



# Wildwood Historical Society

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

## January 2016 Newsletter

### January Program

Lynn Josse will share her findings from the Wildwood Historic Resource Survey. This project began in 2013 and includes over 300 historical structures and properties. The survey includes histories and photographs of structures. Exact building dates and other information was sometimes challenging, but there were also some surprises and exciting finds, so please join us to learn more!

#### January Program

**Tuesday, January 19, 2016**

**7:00 p.m.**

**WHS Meeting Hall**

**18750 Highway 100**

**Wildwood, MO 63069**

### Upcoming Programs

**Sunday, February 21, at 2:00 p.m.** – Note the time and date change! Society members Sandy Gurnow and Rich Hardt will present on their European trip, focusing on historical spots.

**March 15 at 7:00 p.m.** – Author Steve Claggett will share about his new German immigrant book.

**April 19 at 7:00 p.m.** – Elizabeth Terry (who visited the Society in March 2015 to present about her book *Oysters to Angus*), John Wright, and Patrick McCarthy will discuss their new book, *Ethnic St. Louis*.

## 2016 Wildwood Historical Society Membership Form

It is time to join or renew your membership to WHS! Memberships run from January 1 to December 31, 2016, and are a great way to support and help the Society and its mission. Please fill out this page and mail it with your check payable to:

**Wildwood Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 125**

**Wildwood, MO 63040**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Level: *(Please check appropriate box)*

- Individual – \$25
- Couple – \$30
- Family with children through age 22 – \$35
- Benefactor – \$100
- Lifetime – \$500

### Extra Bushel for the Hencken Farm!

Please consider donating above and beyond your membership level to help WHS pay for our Hencken Farm mortgage. This “extra bushel” can be included with your membership check above.

\$10     \$25     \$50     Other amount (please fill in): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING WHS!**

## Double Donation Challenge Recap

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Double Donation Challenge! You raised \$2,878 in less than two months, and that will help immensely in the continuing work of the Wildwood Historical Society. If you didn't have a chance to give, please take advantage of the "Extra Bushel" tear-off on page two of this newsletter. We extend our sincerest appreciation to the following Double Donation Challenge givers:

Carl & Nadine Bay  
Bob & Doris Defer  
Donna Eliason  
Karen & Rick Fox  
Dave & Nancy Fuszner  
Helen Gaehle  
Fran & John Gagnani  
Bruce Hadley  
Rich Hardt  
The Kelppe Family  
Ronald Kreienkamp  
Donna & Steve Kummer  
Jim & Lynne Martin  
Joyce Mercer  
Denny & Valerie Mertz  
Betty & Jim Portmann  
Kimberley Scheel  
David & Jill VonGruben  
Kristen VonGruben  
Marilyn & Robert Wardenburg  
Chuck & Marilyn Weber  
William Wiese

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**Rich Hardt**

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## Society Website

www.wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org

## Facebook

www.facebook.com/  
WildwoodHistoricalSociety

## WHS on Facebook

For the latest news and updates on the Society, please "like" our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/WildwoodHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/WildwoodHistoricalSociety). If you aren't on Facebook, you can still go to the link and see everything we post. Go check us out!

## 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."

*1/25/1883 – A reduction of letter postage from 3 to 2 cents will soon take place; both branches of Congress have authorized it. The date, on which the new rate should take effect, will probably be July 4, it being the commencement of a new fiscal year. This would give the department ample time to work off its stock of 3 cent stamps and stamped envelopes.*

*1/17/1884 – On the 4th of January, the young ladies of the Wild Horse Creek neighborhood, Meramec township, gave a leap year party in the Grange Hall. There was a large attendance of young ladies and gentlemen, and all had a joyful time, notwithstanding the extremely polar weather. The supper was very fine.*

*1/16/1885 – On Thursday, January 8th the long-looked for wedding of Miss Emma Hillebrand and Henry Bilchman took place. The happy couple were married in the city, after which they came out to the residence of the bride's mother, where there was a handsome supper spread, of which some two hundred guests, (your correspondent doing his duty) heartily partook. After supper the bridal party resorted to the dancing hall where the terpsyshorean art was practiced to its fullest extent until early next morning. Among those present were the Misses Rangstoff of St. Louis, accompanied by their brother and some lady friends, Misses Gruben, Steffen, Henken, Brown, Steines, and others. Some of the beaux were as follows: Messrs. Krown-er, Kern, Bilchman, Gruben, Essen, Taylor, Steines, Chesley, Lem King and others. A more enjoyable affair of the kind has not been known in this locality for years.*

*1/6/1888 – The postmaster at Orrville writes us that the Clayton papers arrived there on time last Saturday for the first time in many weeks. It does considerable good to give the postal officials a good stirring up once in a while, and we are willing to do it whenever complaints are made.*