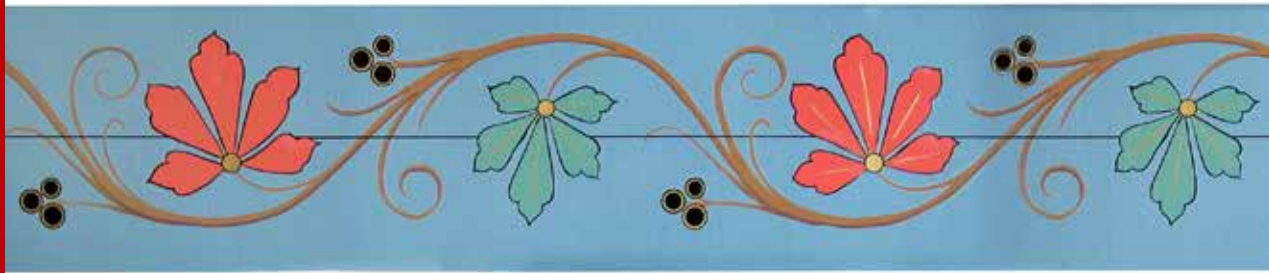




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City Living Since 1851

Fall 2022 Newsletter

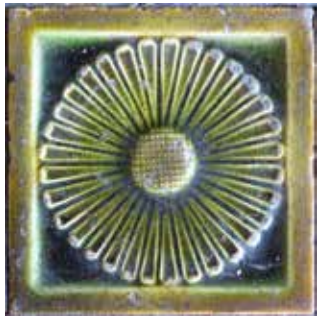
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March to December
Wednesday to Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday
12 to 4 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday
By Appointment

January & February
By Appointment



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The Campbells & Mount Vernon

By Andy Hahn, Executive Director

Earlier this year my family and I visited George Washington's Mount Vernon near Washington D.C. Except for the White House, it's probably the most famous historic house in America.

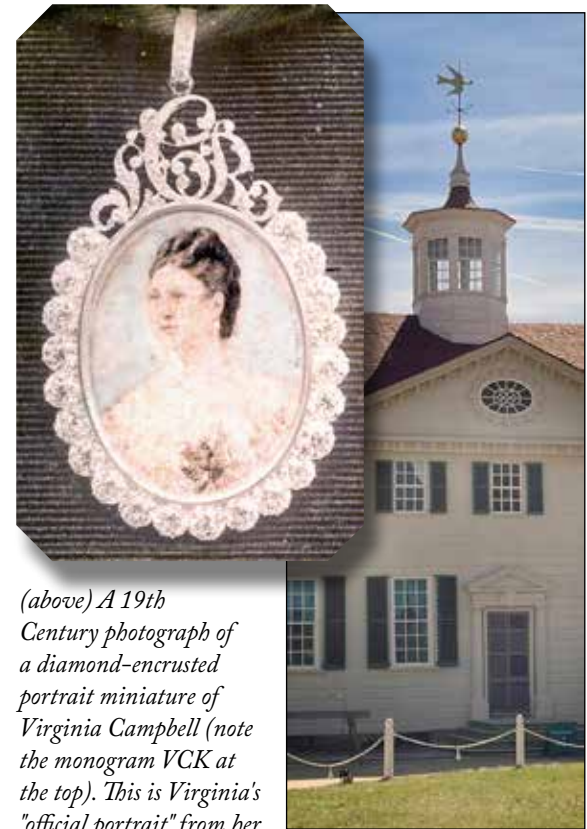
It was my first visit to Mount Vernon, a place I had long wanted to see because of its many connections to Campbell House.

From 1879 until her death in 1882, Virginia Campbell was the Vice Regent for Missouri of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association (MVLA).

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

The MVLA was founded by Pamela Ann Cunningham in 1853 with a mission "to forever hold, manage and preserve the estate, properties and relics at Mount Vernon, and, under proper regulations, to open the same to the inspection of all who love the cause of liberty and revere the name of Washington."

Cunningham appointed 30 vice regents from across the country—one woman per state—who together raised \$200,000 to purchase the Mount Vernon property (equivalent to \$6.5 million today) from members of the Washington family. The MVLA took over operation of the Mount Vernon estate in 1860 and first opened the house as a museum. Virginia Campbell was appointed the third vice regent to serve from Missouri. She probably became familiar with the MVLA from her neighbor, Anne Lucas Hunt (1796–1879), who served as the second vice regent for Missouri.



