Five years ago, NSDKC initiated efforts to create a monument dedicated to the heritage of the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan area. For several years, conceptual design paralleled exhaustive efforts to secure a site location for the monument’s erection. Likewise, the reality of the Monument would not be possible without the generous support and interest from our community’s private and public sectors and from various not-for-profit foundations.

Nine months ago on July 20, 2017, following development of formal design and construction planning, a groundbreaking ceremony was conducted at Ilus Davis Park at 10th & Oak Street in Kansas City, Missouri.

Many inscriptions have been purchased and inscribed onto the granite-paved plaza surrounding the Monument’s star-shaped tower! Consider purchasing an inscription in tribute to your heritage and in support of the mission of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City! Our convenient on-line ordering form at (www.nsdkc.org) has details and pricing of the various inscription levels.

The Monument’s dedication is April 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.! Your attendance is welcomed and encouraged! Refreshments and the Dixieland Band will also be there.

Attendees will receive a limited edition wooden nickel (see above) commemorating this landmark event embracing our region’s past and those who have helped to make our Greater Kansas City region be known as the Heart of America!
Dear members:

April is that refreshing month that allows us to bid farewell to the last vestiges of winter and salute all that the upcoming spring and summer months offer. Then there is April 2018!

Thank you to the many NSDKC members and other attendees who braved the delayed departure of winter on Saturday April 7, when we gathered to celebrate the unveiling of THREE new markers in the Northland. “The Town of Barry”, “Liberty to Leavenworth Road” and “Old Western Border of the United States” now all have well-deserved recognition.

Our custom crafted markers offer unique opportunities to learn the history of the designated sites, as each contains carefully researched information about the site and its appropriate place in our region’s history. Thousands of residents and visitors travel through these historic waypoints every year and those who wish to take advantage of the NSDKC efforts can learn our history.

History is all about stories, and sharing these stories though our markers program ensures that future generations will have the same opportunity to know the story of how we came to be our unique community of today, as well as appreciate the past.

The Markers Committee has been forging ahead full throttle, and extends an invitation to celebrate another contribution to our community. On Monday April 16, please join us at 10:30 as we unveil a marker celebrating the history of the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission. The good works of the Crime Commission continue to help keep the Kansas City community safe, and NSDKC is proud to create and place this marker to celebrate the Commission's many successes.

And, the “big day” approaches! Thursday April 19 will bring the long awaited unveiling of our own NSDKC monument. Set in the beautiful urban garden setting of Ilus Davis Park, this 10:00 a.m. event will show what Kansas City is all about: celebrating a century and a half of our region’s history. NSDKC members will be joined by elected officials from local governments as well as the public, to see this shining gift and share our stories with future generations. Come salute the completion of this project with all the fanfare it deserves. There will be entertainment and refreshments, so come celebrate! See you there.

Sincerely,

Steve Noll
2018 NSDKC President

CALENDAR

April 16 at 11:00 a.m.– Dedication of Crime Commission marker
April 19 at 10:00 a.m. - Dedication of NSDKC Monument
October 10 at 6:00 p.m. – Annual Membership and Board meeting
November 13 – 6:00 p.m. - Outstanding Kansas Cityan Gala
December 8 at 11:00 a.m. - Annual Holiday Brunch

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.
2018 Outstanding Kansas Citian is…

We are pleased to announce that our Outstanding Kansas Citian (OKC) for 2018 is Mr. Cliff Illig, co-founder and current Chairman of the Board of the Cerner Corporation.

Cerner has a huge presence in the Greater Kansas City area! Their World Headquarters campus is at 2800 Rock Creek Parkway in North Kansas City. They also have the Cerner Continuous Campus building site at I-70 and I-435 in Kansas City, Kansas and sites in Kansas City, MO include the former Marion Laboratories building, and the new Innovations campus at I-70 and Bannister Road, the 236 acre site where Bannister Mall was.

We will also be recognizing the Boy Scouts of America with our annual OKC Historical Marker because of Mr. Illig’s long-time leadership with their Heart of America Council.

Our annual OKC Gala will be at the Kansas City Convention Center Grand Ballroom, Tuesday November 13, 2018. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this very special annual event!

Richard O. Retrum, Chair NSDKC, OKC Committee

April 16 Marker dedication ceremony for Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission

The above marker will be dedicated Monday April 16, 10:30 a.m., downtown at 14th and Baltimore near the President Hotel where the Commission had its first meeting many years ago.

The exact location will be outside the south wall of the hotel on 14th Street. Various local leaders including the Crime Commission President Rick Armstrong will briefly speak about the history and accomplishments of the Commission during the 30-minute dedication ceremony. In addition to the other speakers will be Mr. Alvin Brooks, who was our 2017 Outstanding Kansas Citian and who has been a leader with the Commission for many years.

Come, join us for this very special dedication!

Joe Vaughan donates recordings to NSDKC Archive Collection

Joe Vaughan, past president of NSDKC (1998) is still active with us and he is also an author and publisher. He has had a 25-year career as an award-winning broadcast journalist with radio stations in the Kansas City and Topeka markets and has been president of many Broadcaster Associations and he was the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Newscaster-of-the-Year.

He has donated hundreds of audio recordings of either historic or major news events, with the taped voices of the news makers he covered during those years, to The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Collection in the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center on the UMKC Campus.

In the accession documents, Vaughan notes that probably none of the broadcast material in the collection still exists anywhere else.

Various Presidents and national events are included in the documents along with many key local events such as the dedication of MCI Airport and the Coates House fire.

Also recorded is President Nixon swearing in Kansas City, MO Police Chief Clarence M. Kelley to be Director of the FBI replacing the late J. Edgar Hoover on June 29, 1973 at the north entrance to the Federal Building at 12th and Locust.

Thanks Joe for your generosity!
Town of Barry area gets 3 new markers!

Yeah, it was cold but no snow as forecast! About 35 members and guests braved the low 30 degree weather to attend the dedication of our three Barry markers Saturday, April 7 at 11:00 AM. There was no wind and the sun was shining as we gathered near our center marker near the new Pryor YMCA facility at 2100 NW 87th Terrace, KC North.

This is the first time we have ever dedicated more than one marker at a time. This exceptional event capped a successful project that took well over a year to complete.

After opening remarks by Markers Committee Chair Ross Marshall, our President Steve Noll spoke to the crowd. Keith Nelson was the third speaker and briefly reviewed the history of the Barry area that is told on the three markers. He also served as the project coordinator. Bottom photo at right, is Wes Minder, Innovations Manager for the KCMO City Manager’s office. He was the project manager for the new recreation trail next to Highway 152. All three of our markers are along this trail.

At a meeting over a year ago in January, Wes and Keith both voiced interest in a marker for the historic Barry area. When we met at the site later, Keith and I discussed the history of the area with him, Wes said “Why don’t we do three markers and I’ll handle the funding?” So he did and we did! After the 1837 Platte Purchase, the Missouri River became the western border of Missouri. This road is now the dividing line between Clay and Platte Counties.

This marker is about ¼ mile east of the Town of Barry marker.

What a wonderful day and what a wonderful marker project!
Above is the Liberty to Leavenworth Road marker which is located exactly on the old Road, parts of which still exist as a nearby street called Old Stagecoach Road. This marker is about 200 yards west of The Town of Barry marker.

Left are three members of our Markers Committee (l-r) Gary Hicks, Ray Elder and Ross Marshall. The YMCA facility is behind us and The Town of Barry marker is in the left background behind the tree.

Looking north, the Old Western Border of the United States marker is next to the Platte Purchase Drive which is on the north-south line of the 1821 western boundary of the new state of Missouri and also of the United States.