

# The Westporter



August 2019

WESTPORT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO 64111  
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www.westporthistorical.com  
Find Us on Facebook

The Westport Historical Society celebrates and commemorates the 19th Century when Americans journeyed West to chase their dreams of greater possibilities.



The 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum and the Westport Historical Society are a §501(c)(3) charitable organization



Thank you to our friends & sponsors for your continued support and generosity



## Special Doll Exhibit

The Westport Historical Society and The Harris-Kearney House are proud to host a special exhibit *Dolls Across the Ages*. The exhibit is currently on display and will continue until August 31, 2019.

Dolls are perhaps the oldest known toy. Dolls are used in play, rituals, and learning. They are cherished as heirlooms and treasured collectibles. Since the 19th century, play has been encouraged for children to enrich their imaginations and to prepare them for adulthood. Dolls reflect our dreams, ideas, and aspirations. They enable us to create our future and to recreate the past. The *Dolls Across the Ages* exhibit will explore the roles played by dolls, and the stories they tell in the lives of children and adults throughout the last 200 years.

The exhibit will feature antique and vintage dolls that are cherished by our WHS members. Each doll will share their stories of affection and adventures. The dolls displayed span a wide variety of sizes and mediums: paper, porcelain, cloth, and wood. Come join us as we celebrate the stars of our storybooks, the characters from our favorite movies, our nightly companions, and our faithful friends for every adventure.

Along with the exhibit, the following presentations will take place at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House:

- "The Bicentennial (almost) Doll" by Susie Graber, *Doll Artist*, August 17, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.
- "Doll Collecting" by Neil Foster, *Heirloom Doll Club of Kansas City, Missouri*, August 24, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

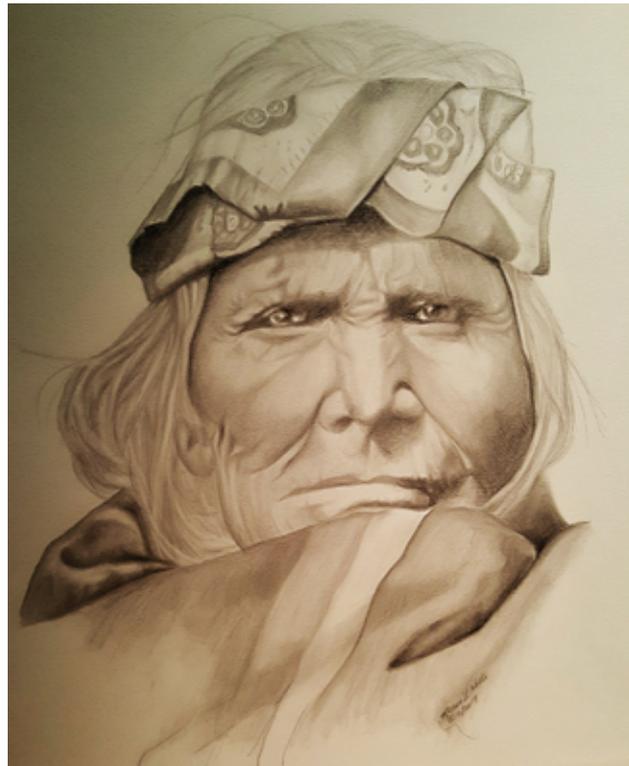
Museum hours: Friday and Saturday, 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Group tours of 10 or more may also be booked on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Doll Exhibit is included with the price of admission to the Museum. For more information, contact the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum at 816-561-1821 or 913-231-6749.

## Special Art Exhibit: Sept 6-Oct 26, 2019

The Westport Historical Society and The 1855 Harris-Kearney House are proud to host a special art exhibit of selected works from Kansas City artist Karen White featuring her beautiful *Portraiture of Native Americans*. The exhibit will be on display at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House from September 6 thru October 26, 2019.

Karen White, from Kansas City, Kansas, is an exceptional artist who is passionate about creating art which comes to life as she expresses and shares her unique talent with the world.



