

THE WORNALL- MAJOR COLUMNS

Fall 2013
Volume XI, Issue XXI



ALEXANDER MAJORS
HISTORIC HOUSE AND MUSEUM

Dating from 1858 and 1856 respectively, The John Wornall House and The Alexander Majors House are two of the oldest and most important antebellum structures in the greater Kansas City region. Both historic houses comprise The Wornall/Majors House Museums, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 2011 and serving 8,000 program participants and visitors annually.

Our Mission—To engage community by bringing history to life through hands-on, innovative programs and experiences.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am delighted and honored to be the new Executive Director of The Wornall/Majors House Museums (WMHM). I applaud the tremendous accomplishments made over the past five years by the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and my predecessor, Kandice Walker. At this time, I enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to build the capacity of the museums during such an exciting time in their development.

I come to the museums as the Board launches its new strategic plan that will guide our priorities for years to come. The plan calls for growth in four strategic areas: financial resources, property resources, program participation, and people resources. By 2015, we aim to generate an annual operating budget of \$300,000, allowing us to preserve and restore both houses and to deliver quality

education programs and services for an audience of 10,000 participants and visitors.

This newsletter will provide up-to-date information on our programs, events, and activities. We will continue to mail a newsletter to you on a quarterly basis. Also, enclosed please find our year-end appeal letter. I hope you will consider making a tax-deductible financial contribution by December 31, 2012. Your support is vital to our success in preserving and expanding the educational and community impact of these treasured houses.

Sincerely,
Anna Marie Tintera
Executive Director

- Connect With Us -

816.444.1858



The John Wornall House
6115 Wornall Road
Kansas City, MO 64113
www.wornallhouse.org

The Alexander Majors House
8201 State Line Road
Kansas City, MO 64114
www.alexandermajors.com

Discounted Rates for Groups

VOLUNTEERING AT THE ALEXANDER MAJORS HOUSE

We are currently recruiting and training volunteers to be weekend docents at The Alexander Majors House. Docents are needed from 1-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. If you are interested, please email volunteers@wornallmajors.org or call 816.444.1858.

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

We have almost reached our capital campaign goal. Please consider making a donation today to help us close the \$10,000 gap. For more information, call 816.444.1858.

October



GHOST TOURS

Back by popular demand! WMHM's annual ghost tours will be conducted at the Alexander Majors House this year. A lantern-lit tour will set the mood for the ghosts and legends of the Civil War as well as the strange events and ghosts who are said to still haunt the Majors House and the Wornall House today!

Tours last one hour. **NEW!** This year at ghost tours Chef Shannon Kimball and his ghostly assistants will be onsite each tour evening starting at 5:30 p.m. to serve a menu that will have you howling with delight! Please visit our website for tickets and more information.

Paranormal Investigations

Learn how to use equipment, ask questions, and actually try to detect paranormal evidence with professional investigators. This year we are pleased to host Elite Paranormal and Mystic Moms – both of whom have appeared on *My Ghost Story* on the Bio Channel! Advanced registration and payment is required. Please visit our website to register and for more information.



Not So Spooky Stories/Autumn Festival

Join us for the first annual Not-So-Spooky Ghost Stories and Autumn Festival for kids and their families. Your children will relish in Halloween delight at the Alexander Majors House and Barn. Enjoy storytelling, costume parades, palm reading, face painting, blacksmithing, food demonstrations in our 1850s kitchen, samplings of apple treats, and fun hands-on arts and crafts activities such as making corn husk dolls, masks, and lanterns. Visit our website for ticket information.

Piano Dedication

Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph and Jim Upton have worked countless hours to restore the box grand piano at the Alexander Majors House to its former glory. To honor this milestone, WMHM is have a Piano Dedication at the Majors House. Please see the next page for more information.

November



UPCOMING EVENTS

Barn Sale



Bring your friends and family to the Alexander Majors Barn for a one-of-a-kind sale. Jump start your Christmas shopping this November. The barn doors will be wide open displaying all the goodies inside. We will be selling everything from books to furniture. Enjoy a delightful day of shopping, yummy food, and quality music all while supporting the museums. Proceeds from the sale will go to WMHM. Please check our website for details. See you there!

December



Candlelight Tours



Join us for our annual Candlelight tours. This year, you will experience a unique Victorian Fairy Christmas. This is a hands-on, interactive tour is appropriate for all ages and is sure to start a new tradition in your family. All tours begin in the barn with refreshments and entertainment. Tours enter the house every 15 minutes starting with each tour is 30 minutes. Advance registration and payment are required. Please check our website for tickets and information.

Father Christmas



Enjoy a historic holiday with your children and grandchildren. Each child will have the opportunity to participate in traditional Christmas activities, listen to stories, hear music, and meet Father Christmas. Your child is welcome to sit on his knee and have a photo taken! RSVP is highly recommended; Tickets will be sold at the door. Walk-ins are welcomed! Please visit our website for more information.

