



# MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## December Calendar

**December 7:** National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

**December 13:** Birthday of the United States National Guard. Established in 1635, the Guard is comprised of citizen soldiers who help the U.S. when called. Each of the fifty states as a National Guard.

**December 18:** Hanukkah, or the Jewish Festival of Lights, begins and lasts 8 days.

**December 21:** Winter solstice. Also known as mid-winter.

Wishing our members and friends who celebrate *Hanukkah* and *Kwanzaa* very meaningful and happy holidays.

The Executive Officers, and The Board of Directors of the Westport Historical Society, along with The Staff of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum wish you and your family a season of love, sharing, celebration, and joy: Merry Christmas

***IT'S SUGAR PLUM SUNDAY:***  
*A Celebration of the Winter Holidays*

AT THE  
1855 HARRIS-KEARNEY HOUSE  
Please join us for holiday treats, a cup of festive cheer,  
Joyful music, and friends from far and near  
During a Holiday Open House

**Sunday, December 11**  
**2:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO  
RSVP requested, but not mandatory, to  
[westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com) by Monday, December 4

## Decorated for Christmas

**DECK THE HALLS FOR CHRISTMAS!** The Mansion House will be open for the annual Christmas Holiday Tours beginning on Saturday, November 5 through Wednesday, December 21. Please make a reservation for Group Tours of 10 or more. Mansion House staff will welcome guests to see the 19<sup>th</sup> century holiday décor and hear stories of Christmases past. This is a perfect way to share the season with friends and family. For more information, send an email to [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com), visit our website [www.westporthistorical.com](http://www.westporthistorical.com), or call 913-231-6749

## *Aunt Minerva's Kitchen*

### Roast Goose with Chestnut Stuffing

Wash and scrub a goose in hot soapsuds; then remove inside contents from the cavity. Wash in cold water and wipe. Stuff, (recipe below), truss, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and lay six thin strips of fat salt pork over breast. Place on rack in dripping-pan, put in hot oven, and bake two hours. Baste every fifteen minutes with fat in pan. Remove pork after the last half-hour of cooking. Place on platter, cut string and remove. Take out skewers. Garnish with watercress and bright red cranberries. Serve with apple sauce.

1/2 tablespoon finely chopped shallot  
1 cup chestnut purée  
1/3 cup stale breadcrumbs  
3 tablespoons butter  
1/2 tablespoon finely chopped parsley  
1/4 lb. sausage meat  
12 mushrooms, finely chopped  
24 French chestnuts cooked and left whole  
Salt and pepper

Cook shallot with butter for five minutes, add sausage meat, and cook two minutes, then add mushrooms, chestnut purée, parsley, and salt and pepper. Heat to boiling point, add breadcrumbs and whole chestnuts, and mix. Cool mixture before stuffing unroasted goose.

### UNCLE MARK'S CORNER

#### Omens

If snowflakes are large, the storm will end soon.

If there are small snowflakes, expect a heavy snowfall.

If snow continues to lie on the ground and melts slowly, it may be "waiting for another snowfall."

The number of days the first snow remains on the ground—3, 4, 3 etc.—foretells the number of deep snows due for the winter.

The number of days the moon is old—beginning from the date of the NEW MOON—when the first snow falls indicates the number of snows to expect for the winter.

If December 25<sup>th</sup>—Christmas Day—is a mild day, expect a heavy harvest for the coming year.

### COLORS OF CHRISTMAS

RED symbolizes fire, power, courage, and confidence

GREEN symbolizes youth and hope

WHITE symbolizes all that is pure

### Word of the Month

*Inspire*: to fill someone with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.

"Her passion for Shakespeare inspired Sheila to direct some of Shakespeare's most famous plays.