Her works of art tell stories, illuminate history, and depict emotions that capture a moment in time using both monochrome and vibrant colors. She draws and paints from her heart with a natural talent and ability to convey her vision to canvas, paper, walls, pavement, and illustrations for children's books. She enjoys creating with pastel, watercolor, white chalk, oil and graphite pencil.

Karen's art has been featured in exhibits at several Kansas City galleries, the Bruce Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, and Crown Center among others. She has created works for Iowa State University Library and Donnelly College. She has participated in various workshops for the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Storytellers, Inc., Youth Friends, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City. Karen was also selected as one of ten artists to paint murals at Bartel Hall, and was one of 50 featured artists at a Celebration of Art and Life Festival in Columbia, Missouri. She was a featured artist for a Classic Black Gala and was commissioned to create a portrait drawing of the internationally acclaimed Jazz pianist Jay McShann.

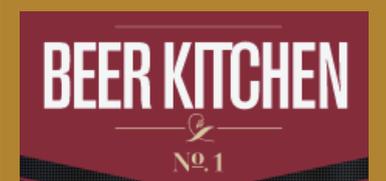
For this exciting exhibit, WHS will showcase Ms. White's stunning art of Native American portraiture. You will be delighted at how Karen has captured the delicate beauty and the inner-strength in the faces of her subjects. We hope you will join us for a tour of this exhibit very soon!

Special programming surrounding this art exhibit will take place during the Lost Arts Fair on Saturday, September 7 from 10AM-6PM, and Sunday September 8 from 11AM-5PM.

Museum hours: Friday and Saturday, 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Group tours of 10 or more may also be booked on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Art Exhibit is included with the price of admission to the Museum. For more information, contact the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum at 816-561-1821 or 913-231-6749.

### Our Business Partners:



# Crosby Award Winner & Recognition Ceremony



R. Crosby Kemper, III and the Westport Historical Society are pleased to announce **Gould Evans** as the 2019 recipient of The **R. Crosby Kemper, III Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation**.

We recognize **Gould Evans** for extraordinary leadership, significant contributions, and high standards of historic preservation in leading the community in designing and constructing the WESTPORT PLAN. This plan will: 1) Sustain Westport's heritage and architecture, and 2) Contribute to Westport's unique character and sense of place for years to come. The tireless work by members of the **Gould Evans** staff is deserving thanks and praise from all of Kansas City's citizens.

In addition, we recognize **Gould Evans'** major renovation and historic preservation project of the old Plaza Laundry at 4200 Pennsylvania, KCMO. Saving and restoring the 1925 building, with elements of the original building, is rewarding for the entire community. Visitors to the building, which now houses the **Gould Evans** offices, can view the original stone exterior, exposed wood beams, as well as some of the original, interior exposed steel trusses. This renovation has certainly enhanced the beauty and historical context of Westport.

The **Crosby** will be presented at a public program and reception on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 2:00pm at the **Gould Evans** Office, 4200 Pennsylvania, KCMO. Also included in the recognition ceremony, the Westport Historical Society will present the SHINNING STAR Westport Community Service Award to Mr. Kim Kimbrough, a member of the Westport Community.

For more information, contact WHS at [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com).

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PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Corner Restaurant



# Westport Lost Arts Fair



The Westport Lost Arts Fair is a fun, family friendly, hands-on experience in the heart of historic Westport! Come experience the sites of where Kansas City first began and visit with artisans practicing various crafts of the 1800s. At the Lost Arts Fair, you will get to take a peek back in time into the everyday lives of the residents of Ol' Westport and the pioneer frontier!

The Westport Lost Arts Fair brings together a broad array of artisans, practicing nearly vanished skills and crafts. The demonstrations include: a blacksmith, hand loom weaving, wool spinning, textile creation, cotton gin possessing, tobacco curing and cultivation, rope making from hemp fiber, period music (dulcimer, guitar, banjo, etc), lace making, corset making, construction of other items of 19th century apparel, and more!

