



# MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Mansion House reopens for 2020 on Friday,  
March 6 at 1:00 pm. Please check our calendar  
For an exciting new season of  
exhibits, programs and events.

## Mark Your 2020 Calendar of Events

**March 6, 2020**---- House Opens for the Season  
April: TBA

**May 1 through June 27**--- Doll Extravaganza

**July 3 through August 29**---- Music Exhibits  
and Concerts

**September 4 through Oct 31**---- Quilt  
Extravaganza & Exhibits  
of Tammy Reid's Quilts

**September 12**----Lost Arts Fair

**November 14**----Westport Historical Annual  
Meeting and Luncheon

**December 5 and 6**----Christmas Open House  
featuring themed  
decorated rooms

**December 19**-----House Closes for the Season

**March 5, 2021**----House Opens for the Season

Special events and speakers to be announced.  
Announcing New Concert Series: **UPSTSAIRS  
AT THE MANSION HOUSE** and **Fourth Friday  
Musical Concerts**. More information coming in  
the February WESPORTER.

## ~HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ONE AND ALL~

### VALENTINE LOVE SONGS FROM THE 1800's

- *Two Hearts Beat as One* by Adam Craig and W. C. Powell
- *The Girl I Love* by Andrew Mack
- *Heart of My Heart* by Will H. Fox
- *Mine Always* by Henry Houseley
- *I Have No Sweetheart But You* by Malcolm Douglas
- *Hearts* by Charles K. Harris
- *Love Has Bound Our Hearts* by Harry R. Zickle
- *Always Together* by G. N. Nowlin
- *Only You* by Frank D. Pease and Dave Fitzgibbon
- *The Lovelorn Lobster* by Joseph W. Herbert and John Stromberg

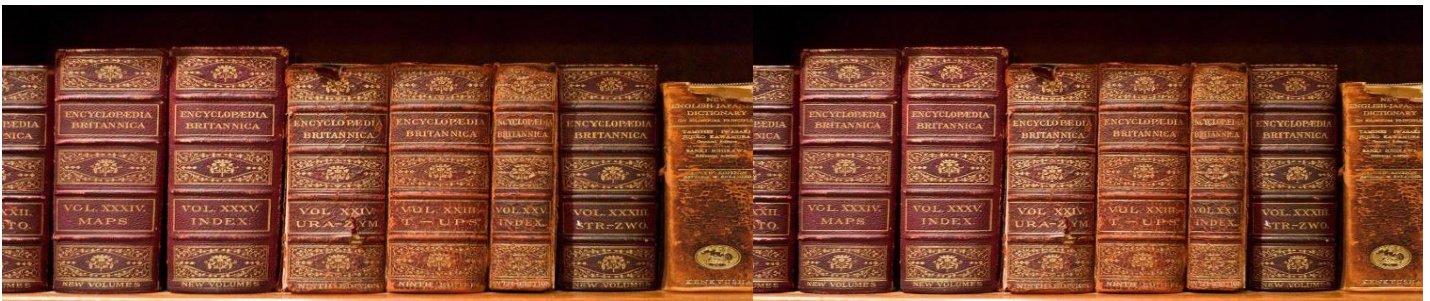
## FEBRUARY

Each month in the modern Gregorian calendar consists of at least 28 days. That number would be a nicely rounded 30 were it not for February. While every month besides the second in the calendar contains at least 30 days, February falls short with 28 (and 29 on a leap year). So why is the most widely used calendar in the world so inconsistent in the lengths of its months? And why is February stuck with the fewest number of days? Blame it on Roman superstition.

The Gregorian calendar's oldest ancestor, the first Roman calendar, had a glaring difference in structure from its later variants: it consisted of 10 months rather than 12. **In order to fully sync the calendar with the lunar year, the Roman king Numa Pompiliys added January and February to the original 10 months.** The previous calendar had had 6 months of 30 days and 4 months of 31, for a total of 304 days. However, Numa wanted to avoid having even numbers in his calendar, as Roman superstition at the time held that even numbers were unlucky. He subtracted a day from each of the 30-day months to make them 29. The lunar year consists of 355 days (354.367 to be exact, but calling it 354 would have made the whole year unlucky!), which meant that he now had 56 days left to work with. In the end, at least 1 month out of the 12 needed to contain an even number of days. This is because of simple mathematical fact: the sum of any even amount (12 months) of odd numbers will always equal an even number—and he wanted the total to be odd. **So Numa chose February, a month that would be host to Roman rituals honoring the dead, as the unlucky month to consist of 28 days.**

Despite changes in the calendar as it was altered after Numa's additions—alterations that include the shortening of February at certain intervals, the addition of a leap month, and eventually the modern leap day—February's 28-day length has stuck.

