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# Kent Hampton's Capitol Report August 7, 2013

AUGUST 07TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Kent Hampton's Capitol Report August 7, 2013

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

## *The Smithsonian Institution Act*

*by President James K. Polk*

After a decade of debate about how best to spend a bequest left to America from an obscure English scientist, President [James K. Polk](#) signs the Smithsonian Institution Act into law.

In 1829, James Smithson died in Italy, leaving behind a will with a peculiar footnote. In the event that his only nephew died without any heirs, Smithson decreed that the whole of his estate would go to "the [United States](#) of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge." Smithson's curious bequest to a country that he had never visited aroused significant attention on both sides of the Atlantic.

Smithson had been a fellow of the venerable Royal Society of London from the age of 22, publishing numerous scientific papers on mineral composition, geology, and chemistry. In 1802, he overturned popular scientific opinion by proving that zinc carbonates were true carbonate minerals, and one type of zinc

carbonate was later named smithsonite in his honor.

Six years after his death, his nephew, Henry James Hungerford, indeed died without children, and on July 1, 1836, the U.S. Congress authorized acceptance of Smithson's gift. President [Andrew Jackson](#) sent diplomat Richard Rush to England to negotiate for transfer of the funds, and two years later Rush set sail for home with 11 boxes containing a total of 104,960 gold sovereigns, 8 shillings, and 7 pence, as well as Smithson's mineral collection, library, scientific notes, and personal effects. After the gold was melted down, it amounted to a fortune worth well over \$500,000. After considering a series of recommendations, including the creation of a national university, a public library, or an astronomical observatory, Congress agreed that the bequest would support the creation of a museum, a library, and a program of research, publication, and collection in the sciences, arts, and history. On August 10, 1846, the act establishing the Smithsonian Institution was signed into law by President James K. Polk.

Today, the Smithsonian is composed of 19 museums and galleries including the recently announced National Museum of African American History and Culture, nine research facilities throughout the United States and the world, and the national zoo. Besides the original Smithsonian Institution Building, popularly known as the "Castle," visitors to [Washington, D.C.](#), tour the National Museum of Natural History, which houses the natural science collections, the National Zoological Park, and the National Portrait Gallery. The National Museum of American History houses the original Star-Spangled Banner and other artifacts of U.S. history. The National Air and Space Museum has the distinction of being the most visited museum in the world, exhibiting such marvels of aviation and space history as the Wright brothers' plane and Freedom 7, the space capsule that took the first American into space. John Smithson, the Smithsonian Institution's great benefactor, is interred in a tomb in the Smithsonian Building.

As always, it is an honor to serve you in the Missouri House. If you would like to discuss any issue, please call 573-751-3629. You can also email me at [kent.hampton@house.mo.gov](mailto:kent.hampton@house.mo.gov) . I look forward to hearing from you.

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## Kent Hampton's Capitol Report July 31, 2013

JULY 31ST 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Kent Hampton's Capitol Report July 31, 2013

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

### Christopher Columbus

### Sailed the Ocean Blue

Italian explorer [Christopher Columbus](#) sets foot on the American mainland for the first time, at the Paria Peninsula in present-day Venezuela. Thinking it an island, he christened it Isla Santa and claimed it for Spain.

Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451. Little is known of his early life, but he worked as a seaman and then a sailing entrepreneur. He became obsessed with the possibility of pioneering a western sea route to Cathay (China), India, and the fabled gold and spice islands of Asia. At the time, Europeans knew no

direct sea route to southern Asia, and the route via Egypt and the Red Sea was closed to Europeans by the Ottoman Empire, as were many land routes. Contrary to popular legend, educated Europeans of Columbus' day did believe that the world was round, as argued by St. Isidore in the seventh century. However, Columbus, and most others, underestimated the world's size, calculating that East Asia must lie approximately where North America sits on the globe (they did not yet know that the Pacific Ocean existed).

With only the Atlantic Ocean, he thought, lying between Europe and the riches of the East Indies, Columbus met with King John II of Portugal and tried to persuade him to back his "Enterprise of the Indies," as he called his plan. He was rebuffed and went to Spain, where King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella also rejected him at least twice. However, after the Spanish conquest of the Moorish kingdom of Granada in January 1492, the Spanish monarchs, flush with victory, agreed to support his voyage.

