

the CAMPBELL HOUSE *courier*



Fall 2013

Museum Hours

March -December
Wednesday - Saturday:

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday:

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Tuesday:

By Appointment

January -February

By Appointment

1508 Locust Street
St. Louis, MO 63103
314/421-0325

[campbellhouse
museum.org](http://campbellhousemuseum.org)



CAMPBELL
House Museum
SAINT LOUIS

City Living Since 1851

Museum Marks 70th Anniversary: Events, Exhibits & Honors Abound

In 1943 two years of hard work by St. Louis preservationists culminated in the opening of the Campbell House Museum. Since that time hundreds of thousands of visitors have experienced life in the Gilded Age as it was for the Campbell Family.

A variety of events, exhibits, projects and recognition have occurred in honor of this anniversary.

“Feasting with the Campbells” Event

The anniversary year began with a lavish Victorian feast at the River City Casino. (see story on page 5)

“Glorious Gowns” Exhibit

This special display offers a rare glimpse of Mrs. Campbell's stylish fashions. The first of this two-part exhibit is a once-in-a-generation display of seven of Virginia Campbell's magnificent gowns circa 1850 to 1880. These dresses are, like almost everything else in the house, original belongings of the Campbell family and have been with the house for well over 125 years. The last time these gowns were displayed as a group was in 1997.



The second part of the show features a collection of 12 lavish Victorian bridal gowns dating as early as 1870. The display also includes a handmade 21st century wedding dress.

This exhibit runs through January 15, 2014. Come and be amazed before these glorious gowns return to the vault.

Restored Parlor Draperies

For the first time since 1938 the Parlor has draperies. Board members **Sam Clark** and **Tim Rohan** sponsored and managed the complicated project which took more than four years to complete.

In the 19th century heavy window draperies were important for warmth as coal fires were the only source of heat. The Campbell House restoration plan called for a heavy red fabric to be used for the restored draperies. Finding the right shade of red at an affordable price proved to be a big challenge.

It took more than 100 yards of crimson-colored velvet made in Spain to cover the eight windows of the room. The Parlor is now even more dramatic with the new draperies and their waterfalls of luxurious red velvet.

Continued on page 3



(above) Campbell House Parlor, June 2013. Original watercolor by St. Louis artist Kyle Lucks (www.kylelucks.com)

(left) Circa 1855 gown belonging to Virginia Campbell on display as part of the “Glorious Gowns” exhibit.

CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM

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

Updates From the Director

By Andy Hahn

How do you make an old house relevant? That is a question that I am often asked. For me the answer is simple—by experiencing the past you can better understand the present.

A visit to Campbell House is an experience. Recent visitors have shared these superlatives with us—*“Talk about a hidden treasure!” “What a gem. I had never heard of Campbell House...It was just fascinating; intriguing family history, gorgeous original furnishings. Touring this 1800s home was an A+ experience!” “This is a must see when visiting St. Louis.”*

These comments were recently validated by the national magazine “Complex” which named Campbell House to their list of “20 Must-Visit American Homes.”

This ranking puts Campbell House in stellar company with Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic Falling Water and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Find the whole list at campbellhousemuseum.org/news. But that is not all that is new:

- During the last 12 months the Museum has undergone a “restoration touch-up.” The exterior restoration was completed more than 11 years ago. Since that time paint had begun to peel and roof slates crack. Thanks to a generous donation from a local family foundation the entire exterior of has been inspected, repaired where needed and protected with more than 70 gallons of paint.

- This summer Campbell House was visited by Robert Campbell's four-times great-nephew. **Rob and Lucy McFarland** stopped in St. Louis on their honeymoon tour of America along Route 66. The couple lives in England. (right) *The McFarlands in the Campbell House library*

- The Museum recently commissioned local model builders **Silver Wing Studio** to build a 1/48th scale model of the entire Campbell House complex. The model will be a teaching tool and the centerpiece of a new exhibit, “The World in Miniature,” scheduled to open in May 2014. (right) *The completed model on display.*

- Campbell House won the prestigious American Association of State and Local History Award of Merit, which “recognizes excellence for projects of civic engagement... educational programs...and organizational general excellence” for our work with the Urban Museum Collaborative.