~*Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019*



## HELP US INCREASE MEMBERSHIP, SUPPORT

Memberships are a primary source of funding for the operation of the museum and our events, exhibits, and educational programs. Each year we are pleased to welcome new members, and support our current members as they continue to share their wealth of knowledge and expertise with the society

In addition to membership dues, we are continually inspired by the tax-deductible gifts to our Endowment Fund which strengthen the society and the future of the museum. We look forward to the continued generosity of our members, business partners, donors, and many friends.

Whether you are renewing or a first-time member, we urge you to join us for 2020. You may mail a check and your membership form to 4000 Baltimore, or you can visit our website [www.wesporthistorical.com](http://www.wesporthistorical.com) and fill out the membership form and pay your dues online.

# Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

## Molasses Candy

Put a quart of good molasses (not sugar-house) in a Dutch oven or iron pot, having previously greased it with butter; let it boil very fast, stirring it all the time for 15 minutes; then put in a tea-cup of sugar, and let it boil 15 minutes longer, stirring all the time; take a little out on a plate, and when it is brittle, pour the remainder, while hot, into tin plates rubbed with butter; put in a cold place and break it up when you want it for use; never put candy in China or earthen plates, as each would probably be broken when candy is taken out. Some think it is an improvement to add kernels of black walnuts, nicely picked; put them in just as you take up the candy and give it one stir; a tea-cup of kernels to a pint of molasses is a good proportion.



### SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDREN

It is so delightful to delve between the lines of a favorite book to discover how the author brought it into being. Each book has a tale to tell which begins at some point in time with people and adventures filled with happiness as well as sadness, but lessons are always there if the time is taken to listen.

When a parent, teacher, or caregiver reads aloud for 15 minutes a day with a child, it can change the child's brain for a lifetime. Starting at birth and continuing through age 8, children who are read to and talked to daily are exposed to millions more words than those who don't have the exposure. Young children who are read to have an advantage when they start pre-school at age 3.

These children demonstrate more language, math, social and emotional skills. Children who don't have the advantage of someone to read to them are behind at the beginning of their education and lag in every class, year after year. So read to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews as much as possible to give them a chance at a highly successful education.

~taken from an article by Dr. John Hutton, Cincinnati Children's Hospital



## TO KEEP EGGS—1857

During a long voyage to South America, it was noticed how fresh the eggs continued to be. The steward was called on for his secret. He said that as he purchased his stock, he packed it down in small boxes—raisin boxes—and afterwards, about once a week, turned over every box but the one out of which he was using. That was all. The reason of his success is that by turning the eggs over, he kept the yolks about the middle of the albumen. If still, the yolk will, after a while, find its way through the white to the shell, and when it does so, the egg will spoil. Hens understand this fact, for they, as is well known, turn over their eggs on which they set, at least daily.

**Egg Hint:** To determine if the eggs are indeed good and fresh, put them in cold water. If the butt of an egg turns up and the egg floats, the egg is not fresh. This is an infallible rule to distinguish a good egg from a bad one.

