St. Louis 250th Anniversary Celebrations

The Campbell House Museum is a proud participant in the celebrations surrounding the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the City of St. Louis.

The most obvious sign of celebration can be found on the museum's front lawn in the form of a giant fiberglass birthday cake, decorated to match the Museum's exterior.

Campbell House was chosen as one of 250 important cultural landmarks in the St. Louis region to receive this honor (the full list of cake recipients can be viewed online at www.stl250.org). Visitors can also participate in a "cake hunt" of cakes throughout the region using an app available in your smart phone's app store.

The celebrating began on the weekend of February 14, 2014 with the unveiling of the birthday cake and an open house. Over three days, the Museum's expert docents welcomed more than 225 people for tours at no charge. The weekend also marked Robert Campbell's 210th birthday.

Campbell House is proud to have been chosen as one of 50 iconic St. Louis places by the Missouri History Museum in their exhibit 250 in 250: A Yearlong Exhibit Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Louis.

Visit Campbell House today to get your picture with the cake and take in a big slice of St. Louis history. The cake and the exhibit are on display through February 2015.

Top right: The STL250 birthday cake welcoming visitors at the front door of the Campbell House.
Bottom right: The Campbell House as depicted in the STL250 exhibit now on view at the Missouri History Museum.

More Campbell Family Artifacts Donated to Museum

The Campbell House recently received the generous gift of a rare Capodimonte cup and saucer which originally belonged to the Campbell family.

The Capodimonte Porcelain Factory was established in Naples, Italy, in 1743 and it directly competed with the Meissen Factory near Dresden, Germany. Capodimonte is famous for its moulded figurines and its decorative modelled flowers applied to cups, plates and vases.

The cup and saucer were probably made in the early 19th century. They were purchased by a St. Louis family in February 1941 at the Campbell family estate auction for $5.

Over the past 70 years, many individuals and families have donated original Campbell family items to the Museum so the can be seen again in their historic setting for many generations to come.

See these newest additions (pictured left) to the Campbell collection on display in the parlor.
In Memoriam

Miss Betty-Mae R. Stienhans faithfully served as a docent and later a Museum Store volunteer for almost 20 years. Betty-Mae was the recipient of the 2005 Campbell House Foundation President’s Award, which is granted annually in recognition of “outstanding dedication to the preservation of the Campbell House.” She was a member of the Museum’s Legacy Society in addition to being a very generous supporter of the Museum’s restoration efforts.

Mrs. Theresa Leahy Johnson served as a loyal docent and volunteer at Campbell House for more than 25 years. Both of these great ladies will be missed by many members of their Campbell House family.

New Members
(as of May 1, 2014)
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Adaire
Ms. Mary F. Balmer
Ms. Catherine Barlow
Mr. Sean Barnett
Mr. Thomas J. Beman
Mr. Bruce Chulka
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin E. Coates
Mr. Cameron Collins
Mr. Michael Cracchiolo
Ms. Carol Crader
Christina Dames
Mr. Scott R. Dolan
Ms. Cinda L. Fabicheski
W. Thomas Frogge & Janine M. Ludwinski
Ms. Jackie Gallino
Ms. Morgan Gambill
Ms. Deidre Griffith
Ms. Mary Hammond
Tom Herm and Mary Susman
Mr. J. Robert Bullock & Mr. Dan S. Hoadley
Mr. Stephen Holzwarth
Mr. Timothy Huskey
Austin & Mary Indritz
Ms. Lynn Josse
Mr. Randy Kane
Mrs. Ruth Keenoy
Ms. Mary Kimball
Mr. Ned Klein
Ms. Katherine Lorino
Mr. Kyle Lucks
Mrs. Pam Masching
Judy and Roger McNeilly
Ms. Dawn McSweeney
Mrs. Diane Modray
Mr. Brad Mueller
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Murphy
Laurie Drone O’Connor
Mr. Edward J. O’Hearn
Gina and Jeffrey Parker
Ms. Mary Ellen Pearson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Raizer
Ms. Sally Ravensberg
Ms. Cheryl Schaeler

The Schoenecker Family
Michael and Deborah Sladek
Mark and Jennifer Smith
Mr. Kevin Steincross
Ms. Kelly Stites
Ms. Irene Thaliden
Ms. Sharon Theurer
Ms. Megan Tucker
Ms. Eloise Tukey
Mr. J.R. & Mrs. Mia Walters
Ms. Elizabeth West
Mr. Robert Wickland
Ms. Dixie Wright

Memorials & Tributes
(as of May 1, 2014)
In Memory of Dr. William Coxe
Mr. Sam B. Clark
In memory Frederick Z. Clifford, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. William Piper
In memory of Mrs. Theresa L. Johnson
Mrs. Joseph F. Gleason
Mr. and Mrs. Edward O’Connell
Mr. Daniel McGuire
In Memory of Mr. David Hannemann
Ms. Cheryl Schaeler
In Honor of Mr. Sam B. Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Noel Moss
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sargent
Mr. Ken Nickless
Ms. Mary Ottsoson
Mr. John Sullivan and Mr. Ken Miesner
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dill
Ms. Suzanneicher
Mrs. Gerry Kessler
Mr. Donald Thebeau
In Honor of Mrs. Lynell Mueller
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Mueller
In Honor of Andy Hahn
Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Newman
In Honor of Mary A. Hahn
Ms. Susan L. Hahn

CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM

Since opening on February 6, 1943, the Campbell House Museum has served the greater St. Louis area as one of the region’s premier historic property museums. The Museum not only preserves the Campbell’s house, but also their collection of original furniture, fixtures, paintings, objects and thousands of pages of family documents. In 2005 the Museum completed a meticulous five-year restoration that returned the building to its opulent 1880s appearance, when the house was one of the centers of St. Louis society.

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By Andy Hahn

Hot on the heels of the Museum’s parlor drapery restoration, work has begun to reupholster the Campbell’s numerous suites of Rococo-revival furniture (Tufted upholstery picture below). Thank you to Sam Clark and Tim Rohan for spearheading this project which is expected to take about three years to complete.

The 2013 President’s Award was awarded to Tom Gronski and Dennis Rathert (pictured at right) at the annual 1851 Society Dinner. Over the past 5 years Dennis and Tom have become indispensable volunteers, “demonstrating outstanding dedication to the preservation of the Campbell House Museum and its mission.” The 1851 Society is open to individuals or corporations who become annual Museum members at the $750 level or greater. For the past eight years the Annual 1851 Society dinner has been held at the Deer Creek Club.

Board Updates

At its December 2013 meeting the Campbell House board of directors elected new officers for 2014. Scott Johnson replaces Frederick Z. Clifford, Jr. as president. Outgoing president Clifford expertly guided the museum board for five years. Tim Rohan, Sam Clark, Terry Baer and Jeanne Lindburg were also elected as officers. In 2014 the Board of Directors welcomed two new members to its ranks, Scott Dolan and Kathleen Horgan. The members of the Board of the Campbell House Foundation serve three year terms and are eligible for reappointment. They donate countless hours, hard work and substantial resources in support of the Museum (see full board member list at left).

New Lucas Place Exhibit Now On Display

The new exhibit Lucas Place: The Lost Neighborhood of the Gilded Age explores the origins, development, and decline of the exclusive upper-class suburb of St. Louis where Robert Campbell and his contemporaries made their homes.

The exhibit, on display at the Campbell House Museum through September 30, provides visitors with information and artifacts from some of the other residents of this upscale locale. Since its founding in 1850, Lucas Place reflected James Lucas’ vision of “a world apart,” situated at the great distance of one mile from the hectic and smoke-filled atmosphere of the riverfront. Here were wide streets, lush green trees, front lawns, and, over time, one of the greatest concentration of private residences in St. Louis history.

However, as the city continued to grow in population and economic dominance, the old owners moved further west, many to the stately residences still standing at Westmoreland and Portland Place. The Lucas Place exhibit recounts this progression in St. Louis history with photo displays of several of the original residences, plus an overview of some of the cultural institutions that used to line the street—including churches, the Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri Historical Society and an exhibition hall that covered the entire two blocks. Come and see what life was like in St. Louis’ original Central West End.

Upcoming Events

Smithsonian Museum Day
Saturday, September 27, 2014, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Readers of Smithsonian Magazine tour participating museums throughout America, including CHM, for free. Join us the night before for the second annual #drinkuptweetupSTL presented by Campbell House and Distilled History featuring live music and a celebration of St. Louis history through the lens of beer, wine and spirits.

Halloween Open House
October 31, 2014, 6 to 9 p.m.
Tour Campbell House on Halloween night and learn about death and mourning in 19th century St. Louis. Cost is $10 per person and members are free.

Holiday Historic House Tour
Thursday, December 11, 2014, 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Campbell House is proud to announce the return of this exclusive holiday tour of downtown sites including the Old Courthouse, Eugene Field House, Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion, and Cupples House. Tour features light refreshments, space is limited and reservations are required. $35 for tours and charter bus transportation between the four sites and $25 for a self-guided evening. Above: Campbell House parlor Christmas tree.
Most any visitor to Campbell House will hear the story of the friendship between the Campbell family and the Ulysses Grant family.

How the families became acquainted is unknown. Robert almost certainly knew Julia Grant’s father from St. Louis business circles and Julia Dent Grant and Virginia Campbell had very similar backgrounds and upbringings.

In 1869 Grant appointed Robert Campbell to the newly-formed Indian Commission. The Grant and Campbell families regularly socialized after this time. The Grants hosted the Campbells at the White House in 1871 and the Campbells hosted dinners and receptions for the Grants at Campbell House in 1871 (see image at right), 1873, 1874 and 1875.

Today the family friendship continues—Campbell House weekend manager David Newmann is also a guide at Grant’s house Whitehaven, a National Historic Site in St. Louis County.

Left: Small bisque bust of U.S. Grant circa 1868 from the Campbell family Collection.