



CHAPTER 1

MISSOURI ALMANAC



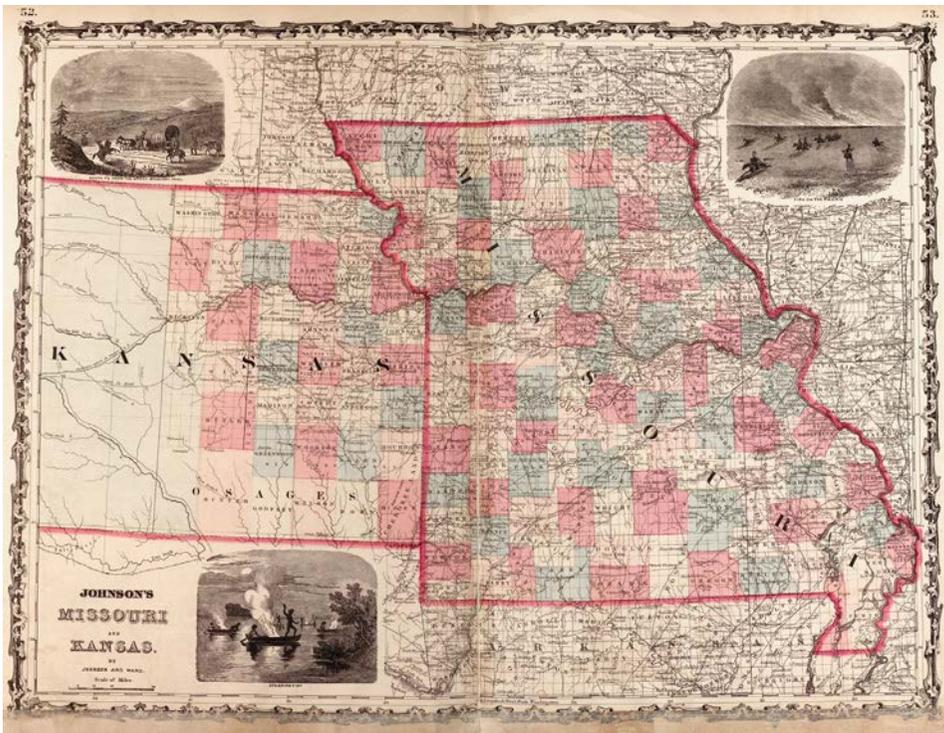
World War II Technical Sergeant Delmer Burch (of Bates County, Missouri) is posed here looking out of the top of his plane. There are cars in the parking lot. *Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives, RG005 Secretary of State Publications Vanishing Missouri Photograph Collection.*

★ ★ MISSOURI BICENTENNIAL ★ ★

U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.)

The celebration of the bicentennial of Missouri statehood gives us a chance to look at what our state has contributed in the past and what it can mean to the future. I've probably spent as much time in all parts of our state as anyone who has ever had a chance to serve as an elected official in Missouri, and I have often thought about Missouri as the place where America comes together.

Missouri is where the east, the west, the north, and the south meet. It reflects the entire country, and our history, in ways that don't happen the same way anywhere else. St. Louis is often described as the eastern city located the furthest west. Kansas City has a different history and, in many ways, is more like other big cities in the West and Midwest. Springfield and Joplin are more like our Northeast Oklahoma and Northwest Arkansas neighbors than the two bigger cities, and the economy and communities of the Bootheel are very much reflective of its delta heritage. Our northern counties may seem more like Iowa, but I've always liked the view once expressed to me that being in North Missouri feels like you're on "top of the world."



"Johnson's Missouri and Kansas," by Johnson and Ward, 1862. (Courtesy of Library of Congress)

No other state has more neighboring states, and only one has as many. The geographic population center of America has been in Missouri since the 1980 census. That center has essentially moved down a line roughly parallel to Interstate 44 as the population grew faster in the south and the west than in the rest of the country.

Missouri sits in the middle of the biggest piece of contiguous farmland in the world, with the benefits of its own built-in water transportation system. Our rivers, along with the highway systems and railroads that shadow them, are an important part of how we compete. They amplify the natural benefits that drove the growth of our state from the late 17th century until today.

Missourians are at our best when we grow things, make things, mine things and move them around. Discovering new ways to do things has always helped us create opportunity.

Our research institutions have made life-changing discoveries in agriculture, health and science. The U.S. Department of Agriculture moved many of its research jobs to Kansas City in 2019. Washington University, the University of Missouri, Missouri State University and Saint Louis University, are consistent recipients of research grants from the National Institutes of Health.

