



HUMANITIES

SPRING / SUMMER 2018

MISSOURI STATEHOOD BICENTENNIAL

INSIDE:

MISSOURI'S BICENTENNIAL ALLIANCE CELEBRATION

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Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors

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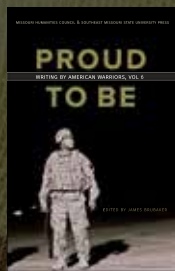
Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors is a creative writing anthology of poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, and photography submissions by and about veterans from across the nation. It is an annual series first released in November 2012.

The anthology preserves and shares military service perspectives of our soldiers, veterans, and their families, spanning generations. Each submission is both a product of self-expression and a historical documentation of our nation's wartime experience.

Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors is published by Southeast Missouri State University Press in cooperation with the Missouri Humanities Council. Submissions are reviewed by a panel of judges for inclusion in the anthology, with a \$250 prize in each of the five categories listed above.

To submit your work or to learn more about this program, contact MHC's Director of Family and Veterans Programs, Lisa Carrico, at lisa@mohumanities.org or 314.781.9660.

Purchase your copy of *Proud to Be* online:
mohumanities.org/ptbbookpurchase.



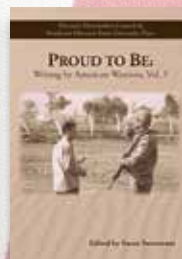
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To enrich lives and strengthen communities by connecting Missourians with the people, places, and ideas that shape our society.

The Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was created in 1971 under authorizing legislation from the U.S. Congress.

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MISSOURI'S
**BICENTENNIAL
ALLIANCE**
Celebration

CLAIRE BRUNTRAGER
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, MHC

On January 8th, 2018, Missouri's bicentennial festivities began with a signing ceremony at the Missouri Governor's Mansion. The event also celebrated the official formation of the Missouri Bicentennial Alliance—a partnership between statewide nonprofits and government organizations working to commemorate the bicentennial of our state over the next three years. The event was held two centuries to the day after the first petition from the citizens of the Territory of Missouri was presented to the US Congress seeking Missouri's admission into the Union. What ensued was an intense, divisive, and vitriolic national debate that lasted for three years and finally ended when Missouri entered the Union as the 24th state.

State Senator Mike Kehoe (center) presents a legislative resolution honoring the Bicentennial Alliance to the heads of each alliance member organization. In the photo from left to right: Justin Dyer (Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy), Gary McKiddy (Missouri Council for History Education), Steve Belko (MHC), Senator Kehoe, Gary Kremer (State Historical Society of Missouri), Fran Levine (Missouri Historical Society), and Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft. Photograph by Andrew Richmond.



Missouri’s first lady, Sheena Chestnut Greitens, opened the event by welcoming the guests, which included members of the Bicentennial Alliance, Friends of the Missouri Governor’s Mansion, and state legislators. She was followed by State Senator Mike Kehoe, who presented a legislative resolution honoring the Missouri Bicentennial Alliance.

The event included the unveiling of portraits of Missouri’s first governor, Alexander McNair, and first lady Marguerite Susanne DeRiehle McNair by the Friends of the Missouri Governor’s Mansion. Following the unveiling, each member organization of the Alliance signed a Memorandum of Understanding pledging to create and support timely projects and events for the people of Missouri as a means of increasing understanding about our state’s history and culture.

Twenty-three states will have celebrated bicentennials before Missouri reaches its official 200th birthday on August 10, 2021. Yet, “no state, I can readily assure you,” said Steve Belko, MHC executive director, during the event’s closing remarks, “entered the Union with greater fanfare.”

When the territory petitioned Congress in 1818 for admission into the Union, a three-year-long political and ideological

battle began between free and slave states, almost destroying the very union Missouri sought to join. The political upheaval was temporarily resolved with the “Missouri Compromise,” in which Maine entered the Union as a free state, and Missouri—a slave state—became the 24th state in the United States of America. But Missouri’s admission to the Union laid bare the undercurrents of division over slavery and the increasingly fraught political balance between the North and South that would culminate in the American Civil War (1861–1865).

The Missouri Bicentennial Alliance was created to share the history of our state’s founding with the public. Currently, its members include MHC, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, Missouri Council for History Education, Missouri Historical Society, Missouri State Archives, and the State Historical Society of Missouri.

MHC has initiated two extensive, statewide projects in honor of Missouri’s bicentennial. First is the Bicentennial Penny Drive already taking place in public elementary schools throughout the state. Students are collecting pennies to raise funds for the conservation of important state founding documents. The drive started this February and will continue until the fall semester of 2021.



The second project is a traveling exhibit entitled *Struggle for Statehood: 1818–1821*, which will chronicle the three-year struggle over Missouri’s admission into the Union. MHC will work with staff from the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy and other professional historians to produce the exhibit’s content. Additionally, the University of Missouri has partnered with MHC to organize a spring 2018 “History in Public” course centered on the bicentennial. As part of their assignments, students are researching and producing digital exhibitions on the Missouri Crisis. MHC hopes to include some of the student-designed exhibits on our own exhibit. *Struggle for Statehood* is scheduled to debut in December of this year and tour around the state until December 2021.

Additionally, MHC will collaborate with the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy to organize a national conference for historians across the nation in 2019. Scholars will participate in workshops and lecture series on the aptly named Missouri Crisis of 1818-1821. The conference will result in the publication of a multi-authored book to be published in 2021 by Mizzou Press as part of the Kinder Institute’s *Studies in Constitutional Democracy* series.

MHC and the Kinder Institute have also partnered on a commemorative project to live-tweet the events of the Missouri Crisis as they unfolded 200 years ago. The project can be followed on Twitter at “The Missouri Crisis at 200” (@MO_Crisis200). Links to this Twitter page can be found on MHC’s website.

Missouri’s bicentennial is a great opportunity to look back on our struggle for statehood and explore the state’s continued contributions to American society. MHC is proud to be a member of the Bicentennial Alliance and is excited to celebrate Missouri’s history, culture, and people on the state’s 200th anniversary.

For more information on MHC’s bicentennial programming or to learn how you can get involved, visit mohumanities.org or email Claire Bruntrager at claire@mohumanities.org.

Top to bottom: First Lady Sheena Greitens, Representative Derek Grier, Dr. Gary Kremer (State Historical Society of Missouri), and Dr. Fran Levine (Missouri Historical Society).



Whereas, the members of the Missouri Senate hold in high esteem those Show-Me State organizations and agencies that are dedicated to preserving knowledge of the state's past and the role the state has played throughout history; and

Whereas, in light of the approaching bicentennial anniversary of the founding of the state of Missouri, a Bicentennial Alliance has been formed between statewide organizations and government agencies to support individual projects and to identify opportunities for collaboration for the benefit of the state and its citizens; and

Whereas, founding members of the Bicentennial Alliance include the Missouri Humanities Council, the State Historical Society of Missouri, Missouri State Archives, the Missouri Council for History Education, the Missouri State Museum, the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, the Missouri History Museum, and the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy; and

Whereas, Missouri was admitted as the 24th state in the nation in 1821 after the Missouri territorial legislature adopted a request for statehood in November 1818 and submitted it to the United States Congress in December 1818; and

Whereas, what typically would have been a routine admission request became mired in the national controversy over slavery and required the Missouri Compromise in order to proceed; and

Whereas, Missouri was admitted into the United States as a slave state at the same time as Maine was admitted as a free state in order to keep the balance between free and slave states; and

Whereas, bordered on the north by Iowa, Missouri is adjacent to the states of Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma on the west and Arkansas on the south with the Mississippi River marking the state's eastern boundary;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that we, the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, join to applaud the cooperative agreement known as the Bicentennial Alliance concerning the state of Missouri's bicentennial anniversary and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes for a highly successful endeavor; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the Bicentennial Alliance.

Offered by Senator Kehoe

STATE OF MISSOURI:
CITY OF JEFFERSON:
SENATE CHAMBER:^{SS}

I, RONALD F. RICHARD, President Pro Tem of the Senate, do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and completed copy of the Senate Resolution offered by Senator Kehoe and adopted on October 12, 2017, as fully as the same appears of record.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Senate of the State of Missouri this 12th day of October, A.D. 2017.



PRESIDENT PRO TEM
99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PRESERVING MISSOURI'S STATEHOOD

One Penny AT A Time

CLAIRE BRUNTRAGER
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, MHC

Across our state, elementary students are collecting pennies to help preserve Missouri's statehood. As part of the Bicentennial Penny Drive, their pennies and spare change will go toward the conservation of historical documents significant to our state's founding nearly 200 years ago.

The penny drive is organized as a friendly competition with individual grades or classrooms competing against one another to collect the most pennies or raise the most money. Students are asked to bring in coins to fill containers assigned to their classroom. Each fundraiser lasts for a week in the participating school, and the winning class is recognized by MHC on social media and presented with an award certificate.

As Missouri was the 24th state to join the Union, the goal of this fundraiser is to raise \$24,000 for historic document preservation. The first document slated for conservation with money raised by the penny drive is an 1817 petition to the US Congress seeking statehood for the Territory of Missouri. Any excess funds raised by the penny drive will go toward the creation of the online *Missouri Encyclopedia*, to be published by the State Historical Society of Missouri, which will provide both students and teachers with easy access to authoritative information on the history and culture of Missouri.

The fundraiser also aims to educate students about the struggle surrounding Missouri's admission into the United States. MHC has partnered with the Missouri Council for History Education to create a curriculum titled "Four Years to Statehood," which provides teachers with lesson plans and materials to teach their students about our state's extraordinary history. The curriculum



Students at Clippard Elementary School in Cape Girardeau at the start of their Missouri Bicentennial Penny Drive week in February.

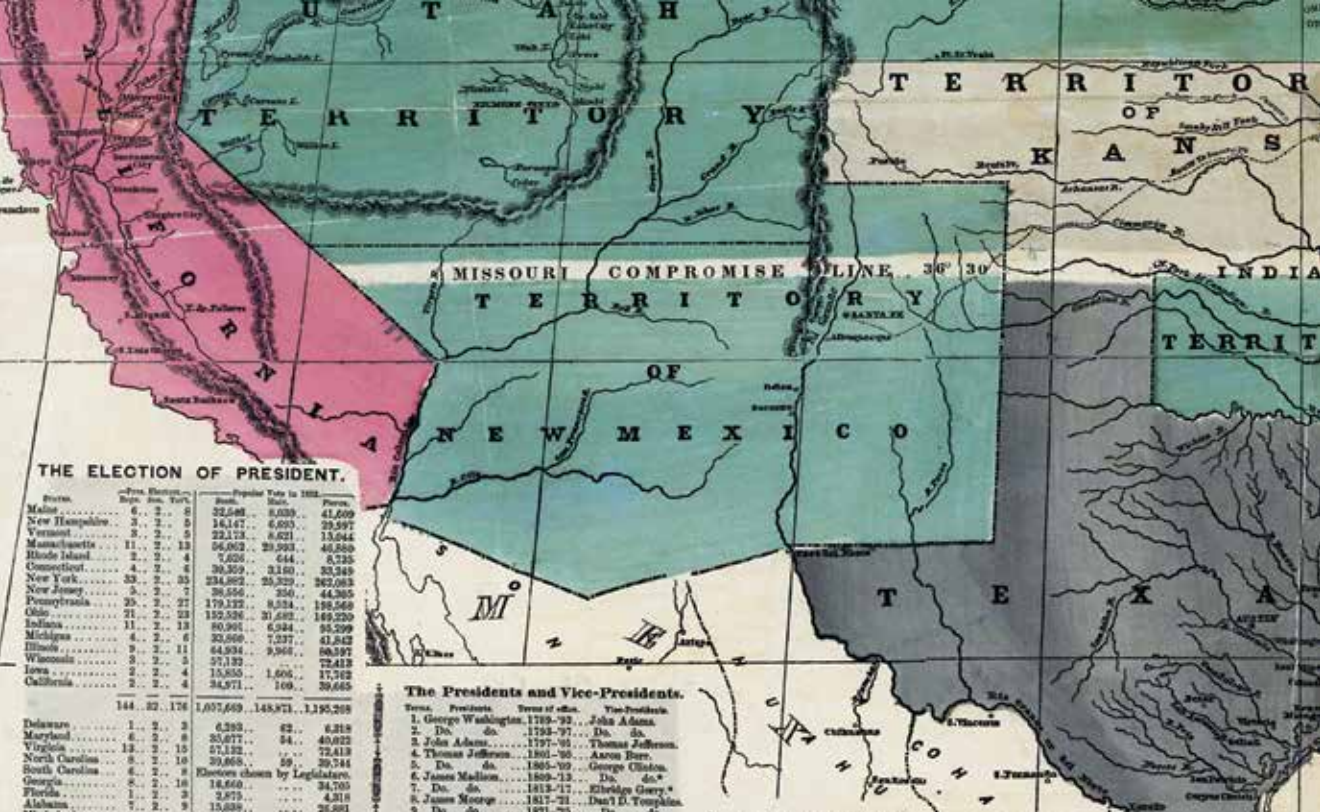
can be used by participating schools concurrently with the penny drive but is also available online for all schools and teachers at mohistoryeducation.org.

The Bicentennial Penny Drive is part of MHC's bicentennial programming that will occur over the next three years. Missouri public elementary and intermediate schools can participate in this fundraiser each fall and spring semester until 2021. Schools that participated during the spring 2018 semester include:

- Alma Schrader Elementary, Cape Girardeau
- Blue Ridge Elementary, Raytown
- Clippard Elementary, Cape Girardeau
- Eastwood Hills Elementary, Kansas City
- Fleetridge Elementary, Kansas City
- Laurel Hills Elementary, Raytown
- Little Blue Elementary, Kansas City
- Norfleet Elementary, Kansas City
- Robinson Elementary, Raytown
- Southwood Elementary, Raytown
- Spring Valley Elementary, Raytown
- Valley R-VI Elementary, Caledonia
- Westridge Elementary, Kansas City



For more information on the penny drive or to enroll your Missouri elementary school in the program, visit mohumanities.org/penny-drive or contact Claire Bruntrager by email at claire@mohumanities.org.