On August 3, 1492, Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, with three small ships, the Santa María, the Pinta, and the Niña. On October 12, the expedition sighted land, probably Watling Island in the Bahamas, and went ashore the same day, claiming it for Spain. Later that month, Columbus sighted Cuba, which he thought was mainland China, and in December the expedition landed on Hispaniola, which Columbus thought might be Japan. He established a small colony there with 39 of his men. The explorer returned to Spain with gold, spices, and "Indian" captives in March 1493 and was received with the highest honors by the Spanish court. He was given the title "admiral of the ocean sea," and a second expedition was promptly organized. He was the first European to explore the Americas since the [Vikings](#) set up colonies in Greenland and Newfoundland in the 10th century.

Fitted out with a large fleet of 17 ships with 1,500 colonists aboard, Columbus set out from Cádiz in September 1493 on his second voyage to the New World. Landfall was made in the Lesser Antilles in November. Returning to Hispaniola, he found the men he left there slaughtered by the natives, and he founded a second colony. Sailing on, he explored Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and numerous smaller islands in the Caribbean. Columbus returned to Spain in June 1496 and was greeted less warmly, as the yield from the second voyage had fallen well short of its costs.

Isabella and Ferdinand, still greedy for the riches of the East, agreed to a smaller third voyage and instructed Columbus to find a strait to India. In May 1498,

Columbus left Spain with six ships, three filled with colonists and three with provisions for the colony on Hispaniola. This time, he made landfall on Trinidad. He entered the Gulf of Paria in Venezuela and planted the Spanish flag in South America on August 1, 1498. He explored the Orinoco River of Venezuela and, given its scope, soon realized he had stumbled upon another continent. Columbus, a deeply religious man, decided after careful thought that Venezuela was the outer regions of the Garden of Eden.

Returning to Hispaniola, he found that conditions on the island had deteriorated under the rule of his brothers, Diego and Bartholomew. Columbus' efforts to restore order were marked by brutality, and his rule came to be deeply resented by both the colonists and the native Taino chiefs. In 1500, Spanish chief justice Francisco de Bobadilla arrived at Hispaniola, sent by Isabella and Ferdinand to investigate complaints, and Columbus and his brothers were sent back to Spain in chains.

He was immediately released upon his return, and Ferdinand and Isabella agreed to finance a fourth voyage, in which he was to search for the earthly paradise and the realms of gold said to lie nearby. He was also to continue looking for a passage to India. In May 1502, Columbus left Cádiz on his fourth and final voyage to the New World. After returning to Hispaniola, against his patrons' wishes, he explored the coast of Central America looking for a strait and for gold. Attempting to return to Hispaniola, his ships, in poor condition, had to be beached on Jamaica. Columbus and his men were marooned, but two of his captains succeed in canoeing the 450 miles to Hispaniola. Columbus was a castaway on Jamaica for a year before a rescue ship arrived.

In November 1504, Columbus returned to Spain. Queen Isabella, his chief patron, died less than three weeks later. Although Columbus enjoyed substantial revenue from Hispaniola gold during the last years of his life, he repeatedly attempted (unsuccessfully) to gain an audience with King Ferdinand, whom he felt owed him further redress. Columbus died in Valladolid on May 20, 1506, without realizing the great scope of his achievement: *He had discovered for Europe the New World, whose riches over the next century would help make Spain the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth.*

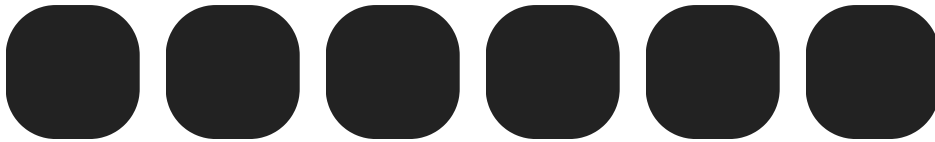
A big shout out to the Campbell Cannons baseball team for being Missouri State Champs! See ya in Church Sunday!! The lesson to be learned is "It's all right to give out, BUT never give up.

***As always, it is an honor to serve you in the Missouri House. If you would like to discuss any issue, please call 573-751-3629. You can also email me at [kent.hampton@house.mo.gov](mailto:kent.hampton@house.mo.gov). I look forward to hearing from you.***

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## First Lady Georganne Nixon Achieves First 100 Missouri Miles

JULY 28TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

First Lady Georganne Nixon Achieves First 100 Missouri Miles

**Jefferson City, Missouri** – First Lady Georganne Nixon today announced that she had logged her first 100 miles in the Governor’s 100 Missouri Miles Challenge and encouraged Missourians to join her and Governor as they continue to log miles throughout the state. Gov. Jay Nixon and the First Lady launched the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge to celebrate the state’s distinction as “Best Trails State” and to encourage

Missouri families to enjoy the outdoors. The challenge invites Missourians to log on to MO.gov and complete 100 miles of outdoor physical activity by the end of the year.

