

Imagining the Founding of St. Louis

Resource List



Bibliography of Books and Websites

By Caroline Koncz

Early St. Louis History

Books

Batz Cooperman, Jeannette. *The St. Louis Woman's Exchange: 130 Years of the Gentle Art of Survival*.

On the surface, the Woman's Exchange of St. Louis is an exquisite gift shop with an adjacent tearoom—beloved, always packed, the chatter light and feminine, the salads and pies perfect. But the volunteers who run the Woman's Exchange have had enough grit to keep the place going through two world wars, a Great Depression, several recessions, the end of fine craftsmanship and the start of a new DIY movement. The “decayed gentlewomen” they set out to help in 1883 are now refugees from Afghanistan, battered wives and mothers of sons paralyzed in Iraq. Sample the radical changes they have made over the years, as well as the institutions they wisely left alone, like the iconic cherry dress that has charmed generations of women and mothers, including Jacqueline Kennedy and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Fausz, Frederick J. *Founding St. Louis: First City of the New West*. The History Press, 2011.

The animal wealth of the western “wilderness” provided by talented “savages” encouraged French Americans from Illinois, Canada and Louisiana to found a cosmopolitan center of international commerce that was a model of multicultural harmony. Historian J. Frederick Fausz offers a fresh interpretation of St. Louis from 1764 to 1804, explaining how Pierre Laclède, the early Chouteaus, Saint Ange de Bellerive and the Osage Indians established a “gateway” to an enlightened, alternative frontier of peace and prosperity before Lewis and Clark were even born. Historians, genealogists and general readers will appreciate the well-researched perspectives in this engaging story about a novel French West long ignored in American history.

Goldman Prince, Vida “Sister,” *That's the Way it Was: Stories of Struggle, Survival and Self-Respect in Twentieth Century Black St. Louis*.

What is new about this collection is the social history it presents about African American life in St. Louis: there are detailed descriptions of living conditions in the Mill Creek Valley, rivalries between blacks east and west of Grand Avenue, and the importance of “invisible institutions” and “alternative academies” like the undertaking parlor and the night club that Jordan Chambers used for so many different purposes. These have never been aired before with this level of detail in any work on St. Louis. These interviews contain valuable information, such as a black physician having to treat patients in the basement of a white hospital, to black bus drivers who discover that white passengers will not get on a bus they drive and a black maid in a department store was not allowed to help “dress” white display dummies. These were recorded for generations of readers who might not imagine either the pervasiveness or the pettiness of this personal abuse and intimidation.

Hoessle, Maureen. *Under Three Flags: Exploring Early St. Louis History*. St. Louis, MO: Virginia Publishing, 2004.

Did you know that in one single day of St. Louis history that the flag of three different countries flew over the city? This beautifully illustrated history of the St. Louis area begins in prehistoric times and continues through the Louisiana Purchase and the establishment of St. Louis as a major American city. Written for children in 4th and 5th grade, but sure to be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

O'Brien, Michael John. *The Prehistory of Missouri*. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1998.

The Prehistory of Missouri is a fascinating examination of the objects that were made, used, and discarded or lost by Missouri's prehistoric inhabitants over a period of more than eleven thousand years. Missouri's numerous vegetation zones and its diverse topography encompassed extreme variations, forcing prehistoric populations to seek a wide range of adaptations to the natural environment. As a result, Missouri's archaeological record is highly complex, and it has not been fully understood despite the vast amount of fieldwork that has been conducted within the state's borders. In this groundbreaking account, Michael J. O'Brien and W. Raymond Wood explore the array of artifacts that have been found in Missouri, pinpointing minute variations in form. They have documented the ranges in age and distribution of the individual forms, explaining why certain forms persisted while others quickly disappeared. Organized by chronological periods such as Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian, the book provides a comprehensive survey of what is currently known about Missouri's prehistoric peoples, often revealing how they made their living in an ever-changing world. The authors have applied rigorous standards of archaeological inquiry. Their main objective—demonstrating that the archaeological record of Missouri can be explained in scientific terms—is accomplished.

