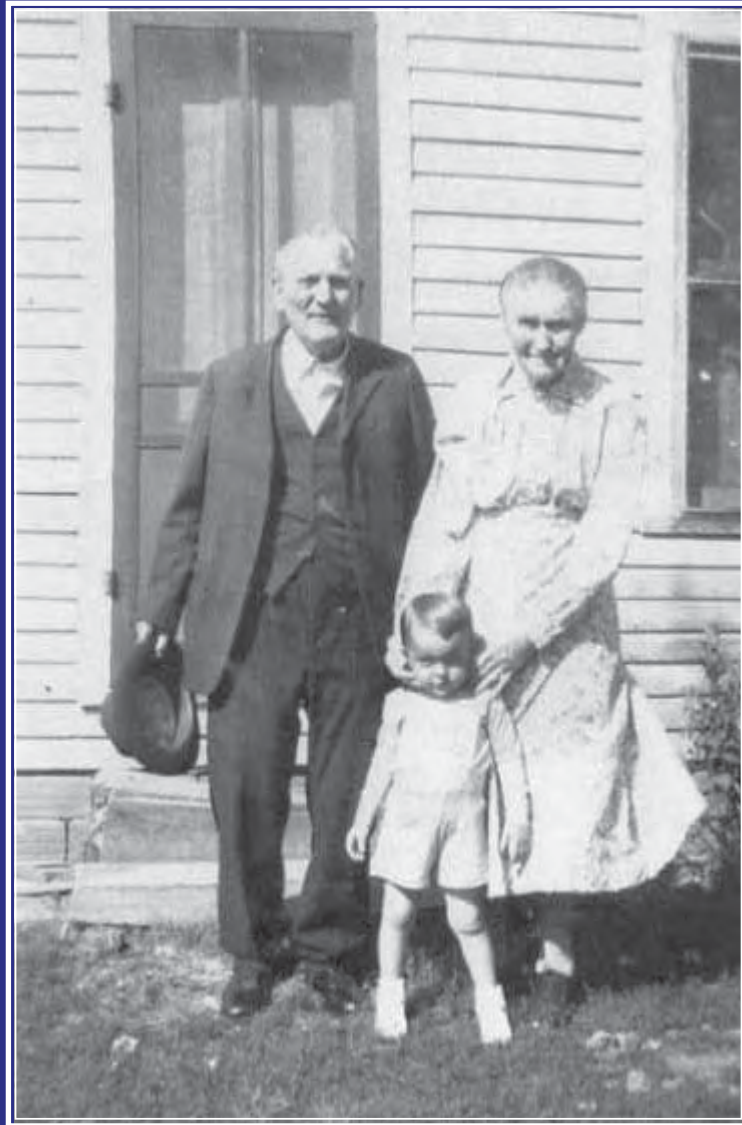


CHAPTER 1

MISSOURI ALMANAC



Bird Harrison Hill and Laura (Williams) Snead pose proudly outside of their farmhouse, bought along with 120 acres in Worth County, MO in September of 1911. (photo courtesy of Rhonda Renae (Snead) Palmer)

The Great Missouri Treasure Hunt

From June to October 2011, the Missouri State Archives held its largest outreach program ever, a contest to find Missouri's greatest historical treasures. The Great Missouri Treasure Hunt was designed to not only promote the collections of the Archives, but the rich resources found in historical records repositories statewide and even in the attics of everyday Missourians. The contest invited participants to submit stories, photographs, videos, and document scans sharing what they discovered about their own family or community through the state's historical records.

Contest entries were accepted in three categories: Family History, Missouri History and Civil War History, in recognition of the war's sesquicentennial. Any photographs submitted were also eligible for selection as the "Best Photograph," and any discovery that was personally significant was considered a treasure. For example, some contestants discovered death certificates that revealed a missing link in their family tree. Others utilized Union provost marshal records to learn how the Civil War impacted their community. One participant was able to verify the circumstances of an ancestor's untimely death after he had tried to remain neutral during the Civil War but was unable to do so. Another located the school where a female slave from which she had descended received an education contrary to state law.

