MISSOURI IN WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL

INSIDE:
NEW SPRINGFIELD OFFICE   |   THE BIG READ KC
HARVEST MOON AMERICAN INDIAN FESTIVAL
Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors

Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors is a creative writing anthology of poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, and photography submissions by and about veterans from across the nation and spanning generations—from World War I to Iraq and Afghanistan. It is an annual series first released in November 2012.

The anthology preserves and shares military service perspectives of our soldiers, veterans, and of their families and friends. Each book serves as an outlet for self-expression, all the while documenting the unique facets of wartime in our nation’s history.

Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors is published by Southeast Missouri State University Press in cooperation with the Missouri Humanities Council. Submissions are reviewed by a panel of judges for inclusion in the anthology, with a $250 prize in each of the five categories listed above.

To submit your work or to learn more about this program, contact MHC’s Director of Family and Veterans Programs, Lisa Carrico, at lisa@mohumanities.org or 314.781.9660.

Purchase your copy of Proud to Be online: www.mohumanities.org/ptbbookpurchase

Join us for a reception and reading of the newly released Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors, Volume 6 on December 9, 2017. Event details on page 37.

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ON THE COVER:
Story of Missouri in War by Charles Hoffbauer, Missouri State Capitol House of Representatives, Jefferson City.

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MHC MISSION STATEMENT
To enrich lives and strengthen communities by connecting Missourians with the people, places, and ideas that shape our society.

The Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was created in 1971 under authorizing legislation from the U.S. Congress.
COMMEMORATING THE WWI CENTENNIAL

LORA VOGT
CURATOR OF EDUCATION AT THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

This year marks the centennial of the U.S.’s entry into World War I, history’s first true global conflict. It set the stage for the peace and hostility, the poverty and prosperity of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. And, for nearly one hundred years, the heart of America has been a central force in that commemoration.

Two weeks after the armistice was signed in 1919, Kansas Citians came together to establish a memorial in remembrance of those who served during the World War. A civic-minded community, they raised $2.5 million in a matter of ten days—roughly $34 million today—to build what has become the National World War I Museum and Memorial, which hosts the most comprehensive collection of Great War artifacts in the world. It is amazing what can happen when citizens come together for a common cause.

It was in Missouri that five major allied military leaders of Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, and the U.S.—Missouri’s own John J. Pershing—met in 1921 and dedicated the grounds of the Museum and Memorial. And nearly 100 years later, it was Missouri Congressional leadership, notably Representatives Cleaver and Graves and Senators McCaskill and Blunt, who helped bring the United States World War I Centennial Commission to fruition. Through continued work and the support of Missourians and the Missouri Humanities Council, we have brought commemoration into our communities and meaningfully contributed to global centennial remembrances spanning more than four years.

The National World War I Museum and Memorial is dedicated to remembering, interpreting, and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. And it is from the heart of Missouri that we tell the story of America and Missourians in Europe. A traveling exhibition, Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: The Doughboys 1917–1918, recently explored the story of American contributions in World War I and how the tide turned. Two versions of the exhibition are concurrently touring across the United States and the UK, and it’s already been visited by more than two million people.

The Springfield-Greene County Library District led the way in making WWI artifacts from the Show Me State accessible around the world with a pioneering and award-winning digitization project called Missouri Over There, a partnership with the Missouri History Museum, Museum of Osteopathic Medicine, National World War I Museum and Memorial, and the State Historical Society of Missouri. Visit the project at missourioverthere.org.

In Jefferson City, an outstanding traveling exhibition, Here at Home: Missouri and the Great War, opened in a capitol wing bearing a stone lintel entrance engraved with “Lest We Forget.” (Thank you to Dr. Mark Livengood, Director of Education of the Missouri Humanities Council, and Brian Grubb of the Springfield-Greene County Library for their invitation to speak at...
the exhibition opening.) This detailed exhibit, which you can read more about at mohumanities.org/programs/traveling-exhibits, unfolds the history of World War I through the perspective of Missouri and Missourians and features artifacts and contributions from more than thirty Missouri museums, archives, libraries, and historical societies. Its inaugural placement at the Missouri State Museum showcases a bronze plaque dedicated in 1934 “in Appreciation of the Devoted Service of Army Nurses of Missouri serving with the American Expeditionary Forces of World War,” flanked by a 1926 plaque “in grateful memory of the Missouri Boys who sacrificed their lives in service of their country in the World War of 1914–1918.” It’s not by happenstance—if you pause and absorb places throughout the state, you find a commitment to commemorating the past: Memorial Union in Columbia, Atchison County Memorial Building in Rockport, the Soldiers Memorial and Military Museum in St. Louis, the carved Memorial to Fallen Soldiers in Elephant Rock State Park. Every American Legion and VFW post traces its origins to World War I.

We each have a personal connection to World War I. During this centennial, I encourage you to visit the Missouri State Museum, Missouri History Museum, or the National World War I Museum and Memorial. Go and explore. Find where the traveling exhibit Missouri and the Great War will be making a stop near you. Look around your hometown. The act of people coming together, pausing, and experiencing bits and pieces of the past joined together for the present is what commemoration is about. Listen, learn, and build your own understanding of why this time in history is the defining event of the twentieth century and beyond and how we can learn from it to impact a better present. As President Calvin Coolidge shared from the dedication ceremony of the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City on November 11, 1926:

“We had revealed to us in our time of peril... the unity of the spirit of our people. They might speak with different tongues, come from most divergent quarters of the globe, but in the essentials of the hour they were moved by a common purpose, devoted to a common cause.... This great lesson in democracy, this great example of equality which came to us as the experience of the war, ought never to be forgotten.”

Missouri and the Great War TOUR ITINERARY
June 2017–December 2018

MISSOURI STATE MUSEUM
Jefferson City
June 29, 2017–August 27, 2017

THREE RIVERS COLLEGE
Pleasant Hill
September 5, 2017–October 22, 2017

MINERAL AREA COLLEGE
Park Hills
October 30, 2017–January 7, 2018

MOBERLY AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Moberly
January 16, 2018–February 23, 2018

A.T. STILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Kirksville
March 1, 2018–April 27, 2018

BUSHWHACKER MUSEUM
Nevada
May 1, 2018–June 29, 2018

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM
St. Joseph
July 2, 2018–September 2, 2018

MIDWEST GENEALOGY CENTER, MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY
Independence
September 8, 2018–October 28, 2018

SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
Springfield
November 1, 2018–December 31, 2018

The MHC and its project partner, the Springfield-Greene County Library District, are committed to touring Missouri and the Great War beyond the Centennial. If your organization is interested in hosting the exhibit after January 2019, please contact Mark Livengood, Director of Education: mark@mohumanities.org, 816.802.6566.
lists of the memorials and their locations. We gathered information and compiled data in one place. Yet we knew this list was incomplete, as several known memorials, such as the one on the Pettis County Courthouse lawn in Sedalia, were not included in the found sources.

Many of the memorials that were erected in the postwar years were placed on county courthouse lawns. Library staff took to Google for help. We utilized Google Map’s satellite and street views to search courthouse lawns for possible memorials.

Library staff then set out to document these memorials. As staff traveled across Missouri, we stopped and photographed the memorials we encountered.

The Springfield-Greene County Library District worked with Demi Creative, a Springfield-based web design team, to develop the interactive map. The recorded data and photographs were uploaded to the website’s database. Library staff also added historical photographs relevant to the memorials, such as the photo (below) of the Bates County memorial dedication found at the Bates County Historical Society in Butler.

The interactive map can be viewed online at missourioverthere.org.

The work on this project is far from over. The Springfield-Greene County Library District and the Missouri Humanities Council need your help. Not every Missouri World War I memorial has been located, and only a portion have been photographed. We ask you to go out into your community, search for your local memorials to World War I veterans, take photographs, and send them to us. Digital photographs and any descriptive information can be sent to missourioverthere@gmail.com. Follow the Missouri Over There project on Facebook for the most recent memorial identifications and shared photographs. Our goal is to locate and document every World War I memorial in our state.

Work with the Springfield-Greene County Library District and the Missouri Humanities Council to rediscover our forgotten past and preserve your community’s history.

Bates County memorial dedication. Photo courtesy of Bates County Historical Society.
EARLY LEARNING: THE POWER OF THE First Five

DEIDRE ANDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
UNITED INNER CITY SERVICES,
ST. MARK CENTER

A thirty-million-word gap: nowhere is the inequity between families of higher education more apparent than in the vocabularies of four-year-olds.

At St. Mark Center, an innovative early childhood learning center in Kansas City’s urban core, we can discern these differences in toddlers as young as eighteen months. For children who grow up in a professional family, the average four-year-old accumulates forty-five million words versus thirteen million words for a child in a family receiving welfare.

It’s a short window—that pivotal period between infancy and five years of age—to influence the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of a child. At St. Mark Center, we focus this effort as much on parents and families as we do our young students.

The arts and humanities play a foundational role in this engagement. In fact, the St. Mark Center curriculum is one that not only promotes creative expression, but also builds resilience and connections to support our students’ developmental growth.

Located in one of the city’s poorest zip codes, the Center along the 12th Street Corridor is a beautiful and vibrant facility that has served as a neighborhood anchor since 2002. Our arts-infused environment, cultural diversity, and creative philosophy are attractive, as well, to families with far greater economic resources and educational backgrounds.

It is this emphasis on the arts, as well as a unique and consistent quality of education, that drives our high degrees of kindergarten readiness for children of all backgrounds. And it’s precisely what inspires confidence, trust, and resilience in families whose children are statistically at risk.

On any given day, students like Mya, who struggles with anger and extreme temper tantrums, are making greater strides in their educational growth because of the partnership of teachers and her family. Lessons in the classroom and art studio extend to the dinner table and beyond. At St. Mark Center, our faculty strives for at least seven engagements per year with each family. This might be in the form of a simple classroom conference, a home visit, a parent training opportunity, or one of the Center’s weekly Stay-and-Play sessions where parents interact in meaningful play with their children.

