

May 2022



# MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## OUR 2022 CALENDAR

## Civil War Wednesday and Special Presentations

Hours are 11:00 am to 3:30 pm

Special presentations begin at 1:00 pm

**March 5 through December 17:** House open for tours. Check Facebook for latest information.

**May 6 through July 2:** FINDING A HIGHER GROUND: *Forgotten Treasures of Kansas City*  
with R. Greg Summers, artist

**May 18 -** Civil War Wednesday: ***Women in the Civil War*** - Alisha Cole

**June 15 -** Civil War Wednesday: ***Civil War in the American West*** - Jeremiah Thalheimer

**June and July:** Music Concert on the Lawn Each Saturday afternoon in June and July

**June 10 through August 6:** "A Tale As Old As Time" Celebrating World Doll Day & National Doll Day

**July 13 -** Civil War Wednesday: ***Blacks in Blue at the Battle of Westport*** - Dan Smith

**August 17 -** Civil War Wednesday: ***Order Number 11*** - Dick Titterington

**September:** Visit the Westport Historical Society booth at the Westport Art Fair

**September 14 -** Civil War Wednesday: ***Civil War Medicine*** - Alisha Cole/Jennie Thalheimer

**October:** Paranormal Investigations—Fridays and Saturdays in OCT

**October 19 -** Civil War Wednesday: ***Civilian Life in Jackson County during the Civil War***  
-- Dick Titterington

**November 5 through December 17:** Mansion House Decorated for Christmas

**November 9 -** Civil War Wednesday: ***Marines in the Civil War*** - Jeremiah Thalheimer

**December 4:** CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE: *Deck the Halls* (Special Exhibit)

**December 17:** Mansion House Closes for the Winter Season

**March 1, 2023:** Mansion House reopens for 2023

For questions, or more information, send an email to [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com)

## *Aunt Minerva's Kitchen*

### Carrot Pie

The carrot is a root vegetable that is crunchy, tasty, and nutritious when made into a pie. Carrot pies are made like squash pies. The carrots should be boiled until they are very tender, then skinned, and sifted (pass through a sieve). Both carrot and squash pies should be baked without an upper crust in deep pie plates. The following recipe is an updated version of an 1830 recipe.

Make a single pie crust from a favorite recipe and place in the bottom of a deep pie plate. Trim to fit and crimp the edges. Take the skin from the carrots. Chop and dice enough carrots to make 4 Cups. Put the carrots in a saucepan and scarcely cover with water. Simmer until quite soft: this may take a couple of hours. Strain carrots by pressing them through a sieve; or can use a potato masher alternatively, mash, but you will need to mash them until they are very smooth. Let cool. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

To the cooled carrot puree, add 1 Cup milk, 2 eggs,  $\frac{3}{4}$  Cup of sugar, 2-3 tsp. cinnamon, 1 tsp ginger, and 1 tsp. salt and mix well. Pour carrot mixture into the prepared pie shell. Bake at 425° for 15 minutes, then reduce heat and continue to bake at 350° for 40-50 minutes or until crust is brown. Let cool to set. Enjoy!

### MOTHERS DAY

*Mother's Day* in the United States is annually held on the second Sunday of May. This special day of remembrance honors mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures. Family and friends send cards and gifts to commemorate the day. Usual gifts include: candy, flowers, jewelry, clothes, and gift certificates for beauty treatments and spa trips. Often, family dinners, at a restaurant or a relative's home, show love and appreciation to special ladies. In the days and weeks before Mother's Day, many teachers help their students make handmade cards or small gifts for their mothers. Hug your moms and mom figures and let them know how much you love them.

### Give 'em a Thank You!

Each year, Armed Forces Day is celebrated, on the third Saturday of May. It is a day to pay tribute to the men and women who serve our country as part of the United States' armed forces. Please honor our brave troops by saying Thank You to those you know and those you see and pass each day. We are forever in their debt. The Westport Historical Society is a proud Blue Star Museum member and sponsor. The Blue Star program offers free admission to the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum to active-duty military personnel and their families, and half price admission to retired military.

### 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)
- Olga Marr (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!

## UNCLE MARKS CORNER

### Cider Vinegar for Good Health

Vinegar is one of the most powerful aids for a healthier, longer life. Since ancient times people have been taking a daily dose of Apple Cider Vinegar to control their appetite and maintain well-being. Common dosages range from 1-2 teaspoons to 1-2 tablespoons per day mixed with a large glass of water. Start with a small dose and work up to the larger dose, if needed to help:

1. Lower blood pressure
2. Relieve itches and insect bites
3. Fight coughs and colds
4. Speed up metabolism
5. Clear eye and ear problems
6. Relieve arthritis
7. Help lower cholesterol
8. Soothe aching muscles and painful leg cramps
9. Enhance soft radiant skin
10. Fade headaches
11. Boost immune system to prevent cancer
12. Help heart and circulatory system

Be aware: too much vinegar can cause harmful side effects, such as drug interaction, erosion of tooth enamel. Rinse mouth well.

