



NEWS

AUTUMN 2016

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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

Join us November 10 for a Royal Gala!

Frank White and his wife Lisa in the middle. NSDKC people there were (l-r) Gary Hicks, Ray and Nancy Elder, Dick Retrum, Diane Pepper, John Hess, Jr., Ross Marshall, Carl DiCapo, James Daley and Steve Noll

Photo at right courtesy of Jackson County

As the 2016 NSDKC Outstanding Kansas Citian event draws closer, we encourage everyone to get their reservations now for November 10. There is only a limited number of spaces remaining and we don't want you to be disappointed. An evening with our honoree Frank White Jr. in the elegant surroundings of Kauffman Stadium's Diamond Club will be a once-in-a-lifetime event you will not want to miss.

The silent auction that has become a part of the annual event will be bigger and better than ever. The selection of history themed merchandise, gift certificates for dining and entertainment as well as unique "experience" offerings will make this a fun and exciting part of the evening, as you pursue those bidding opportunities and take home one or more unique souvenirs.

Jackson County Executive Frank White, Jr. is a sports legend, an outstanding civil servant who gives back to our community and a most sincere gentleman. This event will be

your opportunity to meet him, listen to him share his fascinating life story with the audience and help recognize his many accomplishments.

He was honored by the Kansas City Council members at their August 18 meeting at City Hall. Each Council member voiced their appreciation for Frank's service on the County Legislature and now as Jackson County Executive. They also expressed their appreciation to The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City for extending to him the 2016 Outstanding Kansas Citian Award. A number of us from NSDKC (see above) were there to witness this tribute.

There is not much time left, so go online to nsdkc.org or call **913-207-3310** to make your reservation. We look forward to seeing you at 'The K' Thursday, November 10, 2016.



The President's Message

Dear members:

The Native Sons and Daughters have an exciting fourth quarter planned as I come to the end of my term. We held our Annual Membership and Board Meeting Dinner on October 12 and elected our new officers and directors for the upcoming year. We also have held our inaugural Trolley Tour on October 15 which was planned by Lisa Hickok and Todd Newton. Our tour guide was Ross Marshall for the event and we had a chance to learn about our downtown markers and ate a great lunch at Jack Stack Barbeque in the Crossroads Arts District.

Our next event is on Thursday, November 10 when we will honor Frank White, Jr. as the Outstanding Kansas Citian of the year. Mr. White has a unique story of helping build the stadium in his hometown where he later played second base for the Royals and was a member of the team that won the World Series in 1985. He was a five-time All-Star and won eight Gold Gloves. He has been a coach for the Red Sox and the Royals and is currently a coach for the Kansas City T-Bones. He has also been a color commentator and analyst for Fox Sports. In addition to his accomplishments in baseball, Mr. White is the Jackson County Executive. Please plan to join us for this opportunity to recognize one of Kansas City's most impressive individuals.

I would also like to take the time to recognize the work of several members this year that have participated in making The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Monument a reality. The committee is led by our immediate Past President Carl DiCapo, who is raising funds for the project; Past President Gary Hicks, whose early design contributed to an amazing project and he has spent many hours writing text for the ten Monument panels; Past President Chuck Eddy, whose counsel is always appreciated; and Past President Ross Marshall, who has helped Gary with editing the text for the Monument.

We will hold our Annual Christmas Brunch on December 10 at Indian Hills Country Club. Please plan to join us as we celebrate the holidays and look forward to the upcoming year!

Sincerely,
John Hess, Jr.
2016 NSDKC President



**2016 President
John Hess, Jr.**



OFFICERS & STAFF

John Hess, Jr.
President

Diane Boos Pepper
1st Vice President

Steve Noll
2nd Vice President

Jim Flanagan
Treasurer

John Dunnewind
Secretary

Nancy Elder
Historian

Carl DiCapo
Immediate Past President

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

Newsletter Production

Ross Marshall, *Editor*

Norman Besheer, *Proof Reader*

Administrative Staff

Susan Hughes
Executive Secretary

Linda Dillon
Administration and IT

Contact Information

Phone: 816-926-9397

Email: publications@nsdkc.org

NSDKC.org

6320 Brookside Plaza, Suite 213
Kansas City, MO 64113

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.

Thursday, November 10 - 6:00 pm
Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala

Monday, November 14 - 11:30 am • Past Presidents Luncheon

★ 2016 CALENDAR ★

Saturday, December 10 - Annual Holiday Brunch - 11:00 am
Indian Hills Country Club

Platte County tour held August 20!

