Parlor Restoration Begins

After almost ten years of research, planning and fundraising, work has begun on the restoration of the complex decoration scheme in the Museum’s most opulent space—the Parlor.

The Parlor was the focal point of the Campbell’s house—the scene of extravagant social gatherings and a place for special family occasions. Consequently the room was the largest space in the house and was finished with the finest decoration and furnishings.

Planning and Analysis

The restoration of the Parlor began in 1998 when Robert Furhoff of Restoration of Interiors in Chicago began extensive physical analysis of the room. To everyone’s astonishment, the analysis uncovered entire sections of the 1880s painted decoration under layers of paint and wallpaper. Using his analysis and the 1880s photographs of the room from the Museum collection, Furhoff completed detailed blueprints for recreating the painted wall and ceiling decoration.

These blueprints have made possible one of the most accurate recreations of any mid-19th Century interior anywhere.

The painted decoration to be recreated is in a style called “Neo-Grec”. This style utilizes motifs inspired by ancient Greek and Roman art and was very unusual for a 19th Century residential interior. The decoration already completed in the hallway uses similar motifs but on a much simpler scale. While the hallway incorporates 18 colors and four sten-
President’s Message

Jan Broderick
President
Campbell House Foundation

A very big thank you to all our members and other donors who made it possible to match Jack Taylor’s challenge grant in just three short months! Generous contributions and extraordinary efforts by Board members sped the fundraising on. I want to thank Board member Sam Clark, who hosted a holiday party at the Museum to raise awareness of the restoration project. Sam is a sparkling host with a wide spectrum of interested friends. Two of his guests, Eric and Evelyn Newman, donated a critical, missing item to the Museum collection—a large 19th Century icebox. From their basement to our kitchen came an icebox in near-original condition.

Another special effort was led by Board member Dr. Louis Gerteis. Gerteis, Dr. John Works, Dr. James Neal Primm of the UM-St. Louis history department and John Karel, director of Tower Grove Park, donated funds in honor of past Board president Donald Bergmann, to restore the Campbell’s library. The surprise announcement was made at the January Board meeting. It is the only time I’ve seen Don speechless. It is a truly fitting tribute to one of the Museum’s most dedicated supporters.

With $300,000 already raised by the Taylor challenge grant campaign we are finally able to begin the restoration of the Parlor. We are still in need of another $100,000 to finish the stairway and special exhibit rooms on the third floor. Thus our fundraising goes on. Please come visit this spring and see the restoration of the Parlor underway!

Board Honors and Updates

At the December meeting of the Campbell House Foundation Board of Directors two special honors were presented. Marvin Mueller was given the President’s Award in recognition of his outstanding commitment and service to the Museum. Lynell Mueller was honored for her 26 years of unwavering dedication as a Museum docent with the Volunteer of the Year award.

The Board also welcomed new members Celeste Sprung and John McAtee. Celeste is a senior banker with Northern Trust and John is a vice president with A.G. Edwards and manager of their Festus branch.

The following Board officers were recently elected to one year terms: Jan Broderick was re-elected president; Julie Greenspoon-Kelly was elected first vice president; Betsy Vogt was elected 2nd vice president; Fritz Clifford was elected secretary; and Jack Swanson was re-elected treasurer. Melissa Higgs, Lisa McLaughlin and Richard Nangle were re-elected to three-year terms on the Board.

The terms of Board members Fran Baker and Marvin Mueller recently expired. Fran’s dedication to the Museum’s education programs will be missed. Marvin will continue his involvement as a honorary Board member.
Remembering Vernon Piper

Museum friend and dedicated supporter Vernon W. Piper died on November 20 at the age of 90.

Mr. Piper and his late wife Marion K. Piper were untiring supporters of the Museum and its mission. Mrs. Piper served on the Campbell House Foundation Board of Directors for more than 20 years.

Both the Pipers were recognized for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Museum as the recipients of the first President’s Award, given annually by the Foundation. However, together they worked for historic preservation and education all over St. Louis.

The Pipers were leaders in the restoration of Tower Grove Park’s historic Palm and Plant Houses, both of which are now named in the family’s honor. Mr. Piper was the president of the DeMenil Mansion Foundation, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, the Museum of Transportation and the Civil War Roundtable of St. Louis. Mr. Piper endowed scholarships at his alma mater Washington University and in honor of his wife established the Marion K. Piper Academic Center at McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois.