As we near the end of 2013 I would like to ask you to consider a year-end gift to Campbell House so that the Museum can continue to be an experience.

If you haven't visited lately please come and see St. Louis' best old fashioned Christmas. It is an experience I promise you won't forget.

Donate online (click “Donate” on our home page campbellhousemuseum.org), call us at 314-421-0325, or use the enclosed envelope. We are very grateful for your support.





(above) The Campbell House parlor with the magnificent new red velvet draperies.
 (right) Full page ad for Stix, Baer and Fuller announcing the preservation of the Campbell House, St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, September 24, 1942.

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In the News

The museum has received wonderful press in 2013:

- Director Andy Hahn was featured on Hubbard Radio's "Talk of the Town" (which airs on 92.3 WIL, 101 ESPN, and 106.5 The Arch here in St. Louis) to give the dish on Campbell House and its history.
- The *Forum Journal*, published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation featured a look at Campbell House and its innovative partnership with the Eugene Field House and the Griot Museum of Black History in the Urban Museum Collaborative.
- National magazine *Victoria* featured the Museum in a vividly-photographed feature in their spring issue.
- In the local news our exhibits were featured in the *Ladue News*, *GO! Magazine*, a publication of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and on KSDK Channel 5's "Show Me St. Louis."
- The crown jewel of our recent print media coverage is a 50-page article by Washington University professor Dr. Heidi Kolk in the important scholarly journal *Winterthur Portfolio*, published by the Winterthur Museum in Delaware. Winterthur is nationally-renowned as the authority on decorative arts in the United States, and we're honored to have been featured.

To listen, read or see photos from any of these news items just visit campbellhousemuseum.org/news.



St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat, Thursday Morning, September 24, 1942.

Thank You Saint Louis
 for granting us 50 rich years
 and please accept as our gift
THE OLD CAMPBELL HOUSE
 on the occasion of our
Golden Anniversary • 1892-1942

As we approach the close of our Fifty Year, we at Stix, Baer & Fuller wish to thank in some way the great city that has given us the excellent building which we have grown . . . through gift in repayment for debt; but perhaps The Old Campbell House can help us say, "We Thank You!"

Such as the house of Fish and Lucas built in 1834, this residence is the last section of Lucas Place and in St. Louis history. Properly restored and completely furnished with its original presentation, it will become a museum in an unforgettable style.

Some months ago a group of public-spirited St. Louisans "saw" their public into the creation which was one part of the Campbell House . . . It is now our pleasure to purchase the home itself and put it into the custody of the Campbell House Foundation for the benefit of our fellow citizens.

We know of no better way to express our faith in the future than by preserving the splendor of our past . . . And so it is our Fifty Year Anniversary wish that this beautiful home will become a shrine for St. Louisans of today and the thousands that are invited to visit and enjoy.

Stix, Baer and Fuller
 The Great Goods Store

New Website Debuts

Campbell House is very excited to debut a complete overhaul of its website, with a more attractive interface and new options for visitors to get more information on the house.

In addition to looking a lot nicer on your home computer screen, campbellhousemuseum.org is now also optimized for use on mobile devices, keeping the museum relevant and accessible as visitors rely more and more on handheld technology to get information.