2018 MISSOURI SUMMER

FREEDOM VS. SLAVERY: COMPARISON OF THE CHIEF STATISTICS OF THE FREE

MISSOURI HISTORY, STR

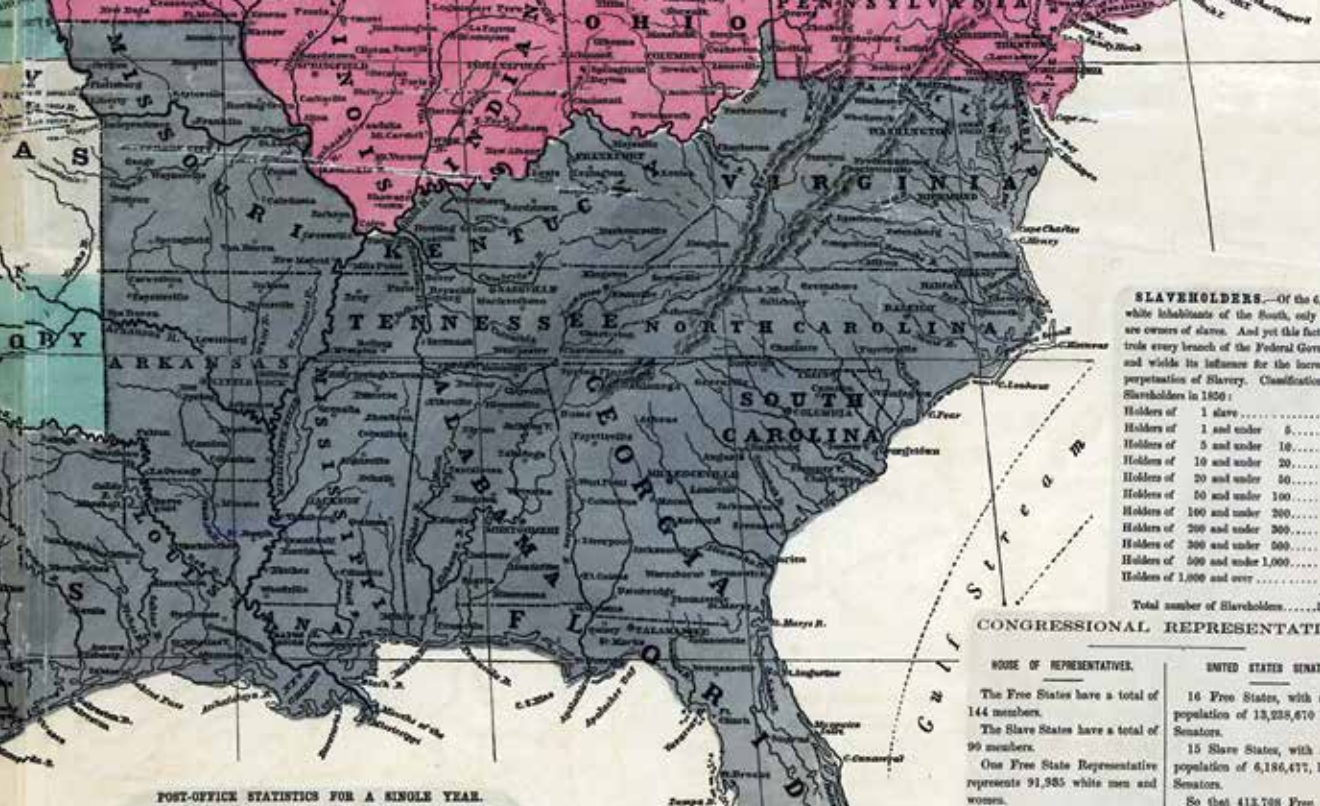
June 12–14, 2018

OVERVIEW

The state of Missouri was born out of—and right back into—crisis, a fact that, while illustrative of some of the moral nadirs of the United States' trajectory, makes study of Missouri history particularly enlightening. In examining the tumultuous conditions that the state has faced—and the historical inflection points that have come about as a result of these conditions—a rather complicated, often disjointed narrative rises to the surface: one marked by conflict, resolution, and subsequent conflict; by a spirit of progress that is rolled back only to be re-energized in new, but still incomplete, terms. In this sense, perhaps more than any other state's,

Missouri's history is intertwined with the nation's, so much so that the two stories appear at times to be indistinguishable.

With the state's bicentennial on the horizon, this history—these histories—are due to be revisited. To advance this end, the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy and the Missouri Humanities Council assist high school social studies educators attend the Missouri Summer Teachers Academy, which explores some of the landmark and less studied events and figures in Missouri history and maps their significance onto the national development of democratic politics and culture from the eighteenth century to the present.



MISSOURI SUMMER TEACHERS ACADEMY

FREE STATES AND OF THE SLAVE STATES, ACCORDING TO THE U. S. CENSUS OF 1850.

STRUGGLE FOR STATEHOOD

Columbia, MO

DETAILS

A residential conference held each June in Columbia, the Missouri Summer Teachers Academy provides high school social studies educators from all corners of the state with an all-expenses-paid opportunity to develop new content knowledge in their primary subject fields by studying a theme from American political history alongside University of Missouri professors of law, history, political science, and education, as well as scholars invited from around the region and nation. Thanks to the generous support of the Missouri Humanities Council, teachers are provided with housing, materials, breakfast and dinner each day, and a stipend to offset travel and other related costs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The deadline for nominations for the 2018 Missouri Summer Teachers Academy has passed. For more information about the Missouri Summer Teachers Academy, including a recap of last year's gathering, visit democracy.missouri.edu.

 **Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy**
University of Missouri

 **MISSOURI HUMANITIES**

Schoolcraft Ozarks



BICENTENNIAL

STEVE BELKO, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MHC

A lesser-known but equally important Missouri bicentennial commences this year as well. From November 1818 to February 1819, an incipient explorer and future renowned nineteenth-century American ethnographer—Henry Rowe Schoolcraft—completed an arduous exploration of the Ozarks region of Missouri and Arkansas.

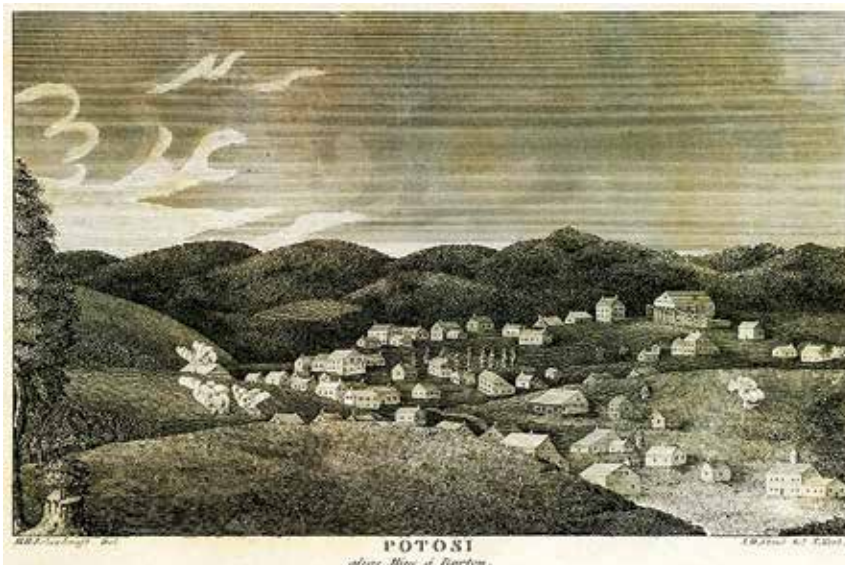
Schoolcraft disembarked at Herculaneum in the summer of 1818, then reached Potosi, the capital

of lead mining in Missouri, where he earned the patronage of the Austin family—Moses and his son Stephen, a future founder of the Republic of Texas. Schoolcraft boarded at the Austin mansion, Durham Hall, for several months as he delved deeply into the area’s lead mining operations, before departing for the rest of the Ozarks that November.


In 1821, Schoolcraft published the journal he kept of his trek through Missouri wilderness, introducing the Ozarks to the rest of nation.

Schoolcraft quickly followed up the publication of his journey with an extensive report on the rich lead mining industry in the soon-to-be state, which fueled an influx of Americans into the Ozarks region, ultimately making Missouri the leading lead-producing state in the Union it just joined.

Of course, no one knew of Schoolcraft when he reached Missouri in 1818, and even after the publication of his Ozarks journal and the report on lead mining in the territory, he was merely a footnote



A View of the Lead Mines of Missouri by Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, 1819.



“When the Edinburgh Review estimated that Louisiana [Territory] only cost three cents per acre on the average of the whole number of square miles in the territory, he probably had no idea that there was any part of it which could be considered dear at that process. Yet, I think it would be money dearly expended in the purchase of such lands as we have this day traversed.”

Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, *Journal of a Tour into the Interior of Missouri and Arkansas*

in the annals of American history. But that would change within the next decade, as Schoolcraft’s reputation as an expert in American Indian culture gained him national and international notoriety.

Schoolcraft undertook several more extensive expeditions during the 1820s and published on all of them—the 1820 Cass Expedition being one of the more famous of the day. He subsequently became US Indian Agent at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Michigan, negotiated pivotal treaties with the Ottawa and Chippewa for immense land cessions, and served as a delegate to the Michigan Territorial Legislature. Over the span of his prolific life, he rubbed shoulders with the country’s top statesmen: President Monroe, Albert Gallatin, Lewis Cass,

John C. Calhoun, and countless US senators and representatives. Schoolcraft’s numerous literary and ethnographic publications of the first half of the nineteenth century made him, as one noted scholar accurately stated, the “best-known Indian expert of the western school... When it came to Indians, people came to Henry Schoolcraft.”

During the legislative session of 2017, the Missouri General Assembly passed a bill, sponsored by State Rep. Lyle Rowland (R-155) and subsequently signed into law by Gov. Eric Greitens, to create the Ozark Exploration Bicentennial Commission. The MHC actively supported this legislation, and the Executive Director serves on the Commission. The MHC has also funded, through its community grants program, a project

by the Trillium Trust to create a digital map of Schoolcraft’s journey through the Ozarks. This endeavor is currently under expansion as more sites are discovered.

Coincidentally, Schoolcraft returned to Missouri—in this instance, to St. Louis only—during the summer of 1821 as the citizens of our state eagerly and impatiently awaited word of another compromise that might finally and officially find them in the Union. Schoolcraft commented on the glaring and controversial issue of the expansion of slavery into the territories and offered his own solution, dubbed “Self-Emancipation.”

For more information on Schoolcraft’s two trips to Missouri, see the April issue of *OzarksWatch Magazine*.



BICENTENNIAL OF THE Osage Treaty

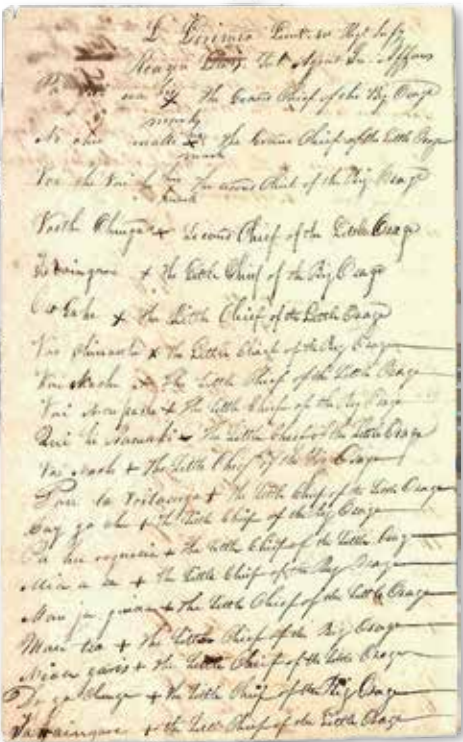
STEVE BELKO, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MHC

During his trek through the Ozarks in 1818 and 1819, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft frequently commented on Indian–White encounters in the region, particularly American fear of the Osage. Much of the Osage presence had been removed by the 1808 treaty with the United States, but an ongoing, bitter conflict between the Osage and the Cherokee kept tensions high throughout the Ozarks.

In May 1818, six months before Schoolcraft set out across the Ozarks, US Secretary of War John C. Calhoun informed the territorial governor of Missouri, William Clark, that President James Monroe demanded an end to the hostilities between the two tribes and thus ordered the Missouri governor to achieve a peace accord. “As this is a subject of considerable importance,” Calhoun charged Clark, “you will give it immediate attention, and take such measures for the adjustment of their difference as you may judge best.” Believing that the Cherokee had bested the Osage in the pursuit of access to western hunting lands then owned or blocked by the Osage, the secretary of war ordered the territorial governor to make “the arrangement favorable to the Cherokees,” considering that the president was “anxious to hold out every inducement to the Cherokees, and the other Southern nations of Indians, to emigrate to the West of the Mississippi.” The policy of Indian removal commenced in earnest during the administration of James Monroe—more than a decade before the 1830 Indian Removal Act.

Above: Fort Osage Treaty, by Thomas E. Phillips, a Chickasaw artist.

In October 1818, only weeks before Schoolcraft departed Potosi for the rest of the Ozarks, Governor Clark informed Secretary Calhoun that, “knowing the views of the Government on the Subject of indian [sic] emigration to the West of the Mississippi,” he had secured peace between the Osage and the Cherokee with “much difficulty.” At a council in St. Louis, delegations of both tribes agreed to a “(s)olemn treaty,” whereby twenty-eight signatories representing the “several bands of the Great and Little Osage nation” again relinquished another massive chunk of land, in this instance, the Ozarks region of northern Arkansas.



Osage Treaty signatures.

While the US government was dispossessing the Osage in 1818, it also achieved the same objective that year with tribes elsewhere in Missouri, as well as in Ohio and Michigan. In Missouri, the Shawnee and Delaware residing in now Perry County and outside of then Cape Girardeau informed Clark

of their desire to relocate westward. “This together with the cession now made by the Osages,” Clark enthusiastically declared to Calhoun, “places an immense Country at the disposal of the United States.”

