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# Journal Notes

...published quarterly for the members and friends of the *Native Sons of Greater Kansas City*

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June 2004

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## Native Sons Follow in Footsteps of Lewis & Clark

Visit to Fort Osage Echoes Corps of Discovery's Voyage Through Area 200 Years Ago



*Photo from Jackson County Parks & Recreation.*

Join your fellow Native Sons on Saturday, June 19th, as they follow in the footsteps of Lewis & Clark with a visit to Fort Osage.

Step through the gate at Fort Osage and begin your walk through history. This reconstructed historic Fort, overlooking the Missouri River is reconstructed as it in 1812. Located the farthest west of the

twenty-eight factories in the United States' trade system, Fort Osage functioned as one the first military outposts and government trade houses in the Louisiana Territory.

The site was first noted by Lewis and Clark as a likely spot for a fort because of its "high commanding position, more than 70 feet above high-water mark, and overlooking the river, which is here but of little depth" as William Clark noted.

Built in 1808, under the direction of William Clark as part of the vast federally controlled fur trade system, the Fort's mission was the maintenance of the political stability in the region through trade and military alliances with the Indian tribes, and in particular, the Osage Nation.

Fort Osage remained a part of the US Factory system until the whole Indian trade system was shut down in 1822. It remained a military storage facility in support of Ft. Atkinson, Nebraska until 1827, when both were closed upon the commencement of the construction of Ft. Leavenworth.

The Native Sons of Greater Kansas City was the catalyst in the late 1940's for the restoration of Fort Osage, so be sure to attend this event to not only learn a little more about the frontier and Lewis & Clark, but to take pride in one of the Native Sons' many accomplishments. JN

### Native Sons of Greater Kansas City Visit to Fort Osage

**When:** Saturday,  
June 19th, 2004

**Time:** Departure at 10:00 AM  
Return at about 3:30 PM

**Where:**  
Departure from the Golden Ox, 1600 Genessee

**Cost:** \$15.00 per person

**Reservation Deadline:**  
Tuesday, June 15

**Mail Reservations to:**  
Native Sons of Greater Kansas City  
P.O. Box 10046  
Kansas City, Missouri 64171

**Your Check is Your Reservation.  
There are not Refunds!**



## Letter from the President

We are not quite halfway through the year and already you can probably say that 2004 is the year for Kansas City history.

Whether it is the commemoration of Lewis & Clark's journey through our area, the new debate raging at Union Station, or the recent bond issue allowing Liberty Memorial to complete its museum, history is making headlines in our area.

The Native Sons, too, are playing a role in keeping history in the forefront. Our historic markers are literally putting little known sites on the map. Our foresight in helping recreate Ft. Osage, so many years ago, is being celebrated again as part of the *Heart of America: A Journey Fourth's* list of events. Our Truman Statue effort hopes to place a new landmark on our Union Station.

All of these efforts are important because they help bring to our city's attention the rich history that is all around us, but that can easily be overlooked.

I hope you will take the time to be involved with these many continuing efforts. They are not easy, but as Lewis & Clark can attest, when completed these tasks are the most fulfilling.

James Bernard, Jr.  
2004 President

## HISTORIC MARKER COMMEMORATES NORTHLAND'S ANTIOCH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Antioch Community Church received a historic marker from the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City and an official proclamation from the State of Missouri highlighting its importance to the Northland for over 150 years. The church is located at 4805 NE Antioch Road in Gladstone.

Members of the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City and the Antioch Community Church Congregation were in attendance. Immediate Past President John Dillingham officially represented the Native Sons while Rev. Gerald Brown, Church Pastor, spoke on behalf of Antioch Community Church.

In addition to the



*Tom Sims, Native Sons Historian reads a proclamation from the Missouri General Assembly while past-president John Dillingham and Antioch Community Church Rev. Gerald Brown look on.*

unveiling of the historic marker which can be seen from Antioch Road, an official proclamation from Missouri's General Assembly was read by Tom Sims, Historian for the Native Sons outlining the history of the Antioch Community Church. The proclamation was sponsored in the General

Assembly by State began as a satellite of the Liberty Christian Church in 1853. Its first meeting house, a one room church, was built in 1859 at a cost of \$1800 and still stands as one of the oldest buildings in Clay County, Missouri. It is still active as at least one Sunday worship service is held there each week.

Assembly  
by State  
R e p s  
D a n  
Bishop  
a n d  
T r e n t  
Skaggs.

The  
Antioch  
C o m -  
munity  
Church

During its early incarnation the church was known as the Disciples of Christ Church and many of its early parishioners' names like Vivion and Davidson now grace the street signs in Gladstone and Kansas City North. The church received its more familiar name of Antioch Community Church in 1930. JN



*Native Sons and members of the Antioch Community Church view the structure's interior after the proclamation presentation*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Welcome the Following New Members:

- Dorothy Benner
- Earl Benner
- Michael G. Bushnell
- Carolyn Gregory Cochran Clark
- Walter M. Dickey
- Nan Elder
- Ray Elder
- Barnett C. Helzberg, Jr.
- Shirley Bush Helzberg
- Harold L. Lowenstein
- Robert Swetnam

We look forward to your participation in upcoming Native Sons Events!

