

Field Notes

Volume 7 - Number 1

Spring 2022

New Exhibits in the New Year



The Field House Museum has started the new year off with a brand new look! We recently completed the installation of two exhibits in the expansion and a mini-exhibit in the entry.

Our main gallery is currently filled with Bagatelle games, the predecessor of pinball and pachinko. Featuring several items from the private collection of board member Ed Nickels, *Bagatelle* includes over 50 brightly colored games dating from the mid-1800s through the early 1900s. When you make a donation to the Museum, there are three original games you can play, including Whiffle (1931), Ballyhoo (1932), and Daisy (1932). Donations will be used to help fund the current restoration of the 1845 historic windows. Sponsored in part by Miniature Market, the exhibit will be up through the end of 2022.

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Join the Field House in Tower Grove Park for Croquet in the Lou on July 10, 2022!



This one-day croquet tournament will begin at 11:00 am with a VIP brunch at the Stupp Center (complimentary for "Honorary Chair" tickets), and practice courts will be available at noon. All tickets will include team registration and a picnic basket for two. Seating in the pavilion can also be reserved for \$10. Follow the Museum on social media or head over to our website for the latest information on ticket sales and tournament information. Consider becoming a sponsor to receive advertising on signage throughout the event.

The game of croquet was first referenced in print in London in 1856 but is believed to have originated in the Middle Ages. Rules include hitting a wooden ball with a mallet through a hoop or "wicket." Eugene Field was undoubtedly familiar

with the game (and its reputation for being intensely competitive) as he mentions croquet in *The Tribune Primer*.

This FUNdraising event is a great way to support the Field House Museum and helps to fund the much-needed restoration of our 1845 historic windows. Come enjoy a little summer sunshine, make some new friends and get ready to play croquet with FHM!



A Presentation of Programs



We kicked off 2022 with Dan Martin, cartoonist of the *Weatherbird* at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. He not only enamored us with the art of editorial cartoons but also drew a few himself! We breezed through February's snow and dreadful weather with the first of our four-part series, *Across the Field Collections*, with the Huntington Library exploring their Eugene Field Collection. We were then joined from across the pond by Helen Jacobson, exploring the absorbing story of Château de Bagatelle, the site that created the game of bagatelle. Next, the Museum welcomed back Suzanne



Corbett as part of our Author Talks to present her newest book, *A Culinary History of Missouri*. Finally, Dea Hoover, renowned tour guide and author of *STL Scavenger*, shared the little details of St. Louis that can be found in her book.

The year continues with many great topics, so grab your calendar and a pen because the Field House Museum has a plethora of programs just for you!

We continue our *Across the Field Collections* series with an online presentation from the Denver Public Library on May 6. We invite everyone to join us for a watch party at the Museum for this presentation. On Sunday, May 15, we will be joined in person by Holly Fann, St. Louis food critic and blogger, for a tasty presentation.



We skip back across the Atlantic on June 10 as James Masters joins us via Zoom for a presentation on the evolution of Bagatelle, from the parlor to the arcade. July brings author Mark Kruger to the Museum on July 22 as he shares his book *The St. Louis Commune of 1877*, on the 145th anniversary of the historic moment communists took control of St. Louis.

Take me out to the Field House Museum on September 9 as we welcome Ed Wheatley, president of the St. Louis Browns Historical Society and author of *Baseball in St. Louis*, which explores the fascinating history of baseball in St. Louis, all while presenting in the shadow of Busch Stadium III.



We Bid Adieu Caira Starnes

If you haven't heard the news already, Caira Starnes said goodbye to the Field House Museum in mid-February. Caira's dedication has and always will be greatly appreciated over the past five years. She donned the caps of many roles here at the Museum, always stepping in and helping us through it all. We wish Caira all the best in her new role at the Missouri History Museum as the Membership Coordinator. Good luck in the next step of your career!

