

THE MUSEUM MUSE

At Last, At Last: The New Exhibit Opens

Five years ago, I started working at the Missouri State Museum as the curator of exhibits. During my first week, I was informed that the museum would be creating an exhibit about the Civil War in Missouri for the sesquicentennial of the war. The first thing I did was make a note of how to spell sesquicentennial and tape it to my computer (it is still there). While our staff created many interesting exhibits about the Germans in Missouri, the State Penitentiary and Missouri veterans, we started building our Civil War arsenal with exhibits like "Slavery's Echoes," "Right of Action" and "Hands-On Civil War." These exhibits laid the ground work for what became "**Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing.**"

As work progressed over the years the size, scope and budget for the exhibit changed. We juggled plans for artifacts, exhibit cases, images, audio, interactive elements and lighting; but we knew what was important: tell the story of Missourians and the state during a national crisis. The exhibit tells personal stories, gives a glimpse of the complex history and encourages visitors to discover more about Civil War Missouri in other places. So, please visit the new Civil War exhibit. It will change every six months, so bring friends a second time. Then, go find Civil War Missouri in other museums and historic sites, local historical societies and libraries, and right in your own attic or family tree.

Julie Kemper, Curator of Exhibits

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Collections assistant Courtney Titus focuses on getting it just right during exhibit installation. Titus came to work at the museum in January specifically to assist with the exhibit. She will unfortunately be leaving in July. Good luck!



The River Ridge String Band plays Civil War-era music at the May 7 exhibit opening.

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

It has been a full year since I have taken over leadership at the State Museum. I continue to be impressed by the dedication, knowledge and skill of the staff. Over the past few months, the museum staff has opened a major new exhibit, won a national collections care award, and completed another successful school group tour season. And they are ready for more.

With the "Civil War Missouri" exhibit open, our exhibit team has begun planning for the centennial of World War I. The interpretive education team has started this year's weekly programming for kids, now "Wednesdays @ 1." Our artifact collections team is planning the next goals after a complete inventory of the collection and the move of about 40 percent of our artifacts to the new Riverside Collections Facility.

The museum is also expanding its partnerships with other institutions. We are working with the Churchill Memorial on a teacher workshop and with the Missouri State Archives on two different digital heritage projects. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find information on another dedicated group of people: the Friends of the Missouri State Museum. They have events planned for June and July. Please consider joining this not-for-profit support group for the museum.

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

Linda Endersby

Collections Corner

Some Light Upon A Chariton County Episode of '64

Although published in the 1890s, this booklet by Louis Benecke reflects back on an episode from the Civil War. Benecke, a German immigrant to Chariton County, had joined the Union Army at the outbreak of the war. In the booklet, he claims to be haunted by malicious rumors that he participated in the capture and retaliation murder of bushwhacker J. W. Leonard in January 1865 while in command of the military district of Chariton and Howard counties. Even 25 years later, the allegations against Benecke continued to affect his personal and professional life. In an attempt to clear his name, Benecke investigated the allegations and collected affidavits from men with whom he served. Several of his men verified that he was not present when Leonard was taken prisoner and later "disappeared." Benecke claims he was told the prisoner escaped during the night.

This booklet can be seen in the new Civil War exhibit. Louis Benecke's personal and business papers are held by the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia.



Louis Benecke, Courtesy of State Historical Society

Interpretive Programming

Outreach Programs

Our outreach programs have been very successful and have kept us very busy over the spring time. Both “Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier” and “Packing for the Trail” are still available to any groups that would like to have us come visit.

Our cannon program “Ready, Aim, Fire” will be in many different locations this summer. We will be at the Battle of Boonville on June 18, Battle of Carthage on July 9, Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site on Aug. 12, and Aug. 20 at the State Fair in Sedalia. Check back with us as we add more dates as the year continues to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

For any questions or for setting up a program, please e-mail either Jocelyn Korsch at jocelyn.korsch@dnr.mo.gov or Chris Fritsche at christopher.fritsche@dnr.mo.gov or call us at 573-751-4127.



“Cannon Crew” members prepare to fire the cannon.

Wednesdays @ 1

Last year, we had a program called Tuesdays @ 2, which has become Wednesdays @ 1 this year with a change of day and time. We had great number of guest of all ages last year and expect the same this year. We will be focusing a lot on the Civil War but will have other programs as well. Here are our first two months of programs:

- June 8 Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier
- June 15 Signal Flags of the Civil War
- June 22 Clothing Styles of the 1860s
- June 29 Pony Express
- July 6 Civil War Flags
- July 13 Ready, Aim, Fire Cannon Program
- July 20 Spinning and Fiber
- July 27 Steamboats of the Civil War

Join us each Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Infantry drill program



Exhibits



Looking down one side of the new exhibit

Quick Sneak Peek

Come out and explore your Missouri State Museum and see the new **“Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing”** exhibit. Now we can’t show you everything in the new exhibit, but we will share a few pictures to get your interest. The exhibit is very interactive with audio, lights, touch tables, and moveable displays. .

