Thousands of Campbell Documents Digitized

A treasure trove of Campbell family documents housed at the St. Louis Mercantile Library has been digitized and are now available online.

This collection was acquired by the Mercantile in 1985, long after the papers were thought to have been lost after the death of Hazlett Campbell in 1938. The collection reflects the era when St. Louis became an economic powerhouse due in large part to its role in the fur trade. The collection includes letters to Americans as divergent as Abraham Lincoln (letter pictured at right) and famed mountain man Jim Bridger (who, incidentally, was illiterate).

The documents were digitized by the British company Adam Matthew, which has since 1990 published “unique primary source collections from archives around the world.” The portion of Mercantile’s Campbell collection placed online numbers approximately 18,000 pages. Learn more by visiting www.amdigital.co.uk/ and search “Campbell.” Images courtesy of St. Louis Mercantile Library and Adam Matthew Digital

Terry Baer, Tireless Friend

The Campbell House mourns the sudden loss of Board member and dedicated volunteer Terry Baer.

Terry joined the Board in 2004 and since that time was an integral part of the Museum family. His family involvement at Campbell House, however, goes back decades as his grandfather and father were integral to the founding of the Museum through their family business, the old St. Louis department store, Stix, Baer and Fuller. Stix donated all the necessary funds to purchase the Campbell House property from Hugh Campbell’s heirs in 1942. This gift of $10,000 represented a thank you gift to the people of St. Louis in recognition of Stix’s 50th anniversary of operation.

Since joining the Board, Terry served a number of capacities—most notably as a member of the Board’s Maintenance Committee and Executive Committee. On the Maintenance Committee he assisted with the complex task of maintaining and repairing the Museum’s historic interiors and exterior. And as a member of the Executive Committee Terry served as both the Board Vice-president and for the past two years as the Board treasurer. Under his stewardship, the Campbell House stands in the strongest financial standing in its entire 73-year history. Terry’s involvement with many St. Louis charities made a lasting impact.
In Memoriam

Bob Stolz was Board member and volunteer for more than 50 years. Bob’s involvement with Campbell House goes all the way back to 1947 when he helped promote the museum as a young advertising executive. One of Bob’s major achievements was helping create the 1851 Society, the Campbell House’s unique group of major donors. Bob and his wife Lilly were the 1998 recipients of the President’s Award, the Museum’s recognition of “outstanding commitment, service and leadership.”

Sally Hopson joined the volunteer Board in 1996. Earlier she became interested in historic homes while working as a docent at the Sappington House in her hometown of Crestwood. As a banker, Sally was perfectly placed to serve as the Museum’s treasurer—a role she filled during the late 1990s as the campaign was planned for the Museum’s landmark restoration.

Pat Deffry was a dedicated volunteer and museum member for 25 years. A proud native St. Louisan, she became involved at Campbell House by volunteering as both a docent and in the Museum Store. When an important collection of original Campbell letters was donated in 1999, Pat spearheaded the transcription of the handwritten documents. An amateur genealogist, she excelled at the task.
I n many ways Campbell House is still home to a living family—the dedicated group of enthusiastic volunteers and a few employees all who make this place hum. And like any family we remember treasured members who have died and celebrate those reaching milestones. Former employee David Newmann celebrated one of those milestones this September when he married Julia Newmann in the garden of Campbell House. They met while he was living in the Carriage House as the weekend manager so it seemed natural they tie the knot at the Museum. The photo shows the young couple in the Morning Room.

A favorite holiday for many families is of course Christmas. Over the past decade Campbell House has created the tradition and built a reputation for the finest old-fashioned Christmas display in our city. This is thanks to the vision of Sam Clark, tireless volunteer who always said in the tradition of the Victorians, “you can’t overdo Christmas.” *I invite you to come and experience Christmas at the Campbell House* which will be bigger and better than ever. The display is up each year from mid-November through mid-January. And don’t forget our Museum Store for that unusual holiday gift (Santa lithophane pictured right is $25.95).

Next time you visit you may notice two improvements at the entrance to the Museum which replicate details missing for more than 75 years. A period carriage stone at the front walk was donated to replace the one missing for decades and the newly painted and gilded address of “1508” above the front door.

**New Assistant Director Hired**

Michael Stoecklin has been named the new Assistant Director of the Campbell House Museum.

Michael interned with the Museum during the summer of 2015. As an intern, he helped create a detailed timeline of the life of Robert Campbell and led tours of the Museum. Michael is a native St. Louisian (Chaminade High School) and this past May, Michael graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in History.

He takes over from previous Assistant Director Sam Moore who stepped down to take the position of Online Communications Coordinator at the Missouri History Museum.

In addition to assisting with the day-to-day operations and administration of the Museum, Michael will also manage its social media and membership programs. He will also be promoting local awareness and engagement at the Campbell House. Come down to the Museum and welcome Michael—he gives great tours of the Campbell House.

