

THE MUSEUM MUSE

The Lohman Building Transformed in Preparation for 175th Anniversary:

A whistle blast from a steamboat, the sounds of horses pulling a carriage, and murmuring of shopkeepers and shoppers. The smell of cedar, coffee and other spices. All these and more can be part of your experience when visiting the new and revamped Lohman Building. Visitors will be able to explore a general store and learn about river transportation while they experience what life was like during the 1850s. "Lohman's Landing" was a busy place. It served as the center of trade and transportation in Jefferson City as well as, at various times, the post office, the telegraph office, a boarding house, and a hotel.

During 2013, museum staff will continue to develop and add to the exhibit that opened March 1. We invite visitors to come by and comment on the experience as we develop it. "It's Your History," so here's a chance to comment on how it's presented. A complete experience will open on March 1, 2014, including full retail sales of 1850s era items as well as handmade Missouri goods.

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Alan Laboube gives the store counter a new paint job.



Restored shelves for the new exhibit

See page 4 for more information on the development of this exhibit!



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

In November 2012, after two and a half years as acting director, I officially became director of the Missouri State Museum. The museum has such a phenomenal staff that despite uncertainty and staff shortages, museum exhibits, programming and other activities not only continued but expanded.

In 2011, museum staff completed the move of its entire artifact collection to our Riverside Collections Facility and opened the largest exhibit in over 20 years, "Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing."

In 2012, a year of great programs was highlighted by a new monthly program series, "Museum after Hours" and a new annual fall program series, which began with "Missouri - The Cave State."

In 2013, the museum opened the Lohman Building on March 1 with a brand new experience: a 1850s general store and warehouse. Visitors will be able to touch, listen, smell, and see. In June, the experience will be expanded with new retail sales of period items and handmade Missouri goods. Join us in this next adventure.

Thanks to a wonderful staff and a supportive public. 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



Postcard

Collections Corner

"It's Your History!" behind-the-scenes tours of the collection will continue in 2013 at the Riverside Collections Facility. The tours will run from June through September but the exact date and times are TBD. In years past, the tours were held the last Friday of the month at 2 p.m. Museum staff is seeking input on other dates and times to determine what would be the most convenient for our visitors. If you have suggestions, please e-mail them to DSP.State.Museum@dnr.mo.gov.

This summer, the museum will continue to do themed tours to highlight specific pieces within our broad collection. Just in time for the summer vacation season, the June tour will have a travel theme. Come see artifacts related to transportation, recreation, tourism and travel. July will be all about our broad collection of weaponry which ranges from the Kentucky rifle of Missouri's first governor to an 1873 Model Gatling gun. The collection also includes a lot of World

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Stock of McNair Rifle

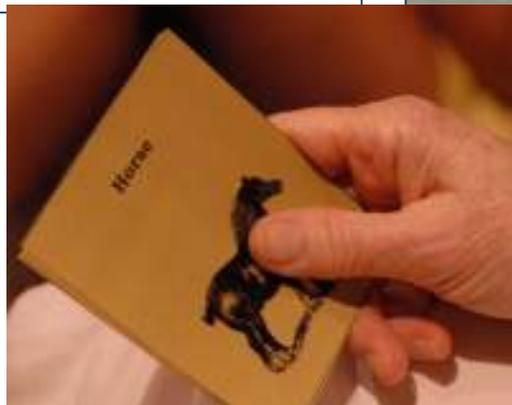
Interpretive Programming

“Tuesdays@2”

This past season of Tuesdays@2 programs was another successful year of programs for kids and kids of all ages (yes moms and dads, we are talking about you). Staff offered more programs this year and a wide range of subjects from the Civil War to Missouri music to bats and being a nature detective. We can't wait to start the next group of programs for June–September 2013. We hope everyone had a great time and will continue to come back and spend an afternoon with us in the museum.



Hard to believe a piece of string and a wooden disk would be so fun.



Why is this horse important?



That's a lot of bracelets being made.



Busy hands digging away

Outreach Programs

Staff is 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 programs target fourth and fifth graders, we can adapt some of these for general audience groups.

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

Exhibits

It Takes a Village to Make an Exhibit

Exhibit work is a team effort. The more people that are involved, the better an exhibit usually is. Usually, the result is better than the sum of the work of the individuals on the team. The more people you talk to, the better ideas, accurate information, and more inspired an exhibit can become when one person builds walls, another person is great at colors, and another person does great historical research.

A few years ago, curatorial staff at the museum decided to interpret the Lohman Building as it was in the 1850s—a time when steamboats brought people and goods to Jefferson City on the Missouri River. And that's when we started asking for help. The Missouri State Museum, as a part of Missouri State Parks, has an entire team to call on to assist.

