

National History Day 2021

“Communication in History: The Key to Understanding”

Missouri, Kansas, and Truman Research Topics

Note: This link leads to numerous, categorized primary sources pertaining to Missouri history which will be useful for researching local history: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/topics>

State Historical Society of Missouri: Mass Media Research Guide

<https://shsmo.org/research/guides/media>

State Historical Society of Missouri: National Women and Media Research Guide

<https://shsmo.org/research/guides/women-media>

Kansas State Historical Society: <https://www.kshs.org/> and <https://www.kansasmemory.org/>

Truman digital document sets: <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/online-collections>

Missouri Topics

- Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904 (St. Louis World’s Fair)
 - Took place in St Louis’ Forest Park
 - Celebrated the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase
 - 50 foreign nations attendance
 - Showcased various new technologies
 - Promoted consumerism
 - Promoted popular culture from various countries
 - Some countries used it to promote imperialism and military might
 - How did the fair contribute to the sharing of ideas, culture, and/or ideology?

<https://mohistory.org/exhibits/the-1904-worlds-fair>

The Missouri History Museum in St Louis has a permanent exhibit on the fair.

- Missouri Mormon War, 1938
 - Many Mormons relocated to Jackson County, MO from the New York area starting in 1831
 - Massive influx of Mormons caused tension between Mormons and non-Mormons in Jackson County, resulting in violent clashes
 - Governor of Missouri, Lilburn Boggs, expelled all Mormons from the state

- Role of miscommunication in causing the violence?

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/rg005-01>

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/history/topics/extermination_order?lang=eng

<https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/>

- Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1803-1806
 - Kept detailed journal entries to catalogue the new land acquired by the US
 - How did their expedition logs shape our knowledge of the land? Were they accurate?
- JCPenney (1875-1971)
 - James Cash Penney was born in Hamilton, MO
 - Created one of the first major department store chains in the US
 - How did consumerism and department stores change how Americans shop? How do they interact with one another?

<https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/p/penney/>

<https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/james-cash-penney-clerk-chain-store-tycoon>

- Mark Twain (1835-1910)
 - Real name Samuel Clemens
 - Born in Florida, MO
 - Considered the “father of American literature”
 - Wrote *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
 - Many of books provided political and social commentary on issues of the time
 - How did Mark Twain shape American literature?

<https://marktwainhouse.org/about/mark-twain/biography/>

- Walter Cronkite (1916-2009)
 - Born in St. Joseph, MO
 - News anchorman for CBS
 - Reported on some of the country’s and the world’s most historic moments including the Nuremberg trials, the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, the Iran Hostage Crisis; and the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., and John Lennon
 - The most famous TV news anchorman in a time when more Americans looked to TV to provide them the latest news
 - Cronkite’s role in making TV a trusted source for news and information?

<https://cronkite.asu.edu/about/walter-cronkite-and-asu/walter-cronkite-biography>

<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/c/cronkite/>

Wrote a book covering his experiences: *A Reporter's Life* (New York: Ballantine, 1996)

- Walt Disney (1901-1966)
 - Pioneered the American animation entertainment industry
 - Grew up in Kansas City, MO
 - How did Disney's development of animation affect other industries? How do we use animation today, other than for entertainment?

<https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/d/disney/>

- *The Kansas City Star* or *St. Louis Post Dispatch* Newspapers
 - Role of the newspaper in society since late 1800s?
 - Why did people rely on the papers for news?
 - How have newspapers evolved?

<https://stltoday.newspapers.com/>

https://www.mymcpl.org/research-and-learning/research-databases?interest_areas=483

(Need MCPL account to access)

- Trans World Airlines
 - Headquartered in Kansas City and then St Louis
 - Operated from 1930-2001
 - How did air travel revolutionize how people communicate?
 - Business air travel, air mail, cargo
- Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911)
 - Operated the St. Louis Post Dispatch
 - Pushed for the founding of the Columbia School of Journalism
 - Exposed political corruption in the St. Louis area
 - How did Pulitzer impact the journalism profession?
 - How has journalism changed since Pulitzer?
 - Cited for helping create "yellow journalism" which sensationalized the news to boost circulation
 - Did Pulitzer do more to help or harm the journalism profession?

<https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/p/pulitzer/>

<https://www.pulitzer.org/page/biography-joseph-pulitzer>

- The Pony Express
 - Delivered mail and goods between Missouri and California
 - Operated for 18 months from April 3, 1860 to October 24, 1861
 - Route began in St. Joseph, MO
 - Replaced by the telegraph

- Gold prospectors expanding west wanted a faster mail service for better communication

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/research/articles-from-enroute/the-story-of-the-pony-express.html>

<https://ponyexpress.org/>

- Hazelwood School District vs. Kuhlmeier, 1988
 - In 1983, student journalists from East High School in St Louis published articles in the school's newspaper discussing pregnancy and divorce
 - School principal removed the articles without alerting the students
 - Students argued the removal of the articles violated their first amendment rights
 - The case went to the supreme court, which ruled the school had the right to censor the paper
 - Established that publicly funded schools are offered only a lower level of first amendment protection