Many Missourians entered personal family documents, such as old photographs, maps, or letters that had been passed down from generation to generation. One family heirloom was a letter from President Abraham Lincoln to Missouri Governor Thomas Clement Fletcher, dated February 20, 1865, discussing the violent divisions in Missouri and the state's guerrilla warfare. Another Missouri treasure passed down through a family was the pen used by the last lieutenant governor of Upper Louisiana to sign the document transferring the land from Spain to France and then to the United States in the Louisiana Purchase.

Finalists were selected from the wealth of entries by a committee of staff members, but the public was the final judge. Individuals from across the nation and four other countries voted online for their favorites. In the end, four Missourians walked away with a veritable treasure trove of prizes donated by history-minded businesses and non-profit organizations. Some of the prizes included a hotel stay near the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, a family portrait session using Civil War-era tintype photography, numerous books on Missouri history, digitization of old home movies, and records preservation supplies. In addition, all of their stories are being included in this edition of the State of Missouri's Official Manual for all readers to enjoy. Hopefully, Missourians will read about the winners and their discoveries and become inspired to make some discoveries of their own.

Treasures! from

The Great Missouri Treasure Hunt

Family History Finalists

Albert Thomas 1875 German Report card – *Walter A. Schroeder*
The Ford School – *Celeste Beatrice Stanton*
Mortiz Mayer – *Deanna Mayer*
St. Louis Riverfront Maps – *Jan Wenk*
Tweedy Family Tales – *Patricia L. Elmore*

Missouri History Finalists

Grandpa's Farmall Tractor – *Barbara Placht*
Fred Geary Wood Cuts – *Doris Jean Beebe*
Pen that Signed the Louisiana Purchase – *Patricia Erzfeld*
Lincoln Letter – *Jeanne Barrow Earl*
Missouri Mules – *Betty Mansur*

Civil War History Finalists

Blitz Diaries – *Marvin A. Huggins*
Colonel David Shanks – *Bill Stine*
Lewis R. Stevens and the Civil War – *Janiece L. Anderson*
State v Issac M. Willingham – *Susan Sparks*
Union Army Private Fredrick Buehrle – *Bill Stine*

Photography Finalists

Dorris Jean Beebe
Melissa Buckley
Norma Bryson
Donald E. Custard
Jeanne Barrow Earl
Joyce Pippins Franklin
Gladys Griesenauer
Jerry W. Harlon
Marvin Huggins
Janet Jones
Adam Kalmbach

Norma Maier
Betty Mansur
Rhonda Renae Palmer
Barbara Placht
Kimberly Ponder
Jane Reilly Purcell
Susan Sparks
Bill Stine
Peggy Jean Swafford
Rosemary Walthall

FAMILY HISTORY

St. Louis Riverfront Maps

Jan Wenk
Crestwood, Missouri

I found my “treasure” at the Missouri History Museum. It was a display, consisting of three black and white pictorial maps, depicting the St. Louis riverfront with a full line-up of steamboats at the riverbank. I examined the details of the pictorial, hoping to someday identify a steamboat on which my steamboat engineer ancestor had been employed. In September 2010, I discovered an article in the *New York Times* entitled, “The Loss of the *Ocean Spray*.” My great-great-grandfather’s uncle, Stephen Spargo, was mentioned in the article; the accident occurred north of the St. Louis riverfront.

The *Missouri Daily Democrat* and *Missouri Republican* newspapers reported two weeks’ worth of daily articles about the steamboat accident. The accident was a major disaster, destroying three steamboats and causing the loss of 23 lives. The accident began about five miles north of the St. Louis Riverfront, between Bissell’s Point and Sawyers Bend. The *Ocean Spray* was built in 1857. On Thursday, April 22, 1858, the *Ocean Spray* and the *Hannibal City* departed the port of St. Louis shortly after 4:00 p.m. intending to race one another up the Mississippi to Alton. This had generated a great deal of excitement among the passengers of the two boats. A barrel of turpentine spilled on the *Ocean Spray*, near the furnaces, and ignited. The *Ocean Spray*, engulfed in flames, turned toward the shoreline to enable passengers to escape. The side-wheel continued to turn, pivoting the *Ocean Spray* toward the docked *Keokuk*, and igniting it. Later that night, hot timbers from the burned steamboats drifted downriver to St. Louis and lodged next to the *Star of the West*, which also caught fire and was destroyed.

