



Wornall/Majors Columns

The newsletter of the Wornall/Majors House Museums

Volume II, Issue 6 | Spring 2018

2018 SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

May and June Bring Special Benefits to Museum Members!

Are you a member of Wornall/Majors House Museums? We need your support! Membership to the Museums is an easy way to support historic education and preservation in Kansas City, plus there are great benefits!

All members receive unlimited free tours of the Wornall and Majors Houses. Periodic exhibits and new objects on display give you a reason to return throughout the year. 2018 special exhibits include *The Art of Calling: Calling Cards of the Victorian Era*; *A Lifetime of Change: The Wornalls Beyond the Civil War*; and *Archaeology at the Wornall House*.

Members also enjoy free or reduced admission to most museum programs, including deeply discounted tickets to our popular biennial Garden Tour. The 2018 Garden Tour will take place on June 2 at beautiful gardens throughout the Kansas City metro. Members can purchase tickets for \$20, a savings of up to \$10 per ticket. And all Sponsoring-level members get two free tickets!

As a thank you to our new and returning members, receive a free bag of The Roasterie's signature Wornall/Majors coffee blend when you visit the Museums in May or June. Just remind your tour guide that you're a member!

Thank you for your support!



Membership Levels:

Individual (\$35)

Membership includes unlimited free public tours for one individual and discounted or free admission to most Wornall/Majors events

Family (\$70)

Membership includes unlimited free public tours for two adults and any dependent children, discounted or free admission to most Wornall/Majors events, and early bird pricing for Camp Wornall/Majors, regardless of sign-up date

Contributing (\$100)

All benefits of a Family membership plus a 10% discount on Wornall/Majors gift shop items

Sponsoring (\$250)

All benefits of a Contributing membership plus two free tickets to the biennial Garden Tour and 10% off one Majors Barn rental per year

To renew your membership, or become a new member, visit www.wornallmajors.org/support/become-a-member or call 816-444-1858.

Upcoming Events at the Museums

MAY

- May 2:** Little Women Sneak Peek Screening
6:30 PM at the Alexander Majors House & Barn
Partners: KCPT & The Heart of America Shakespeare Festival
- May 4:** Civil War Field Day (for schools)
9:00 AM-3:00 PM at the John Wornall House
- May 5:** Civil War Field Day (for members of the public)
9:00 AM-3:00 PM at the John Wornall House
- May 18:** Paranormal Investigation
9:00 PM at the Alexander Majors House



JUNE

- June 1:** Garden Tour Patrons' Party
- June 2:** Garden Tour
9:00 AM-4:00 PM at multiple gardens throughout Kansas City
- June 11-15:** Summer Camp



SAVE THE DATE

- September 22:** Boots & Pearls Barn Dance
- October 19-20**
- October 26-27:** Ghost Tours & Paranormal Investigations



We have many more great events planned for 2018! Visit our website (www.wornallmajors.org) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/wornallmajors) for up-to-date event announcements.

Support the Museums by Touring Beautiful Gardens!

The Wornall/Majors Garden Tour is the largest single fundraiser for two of Kansas City's most significant historic landmarks: the John Wornall House (1858) and Alexander Majors House (1856).

Support crucial historic preservation and education efforts by touring some of the finest gardens Kansas City has to offer. Your ticket gives you access to seven distinctive gardens in different beautiful and historic neighborhoods.

This Garden Tour is more exciting than ever, and will include:

- ◆ **A beautiful trio of gardens in the Crestwood neighborhood**, all within easy strolling distance of each other, featuring everything from native plants to a mix of decorative and edible plants;
- ◆ **The Ewing & Muriel Kauffman Memorial Gardens**, where visitors will be given a special tour by horticulturalist Duane Hoover;
- ◆ **The garden of famed puppeteer Paul Mesner and his partner David Lucken**, who own two adjacent properties that come together to form one functional and aesthetic space;
- ◆ **Dana Posten's emerging cut-flower garden**, a reflection of her love of cut flowers and her new business POSY, a new urban flower form and design studio;
- ◆ **The John Wornall House native and herb gardens**, where Kansas City Master Gardeners maintain a mix of historically accurate and modern plants and herbs. Master gardeners will visit with guests, and attendees can buy their own native plants from Missouri Wildflowers Nursery.

Tickets are \$25, or \$30 at the door.

~Member Special: All members of Wornall/Majors House Museums can purchase tickets for just \$20!~

Tickets can be purchased at www.wornallmajors.org/GardenTour2018 or by calling 816-444-1858.



