

Field Notes

Volume 6 - Number 2

Summer 2021

Juneteenth Wrap Up



Summer started with a bang at the Field House Museum as we wrapped up two major exhibitions on display. *The Power of Words: The Ongoing Tale of Black Children's Literature* and *Moving Forward: The Legacy of Annie Malone*. Both celebrated African American history through individual displays on trailblazers of children's literature and entrepreneur Annie Malone, respectively.



In a culmination of these newfound partnerships, our common goals, and to properly commemorate these powerful exhibitions, the Museum hosted a Juneteenth Celebration on June 19. People from all backgrounds gathered in the galleries and backyard to enjoy good food, a performance from the St. Louis Gospel Choral Union Alumni, and inspirational messages from each of the partnering organizations. We hope to continue building new relationships within our community through programming and exhibitions.

Be sure to join us as we continue our summer celebrations with the newest exhibition, *Stitching Stories from the Past*, featuring quilts through the ages. This exhibit will also feature the Missouri Bicentennial quilt from August 25 to September 24!



Amber Bell on the importance of Juneteenth.



African Drummer, David A.N. Jackson.



Guests enjoying St. Louis Gospel Choral Union Alumni.



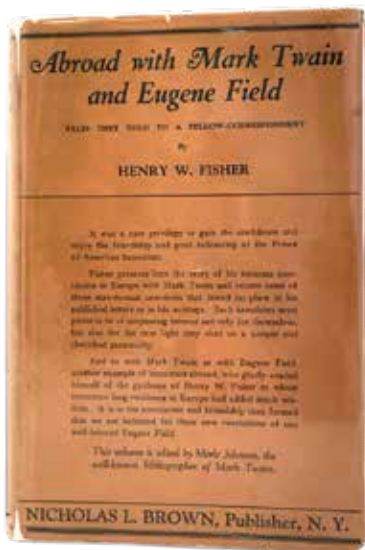
Dr. Edna Hanks Pipes, Julius B. Anthony, Amber Bell, and Linda M. Nance with Annie Malone's nephew, Robert O. French.



Generous volunteers dish out lunch.

Event photos by Levi Matthews

Missouri Writers: 200 Years of Talent



It is rare that an average-sized book with a seemingly unremarkable paper dust jacket would inspire an entire exhibit dedicated to writers who have called Missouri home. Published in 1922, *Abroad with Mark Twain and Eugene Field: Tales They Told to a Fellow Correspondent* is a compilation of anecdotes told by journalist Henry Fisher based upon encounters he had with Mark Twain and Eugene Field. In his book, Fisher presents an intimate look at the two Missouri authors. He highlights their lives outside of their writings in a way that only one American meeting another American abroad can do.

Within the Eugene Field Library at the Field House Museum we hold, from the Gleich Collection, three copies of *Abroad with Mark Twain and Eugene Field: Tales They Told to a Fellow Correspondent*. One is housed in our reading selection. The other two are in perfect condition with the paper dust jackets denoting a simple typed title, publisher's summary, and the original price of \$2.25 on the spine. The paper covers, once meant to be tossed aside after purchase, are a tribute to the dedication and care of a collector and fan of Mark Twain and Eugene Field.

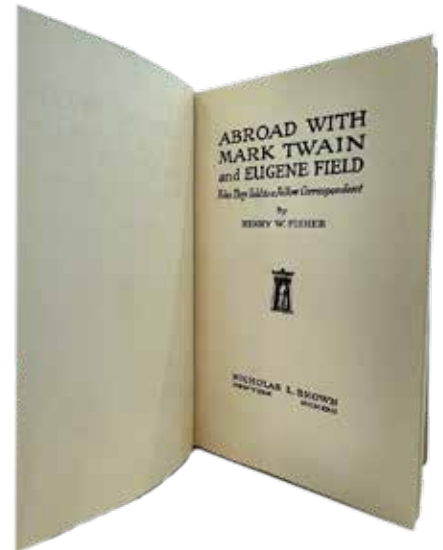
In 1902, Mark Twain, upon his last visit to St. Louis, unveiled the bronze tablet located on

the front of the Field House Museum, that indicates the building as the birthplace of Eugene Field. With the unveiling Twain remarked, "By his life he made bright the lives of all who knew him and by his books he cheered the thoughts of thousands who did not know him." (*Abroad with Mark Twain and Eugene Field: Tales They Told to a Fellow Correspondent*, foreword). Although Fisher had met both authors abroad, the relationship between Twain and Field in their lifetimes can be compared to that of two ships passing in the night, seeing lights shine in the distance, but never meeting.

Today, the works of Eugene Field and Mark Twain can often be found sitting beside each other on library shelves, grouped by time periods or perhaps by association based on where the authors called home. It is this idea of authors separated by circumstances beyond their control finally being brought together, and the Bicentennial of the State of Missouri, that helped to inspire the newest exhibit in the Eugene Field Library.

The exhibit, *Missouri Writers: 200 Years of Talent*, brings together not only Eugene Field and Mark Twain, but also other writers from across the state on display within the Eugene Field Library. On exhibit are works relating to Eugene Field's life in Missouri, including manuscripts of *Lover's Lane*, *St. Jo*, and the book that inspired the exhibit, *Abroad with Mark Twain and Eugene Field: Tales They Told to a Fellow Correspondent*. From the Museum's namesake to Sara Teasdale, to contemporary authors Gillian Flynn and Qui Xiaolong, learn the impact Missourians have had on many genres of literature.