The list of Missouri inventors started early and has continued in recent decades. James Ferguson created the Liquid Crystal Display (LCD); Jack Kilby invented the microchip and received the Nobel Prize for physics; Bill Lear, an inventor and businessman, created the first mass produced business jet, the Learjet; George Washington Carver changed the way many crops are grown and used; Edwin P. Hubble invented the Hubble Space Telescope, discovering countless galaxies beyond the Milky Way; Jack Dorsey co-founded Twitter and founded Square.

Innovators in business like J.C. Penney, Sam Walton and Johnny Morris created world famous models of merchandising with the J.C. Penney Company, Walmart, and Bass PRO shops. J.C. Hall founded Hallmark and James S. McDonnell became an aviation and defense industry pioneer.



A family reads the plaque describing the ¼-size Hubble Space Telescope replica on display outside the Webster County Courthouse in Marshfield. The powerful, orbiting NASA telescope was named in honor of astronomer Edwin Hubble, a native of Marshfield. (Courtesy of Missouri State Archives Division of Tourism Collection, photo by B.C., 1997)



Suffragist Virginia Minor worked her adult life toward getting women the right to vote. As an act of protest, Minor attempted to register to vote in the 1872 presidential election, but was refused. Along with her husband, Francis Minor, she filed suit against a St. Louis election official, arguing that her citizenship gave her this right under the 14th Amendment. After numerous appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against her in 1875, upholding that citizenship did not confer this right and thus allowing states to continue restricting the vote. She died in 1894: 25 years before passage of the 19th Amendment. (Courtesy of Library of Congress, engraved by J.C. Buttre after a photo by J.A. Scholten, no date)

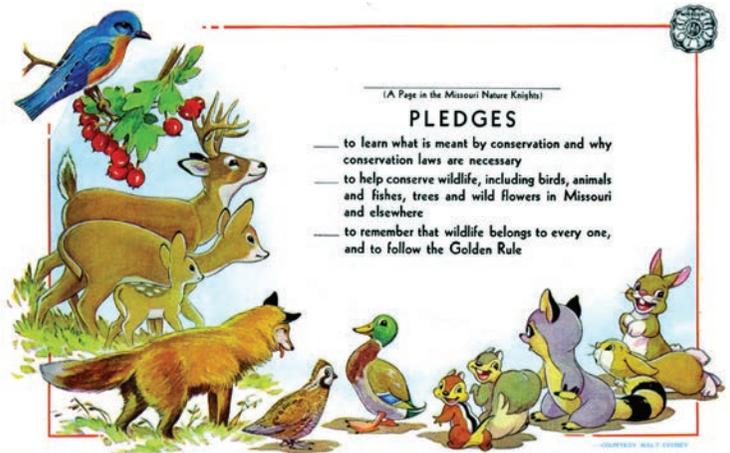
Political leaders like Lenore Sullivan, Virginia Minor, Annie White Baxter, Bill Clay, Champ Clark and Stuart Symington helped change Missouri and America in the 19th and 20th centuries. No new president faced more consequential decisions than President Harry Truman in 1945. He

was not only willing to make big decisions, but those decisions now place him high on the list of successful presidents.

In the last 50 years, John Danforth, Phyllis Schlafly, Tom Eagleton, Kit Bond, Richard Gephardt and John Ashcroft were all key figures in our great national debate.

Our writers, artists and communicators have helped shape popular culture and political thought. A dramatic blend of ideas and points of view has been part of our history, sometimes with swirling impact like the tornadoes we have seen too often.

Famous artist (and Missourian) Walt Disney created this illustration for the Missouri Conservation Commission's Nature Knights Program. The Program was aimed at schoolchildren statewide and allowed the students to advance from pages to squires to knights and finally to conservationists. Each student who began the program received a copy of this pledge card. The characters are quite evocative of Bambi and Snow White. (Courtesy of Missouri State Archives Department of Conservation Collection, illustration by Walt Disney, March 1939)



Literary giants like Mark Twain and Maya Angelou, along with artists like Thomas Hart Benton, George Caleb Bingham, Gary R. Lucy and L. Edward Fisher, saw their work generate great appreciation and sometimes great debate.

