The History of the Jackson County Historical Society

born again & again & again
1996
JACKSON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The
History of the
Jackson County
Historical Society

born again & again & again

a thumbnail history / 1909 to 1996

by Wilda Sandy
Dedication

To all those who went before
and marked the way, and to all
those yet to come who will do
the same for others.

Funding

Thanks to the generosity of the Kearney Wornall
Charitable Trust, UMB Bank N.A., Trustee for
primary funding, and to Boatmen’s Trust Company, for
supplemental funding, the publication of this
history has been made possible.

First Edition

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Introduction / a history of the history of the Historical Society...

It seems oxymoronic that an historical society would not
have its own written history. But the truth is, the Jackson
County Historical Society appears not to. At least not
gathered up, all in one place. Hence this slim tome,
highlighting the Society’s past, and hopefully illuminating
its future.

With the blessing of then-President Jane Flynn, my
intention was to read all extant issues of the Society’s
publications and excerpt from them. Beginning with that
earliest mimeographed and unnamed effort of May 1958, I
read through the Fall 1993 number. From those 114 issues
came the brief bits meant to enlighten, to bring back
memories, to amuse—to preserve our past. Since that
initial reading, however, more JOURNALS have been
published, read and excerpted, for a grand total of 129
through the Spring issue, 1996.

But my labors had not yet begun when Jane, in her
eternal shelf-searchings in the Kansas Valley Collections
at the Kansas City Public Library, came across the
incredible. A Kansas City Times story dated July 6, 1909,
covering a Fourth of July picnic of the Jackson County
Historical Society—held on the Wornall House grounds!

What a complete surprise that a group with “one”
name, however loosely organized, existed even then. And
that their goals so closely paralleled ours. Their aims and our
aims are the same; the preservation of our rich past. To
that end, please read on....

[Signature]
"The 'forbearance' and perspicacity of the old Tennessee Mission, which would be used as a museum for the care and exhibition of historic articles and documents relating to Jackson County and the general living on the other side of the Missouri, and Kansas too, was a suggestion made by Mrs. Laura Coutees, at the palace of the Jackson County Historical Society at the Wornall home, 3641 Wornall Road, presently afternoon.

The reunion is an old brick building near the Kansas City Museum in Jackson County. Kansas, almost stone notices from Merrick. It was a resting place for Indian.

If the Historical Society would foster this monument, Mrs. Reed offered to give the museum a place among the many historic articles left to her by her father, Kersey Coutes. This collection is one of the most extensive and rare of any in Missouri. As a secondary proposition, Mrs. Reed suggested, in the event that the State of Missouri would not take over, the privilege of the Wornall home.

While Mrs. Reed's offer is receivable, she believes that the museum, located at Shawnee Mission or at the Wornall home, could be made self-supporting. In New England many similar institutions are operated as real rooms for students, and her idea is to have refreshments served and make the museum a point of destination for our own country.

It's a national concern.

About two hundred persons assembled at the Wornall home for yesterday's exhibition. There were no lawn trucks, but many of Kansas City's politicians and their children seemed without precedent encouragement. The program was part of the event's attraction, but there were a few patriotic speeches. And the proceedings reminded one of old testament, which was new and sometimes even unpleasant for the ladies. The reading of the Declaration of Independence.

The ceremonies were held in front of the old Cotton house. A few hundred feet to the north was where the old house was located. The present house, also a historical, is owned by Mrs. J. H.0. Bundon, president of the museum. The Wornall guests were served by large tables and center pieces, which were the children's delight.

Mrs. Charles H. Bundon had the financing of the event in Jackson County for a longer period than any other person. She was born in 1842 and at that time was only thirty-nine years old. Several names were mentioned to Walter Bales, who appeared in good health. Mel Blakes has been since 1844. Among the other pioneers present were William H. Wornall of Kansas City, who has been in Jackson County for the last thirteen-fourths of a century. Mrs. M. J. Hunter, who once lived in 1886; Mrs. G. J. Wornall, who started the county hospital in 1827; J. H. J. Jonkes, who is a member of the class of 1894; and E. Z. Dunlap, who has been in the business of real estate for the last thirty years. Other names include Judge George Hines, 1851; Mrs. W. M. Wornall, formerly Mrs. H. M. Hines, 1851; N. Z. Jackson, 1847; W. C. Wornall, 1852; Dr. W. J. Campbell, 1852; George W. Hines, 1852; George W. Wornall, 1852; Mrs. Ellen 

"HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY / the way it was ..."

Trying to divine just when the Jackson County Historical Society really began is like peeling an onion. It's layers and layers of start-and-stop. Of fits and starts. Of brisk activity and total hibernation. Of determination and resignation.

Although the Society's present incarnation owes its shape and form to "W. Howard Adams' spirited leadership in the 1958 reorganization, that heroic effort was just one of many.

Eight years before, in 1950, Rufus Burra had been elected president of a revived Jackson County Historical Society. That, in turn, succeeded an even earlier organization meeting of 1948 at which Maj. Gen. E. M. Stuyton was elected president and Mrs. Herbert H. (Ardis) Haukenburg, secretary—an office, it should be noted, which she held for the next 28 years with grace and good cheer until her official retirement in 1976. It was at that 1948 meeting that annual dues were raised from 50 cents to $1.00.

Now, peel back another layer, another eight years. On January 19, 1940, there was an organizational meeting, the outgrowth of a Museum Committee named by Independence Mayor Roger T. Sermon in 1938, aided and abetted by the Native Sons and the Independence Chamber of Commerce. Only six history stalwarts answered the call, but "Our fields are rich in historical treasure," proclaimed temporary president Nathaniel D. Jackson. How right he was.

No formal minutes exist, but it was at that landmark gathering that dues were originally set at 50 cents.

Those then are the tangled roots of the Jackson County Historical Society. Or so it seemed. Until a yellowed copy of a Kansas City Times article turned up, proving once again that history does repeat itself.

1909

That newspaper story dated July 6, 1909 reported that "about 200 people assembled at the Wornall house for yesterday's celebration by the Jackson County Historical Society"—a basket picnic and reading of the Declaration of Independence by E. C. Wornall on our nation's birthday. Dr. W. C. Campbell presided, and Judge John G. Gage, a participant in the battle, told some stories of the "conflict," as he referred to the Battle of Westport, fought October 1864 only a short distance from the day's picnic site.

The account continues that another of "the interesting characters at the picnic was William Johnson of Clay County—a son who settled in Kansas in the early part of the century," founding the Shawnee Methodist Mission and Manual Labor School in 1839 in what is today Fairway, Kansas. Parenthetically, it was William Johnson's sister, Eliza, who married John B. Wornall in 1854, who built and lived in the Wornall farmhouse until 1865. The knee-bone is connected to the thigh-bone.

By uncanny coincidence, at that patriotic picnic in 1909, Mrs. Laura Coutees Reed strongly urged that the Society purchase either the historic Shawnee Mission or the Wornall House for "the care and exhibition of historic articles left to her by her father, Kersey Coutes," one of Kansas City's early leading lights.

Mrs. Reed's goals although not realized for her precise reasons, proved prophetic. Both venerated sites have, indeed, become living history museums. The state of Kansas purchased and restored the derelict Shawnee Mission Indian Mission buildings, and the revived Jackson County Historical Society acquired the Wornall House in 1964, restored and opened it as Kansas City's first historic house museum in 1972.

1940

Thirty-one years evaporated between the Society's 1909 picnic gathering at the John Wornall home and the January 19, 1940 organizational meeting convened at the behest of Mayor Sermon in Independence. What if anything occurred in the interim is lost to history. But eight months after the 1940 meeting, on August 29, it is recorded that temporary officers were chosen, and a committee appointed to prepare by-laws. Headquarters would be in Independence, the county seat.

N. D. Jackson was elected temporary president, with permanent officers to be chosen at the October meeting. The group's stated purpose was to establish a county museum in Independence, a distant goal not realized for another 18 years, with the Society's acquisi-
tion of the old county jail in 1958. Meanwhile the fledgling group of 1940 gratefully settled for fireproof cabinets in the county library.

The first full-blown meeting of the Jackson County Historical Society was October 3, 1940, a dinner-meeting with the Independence Chamber of Commerce. Permanent officers elected were

President Maj. N. D. Jackson
Vice President Mrs. R. B. Mitchell
Secretary Frank W. Rocker
Treasurer Harry Sturges
Historian Mrs. John H. Grinter

A year later it is recorded that the Society’s members conducted historic tours during the three days of Santa-Cali-Gon festivities. And in 1942, on September 26, the Society marked the site of the old Wayne City-Independence railroad terminal at 214-22 West Maple, Independence.

1948

Maj. Gen. E. M. Stayton was elected president of the Society at a reorganization meeting April 29, 1948, following the death of president Maj. N. D. Jackson.

Six years of silence prevailed during which Major Jackson fell ill and died. Then, at a reorganization meeting on April 29, 1948, the following officers were elected.

President Maj. Gen. E. M. Stayton
Vice President J. Orrin Moon
Secretary Mrs. Herbert H. Haakenberry
Treasurer Harry Sturges
Historian Rufus Burrus

The determined group planned a “gallery of immortals”—a collection of portraits of county pioneers—which was begun. And the Independence Chamber of Commerce gave the Society desk space in Memorial Hall. It was then that dues went from 50 cents to $1.00.

In October of that year four historic sites were marked by the County Court at the Society’s request: Hickman Mills, Battle of White Oak, Old Hawthorne Place (site of the signing of Order #11), and Mathews Landing.

On November 7, 1948 a dedication ceremony was held for the Oregon Trail monument placed by the County Court on the northwest corner of the Independence courthouse lawn. And at a dinner meeting the following year, “biographies of eight prominent men” prepared by Mrs. W. B. Fullerton were presented.

1950

The Annual Meeting of October 15, 1950 brought an election of officers.

President Rufus Burrus
Vice President John H. Hardin
Secretary Mrs. Herbert H. Haakenberry
Treasurer Harry Sturges
Corresponding Secretary Sybil Sewell
Historian Charles Kemper

1958

Then silence. For another eight years. Until the watershed meeting of January 19, 1958. “Save the old county Jail” was the rallying cry!

W. Howard Adams, a Blue Springs native, in 1958 while in his early thirties, led the reactivation of the Society, serving as first president from 1958–1961.
Rufus Burnus president and W. Howard Adams was elected president of the board from this fertile acorn that our present mighty oak has grown.