New Exhibits in the New Year, Continued

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Reserve your spot at the table and come check out our *Bon Appétit* exhibit, featuring dinnerware from the 1800s. On display until July are several Field family items, many of which are 200 years old and probably used by the family when they lived at 634 S. Broadway. In addition, there are several historic menus from around the St. Louis area on loan from the St. Louis Public Library. Bring your appetite and see what it was like to attend a formal dinner party with the Field family!



Volunteer Dana Larson has been working hard on the mini-exhibit in the entry, *A Brush with Immortality*. The exhibit looks at the history of the portrait, including the modern equivalent, the selfie! There are several examples of Field family photographs to enjoy, including several early photography styles such as daguerreotypes, tintypes, and ambrotypes. Come see some Field family “selfies” and maybe even take one of your own!

Exhibits in the expansion are free every third Thursday of the month for our Free Afternoons.



Exploring Eugene: the Man, the Myth, the Legend

In 1895, the world knew of Eugene Field through his newspaper columns. In the ensuing years, readers would come to know the man behind the daily personal column, “Sharps and Flats.” People such as Slason Thompson, Francis Wilson, and Charles Dennis, once close friends of the “Children’s Poet,” published volumes detailing the life of Eugene Field and the man behind the words. In the newly opened exhibit, *Eugene Field: the Man, the Myth, the Legend*, the Eugene Field Library draws from these bound works exploring Field as an artist, collector, writer, prankster, husband, and father. Supported by writings and objects from the Eugene Field Library and Museum collections, visitors will be able to explore the aspects of Eugene Field known only to those closest to him.

Eugene Field House Events Calendar

~ May ~
 5 Give STL Day
 6 Speaker Series:
 Denver Public Library 1:00 pm
 8 Mom & Me Tea and Craft 10:00 am
 15 Speaker Series:
 Holly Fann 1:00 pm
 ~June~
 10 Speaker Series:
 James Masters 1:00 pm
 ~ July ~
 10 Croquet in the Lou
 Tower Grove Park
 22 Author Talk:
 Mark Kruger 1:00 pm

Ring in the New Year with a Bang!

2021 ended on a high note because of our dedicated friends and members! Thank you to everyone who has supported us through the years, especially those who gave year-end donations. Because of you, we were able to start 2022 off on the right foot. Many even chose to give to our Windows to History restoration project!

Thank you to those who donated, including the following:

Anonymous	Windows to History Donors
Mr. Jerry D. Birkhead	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Corbin
Mr. James Bogart	Adrienne Foster
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Curt and Amy Richards	
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Ms. Sally Smith	

Poems, Prose, & Pajamas Fundraiser

Thank you for all the support we received for our Poems, Prose, & Pajamas Fundraiser! The event, held virtually last November, brought lovers of poetry together for one night. We heard Eugene's poems recited by board members Eleanor Mullin and Brian Ragen, along with KMOX's *Morning Drive* anchor Debbie Monterrey. UMSL's poet laureate Bridget McDonald finished the evening with a rendition and response to Eugene's *Japanese Lullaby*. Everyone who donated received a book of Eugene's holiday poems along with a cup of cocoa!

We would like to especially thank the following:

Mrs. Maureen Clever	Ms. Virginia McDonald
Mr. Anthony Cuneo	Mr. Taylor C. McMullin
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Early	T.J. and Eleanor Mullin
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Favazza	Ms. Sharon Person
Mrs. Jane P. Gleason	Dr. Brian Abel Ragen
Marianne & Peter Gleich	Ms. Sally Smith
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Ms. Karen Klohr	Mr. Peter Wollenberg

Board Member Susan Favazza Honored



Last September, board member Susan Favazza was honored in a ceremony where she received the Daughters of the American Revolution Historic Preservation Recognition Award for her outstanding achievements in historic preservation. Susan has taken the lead on countless restoration projects at the Field House Museum alone, and we are forever grateful for her support. Congratulations!



Give STL Day is Right Around the Corner!

