



NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

March 2011

Dedicated to the recognition, preservation, and restoration of Greater Kansas City's unique heritage

Sacagawea Plaque Dedication at Fort Osage, April 23rd

At 1:00 p.m., we'll have remarks by Steve Wilson, Site Administrator of Fort Osage, Chick Stessman for Lewis and Clark Riverbend chapter and Dan Sturdevant for the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City. In addition, we'll have dancers from Haskell Indian University in Lawrence, Kansas, and concluding with the unveiling of Sabra Tull Meyer's Sacagawea plaque.



Sacagawea on the \$1 coin

the fort was re-used by pioneers and local farmers. Over time, this resulted in no standing structures at the fort. In the 1940s, the Native Sons, as was originally named, was the primary civic group to organize, promote, and fund the re-building of the Ft. Osage currently standing.

Majors House and Wornall House Combine Operations

In January, the operations of the historic Majors site merged with the operations of the historic John B. Wornall House, 61st Terrace and Wornall, in Kansas City, Missouri. Operations of the Majors site and the Wornall house are now owned and managed by the Wornall House Board of Directors as a not-for-profit organization. For further information, please contact Kandice Walker, Executive Director of the Wornall House at 816.444.1858 or kandice@wornallhouse.org.

Gary Hicks, NSDKC President in 2010, was selected to serve on an advisory committee for the Majors site for the Wornall-Majors Board of Directors.

More details will be sent closer to the event.

Trader and explorer Henry Brakenridge kept a journal in 1811, documenting his experiences on the Missouri River upriver from St. Louis. His entries, considered to be accurate, are the basis to prove Sacagawea's presence at Ft. Osage.

Ft. Osage fell into disuse after its closing around 1830. Historians believe the wood used to build the

Harry S. Truman Maquette Unveiled at Jackson County Courthouse

The Native Sons and Daughters presented a maquette of Harry S. Truman to the citizens of Jackson County, Missouri, on Monday, February 7, at the Jackson County Courthouse in Kansas City. The presentation was made to Mike Sanders, County Executive, and Greg Grounds, member of the County Legislature.

The maquette, a model of a sculptural project, was prepared by renowned sculptor Bruce Wolfe in 2005. This was part of an ongoing plan by the Native Sons and Daughters to honor President Truman. According to John Dillingham, past president of the Native Sons and Daughters, "the original commission to Bruce Wolfe was part of a program to have a 26-foot cast bronze sculpture of the President placed at Union Station or some other prominent location in the area." The casting and placement of a Truman sculpture remains an ongoing project.

Dan Sturdevant, past president of Native Sons and Daughters and current chair of the Truman *continued on page 3*

President's Letter

Greetings fellow Sons and Daughters! It gives me great pleasure to write my inaugural president's letter for the first 2011 issue of Journal Notes.

Things are getting under way to a fast start with our events and tours. Coming up is our tour of Arrowhead Stadium scheduled for Saturday, March 12. On April 14, we'll hold a Meet & Greet event at the Wornall House. On April 23, we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the visit to Fort Osage of Sacagawea. On June 12, we will visit Arrow Rock, Missouri, hosted by Whitney and Day Kerr. We will dine in the old Tavern and see a delightful play at the Lyceum Theatre. You will receive more information on these tours and events by regular mail and email. Future tours and events will be posted in our June/July Newsletter. We encourage all members and their family and friends to attend these great tours and events!

Any time you would like to recruit new members - and we certainly encourage you to do so - you may request a membership application from Susie Hughes or John Hess, Jr. Susie's email address is listed below and John's email address is membership@nsdkc.org. If you do recruit a new member, please have the new member complete and sign the application; sign it yourself as sponsor, and then forward the application with the prospective member's check to Susie Hughes, P.O. Box 10046, Kansas City, MO 64171-0046.

We've found that many members do not open their email messages from NSDKC or open them infrequently! Please make it a point to do so. Email is a great method for informing our members of current events and happenings as well as the workings of your Board of Directors. In the future, please look for messages from the NSDKC in your inbox! Furthermore, if your email addresses have changed or we do not have your email addresses, please contact Susie Hughes at secretary@nsdkc.org, and copy the webmaster at webmaster@nsdkc.org.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you at future tours, events and Membership meetings!

Norman O. Besheer, President

Historic Map Collection Donated to the Native Sons and Daughters

At the February 9 board meeting, Ray and Nancy Elder donated a map collection to the Native Sons and Daughters. Ray and Nancy are life-long members. He and Nancy have been collecting historic maps of the development of Kansas City, Missouri, dating back about 160 years.

The donation came about through a meeting between Joe Vaughan, past president and current historian of NSDKC, and Ray Elder during the Town of Kansas marker dedication in June, 2010. Ray and Nancy gave several items of historical interest to the Native Sons and Daughters. These include the map collection, a digital archive of the collection, and a 20-page document about the 8th Street Streetcar Tunnel, closed in 1956, and located near present day 8th and Broadway. Ray has been conducting research on the streetcar tunnel for many years.

