

The Westporter



August 2018

WESTPORT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO 64111
(816)561-1821 or (913)648-0952

westporthistorical@gmail.com

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



Lifetime Members of The Westport Historical Society

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Corn Harvest

Time to harvest the corn! At the end of the 19th century the majority of corn harvested was cut by hand using a scythe. It was then gathered into sheaves by the use of a sickle. The crop around the borders of the land was cut first, and then the rows were worked. The workers made a binder with a handful of straw and then bound what had been gathered with sickles. These bundles were then stacked and left to dry. The dried crop would then be taken to the barn or a harvest shed and threshed with a primitive flail.

The barns were built with wide doors on each side, opposite each other and a wood floor was laid between the doors for use in threshing the corn. The barn floor would be swept and the sheaves opened and spread out in layers. The threshers would then put the flail into action, swinging it in all directions and never missing an aim. Threshing was arm-aching work, but very little corn

remained on the stalks once it was flailed. The reed was gathered into large bundles and the corn and chaff swept into a heap with a besom broom. This was repeated all day until the stacks were all threshed.

Next, a winnowing machine was placed in the middle of the barn, the doors of which were thrown wide open to create a draught. Then the mixture of corn and chaff was thrown into the machine. Soon the chaff, locally termed "doust" was flying into the farmyard through the wide doors and the golden corn was passing into a bucket set at the side. Later, the corn would be contained in a sack and sent to a miller or corn merchant.

The final stage was combing the reed. This was an occupation for a rainy day. The farmer combed bundles of reed of all loose straw and chaff using a large wooden framed comb with iron teeth. The reed was stored for future use in thatching straw ricks, and the farmhouse and farm buildings.

- From the files of The Westport Historical Society

Old-Fashioned Creamed Corn

2 ½ lbs. Fresh corn from cob
1 tsp salt
3 tbl. sugar

¾ c. whipping cream
2-3 tbl. corn starch

Cook corn in small amount of water. Add sugar, salt, and cream. Bring to a boil. Thicken with mixture of corn starch and cream.

Business Partner Spotlight

More Business Sponsors will be seen in the November Westporter

AC Hotel Kansas City Westport

In the heart of Kansas City's historic Westport district, you will find this stylish urban retreat. Designed for you to relax during a business trip or to start off your explorations of local boutiques and nightspots, the hotel's location is close to many bars, restaurants, markets coffee shops and downtown Kansas City. Visitors will find free parking and Wi-Fi in an atmosphere of quite comfort and exciting style.

560 Westport Road Kansas City, MO 64111 816-931-0001

Joe's Pizza Buy the Slice

Joe's Pizza Buy the Slice, affectionately known by those who frequent the establishment as simply "Joe's." Located in the north end of the Kelly's building, this popular piece of pizza heaven is close to downtown, the Country Club Plaza and Rockhurst University. If pizza isn't what you are looking for, the menu also includes a variety of appetizers, sandwiches and fresh salads. Order Delivery or Pickup from **Joe's Pizza Buy the Slice**

4058 Pennsylvania Ave, Kansas City, MO. 64111 816-931-2777

Beer Kitchen

Westport is cool and a visit to the Beer Kitchen is worth the trip. The name says it all: the Beer Kitchen honors its namesake by offering up ice-cold brews. The restaurant offers a mouthwatering menu with salads in addition to burgers, sandwiches and delicious entrees. The food and the service are impeccable, so stop in for the all-day omelets and an inspired weekend brunch. The atmosphere is cheery and celebrates all things beer.

435 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO 64111 816-389-4180

Char Bar

Visitors to this southern-inspired smokehouse will savor the combination of a love for great beer and legendary BBQ, award-winning sauces, and superb service. The menu features beef pork, sausage, poultry and yummy desserts. The Char Bar is the ideal place for team dinners and networking events, offering several options to be shared at your table. It is also a pub with an excellent selection of beers, wine, and cocktails. Just for fun, there is a 10,000-square foot Beer Garden featuring backyard amusements such as lawn croquet, bocce ball and ping-pong.

