

# THE MUSEUM MUSE



## Summer of “Telling Missouri’s Stories”

Nothing beats a story; but where do people get these stories? What is the purpose of these stories? Before the written language, the art of storytelling passed down people’s history and life events. Even after the written language was used, people still used the art of storytelling to keep family history alive. While there are great written books that show emotion and make you feel like an event is taking place, nothing beats the power of the human voice telling a story through a great storyteller.

Deb Swanegan

The Missouri State Museum has three great storytellers sharing their stories in different formats during our “Telling Missouri’s Stories” series this summer. Master Storyteller Deb Swanegan began the series on June 5 with a program called “A Good Tale or Two.” Noted singer and storyteller Marideth Sisco will share “These Ozark Hills” on July 19. Singer-songwriter Paul Fotsch will use music and songs to tell his story “Missouri History in Song” on Aug. 7.

As part of the “Telling Missouri’s Stories” series, the museum will also have programming specifically for the children. In conjunction with the monthly evening storytellers, we will have special storytelling programs each Tuesday at 2 p.m. before the Wednesday evening storytelling (as part of our regular “Tuesdays@2” programming.)

So, come on down and sit a spell while the storytellers spin their tales and immerse you in a time you might have forgotten. You never know, you might even start telling your story; after all, “It’s your hiStory.”

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Paul Fotsch



*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.”*

### From the Director

From January–May 2013, museum staff provided tours to over 40,000 people, including more than 28,000 students. Whew! Summer used to be a slower time with a slower pace. But, with “Tuesdays@2,” “It’s Your History” tours and the special “Telling Missouri’s Stories” this summer, the pace just changes. We’ve greatly expanded our programming options over the past few years. We hope you have enjoyed it. This, in addition to the newer exhibits in the History Hall and the Lohman Building, have made the museum a more dynamic place. Also, the artifacts are much “happier” now that they are all in better environmental conditions that help preserve them for the future. Museum staff has accomplished much in the last five years. So where do we go from here?

Over the next several months, the museum will be going through a planning process. It will be both an internal process and one that seeks input from the public – starting with a survey of visitors to the galleries during the last half of 2013. We want to find out, from both staff and visitors, what does it mean to be the Missouri State Museum. If you have ideas or comments on this, please let us know!

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573-751-2854




Handmade quilt from Smithton, Mo.

## Collections Corner

“It’s Your History!” Behind-the-Scenes tours featuring the museum’s artifact collections have begun for 2013 at the Riverside Collections Facility. This summer, the tours run from June-September. The day and time have changed from previous years to give more people the opportunity to view their history. Tours for 2013 are the **last Thursday of the month from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

This summer, museum staff will continue to do themed tours to highlight specific parts of the overall collection.

- June 27: Travel
- July 25: World War I
- Aug. 29: Currency
- Sept. 26: Quilts and Coverlets



More information on behind-the-scenes tours can be obtained by visiting our Facebook or website, or by calling 573-751-2854. The tours are free and no reservations are required. However, if you plan to bring a group of 10 or more, prior notice would be appreciated.

# Interpretive Programming

## “Tuesdays@2”

Summer brings our popular “Tuesdays@2” programming series. The State Museum will focus on storytelling but we will have other programs as well. There will even be one Tuesday where the kids will be the storytellers.

See more pictures of “Tuesdays@2” programs on page 5!



Two perfect dream-catchers

- June 18: “Ice Age Missouri”
- June 25: “Telling Your Tale Through a Journal”
- July 2: “Stories in the Stars Above”
- July 9: “Engraved Powder Horns”
- July 16: “Bells and Whistles”
- July 23: “Town Ball – The Grandfather of Baseball”
- July 30: “Sounds of a Summer Pond”

## Outreach Programs

The State Museum 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 the programs target fourth and fifth graders, museum staff 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](mailto:jocelyn.korsch@dnr.mo.gov) or Chris Fritsche at [christopher.fritsche@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:christopher.fritsche@dnr.mo.gov) or call either one at 573-751-4127.



After learning about Thomas Hart Benton’s mural, kids get to tell their own story in their own mural.



# Exhibits

## Getting Ready for the Fair

The Missouri State Museum will open its 1904 World's Fair exhibit March 1, 2014. A major contribution to the design of the upcoming exhibit started when we received a phone call. Janet Gerth, of Memphis, Mo., was looking to find a new home for two large, antique display cabinets. In November 2012, Gerth Funeral Service closed their Wyaconda chapel. The Gerth family had inherited these late 19<sup>th</sup> century display cabinets when they bought what was then known as the Simon Building. The cabinets came with the building.



Display cabinets

According to Mrs. Gerth, these display cabinets have seen many uses. Since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the cabinets have been used to display law books, bridles and horse tack sold by the Simon family and, later, local history. The cabinets have a long association with the Simon Building, located on the square in Wyaconda.

What could we do with a set of 12-foot display cases? We had seen photos of the cabinets and recognized a level of craftsmanship that was too good to turn down. Once it was suggested, it seemed obvious. Why not use these display cases to feature artifacts in the upcoming World's Fair exhibit? The museum's collection is primarily composed of Fair souvenirs. These items would have similarly been on display in peoples' homes. Why not use these beautifully crafted cases to exhibit pieces from the fair?

Come check out the display cases and the artifacts after the exhibit opens in 2014!

World's Fair souvenirs





Hello!! I am over here ("Signals Flags" program)

OH NO!, They are circling our camp! No, sorry, just playing a game. ("Toys and Games of the Civil War era")



Members of the Missouri Irish Brigade with the original 7th Infantry veterans flag during "Civil War Days."



What in the world was that used for? ("Revisiting Grandmother's House")



"A Good Tale . . . Or Two" included audience participation in Deb Swanegan's storytelling on June 6.



That's how Anna gets their attention



# JEFFERSON LANDING

On July 5, an exhibit of photographs by Noppadol Paothong will be featured in the **Rozier Gallery, Union Hotel**, Jefferson Landing. His photographs depict the work he has done to save the grasslands of America, especially the grassland grouse and prairie chickens.

The **Lohman Building** features a general store and warehouse setting reminiscent of the 19th century riverboat landing that it was.

## WHAT AM I?

Try to Identify the object from the picture below. This item can be found in the museum. The answer will appear in the next newsletter. Good Luck!



## WHERE AM I?

Try to Identify this building. The answer will appear in the next newsletter. Good Luck!



Interested in supporting the museum? Contact the Friends of the Missouri State Museum and become a member today! Find them at [www.friendsofmsm.org](http://www.friendsofmsm.org) or on Facebook.

## State Museum Staff

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

Jocelyn Korsch, Interpretive Program Director  
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