



# Wornall/Majors Columns

The newsletter of the Wornall/Majors House Museums

Volume II, Issue 2 | April 2016

## 2015: A Year of Success and Growth



*Top Left* The Missouri Irish Brigade dances at Candlelight Tours, Dec. 11-12



*Top Middle* Joe & Linda Huber and Clara & Larry Van Draska at Border Wars Beer & BBQ, Oct. 1



*Far Right* The Western Bluecoats Field Hospital perform a Civil War surgery demonstration at Ghost Tours, Oct.



*Bottom Left* Attendees enjoy a Dark Horse Distillery whiskey tasting at Whiskey Pioneers, Nov.13

**T**he Wornall/Majors House Museums truly had a banner year in 2015, and our successes are due to your support and involvement. Here is a sampling of some of our accomplishments in 2015:

- New community partners and relationships helped take our programs to the next level, with some of our new program partners including Recommended Daily, the US Bartender’s Guild—Kansas City, the Kansas City Public Library Westport Branch, Dark Horse Distillery, the Civil War Trust, and more.
- The Museums formed a Wornall House Landscape Master Plan task force, as we begin the process of turning the Wornall lawn into a place for historic interpretation, learning, and community gathering.
- The Herb Cocktail Party and Herb & Wildflower Sale in April set records for both attendance and revenue.
- Ghost Tours at the Wornall House demolished previous attendance records. 428 visitors toured the House in just 4 nights, an increase of 61% from last year’s attendance!
- Public tours at both the Wornall & Majors Houses were up from 2014. If you haven’t visited the Houses in a while, we hope you’ll join us in 2016 for a tour so we can continue to raise our public tour numbers.
- Thanks to your support, our year-end donations were also up from the previous year. Whether you donated \$5 or \$500 it all added up to a smashing way to end 2015.

# Wornall House Foyer Restored and Refreshed

**T**hanks to a generous donation from an anonymous donor, the foyer of the Wornall House has been restored and refreshed in a beautiful and period appropriate way.

“The generosity of this individual created a fresh new look for the Foyer that is period appropriate and allows the community to see this treasured historic home in a new light while also helping to care and maintain the house for generations to come,” said Kerrie Nichols, executive director.

The existing wallpaper, which had not been replaced since the House’s 1974 restoration, was removed, leaving original plaster behind. Thanks to the hard work of Old Heritage Decorators, the plaster was rehabilitated and covered with paint that accurately reflects a color that may have been on the wall of a Civil War-era home.

In addition, the old carpet, which was not previously period-correct, was replaced with a beautiful new vibrant design. Between 1850 and 1860, production of carpeting in America increased 45 percent. The Wornall House, built in 1858, would have most likely followed the trend and the Wornalls would have carpeted their home with a vibrant, yet muted pattern.

The Wornall/Majors Collections Committee worked hard to find a new design for the foyer that would brighten the space and create a welcoming first impression for guests.

If you haven’t visited the Wornall House recently, stop by and take a look at the new foyer!



[Above] Wornall House foyer before restoration, looking down from landing.



[Below] Foyer after restoration, looking down from landing.

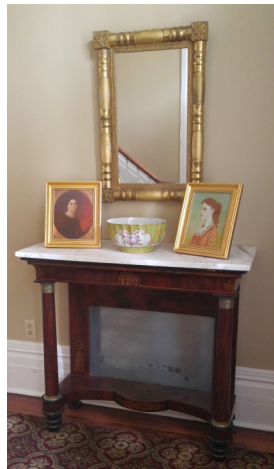
## Artifact Fact: New Pier Table in Wornall Foyer

**T**hanks to a generous donation from museum benefactor Mrs. Adelaide C. Ward, the Wornall House has been able to purchase a beautiful American classical pier table (ca. 1830, Boston) for our recently renovated entry hall. The table is made of fine mahogany and features

bronze capitals on the front columns, melon carved feet, gilded decoration, the original looking-glass plate on the back, and a white marble top.

Pier tables were originally made to stand against a pier between two windows, hence the name. They were made in singles and in pairs and were often placed in entry halls. They are sometimes called “petticoat tables” because ladies might check their petticoats in the mirrors at the back of the tables when standing next to them.

