

THE MUSEUM MUSE

ARTIFACTS ARE "ON THE MOVE"

The majority of the artifacts in the Missouri State Museum's collection are currently stored in the basement of the State Capitol. Some of that space is needed for other uses because of a Capitol renovation project. So, the artifacts in that space (about 1/3 of the collection) will be on the move this spring and summer. The Office of Administration, who is conducting the Capitol renovation, is providing space offsite. Museum staff has named that new space the Riverside Collections Facility.



Museum staff examine artifacts during inventory

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SCHOOL GROUP SEASON BEGINS

During March, April and May, museum staff will lead tours for nearly 30,000 school kids. The majority of school groups come during the legislative session, which runs through May 14.



House Lounge

MUSEUM CLEANING OUT ITS "ATTIC"

Have you ever cleaned out your attic or garage and came across items that you thought were lost or you forgot you had? Museum staff are doing something similar. As reported in our last newsletter, the Museum received a grant to conduct an extensive two-year inventory of our artifact collections. We are "rediscovering" interesting artifacts.

The inventory process is simple yet tedious. Our staff physically locates, examines, measures and photographs every object in the collection. We go room by room, cabinet by cabinet and shelf by shelf. The information is entered or updated in our electronic collections database.

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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

I am constantly impressed by what people can accomplish when they use their passion to reach for lofty goals. The dedicated staff at the Missouri State Museum illustrates this on a daily basis. Recently, they have weathered some rocky times. However, everyone has stayed focused on the mission. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find information on progress inventorying and evaluating the collection. You will also find information on the Riverside Collections Facility. While it is not a state-of-the-art purpose-built building, it is a small step in the right direction.



I have also been very impressed with the passion the public has shown for history and for the museum. Many people attended the Community Dialogues and Behind the Scenes Tours. We have received inquiries from those who would like to volunteer. I am humbled by your willingness to give your time and talent to help us preserve and interpret history. In response, our staff is developing a volunteer program. We are also starting a dialogue regarding the formation of a support or "friends" group for the museum. A separate non-profit support group will give the museum greater flexibility and allow the public to provide greater input. These projects will also provide opportunities for you to connect with other people who are passionate about Missouri's history.

I am very excited about the museum's future. The staff is dedicated, and we can accomplish our goals if we all work together. If you would like to volunteer or help us with the support group, you can contact us at DSP.State.Museum@dnr.mo.gov or 573-751-2854.

It's Your History!

Kurt Senn, Museum Director

Pvt. John M. Phillips
Spanish-American
War collection



Collections Corner

The Museum recently received artifacts related to the military service of John M. Phillips. Pvt. Phillips enrolled in the army on July 11, 1898, in Brookfield, Mo., and was assigned to Company A of the 6th Regiment Missouri Volunteers. He served in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. Items in the donation include a rare khaki tunic with blue trim on the cuffs, pockets and collar, denoting service in the infantry. There is a pocket-size Bible given to Phillips by the Brookfield YMCA at the time of his enlistment. Also, in connection with Phillips' Cherokee heritage, there is a small beaded bag in which it is believed he carried medicine or a tiny book of daily readings. John Phillips came home from the war and became an active horse and cattle trader in Eldon, Missouri.

Artifacts from this military collection and others can be seen on a rotating basis on display in the Missouri Veterans Gallery, located in the far east wing.

Interpretive Programming

2010 Events/Programming

“Tuesdays at the Capitol” is co-sponsored by the Missouri Folk Arts Council

April 13: Irene Livingston and apprentice will demonstrate the art of rug “twining”

April 20: Don Graves and apprentices will share songs, tunes and family stories about the “walking cane” dulcimer

“Tuesdays at Two” will return this summer. These programs are geared toward children age 6-12 years, although “kids” of every age are welcome.

