



CAMPBELL
House Museum
SAINT LOUIS

CAMPBELL HOUSE *Courier*



City Living Since 1851

Winter 2021 Newsletter

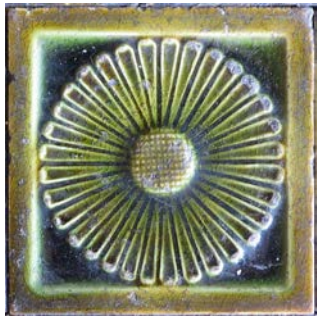
Museum Hours

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 Expansion Completed

The end of the year 2020 also saw the end of the expansion construction project at Campbell House. Work began in December 2019 on the \$2 million project to make the Museum accessible and to add program space. The public was welcomed to experience the new spaces at an open house the first weekend in December. The pandemic made a dedication event impossible but a dedication event is planned for the future. Here are the project's highlights.

Accessibility

With the addition of a street-level entrance, the Museum is now accessible and can be visited without any stairs. The new additional entrance is on 15th Street (the east side of the Museum) and leads to a small lobby and an elevator.

Education

A multipurpose classroom fitted with the latest technology was added to facilitate programs and events at the Museum. The space can host meetings and student programs in addition to public lectures for up to 70 people.

Support

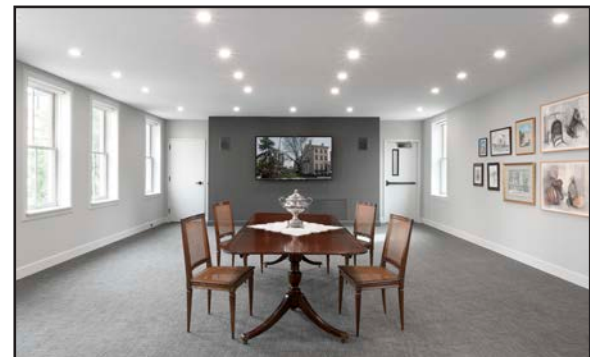
A new and expanded Museum Store allows for more display and storage to create a better shopping experience and increased revenue to support the Museum's operations.

See more expansion photos on page 4.



(top) The east wing of the completed expansion houses an accessible entrance, new Museum Store, a small lobby and multipurpose classroom.

(bottom) Multipurpose classroom setup for a small meeting.



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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 Campbell's 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

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Memorials & Tributes

In Memory of Marie Schmitz
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In Memory of Terry Furman
Kathie Furman
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In Memory of James Furman
Kathie Furman
In Honor of Andrew Hahn
Susie Hahn

Director's Report

By Andy Hahn

The year 2020 was one no one will ever forget because of the disruption and loss caused by the pandemic. But, as you can read in this newsletter, it was still busy at Campbell House even though the Museum closed to the public on March 16. At that time, the expansion was in full swing with other projects in the works. After approval of our reopening plan by the City of St. Louis, the Museum reopened for tours (socially distant and with masks of course) on August 19. Our Twilight and Christmas tours took place but in much reduced manner.



The expansion was completed in December. The construction process was a stressful endeavour, but the resulting improvements to the visitor and volunteer experience here were worth it. Thank you to **Jeff Clark, Pat McCormack, Jay Simon**

and their firm Metropolitan Build for taking great care in completing all the construction work.

One of the highlights of the expansion for me was the discovery of the foundations of the original house next door. A large section of this foundation (pictured left) was excavated and is preserved above ground on our parking lot near the spot where it was found. The other highlight is, of course, the elevator



which will make visiting the Museum possible for a whole new group of people. *Please accept my invitation to come and visit to see all that is new.*

Also new in 2021 is the special exhibit **Fabric of Time: Campbell Family Textiles**. This display shows off rarely seen fabrics that belonged to the Campbells, like clothing, upholstery and linens.



This year sees a change in Board leadership. After seven years **Scott Johnson** has retired as the Board president. Under his leadership Campbell House successfully planned and completed the Museum expansion. I am grateful for his steadfast support and leadership. He is succeeded by **Patricia Schalfly** (pictured left) who previously served as Board secretary. She is replaced as secretary by **Dr. Louis Gerteis**.



