



Wildwood Historical Society

*18750 Hwy 100 (Manchester Road)
Wildwood, MO 63069
1 driveway west of Stovall's
Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 125,
Wildwood, MO 63040*



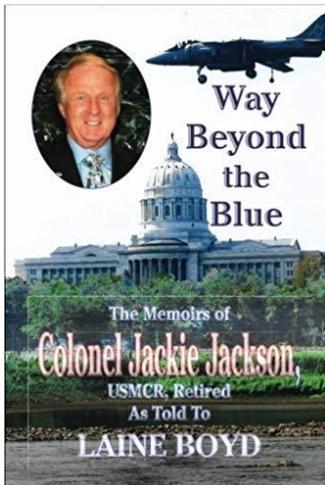
*GROVER . POND . HOLLOW . CENTAUR . MELROSE . FOX CREEK . ORRVILLE
ALLENTON . WESTLAND ACRES KELPE . MONARCH . SHERMAN . GLENCOE*

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

From the President-Sandy Becker-Gurnow-

Well, I do believe, Spring is finally here. That doesn't mean that we won't have any more chilly days, it just means that we are going to see more flowering trees blooming that give us signs of Spring.

We have lots of events coming up. First and foremost is our Trivia Night with the Kiwanis on April 13. See article elsewhere in Newsletter.



Our April 16th meeting not only brings us Author Laine Boyd, but also the Subject of whom she has written. That would be Col. Jack Jackson, test pilot of the Boeing Harrier jet, among many, many other accolades to his name. He lives at St. Albans, and we are very fortunate to have him and the author coming to our meeting. I bought the book, *Way Beyond the Blue* at Celebrate Wildwood last year and I could NOT put it down until I was finished with it.

So, Please come join us April 16 at 7 P.M.

**Regards,
Sandra Becker-Gurnow (Sandy)**

TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, April 13, 2019

Doors open 6:00 p.m. | Questions start 7:00 p.m.

VFW Hall, 115 Mimosa Lane, Ballwin, MO 63011

\$160 per table of 8
Cash and prizes available!

Free snacks and soft drinks. Please do not bring alcoholic beverages to this event.* Beer & Bar Service available.

*(Food can be brought to this event)

Sponsored by:



Kiwanis



Meramec Valley Community Kiwanis & Wildwood Historical Society

Mail-in Registration and Payment

Mail payment and this form to Paul Eckler, 41 Hickory Mound Court, Wildwood, MO 63011-5515.

\$160 per table (\$20/person). Maximum 8 per table.

Yes, sign me up! Name: _____ Phone: _____

Team Captain Name: _____ e-mail: _____

Team Members: _____

Please Make Checks Payable to Kiwanis Club of Meramec Valley Community

Questions? Call Paul @ 636-273-5398

TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, April 13, 2019

Doors open 6:00 p.m. | Questions start 7:00 p.m.

VFW Hall, 115 Mimosa Lane, Ballwin, MO 63011

\$160 per table of 8

Cash and prizes available!

Free snacks and soft drinks. Please do not bring alcoholic beverages to this event. * Beer & Bar Service available.

*(Food can be brought to this event)

Sponsored by:



Kiwanis



Meramec Valley Community Kiwanis & Wildwood Historical Society

Several Sponsorship Opportunities Are Available

PRIZE SPONSOR \$300

Underwrite the night's top prizes

Prominently displayed at the event and in press releases

PARTNERS \$200

Prominently displayed at the event and in press releases

ROUND SPONSORS \$100

Announced at beginning of round & on round answer sheet

TABLE SPONSOR \$75

Displayed on player's table

Mail payment and this form to Paul Eckler, 41 Hickory Mound Court, Wildwood, MO 63011-5515.

Please Make Checks Payable to Kiwanis Club of Meramec Valley Community

Questions? Call Paul @ 636-273-5398

In March, we posed the mystery:

Recent Archive Accession placed on display – a mystery solved.



Whose tombstone is it that is newly featured in the WHS Museum's "Cemetery Wall" display?

How did it come into our possession?

In the late 1960's, or early 70's , a group of students gave the stone to their professor at St. Louis University who lived in Lafayette Square as a present, perhaps as a joke. The professor kept the stone for a few years and used it as a coffee table.

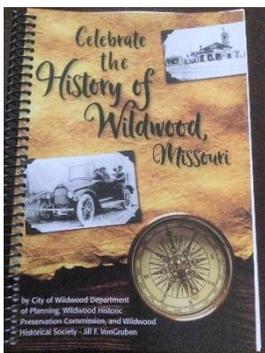
At some point, the professor gave the stone to Retta Reed, Lauren and Lisa Strutman's grandmother, who also lived in Lafayette Square, with the wish that the grandmother would have some luck in locating Whitsett's grave.

When the grandmother died in 1976, Lauren and Lisa's mother, Lola Strutman, inherited the stone. The mother never did anything with the stone except keep it safely stored, she always intended to return it to where it belonged, but never did.

In October 2018, Lola Strutman Schiller died and her daughters Lauren and Lisa Strutman inherited the stone. After determining that the John Whitsett Stone was for the John Whitsett who owned the property that would later become the Wildwood subdivision named Whitsett's Fork, Lauren and Lisa donated the stone to the Wildwood Historical Society in early 2019. (the above information was supplied by Lauren Strutman, March 2019)

And how did we display it and who do we need to thank?

A bracket was made to securely hold the stone without damaging stone. The bracket was manufactured by Rich Hardt and the stone was placed & secured in the display by Rich Hardt and Fred Bunch.



