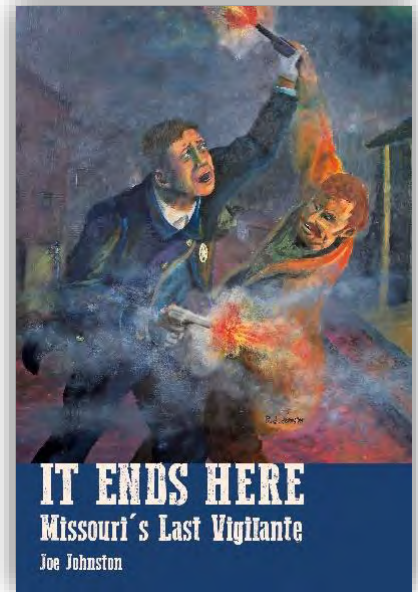
Winter/Spring 2017 edition of *The Missouri State Archives...Where History Begins*

articles on the work of the Archives, the activities of the Friends and Missouri's rich history. At present, 734 households across the nation receive the newsletter by postal mail, while another 272 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](http://www.friendsofmsa.org/news/index.php)) and the Archives ([www.sos.mo.gov/archives/newsletter/](http://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. At the 11 programs that made up the 2016-2017 series, there was a total attendance of 1,046, for an average of 95 per offering (see the full list programs on the next page). John Cunning, presenting *The Role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Missouri State Parks*, on August 11, 2016, had the largest turnout with 152.

## 2016-2017 Thursday Evening Speaker Series

- ❖ *It Ends Here: The Last Missouri Vigilante*, presented by Joe Johnston on June 16, 2016
- ❖ *For Home and Country: World War I Propaganda on the Homefront*, presented by Celia Malone Kingsbury on July 14, 2016
- ❖ *The Role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Missouri State Parks*, presented by John Cuning on August 11, 2016
- ❖ *Lost Voices on the Missouri*, presented by Mark William Kelly on September 15, 2016
- ❖ *Cole County at War: 1861-1975*, presented by Jeremy Amick on October 13, 2016
- ❖ *Osage Sites and Archaeology*, presented by Larry Grantham on November 10, 2016 (In Recognition of Native American History Month)
- ❖ *Southside Sketches: Essays on Jefferson City's Old Munichburg*, presented by Walter Schroeder on January 12, 2017
- ❖ *Lloyd Gaines and the Fight to End Segregation*, presented by James Endersby on February 16, 2017 (In Recognition of African-American History Month)
- ❖ *Virginia Minor and Her Major Role in Women's Rights*, presented by Diane Eickhoff on March 16, 2017 (In Recognition of Women's History Month)
- ❖ *The Boatburners and the Secret War for Missouri*, presented by Marc Kollbaum on April 20, 2017
- ❖ *Missouri Law and the American Conscience*, presented by former Missouri State Archivist Ken Winn on May 18, 2017



Author Joe Johnston spoke on the murder of Jesse James' assassin, Robert Ford, as part of the 2016-2017 Speaker Series

**Many of these programs were recorded and are accessible online at [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/about/presentations](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/about/presentations).**

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. Professional actors from the Jefferson City area give interactive performances that bring Missouri history to life for students from across the state. For the 13th season of *Archives*

*Alive!*, 26 offerings were attended by 5,121 children from 65 schools around the state. 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 2017 season along with the Friends were the Missouri Arts Council, Hawthorn Bank, the Rock Island Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Missouri Association for Museums and Archives.



Volunteer docent Warren Solomon provides a student tour of the lobby following a 2017 *Archives Alive!* performance.

When visiting the Missouri State Archives, many groups also tour the facility to obtain a practical sense of the work accomplished by staff and volunteers. In total, 41 tours were provided for 1,825 visitors between June 1, 2016 and May 31, 2017. 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 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 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, as well as into individual and group divisions for every category but paper composition. The top two placing students in each category advance to the state competition, where they compete for a spot in the national competition. One hundred fifty-eight students participated in the 2017 Region 4 competition on the Columbia College campus in Columbia, making it one of the highest attended contests of the last five years.

Three Region 4 contestants placed first or second at the April 29 state competition, qualifying for the national competition in College Park, Maryland, later in June 2017: Ji-Sung Lee, from Rock Bridge High School in Columbia, placed first in the senior historical paper category with his composition entitled *The President, the Pardon and the Press Secretary Too*; Madeline Kovaleski, from Jefferson Middle School in Columbia, placed first in the junior historical paper category with her composition entitled *The Manhattan Project Scientists: How Their Stand Changed Scientific Ethics Forever*; and a group consisting of Shruti Gautam and Gianna

Durante, from Ann Hawkins Gentry Middle School in Columbia placed second in the junior group website category with their website entitled *Hanna Senesh: The Woman Who Stood Up Against Fear Itself*.