Volume I, No. I of the publication of the Jackson County Historical Society appeared the following May. A homemade three-page mimeographed-and-stapled affair, it reported the newly re-energized Society's upcoming meeting on May 18 at the Truman Library in Independence. President Adams presided, and Mrs. E. C. (Helena) Crow was appointed membership chairman—the perfect selection of a gracious and indefatigable lady who served for ages yet to come. She joyfully reported that over 700 members had already signed on. Dues remained $1.00, and the purpose of the Society was declared "to foster a community and America through better appreciation of those who pioneered in its creation and growth."

Officers were elected, committees established, a board of directors named, and Harry S. Truman was made an Honorary Life Member.

President
W. Howard Adams
Vice President
Sue Gentry
Recording Secretary
Mrs. H. H. Haukenberry
Corresponding Secretary
Sybil Sewell
Treasurer
Charles R. Layland
Historian
Mrs. Robert E. Green

Committee Assignments:
Archives
Mrs. Charles Kellogg
Membership
Mrs. E. K. Crow
Battlefield Marking
Robert P. Weatherford
Historic Building Survey
Hal Sandy
Museum & Headquarters
Jerry Manning
Social
Mrs. Frank S. Jennings
Program
Keith Wilson, Jr.
Townships
Strother Livesay

Board of Directors:
Dr. Kenneth Prescott
Dr. Kenneth LaBudde
Richard Sealock
George Fuller Green
Dr. Ted Brown
Mrs. Frederic James
Robert P. Weatherford
Judge Henry Bundscha
Rufus Burnus
Dr. Philip C. Brooks
Mrs. Charles Kellogg
Mrs. Joseph W. Greene
Edward C. Wright, Jr.
Jerry Surber
John H. Hardin
Israel A. Smith
Judge William J. Randall
Jerry Manning
Raymond E. Blake
Mary Jane Truman
William Linscott
Mrs. Charles Thruston

Of these, four loyalists continue laboring in the vineyard, at this writing: Sue Gentry, the Society's lovely Lady of Letters, together with Hal Sandy, Ken LaBudde and Keith Wilson, Jr.

The second (still mimeographed) edition of the Society's publication in September reported that the first Annual Meeting at the Truman Library would have as its speaker Earl H. Reed, chairman of the Chicago American Institute of Architects' National Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings. The Annual Dinner planned for December would be catered in Kirkwood Hall at Kansas City's Nelson-Akins Gallery of Art.

The Jail Museum's Operations Committee Chairman Jerry Manning was laying big plans for operations of a countywide museum in the old jail building. His work coincided with that of committees working to resolve problems of support and funding for that huge undertaking.

The Archives collection got a healthy start with receipt of a large collection of early correspondence and documents dating between 1850-1866 contained in a trunk donated by William H. Waller, Jr., grandson of Cornelius Carr Chiles, relating to the early Sibley mercantile firm of Chiles and Garrison. Also received were the records of Col. Thomas Jefferson Hudspeth's unusual business of raising and selling hounds, descendants of hounds brought to Missouri by the first of his clan to emigrate from Kentucky in 1828.

The reorganized Society's first Annual Dinner was a catered buffet at the Nelson-Akins Gallery of Art, December 3, 1958, in Kirkwood Hall.

1959

April 1959 saw the Society's first professionally-printed publication (still nameless, however), a big step forward from the informal news sheet of the previous year. Since saving the old county jail was the group's raison d'être, that was the banner news: "Much enthusiasm was generated by a concerted effort by the Society to save from destruction the 1859 Jail and home provided by the county for the early Marshals and their families."

The slate of officers from the meeting in May was re-elected, with W. Howard Adams continuing in the presidency. The Jail Museum was ambitiously scheduled for a June opening. Treasurer Roy Layland reported $27,560.01 in the Society's Chrisman-Sawyer bank account, short $22,439.99 needed for acquisition and restoration of the site. A call was put out for suitable furniture dating before 1875 to refurbish the Old Jail and

Marshals Home—as was a call for volunteers to staff both. And an early private schoolhouse used on the William H. Howard farm near Lee's Summit for 90 years was donated to the Society for reinstallation at the restored Jail.

The 1859 Jackson County Jail and Marshals House was the first property acquired and restored by the Society in 1959, 100 years after its construction.

Through the miracle of organization, hard work, and follow-through, a mid-February telephone campaign raised 2,000 people who gave $30,000. The Old Jail was saved! Preliminary preservation work on the structure began March 10, and on June 28 the Jail Museum opened. Dedication followed in early October 1959, just 18 months after the memorable Society reorganization meeting.

1960

The March news sheet brought word of the Annual Meeting, scheduled for election of officers and ratification of the new bylaws. And a special members' treat: a show of color slides by Edward C. Wright, Jr. of the various stages of progress in the restoration of the Old Jail Museum.

The Independence Junior Chamber of Commerce's Civic Beautification Committee was hard at work clearing up rubble in the patio area at the Jail, preparatory to setting the Howard family schoolhouse on its new foundation there. The Independence Garden Club agreed to supervise its landscaping.

Mrs. Jack E. (Doris) Quinn was named new coordinator of museum operations, taking over from Martha Reed, a former Bristol School teacher, with added responsibilities. Miss Reed, with the cooperation of several Independence volunteer organizations, kept the museum open at regularly scheduled hours, but family
illness dictated her resignation. In the six months between June 1959—January 1960, 4,770 people visited the Jail Museum, Dr. Philip C. Brooks, operations committee chairman proudly reported.

In September 1960, the still-unnamed Society publication reported that Hazel Graham had been named new coordinator of museum operations at the Old Jail. This position which she so gallantly accepted became, in real life, an almost 24-hour, 7-day a week, create-as-you-go learning experience. No one knew then what it would come to entail. Least of all Hazel (or Kenneth, her husband and helper.) However, true to form she championed its ever-increasing responsibilities with warmth, efficiency and style for 22 years, until her complete retirement in 1982. Almost as a postscript, the publication of this date also reported that dues were being raised from $1.00 to $2.50 per person.

November’s JOURNAL announced the Society’s Annual Dinner speaker to be Dr. Richard S. Brownlee, recently appointed Director and Secretary of the State Historical Society of Missouri at Columbia; site of the dinner to be the Nelson-Atkins Gallery. Five sweet gum trees planted in front of the Old Jail Museum were a gift of four Society member families. Irwin Fender, contractor on the Jail restoration, contributed the labor to plant them. Improvements at the Jail Museum consisted of more, and more adequate signage, both inside and out. Perhaps as a result, both revenue and visitation at the site were up.

1961

The February 1961 issue of the publication heralded the election of Mrs. J. Roger (Mary Mildred) DeWitt as the Society’s second president. Also noted was that 9,000 people had visited the Jail Museum in the 18 months between its opening in June 1959 and December 1960.

The Society’s June publication brought all sorts of glad tidings. The date of the old time Lone Jack picnic was set for August 12; this, commemorating a custom followed for 50 years on the anniversary of the Battle of Lone Jack. Preceding the picnic, an historical marker was to be dedicated at the adjacent Lone Jack Cemetery. The Women’s Clubs of the community promised homemade pies and coffee to supplement the picnic basket fare. The Turner Band of Independence planned to be there in their old time band wagon to enliven the affair.

Mrs. Edwin B. Constant was chosen Archives Director, having served as chairman of the Archives committee the previous year. And the Society placed a marker at the Kansas City site of the home of the Rev. Isaac McCoy, early day settler, near what became St. Luke’s Hospital on Wornall Road.

By October 1961, the formally christened JOURNAL of the Jackson County Historical Society was born at last. The inaugural masthead was designed by Independence artist Norman Engler, then advertising art director at Hallmark Cards. That issue reported that the eternally optimistic Helena Crow, membership chairman par excellence, announced that “membership hovered at 1,000.”

In October 1961 the JOURNAL was born. Its masthead designed by Hallmark artist, Norman Engler.

1962

February’s JOURNAL announced the re-election of Mrs. J. Roger DeWitt as president. Mrs. Frank (Polly) Fowler was named new director of the Archives to succeed Alberta Constant who resigned due to increasing demands of her book writing. Judge Henry A. Bunschuch presented a gold-plated Pony Express Centennial Revolver to the Society—one of only 1,000 produced to honor the famous Kansas City-based overland freight firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell, founders, owners and operators of the renown Pony Express. Irwin Fender, museum construction committee chairman reported construction progress on the Jail, with plans to complete the second floor work on the Marshals Home within the year.

The May JOURNAL carried news that Dr. Ted A. Brown, Associate Professor of History at the University of Kansas City, would be the speaker at the Society’s

Hazel Graham, the gracious and inimitable coordinator of all Society activities from 1960–1985, died January 14, 1990.
May meeting at Pierston Hall on the campus at 51st and Holmes Road. Also that twelve patio lights, copies of an antique hurricane lamp, were gifts to the Jail Museum by the Women's Civic Club of Independence.

"Annual Dinner To Be Held at Union Station—Grandson of Fred Harvey To Be Speaker," the JOURNAL, for October headlined. Byron Harvey, Jr., chairman of the Fred Harvey systems, which played a pivotal role in the early railroad history of Kansas City and the West, was to be the speaker in the Station's Red Door Room.

A large exhibit of Currier & Ives prints was planned for holiday viewing at the Jail Museum. Summer membership activities included a charter bus trip to Weston and St. Joseph and one to Arrow Rock, Missouri. The Archives opened in June for regular summer hours, Mondays from 10 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in the basement of the Truman Library. Behind the scenes, sorting, cataloging and typing acquisition cards continued apace. Meanwhile a story by W. Howard Adams "How Independence Saved and Restored The Old Jail Museum" appeared in the July Missouri Historical Review. Quite a success story!

1963

The March 1963 JOURNAL proclaimed "the board's approval to investigate the acquisition of the John B. Wornall house to be opened to the public." Unsuspected by all was that nine years lay between this pronouncement and its fruition.

And although still in its tentative stages, July's JOURNAL publicly proclaimed the big news: "Historical Society May Acquire Wornall House!" Kansas City's Bacheus Ball voted to make the house's purchase the recipient of its 1963 fund-raising festivity. A real jump start!

