



# NEWS

SUMMER 2022

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

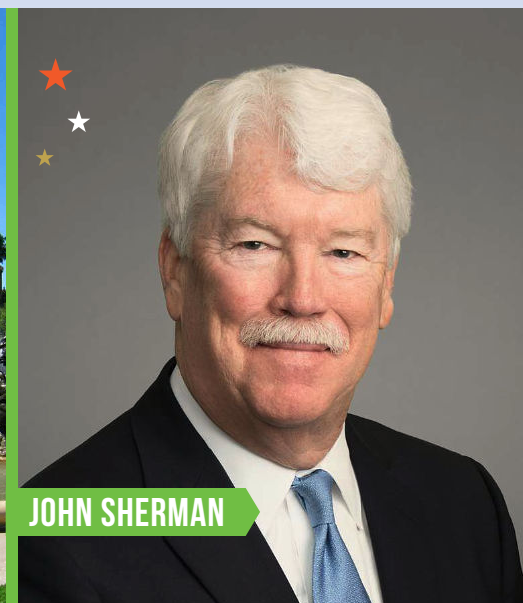
*Dedicated to the recognition, preservation and restoration of Greater Kansas City's unique heritage.*

## 2022 OKC GALA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022 ★ THE CARRIAGE CLUB



MARK McHENRY



JOHN SHERMAN

Thanks to the efforts of OKC Committee Chair **Christy Chester**, Administrator **Nancy Elder** and our Board of Directors, we have finalized our plans for the Annual OKC Gala!

The location will be the Carriage Club at 5301 State Line Road in Kansas City, Missouri.

The honorees will be the two gentlemen above — **Mark McHenry** and **John Sherman**.

Because of the Covid Pandemic, we were unable to hold an OKC Gala in 2020. For the 2021 Gala we retained our 2020 OKC honoree **Edwin (Ed) Eilert** and combined him with our 2021 OKC honoree **Richard Myers**.

Since they both hailed from Johnson

County, Kansas, we held the Gala in Johnson County (for the first time) at the Overland Park Convention Center. It worked out very well!

For 2022, we decided to use the same format and focus on Jackson County, Missouri. We will honor the above two honorees from Jackson County and hold the Gala in Jackson County!

**Mark McHenry** has now retired from a long career with Kansas City Parks and Recreation, serving as its Director for the last fifteen years. We at NSDKC have worked with him on countless projects including several of our NSDKC Historical Markers. He has always been a delightful partner and a great leader in Kansas City.

**John Sherman** has had a long career

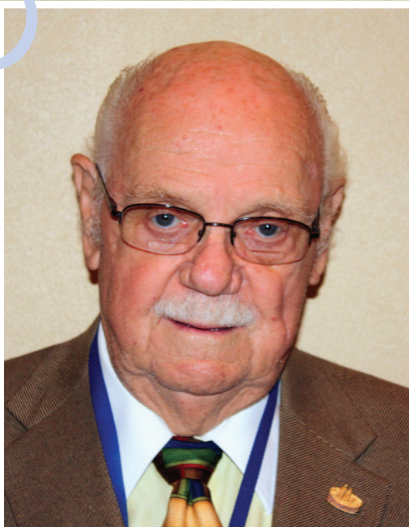
as an entrepreneur, civic leader and philanthropist in the Kansas City region. In November, 2019 he led an ownership group that acquired the Kansas City Royals Baseball Club. He is active in many local organizations such as the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and World War I Museum.

A "Save The Date" postcard is being sent to all NSDKC members. Reservation information is on the card.

**Please join The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City for this 50th Annual Gala to recognize Outstanding Kansas Citizens.**

★ See [NSDKC.org](https://www.nsdkc.org) for more details. ★





**Karl Roscoe**  
**1934 – 2022**

With deep regret, we report to you the passing of Karl Roscoe, President of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City on June 5. Karl was a tremendous individual and we grieve for our loss.

He was an outstanding leader for us and for many other organizations in the Kansas City area such as Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Kansas City Breakfast Club, Downtown Rotary Club, New Theatre Scholarship Guild, etc.

Our Board of Directors, Officers and members will remember Karl for his great service to The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City.