On April 28, 2017, the Friends sponsored a reception to honor docents, onsite record processing volunteers, reference volunteers, eVolunteers, National History Day volunteers and Local Records Program volunteers. Forty-seven individuals from across the state attended the event. After brief remarks from Friends President Vicki Myers and Missouri State Archivist John Dougan, the volunteers enjoyed refreshments and door prizes courtesy of the Friends.

## Preservation and Access

Over the last decade, the Missouri State Archives has placed great importance on providing online access to its collections. To view these resources, visit [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/).

Since 2008, the Archives has also helped develop the Missouri Digital Heritage (MDH) website ([www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/](http://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, 2017, the MDH website had been visited more than 618 million times, including more than 27.4 million visits since June 1, 2016. New additions to the website in the past year include the:

- **Dobbelare Studio Photograph Collection**, from the Perry County Historical Society; the
- **Lexington Wharfage Register**, from the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site; and, perhaps most importantly, the
- **Missouri General Assembly Session Laws, 1824-present**, from the Missouri State Archives.

In November 2016, *Family Tree Magazine*, America's largest circulation genealogy magazine, recognized MDH as one of the 75 best state genealogy websites. This is the 14th consecutive year Archives' websites have been recognized by the publishers.

## Research and Scholarship

The Missouri State Archives, as well as the Friends, are not only committed to preserving and providing access to Missouri's documentary heritage, but also to aiding research utilizing the

resources in their collection. Between June 1, 2016 and May 31, 2017, Archives staff and volunteers have responded to 21,237 requests for information, as well as assisting more than 2,500 in house researchers.

To promote the use of Missouri's public records in scholarly research, the Friends sponsor the annual William E. Foley Research Fellowship. 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. Tangi Villerbu, Associate Professor of History at Universite de La Rochelle in France, was selected as the 2017 William E. Foley Research Fellowship. In researching his latest project, *Missouri, the French Atlantic and the Early Republic*, he plans to travel to the Archives to examine early 19th century judicial and tax records from Ste. Genevieve, Jefferson, St. Francois, Washington, Perry and Cape Girardeau counties.

## 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 2016 campaign raised \$17,150—the largest amount ever taken in by the Friends through this appeal. As of May 31, 2017, the organization has 437 dues paying members.

Although every member of the Friends 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 2016-2017 board consisted of President Vicki Myers, Vice President Gary Collins, Secretary Bill 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 John R. Ashcroft 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 President Vicki Myers, Vice President Gary Collins, Secretary Bill Ambrose, Treasurer Tom Holloway, Rachael Preston and Robert Sandfort.

The program committee advises Archives' staff on the selection of programs and the planning of special events. Secretary Bill Ambrose, Gary Kremer and Rachael Preston served on the 2016-2017 program committee.

The audit committee ensures that expenditures and receipts are reconciled and in order. Serving on the 2016-2017 audit committee were Rachael Preston and David Sapp.

A committee consisting of Evie Bresette, Wayne Goode, Sean Murray and Arnold Parks selected the 2017 William E. Foley Research Fellow.

Board activities are reviewed by the membership at the annual meeting. The 2016 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 performance by traditional Missouri folk musicians Cathy Barton and Dave Para.



Cathy Barton and Dave Para during their performance at the 2016 annual meeting

To recognize Missouri State Archives volunteers and other strong supporters of the state's history, the Friends present a Volunteer Award and the Jonas Viles Award each year at the annual meeting. A committee consisting of Nancy Grant, Treasurer Tom Holloway, President Vicki Myers, Bob Priddy and Frank Thacher II determined the 2016 recipients.

The Volunteer Award is annually presented to an individual who has exhibited a particularly strong commitment to the work of the Archives. Tom Waters, recipient of the 2016 Volunteer Award, first became a Missouri State Archives eVolunteer in 2005. Since that time, he has worked on a multitude of records transcription projects, from post-1910 death certificates to records from the Joplin Children's Home. Between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016, he indexed more than 200 pages from Missouri's 1870 Mortality Schedule, as well as 20 years of Supreme Court of Missouri case files. On top of these projects, Tom is also involved with the Missouri State Archives' FamilySearch indexing group, where he has indexed more than 60,000 Missouri marriage records since the start of the project in 2013.

Recipients of the Jonas Viles Award are selected based on their significant contributions to the preservation of Missouri's heritage. The 2016 Jonas Viles Award was presented to Director of the State Historical Society of Missouri and Friends board member Gary Kremer for his efforts to secure \$35 million in funding from the Missouri General Assembly for a new 80,000 square foot facility for the Society in Columbia.

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/](http://www.friendsofmsa.org/).