

THE MUSEUM MUSE

New Artifacts Go on Display in the “Civil War Missouri:

A House Dividing” Exhibit and “Here Come the Irish”



7th Regiment Missouri Infantry (“Irish”) Flag now on display

Exciting days are upon us here at the Missouri State Museum yet again. We had a grand re-opening on Nov. 12, 2011, of the “Civil War Missouri” exhibit and changed out the flags and some of the artifacts inside the displays. The Missouri Irish Brigade of Civil War Re-enactors, representing the 7th (“Irish”) Regiment Missouri Infantry, participated with a wealth of items and knowledge. They set up a sutlers area, marched for the

visitors, and gave presentations on the day in the life of a Civil War soldier. Staff also had presentation on women’s fashions during the Civil War and brought our half-scale replica cannon outside. Cannon crew teams of visitors learned to shoot the cannon (powered by air and shooting nerfballs).



“Cannon Crew” members loading and getting ready to fire the cannon

When it was all said and done, almost 300 people came out to see and support the new changes to the display. Our new Curator of Exhibits, Michele Blackmore and other curatorial staff are already preparing for our next changing of flags and artifacts in May 2012. Keep an eye out for further updates and dates to be part of the fun!

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Missouri Irish Brigade of Civil War Re-enactors, depicting the 7th Irish Regiment, posing as they would have in the Civil War

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

This year, 2011, was an exciting year for the State Museum. "Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing" opened to large crowds, who continue to come. Our interpretive staff started new Civil War tours through the museum and Capitol. They also had a successful season of "Wednesdays @ 1" programs. The Friends of the Missouri State Museum celebrated their first year.

The State Museum finished out 2011 with an unusual but important accomplishment. A brown highway sign directing visitors to the "Missouri State Museum" has never been placed on any highway or roadway. In December, the museum was "put on the map" with three highway signs and two local "trailblazing" signs. Museum staff would like to thank the Friends group for helping to fund that project. Having these signs has been a goal of museum staff for years. It's one more "sign" of our efforts to reach out to the community and point Missourians to "their history," which our staff preserve and interpret for them.



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.

Sincerely,

Linda Endersby

Collections Corner

While it may seem that the State Museum is solely focused on the sesquicentennial of the Civil War these days, let me assure you, it is not. The museum is already planning for what comes next (in 2016) for the History Hall. The museum will once again use that space to tell the history of the entire state of Missouri, from Native Americans and statehood to the 20th century. The contents of the museum's collection will play a key role in what stories curators will be able to tell. No, not every story needs to be linked to a specific object in order to be important enough to be told in an exhibit. However, artifacts provide a visual component and dimensionality to an exhibit that words alone cannot convey. Therefore, in the next few years the museum staff will try to link the artifacts already in the

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Artifacts used to help tell the story of David Todd Samuel in the Civil War exhibit.

Interpretive Programming

Wednesdays @ 1

This past season of “Wednesdays @ 1” programs ended another successful year of programs for kids of all ages (yes, moms and dads, that’s you). Staff offered more programs this year and a wide range of subjects from the Civil War to bears and fossils of Missouri. Our interpretation staff can’t wait to start the next series of programs next year. Staff was so inspired by the kids who came to these programs that a special exhibit case was created to hold the objects they created (see below). The display is in our classroom area for all to see. Jocelyn, Chris, Karla, Chris and all our interpreters hope everyone had a great time and will continue to come back and spend an afternoon in the museum.



Jocelyn Korsch showing guests what women’s clothing was like in the Civil War era



Some of the different projects completed at “Wednesdays @ 1” programs in their new display case in our classroom

Outreach Programs

Staff are currently offering four different outreach programs for schools and groups. These programs are: “A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier,” Packing for the Oregon Trail, Signal Flags of the Civil War, and The Pony Express. While the programs target fourth and fifth graders, our interpreters can adapt some of these for general audience groups.

For any questions or for setting up a program, please email DSP.State.Museum@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-751-4127.

Exhibits

Phase two of the Missouri State Museum's "Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing" exhibit is now complete. Many new artifacts, including eight Civil War flags, are now on display for the viewing pleasure of the public. As collections assistant, it is part of my job to research the regiments that carried the flags to understand the men behind the colors. Personalizing history brings the soldiers and their experiences to life for museum guests. A quote taken from a letter home or a story of service and survival turns a length of old fabric into a captured flash of time: a representation of your history.

