

THE DISCOVERY PAPERS

Journal of the Westport Time Travelers

Live at the Manse

Time to return to in person activities at the Harris-Kearney House. We are open Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Music on the Green

Every Saturday in June and July from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. there will be musical performances of American, Irish, folk, patriotic, and soft rock music. Bring a lawn chair along with a picnic and jam on the lawn!

World Doll Day

Westport Historical Society is hosting an Open House for World Doll Day on June 12, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., as part of their annual doll exhibit. The 2021 theme is "Show Me Missouri in Dolls," in celebration of Missouri's Bicentennial. Explore the exhibit and draw inspiration for the History Contest. There will be details about the Contest and the prizes from our partners.



Preservation Month

May is Preservation Month! One of the many amazing preservation stories in Missouri is Watkins Woolen Mill, near Kearney, Missouri. This amazing place produced woolen goods in the 19th century, from raising the sheep to selling the woven fabric and blankets. The mill workers lived on site in housing provided by Mr. Watkins, along with a church and a school.

Thanks to a drop in the prices and demand for their products, Mr. Watkins' sons walked out of the mill and locked the door. Decades later a small group of preservationists pooled their money and purchased the mill and all of the surrounding buildings and land. All of the equipment used in carding, dyeing, and weaving the wool still remained - in operating condition.



Missouri State Symbols



State American Folk Dance The Square Dance



From the folk and courtship dances of European immigrants. Known for its lively music and callers. A caller directs the dances by singing the names for figures and steps to be performed by the dancers.

State Fish

Channel Catfish



Ictalurus punctatus

12-32 inches long, 12-15 pounds

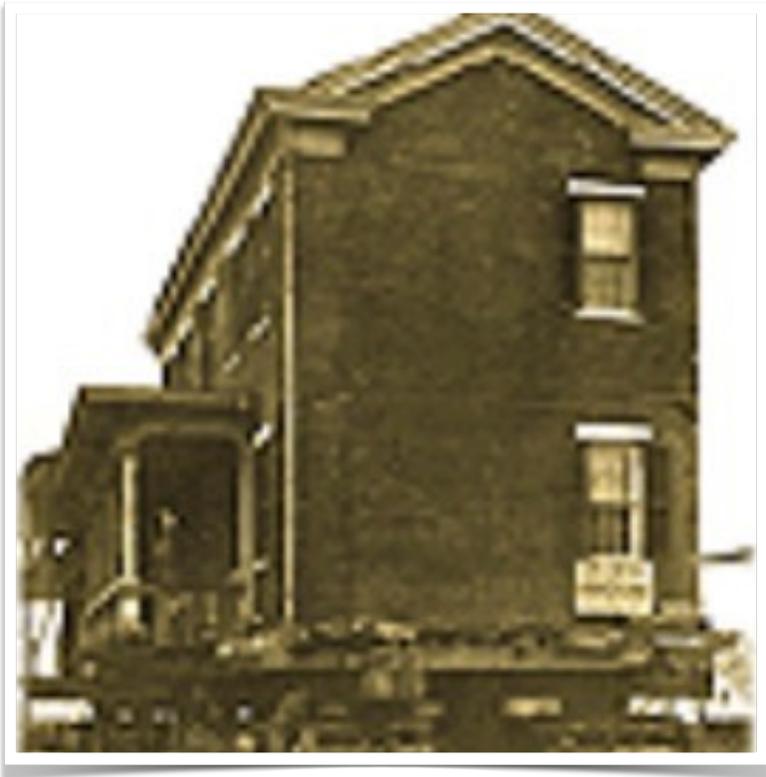
Some are the only ones still in existence anywhere in the world. One of the interesting aspects of the mill building is its ability to trap in humidity which helps in working with the wool. It doesn't make it too comfortable for humans, though, on a hot summer day.

If it hadn't been for those dedicated preservationists, we wouldn't have this incredible window into Missouri's past. Gratitude also goes to the Watkins' sons who created this time capsule all those years ago, simply by closing and locking a door.

Preservation in Action

This is a picture of our beloved Harris-Kearney House when it was being moved to its present location. It was standing in the way of Kansas City progress and if it wasn't for lovers of history and old buildings, it would have been destroyed. Thanks to their efforts the house was relocated to Baltimore. Check out its original location on Main Street. The soon-to-be renovated Katz Drugstore marks the spot.

Thank goodness for Preservationists - the savers of our history!



