

The Missouri State Archives

Where History Begins

Fall 2018

Picture This: A "Major" Leaguer

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On the Cover

Gov. Elliot Woolfolk Major takes flight in a hot air balloon from St. Louis to Columbia, Ill. Left to right: Pilot William F. Assmann, Albert von Hoffmann, Horace F. Rumsey and Major. Major only told his wife of the flight after it was too late, fearing she would not let him go. The trip was an advertisement for the War Relief Bazaar benefitting the German and Austrian Red Cross. *Photograph by J.D. Wooster Lambert. October 21, 1915. Photograph from the Gov. Elliot Woolfolk Major Manuscript Collection.*

From the State Archivist

By John Dougan



Shortly after publishing the summer edition of *Where History Begins*, we made an incredible discovery here at the Missouri State Archives in identifying missing population schedule pages from the 1880 U.S. Census. The pages document 120 households in Perry County's 99th Enumeration District that researchers had considered "missing" since the records were first made public in the 1950s. Although there's an entire column on the discovery later in this edition, I want to share with readers four research tips I feel are exemplified by the find.

#1 — Major discoveries are possible even with limited time. While heating up my frozen lunch in the breakroom microwave, I walked to the imaging lab next door and noticed a staff member scanning what turned out to be a population schedule page in the middle of a volume of agricultural schedules. Thank goodness for our low power microwave!

#2 — Records are sometimes misfiled in very logical places. Once "found" (archivists, historians and genealogists all cringe at the word "lost"), the location often makes sense, even if no one thought to look there. In this case, 13 population schedule pages were accidentally bound in a volume of agricultural schedules where they remained undiscovered until my leftovers needed warming.

#3 — Historic context makes all the difference. In June 1880, John L. Martin of Perry County had one job—to record the households of the County's 99th Enumeration District on four census schedules (population, mortality, agriculture and manufacturing). By late summer, the

U.S. Census Bureau stamped the pages as officially received and Martin's data was combined with totals from elsewhere in the township, county and state. Once no longer needed for statistical purposes, the schedules were sorted by type (sometimes incorrectly, apparently) and bound.

#4 — Little used sources sometimes provide big answers. If at any time in the last 140 years researchers had examined the agricultural schedule for Perry County's 99th Enumeration District, they undoubtedly would have stumbled upon the missing pages. Instead, because there's no index to the agricultural schedule and it's difficult to search, they remained hidden until my fateful lunchbreak!

Discoveries like these pages are a truly rare occurrence. We've searched high and low for other instances where "missing" U.S. Census records have been located and found it's virtually unheard of! So, even if you're not a descendant of the 633 people living in Perry County's 99th Enumeration District in 1880, join us in appreciating this find and let it and our other online census resources available at www.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/census/pages inspire your own research projects.

In our last *Archives Afield* column, we highlighted recent finds by Local Records field archivists, shifting away from the in depth look at specific topics or record series written about in the past. This was a welcome change and a huge success if reader feedback is any indication! As a result, our field archivists have again identified for readers a handful of circuit court casefiles from their projects around the state.

Jackson County

September 1865, Wolf Bachrack v. Steamboat "W.A. Moffett", Breach of Contract. The plaintiff was a passenger on the *W.A. Moffett*, leaving St. Louis for Kansas City sometime in March 1865. He asked for \$25,000 in damages claiming the captain threw him off the boat approximately six miles above the port of Boonville in a "part of [the] country now almost desolate and uninhabitable and infested with bands of so called bushwhackers, a set of lawless and murderous men who murder and rob indiscriminately." (Editorial note: near the Lamine River.)

The defendant countered that in St. Louis, the plaintiff was unwilling to buy a first-class ticket, instead purchasing a second-class ticket, which did not provide a room or bed. According to the captain, Bachrack intruded into the ladies' cabin and was so obnoxious that some of the women complained, asking if something could be done to prevent his entering. At 8 p.m., a watchman physically removed the plaintiff to the lower deck. Later in the evening, the plaintiff voluntarily chose to disembark 1.5 miles from Boonville in an area near the Haas Brewery. He ended up boarding another boat to finish his journey to Kansas City.