Sandweiss, Lee Ann. *Seeking St. Louis: Voices from a River City, 1670 – 2000*. Missouri History Museum Press, 2000.

Stage, WM. *Fading Ads of St. Louis*.

Before the billboard, radio or television commercial, there was the painted ad. Today, these aging ads capture the imagination, harkening back to a bygone era. Vanishing paint on brick walls speaks to a time when commerce was much simpler and much more direct. Few cities in America have produced as many intriguing fading ads as St. Louis. Fewer still are home to such an expert on the subject as author Wm. Stage. For decades, Stage has studied and researched the lost art form of the painted ad, carefully tracking the history of this hands-on approach to advertising from its lustrous heyday to its disappearing present. Join Stage on a tour through St. Louis's fading ads hidden in plain sight.

Tremear, Janice. *Wicked St. Louis*.

Watch a duel on Bloody Island from the stern of a river pirate's ship, and be glad that Abraham Lincoln did not have to keep his appointment. Venture into a brothel where a madam's grin was filled with diamonds or where "Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay" was hummed for the first time. Witness children forced into labor and aristocrats driven to suicide. Keep company with the gangsters who were a little too "cuckoo" for Al Capone. Visit Wicked St. Louis.

Wade, Richard C. *The Urban Frontier: Pioneer Life in Early Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Lexington, Louisville, and St. Louis*. University of Chicago Press, 1964.

Trade paperback is the history of pioneer life in what was then the frontiers of the United States.

Waugh, Daniel. *The Gangs of St. Louis: Men of Respect*.

St. Louis was a city under siege during Prohibition. Seven different criminal gangs violently vied for control of the town's illegal enterprises. Although their names (the Green Ones, the Pillow Gang, the Russo Gang, Egan's Rats, the Hogan Gang, the Cuckoo Gang and the Shelton Gang) are familiar to many, their exploits have remained largely undocumented until now. Learn how an awkward gunshot wound gave the Pillow Gang its name, and read why Willie Russo's bizarre midnight interview with a reporter from the St. Louis Star involved an automatic pistol and a floating hunk of cheese. From daring bank robberies to cold-blooded betrayals, *The Gangs of St. Louis* chronicles a fierce yet juicy slice of the Gateway City's history that rivaled anything seen in New York or Chicago.

Scholarly Sources on St. Louis History Sites:

Houck, Louis. *A History of Missouri From the Earliest Explorations*.

http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=3ZB5AAAAMAAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR12&dq=%22history+of+st.+Louis%22&ots=d9Dxc_myNi&sig=Z1k3mtWm2M-RK_22Tcmt-egrIpY#v=onepage&q=%22history%20of%20st.%20Louis%22&f=false

Primm, James Neal. *Lion of the Valley, St. Louis Missouri 1764-1980*.

<http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=4btPRqtGbNAC&oi=fnd&pg=PR9&dq=%22history+of+st.+louis%22&ots=7oaagYiW5M&sig=GHMARGE0oxFdn0MXAvYL-rxZ0sw#v=onepage&q=%22history%20of%20st.%20louis%22&f=false>

Shepard, Elihu Hotchkiss. *The Early History of St. Louis and Missouri*.

http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=vUUVAAAAYAAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR1&dq=%22history+of+st.+Louis%22&ots=3uYvNM4n68&sig=l4NfSChwo5_Z4SAHZsgkbHWcCOE#v=onepage&q=%22history%20of%20st.%20Louis%22&f=false

Teacher Resources (Websites)

A Brief History of St. Louis. <http://www.stlouis-mo.gov/visit-play/stlouis-history.cfm>

This website is basically a short description of how St. Louis was founded up to modern times.

A History of the Pioneer Families in Missouri.

http://archive.org/stream/historyofpioneer00bryauoft/historyofpioneer00bryauoft_djvu.txt

Detailed archives of the pioneers throughout the Missouri area.

History's Time Portal to Old St. Louis.

