



**CAMPBELL**  
House Museum  
SAINT † LOUIS

# CAMPBELL HOUSE *Courier*



*City Living Since 1851*

Fall 2023 Newsletter

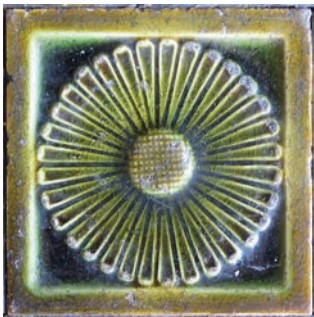
## Museum Hours

*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



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

CampbellHouse  
Museum.org



## Museum Group Visits Ireland

Campbell House friends, volunteers and board members were among a group of 22 people that traveled to Ireland and Northern Ireland in September for a fundraising trip to see Robert Campbell's ancestral home and other noteworthy sights on the Emerald Isle.

Museum director **Andy Hahn**, along with tour directors **Dea Hoover** and **Declan Rutan** of Are We There Yet? tour company based in St. Louis, led the journey. The tour started in Dublin, then progressed across the island with nights spent in Galway, Londonderry, Belfast and then back to Dublin.

Highlights of the tour included a day at Ulster American Folk Park in County Tyrone, which includes a museum and dozens of historic buildings, including Aughalane House, where Robert Campbell was born and grew up with his 11 siblings.

Officials from the National Museums of Northern Ireland welcomed the group, and docents portraying Robert's sister Ann and young Robert the fur trader read letters that had been written between the two across the Atlantic.

Alan McFarland, a Campbell historian and a distant great nephew of Robert, showed the group where Aughalane House was originally located in

*Continued on page 6*



*Travelers with Campbell House visit the Irish Campbell House, called Aughalane House. Robert Campbell was born here in 1804.*

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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.



*Crest of the Campbells of Aughalane*

## Board of Directors

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Elizabeth Greenwald  
Thomas Guess  
Donna Johnson  
Linda Kannapell  
Laura McCloskey

Rebecca Now  
Carol Schlitt  
Peter Wagner

## Memorials & Tributes

*In memory of Susan Collins  
Heidi Currie and Friends  
In memory of John Muller  
Nancy Muller*

## Director's Message

By Andy Hahn

It has been an exciting year at the Museum. As I write this I still am basking in the wonderful memories made this fall in Ireland (see cover story). It was such a pleasure to forge new and deepen old friendships as we explored the unforgettable landscapes and people we encountered. Watch this newsletter for an announcement of the next Campbell House sponsored trip.



Campbell House participated earlier this year in the production of the short narrative film *Eliza* (see story on page 7). A very big thank you to the filmmakers **Dan Steadman** and **Delisa Richardson** for bringing the important story of *Eliza* to a wider audience. The Museum always strives to present an accurate and rich story, and the narrative of *Eliza* has now become central to Campbell House history.



*Carroll Stribling*



*Willie Meadows*

Over this last year the Museum lost three dedicated volunteers and supporters. **Carroll Stribling** was a true gentleman and a lover of history. For more than a decade he served on the Museum board, including multiple terms as the treasurer. **Willie Meadows** was a longtime member and an avid supporter of the Museum Shop. **Leslie Hawksbee** was for more than 20 years a stalwart volunteer in charge of the book department in the Museum Shop and an always willing helper at events. I am thankful to all of them for years of dedication to the Museum's mission of historic preservation and education.



*Leslie Hawksbee*

If you have not donated in a while or if your annual membership has lapsed I would like to ask you to consider a year-end gift to Campbell House. Please come and see St. Louis' best old-fashioned Christmas. It is an experience I promise you won't forget. Donate online ([CampbellHouseMuseum.org/Donate](http://CampbellHouseMuseum.org/Donate)), scan the QR code below, call us at 314-421-0325, or use the form on the next page. I am very grateful for your support.



## Donate Today!

# President's Award Announced at Annual Dinner

The annual Campbell House 1851 Society dinner was held on November 13 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 annual contributions of \$750 or more. Their support provides important funds for the annual operating budget.

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 **Alan McFarland**.

In presenting the award Museum president **Tricia Schlafly** noted that among past recipients of this award McFarland has the unique distinction of being the only Campbell—he is a direct descendant of Robert Campbell's oldest brother Andrew. She added that she had the pleasure of spending time with McFarland a few months ago when the group from Campbell House visited Ireland (see cover story). Schlafly continued, "on the trip I learned that Alan was born and raised in a house just ½ mile up the road from where his famous ancestor Robert was born, so he grew up with a knowledge and deep respect of his family history."

