The State Historical Society of Missouri
Newspapers and Much More!
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SHSMO

Background of The State Historical Society of Missouri
- Founded by the Missouri Press Association in 1898, became a trustee of the state in 1899
- Original home was in Jesse Hall, and it eventually grew to occupy the entire first floor
- Moved to Ellis Library until 2019
- Brand new Center for Missouri Studies is now its home, 6th and Elm in Columbia
- Mission: to collect, preserve, publish, exhibit, and make available material related to all aspects and periods of Missouri history
- The Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis and the Missouri State Archives in Jefferson City are separate, vibrant collections of mostly early and St. Louis material and mostly government and other records, respectively
- Center for Missouri Studies virtual tour: https://shsmo.org/visit/the-center/virtual-tour
- Structure of SHSMO consists of six research centers: Columbia (https://shsmo.org/visit/columbia); Kansas City (https://shsmo.org/visit/kansas-city); St. Louis (https://shsmo.org/visit/saint-louis); Rolla (https://shsmo.org/visit/rolla); Springfield (https://shsmo.org/visit/springfield); and Cape Girardeau (https://shsmo.org/visit/cape-girardeau).
- The Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, formerly a separate entity under the University of Missouri, merged into the SHSMO in 2010.

Functions of Less Interest to Genealogists
- These functions may not be of prime interest for genealogy, but may provide background
- Publications: *Missouri Historical Review*: https://shsmo.org/publications/missouri-historical-review . *Missouri Times*: https://shsmo.org/publications/missouri-times
- Books published by SHSMO are at: https://shsmo.org/publications/books
- "Historic Missourians," https://www.historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/
- The Missouri Encyclopedia: https://missouriencyclopedia.org/
- Missouri 2021: We were the lead organization coordinating the observance of the Missouri Bicentennial last year. https://missouri2021.org/
- National History Day student competitions (https://shsmo.org/nhdmo)
- Lecture Series organized around specific topics (https://shsmo.org/lecture-series).
- "Our Missouri" Podcast: (https://shsmo.org/our-missouri)
- A very prestigious portion of SHSMO is the Art Collection, emphasizing Missouri artists and artwork: (https://shsmo.org/collections/art). You can search the artwork for which there are digital images (https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/art)

- Another large collection features Editorial Cartoons from Missouri newspapers (https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/ec)

Resources for Research at SHSMO

- The focus of SHSMO is providing research resources for historians and genealogists.
- On the SHSMO home page, there is a search box that effectively searches all the site, so this can be a good place to go for surname searches – accepts word and "string" searches
- First of all, we have an extensive library of Missouri books (https://shsmo.org/collections/reference)
  - A key resource which you should consult prior to your visit is the County Call Numbers list (https://shsmo.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/CountyCallNumbers.pdf)
  - Search the reference collection using: http://merlin.lib.umsystem.edu/search~S7/X
  - MERLIN is a consortium of libraries comprised of college and university libraries across Missouri. You also have the option of searching all Missouri libraries via MOBIUS, **BUT ONLY THROUGH APRIL 15**. (A software change will take MOBIUS offline for about a year.) As you find materials, you also have the option of saving them to view or print for your research trip
- The photograph collection includes over 100,000 photographs of Missouri subjects. An overview of the collection is at: https://shsmo.org/collections/photographs
- A few thousand have been digitized: https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/imc
- The map collection dates from the 1700s (https://shsmo.org/collections/maps). Over 250 are digitized: (https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/Maps)
- Of particular interest to family historians are digitized plat maps dating from 1875, with 1930 being available for many counties (https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/plat
- One of the smaller collections at 4800, but growing rapidly, is the Oral Histories Collection (https://shsmo.org/collections/oral-history)