We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Ward for enabling us to add such a very special piece of furniture to our collection.

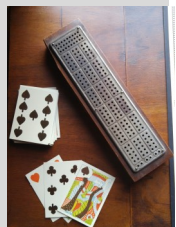


## What Else is New at the Wornall House?

Haven’t visited the Wornall House recently? We have recently added several new objects on display including:

### Cribbage board and reproduction playing cards:

This cribbage board most likely belonged to John Wornall!



**Civil War medical kit & assistant surgeon’s uniform:** On loan from the Western Bluecoats Field

Hospital, learn about Civil War medicine through this display.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Clara Van Draska

**M**y first job was teaching American history, so in a way I'm returning to my roots as a history major," says volunteer Clara Van Draska, docent for both the Wornall and Majors Houses. "I love conducting the tours, exploring local and regional history with our guests." Clara also enjoys the summer campers, noting that many of the children already have a love of history.

A native of Springfield, Mo., Clara has spent most of her life in Kansas City. In 2012, she retired from her position as a specialist in Information Technology, working for several companies that included Marion Labs, American Century, and JP Morgan. In addition to docenting at Wornall/Majors, Clara volunteers as a tutor for adult learners at Literacy KC, also working in the library there. Some of her favorite pastimes include reading and gardening.

Clara enjoys both houses equally, for different reasons. "The Majors House is significant because of Alexander Majors' place in history and Louisa Johnston's dedication to saving the house. The Wornall House is important because of its role in the Battle of Westport. In both houses, I try to create a sense of the people's lives within them," she says.

Clara is a well-informed guide who has read a great deal about Kansas City history, even researching mourning practices of the Civil War period. She recently shared her knowledge at the Wornall House's 2015 Ghost Tours. Her favorite characters from the Civil War era are the women who maintained the households while the men were away fighting. She has a predilection for Roma Wornall, whom she admires for being a wonderful community leader who gracefully transitioned into the modern era.

When asked to relay an unusual or unexpected aspect of volunteering with the houses, one springs immediately to mind. "Just a little superstition of mine—whenever I walk into the Majors House alone, I announce myself. I consider it a courtesy to Louisa!"

## Staff Spotlight: Sarah Bader-King Director of Public Programs & Events



**R**aised in Great Bend, Ks., Sarah serves as Director of Public Programs and Events at Wornall/Majors. Sarah's background is in journalism and non-profit programming. She is a graduate of William Jewell College, and in an interesting connection, John Wornall was one of the original trustees of the school.

"I've done a little of everything in my career," she said. "I taught English in South Korea for a year, I worked for the Truman Scholarship Program in Washington, D.C., and I've worked at a small town newspaper. I always wanted to work for a museum, but thought I needed a degree in museum studies to do so. But I saw the job posting and realized there was a fit after all!"

Sarah's job entails planning events and handling every situation in which the museums interface with the public. Educational programs and field trips, as well as private and public events fall under her supervision. She also handles social media, website content, and marketing. She also gives tours on days that volunteers are unavailable, an activity she feels has brought her closer to the house. But her favorite part of the job is coming up with new programs, such as last year's Artisan Day, an event that included craft vendors, weaving and blacksmithing demonstrations. "It's always exciting to start something from scratch and see it come to fruition," said Sarah.

Sarah is a lover of pets, and has two rabbits and a cat. In true pioneer spirit, she's teaching herself to shoot a bow and arrow.

Sarah has a special affinity for Eliza Wornall, since John's first wife was present during the building of the Wornall House and the action that followed. "I was really impressed by what a tough lady Eliza was. She went through a lot in her lifetime, and the Wornall House story wouldn't be the same without her."



# 2016 WORNALL/MAJORS GARDEN TOUR

JUNE 4, 2016  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Rain or shine

The Wornall/Majors Garden Tour is the premier garden tour in Kansas City. The tour draws hundreds of garden and history-lovers out to support the Museums by touring some of the finest gardens Kansas City has to offer. Proceeds from the tour support the John Wornall House and the Alexander Majors House. Tickets available at [wornallmajors.org/gardentour2016](http://wornallmajors.org/gardentour2016).