A note on research:

Jill VonGruben, our Archivist, is wrapping up research and currently writing the next chapter for the book, *Celebrate the History of Wildwood, Missouri*.

Part of this research is to document photos and if appropriate obtain permission to reprint and the correct citation. In search of documentation of a 1940 photo of Highway 109, Jill began working with the

Transportation Librarian of the Missouri Department of Transportation. The librarian congratulated WHS with this statement, "Historical societies like yours are really vital to

preserving and disseminating local historical information of interest to communities. I appreciate what you are doing.”

Jill wants to express gratitude to everyone who has assisted, not only in this current project, but in every aspect of our Society. WHS is making a real difference in not only preserving our history, but educating the public. Again THANKS!



Have been asked why one of my goals is to have all of our research files scanned. There are several reasons for this massive project. One reason is to eventually have digitally searchable files to simplify research topics. Another function of having digital files, is that will eventually be accessible remotely, though that function is probably several years down from now.

The most important function will be security for our research. **Offsite storage is vital.** We have an amazing collection of physical artifacts, but they are just “things” if we don’t have the family background and stories. And that is the information in our current paper-based files.

It’s human nature to think that a disaster will never happen to our property, museum, library. News on 3/26/19 was that a massive four-alarm fire broke out at the St. Louis Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum. Their museum was fortunate in that it did not apparently suffer significant loss of their artifacts and documents. But the building has sustained major damage.

Digitizing our research will allow the Wildwood Historical Society to continue to tell the stories even if our building is struck by a disaster. Our volunteer, Michelle Walka, is scanning our files. It is a HUGE job and we are incredibly grateful for her work and hours on this!

From Martha:

In the past two months, we have accomplished so much in our Meeting Hall. New flooring and baseboards and a new commercial kitchen sink have been installed. And a tremendous amount of cleaning, painting and “fixing” have been accomplished. Our dedicated volunteers for this huge project are Fred Bunch, Rich Hardt, Martha Bunch, Lynn Link, Val Mertz, Lynda Hardt and Donna Kummer. Tom Kelp and Fred Bunch has helped with some issues of our historic Hencken Home to ready it for our new renter. We are so incredibly grateful for these volunteers and others who are tackling other issues as we move forward through 2019!

Martha



WHS PROGRAMS FOR 2019

April 13- Kiwanis Club & Wildwood Hist. Society TRIVIA NIGHT-Watch for details

April 16-Laine Boyd- author of Way Beyond the Blue. Hopefully the Colonel Jack Jackson, whom she writes about (hopefully) will also be here. He lives in St. Albans.

**May 21- Christopher Alan Gordon, Writer at the Missouri Historical Society-
Fire, Pestilence, and Death : St. Louis 1849**

June 18-Ice Cream Social & Jill VonGruben-Speaking on Churches in Wildwood

July 14-4th Annual Car Show, Open House, Bake Sale & Food Stand

July 16-Meeting or No Meeting?

August 20-Jan Jacobi-author of Young Lincoln

**September-17-Marc Houseman-Director of Washington Historical Society talks about
Real Ghost Stories from the house he and his wife Tina call home**

October 15-OPEN

October 18-TRIVIA NIGHT-co-sponsored Wildw. Hist. Soc./Ballwin Historical Society

November 19--OPEN

December 15-CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE-with Appetizers and desserts



Officers

Sandy Gurnow,
President

(314) 374-3159

sandy50sunshine@yahoo.com

Lynda Kamp
Vice President

(636) 227-1637

ljkamp@sbcglobal.net

Martha Bunch,
Museum Director

(314) 920-2249

martha.j.bunch@gmail.com

Marilyn Weber,
Secretary
Newsletter Editor

(314) 952-3731

info@wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org
grandmamarilyn.weber@yahoo.com

Dave VonGruben, Treasurer

(314) 566-4743

dvgruben@gmail.com

Jill VonGruben,
Librarian, Archivist

(314) 566-4743

jfvjfgv@gmail.com

Trustees

Helen Gaehle

Rich Hardt

Paul Eckler

Donna Kummer

Chuck Weber

Society Website

www.wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook

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

A PEEK INTO OUR PAST



The Watchman and the Advocate county newspapers published news from towns in our area from the late 1800's thru the mid 1950's. The two became the

Watchman-Advocate with the merger around 1903.
Editor's note: Articles copied in their original form.

“Enjoy this month’s “Peek into Our Past”.

1889.04.05-Melrose, medical: Nearly every family in Melrose is afflicted with measles. Fred Ossenfort & his family of 8 all being down at once. Fortunately there have been no deaths & all are recovering. Little Ernst son of Louis Grauer was told by his parents that he would die if he did not keep out of the cold air & calmly replies "I am not going to die for if I do the other boys will get all my hazelnuts" He is now well & eating his last fall's crop of hazelnuts.

1889.04.05- Meramec Tp, assessment: Appeal No. 1 Petition of Wm Koch of Meramec township asked & was granted that \$300 valuation be stricken off his assessment on account of that amount of improvements burned down since March 14, 1886.

1889.04.05- Meramec Tp, roads: Contracts heretofore awarded to John C. Cloak, now deceased for building culvert on Augustine Rd & bridge abutment walls on Lewis Rd rescinded & contracts awarded to Christ Straub, the following were amounts on the accounts, were presented & allowed: Mich Bouquet \$62.75, John Alt \$23.62, Chas Dreienhoefer \$62.50.

1889.04.05- Meramec Tp, business: M. Wright was elected to fill the office of Vice President Meramec Township.