### OLDTIME SUPERSTITIONS FOR HOUSEWIVES

- If coffee grounds cling high up on the side of a coffee cup, company was bringing good news.
- If a rocking chair “walks” across the floor when someone is rocking in it, company is due before night.
- If your nose itches, company is on the way.
- If the cook drops her dishrag, expect a dirty visitor.
- If the cook drops a fork, a man will visit or if she drops a spoon, a woman will visit.
- If the left-hand itches, expect to receive a gift or money.
- If the right-hand itches, expect to shake the hand of a stranger.
- If the joint of the thumb itches, expect an unwelcomed visitor.
- If the right eye itches expect to be lucky.
- If the left eye itches, there will be a disappointment.
- If the right ear burns, someone is saying nice things about you.
- If the left ear burns, someone is criticizing you.



THE KANSAS CITY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



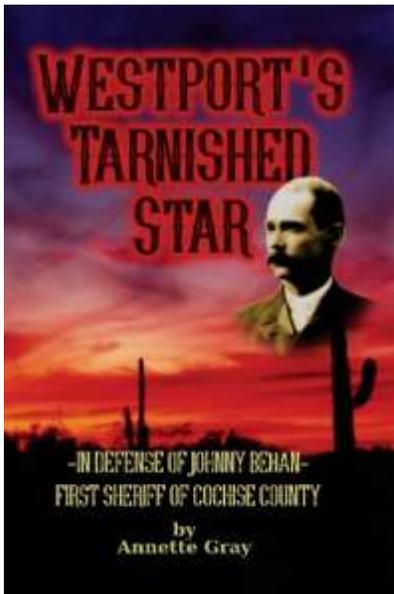
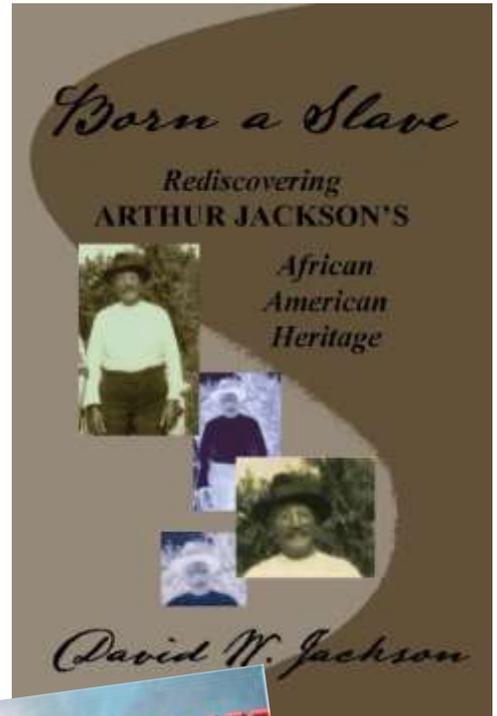
## MAY HOLIDAYS

May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 8	Mother's Day
May 21	Armed Forces Day
May 30	Memorial Day

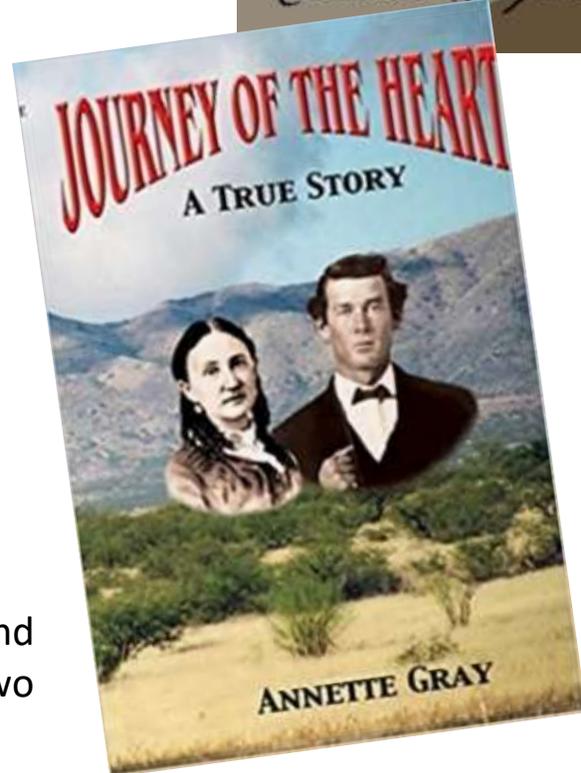
## Word of the Month

Dedication: the quality of being committed to a task or purpose. *He is dedicated to the process of finding a cure for cancer.*

