

August 2020



# MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

The combination of businesses being required to temporarily shut down and people staying home has caused our local businesses, many of which are our business partners and sponsors, to suffer. Some of this will be temporary, but some business owners will be forced to shut down for good. Our local, state and federal governments are doing what they can in terms of financial relief and other initiatives, but that can only go so far and for so long. Ultimately, it's going to be up to us, the local communities and customers, to support the businesses which are so vital in our lives.

Supporting our local business is essential for the well-being of our economy. The businesses and the innovative people who operate them bring growth and innovation to our communities. Each business provides employment, promotes entrepreneurship opportunities, and supports the local economies, communities and neighborhoods.

The also care about their community. They know their customers by name; they are our neighbors and friends. They are what make our towns special and unique. Most businesses are feeling a financial strain right now, and are worried about the future, so help them out! If you need to buy something, try your local store first, order take out or delivery from your favorite local restaurants once a week. Purchase gift cards, for later use, from those businesses you frequent.

Or, just give a donation. Cash is always appreciated. Keeping our businesses up and running helps our communities and economies to survive.

Please take a look at our business partner list and, if possible, lend them your support.

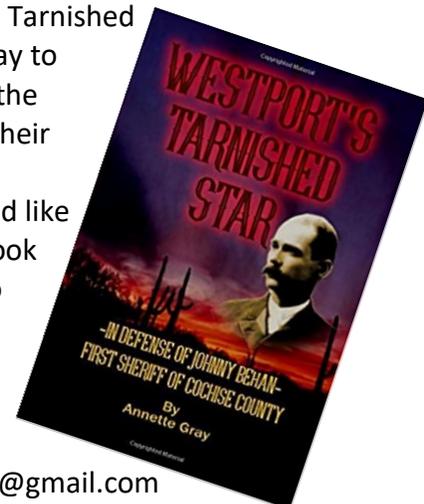
## NEW BOOK HAS ARRIVED

**WESTPORT'S TARNISHED STAR**, the new book by Annette Gray about John Harris Behan, one of the Harris' grandsons, is available for purchase in the Mansion House gift shop. Monica Dunbar-Smith from Tucson, Arizona said of the book: "What an eye-opening account of the 'real' story of Johnny Behan's life and of the notorious Tombstone shootout. The story begins with Johnny's life in Westport, MO, and the hardships he endured during the Civil War...

It tells the story of an outstanding American citizen and lawman who held many positions of responsibility throughout his life..." As Sheriff, he went up against Wyatt Earp and tried to stop the gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

Westport's Tarnished Star is a perfect way to learn more about the Harris family and their exciting grandson.

If you would like to purchase the book and have it sent to you, please send a request to ...



westporthistorical@gmail.com

## *Aunt Minerva's Kitchen*

Cucumbers are available year-round with a peak season from May through August. Although cucumbers can be cooked, they are most often eaten raw and made into crispy pickles. Choose cumpers with firm, smooth skins, devoid of any blemishes or soft spots. They can be stored in the ice box in a brown paper bag for up to ten days.

### Summer Cucumber Salad

2	English cucumbers	1/4	small onion, sliced thin
1/4	green bell pepper, sliced thin	1	clove garlic, smashed
1 cup	white vinegar	2/3 cup	cold water
4 T	white sugar	2 teaspoons	salt
1/2 t	ground black pepper		

Peel cucumbers and slice very thinly. Place the slices into a bowl with the sliced onion, bell pepper, and smashed garlic clove. In a bowl, stir remaining ingredients together. Pour over veggies and stir. Cover and place in ice box for at least 6 hours to overnight. Stir before serving.

### DETACHED KITCHEN

In keeping with the Southern tradition, the Harris family, from Madison County, Kentucky, built their Mansion House with a detached kitchen. It was located on the ground in back of the house along-side the servant quarters, the smoke house, the laundry, and the livery.

Whether attached or detached, the kitchen was the center of activity in the 19th century. The interior walls of the kitchen were painted a bright white, and the cooking was done on an open hearth in front of a large, open fireplace. The kitchen did not have running water, so buckets of water were carried from the well, a few yards outside the back door, to the kitchen. The root cellar, which housed the family's harvested fruits and vegetables, and milk from the day's milking, was located under or near the kitchen, for easy access.

Once food was prepared, it was delivered to the butler's pantry, inside the backdoor. There, the food was plated or put in serving dishes to be "passed through" to the dining room.

On your next visit to the mansion house, please view the kitchen artifacts exhibit. A few of the items are:

- Butter paddle and molds
- Biscuit cutter
- Hog scraper
- Biscuit pan
- Butter churn
- Coffee bean grinder
- Fruit and vegetable peeler
- Herbed vegetables in wax-sealed bottles



**Joe's  
Pizza**  
Buy the Slice



### EVENT SPACE RENTAL

The upper and lower galleries of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum may be rented for luncheons, parties, celebrations, receptions or meetings. The parlor or dining room may be rented for small weddings, and the Mansion House grounds may be rented for outdoor events.

For more information pricing, and availability, please send an email of inquiry to:  
[westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com)



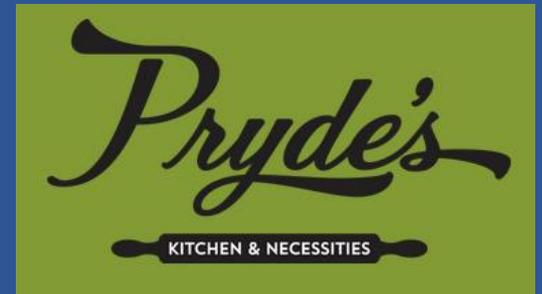
## UNCLE MARK'S CORNER

Mrs. Harris had peacocks running around the property, year-round, but believe me they were very difficult to care for during the summer months. If you only have cats and dogs, their care is much easier than taking care of peacocks.