When families know they have a trusted caretaker and are supported in educating their children, the entire family blossoms. Establishing daily routines, forming friendships, and feeling the love and support of caring adults build a foundation for success in school and in life.

When it comes to school preparedness, Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D., Director of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, states it best: “Getting things right the first time is easier and more effective than trying to fix them later.”

Our quality education and rich experiences in the arts, music, literature, and history are positioning students for futures that mirror what sound research has proven: children who receive quality early education are more likely to graduate from high school, less likely to become teen parents, and twice as likely to attend college. It is a philosophy that St. Mark Center lives enthusiastically, knowing that our work today is setting the course for the twenty-first-century workplace and our broader world.
The expansive lineup totals some ninety events through mid-November, including more than five dozen discussions of *The Things They Carried*.

Partnering libraries span the state line. On the Missouri side: the Kansas City, Mid-Continent, and North Kansas City public libraries. In Kansas: the Johnson County Library and Kansas City, Kansas, and Olathe public libraries. Altogether, they account for more than eighty branches and other service locations and 1.2 million registered users.

The Vietnam remembrance coincides with Ken Burns’s latest documentary series, *The Vietnam War*, which premiered in September on public television stations across the nation.

“We’re commemorating one of the most important events in my lifetime, the Vietnam War, which changed our politics and our attitude toward the world, probably forever,” says the Kansas City Public Library’s Director Crosby Kemper III.

“It’s the right time in American history to do this. And it’s right for libraries to do this. They should be, and are, at the forefront of looking at our history and promoting it through reading,”

Kansas City’s Big Read initiative was one of seventy-five community reading programs authorized for funding in 2017–2018 by the NEA and its partner, the Minneapolis-based Arts Midwest. Grant recipients ranged from libraries to schools and arts organizations in thirty-two states. They’ll spotlight twenty-one different books.

O’Brien, now seventy-one and living in Austin, Texas, drew from his experiences in writing twenty-two interrelated stories illuminating both the physical horror and emotional toll of the conflict. *The Things They Carried* sold more than two million copies, made O’Brien a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1991, and was included three years ago in Amazon.com’s list of 100 Books to Read in a Lifetime.

Signature presentations during the Big Read KC initiative delve into the music of the Vietnam era, Hollywood’s handling of the war, protests then and now, and writing about war. Mark Bowden, the author of *Black Hawk Down* and a new book about the Vietnam War’s momentous Battle of Huế, spoke on October 18. O’Brien himself discussed his book a week earlier.

His depiction of the war experience “continues to speak to the human experience in profoundly moving ways,” says North Kansas City Public Library Director Vickie Lewis.

“Now more than ever,” she says, “the ability to find and enjoy common cause with one another—in this case, over the exploration of a great book and its themes—seems incredibly important.”

For details on all Big Read KC programming and how to get involved, go to bigreadkc.org.
As of August, the MHC now houses staff in St. Louis, Kansas City, and Queen City of the Ozarks: Springfield (Missouri’s three largest metropolitan areas). Our new Springfield office is the result of a partnership with the new Humanities and Ethics Center at Drury University. It has been an avowed objective of the MHC to reach the rural areas of our state and to do so with all of the impact and presence with which we positively affect urban parts. The Springfield office will only be a first step in that direction (no pun intended).

Missouri is recognized as a rural state, and rightfully so. As someone who grew up in rural parts, opening the Springfield office is personal to me as well as professional. I spent most of my life in the Springfield area, so I know how important it is for the MHC to reach Ozarks communities. As an alumnus of both Drury College and Missouri State, I know firsthand the broad range the southern part of our state has to offer the humanities, and I am even more confident that the MHC will achieve great success in this absolutely beautiful region. We will make that same effort. I assure you, north of the Missouri River as well—I lived in Chillicothe for a stint and graduated high school across the Mississippi from Hannibal, so I know full well of the rich heritage and culture and the dynamic spirit of the people in this equally beautiful region.

Therefore, I am honored to introduce the MHC’s Field Representative for the Springfield Office, Dr. Katie Gilbert…

I am very excited to become a part of the MHC team. During the past two years, as director of the Humanities and Ethics Center at Drury, I have had the opportunity to begin to promote the humanities in the Springfield region, and I look forward to moving beyond its boundaries. My own introduction to the humanities began with a course in my public high school in Michigan nearly thirty years ago. It was a moment when I began to understand that the humanities are often at the center of our daily lives, before we even realize it. If you’ve attended a book club, had a debate about the meaning of life, or visited a historical site, you’re living the humanities in some way. I am a fan of moving the humanities beyond the classroom and integrating public and civic life with what might be seen as more traditional classroom experiences.

I received my B.A. in English and Spanish from Bowdoin College, a small liberal arts college in Maine, one that I was reminded of when I first visited Drury. After working in publishing for a few years, I attended the University of Virginia for my M.A. and then the University of Wisconsin for my Ph.D. in English. I’ve taught literature at Drury for eight years and am fascinated by the history of the state, and of Southwest Missouri in particular. At Drury, we started our public humanities initiative by launching the Center and its multipronged series. Our series have included a blog site, where our Humanities House resident scholars and faculty post on the intersections between humanities scholarship and everyday life: a film series at our local independent movie theater, the Moxie; and a speaker series that has brought speakers from around the nation to Springfield to deliver public talks on topics in the humanities. This work helped me see the ways in which communities can develop partnerships to advance an understanding of the value of the humanities in the public sphere.

I’ve come to believe few other regions of the country have so much variation as Missouri, and there is a richness in the history and storytelling in Southwest Missouri that deserves to be celebrated, in cities and small towns across the region. I very much look forward to being a part of the collaborative work ahead.

I was Chinatown that sealed the deal. Roman Polanski’s 1974 neo-noir masterpiece kicked off the spring 2016 program of the Moxie Cinema’s ongoing Humanities Film Series with Drury University. It looked as good as ever on the big screen. But it was what happened afterward that convinced me of the secret of this four-year program’s success.

The postshow discussion, led by Drury University’s Dr. Kevin Henderson, ranged from Fritz Lang to the California Water Wars and lasted well past the allotted thirty minutes. As Moxie staffers cleaned around him, Henderson listened to two audience members whose grandfather lived in Southern California during those troubled times. “They were visibly moved,” Henderson said. “They came for a movie and had never thought in a million years that they would be reimagining that personal history, let alone sharing it with a crowd of strangers.”

These sorts of surprising and moving moments have happened again and again over the last four years. The movies have ranged wildly, including everything from the silent-era classic The Passion of Joan of Arc to a 2013 documentary about a feminist punk rocker. But the conversations have been consistent. A mix of lectures and freewheeling discussions guided by professors from Drury University’s School of Humanities always returns to the heart of the matter: the human condition.

To paraphrase Jake Gittes, erstwhile protagonist of Chinatown: “What can I tell you, Kevin? You’re right. When you’re right, you’re right, and you’re right.”

These days, most of us watch movies alone on small screens. A tired parent streams the last fifteen minutes of a nearly completed movie on his phone after the kids are asleep. Gathering to watch, discuss, and reflect upon the art form has diminished in turn. And people have noticed and told us how much this Missouri Humanities Council–funded series means to them.

“These movies cover topics that we avoid in our fast-paced lives,” said Melody Sanders, who has managed to attend nearly all of the screenings in the series to date. “We look forward to the discussion… this sharing of thoughts adds depth to the experience.”

This sentiment is echoed after almost every screening by new audience members. They tell us how much they enjoyed hearing not only what the speakers had to say, but also what their fellow viewers thought. It’s like watching someone rediscover the freedom and fun of riding a bike.

To date, these early afternoon screenings are closer to being sold out more often than not. For our fall 2014 screening of On the Waterfront, we pulled in extra seats for the overflow crowd. “You know something is working when you get that many people in a dark theater for a black and white on such a beautiful day,” said Henderson.

The Humanities Film Series AT THE MOXIE
Much of what we know about Route 66 comes from the people who lived, worked, and traveled along the Mother Road. With support from a Missouri Humanities Council grant, Special Collections and Archives at Missouri State University has been working with a documentary film producer to help preserve some of the stories of women along Route 66. The purpose of the project is to look at the diverse contributions of women to Missouri’s rich Route 66 legacy and place them within the wider context of women’s Route 66 history.

The final product of the project will be a documentary titled Women on the Mother Road. With grants from the Missouri Humanities Council and other agencies, including the National Park Service, Katrina Parks of Assertion Films has conducted oral history interviews in several states. In Missouri, she has been working with Missouri State University’s Special Collections and Archives not only to gather the oral histories but also to preserve the recordings locally and raise public awareness of the project.

At Missouri State University, the full-length interviews will be added to a growing collection of oral histories that help document the Mother Road. The collection already includes oral history interviews focused on the African-American experience in Greene County, while Special Collections is also the repository for interviews gathered by volunteers with the Route 66 Association of Missouri. In addition to the audio files, the interviews may include photographs and related documents. Missouri State University preserves these items in addition to making the interviews available online.

The “Women on the Mother Road in Missouri” grant from the MHC has already been instrumental in gathering oral histories in the St. Louis area. Among the individuals to share their stories were Marilyn Leistner, the last mayor of ill-fated Times Beach, Missouri, and Diane Warhover, the first superintendent of Route 66 State Park, which stands now on the vacated Times Beach site. John Butte told stories of the Model T owned by Darlene Dorgan of Bradford, Illinois. For several summers beginning in the 1930s, Darlene and a variety of friends she dubbed the “Gypsy Coeds” would travel around the U.S., including along Route 66.