Sponsored by:



PATRONS' PARTY

In support of the 2018 Garden Tour

Enjoy an exclusive sneak peek of the featured gardens on the eve of the Garden Tour, followed by a cocktail reception.

Friday, June 1

At the beautiful residence of Judith King

With guest of honor Duane Hoover

5:00—7:00 PM "Sneak Peek" Garden Tour

7:00—9:00 PM Cocktail Reception

Tickets: \$75/person.

Visit www.wornallmajors.org/GardenTour2018 to purchase.



Winter Events at Wornall/Majors



Above Linda Thomas of Linda & Dan plays hammered dulcimer at Candlelight Tours.

Far Right Guests enjoy stories with the Kansas City Public Library Westport Branch at our Holiday Open House.

Bottom Visitors make Victorian crafts at a family craft day at Majors.



First Annual Boots & Pearls Barn Dance an Exciting New Tradition for the Museums

Attendees of our first annual Barn Dance were surprised and delighted to be part of an all-new tradition at the Museums. Guests enjoyed live music, on-the-spot dancing lessons, gourmet chili and S'mores bars, and a wine toss. They also had the opportunity to win valuable boots and a pearl necklace, courtesy of Nigro's Western Store and The Polished Edge. Did you miss 2017's inaugural barn dance? Mark your calendar for September 22 to join us this year!



Steve & Marianne Noll



Angie Blumel tries her hand at the wine toss



Square dance callers Stan & Beth Neidecker

History Corner



Artifact Fact: Wornall Dining Room Sideboard

We are fortunate to have a lovely, antique sideboard in the dining room of the Wornall House. It was donated in memory of Mrs. Ethel Rose Kerdolff by her children, the late Mrs. William Ennis, Mr. George Kerdolff and Mrs. Kathryn Kerdolff Crowe Koslowsky. Mrs. Kerdolff was an active member of the DAR and an avid antiques collector. Her husband, George W. Kerdolff, was a senior partner in the former prominent Kansas City insurance firm Mann, Kerdolff, Kline & Welsh.

The sideboard was donated in 1967, and has been exhibited at the house since the museum opened in 1972. It was purchased by Mrs. Kerdolff from the estate of Mr. Henry Tindall of Fayette, Missouri, in 1939. His grandparents had brought it from Kentucky when they came to Missouri. The sale was recorded in the Fayette newspaper at the time of the sale. Since the Wornall family came to Missouri from Kentucky, this sideboard is a particularly fitting piece of furniture for the house.



The sideboard is made of mahogany, in the Late Federal style, and dates from the early nineteenth century. It features four rope-turned and carved diamond point pilasters, which separate the three lower sections of the piece. Four doors open to cabinet spaces in the lower section. There are single doors on each end and double doors on the center section. All four doors are made with pointed arches. There are three drawers with wood knobs over the lower section. The sideboard is a beautiful example of the cabinet maker's art as well as useful for storage, for serving, and for display.

New Exhibit *A Lifetime of Change* at the Wornall House

The John Wornall House Museum is excited to announce its new exhibit, *A Lifetime of Change: The Wornall Family Beyond the Civil War*. The Wornall House, built in 1858, is perhaps most famous for its use as a field hospital during the Civil War's Battle of Westport. However, the Wornall story goes much deeper and touches on themes that are still relevant today, such as the development of Kansas City and the memory of the Civil War.

A Lifetime of Change features newly researched information about the Wornall family, rarely seen family photographs, and family objects not previously on display. The exhibit is on display at the Wornall House from April 25-July 15 during normal public tour hours Wednesday-Sunday. Exhibit admission is included with Museum admission.

A Lifetime of Change is sponsored by the University of Central Missouri.



Volunteer Spotlight: Alice Ergovich

Alice Ergovich didn't plan on becoming one of the Wornall House's longest-serving docents when she joined our organization over ten years ago. In the fall of 2007 Alice was a busy woman, working full time both at her career in the insurance industry and as a wife and mother. "I was at a place in my life where I wanted to do something for myself," she remembers. Driving down Wornall Road one day, she spotted a sign at the Wornall House advertising for volunteers. While initially Alice was interested in some casual gardening, her welcoming personality and a latent interest in the Wornall House's occupants soon made her a natural tour leader.



She took to being a docent immediately: "I love meeting the people who come for tours... it is really special when you can see them connecting- either to the Wornall family stories, the battle, the furniture, or items in the kitchen." For Alice, the conversations that can happen spontaneously during a Wornall House tour are a major part of the fun.

