

THE MUSEUM MUSE



Did you know the State Museum has a friends group? The Friends of the Missouri State Museum recently received its official 501(c)3 status as a non-profit organization. Its mission is to support and advocate for the museum. The Friends have already raised funds and committed them to two museum projects. They will purchase reproduction



Friends group hosts "curator's tour" of Civil War Missouri exhibit in June

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clothing and other items for the "hands on history" area of the Civil War Missouri exhibit. In addition, they have committed funds to purchase two "trail blazing" signs directing visitors to the Museum in the Capitol.

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Friends of the Missouri State Museum board members

<http://www.facebook.com/MissouriStateMuseum.1821>



*The mission of the Missouri State Museum is:
"to interpret Missouri's cultural and natural history, and to sustain them for its citizens and visitors through research, exhibitions, preservation, and public programming."*

Director's Column

The museum is full of exciting happenings. The staff never cease to amaze me with their dedication and creativity. I am also amazed by the support and interest of the public in what we do. During a recent behind-the-scenes tour, I spoke with one couple who have become "regulars." We're pleased that we can continue to offer new and interesting programs.

Our tagline, "It's Your History," extends statewide. The State Museum cannot preserve all of Missouri's cultural and natural history on its own. So, we feel it is part of our mission to help out the other organizations across the state who also strive to preserve the history and resources. We have had staff from small local museums and historical societies come to our behind-the-scenes tours, and we are more than happy to answer questions and share "secrets." If you work for a local organization, or know people who do, please let them know we try to be a resource for them. In addition, if we can provide educational programming or guest speakers, let us know.

As always, if you have comments or suggestions, please contact us at DSP.State.Museum@dnr.mo.gov or 573-751-2854. It's Your History! Be involved.



Linda Endersby



Margaret Means views her relative's medals on display in the museum's Veterans Gallery.

Collections Corner

It really is YOUR History.

The Missouri State Museum's tagline, "It's Your History," has definitely resonated with me these last few months as families have visited the museum to reconnect with artifacts that tell the story of their relatives. In June, Margaret Means, of Kansas City, was surprised to see a picture of her relative Maj. Ernest "Doc" Slusher (who served in both the Spanish-American War and World War I) in a local newspaper. The article raised awareness of the Missouri State Treasurer Office's abandoned property program. Doc Slusher, a native Missourian, was awarded both the Distinguished Service Medal and the French Croix de Guerre for his selfless dedication to the wounded soldiers on a World War I battlefield despite suffering from the effects of mustard gas. Over the years, the medals became "abandoned property" and were sent the Missouri State Treasurer's Office. Thanks to legislation passed in 2010, the State Treasurer's Office no longer auctions off unclaimed military honors. They are working with the State Museum to preserve them and, in some cases, exhibit them to ensure the veterans' sacrifice is not forgotten.

Doc Slusher's picture was put in the paper, which resulted in Mrs. Means coming forward to claim the medals. On June 30, Margaret and her family visited the museum to see the medals she had not

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Interpretive Programming

Wednesdays @ 1

Our “Wednesdays @ 1” programs have been very successful this summer. Our attendance is up from last year. Here is our next two months of program, we can’t wait to see everyone there.

- Sept. 7: Native Americans during the Civil War
- Sept. 14: Birds of Prey
- Sept. 21: Meet a Frontiersman
- Sept. 28: Drums of the Civil War
- Oct. 5: Bears of Missouri
- Oct. 12: Songs of the Civil War
- Oct. 19: Bats of Missouri
- Oct. 26: Fossils

“Civil War Missouri” tours

Every Saturday at 2 p.m. (through Nov. 17), museum staff will offer a “Civil War Missouri” tour. These tours will highlight pieces in the museum’s “Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing” exhibit and areas in the Capitol that reflect Missouri’s role in the Civil War.



Amanda Coonce from Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site shows how to use a loom during a “Wednesdays @ 1” program.

Outreach Programs

Our Civil War artillery cannon program “Ready, Aim, Fire” will be in many different locations this fall. August was full with programs at Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site, Glasgow 1800 Days in downtown Glasgow, and the State Fair in Sedalia. In September, the program will be at Boone’s Lick State Historic Site on Sept. 5 and at Battle of Lexington State Historic Site on Sept. 17 for the Battle of Lexington re-enactment. We are sure we will be filling more dates as the year continues to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. You can keep up with the cannon travels on Facebook.

Our staff provides other outreach programs in addition to the “Ready, Aim, Fire” program. For questions or to schedule a program, please contact us at DSP.State.Museum@dnr.mo.gov or 573-751-4127.

Kids prepare to do a Civil War signal flag activity.

Exhibits

Recently, someone asked me how the museum staff chooses the exhibits we build. At the State Museum, with a mission of interpreting the natural and cultural history of the state, we have a broad palette. Sometimes the anniversary of an event provides inspiration. The Civil War sesquicentennial did this as did the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Coming soon is the centennial of World War I and the construction of Missouri’s current Capitol building. A temporary exhibit on Germans who came to Missouri was spurred by the desire to tell the story of a group of Missourians who changed Missouri. In other cases, exhibits are created to highlight a special collection of artifacts in the care of the State Museum.

