



# Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

August 2010

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

## Town of Kansas Marker Dedicated

The Town of Kansas historic marker was dedicated by the Native Sons and Daughters June 3rd. The event was held on the 160th anniversary of the chartering of the Town of Kansas. Master of ceremonies, Honorable Tom Sims, introduced the speakers. Speakers included Mayor Mark Funkhouser, former Kansas City, Missouri, City Manager Bob Collins, Kansas City, Missouri, Councilwoman Joanne Collins, Westport Historical Society Treasurer Dan Smith, Jackson County Historical Society President Dan Jackson, Native Sons and Daughters Marker Committee Chairman Roger Smith, and Past Native Sons and Daughters President Joe Vaughan. Approximately 75 attended the event.

The marker is located near the southeast corner of the pedestrian bridge at 1st Street and Main Street in downtown Kansas City, Missouri.

The dedication of this marker represents a milestone in the effort to commemorate the Town of Kansas site and the 12-year efforts of Toms Sims in advocating for the commemoration of the Town of Kansas site, and the research for the marker's narrative.

## Majors House Event Attracts 140

On July 10th, 140 people gathered at the Alexander Majors House to promote his life and achievements and showcase the Alexander Majors House at 83rd and State Line, in Kansas City, Missouri. This event provided an opportunity for our community to support the preservation of this historic site and to promote the contributions of Alexander Majors to our nation's heritage.



President Gary Hicks conducted the evening's events, with member Ross Marshall presenting Majors' history, followed by Dan Sturdevant's 3-D's *Cowboy Band* performing western song favorites. The event was coordinated by Dan Sturdevant and Hicks with the assistance of many other members. Member Joe Huber is current president of the Majors Foundation.

## OKC Banquet, September 23rd

Please join us Thursday, September 23, at 6:00 p.m. at the Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, for the Outstanding Kansas Citian dinner and award ceremony.

This year's recipient is Tom McDonnell, CEO of DST Systems and member of the Native Sons and Daughters. Tom is known in the Kansas City community as a civic leader, promoter of the arts, philanthropist, and for his work to preserve many historical buildings in downtown Kansas City. Tom is the 46th recipient of the award, first presented in 1973.

You'll receive an invitation shortly. Please RSVP promptly, as seating is limited. Complimentary self-parking will be available..

## Hicks Speaks at SAR Chapter

President Gary Hicks spoke at the Tuesday, May 11th meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution, Alexander Majors Chapter. Gary discussed the history of the Native Sons and Daughters, as well as the connection between the Native Sons and Daughters and the Alexander Majors House. He pointed to the renewed emphasis and energy directed towards again making the site viable.

# President's Letter

These past several months, the Native Sons and Daughters have been most active in our community, and with our committees. Since May 1st, we have dedicated three historic markers; toured the historic Grinter Place, facilitated a July 10th showcase event at the historic Majors' House, and completed the arduous task of updating bylaws. We are moving forward on the September 23rd OKC event, the August Meet & Greet, and the October tour to Independence. The 2010-2011 Roster has been mailed as well.

As a Corporation, we remain financially sound through the solid financial management services of FCI Counselors, Inc., and with the guidance of our Treasurer, Jim Flanagan. Additionally, many carry-over issues from previous years are being finalized this year by the Board.

Yet most significantly, we are nurturing and strengthening alliances throughout the historic community, with a special focus at this time on the Majors site. We commend the efforts of NSDKC member Joe Huber, current president of Alexander Majors Historic Foundation, and the John Wornall House Board of Directors, as they develop a strategic plan to preserve the Majors site and promote the legacy of Alexander Majors. NSDKC has been honored to play a part in this renewal process.

Through our newsletter, website, email communications and bylaws, we are girded, informed and educated with enhanced capability to administer and enjoy the activities of our organization. As we each engage in our historic pursuits, we nurture NSDKC's cause for charity, advocacy, preservation, and education. Each member is a valued link in historic preservation. It is vital that we stay continuously informed through our website, email communications, and participation in our activities. The newsletter is a great tool, yet only arrives four times a year.

We can be proud of our achievements in 2010 as we proudly serve to preserve our fine Greater Kansas City heritage.

*Gary L. Hicks, President*

# Ashley Marker Dedication

On Thursday, May 21, the Native Sons and Daughters dedicated a marker near the southeast corner of 55th Street and Brookside Boulevard in Kansas City, Missouri. The event was attended by approximately 75.

This marker commemorates James and Pamela Ashley's efforts to preserve the 1870's railroad right-of-way as a walking, jogging, and bicycling trail. Mr. Ashley's vision made it possible for future utilization of the corridor for rail passenger service.

The dedication ceremony, conducted by President Gary Hicks, included remarks by 1st Vice-President Norm Besheer representing the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority R-O-W Committee. Mr. Jerry Riffel, Counsel to the KCATA, remarked on the history of the Country Club Street Car Line. Whitney Kerr, project chair, reflected on the Ashley's determination to preserve the right-of-way. Whitney led a two-year effort to have the marker and its narrative placed. Pamela Ashley offered remarks on behalf of the family. Jan Marcason, 4th district representative, paid tribute to the Ashleys and the KCATA for working to bring the Trolley track trail to the city.

# New Members

Justin Watson

James Houk

James and Christie Biggs

# Obituaries

Former member Bruce Rathjen

# Meet and Greet, August 18



We'll meet at the entrance of Kauffman Gardens Wednesday, August 18th, at 5:30 p.m. for our Meet & Greet. The one-hour tour will start at 5:45 p.m. Meet & Greets give potential members an opportunity to learn more about us and grow our organization. Please invite your friends, family, and colleagues.