Our tour stops involved the Ben Ferrell Platte County Museum in Platte City, lunch at O'Malley's in Weston and a visit to the McCormick Distillery east of Weston. A special thanks goes to our incoming President Diane Pepper for making the arrangements.

The Ben Ferrell Museum was built in 1882 by Frederick Krause somewhat as a copy of the governor's mansion in Jefferson City. The building is 40'x60' plus porches, has two stories and a basement. The building has a Mansard slate roof and all of the furnishings were made before 1900. The basement is used as the Platte County Historical Society's genealogical library.

When the owners were going to tear it down in 1977, Ben Farrell donated \$38,000 to Platte County Historical Society and Platte Purchase Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution who bought it, preserved and renovated it, and opened it as the Platte County Museum.

A wonderful lunch was enjoyed at the O'Malley's American Bowman Restaurant in Weston. It is built over the 1842 Weston Brewery and Pub that extends 50 feet below ground.

The McCormick Distillery was started by Benjamin Holladay who had come from Kentucky and bought land near Weston. He discovered the nearby limestone springs and began to distill bourbon in 1856.

He turned the distillery over to his brother David in 1860, moved west, and purchased the bankrupt Russell, Majors and Waddell Pony Express company. He became known as the "Stagecoach King" of the west and later expanded into steamships and railroads. His brother later sold the distillery and eventually it became known as McCormick Distillery in 1942, making primarily vodka.

Just this spring they also started making bourbon again under the name of Holladay Distilling. Since it takes three to four years for bourbon to age in oak barrels, it is not available

Approximately 33 of us are gathered in front before the tour. On the porch are (l-r) Diane Pepper, the docent guide, and Susie Hughes



The new Holladay sign on one of the many buildings on the site.

for tasting. But we were able to tour the distillery building and saw the various vats of bourbon.

A great day of visiting some very old historic sites in Platte County!



Native Sons & Daughters Monument plan revealed

Our Monument Project is one of the most significant projects which our organization has initiated in decades. When completed it will not only honor the history and heritage of the Greater Kansas City Area, but also be a tribute to The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City and our mission to preserve, protect and interpret the history for the citizens of our area and also for the countless visitors who come here.

The Monument's conceptual design includes the following primary elements:

- 16 foot tall, classic 5-pointed precast concrete star-shaped Tower (5'-6" point to point)
- 10 laser-etched aluminum panels installed on each face of the 5-pointed star tower, the texts of which will be about the history and heritage of the Greater Kansas City area.
- A landscaped plaza area with inscribed bricks and stone, featuring themes such as NSDKC's Outstanding Kansas Citian Award recipients, Past Presidents, NSDKC preservation projects and its historical markers program. **All NSDKC members are encouraged to participate in supporting this worthy project, especially as project funding donors or as sponsors through the purchase of inscribed**

bricks, similar to that at Liberty Memorial and Union Station. This phase will start in the early spring next year.

- The Monument will be set within a green space accessible to the public with appropriate walkway access, landscaping, plantings, and lighting.

The Monument's formal design and planning process is proceeding well, with a planned completion date by mid-to-late springtime of 2017. Following construction, a formal dedication is planned to commemorate this Monument to past, present and future generations.

The Monument Project Committee, led by NSDKC Past President Carl DiCapo, includes representatives from J. E. Dunn Construction, Kansas City's Public Works, Parks Boards, and City Engineer's office, BNIM Architects, Inc., and other NSDKC members Chuck Eddy, John Hess, Jr., Gary Hicks and Ross Marshall. The conceptual design and panel texts for the Monument were created by NSDKC Past President Gary L. Hicks, to represent the mission of NSDKC and reflect the history and heritage of our Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

Gary L. Hicks

NSDKC Monument Committee Co-chair

NSDKC trolley tour of historic markers

Saturday, October 15 turned out to be a delightful fall day as the Kansas City Fun Tours trolley took us around to see Kansas City historic sites, NSDKC/NSKC markers and the site of our new NSDKC Monument (see previous page for story).

Our itinerary, starting at 8:30, took us to the downtown area and Westport. We strolled around the Lewis and Clark Point overlook, Town of Kansas at the river's edge and Kaw Point in Kansas City, Kansas.

One of our main focuses was to view as many of our markers as we could (about ten). While our website boasts that we have about 100, actually it is about half that number and only about 40 still exist. Many of the older ones are plaques on the side of buildings, although most of the later ones are the familiar "shield" shapes on posts.

