



NEWS

SPRING 2024

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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



Pictured above is most of the 20 Board Members present. At left is President Christy Chester and at right is Treasurer and Administrator Nancy Elder.

NSDKC Board Meeting Held Wednesday, March 20

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. in our usual location at the Carriage Club at 5301 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO. where we have been meeting for several years.

At 10:30 a.m. the usual Outstanding Kansas Citian meeting was held to consider nominees for OKC 2024. Several persons were mentioned and we selected our honorees. Not all of them have been confirmed yet. More later on this subject.

Joanne Collins and **Bob Denzel** reported we will have our OKC event on November 13, 2024 at the Carriage Club. It will be our usual format with an auction and the price per individual will be the same

as last year at \$150.00 and a table of 10 for \$1,500.00.

As approved by the Board at the last meeting on January 17, we are having our Board Meetings every other month and the Executive Meetings (for Officers) are held in the alternate months.

Treasurer Nancy Elder reported 2/29/24 Bank Balances in our Main Account was \$978.66 and \$32,737.64 in our OKC Account. **Nancy** reported the balance in the Midwest Trust Company Investment Account as of February 29 was \$542,163.70. As of February 2 it was \$528,000.00, a gain of \$14,163.70.

Historical Markers Committee Chair Ross Marshall reported that the 2022 Heritage of Jackson County

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Dear Members:

I feel very honored to have been elected your President. I was the Outstanding Kansas Citian Committee Chair for two years and led the very successful 2022 and 2023 OKC Events.

I have all the officers in place except for the Social Committee. I am hoping that someone will step up to help me in planning events for the Association this year. Our events are very important for our NSDKC Organization and a good way for all of our members to get together and meet and do very interesting things.

I am working with **Mike Zeller** to plan a tour event of the Rock Island Bridge. This is an interesting part of Kansas City's history! As your president I would take any suggestions you all might have or want to do.

We will be having an OKC event later this year led by our OKC Co-Chairs **Joanne Collins** and **Bob Denzel**. We have selected two recipients to receive the award. We have one confirmed at this time and we are waiting for the other one to confirm. More later on this.

I am hoping to also grow the membership and maybe bring some younger people into our organization. We currently have 86 members. It would be nice if we could have 100! Just think if everybody brought in one member how great that would be!

You can go on the website NSDKC.org for some information on this issue.

Looking forward to having a great year with everyone!



Christy Chester
2024 President

 **Christy Chester**
2024 President

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C A L E N D A R

Some events are in the planning stages but not finalized. If any event is scheduled for the next few months, we will be in contact with all of our members concerning the date and the details.

M E M O R I A L S

Jeanette Nichols
2006 OKC Honoree



OFFICERS & STAFF

Christy Chester
President

Michael Gerken
Vice President

Nancy Elder
Treasurer

Paul Christiansen II
Secretary

Open
Event/Programs Chair

A list of all committees and committee chairs is available at NSDKC.org

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MISSION

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc. is dedicated to the historic preservation of the unique and rich heritage of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, both in Missouri and Kansas, through advocacy, education and restoration. It also seeks to preserve and maintain archives of historical interest relating to the development of the Kansas City region and to recognize individuals who have resided therein and contributed to such development.

NSDKC Held a Celebration of Our New President

Christy Chester's 80th Birthday

Members of the Chief's Red Coaters, KC Downtown Rotary Club, Historic West Bottoms, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Neighbors, plus many friends gathered on February 6, 2024 at the American Legion Hall in Parkville, MO. to celebrate NSDKC President **Christy Chester's 80th Birthday**. **Christy** has served in leadership roles with the above organizations for many years, and especially for NSDKC!

The party was hosted by our Past President **Linda (Linn) Mills** and catered by EmChamas Brazilian Steak House. **Christy** and her 80-plus friends were entertained by Singer Greg Mancuso, who performs weekly at EmChamas along with owner Sam Silvio.

Christy has an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the heritage of Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas and our whole region. **Christy's** civic commitment is not motivated by self-interest but by a sincere love for the Kansas City area!