Restoration Projects

Over the past six months two important restoration projects were completed at the Museum.

Hall Tree

Hall trees were an invention of the 19th Century, conceived as a piece of furniture that filled the very special needs of a large Victorian front hall. The hall tree was a practical piece to store hats, scarves, umbrellas and canes (both your own and your guest's) and was often designed to show off the homeowners' wealth and good taste.

The Museum's hall tree was purchased at the Campbell's estate auction in 1941 along with the majority of the Museum's original collection as part of an effort to preserve the building and its collection. While circumstances are unclear, shortly after the auction the hall tree was broken into pieces, some of which went missing.

In consultation with furniture restorers **Dan and Rick Jente**, a plan was created to restore this piece of furniture. The Jentes are talented and trusted craftsman who have worked on projects at the Campbell House since 1980. Given that so much of the piece was missing, the restoration plan required careful study of the existing pieces along with extensive research of hall tree design of the era.

The project was completed in October and its placement in the entry hall marks the first time the Campbell hall tree has been on display since the 1940s.

The project was funded in part by the Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation.

Dining Room Wallpaper

Planning for the re-creation of the original 1880s wallpaper design for the Dining Room began after the completion of the ceiling restoration in 2018. For a myriad of reasons this room was not restored as part of the Museum's major restoration in the early 2000s.

Historic wall covering expert **Laura McCoy** (who completed three other wallpaper projects at Campbell House) undertook the laborious task of recreating the paper design and overseeing production. The unusual pattern is actually a "pattern within a pattern," featuring a damask background behind an elaborate fleur-de-lis fretwork design with copious gold leafing.

The installation of the completed paper in July makes the room shine as it did more than 140 years ago when it was the scene of elaborate dinners for President Ulysses Grant and his family. The project was funded by a local family foundation.



(top) The restored Campbell hall tree.

(above left) The pieces of the hall tree before restoration.

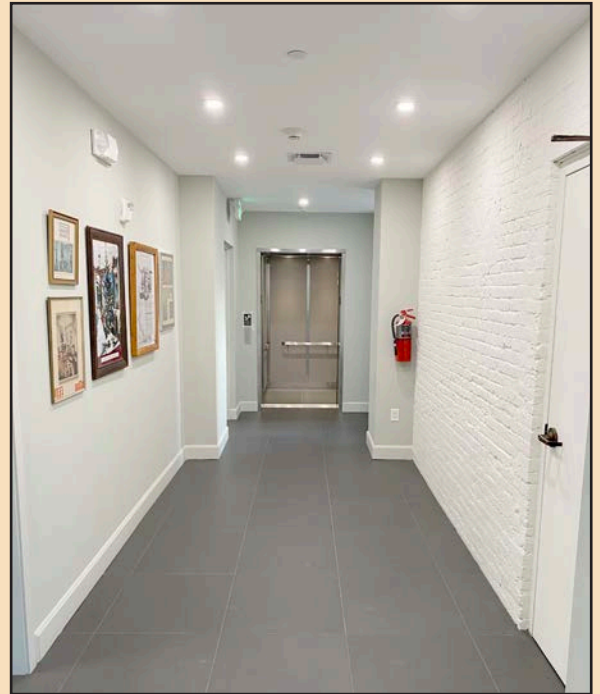
(above right) An original turning from the hall tree being held next to a recreated turning to replace a missing original.

(below left) The Dining Room after the installation of the recreated wallpaper.

(below right) A detail of the recreated wallpaper design reflecting the original of the 1880s.



Expansion Photo Album



(above) First floor corridor leading to the new elevator, the light-colored brick wall on the right is the original 19th Century south wall of the Campbell House.

(above left) The completed west wing of the expansion which comprises the elevator and new stair tower.

(left) The new Museum Store is open for business.

(below left) The east wing of the museum expansion and the carriage house as seen from the garden.

(below) Multipurpose classroom and (below bottom) new entry and Museum Store.



Campbell House on Exhibit at the Saint Louis Art Museum

This year you can find Campbell House on display at the Saint Louis Art Museum as the result of a pair of loans and the creativity of a contemporary artist.

