



# NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

May 2011

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

## Sacagawea Plaque Dedicated at Fort Osage

An overflow crowd of about 120 people attended the *Sacagawea at Fort Osage* 1811 bicentennial program on April 23, 2011 at Fort Osage, Sibley, Missouri, east of Independence Missouri. This was a fitting program to commemorate Sacagawea's stay at Ft. Osage in April 1811.

In the early 1940s, the then Native Sons of Kansas City was the primary historical group helping to

rebuild Fort Osage, a national historic monument.

The bicentennial

program was a product of the partnership of the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Ft. Osage Committee Chair John Hess, the Missouri Kansas Riverbend Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, [www.lewis-and-clark-kansas-city.org](http://www.lewis-and-clark-kansas-city.org). Sacagawea at Fort Osage committee chair Chick Stessman, and Fort Osage National Historical Monument, Gordon Julich and Steve Wilson.

The program began with the colorful, energetic, and informative *Big Soldier Creek Dancers* of Mayetta, Kansas. They not only performed traditional dances, but also put the dances in context by discussing the costumes and customs.

*continued on page 5*



*A Big Soldier Creek dancer performing at the dedication*



*Left to right, Dan Sturdevant; Lewis and Clark Elementary students Allison Swearingin and Erin Stevens; Sacagawea plaque sculptor Sabra Tull Meyer; Norm Besheer, President*

## Escorted Arrow Rock Trip coming Saturday June 11

You are invited to join us for a day trip to Arrow Rock, Missouri, on Saturday, June 11th. You won't want to miss seeing this river town founded in 1819. Seats are limited so please reserve now by calling Susie Hughes at 816.926.9397, or email to [secretary@nsdkc.org](mailto:secretary@nsdkc.org).

We will depart from 7th and Pennsylvania at the Lewis and Clark overlook at 8:30 a.m. in an airconditioned motor coach. In Arrow Rock, we will tour Day and Whitney Kerr's 1849 mansion, *Prairie Park*. We'll enjoy refreshments and learn the history of the Sappington family. We'll then have a family-style fried chicken lunch at the Joseph Huston Tavern in Arrow Rock, the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi. Afterwards, we will have a few minutes to tour the shops on the Boardwalk. At 2:00 p.m., we'll see the Lyceum Theater's production of *Forever Plaid*.

*continued on page 2*

# President's Letter

Greetings to my fellow members of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City. It has been a busy year so far. Many good things have been happening and exciting things are in store.

Coming June 11 is our trip to Arrow Rock, Missouri, where we will be welcomed by Whitney and Day Kerr in their antebellum home. Afterwards, we will have a family style lunch in the Joseph Huston Tavern, the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi. Following lunch, we will be entertained in the Lyceum Theatre with a production of *Forever Plaid*.

By now, you will have received a letter from me announcing the 2011 Outstanding Kansas Citizen recipient, Julia Irene Kaufman. The Outstanding Kansas Citizen event will be held Tuesday, October 25th, at the Kaufman Center for the Performing Arts, opening in September.

I urge you to enlist new members into our great organization. Applications may be found on our website, as well as with Susie Hughes, John Hess, Jr. and myself.

If you use email, please look for messages from NSDKC. Email is becoming more and more prevalent and provides information that could take days to hear about. Most organizations now use email as their primary source of communication.

Sincerely,  
Norm

# Spring Meet and Greet Held at Wornall House; June in Loose Park

The spring Meet & Greet was held April 14 at the John Wornall House. We had a turnout of about 35 members and prospective members. The group viewed the restored stone lithographs depicting the four seasons.

The restoration of the lithographs were funded by the Native Sons and Daughters. The group also toured the Wornall House.

Special thanks to Kandice Walker, Executive Director of the Wornall House, who helped make the event a success by providing appetizers, paper goods and answering questions. Attendees had the opportunity to mingle and sample white wines chosen by Membership Chair, John Hess, Jr. Thanks to everyone who attended.

The summer Meet & Greet will be held June 23rd from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Loose Park. We will learn about the Battle of Westport. The monument in Loose Park dedicated to the battle is on the right.



# Sigman Honored

Bob Sigman, opinion page editor of Sun Publications, and Native Sons and Daughters member, was named the United Community Services of Johnson County's Citizen of the Year.

Presentation of the award was in December, 2010. The award is made to an individual contributing to the well-being of Johnson County residents.

Bob is also first place winner in editorial writing and column writing in the Kansas Press Association's Awards of Excellence competition in the nondaily newspapers category.

# Arrow Rock Trip

*continued from page 2*

Enroute to Arrow Rock, Ross Marshall, President of the National Trails System and Secretary of the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, will treat us to the history of the area.

Meet the bus at 7th and Pennsylvania: take Broadway to 10th St., go west on 10th to Pennsylvania, Take a right or north on Pennsylvania to 7th and Pennsylvania, just north of the River Club.