Calhoun could not have been more sanguine. As Schoolcraft headed westward, the secretary of war informed President Monroe that the 1818 Osage Treaty appears “to be formed upon advantageous terms.” Calhoun also notified Gen. Andrew Jackson, a successor to the policy of Indian removal, that the extensive tracts of land just acquired by the United States “may hereafter become the means of exchanging for lands held by the Southern Indians” on the east side of the Mississippi River. President Monroe then directed Jackson to prevent white settlement in the territory taken from the Osage, and to remove any white settlers already in that region, in preparation for future Indian removals.

Schoolcraft knew of the 1818 Osage Treaty, as he jotted in his journal in late November of that year about how the “Indian title has been extinguished by purchase by the United States,” and thusly the stream he was crossing that day “will no longer be included in their hunting-grounds. It was claimed by the Osages.” He also was aware of the peace treaty Governor Clark brokered between the Osage and the Cherokee. As such, it behooves us to commemorate another important, yet tragic, bicentennial in our state’s history: that of Native American removal. These destructive events cannot go unremembered as we commemorate our state’s admission into the Union. Schoolcraft’s bicentennial can attest to this very fact.

To date, there are no plans to commemorate the bicentennial Osage Treaty, but stay tuned. The MHC’s Native American Heritage program will not remain silent on this pivotal part of our state’s history.

STEVE BELKO, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MHC

While on the subject of bicentennials and Native Americans, there are a number of pertinent *sesquicentennials* arriving on our doorstep that should be recognized and commemorated in various manners. Over the past three years, readers have been introduced to one of our several heritage programs, *Missouri's Civil War Heritage*—particularly the U. S. Grant Trail, the annual Grant Symposium, and the general (no pun intended) history of Grant in Missouri. Thus, the sesquicentennial of Grant's election to the presidency in November of 1868 and of his two terms in the White House from 1869 to 1877 offers us a number of commemorative and heritage opportunities.

For one, the Grant administration initiated a significant transition in federal Indian policy, one that ultimately saw the final military defeat and subjugation, and near destruction of Native Americans. With the creation of the Board of Indian Commissioners in 1869, the Grant administration advocated major changes in the management of Indian affairs in hopes of maintaining peace and improving conditions for Indians—albeit in white terms only, by enforcing the Policy of Concentration, removing all Indians to established reservations where Indian culture could be eradicated permanently.

Yet, beginning with the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie and the brutal 1868–1869 winter campaign of General Sheridan and continuing with the 1874 Red River War with the Southern Plains Indians and the 1876 Great Sioux War with the Northern Plains Indians, Grant's "Peace Policy" turned into some of the bitterest and bloodiest conflicts between the United States and the Plains Indians. This struggle of arms—and cultures—terminated in 1877, Grant's last year in the White House, leaving the United States in complete control of Indian policy

and, for that matter, the future of Indians altogether. Grant's "Peace Policy" destroyed the last vestige of self-determination by the Indian tribes resisting Concentration, who had dominated the middle of America and now found themselves confined to alien life on reservations. Thus, the end of the Indian Wars in 1877 and of Grant's administration concluded one long chapter of US–Indian relations—the policy of Concentration to solve the Indian question—and commenced another, the attempt to eradicate Indian culture itself.

Grant's presidency also witnessed the end of the Reconstruction era, ultimately overturning the post-Civil War era of civil rights for which *General* Grant had been a leading advocate. In 1877—again, Grant's last year in the White House—

A CALL FOR

the Reconstruction Amendments, also known as the Civil Rights Amendments, that is, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, had become essentially ineffective by a number of now infamous Supreme Court and federal court cases. Missouri played a central role in this destruction of civil rights—namely via the 1867 Supreme Court case of *Cummings v. Missouri*, resulting in a century of Jim Crow laws and segregation.

In 1877, the Grant administration and the Reconstruction Era came to an end. And so, too, did the way of life of the American Indian and the civil rights of the freedmen. It is the sesquicentennial of this pivotal and transformative period in our history, and the century of rebuilding that followed, that we must not forget, and so the MHC will offer the appropriate programs, projects, and partnerships to address this pivotal period in our history.

The image features two silhouetted figures against a warm, golden sunset background. The figure on the left is holding a tall, slender staff or pole topped with a cluster of feathers. The figure on the right wears a large, elaborate headdress with multiple feathers. The overall mood is solemn and historical.

SESQUICENTENNIALS



Native
American
Plains Art
of the Early
Reservation
Era at
the Saint
Louis Art
Museum



East end of the Donald Danforth Jr. Gallery. Photo by Tony Carosella, courtesy of Saint Louis Art Museum.

ALEXANDER BRIER MARR, PH.D.
ASSISTANT CURATOR OF NATIVE AMERICAN ART

In 2012, the Saint Louis Art Museum installed the Donald Danforth Jr. Gallery with the support of Carolyn Danforth and the Danforth Foundation. The gallery presents Native American art from the Plains made during the early reservation era, the period from 1870 to 1934. During this time, Native women made a range of artworks using imported glass seed beads, porcupine quills, tanned hide, and other materials. Many works in the gallery feature geometric designs executed in beadwork on the surfaces of hide bags, cases for tools, and articles of clothing such as moccasins and leggings.

While we do not know the names of these artists, audiences today can recognize their individual sense of humanity by looking closely at the works and acknowledging how they—like all artists—responded to their surrounding visual culture, drew on diverse sources, and made works that invite aesthetic contemplation. For instance, the same artist almost certainly made two pairs of moccasins currently on view. Distinct from other pairs,

these two share many traits, including a short, forked tongue adorned with stripes of navy blue and yellow beads. Women artists created almost all the work in the gallery. During the early reservation era, government agents focused on reforming men's lives and, in general, ignored women's work. This enabled women to become bearers of culture in a time of profound change.

In addition to presenting historic Plains work as the product of individual artists, the museum collaborates with contemporary Native artists. This collaboration works to relate collection items to indigenous ways of seeing. In July 2017, a two-year installation of works selected by artist Dyani White Hawk (b. 1976, Sičangu Lakota/American) opened in the gallery. To prepare this installation of twelve items, White Hawk reviewed the collection of Lakota art at the Saint Louis Art Museum and then traveled to the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations in South Dakota to interview elders and cultural specialists

about artworks at the museum. Information and perspectives gained from those interviews inform the installation.

The project considers how viewers might interpret beadwork today. For many visitors to the gallery, one of the first questions asked regards the meaning of beaded designs. The answer is not straightforward, since early reservation era beadwork often conveys personal (and not just tribal) meanings. This personal quality relates to the source of designs. Women often receive designs in dreams rather than imitate patterns from older works of art from their communities. White Hawk notes in the installation text, "While established designs denote core Lakota values, women alter and combine designs to create pleasing abstractions and communicate stories." Today we cannot hear these personal stories, though as the artist writes, "We can see and *feel* the significance of these works through tremendous care and artistic mastery we are blessed to witness in collections such as this."

Right, top: Artist collaboration with Dyani White Hawk.

Photo by Tony Carosella, courtesy of Saint Louis Art Museum.

Bottom: Moccasin case. Photo by Tony Carosella, courtesy of Saint Louis Art Museum.



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MEET THE
HENDERSONS
 OF MISSOURI

GREG WOLK
 HERITAGE RESOURCES COORDINATOR, MHC

MARILYN WEBSTER-BROWN
 PROGRAM SPECIALIST, MHC

The nation stands now on the edge of the sesquicentennial of the period known as Reconstruction. It will be heralded on July 28, 2018, the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Later this year, in November, we commemorate 150 years since the election of Ulysses S. Grant to the presidency of the United States. Also this year: July 19, 2018 is the 170th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention for women's rights. This event in upstate New York signaled the beginning of a seventy-two-year struggle to win the vote, finally realized when the Nineteenth Amendment was adopted by Tennessee on August 18, 1920.



Our subjects are Missouri's John Brooks Henderson and his spouse, Mary Foote Henderson. The combined lives of this power couple spanned 107 years. Two revolutions in civil rights for Americans were at the center of their lives.



John Henderson (1824–1913) was son of a southern family from Danville, Virginia, which migrated to Missouri in the 1830s. He was orphaned by the age of ten. After studying law, in 1848 he entered the practice of law in Louisiana, MO, the historic Pike County port on the Mississippi. Henderson was soon elected to the state legislature and later was briefly a general of the Missouri Militia in 1861, on the Union side. He earned a modicum of fame in the Civil War when he signed a poorly considered truce with secessionist troops operating in Callaway County. This was the genesis of the county's famous moniker "Kingdom of Callaway," as Henderson seemingly recognized Callaway's sovereignty when he chose to treat with it. Henderson's military career ended in 1862 when he was appointed

Top: John B. Henderson. Image courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery.

Bottom: Mary Foote Henderson. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

to fill the unexpired term of a US senator who had gone over to the other side.

Mary, on the other hand, had her roots in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York. She was born in Seneca Falls, New York on July 21, 1842, daughter of Eunice Newton Foote and Elisha Foote. Her parents were remarkably accomplished in the fields of mathematics and science. Her father, a lawyer as well as a scientist, was appointed by Andrew Johnson to the post of United States Commissioner of Patents, in which post he served from 1868 to 1869. Her mother Eunice would, in 1856, author a scientific paper describing the greenhouse effect of CO₂.

John and Mary met in Washington in 1866, introduced by famed New York abolitionist and reformer Garret Smith. They were wed June 25, 1868. About a month before the wedding, Henderson committed an act that amounted to political suicide. He and six of his Republican colleagues in the Senate voted to acquit Andrew Johnson of the impeachment charges against him. For this, Senator John B. Henderson earned mention in John F. Kennedy's 1956 book, *Profiles in Courage*. Henderson served out the remainder of his term in the Senate until March 1869, and then he and Mary moved to his Missouri hometown. The couple's only offspring, John Brooks Henderson Jr., was born in Louisiana on February 18, 1870.

Though he was a slave owner who for a time subscribed to the idea of eventual emancipation, John Henderson's Senate career reflects a man enlightened by the events that wrecked the nation in the 1860s. He is generally credited as the co-author of the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery; in 1864, he drafted the Senate bill whose language found its way into the final ratified document. He played a significant part as well in the debates and drafting that produced the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Importantly, when the national debate thus turned to guaranteeing the voting rights of African-American *men*, Henderson took a minority view: this milestone must be coupled with the suffrage of women. Here, the influence of Mary Henderson comes to light.

Two days short of Mary's sixth birthday, the town of Seneca Falls hosted a two-day convocation of women's rights advocates, "a convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of woman." This first-of-its-kind event produced the *Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions*, signed July 20, 1848 by sixty-eight women, including Eunice Newton Foote. The Footes of Seneca Falls were not casual observers of this event. Eunice helped organize the convention and was appointed to a committee to edit and publish the proceedings. Elisha, Mary's father, had studied law under the father of Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

The year after the birth of their son, John and Mary Henderson moved to St. Louis, where John established a lucrative law practice. The couple built a fine home on the 3000 block of Pine Street, west of downtown where the campus of Harris-Stowe State University is now. For the next fifteen years, while John continued to build his practice, Mary attended Washington University, founded the St. Louis Woman's Exchange, and (in 1876) served as president of the Missouri State Suffrage Association. For his part, John's legal career took off. He specialized to some extent in litigating, as well as owning, postwar Missouri county bond issues, a pursuit that ultimately produced for John and Mary a vast personal fortune. During their time in St. Louis, in 1872, John Henderson was the Republican nominee for governor, losing to the Democrat, Silas Woodson. Finally, he served as special prosecutor for the US Attorney in the "Whiskey Ring cases," which involved a corruption scheme that reached near to the highest levels of the Grant administration. Henderson was the first man to serve in such capacity and (in December 1875) the first special prosecutor to be fired on orders of a sitting president.

In 1888, the Hendersons moved to Washington, DC. The first order of business was to build a home. They built a magnificent one in the northwest quadrant of the city at the corner of Florida Avenue and 16th Street NW. Locals would call it "Boundary Castle." The original city (as laid out by Pierre Charles L'Enfant) ended

at Florida Avenue. The Henderson Castle remained a fixture of this part of Washington through John's death in 1913 and Mary's passing in 1931, ultimately facing the wrecking ball in 1949. A remnant of the property's carriage gate and wall survives to this day, running along 16th Street opposite Meridian Hill Park.

In the last years of her life, Mary Henderson was a real estate developer who promoted the neighborhood around her home. She was largely responsible, through a collaboration with architect George Oakley Totten Jr., for creating Washington's first Embassy Row, extending north from Henderson's Castle along 16th Street. Her legacy includes Washington's new historic district, Meridian Hill Historic District, designated in 2014. To quote the nomination form: "... the historic district reflects the singular imagination and influence of Mary Foote Henderson and her husband, Senator John Brooks Henderson."



Top: The Hendersons' St. Louis home. Photo courtesy of the State Historical Society of Missouri. *Bottom:* Washington's Boundary Castle. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.



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THE A'S IN KANSAS CITY: A Story of Backroom Deals and Hardball Politics

SAM ZEFF
REPORTER & ARCHIVER HOST

It's 1954, and one of the most venerable teams in all of baseball is in trouble. Serious trouble.

The Philadelphia A's were there at the birth of the American League. The team had been successful on the field and at the box office for many years, but after World War II, the whole organization was in a supersonic tailspin. For 50 years, the legendary Connie Mack owned and managed the team. But in '54, the old man was ailing, the team was losing, and there was infighting among his sons about what to do.

In stepped Arnold Johnson, a Chicago millionaire with deep business ties to the hated New York Yankees. Johnson and the Yankees hatched a plan to strong-arm American League owners into selling the franchise to Johnson, who would move the team to Kansas City. "It was no secret that this was an unholy alliance," says author Mitch Nathanson,

who has written extensively about Philadelphia sports. Until Johnson's death in 1960, the Yankees essentially used Kansas City as another farm team, a place where players got big-league experience before the team made one-sided trades that helped the Yankees dominate baseball in the early '60s.

And that's just the first episode of *Archiver: The A's in Kansas City*, a podcast series that traces the A's from Philadelphia to their hapless years in Kansas City to their departure to Oakland, which spurred a powerful US senator from Missouri to demand an expansion team for Kansas City.

Although the A's were miserable on the field in their thirteen Kansas City seasons, the team transformed the city from a perceived cow town to a big-league city.