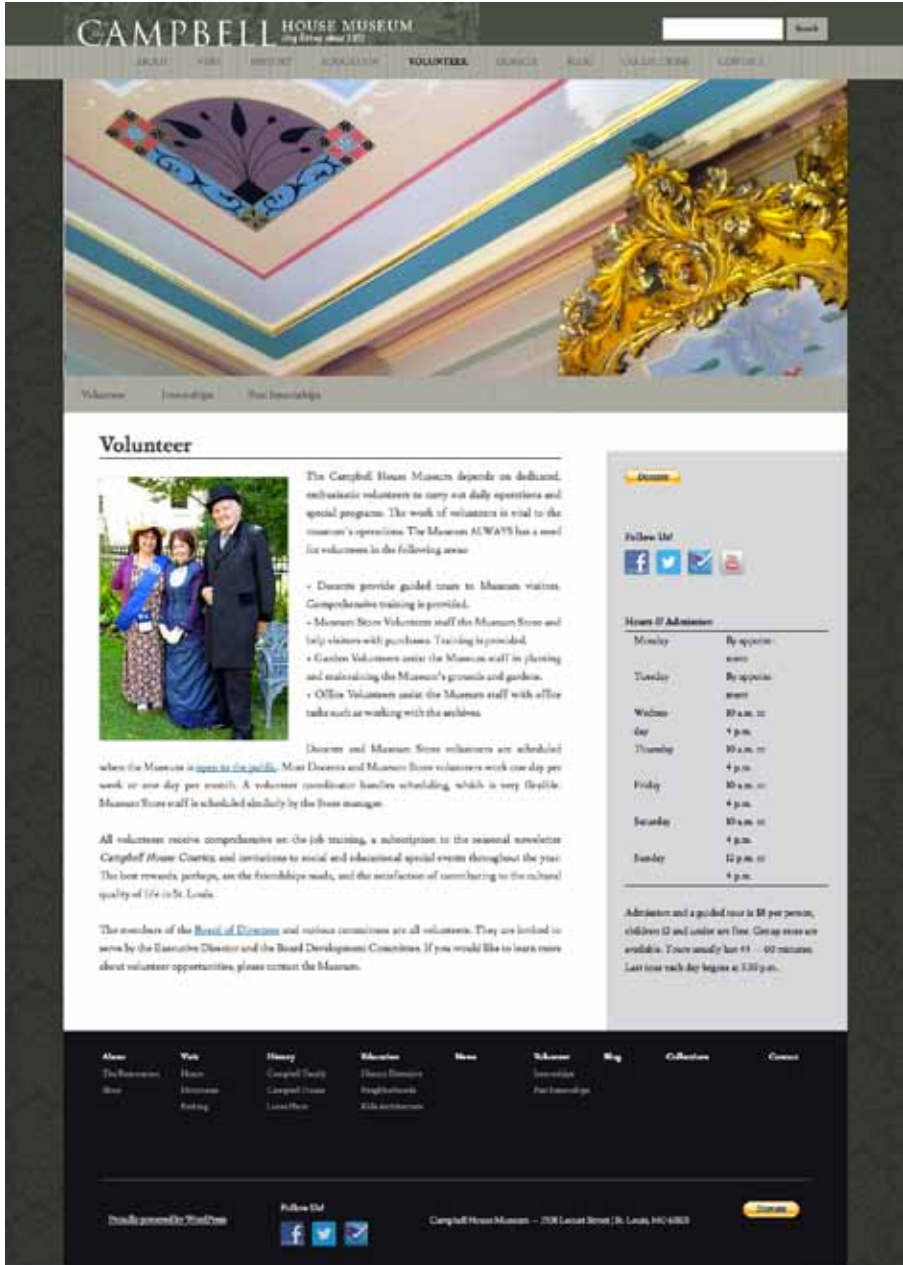
One of the key features of this new website is the ability to search and view CHM's collections online. Visitors to the website can now access our database and get more information on thousands of pieces of artwork, furniture, and family history which was unavailable to the public.

The number of house museums in the United States that offer such comprehensive online access is few and far between, adding another notch to Campbell House's belt in its ranking as one of the top such institutions in the country.

The new design includes an expanded series of pages on the history of the Campbells and the Lucas Place neighborhood, a valuable resource for researchers of St. Louis history.

Visitors to the new site can also keep up to date on Campbell House news, check out current and past editions of the *Campbell House Courier*, find information on CHM's educational programming, and take in the most recent posting to Campbell House's widely-read blog. The website redesign was completed by volunteer **Aaron Happe**.