David W. Jackson, a native of Kansas City, rediscovered, after 30 years of genealogy research, that his great-great grandfather who moved to Westport from White Cloud, Kansas, in 1913, had been born an African American slave. As a child, Arthur Jackson lived as an enslaved person with the Richard and Lucinda Jackson family in Franklin County, Missouri. The Jackson family was originally from South Charleston, Kanawha County, Virginia (today, West Virginia). Follow Arthur's journey in **Born a Slave**, a detailed histiogeneography.



Both books by Annette Gray are available for purchase at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House. Jackson's book is on Amazon.com.



***Journey of the Heart—a true story***, and ***Westport's Tarnished Star*** highlight two Westport notables.

## STAY CONNECTED WITH THE MANSION HOUSE

Want to know more about what is happening at Harris House? Follow us every day on Facebook (1855 Harris-Kearney House; and Westport Historical Society) and at our website [www.westporthistorical.com](http://www.westporthistorical.com)

## HOURS, MEMBERSHIP, ETC!

The 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum (the Mansion House) is open from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm on Wednesday for **Civil War Wednesday** an on Friday and Saturday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm for Mansion House and History Tours. Admission prices: Adults--\$10.00; Seniors--\$8.00; Students--\$6.00; Active Military—Free; Retired Military—half price. If you are not a member of the Westport Historical Society, we invite you to become a part of our society family. You will find membership information on our website or call 816-561-1821.

**Reservations are being accepted for school field trips, private events, and group tours. Call or send an email to [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com) for pricing and available dates.**

# THE WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE 1855 HARRIS-KEARNEY HOUSE

Are pleased to announce a special Art Exhibit

## **"Finding A Higher Ground: Forgotten Treasures of Kansas City"**

by

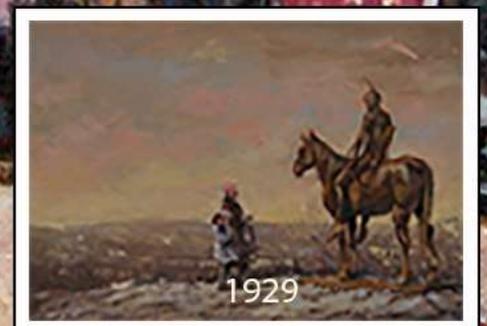
World Renowned and Award-Winning Kansas City Artist R. Gregory Summers

May 6 through July 2

4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO 64111

The past comes alive in these paintings capturing the early beginning of Kansas City as it went from the jumping off point of the Santa Fe Trail, to a major player in the economic growth of the nation.

Using old black and white photos of historic Kansas City as his inspiration, Summers uses his artistic license combined with a love of local history to create an all new series of original paintings featuring KC as it once was.



For more information: (816) 561-1821 email: [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com)

## Jewelry from 1837-1861

Bold and gold, decorated with intricate carvings, delicate enamel works, and elaborate settings were the hallmarks of jewelry in the early, Romantic period of the Victorian (pre-American Civil War) era from 1837 to 1861. The most expensive pieces were silver, gold, and platinum, in 9 carat, 12 carat, and 15 carat gold. Less expensive jewelry might have been gilt over brass, gold filled, and pinchbeck. Some pieces had designations indicating when, where, and by whom each was made. Original pieces may or may not have had that designation, but that does not indicate less worth.

Precious gemstones like pearls, rubies, diamonds, sapphires, and emeralds were used in high-end jewelry. Semi-precious gemstones including citrine, opals, garnets, onyx, and cabochon turquoise were also popular. Tortoise shell, gutta percha, lava, bog oak, and ivory were often used in carved pieces.

Victorians enjoyed jewelry with hidden meanings. Sometimes the meaning between giver and receiver represented loyalty, mourning, and/or religious conviction, or maybe jewelry was given and worn as a love token or sign of affection. Some symbolism and common motifs found in this jewelry:

- Serpents*—eternity or commitment
- Doves*—domesticity
- Ivy*—friendship; marriage
- Lily of the Valley*—sweetness
- Lilac*—first feelings of love
- Cross*—faith
- Butterfly*—soul

- Arrows*—love
- Pearls*—tears
- Diamond*—consistency
- Emerald*—hope
- Ruby*—passion
- Heart*—charity
- Amethyst*—Devotion





**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**



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