<https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/facts-and-case-summary-hazelwood-v-kuhlmeier>

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/484/260>

- Mary Paxton Keeley
 - First female graduate of University of Missouri's School of Journalism
 - Reported for the *Kansas City Post*
 - Taught journalism at Columbia college
 - Served during World War I in France as a member of the YMCA

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/personal-papers/mary-paxton-keeley-papers>

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/oral-histories/keeleymp>

- *Kansas City Call* newspaper
 - Newspaper targeted towards Kansas City's African American population
 - Founded by Chester Arthur Franklin in 1919
 - Still operates to this day
 - Meant to empower African Americans in Kansas City by giving them a voice
 - Argued against civil rights issues
 - Why was it necessary/important for Kansas City to have a newspaper targeted towards African Americans?

<https://pendergastkc.org/article/buildings-orgs/call>

<https://www.kcur.org/show/up-to-date/2015-05-14/black-newspapers-and-the-kansas-city-call-during-the-civil-rights-movement>

- Lucile Bluford
 - Editor and publisher for the *Kansas City Call*

- Forced to attend University of Kansas for her undergraduate journalism work because University of Missouri would not accept African Americans
- Applied to University of Missouri for her graduate work and was accepted. However, the school overturned her acceptance once they realized she was African American

<https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/b/bluford/>

<https://www.kclibrary.org/bluford/exhibit>

- William Wells Brown (1814?-1884)
 - His autobiography, *Narrative of William W. Brown, A Fugitive Slave*, documents his life as a slave in Missouri and is one of most widely published and influential slave narratives.
 - How did the writings of Brown and other former slaves help shape our understanding of slavery in America?

<https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/b/brownw/>

<http://nbhistoricalsociety.org/Important-Figures/william-wells-brown/>

- Various Missouri authors and artists
 - Langston Hughes
 - T.S. Eliot
 - Tennessee Williams
 - Laura Ingalls Wilder
 - George Caleb Bingham
 - Thomas Hart Benton
- Missouri, Kansas, Texas (MKT) Railroad
 - Operated from 1870-1989
 - Carried coal and passengers into Oklahoma as well
 - The Katy Trail is named after and follows the MKT route
 - How did railroad travel affect the spread of ideas?

<https://katyrailroad.org/>

<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=MI046>

- The Three Trails
 - The Oregon and California trails were the pathways to the Pacific for fur traders, gold seekers, missionaries, and emigrants. Beginning in 1841, more than 300,000 emigrants followed this route from the Midwest to fertile Oregon farmlands or California gold fields—trips that took five months to complete.
 - The Santa Fe trail was an international road for American and Mexican traders. In 1848, the Mexican-American War ended, and New Mexico was added to the

United States. The trail became a national road for commercial and military freighting, stagecoach travel, emigration, and mail service. It was replaced over time by the westward-expanding railroad, which reached Santa Fe in 1880.

- How did the rapid movement of people from the east to the west affect culture in the western territories?
- What kinds of ideas, beliefs, customs, did the travelers bring with them?

<http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/NFTM/TrailsHistory>

https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/american_latino_heritage/California_National_Historic_Trail.html

- Daniel Boone

How did Daniel Boone's explorations help open the frontier to new settlements?

How did the conflict with Native Americans lead to his settlement in Missouri?

How did the Louisiana Purchase affect settlers in Missouri?

How was Daniel Boone's adventures portrayed in Hollywood television series?

<https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/b/booned/>

<https://www.sccmo.org/1701/The-Historic-Daniel-Boone-Home>

Kansas Topics

- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
 - Book published in 1966
 - Told the story of the 1959 Clutter family murder in Holcomb, KS
 - Argued to be the first non-fiction novel
 - Sparked a new type of entertainment: true crime stories
 - Turned into a movie in 1967
 - How did the book revolutionize American entertainment? What other effects did it have?
- President Eisenhower's Development of the Interstate Highway System
 - Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956
 - Inspired by the German autobahn
 - Wanted to link all major US cities together with the interstate system

- How did President Eisenhower's development of the US highway system stimulate a development in communication and logistics?

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/originalintent.cfm>

<https://www.transportation.gov/testimony/celebrating-50-years-eisenhower-interstate-highway-system>

- Bleeding Kansas, 1854-1861
 - Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 allowed for popular vote to determine whether a state would allow slavery or not
 - People from Missouri would go to Kansas in order to influence the elections
 - Lack of communication and information prevented people from knowing who was a Kansas resident and thus who should be allowed to vote
 - Devolved into brutal violence
 - Seemed to foreshadow the American Civil War

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2952.html>

<https://www.nps.gov/fosc/learn/historyculture/bleeding.htm>

- Haskell Institute, 1884-present
 - Now known as Haskell Indian Nations University
 - Began as a boarding school with the goal of forcibly assimilating indigenous peoples into "American" society by instilling certain behavior and beliefs
 - How did these indoctrination programs affect indigenous peoples?