Platte County

November 1863, State of Missouri v. William H. Hallett, Murder. Hallett was accused of appointing people to, and participating in, the lynching of Isaac T. Green. The case depositions are filled with detailed information regarding the Union League of Farley. (Editorial note: Union Leagues were pro-Union political "clubs" during the Civil War. They were initially formed to promote

loyalty to the Union and President Lincoln's policies; as the war continued, they turned to combatting "treasonous" statements made by "Copperheads" and Democrats. After the war, they became social and philanthropic clubs.)

One witness stated that no one made a motion to hang Green or evict him from the county, while another explained the purpose of the League, noting, "The object of the League was to enforce the laws of the U.S. and of this State. I presume the members of the League were to judge of a person whether they were law abiding or not and if he was found loyal he would get protection." A third statement detailed a conversation between two men in which one asked the other about the Union League. The response he received was that, "it was nothing more than a branch of the Red Leg League of Leavenworth... the time was not two months off when a man that did not have the pass word and counter sign of that League would be shot down wherever they were met."

September 1884, William A. Furber v. Ella J. Furber, Divorce. The plaintiff stated his wife left him soon after they were married in 1882. She countered that he had instead taken her to her father's home in 1883 and left her there with no money. All of the depositions say she was a virtuous woman and that he did not like children, particularly his own daughter. He called their baby a monkey and an idiot, even acquiring a "work on Phrenology to show his wife that the baby had an idiotic head." He frequently told people that he thought the baby would take from him his wife's affection.

Harrison County

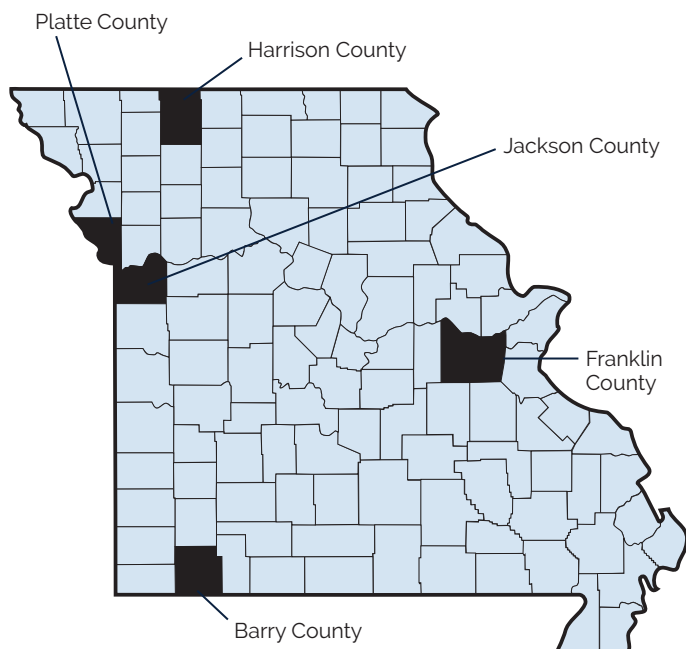
May 1848, State of Missouri v. Elisha Meeker, Theft. The defendant was charged with "taking up two stray geldings, commonly called Indian ponies," four miles from his plantation on January 10, 1848. The jury found the defendant not guilty.

Notes from the Field

Franklin County

July 1819, Nancy Edds v. John Edds, Divorce. Married in Tennessee in 1795, this couple filed for the first divorce in Franklin County.

June 1840, William R. Ellett v. George Marsden, et al, Bond for the Hire of a Slave. The plaintiff brought action on a \$175 bond agreed to by both parties when the defendants hired a slave named Abram on January 1, 1839. The casefile includes the written bond with details of the hirer's responsibilities regarding clothing and humane treatment. It also states that Abram was to be returned to Ellett on December 25, 1839, reflecting the standard practice of not forcing slaves to work the week after Christmas.



Barry County

August 1897, State of Missouri v. William Twitty, Slander. The defendant accused Miss Nora Bell Marlow, an unmarried woman, of having stretch marks on her belly, insinuating she had had a baby.

Three cases involving the construction of the Franklin County Courthouse in Union:

1823, Joseph Edmondson v. Commissioners of Franklin County, Money Owed on a Promissory Note. Edmondson brought suit against the Franklin County Commissioners to recover \$1,348 of his personal funds expended in the construction of the courthouse. The casefile contains the original commissioners' bonds dating from 1819 and records indicating that the county ran out of money during the project.

