

# October 2021



# MANSION HOUSE NEWS

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**WESTPORT**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## 2021 Quilt Extravaganza WHS Fundraising Event!

Harris-Kearney House  
Through October 30, 2021

The COVID pandemic forced some changes, including cancellation of all programs except Tammy Reid's Talk and the Quilt Exhibit, but it is not too late to join us for some fun! NEW Exhibit Days: every Friday and Saturday through October 30<sup>th</sup>: 1:00-5:00 pm : exhibit pass price: \$10

<https://www.westporthistorical.com/2021-quilt...>

### TAMMY REID'S TALK

**Wednesday, October 27th from 12:30-2:30 pm.**

**Kelly's Westport Inn, 500 Westport Rd, Kansas City, Missouri**

(Kelly's is closed to the public during our private event.)

Join us for both an informative and FUN interactive conversation with three panelists and the event's attendees.

Refreshments served. Tickets must be purchased in advance. This is not a lesson in how quilts are made.

+TAMMY REID, featured quilt exhibitor

+DAKOTA REDFORD, the Director of the Missouri Quilt Museum, Hamilton, Missouri

+CHRISTINE PEMBROOK, a quilt historian who has studied for 30 years how to determine the age of, or construction date range of when a quilt was constructed. Christine assigned the dates and ranges to all of Tammy's quilts for the exhibit, and those belonging to the museum. Christine is a member of Lee's Summit Quilt Guild

AGENDA and TICKET Details HERE <https://www.westporthistorical.com/2021-quilt...>

A CHANCE to WIN 1 of 5 DRAWINGS

Details and Tickets Available On-line <https://www.westporthistorical.com/copy-of-tickets-1>

Please don't delay if you plan to join us for any of these events. REGISTER On-Line NOW before it is too late.

<https://form.jotform.com/212006425042136>

### Word of the Month

Nurture: the process of caring for and encouraging the growth or development of someone or something.

## Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

### Apple Cake

**It is a special treat to** smell the aroma of apple cake when it is baking in the oven. The apples and the cinnamon combine to make the sweetest, heavenly smell of fall, apple picking and fresh-squeezed cider. The delightful cake is incredibly moist and tasty all by itself, but then the delicious homemade caramel glaze is added making the cake taste like a caramel apple.

#### Cake:

4 large eggs	1 tsp. salt
2 cups white sugar	1 tsp. baking soda
1 ½ cup cooking oil	1 tbl. cinnamon
3 cups of flour	2 tsp. vanilla
3 cups peeled and chopped good cooking apples	
1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts	

#### Glaze:

¾ cup salted butter	¼ cup milk
1 cup packed brown sugar	1 tsp. vanilla

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour a large cake pan. In a large mixing bowl, mix together eggs, sugar, and oil until thoroughly combined.

In a medium bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. Gradually add the flour mixture (in three batches) to the liquid mixture. Stir slowly to combine. Then mix in vanilla.

Stir in chopped apples and pecans. Batter will be thick.

Pour batter into prepared cake pan

Bake for about an hour (until a toothpick inserted comes out clean).

Allow cake to cool completely.

In a small pan, melt butter over low heat. Whisk in brown sugar and milk. Bring to a boil the reduce to a gentle simmer. Whisk constantly for about 5 minutes then remove from heat.

Stir in vanilla. Allow the caramel glaze to cool for 5 minutes.

Then pour over cake.

Top with extra chopped pecans or walnuts (optional).

Slice and serve!

### OCTOBER HOLIDAYS

#### Monday, October 11 Columbus Day

Columbus Day is a U.S. Federal Holiday which officially celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492.

#### Sunday, October 31 Halloween

Halloween originated as an ancient Celtic festival where people lit bonfires and wore costumes to ward off ghosts. The earliest mention of Halloween in the United States was in the April 1836 issue of *Godey's*. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o'-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes, and eating treats. In 1921 Halloween was made an official holiday to be celebrated each October 31<sup>st</sup>.



## UNCLE MARKS CORNER

Did you know that **bird behavior can help us predict the weather?** Closely observe nature and your feathered friends, and you will learn so much!

Look to the sky and watch birds in flight. If they are flying high, that usually indicates fair weather. As my grandpa used to say:

Hawks flying high means a cloudless sky. When they fly low, prepare for a blow. Geese fly higher in fair weather than in foul.

Birds tend to stop flying and take refuge at the coast if a storm is coming. They will also fly low to avoid the discomfort of the falling air pressure.

- *When seagulls fly inland, expect a storm.*
- *When fowls roost in daytime, expect rain.*
- *Petrels gathering under the stern of a ship indicates severe weather.*

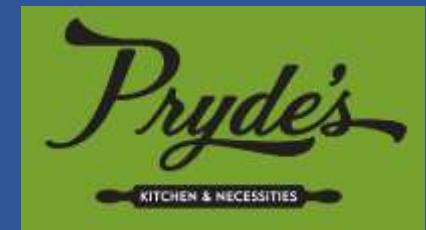
Birds tend to get very quiet before a big storm, and they sing if the weather is good or improving.