(above) A 19th Century photograph of a diamond-encrusted portrait miniature of Virginia Campbell (note the monogram VCK at the top). This is Virginia's "official portrait" from her time as a vice regent of Mount Vernon. Credit: Mount Vernon Ladies' Association archive.

(above) Front door of George Washington's Mount Vernon.

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CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM

The Campbell House Museum enlivens the history of St. Louis and Westward Expansion through the story of the Campbell family and their home.

Since opening, 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 Campbells' house, but also their collection of original furniture, fixtures, paintings, objects and thousands of pages of family documents. After a meticulous five-year restoration the building reflects its opulent 1880s appearance, when the house was one of the centers of St. Louis society.



Director's Report

By Andy Hahn



Next year will be the 80th anniversary of the opening of Campbell House in 1943. In recognition of this anniversary we are planning a number of special programs and events.

In September 2023 we are preparing a Campbell House trip to Ireland organized by **Dea Hoover** and her St. Louis-based company—Are We There Yet? Dea has organized many trips to Ireland and for us she has put together a special itinerary that includes time in Northern Ireland, including visits to Giant's Causeway, the Titanic Museum in Belfast and Aughalane House at the Ulster American Folk Park in County Tyrone, site of Robert Campbell's birth in 1804. I am looking forward to

accompanying the trip so I can share with travelers stories about Robert Campbell's Ireland. Look for all the details in a special mailing in early 2023.

Our current special exhibit *At the Back of the House: Servants and Slavery* was recently featured on Nine PBS program "Living St. Louis." Thank you to producer **Ruth Ezell** for her wonderful presentation. You can use your mobile device to scan the QR code at left to watch the segment.

One of the programs that Campbell House museum has undertaken over the last 20 years has been helping to train the next generation of Museum professionals (our summer 2022 interns are pictured at

left). Through our student internship program we have cultivated long term relationships with just about every local university—including UMSL, SLU, Wash. U., SIUE, Lindenwood, Truman State and Southeast Missouri. Our students have gone on to work at museums across the country—including the Missouri History Museum, Saint Louis Art Museum, U.S. Grant National Historic Site, Museum of the American Revolution, and U.S. Holocaust Memorial.



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- Elizabeth Conway
- Mary Rose Desloge
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- Susan Linhardt
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Memorials & Tributes

In memory of D. Scott Johnson
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Stifel Financial

In memory of Kathy Sullivan
Andy and Valerie Hahn
Maryjo Thornburgh

In memory of Bette Constantin
Janna Krebs

In honor of Suzanne Corbett
Joan Berkman

Museum Honors Announced at Annual Dinner

By Andy Hahn

The annual Campbell House 1851 Society dinner was held on November 7 at the Deer Creek Club. Named for the year the Campbell House was constructed, the 1851 Society of the Campbell House was started in 1993 to enroll as members those that have supported the Campbell House with important annual contributions of \$750 or more. Their support provides important funds for the annual operating budget.

President's Award

Each year the Campbell House Museum President selects an individual to receive the President's Award for outstanding dedication to the preservation of the Campbell House Museum and its mission. This year's honoree was **Matt Sherman**.

In presenting the award Campbell House Museum president **Tricia Schlafly** noted that over the last year Matt has shown an unparalleled drive and focus as the co-chair of last September's Gala Event — *The Farm Table to the Gilded Table* (see story on page 5).

Along with his co-chair and previous President's Award recipient **Suzanne Corbett**, Matt was able to marshal the participation of local chefs and secure the donation of all the food and drinks required for a successful event.

Campbell House hosted over 375 people in 4 hours where guests enjoyed delicious food and drink, soaked up the twilight atmosphere, and best of all relished in the gilded interiors and fascinating history of Campbell House.

In addition to being the General Manager of his family business Kern Meat Co., Matt is a keen historian with a Ph.D. in American history and he is an expert in the history of the U.S. Secret Service.

Lindburg Award

In October 2021 the Campbell House's longest serving and most dedicated volunteer **Jeanne Lindburg** passed away at the age of 90. For 50 years she was a constant presence at the House, as a board member and as the manager of our very special Museum Shop.