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/county/stlouis/index.html>

This website offers numerous links from settlement to modern times in St. Louis. It also contains great photographs from earlier St. Louis history. Various historical biographies from famous St. Louisans are also included.

St. Louis History. <http://explorestlouis.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/St.-Louis-History.pdf>

This is a general overview of the history of St. Louis from settlement times to present day.

Chris Casey. *St. Louis History.* <http://www.stlouis.com/history/>

This also is about St. Louis, but goes into more detail. The website writes about the settlement of the city, how it became a part of the United States, how it grew economically, immigration, and other historical events.

History of St. Louis Worksheet. http://www.education.com/files/222601_222700/222630/history-of-stlouis.pdf

This worksheet includes a basic timeline of the history of St. Louis, a word search that features St. Louis landmarks, and a spot-the-difference game that features forest park.

The Osage Books

Burns, Louis F. *A History of the Osage People*. Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 2004.

Osage traditional lands are located in mid-continental America encompassed by the present-day states of Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Major waterways through these lands and the defensible terrain of the Ozark range provided the tribe a distinct advantage in prehistoric and early historic times. A warlike people, the Osage long encroached on neighboring tribal lands, especially those of the Caddo to the southwest. Yet good natural boundaries and centuries of success in warfare afforded the tribe little advantage in attempts to forestall Euro-American westward expansion. Three major routes to the West—the Missouri and Arkansas Rivers and the Continental Trail—crossed Osage land, so conflict with the newcomers was inevitable.

Louis Burns draws on ancestral oral traditions and research in a broad body of literature to tell the story of the Osage people. He writes clearly and concisely, from the Osage perspective. First published in 1989 and for many years out of print, this revised edition is augmented by a new preface and maps. Because of its masterful compilation and synthesis of the known data, *A History of the Osage People* continues to be the best reference for information on an important American Indian people.

Chapman, Carl Haley. *Indians and Archaeology of Missouri*. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1983.

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Rollings, Willard H. *The Osage: An Ethnohistorical Study of Hegemony on the Prairie-Plains*. Columbia, Missouri. University of Missouri Press, 1992.

The Osage Indians were a powerful group of Native Americans who lived along the prairies and plains of present-day Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. The *Osage: An Ethnohistorical Study of Hegemony on the Prairie-Plains*, now available in

paper, shows how the Osage formed and maintained political, economic, and social control over a large portion of the central United States for more than 150 years.

Wolferman, Kristie C. *The Osage in Missouri*. University of Missouri Press, 1997.

On November 10, 1808, the American militia and the chiefs from the Little Osage and Big Osage nations celebrated. Fort Osage, built on a Missouri River bluff 250 miles west of St. Louis, was officially opened on that date, and the Osage Indians signed a treaty with the Americans written by Governor Meriwether Lewis.

Fort Osage, intended as a citadel for the opening of the great American West, was also to function as a trading post for the Osage Nation. It was President Jefferson's hope that Fort Osage and other fort-trading posts would not only keep peace on the frontier but would also begin a new era in relations between Native Americans and the United States. For a short time, the fort did provide the Osage with a place to trade their furs. It also offered them limited protection from the many other tribes who were their enemies. However, the Osage chiefs discovered very quickly that the fort was small consolation for the lands they had given up by signing the treaty.

In this well-written and very readable work, Kristie C. Wolferman traces the history of the Osage Nation from its origins to its forced departure from Missouri. She demonstrates the ways in which the Osage culture changed with each new encounter of the Osage with Europeans. The Osage had already experienced many contacts with the white man before Fort Osage came to be. They had encountered French trader-trappers, explorers, missionaries, Spanish administrators, and early settlers. Their lives had been changed by the influx of white disease, by the use of European trade goods and weapons, and by the political control of Spanish, French, and American governments. As a result, the Fort Osage experiment came too late to establish lasting good relations between the white men and the Indians.

Teacher Sources (Websites)

Artifact Analysis Worksheet. http://www.chicagohistory.org/static_media/pdf/historyhands/chm-artifactanalysis.pdf

Although not specifically relating to Native Americans, the program could be slightly modified to work with artifacts of the Osage people or Mississippian.