As a researcher, it is often difficult to find information from primary sources that relate to the flags on display; but hard work pays off now and then. While seeking out information on the 29th Regiment Missouri Infantry, a Union regiment, I found a collection



Danielle DiGiacomo, collections assistant, preparing a new display for the "Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing" exhibit

of letters written home by Capt. David Allan. The captain was a well-educated soldier, as evidenced by his spelling and rather poetic writing style. He wrote often of his frustration with northern men who had not joined the fight for the Union. In a letter to his brother in St. Louis, Allan wrote: "I am incensed at the conduct of thousands of men at the North who having no one but their own worthless carcasses to take care of are yet so pusillanimous as to prefer a position behind some counter, to battling for the noblest cause that ever this World has seen." Written from the heat of war in August 1864, David Allan showed another side of a loyal soldier.

When museum staff is able to share firsthand accounts and background stories to go along with objects, visitors are more interested and leave with a more complete understanding of its historical significance. Unfortunately, searches are not always successful.

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**WELCOME to Michele Blackmore,
our new Curator of Exhibits!**

("Exhibits," continued from page 4)

In recent experience, hunts for usable information on the 1st Regiment Missouri State Militia through many sources all came up short. It is speculated that because the regiment saw little battle action, less is available depicting the inner lives of its soldiers. Perhaps their information is out there, hidden in the attics of Missouri citizens.

The third phase of the Civil War Exhibit will include the flags of the 5th Regiment Missouri Infantry (Union), the 15th Regiment Missouri Cavalry (Union), the 62nd Regiment U.S. Colored Infantry (Union), the 1st Regiment Missouri Cavalry (Confederate), the 33rd Regiment Missouri Infantry and the 17th Regiment Missouri Infantry. If readers have information on any of these regiments, please share with the museum! The Missouri State Museum welcomes all additional information that can help interpret the significance of artifacts for our visitors. After all, "It's Your History."

— Danielle DiGiacomo, Collections Assistant



Weapons at stacked arms with the 7th Irish re-enactors in the background.

Attention all Seamstresses

Our education and interpretation staff are looking for volunteers to help with some sewing projects. These project need to be completed during 2012. We have a "Hands-On History" display in the Museum where the children can try on period clothing of the Civil War era. The area also needs some new pieces. The museum has a sewing machine and everything you would need to help make some period clothing. If this interests you, please call Jocelyn Korsch at 573-751-4127 or email jocelyn.korsch@dnr.mo.gov.



("Collections Corner," continued from page 2)

collection to the key stories identified in Missouri's history. Curators will also be identifying gaps in the collection where more artifacts are needed and then actively looking to fill them. A couple of gaps include objects that tell the stories of various ethnic and minority groups. The museum has few artifacts that relate to the Women's Suffrage Movement or the Civil Rights Movement in Missouri. The museum even has a need for everyday objects used by Missourians during the 20th century, including objects that demonstrate how work and the performance of work has changed or how people spent their leisure time. Over the coming years, the museum will need you, our loyal readers and visitors, to keep your eyes and ears open to opportunities that might help us fill these gaps. Please feel free to contact the museum if you know of an object or story that you feel the museum should know about; our staff is always happy to hear from you. While the museum cannot take every object that is offered, our collections committee do try to follow up on every tip and always appreciate the referral. We can't tell Missouri's great history without you. "It's Your History!"



BE A WINNER!
Email 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.
Send those pictures to our Curator of Collections, Katherine Keil, at Katherine.keil@dnr.mo.gov.

Reminder: Jefferson Landing State Historic Site (including the Lohman Building and the Union Hotel) are closed for the season and will re-open March 1, 2012.

The Rozier Gallery, Union Hotel, Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, will feature the work of Bob Colvin, March 1 - May 26, 2012.

Behind the Scenes

Hi there. My name is Chris Serman, and I am a full-time member of the interpretation staff at the Missouri State Museum. I have been with the museum for 10 years. I was raised in southeast Wyoming and received a degree in Secondary Education from the University of Wyoming.

I enjoy working with the museum. While I don't present formal educational classes, it affords me the opportunity to educate the public on Missouri history. Also, having the museum located in the Capitol allows for some education on governmental processes.



State Museum Staff

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| Linda Endersby, Acting Director | Jocelyn Korsch, Interpretive Program Director |
| Katherine Keil, Curator | Chris Serman, Interpretive Resource Specialist |
| Michele Blackmore, Curator | Chris Fritsche, Interpretive Resource Specialist |
| Vacant, Curator | Karla Strain, Interpretive Resource Technician |
| Danielle DiGiacomo, Collections Assistant | Troy Wolken, Maintenance |



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