The Lone Jack, Missouri museum dedication was announced for late summer. The "My Family History" essay contest was continued, with all accepted manuscripts to be preserved in the Archives. And in an article entitled "Old Landmark Is Razed," for another parking lot (or was it?), Forest Ingram shared his recollections of old Independence upon learning that the pre-Civil War mansion at 126 South Pleasant had been razed. The first portion of that stately old brick house was built in 1832 by James Pool, said to have been the first postmaster of Independence.

The November JOURNAL announced that Dr. Charles C. Dennie, former president of the American Dermatological Society, would be guest speaker at the Annual Meeting. And that Judge Henry A. Bunchu spoke at the dedication of the monument erected at the grave of Gen. John T. Hughes in Woodlawn Cemetery, Independence. That event marked the 101st anniversary of Gen. Hughes' death in the first battle of Independence in 1862. In attendance were many area descendants of Gen. Hughes—soldier, civic leader, scholar and Civil War hero.

1964

A year later the JOURNAL of March 1964 reported the election of Francis "Brick" Wornall as third president of the Society, and of the initiation of a fund drive to acquire the Wornall house from the heirs.

That Fall, the November 1964 JOURNAL proclaimed that the Society had actually acquired the Wornall House, on Friday, October 23, 1964—the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Westport. With a $13,000 down payment consisting of $11,000 proceeds from the Bacheus Ball benefit and $2,000 from private donors, the purchase price of $35,000 was definitely doable. The remaining $22,000 was borrowed from Blue Valley Savings and Loan Association. Webster W. Trowley was selected Wornall Home Committee chairman, and the two past presidents were made members. Eight years of research, planning, fund-raising, restoration work, and concerted effort lay ahead for all!

1965

Meanwhile Jail visitation for 1964 was reported at 15,337 in the March 1965 JOURNAL, about half of those being school children. Also noted was that twin sisters born in the Marshals Home 75 years earlier celebrated their birthdays March 13. These ladies, Mrs. Louise Holmquist and Miss Helen Ross, were born while their father J. B. Ross was marshal in 1890. Their illustrious brother, the late Charles Ross, high school classmate and later press secretary to President Harry Truman, referred to his twin sisters as the "jail birds."

Wornall House news dominated the July 1965 JOURNAL, with the announcement of Carr N. Eubank as fund-raising chairman. The first phase would raise $82,000, $21,000 to finish buying the house and $61,000 for restoration. Meanwhile an archaeology team held a "dig" on the Wornall House grounds—four graduate students and four undergrads, all students of Dr. Robert Bray, director, MU Archaeology at Columbia.

1966

The restored John B. Wornall House was purchased by the Society from the heirs in 1964. It opened as Kansas City's first house museum in 1972, at Wornall Road and 61st Terrace.

Howard Adams, the Society's enlightened (steamroller) founding president, was elected to the Missouri Academy of Squires, the December 1965 JOURNAL reported. This "for his efforts on behalf of culture and historical projects in his county and state, and particularly for inspiring the cooperation of cultural leadership that brought into being the Missouri Council on the Arts."

The Ross twins, Louise and Helen, here age 5, were born in the Marshals House in 1890 while their father was marshal of Jackson County from 1887-1897.

With sincere regret it was also noted that Adams and his family were soon moving to Princeton, N.J., where he would become associate director of the National Association of State and Community Arts Councils. Then once again bad news was followed by good: Miss Cammie Johnston, Independence's favorite music teacher, was awarded the Society's Annual Award for Historic Preservation, acknowledging her life-long devotion to her 1850 red brick Victorian cottage at 305 South Pleasant Street, Independence.

The Spring 1966 JOURNAL headlined the re-election of Brick Wornall to a third one-year term. An Open House in May, to introduce the historic Wornall House to members and the public, netted $1,550. Almost 2,500 persons viewed the Society's new purchase during the two-weeks of hospitality.
Miss Cammie Johnston’s “Missouri River Gothic” cottage, 305 South Pleasant, Independence, Missouri, was built in 1850. In 1985 she was awarded the Society's Annual Award for historic preservation.

That fall, the JOURNAL carried stories of burgeoning membership—over 1,500—as well as continued visits at the Jail Museum. During the month of August 1966, nearly 5,000 people toured the facility—more than the entire first year of operation. And regarding the Wornall House fund-raising, "about one half of the $82,000 budget for purchase and the first phase of restoration has been raised to date." Further, it was hoped the Wornall House would open in the Spring of 1967. (That, however, was another six years in the offing.)

1967

W. Coleman Branton became the new president according to the Spring 1967 JOURNAL. It was his hope to open the Wornall House in 1967. Membership stood at 2,000. Jail attendance for 1966 was over 20,000.

And a devastating fire destroyed the historic William B. Howard house of 1854 which stood on farmland at Woods Chapel Road Extension just west of Highway 71 By-Pass in Jackson County. The frame house was a tall classic-columned, traditional poricdor structure, said to be the best example of Greek Revival architecture in western Missouri. It was owned by William T. Howard of Lee’s Summit, grandson of the builder. Fortunately its 1860s schoolhouse which stood nearby was spared. Acquired by the Society, it and one original desk plus a portion of the blackboard were moved to the Jail Museum’s courtyard where, once restored, it continued its original purpose.

"W. Howard Adams, past president of the Society and currently Associate Director, Associated Councils of Arts in New York City will be the featured Annual Dinner speaker at the Nelson Gallery," the Fall 1967 JOURNAL announced. Then bad news: two more fire-ravaged landmarks were reported. In Independence, the Waggoner-Gates Mill, built nearly 100 years before, burned on May 29, a victim of an explosion triggered by lightning. And in eastern Jackson County, long-vacant Mathews Tavern, a once-popular riverside tavern, burned May 31. That 112-year-old landmark stood at the end of Schuster Road, three miles north of 24 Highway at Levasy.

Meanwhile back at the Wornall House, Kathleen N. Taggart, research consultant for the Society project, wrote in an update for the JOURNAL that the restoration would be a professional job—slow but authentic. One the Society would be proud of. And how right she was about that.

Mathews Tavern northwest of Levasy, built in 1855 and the last remnant of steamboating here, burned May 31, 1967. Neighbors Clyde and Oritola Miller, shown here, lived nearby.

Civil War guerrilla William Clarke Quantrill's pocketwatch was stolen from the Jail Museum on November 17, 1962.

1968

W. Coleman Branton was re-elected president; membership stood at 2,351; work was progressing space on the Wornall House restoration—with all the “hiddens” finished; heating, plumbing and electrical. And, the JOURNAL for Spring concluded, 23,105 persons had visited the Jail Museum in calendar 1967, 12,000 of those being school children.

The Summer JOURNAL headlined an up-coming Watermelon Cot on the Wornall House lawn, a membership event planned to show off the site's restoration progress to date. Other news included the announcement that Mrs. Russell E. Atchison and all of her 16 grandchildren as members of the Society, and that the 1895 Jail ledger used to record arrests in the old County Jail (now the Jail Museum) had been found and donated to the Society. This treasure had lain in the attic of the Chiles sisters' home, 821 West White Oak, Independence, and was given by their nephew, Robert C. Chiles.

In the Fall issue, it was reported with regret that the silver-plated pocket watch of William Clarke Quantrill, which was stolen from the Jail Museum November 17, 1962, was still missing. Quantrill, a Civil War guerrilla of renown, who had etched his initials inside the lid of the watch case, was imprisoned in the jail in the winter of 1860.

Discouraging news on the area retail front too: "De-mise of Emery Bird Thayer, trusted family merchants for a century, means passing of a landmark in downtown Kansas City and loss of the Bundschu family name from a business house on the Independence public square." EBT went back to 1863 in Kansas City; Bundschu's began in 1883 in Independence, and was bought by EBT in 1959. Sadly, 1968 ended both eras.

1969

By the following spring, the Society had asked the County Court for archival and museum space in the old Independence Square Courthouse, having seriously outgrown its Truman Library space and then some!

W. Coleman Branton was elected to his third consecutive year as president; 2,426 paid memberships were reported; and 30,000 visitors toured the Jail Museum the previous year. Kathy Taggart, research historian, proclaimed that the Wornall House restoration had "action stage." Results were really beginning to show.

Kansas City's Major William Warner house, built on Quality Hill in 1868, was rehabbed as architect's offices 100 years later.
Finally the good news the Archives had hoped for came to fruition. They were promised space in the old Independence Square Courthouse after that structure is superseded by a new courthouse to be built east of the square. The gift of the century was received by the Archives from the Strauss-Peyton Photographic Studio in Kansas City. Their collection of glass negatives dating from 1890, our area’s recent history preserved on film.

1970

With the Summer JOURNAL came good news on two fronts: in Kansas City the Wornall House “under restoration” tours attracted 1,000 visitors on five Sunday afternoons in May and June, which generated $8,296 toward the $70,000 fund-raising goal. And in Independence, the courthouse on the square was nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C., the old structure, to be vacated when the new courthouse is built with funds approved in 1967.

Charles van Ravensway, director of the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum in Delaware was announced to be the speaker at the Annual Dinner according to the Winter JOURNAL. The well-known and highly esteemed mid-Missourian was a former director of the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, and formerly president of Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.

1971


In celebration of Missouri’s year-long Sesquicentennial, Mrs. Warren E. Hearnes, wife of the Missouri governor, was asked to speak at a program under the auspices of the Society held in Loose Park in Kansas City, the Summer JOURNAL noted; with Watermelon Cut preceding, and an open house tour of the nearby Wornall House following.

The JOURNAL for Fall brought sad tidings and glad. The sad was the retirement of Dr. Philip C. Brooks who moved to Washington D.C. As director of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library since its opening in 1957, Dr. Brooks had been one of the Society’s best friends and champions. His leaving carved a large void in the historic community.

The glad tidings were that the Wornall House restoration was sailing along, with the house being furnished except for two period beds. Happily a $9,000 matching grant was awarded the Society’s efforts through the Missouri State Park Board. Onward and upward!

An early photo of the William McCoy home, 401 West Farmer, Independence, built by the city’s first mayor for his bride in 1856.

Also cheers that the Federal style William McCoy mansion, 410 West Farmer, built by Independence’s first mayor in 1856 had been purchased by Society stalwarts Martha and Forest Ingram as their residence.