The very dramatic opening of the exhibit makes you want to go in and see what’s inside.



Interesting displays bring your attention to possible Civil War items found in your own attic.



Some well dressed visitors attend grand opening of the new exhibit.





Missouri State Museum Wins National Heritage Advocate Award

The Missouri State Museum has won the Heritage Advocate Award from Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for recognition of innovative public outreach to save our collections.

Museum staff turned the need to move the artifact collection from storage in the basement of the State Capitol into an opportunity. Not only is the new space in a converted warehouse a big improvement in providing a safe environment for the collection, but the staff also used the move to educate decision-makers and stakeholders about conservation and collections care. When the new facility opened, the museum hosted an evening gala at the site with 80 guest representing donors, state, county, and city government, and local businesses. With a focus on collections care activities, staff engaged their guest with custom-made posters, conversation and hands-on features. The event improved awareness and has sparked significant results. A similar tour was requested for members of the Missouri State Legislature, and the Friends of the Missouri State Museum support group has been formed to further promote the museum and its preservation activities.

The Heritage Advocate Awards are part of *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a multi-faceted national initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the institute, please visit imls.gov. Heritage Preservation is a national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the cultural, historic and scientific heritage of the United States. By identifying risks, developing innovative programs, and providing broad public access to expert advice, Heritage Preservation assists the museums, libraries, archives, organizations, and individuals that care for our endangered heritage. To learn more, please visit heritagepreservation.org.



QR code: feel free to use your smart phone and see where it sends you.

Another Win for the Museum

This has been a winning year yet again for the museum. The museum was entered into a contest to win a one year mobile web tour using QR codes for smart phones. We would like to thank everyone who voted for us in the contest and will be placing the QR codes in different places in the museum as soon as we can.

Jefferson City Firehouse Woodcarvers Club At the Rozier Gallery

From June 21–Sept. 3, 2011, come see the woodcarvings from the Jefferson City Firehouse Woodcarvers Club at the Rozier Gallery in Jefferson Landing. This exhibit features a variety of carving styles including caricatures and figures, relief carvings, fish, birds and decoys, chip carvings, canes, wood spirits and intarsia. The club started back in the early 1960s as a small group of friends and has grown a lot since that time. Their mission is: "To promote woodcarving, and

encourage woodcarvers in our area; To teach woodcarving and to continually learn and improve our skills; To contribute to our community through our craft; and, To network with other carvers across the country."



Support Your History with the Friends of the Missouri State Museum

The Friends of the Missouri State Museum is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit group founded to provide support and advocacy for the Missouri State Museum. It promotes museum events and activities, advocates for museum needs, provides financial support, and provides exclusive member museum events.

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



When visiting Jefferson City this summer, make sure you drop by the Jefferson Landing State Historic Site and visit the Lohman building and the Union Hotel. The Landing is open Tuesday –Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trivia Winner and Photo Contest

We have a winner for our newsletter trivia game. His name is Mike Bloemke from Jefferson City. For being the first person to e-mail back the correct answer, he won the all-new “It’s Your History” Bag. (The question was “How many Civil War flags does the museum currently have?” The correct answer was 130 flags.)

For this newsletter, we have a **photo contest!** Be the first to e-mail a picture of you or your family at our new Civil War exhibit to our Curator of Collections, Katherine Keil, Katherine.keil@dnr.mo.gov. The winner will receive one of our cannon crew t-shirts.



State Museum Staff

Behind the Scenes

Hello. My name is Julie Kemper and I am the curator of exhibits. I grew up in Virginia and during high school, I volunteered at a historic site and learned to interpret history to visitors. This led me to getting a Bachelor of Science in Historic Preservation with a focus on site administration from Southeast Missouri State University. I returned to Virginia and managed Gen. George Marshall's house museum in Leesburg, Va. I decided to return to school and ended up at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and earned a Masters in History and Museum Studies. While in school, I worked at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis County as well as at the Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni Museum. Again, Virginia and George Marshall called me, and I was director of the George C. Marshall Museum in Lexington, Va., for almost four years. My family wanted to move back to Missouri, so we moved again. In 2006, I started working at the State Museum as the curator of exhibits. It has been over five years now, and I still love the job as much as I did when I started. I found along the way that for me the joy is still telling the stories from the past.

Linda Endersby, Acting Director
 Julie Kemper, Curator
 Katherine Keil, Curator
 Rachel Jeffries, Collections Inventory Manager
 Courtney Titus, Collections Assistant
 Ryan Klompenhower, Collections Assistant

Chris Sterman, Tour and Gift Shop Manager
 Jocelyn Korsch, Interpretive Resource Specialist
 Chris Fritsche, Interpretive Resource Specialist
 Karla Strain, Interpretive Resource Technician
 Troy Wolken, Maintenance



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