- *Birds singing in the rain are an indication of fair weather approaching.*

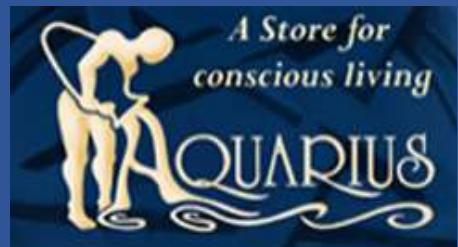
Just a few of Grandpa's bird proverbs and prognostics:

- *If crows fly in pairs, expect fine weather; a crow flying alone expect foul weather.*
- *The whiteness of a goose's breastbone indicates the kind of winter: red spots mean a cold and stormy winter; few or light-colored spots mean a mild winter.*
- *Partridges drumming in the fall means a mild and open winter.*
- *When domestic geese walk east and fly west, expect freezing weather.*
- *If birds in the autumn grow tame, the winter will be too cold for game.*
- *When the rooster goes crowing to bed, he will rise with a watery head.*
- *When the swallow's nest is high, the summer is very dry. When the swallow's nest is low, you can safely reap and sow.*

~taken in part from *The Old Farmer's Almanac, 2021*



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# Mansion House News 4

ENGINEERED IRONY

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

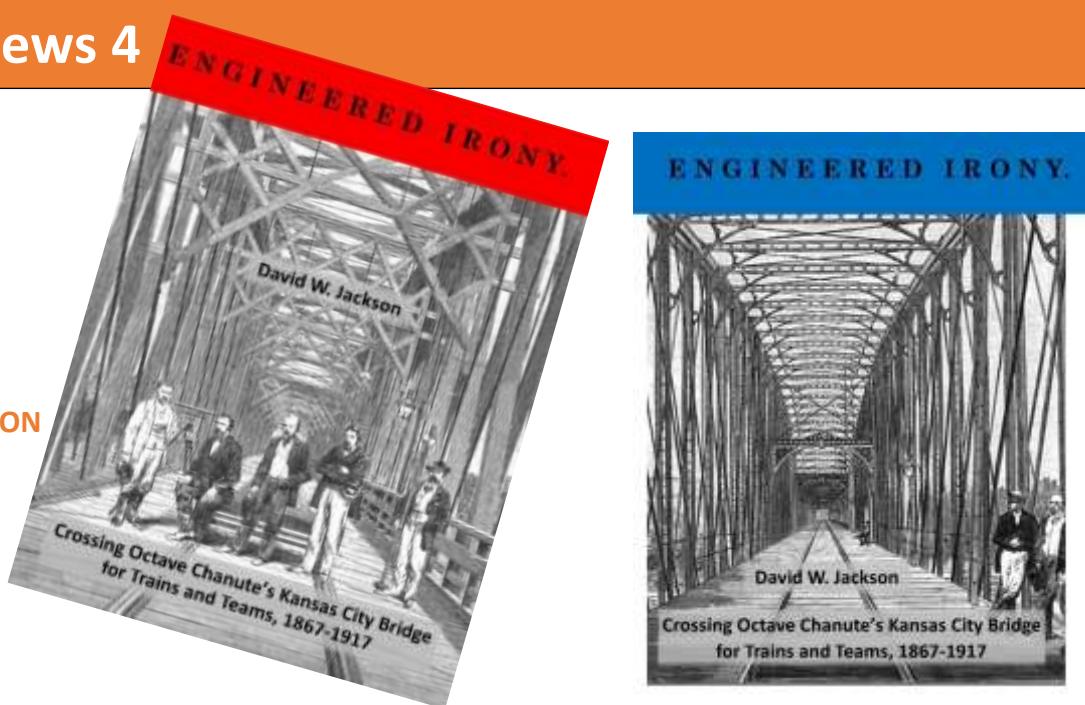
Social at 12:00 noon

Luncheon at 12:30 pm

Society updates, election

Speaker: David W. Jackson, author, local historian, and Westport Historical Society Board Member

Topic: The Hannibal Bridge's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



For more than 20 years, David Jackson was archivist for the Unity School of Christianity and Jackson County Historical Society. Since 1996, he has been director of The Orderly Pack Rat. David's first book was published in 2000, and since, he has added on his own or in concert with others more than 40 titles to local history bookshelves.

As guest speaker, David will present on his newest set of books commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> 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 Chanute'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 Friday, November 1st, and advise of any dietary restrictions.**

## ANTIQUE SPOTLIGHT

If you are just beginning to dip your toes into the world of antiques, there are some terms you should know to get you started on your antiquing adventures.

### Understanding the terms:

"Antique": over 100 years old

"Attributed to": Believed to have been created by a particular artist, but not conclusive

"Circle of": Was created by someone working in an artist's studio with some involvement by the artist

"Period": Made in a particular span of time

"Provenance": The history of the ownership of the actual object

"School of": Looks like something that the artist would have done

"Signed or Stamped": The specific "mark" of a particular artist or furniture maker

"Style": A "look" made in a period.

"Vetting": A process of authenticating objects

"Vintage": 25-75 years older than today



## OCTOBER, OCTOBER

*October's the month  
When the smallest breeze  
Gives us a shower  
Of autumn leaves.*

*Leaves sailing down—  
October is red  
And golden and brown.*

*October leaves are lovely  
They rustle when we run.  
Sometimes we make a heap  
And jump in them for fun.*



*Autumn leaves float quietly down  
And form a carpet on the ground,  
But when those leaves are stepped upon,  
Listen for the crackling sound.*

*~unknown author*

## FUN IN THE FALL

1. Go on a hike or bike ride in a national or state park and enjoy the brilliant colors of the surrounding fall foliage.
2. Attend art and music festivals for some fun with friends and family.
3. Find an apple orchard, pick the delicious fall fruit, and enjoy some fresh apple cider.
4. Enjoy the many tastes of seasonal wine at different wineries.
5. Visit second-hand stores and find vintage clothing for a fun, unique Halloween costume.
6. Rake the fall leaves, make big piles, jump-in and hear the fall crunch-repeat for more fun.
7. Go to a pumpkin farm, find your perfect orange sphere, and learn how to make a jack-o-lantern.
8. Tour some historic museums and taking walking tours of your area.



## 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](mailto:westporthistorical@gmail.com), or call (913) 648-0952



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