1972

President Ned Washburn was re-elected to lead the Society for a second year according to the March JOURNAL. Dues were raised from $2.50 to $5.00. Membership stood at 2,500. On an all-day (1) field trip, 46 Society members flew to St. Louis to visit three of that city’s myriad restored house museums. On their return by bus, they toured the First Missouri State Capitol restoration in St. Charles before having dinner and returning home that night. A big day!

The Harry S. Truman home at Delaware and Truman Road, Independence was added to the National Register of Historic Places. And restoration of the Truman Court Room in the Independence Square Courthouse had been undertaken by the Jackson County Parks
Department. And in a stroke of good luck, the complete files of the *Independence Examinier*, bound volumes dating from 1905–1967, found their way into the Society’s Archives. What a treasure trove!

The JOURNAL, for June 1972 brought good news for both the Society’s Archives and for the Wornall House restoration. The Archives’ move to the old courthouse on the square looked imminent—perhaps by fall. And the Wornall House received two windfalls—first $1,539.47, the assets of the disbanded Patriots and Pioneer Memorial Fund. That group’s survivor, Kansas City architect Mary Rockwell Hook, assigned those funds to the Society for its Wornall House restoration. Secondly, the Kansas City Junior League’s Special Projects Committee made a grant of $10,000 to that same end, with the promise of nine trained docent-guides for the house as well.

Finally, “The Wornall House is Open!” shouted the headline on the September JOURNAL. Preview house tours for Society members and friends were in the works. Mrs. W. Coleman “Shawiie” Branton, president of the Wornall House Committee reported the selection of the house’s first resident managers—Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Abele of Boonville. (Doug, a law student at UMKC, and his wife, Mary Pat “lived-in” until his graduation and their return to mid-Missouri in 1975.)

Also at the Wornall House, neighbor Jeff Johnson, age 10, found a real honest-to-goodness Miné ball while archaeologists worked on the grounds to locate artifacts. Jeff generously presented his find to the House for exhibit. (For many years it prevailed atop the cast iron stove in the restored dining room.)


Hooray! “New Research Rooms In Old Courthouse to Have Library Atmosphere” headlined the October JOURNAL. Archives Director Pauline “Polly” Fowler wrote of the Archives’ move from temporary quarters (14 years!) in the Truman Library basement to their new space on the square. Polly lauded Judge Henry A. Bundschu for his generosity—for the third time—to the Society’s needs. Twice he funded the old Jail Museum’s shortfall, and with his third major gift, the Archives’ research rooms became a reality. A true friend, indeed.

1973

In the March issue, the JOURNAL reported the election of L. Patton Kline to succeed Ned Washburn as Society President; that membership stood at 3,000; and that the Wornall House had 2,000 visitors in its first six months of operation. The Pi Beta Phi Sorority-sponsored Carriage House Boutique, in the garage on the property, netted $2,000 for the Wornall House restoration fund. And through the estate of the late Nell Hare Stevenson, a strong and loyal Society supporter, the Wornall House restoration again benefited—this in addition to her many previous gifts of antique furnishings and artifacts. Mrs. Stevenson was the daughter and sister of the partners in Kansas City’s esteemed architectural landscape firm of Hare and Hare.

July’s JOURNAL announced the summer outing of the Society at historic Longview Farm in Lee’s Summit which promised to be even happier with the symbolic “burning of the mortgage” to the Wornall House! Longview Farm, a magnificent 1,681 acre country estate, was built in 1912 by the late R. A. Long, wealthy Kansas City lumberman, as his show farm. The Society event there offered as a member’s treat an outdoor catered buffet supper on the terrace and a tour both of the main house and of selected outbuildings on the grounds.

Burning the Wornall House mortgage, Society president L. Patton Kline, far right, assisted by Steve Slaughter, center foreground, Ned Washburn in between. In rear from left, Joseph H. Peters, Ted R. Cauger and Brick Wornall.
The Archives, begun even before the Society's 1958 reorganization, moved in 1972 to the old Independence Square Courthouse.

Saving the 1859 Jackson County Marshals Home and Jail from demolition was the Society's raison d'être for reorganizing in 1958 under Howard Adams' leadership.
The Westport Garden Club’s “garden party” held on the Wornall House grounds benefited the restoration by $10,000. Sue Gentry, Society member and Independence newspaperwoman, retired after 44 years with the Examiners’ The Archives reported brisk traffic since their move to spacious new quarters in the Independence Square Courthouse.

The September 1973 JOURNAL carried pictures and a story honoring Judge Henry A. Bundschu as a benefactor of the Society. Photographs accompanying the saga of the burning of the Wornall House mortgage at the July picnic at Longview Farm showed the document being ceremoniously consumed by flames in a charcoal brazier on the terrace of the farmhouse, President L. Patton Kline presiding and past-president Col. S. D. Slaughter assisting.

That JOURNAL also announced that former president W. Howard Adams’ pre-Civil War Jackson County farmhouse, “Promised Land,” was scheduled for dismantling and reassembly at Missouri Town 1855 at Lake Jacomo—a part of the village of period structures assembled in the park.

At the Annual Dinner, the December JOURNAL reported, Mrs. J. Roger DeWitt, the reorganized Society’s second president, was honored for her preservation of the 1871 Vail Mansion, 1500 North Liberty, Independence. She and her late husband purchased the Victorian Gothic manse in 1959, secured it, and continued its lease during restoration to assure its occupancy. A splendid and heroic effort!

1974

The March JOURNAL brought news of a new president for the Society— charter member and wearer-of-many-hats, Sue Gentry. The Archives announced continuation of its Illustrated Lecture Series on Sunday afternoons at the Independence Square Courthouse. Next up was local author Alberta Wilson Constant speaking on her book “The West and George Caleb Bingham.”

“Minnieha’a’s Fate” was the page one story in the June 1974 JOURNAL—the tale of the venerated cigar-store Indian which for half a century stood guard on the south side of the Independence Square at 107½ West Lexington. After being damaged by fire, the story reveals, the renovated redskin was purchased by Kansas City antiques collector Jerry Smith.

From the portico of the Wornall House, Kansas City Mayor Charles Wheeler, left, presided at the July 4, 1974 ceremony designating Kansas City a Bicentennial City. The September JOURNAL told of the annual Society picnic planned for Lone Jack County Park, before or after which members could tour the adjacent Civil War cemetery and the small museum nearby. In Independence the Old Spring Park and Visitors Center restoration was dedicated in 107-degree heat on July 21, as part of that city’s Bicentennial celebration. And Kansas City was designated a Bicentennial City at a Fourth of July ceremony presided over by Mayor Charles B. Wheeler, held on the portico of the Society’s John B. Wornall House.
By publication time of the November JOURNAL, plans for the long-awaited establishment of an Endowment Fund were well underway. JOURNAL editor, Alberta Constans, announced her resignation to allow time to research and write a new book. And the Annual Dinner, in November, held at the Arrowhead Club at the Stadium, featured a fashion show. A modeled showing of fashions from 1816 to the present! Speaker for the evening was Kenneth Coombs, Kansas City architect, who showed slides of his work in researching and restoring the first Missouri State Capitol in St. Charles—a laudable 10-year project.

Wornall House were planned marking the opening of their Christmas 1858 display. The Archives recent gifts included the Kearney Wornall papers, Frances Royster Williams' complete scrapbooks of the "Cuddles and Tuckie" newspaper columns, and banker Thomas Franklin's 1859 records of deposits from the Independence Branch of the Southern Bank of St. Louis.

The December JOURNAL brought news of the Society's Bicentennial Project—reprinting of "The 1877 Illustrated Atlas of Jackson County"—of which the Archives has two original copies. And the Society's long-anticipated Endowment Fund became a reality, with authorization by the Board to accept bequests, cash and other income-producing properties. A vital step toward the Society's financial future.

1976

Maj. Gen. Robert A. Hewitt was elected president of the Society to succeed Sue Gentry, the April JOURNAL headlined. Archives news: 304 researchers were served there in 1975, and a total of 482 pieces of archival materials were received by donation.

The Wornall House presented a Living Kitchen program during the winter for school children. Kids saw (and smelled!) compones and gingersnaps cooked over the open hearth fireplace in the kitchen. In 1975 the House welcomed almost 11,000 visitors.

The Jail Museum tallied 28,000 visitors in 1975. And Mrs. Herbert H. Hauenberry retired after 28 faithful years as Society secretary. She was presented with a medallion for her devoted service dating from the Society's first organization in 1948. She deserved a crown!

By publication time of the August JOURNAL the Annual Picnic was a fait accompli—held on the lawn of the almost 100-year-old farmhouse at the Drumm Farm Institute, 2110 South Lee's Summit Road, Independence. The 360-acre working farm, which served for 45 years as home to over 400 deserving boys, received a Bicentennial Liberty Tree award for its three oak trees that are more than 200 years old.

President and Mrs. Gerald Ford attended the Truman Statue Dedication ceremony at the Independence Square Courthouse, as did Truman's daughter Margaret Daniel. The Archives received from Independence writer-historian Pearl Wilcox the small ornate gilded frame which originally held the wood panel painting "Order No. 11" by George Caleb Bingham. Mrs. Wilcox found the 4½ x 5½ frame in the attic of her home, 116 South Pleasant, formerly the residence of one-time Missouri State Treasurer Col. Joseph Wayne Merchant. The painting in its frame had hung in the house during Merchant's tenure there. When heirs sold

1975

To the surprise of no one, and the delight of all, Sue Gentry was re-elected president for 1975 at the Annual Meeting, the April JOURNAL reported. Following the meeting, members toured two private Indepen- dence homes of historic interest. Miss Cammie Johnston's century-old red brick cottage at 305 South Pleasant, where she gracefully greeted all; and the Forest Ingram's recently restored William McCoy house at 410 West Farner.

Two news items were noted which all regret: the retirement of Polly Fowler as director of the Society's Archives, and the resignation of Mary Pat and Doug Abele at Wornall House resident managers. Both vacancies left large shoes to be filled. Polly reigned at the Archives interminently from 1959. The Abeles endeared themselves at the Wornall House for two and a half years, from the time of the site's opening. (Mary Pat became executive director of Missouri Mansion Preservation Trust in Jefferson City.)