(left) The "Volunteer" page from the new Campbell House website



Cook's Bedroom Restored, Furnished to Circa 1885 Appearance

A generous bequest from longtime Campbell House friend and member **Dr. Slayden H. Harris** has allowed the second-floor Cook's Bedroom (pictured at right) to be furnished in the manner in which it would have looked in about 1885.

The set of painted cottage furniture is typical for an upper-level servant like the cook. Both servant's rooms at Campbell House have been restored in an appropriate style for a domestic workers because no original furnishings or historic photos exist of the spaces.

For more than 40 years Dr. Harris practiced and taught pediatric dentistry in St. Louis.



Feasting With the Campbells

Campbell House started its 70th anniversary year with a rare dining event—Feasting with the Campbells. During an eight-course dinner, 125 guests experienced some of the elaborate dishes Virginia Campbell served to the likes of President Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, Henry Shaw, James Eads and other luminaries of the day.

The dinner was held at the 1904 Steak House at River City Casino, and the event was generously sponsored by the casino. Proceeds benefit the future publication of *The Gilded Table: The Campbell House Museum Cookbook* which is being written and prepared by food historian **Suzanne Corbett**.

Campbell House has a very interesting and unusual culinary collection, which includes Virginia Campbell's handwritten cookbook of recipes she collected from friends and family members before her marriage in 1841. Wealthy Americans dined in a very sophisticated manner, both in the variety of foods and the manner of presentation.

An October 1875 dinner party the Campbells hosted in honor of President and Mrs. Grant was estimated to cost more than \$1,000 (More than \$20,000 in today's dollars). Oysters, which appeared as the first course on the Feasting with the Campbells menu, were quite popular in the Campbells' day, a fact that surprises some people.

Author Suzanne Corbett worked with River City Casino executive chef **John Johnson** to put together the menu for the feast, as well as the forthcoming cookbook.



"Some of these recipes we pulled from the original banquet menus from the Southern Hotel, and we also researched other popular recipes of the 19th century, based on accounts of the day," Corbett said. "One example came from a dinner held for Henry Shaw – Pompano Marguerite (that was served at a dinner in his honor.)"

Corbett and Johnson spent hours sorting through menus, interpreting ingredients, equipment and recipe instructions, and faithfully reconstructing the dishes as they would have been prepared a century and a half ago. Corbett believes Feasting with the Campbells captured a snapshot of the lavish lifestyles of the rich and famous of the Gilded Age.

"There are many surprises," she said. "A lot of the food ... you might have thought couldn't be so sophisticated. (However) people just took more time to do them, because dining was the event. People would be dining for hours. Dining was the main event."

Look for the release of the *Gilded Table Cookbook* in late 2014.



Feasting
with the
CAMPBELLS
in the
1904 STEAK HOUSE
at the
RIVER CITY CASINO
JOHN JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE CHEF SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

