

April 2021



MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Mansion House is Open for the Season

Due to the continuing threat of COVID, please check our website: westporthistorical.com or our Facebook pages (*1855 Harris-Kearney House; Westport Historical Society*) for operation updates as days and times are subject to change.

Currently, the Mansion House is open:

Friday and Saturday from 1 pm to 5 pm

For more information, please call 913-231-6749.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Many thanks to all who have donated to the *1855 Harris-Kearney House Window Restoration Capital Campaign*. It is vital for this year's capital campaign to be a success so that the Mansion House is secure for another 166 years and beyond. As you know, the society receives no local, state, or federal funds, so your generosity is deeply appreciated. With continued support from donors like you, we will be able to raise the \$24,000.00 needed to make the restoration possible. If you have not made a tax-deductible donation to our capital campaign, please consider giving your support to help with vital window restoration. A check may be made out to the Westport Historical Society with "window restoration" in the memo, and sent to 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO, 64111. If you prefer, donations can be made on our website: www.westporthistorical.com

Thank you for your consideration and continued support!

Calendar

- April 1: April Fool's Day
- April 2: Good Friday
- April 4: Easter Sunday
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 24: Arbor Day

April Fools' Day!

The first of April, some do say,
 Is set apart for All Fool's Day.
 But why the people call it so,
 Nor I, nor they themselves, do know.
 But on his day are people sent
 On purpose for pure merriment.
 ~*Poor Richard's Almanac*, 1760



Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

Late Spring Vegetable Soup

After a long winter, there's nothing more welcome than the sight of spring's first fresh crop of sweet, versatile vegetables. These vegetables are tender, flavorful, juicy, and sweet. Using the freshest seasonal produce from your garden is a healthy way to nourish the body. Here's one the family enjoys:

To every gallon of water add a quart of your spring vegetables—cut small:

2 to 3 turnips	Carrots	New potatoes
3 large spring onions	1 head of celery	1lb. cabbage
Snap peas	Parsley	Sage Savory Thyme

Fry [sauté] herbs in one-quarter of a pound of butter until slightly brown and softened. Add the water with the salt & pepper. Bring to a boil, and simmer until reduced to three quarts and vegetables are tender. Additional water may be added if needed. Serve with fried, toasted bread which is made by browning buttered bread in a hot skillet. Season with salt and pepper and these little morsels are a nice addition to many soups.

Easter

Children in the Victorian era loved Easter as much as the children of today. Egg rolling competitions with special prizes and egg hunts were all the rage. In the 19th century, real eggs were used for rolling. After the "Easter Hare" hid the Easter eggs, the hunt would begin. Egg hunts included cardboard eggs lined with fabric and contained little treats, toys, and candies. Chocolate Easter eggs were introduced by CADBURY'S in the third quarter of the 19th century. The children looked forward to the cold lemonade and festive cookies that were served at these special events. Today, families have all kinds of Easter celebrations, including church services, Easter Egg Hunts, and special family dinners.

*At Easter let your clothes be new
Or else be sure you will it rue. [Tradition rhyme]
~unknown*

For many, many years Easter Sunday has been the first opportunity for ladies to parade their spring fashions, and especially important was the Easter Bonnet—the more elaborate, the better. Of course, a new Easter dress and shoes were a must. This Easter tradition goes back long before the 19th century; there are references to the wearing of new clothes for Easter in the works of Pepys and Shakespeare. For men, Easter was a time for organized bare-knuckle fist fights and wrestling matches, followed by community picnics.

~Joe Mason

THE KANSAS CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

PLEASE TAKE CARE

With the continued spread of COVID-19, the Staff, Board of Directors, and Executive Board of the Westport Historical Society and the Mansion House, hope our members, friends, and neighbors will remain well and safe. Please take good care by continuing to follow the guidelines which are noted to help stop the spread of this horrid virus. Staying out of large crowds and social distancing should be practiced in combination with other everyday preventive actions, including wearing masks and avoiding touching the face with unwashed hands. Frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is especially important after having been in a public place or after blowing the nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer which contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of the hands and rub them together until they feel dry. If you find that you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider.

EVENT SPACE RENTAL

The upper and lower galleries of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum may be rented for luncheons, parties, celebrations, receptions or meetings. The parlor or dining room may be rented for small weddings, and the Mansion House grounds may be rented for outdoor events.

For more information pricing, and availability, please send an email of inquiry to:
westporthistorical@gmail.com

UNCLE MARKS CORNER

I have heard tell that folks are having trouble finding supplies during this cold winter and continuing fight with the flu. People are saying that they want to start a vegetable garden and raise some livestock so they can be sure to have plenty of supplies. Most already know when and how to start gardens, but most don't know the first thing about raising animals. If you are interested in raising your own chickens, for example, let me give you a few tips which you might find helpful!