The July JOURNAL announced the Annual Dinner speaker as Mrs. Carolyn Bond, wife of Missouri's governor Kit Bond. Her topic: "Missouri Mansion Preservation"—a subject near at hand and dear to her heart. An Arrow Rock bus trip was planned for July, with dinner at the historic Arrow Rock Tavern followed by a matinee performance of "Lady Audley's Secret" at the Lyceum Repertory Theater there. A new kid on the block was noted: Historic Kansas City Foundation, a newly formed preservation organization, optioned the 1881 Bunker Building at 9th and Baltimore Avenue as their first investment acquisition. A suitable owner was being sought to restore the property for adaptive use.

The 1974 Annual Dinner attracted 250 members for a vintage fashion show, TURN OF THE HEIM. Mrs. John E. Luff, here in "period costume," created and moderated the show.

The 1881 Bunker Building, 9th and Baltimore Avenue, was the first building optioned in 1975 by the (then) newly formed Historic Kansas City Foundation.

The November JOURNAL's coverage included Carolyn Bond's talk at the Annual Dinner, on the restoration and refurbishing of the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City. Christmas Candlelight Tours of the Independence native Blevins Davis became an interna- tional figure in theater prior to his death in 1971.

the painting to the Cincinnati Gallery of Art, it was with- out the frame. A rare find and a singular gift.

Bernd Foerster, dean of the College of Architecture and Design at R-State University, Manhattan, spoke at the Annual Dinner in October. His topic: "Making
moved east. His professional guiding hand was present in the restoration of the Jail Museum, the purchase and preparation of the Wornall House as a museum, and profoundly in the creation of the Society’s Archives.

The members’ summer outing was a Sunday dinner-trip to historic Lexington, to tour public sites and pre-Civil War homes there, including stately Linwood Lawn. This 26-room Georgian-style brick mansion was built in 1850, complete with air cooling, central heating, hot and cold running water, and gas made from coal to light its fabulous chandeliers. As modern as today.

The October JOURNAL brought an update on the whereabouts of Minnehaha, the cigar store Indian who guarded the south side of the Independence Square from the 1930s. He was last seen in the stadium office of Lamar Hunt, the Kansas City Chief’s owner. How appropriate!

At the 1977 Annual Dinner, president Robert Hewitt, right, honors Brick and Mona Belle Wornall for their efforts on behalf of the Wornall House restoration.

The Archives reported that in the four years since its move to new and expanded quarters in the Independence Square Courthouse that the number of new collections acquired annually had increased 400 percent. At the Wornall House, more than 85 docent-guides had volunteered their services and completed training.

Front page stories from the August issue included “Society Sets Out to Double Membership” and “Operating Costs Hike Society’s Budget For 1977” (to $54,706). “In Memoriam—Philip Coolidge Brooks” saddened those who recalled Dr. Brooks’ seminal role in the Society’s development between 1957 and 1971, when he retired as director of the Truman Library and A. Bundschu, a Society charter member, one of only three Honorary Members (the others being Harry and Bess Truman) died May 4 at age 91. Frank S. Jennings, 510 North Delaware (the Victorian home built for banker Aaron F. Sawyer in 1887), died June 24. And Dorothy Tucker, 825 North Main (the pre-Civil War Wallace-Plourmoy house), died in September as the JOURNAL was going to press.

Alberta and Edwin Constant combined their considerable talents to present at the Annual Dinner a show-and-tell program titled “Everything You Always Wanted To Know About the Jackson County Historical Society...and Possibly a Little More,” according to the December issue. Christmas Candlelight Tours of the Wornall House were held, complete with musical entertainment and refreshments. The Jail Museum featured “Truman Family Mementos,” an exhibit in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of Harry S. Truman’s election to the presidency.


Society dues were increased in September 1978 from $5.00 to $10.00 for a single; family from $15.00 to $25.00. Kansas City’s historic old Coates House hotel at 10th and Broadway was ravaged by fire on January 28. And an effort in the U.S. Congress to add the Lewis and Clark Trail to the National Historic Trails system was announced.

The passing of three long-time and devoted Independence supporters was noted with regret. Judge Henry Independence author Alberta Constant, in her favorite photo, shown in the Jail Museum courtyard, surrounded by some of her books.
Ray Morgan, the “About Town” column editor for The Kansas City Star. His talk centered on the colorful founder of the newspaper, William Rockhill Nelson, the 100th anniversary of the paper, and of its role in the city’s early growth and development.

1981

By Spring’s issue, Shawne Branton had agreed to serve one more term as president. And she announced the Society’s sponsorship of “At the River’s Bend: Communities and People of Jackson County, 1808-1980,” Windsor Publications Inc. and the Society to be joint beneficiaries from the project.

The Society’s Annual Summer Outing was announced in the Summer JOURNAL—a picnic at Kansas City’s Minor Park, Red Bridge and Blue River roads, in the territory of Jim Bridger, most famous of “mountain men.” The year 1891 marked the centennial of Bridger’s death at his farmstead near New Santa Fe, a scant 10 blocks south of the picnic’s site.

With profound regret it was learned that Alberta Wilson Conant, long a Society activist, local author and former editor of the JOURNAL, died July 21. For more than 20 years she and her husband, Edwin, had been leading lights in the Society.

In the Fall issue the Annual Dinner was scheduled for the University Club in downtown Kansas City, in celebration of the Club’s 80th anniversary. The evening’s program: a show-and-tell by members Day and Whitney Kerr of the restoration of their Greek Revival country house near Arrow Rock. Built in 1860, the one-story frame farmhouse originally stood on 1,000 acres most of which remains in the hands of descendants of owner-builder Sanders A. H. Townsend.

Society dues increased from $10 to $15 for individuals, and $25 per family the Winter JOURNAL noted. And the Jail Museum reported the restoration of the 1860s schoolhouse with grant money from the Independence Young Matrons, together with a donation received in memory of the late Society loyalist, Mize Peters.

1982

The January/February/March JOURNAL bore many tidings. Sally Schwenk became the Society’s new executive director, having served as Jail Museum di-
rector since 1980 (and Hazel Graham’s graduate retirement). Shawne Branton, president since 1980, agreed to a third term. An unexpected windfall of $16,000 was received from the Jess Raymond Trust, the most significant gift received in 1981. And the Wornall House was visited by 9,418 guests.

The Society honored the City of Independence with a certificate of appreciation for its renovation of the old municipal Power and Light Plant as the much-needed Roger T. Sermon Community Center. Miss Eleanor Mi-
nor, 93, a charter member of the Society, died February 12. She was one of two surviving granddaughters of William McCoy, Independence’s first mayor when the city was incorporated in 1849.

The Annual Picnic was announced in the Spring JOURNAL for August at Independence’s historic Bingham-Waggner Estate, 313 West Pacific. The city-owned property’s listing on the National Register of Historic Places stemmed in large part from its connection with Missouri artist George Caleb Bingham. Bingham bought the house in 1864, and it was in his studio on the northwest corner of the property where his “Order No. 11” was painted during the Civil War. The estate’s last private owners, Peter Waggner and

City-owned Bingham-Waggner house at 313 West Pacific, Independence, was occupied by artist George Caleb Bingham in 1864. In 1982 it was the site of the Society’s August picnic.

his descendants, remodeled and enlarged the house by two-thirds in 1899. Waggner’s milling company, pro-
ducing Queen of the Pantry Flour, was located directly across Pacific Street from the house and grounds.

The Society’s administrative offices relocated from the Jail Museum to the second floor of the Independence Square Courthouse. In three months time, the Jail
The Jail Museum observed the 100th anniversary of outlaw Frank James’ surrender, October 6, 1982. His restored cell is at right.

Museum’s new brochure was distributed to over 5,000 visitors through the state’s Information Centers. Meanwhile the Wornall House prepared to celebrate its 10th anniversary as a restored house museum in October.

“A Gala Tenth Birthday—Wornall House Historic Museum Opened in 1972” trumpeted the headline on the JOURNAL for July/August/September! Ten years prior, in 1962, then-President Brick Wornall had begun investigating the possibility of acquiring the site for the Society. Since its opening in 1972, trained docents interpreted early Kansas City farm life there to over 100,000 guests.

In Independence, the Jail Museum observed the anniversary of Frank James’ surrender by restoring his jail cell to its 1882 appearance—as it was during his incarceration there for 112 days while he awaited trial, and the ultimate end of the dreaded James gang.

1983

A new year, a new president, and more. That’s what the January/February/March JOURNAL brought. Attorney John G. Paxton II, whose grandfather came to Independence more than 100 years before to establish a law practice, was elected president. The Society’s assets were up at year end 1982 from $94,356 to $107,011.

The Archives reported a $12,000 grant from Hallmark earmarked as salary for an archivist to inventory the Society’s collection and publish a catalog.

The City of Independence agreed to accept the historic Harvey Vaile mansion, 1500 North Liberty, a gift of Mrs. J. Roger DeWitt. The 1881 Second Empire Victorian manse, designed by Asa Beebe Cross, Kansas City’s first trained architect, will open as a house museum following restoration. The Jail Museum reported 14,045 visitors in 1982. And the Wornall House reported rentals on 34 occasions.

The 1881 mansion of Harvey M. Vaile, 1500 North Liberty, was accepted by the City of Independence as a house museum in 1993.

News galore in the JOURNAL of April/May/June: The Society’s budget was the highest ever, $130,296 for 1983; more members and more fund-raising became the order of the day. The first Annual Convention of the Oregon-California Trails Association planned a weekend circling of the wagons at Independence’s Roger T. Sermon Community Center. Mrs. J. Roger DeWitt, first woman president of the Society, and together with her husband, a major benefactor, died after a long illness on February 28. Her willing spirit lives on.

Muralist Thomas Hart Benton’s Kansas City home and studio for 36 years at 3616 Bellevue was opened to the public by the State of Missouri. Benton, one of mid-America’s renown regional artists, was a colorful

The centennial of “Harry Truman, the Man from Independence, Missouri” was celebrated on the cover of the Fall 1984 JOURNAL with these photographs.
character as well. He was honored as "a chronicle of Missouri history" by the Society at a 1969 ceremony at the Nelson Gallery.

"The Truman Home Now a National Historic Site" headlined another JOURNAL story in the same issue. The ancestral home of Truman's wife, Bess Wallace, Truman, was built by her grandfather, George P. Gates, following the Civil War. It served as the life-long Independence residence of the former President and Mrs. Truman. Upon her death October 18, the property was willed to the Federal Government. The National Park Service assumed responsibility for it and its furnishings, which were used by its three generations of occupants. Plans have been laid for the house to open to the public soon.

