

February 2022



MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

As we begin to look to the new year, it is especially important that we continue facing the challenges 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, admissions, events, and the contributions of its members—we receive no local, state, or federal monies. To continue our work, the Board of Directors would like to encourage you to become a member of the Westport Historical Society. Your membership dues will 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 a past member, we hope you will consider rejoining. A membership application may be found on our website www.westporthistorical.com, or at the museum. Thank you to all current members 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 "2022 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, made out to the Westport Historical Society, and mail it to 4000 Baltimore, KCMO, 64111, or you may pay online.

Thank you for your consideration, and we hope you will visit the museum very soon.

Closed for the Season

The Mansion House is closed for the winter season through March 1, 2022. CIVIL WAR WEDNESDAY will recommence on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 11:00 am. History tours of the House will begin again on Friday, March 4. If your group would like to book a group tour or a special event during February 2022, please call 913-231-6749 for reservations.

RESERVATIONS FOR 2022

We are accepting reservations for group tours, weddings, receptions, parties, and meetings for 2022. For more questions and more information, please call 913-231-6749.

Word of the month:

INSPIRE: fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative, helpful, and/or meaningful.

Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

Favorite Dumplings

Whenever we make stews or soups one can usually find dumplings.

Dumplings are balls of dough that are dropped into a bubbling pot of stew or soup. The dumplings sit, partly submerged in the hot liquid and they expand as they are half-boiled half-steamed for ten minutes or so. The cooked dumplings are airy on the inside and moist on the outside.

If desired, the dough can be flavored with herbs, or small cubes of cheese may be pressed into the center before the dough is dropped into the hot liquid.

1 Cup Flour	1 T. Parsley Flakes
2 Tsp. Baking Powder	1 t. Cold Butter
1 Tsp. White Sugar	½ Cup Milk (can use buttermilk)
1 ½ Tsp. Salt	

Stir together all dry ingredients. Cut in cold butter until crumbly. Stir in milk to make a soft dough. Drop by spoonful's into stew or soup. Cover and simmer for 10-15 minutes. DO NOT LIFT LID until time has elapsed. Ladle stew or soup into bowls and top with dumplings.



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)
- Dorine Lowell
- Olga Marr (Honorary)
- Patricia Cleary Miller
- Jude Montassir
- Steve and Marianne Noll
- Allin & Donna Phister
- L. Thorton & Erin Phister
- Thomas Platt
- Roger and Ann Robertson
- Beverly Shaw
- Sharon Smart
- Torosian Fndn. / Jean Kiene
- Cooper Weeks
- Doris Yonker

OTHER LEVELS OF SUPPORT

Please see our website
sponsorship page!

UNCLE MARKS CORNER

Below you will find some “helpful household tips:”

1. To remove varnish stains—Varnish stains may be removed from hands, and from brushes with which it has been applied, with spirits of wine. First wash with a little spirit, and then, after wiping with a rag, wash thoroughly with soapy water.
2. Cream will not curdle when poured over fruits if you add a pinch of baking soda with the cream before serving.
3. If you cook your vegetables with a small amount of milk, it will bring out more color.
4. To remove a cork from inside of empty wine bottle, pour some ammonia into the bottle, set in a well-ventilated location. In a few days, the cork will be gone.
5. For a quick ant kill, mix 2 cups of borax with one cup of sugar in a quart jar. Punch holes in the lid and sprinkle around the outside of your house.
6. Cleaning decorative pillows: When soap and water cannot be used to clean a decorative pillow, or piece of fabric, make a thick paste of starch (or baking soda) and water. Cover the soiled and stained surface. Let the paste remain until perfectly dry. At this time, brush the dry paste from the surface. If the stain is still visible, repeat.
7. To remove hot water marks: Make a thin paste of salad oil and salt. Apply to the mark for an hour, then polish with a dry cloth and the mark will disappear.’
8. To slow the tarnishing process of silver, place a piece of chalk in your silver chest or drawer. The chalk will absorb moisture and your silver will not tarnish so quickly.
9. Place bay leaves in all your kitchen drawers and in the flour and sugar containers, you will keep any crawling critters away.
10. If your white socks are getting dingy, place them into a pot of water, add 2 pieces of lemon or a teaspoon of lemon juice and soak for about 10 minutes. Then wash as you normally would.



February Calendar

Feb 2: Groundhog Day

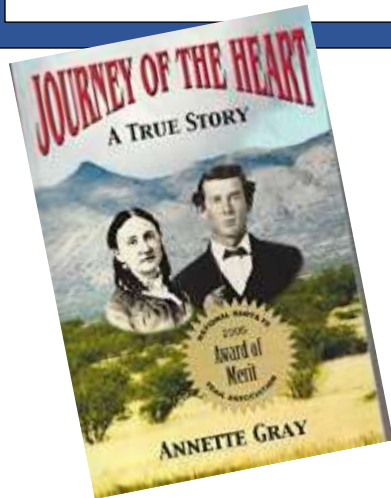
Feb 12: Lincoln's Birthday

Feb 14: Valentine's Day

February 21: Presidents Day
and Washington's Birthday

February

Winter walks
And starlit nights,
Good books and cozy hours,
Time for friends,
And heartfelt sharing,
Dreams of Springtime flowers . . .
Although it may be short on days,
Each February brings
The simple little gifts we count
Among life's
Precious things.
~Unknown