In the last 20 years McFarland has become the expert on Robert Campbell. He has traced Robert's routes and adventures to the Rocky Mountains more than 6 times, logging thousands of miles. And after more than 15 years of research and study McFarland is preparing a book about Robert's fur trade years. His intense research directly led to the 2018 production of the BBC documentary *Robert Campbell, Mountain Man*.

But before he became the family historian par excellence, McFarland had multiple distinguished careers. He is a graduate of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and retired from the British Army as a major in the famous Royal Tank Regiment. He next served as the director of Northern Ireland's Somme Museum and next became a distinguished politician. McFarland served for 13 years as an elected member of the Northern Ireland Assembly and during that time he helped draft the landmark Good Friday Agreement which brought peace to Northern Ireland. And if that is not enough, he has spent his retirement volunteering as a trustee of a number of organizations including the Somme Association, the Scotch Irish Trust and the National Museums of Northern Ireland.

Because he lives in Northern Ireland, McFarland was not able to accept the award in person. However he did send a video message which



*Alan McFarland and Andy Hahn in Belfast, September 2023.*

was played at the dinner. In his message he said, "I'm greatly honored to have been chosen to receive this year's Presidents award—it came as a big surprise. Although I been involved with family history and genealogy since the 1980s, I only managed to pay my first visit to Campbell House Museum in 2005. I was amazed at the wonderful museum the trustees had developed over the years."

## JOIN THE FAMILY RENEW or Become a Friend of Campbell House

(choose a membership level or make a donation)

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

**All members enjoy these benefits**

- Unlimited free museum admission and tours
- A 10% discount at the Museum Gift Shop
- Advance notice of member events & program
- Subscription to this newsletter

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ or
- Credit Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_/\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# Museum Hotel Neighbor Opens

The Campbell House is pleased to welcome a new next-door neighbor, its first in 99 years. The 21c Museum Hotel opened in August in the former YMCA building after a multi-year renovation.

The boutique hotel offers 173 rooms and over 14,000 square feet of museum exhibition space spread throughout the 10-story building. The art museum is free and open 24 hours a day.

21c is a Louisville-based hospitality brand that renovates historic buildings into boutique hotels and fills their public spaces with contemporary art, including statues of penguins that have become the bespoke mascot of the hotel.

Among the artworks on display is the commissioned installation *The Way Out West* by Fallen Fruit, a project of David Allen Burns and Austin Young. This immersive installation, spanning three floors within the building's historic main stairwell, features custom-designed wallcovering, carpeting, chandeliers, and wall sculptures. The installation uses imagery from the Campbell House collection and period interiors.

21c Museum Hotel is just the latest major investment in the Downtown West neighborhood, including CityPark (the new soccer stadium), the Victor Building and Soldier's Memorial.

The YMCA's old gymnasium and walking track is now exhibit space. The historic lap pool has stayed and is part of the hotel's Locust Street Athletic and Swim Club, which is available to the public. The hotel also includes a new restaurant, Idol Wolf, and coffee shop, Good Press.

The Renaissance Revival-style building was completed in 1926 and designed by local architecture firm LaBeaume & Klein, which also designed the Kiel Opera House (now Stifel Theatre).

In its heyday, the downtown YMCA was the organization's largest local branch and was operational until 2017, when it relocated 7 blocks east. For more information about the hotel visit [21cmuseumhotels.com/stlouis](http://21cmuseumhotels.com/stlouis). The Campbell House looks forward to collaborating with 21c in the future.



*Restored and newly lighted facade of the 21c Museum Hotel at 1528 Locust Street.*



*The hotel lobby is dominated by the artwork title O by Serkan Özkaya. This transparent, water-filled orb, presents a world upside down—the surrounding spaces and faces are reflected in reverse.*



*Detail of the installation The Way Out West, by artists David Allen Burns and Austin Young, known as Fallen Fruit. The installation uses imagery of objects from the Campbell House collection and plants from the Museum garden.*



*(left) View of the Campbell House from the patio of the hotel restaurant Idol Wolf.*

# Christmas at Famous-Barr: A Mini-Exhibit for Christmas at the Campbell House

For 95 years, St. Louisans went to Famous-Barr to buy the things they used every day and to celebrate the moments that happened only once a year or once a lifetime. Customers might bump into Sophia Loren while shoe shopping or confide in Santa Claus during a visit to Toyland.