1836, Joseph Edmondson ex rel. Alexander McKinney and William Burch v. Franklin County, Money Owed On a Promissory Note. Edmondson again brought suit to recover his \$1,348, this time against Franklin County itself. Records in the casefile specifically mention that the note was drawn for carpentry work performed by Edmondson.

1838, Debt (but worded like assumpsit, stating first a debt of \$10,784, then listing eight counts on the \$1,348 note for carpentry work and \$3,000 in damages). In the first case, the defense argued that the commissioners could not be held liable because they represented the county and, in the others, that the county could not be held liable because the commissioners were responsible for the note. The defense also seemed to suggest that the commissioners had been unable to raise enough funds for the construction and, therefore, could not pay Edmondson.

Picture This: A “Major” Leaguer

By Erika Woehlke, Visual Materials Archivist

Few know it, but Elliot Woolfolk Major (1913–1917) is definitely a contender for Missouri's sportiest governor! During the recent processing of his manuscript collection, we discovered a photograph of him throwing out a pitch at a baseball game. Our curiosity piqued, but no other clues to go on, the backstory required a little sleuthing.

Fans of the national pastime are familiar with Major League Baseball's American and National leagues, but only true students of the game will know that in the 1910s there was briefly a separate, somewhat rogue outfit known as the Federal League.

Enacted in 1879, baseball's reserve clause prohibited players from switching teams after their contracts expired. Such freedom, owners feared, would drive up player salaries. Unsurprisingly, not everyone was happy with this arrangement. Enter the short-lived Federal League.

From 1913 to 1915, with reserve clause-free player contracts, the Federal League fielded eight teams around the country, two of which were based in Missouri: the St. Louis Terriers and Kansas City Packers.



As a baseball enthusiast—he played as a youth in his native Pike County—Missouri Gov. Elliot Woolfolk Major threw out the first pitch in Handlan's Park on April 16, 1914, in the inaugural game for the Federal League's St. Louis Terriers. No lob, one newspaper reported the pitch was a “curve with ‘smoke’ on it.” Alas, the Terriers lost to the Indianapolis Hoosiers three to seven and eventually finished the season in last place. Maybe they should have signed Gov. Major as a pitcher!

The 1915 season was much better for Missouri's Federal League teams with St. Louis placing second and Kansas City fourth.



Gov. Major throws out the first pitch for the St. Louis Terriers. April 16, 1914.

Team Ranking, 1914 Season	Team Ranking, 1915 Season
Indianapolis Hoosiers (88-65)	Chicago Whales (86-66)
Chicago Federals (87-67)	St. Louis Terriers (87-67)
Baltimore Terrapins (84-70)	Pittsburgh Rebels (86-67)
Buffalo Buffeds (80-71)	Kansas City Packers (81-72)
Brooklyn Tip-Tops (77-77)	Newark Peppers (80-72)
Kansas City Packers (67-84)	Buffalo Blues (74-78)
Pittsburgh Rebels (64-86)	Brooklyn Tip-Tops (70-82)
St. Louis Terriers (62-89)	Baltimore Terrapins (47-107)

Major continued to practice and observe sports throughout his time as governor, even participating in an annual daylong road construction contest. Check out the Gov. Elliot Woolfolk Major Manuscript Collection for more sporty pics and official correspondence from his administration.



Gov. Major (center) attends a Thanksgiving Day football game at the University of Missouri. The Tigers lost to the Kansas Jayhawks by a score of eight to six. *November 25, 1915.*



Gov. Major (left) and Kansas Gov. George Hodges helping to build a road from Columbia to Jefferson City as part of the Governor's Good Roads Initiative. *August 21, 1913.*



Gov. Major (left) on a steam powered tractor used to grade the road bed between Columbia and Jefferson City as part of the Governor's Good Roads Initiative. *August 21, 1913.*



All photographs are from the Gov. Elliot Woolfolk Major Manuscript Collection.