**2016 Christmas Card**

The 2016 Campbell House Christmas card features a watercolor of Campbell House in the snow painted around 1960 and the message “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year”. There are 10 cards and envelopes in a box, which retails for $8.95. You can purchase a box by visiting the Museum Store or order them online at campbellhousemuseum.org/shop and have them mailed to you.
Dine at The Gilded Table

In case you missed it, The Gilded Table—Recipes and Table History from the Campbell House has been published and is bringing the history of the Campbell House to the dinner plate. The book retails for $32.95, but don't forget that members receive a 10% discount. Purchases can be made either in the Museum's gift shop or online at www.campbellhousemuseum.org/gildedtable or on Amazon.com. Autographed copies are available in the Museum Store.

The 224-page book contains 178 recipes from Virginia Campbell's unique 175-year-old cookbook manuscript and from Robert Campbell's landmark Southern Hotel. Each recipe has been painstakingly updated and modernized by food historian and author Suzanne Corbett. Accompanying the recipes are 130 photos of food, the Campbell's culinary collection, and related historic menus and images.

"If those lavish table scenes at Downton Abbey make you want to take a trip back in time, wait until you read Suzanne Corbett. She practically pulls out a chair for you at the nineteenth century banquets of the Campbell's. Lavish only begins to describe what you'd experience. Robert and Virginia Campbell ruled the Saint Louis social scene through the Gilded Age. This is social history at its best—the table as the canvas of a pivotal American city coming into its own."

Lynne Rossetto Kasper, Host of public radio's The Splendid Table* from American Public Media

Steamed Plum Pudding from The Gilded Table

Rich or poor, plum puddings or any pudding-like steamed cakes were popular in the 19th Century because city dwellers and those without home ovens need only have a stove top with a boiling pot of water to prepare them. No oven is required.

1/2 pound loaf French or firm white bread
1/2 pound suet, finely chopped*
1 1/2 cups sugar
3 eggs
1 tablespoon rose water or vanilla
1/4 cup brandy or wine
8 ounces currants
8 ounces raisins
4 ounces chopped candied citron
2 tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon salt

1: Break bread into small pieces and place in a food processor. Pulse until bread is finely chopped. Should yield at least 4 cups of bread crumbs.
2: Place bread crumbs and suet in a large mixing bowl and mix until well blended. Add in eggs, rose water and brandy.
3: In another bowl combine currents, raisins and citron. Sprinkle flour over fruits.
4: Fold fruits into egg mixture along with spices and salt.
5: Pour batter into heavily greased pudding molds or coffee tins. Fill 2/3 full. Cover with buttered foil to seal the tops and to protect them from getting wet during steaming.
6: Place filled pudding molds on a rack inside a steamer, cover and steam for 2 1/2 - 3 hours. Add more hot water to steamer as needed. Puddings are done when batter is set.
7: Remove pudding from steamer and allow to cool for 20 minutes before unmolding.

Makes one pudding serving 8 -10.
* Beef suet (the white, soft fat that surrounds the kidneys of cattle) is the traditional fat used to make plum puddings. It has a higher melting point then butter, which allows for a lighter texture. The best substitute for suet is vegetable shortening.
More Original Artifacts Donated

After going on a tour of Campbell House, every visitor knows the thousands of original Campbell family objects on display are just one of the many things that make the Museum such a unique and exciting place.

Wonderfully, more than 70 years after the last Campbell died original objects continue to return “home” to Campbell House. Two very special artifacts were donated this past summer, one associated with Virginia Campbell and the other with her son Hugh.

Kashmir Shawl
A large (about 9 feet long) shawl was donated by the family that purchased it from the Campbell estate auction in 1941. The unusual textile is made from silk and wool and is believed to date from around 1840. It appears to be the shawl draped over a chair in the life-size portrait of Virginia Campbell (illustrated below). It is currently the subject of intensive research by the Museum’s graduate student.

Santa Centerpiece
In 1922 Hugh Campbell hosted an elaborate Christmas party for his domestic servants and their guests. The housekeeper Mary Boerste (see story on the back page) invited her newlywed niece and husband to the dinner. Their names were Pauline and Dewey Dauby. At the end of the evening Hugh presented the newlyweds with a large figure of Santa in a sleigh pulled by two reindeer.

In addition to the Santa figure the grandchildren of the Daubys also gave a book belonging to Mary Boerste and a fascinating oral history recounting the Daubys visit to Campbell House. Here is an excerpt: “Mr. Campbell was a gracious host and entertained us by relating his many experiences...when he was presented to the King’s Court and how they would bow before the King and Queen and then continue bowing while backing away. At the Christmas dinner there were nine courses and around our dinner plates were six small glasses filled with wine and liqueurs of different kinds. They were all good and I emptied all of them in a short time.”