4050 Pennsylvania Ave #150, Kansas City, MO 64111 816-389-8600

HopCat

The 100 taps include the best local beers and ciders made in Missouri and Kansas. Over 70 rotating drafts offer seasonal selections exclusive to HopCat. The restaurant has large windows on the corner of Westport Road and Broadway that make for great people watching. An open and airy rooftop patio is the perfect place to take a group for great beers, marvelous food, and friendly staff. HopCat always has something going on - whether it's a beer dinner, beer bingo, trivia night, or special beer tapping. Be sure to check out the TikiCat bar in the basement!

401 Westport Rd, Kansas City, MO 64111 816-656-3439

Visit Our
Business Partners:



THE KANSAS CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Business Partner Spotlight (cont'd)

Kelly's Westport Inn

Family-owned and operated, Kelly's Westport Inn is a must see Kansas City destination. With cold beer, a full bar, a diverse crowd, live music on weekends, a colorful history, weekday specials, a great rooftop patio, and always someone with a good story, Kelly's is an Irish pub like no other. It is located in the heart of historic Westport in one of the oldest remaining commercial buildings in Kansas City! If your timing is right, you might visit with one of the owners, who will relate the building's colorful history and show you around this popular neighborhood hang-out. Watch the big game on one of the big TVs and be sure to pick-up a "must have" Kelly's T-shirt before leaving!

500 Westport Rd, Kansas City, MO 64111-3012 816-561-5800

Sailor Jack's

Get ready to set sail on the front patio of Sailor Jack's (formerly The Foundry). The facade of his hip nautical themed restaurant resembles the bow of a boat with a 30-foot mast and three sails. Tabletops are made from 1880s-era ship hatches. Enjoy the casual, nautical theme while you savor daily flown in fresh and wild caught seafood. Choose from such favorites as Old Bay-spiced fried chicken, Rhode Island fried clams, fish and chips, lobster corn bake, and low country shrimp boil. The dessert sundae and cobbler are not to be missed. You can whet your whistle with an old time Salty Dog, or grab a friend and a couple of straws to enjoy one of the shareable sized cocktails while you play foosball at the large foosball table. With its fun décor, great service and excellent food and drink, Sailor Jack's is sure to become one of your favorite Westport venues.

424 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO 64111 816-960-0866

Meal Time!

The terms to designate breakfast, lunch and dinner as the names of meal times are products of the 20th century. In 16th century Europe, the upper class had two meals a day. Dinner was served at 11:00am and a supper began at 5:00pm. By the 17th century, a meal known as breakfast was added to the daily schedule. With this addition, a heavier dinner was moved to 1:00pm and the supper meal became a light meal. Upper class citizens, like President George and Martha Washington, dined on breakfast between 7:30 and 8:00am, enjoyed dinner at 3:00pm, had a "tea" at 5:00pm and a light supper at 7:00pm. During the 19th century, lunch was an informal meal that quickly became a practical necessity. As more and more men worked away from the home, it became difficult for them to stop work and go home to attend a lengthy family meal, so the meal schedule was changed.



The main meal of the day was moved from noon to early evening. "Suppertime" for some families took place around 6:00pm; for others, the time was 9:00pm. The last meal of the day was commonly referred to as "dinner" by the beginning of the 20th century.

~from the files of the *Westport Historical Society*

The Westport Historical Society 2018 Officers & Directors

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913-648-0952

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The Westporter & Mansion House News

Tricia Ptasnik,
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WHS Website

Tricia Ptasnik,
Editor



The Capture of Mrs. Morgan

(as told by Lavina Gates Chapman in 1872)

"I was a bride," Mrs. Morgan began. My maiden name was Brewster. Mr. Morgan and I were married on September. 24, 1868 and I always went to the field. On the morning of October 2, it being very foggy, Mr. Morgan thought there was no danger so he told me that I could stay at the house and do what work I most needed and while I was busy at work I heard the clatter of horses' feet and rushed to the door to see what was the matter, and there were our horses right near the door, snorting and looking back.

