



MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

As we begin to look to the new year, it is especially important that we continue facing the challenges of preserving our area's rich heritage and maintaining the character of the beautiful 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum. The Historical Society is funded entirely by grants, admissions, events, and the contributions of its members—we receive no local, state, or federal monies. To continue our work, the Board of Directors would like to encourage you to become a member of the Westport Historical Society. Your membership dues will go a long way toward helping us continue to offer free programs and cover annual operating expenses. If you are not a member, we hope you will consider joining. If you are a past member, we hope you will consider rejoining.

A membership application may be found on our website www.westporthistorical.com, or at the museum. Thank you to all current members for viewing the society and museum as worthy of your financial support.

Finally, we hope everyone (including life members, who, of course, owe nothing in annual dues) might consider a contribution to our "2022 Capital Campaign." Although we are aggressively applying for grants, the foundations which help non-profits want to see evidence of successful local fund-raising. In essence, the \$25, \$50 or \$200 you might donate to us can unlock the door to thousands more in grant money. If you wish, please combine your membership dues and any donation on one check, made out to the Westport Historical Society, and mail it to 4000 Baltimore, KCMO, 64111, or you may pay online.

Thank you for your support. Visit our museum soon.

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to our members and friends. As we listen to the bells ring out the old year and ring in 2022, hug your loved ones tightly before beginning to walk through the new year as we do not know where that walk may lead. The Board of Directors, the Executive Board of the Westport Historical Society, and the Staff at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House wish you the Best, Happiest, and Brightest New Year.

Closed for the Winter

The Mansion House will be closed through March 4, 2022, at which time, the museum will reopen at 1 p.m. for history tours. CIVIL WAR WEDNESDAY will recommence on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 11 am. If your group would like to book a group tour or a special event during January and February 2022, please call 913-231-6749 for reservations.

Word of the month: MOTIVATION: a force, stimulus, drive, or influence that causes us to do something.
Used in a sentence: Preserving local history is my motivation for joining the Westport Historical Society.

Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

German Chocolate Cookies (1878)

[They have German origins. They are chocolate. But they are not "German Chocolate"]

1 stick butter	½ t salt
1 C sugar	½ t cinnamon
1 egg	3 T cocoa
½ C milk	2 t baking powder
2 C flour	1 t vanilla

Cream butter and sugar together. Beat egg and mix with butter and sugar. Add milk and mix well. Separately, sift flour with all remaining dry ingredients, then mix. Add vanilla. Make soft dough, adding more flour just dry enough to handle. Put mixture in ice box until chilled (30 minutes). Heavily flour cutting board and chilled rolling pin. Roll to ¼" thick. Cut 3" circular cookies using floured rim of a chilled water glass. Place on un-greased cookie sheet. Being careful not to burn underside of cookies, evenly bake at 350 degrees for no more than 8 to 10 minutes. Once cooled, frost.

German Chocolate Cookies Icing

2 C powdered sugar	½ t vanilla
2 T butter	Little milk
Dash salt	

Melt butter slightly; mix with other ingredients until completely mixed. Ice cookies.

Recipe of Mary Kinzle (Mrs. Edward Bischofsberger)

These chocolate cookies were first made in my 3rd Great Grandmother Bishofsberger's Kansas City kitchen by 1878, and have been made every Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday in our family for nearly 150 years . . . over seven generations.

My mother, Marcia Ann Campbell, was her grandmother's first/eldest granddaughter. As an infant, Marcia, unable to say "Grandma," called her "San Mama." Annabelle Marie Lynn (Bishopberger-spelling changed in 1910) Ramsey was known for the rest of her life as "San Mama" by her grand, and later great grandchildren.

I was born on my Great Grandmother San Mama's Valentine birthday in 1969. She showed me how to make HER grandmother's cookies in 1982 for my middle school Home Economics class assignment. San Mama, like her mother, Anna (Kruger) Bishopberger, had always made the cookies from memory. Anna had learned the same way from her mother-in-law, Mary (Kinzle) Bischofsberger. That day, however, in San Mama's kitchen, she and I committed the "German Chocolate Cookie" recipe to paper.

Mary was Edward Bischofsberger's *third* wife. She raised Edward's four children from his second marriage to Maria Paulina "Pauline" (Husimeier) Bischofsberger, who died in Kansas City between December 1875 when Pauline's youngest child (my 2nd great grandfather, Arnold Bishopberger) was born, and 1878 when Edward married Mary.

