

In 2018, Governor Michael L. Parson created the Missouri Bicentennial Commission. He appointed former State Senator Ronald F. Richard and Mayor Carrie Tergin of Jefferson City as co-chairs. The purpose of the Commission was to “aid the State Historical Society Missouri in its charge to plan for and implement the commemoration of the Missouri Bicentennial to further state efforts to honor the State of Missouri and its rich history and heritage on the occasion of its bicentennial.”

In 2020 the Commission approved an idea from member Dr. Jeanne Cairns Siquefield to build a Bicentennial Chessboard with 32 images covering 200 years of Missouri history. The World Chess Hall of Fame and the Saint Louis Chess Club provided funding and historical brochures and signage for the project. Missouri has a rich chess history starting with the first world chess championship in Saint Louis in 1886. In 2014, the U.S. Senate designated Saint Louis as the US. Chess Capital. The Club has held numerous U.S. Championships and international tournament. In 2011, they launched the Scouts BSA Chess Merit Badge, and the first Scouts to earn it were from Missouri.

Michael Sweeney and the staff of the State Historical Society of Missouri had the task of selecting 32 historical images for the border of the board. This required viewing hundreds of photos to cover the topics of historical figures, places, agriculture, mining, authors, music, sports, transportation, wars, civil rights, and science.

Life Scout Andrew Dowden of Troop 6 of Jefferson City built the Bicentennial Chessboard as his Eagle Scout project. The giant chess board included 100 pieces of granite, a concrete base, and 36 engravings covering Missouri history. The engravings were made by Andrew at the Siquefield Invention Campus and the Lake of the Ozarks Scout Reservation. The project took nine months and required the assistance of many volunteers. In addition, Life Scout Maya Thomas of Troop 242 of Columbia built two benches using 200-year-old Missouri oak for her Eagle Scout project.

Governor Michael L. Parson dedicated the Missouri Bicentennial Chessboard on May 1, 2022, in Deborah Cooper Park on Adrian’s Island in Jefferson City.



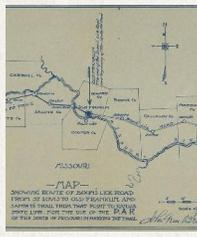
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INFORMATION!**



George Catlin
Portrait of Tal-Lee, Member of the Osage Tribe
1866



Maker unknown
Lewis and Clark Trail Map
Date Unknown



John Brush
Boone's Lick Road
1908



Henry Charles Carey
Geographical Map of Missouri
1822



Charles Trefts
Columns on Francis Quadrangle, University of Missouri
1936



Cook & Gormley
Mule
Date Unknown



Maximilian E. Schmidt.
Missouri Pacific Engine No. 859
Date Unknown



Holcomb, after a photograph by J.h. Fitzgibbon
Dred Scott
1857



Charles Trefts
Missouri Botanical Garden
Date unknown



Gerald Massie
Pony Express Monument
Date unknown



Kurz and Allison
The Battle of Wilson's Creek
c. 1893



Photographer unknown
William T. "Bloody Bill" Anderson
c. 1864



Edward Winsor Kemble
Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
1884



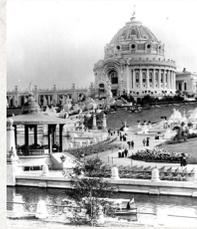
John Stark & Sons
Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag"
1911



Photographer unknown
Farmer and Young Boy Working the Field
c. 1900



Photographer unknown
Cumberland Miners
Date unknown



Emil Boehl
Festival Hall, Saint Louis World's Fair
1904



Photographer unknown
George Washington Carver
Date unknown



Photographer unknown
Women's Suffrage League
1916



Curt Teich & Co.
Missouri State Capitol
1917



Charles Trefts
Cape Girardeau Steamboat along the Mississippi
1920



Vinnorma Shaw
Missouri Centennial Exposition and State Fair Poster
Aug. 8 - 20, 1921



Block Brothers
Photographic Studio Jazz Band
c. 1925



Photographer unknown
Charles Lindbergh with the Spirit of St. Louis Airplane
1927



H. L. Gamber
Bagnell Dam
c. 1937



Arthur Witman
Premature V-J Day Celebration on Olive Street, Saint Louis, MO
August 14, 1945



Greta Kempton
Truman Family Portrait
c. 1950



Missouri Ruralist
Grand Champion Barrow
October 27, 1956



Erick Todd
The Gateway Arch
c. 2018



Arthur Witman
Gemini 12 Space Capsule being Built at McDonnell Aircraft Corporation
1966



Photographer unknown
St. Louis Blues Stanley Cup Win Parade
2019



Missouri Bicentennial Logo
2021



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Images courtesy of Missouri Historical Society, The State Historical Society of Missouri, the Library of Congress, and pexels.com



Chess History in Saint Louis

The Show Me State is rich in chess history. Saint Louis was one of three American cities to host the first World Chess Championship, held in 1886 between Wilhelm Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort. The site, which was once the location of the Harmonie Club on the corner of 18th Street and Olive Boulevard, is currently known as the Butler Building.

In 2007, Saint Louis residents Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield and Rex Sinquefield founded the Saint Louis Chess Club (STLCC), a non-profit organization committed to promoting the game and sport of chess. Since that time, the STLCC has introduced chess to more than 75,000 students across the greater Saint Louis area and has hosted more than 100 major national and international tournaments. Additionally, the STLCC has welcomed over 230 of the world's strongest chess grandmasters to tournaments and has amassed more than 380,000 followers on its YouTube channel with free chess lessons, lectures, and tournament commentary.

In 2011, the Sinquefields facilitated the relocation of the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) from Miami, Florida to Saint Louis, directly across the street from the Saint Louis Chess Club. Since that time, the WCHOF has welcomed more than 150,000 visitors from around the globe. Also in 2011 at the WCHOF, Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield launched the Scouts BSA's Chess Merit Badge, which has become one of the most popular to earn and has now been received by more than 250,000 Scouts.

In 2013, the U.S. Senate and Congress named Saint Louis the "Chess Capital of the Nation." From that day forward, the Saint Lou-

is Chess Club and World Chess Hall of Fame became part of what is known as the Saint Louis Chess Campus, which includes their award-winning gift shop, Q Boutique, and chess-themed restaurant, Kingside Diner.

In 2018, Saint Louis resident, Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana, became the first American to compete for the World Chess Championship title in 2018, 46 years after Bobby Fischer in 1972. That same year, Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield published *Learn to Read & Write Chess*, an absolute beginner's guide to chess, which has been published in multiple languages from around the world. Also in 2018, the Saint Louis Chess Campus erected the World's Largest Chess Piece, a 20-foot-tall king chess piece verified by Guinness World Records, housed outside of the World Chess Hall of Fame. This is the second time the Saint Louis Chess Campus achieved this record, with the first happening in 2012.

Multiple Saint Louis residents have been inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame. Former residents Max Judd and Susan Polgar were awarded in 2019, and both Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield and Rex Sinquefield were honored in the 2020 class for their many contributions to chess.

And in 2022, the Missouri Bicentennial Chessboard, spearheaded by Dr. Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield, was unveiled in Jefferson City. The life-sized granite chessboard depicts 32 images which celebrate significant historical moments and personalities from the state's history.