Aviator Charles Augustus Lindbergh

Charles Lindbergh was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1902. He spent most of his childhood in Little Falls, Minnesota, and Washington, D.C., where his father served in Congress. As a young man, Lindbergh was interested in mechanical things like motorcycles, cars, and farm equipment. During World War I, he was excused from school to run his family farm. He later studied mechanical engineering for two years at the University of Wisconsin.

He began working in 1922, for the Nebraska Aircraft Corporation in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he learned about airplane mechanics and it wasn't long before he sought out an airplane of his own - a Curtiss Jenny - and began brainstorming.

In 1924, he joined the Army Air Service flying school in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated top of his class and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He became an officer in the Missouri National Guard after moving to St. Louis. He was hired by the Robertson Aircraft Corporation in St. Louis, flying passengers and providing flight instruction. When the Corporation was contracted to fly airmail between St. Louis and Chicago, Lindbergh was made the chief pilot and began imagining flying across the Atlantic Ocean.



With the financial backing of several St. Louis businessmen, including his employers at Robertson and the owner of Lambert field, Lindbergh hoped to promote air travel to and from St. Louis, by becoming the first man to successfully fly an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean. The Ryan Aircraft Company in California, built the plane. It was designed to eliminate as much weight as possible in order to carry more fuel. Even the front window was replaced by a fuel tank and Lindbergh used a periscope to determine where he was going.

He left New York on May 20, 1927, in his plane, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, named in honor of his backers. He landed in Paris on May 21, 1927, at 10:24 p.m. The flight made him famous and inspired many an aviator. He married Anne Morrow. Their first born son was kidnapped and

killed in 1932. The couple moved to England, in hopes of gaining some privacy and peace from the notoriety brought by his success.

During World War II, Lindbergh worked as a consultant with companies building planes for the war effort and flew combat missions in the Pacific. He continued as a consultant after the War and became an advocate for the conservation of natural resources. He died in Maui, Hawaii, in 1974.

St. Louis has been a leader in aviation since Lindbergh's flight. It remains the home of Lambert Field and firms like Trans World Airlines, Boeing, and McDonnell-Douglas.



Charles Lindbergh Doll, Limited Edition of 1,200 for UFDC Convention, 1981. 21" tall by artist, Faith Wick.



Adventures with Amelia

I am so excited to be welcoming you to the Harris-Kearney House in the coming weeks. The doll exhibit will be installed soon (my twin sister, Westa Greer Carson is in it, too!) and along with the wonderful musical concerts the whole place will come to life once again. Information about who is performing is available at westporthistorical.com.

Have you heard about Missouri's Bicentennial? I've been featuring places and people related to the story of Missouri in the newsletter this year. I hope you will be inspired to explore these incredible people and places for yourself.

We are hosting a contest for the Time Travelers. You can pick up all the details at the Open House on World Doll Day. The information will also be included in the June issue of The Discovery Papers.



Do you celebrate May Day?

For some, it's a day to celebrate the coming of Spring, and for some, it's a celebration of the midpoint between the equinox and the solstice.

According to legend, on May Eve or April 30th, one gathers bunches of yellow flowers before sunset and places them on the windowsills and thresholds of doors to protect from fairies, who are more active on May Eve and May Day. The bunches of yellow flowers would also provide protection from those up to no good.

One of the most common ways to celebrate May Day was dancing around the Maypole. Individuals, especially children, would gather around the Maypole holding onto colorful ribbons. Their movements around the pole would weave colorful patterns.

I think this darling fairy would be welcome at my house.
How about you?

The Heather Fairy by R. John Wright, felt, 8.5" tall



88 years ago on May Day, Meramec Caverns opened. It is one of Missouri's show caves. The cave system is 4.6 miles long was used by Native Americans and animals for shelter and food storage. With a consistent 58 degree temperature, it provides a wonderful refuge during hot summers. Lester Dill and his wife purchased Meramec Caverns and opened it as a tourist attraction in 1933, charging 35 cents for adults and 17 cents for children to tour the cave.

Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States and a Missourian

Harry Truman first became the Commander and Chief on the sudden death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He was born on May 8, 1884, in Lamar, Missouri, and served in the First World War in France. He was a U.S. Senator from Missouri and FDR's Vice President from January 20, 1945 until April 12, 1945. The Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum (the first



Presidential Library created under the provisions of the 1955 Presidential Libraries Act) will be reopening soon after a multi-million dollar renovation. It's a "must see" for every Missouri Time Traveler!



1988 vintage Harry S Truman doll by Effanbee Doll Company, The Presidents Collection Style No. 1620, 16"

The Discovery Papers is a publication of the Westport Historical Society for the Time Travelers Program as part of the Educational Program. (timetravelwestport@gmail.com)

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