Although Famous-Barr ceased to exist in 2006 its many wonderful memories live on. This mini-exhibit highlights some of the stories and designs created by Famous-Barr at Christmastime.

In 1963 **Sam Clark** was named the display director for all the Famous-Barr Department stores. His tenure was notable for the legendary window displays at the flagship downtown store. Every Christmas, Sam would dream up a theme and work with his talented staff to fill the 21 windows of the downtown store with a variety of trains, dolls, animated figures and, of course, merchandise. In his retirement Sam transferred his indomitable energy to his lifelong love of the Campbell House Museum, where he created the Museum's signature Victorian Christmas displays, often saying, "You can't overdo Christmas."

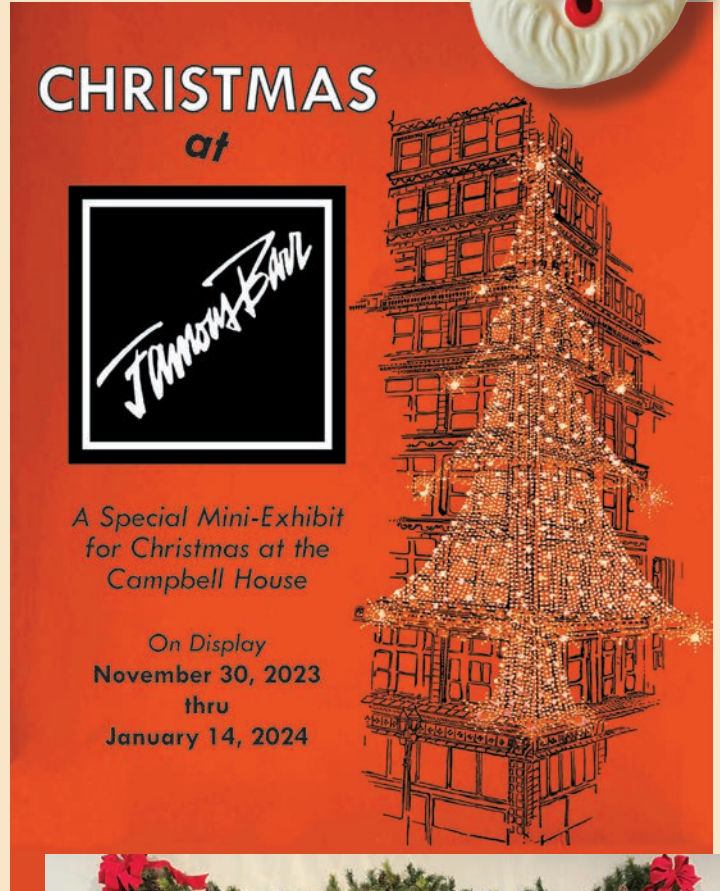
This mini-exhibit highlights some of the stories and designs created by Famous-Barr at Christmastime, from the iconic holiday windows and photos with Santa to the store's signature holiday packaging.

On display are toys and gifts purchased at Famous and a camera used to take the photos with Santa. Exhibit highlights include a 100-photo slideshow of Christmas windows and a recreation of a Christmas display window with original animatronic bears.

The exhibit was curated with the assistance of Edna Campos Gravenhorst, author of the book *Famous-Barr, St. Louis Shopping at its Finest* published in 2014.

The exhibit will be on display through January 14, 2024.

The Museum will be open regular hours through January 7. From January 8 through 14 the Museum is open by appointment and a reservation is required. Call 314-412-0325 for a reservation. Admission is \$10 per person and members are always free.



## Continued from page 1

the Glenelly Valley, and the group also toured the churches where the Campbell family attended services as well as the Corrick Abbey graveyard where they are buried.

During a day spent at Malin Head, the northernmost tip of Ireland, the group learned how Robert's brother Hugh walked more than 40 miles through the mountains to deliver a message on the eve of his immigration to America in 1818.

The bus rides between cities and sites afforded the group the opportunity to learn about Irish history, listen to bus driver Tony's often hilarious tales of growing up in Ireland, and capture perfect

pictures of the lush scenery outside their windows.