Two Westport Related Books Worth Having

Journey Of The Heart-A True Story is the first complete biography of Mary Bier (Mamie) Aguirre, "the little professor with the long brown ringlets," Arizona's first Spanish language instructor in the U of A. Amid the turmoil of Civil War, this petite Missouri belle fell in love with a handsome Mexican freighter. He didn't speak English, and she didn't speak Spanish, but their romance grew stronger in the untamed territories of New Mexico and Arizona. Experiencing a life of tragedy and triumph, Mamie retained a deep spiritual strength as she raised her three sons and taught in Arizona's first public schools. A feisty lady with an independent spirit, she is now recognized as a "Woman of Inspiration" in Arizona Women's Pavilion (Hall of Fame), Tucson.

Westport's Tarnished Star: In defense of Johnny Behan is "An eye-opening account of the "real" Johnny Behan's life and of the notorious Tombstone shootout. The story begins with Johnny's life in Westport, Missouri, and the hardships he endured during the Civil War. This factual, well-researched book describes the beginnings of Arizona Territory from Fort Whipple (near Prescott), in the early 1860s to the formation of Tombstone in Cochise County in the 1880s, leading up to Arizona's statehood. It tells of an outstanding citizen and lawman who held many positions of responsibility throughout his life. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about my Dunbar ancestors and their participation in Behan's life, as well as the Aguirre/Bernard family's connection. There is more than irony in recognizing that most of the killings in the Tombstone area began and ended with the tenure of the Earp clan in the Territory. I highly recommend this excellent page-turner." Quotation from Monica Dunbar-Smith, Dunbar Family Historian

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THE 1855 HARRIS-KEARNEY HOUSE

March 2 through December 14 : **Civil War Wednesday**
(every Wednesday)

March 5 through December 17: House open for tours.
Check website and Facebook for days and hours of operation.

May 6 through July 2: **FINDING A HIGHER GROUND:**
Forgotten Treasures of Kansas City

Sunday, June 5: Piano Concert: *WHS* with *Kansas City Ragtime and Beyond*
present **Pianist FREDERICK HODGES in concert**

July 8 through July: **KC Clay Guild Exhibit**

June and July: **Music Concert on the Lawn—**
Each Saturday afternoon in June and July

June 10 through August 6: **"A Tale As Old As Time" Celebrating World
Doll Day & National Doll Day**

August: To be announced

September: Visit the Westport Historical Society booth at the
Westport Art Fair

October: Paranormal Investigations (Dates to be announced)

November 5 through December 17: Mansion House @ Christmas

December 4: **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE: Deck the Halls** (Special Exhibit)

December 17: Mansion House Closes for the Winter Season

Temperature, Humidity, and Antiques

Temperature and humidity are two major factors that will cause severe damage to antiques. These factors are interacting and unavoidable and must be taken seriously to secure the longevity of antiques. Ideally for antiques, temperature and humidity levels should vary as little as possible all year round. Sudden and frequent fluctuations in these levels can cause considerable damage.

High heat and low humidity: Air that is too hot and dry causes brittleness in items made of paper and leather and weakens the fibers in textiles. Wooden objects react to changes by shifting. As shrinking occurs, frames and joints of wooden items tend to grow loose, come open, and pull apart. Paintings made on wood panels may warp or crack.

Heat, high humidity, and stagnant air: Warmth and high humidity, and weak lighting can cause the growth of bacteria. Mold, mildew, fungus, and dry rot love these conditions. Paper objects are eaten up or begin to show mold growth; starch pastes lose their strength and their holding power; and leather weakens. When high humidity is combined with stagnant air, leather, wood, and textiles are destroyed. Also, under these conditions, metallic corrosion is accelerated, and some bacteria can attack metal.

High humidity: Do not let the humidity level around antiques go much above 65%. If the air contains more than 65% humidity, mold growths form on organic materials, wooden items swell, wood veneers may peel, and oxidation of metals is increased. High humidity can cause deterioration of all materials at a rapid rate. For more information on temperature and humidity concerning your antiques, consult a reputable antique dealer or preservationist at museums.

Learn More about Local History and Its Preservation

Practical Preservation by David W. Jackson is a booklet that offers simple, sensible and, well, practical steps you can take to safeguard family heirlooms.

David W. Jackson is director of The Orderly Pack Rat, an historical research, consulting, and publishing service he founded in 1996. Jackson has nearly 50 years of experience in personal manuscript collection. He started saving personal papers at age 5, and his childhood hobby of genealogy initiated at age 11 became the inspiration for his future career as an archivist. . . and activist.

Jackson has added to local history bookshelves either on his own, or in concert with others, more than 40 titles since 2000. Through The Orderly Pack Rat imprint (orderlypackrat.com), Jackson continues to research, write, edit, design, and publish local history books. David may be reached via. email at: david.jackson@orderlypackrat.com





Help Wanted at the Westport Historical Society:

- 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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