



Oak Leaf

A Publication of the AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Insert:
Afternoon Tea flyer

Oakland House:

The place to be on the 4th of July!

On July 4th, the Affton Historical Society sponsored another successful patriotic breakfast to celebrate our nation's independence. Oakland supporters and friends, decked out in their finest red, white & blue, enjoyed a delicious and bountiful brunch catered by Orlando's which included eggs, hash browns, biscuits & gravy, breakfast meats, fresh fruit and pastries.

The Oakland grounds never looked more festive, with flags prominently displayed at every turn... on the gates, in the flower beds and planters, along the walks and on the tables. Lively music filled the air... only broken by laughter and applause when Lucy Johnson made her first appearance back at Oakland after having taken a few near-fatal dance steps in the dark. Lucy was all smiles, as usual, on the arm of her son.



Many thanks to Sharon Yaeger who cheerfully and expertly handled the raffle, netting \$118 for Oakland and \$118 for the lucky winner. As usual, Jerriann Blassie and her crowd came ready to celebrate, arriving in the style in their lovely touring car.

Thanks so much to our wonderful volunteers! Another successful 4th of July Breakfast has gone off with a *bang* - and we couldn't have done it without all of you.

May we never fail to come out to celebrate our freedom. Let's keep the July 4th spirit with us every day of the year.



AHS Fall Membership Meeting

Sunday, October 23, 2022

Luncheon 12:30 p.m. Meeting 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Program: NiNi Harris - Oldest St. Louis

Bring your favorite side dish and enjoy the company of other members of the Affton Historical Society for a pot luck luncheon, with meeting and program to follow. Drinks and desserts are provided. During the meeting, a slate of Executive Board Officers and Directors for 2023 will be presented for approval. Mark your calendar to join us on October 23.

Open Houses for 2022

Beautiful Oakland House will be open to the public on the following Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

August 21 ~ September 18 ~ October 16

Free to members \$10.00 for the general public

2022 Open Luncheons

Thursday, August 11 Thursday, October 13
Wednesday, September 21 Thursday, November 3

These luncheons are open to everyone and provide a wonderful opportunity to meet up with friends, celebrate a special event or just treat yourself. The menu varies with the season and includes salad, entree, dessert and coffee or tea.

Oakland House tours, given by a docent in period dress, are at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch, which is served at noon. The cost is \$22.00 per person and includes the tour. Please make your reservations 2 weeks in advance by calling:

Jean McDaniel at (314) 821-7166.

Please note: Private Luncheons can be booked for groups of 15-56. Call Jean McDaniel at (314) 821-7166 to reserve a date for your next gathering.



Ladies of Oakland Meetings



The Ladies of Oakland meet at 1:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. Refreshments are served, and there's always an interesting speaker or other entertainment.

Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss any of these events:

August 16, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Barnes Bradshaw

"The Life & Tragic Death of Elijah Lovejoy"

September 20, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Barnes Bradshaw - "The Civil War Comes to St. Louis:

The Camp Jackson Affair"

October 18, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Doug Schneider - "Haunted Places in St. Louis"

November 15, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Barbara Kay - "Amelia Earhart"

Fun for everyone! Bring a friend!

Nancy Harmon, President, Ladies of Oakland

Reminder: Food Pantry Donations Needed! At their monthly meetings, the Ladies of Oakland collect food to donate to the Affton Food Pantry. Please consider bringing a donation to every Ladies meeting to help families in need in our community.



Please join us for the
**Ladies of Oakland
Annual Afternoon Tea**
Thursday, September 29
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
\$35.00 per person

Reservations are required and limited.
"First come, first served" - No Reserved Seats

Our program will feature **Linda Spall**
portraying Victorian author **Kate Chopin**.

Return the enclosed form today to reserve your spot!

Many thanks to "Shutterbug"
Nancy Herndon-Ulrich
who provided photos for this issue.



We appreciate your financial support!

Many Thanks to deSmet Level Donors:

Becky Cox • Christie Dennison • Beverly Frasher
Nancy Harmon • Gabrielle Highstein • Freda Jacks
Bert & Elizabeth Barry • Roger & Patricia Gray
Robert & Lucy Johnson • Abigail F. Lambert
Dick & Sandy Nieman • Winthrop & Heidi Reed

Special Thanks to Barnett Level Donors:

Francois Barry • Anthony & Patience Battisti
Barnes & Donna Bradshaw
Kevin O'Bannon • Florence Rice

Many Special Thanks to Chopin Level Donor:

Jeanette Bumb

Extra-Special Thanks to Brookings Level Donors:

Charles & Fran Mantler

Super-Special Thanks to Faris Level Donors:

Elliot & Linda Benoist

Around the House: *The Benoist China*

We're excited to report that more Benoist china has been returned to Oakland. One day in March, Abigail F. Lambert delivered several accessory pieces and two sizes of dinner plates, adding to our set of matching monogrammed china that Louis and his wives used at the city house and at Oakland when they decided to live there year-round. Abigail's mother, Abigail R. Lambert, provided this back story:

Some 55 years ago, young Abigail R. had been given permission to marry Jarvis Lambert even though he wasn't Catholic, probably because he "hung out" with her cousin, Father Faris. Abigail was not invited to join them for the several weeks of religious instruction Jarvis received from Faris, so she suspects the sessions were also serving as a chance to get to know Jarvis to determine if he would make a suitable match for Abigail. Father Faris was the son of Clemence Benoist Faris, the eldest daughter of Louis and Sarah Benoist. Clemence's portrait hangs in Oakland's parlor today. The china had been left in Father Faris' care when his mother passed on.