“The Governor and I have had the opportunity to walk with hundreds of Missourians taking the Governor’s 100 Missouri Miles Challenge, and we look forward to walking with hundreds more,” Mrs. Nixon said. “Since the official launch last month, more than 5,000 Missourians have signed up to take the Challenge and have logged over 200,000 miles in every corner of the state. I’m proud to share this journey with so many fellow Missourians who are walking, running, biking, rolling and paddling 100 miles to support Missouri’s proud outdoor traditions and improve their health.”

Joined by Gov. Nixon, the First Lady’s logged her one-hundredth mile at Katy Trail State Park, the nation’s longest rails-to-trails project. She walks an average of 3.3 miles per outing. The First Lady joins more than 600 participants who have completed their first 100 miles, and she plans to continue logging miles, including paddling on some of the state’s lakes and rivers.

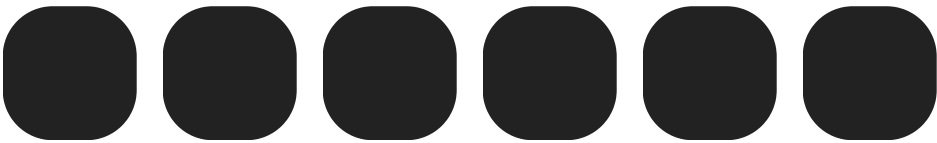
More than 5,500 participants have logged more than 220,000 miles since 100 Missouri Miles kicked off in June. Participants can run, walk, bike, ride, swim, paddle or roll on trails or other outdoor venues to achieve the challenge of 100 Missouri Miles.

For more information and to take the Challenge, visit MO.gov. Participants can also share adventures, post photos and learn about upcoming events by connecting with 100 Missouri Miles on Facebook and Twitter.

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## Nixon Completes 100 Missouri Miles Challenge on Katy Trail

JULY 28TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

Nixon Completes 100 Missouri Miles Challenge on Katy Trail

*Submitted by  
Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** – Gov. Jay Nixon on Saturday completed the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge with a 12.5 mile hike on the Katy Trail. The Governor and First Lady have both completed the Challenge and are encouraging Missourians to join them as they continue to log miles as part of this initiative to promote physical fitness and the outdoors.

Participation in the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge continues to surge with involvement from private employers, non-profit organizations, fitness groups and health advocates. Since the June 1st launch, more than 5,700 Missourians have walked, run, biked, paddled and rolled more than 240,000 miles on Missouri's greenways and blueways. In fact, more than 700 Missourians have already completed the Challenge, with many continuing to log miles independently and as groups using the new function on the 100MissouriMiles.com site.

"The response to this initiative has been overwhelming, with more than 5,700 Missourians completing more than 240,000 miles in the first seven weeks alone," Gov. Nixon said. "The First Lady and I are proud to join the hundreds of Missourians who have completed the Challenge and who continue to log miles on Missouri's award-winning trails system. With thousands of miles of outstanding trails to explore and more Missourians joining each day, we look forward to achieving our 1 million mile goal later



this year.”

Missouri was recently named the “Best Trails State” by American Trails, a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting our nation's hiking, biking and riding trails. The award recognized efforts by federal, state and local agencies as well as private organizations to expand and improve Missouri’s comprehensive recreational trail system, which offers trails for a wide range of interests and abilities, including hikers, backpackers, cyclists, paddlers and equestrians.

To celebrate this distinction and promote Missouri’s outstanding trails system and the health benefits of physical activity, the Governor and First Lady launched the 100 Missouri Miles Challenge, inviting Missourians to complete 100 miles of outdoor physical activity by the end of the year. Since the official launch of the initiative on June 1, 5,700 participants have run, walked, biked, paddled and rolled more than 240,000 miles, including 114 miles by the Governor. The First Lady, who completed the Challenge on July 13, has logged 123 miles.

Missouri State Parks offers almost 1,000 miles of managed trails and the state claims more than 500 miles of National Recreation Trails designated by the U.S. Department of Interior. Notable trails include the Lewis and Clark, Trail of Tears, Santa Fe National Historic Trails, and the Katy Trail, the longest developed rail-trail in the nation.