<https://tribalcollegejournal.org/a-legacy-of-sacrifice-and-honor-celebrating-tribal-resilience-and-military-service-at-haskell-nations-university/>

- Kansas Indian Missions
 - Shawnee Mission established in 1830 by Methodist missionaries
 - Also had natives from Delaware tribe
 - Christian missionaries set up schools and churches with the goal of instilling Christian beliefs into natives

<https://www.kshs.org/p/indian-missions-and-missionaries-a-bibliography/13575>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/shawnee-indian-mission/11913>

- Hattie McDaniel (1893-1952)
 - First African American to win academy award for best supporting actress
 - Best known for her role in the movie *Gone With the Wind*
 - Did the presence of black actors in movies and other media communicate an idea of racial equality? Or did their roles instead help to reinforce racial attitudes?

<https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/digital-colorado/colorado-histories/20th-century/hattie-mcdaniel-actress/>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/hattie-mcdaniel/12146>

- William Allen White (1868-1944)
 - Newspaper editor and publisher from Emporia, KS
 - Criticized the populist movement for negatively affecting Kansas' economy
 - Personal friends with Theodore Roosevelt
 - Helped promote the interests of Kansas and "small town America"

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/william-allen-white/16139>

<http://www2.ku.edu/~jschool/school/waw/bio/waw/WAWhitebio.html>

- Route 66 in Kansas
 - Route 66 passed through 8 states and stretched from Chicago to Los Angeles
 - Kansas's portion of Route 66 stretched nearly 13 miles
 - Tourists along the route opened new opportunities for small town economies
 - How did the construction of Route 66 stimulate cultural development in the United States?

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/car-culture-in-kansas/15133>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/route-66/19217>

- Ku Klux Klan
 - Made its way Kansas in 1921
 - White supremacist and anti-immigration activists
 - How did the KKK enforce its ideas on race in Kansas?
 - How effective was the KKK in implanting these ideas on Kansans?

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/ku-klux-klan-painting/18413>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/ku-klux-klan-in-kansas/15612>

- Aviation in Kansas
 - Since early 20th century, Kansas has developed into a crucial center for the aviation industry
 - Kansas is home to several major aviation companies
 - How did aviation impact the spread of business, ideas, culture, around the country and the globe?
 - What role did the aviation industry in Kansas play in that?

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/aviators-and-aviation-in-kansas/11971>

<https://www.aopa.org/-/media/Files/AOPA/Home/News/All-News/2016/0208-KS-GA-in-fo.pdf>

<https://kansasaviationmuseum.org/visit/timeline/>

- The Three Trails (See Missouri subheading)
- Pony Express (See Missouri subheading)

Harry S. Truman Topics

- 1948 Whistlestop Campaign
 - Major campaign tour for Truman's 1948 presidential election bid
 - Toured on a train across country
 - Gave campaign speeches from the train car
 - Allowed Truman to appeal to the "common man"
 - How did this unique campaign style allow Truman to win the presidency in 1948?
How did the tour change political campaign strategies in the future?

<https://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/look-president-harry-s-trumans-legacy-and-how-whistle-stop-tour-saved-his-presidency#stream/0>

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/online-collections/1948-election-campaign>

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1992-09-13-mn-1265-story.html>

- Red Scare
 - Widespread fear from 1947-57 that the United States was internally threatened by communism and Soviet spies
 - How was this fear spread to the American public?
 - What did Truman do to address it?
 - How did this affect the public?
 - Was this fear justified?

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/mccarthy-telegram>

<https://oxfordre.com/americanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-6>

- Harry and Bess Truman Letters
 - Harry S. Truman and Bess Wallace carried on a nine-year courtship almost entirely through letters and some supervised visits. Harry first met Bess when they attended Sunday school together in 1890. Harry was six years old and Bess was five.
 - How have courtship and dating changed since Harry and Bess?
 - How did Bess and Harry communicate to each other?

- How did Bess influence Harry's presidency?

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/education/trivia/biographical-sketch-bess-truman>

<https://www.trumanlibraryinstitute.org/9-love-letters-in-9-years/>

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
 - Created in April 1949
 - Combated the spread of communist influence in Europe
 - Soviets responded with the Warsaw Pact, an alliance of Eastern European communist countries
 - How did NATO influence the ideological battle between capitalism and democracy in the US and Communism in the Soviet Union?

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/online-collections/development-of-north-atlantic-treaty-organization-nato>

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/nato>

- Executive Order 9981 and Integration of the Armed Forces
 - Truman's executive order desegregated the US Armed Forces in 1948
 - What emerging ideas on race and equality influenced Truman's decision?
 - How did Truman's ideas on race and equality evolve? What caused this to happen?
 - What was the response to Truman's decision?
 - How did this decision affect the fight for racial equality in the United States?

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/online-collections/desegregation-of-armed-forces>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2018/07/26/how-harry-s-truman-went-from-being-a-racist-to-desegregating-the-military/>

- Truman Doctrine
 - Announced in 1947
 - Planned to contain spread of Soviet influence and communist ideas around the world
 - Stated that the US would provide economic aid to free peoples struggling against "outside pressures"
 - How successful was the Truman doctrine in containing communist influence?

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/truman-doctrine>

https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudoc.asp