

Winter 2013

# THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES . . .

*Where History Begins*



## ***New Year's Resolutions***

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Published by Jason Kander, Secretary of State  
in partnership with the Friends of the Missouri State Archives

Friends of the  
Missouri State  Archives

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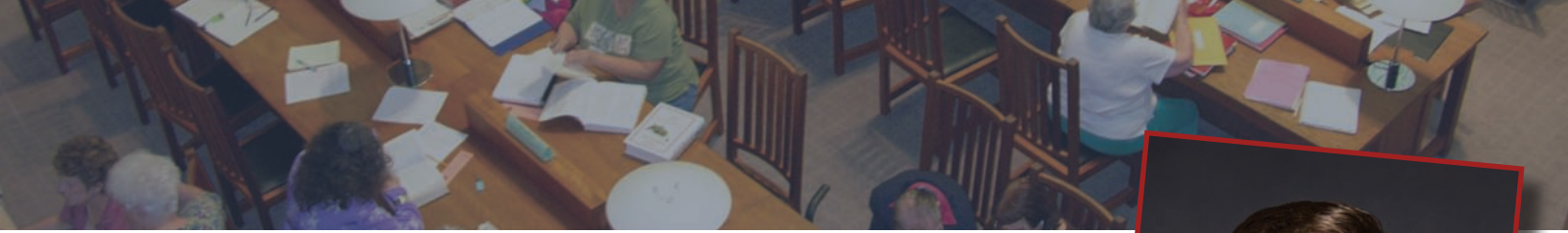
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### On the Cover

Two Children and a Dog Enjoying Winter Weather,  
by Gerald Massie, c. 1960s.  
From the collection of the Missouri State Archives.



# From the State Archivist



As we begin a new year, we invariably think of making resolutions. Most are things we should do anyway, but, for some reason, have put off or made an excuse not to complete. For those of us with an interest in history, let me suggest a few that may be easier to accomplish than the usual giving up of sweets or debt reduction.

**Start a Family Tree** – Visits with family over the holidays may have rekindled an interest in genealogy. With the recent onset of winter weather, what better time is there to start your research? One place to begin is [MissouriDigitalHeritage.com](http://MissouriDigitalHeritage.com), a website providing access to millions of invaluable records from the Missouri State Archives and other institutions around the state.

**Add More Leaves** – For those who have already started a family tree, set a goal to add more detail. To provide a richer, more complete context, attach photographs, stories, siblings and cousins to the limbs of your tree. Your history is much more than just people, places and dates.

**Read about Missouri History** – Whether already on your shelf, from the library or just purchased with a holiday gift card, read a book and immerse yourself in a bygone time. Discover the fascinating stories found by authors in the Missouri State Archives and other repositories across the state!

**Take a Trip** – When spring arrives, visit one of the numerous historic sites or research centers in Missouri; we are always glad to see patrons in person! Or, possibly even better, visit a cemetery with family and friends, sharing stories of those that have passed. Use these experiences as a prompt to add more details to your family or community history, just as you would with photographs and mementos.

**Start Close to Home** – If you live in an older home, research its history. If not, consider researching the history of your neighborhood, or the history of a local church or civic organization in which you are active. Uncover their story; learn something new.

**Volunteer** – The Missouri State Archives is fortunate to have a wonderful group of volunteers, but I would be remiss if I did not mention we are always looking for new faces. One of the best ways to learn about historical and genealogical research is to get involved. You do not even have to be from the area for the experience to be beneficial; what you learn can be applied in any historical context.

**Join** – Because most historical organizations are funded privately, it is essential they receive support through memberships and contributions. If a group has provided you with information and assistance in the past, please consider giving back. Your generosity will help build an active appreciation of our common past.

No matter your resolution, or even if you choose not to make one at all, Happy New Year from myself and the rest of us at the Missouri State Archives.