The headline of the July/August/September JOURNAL announced a two-day seminar titled "Demystifying the Preservation Process." Dr. William Seale, author, consultant and restoration authority, was key-note speaker. Dr. Seale, author of a new history of the White House, was also the scheduled speaker at the Annual Dinner, there to discuss the preservation and restoration of the White House during the Truman administration.

The Archives reported publication of Bil Gilbert's new book "Westering Man," (researched at the Archives) which deals with the life of Joseph R. Walker, first sheriff of Jackson County. And sad news: legendary Miss Cammie Johnston, Independence's ubiquitous piano teacher and ardent Society member, died on July 31 at age 91. Another lovely light extinguished.

The Annual Meeting held in the Independence Square Courthouse was reviewed in the October/November/December JOURNAL. A tour of the structure and its improvements, plus refreshments followed. At the Annual Dinner about 120 persons attended to hear Dr. William Seale, White House historian and author. Also to applaud Martha and Forrest Ingram, recipients of the Society's resolution acknowledging them "for their countless efforts of energy and devotion to historic preservation." Among those efforts cited were the preservation of the house at 1105 West Waldo, Independence; of the McCoy House, home of William McCoy, Independence's first mayor; saving and protecting the property of the Watkins Woolen Mill in Clay County; and leadership in preserving the Bingham-Waggoner Estate in Independence.

1984

The old masthead was absent from the next JOURNAL dated January-June. Gone was the familiar logo of script and sketch of the 1859 Jail. The lead story detailed the most generous and welcome gift to the Society of $75,000 from the estates of Ben and Rose Flournoy Harrelson of California. The former Independence residents designated these funds to be used for endowment to benefit the Society's research and archival collections. The Harrelson family settled near Ft. Osage in the early 1830s. Mrs. Harrelson's forebears, the James Shepards, came to Jackson County in 1826. This final Harrelson gift was in keeping with their long tradition of support. They were among the very first donors during the formative stages of the Society.

The second issue of the revised-format JOURNAL featured the Harry Truman Centennial. Truman, born in 1884, was celebrated with two feature stories: "Cultivating the Land, Cultivating the Man; The Young Truman Farm" and "The Summer White House... What's Happening in Truman's Neighborhood?" focused on the Society's deep concern about the threat to the original boundaries of the Truman Heritage District in Independence.

Past president Steve Slaughter purchased two life memberships for his grandchildren, pointing out that each $500 yields approximately $50 annually for the Society in interest to the Endowment Fund. Wilda and Hal Sandy, authors of "Here Lies Kansas City," were invited to speak at the Annual Dinner about their recently published book.

An 1830s portrait of Capt. Joseph Walker by American artist Alfred Jacob Miller. In 1828 Walker was Jackson County's first sheriff.
The Archives reported 190 walk-in researchers between July and September, plus an average of 50 questions received by phone each month requiring historical information. This, during a normally “slow” summer period! The Jail Museum’s heavy visitor traffic continued due to the Truman Home Ticket and Information Center next door. As a result, the Jail’s visitation increased 35–40%. And the Wornall House had a total of 5,791 visitors in the first nine months of the year. Good news on all fronts.

1985

Another new year, and another new look for the Spring JOURNAL, which expanded from 16 to 20 pages with changes galore. Executive director Sally Schwenk announced her resignation. Martha Crider assumed the presidency. And Sue Gentry, JOURNAL editor for 15 years, retired.

October brought the first issue of the Society newsletter, THE COURIER. It announced the Annual Dinner to be a catered event, held on the ground floor of downtown Kansas City’s grand Scarratt Arcade & Building, 819 Walnut. Attorney Charles E. Hoffmann was scheduled to speak on “Chez Les Canais—The French Immigrants in Our Part of the Country.”

Janet Bruce accepted new responsibilities as executive director of the Society. And the upcoming Calendar of Events included a School Days exhibit opening at the Jail Museum; a Dried Herb Festival at the Wornall House, and an Archives Committee-sponsored snack bar at the Independence Antiques Show.

1986

The February COURIER announced the upcoming Annual Meeting. The Jail Museum’s Christmas Gala attracted 250 guests for a festive progressive dinner at the Jail Museum, the Bingham-Waggoner Estate and the Valle Mansion. An Open House at each of the Society’s three sites—the Jail Museum and the Archives in Independence, and at the Wornall House in Kansas City—was scheduled for Saturday afternoon, March 8.

June’s issue of the COURIER noted that the Wornall House fall docent training program included a visit to the Shawnee Methodist Indian Mission in Fairway, Kansas, for a slide presentation on the Mission’s history, culminating with a tour of the restored buildings there. The Jail Museum’s Antiques Jewelry exhibit concluded and was succeeded by Bingham’s Drawings—a celebration of the mid-19th century Civil War-era artist’s work. The Archives’ well-traveled Strauss-Peyton collection of glass photographic negatives was moved once more: by Boy Scout Troop 178 (Eagles) up to second floor storage in the Independence Square Courthouse. And finally, Kansas City was selected site of the 40th National Preservation Conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Quite a feather in the city’s cap!

By September’s issue, the Society’s bus trip to Lexington had transpired. The Annual Dinner’s scheduled speaker was announced to be Howard Wight Marshall, Director of the Missouri Cultural Heritage Center, and professor of Art History at Missouri University at Columbia. And the Wornall House made formal application to the American Association of Museums for accreditation.

The JOURNAL for Winter was the first of the small-sized issues published under the old name, but with a new look and range of contents. This pamphlet format, twice yearly “reference” publication was to augment the COURIER, henceforth the Society’s newsletter of current events. Two articles of especial interest were “The Jackson County Historical Society and How It Grew,” and an In Memoriam tribute to recently deceased past president W. Coleman Brantlon—a true southern gentleman.

1987

The January COURIER presented the new slate of officers to be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting, plus the platform statement of the so-called Reform Ticket which those nominees represent.

News in the February COURIER included the resignation of Janet Bruce as executive director of the Society. The Archives ad hoc committee reported on the condition and future housing for that collection. The controversial proposal for the Society to deaccession the Archives to another appropriate body was made. The report was approved by the Board. The Archives were temporarily closed to enable all buildings to be moved to second floor storage in the Independence Square Courthouse—to protect the collection while the County renovates the first floor space.

1988

The Annual Meeting announced in the January COURIER marked a milestone in the Society’s recent history. Just 30 years before, in 1958, the organization was reactivated following a hiatus of eight years, under the guiding light of W. Howard Adams. Thirty years later, in 1988, the Society was facing the proposal to decentralize its three historic sites. The by-no-means unanimous proposition was on the Annual Meeting’s agenda. President C. W. Ohvall was re-elected.
Author and scholarly biographer David McCullough was among the Archives' 150 guests at their November Open House. McCullough had researched there for his new book on President Truman. During the month of December nearly 1,500 people visited the Wornall House for classes, tours, special events and Christmas shopping. And the Jail Museum was again one of Independence's three historic stops on the progressive buffet dinner gala "Spirit of Christmas Past," featuring besides the museum, the Vaile Victorian Mansion and the Bingham-Waggoner Estate.

The Lewis-Gregg cemetery, on the Lentz farm on Blue Mills Road, was given to the Society in 1989. One of the county's oldest burying grounds, it contains five generations of the two families, from mid-1800s.

May's issue of the COURIER headlined the re-election of C.W. Ohvall and his steady head as president. The membership approved the 1988 operating budget of $115,505. The legal committee continued work on a proposed lease agreement for the Wornall House operation. Society membership stood at 952, representing 1,263 voting members among the single and family categories represented.

A fund-raising Citizens for the Archives dinner was planned with David McCullough as guest speaker. The nationally recognized author has written four masterpiece historical tomes in addition to television documentaries and major magazine articles. The Jail Museum ordered 10,000 new brochures printed, to be distributed to various area sites. And the Wornall House put on its "summer dress" in anticipation of warm weather.

The COURIER for September brought a mixed bag of news: The Board continued working on a solution to the Wornall House management situation. Memberships climbed to 1,026. Donations remained $25 for a family membership (two voting members.) The Archives reported sorting and salvaging continuing on the omn-present Strauss-Peyton collection of glass photo negatives—five tons of them donated in 1969 by Kansas City's premiere photography studio.

Edwin Constant, a loyal Society member who wore many hats in his many years of service died June 22. And the Aitchson, Kansas bus trip was enjoyed by 46 members who visited historic sites and homes there, followed by luncheon at a restaurant in a converted mansion. Ed would have been pleased; he was working on the details of the trip when he died suddenly.

1989

Feature in the January COURIER was a recap of the Society's first 30 years, from April 1959–1989. The Wornall House refurbishing project of four months duration included everything from touch-up painting to a new roof. A generous gift from benefactor Mona Belle Wornall provided the much-needed new roof plus restoration of the front portico's columns. The Jail Museum's repair-on-a-shoestring required closing for three weeks for the general freshening, during which time the furnace in the office/kitchen was replaced and air conditioning added. Meanwhile back at the newly-nested Archives in the Independence Square Courthouse, 760 researchers were assisted in the previous year, and 67 new accessions of material were received.

Society Acquires Pioneer Cemetery" headlined the COURIER for June. At the bequest of Anna Marie Lentz, the Society became owner of one of the oldest family cemeteries in Jackson County—the Lewis-Gregg family burying ground, where five generations of that line lie at rest. An endowment of $10,000 accompanied the gift for maintenance of the historic property which lies at Blue Mills Road, a short distance north of Highway 24 near Independence. Both the Lewises and the Greggs were among the county's earliest settlers, dating from 1827.

C.W. Ohvall with his calming manner was elected to a third term as president at the Annual Meeting. May 19 was declared "Sue Gentry Day," honoring Sue's 60 years as a writer and editor of the Independence Examiner, and "a quiet expediter of worthy causes." A Society stalwart, Sue served as president from 1974–1976, and edited the Society's JOURNAL for 14 years. Kudos to a queen! Sadly the Wornall House lost a dear and devoted friend with the November death of Katherine W. Williams. Kay long served as Wornall House researcher of documents and Sunday staff, and her warm welcoming hospitality will be sorely missed.

Early George Caleb Bingham portraits of Jacob and Nancy Wyan were given on indefinite loan to the Jail Museum in 1989 by Ruth Redel of Vienna, Missouri.