Innovators and communicators like Walt Disney, Walter Cronkite and Rush Limbaugh pioneered new ways of expression and communication. Susan Blow established the first public kindergarten in the United States. Dr. Andrew Taylor (A.T.) Still founded osteopathic medicine and a university to promote it. Dale Carnegie spent a lifetime explaining ways to win friends and influence people.

Sports have always been a big part of our state. In just the last few years, we've brought home both the Stanley Cup and the Lombardi Trophy. The Kansas City Chiefs and Royals, and the St. Louis Blues and Cardinals, all have incredibly loyal fans – many whose love for their team spans generations. The Special Olympics Training Center in Jefferson City is unique in America, as are so many of our sports fans and athletes.



In 1985, Missouri's two professional baseball teams were pitted against each other: Kansas City Royals and St. Louis Cardinals. The Royals won four games to three. Pictured here are fans from each team. (Courtesy of Missouri State Archives Division of Tourism Collection, 1985)

The Kansas City Royals, founded by Ewing Kauffman, have won two World Series titles and the St. Louis Cardinals, with their longer history, have won eleven. Baseball has had two all-Missouri World Series, in 1944 and 1985. The Kansas City Chiefs have played in the last two Super Bowls and won Super Bowl LIV, 53 years after they played in the first Super Bowl. Lamar Hunt was the original owner of the Chiefs franchise and the founder of the American Football League. His family is still dedicated to the team.

Our sports legends include Yogi Berra, who grew up in St. Louis, Stan Musial who set records there, and Kansas City favorites George Brett and Len Dawson. From Springfield's Horton Smith and Payne Stewart to Kansas City's Tom Watson, Missouri has been the home of great golfers and great golf courses.

Kansas City is also the place where the Negro National League was organized in 1920. That league brought new attention to great Missouri players like Satchel Paige, Buck O'Neil and Jackie Robinson who, after just one season with the Kansas City Monarchs, integrated Major League Baseball. Today, you can visit the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City to learn more about these sports legends, players, and teams that made the best of a divided America and helped bring the country together through sports.

As a former history teacher, one of the things I appreciate most about Missouri is all of the places where you can see and experience our history. You can stop



Evening view of the St. Louis skyline as seen from the Mississippi River. The Gateway Arch is in the center, the old St. Louis Courthouse below it and many tall skyscrapers behind. (Courtesy of Missouri State Archives SOS Publications Official Manual Photograph Contest Collection, photo by Burton Remis, Dec. 2002)

by "America's Hometown" of Hannibal, or see the birthplace of "The Mother Road," Route 66, in my hometown of Springfield. You can visit the newly renovated Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Visitor Center in Republic, the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum in Independence, or America's National Churchill Museum in Fulton, where Churchill drew the line between democracy and oppression in Europe after World War II. The Arch in St. Louis is one of the

world's most recognized landmarks, and the National Historical Park at Ste. Genevieve helps tell the story of our French heritage.

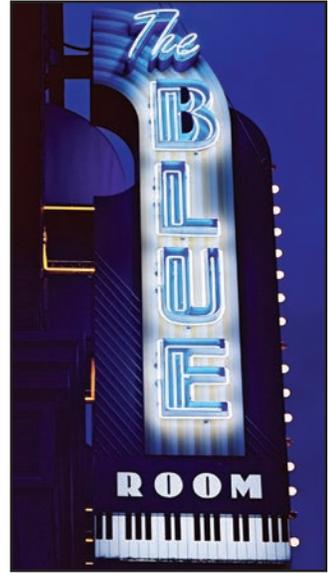
Missouri also has a rich history in the performing arts, with historic venues like the Gillioz Theatre in Springfield, the Missouri Theatre in Columbia, the Missouri Theater in St. Joseph, the Uptown Theater in Kansas City, the Orpheum Theater in St. Louis, the Rodgers Theatre in Poplar Bluff, the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre and many more.

Branson has more theater seats than Broadway, and it was the setting for Harold Bell Wright's historic novel *Shepherd of the Hills*. This seminal story of Ozark mountain life continues to be brought to life on stage today and was John Wayne's first film in Technicolor. Hollywood legends, Ginger Rogers and Betty Grable called Missouri home before finding worldwide fame on the silver screen.