Another story preserved through this project is that of Springfield’s African-American businesswoman Alberta Ellis. Her grandchildren, Irving Logan and Elizabeth Calvin, recounted how she purchased the old city hospital because she recognized the need for accommodations for African-American travelers. Among the travelers were soldiers from nearby Ft. Leonard Wood. As her grandson describes it,

Interesting enough, the law at that time said that there was segregation so that African Americans and Caucasians couldn’t stay together, but at Alberta’s Hotel, they’d ignore that. And so, a lot of times, the troops would come in and they’d been in combat together somewhere and they’d learned to depend on each other and they didn’t want to be separated by race…. The African Americans couldn’t stay in the white hotels like the Kentwood Arms or the Colonial… but they were [all] allowed to stay at Alberta’s.

The oral history project continued this fall when Parks visited the Ozarks. Here she spoke with women who own iconic Route 66 motels, one who helped tell the story as it relates to African Americans, and one of the leaders in Route 66 preservation.

Public programming for Women on the Mother Road in Missouri included two programs in St. Louis in the spring. Held at the Missouri History Museum, visitors had the opportunity to view excerpts from oral histories Parks had gathered in other states as well as hear from researchers about their work on documenting aspects of the Mother Road.

In September, another public program was held, this time in Springfield. The audience not only saw excerpts from oral history interviews gathered in the spring and heard about the project from Parks and myself, but also were able to view the History Museum on the Square’s current exhibit, Memories of the Mother Road: Birthplace of Route 66. Local historian Jami Lewis also shared information on African Americans and the Mother Road. Thanks to its current owner, the 1926 Ford (dubbed the Silver Streak) driven by the Gypsy Coeds even made an appearance!

By recording and presenting stories of women along Route 66 in Missouri, the Women on the Mother Road project is creating a public history record that sheds light on diverse women’s experiences within a specific but varying geography and over several decades. With the support of the Missouri Humanities Council, many of those stories can now be preserved locally and in their entirety, available to researchers now and in the future.

To learn more about Special Collections and Archives at Missouri State University, visit libraries.missouristate.edu/archives. The project website for the documentary Women on the Mother Road is route66women.com.

Anne M. Baker is archivist and interim unit head for Special Collections and Archives at Missouri State University.
African Americans have a rich history in Springfield, Missouri. However, most people know little about the experiences of blacks and about their many contributions to the development of the city. The Journey Continues is a project in the Sociology Program at Missouri State University (MSU) that makes some of the history of African Americans accessible to the general public. Project leaders are using interviews, photos, archival documents, and newspaper accounts to publicize parts of the historical story of the African-American community in the Queen City of the Ozarks. One era that we have focused on is the 1950s and 1960s.

After a small decline between 1900 and 1950, the black population began to rebound; however, the 2,300 African Americans still constituted only 2.4% of the city’s population. Blacks resided in four separate areas on the north side of town; however, the blocks around the intersection of Chestnut Expressway and Benton Avenue served as a geographical hub for the black community’s business activities and its religious organizations. Jones Alley, which was along Tampa Street between Washington Avenue and Benton Avenue, was a bustling business district with black-owned cafés, barbershops, gas stations, a large grocery store, retail shops, and other establishments. Two of the most prominent businesses were Graham’s Barbeque and Alberta’s Hotel. In the 1930s, Zelma and James Graham built a barbeque restaurant near the intersection of Chestnut Expressway and Washington Avenue, and in the late 1940s, they built six rental cabins behind the restaurant. During the ’50s and early ’60s, the restaurant and motel area was the place to be. One long-time resident said that “it was quite a popular place. Every weekend people would go out there and visit. Cars would be lined up along Washington and Chestnut. You could find almost anybody on Friday, Saturday night at Graham’s.” Another person recalled that “Graham’s Barbeque was a real hangout. We’d go up there and sit in our cars. People would get out and talk and stuff. That’s where we’d spend hours.”

A few blocks north, Alberta Ellis had bought a three-story building on Calhoun Street that had once been a hospital. She converted it into five or six rooms for paying guests, plus a rumpus room, barbershop, beauty parlor, and a “snack shack.” Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, as segregation in public accommodations persisted, the Graham’s cabins and Alberta’s Hotel hosted such celebrities as Sarah Vaughan, Pearl Bailey, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Nat King Cole, Little Richard, Satchel Paige, and the Harlem Globetrotters.

Along with a bustling African-American business district, the area around Chestnut Expressway and Benton Avenue also was home to a number of churches that served as anchor institutions for Springfield’s African-American community. Among them was the Benton Avenue African Methodist Episcopal church led by the Reverend Oliver L. Brown, who had been the lead plaintiff in the historic Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case. Other churches included the Reedy Chapel, the Presbyterian Gibson Chapel, Washington Avenue Baptist Church, Timmons Temple Church of God, and Pitts Chapel United Methodist Church. People went to church services several times each week, especially on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. One person recalled that “at that time, they were all full. They all had a nice congregation.”

Respondents recalled the religious life of the ’50s and ’60s with pride and nostalgia for a time that has since waned. At Pitts Chapel, “Sunday we had morning services, then Bible Training Union in the afternoon until 6:00. We had Bible study on Wednesday nights. We had dinners, picnics, and Vacation Bible School. They would just be full, full of kids.” At Timmons Temple, “all the kids went to church, and they held late services. I’m talking twelve o’clock (midnight) in the summer time. You could hear them all over the neighborhood. That’s just the way they went to church.” At Reedy Chapel, “people went to church faithfully three or four times a week,” including Bible study on Wednesday night. Young people “got involved in choir. They had programs for us all the time. Usually on Sunday we’d be in and out of church most of the day. There was always something going on.”

While each church had its own schedule and services, many activities included members from other congregations. And since the churches were so close to one another, members often would see one another as they went to and from religious services. With overlapping activities and close proximity, the churches greatly strengthened the social fabric of the small but close-knit black community.

Our effort to chronicle the history of Springfield’s African-American community began in the spring of 2016 with interviews that were aired by the local National Public Radio station, KSMU. These interviews are available on the station’s website: ksmu.org/topic/journey-continues. The project and some information from it also were covered in local print and television stories.

With support from the Missouri Humanities Council and the College of Public Affairs at MSU, interviews and material collection continued during the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017. To make this additional information accessible to the general public, Lucie Amberg created a web page on the university’s server: news.missouristate.edu/2017/02/01/life-in-the-ozarks-for-african-americans-from-1906-to-today. We also presented information from the project at local and statewide forums.

As we move forward with The Journey Continues, we will add more personal stories, photos, videos, and archival materials to the website. We also are exploring additional ways to get information to the public, including a series of informational markers along an African-American Heritage Trail modeled after the one in Columbia, and a collection of short stories and curricular materials that can be used in elementary school classes.

Lyle Foster and Tim Knapp teach Sociology at Missouri State University. Lucie Amberg coordinates communication for the College of Arts and Letters.
Open for Business:
The 175th Anniversary of Carthage
AT THE POWERS MUSEUM

ANGELA FIRKUS

When Jim Buck saw his collection of Carthage business advertising pens on display at the Powers Museum, he looked at them for a long time. When he was done admiring the pens he had been keeping in a coffee mug on his mantle, he said: “Well, someone sure spent a lot of time making this stuff look good.”

Those someones were volunteers at the museum who had put on display not only Buck’s vintage pens, but also items from another dozen Carthage residents willing to share their prized possessions, for a limited time, with the community. This summer is the 175th anniversary of the founding of the city of Carthage, and the Powers Museum organized Open for Business: The 175th Anniversary of Carthage to celebrate. The exhibit was made possible by generous grants from Leggett & Platt and the Missouri Humanities Council. It includes items from the museum’s collection representing Carthage history in the areas of industry, small business, the professions, agriculture, and government.

Staff and volunteers had conceived from the start that residents should be able to shape the telling of the history of Carthage by contributing objects for display. A call went out by Facebook, email, local newspaper, and word of mouth that the museum was looking for Carthage historical pieces, and many people responded. Jack Garrett loaned his collection of trade cards and some of his glass bottles, a few of which advertise the very same businesses, such as A.M. Hurty Druggist and Caffee & Company. Visitors to the museum also saw great examples of mid-twentieth-century fishing lures made in Carthage, including the Toppy Popper by the Charles M. Six Tackle Company, thanks to Garrett.

Carolyn Johannes loaned a large amount of material from a prominent Carthage family, including a World War II ration booklet and photographs of the family farm over the years. In addition to the pens, Buck contributed many other advertising pieces as well as a coat hanger from Miller’s Department Store, which was on the courthouse square.

These items were displayed at the Powers Museum through the end of October in cases donated by Springfield’s History Museum on the Square. Knowing that many of the community items would be small, the museum also requested funds from the Missouri Humanities Council to install additional shelving in some of the cases. Thanks to that money, volunteers were able to prepare an exhibit winning the approval of patrons like Buck.

Angela Firkus holds a Ph.D., is professor of history at Cottey College, and is a member of the board of directors of Powers Museum, Inc.
The Seventh Annual Harvest Moon American Indian Festival was held October 7 in the heart of Kansas City. A celebration of culture, arts, and tradition, the event showcased the finest of Native American performers, dancers, artists, and artisans.

MHC, in partnership with Tycor’s Urban Tribal Embassy, presented the original inhabitants of Missouri with memorial plaques honoring their rich heritage, culture, and contributions.