The magnitude of the accident, extensive newspaper accounts and the high loss of life resulted in both an investigation and charges of manslaughter filed against the officers of the *Ocean Spray*. Captain Waldo Marsh was held to bail for the sum of \$4,000, and the engineer and mate in the sum of \$2,000 each. My great-great grandfather, William J. Spargo, had his steamboat engineer’s license revoked, following the investigation. Two court cases were heard in the Federal Courts in St. Louis and another case was heard in the District Court of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The Court Record Book states: U.S. District Attorney declined to prosecute the defendant Captain Waldo Marsh further (dated April 29, 1859); sentenced Daniel Davis, the Mate, to one year hard labor at the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo., (dated May 4, 1859); and found William Spargo indebted to the court for \$250.

I had finally found the name of a steamboat on which my great-great grandfather was employed as the Second Engineer. I also found the large pictorial map titled, "Bird's Eye view of St. Louis Mo, (1858)" reproduced in the book, *Cities of the Mississippi, Nineteenth-Century Images of Urban Development*, with one of the steamboats identified as the *Ocean Spray*.



Bird's Eye view of 1858
St. Louis and the riverfront



Enlarged detail of the map,
depicting the *Ocean Spray*.

MISSOURI HISTORY

Grandpa's Farmall F-20 Tractor

Barbara Placht
New Haven, Missouri

My grandpa, George Brinkmann, purchased a Farmall F-20 tractor in July of 1937 to replace his team of mules on the family farm in rural Franklin County. By 1938, he had constructed a mechanical dozer attachment for this tractor, using Model T truck parts. He used it to build terraces and help with the conservation of farm ground after the effects of the Dust Bowl of 1935. Word of his ingenuity spread quickly, and the tractor not only helped other farmers in the local area, it was featured in the 1974 *Missouri Conservation* magazine and the 1975 *Missourian Gazette* newspaper. My brother, Rich Brinkmann, knew the history behind grandpa's tractor, as it lay partially buried on the family farm. He saw a photograph of Grandpa and the tractor on display at the Missouri State Capitol when he was on a school field trip back in grade school.

Many years later, he asked permission from our uncle, Jim Brinkmann, to see if he could restore this part of our family history. Rich dug the tractor out of the ground, weeds, and trees that had grown up through it. He incorporated the help of other family members and painstakingly resurrected the tractor. Along this journey, family members found original owner's manuals, a warranty card that was completely filled out but never sent in, instruction manuals, and photos of this historic tractor and other farm implements that still remain by its side. In less than a year's time, the tractor went from an immobile pile of rusted metal in December of 2008 to a fully functioning piece of farm equipment. It was displayed in the Washington Town and Country Fair parade in 2010, and became the feature tractor at the 49th Annual Rosebud Thresher's Show in 2011.

The tractor brought out an immense amount of family pride, as many members walked alongside the tractor in the parade and showed their support for my brother's efforts with T-shirts that proudly claimed that the tractor was "In Our Blood Since 1937."



George Brinkmann's
Farmall F-20 in its heyday,
with the original, signed
warranty card.

IMPORTANT

The owner will aid in rendering prompt and efficient service, by a careful observance of the following:

- 1—When ordering parts, give the Tractor Serial Number.
- 2—Write the part number wanted exactly as shown in parts list.
- 3—All orders should be sent to the Dealer or the Branch House in charge of territory.
- 4—Give definite shipping instructions. When ordering by telegraph, prepaid, and give correct address.

So that you may have it before you, write both the Tractor and Engine Serial numbers here:

Tractor Serial No. FA91443
(Stam. put on name plate on tool box)

Engine No. FA91443
(Stam. on side of engine crankcase)

Do not omit prefix or suffix letters appearing with numbers.

Please fill in this form and mail to nearest Branch house, International Harvester Company.