The Manuscript Collection

- Includes personal papers, photographs, oral histories, correspondence, diaries and journals, and audiovisual material, as well as the records of churches, organizations, and businesses (https://collections.shsmo.org/manuscripts)
- Can browse by subject, county, or research center, or restrict your search to specific topics or time periods
- A strength of the collection is the finding aids--most are in PDF format.
  - Provide a general overview of the collection and individual or group that assembled the collection, contents, organization, restrictions, and index to the collection
  - Take particular note of the research center where it resides (C – Columbia, CG – Cape Girardeau, K – Kansas City, R – Rolla, S – St. Louis, SP – Springfield).
  - Submit a research request form to view a manuscript collection or have staff copy selected documents

The Newspaper Collection

- Beginning with the July 26, 1808, issue of the *St. Louis Missouri Gazette*, SHSMO's newspapers includes 1,270 bound volumes and on over 56 million pages of microfilm
- Some 300 current newspapers from every Missouri county are added weekly
- Newspapers are mainly at the Columbia Research Center, but can be viewed at any SHSMO research centers on request
- See https://shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/microfilm for a list of newspapers and instructions)
- Submit a research request to ensure transfer of the microfilm to your preferred center and will be available on the dates of your visit
- A limited number of microfilms is available through inter-library loan (https://shsmo.org/research/services/ill)

The Missouri Digital Newspaper Project

- The State Historical Society of Missouri currently has an agreement with Ancestry to provide free access to newspapers digitized under Library Services and Technology (LSTA) grants
- Anything we have digitized through LSTA grants is available on our Missouri Digital Newspaper Project page. Other digitized newspapers will only be accessible at a SHSMO research center for the first three years, but after this embargo will be freely accessible through SHSMO's website. This means from any devices with internet access
- When the three-year embargo on newspaper titles published outside LSTA content is over, SHSHMO will publish a new web page for these titles

Accessing Content on the Missouri Digital Newspaper Project

- Digitized newspapers are available at: https://shsmo.org/collections/newspapers/mdnp You need to enter via the link EVERY SINGLE TIME (it can be bookmarked). Do NOT bookmark any title within newspapers.com, because this will disable free content
- You can click on a title (far right column) and it will take you to that title in newspapers.com. The SHSMO logo appears at the left top of the page, which insures you are accessing free content
- You can search using the search box under the newspaper title, or browse by date directly under the SHSMO logo. A help button is at the bottom of the title/search page
- Search by keyword, phrase, location, etc., then click on the blue search box. Click on the image of an interesting result to access the newspaper page
- Use the "Browse by Date" option on the title page on the left under the SHSMO logo to limit your search in time. The calendar view shows all the years available for the specific title by year and month. The highlighted date on the calendar is the date of issue for the paper, and you can click on that to go to that specific issue
- Note the options appearing on the top of the image page in the upper right hand corner.
    - "Find" allows you to search just the page and highlight the text
    - "Clip" will ask you to set up an account and same your clippings using email, Facebook, or your Ancestry account (if you have one)

- - o Once you have registered you can go back, clip the article, add details, etc. You also have the option of printing or saving the entire page or a selection. You have the option of either JPG or PDF format for saving to your device

Other Research Considerations

- SHSMO is an affiliate (not a branch) of the Family History Library
- The Missouri Collection: (https://collections.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/c3982)
- Be aware of restrictions on the use of collections in which you are working
- Improving your research experience
  - o Be nice! Consider staff time, instructions, and treatment of materials
  - o Courier service is available for many manuscript collections
  - o "Like" the Facebook page or follow Twitter for notification of special events
- Many programs are recorded for "On Demand" access (https://shsmo.org/on-demand)
- Staff will do limited research (https://shsmo.org/research/services)

Planning a Research Trip to SHSMO

- Check with staff to determine the current situation before you finalize your plans
- First, please exhaust online options for answering question(s) before planning a trip
- Fill out and submit a research request form (https://shsmo.org/research/request) or call staff at the research center that you plan to visit
- Current hours are T-F 9-2:00 p.m., but check with the staff at the research center you plan to visit. Appointments are required, submit at least two business days in advance
- Please notify research center staff if you are unable to keep your appointment. Masks are optional and 6-foot social distancing is recommended

Acknowledgments