



NEWS



SUMMER 2023

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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



2023 OKC GALA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023 ♦ THE CARRIAGE CLUB

Our 2023 Annual OKC Gala (the 51st!) will be held at the Carriage Club at 5301 State Line Road in Kansas City, Missouri on Wednesday, November 8. Our OKC Honoree will be **Dr. Matthew Naylor**.

Dr. Matthew Naylor, PhD has been president and CEO of the internationally acclaimed National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City since 2013. During that period, the Museum has achieved unprecedented success.

It has broken records for attendance, educational/community event participants, website traffic and media impressions. During his tenure, attendance has also risen more than 65 percent. Under **Naylor's** leadership, the museum has achieved unprecedented success, breaking records for attendance, website traffic and media impressions in each of his years as President and CEO.

Dr. Matthew Naylor is truly deserving of official recognition as an Outstanding Kansas Citian by NSDKC!

More details will follow soon. A "Save the Date" postcard will be sent to all NSDKC members. Reservation information, etc. will be on the card.



🕒 **Dr. Matthew Naylor, Ph.D.** 🕒

- 🕒 **Reception & Silent Auction: 6:00pm**
- 🕒 **Dinner: 7:00pm**
- 🕒 **Program: 8:00pm**

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



Dear Members:

I am beginning by thanking some people for their activities recently. **Linn Mills** for her recent events for NSDKC members and guests; the event at the Missouri Genealogy Center, the Lee's Summit Museum, the J. Rieger & Co. get together, and most recently the event at the KC Collections Museum. **Linn**, we sincerely appreciate all your efforts.

Next thanks go to **John Dunnewind** for being at the recent Fire Fest in Independence, Mo. This event is a gathering of antique fire trucks, tractors and cars and is held annually. **John** came early and stayed late to help get things set up and taken down. His partial reason was to get some first-hand information for a small antique fire truck model he has been working on. We really enjoyed having him.

Thanks to **Christy Chester** for her committee and their work on the 2023 NSDKC OKC Gala. The Save the Date card will be in your mail boxes very soon –the date is Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at The Carriage Club. Be sure to mark your calendars for this annual event. More information on it will be on Facebook and newsletters. Be sure to “like” the Facebook posting as the posting then goes out to all your friends as well. The more publicity we get the more people will be interested in coming.

Our By-Laws Committee has been working very hard to update the NSDKC By-Laws which were first written in 1932. Through the years things have been clarified and updated and it is time to do that again. Members will

be asked to vote on some changes at the annual meeting in October. The Advisory Committee is jointly working with By-Laws Committee for the future of NSDKC.

We encourage each of the current members to ask someone to join our organization, lend us their talents and work for the preservation of the Greater Kansas City History. Too many times lately things are being destroyed rather than preserved –this goes for buildings, statues, and now books in the libraries. History is very important and must be preserved.

Until next time, we send best wishes to stay healthy, and safe.



Ray Elder
2023 President

NEW MEMBERS

Whitney Heinzmann

MEMORIALS

Carl J. DiCapo

CALENDAR

2023 OKC GALA

November 8 at 6:00 p.m.

**Harry S. Truman Library
Tour in Independence**

TBA



OFFICERS & STAFF

Ray Elder
President

John Dunnewind
1st Vice President

Christy Chester
2nd Vice President

Nancy Elder
Treasurer

Paul Christiansen II
Secretary

Nancy Elder
Historian

Linda F. Mills
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.



Ray Elder
2023 President

Carl J. Dicapo Passed April 26, 2023



A big loss! **Carl** was a long-time valuable supportive member of NSDKC. He was NSDKC President in 2015 and was on our Board of Directors for many years. **Carl** was also our OKC Honoree in 2001.

He spearheaded the fundraising for the NSDKC Monument that we erected in 2018 at Ilus Davis Park in downtown Kansas City at 10th and Oak.

Carl was our Membership Committee Chair for over 10 years and enlisted many new members. He was also a member of the OKC Committee for many years.

Carl was a very loyal Kansas Citian and for so many years was an officer, leader and fundraiser with many organizations such as Liberty Memorial Association and City of Fountains.

He spent 46 years as Manager and part owner of the wonderful Italian Gardens Restaurant in downtown Kansas City.

He is buried at Mount Olive Cemetery.

NSDKC Tour at J. Rieger & Co. Distillery

On Wednesday, May 17 we enjoyed a guided tour of the magnificent J. Rieger & Co. distillery. It was arranged by NSDKC past president and current Program Chair **Linn Mills**. We gathered there before 6:00 p.m. and were led by an excellent guide through the huge distillery as he described not only what they distill but how they do it.

Jacob Rieger immigrated to America from Goritz, Austria in 1877. That year, Jacob founded the J. Rieger & Co. distillery in Kansas City's West Bottoms, directly across from the Livestock Exchange Building. 21 years later in 1898, the first official listing of J. Rieger & Co. claimed to be the largest mail-order whiskey house in the U.S. with a customer base of 250,000 or more! The

Continued on page 4 ➡



North face of the distillery located at 2700 Guinotte, KCMO in the East Bottoms



Some of our 18 attendees listening to our guide (at right) as he explained the process of making whiskey, vodka, bourbon, gin and also how it is aged and stored, etc.