Alice has also contributed to the work of preserving the Wornall House's mythology; an avid participant in our annual Ghost Tours, it was she who took the initiative to gather various paranormal tales from older docents who have since moved on. Her compilation of spooky stories is the basis for our popular private Ghost Tours. Her favorite "Wornall ghost" is John Wornall's third wife, Roma, who she sees as an independent, powerful woman. "From the stories I've heard about her she sounds like such a character- someone that you'd invite to dinner and just sit back and listen."

Alice Ergovich can be found at the Wornall House on first and third Sunday afternoons. She is especially looking forward to this year's Garden Tour and to our upcoming exhibit on the Wornall family's lives after the Civil War – join us for those events, or just stop by for an excellent tour from docents like Alice.



Thank you,



Do you love history and want to give back to the community? Volunteer with us!

The Wornall/Majors House Museums is currently seeking a variety of volunteers to help us bring history to life.

Volunteer roles include:



Docents: Our docents give guided tours and/or assist with self-guided tours at the Wornall and Majors Houses. Most docents volunteer just twice a month and help our visitors understand local history through the stories of the Wornall and Majors families. Training is provided, and we have continuing education opportunities at various times throughout the year. Docents are also invited to volunteer-only appreciation events, and are welcome to join us at all Museum educational events for free.



Event Volunteers: Event volunteers provide assistance at specific events to help with set up and tear down, event registration, and other tasks as needed. We are particularly in need of volunteer garden attendants at our upcoming Garden Tour on June 2. All Garden Tour volunteers receive a free ticket to enjoy the rest of the tour!



Junior Volunteers: We also have volunteer opportunities for youth under 18. Our junior volunteers assist with many tasks, including working as summer camp assistants, reenacting at events, and participating in cleanup days. This can be the perfect opportunity to complete community service hours for schools.

Other Volunteer Needs: Are you great at sewing? A master organizer? Super good at research? If you have specific skills or talents you would like to offer the Museums, let us know! We have many one-time and ongoing projects, and we'd love to hear how you would like to help.

To volunteer, email Volunteer Manager Lena White at administrator@wornallmajors.org or call 816-444-1858.

volunteers!

Volunteers make our programs possible!

[left] A volunteer from UMB helps to clean the Wornall House as part of our spring cleaning day.

[middle] Youth volunteers from the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival perform as part of our holiday Candlelight Tours.

[right] Jay Clasen portrays Father Christmas at our Holiday Open House.



Enrollment now open for Summer Camp!

Are you ready for summer camp season? Camp Wornall/Majors is now accepting registrations, and this year there are more options than ever! Camp Wornall/Majors allows children to immerse themselves in history through activities, presentations, crafts, games, and more!

New in 2018: you pick your time commitment and topics! This year, all of our camp days stand alone, but also work together to create a complete experience. Choose the topics your children find most engaging, or completely immerse them by registering for an entire week of camp. Our new camp system gives you complete control over your child's schedule. Mix and match and create the schedule that works for you.

Camp Wornall/Majors Week 1: June 11-15

Monday, June 11: Life on the Frontier

Live like a pioneer for a day and experience daily life on the frontier.

Tuesday, June 12: Toys & Games

Play authentic old-fashioned games, and even make your own toys!

Wednesday, June 13: Traveling Across the Wild West

From the Pony Express to covered wagons, find out about the excitement and danger of wild west transportation.

Thursday, June 14: Arts and Crafts

Get creative with us as we participate in crafts inspired by Victorian society, the frontier, and the Civil War.

Friday, June 15: The Civil War & the Battle of Westport

Learn about the Civil War in Kansas City while on the authentic site of a Civil War field hospital.



Camp Wornall/Majors Week 2: July 9-13

Monday, July 9: Life on the Frontier

Live like a pioneer for a day and experience daily life on the frontier.

Tuesday, July 10: Native American Culture

Learn all about the early inhabitants of Missouri and Kansas.

Wednesday, July 11: Become a Junior Archaeologist

How do archaeologists learn about the past? Put on your Indiana Jones hat and find out!

Thursday, July 12: Plants & Animals of the Frontier

How did early settlers interact with their environment? Learn about plants and animals both wild and domesticated.

Friday, July 13: The Life of a Soldier

Interact with Civil War soldiers and experience a day in their lives.



Cost: All camp dates are stand-alone and can be registered for separately or as a week-long package. Camp is \$50/day, or \$225 if you register for an entire week of camp. (\$200 for Museum members!)

Register and learn more at <http://www.wornallmajors.org/learn/summer-camp/>

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

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