Missouri also has an incredible music history, with groundbreaking artists in several genres. Scott Joplin, the "King of Ragtime," was living in Sedalia when

View of the neon sign outside the Blue Room, a famous jazz club most active in the 1930s and 1940s. Today it is part of the American Jazz Museum at 18th and Vine in Kansas City's jazz district. (Courtesy of Missouri State Archives SOS Publications Official Manual Photograph Contest Collection, photo by Richard Lotman Brown, 2002)

he published *Maple Leaf Rag* and subsequently moved to St. Louis, where his home is designated as a U.S. National Historic Landmark. St. Louis native Josephine Baker was a world-renowned performer and civil rights leader. She spoke at the March on Washington in 1968, where she paid tribute to fellow women civil rights activists. Country music legend Porter Wagoner got his start in West Plains. He performed with his first band, the Blue Ridge Boys, on KWPM radio from the butcher shop where he worked. He was subsequently hired by KWTO in Springfield the year before he signed with RCA records. Charlie “Bird” or “Yardbird” Parker, influenced by the Kansas City jazz scene, founded the bebop jazz movement.



Time and time again over the past 200 years, the people of Missouri have demonstrated tremendous patriotism and dedication to our country. There are more than 410,000 veterans and 36,000 active duty and reserve personnel in Missouri.



Designed to penetrate anti-aircraft defenses and fly undetected, the B-2 bomber can carry both conventional and nuclear bombs. Its “flying wing” design carries only two crew members. It was used in Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. The Stealth fleet is based at Whiteman Air Force Base in Johnson County. Here, a B-2 Spirit from the 509th Bomb Wing lifts off from a Whiteman runway. (Courtesy of U.S. Air Force, photo by Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson, 07/25/2013)

Our state plays a vital role in our nation’s defense, with major installations like Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base, Rosecrans Air National Guard Base, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency West headquarters in St. Louis.

General John Pershing is one of only two generals to hold the rank and the only general who did so during his lifetime. General George Washington was conferred the rank posthumously in 1976 during America’s bicentennial. General Omar Bradley grew up in Moberly and left the train depot there to go to West Point in 1911. Bradley was a great athlete and became the “GI’s General” during WWII. He commanded the U.S. Army in Europe from D-Day to victory.

General John Pershing, born in Laclede, was First Captain of the West Point Class of 1886, became the commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, served as the Chief of Staff of the United States Army from 1921 to 1924, and retired with the rank of General of the Armies of the United States, the highest rank in

Missourians have honored those leaders and their troops along with all others who served. At the end of WWI, leaders in Kansas City raised \$2,500,000 in just ten days to commemorate the men and women who served. The site was dedicated by the Allied Commanders in 1921 and recognized by Congress as the National World War I Museum and Memorial in 2014. In 2019, a replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall was dedicated in Perryville. This privately funded memorial showed it's never too late to do the right thing, as it recognized those heroes in the middle of America.



National WWI Museum and Liberty Memorial in Kansas City. (Courtesy of Missouri State Archives Gerald Massie Photograph Collection, photo by Gerald Massie, no date)

You can't write American history without the pivotal role played by our state. Westward expansion got to Missouri quickly, and less than a generation after the Revolution, Missouri was the gateway to the West.

Lewis and Clark went where a generation of trappers and traders went before them, and then they continued on to the Pacific Ocean.

The presence of a frontier settlement from the first census in 1790 kept Missouri at the forefront of searching for and helping others find the next opportunity. The launching point shifted across our state, celebrated in the Gateway Arch and the Spirit of St. Louis long before Charles Lindbergh's flight.

Understanding Missouri's place in the nation's development requires us to confront all aspects of our state's past. From the first moments of the statehood discussion, it was clear that something was very wrong. Missouri's desire to enter the Union as a slave state brought new attention to our country's original sin: slavery. That "fire bell in the night" in Thomas Jefferson's words would require a compromise for Missouri to enter the Union, define our early statehood, launch elements of the Civil War in Missouri before the war officially started, and create decades of painful recovery.

Black Missourians have helped lead as America struggled to be more than we had been. Advocates for freedom and equality are part of our history. Dred and Harriet Scott took their case to escape slavery all the way to the United States Supreme Court. Lloyd Gaines went to court to be admitted to the University of Missouri Law School and, rather than do that, the state created the Lincoln University School of Law in St. Louis as an alternative. Justice Thurgood Marshall referred to the Gaines case as the most important case leading to *Brown vs. Board of Education*. Lloyd Gaines disappeared before the "separate" school was established.