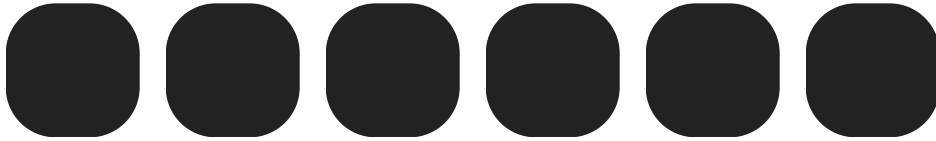
Missouri State Parks was also named recently as a top-four finalist for the 2013 National Gold Medal Awards. The Gold Medal Awards program honors communities that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning and program development. This recognition is a reflection of the state's dedication to protecting and preserving Missouri's natural resources.

The Governor’s 100 Missouri Miles Challenge is a partnership with the Missouri State Parks, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Division of Tourism. For more information and to take the Challenge, visit [MO.gov](http://MO.gov). Participants can also share adventures, post photos and learn about upcoming events by connecting with 100 Missouri Miles on Facebook and Twitter.

To take the Governor’s 100 Missouri Miles Challenge, visit **[www.mo.gov](http://www.mo.gov)**.

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## Kent Hampton's Capitol Report July 26, 2013

JULY 26TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Kent Hampton's Capitol Report July 26, 2013

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

**1st Postmaster General,**

**Mr. Benjamin Franklin**

On this day in 1775, the U.S. postal system is established by the Second [Continental Congress](#), with [Benjamin Franklin](#) as its first postmaster general. Franklin (1706-1790) put in place the foundation for many aspects of today's mail

system. During early colonial times in the 1600s, few American colonists needed to send mail to each other; it was more likely that their correspondence was with letter writers in Britain. Mail deliveries from across the Atlantic were sporadic and could take many months to arrive. There were no post offices in the colonies, so mail was typically left at inns and taverns. In 1753, Benjamin Franklin, who had been postmaster of Philadelphia, became one of two joint postmasters general for the colonies. He made numerous improvements to the mail system, including setting up new, more efficient colonial routes and cutting delivery time in half between Philadelphia and [New York](#) by having the weekly mail wagon travel both day and night via relay teams. Franklin also debuted the first rate chart, which standardized delivery costs based on distance and weight. In 1774, the British fired Franklin from his postmaster job because of his revolutionary activities. However, the following year, he was appointed postmaster general of the United Colonies by the Continental Congress. Franklin held the job until late in 1776, when he was sent to France as a diplomat. He left a vastly improved mail system, with routes from [Florida](#) to [Maine](#) and regular service between the colonies and Britain. President [George Washington](#) appointed Samuel Osgood, a former [Massachusetts](#) congressman, as the first postmaster general of the American nation under the new [U.S. constitution](#) in 1789. At the time, there were approximately 75 post offices in the country.

Today, the [United States](#) has over 40,000 post offices and the postal service delivers 212 billion pieces of mail each year to over 144 million homes and businesses in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the American Virgin Islands and American Samoa. The postal service is the nation's largest civilian employer, with over 700,000 career workers, who handle more than 44 percent of the world's cards and letters. The postal service is a not-for-profit, self-supporting agency that covers its expenses through postage (stamp use in the United States started in 1847) and related products. The postal service gets the mail delivered, rain or shine, using everything from planes to mules. However, it's not cheap: The U.S. Postal Service says that when fuel costs go up by just one penny, its own costs rise by \$8 million.

Citizens and Legislators Working Group on Medicaid Eligibility and Reform will hold a hearing to discuss Missouri's system of Medicaid and will accept public input. The hearing will be held next Wednesday, July 31st at the B.A.I.L.S. center in Kennett from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you wish to testify, please contact our office at (573) 751-3629. Your participation is appreciated.

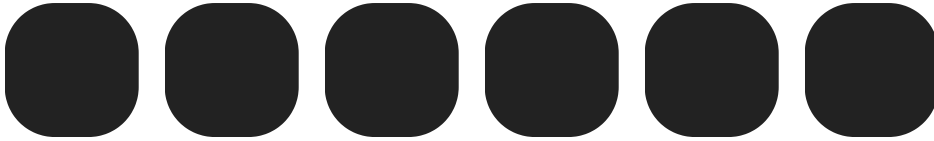
See ya in Church Sunday!!

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