**TRIBES HONORED:**

- Otoe Missouria Tribe
- Osage Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska
- Caddo Tribe
- Delaware Tribe, Bartlesville, OK and Nebraska
- Shawnee Tribe, Miami, OK
- Sac & Fox Nation, Stroud, OK
- Peoria Tribe, Miami, OK
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, McCloud, OK
- Kickapoo of Kansas, Horton, KS
- Kaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Kaw City, OK
German Heritage Comes Alive at LUXENHAUS FARM

CAITLIN YAGER
HERITAGE RESOURCES COORDINATOR & DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE AT THE MISSOURI HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Just three miles north of the quaint town of Marthasville, Missouri sits an unsuspecting gravel driveway, marked simply with a sign reading "Luxenhaus Farm." In an area ripe with orchards, family farms, and historic properties, one might just continue driving. However, hidden from view lies an expansive farmstead, peppered with primitive structures that spring to life every October for Deutsch Country Days, a living history festival celebrating early German life in Missouri. The goal of the festival is a deeper understanding of our roots as Missourians and an appreciation for the many Germans who helped this state prosper.

Hostkoetters reconstructed a German home originally built in Perry County, Missouri in 1830, called the "Huber Haus," which now serves as their primary residence. Through the years, eighteen additional structures were erected on the property we now know as "Luxenhaus Farm" (platt deutsch for "log house farm"). Each structure was built by primitive means, all of which were originally constructed between 1800 and 1830 in Gasconade, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Warren counties. In Hostkoetter's eyes, historical accuracy is key, which is why he relies on original methods of construction and proudly demonstrates these methods annually at Deutsch Country Days.

What began as a benefit house tour many years ago has grown into a weekend-long festival demonstrating and celebrating Missouri Germans' way of life, which attracts thousands of visitors each year. The first Deutsch Country Days was held thirty-six years ago, dedicated to providing tourists and locals alike with an authentic German pioneer experience. Artisans and merchants dressed in period attire are arranged along the pathways and inside the buildings of Luxenhaus Farm to demonstrate everything from tin smithing and wood splitting to candle dipping and hand quilting, all meticulously performed using period techniques. Visitors can sample springerle cookies, purchase kloeppeli (bobbin lace) and handmade soaps, listen to period music, and feast on authentic German fare, all while touring the farm's structures and grounds. Visitors can escape the everyday hustle and bustle to experience a simpler time during the third weekend of October every year.

The Missouri Humanities Council is proud to partner with the Luxenhaus Farm Foundation to ensure that the property—and all it offers toward preserving and teaching German Heritage in Missouri—continues in perpetuity. To that end, the Council is drafting a comprehensive interpretive plan, which will include components to build on the efforts of Deutsch Country Days to preserve and teach the German heritage of the state. Components include, but are not limited to, interpretation through exhibits and public programs, a modern education center masked as an historic structure, and further expansion of Luxenhaus as a living history site. It is our goal to maintain Luxenhaus as an unmatched cultural institution for generations to come.

For more information on Luxenhaus Farm or Deutsch Country Days, please visit deutschcountrydays.org. For more information on Missouri’s German heritage, contact Caitlin Yager at caitlin@mohumanities.org.
Most people who live outside of Southeast Missouri have never heard of the tiny Ozark community of Doniphan, Missouri. Those lucky enough to find it were probably seeking rugged outdoor experiences on the scenic Current River or in the expansive Mark Twain National Forest. For those who live here, however, the Southeast Missouri Ozarks are rich with cultural heritage and history. For example, ask anyone who is from here about Civil War history and wait to hear the stories unfold about a friend or family member who has an old cave on their property where someone had reportedly hidden important documents or artifacts saved from the burning of Doniphan by Union Soldiers in 1864. After hearing so many lively stories and debates about what happened during the Civil War in Ripley County, I assumed it would be easy to find maps and documentation of the most significant events to help local nonprofit Doniphan Neighborhood Assistance Program (DNAP) market the area to heritage tourists.

What I found was that popular resources for Civil War tourists, such as civilwartraveler.com and mocivilwar.org/travelers, made it easy for anyone interested in Missouri Civil War history to plan a trip to Southeast Missouri to explore the U. S. Grant Trail in the counties along the eastern border of the state but left the impression that no significant sites existed in the Ozark foothills, just west of Missouri’s Bootheel.

With the support of Missouri Humanities Council and the knowledge of local historians and heritage enthusiasts, including archaeologist and anthropologist Dr. James Price and Civil War enthusiast and reenactor Dan Hill, we set out to document the first leg of Price’s Expedition of 1864, the confederate raid led by Major General Sterling Price. This section of the last major Confederate campaign in a northern territory led from Pocahontas, Arkansas to Ironton, Missouri, passing through Doniphan, Missouri along the way.

After much research and debate, and realizing that many significant sites are on private property, we mapped six points related to Price’s Expedition and four other significant Civil War sites in the area. We then developed additional content to turn the downloadable map into a tourism brochure telling the story of the burning of Doniphan and highlighting key points of interest for heritage tourists in historic downtown Doniphan.

The materials generated a great deal of interest and lively discussions throughout the region as we shared draft versions for review, and we used the final materials in social media campaigns to promote Doniphan’s annual Civil War Days event in April. Unfortunately, significant rain interfered with our plans, and much of the event programming had to be canceled. The rains kept coming and, within a few weeks, created the worst flooding our region has ever experienced.

As we continue to work toward recovering and repairing the flood damage to Doniphan’s downtown heritage sites, we are hopeful that next year’s Civil War Days, April 20–21, 2018, will be bigger and better than ever. The materials we were able to develop, thanks to the Missouri Humanities Council, have helped make our local heritage accessible to enthusiasts across the state.

Living historians strive to create historically accurate presentations to help visitors better understand the life of soldiers and civilians during the Civil War.
The 2017 Humanities Awards & Gala, held in September of this year, was a terrific success. The evening honored three individuals for their work in and dedication to the humanities throughout the state of Missouri. The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy received the award for Partnership in the Humanities, recognizing the organization's efforts and diligent work in promoting humanities-based programming. The Kansas City Public Library received the award for Exemplary Community Achievement, highlighting its support and encouragement for community betterment through programs, community conversations, and exhibits. Gary Gackstatter received the award for Excellence in Education, recognizing his aptitude for engaging students by fostering their creativity, critical thinking, and understanding. A huge thank you to all of our sponsors and individual donors! The Council’s programming would not be possible without your steadfast support.

2017 SPONSORS

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CENTRAL BANK
DR. DEBBIE DEPEW
EDWARD JONES
ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TRAILNET

During a special auction at the Humanities Awards & Gala, MHC raised nearly $4,000 to expand its Veterans Writing Programs to new locations in Missouri. Thank you to all participants!

If you were unable to attend the Awards & Gala and you wish to help us offer more Veterans Writing Programs in 2018, use the attached envelope to show your support today. Every dollar counts.

Call for 2018 Humanities Award nominations!
Do you know a Missouri-based resident or organization that should be recognized for their work in the humanities?
Go to mohumanities.org to download a nomination form.

Interested in sponsoring this event?
Go to mohumanities.org or call 1.800.357.0909.

Photographer: Micah Usher, Usher Imaging LLC.
September 19, 2017 was the date of the fourth annual U. S. Grant Symposium, a partnership of the Missouri Humanities Council and the U. S. Grant Trail. Cape Girardeau Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Kellerman Foundation for Historic Preservation. The Kellerman Foundation furnished the venue for most of the speakers and for the exhibition of some remarkable artifacts from Ulysses Grant’s life and times: Heritage Hall at Main and Themis streets.

At Heritage Hall, speakers from Cape Girardeau, St. Louis, and Illinois shed light on Grant’s early Civil War campaigns to a standing room only audience. Professor emeritus Dr. Frank Nickell, Executive Director of the Kellerman Foundation, described eventful days in Cape Girardeau (August and September 1861), where Grant began his assault on the lower Mississippi Valley. The program then moved to the city park adjacent to the historic Common Pleas Courthouse, where the crowd was entertained by the Boonville, Missouri duo of Cathy Barton and Dave Para. The pair played and sang selections from their Civil War Songs from the Western Border albums before giving way to Mayor Harry Rediger to proclaim the day “Ulysses Grant Day” in Cape Girardeau. The keynote speaker for the symposium, Dr. Ronald C. White Jr. of the Huntington Library of California, was introduced by Dr. Adam Cribлеz, Assistant Professor of History at Southeast Missouri State University and Chairman of the Board of the Missouri Humanities Council. Dr. White delivered a thoughtful address, “Ulysses S. Grant: A Fresh Vision for American Leadership.”

Brenda Newbern, Executive Director of Cape Girardeau’s Convention and Visitors Bureau, estimates that 175 to 200 people attended all or part of the symposium. Newbern further notes that she personally met attendees from as far away as Alton, Illinois and Memphis, Tennessee. “This was a very successful event. We appreciate the work of the Missouri Humanities Council in bringing the U. S. Grant Symposium to our community,” said Newbern.

Special thanks to Judge Stephen Limbaugh Jr. for emceeing the event and for organizing the musical entertainment, and to our principal funders: Earl Norman of Cape Girardeau and the Gertrude and William A. Bernoudy Foundation of St. Louis and Chicago.

Lee Ann Woolery, Ph.D., Community Arts Specialist at the University of Missouri Extension

Cultural Heritage is what we value as a people and choose to pass on to future generations; it has shaped the past and influences the future. We recognize that cultural expression is fundamental to our understanding of what defines community—from festivals celebrating special days and people to historic buildings on our Main Streets. When we talk about community and economic development, we should include strategies that draw upon these local strengths as part of our approach.

These innovative workshops provide community leaders with the knowledge and tools to develop cultural heritage, humanities, and arts-based initiatives that foster community and economic development, create a sense of place, and instill community pride.

This workshop will provide tools to help community members evaluate their cultural, historic, and artistic assets and determine how to utilize those assets to promote local community and economic development. In this educational workshop, participants will learn:

• How a community’s culture, history, and creative population can be a cornerstone for community and economic development, with examples from communities across Missouri and the nation.

• How to assess if cultural heritage tourism is a fit for your community or region.