Above and Left: Gov. Major poses with a golf club on the lawn of the Governor's Mansion. *July 1915.*

Names of 633 People Lost

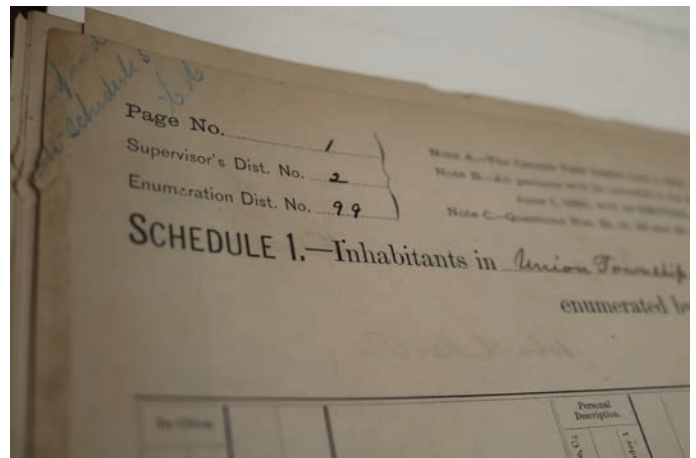
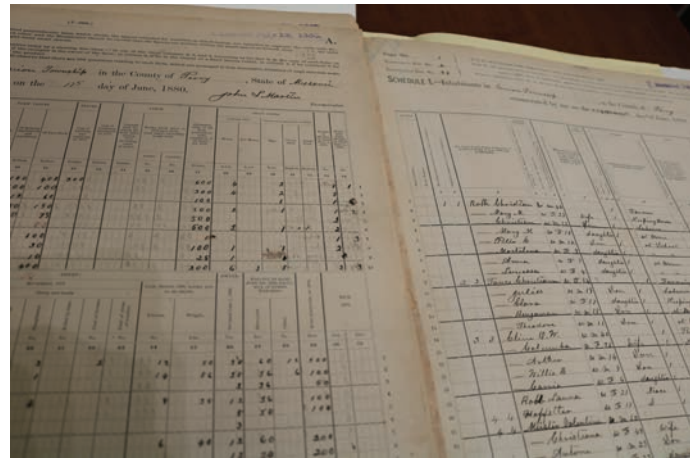
The Missouri State Archives has worked collaboratively with the Missouri Historical Society since 2015 to digitize the census records of both institutions for improved public access. After starting with the Society's French and Spanish territorial records and our state census records, Archives staff began imaging the Society's non-population schedules (mortality, manufacturing and agricultural) from the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 U.S. Census. It was then, while scanning a volume of the 1880 Perry County agricultural schedule, that we made an amazing discovery in what appeared to be a missing page from the County's 1880 population schedule!

Once the volume was fully digitized, staff identified a total of 13 pages recording the entirety of Perry County's 99th Enumeration District, or roughly half of Union Township. We then checked the listed names against online and microfilmed census sources to verify their unavailability elsewhere and confirmed that the pages were—until then—lost to time.

This was when the find's significance really hit us! On the pages were the names of 633 Perry County residents that researchers had been looking for since the 1880 U.S. Census first became available to the public in the 1950s. Further, because a fire destroyed the 1890 census, the find narrows the gap between available census years for the 120 households. Simply put, it is unheard of to find such a large number of "lost" or misfiled federal census records.

With the Perry County population schedule pages identified, we turned our attention to how they were misfiled in the first place. Because he signed every page, we know that enumerator John L. Martin compiled and recorded all of the 1880 Perry County schedules (population, mortality, manufacturing and agricultural) before submitting them unbound to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Bureau then included the information found on the lost pages in their published population schedule statistics, confirming that they were misfiled sometime after the statistical tabulation, but before they were bound and decades before they became a part of the Missouri Historical Society's collection.

Ironically, the lost pages had been hiding in plain sight for 50 years. The Library of Congress requested all 1880

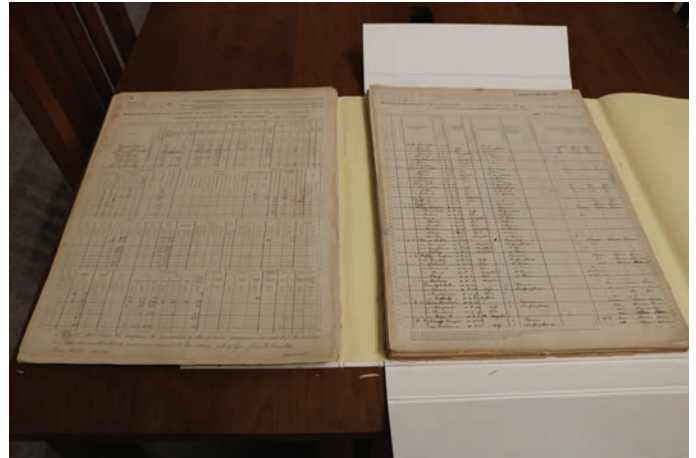


U.S. Census schedules be microfilmed in 1969, including the misfiled population schedule pages. Despite this, the agricultural and manufacturing schedules have remained largely unexamined by historians and genealogists because they are not indexed and therefore difficult to use. This is unfortunate because not only did the misfiled Perry County population schedule pages remain unidentified until our project, but also because these schedules provide details about the lives of our ancestors that are not available from the population schedule, and can often lead researchers to other records, such as court documents, corporation filings or patents.