Missouri History: The Osage Indians. <http://www.missouri-history.itgo.com/osage.html>

A brief explanation of the Osage tribe and its origin. The site describes the people's physical characteristics as well as descriptions of their lifestyle.

Osage Indian Culture and History. http://www.native-languages.org/osage_culture.htm

This is a website that holds many links about the Osage people, including Osage lifestyle and tradition, Osage genealogy, and maps of the Osage land.

Osage Indian Fact Sheet. http://www.bigorin.org/osage_kids.htm

This website is directed more towards teaching children about the Osage. Some of the questions the website answers are the location of the tribe, what language they spoke, women's role in the tribe, and how their lifestyles different from our own today.

Osage Indians. <http://www.indians.org/articles/osage-indians.html>

A brief history on the Osage people, from where they were originally located, their lifestyle, how they dressed, and their interactions with the European colonists.

Osage Nation.

http://www.osagetribe.com/historicpreservation/info_sub_page.aspx?subpage_id=14

This website is all about the Osage people and their history. This covers their life before colonization as well as how they interacted with the Europeans.

Mississippian People

Books

Atkinson, James R. *Splendid Land, Splendid People: The Chickasaw Indians to Removal.* University of Alabama Press, 2003.

Before the Chickasaws were removed to lands in Oklahoma in the 1800s, the heart of the Chickasaw Nation was located east of the Mississippi River in the upper watershed of the Tombigbee River in what is today northeastern Mississippi. Their lands had been called "splendid and fertile" by French governor Bienville at the time they were being coveted by early European settlers. The people were also termed "splendid" and described by documents of the 1700s as "tall, well made, and of an unparalleled courage. . . . The men have regular features, well shaped and neatly dressed; they are fierce, and have a high opinion of themselves."

The progenitors of the sociopolitical entity termed by European chroniclers progressively as Chicasa, Chicaca, Chicacha, Chicasaws, and finally Chickasaw may have migrated from west of the Mississippi River in prehistoric times. Or migrating people may have joined indigenous populations. Despite this longevity in their ancestral lands, the Chickasaw were the only one of the original "five civilized tribes" to leave no remnant community in the Southeast at the time of removal.

Atkinson thoroughly researches the Chickasaw Indians, tracing their history as far back as the documentation and archaeological record will allow. He historicizes from a Native viewpoint and outlines political events leading to removal, while addressing important

issues such as slave-holding among Chickasaws, involvement of Chickasaw and neighboring Indian tribes in the American Revolution, and the lives of Chickasaw women.

Splendid Land, Splendid People will become a fundamental resource for current information and further research on the Chickasaw. A wide audience of librarians, anthropologists, historians, and general readers have long awaited publication of this important volume.

Fremling, Calvin R. *Immortal River: The Upper Mississippi in Ancient and Modern Times*. University of Wisconsin Press, 2005.

This engaging and well-illustrated primer to the Upper Mississippi River presents the basic natural and human history of this magnificent waterway. *Immortal River* is written for the educated lay-person who would like to know more about the river's history and the forces that shape as well as threaten it today. It melds complex information from the fields of geology, ecology, geography, anthropology, and history into a readable, chronological story that spans some 500 million years of the earth's history.

Like the Mississippi itself, *Immortal River* often leaves the main channel to explore the river's backwaters, floodplain, and drainage basin. The book's focus is the Upper Mississippi, from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Cairo, Illinois. But it also includes information about the river's headwaters in northern Minnesota and about the Lower Mississippi from Cairo south to the river's mouth ninety miles below New Orleans. It offers an understanding of the basic geology underlying the river's landscapes, ecology, environmental problems, and grandeur.

Madson, John. *Up on the River: People and Wildlife of the Upper Mississippi*. University of Iowa Press, 2011.