The old adage says that nothing in life is inevitable except death and taxes. True enough; and both generate records sought by genealogists. When looking for information on a death, most researchers head straight for vital and/or probate records, but it is not unusual to later find these same researchers empty-handed and unsure where to look next. Like death and taxes, it is also seemingly inevitable that researchers will discover an important record was destroyed as a result of a courthouse fire, natural disaster, hungry rodents or some other hazard. Frustrated, some give up at this point believing their research is at a dead end. This is a mistake, however, because there are often “workaround” paths in the least expected places. In this respect, one of the most helpful types of litigation records in Missouri is found in the files of the circuit court, or court of common pleas. Partition cases, in particular, can yield genealogical gold.

A partition is the division of an estate, a process that can be either voluntary—all parties are in agreement, or adversarial—a family dispute occurs over assets and property. For legal purposes, when property is divided all heirs are named and their relationship to the deceased is established in a petition to the court. This document could also note which children were born of differing marriages, or even if the deceased had half-siblings. For example, in the 1869 Cape Girardeau County partition of the estate of Margaret Walker, it was established she had first been married and had children with Louis Lorimier Jr. After Lorimier died, she wed John C. Walker and the couple had another three children. The names of all six children were listed in the file, as were the names of the daughters’ spouses, establishing the girls’ current identities at the time of the partition. When one of Margaret’s heirs died, their spouses and/or children were listed in their place since they would then inherit that person’s interest in the estate. This is useful for pinning down an elusive death date, as often the specific date is noted. If not explicit, the filing dates of the documents at least provide an approximation.

Sometimes other tantalizing clues might be found in supporting documentation. In the case noted above, one of the daughters moved to Los Angeles, California, prior to the court proceedings. This was revealed in a power of attorney document in which she appointed a local man to oversee her interest in the estate. Another example from the case comes from a copy of a guardianship document. While nowhere in the petition did it state one of Margaret’s grandchildren

lived just across the Mississippi River in Alexander County, Illinois, this fact was revealed in the guardianship material. Further supporting documentation revealed that another grandchild lived in Scott County, Missouri. Occasionally other tidbits surface, such as a map of the deceased’s land or a copy of their will. The latter is particularly helpful if the official will record has been destroyed or a copy of an individual’s will is missing from the settlement of their estate in probate.

Other types of property were also divided in partition cases, including slaves during the pre-Civil War era. In these instances, the names and ages of the slaves are typically listed. If no agreement could be reached as to whom would receive the individual slaves, the court would order a sale, with the proceeds then divided among the heirs. Important for African-American genealogical research, partition cases also document who purchased the slaves at public sale.

Occasionally a partition will reveal information that is extraordinary in detail. This may be found not only in the petition to the court, but also in depositions. Although not always present, if they are available, depositions can fill in the gaps of a person’s movements between Federal Census years. In one notable example, a combined partition and ejectment case from the Cape Girardeau County Court of Common Pleas, the life events of Mary Riggs were recorded. In this instance, Riggs requested a partition of her late husband’s estate. In the deposition given to the court, she provides her age, the names of her children as well as their death dates if deceased, the birth and death of an unnamed newborn, the names of her stepchildren, the names of her daughters’ husbands, the name of one her late husband’s grandchildren from an earlier marriage, the names of Mary’s later husbands, the dates of these marriages, where these marriages occurred and by whom they were performed, the later husbands’ death dates and where she was living at different points in her life.

As these examples attest, partition cases offer the discouraged genealogist new avenues of research and may provide that final bit of data needed to unlock family history. Both circuit and probate court case preservation projects continue across the state under the guidance of the Missouri State Archives’ Local Records Program.

# World War II Reports of Separation

*By Christina Miller, Senior Reference Archivist*

In May of 2010, the Office of the Missouri Adjutant General transferred 124 cubic feet of World War II Reports of Separation, known in military circles as DD Form 214s, to the Missouri State Archives. These records document the discharge of every service member who provided a Missouri address at the time of his or her separation from the military.

