



Letter from the Director

Catching up at the Museum

After going through the ups, downs, and unknowns of COVID, I thought that nothing could stop us here at the Field House Museum, but I have to say, these past

seven months have pushed the limits of myself, staff, and volunteers. Last fall, we brought on two new staff members (learn about them on page 2), and while getting everyone settled in, our lives were turned upside down when a pipe burst on December 24, 2022. The process of bringing the historic house back to its 1850s upper-middle-class setting has been slow. From going through the damage to ensuring that the historic house is safe for staff and visitors, there have been many cries and sighs at the Museum. Due to all of these things and trying to maintain some normality within the Museum's expansion, a few items have slipped through the cracks, including keeping you updated through our *Field Notes* newsletter, and for that, I am sorry.

While dealing with our "Field Fiasco," as we call it in the office, our little staff of four and several dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly to keep things going. We reopened the expansion back in March with the exhibit *Rounding the Bases: The History of St. Louis Browns Baseball*. Since then, we have added other wonderful exhibits. Be sure to read the article on page four, detailing the Eugene Field Library's exhibit, *The Power of the Press*. Then, come explore our latest exhibit, *Poems of Childhood*, which highlights Eugene's most famous book of poetry and is supported by the Missouri Humanities.

Along with exciting exhibits, we have restarted our programming. So far, we delved into several topics at our Speaker Series and Author Talks, including a virtual talk with Katherine Whitcomb, of the Jones Library, which is home to over 1,000 artifacts that span four generations of Field family history. Look for more programs on page three.

While there is a long road ahead, we know we have much to offer our members, guests, and community! As members and friends of the Museum, you are an important part of who we are, and we hope to see you soon, exploring our galleries, attending a program, or enjoying an event. And we will work to keep you updated on the happenings here at the Museum!

Stephanie Bliss, Executive Director

Newsletter Highlights

Restoration of the National Landmark Field family home

Welcoming New Staff

Upcoming Programs at the Museum

Treasures From the Collection

Events Calendar

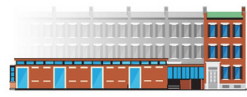
- September -

- 13: Cocktails & Conversations:
Sensational Stories of the Field House
5:00 pm
- 24: Harvest Brunch at the Museum
1:00 pm
- 29: Ed Wheatley Book Signing
4:00 - 6:00 pm

- October -

- 11: Cocktails & Conversations:
Poems of Childhood
5:00 pm
- 16: Eugene & Julia's 150th Anniversary
- 20: Author Talk: Victoria Cosner
1:00 pm





THE FIELD HOUSE MUSEUM

Saint-Louis

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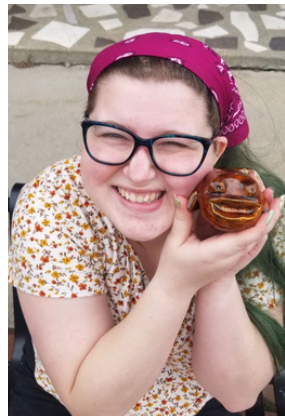
Field House Museum
634 S Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63102

314.421.4689
info@fieldhousemuseum.org
www.fieldhousemuseum.org

Welcoming New Staff

The Field House Museum welcomed two new staff members last November after Caira Starnes and Nikole Meyer left to pursue other endeavors. While Stephanie Lake took over the role of Collections Curator, Lindsay Davis joined the team as the Special Collections Curator, and Emma Simpson filled the Assistant Curator & Educational Outreach role.

Lindsay Davis comes to us from the Missouri Historical Society, where she served as the Soldiers Memorial Visitor Engagement Coordinator and Exhibitions & Research Graduate Research Assistant. She also interned in various departments over the last five years. Lindsay received her Bachelor's in History from Saint Louis University and her Master's in Museums, Heritage, and Public History from the University of Missouri - St. Louis. This past fall, her article "Splitting the Village Share: The St. Louis Commons" was published in the *Missouri Historical Society's Gateway* magazine. When she's not at the museum, Lindsay enjoys watching her favorite historical fiction tv shows and movies, knitting, and playing with her cat.



Emma Simpson returned to the Museum after graduating from the University of Chicago with a BA in History. Since her internship at the museum in 2019, she has focused on working with museum collections post-graduation. Emma is excited to expand the Field House's reach through her new position. Along with assisting Stephanie Lake with the collections, Emma will work on improving accessibility to the Museum by creating classroom programming and accessibility materials. In her free time, Emma loves spending time with her 3 cats and snake, watching wrestling, and playing Pokemon.