The city was never as excited as when the A's arrived. "When they did come into Kansas City, they were flying into

the downtown airport. They saw so many people celebrating that they made the plane circle the city several times just to see how excited the fans were in Kansas City for them to be here," says Jeff Logan, president of the Kansas City Baseball Historical Society. "And it lifted the spirits of the players."

Using interviews with A's players and vintage play-by-play broadcasts (with some great old radio commercials), *Archiver: The A's in Kansas City* will take you back to Municipal Stadium, Charlie-O the Mule, and a time when the players lived in your neighborhood.

The podcast series is made possible by a grant from the Missouri Humanities Council in cooperation with the Center for Midwestern Studies at the University of Missouri—Kansas City and Do Good Productions, Inc.

Look for it in May on [iTunes](#), [Google Play](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.

HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM

HUMANITIES & THE FUTURE

The human experience with medicine, tech, and science in the 21st century.

KATHERINE GILBERT, PH.D.
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE, SPRINGFIELD
OFFICE, MHC

As we prepared for the spring issue of *MO Humanities* to go to press, we also put the last touches on our first Humanities Symposium, which was held in Southwest Missouri on March 22. This one-day symposium, *Humanities and the Future*, brought those who work and study the humanities inside university and school settings together with those who work in the humanities in the professional and nonprofit worlds, as well as with members of the general public who have an interest in the humanities.



Left to right: Dr. Chuchiak, Dr. Ramsby II, Brian Grubbs, Dr. Chris Branton, Kate Carpenter

We spent the day considering the relationship between the humanities and the future in several ways. Although we often refer to the humanities as the study of the records of past and present human experience, our symposium prodded participants to ask, “How do the humanities get us to imagine the future? What does the human experience look like as we move toward the middle of the twenty-first century? What is the *future* of our shared human *history*?” The humanities have long been central to helping us exercise our imaginations in thinking about human experiences before our own time and in other parts of the globe. *Humanities and the Future* gathered a wide range of individuals together to project those imaginations forward and envision the ways in which the humanities will continue to serve as a cornerstone of not only understanding, but also of shaping human experience.

Our keynote speaker, Brandy Schillace, Ph.D., of the Dittrick Museum of Medical History at Case Western Reserve University, highlighted both the interdisciplinarity and forward thinking of *Humanities and the Future*. Her keynote address, *Dread Tech Tales: Unexpected Consequences of Humans and Machines*, illustrated her work at the intersections of medicine, history, technology, and literature. She is editor-in-chief of *BMJ’s Medical Humanities*, a journal that promotes cross-disciplinary conversation. Schillace works as senior research associate and public engagement fellow for the Dittrick Museum of Medical History and is the founder of *Dosis*, an online magazine for medical humanities and social justice. As an author, historian, and public intellectual, Schillace seeks to bring the unique stories of the past to life. She is also well-versed at breaching more traditional divides between a university setting and the public; she has appeared on the Travel Channel’s *Mysteries of the Museum*, delivered a TEDx



Dr. Brandy Schillace. Photo by Frank Lanza.

talk on the strange histories of science and steampunk, and authored multiple books, including: *Death’s Summer Coat*, which explores cultural approaches to death and dying, and *Clockwork Futures*, which details the science behind the gadget and gizmo world of steampunk.

In the vein of Schillace’s intersectional research and storytelling, *Humanities and the Future* featured daytime panels in the digital humanities and in the medical humanities. *The Digital Humanities: Current Projects, Future Possibilities* featured Chris Branton, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science at Drury University; John F. Chuchiak IV, Ph.D., director of the Honors College, professor of colonial Latin American history, and the holder of the Rich & Doris Young Honors College endowed professorship at Missouri State University; Brian Grubbs, local history and genealogy manager at the Springfield-Greene County Library District; and Howard Rambsy II, Ph.D., professor of African American literature courses at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. These panelists provided a rich range of projects in the digital humanities and helped us see the exciting new work that emerges when the humanities and digital media intersect.

As an example of this emergence, we can consider Dr. Chuchiak’s project. Chuchiak serves as the co-coordinator of an international digital humanities project entitled *Virtual Reality for the Digital Humanities: A 3-D Simulated Recreation of*



Dr. John Chuchiak.

the 1601 General Auto-de-Fé of the Mexican Inquisition. The use of digital technology allowed Chuchiak and members of his team to bring to life the experience of the 1601 Mexican inquisition for future generations—generations of students who tend to be visually oriented. An *auto-de-fé*, or act of faith, was a public event designed by the Catholic Church, and attendance was mandatory in many cities. Those who were thought to be wavering in their faith were forced participants in the *auto-de-fé*, a theatrical public shaming exercise. Chuchiak and his fifteen-member, international team brought the experience to life not only through visual digital elements, but also through sound. Depending on which character a user chooses to follow, participants in the virtual reality experience are able to get a visceral sense of what it was like to be either the persecuted or the persecutor. The project takes details that would normally be delivered to students in the form of print on a page and brings them into the virtually real present. Chuchiak hopes that such experiences, which encourage students to put themselves in the shoes of historical figures, provide students new avenues for developing empathy, a strength that the humanities has long highlighted as one its central virtues.

While our digital humanities panel brought together experts in computer science, history, literature, and library and museum studies, our afternoon panel, *The Medical Humanities: Medicine, Narrative, and the Human Experience*, was equally interdisciplinary. Dr. Brian Carter, practicing pediatrician at Children's Mercy Hospital and William T. & Marjorie Sirridge endowed professorship in medical humanities & bioethics, is

an internationally recognized expert in medical ethics, neonatology, and pediatric palliative care. He was joined by Marnie Watson, Ph.D., assistant professor of anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Missouri State University, and Shannon Wooden, Ph.D., professor of English at Missouri State University and chair of the Gender Studies and Disability Studies committees. Each panelist spoke to the human experience at the intersection of narrative and medicine. Dr. Watson, who has conducted research in New Mexico, Ohio, and the Brazilian Amazon, is currently directing a study working with a community of Bhutanese of Nepali ethnicity who live in Akron, Ohio and who came to the United States as refugees. A people without a country, this group of people were forced out of Bhutan in the 1990s by government policies that removed their citizenship and accompanying rights. In this study, Watson and her research team are gathering information on cultural understandings of alcohol use and abuse, which will inform the creation of culturally competent substance treatment options to be implemented in community treatment centers. Dr. Wooden's earliest research interests, connecting evolutionary science and race in a variety of Victorian novels, were developed with training at the Columbia University Program in Narrative Medicine to include the foundational theories of medical humanities and to analyze representations of illness, wellness, and disability in literature and popular culture, sometimes alongside social expectations of gender and class. Although we so often think of medicine as having solely to do with science, these researchers help us see the ways in which the humanities play a central role not only in healing, but also understanding, describing, and narrating illness and health of both individuals and communities.

The humanities record our present, capture our past, and enrich our future all at once. *Humanities and the Future* offered a space to think collaboratively about strengthening our work in interdisciplinary humanities in the years ahead.

REMEMBERING ROSE O'NEILL

KATHERINE GILBERT, PH.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND
DIRECTOR OF THE HUMANITIES AND ETHICS
CENTER AT DRURY UNIVERSITY
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE, SPRINGFIELD OFFICE, MHC

Rose O'Neill (1874–1944) was an internationally recognized artist, writer, entrepreneur, and suffragist. While she was a global traveler, she also spent much of her life at Bonniebrook, her family's Walnut Shade home nestled in the hills of the Ozarks. This April, the Springfield Art Museum will open *Frolic of the Mind: The Illustrious Life of Rose O'Neill*, an exhibit that will be, in many ways, the first of its kind as it gathers some of O'Neill's best work from galleries, museums, and private collections across the nation. *Frolic of the Mind*, which will be open into the first week of August, will teach visitors much about the rich complexity of this groundbreaking artist, a daring and independent woman who rejected boundaries and binaries, embraced her own creative spirit, and nurtured that spirit in others.

For much of the twentieth century, O'Neill was most famous for her Kewpie dolls. Kewpies first appeared in sketches in a 1909 issue of *Ladies' Home Journal* but soon took on the material form of dolls, now collectors'

items. Cherubic figures, Kewpies were portrayed as helpful creatures who assisted women in their work at home. However, the fact that these domestic cherubs eventually appeared on posters in support of women's suffrage, insisting that women receive the legal right to vote, nods to the complexity behind O'Neill's fuller body of work.

Indeed, Kewpies represent only one portion of the breadth and depth of O'Neill's work in the arts and humanities. She created an estimated six thousand drawings, including some of the most famous suffragist posters. She was the only woman on staff at the well-known satirical journal *Puck* in New York City. She was also a sculptor, painter, and author of four novels, children's stories, and a wealth of still unpublished journals. Her work appeared in the Salon des Beaux Arts in Paris, in New York, and in the Ozarks. She owned multiple homes, including an apartment on Washington Square in Greenwich Village and an extraordinary villa on the Isle of Capri. And yet, she was repeatedly drawn back to the Ozarks, commenting once of her family home, "I love this spot better than any place on earth. Here I do my best work."



While Kewpies made Rose O’Neill a millionaire, O’Neill used her earnings to become a champion of the arts and humanities and was a fierce supporter and patron of artists, poets, writers, and other creative spirits. She was known for turning her homes into vibrant salons, where those working in the arts and humanities could gather, think, talk, and celebrate their work. A roster of regular visitors included extraordinary talents such as Isadora Duncan, Martha Graham, Charles Caryl Coleman, Booth Tarkington, and Kahlil Gibran.

Frolic of the Mind is another step in recognizing the rich legacy of Rose O’Neill. While O’Neill was often depicted in her own time as a surprisingly edgy freethinker, in the intervening decades, her relationship to her childlike Kewpies tended to dominate the public image of the artist; she also became aligned with the domestic in the minds of many. Efforts in more recent years have helped to bring into relief a richer picture of O’Neill. Travelers to Southwest Missouri, curious to learn more, have been able to visit her family’s homestead, Bonniebrook. In 1993, the Bonniebrook Historical Society opened a reconstruction of the O’Neill family home in Walnut Shade. Named Bonniebrook after its original, the home replicates the fourteen-room mansion first funded by O’Neill and built for her family after they moved to the Ozarks in 1893. While the original home burnt down in a fire in 1947, the re-creation mimics the earlier structure and contains many original artifacts from that first home. It also houses a gallery of O’Neill’s work and provides walking grounds for visitors, which include the family cemetery.

Rose O’Neill’s great nephew, David O’Neill, has also done much to bring O’Neill’s body of work to light more recently. He was five years old when Rose O’Neill died, and he received his first Kewpie from Rose herself at the age of two. Since then, he has accumulated an enormous collection of her work, a collection that contains her more commercial items as well as noncommercial illustrations, paintings, books, journals, and archives of newspaper clippings. These works are held in his Springfield-based Rose O’Neill Museum, which is open to viewers for free year-round.

This April, the opening of the Springfield Art Museum’s exhibit on the work of Rose O’Neill, *Frolic of the Mind*, will do much to further introduce the public to the breadth and richness of O’Neill’s work and life.

Curator Sarah Buhr has spent nearly five years researching Rose O’Neill and traveling across the country to visit collections for the show. The result will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Missourians to see O’Neill’s works, normally housed around the nation, come together in one location. Buhr explains that “the exhibition will trace O’Neill’s work in all media and will feature 150 works from a number of public and private collections, including the Springfield Art Museum, the Huntington Library and Art Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Bonniebrook Home and Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Smithsonian American

Art Museum, among others. The exhibit will include illustrations, rarely seen paintings, drawings, archival documents, personal effects, and smaller sculpture.”



Frolic of the Mind will be open to visitors between April 14 and August 5. The exhibit kicks off with an opening reception the evening of April 13. Buhr will deliver the accompanying curator’s talk, which is free and open to the public, on the evening of May 10. The museum will also bring together art and performance when it hosts *Saving Rose O’Neill*, a one-woman play written and performed by Marcia Haseltine, directed by Robert Bradley, and produced by Springfield Contemporary Theatre. Performances of the play, also free and open to the public, will take place on the evenings of April 13 and 14 and during the day on April 15.

Far left: The Bachelor, c. 1896–1901, ink watercolor and gouache on paper, 11.5 x 17.75 inches. Collection of the Springfield Art Museum. © Rose O’Neill Foundation.

Above: Fugitive Drawing, c. 1915–1920, graphite on paper, 5.5 x 4.75 inches. Collection of the Springfield Art Museum. © Rose O’Neill Foundation.

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GARY SCHARNHORST is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at the University of New Mexico. He is the author or editor of fifty books, including *Mark Twain on Potholes and Politics: Letters to the Editor*. He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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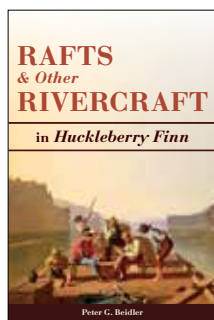
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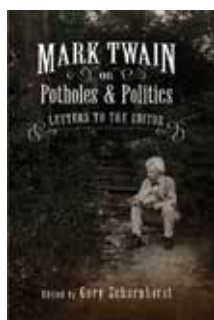
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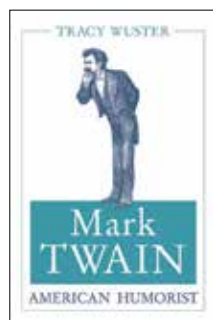
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Proud to Be, Volume 6

Book Reading Provides a Conduit for Veteran Voices

LISA CARRICO
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY &
VETERANS PROGRAMS, MHC

Since Veterans Day 2012, the Missouri Humanities Council and Southeast Missouri State University Press (SEMO Press) have worked in partnership to publish *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors (PTB)*. This creative writing anthology provides an opportunity for our nation's military personnel and their families and friends to creatively share their stories through essay, fiction, interview, poetry, and/or photography. The writings contained within the anthology offer invaluable insight into the lives and experiences of the few who have served.