Tractor Serial No. FA91443 Model F20 Engine No. FA91443

Purchased from O. J. Czeschin Date July 1, 1937

Address Washington State Mo

Name of Owner Geo. J. Brinkmann

Address Washington Route 1 State Mo

Other Tractors in Service None



The tractor as it looked before being dug out out of the ground by Rich Brinkmann



The Farmall F-20 restored to its former glory.

CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Union Army Private Fredrick Buehrle

Bill Stine
Jefferson City, Missouri

In the old City Cemetery in Jefferson City, on the high ground, rests Missouri's first ex-Confederate Governor, John Sappington Marmaduke. He was a Confederate Major General and son of Governor Miles Marmaduke. He was from one of Missouri's finest families. Far down the hill from where the governor's pink granite obelisk stands, is the grave of a Union Army private named Fredrick Buehrle. He was my great-grand uncle. In Jefferson City history these men share one thing in common. They had the largest military funerals in the city's history. Thus, a common foot soldier was remembered with the same dignity as the socially elite leader of the state.

I learned about this ancestor's great civil war adventure in 1996 when he was featured in an old cemetery tour and brochure. He was a German emigrant who became a naturalized citizen here in 1859. In the spring of 1861 he got on the steamboat *Thomas E. Todd* and enlisted in St. Louis in the Fifth Missouri Volunteer Infantry. He would march to the battles of Carthage and Wilson's Creek with Franz Sigel. His enlistment was for three months. He was wounded at Wilson's Creek, but survived, lived a long life and died in 1915. Governor Marmaduke died in office in December 1887, so one can understand how his military funeral was the largest in Jefferson City's history.

However, how can one explain that the second largest military funeral in Jefferson City held in honor a veteran of the Civil War was for the Union Army private, Fredrick Buehrle? After the Civil War "Colonel Buehrle" (honorary title) was well known as a door opener for the Missouri House of Representatives and articles on his life and war experiences appeared in local paper and the *Kansas City Star* and *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. He and my great-grandfather, Wendell, also fired the ceremonial cannon salutes at the Missouri State Capitol on patriotic occasions. And finally, he died as the result of getting wet while marching in the parade at the Grand Army of the Republic convention in Kansas City on March 15, 1915.

His funeral was well attended by GAR members and friends from all over the state. They marched right down High Street and a photographer captured the moment. Did Buehrle and Marmaduke meet on the field of battle at Wilson's Creek? No, Marmaduke went east to Richmond, Virginia in 1861. After the Battle of Boonville Marmaduke became dissat-

ified with the leadership of General Sterling Price and sought the advice of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, a fellow West Point graduate. But, they both were wounded in intensely fought battles: Marmaduke at Shiloh in Tennessee; Buehrle at Wilson's Creek in Missouri. So, the Civil War treasures I share with you today are two old photographs and this story that remembers a bit of family history from our Civil War past in Jefferson City, Missouri.



“Colonel” Frederick Buehrle,
Grand Army of the Republic.

Frederick Buehrle's funeral procession, 1915. One of the two largest military funeral's in Jefferson City history.



BEST PHOTOGRAPH

The Nichols House

Kimberly Ponder
Columbia, Missouri

An historic snapshot of a turn of the century home in Ashland, Missouri helped Kimberly Ponder (Columbia, Missouri) claim the title of winner of Best Photograph. Historic accounts note that the once proud home served as a hotel and a boarding house for young teachers in the community. One of the rooms in the home was even used to manufacture brooms. The house has long since been demolished, but the photograph captures the simple rural elegance of the stately home, complete with a grass-roofed outbuilding used for drying tobacco, a reminder of the area's once most lucrative cash crop.



Symbols of the State of Missouri



THE GREAT SEAL OF MISSOURI

The Great Seal was designed by Judge Robert William Wells and adopted by the Missouri General Assembly on January 11, 1822. The center of the state seal is composed of two parts. On the right is the United States coat-of-arms containing the bald eagle. In its claws are arrows and olive branches, signifying that the power of war and peace lies with the U.S. federal government. On the left side of the shield, the state side, are a grizzly bear and a silver crescent moon. The crescent symbolizes Missouri at the time of the state seal's creation, a state of small population and wealth which would increase like the new or crescent moon; it also symbolizes the "second son," meaning Missouri was the second state formed out of the Louisiana Territory.