The COURIER for October reported "Society Proudly Receives Early Bingham Paintings"—two portraits by the mid-Missouri artist George Caleb Bingham painted in 1835. The subjects, Jacob Fortney Wyan and his wife Nancy, were painted during the 24-year-old artist's stay at their home in Boonville, Missouri. The pair of portraits is to hang in the parlor of the Marshals Home in the 1859 Jail Museum on indefinite loan. The gift was made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Ruth Redel of Vienna, Missouri, from the estate of Henrietta Nelson of Jefferson City.

Memorandum crept up to $290. New color brochures describing the Society, its functions and its sites together with an invitation to prospective members was printed and distributed to members, the Society's three sites, the Missouri Tourist Centers, the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau and the area's AAA offices. Get out the good word!

"Stars Tour the Jail Museum" related that movie personalities Paul Newman and his wife, Joanne Woodward, in Kansas City for the filming of "Mr. and Mrs. Bridge," visited the Jail Museum where Mr. Newman dropped a $100 bill in the donation jar as they departed.

1990

The COURIER of January brought news old and new. Grace Minor, a treasured link to the area's pioneer past, died December 26. Miss Minor, age 76, was a granddaughter of William McCoy, first mayor of Independence at its incorporation in 1849. Her support of the Society was unflagging. New news is that a computer is on-line at the Archives for inventory and membership rolls. A major advance for the Society's record keeping.
ignited for indexing and preserving the site's 500-vol-
ume scrapbook collection. Twenty-one of those were
the handwork of William Kemper, Sr., philanthropist,
political and civic leader, and founder of Kansas City's
giant banking dynasty.

October's JOURNAL headlined "We're 50 Years
Old!" telling in a nutshell the Society's metamorphosis
from its founding (one of them) August 29, 1940 to
date. Announced was the Society's Golden Anniversary
Dinner at the Arrowhead Club of the Harry S. Truman
Sports Complex. Popular Kansas City Star Starbeams
columnist Bill Tammens talked about the fascinating
story of "The Truman Love Letters." Membership re-
ported in at 1,113.

Col. Rufus B. Burrus, an old friend of the Society
died at age 90 on July 2. An Independence attorney
for 68 years, Col. Burrus was the Society's third president
in 1950, a personal and political friend of Harry Truman,
director and counsel of the Truman Library Corpora-
tion, and of the Truman Library Institute. His kindnesses
to the Society were many.

1991

Spring, and the JOURNAL was blooming with good
news: Jane F. Flynn was elected president at the
Annual Meeting. Active in local, state and national his-
toric and preservation affairs, Jane was, before her re-
irement, administrator of Kansas City's Landmarks
Commission for 12 years. It was she who headed the
Committee which recently up-dated the Society's By-
laws. In addition to a new president, a new executive
director for the Society has been named: former Soci-
ety Board member Barbara Potts, who was also
Independence's former two-term Mayor. But there was
more: Miss Grace Minor, who died in December 1989,
remembered the Society one last time by naming the
organization residual legatee of a $127,605 bequest as
an endowment for the Archives. Dividends from her
portfolio of utility stocks are expected to approach
$10,000 annually.

Sadly, the death of Janet Woodbury Adams was
also noted. Jan, wife of W. Howard Adams, the Society's
reorganization president (1958-1961), died at their his-
toric home in Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia. The
Adams, both native Jackson Countians deeply involved
in art, architecture, landscape gardening, and historic
preservation here and in the east, were held in the high-
est esteem.

Summer's JOURNAL news included word that the U. S. Archivist Don Whitman Wilson accepted an
invitation to address Society members and guests at the
Annual Dinner. His topic "Preservation Is Not Enough"
exemplified his dual philosophy of not just preserva-
tion, but of accessibility of that which is preserved. Dr.
Wilson's most quotable quote is "History is society's
collective memory." Think on that!

The Board passed a resolution advocating the
preservation of Kansas City's historic behemoth, the
now-vacant and threatened Union Station depot. And
again, in Memoriam brought heavy hearts: news of the
July 7 death of Martha Basye Ingram, long time
Society member, on her 79th birthday at her beloved
McCoy-Ingram house. Martha and her husband, For-
est, received the Society's citation for their preserva-
tion efforts in 1983, but it was their combined enthu-
siasm, know-how and boundless follow-through which
endured them to all.

"Wornall House Scene of Westport Battle Replay"
headlined the Autumn JOURNAL story of the Civil War
reenactors during a week-end encampment there. The
living history lesson was designed to acquaint Kansas
Citians with the role the historic property and the
Westport community as a whole played in the Battle of
Westport on October 22 and 23, 1864. During that
bloody conflict the Wornall House was hospital for the
wounded on both sides in addition to being command-
dered as command headquarters temporarily.

Five state governors signed a commitment to pro-
mote and preserve the historic Santa Fe Trail between
Missouri and New Mexico. The old wagon trail, key
east-west trade route across the nation between 1821
until almost the turn of the century, fell into disuse after
the coming of the transcontinental railroad.

Word of Milton Perry's sudden death shocked and
saddened his many friends locally. Another key figure in
the area's historic preservation efforts gone. Milt was
a widely acclaimed architectural historian, the first cu-
turer of the Truman Library in 1958, and a staunch mem-
ber of the Society from that time. When the Society
acquired the old county jail, Milt was appointed to co-
ordinate and supervise restoration. The Wornall House
benefited from the outset from his architectural exper-
tise. He retired in July as supervisor of sites for Clay
County, which included his pet project, the Jesse James
Farm.

1992

The Winter JOURNAL for 1991-1992 included notice
of the Annual Meeting at Independence's First
Presbyterian Church, West Lexington and Pleasant
streets. It was at this 1887 church that Harry Truman
and Bess Wallace met and attended Sunday School as
children. The graceful Queen Anne brick structure has
been faithfully maintained, and listed as a National His-
toric Landmark.

Happy news of a most generous gift by member
Mary Ford Maurer enabling the Society to become com-
puterized even further. And the Jail Museum gratefully
acknowledged the gift of services rendered by the ar-
chitectural/engineering firm of HNTB, valued at $2,500,
for an on-the-spot study of maintenance and repairs
needed. Such good friends!

At the Annual Dinner three locals were cited for
their major contributions to the historic community.
Long time Society supporters Pete and Drusilla
Childers and their daughter, Mary, of Independence
were recognized with the Historic Preservation Award
for restoration of the Queen Anne-style mansion built in
1887 by Mollie and Josie Hughes, 801 South Main
Street. Ardis Glenn received the Media Award as one of
the outstanding midwestern bookwomen, for collect-
ing and dealing in rare books at her Kansas City-based
Frank Glenn Bookstore founded by her late husband in
1933. Marjorie Kinney received the Public Service
Award for her unflagging cheer and myriad contributions
to patrons of the Kansas City Public Library's Missouri
Valley Collections where she held away from 1969 un-
til her 1992 retirement.

In Spring, the JOURNAL reported receipt of a
most welcome $10,000 contribution to the Archives
from Rufus Crosby "Cri" Kemper III and the UMB's
Charitable Trusts and Foundations. This largess, ear-
marked to provide the site with a new microfilm reader/
printer. Providence again.
Jane Flynn was elected to a second term as president. A gala fund-raising dinner was announced for June, featuring author-historian David McCullough whose biography of President Harry Truman releases concurrently. Two planned autograph sessions also benefit the Society.

"McCullough's Biography of Truman Centerpiece of ICHS Black Tie Benefit" headlined the Summer JOURNAL announcement of the Kansas City release of the author's new book "Truman." Proceeding from the $100 a plate dinner at the Kansas City Club plus half the $30 sale price of each book sold accrues to the Society, whose Archives McCullough utilized in his research.

Two large losses sustained by the Society in Spring were the deaths of Forrest Ingram and Col. S. D. Slaughter. Forrest died March 9 at age 84 at the McCoy home he and his late wife, Martha, had restored at 410 West Farmer, Independence. His other memorable preservation efforts included saving the mill machinery at Clay County's Watkins Wooden Mill, and becoming one of the three founding fathers of the Watkins Mill Association.

Steve, 86, who died April 20, was Society president from 1970-1971. He was instrumental in preparations for the opening of the Wornall House as a museum, and later in retiring its debt. He was a life member of the Society, active and vocal in its support. Both deaths leave a void in the area's historic preservation community.

The Fall JOURNAL covered the gala Kansas City Club black-tie dinner at which David McCullough mesmerized the full house with a recital of the 10 years of research and writing that went into "Truman," his definitive biography of the former president.

Having just digested that event, it was announced that Margaret Truman Daniel, daughter of President and Mrs. Truman, had agreed to speak at the Annual Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in October.

Yet another star-studded Society event was the outdoor evening with nationally acclaimed author Richard Rhodes on the grounds of the Drumm Farm in Independence. It was a premier summer outing for 275 members who joined Rhodes, a childhood resident of the Drumm Institute for more than six years, for a tour of the facility, ice cream cones of fresco, and a captivating speech by him. His talk ranged from his experience as a vagrant child placed at Drumm Farm to his fact-finding trip to eastern Europe. That just completed hegira was in preparation of his forthcoming book, a sequel to his Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Making of the Atomic Bomb."

Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Richard Rhodes spoke informally July 29, 1992 to 275 members at Drumm Farm, Independence, where he and his brother lived as children for 6 years.

Summer's issue announced that Richard Moe, newly elected president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, would speak at a July dinner at the Kansas City Club—an event co-sponsored by the Society and Historic Kansas City Foundation.

Author-historian David McCullough returned (again) to Independence to help the Society and the area celebrate a double-barreled occasion: Historic Preservation Week and Truman Week. An historic homes tour in the Truman neighborhood and McCullough's talk "Neighbor Truman's Town: An American Treasure" attracted 800 visitors.

Happy trip news! Citizens for the Archives announced a Summer excursion to Arrow Rock, Missouri, to preview the work-in-progress on Day and Whitney Kerr's recently acquired country mansion, Prairie Park. Built in the 1840s of hand-made brick fired on the place, the stately manse was home to William B. Sappington, son of the doctor-discoverer of the use of quinine in treating malaria. The Kerrs, long members of the Society and restorers of three previous week-end retreats, planned to welcome guests at both their Arrow Rock houses. A luncheon preceding and a walking tour of the tiny town rounded out the day-long jaunt.