The Electric Park huge outside restaurant and patio area on the east side of the distillery where we enjoyed eating, refreshments and fellowship.



Racks of their 3800 wood barrels that contain whiskey, etc.

NSDKC Tour at J. Rieger & Co. Distillery



⇒ *Continued from page 3*

distillery offered over 100 unique products ranging from whiskey to gins, rums and even stomach bitters!

J. Rieger & Co. reached customers across the country through direct mail and advertisements. Recipients completed the order form and mailed it to J. Rieger & Co. with payment. Orders were then fulfilled and J. Rieger & Co. products were shipped all over the country.

The company thrived on this business model until the U. S. Eighteenth Amendment was passed in 1919 making the production, sale and transport of intoxicating liquors illegal. Like most breweries and distilleries across the country, Alexander Rieger was forced to shut the doors of J. Rieger and Co. in December, 1919.

Shortly after, Alexander Rieger Mercantile Company and Alexander Rieger Investment Company were listed at the same address of the once thriving J. Rieger distillery. Sometime around the 1950s, the original distillery was razed to make way for a parking lot!

J. Rieger & Co. was reestablished in October, 2014 by Ryan Maybee and Andy Rieger, Jacob Rieger's great-great-great grandson.

The distillery is now located in the East Bottoms neighborhood in Kansas City, just three and a half miles from the original location in the West Bottoms.

J. Rieger & Co. products are currently distributed in states from Delaware to Texas to Minnesota including Missouri and Kansas. It is truly a distillery of high stature in our nation!

After the tour, we enjoyed a tasting session. Then we had an optional light dinner and refreshments, at our own expense, at the wonderful Electric Park patio pictured above.

Good idea **Linn** for arranging this enjoyable tour event!



NSDKC Program Director Linn Mills addresses the crowd.



NSDKC Past-President Gary Hicks at the podium.



Highland Farms Marker Dedicated May 30, 2023

It was a very wonderful dedication on Tuesday, May 30 of NSDKC's 43rd upright marker on a post! A little cloudy to begin with but the sun soon was bright. Over 40 people attended at the site of Highland Park Elementary School at 400 SE Millstone Avenue, just east of Lee's Summit, Missouri as shown in the pictures above.

This site is actually on a segment of the original large Highland Farms which was 7600 acres, the largest farm in Missouri in the 1920s and was owned by **Milton Thompson**. It was famous for being the world's largest registered Hereford breeding farm.

The Dedication was opened at 10:30 a.m. by Master of Ceremonies **Ross Marshall**, NSDKC Past-President and Chair of the Markers Committee, as he greeted and welcomed the attendees.

Jodi Mallette, Principal of the School, then greeted the attendees and reviewed the value and accomplishments of the School.

Pictured above is the crowd as our NSDKC Program Director **Linn Mills** (pink coat) speaks about what NSDKC does in terms of preserving, interpreting and



Students of Highland Park Elementary.

displaying the history of the Greater Kansas City Area.

The next speaker was **Gary Hicks**, NSDKC Past-President and member of the Markers Committee (in white jacket), who discussed the history and heritage of Highland Farms in great detail. **Gary** and his wife **Louise**, niece of **Louise Willig Rehn**, are the ones that paid for the marker.

His remarks were in great detail and supported much of what is displayed on the marker that appears in the center of the picture with a blue veil on it.

The next speaker was **Sue Hart**, Membership and Volunteer Chair for Lee's Summit Historical Society and Museum. She invited us to visit the Museum, at no charge, which is in the center of downtown Lee's Summit. And many of us did!

After the speakers finished, it was time to unveil the marker.

Above are several of the students of the School who were called forward to unveil the marker. Obviously they enjoyed it very much!

Continued on page 6 ➡

Highland Farms Marker

⇒ Continued from page 5

This concluded the Dedication ceremony at about 11:00.

About a week later on June 7, **Gary Hicks** and **Ross Marshall** joined with a couple of diggers and erected the two-sided marker on its post as pictured right near the entrance to the School. The School's Marquee sign is next to the marker and the Highland Park School is shown in the distance.



Steve And Marianne Noll Kansas City Collection Event



On Friday, June 16 twenty-five or so NSDKC members met at the house of **Steve** and **Marianne Noll** to see and experience their MARVELOUS collection of Kansas City History memorabilia, artifacts and ephemera. The event was sponsored by NSDKC.

The house at left in Prairie Village is where all of it is stored. They actually live in the house to the right of it.

The collection has been accumulated over several decades primarily by **Steve** and is displayed on countless tables, shelves, large glass-window cabinets, on walls, etc. throughout both floors of the house. Some of the artifacts are displayed on the shelves, cabinets, etc. as shown in the picture to the left. **Steve Noll** is standing at right in the dark blue shirt.

Steve is Past-President of NSDKC and is currently on the Board of Directors. What a thrill to see and enjoy his outstanding collection!