With each new release, MHC and SEMO Press invite volume contributors to read at a book reception and reading. On December 9, 2017, Saint Louis Public Radio, with support of the Nine Network's Vietnam Stories Collection Project, hosted the reading of the sixth installment of the *Proud to Be* series. The event

featured eleven readers from all over the country, including Missouri; California; Minnesota; Oklahoma; Washington, DC; and Pennsylvania. As the Director of Family & Veterans Programs, it is always an honor to hear the writings and stories shared in person by the contributors. The courageous voices of our contributors provide history, understanding, and a basis for connectivity.

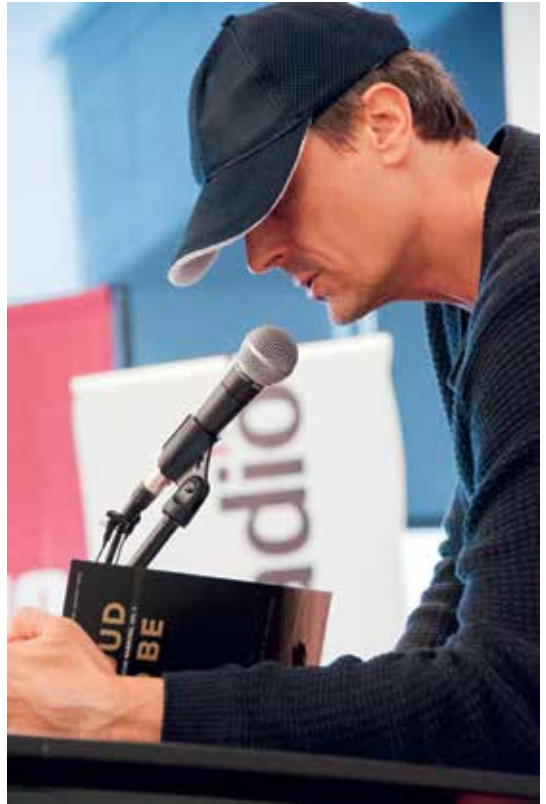
On the importance of *Proud to Be*, first sergeant with the US Marine Corps and *PTB6* essay winner Billy Jenkins says, "These programs are important because it allows veterans the freedom to express themselves in ways that most of them, including me, never thought possible." Matthew Alexander Burrell, veteran, journalist, and *PTB6* fiction honorable mention recipient, adds, "A lot of times, people see the headlines but don't necessarily see the microcosms, the little stories that are

happening all over in war—Iraq, Afghanistan, and Vietnam—and there are all kinds of stories that should be told, and this book helps deliver a lot of those stories and different perspectives."

If you or someone you know has a military story to share, the call for submissions for Volume 7 is now open. There is no entry fee, and submissions are reviewed by a panel of judges for inclusion, with a \$250 prize in each of the five categories listed above. All submissions must be postmarked by June 1, 2018. To learn more or to make a submission, please visit semopress.com/events/proud-to-be-writing-by-american-warriors.

For more information on MHC Veteran Programs and/or to purchase *Proud to Be*, Volumes 1–6, please visit mohumanities.org/programs/veterans or contact our Director of Family & Veterans Programs, Lisa Carrico, at lisa@mohumanities.org or 314.781.9660

Right, top: *PTB6* book readers. Back row, from left to right: Jason Poudrier, Clayvon A. Wesley, Ron Riecki, Jay Harden, Matthew Alexander Burrell. Front row, from left to right: Billy Jenkins, Paul Van Dyke, Tim Leach, Lauren B. Stevens, Maureen DuRant, Ben White. *Middle, left:* Lauren B. Stevens. *Middle, right:* Ron Riecki. *Bottom:* *PTB6* book reception and reading at St. Louis Public Radio. All photos by Micah Usher of Usher Imaging.



CINDY MCDERMOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MORAL INJURY
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
FOUNDING MEMBER, KANSAS CITY VETS
WRITING TEAM

Military veterans have stories to tell, and the various learning opportunities provided by the Kansas City Vets Writing Team (KCVWT), a program supported for several years by the Missouri Humanities Council (MHC), help them gain the tools and confidence to tell them. Through our free workshops, monthly veteran critique groups, and other literary events, participants explore the many approaches possible to create personal stories, poetry, fiction, and essays.

According to *Psychology Today*, writing has been discovered to be an amazing tool in helping individuals deal with emotional issues. It can help improve an individual's positivity, reduce distress, and decrease physical symptoms. KCVWT helps past or present military members and family members of veterans come to terms with stressful events and reduce their impact on physical and mental health. The objective is that attendees learn writing techniques, write about their military memories, begin the process of owning their stories, and by doing so, possibly negotiate their ways around serious barriers. As one vet wrote in his evaluation, "[The workshop] is a great start to help me tell my story of service, however painful it may be."

"Our first writing workshop was in April 2014, and the program has grown in the four years since. More than 200 vets and family members have attended the daylong workshops in the spring, and in partnership with the MHC, a multisession Veteran Writing Workshop held for the past two years in the fall," notes Dr. H. C. Palmer, founding member of the Kansas City veteran writing program. "Many graduates of the workshops now meet on a monthly basis in a structured writing critique group, continuing to hone their writing skills and share their personal stories in a safe environment, offering the camaraderie of military life."

According to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) data, every day, twenty vets take their lives. The risk of suicide for a vet is 21%

Owning and Healing: Using Writing to Help Vets with Their Stories



Dr. H. C. Palmer leads a discussion about poetry.

higher than it is for the general population. Especially concerning is that 70% of the vets committing suicide are not in the VA system. Supporting these individuals falls upon the community to “help them come home.”

While we don't think of our writing program as therapeutic, it is one tool to help past and present military personnel and their families negotiate their pathway of recovery from moral injury. In very basic terms, moral injury is an action or lack of action that conflicts with core moral values, resulting in guilt and shame, which can lead to societal alienation and self-harm. Killing in battle or witnessing killing are examples of moral injury, as is handling remains of fellow service members or struggling with survivor's guilt. Moral injury afflicts veterans at ten times the rate of physical injuries and, when coupled with PTSD, can be a leading cause of veteran suicide.

In Kansas City, intensive group therapy for vets is used to treat moral injury to bring self-understanding, memory, self-evaluations, and eventually, self-forgiveness. Some members of KCVWT are involved with this program, which also employs creative processes, especially writing about military experiences, as another coping skill for the veteran to use.

During our four years of providing workshops and writing sessions, partnerships with state and local organizations have been strong. Our work has been made possible through the support of MHC, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mid-Continent Library and Story Center, Kansas City Public Library System, Moral Injury Association of America, Kansas Humanities Council, The Writers Place, The World War I Museum, and individual donors. Our Spring 2018 daylong workshop is set for April 21 at Mid-Continent Public Library's Story Center (Woodneath campus), and the team is gearing up for another Fall Veteran Writing Workshop with MHC.

The goal for KCVWT is to provide training in the basic elements of prose or poetry to enhance participants' skills and empower them to tell their stories. The result helps ensure veteran self-care, self-esteem, and well-being through writing. The volunteers of KCVWT look forward to strengthening our partnership with MHC and other organizations to further our outreach to those who served and their family members.

Visit our website at moralinjuryassociationofamerica.org/vet-writing-program.html for more information.

South Central Missouri Community Action Agency's Commitment to Early Childhood Literacy

LISA CARRICO
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & VETERANS PROGRAMS, MHC

READ from the START (RFTS), MHC's family reading program, encourages parents/caregivers to read to their young children regularly. Through the guidance of a certified RFTS Discussion Leader, participants read and discuss high-quality children's books and discover how to create positive experiences with stories, all while learning the importance reading has on a child's future. RFTS focuses on the parents being their child's first and most influential teachers. RFTS workshops are experiential, and participants discuss and enjoy the same books that they will take home to their children.

The Council partners with local organizations throughout the state to host the program. These partners share a commitment to family reading and literacy and include organizations like Head Start, Parents as Teachers, and libraries. This past winter, South Central Missouri Community Action Agency (SCMCAA), a not-for-profit agency serving the counties of Butler, Carter, Dent, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon, and Wayne, hosted ten RFTS programs that served 160 parents/caregivers and provided 800 children's books.

The mission of SCMCAA is to assist low-income families in their efforts to become self-sufficient by providing programs and services to improve the quality of their lives and the opportunity to eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty. SCMCAA's vision is that all families are self-reliant and have support systems in their community. The agency is a leader in south central Missouri, providing innovative and creative solutions for families and communities grappling with the effects of poverty.

Ann Terrell Smith, executive director of SCMCAA, says, "As an agency, our vision is to end poverty—one family at a time."

SCMCAA provides services through several programs and is the grantee agency for Head Start, Early Head Start, and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) services. There are thirteen sites in the seven-county area that provide center-based Head Start/Early Head Start services, for a total of 415 Head Start and 168 Early Head Start children. The MIECHV/EHS home-based program serves 115 Early Head Start children in two counties.

"READ from the START is an amazing program, and our Head Start families benefit from it for so many reasons! Some families may be unfamiliar with language-building strategies and just need the additional skills and approaches that are presented in an RFTS workshop. Research has shown that children's vocabulary abilities are affected by maternal education and the frequency of home literacy activities. RFTS offers the knowledge to parents of how to develop and present those home literacy activities to their children. RFTS makes parents familiar and comfortable with utilizing books in the home, expanding on the parent's ability to make unique contributions to literacy in their children's lives and positively impact their child's early reading outcomes."

- ANN TERRELL SMITH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCMCAA



GROWING READERS

Read from the Start (RFTS), MHC's family reading initiative, is offered free of charge and encourages parents and caregivers to read to their young children. RFTS participants, with the guidance of a certified Discussion Leader, read and discuss high-quality children's books. The parents keep the books and leave RFTS programs excited to share the books and stories with their children. MHC partners with local organizations throughout the state to host the programs. These partners all share a commitment to family reading and literacy. A sample of host sites includes: Head Starts, Parents as Teachers, libraries, community action agencies, schools, and shelters.

To learn how you can host or attend an RFTS program,
please visit readfromthestart.org.



Read *from the* **Start**

Missouri Humanities Council Family Program

Missouri Conference on History

STEVE BELKO, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MHC

One of the MHC's strategic partnerships includes funding for and participation in the annual *Missouri Conference on History*, which brings together history teachers and other professional historians to share research, exchange information on teaching and curriculum, consider ways to promote interest in history and the welfare of the profession, and discuss other concerns common to all Missouri historians. The MHC serves on the steering committee with the State Historical Society of Missouri and the Missouri State Archives, as well as creates and sponsors a number of panel sessions. The recent conference, held this past month in Jefferson City, featured four general sessions.

MHC Executive Director William "Steve" Belko chaired a session on the Council's ongoing extensive research on locating and interpreting the three Trail of Tears routes across the state. Panelists presenting on their local site research—a product of a yearlong

Memorandum of Understanding with the Missouri Chapter of the National Trail of Tears Association—included Deloris Wood (President of the Missouri Chapter), Mark Spangler (Lebanon-Laclede County Library/Laclede County Historical Society), and Eva Dunn (Bollinger County Library). Troy Wayne Poteete, executive director of the National Trail of Tears Association and former justice on the Supreme Court of the Cherokee Nation, offered commentary on the partnership between the MHC and the Cherokee Nation. For an example of the Council's work on one of the certified sites along the Northern Route, see the following video: youtu.be/2GFyTYG8PpA.

Another session focused on one more of the MHC's comprehensive heritage projects, the German Heritage Corridor of Missouri. Dr. Arthur Merhof (Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Missouri) chaired the panel, with presentations on the state's German heritage delivered by Dr. Petra DeWitt (Missouri University of Science and Technology), "DER Staat Missouri"; Friedrich Münch, "German



Left to right: German Heritage Corridor panelists Dr. Arthur Merhof, Caitlin Yager, Petra DeWitt, and Cathie Schoppenhorst.

American Perception of Missouri, 1859–1875;” Marc Houseman (Washington County Historical Society), “Tombstone Iconography and Imagery: From Weeping Willows to Fingers Pointed Skyward;” and Cathie Schoppenhorst (Emmaus Homes), “The Sesquicentennial of the Emmaus Homes—a German-American Mission in Rural Missouri.” Administrator of the Deutschheim State Historic Site, Cindy Browne, provided commentary, and Caitlin Yager, MHC’s director of heritage programs, reported on the completion of the MHC’s Interpretive Plan for the interpretation of the German Heritage Corridor.

Chair of the MHC Board, Adam Criblez, Ph.D. (Southeast Missouri State University), chaired a session on the bicentennial of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft’s Ozarks Expedition of 1818–1819, and presentations were made by Dr. Belko, “Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, Interracial Families, and Slavery,” and Dr. Brooks Blevins (Missouri State University), “The Foundations of Regional Imagery: Early Chronicles of the Proto-Ozarkers.”

MHC’s interim director of education, Kate Carpenter, who is also a graduate student in public history at the University of Missouri–



Troy Wayne Poteete of the Cherokee Nation.

Kansas City (UMKC), created and chaired a session composed of other graduate students. This session introduced a “New Generation of Public History Projects” as each panelist reported on their lessons from field research. Carpenter discussed “How History is Made: A Public History Class Gains Real-World Experience in Highlighting an Overlooked History.” Matthew A. Reeves, also at UMKC, talked about “Lessons from the Unexpected: How Interpreting Fine Art in an NFL Stadium Transformed My Thinking About Public History;” Wendy Nixon Brown, of the University of Central Missouri, presented on “The Wornalls After the War: Letting the Wornall Family Tell Its Own Story;” and Austin R. Williams, another UMKC graduate student, discussed “The Ordinance Project: AIDS Activism and LGBTQ Civil Rights in Kansas City.” Michael Sweeney, representing the State Historical Society of Missouri, offered comments.

For more information on the conference, please visit shsmo.org/mch.



UPDATES ON

Strategic Partnerships

KATE CARPENTER
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION &
MANAGER, KANSAS CITY OFFICE, MHC

In MHC’s Kansas City office, I often hear the question, “What exactly does the Humanities Council *do*?” My short answer? A lot. The Missouri Humanities Council teams up with groups across Missouri to bring fascinating programming to the public, support educators and museum professionals, and promote the future of the humanities. Here are just a few of the things we’ve been working on lately through these partnerships:

SUPPORT FOR HISTORY EDUCATORS

In September 2017, more than 100 history educators from across Missouri gathered in St. Louis for the Missouri Council for History Education’s (MOCHE) Best Practices in History Education Conference. There, they shared ideas in workshops and learned from education experts. During the fall semester of 2017, MOCHE also provided free professional development workshops on history and social studies education to four school districts through its Visiting Scholars Program. The Missouri Humanities Council is proud to contribute to these efforts that support history teachers and help them bring great ideas to their classrooms.