### Patron's Party

Friday, June 3  
7:00 PM  
Garden preview: 5:00-7:00 PM

Get a sneak peek of this year's gardens on the eve of the tour and enjoy a cocktail reception at the Mission Hills home of Jenny Chapin and Walker Woods.

Tickets: \$125



### Garden Tour

Saturday, June 4  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Featuring six of Kansas City's premier gardens, including the Wornall House Herb Garden.

Tickets: \$25 in advance/  
\$30 at the door



### Pop-Up Craft & Food Fair

Saturday, June 4  
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Garden-themed craft vendors and food trucks presented by Strawberry Swing and featured on the Wornall House lawn for both ticketholders and the general public to enjoy.



## The Gardens:

**The Wornall Herb Garden** showcases a wide variety of historic and unique herbs and is nestled behind the John Wornall House Museum. The garden is tended to by a group of dedicated garden volunteers.



The Kansas City, MO **garden of Judy & David Aull** is filled with charm and history, and contains many surprising historic touches from an 18th century fountain to an antique well.



The **Tom Corbin Sculpture Garden**, located behind Corbin's Rosedale, KS studio, is as meticulously sculpted as Corbin's statues that also grace the garden. Corbin will also open his studio to Garden Tour visitors.



**Christopher Filley and Rich Hoffman** have filled their Crestwood garden with eclectic items that showcase their eye for antiques. Their garden showcases artwork that perfectly harmonizes with the cozy space.



The Crestwood **garden of George Terbovich** features a terrace for entertaining and a crafted pond in a tranquil space framed in shades of green.



The grounds of the **Oak Street Mansion**, an art hotel in the historic Southmoreland district, are well manicured and verdant. Stroll through this peaceful oasis and enjoy the beautiful art in the garden.



# How You Can Help Bring History to Life

The Wornall/Majors House Museums provide critical historic education to adults and children each year through innovative, hand-on programs, lectures, summer camps, social gatherings, field trips, author events, and much more. The John Wornall House and Alexander Majors House are crucial parts of the Kansas City and regional story. We strive to bring those stories to the public in ways that are fresh and relevant. But we can't do it without you! Every time you donate, renew your membership, attend an event, take a public or private tour or volunteer, you're helping to preserve and protect these historic landmarks. Visit [www.wornallmajors.org/donations/](http://www.wornallmajors.org/donations/) or call 816-444-1858 to learn more.

## Be a part of the Kansas City story by being a part of OUR story:



### Donate

Donations of all amounts are greatly appreciated and vital to the health of the Wornall/Majors House Museums. We treasure the support we receive from the community.



### Join Keepers of the Columns

Go beyond membership and support the Wornall/Majors House Museums through a multi-year pledge of support. "Keepers of the Columns" honors not only the distinct architectural features of both historic houses, but the importance and power of the Keeper donors.



### Sponsor

Does your business or organization want to support a specific program at the Museums? Sponsors receive many marketing benefits in addition to the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting historic preservation.

## Upcoming Capital Campaigns

### Learning Landscape at the Wornall House

The Wornall House lawn has long been a community asset, a setting for summer camp, and staging area for Wornall House programs. This year, fundraising will begin to turn the lawn into a learning landscape that will take the Wornall story outdoors with interpretive signage, integration between tours inside the House and outside on the lawn, and improved irrigation, lighting, and security.

The House Museums are working with landscape architecture firm Confluence to insure that any improvements are sustainable and lasting. Funders to date include The Taylor S. Abernathy & Patti Abernathy Charitable Trust, Bank of America; the National Trust for Historic Preservation; Mary Ford Maurer Donor Advisory Fund, Ford and Christine Maurer; and Cathy Campbell.

### Wood Restoration at the Majors House

Fundraising is under way for a complete overhaul and restoration of the exterior wood of the Majors House. Restoring the wood is crucial to maintaining the integrity of the structure of the Majors House so that it can remain stable for years to come.

