



Smithville MO Historical Society

Our new website:

www.smithvillehistory.com

Preserving the past for
appreciation in the future.

October 2025

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Halloween Costume Contest

Where history and phantoms meet

Friday, October 31st in the city courtyard from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Costume prizes awarded by age groups and for best historical figure costume. RSVP to Arlene by Oct. 25 at (816) 532-4040.



Smithville MO Historical Society
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Check out our YouTube Channel:
<https://youtube.com/@smithvillemohistory>
Be sure to hit "subscribe"

2025 Founder's Celebration

On Saturday, September 27th the Smithville MO Historical Society held an event to commemorate the founding of Smithville by Humphrey Smith and his family. The South Gale Schoolhouse was open to visitors and free tours were given at the Smithville Historical Museum. Jim Jinny provided free hayrides between the school and museum.

We were honored to have Mike Tindor, a fifth generation descendant of Humphrey Smith, attend this event accompanied by his wife. Later in the afternoon the Smithville Police Department provided an escort for those going to Humphrey Smith's gravesite in the Smith family cemetery. The pastor of Smithville United Methodist Church led a service of reflection at the gravesite.



Let's Talk History

West room, American Legion at 2 pm

Sun. Nov. 2 – Willard Pence will discuss the history of his family's appliance business

Sun. Nov. 16 – Fred Barber will discuss the historical context of Humphrey Smith's life from 1802 to 1822.

Sun. Nov. 30 – Dewayne Knott will discuss the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

100 Years Ago in Smithville

News in 1925 editions of the Smithville Democrat Herald from microfilm at the Clay County Archives.

October 2, 1925

The Tommies achieved an easy victory over Platte City 19-6. Opal Shackleford recently won four needlework prizes at the Kansas State Fair. Chinch bugs are appearing in cornfields in abundance in many parts of the state.

October 9, 1925

Wiley Asher was driving a team of horses and as he approached the Aker Lowman farm he was met by a car without lights. As the car passed an occupant fired a revolver at him. Luckily he missed the mark. State Highway Commission representative Mr. Bray arrived here earlier this week to secure the right of way for the proposed change in the highway through town. He said it would be up to the City to pay for acquiring the land, estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000. Houses of Wallace Douglas, Jeanette Justice and Roy Millis would be taken and demolished.

October 16, 1925

Adrain Todd sold his Ford agency to Gerald F. Schaeffer, who took possession last Saturday. Mr. Schaeffer previously operated stores in Polo and Richmond, which he recently sold to engage in the automobile business. The Tommies lost their last two games to Maysville and Lathrop. The Golden Rule Class at the Christian Church, led by Mrs. Catherine Snail, entertained "Henry and Edsel Ford and their wives" last Saturday evening as part of its Golden Gate to California contest. The imaginary race covers 2,000 miles in five cars. Mrs. Cleve Breckenridge was chauffeur of a Chevrolet. Mrs. James Quinn drove a Ford. Mrs. James Piburn drove a Hudson. Mrs. Lela Kindred was the driver of a Buick.

Smithville Missouri Historical Society, Inc.

We are a 509(a)(2) charity organization.

2025 Officers:

K.D. Stafford, President Carol Dawkins, Vice-Pres.
Maria Justus, Secretary Damien Boley, Treasurer
Dewayne Knott- Moderator.

Directors: Kathleen Bird, Dewayne Knott, Trudy LaForce, and Katherine Stafford

250 Patriot Celebration

Each month through June 2026 we are featuring a revolutionary patriot ancestors of Smithville residents and Society members to celebrate the 250 anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. If you have a patriot ancestor we want to feature him/her in an upcoming issue.

Vermont Green Mountain Boys

By Kathleen Bird

I have taken two trips to Vermont this year to commemorate the activities of my Patriot ancestor during the American Revolution. The contributions of many of our ancestors were forgotten over time, only to be re-discovered by research. Gershom Beach was living in western Vermont in the early 1770s when grants for land were contested between New York and New Hampshire. The Green Mountain Boys, a local militia, was formed to repel New Yorkers trying to occupy their land. In May 1775 Gershom, a friend of Ethan Allen, helped round up the militia to capture Ft. Ticonderoga from the British. They did so without firing a shot! In 1777 the British were able to re-take the fort in their campaign to isolate New England and separate it from the other colonies.



Bennington Battle Monument

In August 1777 the Green Mountain Boys were summons to Bennington, VT to stop British troops from taking southern Vermont. Gershom and three of his sons were part of the battle. This was the precursor that led to the surrender of the British at Saratoga, ending the British Army's occupation of New England. After the war, Gershom and some of his sons, like many others, migrated further west in search of other homesteads. Beach descendants now live throughout the United States.