Jeanne was part of the second generation of the Lindburg family, including her husband Earl who along with her mother-in-law and father-in-law Arthur and Marian became in the 1950s key supporters of the Museum's mission of historic preservation. It is safe to say without the Lindburgs that Campbell House would be a very different and a much diminished place.

As part of the recognition of Jeanne's many contributions to Campbell House the board has created a new honor, aptly

named the Lindburg Award, which will periodically recognize a volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their dedication to Campbell House.

The recipient of the first Lindburg Award is **Celeste Sprung**.

Celeste Sprung has been a dedicated volunteer at the Campbell House for 20 years. Starting in 2003 she served on the Board for 10 years, eventually sitting on the executive committee as the vice-president.

Even though she is no longer on the board, Celeste still gives generously of her time and experience. We can always depend on her to come to our volunteer garden work days when she plants, prunes and weeds the herb garden. She also volunteers regularly at the museum shop both behind the counter and as part of the committee that helps select merchandise. And she is usually working the shop during special events.

Thank you Celeste for your dedication!



(top) Presentation for the 2022 President's Award, from left to right, Andy Hahn, executive director; Tricia Schlafly, president; and Matt Sherman, 2022 President's Award honoree

(bottom) The Deer Creek Club, site of the annual 1851 Society dinner for the last 16 years.

U.S. Grant Bicentennial Event a Smashing Success

Spectacular!” “Awesome!” “A night to remember forever!” These are just a few of the rave reviews received for the September 25 event honoring the bicentennial of the birth of Ulysses S. Grant.

It was a night of historically inspired foods and libations prepared by St. Louis’s award-winning chefs, confectioners, brewers, wine makers, and distillers.

Presented as a moveable feast, guests traveled between the Campbell House Museum and White Haven (Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site) to sample, sip, and enjoy period entertainment at the places where Ulysses S. Grant lived and dined.

The magnificent night was made possible through the generosity of sponsors who enabled us to sumptuously set the Farm and Gilded tables, which ultimately allowed us to meet our goals—to provide funding for the preservation and interpretive programming at both White Haven and Campbell House and to introduce our museums to a new audience.



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Pictured left to right on the grounds of White Haven: Old Hickory Golf Club Executive Chef Jack MacMurray; Clarendale Clayton Director of Culinary Adam Shaw; Dalies Smokehouse Chef Craig Basler; Stan Prater (Portraying Grant); 2022 James Beard nominee Chef Ben Welch; and Yolkloré's chef/owner Mary Bogacki. (Not pictured: Annie Gunn's Executive Chef Lou Rook; Bogey Club Executive Chef Scott Scheible; and James Beard nominee Chef Cassy Vires, Bailey's Restaurants). Photos by Jim Corbett

Mount Vernon *Continued from page 1*

After her death in 1882, Virginia's three sons, Hugh, Hazlett and James, honored their mother's role at Mount Vernon by making two significant donations in her memory.

George Washington's Candle stands

The most important of these donations was the gift of an exceptional pair of Chippendale-style candle stands once owned by George Washington. Washington purchased the candle stands for £3.10 from the Scottish cabinetmaker James Allan of Fredericksburg, Virginia. They were bought in December 1759, just after Washington's marriage to a wealthy widow, Martha Dandridge Custis.

The candle stands are carved in the fashionable rococo style made popular by Thomas Chippendale in his book *The Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker's Director*, first published in London in 1754. The rococo style is characterized by fanciful naturalistic elements like those found in the leaves and asymmetrical details carved on the body of the stands. The Washington candle stands are based on an illustration in *Genteel Household Furniture* published for the London Society of Upholsterers in 1760. The close relationship to this British design source demonstrates Washington's desire to have



West front of George Washington's Mount Vernon

the latest goods in the most fashionable taste.

The candle stands are made of imported mahogany and have elaborate hexagonal tops with a triple-laminated fretwork gallery along all sides. Today they are considered among the most sophisticated pieces of furniture made in colonial America.

Washington would likely have utilized these stands in the West



(right) The Washington candle stands.

(far right) Thomas Chippendale's design for a candle stand from the book, Society of Upholsterers' Household Furniture in Genteel Taste in Genteel Taste (1760)

(below) Circa 1887 photo showing the Washington candle stands on display in the New Room at Mount Vernon. The original photo is in a Campbell family photo album.



