ALEXANDER MAJORS (portrayed by Gary L. Hicks)

Mr. Hicks served as President of NSDKC in 2010 and is retired from a 45-year career engineering profession as a Civil / Structural Engineer and 'Project Cost Estimator'. For a decade he has researched the life of renown historic figure of ALEXANDER MAJORS (1814-1900) and has portrayed Mr. Majors to more than 50 various groups. Mr. Hicks is actively engaged in historic preservation, advocacy, and education, both locally and nationally, and is a member of the numerous historic associations.

Following is a synopsis of the life of Alexander Majors:

Alexander Majors' contributions were profound to the advancement of Christian civilization during the western expansion movement of our nation in the middle 1800's. Throughout most of the 19th century Majors was influenced by, and greatly influenced, the growth and development of a new nation expanding westward, emerging forth with the promise of freedom and opportunity. Some perhaps remember Alexander Majors as the co-founder of the famed Pony Express, yet Majors' name is readily associated as a partner in the great freighting firm of <u>Russell Majors & Waddell (RM&W)</u>. His life in the 1800s touched many aspects of historic proportion in our Nation's trek westward of which we benefit today!

As Majors life evolved in its 86 years, he witnessed a maturing nation through most of the 19th century to the turn of the 20th century. Mr. Hicks' presentation is intended to offer insight into the character and nature of 'Alexander Majors', introducing his remarkable life and contributions to our nation, revealing a perspective of his legacy which is an example to emulate. History reveals Majors as a man of destiny, who from his humble beginnings, placed a distinctive mark on the 19th century, which remains today on the industries of transportation, commerce, trade, communications, manufacturing, and livestock.

Mr. Hicks' portrayal as MAJORS is typically a min. of 45 minutes in length. Time for questions following the presentation is encouraged.

Mr. Hicks offers (3) distinct programs focused around the life of MAJORS as follows:

<u>Program No. 1 (Alexander Majors and the Course of the Nation)</u>: (a min. of 45 minutes in length) This program presents the life and times of Majors and the numerous contributions he made to the western expansion movement of our Nation in the 1800's. As Majors, Mr. Hicks reflects the life of Alexander Majors (known in his lifetime as the <u>Great Freighter of the West</u>, and <u>The Christain Freighter</u> <u>of the Frontier</u>), and his remarkable exploits during his 86 years on America's frontier. Topics typically include faith; family; business ventures such as homesteading; freighting; stage lines; Pony Express, silver mining, personal acquaintances, and writing of his memoirs. The look back on Majors' life reveals the prominent historic figures he influenced, some profound life experiences, including today's memorials to the life of <u>Alexander Jackson Majors</u>.....

<u>Program No. 2 (Political intrigue and the Pony Express)</u>: (a min. of 45 minutes in length)

With this program, Mr. Hicks' draws from his research of Alexander Majors, his partners, and the political times preceding the Civil War, to provide an intriguing perspective on the creation and operation of the famed Pony Express, which operated from April 3, 1860 to October, 1861.

Presenting <u>as</u> 'Alexander Majors', Mr. Hicks explores the nation's desire in the 1850's for a faster overland mail service to California on the west coast. Mr. Hicks offers <u>his</u> personal perspective (thru Majors) how pre-Civil War politics may have influenced the creation of the PONY. It is proposed the primary force behind the creation of the PONY was a subversive tactic intended to benefit a political cause, and not to benefit the business interests of Majors' firm [the <u>Central Overland California & Pikes</u> <u>Peak Express Company (COC)</u>], which was the parent company of the Pony Express, following the reorganization of the firm RUSSELL, MAJORS & WADDELL in January, 1860. This presentation does not diminish the challenges and courage of the riders and operators of the Pony Express which proved that a fast, overland mail service was possible between Saint Joseph, MO to Sacramento/San Francisco, CA. The PONY made its run typically in 10-days between St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento-San Francisco before the telegraph connected the east coast to the west coast in October of 1860. The contribution of the Pony Express to our nation's history is profound, and should be further appreciated by this program.

<u>Combined - Program's No.1 and No.2</u>:

Mr. Hicks weaves together an in-depth perspective of Majors life combining the subject matters contained within Programs #1 and #2 above. (note: <u>This program requires 50-60 minutes to effectively</u> develop the context of significant engagements of Majors life.)

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