This shield is encircled by a belt inscribed with the motto, "United we stand, divided we fall," which indicates Missouri's advantage as a member of the United States. The two grizzlies on either side of the shield symbolize the state's strength and its citizens' bravery. The bears stand atop a scroll bearing the state motto, "Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto," which means, "The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law." Below this scroll are the Roman numerals for 1820, the year Missouri began its functions as a state.

The helmet above the shield represents state sovereignty, and the large star atop the helmet surrounded by 23 smaller stars signifies Missouri's status as the 24th state. The cloud around the large star indicates the problems Missouri had in becoming a state. The whole state seal is enclosed by a scroll bearing the words, "The Great Seal of the State of Missouri." (RSMo 10.060)



THE STATE FLAG

Nearly 100 years after achieving statehood, Missouri adopted an official flag on March 22, 1913. The flag was designed by the late Mrs. Marie Elizabeth Watkins Oliver, wife of former State Senator R.B. Oliver. The flag consists of three horizontal stripes of red, white and blue. These represent valor, purity, vigilance and justice. In the center white stripe is the Missouri coat-of-arms, circled by a blue band containing 24 stars, denoting that Missouri was the 24th state. The Oliver flag embraced national pride, and at the same time expressed characteristics of Missouri and Missourians.

The three large stripes were symbolic of the people of the state—the blue stripe represented vigilance, permanency, and justice, the red represented valor, and the white stripe symbolized purity. The Missouri coat-of-arms appeared in the center of the flag, signifying both Missouri's independence as a state, and its place as a part of the whole United States. Having the coat-of-arms in the center of the national colors represents Missouri, as it is—the geographical center of the nation. By mingling the state coat-of-arms with the national colors of red, white, and blue, the flag signified the harmony existing between the two. Twenty-four stars surrounded the coat-of-arms, representative of Missouri's position as the 24th state admitted to the Union. (RSMo 10.020)

MISSOURI DAY

On March 22, 1915, the 48th General Assembly set aside the first Monday in October each year as "Missouri Day," due to the efforts of Mrs. Anna Brosius Korn, a native Missourian. In 1969, the 75th General Assembly changed the date to the third Wednesday in October. Missouri Day is a time for schools to honor the state and for the people of the state to celebrate the achievements of all Missourians. (RSMo 9.040)



THE STATE FLORAL EMBLEM

On March 16, 1923, a bill was signed naming the **white hawthorn blossom** the official state floral emblem of Missouri. Known as the "red haw" or "white haw," the hawthorn (*Crataegus*) is a member of the great rose family, which resembles the apple group. The hawthorn blossoms have greenish-yellow centers and form in white clusters. More than 75 species of the hawthorn grow in Missouri, particularly in the Ozarks. (RSMo 10.030)

THE STATE BIRD

On March 30, 1927, the native **bluebird** (*Sialia Sialis*) became the official state bird of Missouri. The bluebird, considered a symbol of happiness, is usually 6½ to 7 inches long. While its upper parts are covered with light blue plumage, its breast is cinnamon red, turning rust-colored in the fall. The bluebird is common in Missouri from early spring until late November. (RSMo 10.010)

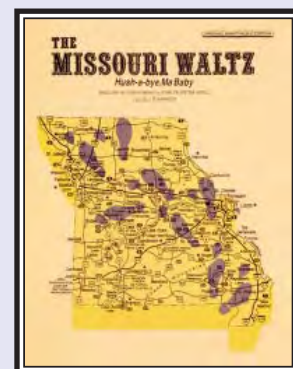


THE STATE TREE

On June 20, 1955, the **flowering dogwood** (*Cornus Florida L.*) became Missouri's official tree. The tree is small in size, rarely growing over 40 feet in height or 18 inches in diameter. The dogwood sprouts tiny greenish-yellow flowers in clusters, with each flower surrounded by four white petals. The paried, oval leaves are olive green above and covered with silvery hairs underneath. In the fall, the upper part of the leaves turn scarlet or orange and bright red fruits grow on the tree. (RSMo 10.040)