Field Notes Spotlight

Let us Reintroduce You to Stephanie Lake

Stephanie started as a volunteer in January 2021 and was hired in July of that year. As the Collections Curator, Stephanie oversees the maintenance and documentation of the Museum's collections, as well as any incoming and outgoing donations and loans. In addition to curating items for exhibits, she assists in exhibit design and installation and daily administrative tasks. Stephanie received her M.A. in English Literature from UMSL in 2018 and a certificate in Museum Studies from Northwestern University in June 2022. Currently, she is enrolled in the Small Museum Pro certificate program, offered through the American Association of State and Local History.



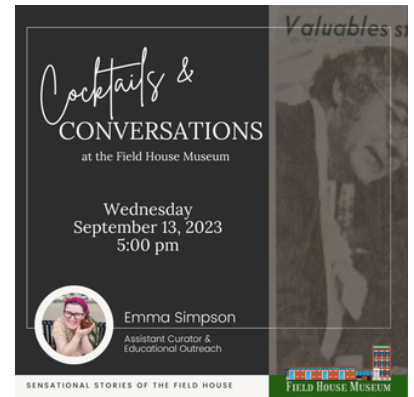
Programs at the Museum

With a new staff, comes the opportunity to create new programs at the Museum. While we continue to present great programs, such as our *Author Talks* and *Speaker Series*, you might have heard about our series called *Cocktails & Conversations* where members are invited to sample a signature cocktail or glass of wine during an informative and entertaining discussion in a relaxed environment! Learn all about the upcoming programs that you won't want to miss out on.

Upcoming Programs

Cocktails & Conversations: Sensational Stories of the Field House

Join Assistant Curator and Educational Outreach Coordinator Emma Simpson on Wednesday, September 13, at 5:00 p.m. for our next conversation. You won't want to miss the stories of how we were saved and other press-worthy events from our past. So come sip our signature cocktail, Planter's Punch, or a glass of wine while we expound on some of the most interesting chapters of the house's history!



Cocktails & Conversations: Poems of Childhood

Our fall *Cocktails & Conversations* will be on Wednesday, October 11, at 5:00 p.m., where we'll explore our newest exhibit, *Poems of Childhood*, with exhibit curator Stephanie Lake. Guests can sample our signature cocktail of the night, a Pomegranate Margarita, or enjoy a glass of wine while we delve into Eugene's poems, look at what others thought of his works, and take a glimpse at the children to whom Eugene dedicated many of his works.

Author Talk: Missouri's Mad Doctor McDowell

The Field House Museum is pleased to welcome Victoria Cosner, co-author of the book *Missouri's Mad Doctor McDowell: Confederates, Cadavers and Macabre Medicine*, on Friday, October 20 at 1:00 p.m. Just in time for the Halloween season, Cosner will share the tale of body snatcher and bona fide mad scientist Dr. Joseph Nash McDowell. This program is free with limited availability in person and on Zoom. Reservations must be made in advance.

Field House Museum



Victoria Cosner

Missouri's Mad Doctor McDowell: Confederates, Cadavers and Macabre Medicine

Friday, October 20, 2023
1:00 - 2:00 pm



To attend one of our upcoming programs, scan the QR code, email us at info@fieldhousemuseum.org, or call us at 314.421.4689.



Pictured left to right: Board Treasurer Ed Nickels, Bob Costas, Stephanie Bliss, and Ed Wheatley (Browns Society President).

St. Louis Browns Luncheon

Stephanie Bliss joined Board Treasurer Ed Nickels for the St. Louis Browns Historical Society & Fan Club's Annual Luncheon where guests learned about the Museum's current exhibit, *Rounding the Bases*. While the luncheon may be over, there's still time to visit the exhibit and explore the history of the St. Louis Browns baseball team!

Hot Off The Press

Every day from 3 pm to 6 pm, Eugene Field shed his overcoat, donned his slippers, propped his feet up on his desk, and got to work in his 7x10 “box stall” at the *Chicago Daily News*. By the time he left for the evening, he’d have 2,000 words for his next “Sharps and Flats” column on his editor’s desk, ready for revisions.

In the 1890s, the *Daily News*’ 160,000 subscribers devoured each new “Sharps and Flats.” Countless others looked forward to seeing reprints of the famed humorist’s cutting satire in their local papers. A Chicago newspaper may have launched Eugene to stardom, but it was the St. Louis newspaper scene that molded him into the famed journalist that he would become.

The Power of the Press, the newest exhibit in the Eugene Field Library, dives into the cutthroat newspaper world of mid-19th century St. Louis when the pages flying off the printing press could sway elections, influence policy, incite mobs, and ignite duels to the death. Growing into the fourth largest city in the United States by the 1870s, people from around the world looked to St. Louis newspapers as the voice of the ever-expanding West.