I could not see anything and thought that Mr. Morgan might have been hurt and managed to free the horses, so I slipped the harnesses off at the corner of the house and strapped on my revolvers and mounted one horse and lead the other and started in search of him. I came to the river and the coast seemed clear and rushed down into the river and started up the opposite bank.

The Indians saw me coming and lay flat on the ground until I was right among them then they jumped and grabbed my horse by the bridle. They had all risen to their feet and there seemed to be a regiment of them. Everything turned dark to me and when I came to consciousness I was in a strange country among the hills bound tight to my horse. They traveled until night then camped on a creek and another band of Indians came in soon after, having a Miss White as their captive, having captured her somewhere near Concordia. They then took us to their village and put a guard over us and made us do menial service as carrying wood from the creeks for the more favored squaws.

We obeyed all orders and gained confidence of the Indians and during this time we were laying by a supply of dried buffalo meat so we could

escape for civilization the first opportunity presented. The warriors came in one day from the war-path and had a big powwow and when all was quiet we crawled out past the guards unnoticed, then we struck the Indian trail and traveled until morning and then hid in some secluded spot where we could see the Indians passing to and fro on the trail seeking for their lost captives.

When night closed in we again took the trail and repeated the same until one morning we saw a light on the hill and knew it must be Fort Dodge. We thought it best to keep hidden until the soldiers came out but were so hungry to see a white face that we agreed to pass on and had not traveled over a half hour when the Indians recaptured us. I fought hard and said I would not go back but they took me by main force and shipped me and bound me onto a pony and took us back to the Indian village and they were more strict with us, giving us no privileges whatever—and we felt that we would never gain our liberty so we settled down to hard work.

An Indian chief proposed to me and I married him, thereby choosing the least of two evils and never expecting to see a white person again. My Indian husband would come in from the warpath bringing many things he thought would please me. The squaws now waited on me bringing me wood and laying it down at my door and all my Indian husband expected of me was to tend his horse; when he come in of the war path he would throw the lariat to me and I would picket out his horse.

I began to think much of him for his kindness to me and when they brought the news that there were two white men in camp I did not care to see them and was surprised to see . . . (cont'd on next page)

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, \$35.00 for individuals, and \$45.00 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



The Capture cont'd

my brother walk into the tent. I had on the Indian garb.

The government had captured five Indian chiefs and going to hang them. Only on one condition would the government free them and that was to free myself and Miss White. There are many things I have not spoken of. As were piloted back to the Fort where the officer's wives took us in and furnished us with clothing from their own wardrobes and we were sent to our former homes. After I came back the road seemed rough and I often wished they had never found me.

It was in April the following spring that Mrs. Morgan was returned and she has been called to try the realities of the other world, a sleep that none but the last trumpet shall arise.

~ taken in part from

[true] **SHORT STORIES OF PIONEER DAYS**, by Lavina Gates Chapman

WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON. November 3, 2018 at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House: Upper gallery



Social at 12:00 noon
Luncheon at 12:30 pm
Society updates, election, and speaker at 1:15 pm

Speaker will be announced in October.

Cost of luncheon is \$14.00. RSVP your luncheon and meeting reservation to [816-561-1821](tel:816-561-1821) or westporthistorical@gmail.com
Let us know of any dietary restrictions.

Did You Know?

1. A Missouri woman by the name of Rose O'Neill created the Kewpie doll about 1912?
2. When the steamboat Arabia sank in 1856 the cargo included 1 million nails and 10,000 screws?
3. "The Scout" statue in Penn Valley Park was dedicated in 1922 as a memorial to local Indian tribes?
4. In 1858, the population of Westport was over 2000 people?
5. Westport was annexed by Kansas City, MO in 1897?
6. Georgia Neese Grace, from Kansas, became the first woman treasurer of the United States in 1949?
7. In 1838, John Calvin McCoy, Francois Chouteau and some other merchants formed the "Town of Kansas Company" which then purchased the land that became the Town of Kansas.
8. Kansas City is known as one of the most popular "cradles of jazz" in the United States?
9. In 1870 sugar cost \$.07 a pound?
10. GOLD RUSH starring Charlie Chaplin was the most popular western movie in 1925?