The American Association of State and Local History awarded the Society a Certificate of Commendation in acknowledgment of the organization's efforts and achievements. Another feather in the Society's cap.

With profound sorrow the May 26 death of Kathleen Taggart was received. Kathy was a member of the Collections Committee, and she and her husband, Ross, were pivotal in the quality and success of the Wornall House restoration. A memorial service held at the house included Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph playing selections on the restored Wornall grand piano, and touching tributes to Kathy by several who knew and worked with her through the restoration's development. A fitting tribute to both beloved Taggarts.

1994

The Spring issue reported the Annual Meeting was a triple-header. Included were cogent amendments to the bylaws, approval of recommendations from the Long Range Planning Committee, and the election of officers and board. Both agenda items were approved, and Jane Flynn was elected president for a fourth term.

The 1994 President's Award went to a totally surprised Pauline Fowler, "for exceptional loyalty, service, dedication and support to the Society." An historian/archivist par excellence, that's Polly!

The Archives received a rare and coveted collection of old Kansas City directories, dating from the first one published in 1839. This treasure trove came courtesy of the recently closed Kansas City office of R. L. Polk & Company, publishers of these valuable directories.

In Memorium left heavy hearts in the wake of its tribute to Mona Belle Wornall who died January 20. It was due largely to the incredible energy and enthusiasm of Mona Belle and her late husband, "Brick," that the Wornall House was acquired by the Society in November 1964. The debt of gratitude owed these two tireless, talented and devoted members is beyond measure.

The history of the Adams Dairy in Blue Springs was the front page feature of the Summer JOURNAL. Founded in 1915 by E. C. Adams and his father, a venerable enterprise was a household name in greater Kansas City for 59 years. Even more significant to the Society than the dairy's longevity or its milk products, however, was E. C.'s son, W. Howard Adams. For it was
he who in 1958 became the energetic advocate for revitalizing the Society. Without Howard, would there even be a Jackson County Historical Society as we know it?

Volunteers, the lifeblood of any non-profit, gave a much-needed assist to the Society, assembling more than 30,000 new brochures for mailing. These very special people included residents of the Independence Health Care Center, in addition to students and Society members.

The Archives reported indexing underway on the hundreds of back issues of the Independence Examiner, newspapers so providently donated through the good offices of past president and retired staff member, Sue Gentry.

A special Wornall House summer fund-raiser was their first Tour of Gardens—gardens of five homes, including the Wornall House and its herb garden, were open for visiting and viewing.

Again sadness to report: Jim Nicol, Society treasure for the past four years, died April 17. A thrifty Scotsman and lifelong banker, he "steadied our financial ship," leaving a sea of friends in his wake.

Fall 1994's JOURNAL proudly proclaimed formation of the Young Historians, a group of history enthusiasts in their twenties and thirties. This youthful wing of the Society elected as its first honorary member presidential grandson, Clifton Truman Daniel. Daniel, visiting Independence as keynote speaker for Fourth of July celebrations at the Truman Library, was also guest of honor at a July 5 dinner with the Society Board of Directors and the Young Historians.

The Tours Committee announced a Battle of Westport tour for October 22, commemorating the 130th anniversary of that decisive battle which raged October 21 and 22, 1864, just south of today's Country Club Plaza.

Demolition was deferred, at the Society's request, on the Choplin house (c. 1850) whose facade collapsed on July 16. The house, diagonally across from the Truman Home at 304 North Delaware, stands within the Historic District. The Society acted as facilitator between owner and city of Independence in the preservation of this early house.

In Memoriam noted the recent deaths of two worthies—Drusilla H. Childers and Kansas City architect John Huffman. Drusilla and Peter Childers, together with their daughter, Mary, laudably restored and preserved the Hughes-Gregg home in Independence. John Huffman gave generously of his time and talent on both the restoration of the Wornall House and to the 1859 Jail projects. Good-bye to good friends.

1995

The Winter JOURNAL brought glad tidings of another new year and a newly elected president, Danene Barbour, a devoted board member, business-woman and Independence native, succeeded Jane Flynn. Jane stepped aside after four years of strong leadership. Bravas to both!

The Wornall House announced a two-year pilot program tailoring monthly programs for students of the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired. Kiddlees attending the inaugural afternoon enjoyed touching, tasting and smelling the herbs and perennial flowers in the museum's extensive garden.

More Wornall House good news: a portion of that museum’s general operating funds for the 1994-1996 fiscal years has been provided through a $20,000 grant from the Institute of Museum Services, a federal museum support agency. Sincere congratulations on this achievement.

The Jail Museum’s special holiday exhibit of handcrafted quilts highlighted those which reflected the imagination and skill of frontier-era women. Among those displayed were a 1930s WPA quilt which depicted buildings, homes and churches in Independence, a crazy quilt dated May 1885 made of silk, velvet and taffeta, and a handsome Amish double-wedding ring.

The Citizens for the Archives held its annual picnic in a secluded corner of Stephenson’s Apple Orchard just off old Lee’s Summit Road on October 1. During the Civil War the area was a military thoroughfare. Now 130 years later, the site of the campfire supper for the Archives support group, with restaurateur Ron Stephenson hosting.

Front page news in the JOURNAL for Spring was the retreat on February 4 at which officers and directors met to discuss and review the Society’s future goals. Site of this session was Distrastle, the handsome contemporary home given by Dr. E. Grey Dimond to the UMKC School of Medicine for use as a conference center. In-coming president Danene Barbour convened.

“Marshal’s Character Determined Lifestyle of 1859 Jail Inmates” was a fascinating article about frontier law, justice and incarceration. One memorable quote: “...Frank James’...cell was decorated with a Brussels carpet, pictures and furniture brought by family and friends. His cell door was left unlocked as he sat in the hallway and conversed with visitors.”

In Memoriam included the passing of two important Wornall House figures. Roma Wornall Powell, granddaughter of John B. Wornall, builder of the Wornall House and his third wife, Roma, expired at age 89 in Washington, D.C. Close to home, June "Jamie" Hughes, second chairman of the Wornall House Committee, died following a brief illness. Our loss is considerable.
curiously) with costumed volunteers armed with materials and activities key to the little frontiersmen.

The Independence Square Courthouse, home base for the Society's offices and archives, was selected for a study of its redevelopment and use potential by the American Institute of Architects. Board member and Kansas City architect Becky Cotton Zahner agreed to serve as the Society’s liaison in this undertaking.

Daneen Barbour’s President’s Report in the Winter JOURNAL detailed the major decision of the board of directors to reorganize the operations of the Archives. To that end, a blue-ribbon and ad hoc committee to develop a new management structure was appointed. Daneen also announced the Jackson County legislature’s approval of a $50,000 one-year contract allowing the Society to process historically important county records and to support processing collections. The monies enabled the hiring of an additional archivist while doubling the Archives’ current budget. Such a boost.

October was “Living Kitchen Month” at the Wornall House, with volunteers in period dress preparing food from 19th century cookbooks using authentic methods.

The watershed war year of 1945 was commemorated in the JOURNAL with a center-page spread of vintage photos from the Truman Library of 50 years ago. Among those depicted were newly inaugurated President Harry S. Truman, and Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and George S. Patton in full military dress.

A most thoughtful and welcome bequest of $10,000 was received from the estate of Kansas Cityan Ross Kohl Charles, a life member of the Society, upon her death at age 99. Her munificence will benefit the Society’s programs and educational activities. Thank you to this caring friend.

1996

Spring’s JOURNAL featured coverage of the Annual Meeting January 21. The Society’s new president, Judy Johnson, and the newly installed board of directors were introduced, as was the recipient of the 1996 President’s Award, a thoroughly astounded Marge Elliot. Marge, a true supporter of the Society’s programs and goals, was a deserving recipient of this honor.

In Memorium took a heavy toll. It was with deep sadness that the deaths of three Society bright-lights were reported. The brief illness and sudden passing of immediate past president Daneen Barbour, of Hazel Graham who was the Society from 1960–1982, and of newly named board member Dave Tinnen was a tragedy of enormous proportions. Our hearts go out to their families and friends, as they do to those of Independence artist Paulina Everett, a Society life member who died February 9, at age 91.

In happier news, the Society Bookshop in the Independence Square Courthouse has recently undergone a facelift and a change of management. Four hundred titles and the lure of a 10% discount on purchases by Society members is not to be ignored!

Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the National Santa Fe Trail Association announced a tour of Trail sites from Independence Square to Lexington, Missouri, on April 20. The trek, to commemorate the 175th anniversary of William Becknell’s first trading expedition between Old Franklin, Missouri and Santa Fe in 1821. Independence historians and Society stalwarts Eric and Polly Fowler were scheduled to be the plucky “trail bosses.”

And the Wornall House noted its 4th Annual Antiques Show and Sale for March 30–31 at St. Teresa’s Academy, 57th and Main streets, Kansas City, with a preview party on Friday the 29th. All proceeds to benefit that wonderful old house museum, of course.

And so it goes—on and on and on. Yesterday’s recorded happenings became today’s history. Today’s become tomorrow’s. There is no end. Nor should there ever be.

It is with sincere gratitude and special thanks to Ted Caufer and Steve Campbell of UMB Banks and the Kearney Wornall Charitable Trust for the primary funding; and to David Ross and Boatmen’s Trust Company for supplemental funds, that we conclude this work. Without these friends, this history could never have been.

Wilda and Hal Sandy
Our Presidents

1909 Dr. W. C. Campbell

1940 Organization

1940 Nathaniel D. Jackson

1948 Reorganization

1948 Brig. Gen. Edward M. Stayton
1950 Rufus Burnus

1958 Reorganization

1958 W. Howard Adams
1961 Mrs. J. Roger (Mary Mildred) DeWitt
1964 Francis "Brick" Wornall
1967 W. Coleman Branton
1970 Col. S. D. Slaughter
1971 Edward S. "Ned" Washburn
1973 L. Patton Kline
1974 Susannah Gentry
1978 Phil K. Weeks
1980 Mary Shaw Branton
1983 John G. Paxton II
1985 Martha Crider
1987 Virginia Jennings Nadeau
1987 C. W. Ohrvall
1990 Theodore J. "Ted" Honig
1991 Jane F. Flynn
1995 Daneen Barbour
1996 Judith Johnson