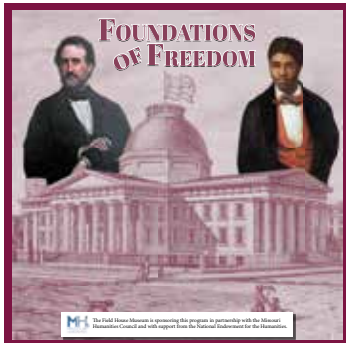


Field Notes

Volume 4 - Number 1

Spring 2019

Foundations of Freedom



The Field House Museum was proud to kick off Black History Month with a new exhibition, located on the third floor of the historic house. *Foundations of Freedom* tells the momentous story of Dred and Harriet Scott's fight for freedom with help from the great legal mind of Roswell Field.

Beginning with the controversy surrounding Missouri's fight toward statehood and the Missouri Compromise of 1820, *Foundations of Freedom* sheds light on the role slavery played in our state history and the experience of an enslaved person in St. Louis. The local and national prevalence of freedom suits, or an enslaved person's legal fight against unlawful enslavement, encouraged the Scotts to begin their 11-year struggle toward freedom in 1846. However, it was not until the involvement of Roswell Field in 1853 that the story of the Scott family made national news when their freedom suit became the first to appear before the United States Supreme Court.

Despite the unfavorable outcome of the *Dred Scott v. Sandford* case, the enduring strength of Dred and his family sparked a national discussion surrounding slavery and citizenship that became a major catalyst for the Civil War and the eventual emancipation of enslaved people in the United States.



Step into the shoes of the Scotts, Roswell Field, and countless others who fought for freedom in the home that stood just blocks away from the action. Featuring artifacts from the Field House Museum's own collection as well as the collection of The Griot Museum of Black History and Culture, *Foundations of Freedom* opened to the public on February 2 and will remain on display until January 31, 2020.

Foundations of Freedom is sponsored in part by the Missouri Humanities Council with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Denver Domicile

When one thinks of Eugene Field, it is typically St. Louis and Chicago which are remembered as his home cities. Denver, however, played a prominent but brief role in molding Eugene's journalistic career. Not long after Eugene began his career in St. Louis, he received an offer from the *Denver Tribune* asking him to be the managing editor of that publication, leading Julia and Eugene to move to Denver. In 1881, they moved into this small cottage and remained there until relocating to Chicago in 1883. The charming Victorian house comprises only two rooms, one likely used as a sitting/dining room and the other as a bedroom. There is a tiny kitchen and a bathroom. Numerous period artifacts, photos, light fixtures, etc. remain in the house.



At the time the Fields resided there, the building was located on Colfax Avenue. In 1925 (the Unsinkable) Molly Brown bought the home in order to preserve it for future generations and presented the residence to the city of Denver. In 1930, the home was moved from downtown to its present location in Washington Park and was opened as a branch library. For the next 40 years, the cottage served the literary community, but as Denver grew, the library was too small to accommodate its population. By 1970, the frame cottage became headquarters for the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. The building is not in pristine condition even though the Parks Department gives it as much care as possible. Although the building is not open to the public, the charming little house still stands proud with a plaque which reads *The Eugene Field House, 715 South Franklin Street*.



Promoting Our Past with Historic Saint Louis

The Field House Museum is embarking on its second year of participation in the recently formed group, Historic Saint Louis. The group consists of over 20 historic sites, small museums, and private homes located in and around the St. Louis community. This year, members of Historic Saint Louis will host two events, a home and garden tour in June and a holiday tour in December. This is an amazing opportunity for the museum to reach new audiences and create stronger ties within the historic community. We hope to see you at one of these two wonderful upcoming events.



StEPs

Standards and Excellence Program
for History Organizations

Steps Towards a Better Museum Experience

The Field House Museum is striding forward to better ourselves for our members and visitors. We have enrolled in the Standards and Excellence Program (StEPs) run by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). StEPs is described as a "a self-study, self-paced assessment program designed specifically for small- to mid-sized history organizations, including volunteer-run institutions." We have also joined a workshop group provided by the Missouri History Museum that brings together several sites currently enrolled in StEPs to provide resources and support throughout the program. The Board and staff of the museum are excited to see what new inspirations will come from this experience. If you are interested in helping, please let us know as we are always looking for volunteers.

The Mouse is at the House

The Wonderful World of Collecting Disneyana

The Field House Museum has welcomed Mickey Mouse® and his friends in our newest exhibit, *The Wonderful World of Collecting: The Disneyana of Don and Shirley Zork*. It is a special year for the mouse as he celebrates 90 years of entertaining folks worldwide. From his far-reaching cartoon success came thousands of collectibles produced over the years. From toys to kitchen utensils, the mouse has made an appearance on everything.