THE STATE SONG

The "**Missouri Waltz**" became the state song under an act adopted by the General Assembly on June 30, 1949. The song came from a melody by John V. Eppel and was arranged by Frederic Knight Logan, using lyrics written by J.R. Shannon. First published in 1914, the song did not sell well and was considered a failure. By 1939, the song had gained popularity and six million copies had been sold. Sales increased substantially after Missourian Harry S Truman became president. (RSMo 10.050)



THE STATE MINERAL

On July 21, 1967, the mineral **galena** was adopted as the official mineral of Missouri. Galena is the major source of lead ore, and the recognition of this mineral by the state legislature was to emphasize Missouri's status as the nation's top producer of lead. Galena is dark gray in color and breaks into small cubes. Mining of galena has flourished in the Joplin-Granby area of southwest Missouri, and rich deposits have been located in such places as Crawford, Washington, Iron and Reynolds counties. (RSMo 10.047)



THE STATE ROCK

Mozarkite was adopted as the official state rock on July 21, 1967, by the 74th General Assembly. An attractive rock, mozarkite appears in a variety of colors, most predominantly green, red or purple. The rock's beauty is enhanced by cutting and polishing into ornamental shapes for jewelry. Mozarkite is most commonly found in Benton County. (RSMo 10.045)

THE STATE INSECT

On July 3, 1985, the **honeybee** was designated as Missouri's state insect. The honeybee, (*Apis Mellifera*) yellow or orange and black in color, is a social insect which collects nectar and pollen from flower blossoms in order to produce honey. The honeybee is common to Missouri and is cultivated by beekeepers for honey production. (RSMo 10.070)



THE STATE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

The **fiddle** became the state's official musical instrument on July 17, 1987. Brought to Missouri in the late 1700s by fur traders and settlers, the fiddle quickly became popular. The instrument was adaptable to many forms of music, could be played without extensive formal training and was light and easy to carry. For generations, the local fiddle player was the sole source of entertainment in many communities and held a position of great respect in the region. (RSMo 10.080)



THE STATE FOSSIL

The **crinoid** became the state's official fossil on June 16, 1989, after a group of Lee's Summit school students worked through the legislative process to promote it as a state symbol. The crinoid (*Delocrinus missouriensis*) is a mineralization of an animal which, because of its plant-like appearance, was called the "sea lily." Related to the starfish, the crinoid which covered Missouri lived in the ocean more than 250 million years ago. (RSMo 10.090)

THE STATE TREE NUT

The nut produced by the black walnut tree (*Juglans Nigra*), known as the **eastern black walnut**, became the state tree nut on July 9, 1990. The nut has a variety of uses. The meat is used in ice cream, baked goods and candies. The shell provides the soft grit abrasive used in metal cleaning and polishing, and oil well drilling. It is also used in paint products and as a filler in dynamite. (RSMo 10.100)



THE STATE ANIMAL

On May 31, 1995, the **Missouri mule** was designated as the official state animal. The mule is a hybrid, the offspring of a mare (female horse) and a jack (male donkey). After its introduction to the state in the 1820s, the mule quickly became popular with farmers and settlers because of its hardy nature. Missouri mules pulled pioneer wagons to the Wild West during the 19th century and played a crucial role in moving troops and supplies in World Wars I and II. For decades, Missouri was the nation's premier mule producer. (RSMo 10.110)

THE STATE AMERICAN FOLK DANCE

The **square dance** was adopted as Missouri's official American folk dance on May 31, 1995. Square dances are derived from folk and courtship dances brought to the United States by European immigrants. Lively music and callers are hallmarks of square dancing. The caller directs the dancers by singing the names of figures and steps to be performed. (RSMo 10.120)





THE STATE AQUATIC ANIMAL

The **paddlefish** (*Polyodon Spathula*) became Missouri's official aquatic animal on May 23, 1997. Only three rivers in Missouri support substantial populations of the paddlefish: the Mississippi, Missouri and the Osage. They are also present in some of the state's larger lakes. The paddlefish is primitive, with a cartilage skeleton, rather than bone. They commonly exceed five feet in length and weights of 60 pounds; 20-year olds are common, and some live 30 years or more. (RSMo 10.130)