\$70 includes transportation, lunch at the Tavern, the reception at Prairie Park, and the Lyceum Theater. Seats will be limited because of bus capacity, so make your reservation early.

Chuck Page  
Program Chairman

Whitney Kerr  
Arrow Rock host

# 150th Anniversary of Liberty Arsenal Raid Observed

NSDGKC members John Dillingham and Chris Sizemore joined representatives from historical organizations in Clay, Buchanan and Jackson counties to lead an observance of the April, 20, 1861 raid on the Liberty Arsenal. The observance was held near the original site of the arsenal at Highway 291 and Seven Hills Road south of Liberty on Saturday April 23.



*Chris Sizemore (far left) and John Dillingham (speaking) participated in the 150th anniversary observance of the raid on the Liberty Arsenal.*

The raid on the Liberty arsenal, officially named the Missouri Depot, “marking the first aggressive act in Missouri against the United States

government,” had been in the planning for months. Secessionists in Clay, Jackson and Buchanan counties – probably with knowledge of Governor Jackson – had organized the Liberty raid as part of a larger plan that included raids on the arsenal in St. Louis and an attack on Fort Leavenworth.

A week after the fall of Fort Sumter “nearly 200 armed and mounted Secessionists rode up to the arsenal gate, forced admission and demanded of Grant the surrender of the post and its contents.”

Colonel Henry L. Routt led the assault with his own troops from Clay County supported by troops from Jackson County under the command of Captain McMurray of Independence, Missouri and troops from Buchanan County led by John C. Landis, later to be inspector of artillery for the Department of the Gulf in the Confederate Army.

Grant received a note minutes before the attack from a Union sympathizer that read, “A company of men

continued on page 5

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## Longtime Member Barelli Dies

Longtime member Dr. Pat A. Barelli, died recently at the age of 92. He chaired the Memorial Committee for many years. He leaves his wife, Sarah June, five children, 13 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. He was a prominent Otorhinolaryngologist in Kansas City and served as a Clinical Professor of Surgery and Dentistry, E.N.T. at the UMKC School of Medicine. He also served as visiting professor, and lecturer at Yale, Southern California, Stanford, Cincinnati, Tulane, and in many foreign countries.

During World War II, Dr. Barelli served with the U.S. Army in Europe. He was responsible for the medical care of 1000 German prisoners of war. As an observer, he was assigned to the Nuremberg Trials, and supervised the medical treatment for some of the high ranking Nazis on trial. He retired as a U.S. Army Captain in 1947.

Dr. Pat will be missed by all.

## Welcome Our New Members

McKay Anderson, Craig K. Crease, Bill Kalahurka, Betti Kalahurka, Richard H. Monsees, Sharon Marie Smart.

## Obituaries

Robert Langworthy, Bill Brinton, Pat Barelli, James Flanagan

## Upcoming Events

Bus trip to Arrow Rock, Missouri, June 11. Lunch at the Old Tavern and a play in the Lyceum Theatre.

Full-day Tour of the Three Trails, September 10, led by Ross Marshall. This tour focuses on the Trails routes in eastern Jackson County.

Outstanding Kansas Citian Dinner, October, October 25.

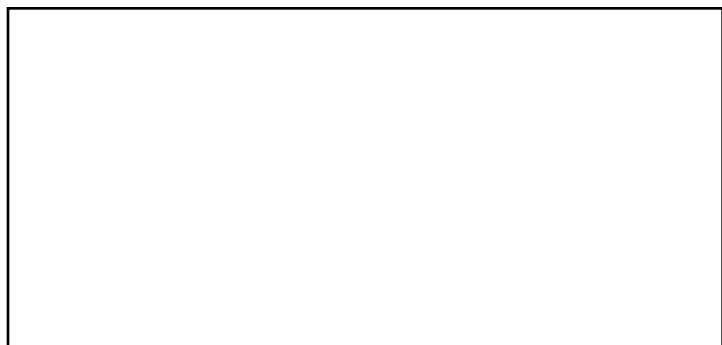
Holiday Brunch at Indian Hills Country Club, December 10.

## 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 a 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](mailto:president@nsdkc.org)

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## Liberty Arsenal, continued from page 3

from across the river camped in the bottom last night. I understand that another company is at or near Liberty, and that the destination of both is the arsenal. Look out. If you want to make a speech, get it ready.”

A speech was the only resistance possible as the arsenal was guarded by Grant and two employees. The raid, long in planning and quickly executed, lasted a week as the arsenal was emptied of cannons, caissons, wagons, forges, percussion muskets, percussion rifles, rifle carbines, pistols, sabers, swords, more than 12,000 pounds of powder and 400,000 cartridges.



The bounty from the raid was shared among the raiding parties. Colonel

Routt stored some munitions in Liberty and distributed some to “minute men throughout the county.” Jackson County troops took an initial load of “cannon, muskets, etc.” home and returned for a second load.

