



February 2014

Wildwood Historical Society Newsletter

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

February Program

Historic Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Meeting Reenactment

Did you know that you have the opportunity to experience a one-of-a-kind historical event? For February's meeting, we will be hosting the Sons of the Union Veterans as they reenact, for the first time, a historic G.A.R. meeting from the late 1800s. They will be dressed in period costumes as they conduct this formal meeting, and Lynne Martin will join them for part of the reenactment. We, as their audience, will be "eavesdropping" on this piece of the past. We will be quiet observers of what a G.A.R. meeting in our area looked like 130 years ago. The first organizational meeting of the G.A.R. was held at the Henry Hencken home (the house on the WHS property) on February 23, 1884.

DON'T MISS THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

7:00 p.m

New Meeting Hall – 18750 Highway 100

Happy Birthday, WHS & the City of St. Louis!



On February 16, 1999, the Wildwood Historical Society was founded. That means WHS is now 15 years old. To help celebrate, we're suggesting a \$15 donation toward our chair fund. We'll have some cupcakes to celebrate this event at Tuesday's meeting.

Happy birthday to St. Louis, too. Modern historians place its founding on February 15, 1764. St. Louis is 250 years old, so it is celebrating its semiquincentennial this year.

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Society Website

www.wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org

Peek Into Our Past

The *Watchman* county newspaper published news from towns in our area in the late 1800s. Enjoy this month's "Peek Into Our Past."

2/28/1884 – D. N. Keeler Post. I had the pleasure of attending a meeting held last Saturday [23d] at Dutch Hollow for the purpose of organizing a post of the Grand Army of the Republic. I have attended, during my residence in St. Louis County, a number of meetings for different purposes but at none of them have I ever witnessed such feelings. Men who twenty-three years ago were in the prime of life and sprang to arms at their country's call, to-day look at them. Some of them crippled and carrying the battle scars. To see those men meet and shake each other's hands, the grip they gave each other; to see those eyes flash when they looked on each other. In two instances, W. C. Pullen and Adam Kesselring who have been residents of Meramec township for a number of years, had not met each other since they were prisoners of war at Bell Island. I can not find language to describe the feelings of such men. The time, two o'clock, having arrived for the meeting to organize, R. C. Allen was called to the chair and F. W. Steines made secretary. By request R. C. Allen stated the object of the meeting, after which nearly all the old soldiers came forward and enrolled them selves for muster; which will take place at Allenton Saturday, March 8, 1884. The name adopted for the post is D. N. Keeler who enlisted from Meramec Township in 1861 in the 8th Missouri Volunteers and lost his leg at the battle of Fort Donelson, and after its amputation served as clerk in the quartermaster's department, until the end of the war. Now his remains lie at rest in the private graveyard on the farm of R. C. Allen, marked by a marble monument erected to his memory by R. C. Allen. It is the wish of the soldiers that you be present with us at our next meeting. I will have to come to a close as I do not wish to take up too much space in your valuable paper.

8/15/1884 – Camp Fire and Reunion. The battle of Wilson's Creek, which was fought August 10, 1861, was a bloody one and the lamented Lyon, commander of the Federal forces, was killed. In commemoration of the fight, Keeler Post, 152, G. A. R., gave a camp fire and reunion at Allen's Grove, Allenton, last Sunday, the twenty-third anniversary of the battle. The attendance was large, from the county as well as city, and several sister posts were present in a body. The exercises were interesting and a very pleasant day was spent by all. There was no set programme, and everybody enjoyed himself in his own fashion. The refreshments were in abundance, and not a thing marred the pleasures of the gathering. During the afternoon, Miss Caroline Bouquet, on behalf of the daughters of veterans, presented a handsome banner to Keeler Post. Its receipt was acknowledged by Judge R. C. Allen, commander, in a few felicitous remarks. The reunion closed about dusk, when the special trains took back to the city and along the lines of railway the crowds.

WHS Membership Information

WHS memberships are due on a calendar-year basis and run through December 31, 2014.

Individual – \$25

Couple – \$30

Family with children through age 22 – \$35

Benefactor – \$100

Lifetime – \$500

Please make your check payable to:

Wildwood Historical Society

P.O. Box 125

Wildwood, MO 63040

Please include a note with your current e-mail address, phone number, membership level, and member's name(s). Thank you for supporting WHS with your 2014 dues!