January 21, 2013

BAKED OYSTERS
Lemon Garlic

PATTY OF FRESH MUSHROOMS
Ozark Wild Mushrooms

CHICKEN CONSOMMÉ
Sweet Potato Pone

POMPANO MARGUERITE
French Beans Curled Potatoes

CHATEAUBRIAND
Sweetbreads, Truffles, Chasseur Sauce

ROMAN PUNCH

TOMATO ASPIC
Lamb Lettuce

SELECTION OF PICKLES
Watermelon Rind, Cherries, Walnuts

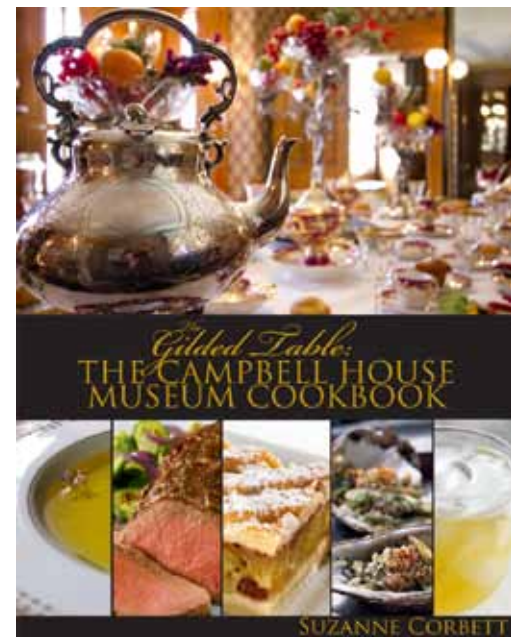
QUEEN OF SHEBA CAKE
APPLE CHARLOTTE

Assorted cheese, curds, coffee and crackers.
Quince, orange and champagne jelly.

Tonight's dinner benefits Campbell House Museum
and the future publication of
"The Gilded Table: The Campbell House Museum Cookbook."



(top) Robert and Virginia Campbell (played by docents Kay and Joe O'Connell) welcome guests to the Feast, including at far right author Suzanne Corbett and Chef John Johnson. (bottom) Baked oysters with lemon and garlic, first course of Feasting with the Campbells.



Prototype Campbell House cookbook cover.

'A Very Troublesome Controversy'— Robert Campbell and the Growth of El Paso, Texas

On February 21, 1871, Robert Campbell attended an auction in Austin, Texas. He paid \$6,000 for the real estate of Henry and John Gillett being sold in bankruptcy. In March 1860, the Gilletts had made a large purchase from Robert, but the Civil War was disastrous for their business and they never recovered after the war. The bankruptcy sale included their interest in the "Ponce de Leon land grant" in addition to connecting property to the north – over 1000 acres of land along the Rio Grande in southwestern Texas that would become the heart of downtown El Paso, Texas.

The area north of the Rio Grande, bordering the town of El Paso del Norte (the current Ciudad Juarez, Mexico), was scrub ranch land, requiring constant irrigation from man-made acequias (canals). Don Juan Maria Ponce de Leon had settled there in September 1827, and after his death in 1852, his wife sold the property for \$10,000 to a Kentucky trader named William T. ("Uncle Billy") Smith. Smith divided parts of the rancho, but sold out to the Gillett brothers and other prominent

citizens in January 1859. This group formed the El Paso Company and they hired Anson Mills to survey 50 acres of the property to make order out of the haphazard land deals that had previously occurred.



Joseph Magoffin, 1837-1923

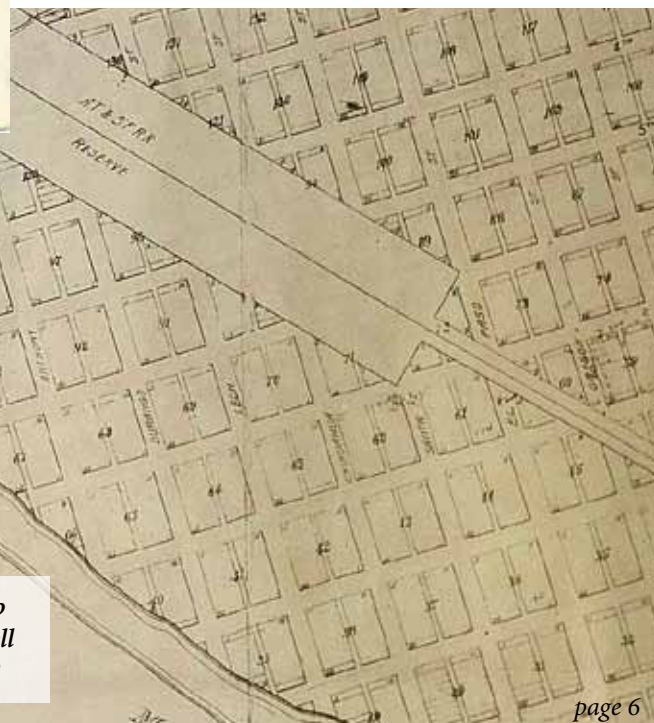
Mills completed the job in February 1859, and the town on the north side of the river was named El Paso in honor of its Mexican counterpart across the river.