~*The Economical Cook and House-Book* by Elizabeth Nicholson

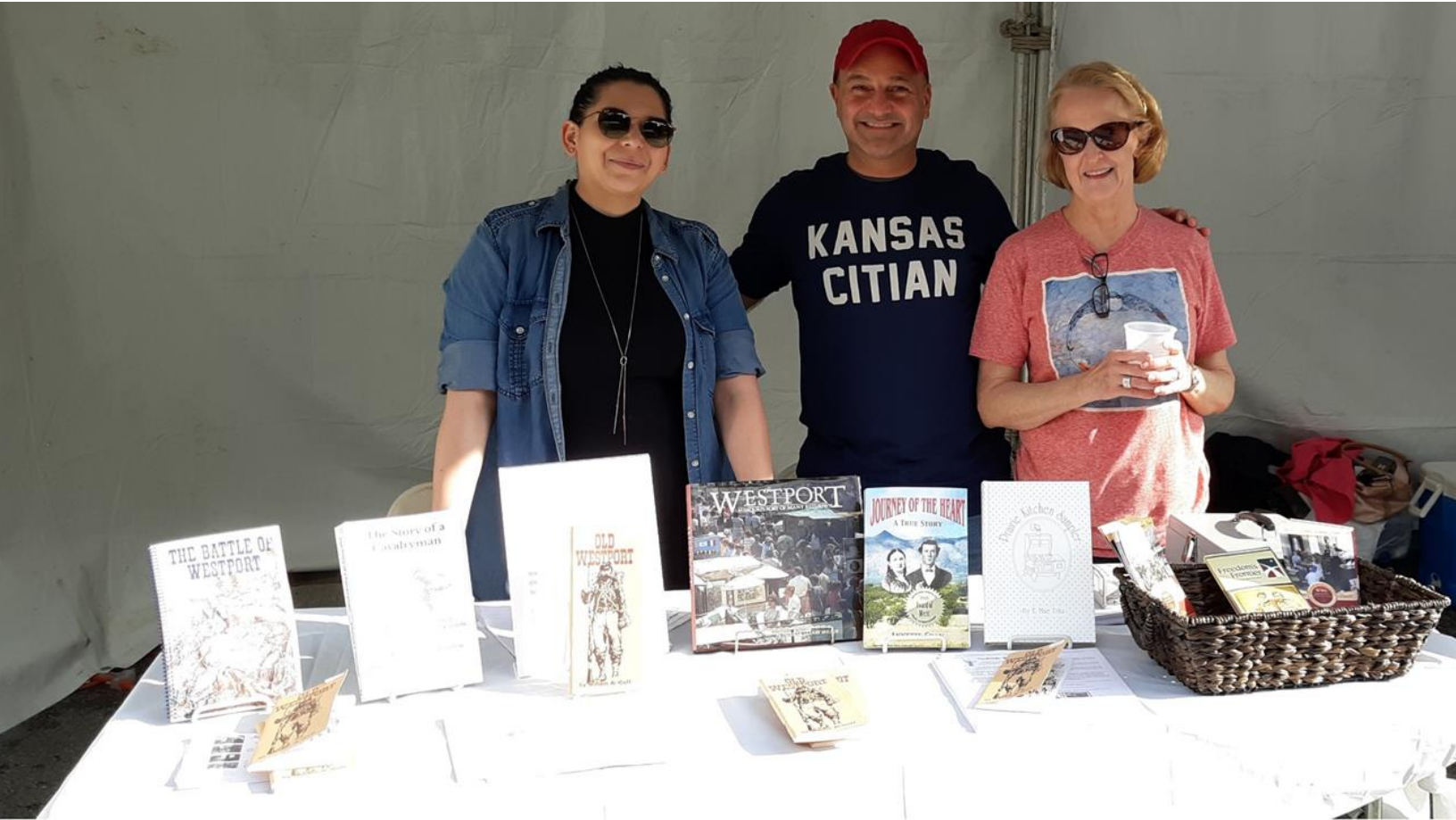


## THE PAST ASKS ONLY TO BE REMEMBERED

### WORDS vs. WORDS (continued from January Mansion House News)

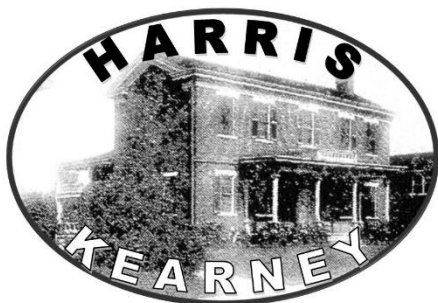
According to the Dictionary of Americanisms published in 1856, there were thousands of words that were unacceptable in their use, and other words should be used in their stead. Here are some examples:

Use	<b>false or feigned</b>	instead of	<b>mung</b>
	<b>whimsical</b>	instead of	<b>notional</b>
	<b>eccentric</b>	instead of	<b>odd stick</b>
	<b>die</b>	instead of	<b>peg out</b>
	<b>very</b>	instead of	<b>quite</b>
	<b>money</b>	instead of	<b>rocks</b>
	<b>swing</b>	instead of	<b>scup</b>
	<b>totally</b>	instead of	<b>teetotally</b>
	<b>to the extreme</b>	instead of	<b>up to the hub</b>
	<b>declare</b>	instead of	<b>vum</b>
	<b>depressed or humiliated</b>	instead of	<b>wamble cropt</b>
	<b>vulgar literature</b>	instead of	<b>yellow cover</b>



Westport Historical Society seeks:  
--Board Members (including Treasurer)  
--Executive Director  
-Volunteers FOUR HOURS A WEEK  
(W, 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](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com), or call (913) 648-0952



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