Reports of Separation vary by the branch of service from which they were issued. Provided information may include the individual's date and place of entry into active service; date and place of birth; home address at time of entry; marital status; next of kin; date and place of release from active duty; home address after separation; last duty assignment and rank; military job specialty; military education; decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign awards; total creditable service; credited foreign service; type of separation; character of service; authority and reason for separation; and separation and reenlistment eligibility codes.

To improve access and prepare them for a future digitization project, Missouri State Archives' volunteers began processing the Reports of Separation in November of 2010. Over the course of 22 months, 40 individuals removed staples, alphabetized and placed the records in acid-free folders and boxes. Thanks to the 3,274 hours devoted by these volunteers, the records are now available for patron research. To request a search of the World War II Reports of Separation, email Missouri State Archives' reference services at [archref@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archref@sos.mo.gov).

## From the MSA Reference Staff: "Personal Acts"

*By Erika Woehlk, Research Analyst*

Need a divorce? Try the Missouri State Legislature. How about a declaration of legal age for the transfer of property? The Legislature is only too glad to help. Require a change of name? Step right up to the General Assembly in Jefferson City and they will make it official—no problem! Although this may seem strange to us today, that is exactly what happened in the early days of Missouri statehood.

Beginning in 1821, the Missouri State Legislature, or General Assembly, passed over 2,600 "personal acts," all of which were published in the "Laws of Missouri." The Missouri State Archives possesses an index to these acts up through 1868, compiled by St. Louis attorney James S. Garland. Most involve financial relief provided to county officials, but many were also granted for changes of name, land sale authorizations, probate purposes, declarations of legal age, slave acts, divorces, marriage legalizations and adoptions.

One example comes from the famous outlaw Cole Younger. His grandfather, Charles, died in St. Clair County in late 1854. Because he owned property in Jackson County at the time of his death, the General Assembly passed an act declaring that the St. Clair County Probate Court must file copies of all related paperwork with the Jackson County Probate Court before the estate could be divided amongst his heirs.

Another example, this time involving a change of name, occurred in Madison County in 1836. Francois Valle had three illegitimate children with Nancy Deguire (also spelled Degier and Dekelligar). For them to be declared legitimate heirs, he petitioned the Legislature to change the names of the three children—Francis, John Baptist and Lewis—from Deguire to Valle.

For those with early Missouri ancestors, searching the personal acts might provide some valuable new information. To request a search, contact Missouri State Archives' reference services at [archref@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archref@sos.mo.gov).

# Picture This

By Amy Moorman, Visual Materials Archivist

## Division Of Tourism

One of the largest photograph collections held by the Missouri State Archives comes from the Division of Tourism. This diverse assemblage contains over 30 cubic feet of negatives, slides and transparencies taken between 1967 and 2005.

The photographs in the collection document a wide variety of subjects and provide a wonderful overview of the state's attractions. Images are arranged into the following categories: Events and Entertainment; Sports and Leisure; Nature; Agriculture and Industry; History and Culture; Tourist Destinations; Accommodations and Cuisine; People and Towns; and Transportation.

The scope and quality of the Division of Tourism photographs are truly astounding. Created as a means to advertise Missouri's diverse tourism industry, this collection has become an invaluable resource for those interested in the state's recent history. To improve access, select images are currently being added to the Missouri Digital Heritage website from the nearly 100,000 photographic slides in the collection. Discover these online today at [www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/)!