The ones put out before 2006 say "Native Sons of Kansas City" because that was our name until it was changed to The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City that year.

Pictured at right are three styles of logos that appear on our markers.

At 11:30, we returned to the Jack Stack Restaurant in the Freight House area. Your editor had the privilege of leading this tour with a group of NSDKC members and guests that were fun to be with.



Our current logo



Two styles of logos on our earlier markers

Our group in front of the Trolley with the NSKC Kaw Point marker barely visible behind at the right



Annual Meeting Held October 12

The Annual Membership and Board meetings was held October 12, 2016 at the Milano Restaurant at Crown Center. We had a good turnout of members and guests enjoying their wonderful Italian Buffet dinner.

Right after dinner, the membership meeting was called to order by President John Hess, Jr., who gave a brief summary of our 2016 activities and accomplishments. One of the main items of business was to elect our Board of Directors for 2017. The nominating committee consisted of Carl DiCapo, Diane Pepper, Chuck Eddy, John Dunnewind, Ross Marshall, Gary Hicks and Chair John Hess, Jr.

Those finishing terms and/or leaving the Board were Allen Dillingham, Ann O'Hare and Jeannie Hicks. Those elected to three-year terms were Whitney Kerr, James Daley and John Forbes for their first term; Diane Pepper and Dick Retrum for their second term; and Henry Leonard for his third term.

Remaining on the Board are Carl DiCapo, John Hess, Jr., Sharon Scott, Robert Corum, Steve Noll, Mike Burke, Lisa Hickok, Nancy Elder, Jim Flanagan, Todd Newton, John Dunnewind, and Bryan Flanagan.

The Board meeting was then called to order by President John Hess, Jr. One of the key items of business was to elect officers for 2016. Elected were President Diane Boos Pepper, 1st Vice President Steve Noll, 2nd Vice President John Dunnewind, Treasurer Jim Flanagan, Secretary Nancy Elder and Historian Dick Retrum.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

Terry L. Wilson

IN MEMORIAM

Gerald Gorman

**"If you can dream it,
you can do it"**

—Walt Disney

History Day Winners highlight Ft. Osage and Lucille Bluford

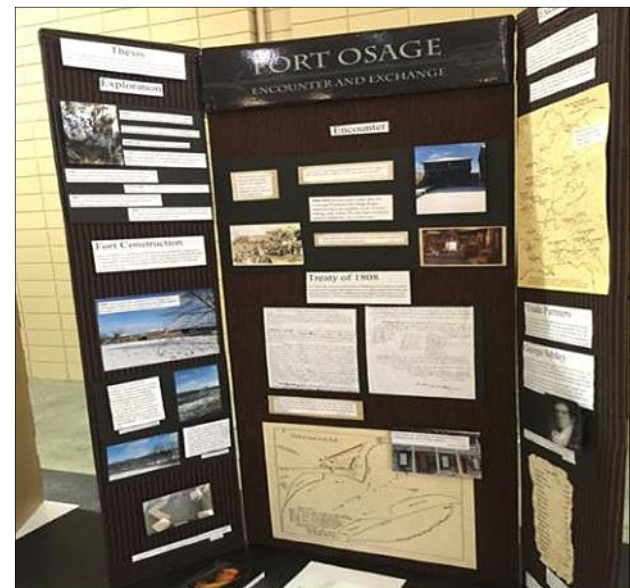
On April 30, Dan Sturdevant (Chair of our Missouri State Historical Society Committee) and Mary Lee Sturdevant attended the annual History Day presentations at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The presenters were high school students

As is our custom, we give a \$100 award to the winner. This year, as presented by Dan at our May 11 Executive Committee meeting, there were two winners. We voted to present \$100 to each of them. They were Bailey McBride and Gweneth Sacry. Their talk was on Ft. Osage and they had a tri-fold display on Ft. Osage as pictured below.

In addition, Dan and Mary Lee were so impressed with a third presentation did not win, that Dan moved that we also award her \$100 and it was approved. The presenter was McKenzie McCance talking about Lucile Bluford, an African-American librarian who has a branch of the Kansas City Public Library named for her at 3050 Prospect in Kansas City.

Also, Dan mentioned Laci Connelly, who spoke about Exploring the Santa Fe Trail, a review of the wonderful diary Susan McGoffin wrote while traveling the Santa Fe Trail in 1846. It is one of the best Santa Fe Trail diaries in existence.

Thanks to Dan and Mary Lee for representing NSDKC at this annual event.



**Top: Ft. Osage
display**



**Left: Librarian
Lucille Bluford**