• How to plan for, develop, implement, and evaluate cultural heritage, humanities, and arts-based initiatives, events, and projects from a community standpoint.

• How initiatives focused on culture, history, or the arts can contribute to community pride, stability, growth, preservation, and protection of resources and economic development in a community or region.

Who Should Attend?
Those who deal specifically with culture, history, community, or economic development, tourism, or the arts. Those involved in community decision-making, such as: tourism directors, city managers, chamber of commerce directors, librarians, educators, theatre directors, parks and recreation directors, or cultural affairs directors. Also, those working in conservation and natural resource departments, Main Street organizations, and community betterment groups. Artists, craftspeople, historians, architects, community activity coordinators, and agribusiness entrepreneurs will also benefit.

Workshop Facilitator
Dr. Lee Ann Woolery is currently the Community Arts Specialist for University of Missouri Extension, where she developed a statewide program working with small towns and rural communities to create art-based community and economic development initiatives. She leads educational workshops on cultural heritage tourism and arts-based community and economic development.

Woolery worked with Lexington, MU Extension’s pilot project community, to develop a cultural heritage tourism initiative and product—the Audio Tour, a walking/driving tour of the history and architecture of Lexington. In her thirty-year career as an arts administrator, educator, and community artist, Woolery has worked with communities in Arizona, Chicago, Missouri, and Washington. She has designed artist-in-residence programs working with indigenous artists from the Pacific Northwest and co-led the purchase of an artist-owned warehouse in Tucson, Arizona, providing artist studios, gallery, educational programming, and a for-profit art business.

The next Cultural Heritage Workshops will be held in Aurora, Missouri, on December 2, and in Moberly, Missouri, on December 13. To receive more information on these workshops, contact Caitlin Yager at caitlin@mohumanities.org.
Whether you’re a lifelong Cardinals fan or “Raised Royal” in Kansas City, sports is likely an integral part of the history and culture of your community. This significance is one reason that the Council has partnered with the Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service to tour Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America across the Show Me State. As MoMS suggests, “Hometown sports are more than just games—they shape our lives and unite us and celebrate who we are as Americans.”

This past April, when both the Cardinals and Royals harbored hopes for the postseason, the Council issued a request for proposals for organizations to host Hometown Teams. As the baseball season’s second half took off, six organizations had been selected: Aurora High School Youth Empowerment Project, Aurora; Bates County Museum, Butler; Grundy County Historical Society and Museum, Trenton; Harney Mansion Foundation, Sullivan; Nodaway County Historical Society, Maryville; and Perry County Historical Society, Perryville. Each organization will host Hometown Teams for approximately six weeks.

Like other MoMS exhibitions, Hometown Teams is intended for smaller, rural communities. Host organizations are tasked with developing companion exhibitions and/or public humanities programs that localize and complement the exhibit’s main themes: the broad cultural impact of sports in America, the varieties and meanings of the fan experience, and the significance of hometown teams, among others. MHC staff and the project’s state scholar, Dr. Elyssa Ford of Northwest Missouri State University, are working with hosts to develop their projects and fulfill the Council’s commitment to helping build the capacity of host organizations.

At the end of September—the Cardinals’ postseason hopes barely alive, the Royals’ long gone—representatives of the six host organizations gathered in Jefferson City for a statewide planning meeting. Joined by Terri Cobb of MoMS, we considered exhibit logistics, brainstormed program ideas, and learned about statewide resources from Candy Sall of the Missouri Association for Museums and Archives and from Dr. Shelley Croteau and Greg Olson of the Missouri State Archives. Dr. Adam Cribblez, of Southeast Missouri State University and president of the MHC board, talked about sports as American history, highlighting the basketball dynasties of the state’s Bootheel region.

Hometown Teams opens in Missouri next April, just in time for the beginning of a new baseball season and renewed hope, whether you root for the Cardinals, the Royals, or some other hometown team.

**Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America**

**TOUR ITINERARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Perry County Historical Society</td>
<td>Perryville</td>
<td>April 14, 2018</td>
<td>May 20, 2018</td>
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<td>Grundy County Historical Society &amp; Museum</td>
<td>Trenton</td>
<td>May 26, 2018</td>
<td>July 6, 2018</td>
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<td>Bates County Museum</td>
<td>Butler</td>
<td>July 9, 2018</td>
<td>August 19, 2018</td>
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<td>Harney Mansion Foundation</td>
<td>Sullivan</td>
<td>August 26, 2018</td>
<td>October 5, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nodaway County Historical Society</td>
<td>Maryville</td>
<td>October 9, 2018</td>
<td>December 2, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora High School Youth Empowerment Project</td>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td>December 8, 2018</td>
<td>January 27, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hosts of Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America gathered in Jefferson City on September 25 and 26 for a statewide planning meeting. From left to right: Terri Cobb, Smithsonian Institution; Jessica Vest, Nodaway County Historical Society; Tad Trombley, Grundy County Historical Society and Museum; Bonnie Vandevan, Harney Mansion Foundation; Debbie Depew, Harney Mansion Foundation; Elyssa Ford, State Scholar; Jennifer Schwent, Perry County Historical Society; Dana Farrow, Perry County Historical Society; Peggy Buhl, Bates County Museum; Chris Wimsatt, Bates County Museum; Phil Schlarb, Grundy County Historical Society and Museum; Kim McCuly-Mobley, Aurora High School Youth Empowerment Project; Marcia Sadler, Aurora High School Youth Empowerment Project.
If there’s one thing Phil Dixon knows, it’s that baseball brings people together.

That’s why in 2013, when the author and historian grew concerned about race relations in America and wanted to help, he turned to one of his specialties, the story of the Kansas City Monarchs.

Dixon, a former Kansas City Royals front-office employee and co-founder of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, had written books on the Monarchs, one of baseball’s most successful black teams. The Monarchs had played in small towns across the region, Dixon knew, and he figured that he could go to those towns and talk about race, using baseball to connect with audiences.

In 2014, he decided to speak in ninety cities in honor of the ninetieth anniversary of the Monarchs’ 1924 inaugural Negro Leagues World Series win.

“It was going so good, I said, ‘I’ve got to keep on going,’” Dixon says.

Now Dixon has given his presentation in 155 cities in seventeen states and Canada. On the recommendation of a former Missouri Humanities Council board member, he joined the “Show Me Missouri” Speakers’ Bureau and has appeared in documentaries, podcasts, and television shows about the Negro Leagues. Dixon thinks that part of the reason he connects with people is that he tells stories, incorporates community history, and appeals even to non–baseball fans.

Peggy Buhr, the museum director of the Bates County Museum, which has hosted Dixon twice, agrees.

“The thing I love was that it was not just statistics,” she says. “He told about all the players, and he would share little stories about them so that his program was entertaining even for someone like me, who just kind of sort of pays attention to baseball.”

For Dixon, local history is key. Though his programs are all titled The Kansas City Monarchs in Our Hometown, they are each different, tailored to the town in which he is speaking.

“People are always really touched that he takes a special interest in their community,” says Leslie Von Holten, director of programs at the Kansas Humanities Council, where Dixon is also part of their speakers’ bureau. “He really knows his stuff, but he is always open to hearing other people’s stories. He comes in with an attitude that he wants to learn more.”

In the towns he visits, Dixon often does extra research, trying to solve historical puzzles, visiting still-standing ball fields and graveyards. Before presentations, he answers questions for early arrivals, happy to talk to any eager listeners. And he has occasionally visited aging baseball players and fans in the nursing home.

“People rave about him,” Von Holten says. “They really love his presentation, and how fun it is, and how much there is to learn.”

For Dixon, traveling to small towns has been one of the most rewarding parts of his project. The “Show Me Missouri” Speakers’ Bureau has helped to connect speakers like Dixon with those communities.

“Having it so affordable for organizations like ours, we’re able to bring in a caliber of talent and speaker that otherwise we just simply would not be able to do,” Buhr says.

Phil’s goal is to bring his program to 200 towns.

“I still know, in this country, speaking on diversity and race relations, to me, it’s even more needed than it was when I first came up with the idea,” Dixon says. “Who knows? I may have to keep on going.”
Missouri Humanities Council Supports Turn the Page STL

LISA CARRICO
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & VETERANS PROGRAMS, MHC

On September 28, 2017, representatives from the St. Louis mayor’s and county executive’s offices announced the launch of the first-ever city/county literacy initiative, Turn the Page STL, proclaiming the day as “St. Louis Reads Together Day.”

Turn the Page STL will model and consult with Kansas City’s outcome-based and highly successful literacy initiative Turn the Page KC. The Turn the Page STL Committee currently consists of twenty-one organizations, including the Missouri Humanities Council, that are committed to increasing the number of children who are reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade in the St. Louis community. The St. Louis Regional Early Childhood Council (RECC), with financial support from the Youthbridge Community Foundation and the Dana Brown Charitable Trust, will house and provide staff support for Turn the Page STL. Lindsey Noblot of RECC will oversee the initiative, Lisa Greening of Ready Readers will serve as committee chair, and Lisa Carrico of the Missouri Humanities Council has been nominated as vice chair.

The initiative is committed to building a community movement that celebrates the joy and importance of early literacy through a public awareness campaign and community engagement. Throughout the first year, messages will appear in the community—on billboards, radio, social media, and partners’ websites— underscores the importance of reading aloud and connecting the public to free literacy events and materials.

Committee members will participate in a monthly “Call to Action” to provide information, free books, and/or activities around each monthly theme.

Research shows that proficiency in reading by the end of third grade enables students to shift from learning to read to reading to learn. Children who read on grade level by the end of third grade are more successful in school, in work, and in life. Turn the Page STL will align and measure the progress of its work on the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, which includes school readiness, school attendance, and summer learning.