When the temperature heats up, the dangers to our pets increase. To keep your dog, cat and other furry friends safe below are some things you need to consider:

1. Ticks carry a number of diseases, but symptoms are often hard to spot. Make sure to check your animals for ticks after they go outside. If your pet becomes tired, feverish, or lame, contact your vet.
2. Dehydration and heatstroke are very real threats to your pets. Make sure that they always have fresh, clean water available to them, as well as plenty of shade,
3. If your pets are going to be near a body of water or a pool, be sure to buy a floatation device for your dogs and cats, and even rabbits, to keep them safe—not all pets can swim.
4. Do not leave your pets in closed vehicles if the outside temperature is 65 degrees or higher. To do otherwise is a great health risk to your pets.
5. Check outside areas for snakes as a snake bite can be deadly to your pets.
6. When going for a walk with your pet, keep their feet off hot surfaces to avoid burns. Walk in the grass and in shaded areas.
7. Grooming your pets is very important during the summer months. Brush their fur more often to get rid of excess or matted fur which can cause overheating. Cutting excess fur is a good idea, too, but don't trim too closely as the coat protects from the hot, summer sun.
8. Picnic foods such as grapes, onions, garlic and raisins can be toxic to dogs if consumed in large quantities. Grapes and raisins are safe for cats, but keep onions and garlic away from them. Boneless chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs are OK for both, but limit them to small quantities. And only a taste of ice cream!!!

~[petcare.com](http://petcare.com)



## GOOD MANNERS

Once learned, good manners make everyone's life more pleasant. Families that learn to practice good manners function more smoothly, are happier, and experience reduced conflicts and more positives in their day-to-day lives. If children have well-practiced, good manners, they're going to be well accepted, as good manners are one of the road maps for success.

1. Treat others as you would like to be treated and thank them for the little, unexpected things they do.
2. Turn the phone off during meals, movies, classes, and conversations. This includes texting. Bottom line: Give 100% attention to the people you are physically with. The phone has a voice mail feature, use it.
3. Teach children to write thank you notes for gifts or acts of kindness. Nothing elaborate is necessary, but the effect is always memorable.
4. Open doors for others. Considerate door holders open door for their peers, their parents, grandparents, and strangers. They also yield the sidewalk and hold the elevator. Good manners always say, "After you."
5. Teach children that please and thank you are always welcome in conversation. Simple but powerful. Help your children to make it a habit.
6. Children should learn to shake hands, to make eye contact, and to offer a word of welcome when they meet new people or when others visit their home. First impressions make big impacts now and in the future.
7. Teach children to offer to "do" for others when presented with the opportunity. Make it routine. This is a key lesson, no matter what a child's age.
8. Teach children to be respectful of others, no matter who they may be: grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, teachers, parents, ministers, teachers, friends, employee at a store, etc.
9. Family dinners can be a perfect opportunity to teach and practice good manners. Demonstrate, model, question, prompt. No TV, no phones, and no distractions from polite interaction. The family unit is the most important venue to learn social graces and family mealtimes are the perfect togetherness time.

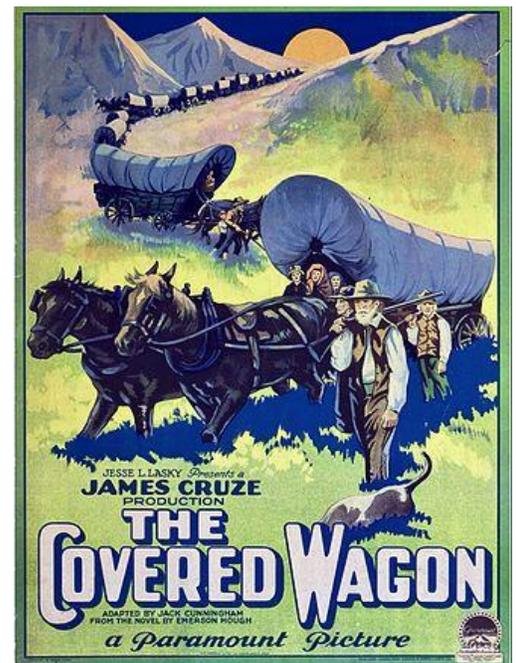
~TEACH YOUR CHILDREN GOOD MANNERS, author unknown

## THE COVERED WAGON

If you are looking for something new to watch while you are spending extra time at home, may we suggest you find a copy of and watch THE COVERED WAGON. It is a movie released by Paramount Pictures in 1923. The story comes from a novel, of the same name, by Emerson Hough, and was adapted for the screen by Jack Cunningham. Starring Lois Wilson and J. Warren Kerrigan, the movie lets you experience the thrill of pioneer days: the hopes, the fears, the loves of the men and women who struck out in the great open spaces. Jumping off from West Port, MO on their way to the Great Western lands, these pioneers faced countless menaces of the undeveloped lands whither they were bound. "Not a false whisker in the film," claimed James Cruze, director of this epic movie that is presented with an added Gaylord Carter score, performed on a magnificent Wurlitzer organ. Cruze's meticulous recreation of the pioneering West features breath taking locations, a cast of 3,000, including 1,000 Native Americans, genuine Conestoga wagon, horses, oxen, and more.

This epic tale of rolling wagons thrilled silent era audiences, some of whom remembered cattle stampedes, wilderness campfires, and the challenge of moving West. It also led the movies into new territory. THE COVERED WAGON's massive scale and authentic detail influenced many subsequent westerns, historical sagas, and documentaries.

P.S. The novel is a fun read, as well!





Westport Historical Society seeks volunteers:

--Treasurer

--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



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