El Paso was strategically located along the north-south axis of the Rocky Mountains, and the east-west axis that bisected the newly expanded United States. The time seemed ripe for development, but progress was slowed with the onset of the Civil War and the threat of hostile Indians. When the El Paso Company was formed in 1859, the population of El Paso was only about 50 people; by 1871, when Robert Campbell purchased the property, it had grown to 450. Robert's intention was to sell this seemingly limited property as soon as possible and settle the Gillett debt without major loss.

Problems with the land deal plagued Robert from the start. First, the Gilletts tried to transfer the property to their lawyers, but the bankruptcy invalidated that transaction. The Gilletts also claimed two lots as part of their homestead and Robert decided to settle out of court. However, Robert's problems escalated in October 1871 when Joseph Magoffin, a long time and powerful El Paso resident, claimed his family owned parts of Robert's purchase. There had been conflicts between competing land surveys long before Robert took possession, but first the Civil War, and then the Gilletts' bankruptcy, postponed the inevitable court actions. Changes to the international border as a result of the Mexican-American War, conflicting Mexican and Texas land titles, and the



Postcard of downtown El Paso looking west on St. Louis Street toward the original site of the Ponce de Leon homestead, circa 1905



Portion of the El Paso plat map showing the 1,200 acre Campbell addition to the city, circa 1882

CAMPBELL'S
ADDITION
To
EL PASO

shifting course of the Rio Grande all conspired to make precise measurement problematic.

Lawsuits with Joseph Magoffin extended through the next 10 years, first in state court and later at the U. S. circuit court in Austin. When all was said and done, the original Ponce land grant survey and Robert's ownership was affirmed, but only after, in Robert's words, an "annoying and troublesome" period when he found himself at the mercy of local lawyers, questionable real estate agents, and southwestern "land pirates." Never able to sell for an acceptable price, the property in El Paso aggravated Robert till the end of his life. One of his last business letters, written in July 1879 from Saratoga Springs, where he had gone to convalesce, involved his El Paso land.

Robert Campbell died in October 1879 and a partition of the disputed property was finally achieved in 1881. Virginia Campbell and son Hugh hired St. Louis lawyer William S. Hills to move to El Paso and manage the property on site. Even Hazlett Campbell was involved, traveling to El Paso in April 1882, presumably for business purposes. The "Campbell Real Estate Company" was formed and Robert's original land purchase eventually became the "Campbell Addition" to El Paso, still one of the single largest annexations in that



Downtown El Paso about 1930.

city's history. A January 1882 report for the Campbell Estate noted that the value of the property purchased at auction for \$6,000 in 1871 was now worth "at least \$250,000." The value of that same property today is beyond several million. TG



Second 'Arias the Afternoon' gets Ovation

Earlier this summer Campbell House had the pleasure of hosting the second annual "Arias in the Afternoon" with Union Avenue Opera (UAO). Longtime Campbell House board member **Jack Swanson** was the mastermind of the event.

As UAO's board president, Jack had an epiphany, and he thought UAO and Campbell House could work together to host an event. Despite offering the St. Louis community two different attractions, we actually have a lot in common. Our small underdog organizations are of similar size, our supporters are roughly the same demographic, and we happen to share a few members, too. It really was a match made in heaven.

Make sure you mark your calendar for the third annual Arias in the Afternoon, where we will feature UAO's talented singers serenading you in our beautiful Victorian garden.

ARIAS IN THE AFTERNOON 2014 — Sunday, June 8, 2014.



