

January 2023



MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



January

Sparkling winter sunshine,
Faces all aglow
Making resolutions,
And Angels in the snow ~
Steaming cups of cocoa,
A year that's fresh and new. . .
All of this magic ~
Unfolding just for you!



Happy New Year

The Executive Board, Board of Directors, and Staff of the Westport Historical Society and the 1855 Harris-Kearney House wish you, your family, and friends a happy and healthy 2023!

The 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum is closed for the winter months and will reopen on Friday, March 3, 2023. Please make your event or group tour reservations for January and February by calling 913-231-6749.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP

As we begin the new year, it is most important that we face the challenge of preserving our area's rich heritage and maintaining the character of the beautiful 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum. The Historical Society is funded entirely by grants and the contributions of its members. To continue our work, we encourage you to join the Westport Historical Society. Your membership dues go a long way toward helping us continue to offer free programs and cover annual operating expenses. If you are not a member, we hope you will consider joining. If you are past members, we hope you will rejoin. A membership application may be found in this newsletter, on our website www.westporthistorical.com, or at the museum. If you are current members, thank you for viewing the society and museum as worthy of your financial support.

Finally, we hope everyone (including life members, who, of course, owe nothing in annual dues) might consider a contribution to our "2023 Capital Campaign." Although we are aggressively applying for grants, the foundations which help non-profits want to see evidence of successful local fund-raising. In essence, the \$25, \$50 or \$200 you might donate to us can unlock the door to thousands more in grant money. If you wish, please combine your membership dues and any donation on one check and mail it to 4000 Baltimore, KCMO, 64111
Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

Apple Snowballs

2 teacupsful of rice apples
moist sugar cloves

- Boil the rice in milk until three-parts done, then strain it off.
- Pare and core the apples without dividing them.
- Put a small quantity of sugar and one to two cloves in each apple.
- Put rice around them.
- Tie each ball separately in cheese cloth.
- Boil until the apples are tender.
- Take the apples up and remove the cloths.
- Serve

UNCLE MARK'S CORNER

YULE ASHES

The Twelve Days of Christmas will conclude on January 5, so it will be time to dispose of your YULE LOG ashes. However, do not throw the ashes out on Christmas Day as it will bring bad luck to the house. Ways to use the ashes:

- Scatter on your garden to feed the plants for the spring.
- Scatter over fields to bring fertility.
- Scatter around the foundation of your home to ward of lightning strikes and hailstorms.
- Cast into wells to purify and sweeten the water.



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)
- 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

Patron Members

Pat Wiedenmann
Midwest Genealogy Center

Business Members

See logos on the next page!

Word of the Month

Supply: to provide or furnish something. The community center will supply paper goods for the block party.

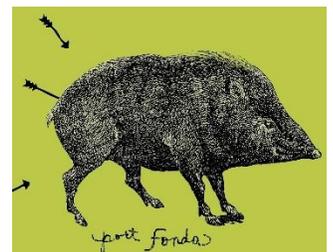
CHUBBY SNOWMAN

There was a chubby snowman
and he had a carrot nose.
Along came a bunny
and what do you suppose?
The hungry little bunny
was looking for his lunch.
He grabbed that snowman's carrot nose~
Nibble, nibble, crunch, crunch!



Pioneer New Year's Day Good Luck Superstitions

- On New Year's Eve cows kneel down and talk.
- On New Year's Eve, a few minutes before midnight, open all the windows in the house to let the bad luck out and the good luck in.
- On New Year's Day water in certain wells turns into wine.
- Visitors to your home on January 1 must bring "something" in.
- Everyone should do something worthwhile.
- Bees buzzing loudly in their hives.
- Eat black-eyed peas for dinner.
- Put a dime under your plate.
- Wear red garters.
- Carry a buckeye.
- Rub a rabbit's foot.
- A baby born on New Year's Day will always be lucky.