WHS 2018 Event Calendar

- August 25: SPOOKS paranormal class and investigation
- September 7, 8, 9: Westport Art Fair
- October 13, 20, 27: Candlelight Ghost Tours
- November 3: Westport Historical Society Annual Meeting and Luncheon
- November 9-December 20: Harris Kearney House dressed for Christmas
- November 23, 24: Christmas Candlelight Tours
- December 20: Closed for season
- March 6, 2019: Open for season



Special Exhibit

at

The Harris-Kearney House



SUMMER WHITES: A TRADITION

White was the favorite and popular color for hot-weather dresses during the Victorian Era and at the turn of the century. Thin cotton lawn was the fabric of choice as it allowed the slightest breeze to pass through the entirely breathable, natural fabric.

Because the white color reflects a certain amount of the sun's rays, the material acts as a physical shade, or UV protection. The intricate lace, trims, white works and tiny buttons make these garments beautiful to look at and beautiful to wear.

The SUMMER WHITES special collection is on exhibit June 15 through August 31 at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum.

Exhibit admission is free with house tour purchase. Call 816-561-1821 or 913-231-6749 for more information and exhibit hours.

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Email: westporthistorical@gmail.com

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!

The incredible *WESTPORT ART FAIR* is September 7, 8, and 9, 2018. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever with some new exhibitors, new activities, and a new children's area.

The Westport Historical Society is honored to host the **Westport Art Fair/Westport Historical Society Information Booth** again this year. Located in front of Kelly's, this booth is not only the information booth, but the welcoming center for the Fair, and the Westport Community.

We are asking everyone who is a member or friend of the Westport Historical Society, or the Heart of Westport Neighborhood Association, or a friend of the Westport area to volunteer to help at the information booth to make the fair a success. The shifts are two hours in length and you may sign up for one or more shifts. No experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun and welcome visitors!

Please pick your slot(s) and email the Westport Historical Society at westporthistorical@gmail.com.

Thank you for donating your time

September 7	September 8	September 9
11am-1pm	9am-11am	9am-11am
1pm-3pm	11am-1pm	11am-1pm
3pm-5pm	1pm-3pm	1pm-3pm
5pm-7pm	3pm-5pm	3pm-5pm
7pm-9pm	5pm-7pm	5pm pack-up
	7pm-9pm	



WHS Membership Levels

INDIVIDUAL
Membership \$35

FAMILY
Membership \$45

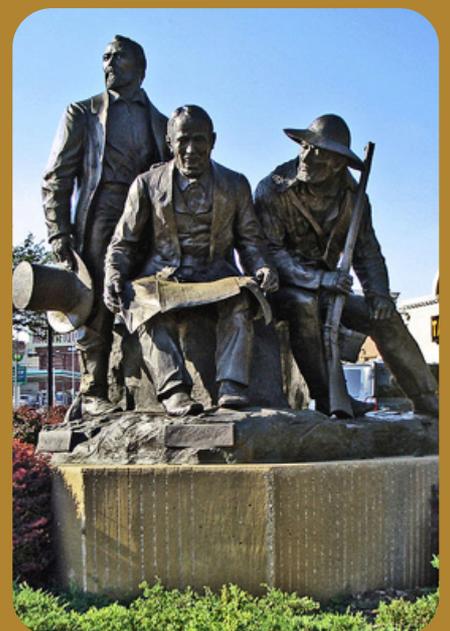
SUPPORT
Membership \$80

PATRON
Membership \$100

BUSINESS
Membership \$150

SPONSOR
Membership \$300

LIFETIME
Membership \$700



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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