

# Museums eNews | April 2014

Kappa Kappa Gamma  
FOUNDATION



## SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

You'll notice our banner photos have changed. Despite snow in the middle of April, both museums are enjoying flower beds filled with hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, and the bright green leaves of irises. Once that magnolia in front of the Stewart House starts to bloom, the house will be shrouded in cool shade and beautiful pink and white blossoms. We hope the April issue of the Museums eNews finds you enjoying the beauty of spring, wherever you are!

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## Contact Us!

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE STEWART HOUSE DIRECTOR



Spring has finally arrived! Just since the new banner photo was taken, the magnolia tree by the front door has burst into bloom; the tulips and jonquils have added color; and the trees, bushes and grass in shades of green have combined to backdrop Stewart House beautifully. The new white paint and new copper roof are shown off to perfection.

Just recently the members of Alpha Deuteron Chapter held a Victorian “Love and Loyalty,” to which they invited local alumnae and the members of Eta Kappa Chapter from Knox College over in Galesburg. Some of the members came to The Stewart House before party time and made tea sandwiches, decorated some desserts, made punch, arranged everything on serving pieces before

setting them on the table. Former Fraternity President Kay Smith Larson, *Washington*, gave some lovely silver pieces that were used and greatly admired during the tea.

At the moment, preparations are underway for several events including a recognition ceremony for seniors from Alpha Deuteron Chapter, an open house during Monmouth College’s Golden Scots alumni weekend, and the wedding and reception of Museums Committee member Michelle Merritt, *Monmouth*.

There have been enough brick orders received so that we are able to take them to the engraver and then place them in the patio. It takes an order of at least 12 bricks, before the bricks can be engraved —so keep those brick orders coming.

I hope you’ll come by and visit soon. Good wishes to all!

*Jane*

*Jane Warfield is the Director of The Stewart House in Monmouth, Illinois. For tour appointments or rental opportunities, Jane can be reached at (309) 734-5154 or [thestewarhouse@frontiernet.net](mailto:thestewarhouse@frontiernet.net)*

## BIG PLANS!

The Museums Committee wrapped up their annual meeting on Sunday, March 30—refreshed, exhausted, thrilled and filled with dreams of a bright museums future. The committee meets annually and alternates between The Stewart House in Monmouth and The Snowden-Gray House in Columbus. The agenda is always expertly crafted by chairman Julie Mangis, *George Washington*, and is packed to the gills with business and a bit of fun here and there.

This year the committee reviewed all the usual documents that are required for running efficient, effective, legal and financially sound museums. The most exciting document to be reviewed was the Museums Long Range Plan, which was drafted in 2011 and maps our goals for the museums through the Fraternity's Sesquicentennial in 2020. What an affirming exercise to move the completed projects to an appendix at the end of the document and to brainstorm new projects that can be added to the list! One brilliant suggestion from the committee is to redouble our efforts to collect oral histories for the archives. Be on the lookout in case you are asked for your story or to help us gather the stories of others.

The even-year meetings always include a lengthy discussion about Convention. The Museums Committee will have three exhibits at the 2014 Convention in Houston, as well as several workshops, and a breakfast to celebrate and thank members of the Friends of the Museums. We hope you'll join us in Houston, but, if you cannot be there, keep an eye on the Museums eNews for updates to come!



**2012-2014 Museums Committee, 1st Row Left to Right:** Hilary Miller Tomaino, *Washington and Jefferson*; Julie Martin Mangis, *George Washington*; Edith Petersilia Mayo, *George Washington*; Phyllis White Geeslin, *Indiana*. **2nd Row Left to Right:** Jane Warfield; Diane Miller Selby, *Ohio State*; Denise Rugani, *UC Davis*; Carol Macari Bowman, *Monmouth*; Gail Simpson Owen, *Monmouth*; Susannah Erck Howard, *Florida State*; Kylie Towers Smith, *Simpson*.



Members of The Heritage Museum Committee hosted members of The Museums Committee for a tour of Columbus with Ed Lentz, Executive Director of the Columbus Landmarks Foundation. The tour included the Town Franklin Historic District where The Heritage Museum is located as well as other historic neighborhoods throughout the city. After hearing about the storied past of Columbus and seeing how the city skillfully incorporates preservation and education at historic sites, the Museums Committee is inspired to expand educational programming that highlights the proud history of The Stewart House Museum and The Snowden-Gray House.

## THE FRESHNESS OF YOUTH



Everyone can agree that museums can often use a bit of youthful energy every now and then. Since the opening of The Heritage Museum's doors in 1980, interns have been hired for the summer to assist with projects and gain valuable training. The internship is named for The Heritage Museum's first director, Catherine Schroeder Graf, *Ohio State*. During a Convention year, the Catherine Schroeder Graf Heritage Museum Intern assists with the exhibit(s) taken to Convention and then chooses a project for the remainder of the summer. Previous interns have scripted exhibits for Headquarters, researched Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her potential influence on the Founders of Kappa Kappa Gamma, and created a display on early editors of *The Key* and the role of women in journalism.

Megan Martinko, a junior at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio, has been hired as the 2014 Catherine Schroeder Graf Heritage Museum Intern. Megan brings a great variety of experience and interest in history, exhibit interpretation, research and alternative display methods. She will begin work in Columbus on June 1 and will complete the twelve-week program in August. Please join us in welcoming Megan and the breath of fresh air she'll bring to the museums!

## SEE YOU THERE?

The Convention Registration deadline is May 15, 2014 and we hope to see you there!! The Foundation Museums Committee has big plans for Convention, including a breakfast to thank folks like YOU! If you're going to Convention and are a Friend of the Museums at the Partner level (\$250+) you will receive an invitation to the Museums Breakfast. Let us know if you have any questions about your Friends of the Museums membership. See you there!!



## DETAILED NOTES

When a copy of *The History of Kappa Kappa Gamma, 1870–1930*, by May C. Whiting Westerman, *Nebraska*, arrived at Fraternity Headquarters a few months ago, we were excited to receive another copy of this lengthy volume that documents Kappa history in amazing detail. The signatures on the inside of the cover of some of Kappa's most famous leaders are precious but not entirely out of the ordinary. We have several volumes with similar signatures, as an autograph party at Convention where the books were sold was quite common. However, while looking at the book more closely, we found detailed notes and quotes that were taken by the book's owner, Harriette Kratzer, *Cornell*, during a speech given by Kappa Founder, Martha Louisa (Lou) Stevenson, *Monmouth*, at the 1936 Convention at the Seignory Club in Quebec, Canada.

We've always known that Lou had a quick wit and a devilish sense of humor, but the direct quotes written by Harriette take us back to the 1936 Convention and make us feel as though we're sitting in the front row. Lou's comments include the known assertion that Founder Susan Burley Walker was the most beautiful in all of Monmouth. She mentions the night the charter was signed at Minnie Stewart's house and tells a version slightly different than the one we hear so frequently. She even jokes about her own misgivings as a mischievous young woman on the prairie in Monmouth.

So the next time you're tempted to jot down notes during the speech of some luminary, consider doing it in a history book. And make it detailed ... future archivists and historians will thank you!