### Events and Entertainment

- Festivals
- Concerts/theater productions
- Parades
- Historical reenactments
- Holiday events

### Sports and Leisure

- Professional/college sports
- Leisure activities

### Nature

- National and state parks
- Lakes and rivers
- Forests
- Caves
- Wildlife

### Agriculture and Industry

- Orchards and farms
- Factories

### History and Culture

- Museums
- Historic homes
- Government buildings
- Churches

### History and Culture (continued)

- Colleges
- Mills
- Cemeteries
- Statuary
- State historic sites

### Tourist Destinations

- Amusement parks
- Zoos

### Accommodations and Cuisine

- Resorts and hotels
- Bed and breakfasts
- Wineries
- Restaurants

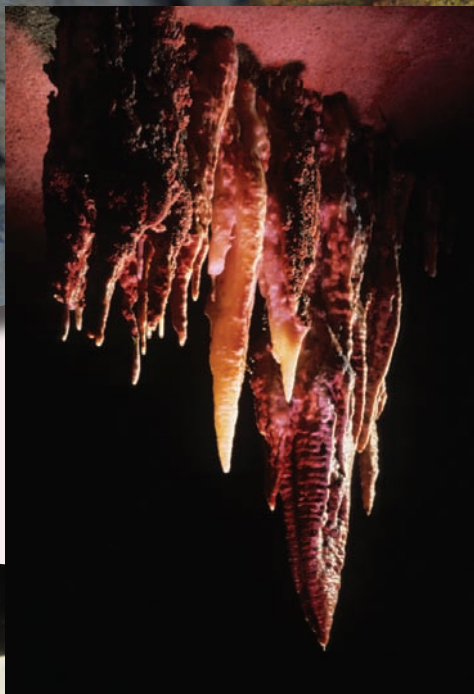
### People and Towns

- Street scenes
- Daily life

### Transportation

- Cars
- Trains
- Planes
- Boats







***Lyon's oath was "probably the first in a series of loyalty oaths Missouri troops were required to subscribe to during the war."***

## **LYON'S OATH**

In his 1861 report, Adjutant General Chester Harding Jr. conceded, "No accurate account can be given of the 'Home Guards.'" Authorized by a June 11, 1861 letter from the War Department to Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon, the Home Guards received some weapons from the federal authorities, though many used their personal firearms. Their actual role in the early months of the Civil War remained obscure because, according to Harding, "They expected neither pay nor subsistence from the Government, and made no reports to its authorities."

Despite Harding's statement, many of the Home Guards did expect pay, and in 1863, members of the Gasconade County Battalion presented their case to the Hawkins Taylor Commission, created to evaluate claims for pay, bounty and pensions for troops in the Western Department, later the Department of the Missouri. In the absence of official reports, affidavits and other documents submitted to the commission provided at least a partial history of the battalion and its activities in the early months of the war.

The battalion had its beginnings in the spring of 1861 when Julius Hundhausen, without official sanction, organized a company of Union men for their own protection. Hundhausen, wanting to enroll his company in federal service, sought the assistance of James W. Owens, who had previously organized a Home Guard regiment in neighboring

Franklin County. Acting on Owens' advice, in June 1861, he sent First Lieutenant (later Captain) C.C. Manwaring to St. Louis, where the lieutenant met with General Lyon. After swearing Manwaring into federal service, Lyon gave him a handwritten copy of a loyalty oath to administer to Hundhausen, probably the first in a series of loyalty oaths Missouri troops were required to subscribe to during the war. Hundhausen then administered Lyon's oath to the members of the five companies of his battalion.

Colonel John T. Fiala, who served on the staff of Major General John C. Fremont during much of the time the Home Guards were active, recalled that Hundhausen's men were in continual service until October 1, 1861, "guarding Bridges, escorting trains, and patrolling the county." The services rendered by the battalion, according to Fiala, "were superior to those of any other, the Home Guards of St. Louis County not excepted."

Many of the Home Guard units, including the Gasconade County Battalion, were eventually paid for their time in active service, and in 1886, they were finally awarded certificates of discharge as a further acknowledgement of their contributions in the war's earliest days.

