

THE MUSEUM MUSE

The Big Show

On the evening of Oct. 14, 2010, the Missouri State Museum held a gala for its new Riverside Collections Facility. There was food and drink, music, museum displays, a new friends group, and an exciting group of people showing their dedication to the State Museum. All who attended had a wonderful time with a close up view of the collections. All the artifact collections areas were opened up for everyone to see, and museum staff were in each area explaining or sharing stories about the pieces in the collection. This event celebrated two accomplishments for

the State Museum: the opening of the Riverside facility and the IMLS Museums for America grant the museum received to complete an inventory of the collection. The museum has made great progress on the inventory and is now halfway through the two-year federal grant.

The acting Museum Director Linda Endersby and State Parks Director Bill Bryan both gave speeches focusing on the direction of the State Museum. Be sure to keep a look out for more special events like this one in the future.



State Parks Director Bill Bryan and Acting Director of the State Museum Linda Endersby



Collections Inventory Assistant Elizabeth Andrews explains how artifacts are inventoried in the museum.



Liz Murphy, president of the Friends of the Missouri State Museum, looks to recruit some new members.



Interpreter Jocelyn Korsch speaks with two guests

In This Issue:

Gala	1
Director's Message	2
Collections Corner	2
Interpretive Programming	3
Exhibits	3
Behind the Scenes	4

Director's Column

2010 has been a pivotal year for the Missouri State Museum. The budget cuts and layoffs late in 2009 made 2010 look bleak. Also in 2010, we lost staff through retirement or better opportunities elsewhere. Despite some difficulties over the past 12 months, the museum has made great progress and looks forward to an exciting 2011. The new education area has hosted educational programming on a wide variety of topics in 2010 (through the outstanding efforts of an education staff that were all brand-new to the museum this year). The museum's artifacts have started to move into a new, better home. We will have completed the physical inventory of the entire artifact collection. The Friends of the Missouri State Museum was born. Our new logo appeared in ads in both the MU football and basketball programs. The History Hall has been transformed by the installation of large murals in preparation for the opening of "Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing" on May 10, 2011.



The State Museum has turned a potentially bleak year into a promising one through two sources: an amazingly dedicated, passionate museum staff and a supportive local community. I thank you, and I look forward to working with you in 2011. As always, if you want a "Behind-the-Scenes" tour, want to join the Friends group or have suggestions for our continued improvement, please contact us at DSP.State.Museum@dnr.mo.gov or 573-751-2854.

It's Your History! Be involved.

Sincerely,

Linda Endersby, Acting Director

Check out the Friends of the Missouri State Museum on [Facebook!!](#)



Collections Corner

A Missouri State Museum Treasure

This Boy Scout leader's uniform jacket was donated by someone you may have seen around the Capitol. Wiley W. Tracy, a native Missourian, served as an executive with four different Boy Scout councils or districts prior to his retirement in 1992. Mr. Tracy then brought that same passion for teaching children to the State Museum where he worked as a part-time tour guide for 15 years until his "second retirement" in late 2009. Wiley, a die-hard Mizzou fan, had a contagious smile and unmatched enthusiasm for Missouri and its history. Many appreciative teachers complimented Wiley on his tours and looked for him each spring. Besides the Boy Scout jacket, Wiley also donated his father's (Winton G. Tracy) military uniforms and several other pieces to the museum's permanent collection.

This Curator's Corner is in fond memory of our dear friend, employee and a generous donor Wiley W. Tracy (1926-2010). The museum staff greatly appreciates Wiley's years of dedicated service and his family for sharing him with us.

Interpretive Programming

“Tuesdays @ 2” Recap and What’s Coming Next

This past summer and fall, museum staff presented programs every Tuesday at 2 p.m. The staff did 20 different programs over the course of 23 Tuesdays. We did everything from packing for the Oregon trail to having the groups examine owl pellets. The interpretive staff is very excited about starting the program back up in June as “Wednesdays @ 1.”

In 2011, staff will introduce programming specifically aimed at the Civil War in Missouri, such as a Civil War-themed tour of the Capitol Building.

Our interpretive staff is also interested in what kind of programs you would like to have done here at the museum. If you have suggestions or ideas, please contact Chris Fritsche at christopher.fritsche@dnr.mo.gov or 573-751-4127.

Outreach Programs

Starting this winter, we are venturing out of the museum and coming to you with two programs...“A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier” and “Packing for the Trail.” These programs are designed to focus on fourth and fifth graders (to help meet the Missouri Standards), but “A Day in the Life” can be focused for any age . If your are interested in having these programs presented to your class or group, please contact the museum. You can contact either Jocelyn Korsch at jocelyn.korsch@dnr.mo.gov or Chris Fritsche at christopher.fritsche@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-751-4127.

Exhibits

A visit to the History Hall in the Capitol will reveal a new view. Murals have been installed in preparation for the opening of the exhibit “Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing” in May 2011. The murals will remain a main feature of the exhibit until it closes in late 2015.

The images are lithographs created by Kurz and Allison, a major 19th century publisher from Chicago, Ill. The company produced a number of prints of Civil War battle scenes in the 1880s. These particular images are digital copies of lithographs in the Library of Congress.

The mural on the left is the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo., which took place on Aug. 10, 1861. It features the death of Union Gen. Nathaniel Lyon who contributed to the build up of troops for the United States early in the war. The center image is the 1863 Siege of Vicksburg, Miss. Many Missourians fought in both Union and Confederate armies. Gen. U.S. Grant, who commanded all federal troops during the siege, is depicted in the bottom right corner. The third image is the Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., another battle in which many Missourians fought. The Native American in the right bottom corner symbolizes the participation of three Native American regiments who fought with the Confederate forces during the Battle of Pea Ridge.





Various Tuesdays @ 2 programs



TRIVIA TIME

Here is your chance to win a new water bottle with our logo on the front. First person (not associated with the museum) who e-mails the correct answer to our curator of collections will win. Her e-mail is Katherine.keil@dnr.mo.gov.

Question: What year was the Natural Resource Museum added on the first floor of the Capitol in the west wing?

These water bottles and other new items are now on sale at the Museum Gift Shop.



Jefferson Landing State Historic Site

Just a reminder that the Rozier Gallery and Lohman Building Exhibit will be opening on March 1, 2011

Behind the Scenes



State Museum Staff

Amy Richards answers the State Museum phone and has worked for the Division of State Parks for about 6 1/2 years. She helps with the State Capitol, Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, and the Governor's Mansion answering questions and making tour reservations. She never knows what she might be asked when her phone rings, but she always tries to find the answer or direct them appropriately. The jobs she performs are crucial for the museum, particularly in the spring when tours run every 20 minutes. Next time you call the museum, tell Amy "HI" and what a great job she does for the Museum.

- Linda Endersby, Acting Director
- Julie Kemper, Curator
- Katherine Keil, Curator
- Rachel Jeffries, Collections Inventory Manager
- Elizabeth Andrews, Collections Assistant

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



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