

**WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE 1855 HARRIS-KEARNEY  
HOUSE MUSEUM--PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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(SUBJECT)

**DEDICATION OF HISTORICAL MARKER  
AND 19TH CENTURY COVERED WAGON**

Kansas City, MO and the town of Westport:

Today, as a part of Kansas City, Westport still retains its own identity, and its historical legacy remains with us, but its historical significance is established by reviewing its role and importance in local history. Very little original frontier village is left, but the heritage and history of this community will always be preserved.

A Dedication Ceremony for the society's covered wagon and a historical Westport marker will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015, 2:00pm, in the Westport Shopping Center at the corner of Westport Road and Southwest Traffic Way. The Dedication Ceremony seeks to honor the men and women of Westport and Early Kansas City, and to increase public awareness of important cultural resources, bring attention to community treasures, and promote education in order to guarantee the preservation of our local history. Speakers for the afternoon will include Crosby Kemper III, director of the Kansas City, MO Public Library; Cooper Weeks, owner of the shopping center; and Alana Smith, President of the Westport Historical Society and the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum.

During the dedication, the **Crosby Kemper III Historic Preservation Award** will be presented to the 2015 winner and a special community award will be introduced and awarded.

To be dedicated:

The Prairie Schooner Covered Wagon is a symbol of the westward migration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many such wagons took thousands of pioneers from Westport on the three trails to Oregon, California or Santa Fe.

The Men of Westport Historical Marker provides awareness of our fascinating history, and it will become another building block in the promotion of local tourism.

The Westport Historical Society and the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum welcome the public to share in and witness this exciting historical event. The dedication is free and open to the public. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy period music and visit with historical figures.

Following the ceremony, refreshments will be served. Since parking is limited, carpooling to the event is encouraged. In case of severe bad weather, the event will be held on May 2, 2015 at 2:00pm.