With only eight volumes of agricultural schedules remaining to digitize, our collaborative project with the Missouri Historical Society will soon move into a new phase. When finished, both institutions will provide

and Found in Perry County

online access to all of the newly digitized census records, with indexed territorial censuses and mortality schedules available through a searchable database. There are no immediate plans to index the agricultural and manufacturing schedules, but PDF files for each Missouri county and census year will also soon be online. In the meantime, view the recently rediscovered 1880 Perry County population schedule pages and our other federal census resources available online at www.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/census/pages/federal.



Upcoming Thursday Evening Speaker Series Programs



The Trail of Tears in Missouri
In Recognition of American Indian Heritage Month
Thursday, November 8, 2018, 7 p.m.

Following the passage of the Indian Removal Act in 1830, government authorities forcibly relocated Native American peoples from their ancestral homelands in the Southeastern United States far to the west. Between 1836 and 1839, this included the Cherokee who were compelled to leave their homes and follow the Trail of Tears to the Indian Territory in present day Oklahoma. Harsh trail conditions, weather and disease resulted in the deaths of an estimated 4,000 along the way. Professor Joseph Erb, member of the Cherokee Nation, will retrace the steps his ancestors were forced to march nearly 200 years ago, sharing stories of their trek across Missouri.

January 24, Christopher Alan Gordon, *Fire, Pestilence, and Death: St. Louis, 1849*

February 21, Kelly Kennington, *In the Shadow of Dred Scott: St. Louis Freedom Suits and the Legal Culture of Slavery in Antebellum America*

March 21, Sarah Buhr, *Frolic of the Mind: The Illustrious Life of Rose O'Neill*

April 11, David Crespy, *Lanford Wilson: Early Stories, Sketches, and Poems*

May 16, Robert Schultz, *Postal Service in Territorial Missouri, 1804-1821*

June 13, Jim Merkel, *The Making of an Icon: The Dreamers, the Schemers, and the Hard Hats Who Built the Gateway Arch*

More details will be available in our next edition!

Archives Alive! Completes 15th Season

This spring, the Missouri State Archives offered the 15th consecutive season of *Archives Alive!*, an annual outreach program for schoolchildren in third-, fourth- and fifth-grades. Nearly 4,200 students, parents and teachers from 59 schools around the state traveled to the Archives to attend one of the 27 free history-based theatrical performances, making the 2018 season once again a huge success!

This year's performances featured television talk show hosts, played by local Jefferson City actors Katherine Moore and Mark Wegman. The pair took audiences on an interactive journey back in time, telling of the Missouria people and later European explorers, including Father Jacques Marquette, Louis Jolliet and Pierre Laclede. Performances also touched on the lives of famous Missourians, such as Mark Twain, Laura Ingalls Wilder and George Washington Carver, as well as Missouri's German community, the outlaw Jesse James and the state's role in the Civil War and both World Wars.

For the first time ever this year, a one-time evening *Archives Alive!* performance was also offered on July 26, 2018, providing an opportunity for the public and kids of all ages to attend.

Sponsoring the 2018 season were the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, the Missouri Humanities Council, Hawthorn Bank, the Missouri Association for Museums and Archives and the Rock Island Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Missouri State Archives is extremely grateful for the support of these groups.

Since its inception in 2005, approximately 71,000 students, parents and teachers have attended *Archives Alive!* performances, with many schools making return trips each year. If you would like to support this invaluable program, or are a teacher interested in bringing a school group to a 2019 performance, contact Tracy Wegman at (573) 526-5296 or tracy.wegman@sos.mo.gov.



Actors Katherine Moore and Mark Wegman bring Missouri history to life for a group of students attending a 2018 *Archives Alive!* performance.

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(May 25, 2018 to September 30, 2018)

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