THE STATE FISH

On May 23, 1997, the **channel catfish** became the official fish of Missouri. The channel catfish (*Ictalurus Punctatus*) is slender, with a deeply forked tail. Young have spots that disappear with age. The catfish does not rely on sight to find its food; instead, it uses cat-like whiskers to assist in the hunt. The channel cat is the most abundant large catfish in Missouri streams. Its diet includes animal and plant material. Adults are normally 12 to 32 inches long and weigh from a half-pound to 15 pounds. (RSMo 10.135)



THE STATE HORSE

On June 4, 2002, the **Missouri fox trotting horse** became Missouri's official state horse. Missouri fox trotters were developed in the rugged Ozark hills of Missouri during the early 19th century. Bloodlines can be traced from early settlers to Missouri from the neighboring states of Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Arkansas. The distinguishing characteristic of the fox trotter is its rhythmic gait, in which the horse walks with the front feet and trots with the hind feet. This gait gives the rider a smooth gentle ride. (RSMo 10.140)

THE STATE GRAPE

On July 11, 2003, the **Norton/Cynthiana grape** (*Vitis Aestivalis*) was adopted as the official state grape. This adaptable, self-pollinating variety has been cultivated since the 1830s and is likely North America's oldest grape variety still commercially grown. Norton/Cynthiana has long been prized by Missouri vintners for its hardy growth habit and intense flavor characteristics, which produce lush, dry premium red wines of world-class quality and distinction. (RSMo 10.160)





THE PURPLE MARTIN CAPITAL

The **City of Adrian**, located in Bates County, was declared the purple martin capital of the state of Missouri on August 28, 2003. Purple martins are largely dependent on humans to build and maintain their housing and are happy in large bird houses or in gourds. These creatures are partial to living near water, in open parts of a yard, or along rural roadsides. Purple martins are popular among bird lovers because of their melodic singing and aerial feats. (RSMo 10.141)

THE STATE DINOSAUR

Hypsibema missouriense is a type of dinosaur called a Hadrosaur or "duck billed" dinosaur. It was a herbivore with jaws that contained over 1,000 teeth. Hypsibema had evolved specialized teeth to handle the tough, fibrous vegetation of the time. Hypsibema lived in Missouri during the Late Cretaceous Period. Hypsibema was first discovered in 1942 by Dan Stewart, near the town of Glen Allen, MO, and became the state's official dinosaur on July 9, 2004. (RSMo 10.095)



THE STATE AMPHIBIAN

On June 5, 2005, the **American Bullfrog** (*Rana catesbeiana*) became the official state amphibian. The bullfrog is the largest frog native to Missouri and is found in every county. Most Missourians are familiar with the deep, resonant "jug-of-rum" call, which is typically heard on warm, rainy nights between mid-May and early July. The idea for the bullfrog designation came from a fourth grade class at Chinn Elementary School in Kansas City. (RSMo 10.170)

THE STATE GAME BIRD

The **bobwhite quail** (*Colinus virginianus*), also known as the northern bobwhite, became the official state game bird on July 13, 2007. The northern bobwhite is found throughout Missouri in a variety of habitats. In the fall and winter, northern bobwhites form loose social groups better known as a covey. A covey will generally contain ten to twelve quail, but can have as many as twenty or thirty birds. The familiar two- or three-note "bobwhite" whistle is made by males in the spring and summer to attract females. (RSMo 10.012).





THE STATE INVERTEBRATE

On June 21, 2007, the **crayfish** (also known as crawfish and crawdad) became the official state invertebrate. Crayfish are an important food source for Missouri fishes. Missouri supports more than 30 species of crayfish (including seven species that occur nowhere else in the world). Crayfish are found in every county of the state and contribute to our unique biodiversity and conservation heritage. The nomination of crayfish for state invertebrate came from Mrs. Janna Elfrink's elementary school class in Reeds Spring, Missouri. (RSMo 10.125)

THE STATE REPTILE

On June 21, 2007, the **three-toed box turtle** (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*) became the official state reptile. Most Missourians are familiar with this land-dwelling turtle. Three-toed box turtles, as their name implies, typically have three hind toes. The hinged bottom shell allows the turtle to retreat inside as if enclosed in a box. Males have red eyes and females have brown eyes. (RSMo 10.175).