Currents 119

Israeli artist Dana Levy is known for video, sculpture and print installations that explore place, displacement, and migration. In the new contemporary art exhibit *Currents 119: Dana Levy*, the artist presents three new works, including one inspired by the historic interiors and photos of Campbell House (*pictured right*). Levy is most interested in “how the past resides in the present and how the choices we make—what to keep and what is destroyed—hold important implications.” On display in Gallery 250 from February 26 through August 15, 2021. There is a virtual artist discussion on March 8.



Special Exhibition

Art Along the Rivers: A Bicentennial Celebration

The rarely displayed pad saddle from the Campbell House collection will be featured in the upcoming special exhibit to mark Missouri’s bicentennial of statehood. The bead-decorated pad saddle (*pictured right*) is the rarest of its kind—a Native American made object from the mid-19th Century with an significant provenance. The exhibit opens on October 3 and runs to January 9, 2022.



Native American Gallery

The buckskin coat (*pictured below*) belonging to Robert Campbell is currently on loan to the Saint Louis Art Museum through June 2022. The long skirt and tapered profile of the coat evokes European military uniforms of the era, though materials are of Native American origin. Assistant curator for Native American art Alex Marr has noted that “the coat emblemizes the fur industry and its transcultural dynamics.” Now on display in Gallery 322.

Visit CampbellHouseMusuem.org/SLAM for more information.



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

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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- Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
- or
- Credit Card number: _____
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Signature: _____

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



PARIS in *Perspective* 1889-90

By Ginger Reinert, Museum Docent

James Alexander Campbell (1860-1890) graduated from the Law School of Harvard University on June 27, 1888 and less than three months later he planned a trip to Europe (whether for an extended vacation or a permanent re-location will never be known). On September 20, 1888 both James and brother Hugh re-certified their passports through a lawyer in Boston, and, on September 27, the same lawyer witnessed James' Last Will and Testament, interestingly leaving his entire estate to brother Hugh (with no mention of his other brother Hazlett).

Presumably James and Hugh (and maybe Hazlett) arrived in Europe in mid-October 1888. The Campbell's *pied-à-terre* at 21 Place Vendôme in Paris was located on one of the most splendid neoclassical squares in the city. The private mansion called the Hôtel de Fontpertuis was built for the financier John Law de Lauriston from 1718 to 1720. The building went through a series of owners until 1832, when it was acquired by the merchant Michel Frédéric Le Vaillant. In 1865, his only daughter, Barbe Joséphine, married the Roman count Benoit Edmond Marie Pyrent de La Prade; this family being the owners of the building at the time of the Campbells' residence. (In 1894, following the death of the Count, the building was sold to the Credit Foncier de France, which remain the owners today.)

James and Hugh's apartment was within walking distance of the Opera House, the Louvre, Place de la Concorde, and the Eglise de la Madeleine. Paris during these years was where the wealthy



*Place Vendôme, Paris.
The door to No. 21 stands
behind the column.*

could indulge in leisure, attending intellectual salons to discuss cultural topics and current events such as the Dreyfuss Affair. Writers such as Guy de Maupassant, Flaubert, and Zola were popular novelists at the time. Proust wrote *In Search of Lost Time* describing the lifestyle of the *mondain*. Opera and the theater were popular pastimes. Sarah Bernhardt established her own theater nearby. The Campbells frequented Maisons-Laffitte, a suburb of Paris famous for horse racing. This was the age of the *Flâneur* and *Parisienne*, men and women of taste, money and society.

James may have rubbed shoulders with the Impressionists during this pivotal year. Gauguin's *The Green Christ* and Renoir's *Piano Lesson* were completed, while Monet began his *Haystack* series and Cézanne painted in Provence. Rodin sculpted *The Burgers of Calais* and John Singer Sargent painted *Ellen Terry as Lady Macbeth*. In the library of the Campbell House Museum, hangs a portrait of James by Jules-Joseph Lefebvre, one of the famous Romantic painters of the day. His painting *The Truth* inspired Bertoldi's design of the Statue of Liberty.

Eiffel Tower under construction, July 1888.