MAJORS HOUSE PIANO DEMONSTRATION

By: Heather Paxton

Cora Gladish was a composer, though not one known widely today even in her native Missouri. Now, 62 years after her death, her music will once again be played – on her own piano at the Alexander Majors House. It's not just any piano. It's a square grand piano that was made in 1875 by Mathuczek in New Haven, Connecticut. The piano, like the one at the John Wornall House, is made of rosewood. Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph and his assistant, Jim Upton, have restored it. This is a complicated process – a piano has 11,000 parts.

On a butterfly grand piano, the pedal lyre is in the middle. By contrast, on a square grand piano, the lyre is on the right side. As Dr. Prince-Joseph notes, ladies of the Victorian era wore voluminous skirts. Having the lyre on the right side made it possible for them to see the pedal while they played. As with any good square grand piano, the piano at the Majors house has a harp rack, which is made of red felt. When a pianist presses the left pedal, the harp rack slides between the strings and the hammer, so that the hammer hits the felt first. This causes the piano to sound like a harp. Dr. Prince-Joseph says that the great joy in playing a square piano is in using the harp rack. He acknowledges that the harp rack can't be used in a concert hall, because it reduces the level of the sound so considerably that it cannot be heard.

Sarah Cora Gladish, (who was known as Cora), was born on a farm near Higginsville, Missouri, on June 21, 1867. She was the daughter of Isabel Burnett Gladish and James Gladish. Cora was educated at the Lexington Ladies College and Central Missouri State College. She never married, and she was a schoolteacher for many years in Johnson and Lafayette counties. Music was her passion. Her compositions include “Do You Know Why The Lilacs Are Sweetest Of All?,” “De Lil' White Coat On De Wall,” “America (U.S.),” “For You,” “Mother (My Own),” “Shadows or My Last Dream,” “United States of America (Stars on the Blue),” “A Precious Gift,” and “Our Dear Wild Rose.” In later years, Cora resided in Odessa, Missouri. She died on January 2, 1951, in Warrensburg, Missouri. Her obituary noted that she was a member of the Kansas City Branch of the National League of American Pen Women and listed her as an honorary member of the General Assembly of Presidents and Past Presidents of Kansas City.

The demonstration will be held on November 21st in the barn at the Majors house. Dr. Prince-Joseph plans to play in full songs that would have been popular on the frontier. These will include “Campaign Song for Abraham Lincoln,” with words by Charles Haynes and music by J.E. Haynes, which board member Tom Taylor has found. The Reverend Jeffrey Hon of New Song Church will be the soloist for “Campaign Song for Abraham Lincoln.” Schottishes enjoyed a vogue then, and in addition, Dr. Prince-Joseph will perform selections from the work of composers such as Chopin, Schumann, Schubert, and Bach. Veronica Caine will be the soloist for Cora Gladish's “Our Dear Wild Rose.” A private demonstration will be held for the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, followed by a reception and then a demonstration for the public. Please visit our website for ticket details.

This Quarter in Civil War History

The following is found on www.historyplace.com

October 3, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

October 24, 1861 - The first transcontinental telegram in America was sent from San Francisco to Washington, addressed to President Abraham Lincoln from the Chief Justice of California.

November 19, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address during ceremonies dedicating 17 acres of the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Cemetery. Famed orator Edward Everett of Massachusetts preceded Lincoln and spoke for two hours. Lincoln then delivered his address in less than two minutes. Although many in attendance were at first unimpressed, Lincoln's words have come to symbolize the definition of democracy itself.

November 24, 1863 - The Battle of Chattanooga took place during the American Civil War as General Ulysses Grant's soldiers scaled heavily fortified Lookout Mountain and overran Confederate General Braxton Bragg's army.

November 30 - American author Samuel Clemens (1835-1910) was born in Florida, Missouri. He wrote books under the pen name Mark Twain including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *The Prince and the Pauper*.

December 20, 1860 - South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union in a prelude to the American Civil War. Within two months Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas seceded. In April 1861, Virginia seceded, followed within five weeks by Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, thus forming an eleven state Confederacy with a population of 9 million, including nearly 4 million slaves. The Union had 21 states and a population of over 20 million.

December 25, 1868 - President Andrew Johnson granted general amnesty to all those involved in the Civil War.