## CALENDAR

### Annual Membership Meeting

October 19, 2022, 2:00 p.m. – The Carriage Club

### 2022 OKC GALA

November 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. – The Carriage Club

### Christmas Brunch

December 10, 2022, Reception 11:00 a.m., Brunch at Noon  
Indian Hills Country Club

## CONTENTS

2022 OKC Gala .....	1
Karl Roscoe .....	2
Calendar, New Members, Memorials...	2
Kansas City Stock Yards Marker ...	3-4
Kansas City Fire Station Marker .....	5-6
Harris-Kearney House .....	7

## NEW MEMBERS

**Pam Delaney**

**Stephen Nottingham and  
Mildred "Millie" Nottingham**

**Gary Colby and  
Laurie Colby**

**Tom Esselman**

## MEMORIALS

**Karl Roscoe**



## OFFICERS & STAFF

Karl Roscoe (*deceased*)  
*President*

John Dunnewind  
*1st Vice President*

Christy Chester  
*2nd Vice President*

Nancy Elder  
*Treasurer*

Paul Christiansen II  
*Secretary*

Ray Elder  
*Historian*

Linda F. Mills  
*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

Nancy Elder, *Administrator*

## Contact Information

Phone: 816-278-8929

Email: [admin@NSDKC.org](mailto:admin@NSDKC.org)

**NSDKC.org**

## NEW Mailing address:

PO Box 25513

Kansas City MO 64119-0813

## 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.





# Kansas City Stock Yards Marker Dedicated April 26, 2022



**1st speaker**  
**Linn Mills, 2021 NSDKC**  
**President**



**2nd speaker**  
**Administrator Nancy Elder,**  
**2019 NSDKC President**



**3rd speaker**  
**John Dillingham,**  
**2003 NSDKC President**



**4th Speaker**  
**Allen Dillingham, son**  
**of John Dillingham**

**W**e picked a perfect day to have the dedication! Three weeks before, when we set the date, we had no idea it would be in the 60s, no wind and clear skies!

At 2:00 Historical Markers Committee Chair **Ross Marshall** greeted everyone and made opening remarks about the history of NSDKC, founded in 1932, and our mission statement to interpret and preserve the history and heritage of the Greater Kansas City Area. We now have 59 upright markers and plaques on display in our area.

In the far distance is the Rock Island Bridge coming across the Kansas River to the West Bottoms area where the Stock Yards was. To the left is a corner of the HyVee Arena.

In the picture above that looks to the southeast, **John Dillingham** speaks to the crowd that eventually totalled about 50 people.

The father of **John's** mother was the 1st President of the American Royal when it incorporated in 1899. Today, **John** serves as an honorary director of the Royal.

As President of Jo-Dill Corporation, **John**

*Continued on page 4 ➡*





Unveiling of the marker by Allen  
and John Dillingham, with  
John's son Bill at right



5th Speaker Heather Hall  
KCMO City Councilwoman



6th Speaker Gary Hicks,  
2010 NSDKC President



## Kansas City Stock Yards Marker

⇒ Continued from page 3

**Dillingham** occupies the same 9th floor office which his father **Jay** used in the nearby Livestock Exchange Building during his 27-year Presidency of the Kansas City Stock Yards. **John** was the principal sponsor of today's Kansas City Stock Yards marker.

Opening on June 1, 1871 as the Kansas Stockyards Company, it soon was renamed as a bi-state Kansas City Stock Yards and grew to 13 acres by 1878.

Completed in July, 1869, the local Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad Bridge was the first to span the Missouri River. That bridge provided our city railway connecting links to both the east and west coasts. At one time, 16 railroads con-

verged in these "West Bottoms". Texas cattle drives coming north and the available flat lands in the Midwest created a huge commercial center here.

By the 20th Century, these Stock Yards covered 207 acres with accommodations daily for 70,000 cattle, 40,000 hogs, 45,000 sheep, and 5000 horses and mules. By the time of its closing in 1991, an estimated 443 million head of livestock had come through here.

The Kansas City Stock Yards had a large influence on the rapid growth of Greater Kansas City, creating our huge metropolitan area of today.

This Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City historical marker will preserve this great story for many future generations!

Come and visit it!





# Kansas City Fire Station #11 Marker Dedication Held June 21

**O**n a sunny Tuesday morning June 21 we held the installation and dedication of our new Kansas City Fire Station #11 NSDKC marker.

Upwards of 75 people were in attendance and most of them took advantage of the shady north side of the old Fire Station #11, which is now the Vine Street Studio at 2033 Vine Street, KCMO.

We wish to thank all those with the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 42 that supported the project and paid for the marker. Also, much appreciation to NSDKC Historian **Ray Elder**, who has been the first Official Historian of the Kansas City Fire Department.

Fire Station No. 11 was the first station in the Fire Department's history to be crewed and run by African Americans. The Station was organized in 1890, serving from a tent on Independence Avenue between Park Avenue and Brooklyn Street until the city completed the Station's first structure at 1309 Independence Avenue later that year.

In 1908, a new station was built at 1812 Vine Street, which served the community until 1931 when it was moved to 2033 Vine Street.

