



MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS

DECK THE HALLS FOR CHRISTMAS! The Mansion House will be open for the annual Christmas Holiday Tours beginning on Saturday, November 5 through Wednesday, December 21.

Please make a reservation for Group Tours of 10 or more. Mansion House staff will welcome guests to see the 19th century holiday décor and hear stories of Christmases past. This is a perfect way to share the season with friends and family.

For more information, send an email to westporthistorical@gmail.com, visit our website www.westporthistorical.com, or call 913-231-6749

HOURS, MEMBERSHIP, ETC!

The 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum (the Mansion House) is open Friday and Saturday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Admission prices: Adults--\$10.00; Seniors--\$8.00; Students--\$6.00; Active Military—Free; Retired Military—half price. If you are not a member of the Westport Historical Society, we invite you to become a part of our society family. You will find membership information on our website or call 816-561-1821. **Reservations are now being accepted for school field trips, group tours, meetings, weddings, and private parties. Call for pricing and available dates.**

September Holidays

**Monday, October 10—
Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day**

Columbus Day is a federal holiday, celebrated every year on the second Monday of October that commemorates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas and his arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492.

Indigenous Peoples' Day honors the past, present, and futures of Native peoples throughout the US. The day is a state observance in 30 states and a state holiday in 3 states and 1 federal district.

Monday, October 31—Halloween

Over the years, Halloween has evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes, bobbing for apples, and eating yummy “spooky” treats.

Word of the Month:

BRAVE is this month's word. It means ready to face and endure danger or pain; showing courage. “The brave bystander jumped into the surging water to save the little boy from drowning.”

Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

Roasted Radishes

Radishes are root vegetables with light-colored, crunchy flesh, variable skin color, and an almost spicy, peppery taste. Although you can roast spring radishes, winter radishes stand up better to high heat. Roasting winter radishes mellows their bite; their dense flesh becomes almost creamy.

- 1-pound radishes, scrubbed well
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary
- 1 1/2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon ground fennel

Grease a roasting pan. Cut the (unpeeled unless skins are dense) radishes into approximately 1-inch cubes and place in the roasting pan. Add the salt, pepper, rosemary, oil, and ground fennel; toss to coat evenly. Roast over high heat (400 degrees) for 20-30 minutes, tossing the radishes a few times so they cook evenly. They'll be lightly browned and tender enough to be pierced with a fork when they're done.



UNCLE MARK'S CORNER

Fruits and Vegetables that are in Season this Fall.

Apples, Basil, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Green Beans, Melos, Pears, Peppers, Pumpkins, Radishes, Spinach, Squash, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potatoes, Turnips, Winter Squash.

Remember that you can enjoy the taste of the fall fruits and vegetables year-round by canning and drying them. You can also freeze them if you have a good supply of ice!

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

Sponsor Members

Westport Land & Management, LLC

Patron Members

Pat Wiedenmann
Karen Bulk
Charlotte Wornall Kirk
Midwest Genealogy Center

Business Members

See logos on the next page!

OCTOBER

October! October!
There's magic in the name.
A clear sky, a blue sky,
And sunsets all aflame.

October! October!
It's harvest time again;
The high corn, and the low corn,
Are gathered in the bin.

October! October!
The birds sing with swelled throats;
A long song, a last song
Of tender parting notes.

October! October!
The hills are all aglow
With red leaves, with gold leaves
That dance when the soft winds blow.

October! October!
I love you more each year;
Your warm days, your cool days,
To me they are most dear.

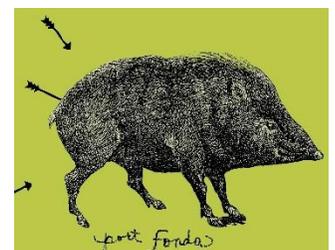
~Maitland Bushoy

Westport Characters Figure into Two Local History Books

Missourians have always been known to accomplish great things. This is especially true when we examine accounts of pioneer stoicism in the face of adversity.

For author Annette Gray, stories which caught and held her attention are those of two teenagers from West Port, Missouri. Their names were Mary (Mamie) Bier-Bernard Aguirre and her cousin, by marriage, John (Johnny) Harris Behan. Both were raised as Southerners in a relatively peaceful environment. Then came 1861 and the Civil War, and everything changed.

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THE KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY



ANTIQUE SPOTLIGHT

Women's Fashions in the 1930's

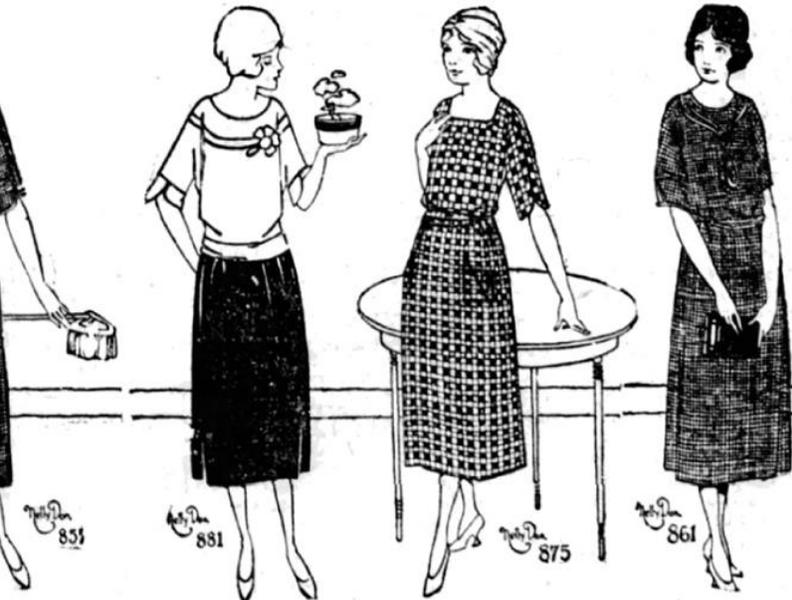
The decade of the 1930's ushered in a substantial change in the style of clothing designed for women. The playfulness of the 20's was pushed aside, and a new age of strong feminine dressing took center stage. Clothes became much more practical in the form of well-tailored suits and some even more glamorous as epitomized by the queens of the silver screen. Curves were back in fashion, as the clothes of the 30's were cut to showcase the female body and celebrate the female physique instead of trying to change the silhouette. The emphasis was on femininity combined with functionality and simplicity.