Buchanan County troops, having come to the raid with an unknown number of riders and wagons, shipped their gains to St. Joseph aboard the steamship War Eagle. Those munitions were stored in homes around Market Square until they could be distributed to Confederate forces.

The raid on the Liberty arsenal awakened Union leaders to the dangers the Federal Government would face in Missouri. The St. Louis arsenal had most of its stores transferred to Illinois; Fort Leavenworth was reinforced; and, on May 10, 1861, the Civil War opened in Missouri when United States troops attacked and captured secessionist troops loyal to Missouri’s Confederate Governor at Camp Jackson in St. Louis.

## Sacagawea Plaque Dedication, continued from page 1

The half hour program led to the unveiling by sculptor Sabra Tull Meyer of the Sacagawea plaque on the downstairs wall of the Ft. Osage Education Center. Sacagawea dollar coins were presented to the Girl Scout



Troop 1874 and the Lewis and Clark Elementary School girls and boys from Liberty, Missouri. After the program, attendees were treated to additional dancing by the Big Soldier Creek Dancers.

Chick Stessman initiated this program and has worked on it for at least two years and the program exceeded expectations. Chick and his family also provided funds for the plaque installation.

Ft. Osage fell into disuse after its closing around 1830. Historians believe the wood used to build 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 the organization was originally named, was the primary civic group to organize, promote, and fund the rebuilding of the replica Ft. Osage currently standing.

*John Hess, chair of the Ft. Osage committee for the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, on the left. John helped this event by proposing that the Native Sons and Daughters participate in funding the plaque; on the right is Steve Wilson, site administrator for Fort Osage.*

# Julia Irene Kauffman named Outstanding Kansas Citian

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce Ms. Julia Irene Kauffman as nominee for the 2011 Outstanding Kansas Citian Award sponsored by The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City. The OKC award event for 2011 will be held Tuesday, October 25 at the Kauffman Center for Performing Arts.

On May 11, 2011, the OKC Committee, chaired by Dr. Charles Eddy, submitted its recommendation to the Board to have an individual ticket price of \$125.00 for the black-tie-optional event. Table sponsorships shall be offered at \$1,500 per table. Other opportunities shall be available through the event to provide donations and support for our organization.

Your attendance at this event will be an opportunity to be among the first to experience Kansas City's new Center for Performing Arts and to commend Ms. Kauffman for her service to preserve the heritage of Kansas City.

## Alexander Majors House Re-Opening May 4 Reception

A reception celebrating the reopening of the Alexander Majors Historic House and Museum, was held Wednesday, May 4, with about 100 attending. The reception was sponsored by the Board of Directors of the Wornall—Majors House Museums, the recently merged nonprofit dedicated to the preservation of two of Kansas City's antebellum structures, the John Wornall House, 6115 Wornall Road, and the Alexander Majors House, 8201 State Line Road.

Guests toured the 1856 architectural masterpiece. Board Director Alex Rosser and Executive Director Kandice Walker welcomed guests and presented plans for programming at the Majors site, and offered opportunities to serve and support the site. Many representatives from area historic preservation associations attended, including Native Sons and Daughters members.



Ms. Victoria Chapman and son Joel were present as a bronze plaque was dedicated to commemorate the work of Terry and Victoria Chapman. The Chapmans worked to preserve and maintain the historic Majors House as a museum. The plaque also commemorated Ms. Louisa Johnston in her lifelong pursuit to preserve a true account of Russell, Waddell, and Majors the firm of which Alexander Majors, her great-grandfather, was a member.

In addition to house tours, an authentic forge in the barn was fired up. The carpenter shop and wagon barn illustrated the transportation trade and freighting of the 1850s.

Alexander Majors, the pioneer freighter on the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, completed construction of the house in 1856. Majors partnered with William Russell and William Waddell to establish Russell, Majors, and Waddell in the 1850s and 1860s. At its height, the firm had an estimated 3500 freight wagons, 40,000 head of livestock, and employed around 4000 teamsters. In April 1860, they established the Pony Express. Majors is considered one of the most influential men in the western expansion of our country. Majors also participated in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad and was present at the driving of the golden spike at Promontory, Utah. William F. Cody credited Majors for providing his first job as a message rider between wagon trains at age 14.

The Majors house on State Line Road was turned over to Majors' son-in-law, Sam Poteet, to continue the Santa Fe Trail operations after Majors moved to Nebraska City.

The Wornall and Majors houses balance historic preservation with contemporary needs and lifestyles. With its reopening, a variety of activities are planned including more hours for house tours, summer camps, holiday events, and Civil War related events. The Alexander Majors House provides quality meeting space accommodating parties of up to 150.

To learn more, visit [alexandermajors.com](http://alexandermajors.com), [wornallhouse.org](http://wornallhouse.org), or call 816-444-1858, or contact Executive Director Kandice Walker at [kandice@wornallhouse.org](mailto:kandice@wornallhouse.org)