Other highlights included a visit to the wind-swept Aran Island of Inishmore, the Titanic museum in Belfast, a private tour of Stormont, the government building in Belfast, dancing like the Derry Girls during a tour of the walls of Derry, and a night of eating, drinking, singing, and eating and drinking some more at an Irish music venue outside Dublin.

It was a fantastic journey, and undoubtedly forged new friendships and an appreciation for the Campbell family and their Irish roots.



## Photo Album



*(top left) Robert Campbell's sister Ann as interpreted by Pamela Gunn at the Ulster American Folk Park.*

*(top middle) The famous geological formation called the Giant's Causeway, about 40 miles from Robert Campbell's birthplace in County Tyrone.*

*(top right) Robert Campbell the young fur trade as interpreted by Alistair Moran at the Ulster American Folk Park.*

*(below) View of the Glenelly River valley in the Sperrin Mountains, Country Tyrone. Robert Campbell was born just over the light-colored hill at the center.*



# ELIZA

## Film Debuts

In 2010, work by senior Campbell House researcher **Tom Gronski** first identified Eliza Rone as being enslaved and emancipated by the Campbell family while living in their house, now the Campbell House Museum (see [CampbellHouseMuseum.org/slavery](http://CampbellHouseMuseum.org/slavery) for the story of the discovery).

Over the last 13 years the Museum has worked to further explore and advance the story of Eliza. These efforts culminated this past summer in the production of the short narrative movie *Eliza*, which premiered on July 30 at the 23rd Annual St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase.

The Film was co-directed and produced by St. Louisans **Dan Steadman** and **Delisa Richardson**. The Museum was first approached two years ago about participating in the project. The collaboration involved Museum staff providing research about Eliza, reading the script for historical accuracy and most importantly coordinating the shooting of the movie inside the historic rooms of Campbell House.

Co-director Delisa Richardson said, "shooting at the Campbell House was such a gift and also a little scary. Everything in the mansion is as it was in the 1800s and we did not want to break the irreplaceable items in the home. We were very careful, having one Museum staff person assigned to move any item/ piece of furniture and make sure it was secured and put back properly. We also had a sense of reverence for the space. Eliza was a real woman enslaved in the home and we wanted to make sure to honor her. Part of that included making sure our cast and crew limited playful talk, etc. that we usually allow on set. This was just a different and special project.

"You have the ugly history of slavery. Then we also have the fact that the things that we learned about her relationship with the Campbells, even after she was emancipated by Robert Campbell and when Virginia Campbell passed away, she left Eliza things in her will along with her sister. So there was a very close relationship there," Richardson said.

*Eliza* was so well received at its premiere that a special screening was held on September 3 followed by a panel discussion about the project. The film was subsequently included in the St. Louis International Film Festival on November 19.

*Eliza* was an official selection at the Montreal Independent Film Festival and was the winner of the best drama award at the Carpe Diem Film Festival in Barcelona, Spain.

A screening of the film will be held at the Museum in early 2024.



# CAMPBELL HOUSE FOUNDATION

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## *From the Archives*

For more than 90 years the main branch of the St. Louis YMCA was located next door to Campbell House.

In February 1924, the YMCA purchased the southeast corner of Locust and 16th streets for a new building. The president of the board of the Y at this time was Vincent Price, Sr., father of the Hollywood icon. Construction on the 10-story began in the summer of 1925. The five upper-stories of the building were dormitories for 412 young men, while the lower floors boasted "billiard rooms, reading rooms, two gymnasiums, six handball courts, a swimming pool (25x75 feet), ample locker rooms and shower baths, with separate quarters for men and boys, a business men's club with modern Turkish bath equipment, barber shop and tailor shop, a cafeteria with private dining rooms and club rooms."

All through this construction period and when the Y building was dedicated in 1927, Hugh & Hazlett Campbell continued to live in their house next door. The Y moved to a new building in 2017 and in 2023 the 21c Museum Hotel opened in the extensively renovated building (see story on page 4).

*(right) The southeast corner of Locust and 16th streets on September 30, 1925 showing the YMCA building foundation under construction. The Campbell House is the dark building on the far left. On the far right are the twin towers of St. John the Apostle Catholic Church. Dedicated in 1860, it was announced in 2023 this church will be closed.*



*(below) The completed YMCA building, designed by the firm LaBeaume & Klein and dedicated on January 3, 1927.*