Both objects will be on display for the very first time during this year’s Victorian Christmas display, which begins in mid-November.
JOIN THE FAMILY
(RENEW or Become a Friend of Campbell House)

(choose a membership level or make a donation)

☐ 1851 Society........................................... $750
☐ Campbell Associate................................ $300
☐ Century............................................... $100
☐ Sustaining.......................................... $75
☐ Active................................................... $50
☐ Junior (age 40 and under)........................... $40
☐ Other donation.................................. $_____

All members enjoy these benefits
• Unlimited free museum admission and tours
• A 10% discount at the Museum Gift Shop
• Advance notice of member events & program
• Subscription to this newsletter

☐ My gift will be matched by my employer.
☐ Contact me about volunteer opportunities.
☐ Contact me about a making gift of stock or about making a gift through my estate plan.

Name _______________________________________
Address _______________________________________
City _______________ State ______  Zip ___________
Phone ___________ Email _______________________

☐ Enclosed is my check for $___________
☐ Credit Card number: ________________________
   Expires___/___ CVV:___
Signature: ____________________________________

Please send to: CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM
1508 Locust Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

Holiday Historic House Tour

The Campbell House Museum is partnering again with the Field House Museum, Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion and the Old Courthouse for the Holiday Historic House Tour. The tour is held only on even-numbered years and this year will take place on December 1. Tickets are $30 in advance. To purchase, visit campbellhousemuseum.org/events or call 314-421-0325.

‘The Campbell Family of St. Louis: Their Public Triumphs & Personal Tragedies’

A new booklet about the Campbell family is now available. Written by local tour guide Maureen O’Conner Kavanaugh, The Campbell Family of St. Louis: Their Public Triumphs and Personal Tragedies tells the story of the Campbell family and 19th Century St. Louis in a new way.

The booklet is organized topically, detailing Robert’s rise to prominence, Virginia and Robert’s courtship, the growth of their family, and the family’s trip to Europe. Also included is a new look at the family’s servants (both free and enslaved) who were integral to maintaining the Campbell’s lavish lifestyle, and a timeline of the house and family. Every page is lavishly illustrated by photographs and contemporary imagery.

The new booklet is the perfect counterpart to our previously published The Campbell House Museum: A Pictorial Souvenir, which tells the story of the house itself.

Maureen is the owner of St. Louis Walking Tours and author of the forthcoming book History of Hidden St. Louis published by the History Press.

Get a free copy of Maureen’s book if you use the form below to renew your LAPSED membership.

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Part of what makes the Campbell House Museum so special is its collection of thousands of original furnishings and personal items left behind by the Campbell family. The Museum’s collection and interiors are nearly unparalleled in the United States. But it’s important to note that the Museum does not have everything. In fact quite a bit is missing. Large pieces of furniture, beautiful works of art and countless papers, books and knick-knacks have left the halls of the Campbell House after the death of the last family member. The reason? An auction of the house’s contents that happened in 1941.

Hazlett Campbell died without an heir in 1938, leaving behind a sizable family fortune and an 11,000 square foot townhouse full of beautiful things. While the money was eventually split between distant family members, the house posed a larger issue. Cousins who had inherited the interior furnishings and fixtures of the building opted to auction them off through local auction house Selkirk’s. At this point, the story becomes familiar.

A dedicated group from the community banded together, raised funds and purchased back hundreds of items as they passed across the auction block. Most of what you see on tours of Campbell House today is only here due to the dedication of this group. But they didn't get everything.

While many of the pieces that “got away” did so because of the group’s financial constraints, others were not purchased because they didn’t necessarily fit with the foundation’s vision for the Campbell House Museum (still two years away from opening to the public). In the years since some have even returned.

Illustrated at right are some of the things that got away…

The Campbell family had an impressive art collection. This painting, entitled “The Lost Greenhorn” hung in the Dining Room for more than 50 years. Painted by American artist Alfred Jacob Miller it depicts a fur trader on the plains. While the painting was included in the Campbell estate inventory it was not included in the 1941 auction and its whereabouts are unknown. (photo circa 1938)
While archival material related to the Campbell family is plentiful, such material is much rarer when it comes to their servants. The museum recently received a treasure trove of material from descendants of Campbell servant Philomena “Minnie” Kleeman that help fill in this gap. The documents and photos provide information about not only Minnie, but her aunt as well, longtime Campbell servant Mary Boerste (pictured in the servant’s hall at right).

Mary was housekeeper at the Campbell house for more than 30 years, beginning in 1904. Her primary task would be to oversee the cleaning of the house. Mary slept on the second floor of the Campbell house (pictured right in the earliest known photograph of the room). When Hugh Campbell died in 1931, he gifted Mary $30,000 in gratitude for her long service. She continued to look after Hazlett until her death in 1936 (death certificate at pictured right). Look for “Minnie” Kleeman's story in the next issue of the Courier.