We assembled all of our grandmothers' recipes into a family cookbook. For every woman represented with a recipe in the book, a short biography with photographs is also included that focuses on them either in their kitchens, gardens, or barn yards, or otherwise providing food for their families. *Recipes of our Past: Morsels from Our Grandmothers' Recipe Boxes* by David W. Jackson and Caroll A. Butler is available for \$20 on Amazon.com, along with Jackson's other local history titles. For more information, visit orderlypackrat.com.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

- BEER KC Restaurants:
Char Bar, Beer Kitchen,
Mickey's Hideway,
Port Fonda
- Mayor & Mrs. Richard Berkley
- Collins, Westphal & Kelp, Inc.
- Ann Creveling
- Ann Duer
- Jim & Caren Hall
- Harpo's
- Cynthia Higgins
- Marty Wiedenmann Jarvis
- Kelly's Westport Inn
- Crosby Kemper, III (Honorary)
- Dorine Lowell
- Olga Marr (Honorary)
- Patricia Cleary Miller
- Jude Montassir
- Steve and Marianne Noll
- Allin & Donna Phister
- L. Thorton & Erin Phister
- Thomas Platt
- Roger and Ann Robertson
- Beverly Shaw
- Torosian Fndn. / Jean Kiene
- Cooper Weeks
- Doris Yonker



UNCLE MARKS CORNER

So, what can you do when Christmas is over and you're left with a bare tree and needles all over the floor? Below are tips for disposing of your natural tree. These tips don't work for your artificial tree 😊

Replant your tree

If you have a live tree with roots, you can re-plant it back in your garden. Hang bird feeders from the branches to support our fine feathered friends.

Create a wildlife sanctuary

If you have a tree without the roots, you can chop the wood and make a haven for wildlife in a quiet place in your backyard. A small pile will provide shelter for hedgehogs, bugs, and insects.

Use it as firewood

Chop up your old Christmas tree to be used as firewood in your fireplace, or outside firepit.

Make it into fish food

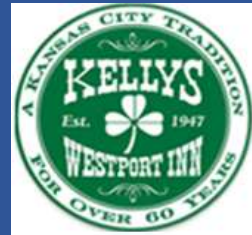
Submerge your Christmas tree in a pond or lake. As it decomposes, it will provide a habitat for fish and attract algae for them to eat.

Use the needles as mulch

Mulch your garden with the needles from the tree. This will help prevent soil erosion and the ground freezing over during cold spells.

Make potpourri

Fill a bowl with dried stems from your Christmas tree or use the fallen needles. Add a cinnamon stick, some cloves, nutmeg, and some lemon and orange rind, and you'll enjoy the festive scent for weeks to come.





**Your
Business
Logo
Nested
Here !**



I have lived in the Kansas City area for over 60 years and have explored it high and low. The land has grown from its humble beginning to become an international city of over 2 million people. In recent years I have taken to rediscovering some of Kansas City's past, as it migrated from the Westport Landing and moved up the hill, and actually removing the hills. Join me as I take you through my eyes and my paint to the city that once was.



SPECIAL ART EXHIBIT

May 6 – July 2, 2022

Finding a Higher Ground

Forgotten treasures of Kansas City

by R. Gregory Summers

Kansas City's past comes to life as artist R. Gregory Summers paints long forgotten KC landmarks and events.

From the early settlers at the start of the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails to the "Roaring 20's" Kansas City was the place to be, and captured in these paintings are select moments in time as reimagined from old black and white photos by nationally renowned artist R. Gregory Summers.

Shown for the first time, see the collection in its entirety this spring as the Westport Historical Society brings us "Finding a Higher Ground" at the Harris Kearney House Museum.

More information will be included on our website, Facebook page, community calendars, and emails, beginning in February.

Images credit to R. Gregory Summers website

<https://rgregorysummers.com/>



A **wardrobe** or **armoire** is a standing closet used for the purpose of storing clothes.