TURNING STUDENTS INTO HISTORIANS

More than 6,000 students participate in National History Day in Missouri each year, with more than 600 competing at the state contest. This year’s state contest, with the theme “Conflict and Compromise in History,” will be in Columbia on April 28. The Council supports National History Day, which encourages students in grades 6 through 12 to conduct historical research and present their results in documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, or websites. The results are impressive, and the winners in each category represent Missouri in the national competition. Last year, two Missouri students took home gold medals from the national competition! For more

information about National History Day in Missouri, visit nhdmo.org.

KANSAS CITY’S BASEBALL HISTORY ON DECK

The Council recently teamed up with the Center for Midwestern Studies at the University of Missouri–Kansas City to support the production of a new podcast series, *Archiver: The A’s in Kansas City*, which explores the history of the Kansas City A’s baseball team and its impact on the city. *Archiver* is produced by Sam Zeff, a longtime Kansas City–area reporter. The podcast is set to launch in May; see page 24 for a preview of this fascinating story.

WORKING WITH MISSOURI’S MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

Each year, the Missouri Association of Museums and Archives (MAMA) brings together museum employees and archivists from across Missouri to share ideas, learn best practices, and gain new skills that they can take back to their hometowns. With support from MHC, last year’s annual conference included a workshop with Museum Hack, where participants learned how to create engaging tours and design participatory activities for museum visitors. This April, MAMA hosted a free digital preservation workshop. This year’s annual conference will take place October 19 and 20 and will feature a free preconference workshop on designing museum exhibits.

SHOWING OFF MISSOURI

From September 26 through 29, the national conference of the American Association of State and Local History will be in Kansas City, bringing more than 1,000 museum employees, archivists, and history enthusiasts to Missouri. In addition to providing financial support for the conference, the Council is working with local architectural historian Cydney Millstein to create a walking tour of Kansas City’s Crossroads arts district. Participants will learn about the history of some of the area’s most interesting buildings and how they’ve been repurposed for modern use, and even get to taste some of Kansas City’s best pastries. We’re looking forward to showing off Kansas City and all it has to offer to our visitors.

MHC RECEIVES GRANT FOR “Democracy and the Informed Citizen”



The Democracy and the Informed Citizen project in Kansas City.

AUSTIN SKINNER
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
& COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,
MHC

“Since the nation’s founding, the humanities have been seen as essential for educating citizens to understand their history, think creatively, and form reasoned judgments and decisions,” said the Federation for State Humanities Councils (FSHC) in announcing a new funding initiative

called Democracy and the Informed Citizen.

Building on the success of nationwide public humanities programming centered on the 100th anniversary of the Pulitzer Prizes in 2016, the FSHC renewed their partnership with the Pulitzer Prizes Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to offer a new funding opportunity focused on the connections

between democracy, the humanities, journalism, and an informed citizenry.

The MHC is proud to announce that it was awarded funding in this initiative. Our yearlong project will feature community programs in Columbia, Kansas City, Springfield, and St. Louis, Missouri. We look forward to engaging these communities in important conversations that address the ideas of what it means to be an informed citizen in the era of “fake news” and a fractured public square, and of how modern, in-depth journalism works to navigate beyond the limiting influence of 160 characters, beyond the echo chambers of cable news and social media, beyond the sway of bots and clickbait. As importantly, these programs will also



explore the other side of the information exchange—namely, the set of responsibilities borne by the viewing public in their self-selection of news sources and content.

“At their best, journalists identify issues of concern to communities and provide information to help citizens make reasoned decisions about them,” read the grant announcement. The Democracy and the Informed Citizen initiative will pursue three main goals:

- deepen the public’s knowledge and appreciation of the connections between democracy, the humanities, journalism, and an informed citizenry;
- increase media literacy by engaging the public in discussions with Pulitzer Prize winners and finalists in journalism, other respected journalists, and scholars about reliable and unreliable sources of information;
- explore obstacles to sustaining high-quality journalism, especially local journalism, and potential solutions.



To satisfy these goals, MHC will conduct the following programs—all of which are free of charge, open to the public, and nonpartisan:

COLUMBIA

- A public lecture and community discussion by Alexander Heffner, host of PBS’s *The Open Mind*, which addressed the topic of “Civil Discourse in an Uncivil Age” (March 20, 2018).
- Publication of a special issue of *The Journal on Constitutional Democracy* by the Kinder Institute at the University of Missouri. This special issue is dedicated to historical, political, and philosophical content surrounding the theme of an informed citizenry since the nation’s founding.
- Two-day conference on “Democracy and the Informed Citizen” (November 2–3, 2018). To include five panel presentations and discussions among students, scholars, and community leaders about the public’s access to information in the modern age.

KANSAS CITY

- “Fake News” forum (March 13, 2018): Just a few weeks ago, the American Public Square in Kansas City hosted a forum at Unity Temple on the Plaza for over 1,000 attendees. Panelists included Mark Alford (Fox), Colleen McCain Nelson (*The Kansas City Star*), Kevin Madden (CNN), and Margaret Talev (Bloomberg).

SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS

- Working with partners and host locations in Springfield and St. Louis, MHC is coordinating two Think-N-Drinks that will feature local and national journalists as well as technologists in an important discussion about the rise and influence of Russian bots on internet and social media platforms. These live events will be hosted in local pubs, with extended time for audience engagement and Q&A.

For more information or to register for an event, visit our website at mohumanities.org.

DIGITIZING MISSOURI'S GERMAN HERITAGE

A Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

CAITLIN YAGER
DIRECTOR OF HERITAGE PROGRAMS, MHC

The Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) is the proud recipient of a Common Heritage Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Common Heritage Grant aims to support projects dedicated to digitizing cultural heritage materials as well as community events that explore the community's history and culture. This grant will fund a pilot project for our German Heritage Program, titled "Digitizing Missouri's German Heritage."

With assistance from the Missouri State Archives and German Heritage Corridor project team members, grant project director Caitlin Yager will orchestrate a public digitization event in Hermann, Missouri on June 23. The goal of this program is to digitize publicly held artifacts, documents, and photographs related to German and German-American culture in Missouri. Cindy Browne, site administrator at Deutschheim State Historic Site in Hermann, is excited at the opportunity to bring more attention to the German heritage of the state. "The documents and cherished objects inherited from Missouri German ancestors are records of a culture that increasingly recedes from view," she says. At the event, MHC will not only provide digitization services, but will also perform basic artifact cleaning and maintenance and will teach participants how to properly store their items for perpetuity.

The objective of object digitization is threefold: (1) to increase our understanding of the effects of German immigration and acculturation/assimilation in the region; (2) to allow for the public to share their stories with one another; and (3) to preserve a cultural heritage for later generations. Following the main event, MHC will host a public program featuring a scholarly interpretation and presentation of the findings of the digitization program,

as well as some of the larger efforts of MHC to understand Missouri's unique German heritage. Browne continues, "This digitization project reaches into the community, inviting them to share their family stories and the legacy of generations past in a way that can be documented and preserved for the future. With its rich German heritage, Hermann is an obvious place to begin this digitization effort and is excited to host the first event of its kind."

During the collection and digitization event, MHC also plans to record and digitize short personal stories of the participants about their items. In addition, MHC will provide the public with access to individuals who are experts in related fields, such as German language, material culture, and local history, to try and provide historical context, dates, object identification, and even language translation. Items related to the Missouri German immigrant experience to be digitized may include (but are not limited to) immigration documents, journals, legal documents, photographs, and letters. Other 3D objects will be photographed. Digitization will prove especially important for fragile and/or older items that might not last into later generations.

In previous issues of this magazine, MHC has shared our journey of planning and creating an interpretive plan for our German Heritage Program. Now that this interpretive plan is complete, we are anxious to begin implementing pilot programs throughout the German Heritage Corridor. This Common Heritage event will serve as our first official German Heritage Corridor program, and we hope to implement many similar digitization events in other Missouri German communities in the near future.

To request more information on this event, please contact Caitlin Yager at caitlin@mohumanities.org.



FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

9:00AM - 4:00PM | Registration at 8:45AM

Knight & Rucker Banquet Hall

119 E. Broadway | Brunswick, MO 65236

Learn how heritage and culture benefit community and economic development. The workshop is FREE. RSVP is required.

Register at: www.chworkshop.eventbrite.com

Questions? Email caitlin@mohumanities.org or call 1.800.357.0909.

www.mohumanities.org |



GRANTS AWARDED *October 1, 2017 – March 1, 2018*

Grant Description	Organization	County
Life Along the Mississippi	Modern American Dance Company	Saint Louis
Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey Presents Setting the Stage	Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey	Jackson
Montgomery County Bicentennial: Understanding How the County's History Shapes Our Identity, Culture, and Values	Montgomery County Historical Society	Monroe
Teen Rap Crisis II	Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective	Saint Louis City
Motivational Legends of Missouri	Yeyo Arts Collective	Saint Louis City
Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis 2018 — Educational Programming	Tennessee Williams Festival	Saint Louis City
The Mochila Review Presents: In the Shadow of Melissa de la Cruz	Missouri Western State University — English & Modern Languages Department	Buchanan
Over There: World War I from Jefferson Barracks	The Friends of Jefferson Barracks	Saint Louis
Archives Alive!	Friends of the Missouri State Archives	Cole

New Staff Member: Sean Rost



The MHC recently partnered with the State Historical Society of Missouri to hire a full-time oral historian. Please welcome Sean Rost, native Missourian, as a new staff

member of the MHC (and SHSMO). Sean received his B.S. in history education from William Woods University in 2009 and his M.A. in history from Lincoln University in 2011. He is currently completing his Ph.D. in history from the University of Missouri. His dissertation, entitled “A Call to Citizenship: Anti-Klan Activism in Missouri, 1921–1928,” examines the revival of the Ku Klux Klan during the 1920s,

with a particular focus on the efforts of anti-Klan activists to use their power at the polls, behind the pulpit, and in the press to stymie the growth of the “Invisible Empire” in Missouri. Sean has received research grants from the James S. Rollins Slavery Atonement Endowment, the William A. Wilcher Endowment, the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, and the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. During the 2016–2017 academic year, he served as a graduate fellow in American political history at the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy. In 2017, he received a dissertation fellowship from the Department of History at the University of Missouri and the John Tracy Ellis Dissertation Award from the American Catholic Historical Association.

UPCOMING EVENTS

VETERANS WRITING WORKSHOP—ST. LOUIS

Saturdays, April 7–May 5, 2018
9:00 AM–12:30 PM

[St. Louis Public Library, Central Library](#)

Veterans, military personnel, and family members are invited to participate in the Missouri Humanities Council and the St. Louis Public Library's Veterans Writing Workshop. The program consists of five sessions, including the basics of writing, revision, and publication. Participants are not required to focus their writing on military experiences.

The workshop will be led by husband-and-wife team Kent and Stacey Walker. Kent is a combat Army veteran and Stacey is a lecturer at University of Missouri–St. Louis; both hold M.F.A.s. The workshop is free, and light refreshments will be provided at no cost.

Space is limited, and reservations are required. RSVP through SLPL's events calendar or by contacting Scott Morris at 314.539.0336 or smorris@slpl.org.

For more information on the Missouri Humanities Council's Veterans Programs, please visit mohumanities.org/programs/veterans.

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES PUBLIC TALK SERIES: AN URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF THE KANSAS CITIES AND THE MISSOURI RIVER

Tuesday, April 17, 2018
6:00 PM–7:30 PM

[Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, Kansas City](#)

Amahia Mallea, Drake University history professor and author of upcoming book *Downstreamers: An Urban Environmental History of the Kansas Cities and the Missouri River*, will discuss the complicated relationship between the urban history of Kansas City and the environmental history of the Missouri River, including efforts to control it. A reception will be held at 6:00 PM; the program will start at 6:30 PM.

STORYTELLERSX

Saturday, April 28, 2018
1:00 PM–4:00 PM

[Saint Louis Public Library, Central Library](#)

StorytellersX gives veterans the opportunity to share their unique stories and foster a deeper level of understanding between veterans and civilians. These are TED-talk-style events featuring key veterans who are leaders within their communities. Opening reception from 1:00 PM–2:00 PM; livestream storytelling from 2:00 PM–3:00 PM; closing reception from 3:00 PM–4:00 PM. FREE and open to the public.

This is a Gateway Community Veterans Engagement Board public event in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), St. Louis Public Library, Missouri Humanities Council, and the University of Missouri Extension Community Arts Program's St. Louis Storytelling Festival.

For further information, please visit mohumanities.org/veterans.

VETERANS STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, May 1, 2018
5:30 PM–7:30 PM

[Jefferson Barracks Visitor Center](#)

Do you have a military-related story to tell? Open to veterans from any period of service, as well as their families, this hands-on workshop is for those who want to shape their experiences into a story. The workshop will be led by professional storyteller and veteran Jim Gerst.

FREE, but space is limited. Registration is required. RSVP at vetstorytellingworkshop.eventbrite.com

For further information, please visit www.mohumanities.org/veterans.

Sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council as part of the 39th Annual Storytelling Festival, a University of Missouri Extension Program. For more information on the festival visit stlstorytellingfestival.com.

**CATCH THE STORYTELLING BUG!
A WORKSHOP FOR LIBRARIANS**

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

10:00 AM–12:00 PM

University City Public Library

Join the magic circle of storytelling! Learn how to jump joyfully into a story, get to know the characters, and learn the plot. Award-winning storyteller Annette Harrison will take you through the fundamentals of storytelling. This workshop is for current and future library staff interested in enhancing their storytime—or for anyone who wants to craft an engaging story. Come ready to catch the storytelling bug!

FREE, but space is limited. Registration is required. Please contact Karen Young at kyoung@ucitylibrary.org or 314.727.3150 to RSVP.

