



# Wildwood Historical Society

GROVER · POND · HOLLOW · CENTAUR · MELROSE · FOX CREEK · ORRVILLE  
ALLENTON · WESTLAND ACRES · KELPE · MONARCH · SHERMAN · GLENCOE

## September 2015 Newsletter

### September Program

Our September program will be a peek into our past! For those of you who enjoy the monthly newsletter feature with the same name, this is a program you don't want to miss. Come listen to entertaining writing from 130 years ago, featuring articles from the *Watchman* county newspaper. We will feature a few stories from each year that we have available (1881-1899), in addition to an overview of what was happening in the rest of the United States that year. This is a great opportunity to hear what life was like in this area in the late 1800s.

We will also hold our annual election at September's meeting. This year, we are only electing one trustee. Paul Eckler and Rich Hardt are running for the position. **If you are a member, you can either fill out and send back the ballot that we send you via email, or you can come to the meeting and fill it out in person.** Non-members do not have voting privileges, but the election will be held after the program, so don't worry – you can still attend and enjoy hearing some great *Watchman* stories.

#### September Program

**Tuesday, September 15, 2015**

**Program at 7:00 p.m.**

**WHS Meeting Hall**

**18750 Highway 100**

**Wildwood, MO 63069**

### October Program

Debbie Wert will give an educational talk on fiber arts, focusing particularly on the Kreienkamp loom in the Society's museum. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about this piece in our collection. Join us on October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting hall!

## Upcoming Programs

**September 15** – Peek Into Our Past with the *Watchman*; annual election of trustee at 7:00 p.m.

**October 20** – Fiber Art & History of the Society's Kreienkamp Loom by Debbie Wert at 7:00 p.m.

**November 17** – WHS Antiques Roadshow at 7:00 p.m.

**December 5** – WHS Christmas Party at 6:30 p.m.

## Rent the Hencken House

Do you know someone looking for a place to live? The Society's three-bedroom, one-bath, circa-1852 Hencken farmhouse is available! We are asking \$1,200 per month, and the renter will be responsible for the electric and trash/recycle pick up bills. This is conveniently located near Interstate 44, Wildwood Town Center, and more, yet you're in a country-like setting on five acres. The home has undergone renovations and is ready for you! If you're interested, contact Lisa Kelpé ([kelpfamily@gmail.com](mailto:kelpfamily@gmail.com) or 636-458-2860).

### St Louis Regional Historical Societies Bi-Annual Meeting

October 11, 2015 1pm-3:30pm

*Please Join us at:*

*Jefferson Barracks Historic Site  
345 North Rd.  
St. Louis Mo 63125*

*Please RSVP at  
[schs.webmanager@gmail.com](mailto:schs.webmanager@gmail.com) or 314-918-1617*

Light refreshments will be served as we discuss and share ideas for collaboration and resource sharing

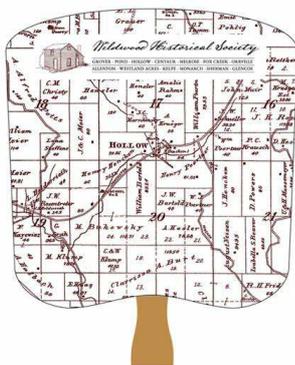
Participants will also be able to tour the special exhibition *The Courageous and Faithful: The Cavalry at Jefferson Barracks*, and enjoy a short presentation on website development for small non-profits.

SPONSORED BY SAPPINGTON-CONCORD AND BRIDGETON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

## Celebrate Wildwood

We had a wonderful day at the Celebrate Wildwood event on Saturday, August 29! Our location was perfect, the weather was nice, and we enjoyed meeting some new people. We had a double booth with displays on historic communities, families, and more; books and maps for sale; brochures and other information about the Society; and friendly faces to answer questions. We participated in the parade with a sign, miniature horse, and 1949 Ferguson tractor; following the parade, the horse (Mini Pearl), tractor, and two historic cars were also on display by our booth. We handed out hundreds of fans and were very pleased with how the day went. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who made the day a success – Martha Bunch, Kathie FitzGerald, Karen Fox, Sandy Gurnow, Rich Hardt, the Kelp family, and Dave and Jill VonGruben – and to everyone who stopped by our booth. We hope to see some new faces at upcoming meetings and events!

*\*Photos taken by Martha Bunch*



## Officers

**Lisa Kelpé**, President  
(636)458-2860

kelpfamily@gmail.com

**Martha Bunch**, Museum Director  
(314)920-2249

martha.j.bunch@gmail.com

**Sandy Gurnow**, Vice President  
(314)374-3159

itascasuncruiser36@yahoo.com

**Matthew Kelpé**, Secretary  
(314)393-2040

matthewkelpé@gmail.com

**Dave VonGruben**, Treasurer  
(636)458-3098

dvgruben@gmail.com

**Jill VonGruben**, Archivist  
(636)458-3098

jfvjfvjfv@gmail.com

## Trustees

**Helen Gaehle**

**Rich Hardt**

**Donna Kummer**

**Jim Martin**

**Chuck Weber**

## Editor

**Anna Kelpé**

(314)393-2021

annakelpé11@gmail.com

## Society Website

[www.wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org)

## Facebook

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

WildwoodHistoricalSociety

## 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."

*9/4/1885 – At Allenton are two beautiful flower gardens, owned respectively by Mr. Gaines and Mr. Chester, railroad station keepers. The gardens are quite an ornament to the town, and show the good taste of the owners.*

*9/17/1886 – Joseph Marquitz, while driving out from St. Louis to Pond P. O., with his wife and two children in the buggy, last Saturday night, had a very narrow escape from a serious accident. It appears that the road overseer has been putting in a culvert at Usinger's place, west of Ballwin, and had neglected to put out a signal light or fence. Had the horse not balked, the whole party would probably have landed in the bottom of a deep ravine. The road overseer for that district should be a little more careful how he endangers the lives of travelers by his negligence.*

*9/6/1889 – A large cave has been discovered near the County Farm, one and a half miles north of Allenton, and a party of gentlemen are making arrangements to explore it. Its almost perpendicular walls can be seen by the use of lighted paper to the depth of seventy feet, and it has every appearance of being very large below, although the cavity at the top just barely permits the passage of man's body. Prof. Letterman and a party of assistants will find out what is hidden there in a few days, if possible.*

*9/23/1892 – Mrs. Sallie Ball, of Ballwin, one of the oldest ladies residing in St. Louis County, celebrated the 80 anniversary of her birth last week, and was the recipient of many congratulations and kind attentions from her numerous friends and neighbors on that pleasant day. To further commemorate that eventful day the old lady sat down at the weaving machine and at nightfall had five yards of beautiful carpet woven. Mrs. Ball devotes all her spare time to this industry and can keep pace with many of the younger generation in this respect.*

## WHS Membership Information

WHS memberships are due on a calendar-year basis and run through December 31, 2015. Thanks for your support!

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).