

November 2021



MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Holiday Open House

‘Tis the season
to mix and mingle as
Christmas Bells soon will jingle.
Celebrate the Warmth
of the Season with Friends and
19th Century Music and Fare
at the dressed for Christmas
1855 Harris-Kearney House.

Sunday, December 12

2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

4000 Baltimore

WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON
November 6, 2021
1855 Harris-Kearney House
Upper gallery

Social at 12:00 noon
Luncheon at 12:30 pm
Society updates, election



Jackson author, local historian, and Westport Historical Society Board Member will present on his newest set of books commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Hannibal Bridge, and more specifically, Octave Chanute and George Morison's 1870 report on their most prestigious project to that date. The project was the Hannibal Bridge, which they called The Kansas City Bridge. It owed its existence to the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad. After years of political machinations, and in a twist of fate or irony, Kansas City "got" the first bridge over the Missouri River. After the Civil War, the Hannibal Bridge insured Kansas City's place in history. Jackson spent over a decade compiling *Engineered Irony: Crossing Octave Chanut's Kansas City Bridge for Trains and Teams, 1867-1917*, a two-volume set.

The luncheon menu is soups and salads, with breads, dessert, and beverage. The cost of the luncheon \$12.00. Please RSVP by Monday, November 1, and advise of any dietary restrictions.

Word of the Month: *Kindness*: the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.

"Memories obscured and softened, not by the mists of time, but by the fragrant steam rising slowly from innumerable savory dishes. Oh, the Thanksgiving dinners we have eaten! The Thanksgiving cheer of which we have partaken!" ~John Tremaine

The Executive Board, the Board of Directors, and the Staff of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House wish you and your family a world of pleasant memories and the Happiest of Thanksgivings.

Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

Sweet Potato and Cashew Bake

Sweet potatoes are nutrient-dense root vegetables and come in a variety of colors. They're high in fiber and antioxidants, which promote a healthy gut and brain. Sweet potatoes are versatile and can be prepared in both sweet and savory dishes. The recipe below would add a tasty side dish to your Thanksgiving dinner.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ½ C. packed brown sugar | 2 lbs. sweet potatoes, cooked, peeled |
| 1/3 C. broken chews | and cut into pieces. |
| ½ tsp. salt | 1 8oz. can peach slices, well drained |
| ¼ tsp ground ginger | 3 T. butter |

Combine brown sugar, cashews, salt, and ginger. In a large baking dish, layer half of the sweet potatoes, half of the peach slices, and half the brown sugar mixture. Repeat layers. Dot with butter and bake covered at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for 10 minutes more. Spoon the brown sugar syrup, from the bottom of the pan, over the potatoes before serving. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

NOVEMBER

Comes and
November goes,
with the last red berries
and the first white snow.

With night coming early
and dawn coming late,
and ice in the bucket
and frost by the gate.

The fires burn
And the kettle sings,
and earth sinks to rest
until next Spring.

~Elizabeth Coatsworth

NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS

November 11 **Veterans Day**

Veterans Day is held in honor of all military veterans, including both the fallen and the living, who have served in the United States Armed Forces, during wartime or peacetime. Veterans Day celebrates retired soldiers and victims inclusive of all wars on the November 11 annually.

November 21 **Stir-up Sunday**

The lovely family custom of preparing for Christmas together by making the Christmas pudding, and other essential Christmas foods that must be made in advance.

November 25 **Thanksgiving**

Thanksgiving is a day when families gather to celebrate, give thanks for what they are grateful for, and eat a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Thanksgiving isn't just celebrated in the United States. Other countries that follow celebrations also include Canada, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Spain, and Liberia. Each country has its own specific date for Thanksgiving.

November 26 **Native American Heritage Day**

The Friday following Thanksgiving is Native American Heritage Day. It is a day designated to honor and recognize the contributions Indigenous people have made to the United States.

November 28 **Hanukkah**

Hanukkah also known as Chanukah or the Festival of Lights, is a Jewish festival that lasts for eight days. The holiday begins at sundown on November 28, this year, and ends at sundown on December 6. This holiday commemorates when Jews fought against their oppressors during the second century B.C.

UNCLE MARKS CORNER

SAGE: It is fall and time to gather the sage herb for use in your winter cooking and baking.

Harvesting tips:

- DO NOT pull the sage from the ground by the root
- DO NOT harvest the whole patch.
- Harvest what you think is the most mature (these will be the tallest stems).
- Cut the stem off low using some heavy scissors or pruning shears.
- DO lay stems in the same direction in a bundle—all stems and tops, each, together. This step is important for gathering and drying.
- Make sure each bundle is clean—remove all grass and other plants.

How to dry your sage:

Depending on the weather, the drying period is about one week.

- Bundle the sage
- Tie it together at the end of the bundle
- Hang upside down in a cool, dry
- When dry, the bundle will “crackle” when gently squeezed.
- DO NOT use artificial heat to dry as that process will remove essential oils from the sage.

Gathering Recommendations:

- Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants to prevent scratching from long stems and grasses.
- Wear a sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses.
- Watch out for snakes and spiders!

If collecting on private property or a state park, ask for permission

Tips for Your Thanksgiving Table Decor

- Set up a sideboard to hold extra dishes of food. If you don't have a traditional sideboard, you may use a card table covered with festive tablecloths.
- Plan to set the table the day before Thanksgiving. You can turn bowls and glasses upside down to keep any dust out 'till you need them.
- Choose a holiday theme beforehand. You don't have to do orange pumpkins and brown napkins, be creative!
- Decorate with affordable items, and add candles
- Place framed photos of past Thanksgiving celebrations on the table or sideboard as fun centerpieces. Use metallic items and objects to reflect candlelight to add extra sparkle to your table.
- Think in layers. Use assorted colors, patterns, and textures.
- Find a special, new way to fold the napkins.
- Make unique handmade place cards to set at each guest's place setting.
- Make a small card for each guest to write their “Thankful Things” to share.
- Don't be afraid to try something new!!!



CIVIL WAR WEDNESDAYS

At the
1855 Harris-Kearney House
4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, Missouri

The 1855 Harris-Kearney House is Kansas City's oldest remaining brick residence and is a Nationally Designated Historic Site on the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails in Westport. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Kansas City Register of Historic Places, the Greek Revival mansion was constructed in 1855 by Col. John and Henrietta Harris, early area settlers from Kentucky.

The Mansion House, as it was first labeled by the community, stands prominently on the Battle of Westport Civil War Battlefield. In the fall of 1861, the Harris home was used as headquarters for Union officers, and following, in October of 1864, some of the Harris grandchildren witnessed the Battle of Westport raging around them from the mansion's second floor windows. Later the children saw their grandparents' *Harris House Hotel* used as a field hospital.

The Mansion House has been restored to its 1855 appearance and shares with visitors the tragic days of the Battle of Westport and the people who lived, worked, and gave their lives for our country.

Visit the 1855 Harris-Kearney House every **Wednesday from 11:00 am until 3:30 pm for CIVIL WAR DAYS**. You can visit with Civil War historians, tour what was once the headquarters of union officers, and view artifacts from the battle. For more information or questions, please send an email to westporthistorical@gmail.com.



Quilt Exhibit Highlights



***With Thanks to ALL who assisted
in pulling this event off!
And, especially to Tammy Reid!***



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**



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