For further information, please visit mohumanities.org/calendar.

Sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council as part of the 39th Annual Storytelling Festival, a University of Missouri Extension Program. For more information on the festival visit stlstorytellingfestival.com.

**FIRST FRIDAY AT THE
KANSAS CITY OFFICE,
FEATURING MISSOURI
OZARKS CREOLE FIDDLER
DENNIS STROUGHMATT**

Friday, May 4, 2018

5:30 PM–8:00 PM

Missouri Humanities Council, Kansas City

**VETERANS WRITING
WORKSHOP–SPRINGFIELD**

Saturdays, May 5–June 2, 2018

9:00 AM–12:30 PM

**Springfield-Greene County Library,
Midtown Carnegie Branch**

Veterans, military personnel, and family members are invited to participate in the Missouri Humanities Council and the Springfield-Greene County Library's Veterans Writing Workshop. The program consists of five sessions, including the basics of writing, revision, and publication. Participants are not required to focus their writing on military experiences.

The workshop will be led by Karen Craigo, educator and published author with an M.F.A. in creative writing and poetry. The workshop is free, and light refreshments will be provided at no cost.

Space is limited, and reservations are required. RSVP by contacting the Midtown Carnegie Branch at 417.616.0509 or evap@thelibrary.org.

For more information on MHC Veteran Programs, please visit mohumanities.org/programs/veterans.

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY
ANNUAL MEETING**

September 26–29, 2018

Kansas City Marriott Downtown

For more details, visit aaslh.org.

**MISSOURI AND THE GREAT WAR
TRAVELING EXHIBIT SCHEDULE:**

Now through April 27, 2018:

A.T. Still Memorial Library, Kirksville

May 1–June 29, 2018:

Bushwhacker Museum, Nevada

July 2–September 2, 2018:

St. Joseph Museum, St. Joseph

September 8–October 28, 2018:

Mid-Continent Public Library, Midwest

Genealogy Center, Independence

November 1–December 31, 2018:

Springfield-Green County Library

District, Springfield

**HOMETOWN TEAMS: HOW
SPORTS SHAPE AMERICA
TRAVELING EXHIBIT SCHEDULE:**

April 14–May 20, 2018:

**Perry County Historical Society,
Perryville**

May 26–July 6, 2018:

**Grundy County Historical Society
and Museum, Trenton**

July 9–August 19, 2018:

Bates County Museum, Butler

August 26–October 5, 2018:

Harney Mansion Foundation, Sullivan

October 9–December 2, 2018:

**Nodaway County Historical Society,
Maryville**

December 8, 2018–January 27, 2019:

**Aurora High School Youth
Empowerment Project, Aurora**

Russian bots or American thoughts?
Let's talk about it.

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Tropical HUMANITIES

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Recently, on a trip to the Florida Keys, I visited the town of Key West and inevitably stumbled upon the Hemingway House, in which the famed writer lived and wrote some of his novels. I thought of his novel *The Old Man and the Sea*, which I read as a young boy growing up in the South Pacific Islands. The lush green foliage surrounded by the bright azure sea were familiar vistas of my youth, and thus I could instinctively identify with the landscapes of Hemingway's imagination.

For many, the tropics evoke a place of exotic charm and languid beauty happily insulated from a harried and commercialized world that is dictated by the tyranny of time and production schedules. There are few regions in the world that are as emblematic as the South Pacific in constructing a desirable and evocative image of place and experience, and the mystique of the Pacific Islands is eagerly packaged and promoted by the travel industry for people who are yearning to escape to these far-flung regions of the world, at least for a little while.

For many of my generation, the exotic charm of the Pacific Islands gave way to a profound sense of isolation and remoteness circumscribed by the limits of geography and communications. Long before television had invaded the islands, or the internet had connected us to the wider world, I yearned to escape from this enclosed space, but with limited resources, that never seemed a realistic possibility. From the locus of a small island in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, America—like every other place—remained geographically distant and inexplicably complex.

My *de facto* passport to the world beyond the islands was my library card, and as I developed greater facility in the English language, I could travel to places and encounter cultures and people different from mine. I learned about the great

Mississippi River years before I saw its swirling waters and the river barges because had I read the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, just as I had learned about the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl through the novels of John Steinbeck.

My education, informed by the long shadow of our imperial past, was partial toward the humanities, with a heavy emphasis on a reasonable mastery of geography, history, literature, and religion. In high school, I was introduced to the geographies and religions of the world and their historical contributions to human civilization. I studied about the Buddha and the Mauryan kings as well as the rise of Islam and the life of Muhammad. I read the Bible and discovered the emergence of Christianity as a world religion and its place in society. In senior high school, I studied the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow in the American South, the philosophy of nationalism, and the origins of both world wars. The political history of South Africa, which was still under apartheid, was timely and relevant, as were my classes on the Russian revolution and the unification of Italy, which forced me to think about human beings' elusive quest for identity, belongingness, and justice.

The humanities compressed space and time and made the isolation of geography irrelevant, at least to my young imagination. My readings and studies in the humanities opened new vistas of inquiry and forced me out of my insolent provincialism and uninformed prejudices. The humanities built a bridge that connected me to worlds beyond the islands and allowed me to escape when I needed to. It has been the great fortune of my life to not feel confined by geography because every day, the world, as noted in Mary Oliver's lovely phrase, "offers itself to my imagination." My love for the humanities endures because I have walked through its portal and I have partaken of its infinite treasures, and it continues to enrich me in immeasurable ways. The islands are still lovely, and during this long Missouri winter, I have dreamt of escaping to them.

Joined at the Roots: Finding Our Common Humanity

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Recently I was dining with a friend who had just returned from a trip to Maui. I asked her about her favorite part of the vacation. Was it the sun? The surf? The legendary laid-back Hawaiian vibe? “Actually,” she replied, “it was a magnificent banyan tree in Lahaina.” I asked her to elaborate. What makes this tree so special? She vividly described how the single 50-foot tree stands nearly a quarter mile wide with more than ten trunks that anchor it into the ground through a single set of roots. Its branches grow upward and outward, entwining and spreading, giving the appearance of a small forest. As related to my friend by locals, Japanese immigrants took on the task of tenderly caring for the tree after it arrived in Lahaina from India in 1873. Along with other community members, they came weekly to care for it, and over time, as the tree grew, so did the roots of the people. The tree served as a metaphor for community—when one root falls, another picks it up and helps it grow.

This image of the banyan tree with its single set of roots, multiple trunks, and endless branches surfaced some weeks later as I listened to noted historian and professor Gary Kremer deliver a presentation for Black History Month at the Kansas City Public Library. Dr. Kremer, now the executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri, shared stories of the African-American experience from slavery to freedom in rural and urban Missouri from his book *Race and Meaning: The African American Experience in Missouri* (2016).

A graduate of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Dr. Kremer studied under distinguished African-American professor Dr. Lorenzo Greene, who was known to have compared history to a “multicolored tapestry of many threads.” A few of these threads were unraveled that evening as audience members listened to stories of black Missourians making their lives in all-black communities such as Leeds, Kinloch, and Pennytown. The stories also illustrated the discrimination blacks encountered as they migrated to urban areas of the state. Toward the end of his talk, Dr. Kremer posited that in a fundamental way, black and white people in America see the world

differently because they have different histories. An audience member expounded on these comments following the lecture, stating that “history is different for those who have been part of the black experience and those with white privilege.” A question was then posed about how we can bridge those differences. This is not an easy task, for as Dr. Kremer pointed out, “You cannot live in a racist society and not imbibe some of the racism. Racism is still with us.” He then concluded by encouraging audience members to “explore those different histories as a way of understanding the world in which we live.”

I believe we can begin to explore our different histories by understanding how they are intertwined. We should recognize how, like the banyan tree, we are joined at the roots with separate branches that emerge from the same soil. Dr. Kremer suggested that we must do this on both a personal and an institutional level. This is where the humanities play such an important role. The Missouri Humanities Council offers a myriad of programs aimed at interpreting Missouri’s broad history and creating understanding between cultures. The “Show Me Missouri” Speakers’ Bureau (of which Dr. Kremer is a member) “provides expert historians, storytellers,

researchers, and authors to share the special stories about Missouri’s culture, history, art, and people.” In accordance with our strategic plan, MHC also aims to support research and programming in defined areas of cultural heritage. In January 2015, with the approval of the various tribes who once inhabited this region, MHC instituted a new initiative to preserve and promote our state’s rich Native history and heritage. We celebrate the immigrant experience and influence of German culture through the German Heritage Corridor and, in 2017, formally launched an African-American heritage program. Our grants program provides funding to small grassroots organizations as well as established institutions across the state. Last year we provided over \$100,000 in grant funds to more than thirty-two organizations.

Like those who care for the banyan tree in Lahaina, we must continue to tend to our communities, help each other grow, and embrace the spirit of the Hawaiian *ohana*—loosely interpreted as “extended family that is bound together.” Only in this way will we be able to move toward a better understanding of one another and our common humanity.



AMERICAN PUBLIC SQUARE: A FORUM FOR FACT-BASED, CIVIL DISCOURSE

ALLAN J. KATZ, J.D.
FOUNDER AND CEO,
AMERICAN PUBLIC SQUARE

ALANA MULLER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR, AMERICAN
PUBLIC SQUARE

In a world with competing views and a highly polarized political climate, is it realistic to think citizens can still engage in fact-based, civil dialogue? Our mission at American Public Square is to ensure that it is. We strive to provide a forum for community members on all sides of any given issue to come together in the spirit of civilized debate—not to change minds, but to better understand and appreciate one another’s perspectives.

American Public Square, a nonprofit, nonpartisan

organization based in Kansas City, Missouri, was founded in 2014 and has quickly worked to change the tone and quality of public discourse. We bring together non-like-minded people from across the community to create a forum for fact-based, civil conversation about potentially controversial national, regional, and local issues. We have covered topics ranging from civic engagement to community matters to education to health care to faith. Most programming is panel-based and includes commentary from speakers on all sides of an issue. Our approach is based on a similar organization that we started in Tallahassee, Florida, which has been operating since 2006.

Now in the midst of our fourth season, themed “Our Town, Our Country, Our World,” we continue to offer programs presented in a variety of formats including “Dinners at the Square,” which encourage people of varying viewpoints to dine and “break bread” together before digging into tough topics based on the evening’s panel issue, and “Conversations at the Square,” which generally include pre-event receptions before the panel discussions. American Public Square is committed to continuously branching out into the community by bringing these events to the entire Kansas City metropolitan area. In fact, Americans from across the nation have begun to take notice of our work, with thousands tuning into our events through the *Kansas City Star’s* Facebook Live simulcasts.

New this season is our important relationship with the Missouri Humanities Council. As our organizations became acquainted, it became instantly clear that we had a joint message to share. Together, we applied for and were granted





generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to host a March 2018 event, “Fake News.” This program is part of the *Democracy and the Informed Citizen* initiative, administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and conducted in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council. The initiative seeks to deepen the public’s knowledge and appreciation of the vital connections between democracy, the humanities, journalism, and an informed citizenry. In that light, our program addressed the question, “What is fake news?” and explored how its expanding presence is changing the national dialogue on important issues. Panelists included representatives from local and national media outlets and featured Pulitzer Prize–winning editorial writer and leader of the *Kansas City Star’s* Editorial Board, Colleen McCain Nelson; White House correspondent for Bloomberg News and president of the White House Correspondents’ Association, Margaret Talev; and PR professional and senior advisor to and spokesman for Mitt Romney’s 2012 US presidential campaign, Kevin Madden.

Once you participate in or witness an American Public Square event, you will soon become familiar with our approach. We ensure that our moderated conversations are truthful and civil. Every program features objective, real-time fact-checkers to confirm the validity of the comments made using credible, library-grade, online resources. Plus, event attendees are always invited to submit specific fact-check requests throughout the discussion.

Additionally, you’ll discover that, peppered throughout the audience, are “Civility Bells.” As soon as one of our panelists wades into false, overly dramatic, or hyperemotional territory, the holder of such a bell may ring it, and the speaker must stop talking. It’s a rule that speakers agree in advance to adhere to and, so far, without exception, even the most passionate of experts has honored the code.

And, by the way, we do not expect that all attendees and/or panelists will leave any given event as a convert. It is not expected that they will somehow see the error of their previous thinking and exit enlightened. However, with certainty, we promise this: (1) that on which we agree as American citizens outpaces that on which we disagree and (2) with fact-based, civil discourse, perhaps we will leave conversations with a fresh perspective on, or at least a better understanding of, our neighbors’ points of view.

Join us! We are a membership organization, and most of our programming is free and open to the general community. You can learn more about the work of American Public Square at americanpublicsquare.org.

REFLECTIONS ON THE HUMANITIES

Fake News: The American Way

STEVE BELKO, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MHC

After attending one of the recent programs in our Democracy and the Informed Citizen grant series—the American Public Square’s forum on the concept of “Fake News”—it struck me that this fascinating subject has another facet to it that (to my knowledge) has yet to be addressed, at least, in a historical sense. The wonderful civic dialogue that occurred at the forum in Kansas City reminded me of comments made earlier this year by retiring Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, who offered his own brief commentary on this new notion of fake news that has so consumed the nation since the 2016 presidential campaign season. “The free press is the despot’s enemy, which makes the free press the guardian of democracy,” he declared. “When a figure in power reflexively calls any press that doesn’t suit him ‘fake news,’ it is that person who should be the figure of suspicion, not the press.”

The discussion in the APS forum and Flake’s comments forced me to examine just what is the definition of “fake news.” If it refers to a scene in the movie *Independence Day* (1996) or an oratory in Orson Wells’s *War of the Worlds* radio performance, well, then, yes, this is by any reckoning, fake news. But “fake” entails various connotations. If “fake” implies bias—bias displayed in any degree—then there is indeed a justification for employing such a term as “fake;” of course, the use of the term is still in the eye of the beholder. “Fake” can indeed mean bias; it can mean prejudice or partiality as well. “Fake” can mean misrepresentation, misinformation, or irresponsible use of facts. In short, when it comes right down to it, our conception of the term “fake news” can simply mean advancing one’s agenda, serving in a self-righteous and arrogant manner one’s own narrow political, social, economic, and cultural schema.