Christy invites the attendees to join her for desserts



Christy stands in front of the crowd



Guest musicians focusing on Christy

NSDKC Board Meeting

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Marker, related to our two 2022 Outstanding Kansas Citizens **John Sherman** and **Mark McHenry**, has not been placed yet. Several sites in Jackson County have been examined but no final decision has been made.

The Truman Memorial Library in Independence is being examined presently to see if they would accept placement at that site. More later on this idea after we visit again with the Library officials.

The **Liberty Memorial Marker** in honor of our 2023 OKC Honoree **Dr. Matt Naylor**, President/CEO of the

National WWI Museum and Memorial, has not been ordered yet. **Gary Hicks** and **Ross** have essentially completed the text for the marker that discusses the history of the site. Hopefully, we will have it finished soon and be able to order it from our supplier Sewah.

Membership Committee **Chair John Hess, Jr.** reported we have 86 members.

Our next Board Meeting will be on May 11 and the Executive Committee Meeting on April 17.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.



NSDKC member **Steve Noll** (left) is shown holding a Lifetime Achievement Award presented to him on March 22 by the Jackson County Historical Society at their “2024 Celebration of History”. He has been the Society’s Executive Director from 2002 through 2017, as well as a Board Member and Treasurer from 2018 through 2020.

In 2017 Steve, with his wife Marianne, acquired the Wilborn Photographic Collection and donated it to the Society. The collection is considered to be perhaps the largest archive of Kansas City area images from the late 19th and 20th Centuries!

Steve has been a longtime member of NSDKC and was our 2018 President. He has served as NSDKC Board Member for many years. Congratulations Steve!

Greater Kansas City Area Was The Gateway To The West!



In many ways, the Greater Kansas City area was the “Gateway to the West” in the early 1800s!

In a transaction with France, signed on April 30, 1803, the United States led by President Thomas Jefferson, purchased 828,000 square miles of drainage area land west of the Mississippi River for \$15 million. For roughly four cents an acre, the United States doubled its size, expanding the nation westward!

Later in 1803, Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark, known as the Corps of Discovery Expedition, to explore the area. They headed west from Pittsburgh, PA on the Columbia River and north on the Mississippi River to the new town of St. Louis.

They camped there over the winter at the junction of the Mississippi River and the Missouri River. In the spring of 1804, they headed west on the Missouri River through what would later become the Kansas City area.

In late 1805, they arrived at the

Pacific Ocean after crossing the Rocky Mountains and going west on the Columbia River between today’s states of Oregon and Washington.

In the spring of 1806, they headed back east on the same rivers and arrived in the Kansas City area in late summer. President Thomas Jefferson had asked them to look for high ground on which a fort could be built to open trade with the Indian Tribes. As they passed through our area they saw a high bluff on the edge of the Missouri River which they thought would be a good spot for a trading post.

In 1808, William Clark came back to that site and founded Ft. Osage, named for the Osage Indian Tribes in Missouri. Osages began to come and the trading post worked well for a long time.

Around 1805, Nathan and his brother Daniel Morgan Boone began producing salt from a saltwater spring—or “salt lick”—near present-day Boonville, MO. Salt was impor-

tant on the frontier because it was used to preserve meat. The area became known as Boone's Lick, near the Missouri River and what we know as Arrow Rock, Missouri. Families began to move to the area and Boonville and Franklin were founded on the edge of the Missouri River. This new settlement prospered, but the War of 1812 broke out when British and Indian Tribes attacked the Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri area.

Many of the people fled. But the Americans triumphed over the British and Indians in 1815 and the area began to open up again very quickly.

William Becknell came to the area and bought some property, as did many others, using loans to pay for it. After a few years, Becknell needed money to repay his loan.

So he gathered a few friends together at his house in August and they planned a trading expedition to

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The Gateway To The West!

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maybe trade with Indians, perhaps the Comanche. He did not keep a diary so we do not know what was in his mind. He and five other men left with loaded packhorses on September 1, 1821 right after Missouri was made a U.S. State on August 1.