Researching an exhibit set in the 1850s is much easier than creating an exhibit set in the 1850s. Nothing you will see in the exhibit, except the building itself, existed in the mid-19th century. That was decided early on and is completely intentional. There will be no museum collections in this exhibit. In order to make the space come alive and allow visitors a more engaging experience, you will be able to touch the counters, smell spices, hear chickens clucking and see a cluttered general store. Though we've made concessions on period accuracy to represent the 1850s, we've done the research. The counters and shelves are late 19th century and have incredible 20-foot walnut counter

tops. The pot-bellied stove really did provide heat. It was used by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. The goods on the shelves were what people came to a general store in the 1850s looking to buy. Remember to look for the crate of citrus fruit. We confirmed its accuracy when researching mid-19th century store ledgers at the State Historical Society of Missouri and other repositories

As mentioned earlier, this exhibit has been a collaboration. Don't believe me?

Ask Amanda, a State Parks Youth Corps worker. She photo-documented the old exhibits in Lohman so the museum had record of them before they were removed.

Ask Henry, a member of our interpretive staff, who has been known to make random office visits to share new research he's found. He's provided information on the Lohman family, the building and Jefferson City in the 1850s.

Ask Muriel, a curator working on all aspects of the project while specifically been researching 1850s transportation. She can now tell you about steam whistles. She researched their sounds so we can include them on the soundtrack for the exhibit.

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Pot-bellied stove during restoration

("It Takes a Village" continued from page 4)

Ask Kate, the curator of collections, who coordinated the removal of all museum artifacts from the building. If you attend any of our Behind-the-Scenes tours next year, you will see the 1,000 lb. cast-iron printing press we had to move out of the Lohman building.

Ask Ron and Alan, carpenters for Missouri State Parks' Field Exhibits, who coordinated the delivery and installation of all the historic counters and shelves. They also spent months repairing, painting and customizing them.

And finally I have something to ask of you. Please come and see what we've done. And come back again. The first time you might not hear the noises coming from carefully hidden speakers. You might not smell the herbs we've chosen to stock on the shelves. You might not see the old square nails on display. And if you have any ideas you'd like to share, please let us know. The museum is using 2013 to improve on what we've already done. Our interpretive staff is developing all new programs specifically for the Lohman exhibit. Soon there will even be Missouri-made items for sale in the general store. We're proud of the work we've done, but we are looking forward to making it even better through your comments and suggestions. The full official opening will be in 2014—the 175th anniversary of the erection of the first section of the Lohman building.

- Michele Blackmore, Curator of Exhibits



Trivia Night

April 12

The Friends of the Missouri State Museum are holding a Trivia Night on April 12, 2013, at Bones' Banquet Room.

Rarely seen artifacts will be on display for the popular "What is it?" trivia round.

Funds raised by the Friends go to further the mission of the Missouri State Museum. Find information at www.friendsofmsm.org or by calling 573-619-2503.

Attention all Seamstresses

The Missouri State Museum is looking for volunteers to help us with some sewing projects. We would like to complete these projects this coming year. We have a "hands-on" display in the museum where the children can try on period clothing of the Civil War era, and we would like to add some new pieces to the exhibit. We have a sewing machine and everything you would need to help make some period clothing. If you're interested, please call Jocelyn Korsch at 573-751-4127 or email her at jocelyn.korsch@dnr.mo.gov.



Handmade quilt from Smithton, Mo.



17th century currency from Virginia

("Collections Corner" continued from page 2)

War I "war booty" confiscated from the Central Powers and distributed to each state.

In August, we'll "Show You the Money" and roll out the various types of currency in the museum's collection.

September will showcase the museum's beautiful quilt and coverlet collection. The earliest piece in our collection dates from the time of statehood in 1821.

It's Your History! Join us in 2013 for these new tours.



The Lohman Building re-opened for the season on March 1 with a new exhibit. See pages 1 and 4 for more information.



Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, 100 Jefferson Street, is open Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

The Union Hotel opened this year on Feb. 20 with an exhibit called “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War.”

ROZIER 2013

Feb. 20—April 5: “Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War”

By the time Abraham Lincoln took office, seven states had already seceded from the Union. This exhibition vividly evokes Lincoln’s struggle to resolve the basic questions that divided Americans at the most perilous moment in the nation’s history.

April 26 - June 22: Civilian Conservation Corps

The Civilian Conservation Corps marks its 80th anniversary in 2013. Learn more about the impact of this New Deal program in Missouri.



July 5 - Aug. 31: Noppadol Paothong

Nature photographer Noppadol Paothong has documented rare and endangered species such as the grassland grouse for many years.



State Museum Staff

Linda Endersby, Director
 Vacant, Asst. Director
 Katherine Keil, Curator of Collections
 Michelle Blackmore, Curator of Exhibits
 Muriel Anderson, Assistant Curator
 Amy Cantone, Curatorial Assistant

Jocelyn Korsch, Interpretive Program Director
 Chris Fritsche, Interpretive Resource Specialist
 Karla Strain, Interpretive Resource Specialist
 Bobbi Cabaret, Interpretive Resource Specialist
 Dan Couch, Maintenance
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