If that is the case, then, Senator Flake could not have been more mistaken in his comments, at least from a historical perspective. In fact, if American history has proven anything regarding the American press, it is that bias, misrepresentation, promotion of particular agendas, and so on have been the absolute norm, not an aberration. Dare I say, this is the American way—and we have relished in this!

A cursory review of early American history alone disproves Flake’s assertion. During the American Revolution, colonial presses spewed only the Patriot argument, and the radical bent at that, eventually turning colonial Britons against the imperial government; the Tory cause in the American colonies rarely, and more rarely as the conflict progressed, ever got its say. In fact, the “fake news” of the Patriot editors was one of the primary reasons for American independence.

During the ratification debates of 1787 and 1788, a majority of Americans opposed the proposed constitution. But the Federalists, a distinct but distinguished minority in the newly independent thirteen American republics, utilized the press magnificently. Today, the *Federalist Papers* possess nearly biblical reverence in the United States, but during the ratification debates, these editorials were nothing more than responses to the more popular anti-Federalist writings of Brutus and relegated to the newspapers in the independent republic of New York, a staunch antirratification state. Thanks to the “fake news” of the Federalists throughout the independent North American republics, however, we dare not insult the Constitution today!

Almost immediately after ratification, President Washington’s cabinet began to dissolve into partisan conflict between the Federalist forces of Hamilton (and Adams, to a degree) and the emerging Republicans

of Jefferson and Madison (and do not forget that Madison was one of the premier authors of the *Federalist Papers*!). This partisan discord quickly erupted into a bitter, partisan-fueled national newspaper war. Hamilton hired John Fenno as editor of the *Gazette of the United States* to spout only the pro-administration, Federalist line; Jefferson and Madison promptly responded by hiring Philip Freneau to edit the *National Gazette*, which established the political philosophy and partisan stance of the emerging Jeffersonian Republicans. “Fake news” ruled the day!

The partisan debate and the ensuing newspaper war corresponded with the rise of a grassroots movement, dubbed democratic-republican societies, that were ideologically tied to the Jeffersonians. President Washington deemed this movement a security threat to the administration and thus to the United States; he considered them, in the 1790s, to be distributors of “fake news” and believed all means should be taken to silence this. In 1798, during the Adams administration, the Federalist Congress enacted the Alien and Sedition Acts—some of the more heinous pieces of legislation in our history. The sole purpose of these Acts? To eliminate any opposition to the government, that is, to punish and eradicate the Jeffersonian Republicans, particularly their press.

Section 2 of the Sedition Act declared: “That if any person shall write, print, utter or publish, or shall cause or procure to be written, printed, uttered or published, or shall knowingly and willingly assist or aid in writing, printing, uttering or publishing any false, scandalous and malicious writing or writings against the government of the United States, or either house of the Congress of the United States, or the President of the United States, with intent to defame the said government, or either house of the said Congress, or the said President, or to bring them, or either of them, into contempt or disrepute; or to excite against them, or either or any of them, the hatred of the good people of the United States, or to stir up sedition within the United States, or to excite any unlawful combinations therein, for opposing or resisting any law of

the United States, or any act of the President of the United States, done in pursuance of any such law, or of the powers in him vested by the constitution of the United States, or defeat any such law or act, or to aid, encourage or abet any hostile designs of any foreign nation against United States, their people or government, then such person, being thereof convicted before any court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment not exceeding two years.”

Notice the absence of one of the top officials in the US government, an official for which Americans could legally attack: the vice president of the United States, which was Thomas Jefferson at the time. Oh, the tangled web we weave in the name of “fake news” and attacking a free press! If you think that the US government—the Federalists, that is—would never enforce this repugnant legislation, then wrong you are. Just as one example among many more, twelve prominent Republican editors of some of the nation’s most respected and read newspapers were tried, convicted, fined, and imprisoned—all for opposing the sitting administration. The Jeffersonians responded with one of the three greatest documents in US constitutional history—the *Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions*—that excoriated the blatant attacks on a free press and, by implication, their “fake news.”

So when Flake asserted that “the free press is the despot’s enemy, which makes the free press the guardian of democracy,” and “When a figure in power reflexively calls any press that doesn’t suit him ‘fake news,’ it is that person who should be the figure of suspicion, not the press,” he obviously does not take into consideration the attacks against “fake news” by some of our greatest founding fathers, Washington and Adams, in particular—or is this an attack on a free press? Even I am getting confused here; what a fine line there is between “fake news” and a free press.

Oh, I could go on and on. In fact, if I may once again delve into my primary area of study, the Age of Jackson, we find “fake news” as rampant—and successful—as ever. I wrote the biography of the mouthpiece

of candidate Jackson's 1828 presidential campaign, Duff Green, whose national newspaper determined the political position of the Jacksonian Democrats all the way down to the tiniest of local newspapers. So skilled was this editor and those at the state and county level that they could portray Jackson's position on any topic of the day as in opposition to it in Illinois while in favor of it in South Carolina. The Jacksonians even orchestrated a system (using President John Quincy Adams's Postmaster General, John McLean, who President Jackson rewarded by appointing him to the US Supreme Court!) whereby only pro-Jacksonian newspapers were delivered to post offices across the county. Hence, citizens only read the Jacksonian perspective. This was one of the main reasons for Jackson's victory in 1828 and the introduction of the Second American Party System, which only honed the fake news... or was it the free press? Again, I am unsure of which.

And there I will stop, but I think you get the point. Fake news is about as American as it gets! Indeed, there is bias (in some cases, extreme bias) rampant in the American press; no media outlet is immune. Many Americans are disgusted, and I have heard regularly the desire for the media to report just the facts. But here again, "fake news" (free press?) can prevail. For even the simple reporting of facts can be a tool for supporting and advancing a particular agenda, perspective, or bias. I only need to remind you of Mark Twain's reiteration of Benjamin Disraeli's maxim that there are "lies, damned lies, and statistics," that is, fake news via facts. Facts—statistics—can be used by one party to justify and promote their particular agenda and used entirely in another manner by another party to mean exactly the opposite but for the same objective; the use of facts in this manner is *irresponsible*, but both parties are entirely *free* to do so.

All media outlets—each and every one (NPR, you may be included in this)—entail an obvious bias, which is simply fueled by misrepresentation, misinformation, an irresponsibility in the use of Twain's "statistics." For that matter, Flake's argument that "the free press is the despot's enemy, which makes the free press the guardian

of democracy" is about as subjective as you can get. All the terms in that sentence mean something different (and in many cases, drastically different) to every one of us. But it cannot be any other way, for we are human beings, and not one of us is, or ever has been, purely disinterested, no matter how much we attest profusely (and arrogantly) that we are. Those of us in the humanities are as culpable as any politician or reporter, for that matter.

Flake said that "if we compromise the truth for the sake of our politics, we are lost." In a historical sense, then, we have been lost from day one. But has not the course of American democracy been inextricably bound by the course of fake news wielded by a free press? It has indeed. So, can the advance of democracy be served by the role of our free press?

Maybe the question before us is not whether we have a *free* press—for we have always had a *free* press—but whether we have a *responsible* press.

But how do we make that determination? Well, quite frankly, through the humanities. The vision statement of the Missouri Humanities Council is: "For a more thoughtful, informed, and civil society." Everything we do seeks to achieve this end. Our overriding message is that only through a solid grounding in an educational system that values the humanities, through the constant intervention of *civil* dialogue, and through the recognition of the diversity of ideas, societies, and cultures can we ever realize that a free press may mean "fake news," but it is the perspicacity of the humanities that can instill in us the ability to determine what is responsible. It is one thing to be *free*; it is a whole other to be *responsible*. The humanities can be the deciding factor in how we approach and seek the latter.

Dr. Steve Belko contributes to this article in his personal capacity. The views expressed are his own and do not necessarily represent those of the Missouri Humanities Council. This series of articles—"Reflections on the Humanities"—is meant to be thought-provoking and encourage a dialogue around some of today's most relevant humanities topics. Have a response? Send it to sbelko@mohumanities.org.

SHARE THE STORY:



Snelson-Brinker Cabin

In 1824, Levi Snelson built a double-pen log cabin along a roadbed in rural Missouri—nine miles west of Steelville. In just a few years, this homestead would become an important site along the Cherokee Trail of Tears (1837–1839).

The Trail of Tears crossed some 600 miles through Missouri territory in three distinct routes; it is estimated that 10,000 Cherokee Indians, as well as other tribes, passed through Missouri on their forced march to the southern plains of Oklahoma.

In November 1838, one such detachment of 1,000+ Cherokee, led by Richard Taylor, departed from a camp near Chattanooga, Tennessee—taking the northernmost route through Missouri. By late February 1839, they arrived at Levi Snelson's cabin (now the Snelson-Brinker family farm and homestead), where they would camp for the night. W. I. I. Morrow, a physician, traveled with the Taylor detachment and recorded the stop in his diary::

“26th Feby. Cloudy & cool. Traveled to Davis near Steelville 10 miles — clear — 27th clear and cold, traveled 10 miles to Brinker near Massy [sic] Iron Works — snowed some during the day a very cold night — four Indians died, and were buried viz — 2 of Mills family, Old Byrd, and Mary Fields”

Another written account confirms the details of at least four named burials at the Snelson-Brinker homestead, making the rural Missouri farm one of just a handful along the entire network of the Trail of Tears (over 2,200 miles through nine states) that is a confirmed campsite and burial ground of the Cherokee people.

The Snelson-Brinker homestead has remained at its original site and setting since the nineteenth century. As Crawford County's oldest home, it served as an early courthouse for the county. In recognition of this rich history, the cabin was added to the National Register of Historic Places in March 2007.

Sadly, an arsonist set fire to the cabin on July 4, 2017. Only the stone hearth and chimney remain. MHC is leading an effort to preserve the chimney with a team of structural engineers. As part of our Native American Heritage program, MHC also commissioned an hour-long documentary on the Snelson-Brinker property. The film will follow a team of archaeologists as well as representatives from the National Park Service, the State of Missouri, and the Cherokee Nation as they seek to locate exact trail routes and burial grounds on the property. With this film, we hope to rescue from decay some portion of those stories of the Trail of Tears and offer the public a better understanding of this important chapter in our national history.

To learn more about this project or to watch a trailer for the documentary, visit www.mohumanities.org.

By contributing to MHC with the enclosed envelope, you will help us share the story of the Snelson-Brinker homestead in addition to supporting our humanities programs throughout the state.

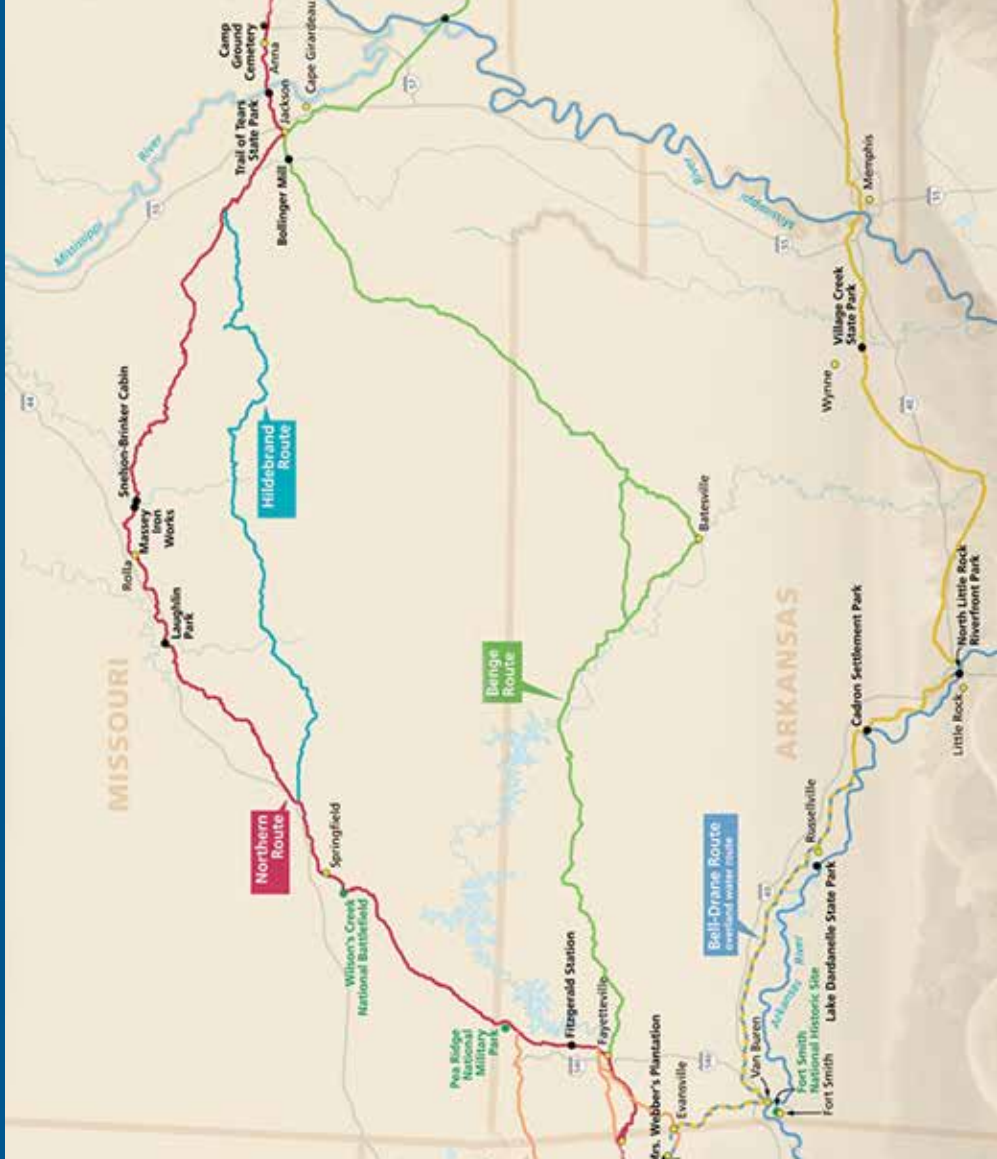


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TRAIL OF TEARS




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