Records of the Gasconade County Battalion and some other Home Guard units are part of the Adjutant General Collection at the Missouri State Archives.



out said Battalion, the officers of the regular Army then  
 in this Department being but few & all either in the field  
 with Maj Genl Fremont, or in Charge of Departments  
 at St Louis which required their constant attendance  
 (Signed) John T. Fiala  
 Col & A. C. D. C.  
 St Louis Mo. April 14<sup>th</sup> 1863

I, the undersigned John T. Fiala, Col & A. C. D. C. U. S. A. having been in the months of August Sept & October 1861 on the  
 Staff of Maj Genl J. C. Fremont then commanding Western  
 Department, as Chief of Topographical Engineers & Brigade  
 Inspector of Home Guards do hereby Certify on honor  
 that having had during the months of August, September  
 1861 official intercourse with Lt Col Handhansen, the Bat-  
 talion Commander of the Gasconade County Home Guards,  
 I am officially acquainted with the services rendered in those  
 months by that Battalion, which were of the most valuable  
 Character and consisted in guarding Bridges, escorting trains,  
 and patrolling the County. That I am well acquainted with  
 services rendered by Home Guard organization throughout the  
 State during that period and have no hesitation to say that  
 those rendered by the Gasconade County Home Guard  
 Battalion were superior to those of any other, the Home  
 Guards of St Louis County not excepted - I do further  
 Certify that the Battalion was continued in service up to  
 the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 1861 although the time of some of  
 the Companies had already before expired; at the request  
 of Genl Fremont, as the transformation from three months  
 to three years troops going on at that time, made it absolute-  
 ly necessary that reliable troops of the three month period  
 be as long as possible - That the Battalion was employed  
 in active service up to the day of its Muster out, and  
 that no officer of the regular Army could be spared with-  
 out detriment to the public service for the purpose of mustering

Certificate of Col John  
 T. Fiala

You solemnly swear that you will to the best of your  
 ability fulfill the trust reposed in you. That you will bear  
 true faith and Allegiance to the Government of the  
 United States, that you will serve them honestly and  
 faithfully against all enemies and opposers whatsoever in  
 the execution of this trust -  
 Form of oath in handwriting  
 of Genl Lyon administered by Capt Manswaring to Col  
 Julius Handhansen

Above and center: Affidavit of Col. John T. Fiala. Right: General Nathaniel Lyon's Loyalty Oath. Missouri State Archives.

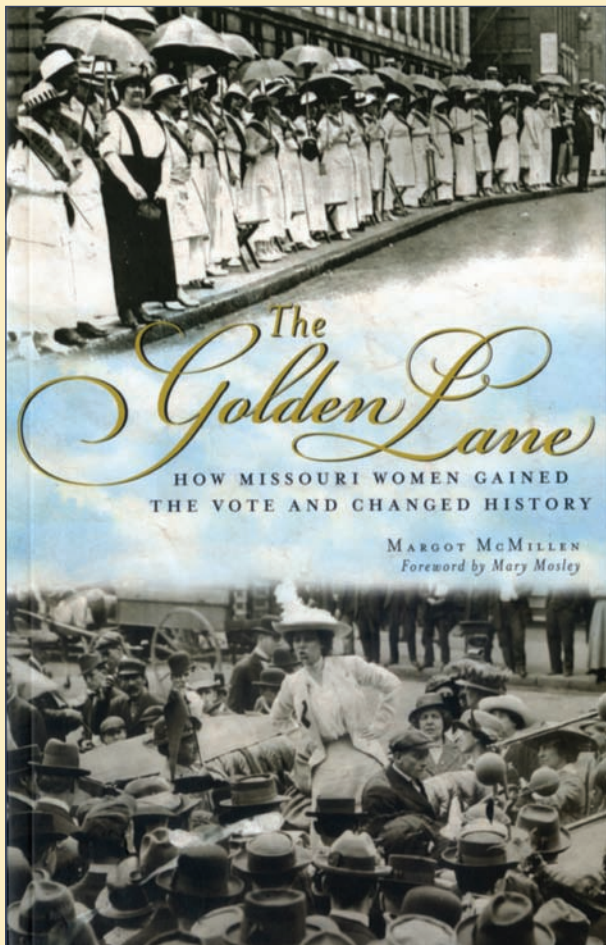
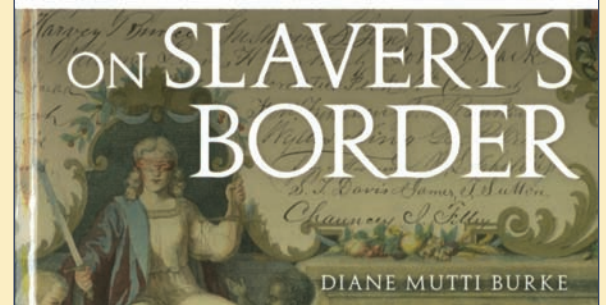
# Winter 2013 Program Calendar