To help ensure that all St. Louis students are proficient in reading by the end of third grade and narrow the gap between advantaged and disadvantaged children, the committee believes it will take a community effort, including schools, health care providers, city leaders, and nonprofits, to remove barriers, expand reading opportunities, and assist parents in fulfilling their role as early educators.

For more information on Turn the Page STL and how to get involved, visit: visionforchildren.org/recc/turnthepage.

GROWING READERS

Read from the Start (RFTS), MHC’s family reading initiative, is offered free of charge and encourages parents and caregivers to read to their young children. RFTS participants, with the guidance of a certified Discussion Leader, read and discuss high-quality children’s books. The parents keep the books and leave RFTS programs excited to share the books and stories with their children. MHC partners with local organizations throughout the state to host the programs. These partners all share a commitment to family reading and literacy. A sample of host sites includes: Head Starts, Parents as Teachers, libraries, community action agencies, schools, and shelters.

To learn how you can host or attend an RFTS program, please visit readfromthestart.org.
In 2017, the Missouri Humanities Council hosted four Veterans Writing Workshops, including its first women-specific workshop—all of which were open to the public and offered free of charge. The workshops provided sixty-one veterans, plus participating family members, with the same high level of instruction as a college/university writing class.

The Veterans Writing Workshops foster a supportive environment for participants to develop their writing skills and tell their stories, whether they be true-life accounts or wholly original tales. The workshops consist of five four-hour sessions and include the basics of writing, revision, and publication. Participants are led through writing exercises with meaningful feedback from facilitators, fellow vets, and family.

The MHC views the workshops as a collaborative community effort and would like to recognize the St. Louis Public Library, Olin Library at Drury University, Kansas City Public Library, the Moral Injury Association of America, and all workshop facilitators for their commitment to veteran programming and for making these workshops possible.

For more information on upcoming 2018 Veterans Writing Workshops and/or how to host a workshop, please contact our Director of Family and Veterans Programs, Lisa Carrico, at 314.781.9660.

Here is what a few of our participants had to say when we asked, “What was the most valuable part of this workshop session for you?”

“Hearing encouragement from experienced writers—discussions were very informative, excellent resources provided.”

“The critique of our work and feedback provided by peers and instructor.”

“The mutual, good-humored support and encouragement. So stimulating and empowering, enriching to the mind.”

Proud to Be, Volume 6 Book Reception and Reading

St. Louis Public Radio
UMSL at Grand Center
Community Room
Saturday, December 9, 2017
1:30 pm–3:30 pm

The Missouri Humanities Council and Southeast Missouri State University Press present a reading of American veterans’ and their families’ original writings published in the annual anthology Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors, Volume 6. The anthology preserves and shares military perspectives from our soldiers, veterans, and their families. The event will feature short readings by local and national contributors. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served and books will be available for purchase.

For further information, please call 314.781.0909 or email lisa@mohumanities.org.

Missouri and the Great War Traveling Exhibit

Now through December 2018

Don’t miss the Missouri and the Great War exhibit as it travels around Missouri through 2017 and 2018! Read about the traveling exhibit and its schedule on pages 2–4.

Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America Traveling Exhibit

April 2018–January 2019

Catch the Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America exhibit as it travels around Missouri in 2018 and learn how sports shape our lives and unite us as communities. Read about the traveling exhibit and its schedule on pages 30–31.
## Grants Awarded

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<td>Marthaville Bicentennial Celebration–Heritage Festival</td>
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<td>Trading Moon Pow Wow and Instructional Series on Native Culture</td>
<td>University of Central Missouri–Center for Religious Studies</td>
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<td>Centennial of Women’s Suffrage Speaker and Event Series</td>
<td>University of Central Missouri–Department of History, Anthropology, Africana Studies, and Social Studies</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
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<td>The Griot Museum of Black History Exhibition Series</td>
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<td>Exhibition-Related Teachers Conference and Public Programming</td>
<td>Truman Library Institute</td>
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<td>River Styx Reading Series at Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis</td>
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<td>Mean Streets: Viewing the Divided City Through the Lens of Film and Television</td>
<td>Cinema St. Louis</td>
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<td>The Justice Fleet Mobile Museums</td>
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<td>The inspiration for Tom Sawyer</td>
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FACULTY FOCUS

THINKING ABOUT Space

IN ALL OF ITS POSSIBLE Dimensions

VICTOR MATTHEWS
DEAN OF COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MSU

Seeing the devastation that has resulted from the hurricanes in Texas and Florida, I am reminded of similar scenes in Joplin six years ago when a massive tornado cut a wide path of destruction through the city. That event that changed so many lives also contributed to a new research agenda. You see, I am from Joplin originally, and when I arrived shortly after the storm, I found that every school I had attended and the house where I had lived was destroyed. I found myself standing in the debris, staring at a shell of the interior. And yet, instead of registering shock, my mind traveled back to when the house was still whole. You see, the current destruction had not destroyed my memory of that space. And from that have come several published articles and a series of presentations that highlight the importance associated with “remembered space.”

People tend to live in space rather than think about it. Space is multifaceted. It has a physical character that can be seen, defined, and measured. However, space also has the potential to be used or transformed by humans into a wide variety of uses. And that is simply based on the imagination of the person viewing it. Therefore, when familiar space that has been associated with a particular function, say, a cornfield, is transformed into a new subdivision or a parking lot, it may still exist as a cornfield in the minds of those who once worked the land and benefited from its produce. As long as that memory remains, the “remembered space” lingers, especially if the story of its previous use continues to be told.

Now let me apply this spatial theory to my own research as a biblical scholar and archaeologist with an interest in the social world of ancient Israel. Although many of the biblical narratives focus on Jerusalem or one of the other Israelite cities, much of the population lived in small villages consisting of a few families. Their domestic life centered on their four-chambered, two-story homes that housed extended family and some of their animals. When not in the fields, these structures—their rooms, their hearths, their storage areas and stables, and their smells—formed distinctive memories based on their activities from birth to death. Were they to be damaged or destroyed by earthquakes or fires, they were likely rebuilt over the same foundation, in part because of the building materials lying at hand or because of the long associations with that place. Memory in that way drives action and in many ways holds a family together.

Village life was tied to their wheat fields or their terraced hillsides, where they planted olive trees and vineyards (see Isaiah 5:1–7). Every able-bodied person, regardless of age or gender, would work long hours to produce the food necessary to the life of the community. However, the threshing floor regularly held their attention and developed new spatial associations based on communal activity. Each village identified a flat area centrally located near their fields to which they could bring the harvested grain. There the stalks would be laid, and a threshing sled pulled by a team of oxen broke up the bundles of grain. After using winnowing forks, they employed sieves to create piles of grain that would eventually be distributed to the owners of the fields and to widows and orphans in their community.

Because they regularly came to the threshing floor at each harvest season, it also became a place for business transactions and the settling of legal disputes. Thus, what had been a simple agricultural installation was transformed based on people’s activities. The biblical narrative then uses the threshing floor as a setting for stories. For instance, the widow Ruth goes to the threshing floor to ask Boaz to serve as her legal advocate before the elders of Bethlehem. Her plea is best made in a place associated with Boaz’s status as an elder in the community and with legal transactions.

Even when the village becomes a town, the memory of the role of the threshing floor remains. Thus in a story about Ahab and Jehoshaphat, kings of Israel and Judah, we learn that the city gate of the capital city has been constructed on a threshing floor, and that the kings, sitting on their thrones in their royal robes of office, hold court in this place (1 Kings 22:10). In this way, the kings draw authority from the memory of the communal activity on the threshing floor, from the city gate, which is the symbol of the strength and prosperity of the city of Samaria, as well as their other symbols of power.

It is instructive to look beyond the mundane, beyond the current character of a place. Consider what has been and how that continues to drive our thinking. Give space a chance to tell its story, and you will discover it has many dimensions, many usages, and many tales yet to tell.
THE TRAIL OF TEARS
NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

DR. BILL AMBROSE
MISSOURI TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is one of six National Historic Trails either passing through or beginning in the state of Missouri. National Historic Trails are established by Congress pursuant to the 1968 National Trails System Act, amended by the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was added by Congress to the trail system in 1987. The purpose of a National Historic Trail is the identification and protection of a historic route and its relevant artifacts for public use and enjoyment. For inclusion, a trail must have been used as the actual route traveled and be recognized as having been associated with extensive impacts on the American social conscience. Historic interpretation of these trails leads to an appreciation of the significance these trails have had on American culture. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is administered by the Department of the Interior’s National Park Service regional office in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In accord with the 1987 Act, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is limited to narrating the Cherokee removal experience but is to be representative of the removal story for all five southeastern “Civilized Tribes”—the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole, and Muscogee. The Congressional Act delineates the need for other public and private partners beyond the National Park Service to help fulfill the mission and purpose of the act; for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, that partner is the National Trail of Tears Association (NATOTA) and its state components, like here in Missouri, the Missouri Trail of Tears Association (MOTOTA).

Of the nineteen National Historic Trails in America, the Lewis and Clark Trail, the Pony Express Trail, the Oregon Trail, the Santa Fe Trail, the California National Trail, and the Trail of Tears are all endemic to Missouri. The first five listed fit the Missouri epic as the Gateway to the West, a forward-looking frontier movement of exploration and settlement toward fulfillment of this nation’s “manifest destiny.” Missouri’s central location in the heart of the nation and her extensive river systems made the state the epicenter for commerce and communication to policy makers and marketeers back east. Missouri’s energetic manpower and abundant resources made possible the frenetic frontier leap to the Pacific. The United States of America should be rightly proud of these trails and their stories, although it must be noted that just as there were winners in these stories, these trails had many victims—the Native American tribes displaced from their homes. The sidebars of the stories of these trails, if written about these tribes, likely would read like the Trail of Tears (TOT).

