



# THE NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

November 2010

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

## Holiday Brunch

The annual Holiday Brunch is to be held December 11th, at Indian Hills Country Club, 6847 Tomahawk Parkway, Prairie Village, Kansas. The clubhouse was renovated in 2009, as seen in the photo below from the 2009 brunch.

A social gathering begins at 11:00 a.m. A buffet meal will be served at 11:45 a.m., followed with holiday music, special recognitions, award presentations, and turning the gavel over to the incoming President.

Invitations will be mailed in mid-November. The Holiday Brunch is our way of celebrating the achievements of the Native Sons and Daughters, and to reflect on the glorious nature of the holiday season.

We'll have holiday and KC Songs with Bruce Prince Joseph, formerly Leonard Bernstein's pianist with the New York Symphony; Millie Edwards, one of the *Wild Women of KC*; and Dan Sturdevant, the *Three Minute KC Area History Man*. They will join forces for a fun set of holiday and Kansas City songs. *Christmas in Kansas City* and other songs will set the tone for the holiday season.



## Independence Tour, October 9

The Native Sons and Daughters express appreciation to The City of Independence for an incredible tour on October 9th. The Mayor's wife, Mrs. Jo Reimal, gave gracious oversight to our outstanding day of discovery and gourmet dining.

A Kansas City Transportation Group Trolley escorted us from Kansas City's Union Station to historic Independence. At three sites, knowledgeable and entertaining tour guides enlightened us and received NSDKC checks for funds donated by tour participants.

The Truman Court House is closed for construction and off-limits to the public, yet we were welcomed by Steve Noll, Executive Director of Jackson County Historical Society and NSDKC member, Harry S. Truman (alias Ray Ettinger), Jo Reimal, and a representative of the County Executive's office. We enjoyed historic perspectives in the chamber where Harry Truman presided over County Court. We peeked into the Jackson County Historical Society office plus a room filled with vintage architectural drawings. We



*Members and guests at high tea on the Independence tour*

were led upstairs to a beautifully restored Circuit Courtroom to see historical furniture, paintings, and stained glass windows which have been showcased in recent years in movies.

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## President's Letter: Year of Achievement

As I stepped into the shoes of the Presidency left by Dan Sturdevant, he advised not to over plan the coming year 2010, and to be flexible. This advice was pivotal in this 'year of achievement' for the Native Sons and Daughters. As we now move through the fourth quarter of 2010, we can reflect on many achievements by our organization so far this year, and we even have two more Board meetings, the Holiday Brunch, and certainly some unscheduled activities before us!

Our achievements require an engaged and committed membership and reliance on available technology.

Be active in supporting our programs which require GREAT effort to plan and execute. Our events do not just happen. Many of our events partner with other historic or civic groups. A favorable showing by NSDKC members is essential to retaining the influence our organization holds.

Thank you to the Board, Committee Chairs and membership for supporting me as President in 2010. Together we have made 2010 a *Year of Achievement* for the Native Sons and Daughters.

## Meet and Greets Held at Kauffman Garden and Majors House

The Native Sons & Daughters held our summer Meet and Greet on August 18 at Kauffman Garden. Duane Hoover, horticulturist of the garden, led the amazing tour. Thirty-five members and potential members attended the event. The garden is the final resting place of Ewing and Muriel Kauffman who both gave much to our city. It is a tranquil place in the heart of the city. The attendees had an opportunity to reflect on the beauty created by the staff and volunteers. Thanks to everyone who attended.

Members and guests met at the Alexander Majors House and Museum on Wednesday, October 20, at 5:30 p.m. for the fall Meet and Greet. We had opportunity to tour the house and enjoyed light refreshments. Mr. Majors also attended, portrayed by NSDKC member Phil Lainhart.

The house was built in 1856 by Alexander Majors, cofounder of the Pony Express. Freighting primarily on the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, the firm of Russell, Majors, and Waddell became the country's largest freighter by the mid-1850's. The house, located at 8145 State Line Road, in Kansas City, Missouri, has been a museum for over 25 years. The museum interprets the life of Alexander Majors and his influence on the western expansion of the United States in the 19th Century.

The purpose of Meet & Greets is to give prospective members an opportunity to learn more about our organization and hopefully grow by recruiting interested applicants. Please invite your friends, family, and colleagues.

*John F. Hess, Jr., Membership Chairman*

## Exciting News for the Majors House

At its October 27th meeting, the Wornall House Board of Directors voted to assume ownership and operations of the Alexander Majors House and Museum, presumably by January, 2011. The Majors site will be preserved as a national landmark!