Sam Moore Named Assistant Director

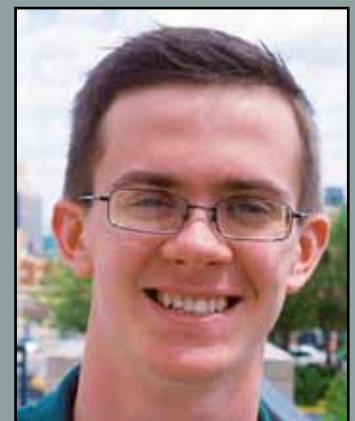
Samuel Moore ("Sam") has been named the new Assistant Director of the Campbell House Museum.

Moore has a long history with Campbell House. Serving as an intern from 2011 through 2012 he worked on special projects, led tours of the Museum, and engaged in research on the Campbell family. He comes with a wide range of previous experience, counting stints at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, SSM Health Care's Corporate Archives, and Soldiers Memorial Military Museum among his time in institutions of public history.

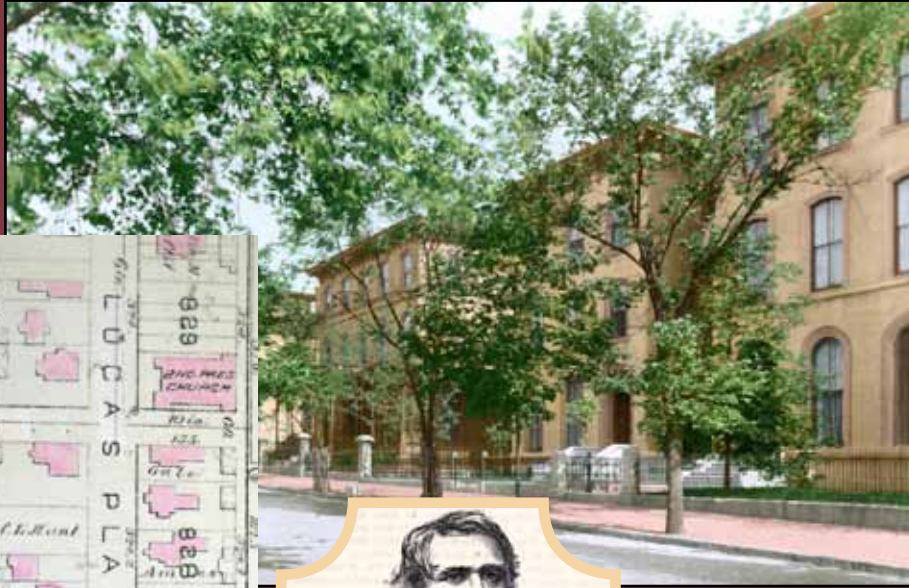
Sam takes over from previous Assistant Director **Shelley Satke Niemeier**, who stepped down from the position at the beginning of 2013. Shelley's time at Campbell House was

marked by an incredible surge in community outreach through social media and special events.

In addition to assisting with the daily operations and administration of the Museum, Sam will manage its social media and membership programs as well as promote community awareness and engagement at Campbell House. In conjunction with his new position, Sam is working toward completing a Master's Degree in Museum Studies at the University of Missouri – St. Louis.



From the Archives



(above) View of the north side of Lucas Place between 15th and 16th streets in about 1885. This specially-colored photograph was commissioned for the exhibit
(left) James H. Lucas
(far left) Lucas Place map, 1883

During the 19th Century Campbell House was in the heart of St. Louis' first suburban neighborhood—Lucas Place.

Created by James Lucas and his sister Anne Lucas Hunt, this neighborhood is the subject of a new exhibit titled *Lucas Place: Lost Neighborhood of St. Louis' Gilded Age*.

The exhibit explores the history, people, and buildings associated with this elegant street. Once populated by some of St. Louis' most renowned families and citizens. Its success was short-lived, however, as rapid commercial and industrial development surrounded the street and residents departed for new residential districts farther from St. Louis' commercial core. Campbell House is all that remains of Lucas Place.

The exhibit opened at the Landmarks Association of St. Louis in March 2013 and will next be on display at Campbell House beginning March 1, 2014. Special Lucas Place walking tours will be offered as part of the exhibit. *This exhibit was funded by a grant from the Missouri Humanities Council with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