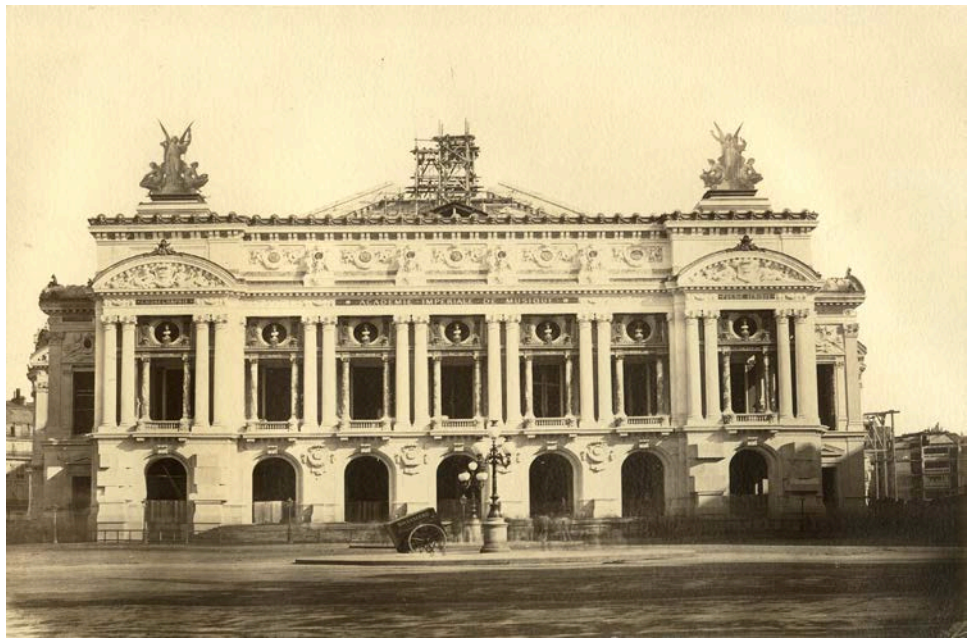
But surely the most dramatic attraction of these years would have been the rise of the Eiffel Tower. Construction on the Tower began in January 1887, and by early October 1888 had risen to its second level. James could have seen it from the Tuileries Gardens, a short stroll from his home at 21 Place Vendôme. The Eiffel Tower was to be the central attraction at the Exposition Universelle that opened on May 6, 1889, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Bastille Day. Thirty-two million people attended the fair to witness the wonders of the time. Buffalo Bill Cody and His Wild West Show performed, featuring Sioux Indians and sharpshooter Annie Oakley. Barnum and Bailey's Circus thrilled attendees with exotic animals, daredevil acrobats, and trapeze artists. Thomas Edison was there displaying his electrical wonders. Charles Garnier, designer of the famous Paris Opera

House, contributed with a *History of Habitation* exhibit. George Eastman introduced flexible rolled film on April 6.

It was certainly a remarkable time to be in Paris. But, unbeknownst to the public, a tragedy was unfolding across the continent. Two weeks after the Fair closed on October 31, 1889, the first case of what came to be called the “Russian Flu” or *la grippe* (from the French for seizure) infected a person in Paris. By the end of the year, the city was in a panic. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* described the symptoms in Paris as “high fever, with chills, pains in head, back and limbs... Everyone afflicted [has] distaste for all kinds of nourishment, solid and liquid... Usually the patient is convalescent at the end of the sixth day. However, convalescence is very slow, and for days, even weeks, [the patient] cannot eat and has hardly strength enough to speak.” James Campbell caught that flu in January 1890. One of his obituaries reads, “...[the flu] was followed by congestion of the lungs and pneumonia, and he lingered on the verge of death for several months. He then rallied a little from the extreme prostration, but only to experience a fatal relapse, attended with great suffering.” James died on July 13, 1890.

The first reported case of the grippe was in May 1889 in the far eastern regions of the Russian Empire. This was the first modern flu. Because of the Industrial Revolution, human contact increased and allowed the flu to spread faster. It followed major roads, rivers and railway lines and raged across Europe. By the time the epidemic ended in December 1890 (with periodic flare-ups over the next four years), it is estimated 1 million people died worldwide, out of a population of nearly 1.5 billion. The U.S. death toll was 13,000, out of a population of 60 million.