### 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)
- Patricia Cleary Miller
- Jude Montassir
- Steve and Marianne Noll
- Allin & Donna Phister
- L. Thorton & Erin Phister
- Stephen Platt
- Thomas Platt
- Roger and Ann Robertson
- Beverly Shaw
- Torosian Fndn. / Jean Kiene
- Cooper Weeks
- Doris Yonker

### Sponsor Members

Westport Land & Management, LLC

### Patron Members

Pat Wiedenmann  
Karen Bulk  
Charlotte Wornall Kirk  
Midwest Genealogy Center

### Business Members

See logos on the next page!



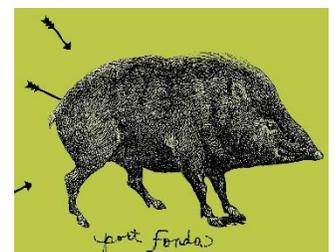
## IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

As we begin the new year, it is most important that we face the challenge 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 and the contributions of its members. To continue our work, the Board of Directors would like to encourage you to join the Westport Historical Society. Your membership dues 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 past members, we hope you will consider rejoining. A membership application may be found in this newsletter, on our website [www.westporthistorical.com](http://www.westporthistorical.com), or at the museum. If you are current members, thank you 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 and mail it to: 4000 Baltimore, KCMO, 64111

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



THE KANSAS CITY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



## ANTIQUÉ SPOTLIGHT

### Antique Brass or Bronze?

1. Antique brass is not magnetic.
2. Antique brass has golden undertones.
3. Antique brass will have natural imperfections due to age, use or cost in production. Expect scratches, oxidation, tarnish, and discoloration.
4. Antique brass will be very heavy.
5. Antique brass will have a vintage feel to it.

Antique brass is a mixture of copper, zinc, tin, and a small number of other elements. Brass is stronger than regular copper and it is less likely to crack or split. While it can get very shiny if it is polished, it generally has a nice matte look. Most antique brass items were made around the mid-18th century when Birmingham was a center for metalworking. In those days, aged brass was smooth, having been meticulously cleaned. Early brass items can usually be seen with a seam running along a side or edge. Before brass factories, all brass was worked by hand, and there was no way to get rid of the seam. By the mid-19th century, Birmingham had become the world leader in brassware. The Birmingham factory remained open until World War I. After the 19th century, brass started to get rougher. This is a good way of telling when a piece was made. There may also be maker's marks where the item was stamped.



## CHRISTMASTIDE

'Tis the season to be jolly and deck the halls with greens, red bows, and mistletoe, bake the Christmas cookies and breads, and wrap the presents in glittering papers and bows.

It is a time for family to share cherished memories and continue beloved traditions.

Sit before the crackling fire and watch the gently falling snowflakes, smell the hot cider and the roasting turkey, listen to Christmas music, taste the peanut brittle, and feel the love given with each heartfelt holiday greeting.

Celebrate with your family and embrace the beauty of the season.



## THE CHRISTMAS STOCKING

Today, children's stockings are hung by the chimney with care, but long ago, on Christmas Eve, children hung their stockings on the end of the bedstead. Early, early on Christmas morning, children found their bulging stockings. What a thrill it was to reach out for it in the darkness, pull it under the covers, clasp the contents with imagination running wild, until by dawn's early light it could be emptied out onto the bed and the wrappings furiously pulled off with glee. Oh, what fun to start the special day! There is much to recommend the custom of bedpost stockings. For one thing, the youngsters are always wide-awake Christmas morning long before the oldsters, so interestingly filled stockings can buy a much needed forty winks. For another, bedpost stockings can easily be hung at Grandma's too as Santa knows just where to find them. Give Bedpost Stockings a try and start a new tradition!

***Remember to ask Santa to fill your stocking with "Something to eat, something to wear, something to play with, and something to read."***



**Help Wanted at the Westport Historical Society:**

**-Docents and other volunteers (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**



**westporthistorical.com**

**(816) 561-1821**

**Westport Historical Society**

**Harris-Kearney House**

**4000 Baltimore**

**Kansas City, MO 64111**