## VIEW LEWIS & CLARK VIDEOS

The Westport Historical Society will host a viewing of a variety of Lewis & Clark videos at the Harris-Kearney House. Popcorn and beverages will be provided at no charges. Fun for both adults and children. Call 816.561.1821. JN

## NATIVE SONS NOW ONLINE!

For information on coming events, marker locations, and other facts, click [www.Native-Sons.org](http://www.Native-Sons.org). JN



## UPCOMING LEWIS & CLARK EVENTS

Only 28 years after America declared its independence, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark celebrated a unique Fourth of July here in the Heart of the America. Exploring the unknown Louisiana Territory for President Thomas Jefferson, the Corps of Discovery expedition launched from St. Louis on a historic route to the Pacific Ocean through uncharted land and rivers.

The first Independence Day observance west of the Mississippi in 1804 consisted of two blasts from a keelboat's cannon on the banks of the Missouri river just outside Atchison, Kan-

sas. Over the next two years, President Jefferson's Corps of Discovery would travel thousands of miles in unknown territory, coming face to face with people no U.S. citizen had ever seen.

Two hundred years later, the Heartland of America - specifically the cities of Kansas City, Leavenworth and Atchison - will launch a grand Commemoration of events entitled **Heart of America: A Journey Fourth**, July 3-4, 2004. From a soaring air show to a multi-voiced reading of the Declaration of Independence, America will be treated to a breathtaking celebration on July 4, 2004. JN

## LEWIS & CLARK EVENTS

**Saturday, July 3, 2004 - 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Bistate Opening Ceremony at Berkley Riverfront Park (Kansas City)**

Keynote Speaker: Lieutenant General William Wallace  
Ceremony includes: Golden Knights, 135th Army Band, Heartland Men's Chorus, U.S. Army 1802 Color Guard, Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps from Washington, D.C., Native American Flag Processional and a 19-gun salute followed by military fly-over.

For more information on Lewis & Clark related events go to [www.journey4th.org](http://www.journey4th.org).

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY FOR



Last year the Native Sons began a monthly series of events call History After Hours. After six events the committee decided to get your thoughts on how best to continue this series. Below are some questions we'd like you to answer. Please fill out the questionnaire, cut it out and send to:

*Native Sons Survey*  
P.O. Box 64171-0046  
Kansas City MO 64171

Have you attended a History After Hours event:  
Yes No

Currently, events are scheduled for the first Thursday of the month after work. Is there a better:

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Month: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you drive out to the following areas after work during the week?

Northland: \_\_\_\_\_

Central Kansas City: \_\_\_\_\_

Independence: \_\_\_\_\_

Johnson County: \_\_\_\_\_

Wyandotte County: \_\_\_\_\_

If you had an interest in going to an event at a historic Kansas City area location, what would it be: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANKS!**

Native Sons of Greater Kansas City  
P.O. Box 10046  
Kansas City MO 64171



## Bequests

### *Just One Way to Support the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City in Perpetuity*

Including the Native Sons 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' established projects as designated for use in future historic projects to be established and approved by the board of directors.

I bequeath to the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City, Inc., P.O. Box 10046, Kansas City, MO 64171-0046, a nonprofit corporation, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used by said corporation for purposes as stated in the organization's objectives and bylaws.

Cut and Keep With Your Records

## Officers

<i>President</i>	James H. Bernard, Jr.
<i>1st Vice President</i>	James D. Creasy
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	William C. Cross
<i>Secretary</i>	Eileen S. Sullivan
<i>Treasurer</i>	Roger K. Smith
<i>Historian</i>	Thomas E. Sims

## Directors

Joanne M. Collins	Jeannine L. Hicks
Charles A. Eddy	Gary L. Hicks
James Flannagan	Cordell D. Meeks, Jr.
Francis S. Franke	Dan Sturdevant
H. Carlene Gillespie	Scott Wagner
John F. Hess, Jr.	
James W. Benjamin, director emeritus	
John F. Hess, Sr., director emeritus	
Sunday R. Siragusa, director emeritus	

## Community Service Committees

Alexander Majors	Dan Sturdevant
Archives	Gary Hicks
Boone Hays Cemetery	George E. Hicks
Corinthian Hall/KC Museum	Scott Wagner
Fort Osage	John F. Hess, Sr.
Historic St. Mary's	Bruce Prince-Joseph
Historic Markers	Roger K. Smith
Liberty Memorial	Bruce Pennington
Town Site Preservation	Thomas E. Sims
Truman Statue	Lori Hiron
Westport Historic Society	John F. Hess, Jr.

## Executive Secretary

Susan Hughes  
Newsletter Editor - Scott Wagner