It’s a comfort and great tribute that Mr. and Mrs. Piper’s friendship and hard work for the Museum continues with their daughter and Foundation Board member Mrs. Jane Piper Gleason.

In Memory of Vernon W. Piper

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

In Memory of Mr. Vernon W. Piper
Dr. and Mr. Kenneth A. Baker
Ms. Janice K. Broderick
Dr. and Mrs. Francis J. Burns
John and Libby Donnell
Ms. Barbara J. Gore
Mr. and Mrs. W. Alexander Hawksbee
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence J. Horgan
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Kniep
Mr. and Mrs. L. Max Lippman
Loren and Ken Ludmerer
Mrs. Lisa D. McLaughlin
Mr. and Mrs. James K. Mellow
Margery M. Miller
Mr. Richard P. Nangle
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. O’Connell
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Purcell, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Scherrer
The Waidmann Family
Mark and Davin Wenner
Margaret Whitehead
Peggy Wolf

In Memory of Mr. Frank Thomson, Jr.
Mrs. Nancy H. Johnston

In Memory of Mrs. Dorothy C. Jaudes
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Mueller

In Memory of Mr. Lawrence Stoneman
Dr. and Mrs. Francis J. Burns

In Memory of Mr. William E. Barnes
Mr. Richard P. Nangle

In Honor of Mr. Donald H. Bergmann
Dr. Louis Gerteis
Mr. John Karel
Dr. James Neal Primm
Dr. John A. Works, Jr.

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Stolz
Mrs. Earl C. Lindburg

In Honor of Miss Lauren Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Louis T. Maull IV
Parlor  
*Continued from page 1*

cils, the Parlor requires 42 colors, copious gold leafing and more than 50 stencils.

The walls are being painted with a continuous “grape vine and leaf” pattern surmounted by Greek keys. The ceiling has 12 stripes, a large painted central medallion and four corner ornaments. The colors of these details range from pale yellow to bright red and green.

It is important to note that the Campbell’s decorated the walls and ceiling of their Parlor in three distinctly different styles. Like most Victorians of the era they liked sharp, contrasting patterns and colors.

**Plastering and Painting Begins**

Plastering of the walls, ceiling and molded cornice was finished at the beginning of February. During the 30 days the plaster needed to cure, the wood baseboard and window trim was sanded and primed and now stands ready for the final finish coat.

During the first two weeks of March the walls and ceiling were entirely covered with canvas, giving the artists a clean slate to begin painting.

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Over the next few months artists from Master Artisans, Inc. of St. Louis will be carefully stencilling and painting the decorative details according to the restoration blueprints. The painting of the room is expected to be completed by the end of June.

The last step in the Parlor restoration will be the installation of a large colorful Rococo Revival floral pattern fitted carpet.

When the restoration is complete more than 50 paintings and pieces of furniture belonging to the Campbell’s will be returned to this room.

In the meantime, visit the Museum this spring for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the progress of the historic restoration of the Campbell’s Parlor.

(above) Delicate repair of the plaster cornice. (left) The expansive Parlor ceiling in the midst of plastering.

(above) Parlor ceiling in December 2003, before restoration work began. (below) Blueprint for “grape vine and leaf” pattern wall decoration.

(below) Jeff Baumgartner of Master Artisans, Inc. mixes paint to match one of the 42 colors for the Parlor. (left) Baumgartner applies primer to the Parlor’s massive plaster cornice.
This winter the Museum launched a new internet address and website design (left).

The new site can be found on the internet at http://www.campbellhousemuseum.org.

The site contains basic information about the Museum in addition to facts about the Campbell Family, the Restoration and volunteer and internship opportunities.

Over the next few months more information will be added, including a history of the museum and links to other Campbell Family and St. Louis history websites on the internet.

It is a long-term Museum goal to make many of the original Campbell family documents and photographs available online through the website.

Visit the Museum’s New Website at
www.campbellhousemuseum.org

Welcome New Members
The Museum is pleased to welcome the following new members for the months of November and December 2003 and January 2004.

