



Special Issue

September 2009

Wildwood Historical Society

Newsletter

GROVER ● POND ● HOLLOW ● CENTAUR ● MELROSE ● FOX CREEK ● ORRVILLE ● ALLENTON ● WESTLAND ACRES ● KELPE ● MONARCH

Help!! Send Money Now!

The Wildwood Historical Society is going to buy the Hencken Place (about 1/8 mile west of Stovall's) on Highway 100. Closing is expected to occur in mid-October, so your donations are needed now to calculate our loan amount. A total of approximately \$30,000 needs to be collected to assure a viable loan plan. Donors who provide funds prior to **October 15th** will be acknowledged on both the 2010 calendar and a special commemorative plaque displayed in the museum.



Why purchase this property for our museum?

1. To save this historic site that is available at a very reasonable price in this depressed market.
2. This 5-acre homestead is large enough to erect the Schaedler log cabin and already has paved parking for nearly 20 cars.
3. The existing home is in fine condition and is ready to rent out after some cleaning. It has been empty for some-time. This will provide partial funding for the capital loan we will receive.
4. This property has a separate meeting hall with HVAC and a full bath and is handicapped accessible.



5. Nearly 7000 sq. ft of storage/display space in three other outbuildings/barns will allow us to house large displays and hold special presentations or shows.



6. This highly-visible property contains sufficient existing buildings to allow us to share historic programs and events with thousands of interested area residents.

History of Dutch Hollow Impacting this Property

In the 1820s Samuel Harris was noted as having the first post office west of St. Louis on the route to the new capital in Jefferson City. Samuel Harris had applied to the U.S. government to have the post office named “Fox Creek”, which was located in section 19. Samuel also owned a forty-acre tract to the east adjoining our property in question. Samuel Harris had a tavern and grist mill, according to the 1883 History of St. Louis County. In section 17, William Holloway owned a forty-acre tract to the west of Samuel, and Samuel’s son owned the forty acres to the east.

In 1834 Charles “Dutch Charley” Paffrath came from Germany with his relatives, the Steines family. By 1845 he had opened a store and tavern on his property in section 17 that had previously been owned by Samuel Harris. A half mile southwest of his establishment was William Bartold, who purchased in 1844. With his log home and numerous outbuildings, the Bartold place became known as the “hotel” and stage stand. He would keep twelve horses in the stable for relieving the stage coach teams. Numerous other animals (cattle, hogs, turkey, and geese) that were being herded to the market in St. Louis were fed and watered here.

Henry Hencken, son of Martin, married Sophia Bohning in 1852 and purchased the property that the WHS would like to purchase for use as our museum. A few years later it appears that Henry began renting and operating the Paffrath store when “Dutch Charley” returned to Europe for a visit. Henry’s father, as well as his brother Frederick, operated a store in Fox Creek, the next town to the east on Manchester Road.

What YOU need to do:

Send your checks to: **Wildwood Historical Society**
P.O. Box 125
Wildwood, MO 63040

1. If you have a CD or other negotiable asset that is date-dependent but would allow a later donation, please call Jim Martin at 636-458-3306 to discuss.
2. Some employers provide matching grants for donations to projects like ours, so if this is an opportunity for you, please research and determine if it would increase your level of giving.
3. The Society Trustees would consider “naming rights” for sizeable donations, so if you are aware of individuals who would like to create memorials or other living reminders of their family’s contributions to the local area, please make them aware of this option. NOW is the time to be bold and approach those who could make a difference in saving this historic property while establishing a permanent museum to remind us all of the progress our ancestors have made.



The Society's Mission Statement

The purpose of the Wildwood Historical Society is to discover, memorialize and disseminate the prehistory and history of the City of Wildwood by:

1. Searching for and procuring written or photographic documentation (i.e., personal writing or photographs, newspaper articles, blueprints, maps, cemetery records) artifacts, relics, memorabilia, and similar documents and objects relating to the prehistory or history of Wildwood;
2. **Preserving, displaying, and making available to the public these documents and items by placing them in a museum/library/research center in exhibits located throughout Wildwood;**
3. Identifying and helping maintain and preserve historic and prehistoric buildings and significant sites;
4. Maintaining an active outreach and education program for Society members and the general public;
5. **Accepting donation of money, real property, and other property as appropriate to accomplish the above.**

Upcoming Meetings

October 20

Freedom Flight and

WWII Memories

by Rusty Pendleton

Visit our website:

www.wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org

November 17

Bring Your Antiques to Share

If you have a unique antique,
we would love to see it!

**Very Important!!!
Immediate Attention Required!!!**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 125, Wildwood, MO 63040

Society Newsletter

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