



Wildwood Historical Society

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ALLENTON · WESTLAND ACRES · KELPE · MONARCH · SHERMAN · GLENCOE

April 2020

Founded in 1999 - Wildwood, Missouri, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

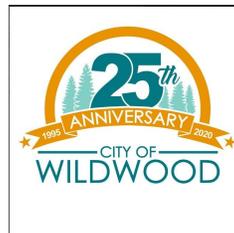
April Updates

A Message from the President

Good morning or afternoon to our members. I wish I had some good news, but as you know there just isn't much right now. Our April meeting April 21 is cancelled. Hopefully by the May meeting we can be together again. I want to let you know that our speaker for March - Mark Leach-Cahokia in Chesterfield. Is rescheduled for our June 16 meeting and.....our speaker for April-Amanda Doyle and Steve Pick-St. Louis Sound-is rescheduled for our August 18 meeting. Our renter, Dana Bowers, moved into the Hencken House middle of February and is mostly settled in. We will welcome her to our meetings when we get going again. We WILL get going again! We're All in this together and it's not real easy. Is it? Try to obey those rules though, and Stay Healthy! We want to see

you at our next meeting, whenever that is.

Sincerely,
Sandra K. Becker-Gurnow
President



Celebrate Wildwood

2020 is now scheduled for Saturday, 10/10/2020 rather than in August. Please mark your calendars for an incredible day. The Wildwood Historical Society will be there. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the date.



Book News!

The Wildwood Historical Society has just received notice that the Celebrate Wildwood 2020 AND our joint book project, *Celebrate the History of Wildwood, Missouri* are now Endorsed Projects for the State's Bicentennial celebration.

The below logo will appear on the book's cover when it is released in October!

We're working on the final draft right now and it's awesome.





Archivist Corner



Do you know what this item is? The answer is toward the end of this Newsletter.



A Moment in History is Now!

Visitors to our museum often ask how we have so many stories, photos and artifacts. Our answer is that residents and/or descendants of families have been incredibly generous over our 21 years in donating those stories, photos and artifacts. The stories that are now so precious and valuable to us about the past -- were just glimpses of everyday life to the person who wrote them.

Right now -- late winter/early spring 2020 -- we are living in a world-wide historic moment. A pandemic of coronavirus that generates the disease, COVID-19. This pandemic has caused self-quarantining and closures of non-essential businesses laws to be put in place across the country. It is a moment in time that needs to be preserved.

So a way to spend some of our enforced home time, is to write about your experiences: how are you feeling about this? What has changed in your life due to these restrictions? Take a few moments and write down your thoughts. It's a great activity for children and grandchildren to work on: How has their school day changed? How is learning different? What do they miss the most? What don't they miss at all?

Whether these stories are kept for family heritage records or your local historical society, it is just as important to document this significant moment in history, just as it was for World War II soldiers to have shared their stories so we can celebrate them now 75 years later. If you are interested in sharing your stories with the Wildwood Historical Society, please email them to us at: info@wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org.

The Missouri History Museum also has a program to document these stories from/about our area residents.

The link is:

<https://mohistory.org/stories-of-the-pandemic-a-st-louis-covid-19-digital-archive/>

A similar program from the National Archives is: <https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist>

Sincerely hoping everyone is safe and healthy.



Archivist Corner About Our Books

Over our history, the Wildwood Historical Society has published several books. In part of a series, some of our authors will share the history behind some of our publications, how they came to be, and what inspired them to write. This month we are going to chat with Karen Fox about what went into generating her book, *Before It Was Wildwood: One-Room Schoolhouses of Meramec Township*.

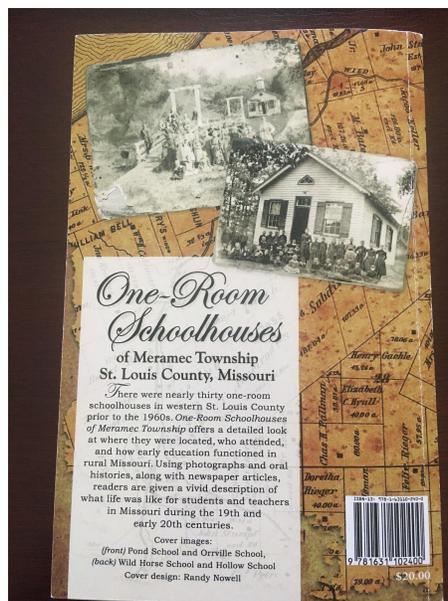
“The inspiration for *One-Room Schoolhouses* really came from our calendar process. As we were working on WHS' 2016 calendar, I quickly realized there was too much information to put in one

calendar. It simply seemed logical to take the next step and write a book.