*Continued on page 4 →*



(l-r) Property owner Pat Jordan, NSDKC members Joanne Collins and Louise Hicks



(l-r) Louse Hicks, Vice-Pres. Linn Mills, Nancy Elder (NSDKC Administrator) and NSDKC 2nd Vice-President Christy Chester



NSDKC Historian Ray Elder and John Dunnewind, NSDKC First Vice President leave the marker



The crowd scene before the Dedication





Dedication begins as M/C Gary Hicks greets the crowd at his podium with microphone



Dan Heizman, President Local 42 IAFF with Nancy Elder at left

## Kansas City Fire Station #11 Marker Dedication Held June 21

⇒ Continued from page 5

Fire Station No. 11 stayed in that location until the late 1870s, when it was combined with another station as part of a citywide consolidation. The Station later served as an early home to the Black Archives.

We wish to thank everyone that made this event possible, especially NSDKC Markers Committee chaired by **Ross Marshall**, who could not attend because of having kidney stone surgery. Thanks are extended to Markers Committee member **Gary Hicks** for being the M/C for this event. Also to NSDKC Administrator **Nancy Elder**

for coordinating all the endless details that made this event possible.

Thanks are also extended to NSDKC Past President **Linn Mills** for all that she did including organizing a Tour and Social at the nearby Black Archives of Mid-America at 1722 E. 17th Terrace.

Appreciation is extended to all those that attended and to everyone who played a role in making this wonderful event possible!



Unveiling of the marker with Kevin O'Neill, Heather Hall, Pat Jordan and Melissa Robinson



After the unveiling of the marker



# May Social Held At Harris-Kearney House

On May 19, 2022, thirteen members of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City and their guests gathered at the Harris-Kearney House for their monthly social.

**Alana Smith**, President of the Westport Historical Society, gave a presentation and tour of the outstanding historical house built in 1855. This Greek Revival Mansion overlooked the bustling Santa Fe, Oregon and California National Historic Trails and bore witness to the flood of traders and pioneers headed west.

Ms. Smith's tour also highlighted an art exhibit entitled "Finding a Higher Ground." Award-winning artist Greg Summers captures Kansas City history from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. His paintings will be on display at the Harris-Kearney House through June.

Following the informative presentation and tour, our members gathered on the outside veranda for dinner, dessert and enjoyable conversations. Before leaving, Ms. Smith gave everyone a copy of the coffee table book, *"Westport, Missouri's Port of Many Returns"*.



Katz Drug Store was later located.

The Greek Revival mansion was built in 1855 and was owned by Col. John "Jack" Harris and his wife Henrietta. Col. Charles Kearney and wife Josephine, daughter of John and Henrietta Harris, were the second owners and lived in the Mansion House from 1870 to 1898.

In 1898, William Rockhill Nelson, founder of The Kansas City Star, bought the property and gave it to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Johnston, editor of The KC Star, as a wedding gift.

In 1921, Elmer Williams, a businessman, bought the Mansion House and wanted to demolish it and build a hotel. To prevent the demolition, in 1922 the home was purchased for \$1,000 by a group of ladies who were forerunners of the Daughters of Old Westport. They raised another \$5,000 to have the home moved to its current location at 4000 Baltimore Avenue.

On December 31, 1922, the house opened as a historical museum, but was unprofitable and closed. It was then owned by several businesses.

The Westport Historical Society purchased the 1855 Harris-Kearney House in 1976. The Society raised

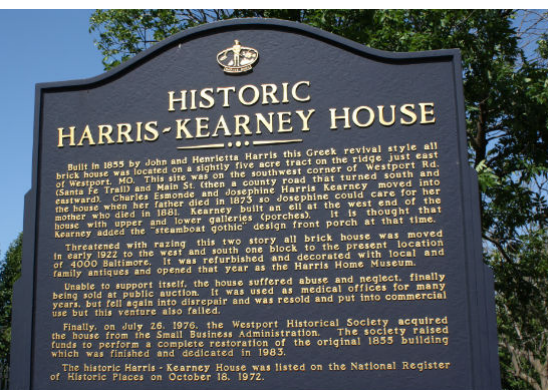


**Paul Christiansen at right. Across from him are Ann & Roger Robertson. At the end of the table is Tom Esselman.**



**Christy Chester and her guest Lorene Rogers**

money and restored the home to its 1855 appearance. In 1985, the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum opened to the public and is operated as a 501(c)(3).



**NSDKC marker erected in 1990**

The 1855 **Harris-Kearney House** is a historical site located in the Westport neighborhood in Kansas City, Missouri. It is also very close to the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails that passed through Westport.

Originally, the house was located at the intersection of modern-day Westport Road and Main Street where the