Over 30 years ago in a quaint shop on Cherokee Antique Row, Shirley Zork stumbled upon an unusual collectible, a stained-glass window of Mickey Mouse®. The next day, the Disneyana collection was started when the Zorks went back to buy the one-of-a-kind window. In the following



years their collection would grow to fill rooms, memories, and temporary exhibit space at the Field House Museum. The Zorks still continue to collect today, using the same methods from before the ease of the internet: friends, collectors, and magazines.

The exhibit explores the life of Walt E. Disney, the formation of the famous company, the creation of Mickey Mouse®, and how to collect marvelous memorabilia of your own. There is a lot to see and do in *The Wonderful World of Collecting: The Disneyana of Don and Shirley Zork*. On display are collectibles from the heyday of Mickey Mouse® cartoons and the beginning of the Walt Disney® brand. Kids will enjoy the activity cart filled with coloring pages and crafts, including a mouse ear headband. Not a stranger to Eugene Field, Walt Disney turned the famous poem *Wynken, Blynken, and Nod* into a "Silly Symphony" in 1938, found on loop in the exhibit.



Be sure to check our calendar, located on our website, to see all the fun events and activities we have coming up regarding this amazing display.

Upcoming Museum Events

May

- 4 - Kids Corner: 10 am - 2 pm
- 30 - History Happy Hour: 4 pm - 7 pm

June

- 8 - Kids Corner: 10 am - 2 pm
- 15 - Historic Saint Louis: 10 am - 4 pm
- Author Dan Kileen: Noon - 2 pm

July

- 4 - Fair Saint Louis: Noon - 8 pm
- 5 - Fair Saint Louis: 4 pm - 8 pm
- 6 - Fair Saint Louis: Noon - 8 pm
- 13 - Kids Corner: 10 am - 2 pm
- 25 - History Happy Hour: 4 pm - 7 pm



Docents for Diversity

Last month, the museum's staff attended the 2019 Docent Council Symposium hosted at the Missouri History Museum. This year's topics were diversity and inclusion in our museums. Several speakers educated the audience on how we, as cultural institutions, need to be at the forefront of these movements, and encouraged us to be aware of our actions and words as we give tours. We are grateful for the experiences offered through our membership with the Docent Council of Metropolitan St. Louis and look forward to implementing these practices at our organization.

Stay Connected with Us

Please keep abreast of all the latest news and events at the Field House Museum!



FieldHouseMuseum



fieldhousemuseum



@FldHouseMuseum



Creating Connections

Expanded programming at the Field House Museum continues to draw in new audiences. Last year the museum saw much success with two of its newly implemented programs: Kids Corner and History Happy Hour. These will continue, with the addition of a Speaker Series and more in the works! The board and staff of the museum are thrilled to offer community members a chance to visit the museum in a way that meets their needs. Families have enjoyed the different monthly activities and tours that are more kid-friendly, and adults have enjoyed mingling at the museum over hors d'oeuvres and a selection of wines and beer provided by Urban Chestnut and Four Hands Brewing. But we are not stopping there!

For 2019, the Eugene Field Library has introduced a Speaker Series featuring local entrepreneurs, artists, authors, and more. In January the Field House Museum welcomed Cheree Berry of Cheree Berry Paper to give a presentation on *Snail Mail and the History of Letter Writing*. Guests enjoyed Cheree's cheerful personality and humor along with desserts generously donated by Hollyberry Catering.



Famous sculptor, Harry Weber, followed in February with his presentation, *Sculpting our Past: The Artful Hands of Harry Weber*. Harry enthralled guests with descriptions of his creative process from conceptualizing the sculpture's design to casting the bronze masterpieces. Each guest speaker has a unique background and story to share with you, so come and meet the great talents of St. Louis.

The Field House Museum invites you to join us for one of our many events to find your inspiration and learn something new. Visit our website to discover upcoming speakers and programs. Do you know someone who would be a great speaker at the museum? Let us know by e-mailing info@fieldhousemuseum.org.



New Arrivals at the Museum

A museum's collection is an important and prized possession for an institution. Thus, we are highlighting new arrivals in a pair of matching bookcases that once belonged to Eugene Field, showcasing artifacts that have been donated to the museum this year. The first case includes two German character dolls, a World War II-era composition doll in the uniform of the W.A.V.E.S., and two of Barbie's friends dressed as the ancient Egyptian Queen Nefertiti and the pharaoh Tutankhamun.



The second case contains a few of the many toys bequeathed to the museum by the late Mrs. D. J. Moore, who was a great supporter of this museum, and also of the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Circus Flora, and many other local organizations. The items on display include a late 19th-century mechanical bank, many wind-ups, cloth dolls, and a cast-iron circus wagon. Also on display is a Bébé Gigoteur mechanical doll, circa 1870s-1880s, which has been added to the wind-ups on display in *What's Past is Prologue*.

This is an exciting chance for the staff to share with our members and visitors some of the many items that our generous donors have contributed to the museum's collection. These wonderful items will be on display through the summer and we hope that you will venture in to see them.