Parlor or Small Dining Room at Mount Vernon, the showpieces of his newly expanded and renovated home in the 1760s. They were placed in the large New Room after its completion in 1788 and continued in use until Washington's death in 1799.

The stands are then listed in an inventory of the New Room created after Washington's death as "2 Candle Stands" valued at \$40.

By the mid-1880s, Hugh Campbell learned that the candle stands were owned by Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C. He purchased the stands for \$300 and then personally delivered them to Mount Vernon in September 1887. Today the candle stands bear the Mount Vernon collection accession number W-1, noting they were the first items entered into the museum's collection.

Read about the Campbell's other donation to Mount Vernon in the *From the Archives* story on the back page.

The Campbell House connection to Mount Vernon continued in the story of Eunice Holderness. In 1941 she was part of the effort to preserve Campbell House as a museum and was a member of the first Board of Directors. In 1948 she became the 6th vice regent from Missouri of the MVLA, where she served for the next 22 years.



And now the story comes full circle. The current MVLA vice regent for Missouri is St. Louisan **Ann Cady Scott**. In the 1980s members of the Scott family donated an original Campbell artifact—the Campbells gave Vixen the reindeer decoration to the Scott family in the 1890s and since the 1980s has been the centerpiece of our annual Christmas display.

(above left) The author in the Mount Vernon's New Room where the candle stands are displayed today, just as they were during Washington's terms as president.



(below left) Photo taken about 1895 showing papier mâché reindeer table display. One of these reindeer was donated by the Scott family in the 1980s.

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- Advance notice of member events & program
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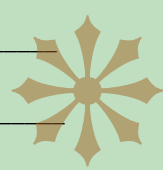
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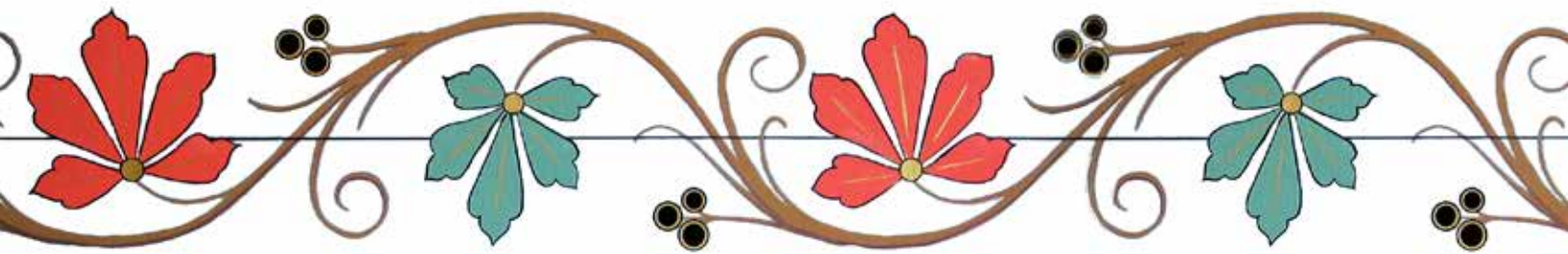
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From the Archives

After her death in 1882, Virginia Campbell's sons made two significant gifts to the Mount Vernon Ladies Association (MVLA) in her memory (see full story on the cover).

The first of these gifts was a donation made in 1887 of \$3,308 (\$103,000 today) for the restoration of George Washington's deer park at Mount Vernon.

Following aristocratic British practice of his day, Washington fenced off 18 acres on the slope between Mount Vernon and the Potomac River to serve as "a paddock for deer" or deer park.

The MVLA recreated the deer park and used the Campbell's donation to erect an iron fence on the slope to contain a herd of small deer. A plaque recognizing the donation was placed at the gate (pictured right). However, the project failed just as it had done for Washington—the deer would not stay inside the park.

Credit: Mount Vernon Ladies' Association archive



Deer Park, Mount Vernon.
Restored by the General Hugh, Hazlett & James Campbell
in the year 1887 in memory of their mother the
Late Mrs Robert Campbell, Esq. Regent of Missouri
1887
Credit: Mount Vernon Ladies Association archive.



Campbell House Museum archive