Mr. Larry Dolan, Jr.
Mr. Richard J. Eppich
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Hahn
Mrs. Benjamin M. Hilliker
Harold and Karen Karabell
Mr. George M. Kinsey

Ms. Christin K. Klaber
Koch Family Charitable Foundation
Mrs. Cynthia B. Medart
Peter and Alice Sargent
Mr. Donald P. Thebeau
Ms. Mary C. Wollbrinck

CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Docents
Mrs. Shirley Berg
Mrs. Vad Black
Dr. Nick Colosi
Ms. Karen Humphrey Davis
Mr. Justin Davis
Mrs. Pat Deffry
Mrs. Jane Gleason
Mrs. Esther Guebert
Mr. Harry Hall
Ms. Ann Harris
Mr. Bill Julius
Mrs. Dorthy Lesch
Rev. Bill Mugan, S.J.
Ms. Herta Milhous
Mrs. Lynell Mueller

Mrs. Kay O’Connell
Mrs. Helen Pogorzelski
Mrs. Kim Scherrer
Mr. Frank Snyder
Ms. Barbara Stadtmiller
Ms. Kathy Sullivan
Mrs. Shirley Thorn
Mrs. Sally Tofle
Ms. Laura Watt

Mrs. Rose Laux
Mrs. Pat Lehmann
Mrs. Jeanne Lindburg
Mrs. Adele McDavid
Mrs. Margaret Mackle
Mr. Joe O’Connell
Mrs. Mary Potter
Miss Betty-Mae Stienhans
Mrs. Mary Jo Thornburgh
Ms. Laura Watt

Garden
Mr. and Mrs. Leo and Katie
Krobath
Mrs. Mary Rich
Mrs. Margaret Saak

Museum Store
Mrs. Mary Chapman
Mrs. Dianne Colosi
Mr. and Mrs. Alex and Leslie Hawksbee
Ms. Teresa Johnson
Help Finish The Restoration

I would like to support the restoration of the Campbell House. Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:

- $1,000  
- $500  
- $100  
- $50  
- $25  
- $___

Name ___________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________
City _______________________ State ____  Zip ___________
Telephone __________________________________________

- My employer has a matching gift program__________________
- I would like more information about making gifts of stock
- Contact me about making a lasting gift to the Campbell House through my estate planning

Please send to the Campbell House Museum, 1508 Locust St., St. Louis, MO 63103

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Campbell House Museum • Tower Grove Park • The Victorian Society • Lafayette Park Conservancy

APRIL 4
Tower Grove Park – 2004 Lecture Series
Beyond the “Big Muddy”: Promoting the West in American Art, 1840 to 1904.
Tower Grove Park, Stupp Center
2 p.m., FREE (Call 865-2394 for more info.)

APRIL 13
Tower Grove Park - St. Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series
Tower Grove Park, Piper Palm House
7 p.m., FREE (space is limited)

MAY 4
Tower Grove Park - St. Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series
Tower Grove Park, Piper Palm House
7 p.m., FREE (space is limited)

MAY 31
Tower Grove Park - Compton Heights Concert Band
Memorial Day Concert
Tower Grove Park, Music Stand
3 p.m., FREE (call 776-2227 for more information)

JUNE 5 and 6
Lafayette Square House Tour
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday
Tickets $15 in advance, $12 for groups of 20 or more, $18 day of the tour. (Call Lafayette Square Restoration Committee, 772-5724 for more info.)

JUNE 23
Tower Grove Park - Children’s Concert Series
“1904 St. Louis World’s Fair”
Tower Grove Park, Piper Palm House
9:30 to 10:30 a.m., FREE (Call 865-2394 for more info.)

JUNE 28
Tower Grove Park - Compton Heights Concert Band
Tower Grove Park, Music Stand
7:30 p.m., FREE (call 776-2227 for more information)

JUNE 30
Tower Grove Park – Children’s Concert Series
“Bach to the Future”
Tower Grove Park, Piper Palm House
9:30 to 10:30 a.m., FREE (Call 865-2394 for more info.)
The Campbell brothers were great dog lovers. Around 1884, Hugh, Hazlett and James vacationed in Europe. Travelling in high-style and comfort, they naturally took their pets with them. Part of their trip was spent at a rented villa on Lake Geneva, Switzerland. Below is one of six photos from the Campbell family albums that shows their two dogs enjoying the villa’s verandah and expansive lawns.

The life-size portrait of James (left) in the Museum collection shows the same two beloved collie dogs. Hugh Campbell went so far as to provide for the dogs in the event of his death.

Hugh wrote his first will in Paris in 1891, just nine months after his brother James had died there. It reads, “...the trustees shall not sell or otherwise dispose of my two collie dogs now with me here in Paris, and that said dogs shall be left in the care of a proper custodian and suitable provision be made of their care and support so long as they live, and all expenses incident to their care.”

Hugh’s next will signed just a few years later made similar provisions for the last remaining dog. In this case the dog, Guy, is named.

The Campbell photo albums contain more than 15 different photographs of their dogs.