It is not known for certain what agent was responsible for

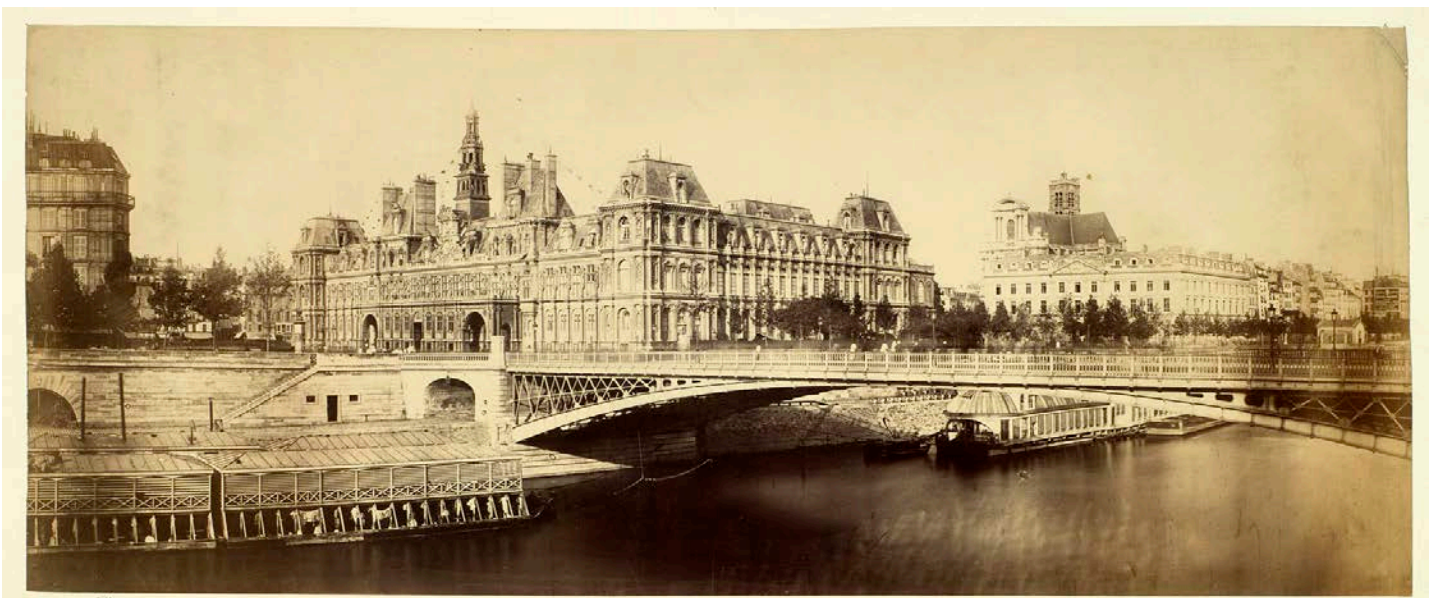


(top) Paris Opera House: In 1860, French Emperor Napoleon III commissioned the building of a new opera house for Paris. Architect Charles Garnier based his building design on 17th and 18th century Italian and French villas. After opening in 1875, l’Opera became a center of Parisian social life and for this reason, the passages, halls, foyers and staircases occupy a far larger area than the theatre itself.

(bottom) Hôtel de Ville and the Pont d’Arcole: Originally built in the 16th century and expanded in the 17th century, this building has housed Paris’ municipal government since its construction. This photo shows the original building before it was destroyed in the Paris Commune of 1871 and subsequently rebuilt between 1873 and 1892. The St. Louis City Hall is modeled on the Hôtel de Ville.

James Campbell visited Paris at three periods in his life—during the families’ Grand Tour in 1867–68, after his graduation from Yale between 1883–85, and 1888–90. Both of these images are taken from the Campbells’ photos albums, which preserve hundreds of images from their travels.