The Lost Arts Fair coincides with the dates of the nearby Westport Art Fair, so you can enjoy both on the same day! The Lost Arts Fair event takes place at 4000 Baltimore on the grounds of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum. The Westport Historical Society will offer transportation to and from the Lost Arts Fair from the Westport Art Fair via a horse drawn carriage!

In addition to the Lost Arts Fair, make sure you tour the historic 1855 Harris-Kearney House, a fantastic landmark that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located on the historic Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails. There is an admission fee of \$6.00 per person that includes: Lost Arts Fair indoor demonstrations (inside Harris-Kearney House), a tour of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House, and a viewing of the Native American Art Exhibit. Outdoor exhibits and demonstrations are free of charge.

We hope you will come and visit our 30-40 different skilled exhibitors and historic demonstrations that will be performed during the two-day event!  
**Times : Saturday 9/7: 10:00 AM to 6:00  
& Sunday 9/8: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

For more information, contact WHS at [westporthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com).



1855 Harris-Kearney House (date: c. 1934 )

## Historical Resource Library

The library at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum contains many books and files which may be used as reference material for those seeking information on early Westport, the Town of Kansas, and many of the residents who lived and worked in early Kansas and Missouri. If you would like to do research using our sources, please call the museum staff to make an appointment: 816-561-1821.



## Looking for the Perfect Gift?

If someone you know is not a member, please consider a membership in the Westport Historical Society for that special gift!

Memberships are \$15.00 for students, \$40.00 for individuals, and \$50.00 for a family.

The membership includes invitations to special events, the society's quarterly newsletter, free guided tour of the museum house, and a 10% discount on gift shop items



## Civil War in Western Missouri

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The Civil War was rehearsed in western Missouri long before fighting began at Fort Sumter in 1861. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 temporarily settled the question of slavery in the territories, but the question was opened again with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. This Act, using the principle of "squatter sovereignty" allowed the settlers in the new territories to decide the status of slavery. Missouri welcomed the possibility of a slave state on her western border, but many New Englanders were disturbed that this act repealed the Missouri Compromise.

The New England Emigrant Aid Society, an abolitionist group, sent many settlers into Kansas. Missourians likewise swarmed into the state hoping to influence the elections. In 1854, the proslavery forces dominated and a pro-slavery government was established in Kansas. In 1855, however, the free-staters held their own elections and formed a second government. There was growing tension as the Kansas Jayhawkers (Union supporters) and the Missouri Border Ruffians (Southern/Confederate sympathizers) vied for dominance and revenge with raids, horse stealing, thievery, and murder.

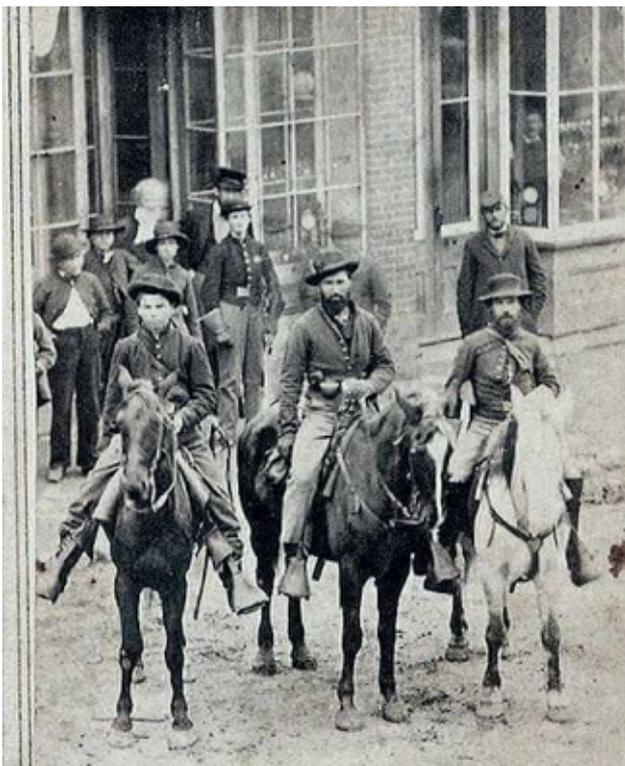


Image: Jayhawkers of the 15th Kansas Cavalry fighting on the Missouri/Kansas border. They were generally untrained and fought in a guerilla-type manner (Source: <https://civilwartalk.com/threads/jayhawkers.140180/>).