Up on the River is John Madson's loving and often hilarious tribute to the people, animal life, and places of the Upper Mississippi. Madson's Upper Mississippi is the part "between the saints," from St. Louis to St. Paul, and where for thirty years he explored the bright waters of the upper reaches of the mighty river itself as well as the tangled multitude of sloughs, cuts, and side channels that wander through its wooded islands and floodplain forests.

"Some of my best time on the River has been in the company of game wardens, biologists, commercial fishermen, clambers, trappers, hunters, and a smelly, mud-smearred coterie of river rats in general, and my views of the River are far more likely to reflect theirs than those of the transportation industry," Madson writes of his thirty-year acquaintance with the Mississippi. Traveling mainly by canoe and johnboat, he tells of encounters between archetypal commercial fishermen and archetypal game wardens over hot fish chowder, fishing for crappies in the tops of submerged trees and for walleyes amid gale force winds, nesting and migrating herons and ducks and eagles, the histories of river logging and pearling and button making, and towboats and barges and the lives of the "ramstugenous" people who move freight on the river.

Learning about the Upper Mississippi via the wry tutelage of John Madson, who discovered that “whenever I am out on a river some of its freeness rubs off on me,” readers of this classic book will also come under the spell of this freeness.

Morris, Christopher. *The Big Muddy: An Environmental History of the Mississippi and its Peoples from Hernando de Soto to Hurricane Katrina*. Oxford University Press, 2012.

In *The Big Muddy*, the first long-term environmental history of the Mississippi, Christopher Morris offers a brilliant tour across five centuries as he illuminates the interaction between people and the landscape, from early hunter-gatherer bands to present-day industrial and post-industrial society.

Morris shows that when Hernando de Soto arrived at the lower Mississippi Valley, he found an incredibly vast wetland, forty thousand square miles of some of the richest, wettest land in North America, deposited there by the big muddy river that ran through it. But since then much has changed, for the river and for the surrounding valley. Indeed, by the 1890s, the valley was rapidly drying. Morris shows how centuries of increasingly intensified human meddling—including deforestation, swamp drainage, and levee construction—led to drought, disease, and severe flooding. He outlines the damage done by the introduction of foreign species, such as the Argentine nutria, which escaped into the wild and are now busy eating up Louisiana's wetlands. And he critiques the most monumental change in the lower Mississippi Valley—the reconstruction of the river itself, largely under the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers. Valley residents have been paying the price for these human interventions, most visibly with the disaster that followed Hurricane Katrina. Morris also describes how valley residents have been struggling to reinvigorate the valley environment in recent years—such as with the burgeoning catfish and crawfish industries—so that they may once again live off its natural abundance.

Morris concludes that the problem with Katrina is the problem with the Amazon Rainforest, drought and famine in Africa, and fires and mudslides in California—it is the end result of the ill-considered bending of natural environments to human purposes.

Schneider, Paul. *Old Man River: The Mississippi River in North American History*. Henry Holt and Co, 2013.

In *Old Man River*, Paul Schneider tells the story of the river at the center of America's rich history—the Mississippi. Some fifteen thousand years ago, the majestic river provided Paleolithic humans with the routes by which early man began to explore the continent's interior. Since then, the river has been the site of historical significance, from the arrival of Spanish and French explorers in the 16th century to the Civil War. George Washington fought his first battle near the river, and Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman both came to President Lincoln's attention after their spectacular victories on the lower Mississippi.

In the 19th century, home-grown folk heroes such as Daniel Boone and the half-alligator, half-horse, Mike Fink, were creatures of the river. Mark Twain and Herman Melville led their characters down its stream in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The*

Confidence-Man. A conduit of real-life American prowess, the Mississippi is also a river of stories and myth.

Schneider traces the history of the Mississippi from its origins in the deep geologic past to the present. Though the busiest waterway on the planet today, the Mississippi remains a paradox—a devastated product of American ingenuity, and a magnificent natural wonder.

Teacher Resources (Websites)

An Introduction to North America's Native People.

<http://www.cabrillo.edu/~crsmith/mississ.html>

This website explains the characteristics of the Mississippian people and their culture. The website also includes images and iconographic elements of the culture.