THE KANSAS CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY



ANTIQUUE SPOTLIGHT

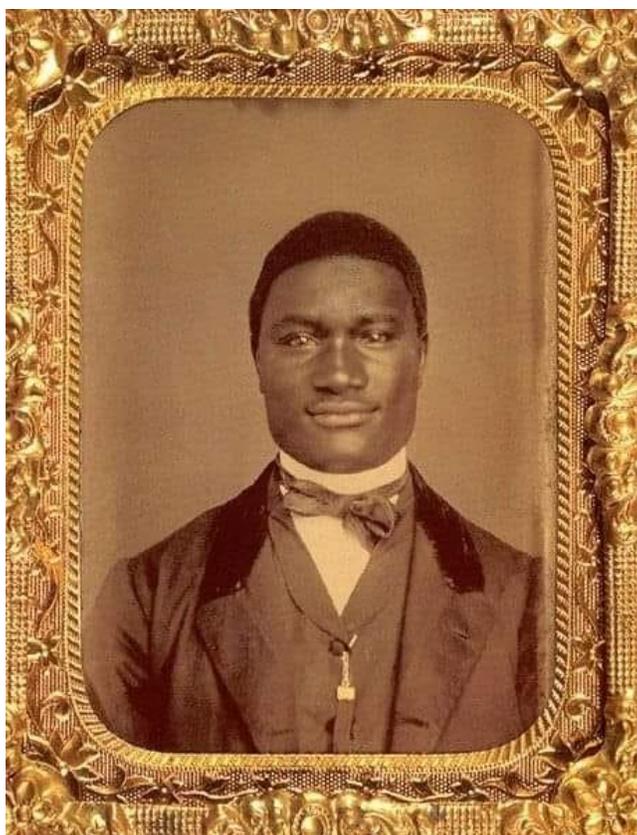
Storing Old Photos

Old photographs need to be protected in certain ways to keep them away from environmental hazards that can damage them. The National Archives has provided recommendations regarding how old photographs and documents should be stored. Here are a few of the things they suggest:

1. Store old photographs at constant temperatures below 75 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Keep the humidity levels in photo storage areas between 15% and 65%.
3. Avoid storing old photographs in attics, basements, or garages where temperature and humidity tend to fluctuate. This can lead to mold, chemical decay, or brittleness.
4. Keep old photographs away from areas that are prone to insects and rodents. These “critters” like to use paper to nest and may chew holes in your prized photos.
5. Store old photographs up on shelves and away from areas that are prone to leaks to avoid water damage.

Certain chemicals and plastics can cause your old photographs to decay or stick together. Here are some rules you should follow when storing your photographs in albums or boxes:

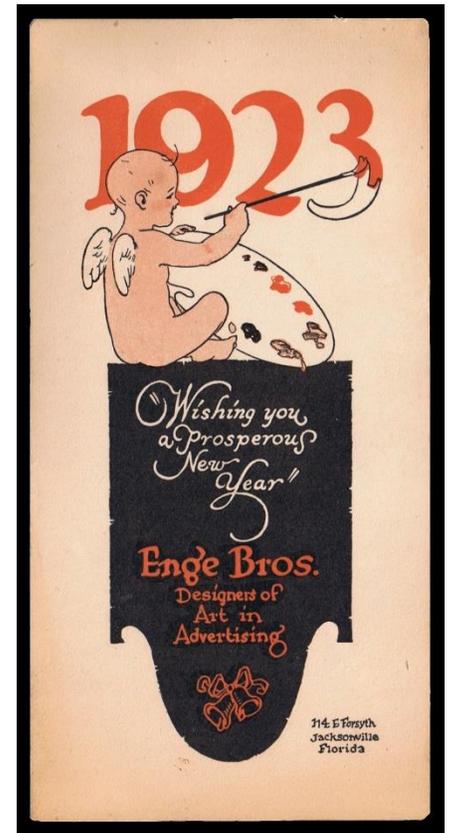
1. Use archival quality paper or cardboard to store your photos. The pages in your photo album should be acid-free and lignin free. The material that your photo box is made of should be the same. You can also use stable plastic photo pockets or sleeves, such as products made of polyester, polyethylene, or polypropylene.
2. When storing your old photos in a box, make sure the box is big enough that your photos can be stored flat or upright with no creasing or bending. If storing your photos upright, use spacer boards to keep your photos from bending.
3. When placing old photos in a photo album, do not use tape or glue to keep them in place as this can lead to staining and paper damage. Also, avoid magnetic photo pages. Mount your photos on acid-free paper album pages using acid-free or stable plastic mounting corners or place your photos in stable plastic photo album pages.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

It is time, once again, to make your New Year's Resolution. To help you decide which one is a good fit for you, below are listed some which you might ponder:

- Eat healthy food, lose weight, exercise more,
- Think positive, laugh more often, enjoy life
- Get out of debt, save money, make small investments
- Perform better at current job, get a better job, establish own business
- Learn something new (such as a foreign language or a new dance)
- Read more books, both fiction and non-fiction
- Become more organized and manage time
- Watch less television
- Take a trip to a place you have longed to visit
- Volunteer to help others





Help Wanted at the Westport Historical Society:

-Docents and other volunteers (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



westporthistorical.com
(816) 561-1821

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