Day look shopping list

- Pleated or inset panels on skirts and dresses
- Buttons, bows, lace
- Raised empire waist
- Short jackets and capelets
- Calf length hemlines
- Shawl collars, Peter Pan collars, bows, ruffles
- Muted earth tones: mustard, jade, reddish brown
- Top stitching, contrast fabric, inserts, big buttons
- Tilt hats with feathers, bows, and broaches
- T-Bar stacked heels
- Lace-up ankle shoes with round toes

Evening look shopping list

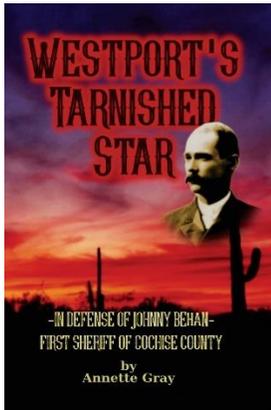
- Pleated or inset panels on skirts and dresses
- Buttons, bows, lace, scalloped edges
- Raised empire waist
- Leg-of-mutton sleeved jackets
- Full length hemlines
- Deep V necks—front and back
- Dark velvets, and silks in jewel tones
- Biased cut material and draped dresses
- Belts with celluloid or paste claps
- Fishtail skirts
- Art Deco jewels



VICTORIAN HALLOWEEN HOLIDAY

For Victorian families, Halloween was not just another holiday, but a very special occasion celebrated every year on 31st October with neighborly get-togethers, dancing, games, feasting, and telling ghost stories. Throughout the month of October, everyone enjoyed harvest balls, masquerade parades, and All Hallows' Eve pumpkin festivals. Each event required that attendees don elaborate costumes and for months before the events, newspapers and periodicals featured articles detailing the minutiae of various fancy dress as all costumes were handmade.

Since costumes were an important part of Halloween, late in the summer, ladies armed themselves with pen, paper and measuring tape, and gathered the family together to find out what costumes they would like for the holiday celebration. There would be much discussion about character costumes and the particular details that each must have. If the smallest details are found to be missing, children and adults could become very fussy witches, or pumpkins, or goblins!



Looking for a Year End Holiday Gift?

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.

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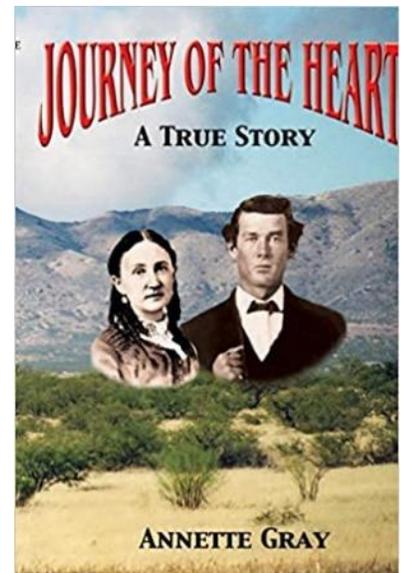
In the autumn of 1863, when these two young people fled south, West Port could well be described as a war zone. Both Mamie and Johnny had seen homes burned and family and friends shot to death. They were more than anxious to leave these terrifying scenes behind them—anxious to hit the Santa Fe Trail.

Nineteen-year-old Mamie was escorted by her freighter husband, Epifanio Aguirre. This was her first of five trips over what was then called *the Road to Santa Fe*. She was a petite young lady with a fair complexion and long, auburn ringlets that fairly bobbed when she walked. She was well educated, for the times. However, when she reached her destination, she was in for the cultural shock of her young life.

Her husband's hacienda was very different from her home in West Port, the food was heavily spiced, and Mexican clothing was different from her own. Even the young couple's religious beliefs were at odds; Epifanio was Catholic, while she was Baptist. To top it off, Mamie spoke no Spanish and her husband and in-laws spoke very little English.

By the same token, seventeen-year-old Johnny Behan, was out of his element when he hired on to work with Aguirre's southbound mule trains. Although Mamie rode in an ambulance designed for comfort, Johnny was a jack-of-all-trades: a drover, a teamster, repairing wagon wheels and broken harness. On the trail, hard tack was eaten in the saddle and, at night, he bedded down under a wagon—rain or shine. No glamour for Johnny!

When the Aguirre family dropped off at their Las Cruces rancho, Johnny and his best buddy, Theodore Jones (a sixteen-year-old also from West Port), continued on until they reached Tucson in late December of 1863. Imagine, these two shy Missouri farm boys in a strange country abounding with cacti, rattle snakes and miles of drifting sand. What a transition from their lush green farms on the banks of the Missouri River! However, they were used to hard work, and soon found employment with the California Column, not as recruits, but as civilians.





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**



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Westport Historical Society

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