They followed the trail that the Osage traders had been using along the south side of the Missouri River going over to the Ft. Osage area and they briefly camped there.

They then proceeded on west through today's city of Independence and on southwest through what we know as Kansas City today. This became the Santa Fe Trail and later also included the Oregon and California Trails.

Since everywhere west of Franklin, MO was Indian Territory, very little was found where they could trade, so they just kept going west-southwest.

What we know as the city of Santa Fe and the State of New Mexico was part of Mexico then and controlled by Spain. Spain in early 1821 abandoned the area and went back east. Whether Becknell knew this we do not know.

Perhaps they began to consider going to Santa Fe, maybe the only settlement where perhaps trading or selling merchandise could be possible.

When Spain owned the Santa Fe area, they would arrest any outsiders that crossed the Arkansas River and throw them in jail. When Spain left, Santa Fe was eager to have visitors. Therefore when the riders entered the area, they met a battalion of soldiers and were scared. But the battalion warmly welcomed them and escorted them to Santa Fe!

They gathered in the Square area of Santa Fe and over a few days successfully traded their goods. They then headed back home to Old Franklin, Mo. (destroyed soon later by a flood).

When they got home in January, they had sacks of Mexican coin, which when opened, dumped their contents on the stone pavement of Old Franklin and rolled into the gutters!

Becknell advertised for men the next year (21 showed up!) and went with three wagons on May 22, 1822 with \$5000 of merchandise.



Ft. Osage



Independence Courthouse

Thus, the Santa Fe Trail was established!

In the late 1830s, wagon trains began to carry settlers to Oregon and followed the Santa Fe Trail out to our local Gardner Junction Park and went northwest through today's Nebraska and Colorado. Soon, some of them broke off out in Utah to go to Mexico's California Territory.

When gold was discovered in California in 1848 the big Gold Rush to California occurred on these trails through the Kansas City area!

In 1830, the Indian Removal Act was passed and Missouri was opened to white settlers. Independence, MO was established in 1827 and Westport in 1834.

The Lewis and Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails that go through our area are National Historic Trails. **Kansas City was the "Gateway to the West" well beyond the Civil War!**

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America's National Scenic & Historic Trails


12 National Scenic Trails

1. Appalachian.....	1968
2. Pacific Crest.....	1968
3. Continental Divide	1978
4. Ice Age	1980
5. North Country	1980
6. Florida.....	1983
7. Potomac Heritage.....	1983
8. Natchez Trace	1986
9. Arizona.....	2009
10. New England.....	2009
11. Pacific Northwest.....	2009
12. Chilkoot (Alaska)	2023

20 National Historic Trails

1. Oregon	1978
2. Mormon Pioneer.....	1978
3. Lewis and Clark.....	1978
4. Iditarod	1978
5. Overmountain Victory.....	1980
6. Nez Perce	1986
7. Santa Fe.....	1987
8. Trail of Tears	1987
9. Juan Bautista de Anza	1990
10. California	1992
11. Pony Express	1992
12. Selma to Montgomery.....	1996
13. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro	2000
14. Ala Kahakai.....	2000
15. Old Spanish	2002
16. El Camino Real de los Tejas.....	2004
17. Captain John Smith Chesapeake.....	2006
18. Star-Spangled Banner.....	2008
19. Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route	2009
20. Butterfield Overland	2023



 The National Trails System Act, passed by Congress in 1968, recognized the central role that trails have played in forming our Nation, connecting us to our nation's history and promoting good health and well-being.

The National Trails System consists of twelve National Scenic Trails and twenty National Historic Trails totaling about 55,000 miles.

The Pacific Crest Trail and the Appalachian Trail were our nation's first National Scenic Trails in 1968. The first National Historic Trails were the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, Lewis and Clark, and Iditarod Trails. In the Kansas City area, we have the Lewis and Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon and California National Historic Trails. (see page 3 and 4 for more details about Historic Trails)

The Partnership for the National Trails System was formed in 2001.