Nowhere else will you find the first person to have a daily personal column, Eugene Field, next to the first science fiction writer to appear in the *New York Times*, Robert Heinlein. From the first African American novelist, William Wells Brown, to the longest-serving female war correspondent, Martha Gellhorn, learn of the many firsts and great achievements to come from writers in the state of Missouri. With the help of Field House Museum donors, supporters, and the community, the Museum has been able to grow and expand our Speaker Series. As a special tribute, *Missouri Writers: 200 Years of Talent* will display some of the works by these incredibly talented authors. Among those that have been part of our ongoing programming and will be featured are Charlie Brennan, NiNi Harris, Christopher Alan Gordon, and many more.



Momentous Milestones Exhibition



Momentous Milestones is now open on the third floor of the historic Field family home. This exhibition highlights the home's 175-year history, primarily focusing on how the house was saved from demolition and its transformations over the years since. As most of you probably know, the residence was once one of twelve row houses on the block named Walsh's Row after the gentleman who had them constructed, Edward Walsh. Once home to the upper middle class, the row houses fell into disrepair in the early twentieth century after becoming apartments and then tenement housing.

While looking through census records, volunteer Stephanie Lake discovered as many as 23 people living at 634 South Broadway in 1880!

By the time Cornelius P. Curran leased Walsh's Row in 1923, the homes were in poor condition, and razing the buildings for a parking lot would have saved Curran thousands in taxes. It was a practical solution and would have gone off without a hitch had Irving Dilliard, editorial editor for the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, not taken an interest in number 634 as the childhood home of poet Eugene Field. Dilliard drew his weapon, a favorite fountain pen, and championed the efforts that would save the home by writing several articles that eventually caught the interest of Jesse P. Henry and Carl P. Daniel of The Daniel & Henry Company. The two gentlemen began fundraising efforts, putting up the majority of the money themselves, to turn the building into a museum that would honor the late poet.



To discover the rest of the story, including how Landmark Association of St. Louis, Inc.

managed the Museum for a time and local organizations such as The Eugene Field Questers were formed, you'll have to stop by and see the exhibition for yourself on display through mid-November.

Celebrating Partnerships

To properly celebrate the momentous milestones highlighted through the exhibition, the Field House Museum hosted a special viewing on May 26 for members and friends. We were honored to have representatives from many of the organizations highlighted within the exhibit to help us celebrate our collective achievements over the years with hors d'oeuvres, spirits, and good company. The Board and staff are especially grateful to both The Daniel and Henry Co. and Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. for sponsoring *Momentous Milestones*.



Summer Programming

The Field House Museum is happy to welcome back friends, members, and new faces with in-person programming. In May we hosted local celebrity and radio host Charlie Brennan who spoke on his latest book. While Brennan kept guests laughing with his stand-up-esque performance, each guest speaker offered their own unique style and atmosphere to their presentations. Visitors learned the tips and tricks behind NiNi Harris's research process in June. And July brought artists Susan Colangelo and



Charlie Brennan



Marilynne Bradley



Susan Colangelo

Marilynne Bradley to discuss their respective talents in quilting and watercolor. Each event is limited in seating to ensure social distancing. This also allows guests to interact with our speakers in a more intimate setting.

We hope to see you at the Field House Museum as we continue with our Speaker Series, as well as some special programming related to the Missouri Bicentennial. Is there someone you would like to see at the Museum? Send us an email to info@fieldhousemuseum.org or give us a call at 314-421-4689 with your suggestions!

Stay Connected with Us

Don't miss out on all the latest news and events at the Field House Museum! Join our social media pages or head to our website to learn about everything from current exhibits to fun facts about the museum's several collections. Connect with the museum on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.



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Stitching Stories from the Past



Quilts are more than just bedcovers—they reflect and shape cultural trends. Now through October 25, the Field House Museum is telling the story of quilting in its main gallery space. Explore the history of quilting in America through Victorian crazy quilts, a 1930s redwork

quilt, a 1970s T-shirt quilt, and more. The exhibit also includes quilts made by local artists, as well as an interactive display

of the nation's famous AIDS Memorial Quilt.

A special section on wartime quilting features a World War I Red Cross fundraising quilt and a World War II quilt made from silk "Victory"

banners. From August 25 to September 24, the exhibit will also host the traveling Missouri

Bicentennial Quilt, created in 2021 to celebrate 200 years of statehood. Each of Missouri's 114 counties, plus the city of St. Louis, has a block on the quilt. The Field House Museum is the only St. Louis location that will host the quilt on its journey across Missouri, so be sure to catch it before it's gone.



Eugene Field House Events Calendar

~ August ~

10 Ice Cream Social

19 Free Afternoon

25 Bicentennial Quilt Party

~ September ~

2 Eugene's Birthday Bash

16 Free Afternoon

18 Smithsonian Museum Day

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:

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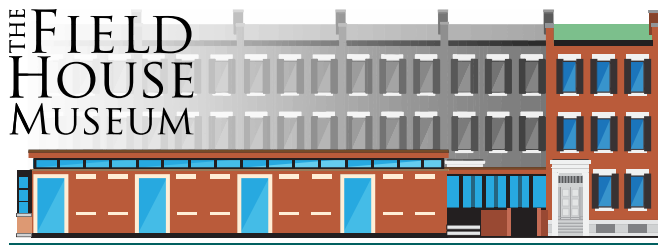
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You're Invited to an Ice Cream Social!



Join us for a Missouri Bicentennial Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. We'll have Serendipity Homemade Ice Cream with all the toppings, backyard games, and face painting! Indoors you can take a tour of the historic house and explore the current exhibitions in the galleries including the latest exhibits: *Stitching Stories from the Past*, *Missouri Writers: 200 Years of Talent*, and *Won't You Be My Neighbor*. Admission is \$10 per person and includes one ticket for ice cream. Advance reservations may be made through Eventbrite or by calling the museum at 314-421-4689.

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