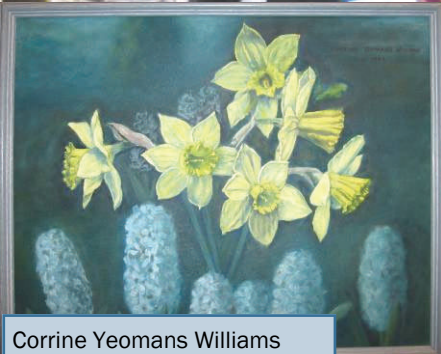
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Tuesdays at the Capitol, 2008: Folk artist Daniel Suarez (left) and his apprentice Raul Martinez demonstrating to play the Venezuelan “cuatro.”



Boy Scouts exhibit



Corrine Yeomans Williams

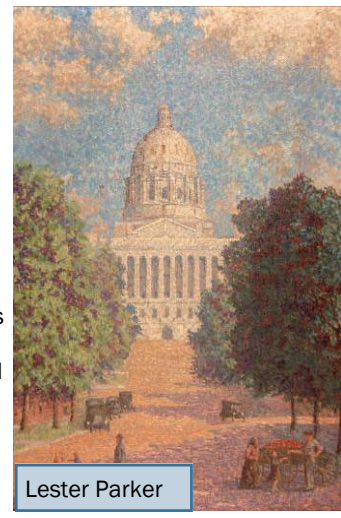
Exhibits

Art and History at the Rozier Gallery

In the past, temporary exhibits at the Missouri State Museum and Jefferson Landing State Historic Site have been one of two things: art exhibits in the Rozier Gallery and history exhibits in the State Museum. A few years ago these lines started to blur with an exhibit of some of the museum’s Civil War flags. They are both history and art. Then there was the Missouri State Penitentiary exhibit that included inmate-made art, whether it was intended to be art or not: a cane made for a guard and a hummingbird made from toilet paper as well as a painting.

In 2010, the Rozier season opened with an exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts. “Through the Years,” artwork by Corrine Williams, opened on March 9, 2010. The exhibit shows progression, growth and change through Williams’ personal history. On June 1, the State Historical Society of Missouri will open an exhibit of art and sheet music by Lester Parker. Parker was a prominent Jefferson City businessman in the early 20th century. A local historical figure with a creative side again allows art and history to meet.

The Gallery will close for the season Sept. 4 and will re-open March 1, 2011.



Lester Parker



Artifacts from the museum's "attic"

("Attic" continued from page 1)

Museum staff hopes to put some of these rediscovered artifacts on exhibit. In addition, by the end of the inventory, parts of the collections database will be viewable and searchable to the public, who will be able to "see" numerous artifacts not on exhibit.

Our "Museums for America" grant is from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. This grant program provided more than \$19 million in grants to 167 institutions nationwide in 2009. The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

("2010 Events" continued from page 3)

Topics of other Programs in Development:

- Votes for Women
- Packing for the Trail (heading West)
- Mark Twain, river boat captain
- Traditional plant uses
- Missouri birds
- Missouri fossils



Tuesdays at Two 2009: "Can You Dig It?" archaeology program



Behind the Scenes

Hi, my name is Jocelyn Korsch. In November 2009, I transferred from Lake of the Ozarks State Park to the Museum as an Interpretive Resource Specialist. I'm excited to have this opportunity to work for the Museum and help people explore this great state resource. When I came, I thought that I was accustomed to working with large groups of people and noise. However, it has taken some time to get used to leading tours through the excitement and noise of the Capitol during the legislative session!

State Museum Staff

- Kurt Senn, Director
- Linda Endersby, Assistant Director
- Julie Kemper, Curator
- Katherine Keil, Curator
- Rachel Jeffries, Collections Inventory Manager

- Saige Jedele, Collections Assistant
- Chris Sterman, Tour and Gift Shop Manager
- Jocelyn Korsch, Interpretive Resource Specialist
- Karla Strain, Interpretive Resource Technician
- Chris Fritsche, Interpretive Resource Specialist



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