Lincoln was elected president in 1860, and by March 1861, seven states had seceded. Because of the large influx of German and Irish settlers, and because of strong economic ties with the North, Missouri declared loyalty to the Union. They were not opposed to slavery, but to secession. Although Missouri leaders hoped to avoid involvement, neutrality was impossible. (Cont'd Next Page) . . .

### Lifetime Members of The Westport Historical Society

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- Mayor & Mrs. Richard Berkley
- Ann Creveling
- Ann Duer
- Jim & Caren Hall
- Kelly's Westport Inn
- Collins Westphel & Kelp, Inc.
- Doris Yonker
- Patricia Cleary Miller
- Allin & Donna Phister
- L. Thorton & Erin Phister
- Ray & Sandy Sutton
- Torosian Fndn./ Jean Kiene
- Cooper Weeks
- Cynthia Higgins
- Thomas Platt
- BEER KC Restaurants:  
Char Bar, Beer Kitchen

### Sponsor Members

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- Pryde's of Westport
- Westport Land & Mgt, LLC

### Patron Members

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- Brian & Sharon Snyder
- Judith & James Budde
- Rosemary Kilker
- Robert & Evalyn Quarles
- David W. Jackson
- John Dillingham
- Patricia Wiedenmann

## Civil War in Western Missouri (Cont'd)

Missouri sent over 100,000 men to the Union forces and about 30,000 to the Confederate cause. These figures present a somewhat distorted view, however, because many men fought with bushwhacker groups—small, mounted forces that swept down on unsuspecting towns to punish those who disagreed with their views. For, although the border warfare which followed the opening of Kansas had largely abated by 1860, there were still many who had a passion to revenge the destruction of earlier raids. General Ewing, was given the nearly impossible task of maintaining order on the Missouri-Kansas border. About one half of the farmers in the border tier of counties of Missouri entered the Rebel service at different times during the war.



Image: Gen. Thomas Ewing Jr. (Source: <https://civilwaronthewesternborder.org/encyclopedia/ewing-thomas-jr>).

Half of them died and others quit the Rebel army and returned to their counties turning to bushwhacking in squads of a dozen and sometimes in bands of several hundreds. They scoured the country, robbing and killing those they thought were unfriendly to them. One of the bloodiest of these raids was William Quantrill's raid on Lawrence in 1863. His group killed 150 men, leaving 80 widows and 250 orphans. In an attempt to reduce cross-border raids and to establish the peace, General Ewing issued Order No. 11 in 1863. The order said to remove all residents from Bates, Cass, Jackson, and some of Vernon county. Instead of increasing peace, the order angered the people who were displaced from their homes. The order also commanded the residents to give all their grain and hay to the Union. Overall, the order was misused and enforced with brutality. Some tried to stop Order No. 11, but could not and it was enforced until the end of the war in 1865.

Source: *The Westport Historical Society Files*

## Did You Know?

1. A simple puzzle in 1913 was the start of the national crossword puzzle craze?
2. The first paint-by-number kit was launched in 1950?
3. During WWI a black bear was born, in England, and became the inspiration for WINNIE THE POO?
4. Fifty years after the battle at Gettysburg, Union and Confederate veterans gathered on the battlefield for a show of national unity?
5. If the weather was good, a wagon train could travel as much as 20 to 25 miles a day?
6. Mrs. Mattie Lykins, widow of Mayor Lykins, opened a first-class female academy called the LYKINS INSTITUTE. in Kansas City?
7. The Ford Motor Company established an automobile plant in Kansas City in 1908?
8. In 1857, over 800 steamboats arrived and departed from Westport Landing?
9. Fort Bridger (named after Jim Bridger) opened as a trading post in 1843 in Black Fork, Wyoming?
10. The first national income tax was passed by Congress in 1861?