Among the city’s journalistic giants were former revolutionaries from the German states battling to rid their new home of the evils of slavery, fierce Unionists lobbying against Missouri’s secessionist legislators in their columns during the Civil War, and city boosters willing to twist the truth during the General Strike of 1877 in order to keep industry booming.



Just like today, the power of the press can swing both ways. Good journalism can shed light on inequalities, unmask corruption, and keep citizens well-informed. But bad journalism is equally capable of demonizing the vulnerable, distorting facts, and deceiving citizens.

19th-century St. Louis journalists, aiming to uplift their communities, often denigrated others in the process. Their fingerprints are visible in Eugene’s biting political and cultural commentary - and their sharp pens led to the greater implementation of journalism ethics at the turn of the century.

The Power of the Press is open through February 2024.

There's More to Explore!



Treasures from the Collection

Geraldine

The lovely, haunting gray eyes you see staring back at you belong to Geraldine, a large Armand Marseille doll from our collection. Unfortunately, when Geraldine came to the museum, her eyes had become detached and fallen inside her head! In addition, last year's flood damaged her pretty, pale, mint green dress, white shoes, stockings, and petticoat. Geraldine is very special, though, and we are working to restore her to her former glory.



Geraldine was a gift from Kate Kreplin in 2017, who told us that the doll belonged to her grandmother. The doll was made in Germany sometime between 1900 and 1915. She has a bisque head and ball-jointed composition body. Green and white ribbons adorn her brown, curly hair. Geraldine's delicate facial features are well maintained, with rosy cheeks and pink lips. The elastic bands that articulate her joints are also in excellent condition, although probably not original.



Collections Curator, Stephanie Lake, is working with a local doll repair shop to have the sleep eyes restored. Sleep eyes are eyes that close when the doll is laid horizontally. The repair has been an interesting process. The shop instructed Stephanie to remove the wig from the doll, "the hatch" on the top of her head, and the eyes. As you can see, the eyes are not separate but one unit. The weight you see that hangs below the eyes is what will allow Geraldine's eyes to open and close again. While working with the repair shop, Stephanie found out that Armand Marseille dolls were fairly common. What makes Geraldine so special is that she is larger than a typical Armand Marseille doll, measuring twenty-eight and one-half inches high. Although the dolls were imported, they were moderately priced, so middle-class families could afford to buy them for their children. We are looking forward to having Geraldine back in our collection and ready to be seen by our visitors!

Preserving our Collection

Thank You to Our Museum Friends

In the wake of last year's disastrous Christmas Eve, our staff of four was faced with the heartbreaking task of rescuing a great number of our historic artifacts from standing water and soggy boxes.

Our preservation efforts wouldn't be possible without the support of the St. Louis museum community. We are especially grateful to the staff of Soldiers Memorial and the Cardinals Hall of Fame for donating their time and excess archival boxes to help us dry and rehouse our collections.



Soldiers Memorial staff members donating archival boxes. Pictured left to right: Lydia Prebish, Lindsay Davis, Kate Scott, Stephanie Bliss, Mark Sundlov, and Mike Venso.

The Work is Never Done

Restoration Progress of the Historic House

With any old home, ongoing restoration is imperative in keeping a building in pristine condition. Last year, we worked with Alex Mattan of Ambacht, a window restoration company, to bring back the beauty of the 1845 windows of the historic home. Due to the house's closure, Alex was easily able to reinstall the windows this past Spring. While much of the window work is done, to complete the Windows to History restoration project, we still need to repair the brick mold and sills before installing the restored shutters.



Along with our Windows to History restoration project, we have been working to restore the Field family home and our museum collections. Currently, we continue to meticulously rehome artifacts while ensuring all their information is detailed in PastPerfect, our collections software program. Within the historic home, we are ensuring the safety of staff and guests through a thorough cleaning and mold remediation by Wellington Environmental. Next, we will have Schilli Plastering restore the plaster walls and ceilings on all three floors. Once completed, the work will continue with repainting faux finishes, installing wallpaper and flooring, and bringing furniture back in. While there is a lot still left to do, we will continue to work tirelessly to make the house a beautiful depiction of what the Field family home once was!

Save Our Story Donors

The Board of Trustees and staff thank the following individuals who have supported the restoration efforts of the National Historic Landmark Field family home with their generous donations:

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~ Tributes & Memorials ~

In honor of Stephanie Lake
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In honor of
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FIELD HOUSE MUSEUM



Sunday, September 24, 2023
at one o'clock in the afternoon

and Behind the Scenes
Historic House Tour

BRUNCH

Fairst

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invites you to a



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