Portrait of Lucile Bluford, Missouri Commission for Human Rights. Before she joined the Commission, Bluford was the plaintiff in a landmark 1941 court case *State ex rel. Bluford v. S.W. Canada*, Registrar of the University of Missouri. Bluford sued after she was admitted into the University's prestigious School of Journalism, but wasn't allowed to register for classes when administrators learned she was African American. Appeals took the matter all the way to the Supreme Court of Missouri, which ultimately issued an opinion requiring the University to allow Ms. Bluford to register. Rather than doing so, however, the administrators temporarily disbanded the entire School of Journalism, claiming that it couldn't function properly with many of its students and faculty serving in World War II. They also stated that Bluford could instead register at Lincoln University in Jefferson City - a historically Black institution - under the separate but equal rule. Lincoln's School of Journalism opened in July 1941, two months after the Supreme Court ruling. (Courtesy of Missouri State Archives SOS Publications Portrait Collection, 1965-1966)

Other Black lawyers graduated from there, including Margaret Bush Wilson, who was a national leader in the NAACP during the continued struggle for freedom.

Lucile Bluford was denied admission to the University of Missouri Journalism School on the basis of race, but she went on to serve as editor and publisher of the *Kansas City Call*, one of America's leading Black-owned newspapers, for decades.

As America continues striving toward a more perfect Union, Missouri's civil rights leaders have been, and will continue to be, a powerful force for change. Their legacy is one of courage and determination that will inspire current and future generations to carry on their important work.

As Missouri enters its third century as a state, all the factors that have contributed to its success are growing, as are the challenges. Our history has always included people who were ready to seize the future. Missouri was where people created the Santa Fe Trail, and it was the launching point for the Oregon Trail and the Pony Express.

That spirit of adventure continues today, but it must be encouraged and refined. Our state was involved with commerce, national defense and social change in the 20th century. In this century, health research, agriculture and food research and innovation, our growing geospatial opportunities, along with opportunities in technology, advanced manufacturing, and communications are among the things that can move Missouri to an even better future. Happy 200th Birthday to the State of Missouri.



The first Pony Express ride, begun April 3, 1860, took 10 days. Traveling 2,000 miles from St. Joseph, MO to Sacramento, CA, riders crossed desert, mountains and Native American territory faster than any competitor. It provided a crucial link at a time when no rail or telegraph lines went that far west. This statue commemorates the Pony Express's starting point in St. Joseph, MO. (Courtesy of Missouri State Archives Commerce and Industrial Development Collection, photo by Ralph Walker, no date)

State Symbols 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 Jan. 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 Oliver flag embraced national pride, and at the same time represented the characteristics of Missouri and its people.

The three large stripes are 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 appears 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)

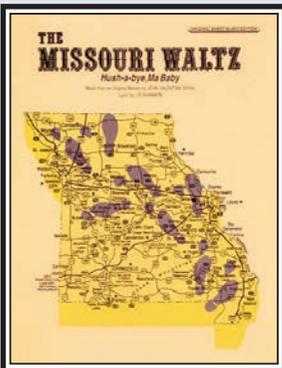


THE STATE FLORAL EMBLEM

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. 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 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 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 paired, 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 MINERAL

On July 21, 1967, the mineral **galena** was adopted as the official mineral of Missouri. Galena is the most important ore of lead and is also a major source of silver. 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)

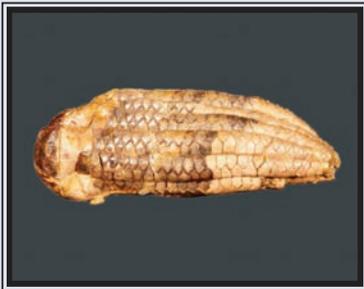


THE STATE INSECT

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 lived in the ocean which covered Missouri 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 Trotter** 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* 'Norton') 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 Aug. 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 an herbivore with jaws that contained more than 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, Missouri, 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 10 to 12 quail, but can have as many as 20 or 30 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 Aug. 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 ranks among the top five states in ice cream production. (RSMo 10.180).

Louise and Omar Putman Collection, photograph by Louise Putman
Missouri State Archives

THE STATE SYMBOL FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

The **blue ribbon** became the state of Missouri's official symbol for child abuse prevention on Aug. 28, 2012. It is a symbol of efforts to increase awareness of the prevalence and warning signs of child abuse and the prevention methods and measures available to reduce the incidence of child abuse in Missouri. (RSMo 10.185).