## William Rodney Bernard

In 1847, a 24 year-old trained geologist and surveyor named William Rodney Bernard was on his way to California on a U.S. Government assignment via the trails through Westport. Planning to spend the Christmas holiday with his sister Mr. J. G. Hamilton, he stopped in Westport. Mr. Bernard was familiar with Westport since, in earlier years, he had assisted in marking the westward Santa Fe Trail.

After several weeks, Bernard decided that he liked Westport well enough to call it home. With that decision, he resigned his government position and became a Westport businessman. He married Margaret E. Buckner on July 25, 1850, but unfortunately, she lived scarcely more than a year after their marriage. On February, 2, 1853, Mr. Bernard married Susan Simpson Harris, one of the seven daughters of Col. John and Henrietta Harris of the famous Harris House Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard had two daughters, Anna and Nettie, and a son William Rodney Bernard, Jr. who died at the age of 4 months. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard built their first home at 3906 Pennsylvania, and this house remained a landmark in Kansas City until it was razed in 1920's.

Until his death in 1906, William Bernard was active in many enterprises and had various ventures including mining, farming, banking, trading with the Indians, selling real estate, and a mercantile and outfitting business with partners Charles Esmonde Kearney, and Albert Gallatin Boone. In 1856, Bernard was one of the Directors of the Westport and Kansas Insurance Company and in 1857, he donated land for the Union Cemetery. In 1869, he served as mayor of Westport, and in 1873, he was a Jackson County Judge. He was a director of the first street railroad in Kansas City, and as late as 1897, he was city treasurer of Westport.

Mr. Bernard was a leader in the Westport Methodist Church in Westport, and he was remembered by his Sunday School pupils for his kindness, and for the beautiful bouquets of colorful flowers from his gardens which he gave as rewards for good behavior.

Source: *The Westport Historical Society Files*

## Welcome New Board Members!

The Westport Historical Society is happy to welcome several new members to the board! Please give a **Big Welcome** and **Thank You** to **David Baumgardner, Alisha Cole, and Sarah Poff**.

Their energy and expertise will be invaluable to the Society and the Mansion House. They join board members: Richard Heaviland, David Jackson, Craig McCord, Thomas Platt, Sharon Smart, Alana Smith, and Dan Smith.

We look forward to creating great things together!

## WHS Membership Levels

INDIVIDUAL  
Membership \$40

FAMILY  
Membership \$50

PATRON  
Membership \$125

BUSINESS  
Membership \$150

SPONSOR  
Membership \$300

LIFETIME  
Membership \$800\*

\*May be paid over two years



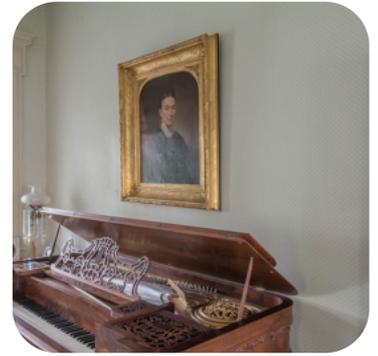
## WHS Needs Volunteers!

Do you have a few hours to spare? Do you enjoy learning about history and sharing what you know? Would you like to be a part of an Historic House Museum and Historical Society?

Whether you would like to be a docent giving tours or if you would just like to help out at special events such as field trips, ice cream socials, or Christmas Candlelight Tours — we always welcome folks who would like to volunteer!

Whatever your skills or talents, we have a place for you!

Call Alana Smith for more Information about volunteering at (816)561-1821 or (913)648-0952.



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