

July 2021



MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



First 4th of July in Westport

July 4th was first celebrated Westport in 1858. Col. McGee offered the grove in the McGee Addition for the festivities. Over 2500 people attended—sons, daughters, wives, husbands, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, friends, and neighbors. The celebration commenced at 10 o'clock in the morning, included a community pot-luck barbeque dinner and ended with a ball in the evening. Col. McGee bought a buffalo for the barbecue. The ill-fated buffalo escaped its pen a few days before the celebration. Excited neighbors gave chase, and luckily for the good of the celebration, the buffalo was captured after a chase of more than a mile.

Summer Music Concert Series Continues

Please join us for **MUSIC ON THE GREEN** at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, KCMO, every Saturday afternoon through July, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Bring your lawn chair, blanket, umbrella, lunch, family, neighbors, and friends. At these FREE weekly concerts, everyone is sure to enjoy all types of music presented by wonderfully talented musicians. A full schedule of musicians and their music can be found on our website. For more info, call 816-561-1821, 913-231-6749, or send an email to westporthistorical@gmail.com

Free parking, and bottled water for purchase.

A limited number of chairs will be available--call ahead and reserve at no charge. Check our website and Facebook page for the latest news.

Happy Birthday, America Celebrates

July 4th is Independence Day!

On July 4th, 1776, the Congress of the United States formally adopted the Declaration of Independence. Since that date, until present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence. Typical festivities and celebrations range from fireworks, parades, baseball games, and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. It really does not matter what type of celebration we experience. What is important is that we come together as one people on a special day to celebrate the birthday of a nation that was born to exalt life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Staff, Board of Directors, and Executive Board of the Westport Historical Society and the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum wish our members, friends, and families a safe and happy 4th of July.

Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

Sweet Pickled Peaches

It is summertime and that means lots of sunshine, warmer temperatures, and the perfect time to go peach-picking. Long considered a popular and delicious fruit, the peach has been around since the 10th century. Originating in China, the peach was brought to America in the 17th century. Peach season is at its peak in July and August, so grab some baskets and head to the orchard.

Eight pounds of peaches	Two ounces of stick cinnamon
Four pounds of sugar	Two ounces of cloves
One quart of vinegar	

In a large pot, boil the sugar and vinegar with the cinnamon for five minutes, then add in the peaches, a few at a time, with one or two cloves with each peach. Simmer until peaches are done enough to be easily pricked with a fork. Take the “done” peaches out of the pot and repeat with peaches and cloves until all peaches have been cooked. Divide peaches evenly into glass jars.

Boil the remaining liquid until it is reduced to a syrup. Pour syrup over the peaches. Seal the jars while hot.

Repeat with additional peaches.

Enjoy throughout the year!

Word of the Month

Fearless: without fear; confident, bold, and brave; intrepid

Volunteer at an Animal Shelter

Most animal shelters welcome on-site and virtual volunteers. There is a constant intake of animals and each one needs love and care. Shelters look for people who want to give love and care to the lonely and sometimes abused animals. Volunteers can walk dogs, groom cats, clean cages, and simply give attention to animals in need. Just playing with homeless dogs and cats can improve their chances of being adopted—as most families want to adopt a forever, furry friend who is sociable, loving, and playful. Serving as an animal shelter volunteer is good for your emotional, physical, and mental health, too.

Your interest and skills might be in other areas like promotion, web design, or even *finding ways to educate the public about spaying and neutering*.

If you are interested in becoming an animal shelter volunteer, contact the rescue center or shelter in your community. You—and the animals whose lives you improve—will be happy that you made the call.

Meow. Meow. Thank you. Meow.

Spotlight:

Wagon Wheel Hub Nut Wrench

This tool served as a hub nut wrench and a reach pin for wagon wheels. The hand-forged, cast iron wrench tightened or loosened the axle nuts. Measuring 10 ¼ inches in length, this tool is part of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House collection.



EVENT SPACE RENTAL

We continue to accept reservations for anniversary and birthday parties, baby and wedding showers, business meetings, holiday celebrations, group tours, family reunions, and more. The parlor or dining room may be rented for small weddings, and the Mansion House Grounds may be rented for outdoor weddings. Call for pricing and available dates:

816-561-1821 or
913-231-6749, or email
westporthistorical@gmail.com

UNCLE MARKS CORNER
Horse Salve

Neigh, there is no better wound medication for either horse or human than Horse Salve.

Horse salve, as the name suggests, is used to cure ailments related to **horses** like joint pains, muscle aches and even arthritis. However, it is an effective balm for **human** beings as well.

Horse salve is an antiseptic that draws out infection from skin abrasions, promotes the healing of minor wounds and skin irritations, and helps relieve itching and swelling while soothing the skin. This anti-inflammatory ointment also contains lanolin which acts as an emollient to keep the skin moist and supple while it heals.

The salve:

- Soothing formula relieves itching and minor skin irritations
- Contains lanolin
- Antiseptic ointment promotes healing
- Used to draw stones and pebbles from horse hooves as well as stickers and splinters from fingers
- It is powerful, gentle, and safe.
- There is no better wound medication for either horse or human
- I would not be without it!!!!!!!!!!!!

Blue Star Museums Nationwide
Offer Free Admission to Military Families

Available Now *through September 4, 2021*

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and Museums across America offering free admission to our nation's currently serving military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve. Retired military and their families will be offered half-price admission.

As a *Blue Star Museum*, the 1855 Harris-Kearney House is proud to show military families that we recognize and appreciate their sacrifices as we welcome them to enjoy our museum and many summer events. Please check the museum website: www.westporthistorical.com for days and hours of operation.



**FREE
CONCERTS**

MUSIC on the GREEN

HARRIS-KEARNEY HOUSE

Saturdays - June & July 2021

12:30 - 2:30p.m.

40th & Baltimore St. in Westport

For details see:

Facebook: 1855 Harris-Kearney House

Web: www.WestportHistorical.com

Free Concerts Every Saturday in June and July!

Location: The 1855 Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore Street, Westport (KCMO)
We will use the back lawn for the concerts.

When: Every Saturday in June and July: 12:30-2:30 pm

What to Bring: Blankets, lawn chairs, picnic baskets
Bug spray & suntan lotion are recommended.
Tips for the musicians (optional)

The "Music on the Green" summer concert series is designed to fulfill three purposes:

1. Promote the work of the Westport Historical Society, and particularly its historic 1855 Harris-Kearney House, which operates as a museum for the period 1855-1921.

See: <https://www.facebook.com/1855-Harris-Kearney-House-Museum-and-Westport-Historical-Society-446441612095291>
<http://www.westporthistorical.com>

2. Promote musicians within our broad and diverse musical community of the Kansas City area, providing an opportunity for them to showcase their particular talents and to become better known.

3. Promote present and past musical genres enjoyed by KC area musicians and audiences.



Westport Historical Society seeks volunteers:

- 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