The board presented Ray and Nancy with a commemorative plaque marking their contributions to documenting another facet of Kansas City's history. Dave Boutros, Associate Archivist and Historian of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, was on hand to receive those historic items on behalf of NSDKC and Ray and Nancy Elder.

Spring Meet and Greet at the John Wornall House, April 14

The spring Meet & Greet will be held April 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the John Wornall House in Kansas City, Missouri. We will see the stone lithographs depicting the four seasons recently restored with funding from the Native Sons and Daughters. We will also tour the historic home. In addition, we will hear Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph play a few pieces on the Steinway Square Grand Piano (circa 1866) which he restored in 1987. Meet & Greets give potential members an opportunity to learn more about us and grow our organization. Please invite your friends, family and colleagues. I am excited about this event and look forward to seeing you there!

John Hess, Jr., Membership Chair



John Wornall House in Kansas City



Orchestral piano at the Majors House

Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph to Restore Antique Piano at Majors House

At the 2010 Holiday Brunch, member Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph announced he will be restoring the antique orchestral piano in the parlor at the Majors House. Restoration begins this spring.

The estimated cost is \$10,000, towards which Dr. Bruce is donating \$5,000. Donations from other members exceed \$3,000. In the spirit of historic preservation, members are encouraged to donate funds to the restoration. Please contact Dr. Prince-Joseph for further details and donation inquiries.

Arrowhead Stadium Tour Scheduled for March

We've scheduled a guided tour of Arrowhead Stadium in March for members only. Invitations will be sent shortly.

The Truman Sports Complex was built for about \$43 million and opened in 1973. In 1973, it was innovative and ahead of its time for the concept of twin stadiums. While other stadiums of the 1970's have been demolished and replaced, the Jackson County Sports Authority made the decision to spend \$500 million to renovate the original structures. Joe Vaughan, past president, and host of this event, says this tour is a lesson in history. The guided tour will take us through areas of Arrowhead not open to the public. We will hear how concepts of the state-of-the-art facility have changed over more than 40 years. Because the late owner, Lamar Hunt, was a founder of the AFL in 1960, we will see artifacts for the non-existent AFL that are not housed in the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, but remain in the Hunt family private collection.

Truman Maquette, continued from page 1

Statue Project committee, worked with Jackson County officials to establish a prominent place for displaying the maquette in the Kansas City courthouse. Truman had an office there during most of his first term as U.S. Senator.

In making the announcement of the presentation of the maquette, 2010 Native Sons and Daughters president Gary L. Hicks wrote, "The Native Sons and Daughters is pleased with the transfer of the maquette to the Kansas City Jackson County Courthouse. This setting for the maquette will generate increased interest in the Truman Statue project while paying tribute to President Truman." During the past five years, the maquette has been in storage at Union Station through the courtesy of Union Station's Executive Director George Guastello and Denise Morrison.

The work of Bruce Wolfe is familiar to Kansas City. Wolfe was the sculptor of the 9-foot illuminated statue of former Mayor Ilus W. Davis located in the Ilus Davis Park north of the City Hall in downtown Kansas City.

Norman O. Besheer, current Native Sons and Daughters president, noted the efforts of others who have made this presentation possible. Craig Mosher, Jackson County, and Christopher Leitch, Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall, provided a display case for the maquette. Paul Churchill, owner of Monarch Fine Arts Services, provided his company's service for the transfer of the maquette from Union Station to the Courthouse.



Truman maquette at the Jackson County Courthouse

New Members

Kevin Amey, Bill Bell, Benjamin Caldwell, Mary Davidson Cohen, Nancy Cramer, Carl Felling, Karen "Kasey" Felling, Vicki Headley, Andrew Huber, Debbie LeGrotte, Dennis Saugstad, Ann Saugstad, and Cathy Swenson

Obituaries

Bill Brinton
George McCarten

Events Planned for 2011

- A tour of Arrowhead Stadium, arranged by Joe Vaughan, scheduled for March 12. Details soon.
- A celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Sacagawea's overnight stay at Fort Osage, arranged by Dan Sturdevant on April 23 at 1:00 p.m. Optional lunch in Independence at 11:00 a.m. We will present a commemorative plaque, followed by a tour of Fort Osage.
- A bus trip to Arrow Rock, Missouri, hosted by Whitney and Day Kerr, on June 11. Lunch is planned at the Old Tavern, and a play in the Lyceum Theatre, with additional activities to be announced closer to the date.
- An all-day Tour of the Three Trails, on September 10, led by Ross Marshall. This tour focuses on the Trails routes in eastern Jackson County.
- The Outstanding Kansas Citizen Dinner, in October, with details to come.
- The Annual Holiday Brunch at Indian Hills Country Club, December 10.

Find more news, information, and photos at <http://www.nsdkc.org>

Bequests

Including the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc., a 501(c)(3) tax exempt Missouri corporation, offers members the opportunity to make a gift which will support our efforts to preserve and promote local history for years to come. A legacy may be granted to one of the Native Sons and Daughters projects as designated for use in future projects to be established and approved by the board of directors.

For more information, please contact Norm Besheer, 2011 President at president@nsdkc.org



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