The story goes that Father Faris was quite satisfied with Jarvis Lambert, so he packed up his mother's prized family china in a crate and sent it to Jarvis, not to Abigail. The china was put high on a shelf in the Lambert's new house where it remained for years. Abigail is such a good-natured, happy woman that she laughs every time she tells the story of how her cousin sent the family china to her new husband.

Note from Nancy Herndon-Ulrich: *We are getting closer and closer to setting Louie's table once again. We still need cups, saucers, silverware and his table; we have the chairs. I wonder what the cups look like, or if any still exist. It is so much fun to witness the return of the Benoist artifacts.*

Watch for more treasures and their stories in upcoming issues of *The Oak Leaf*.



2022

Executive Board

Nancy Herndon-Ulrich
President

Becky Cox
Vice President

Mary Jane Austry
Treasurer

Steve Slayden
Recording Secretary

Darryl Eaves
Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Harmon
President
Ladies of Oakland

2022

Board of Directors

Bert Barry
Barnes Bradshaw
Shirley Brinker
Ingrid Giddings
Mary Kirschman
Joan Komlos
Phillip Tafta

Pam Danklef
Membership Chair

Rosie Miller
Event Coordinator

Mary Kirschman
Publicity Chair

Patti Behlmann
Oak Leaf Editor

*The Board meets at
Oakland House at 7:00 p.m.
on the 2nd Thursday
of each month from
January through November.*

Members are welcome!

In Memoriam:

We extend our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of
Marie Elizabeth Benoist Igleheart
who passed away on July 12, 2022.

Betty was perhaps our oldest active Benoist family member.
She was a proud member of the Society and a generous
contributor to the Tower Restoration Project.

Betty was very excited to attend the Tower party
and loved to entertain us with her stories.

We will miss her.



??? History Question ???

April History Question:

The Benoist family plot is circular and covers 6,000 square feet in Section #17 of Calvary Cemetery. What did the plot cost in 1867?

Answer: The cost of the Benoist family plot in 1867 was \$1,350.00. Wow... but it is impressive!

History Question for July:

When was running water brought into Oakland?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.OAKLANDHOUSEMUSEUM.org



Bits & Pieces



St. Louis is truly a generous community!

There is no greater evidence of this fact than the recent outpouring of support for local non-profits shown on the ninth annual **Give STL Day**. The May 5th event generated over \$4.2 million in the form of 31,258 individual gifts to 1,024 deserving non-profit organizations. The **Affton Historical Society** participated again this year and profited \$275.13. Many thanks to the donors who remembered AHS in their charitable giving plans. Watch for the next **Give STL Day** in May 2023.



If you're already making purchases at Amazon.com, why not direct a portion of your purchase to be donated to AHS? It's easy. Just sign on at **smile.amazon.com** and register to make Affton Historical Society your charity of choice. Then, every time you shop, be sure to sign in through **smile.amazon.com**. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to AHS. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you already know, with the same products, prices and service - but with the added benefit of helping charitable organizations. Support AHS by starting your online shopping at **smile.amazon.com**.



Membership Notes:

Please contact Membership Chair Pam Danklef at (314) 842-0149, (314) 503-6401 or jpdanklef@aol.com if:

- you are not receiving monthly e-mail updates on "Oakland House Museum Happenings"
- your membership information is incorrect or incomplete

AHS Annual Membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. Haven't yet paid for 2022? It's never too late. Use the form below to **RENEW TODAY!**



Date _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____ CHECK CASH
(circle one)

New Member? Yes No Renewing Member? Yes No

Any changes in membership information? Yes No

PLEASE PRINT -

Name	E-mail address
Address	City
Home Phone	Cell Phone
State	Zip
Phone Publication Preference (circle one)	
HOME CELL BOTH	

Memberships Available:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> George I. Barnett Level \$101 - \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Clemence Benoist Faris Level \$501 - \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$45 | <input type="checkbox"/> Kate Chopin Level \$151 - \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Wilson Benoist Level \$1,001 - \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father de Smet Level \$46 - \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Brookings Level \$251 - \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Louis Auguste Benoist Level \$2,501 + |



Membership Directory Updates

Please welcome the following new members and add their contact information to your 2022 Membership Directory:

BURGESS, Cynthia 314-756-7075
144 Martigney Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129
ckamb2017@gmail.com

LEMP, Kent & Gloria 314-487-9858
5127 Reynosa Drive, St. Louis, MO 63128
kentlemp@gmail.com

ROSMANITZ, John & Paula 314-581-9173
10827 Atterbury Drive, St. Louis, MO 63123
prosmanitz@swbell.net

STEGMANN, Dave & Deanna 951-538-0621
4883 Sierra View Place, Imperial, MO 63052
stegmann4883@gmail.com

WHITLOCK, Keith & Tamara 314-369-2592
1282 Fenton Meadow Court, Fenton, MO 63026
tamaramich@hotmail.com & khwhitlock@hotmail.com

And please make the following changes or updates:

BARRY, Francois (new address)
1655 Sixth Avenue #306, Huntington, WV 25703

BENOIST, Patricia (new address)
18323 Sonterra Place #5402, San Antonio, TX 78258

EAVES, Darryl (correct email) doc2u06@sbcglobal.net

HOLTMAN, Dee (new address & phone) 636-495-9005
15826 Clayton Road #259, Ellisville, MO 63011

KALISH, Jerry (new address)
9916 Reavis Road #119, St. Louis, MO 63123

ROEDER, Judy (add email) jarder44@aol.com