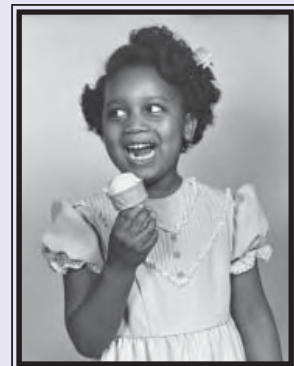


THE STATE GRASS

Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) was designated as Missouri's stategrass on June 11, 2007 as a result of efforts by the Fourth Grade class at Truman Elementary School in Rolla. Big bluestem is native to Missouri and occurs throughout the state, with the exception of a few southeastern-most counties. It is a major component of Missouri's tallgrass prairies where it impressed the first explorers by sometimes growing tall enough to hide a person on horseback. The name bluestem comes from the bluish-green color of the leaves and stems that turn an attractive reddish-copper color in autumn. (RSMo 10.150).

THE STATE DESSERT

The **ice cream cone** became the state of Missouri's official dessert on August 28, 2008. The 1904 World's Fair in St Louis was the birthplace of the treat and has become a staple at many community events across the state, such as the State Fair. The University of Missouri-Columbia has played a large role in the development of ice cream products for over a century. Missouri presently ranks tenth in ice cream production. (RSMo 10.180).



Missouri at a Glance

General Information

Entered the Union: August 10, 1821 (24th state).

Capitol: Jefferson City.

Present Constitution adopted: 1945.

Motto: "Salus populi suprema lex esto" which is Latin for "The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law."

Nickname: The Show Me State.

Origin of state name: "Missouri" is most likely a French rendition of the Algonquian word meaning "town of large canoes."

Land area in square miles (national rank): 68,741.52 (18).

Number of counties: 114 with one independent city (St. Louis).

Largest county: Texas—1,177 square miles.

Smallest county: Worth—267 square miles.

Population

Ten largest cities (2010 census):

Kansas City	459,787
St. Louis	319,294
Springfield	159,498
Independence	116,830
Columbia	108,500
Lee's Summit	91,364
St. Joseph	76,780
O'Fallon	74,976
St. Charles	65,794
Blue Springs	52,575
St. Peters	52,575

Missouri population (2010 census) 5,988,927

National rank (2010 census) 18

Male/female population (percentage) (2010 census) 49.0 / 51.0

Ethnic population (by percentage) (2010 census)

White	82.8
Black	11.6
Asian	1.6
Native American	0.5
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.1
Other / Two or More Races	3.4
Hispanic (not considering race)	3.5

Urban/rural distribution (by percentage) (2000 census) 69.4 / 30.6

Resident live births (Missouri Vital Statistics 2009) 78,849

Resident deaths (Missouri Vital Statistics 2009) 54,064

Total personal income and national rank (2010) \$221.5 billion (20)

(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Per capita income and national rank (2010) \$36,979 (33)

(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Median household income and national rank (2010) \$44,301 (38)

(American Community Survey)

Gross Domestic Product (2010) \$244.0 billion (26)

(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Real Gross Domestic Product and national rank (2010) \$217.3 billion (22)

Geography/Climate

Highest point (in feet above sea level: Taum Sauk Mountain, Iron County) 1,722

Lowest point (in feet above sea level: St. Francis River, Bootheel) 230

Approximate mean elevation in feet above sea level (national rank) 800 (32)

Normal daily mean temperature 54.6°F

Percentage of full sunshine days per year 30%—est.



Former slave Emily Richardson, nanny of prominent Benton County Judge James H. Lay, waited more than 26 years before Missouri state laws allowed her to legally marry her husband, William Hair, on September 14, 1865. (photo courtesy of Rosemary Walthall)