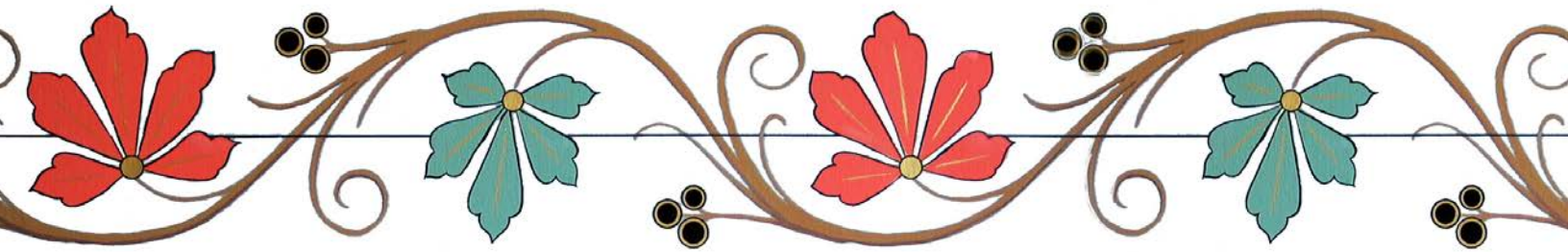
the pandemic. Beginning the 1950s, it was conjectured to be Influenza A. However, there is current research that speculates that it was not an influenza virus at all, but rather a coronavirus, with symptoms and prognosis similar to what is seen in today’s COVID-19.



CAMPBELL HOUSE FOUNDATION

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From the Archives

Robert and Virginia Campbell's youngest adult son **James Alexander Campbell** died in Paris in 1890 of "La Grippe" or influenza. His death in France required multiple documents and certificates to return his body to St. Louis for burial and to settle his estate, including the two pictured here. The French document reads:

The year 1890, the 14th of July, in the afternoon, James Alexander Campbell was found dead, age thirty years, born in St. Louis, State of Missouri, (United States) died in his home at 21 Place Vendôme, the 13th of July during 3:15 at night. Son of Robert Campbell and Virginia Jane Kyle his spouse, both deceased. Single. Acting for us, Hubert Victor Danouse, assistant to the mayor, officer of the civil state of the first arrondissement of Paris took the public statement of Percy Simmons, age 23 years and Alfred Gynes, age 22 years, both servants at 21 Place Vendôme, who both signed with us after reading. Signed: Simmons, Gynges and V. Danouse.

For true copy. Paris, the 18th of July 1890. The Mayor, H.V. Danouse.



Il Campbell 29 92/11

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE (M. N° 2015. — H. T.)
LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ
Préfecture du Département de la Seine

Regist. N° 553
Campbell

EXTRAIT des minutes des Actes de État
à arrondissement
Année 1890

ÉTAT CIVIL

Il est et pour le présent extrait.
Savoir :
Né le 14 1860
Droit d'expatriation 1 30
Total 1 30

Monsieur — La légalisation coûte 0.25 fr. en sus des frais de timbre.

L'an mil huit cent quatre vingt-dix le quatorze juillet à midi. acte de décès de : James Alexander, Campbell, âgé de trente ans, rentier, né à Saint Louis, Etat du Missouri, (Etats-Unis) décédé en son domicile place Vendôme 21, le treize juillet courant à une heure trois quarts du soir. Fils de : Robert Campbell, 14 de Virginia, Jane, Kyle son épouse, tous deux décédés. Colobataire. Domicilié par nous Hubert Victor Danouse, adjoint au maire, officier de l'état-civil etc. premier arrondissement de Paris, officier de M. Brochart, médecin sur la déclaration de Percy Simmons, âgé de vingt-trois ans, et de Alfred Gynes, âgé de vingt-deux ans, tous deux domestiques demeurant place Vendôme 21, qui ont signé avec nous après lecture. Signé: Simmons, Gynges et V. Danouse.

Pour copie conforme:
Paris, le 13 juillet 1890
Le Maire:

No. 19433 HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS,
No. 301 MOTT STREET,
New York July 24 1890
Permission is hereby given to remove the remains
of James A. Campbell
Occupation, Rentier Age 30
Place of Death, Paris France Place of Birth, St. Louis Mo
Cause of Death, La Grippe
To be interred in
St. Louis Mo
for Interment.
W. H. G. B. Registrar of Records.