In the 1820s, Indian policy changed from acculturation to removal and sequestration. Argued as the only means to save the Native Indian tribes, in reality, the removal’s purpose was to open more desirable lands in Georgia and nearby states to aggressive white settlers. Zebulon Pike’s description of the land on the southwest limit of the Louisiana Purchase as unfertile and waterless in 1808, along with the of the “Great American Desert” moniker Major Stephen Long gave the region in 1822, combined to give the government planners in Washington, DC a place to send the Indian Tribes away from productive white civil society. That waterless and sterile “Great American Desert” became “Indian Territory.” And so the origination and destination for Indian removal was set; the only issue was how to get the tribes from one to the other: the Trail.

For decades, the trail to the trans-Mississippi West for explorers, Native Americans, and early settlers had been to cross the Mississippi at the fourth Chickasaw Bluff, now Memphis, leading straight into rich watersheds in Arkansas. The forty-foot tall, unstable mud banks of the big river made crossing it very dangerous, but the sandstone steps at the bluff made for year-round easy access to the river. As early as the 1780s, Cherokee Indians crossed there into the abundant St. Francis River watershed to voluntarily make new homes away from land-hungry American farmers. Had this route been available in 1838, perhaps there would not have been a Trail of Tears. Unfortunately, this route became impossible on December 16, 1811. The New Madrid earthquake destroyed the watershed for a width of eighty to one hundred miles, creating a tangle of giant trees laid down across themselves in a three- to ten-foot deep swamp. After a failed attempt on this trail and another failure on a river route, the removal trail was deflected northward into Missouri and additionally added another major river to cross, the Ohio.

Unlike the uplifting, energetic, positive forces associated with many aspects of the other five historic trails in Missouri, the Trail of Tears, only forced into Missouri by a disruptive quirk of nature, became an epic human tragedy. Sixteen thousand Cherokee citizens were rounded up at musket point and forced into detainment camps at the same time as land-hungry whites had overrun their farms and homes. To the members of this people, this nation, this tribe, the result was total destruction of all established lifeways; family structure across multiple generations; social, cultural, and tribal customs; religious, burial, and
sacred customs and practices; hunting, fishing, and foraging habits for meeting food needs; travel routes and trader relations for other supply needs; distant communication venues for tribe safety and defense; and separation from the tribe’s origination epic. After weeks in stifling heat and sickness from inadequate food and poor sanitation in the camps, detachments of around one thousand persons, five hundred horses, and fifty wagons each were sent out toward Indian Territory. After weeks on the trail, exhausted by miles of walking without sufficient protective clothing and footwear, and with shortages of food and supplies, the detachments faced another two-hundred-mile trek over Missouri’s unimproved “roads”—mostly nothing more than ten-foot-wide dirt footpaths. Given the challenges they had already faced, it may be hard to believe that dealing with Missouri’s Ozark Mountains was the most difficult. Each detachment had to decide which path to follow through Missouri: south across the Castor and the Current onto the White River watershed of Arkansas to find established westward roads (the Benge Route); northwest through Missouri’s mining district, adding many miles but hoping for better roads and more supplies (the Northern Route); or straight west into the Ozark Mountains, facing all the extremes of topography that eight hundred million years of erosion can suffer on a dolomitic tectonic uplift, shortening the trail by nearly one hundred miles but with far fewer supplies (the Hildebrand Route).

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail totals over 2,200 miles when all the different routes are considered; with all three of Missouri’s trails used, and given the state’s size, it has by far the greatest number of miles of trail of any of the nine states through which it runs: six hundred. There were far fewer people, houses, farms, towns, improvements, or roads in Missouri’s infancy than in the other more mature states the trail passed through; therefore, fewer sources of supplies like food, fodder, and wagon hardware were available along the trail. As exhaustion, malnourishment, exposure to severe weather, and sickness set in to the weary travelers, death numbers grew rapidly. Four thousand Cherokee died as a result of the detainment camps, the

trail, and the poor conditions in Indian Territory upon arrival. Many important facts of the Trail of Tears in Missouri have not been found, and important aspects of the story of the Trail of Tears in Missouri have not been told.

The National Park Service is responsible for the official Trail of Tears National Historic Trail maps and for the production of the state maps for each individual state that the trail passes through. These official maps, with the National Park’s official logo, will drive the tourism and history-searching travel in our state and nationally that an increasingly interested population has engaged. The information on the current National Map pertaining to Missouri was limited to what was known in 1993. The MOTOTA wants to be ready with much more information and certified sites when the new National Map and first-ever Missouri Trail of Tears National Historic Trail State Map are printed. These maps are likely the best media to introduce the Trail to the public in pursuit of the goals of the 1987 Congressional Act.

MHC’s Executive Director, Dr. Steve Belko, was approached by the MOTOTA after the MHC’s Native American Initiative was announced. He has met with chapter members across the state at several locations. He met with the National Trail of Tears Association Executive Director and past Cherokee Supreme Court Judge Troy Wayne Poteet at the Kansas City office of MHC. After a broad, comprehensive discussion of Trail of Tears issues and potentials, the Missouri Humanities Council has come forward with a $24,000 grant to the Missouri chapter of the National Trail of Tears Association. Recent discoveries of new information sources in Phelps, Laclede, and Bollinger counties offer promise in gaining additional facts about the Trail through these counties. The grant will be shared by three scholars in these counties who are in the process of developing complete reports on “Trail of Tears” histories and assets with a goal of adding significantly to the number of Certified Sites and miles of marked “Trail Segments” in each county. Within the last two years, MOTOTA member and Missouri Department of Transportation Senior Historic Preservation Specialist Russell Wiseman has used land records and Missouri State Archives’s early “State Road Maps” to unlock the hidden secrets of the Benge Route in Southeast Missouri. Thanks to Wiseman, the Benge Route and associated assets will be accurately shown on the new maps. Within the last two months, MOTOTA member Dr. Bill Ambrose found additional maps in the same 1830s vintage survey collection to better identify the Northern Route and the Hildebrand Route. By cross-matching property owners’ names and locations as they appear on the maps with extant diaries and invoice records from the Trail of Tears, the Trail of Tears comes to life! In an effort to better define the Trail of Tears on the ground and to facilitate additional study locations, MHC is having these road surveys digitized and overlaid on geo-referenced maps. These two connected sources, along with the other ongoing studies, may very well redefine the Trail of Tears in Missouri, leading to a more historically accurate interpretation and, hopefully, stewardship of the Trail’s assets and stories. With the help of the MHC, the Missouri Trail of Tears Association expects to triple the certified sites and miles of “Trail Segments” shown on the new National and Missouri Trail of Tears maps. Come find the Trail and its stories here in Missouri!

At the Meet & Greet Round Table Discussion about the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, May 26, 2017 at one of three Missouri Humanities Offices in Kansas City: left to right: Dr. Steve Belko, Executive Director, Missouri Humanities Council; Dr. William ‘Bill’ Ambrose, retired dentist, researcher, MO Chapter TOTA Board Member; Deloris Gray Wood, President Missouri Chapter Trail of Tears Association & on TOTA National Board; Missouri State Representative Rocky Miller (a Cherokee Citizen), MO Chapter TOTA Board Member, surveyor; Wayne Poteet, Executive Director Trail of Tears Association; Teresa Bradskey, President, TYCOR; and Harry Reaves, CEO, TYCOR, pose for a photo at the end of the discussion.

At the Meet & Greet Round Table Discussion about the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, May 26, 2017 at one of three Missouri Humanities Offices in Kansas City: left to right: Dr. Steve Belko, Executive Director, Missouri Humanities Council; Dr. William ‘Bill’ Ambrose, retired dentist, researcher, MO Chapter TOTA Board Member; Deloris Gray Wood, President Missouri Chapter Trail of Tears Association & on TOTA National Board; Missouri State Representative Rocky Miller (a Cherokee Citizen), MO Chapter TOTA Board Member, surveyor; Wayne Poteet, Executive Director Trail of Tears Association; Teresa Bradskey, President, TYCOR; and Harry Reaves, CEO, TYCOR, pose for a photo at the end of the discussion.
WHY THE HUMANITIES MATTER NOW

GLORIA GALANES, PH.D.

I recently attended a presentation, funded in part by the Missouri Humanities Council, about Route 66 and some of the characters who traveled or lived along the "mother road," as it is called. The presentation, introduced by Missouri State University archivist Anne Baker and held at Springfield’s History Museum on the Square, reminded me of how important it is that we keep the humanities alive and thriving in our state.

Route 66 snaked through towns called “Sundown Towns”—places where African Americans were not welcomed (to say the least) after sundown. In fact, many such towns posted signs warning African Americans to that effect. The Green Book, published from the 1930s to the 1960s, served as a sort of travelers’ guide to safe places for African Americans to stay along the route. Of course, this didn’t help you much if your car broke down in a sundown town. If you were African-American, you literally took your life in your hands to seek help in such towns. Although Springfield was not particularly friendly in those days, it did have a hotel owned by an African-American woman that offered such a safe place. All this history was news to me.

That night, I learned that approximately half of the characters who traveled or lived along Route 66 were African-American. To that end, poster signs warning African Americans to stay away were posted throughout the route. Of course, this didn’t help you much if your car broke down in a sundown town, where African Americans were not welcomed (to say the least) after sundown. In fact, many such towns posted signs warning African Americans to that effect.

One of the most significant events in Springfield was the shooting of a black suspect. The announcement of the verdict given to a white police officer who shot and killed a black suspect did not help you much if your car broke down in a sundown town. If you were African-American, you literally took your life in your hands to seek help in such towns. Although Springfield was not particularly friendly in those days, it did have a hotel owned by an African-American woman that offered such a safe place. All this history was news to me.