Mississippian Identity. http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/nat_amer/pre/htmls/m_id.html

A brief history of the native Mississippians. *Mississippian People.* This is a great website that explains the people and their culture, specifically to children.

The Mississippian People and their Influence.

http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/gallery2/main.php?g2_itemId=708

A great resource which explains the history of the people chronologically through different links.

Mississippian Period.

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/northamerica/before1500/history/mississippian.htm>

This is a great website for kids. Also, it explores the people going back to the 1500s.

Middle Tennessee's Native American History: The Mississippian Period.

<http://www.nativehistoryassociation.org/mississippian.php>

A general description of the people in Tennessee and some images of their artifacts.

The Mississippians. <http://archaeology.about.com/b/2012/08/27/the-mississippians.htm>

A general website explaining the history with a few links to archeological websites.

Children’s Books on History of St. Louis, Osage, and Mississippian People

Gamble, Adam. *Count to Sleep St. Louis*. Our World of Books, 2012.

Exploring St. Louis, this counting book celebrates many of the city's most famous features, including the Gateway Arch, St. Louis Art Museum, Missouri History Museum, St. Louis Zoo, symphony orchestra, local sports teams, and the Mississippi River.

Jackson Robert. *Meet Me in St. Louis: The 1904 St. Louis’ World’s Fair*. Harper Collins, 2010.

You are holding a ticket to one of the largest and most magnificent celebrations of all time -- the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair!

For seven months nearly twenty million visitors from around the globe flooded the fairgrounds of Forest Park. Many explored the twelve mammoth palaces (made of plaster and horsehair!), which showcased amazing exhibits. Others enjoyed watching the first Olympic Games in the United States, keeping cool all summer with a new treat that became an instant hit -- the ice-cream cone. And everyone loved viewing all 1275 acres of fairgrounds from atop the 265-foot Ferris wheel.

Robert Jackson describes the planning, building, events, and memory of a fair that enthralled millions with its magic. In fascinating detail, he captures the energy and imagination of turn-of-the-century America, when fairgoers begged friends and family to meet them in St. Louis.

Riehecky, Janet. *The Osage (Native Peoples)*. Capstone Press, 2002.

Provides an overview of the past and present lives of the Osage Indians, including a description of their family life, government, the I'n-Lon-Schka ceremonial dances, and the impact of the discovery of oil on the Osage reservation.

Smith, Roland. *The Captain’s Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe*. HMH Books for Young Readers, 2008.

Born the runt of his litter and gambled away to a rusty old river man, the Newfoundland pup Seaman doesn’t imagine his life will be marked by any kind of glory. But when he meets Captain Meriwether Lewis, Seaman finds himself on a path that will make history. Lewis is setting off on his landmark search for the Northwest Passage, and he takes Seaman along. Sharing the curiosity and spirit of his new master, the intrepid dog proves himself a valuable companion at every turn.

Part history, part science—and all adventure—this is the thrilling tale of America’s greatest journey of discovery.

Wilson, Terry. *The Osage (Indians of North America)*. Chelsea House Publications, 1988.

Examines the history, changing fortunes, and current situation of the Osage Indians.

Links to Various Tribes:

Illiniwek Tribe:

- *Native Tribes of Illinois.* <http://www.native-languages.org/illinois.htm>
- *The Illiniwek.* <http://rfester.tripod.com/index.html>
- *The Illinois.* http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/nat_amer/post/htmls/il.html

Missouria Tribe:

- *Otoe Missouria Tribe.* <http://www.omtribe.org/>
- *Constitution of the Otoe Missouria Tribe of Indians.*
<http://thorpe.ou.edu/constitution/otoecons.html>
- *Otoe-Missouria.* <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/O/OT001.html>

Osage Tribe:

- *Osage Nation.* <http://www.osagetribe.com/index.aspx>
- *Osage Nation Temporary Website.* <http://osagenation.co/>
- *Missouri History.* <http://www.missouri-history.itgo.com/osage.html>