Work has already been done on crucial repairs to stabilize the condition of the wood and minimize future deterioration, but a large-scale restoration needs to be completed. Funders to date include Kearney Wornall Foundation, UMB Bank, trustee and the Taylor S. Abernathy & Patti Harding Abernathy Charitable Trust, Bank of America.

**If you are interested in funding or assisting with either of these projects, please contact Kerrie Nichols at 816-444-1858 or [director@wornallmajors.org](mailto:director@wornallmajors.org).**

## Thank you to our 2015 Keepers of the Columns

Libby Gessley

Janet Kelley

Whitney & Day Kerr

Benjamin & Elaine Mann

Heather Paxton

Bruce & Page Reed

Stewart Smith & Matt Stretz

## Thank you to our 2015 Donors (\$1,000+)

Anonymous (2)

Earl & Joan Adam

Tommye Dodd

Virginia Hulen

R.A. Long Foundation

Robert & Linda Northrip

Michael Rosenblum

Lawrence Shur Foundation

Van Wolbach

James Wornall

## Thank you to our 2015 Donors (\$500+)

Suzanne Allen

DST Systems, Inc.

Courtney Earnest

Joe & Linda Huber

Ford & Christine Maurer

Chad & Ann Milton

George Terbovich

David Van Dyne

# UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS



## SPRING HERB CELEBRATION

### APRIL 24, 2:00 PM: Cooking with Herbs Chef Demonstration at the Majors Barn

Learn how to utilize both fresh and dried herbs in your cooking at this Chef Demo. Lon Lane & Stewart Lane of Inspired Occasions will prepare dishes featuring fresh herbs, and Sally Cobb of Savory Spice will feature dried herbs in her dishes.

### APRIL 28, 6:00 PM: Herb Cocktail Party at the Majors Barn

Sip four herb cocktails inspired by the Wornall House herb garden while enjoying perfectly paired herby appetizers. Cocktails will be created by the U.S. Bartenders' Guild—Kansas City and Boozy Botanicals. Food provided by Chef Shannon "Firebug" Kimball.

### APRIL 30, 8:00 AM: Herb and Wildflower Sale at the John Wornall House

Purchase your herbs and native plants for the season, all while supporting the Wornall/Majors House Museums!

**More information about these events at [wornallmajors.org/spring-herb-celebration](http://wornallmajors.org/spring-herb-celebration).**



### MAY 7, 10:00 AM: Wornall/Majors at the Midwest Tea Fest—Ararat Shrine Auditorium

The Wornall/Majors House Museums will be at the Midwest Tea Fest to host two tasting sessions on the historic gunpowder green tea. Or stop by and visit our table! Tickets must be purchased through [midwestteafest.com](http://midwestteafest.com)



### MAY 21, 10 AM: Saturday Morning Storytime—Pioneers on the Trails at the Majors Barn

Join us for stories about the pioneers who traveled by wagon across the western United States, followed by a craft. In partnership with the Kansas City Public Library—Westport Branch.



### JUNE 4, 9:00 AM: Garden Tour

See page 4 for full details.



### JUNE 18, 10:00 AM: Saturday Morning Storytime—Wildlife on the Frontier at the Majors Barn

What kind of animals did pioneer families see when they first arrived in this area? Find out at this family friendly storytime, in partnership with the Kansas City Public Library—Westport Branch.

## MAJORS HOUSE: OPEN FOR THE SEASON

The Alexander Majors House is now open for full tour hours!

The House is open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00-4PM, with tours leaving on the hour at 1:00, 2:00, & 3:00 PM.



## CAMP WORNALL/MAJORS

Register today!

Whether you register for one of our week-long camps or one of our thematic day camps, your kids will experience hands-on activities, interactive presentations, and more!

Visit [wornallmajors.org/learn/summer-camp](http://wornallmajors.org/learn/summer-camp) to learn more.



### John Wornall House Museum

6115 Wornall Road; Kansas City, MO 64113

### Alexander Majors House Museum

8201 State Line Road; Kansas City, MO 64114



### Contact Us:

816-444-1858; [administrator@wornallmajors.org](mailto:administrator@wornallmajors.org)

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