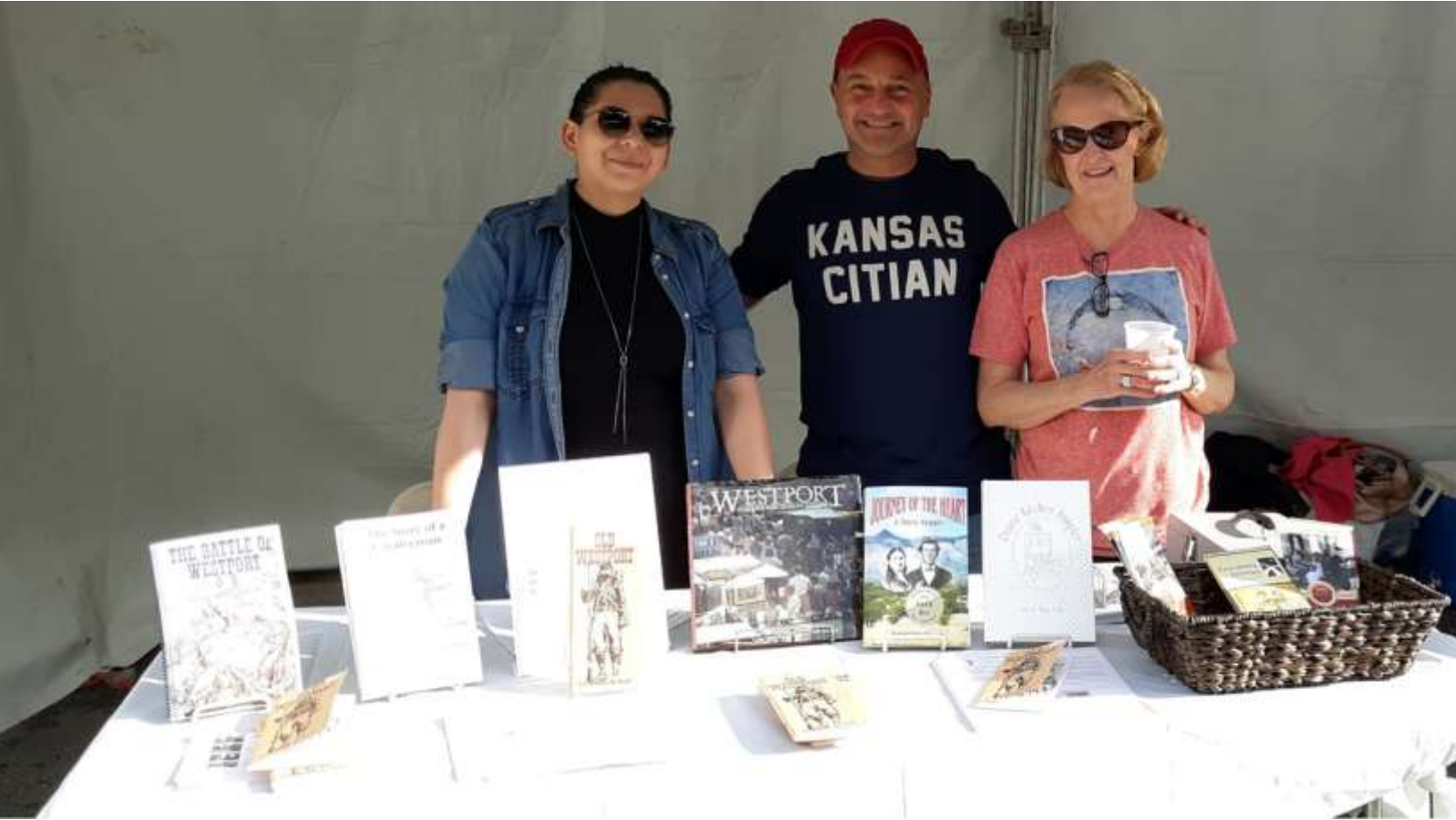
The inside of the unit contains linear compartments with shelves and a space made up of hanging pegs and drawers. Some armoires had doors with mirrors, others had doors with ornate inlays, moldings, or carvings, some were very plain.

Early in the 19th century armoires were crafted from Oak, and later Walnut became the material of choice. Traditionally, an armoire is wider than a grown man's arm span. One of the armoires at the Mansion House dates to the 1860's and is an excellent example of a 19th century handcrafted piece of furniture.

This particular armoire was made with a tongue and groove frame and panel doors—no nails. Another armoire is very ornate with doors containing mounted mirrors.

Please visit the 1855 Harris-Kearney House to view these beautiful armoires.

Did you know? A chifferobe, also spelled chifforobe or chiffarobe, offers more versatility to your storage needs while keeping the option to move the piece of furniture around as desired. Unlike the restrictive armoire that only allows you to hang your clothes, a chifferobe offers a series of drawers and shelves as well as a side reserved for hanging clothing.



Help Wanted at the Westport Historical Society:

- Treasurer -- Board member --Executive Director
- Docents and other volunteers **FOUR HOURS A WEEK**
we practice safe social distancing
(Th, F, or Sat, 1-5 p.m.)

**If you are interested, or you would like more information, e-mail Alana Smith
westporthistorical@gmail.com, or call (913) 648-0952**



**Westport Historical Society
Harris-Kearney House
4000 Baltimore
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 561-1821
westporthistorical.com**