1. Make sure that your neighbors won't object to you building a chicken coop.
2. Check with your town to find out if chickens are allowed.
3. You will need a coop that is weatherproof, and predator proof—everything likes the taste of chicken, so watch out for dogs, foxes, hawks, snakes, owls, skunks, and maybe a neighbor or two.
4. Decide what breed of chickens you want to raise. Most have great prospects for laying many eggs.
5. You don't need a rooster unless you plan on raising baby chicks.
6. Chickens have great personalities and can make wonderful pets—watch 'em close if they are in your house.
7. Once the eggs are gathered, they don't need to be washed unless they are to be put in the ice box or the refrigerator. Just before laying an egg, the hen adds a protective layer called "bloom" or cuticle to the outside of the egg. This coating seals the shell pores, prevents bacteria from getting inside the shell, and reduces moisture loss from the egg. Washing the egg will take off the bloom which is designed to make the egg last longer.
8. Talk to others who raise chickens to find out what grains to feed them.
9. Chickens can live 10-12 years.
10. Chickens eat bugs and weed seeds, but they can also eat garden produce, so make sure there is a chicken proof fence around your garden, or the chicken coop.
11. Chickens poop A LOT, so the coop and pen, if you have one, must be cleaned every few days.
12. Good luck and if you have any questions, just ask.



Spotlight: Tecumseh's Tomahawk



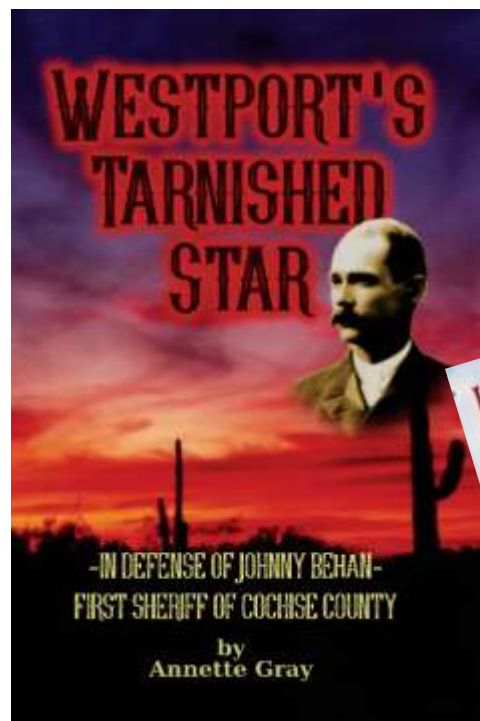
The 1855 Harris-Kearney House is proud and honored to own a tomahawk which was once the prized weapon of Tecumseh, who was among the most famous and able of all Indian chieftains. The tomahawk is over 200 years old, and a grim reminder of times when life in America was full of perils for the scattered settlers.

The Maplewood handle or stem (for the head of the weapon is hollow so that it may be used for a pipe) is nineteen inches long and the bowl is an inch deep. Its cylindrical body is cut on graceful lines. It is decorated with silver bands and the weapon is as strong and murderous as the British government intended such instruments should be when its agents craftily disseminated the tomahawks to the tribes on Lake Erie's shores.

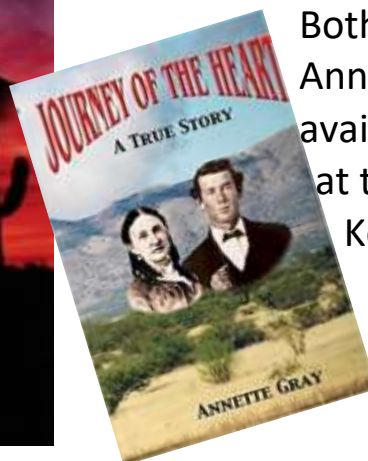
Tecumseh used the tomahawk on October 5, 1813, during an attack on British General Henry A. Proctor and troops near Chatham, Ontario. It was during this battle that Tecumseh lost his life and a soldier picked up the weapon. Later that year, while in Missouri, Tecumseh's brother Tenskwatawa (known as the Shawnee Prophet) identified and verified that the tomahawk had belonged to Tecumseh.

At a pow-wow held on Okay Creek (near the site of the old Kansas City Union Station) Blue Jacket, a very old Shawnee Chief from the Indian Territory, caught sight of the tomahawk which had been taken to the Pow-Wow by a member of an early Westport pioneer family who owned the tomahawk. Blue Jacket's memories of great battles were so aroused when he recognized the old weapon, that he grabbed it and raised a war-whoop. With keen delight, he skillfully threw and implanted the tomahawk in a distant tree just as if imbued with the spirit of its old owner.

Today, the Tecumseh tomahawk rests quietly at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum. Please plan a trip to the museum to see this outstanding piece of American history.



Journey of the Heart—a true story, and ***Westport's Tarnished Star*** highlight two Westport notables.



Both books by Annette Gray are available for purchase at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House.



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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