WELCOME MEMBERS

The Board of Trustees and staff of the Field House Museum thank the following members who have continued to support the mission, preservation, and programming of the foundation with their generous membership donations:

~ NEW MEMBERS ~

December 2018 - March 2019

Ms. Charlotte Avett
John & Sheryl Bennett
Bette & Andrew Constantine
Joseph & Teri Eckert

Mr. Larry Essmann
Craig & Jessica Hoagland
Mr. Eric Johnson
Mr. Charles Koehler Jr.
Dr. Daniel J. Cook & Ms. Anne Leners

Ms. Susan Lucco
Mr. & Mrs. Richard McMullin
Ms. Sheryl Sieve
Ms. Nancy Torphy

~ RENEWING MEMBERS ~

December 2018 - March 2019

Mr. David Brown
Mr. Paul Compton
Ms. Barbara Hemphill
Mr. William Hemple

Mrs. Sally Johnston
Ms. Karen Klohr
Ms. Madelyn Lane
Mr. Taylor McMullin

Curt & Amy Richards
Ms. Sally Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zork

HONORARIA, MEMORIALS & DONATIONS

December 2018 - March 2019

~ MEMORIALS ~

In Memory of Robert Walrond
Marianne & Peter Gleich

~ DONATIONS ~

Ms. Sue Abernathy
Mrs. Elma I. Armistead
Ms. Ann Corrigan
Ms. Karen Klohr
Ms. Luann Koop
Ms. Virginia Macdonald

Mr. Taylor McMullin
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Moses
Margaret Blanke Grigg Foundation
Piper Charitable Fund
Ms. Marjorie Smith
Ms. Miriam Wilhelm

Give STL Day



Give STL Day is once again upon us! Give STL Day, hosted by the St. Louis Community Foundation, is a 24-hour, online day-of-giving event, designed to ignite the spirit of giving across the region. Since its inception in 2014, Give STL Day has raised over \$10 million for more than 900 regional nonprofits.

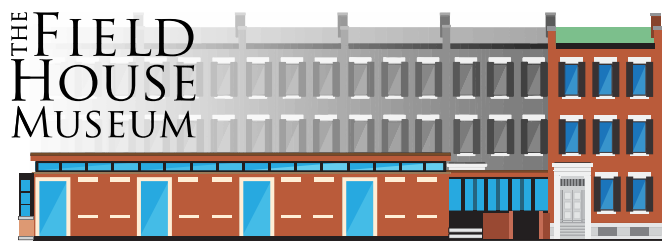
Last year the Field House Museum raised close to \$1,300 of our \$2,000 goal to fund exhibits at the museum. On May 1, 2019 we are trying again for that \$2,000 goal and need your help.

1. Campaign: Start your own campaign for the Field House Museum to show your support for a particular program or aspect that you want to see improved!

2. Donate: The Give STL Day website makes giving easy, safe, and fun. By visiting givelstlday.org on May 1, you can designate gifts to the organization(s) of your choice that are doing essential work in our community. At the same time, you can help us earn cash prizes and incentives. Donations made between 9:00 am and 10:00 am could earn the museum an additional \$1,000 to \$1,500!
3. Schedule a Donation: Can't make it online May 1? You can schedule your donation now through April 30 on our Give STL webpage.

There are many ways that you can help us make this year's Give STL Day event a success.

Please visit www.givelstlday.org/fieldhousemuseum to show your support on May 1!



WHERE INSPIRATION HAS A HOME

634 South Broadway, Saint Louis, MO 63102

**The Eugene Field House
Foundation**

Karen L. Klohr
President

Taylor C. McMullin
Vice President

Robert P. Compton
Treasurer

Brian Abel Ragen
Secretary

Soraya Nouri-Wolverson
Member At Large

~ **Trustees** ~

Maureen Clever

Anthony J. Cuneo

Mary Catherine Dettling

Susan Favazza

Eleanor Mullin

Ed Nickels

Maurice Quiroga

Marion M. Robinson

Peter Wollenberg

~ **Emeritus Trustees** ~

Marianne Gleich

William R. Piper

~ **Ex-Officio Trustees** ~

Charlie Brennan

Jack Coatar

~ **Executive Director** ~

Stephanie Bliss

Contact Info:

P: 314.421.4689

F: 314.588.9468

info@fieldhousemuseum.org

fieldhousemuseum.org

Design & Layout: Graphic Masters

Printing: Minuteman Press of St. Louis



Shop The Field House Museum

The Shop at the Field House Museum wants to take you back to a time before texts, tweets, and Instagram posts became the main forms of communication within our society. When you stop in, you will be able to browse our assortment of bound journals, ink pens, note cards, and wax stamps. These items are also great gifts when you are looking for something unique! Short on time? No worries. You can browse many of the items within the Shop on our website or give us a call and we can put your order together for you.