With the passing of trustee Terry Chapman in January, 2010, the future of the Alexander Majors House and Museum became uncertain.

The presidency of the Foundation passed to Mr. Joe Huber, CEO of Huber Construction, and NSDKC member. Mr. Huber's efforts to secure the Wornall House Board as the caretaker of the Alexander Majors House is nearing reality after months of effort. The greater Kansas City historic community commends Joe Huber for his steadfastness, and the Wornall House Board



Alexander Majors House and Museum

of Directors for its willingness to assume the risk of preserving, stabilizing, and revitalizing operations at the Majors site. The operations of the Wornall House are privately funded.

We are pleased to continue serving the Majors site as it enhances its alliances with the Wornall House Board of Directors and Kansas City's historic preservation community.

# Atkins–Johnson Marker Dedication

On September 25, we dedicated our fourth historic marker in 2010 in tribute to the historic Atkins-Johnson Farm in Gladstone, Missouri, the oldest known remaining structure in Clay County. The weather was cold and rainy, yet 30 persons attended a potluck at Happy Rock Park West in Gladstone. We had a off-site dedication of the new Atkins–Johnson Farm historic marker at the picnic shelter since the weather conditions and the farm grounds were not suitable for a ceremony on-site.

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City proudly cosponsored this marker with the City of Gladstone. When a community places a marker designating a site as having historic significance, it is looking at more than just old buildings. The Atkins–Johnson Farm people carved a place from wilderness in the early 1830's. The farm became the center of social and business activities of the region. By the early 1900's, the farm had become part of the berry capital of the Midwest. This site and its people still influence the people of Gladstone, and still mold the values and direction of greater Kansas City.

Historic preservation requires the alliance of individuals, civic groups, and the public and private sectors. These alliances are an effective means of blending talents and sharing resources. Partnerships are the formula of success for the Native Sons and Daughters since 1932. The City of Gladstone has set a great example for our metropolitan area with its public sector being actively engaged in preserving the heritage of its area.

Four markers are in Gladstone. These markers result from initiatives of past Native Sons and Daughters President Bill Cross and his wife Mary. They loved their community, and placed value on identifying and preserving its historic record. Bill now lives only in our hearts, while Mary serves on our Board today. Mary carries Bill's message forward, and brought the concept to our Board for placing a marker at the Atkins–Johnson Farm.

Please check the complete list of our markers on the Native Sons and Daughters web site at [www.nsdkc.org](http://www.nsdkc.org). Look for the Historic Markers link in the left hand navigation bar.

## Independence Tour, October 9

We next visited the Chicago & Alton Depot, the only historic two-story frame depot in Missouri. Guides Jerry Forke and Don Potts led us through the station and shared their knowledge of rail travel and depot life from 1879 into the 1940's.

High Tea at the Vaile Mansion was the crowning glory of our tour. We were welcomed by Jean Kimball and a butler in Victorian garb. We were invited to a main dining table, laden with gourmet delicacies. We dined with fine linens and

silver. Costumed ladies offered punch, tea, and additional goodies to tempt our palates. Mrs. Jo Reimal visited with us. Our Trolley driver experienced his first High Tea, and we enjoyed touring Vaile's 31 spectacular rooms.

As our trolley drove back to Union Station, we gave away several dining certificates. 17 members and 9 guests experienced our Independence tour. Please applaud and thank Sharon and Chuck Scott for their six guests, and for Sharon's creative planning.

*Louise Hicks, Program Chair*

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*Members and guests at the Jackson County Courthouse, with Harry S. Truman in rear with hat*

## New Members

Please welcome these new members

Douglas Adair

Donald Davis

Yvonne Kean

Jonathan Kemper

Nancy Lee Kemper

Peggy Smith

K.B. Winterowd

Carol Winterowd

Charles Wheeler

## Obituaries

Robert Anderson

Wendy Brinton

## Barelli Recognized for Service as Memorial Committee Chair

The Native Sons and Daughters is grateful for Dr. Pat Barelli's devoted service to our organization as Memorial Committee Chair. He recently resigned from his position.

# Upcoming Events

## Annual Holiday Brunch

The annual Holiday Brunch is to be held December 11th, at Indian Hills Country Club, 6847 Tomahawk Parkway, Prairie Village, Kansas. Details on the front page.

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

## Check your inbox!

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.



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)