## ***On Slavery's Border: Missouri's Small Slaveholding Households, 1815-1865*** **February 21, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**

"On Slavery's Border" is a bottom-up examination of how slavery and slaveholding in Missouri were influenced by both geography and scale. By the time of statehood in 1821, people were moving to the area in large numbers, especially from the upper South, hoping to replicate the slave society they left behind. Author Diane Mutti-Burke focuses on Missouri counties located along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, investigating small-scale slavery at the household and neighborhood level. She examines such topics as child-rearing and fiscal strategies, the economics of slavery, relations between slaves and owners, the challenges faced by slave families, sociability among enslaved and free Missourians within rural neighborhoods and the disintegration of slavery during the Civil War. Join us as Mutti-Burke discusses her research, highlighting the social and economic factors that made this dark period in American History so unique in Missouri.



*Missouri's Small-Slaveholding Households, 1815-1865*



## ***The Golden Lane: How Missouri Women Gained the Vote and Changed History*** **March 14, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**

In "The Golden Lane," author Margot McMillen shares how a protest by thousands of women at the 1916 Democratic National Convention in St. Louis changed minds and helped make voting rights for women a reality. On the morning of June 14, 1916, delegates to the convention found themselves the object of a protest. Outside the Jefferson Hotel, where many of the all-male delegates were staying, thousands of women lined both sides of Locust Street, standing shoulder to shoulder and wearing yellow sashes on which was printed "Votes for Women." Any man who would conduct the party's business was obliged to take an uncomfortable walk down this "Golden Lane." In her book, McMillen explores the struggle for women's suffrage in Missouri and the instrumental part the 1916 protest played in pressuring the Democratic Party to move women's suffrage onto their national platform.

All programs will be held at the Missouri State Archives, 600 West Main Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, and are free and open to the public.

# News and Announcements

## Donations to the Friends of the Missouri State Archives

(as of December 23, 2012)

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Earl Padgett, Kansas City  
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Barbara Swanson, Jefferson City  
H. Dwight & Rosie Weaver, Eldon

### INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Ruth Ann Hager, Florissant  
Lynn Morrow, Jefferson City  
Denise Ziegelbein, Lohman

## Retirement Celebration for Lynn Morrow



On December 31, Lynn Morrow retired after directing the Missouri State Archives' Local Records Program for more than two decades. Family, friends and staff from the Secretary of State's Office turned out to celebrate Lynn's long and storied career and to wish him well in his retirement.



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To receive emails, contact us at [mostarch@sos.mo.gov](mailto:mostarch@sos.mo.gov) or 573-526-1981

## Genealogical Journeys

Read about the Missouri State Archives in "Genealogical Journeys," an article recently published in the *Missouri 2013 Official Travel Guide*.

To view it online or request a copy, visit [www.visitmo.com/](http://www.visitmo.com/).

## What's New at the Archives?

For a list of new acquisitions, visit us at [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/acquisitions.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/acquisitions.asp)



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