

# The Native Sons and Daughters



## of Greater Kansas City

JACKSON

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CLAY

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PLATTE

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CASS

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LAFAYETTE

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RAY

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WYANDOTTE

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LEAVENWORTH

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MIAMI

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JOHNSON

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*“The Native Sons and Daughters is among the oldest, most enduring historical societies in Kansas City, and they have unquestionably been a major force in preserving and promoting the region’s history. Without their good work to preserve sites, encourage recognition of local people and events, and their efforts to secure documents and records of our community’s past, much of Kansas City’s rich heritage would be unknown and unknowable.”*

*—David Boutros, Associate Director  
Western Missouri Historical  
Manuscript Collection, Kansas City*

# PROJECTS & RESTORATIONS



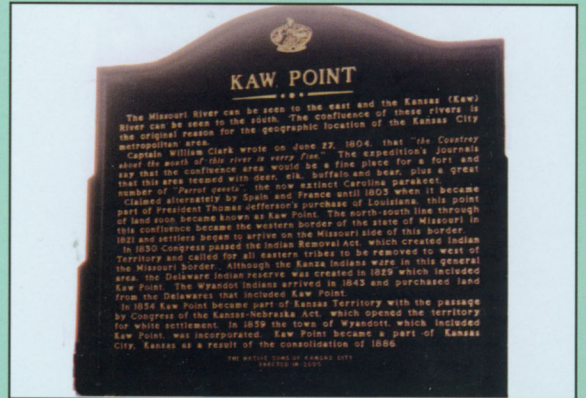
The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City was the first private sector organization to issue a proclamation supporting the restoration and expansion of Liberty Memorial, originally dedicated November 11, 1926. The organization actively raised funds for the project through private donations and corporate sponsorships. Kansas City's Parks and Recreation Department describes the Native Sons as "the most diligent and determined of our supporters in the City."

On December 2, 2006, the expanded National World War I Museum opened the window to an extraordinary emotional and intellectual experience. Envisioned by the people of Kansas City, designed by Ralph Appelbaum Associates, and designated by Congress as the nation's official WW I Museum.

The Museum was selected as "Favorite Museum or Historical Site" in the 2008 KC Visitors' Choice Awards. The Visitors' Awards are the only awards that are chosen exclusively by visitors to Kansas City.



The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City was the catalyst in the late 1940's that began the restoration of Fort Osage overlooking the Missouri River. Once the guardian of an unexplored frontier, historic Fort Osage was of the era when rugged men sought furs and found adventure along the Missouri River valley. In September 2008, the Native Sons and Daughters placed a new marker to commemorate the expansion and renovation of the site.



The Kaw Point marker was erected in 2005 by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas City and is located at 'Lewis and Clark Park' at Kaw Point in Kansas City, Kansas. Kaw Point is at the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas (Kaw) Rivers and was described by Captain William Clark in his June 1805 journals that this area teemed with deer, elk, buffalo and bear, plus a great number of "Parrot queets", the now extinct Carolina parakeet. His journals also referenced that the nearby high lands were "a butifull place for as fort." The Native Sons and Daughters were at the forefront of the bicentennial celebration of Lewis and Clark expedition.



A Native Sons and Daughters' project to raise funds and restore the Alexander Majors home at 83rd and State Line Road was another success. This was the home of Pony Express Co-Founder Alexander Majors. Over 4000 freight wagons traveled the Santa Fe Trail from the Kansas City area—many of them a part of the Russell, Majors, Waddell overland freighting business ventures.



Once called the 'West Port', the original site of the 'Town of Kansas' that later became Kansas City, Missouri, is to be restored and recognized. The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City originated the project by determining the exact location of the original landing. A marker has been placed to commemorate the old town site at what is now an area of the downtown waterfront near 1st and Main Streets.



The creation of the bronze statue commemorating the early pioneers: Alexander Majors, founding partner of the Pony Express; John Calvin McCoy, in addition to being the founder of Westport, most importantly for McCoy, he was one of 14 co-founders of the 'Town of Kansas', later to become Kansas City, Missouri; and Jim Bridger, famous scout, trapper, and local resident (located at Broadway & Westport Road) was a joint venture of the Native Sons and Daughters and the Westport Historical Society.

*"Historic properties are usually the responsibility of the park department, but it takes more than one organization to accomplish preservation. Because of the Native Sons and Daughters organization's interest in Kansas City's historic places and buildings, their preservation goals can overlap ours. Combining our abilities to accomplish historic preservation projects, and by creating a strong partnership with another local organization to help raise the funds, ultimately makes pieces of Kansas City history accessible for the public to view. This kind of cooperation between organizations not only helps both parties, but also strengthens the city."*

**—Bob Lewellen, former chairman of the Board of Commissioners, KCMO Parks and Recreation Commission**

# THE NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY *an Historical Perspective*

During the fall months of 1931, D. Ralston Spaulding, the Native Sons' sponsor and first president, discussed the formation, purposes, objectives and future possibilities of a voluntary association. He expounded on what it could accomplish in assembling a group of men of mature years, who had been born within the present city limits of what is now Kansas City, Missouri. He remarked, "It must be a booster organization as well as a society for reminiscence... We intend to link the past with the present and the present with the future. We who are native best understand its problems."

This led to a course of action for the society. In 1936, president Pierre Porter reiterated the goals of the Native Sons in his inaugural address. He said, "this organization can, and should contribute accurate historical details, intimate, heretofore unpublished material for the use of future historians and novelists."

Hence, the Native Sons began their first major restoration project in 1937 with their work on the Union Cemetery. They continued for 25 years working with the city to preserve and enhance the cemetery. They began their work with Fort Osage in 1940 when they sponsored a call to start an association to preserve and mark the site. On Sept. 11, 1948, the fort was dedicated to the Native Sons. On June 1, 1963, it was dedicated as a Registered National Historic Landmark.

The Native Sons also began the "Outstanding Native Kansas Citian of the Year" award in 1973 and it endures as a hallmark of recognition within the city. "The Scout Award," initiated in 2001, highlights the future leadership of Greater Kansas City by saluting the best and brightest individuals who have begun to make their mark in our community. The Society continues to plan markers, preserve and restore historic sites, and supports other projects in the greater Kansas City area.

In keeping with the changing times, the membership voted unanimously on December 2, 2006 to change the organization's name to "The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City". The vote occurred at the annual Gala Holiday Brunch at Indian Hills Country Club.

At that same event, Eileen S. Sullivan was installed as the first female president and the first second generation president.

## MEMBERSHIP INFO:

Membership of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City is open to men and women who are at least 21 years of age and either were born in the Greater Kansas City area (or whose parents resided in the area at the time of their birth), or have an interest in the community and its history.

Visit our website at:

[www.nsdkc.org](http://www.nsdkc.org)

Please submit inquiries for membership to Executive Secretary at:

The Native Sons and Daughters  
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Kansas City, MO 64171-0046

For more information, contact:

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