In the future, the museum staff plans to redesign both the History and Resources exhibit halls. The topics are the cultural history of Missouri in one hall and the natural history and resources of Missouri in the other. What stories should be told? What artifacts and natural materials should be displayed? What messages should be communicated? Inspiration will be needed to answer these questions as the

staff strives to meet the expectations of Missourians and visitors to the state. So, what’s YOUR history?

— Julie Kemper, Curator of Exhibits



Katherine Keil, curator of collections, shows guests artifacts in a behind-the-scenes tour.



Troy Wolken is thinking inside the box for this exhibit



“Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing”

("Collections Corner" continued from page 2)

seen since she was a little girl. She recalled how proudly Doc Slusher displayed the medals in his medical office in Kansas City. You can stop by and see the medals on display in the State Museum's Veterans Gallery until the end of 2011.

Mrs. Caroline Humphrey and her husband Marion, of Scottsbluff, Neb., also stopped by the State Museum in July. Mrs. Humphrey, the family genealogist, was thrilled to see in person the wedding cap that her great-grandmother Theresa Leigers Taube (Taos, Mo.) wore around 1876 and that was donated to the museum in 1954. Caroline recalled having tried on the matching wedding suit as a child.

As a curator, one of the best parts of my job is when I get to reconnect families with a piece of their past and hear their stories. I am proud to preserve the artifacts, for all Missourians, that provide that tangible link to their history. Whether the artifact came from your family or your ancestors used one just like it, remember: "It's Your History!"

—Kate Keil, Curator of Collections



Caroline and Marion Humphrey hold her great-grandmother's wedding cap.

"It's Your History" tours

Have you ever wondered where the artifacts are stored? Are you curious what a curator actually does? These are just some of the questions that will be answered on the tours. You will have the chance to see what it takes to store, preserve and conserve artifacts. Come join us behind the scenes on the last Friday of the month in September and October at 2 p.m. Free admission; no reservations required. (Riverside Collections Facility, 117 N. Riverside Drive)

Visitors Input Needed on Educational Programming and Outreach

Museum staff is looking for input on programs you would like to see at the State Museum or new outreach programs we can bring to you. Maybe, you are a home school group learning a certain subject and would like a program created to spice up a subject to instill that lesson. Maybe, you are a social or civic community group looking for a guest speaker. Maybe you are a teacher and coming to the museum is not possible, but you would like us to come to you. At the State Museum, we have a wide list of subjects and artifacts we can share with your groups. The interpretive staff is looking for ways to expand the museum's presence in the state. All input from each of you will be very appreciated. If you have any ideas or requests, please contact us at DSP.State.Museum@dnr.mo.gov or 573-751-4127.

We are now on Facebook

We are very excited to announce we have a Facebook page. We hope everyone will join us and "like" the page. We are providing upcoming events information and pictures from programs. You also have the ability to make comments about the museum and share your personal experiences you have had at the State Museum. Curatorial staff will periodically feature an artifact in a "What is This?" series. (We have already had someone help identify a previously unidentified artifact!)



<http://www.facebook.com/MissouriStateMuseum>



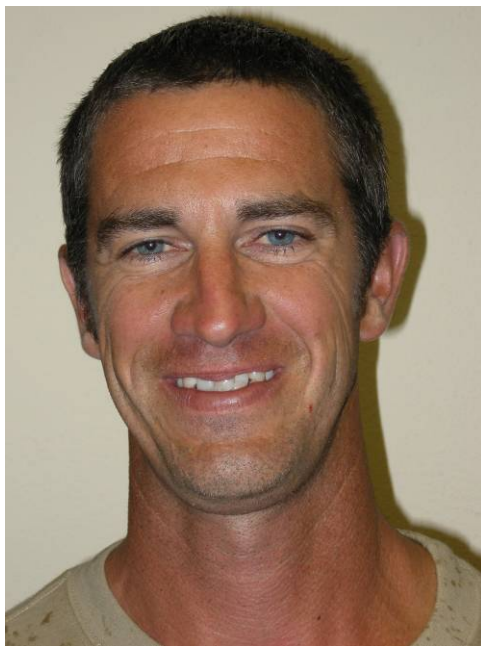
Just a reminder—Jefferson Landing State Historic Site (Lohman Building and Union Hotel) closed on Sept 4, 2011 . They will reopen for the season on March 1, 2012.

PHOTO CONTEST

Take a picture of you and/or your family at the State Museum. The prize is one of our Cannon crew tee shirts. So come on out and visit us, take a picture, and email it to us for your prize (Katherine.Keil@dnr.mo.gov).



Civil War "Flashpoints"



Behind the Scenes

One of the newest members of our staff is Troy Wolken. Wolken is a maintenance supervisor who works on everything and anything in the museum, collections area, out buildings, and anywhere else he is sent. He came to us by the Highway Patrol Office where he was a maintenance supervisor for the past six years. Wolken lives in Osage Bend and is married with two kids. He enjoys farming, tractor pulling and spending time on the river with his family and friends. The museum is very lucky to have such a hard worker on our team.

State Museum Staff

Linda Endersby, Acting Director
 Julie Kemper, Curator
 Katherine Keil, Curator
 Danielle DiGiacomo, Collections Asst.
 Jocelyn Korsch, Interpretive Resource Specialist

Chris Sterman, Interpretive Resource Specialist
 Chris Fritsche, Interpretive Resource Specialist
 Karla Strain, Interpretive Resource Technician
 Troy Wolken, Maintenance



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