Help make this year's Give STL Day the best one yet for the Field House Museum by joining us on May 5, for a 24-hour online day of giving! This year, we hope to raise \$45,000 towards our Windows to History project to finish the restoration of the 1845 windows of the National Landmark historic Field family home. Last fall, we started this major overhaul by restoring the shutters and creating new storm windows. To complete the project, we will need to restore the sashes, sills and recreate the faux paint finish on the windows. The brickmould on the windows also need to be repaired.

Give STL Day, powered 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 \$22 million for more than 1,000 regional nonprofits, including the Field House Museum!

If you do not feel comfortable giving online, you may call the Museum at 314-421-4689 or complete the form below and mail it with your donation to the Field House Museum at 634 South Broadway, Saint Louis, MO 63102.

☐ YES, I want to support the Field House Museum!

You can donate online at fieldhousemuseum.org/donate

Or donate by mail: Return this form to Field House Museum, 634 South Broadway, Saint Louis, MO 63102

Select an amount:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Amount: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

☐ Enclosed is a check payable to
Field House Museum

Please charge my

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

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Thank you for supporting our museum and its mission

The Eugene Field House Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization & your donation is tax-deductible per IRS Standards



Mystery at the Museum

Within every historic institution there are always questions and the Field House Museum is busy working on a collections mystery with Suzanne Corbett, author of *A Culinary History of Missouri*. The object in question is a lidded glass bowl decorated with gold accents on a matching glass tray, surrounded by small cups. Once belonging to Eugene Field, this unique set has been in the Museum's collection since 1937, just one year after it opened to the public! However, the Museum staff is stumped by the set's original function; we have hypothesized everything from a Turkish tea set to a communion set.

With our investigation stalled, we decided to reach out to Suzanne Corbett, who has written several books on dining, to see if she has come across anything similar in her research. After collaborating with the Dinnerware Museum in Ann Arbor, MI, Ms. Corbett has since suggested that it could be a vodka and caviar dish set, but more research is needed.

Think you might know what the set was used for? Email us your ideas to info@eugenefieldhouse.org. See this collection item on display in our new exhibit, *Bon Appétit: The Culture of Dining in 1800s America*, up through the middle of July. Want to know more about dining and chef culture? Join us on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 1:00 pm for our Speaker Series program with chef, food writer, and critic Holly Fann as she presents *Restorative to Restaurant: the Evolution of the Chef*, a look at how the role of chef has changed from the early 19th century restaurants to the modern kitchens we know today.

An Ode to Spring by Eugene!

Spring

The meads with green are garnished o'er,
The birds sing in the bowers,
And from the broad Platte's further shore
We scent the budding flowers;
Fair Cherry creek runs swift and clear,
The merry woodchucks drum—
O season of the poet dear!
The picnic days have come.

The season of the year sublime,
When nature tunes her voice—
O happy vernal picnic time
When Sunday schools rejoice;
When little girls and boys go out
'Neath sylvan monarchs old,
And gayly dance and frisk about
And catch their deaths o' cold.

When sandwiches and buns are ripe—
Croquet and other games,
When stomach aches of every stripe
Steal over youthful frames,
When Chloe guards with watchful eyes
Her lover—jealous maid!
When Daphnis sits on custard pies
And prones where kine have strayed.

April 17th, 1882

Stay Connected with Us

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



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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:

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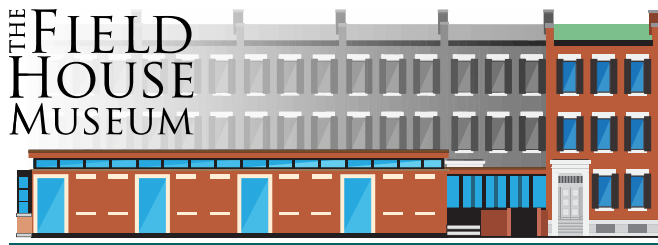
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Design & Layout: Graphic Masters

Printing: Minuteman Press of St. Louis