That is the point of the humanities: to understand ourselves as human beings. We share our stories so that we can comprehend one another’s experiences, empathize with one another, and figure out, together, how we can move forward to create a society that works for all of us. Without such understanding and empathy, we won’t fulfill the promise under which our nation was created. And that promise is important. It affirms that each of us is vital to the health of our society, which requires our full participation in the civic life of our communities.

The Missouri Humanities Council’s (MHC) main goal is to help ensure that we have a "thoughtful, informed, and civil society." Right now, our society is fragmented. Our social media habits keep us separated into our self-contained echo chambers. We have fewer broad-based institutions (such as the national broadcast television channels of the ‘50s and ‘60s) that used to bring us together. The MHC helps fill that gap.

The MHC sponsors a number of initiatives designed to enlighten, inform, and inspire. The Veterans Writing Workshops, for example, provide an outlet for veterans to write about their experiences. The creative writing anthology series Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors publishes poetry, fiction, essays, photography, and other works by veterans. Humanities in the Public Square, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, features statewide conversations covering Missouri’s history of social and cultural polarization, beginning with the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and moving forward to the 2014 Ferguson protests. The traveling exhibits, covering such topics as hometown sports teams and Missouri’s role in the Great War, are easily portable so that they can be viewed in communities throughout the state. The Speakers’ Bureau provides an array of storytellers, historians, and experts of all kinds to share various aspects of Missouri’s history.

Two MHC initiatives dear to my heart are Read from the Start and the Heritage Tours. I am the granddaughter of Greek immigrants who came to America in the early 1900s. My grandparents left small farming villages in southern, sunny Greece to work in the textile mills of cold, snowy New England. Only one of my grandparents could read or write. But their children and grandchildren have college degrees. Literacy and education have enabled my family to experience the American dream and to be able to participate fully in the life of this country. Read from the Start supports parents and caregivers in reading to children so they can learn to love books and fall in love with language. Early language experiences have lifelong consequences.

My grandmother Catherine, a young girl when she came to America, remembered her ship docking in Italy on the way to Ellis Island. She was captivated by the sight of people in the store windows—she didn’t understand how they could hold their poses so long without moving, until she finally realized that these were inanimate mannequins. Stories like these illuminate the journeys our immigrants have taken and provide us ways to connect with one another. Sharing such stories is what the Heritage Tours are all about.

MHC’s first Heritage Tour will focus on Missouri’s German Heritage, so important to Missouri’s growth and personality. Plans for Native American and African American Heritage Tours are in the works as well. It is essential for us to understand how Missouri got to be what it is today, and the Heritage Tours, along with other MHC programs, help us know our history.

I am proud to be on the board of the MHC and proud to support initiatives such as these. I hope you will join me in attending MHC events and supporting the work of the council so that we can all become better-informed citizens who will help us realize the promise of our nation.

Gloria Galanes is Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at Missouri State University and Professor in the Department of Communication.
**REFLECTIONS ON THE HUMANITIES**

**PART 2: PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE HUMANITIES?!**

**DR. STEVE BELKO**

Is this a function of government? This is a common query I receive regularly from members of our General Assembly when the question arises about public funding for the humanities. It is indeed a legitimate question, and one that I must answer with certainty and substance. Given my background in American history, my initial response would be... well, “no.” Of course, I cannot in any way make that my final assessment, so I have to justify and advocate for public funding to support the mission and vision of the MHC, and do so feeling comfortable with my own political and constitutional principles. Our mission is to enrich lives and strengthen communities by connecting Missourians with the people, places, and ideas that shape our society, with the ultimate vision of creating a more thoughtful, informed, and civil society. A pretty good start, if you ask me. Who would not support such a noble and necessary purpose? But why would this alone warrant public funding? Is this a function of government?

First, let me address the issue of public funding from the federal level, that is, congressional appropriations funneled through the National Endowment for the Humanities (and, hence, justification for continued funding of this institution). I have relied before (as you well know, if you have followed these essays) on my doctoral field of study—the American Revolutionary era through the Age of Jackson, with an emphasis on political, economic, and constitutional facets. As a disciple, then, of the Radical Revolutionary, turned Antifederalist, turned Jeffersonian Old Republican, turned Jacksonian Democrat traditions, the answer for federal funding is categorically “no,” as it is simply not an enumerated power of Congress (that includes the expressly delegated power to issue patents in promoting the “Progress of Science and useful Arts”). Of course, the federal government can do anything it wants nowadays; there is no power Congress, the courts, and the executive cannot wield, and do so at a whim. So I will gladly take any federal funding that comes our way, and smile while doing it, knowing full well that it will help us achieve our mission and vision.

Still, my political persuasion—Radical Revolutionary, Antifederalist, Jeffersonian Old Republican, Jacksonian Democrat—would never justify such powers going to the federal government, as it is in no way part of these traditions. The steadfast Jeffersonian partisan, Albert Gallatin, declared in 1825 that the U.S.’s “institutions, withdrawing from the control of government the imperceptible rights of man in their individual capacities have left to each the liberty of conscience, the liberty of expressing and publishing his opinions, the free exercise of his faculties, the unrestrained expansion of his intellect, confining the operation of government to its legitimate objects, the protection of individuals against the cupidities and passions of others.” Such sentiments and declarations pervade the Jeffersonian and Jacksonian schools of thought and political practice.

Yet, this then begs the question as to whether it is not incumbent upon the central government to promote these essential characteristics of good government and a healthy republic. If these traditions, to which I hold such fervent fidelity, value the qualities listed by Gallatin, then how do we promote them? Should the federal government, to which the Founders and the succeeding two generations denied such power and authority, exercise its power of appropriation to ensure and foster these humanities-based characteristics Gallatin enumerates so crucial for a robust democracy? Indeed, these traditions demand an informed, educated citizenry as the proper foundation for a republic, a democracy. Examples of this sentiment are legion, so no need to repeat them here.

But the political precepts and constitutional considerations cherished and practiced by the Radical Revolutionaries, Antifederalists, Jeffersonian Old Republicans, and Jacksonian Democrats (including those liberties Gallatin mentions) can indeed receive public funding—from the states. It is at the state level that I can most assuredly and comfortably certify the humanities to be a proper function of government. So let us now turn to justification for state funding of the humanities, that is, appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly to the MHC to meet its mission and vision. In this instance, precedent is quite prevailing. From our country’s longstanding tradition of common law during the colonial and Revolutionary period to the omnipresent state police powers of the nineteenth century, the four traditions to which I attest firmly believed in and jealously exercised the sole right and power to regulate their internal affairs in any manner they deemed appropriate and necessary. The vast majority of Americans, and nearly to a man of those of the four successive traditions, maintained that the United States of America was a loose confederation of sovereign states; we were not, and never should be, a consolidated government—which we clearly are now.

Again, I turn to my own scholarship to provide just a few representative examples. If the “Revolution of 1800” ushered in the Jeffersonian Republican tradition (definitely in the executive branch) and the “Revolution of 1828” ensconced Jacksonian Democracy (both in the executive as well as the legislative branches), then the
“Revolution of 1837” manifested the trifecta, as the Supreme Court now joined the other two branches in promoting the political, economic, and constitutional principles of my four traditions. My most recent book was a biography of a Jeffersonian Old Republican turned Jacksonian Democrat congressman and Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, Philip Pendleton Barbour (1783–1841), who wrote the opinion in one of the three pivotal cases, New York v. Miln, of that famous 1837 term, in which he explicated the State Police Powers Doctrine. The powers reserved to the states extended to all areas that affected the “lives, liberties, and properties of the people” and to the “internal order, improvement and prosperity of the state.” State legislatures, wholly representing the people of their states (in contradistinction to the U.S. Congress), possessed an “acknowledged and undisputed jurisdiction for every purpose of internal regulation.” Simply put, the states had the right, the power, the authority to do whatever it deemed appropriate to regulate all aspects of its society—nothing more than an official recognition of what Radical Revolutionaries, Antifederalists, Jeffersonian Old Republicans, and Jacksonian Democrats simply assumed to be the natural course of affairs, an avowal of the way things had always operated—and should continue to operate, as the most efficacious foundation of the American republican experiment.

Chief Justice Roger Taney, in one of the other three great cases of 1837, Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge, summed up his opinion with the accepted dictum of the day that the “object and end of all government is to promote the happiness and prosperity of the community by which it is established; and it can never be assumed, that the government intended to diminish its powers of accomplishing the end for which it was created.” Here, then, is the justification for public funding of the humanities, for state appropriation to the MHC, so we can achieve our mission and vision, which is in line with the central feature of my four traditions. It is at the state level where public funding is fully warranted, where the legislature is to represent most closely the people and thus to serve most adequately their needs and wants.

But we certainly do not need a lengthy exposition of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American political and constitutional history and thought to justify state funding for the humanities. We merely need to reflect on our state motto: salus populi suprema lex esto—let the welfare of the people be the supreme law. This slogan gracing our state seal—and which is smacked so prominently across the colossal entrance of our state capitol—epitomizes the traditions which I have so frequently professed, in this column and in previous ones, and in various manners. The MHC’s mission and vision embody this objective, that the welfare of our people is by far the most important of all endeavors; all of our projects, programs, and initiatives exemplify this ultimate goal, to promote the welfare of the citizens of our state. It is, therefore, manifestly a function of government to promote—and to fund—our mission, our vision, for it directly enhances the welfare of our state. The MHC’s mission and vision are indeed most important functions of our state government.

Maybe, then, the singular question I pervasively encounter—Is this a function of government?—should be met immediately with the response, It is a guarantor of good government. What better use of public funds than this?

Dr. Steve Belko contributes to this article in his personal capacity. The views expressed are his own and do not necessarily represent those of the Missouri Humanities Council. This series of articles—“Reflections on the Humanities”—is meant to be thought-provoking and encourage a dialogue around some of today’s most relevant humanities topics. Have a response? Send it to sbelko@mohumanities.org.
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