The Ewing and Muriel Kauffman Memorial Garden is part of the Kauffman Legacy Park. The Garden is on the west side of Rockhill Road at Volker Boulevard, just north of UMKC, and just south of the Nelson-Atkins. The garden showcases bronze sculptures by Tom Corbin, fountains, and constantly updated annual plantings, as well as perennials. The garden is also the gravesite of Ewing and Muriel Kauffman.

The Garden is located at 4800 Rockhill Road, in Kansas City, Missouri. Please plan to attend and bring prospective members. Please email John Hess, Jr. at [jfhsuccess1@hotmail.com](mailto:jfhsuccess1@hotmail.com) with questions. You should have received an invitation and RSVP via email already. Members not receiving email will be sent an invitation soon.

## Atkins-Johnson Farmhouse in Gladstone Site of New Marker

The dedication of the marker for the historic Atkins-Johnson Farm in Gladstone is scheduled for Saturday, September 25. The Friends of the Atkins-Johnson Farm are hosting a potluck dinner at 5:00 p.m. at Happy Rock West Park with a shuttle bus to the farm for the dedication of the Native Sons and Daughters historic marker at 6:30 p.m. House tours follow the dedication.

The board of the Friends of the Atkins-Johnson Farm will be providing a meat dish for the event. We're asking everyone attending to bring a dish to share at the potluck.

## Speakers Bureau Looking for Members

Please contact David Baumgartner at 913.649.9845 for details on becoming a member of this new group. This is a great opportunity for members to share their knowledge of history in our region with a larger audience.

## Truman Maquette Statue

The Native Sons and Daughters are working to permanently place the sculptured maquette statue of Harry Truman at the Jackson County Courthouse. The maquette was created several years ago in order to place a large bronze statue on the vacant pedestal on the south side of the Union Station façade. The project has changed, but the maquette is available. Once a display case is constructed, the maquette will be relocated from storage to the Courthouse. We're looking forward to seeing it in place later this year.

## Tour to Independence, Vaile Mansion, Courthouse on October 9

A tour of Independence is scheduled for Saturday, October 9th. Invitations, with details, will be sent soon. We will meet at Independence Square at 10:00 a.m. and finish the tour at 4:00 p.m.

The tour includes a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Jackson County Courthouse in Independence, the restored Alton-Chicago Train Depot, and the Vaile Mansion for a tour and high tea. Please plan on joining us.

## 50 Attend Grinter Marker Rededication

On May 15th, The Native Sons and Daughters toured the Grinter House, the oldest unaltered building in Wyandotte County, Kansas. During construction at the Grinter House in Kansas City, Kansas, the marker erected by the Native Sons and Daughters was put in storage. Unfortunately, the storage location was lost, and the marker went missing for many years. Dan Sturdevant's efforts to locate the marker were successful, and the marker was located, re-erected, and re-dedicated. 50 attended the event, with lunch provided by the Lions Club and Grinter Friends.

In 1831, Moses Grinter established the first ferry on the Kansas River at a site named Delaware Crossing. In 1857, Grinter began building a Kentucky-style home using brick, mortar, and lumber produced on site.

## Ziegler Speaks at Boone Family Meeting

The Boone family met at the Intercontinental Hotel on the Plaza Hotel June 10th. Grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other Boone descendents attended and heard Native Sons and Daughter member Herb Zigler present his research on Boone.

Member Tom Sims also highlighted the work of George Hicks and the Native Sons and Daughters in revitalizing Boone-Hays Park. Ziegler presented a photo of George at the park.

In addition, the group heard about Nathan Boone's purchase of the land of the Osage Indians and the founding of Fort Osage. The Native Sons and Daughters were instrumental in the rehabilitation of the Fort in the 1960s.

## Bylaw Changes Adopted

On July 20th, a special meeting was held at the Trailside Center, in Kansas City, Missouri, to review and adopt changes and modifications of the organization's bylaws.

The overhaul of the bylaws, is now complete with their adoption by a quorum of the membership. Updating our bylaws helps to support the leadership of the organization, provide a better understanding of the operations of the organization and its board, and clarifies duties and responsibilities of the offices of the organization. A functional and representative set of Bylaws is the basis of our operation. Congratulations to the Bylaws Committee and Board for their work and guidance through the review, approval and adoption process.

# Upcoming Events, Details Inside

Outstanding Kansas Citian Banquet and Award Ceremony, September 23

Historic Marker Dedication at Atkins–Johnson farm, September 25

October tour of Independence and Vaile Mansion, Saturday, October 9

## Members in the News

1st Vice–President Norm Besheer Attends Commissioning of The USS Missouri

On July 31, Norm and Pat Besheer attended the commissioning of the USS Missouri, a Virginia class nuclear attack submarine. Norm is a member of the Commissioning Committee for the new vessel. The USS Missouri was christened by Mrs. Robert Gates in December 2009, and was commissioned Saturday, July 31, at Groton, Connecticut.

Activities included a picnic with the 134 crew members and their families; a luncheon and a reception with the crew, the Commissioning Committee, Navy and Marine Corps veterans, and officials including Missouri Governor Nixon, Representative Ike Skelton, and Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill.

*Please see the special insert for the official notification of the slate for the 2011 director candidates.*

## Check your email!

Announcements, information, upcoming program invitations, and news that won't wait for the newsletter is coming to your inbox. The subject line will contain [Native Sons and Daughters] to help you find those messages more quickly. Please let us know your email address or if your email address changes.

## 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 the President of the Native Sons and Daughters, Gary Hicks, at [info@nsdkc.org](mailto:info@nsdkc.org)



Native Sons and Daughters of  
Greater Kansas City

P.O. Box 10046

Kansas City, MO 64171-0046

<http://www.nsdkc.org>

[info@nsdkc.org](mailto:info@nsdkc.org)



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