WMHM Trivia

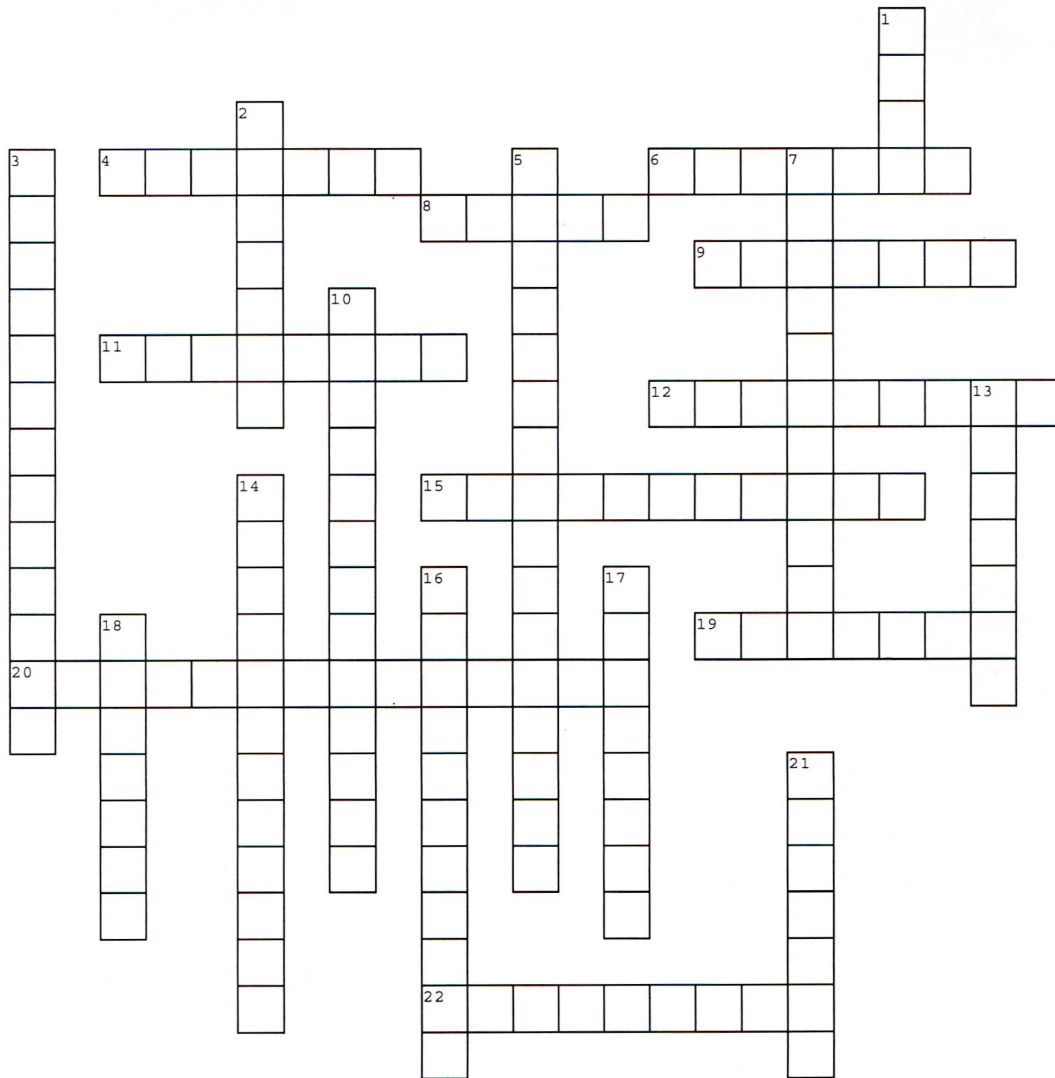
Complete the crossword below

Down

1. Last name of the family who purchased the Majors House in early 1900s
2. John Wornall's Middle Name
3. Wornall acted as chairman of its Board of Trustees for this college (2 words)
5. Name of Civil War Battle in which the Wornall House served as the field hospital (3 words)
7. This Seventh Kansas Cavalry Colonel commandeered the Wornall home as his headquarters in 1863 (2 words)
10. Name of Majors' daughter who lived in the house after Majors left (first and last)
13. Month John Wornall was born
14. The city that Majors moved to in 1858, after building his Kansas City Home. (2 words)
16. Alexander Majors and business partners are accredited with founding this mail service (2 words)
17. The state where both Majors and Wornall were born
18. Majors business partner that became involved with the Secretary of War in a scandal. (Last name)
21. John Wornall belonged to this denomination of Christianity

Across

4. The first name of Roma's youngest son
6. Last name of Majors' second business partner.
8. The first name of Eliza's oldest son
9. First name of John Wornall's father
11. The starting point of the Pony Express's 1,900 mile trail (city - 2 words)
12. Name of the man who sold the Wornall's their land - also founder of Westport (2 Words)
15. Majors gave this famous Wild West traveling entertainer his first job as a pony express rider
19. This trail helped Alexander Majors build his wealth (2 words)
20. First and last name of Majors' great granddaughter who saved the house
22. Eliza Wornall's maiden name



Answers: 1) Ruth 2) Bristow 3) William Jewell 4) Charles 5) battle of Westport 6) Waddell 7) Doc Jenkinson 8) Frank 9) Richard 10) Rebecca Poteet 11) St Joseph 12) John McCoy 13) October 14) Nebraska city 15) buffalo bill 16) Pony Express 17) Kentucky 18) Russell 19) Santa Fe 20) Louisa Johnston 21) Baptist 22) Shalcross

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