THE STATE EXERCISE

The **jumping jack** exercise was invented by Missouri-born Army General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing as a training drill for cadets when he taught at West Point in the late 1800s. The idea for the jumping jack designation came from students at Pershing Elementary School in St. Joseph. (RSMo 10.115)

THE HISTORICAL DOG

On Aug. 28, 2017, **Old Drum** was designated the historical dog of Missouri. Old Drum was a black and tan hunting hound whose shooting death became the subject of an 1870 Missouri Supreme Court case. The closing arguments for the plaintiff, delivered by attorney George Graham Vest, brought tears to the eyes of jurors and became famously-known as the *Eulogy of the Dog*. Although the words of the speech were not written down until sometime after the trial, it became renowned for its appeal to dog lovers in its praise of the dog as a man's "best friend." Both Old Drum and the *Eulogy of the Dog* are memorialized with a statue and plaque at the Johnson County courthouse in Warrensburg, Missouri. (RSMo 10.112)



Photo courtesy of Friends of Jim

THE WONDER DOG

On Aug. 28, 2017, "**Jim the Wonder Dog**" was designated as Missouri's wonder dog. A Llewellyn Setter, born in 1925, Jim first gained notoriety for his prowess as a hunting dog. He tracked over 5,000 birds, a total no other dog had ever achieved, earning him the *Outdoor Life Magazine* designation of "The Hunting Dog of the Country." Eventually Jim began to exhibit a wide range of other talents not typically associated with dogs. He could pick a car on the street by license number, recognize unknown people in a crowd and carry out instructions, oral or written, given to him in any foreign language, Morse Code or shorthand. Jim predicted seven Kentucky Derby winners and was known for accurately determining the gender of unborn babies. He performed before the Missouri Legislature and was featured in *Field and Stream*, *The Kansas City Star*, *Missouri Ruralist* and Ripley's Believe It or Not. Jim is buried in Marshall, Missouri's Ridge Park Cemetery. His grave is the most visited spot in the cemetery. (RSMo 10.113)

THE STATE FRUIT TREE

The **Pawpaw tree** (*Asimina triloba*) was designated as Missouri's official state fruit tree on Aug. 28, 2019. The pawpaw tree is a small, deciduous tree, typically growing in forest understorey. Pawpaws can grow to a height of 11 feet, although taller ones have been measured. They have the distinction of producing the largest edible fruit that is also native to the U.S. The richly-colored maroon flowers ripen into a green, then yellow or brown fruit, 2-6 inches in length and 1-3 inches wide. The flesh of the pawpaw fruit is pale yellow, with a custard-like texture and large black seeds. The flavor is often compared to that of banana, mango or kiwi. Pawpaw fruit is also known regionally, by colloquial names such as "Missouri banana," "Ozark banana" and "hillbilly mango." (RSMo 10.105)





THE OFFICIAL ENDANGERED SPECIES

On Aug. 28, 2019, the **Hellbender Salamander** (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) was designated as Missouri's official endangered species. It is also known as the "snot otter" or "lasagna lizard," and is an aquatic salamander. There are two subspecies, the Ozark and the Eastern. The Hellbender can live up to 30 years and grow up to two feet long. They breathe through their skin and are nocturnal foragers. Missouri is the only place to have both

subspecies of the Hellbender and both are listed as endangered. The salamander is important due to its role as an indicator of overall stream health. The Ron Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation's successful breeding program at the St. Louis Zoo currently has released over 5,000 back into the wild. Westminster College student Cameron Gehlert submitted the suggestion. (RSMo 10.200)

THE STATE TARTAN

The "**Show-Me Tartan**" was designated as Missouri's official tartan on Aug. 28, 2019. Missouri is one of 29 states to adopt an official tartan, and the design is registered with the Scottish Tartan Authority. The design, a criss-crossing line pattern of blue, brown and silver on a field of dark blue and green, was inspired by four of Missouri's state symbols; the Eastern Bluebird, the Missouri mule, and the crescent moon and bear present on the Great Seal. The dark green and blue are symbolic of Missouri's lands, waters and the Ozark Mountains. The Eastern Bluebird is symbolized by stripes of light blue, white and red. A band of brown represents the Missouri mule. A narrow band of light blue reflects the crescent moon symbol of the Seal, and another brown band represents the grizzly bear of the Seal. The pattern is intended to reflect the concepts of "vigilance and justice, valor, purity, steadfastness, hope and strength." (RSMo 10.190)



THE OFFICIAL STATE HOCKEY TEAM

On Aug. 28, 2019, the **St. Louis Blues** was selected and shall be known as the official state hockey team of Missouri. In 2019, the Blues won the first Stanley Cup championship in the team's history. (RSMo 10.225)