“When writing one of the chapters, one of the things that really stood out was how many children became seriously sick during the winter months. Most one-room schoolhouses were overcrowded. Think 60+ children in one small room. The bathroom was an outhouse and hand washing might come from a shared source filled from a local stream or well. Students often also shared drinking water from a bucket using the same ladle or cup. It’s not difficult to imagine how quickly infectious disease spread. Scarlet fever was a common infectious disease that was highly contagious, and it was the leading cause of death in children during the early 20th Century. And before there was treatment for diphtheria, up to half of those who contracted diphtheria died. There were several cases of local families losing multiple children during these outbreaks. Back then, there were no vaccines and no antibiotics. And instead of hospitals, rural families relied on house calls from their local country doctor.

“Most schoolhouses closed during these outbreaks. Not unlike what we’re seeing today with the coronavirus. During the 20th Century, school

closures were not uncommon and could last for weeks or months. Quarantines were expected for those affected. In 1887, the board of health in St. Louis issued a strict guideline barring children from attending school if anyone in their family or circle of friends were sick. Here’s just a partial snapshot of our local school closures during a five year period: In 1886, the Hollow School closed due to an outbreak of both diphtheria and scarlet fever. The Bonhomme School closed three times in 1890 due to scarlet fever. Both the Eureka and Allenton Schoolhouses closed in 1891 because of scarlet fever. Today, scarlet fever is usually treated with antibiotics. The implementation of vaccines has nearly eliminated diphtheria from developed countries.



One-Room Schoolhouses, back cover.

The Wildwood Historical Society is located near where

the Hollow Schoolhouse once stood, in the historical village of Hollow (now part of Wildwood, Missouri).



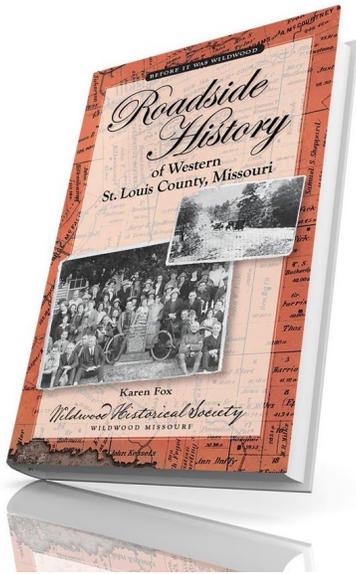
Hollow School



Answer to Archivist Corner Question

This bell was the teacher's bell from Hollow School donated to the Wildwood Historical Society by Anna Klump.

We invite you to visit our Museum and view the amazing collection of photos and artifacts from the nearly thirty one-room schoolhouses that served the students and their families in Meramec Township.



Roadside History of Western St. Louis County - one of WHS publications

[Buy our Books here](#)



Hencken House Well Repair

In March it was discovered that the well on the Hencken property that serves both the historic Hencken home and the

Wildwood Historical Society's Meeting Hall had failed.

In early April a new well was drilled by Schroepfer Well Drilling from Leslie, MO at WHS's property.

This decision was not made lightly, with much work and trying to find other solutions for the old well. For the prior two-plus weeks, we have tried to find other solutions. Tom Kelpel "shocked" the well with directions we received with the bad well condition report. Then he "flushed" the system for days without good results.

Then our President, Sandy Becker-Gurnow, had Schroepfer Well Drilling come down from Leslie (the first company available) to pull the old pump, and camera the well to see what the problem was. They really didn't get that far. With running the camera down to muddy water, it was discovered there were holes rusted through the steel casing and that was the entry point for mud, etc. that the water test showed. So we continued running water for several days just to see if it ever would clear up and it did not.

So, a new well was drilled. We have no idea of the age of the old well. Some wells last 50-60 years, some last much less. This new well has steel casing LINED with PVC for 200 feet

then continuing down another 140 feet with PVC for a total of 340 feet. We will be Double Covered! The existing pump, which is only 7 years old, is being used and we are also able to use the existing pressure tank that is like new.



Tom Kelpel excavated for pipe and wiring from the new well to House's basement and later recovered the excavation. Tom has done a lot for us. Besides Sandy running over Hencken two times a day, Tom was onsite a lot. He had also asked our neighbor, the Houlihan Family, if Tom could hook the house by hard hose to their water system while we were performing this work so the Home would have reliable water service. The Houlihan Family graciously said yes.

The cost of the new well included pulling of existing pump and wiring and closing

up the old well per DNR regulations and the Well Abandonment Certification.

The Wildwood Historical Society owes a huge "THANKS" to Sandy Becker-Gurnow, Tom Kelpé, the Schroepfer Well Drilling Company and the Houlihan Family for their expertise and dedication to our organization.



On April 2nd, the nationally recognized Soldiers' Memorial and Museum in St. Louis recognized Rusty Pandalton, one of WHS's founding members and area treasures, on the Memorial's Facebook page. Rusty died on February 20, 2020. He is sorely missed.



Stopping Hitler's last offensive: A soldier's memory of fierce fighting, bitter cold in the Battle of the Bulge (from the Post-Dispatch)

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A Peek Into the 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.

1891.03.20 Orrville, church: Rev. G.H. Nollner will preach at Antioch next Monday evening, the 23d inst.

1891.04.03 Fox Creek, School: The following young ladies were examined for school certificates by Professor Letterman this week:...Miss Lelia Pleasants of Fox Creek.

1891.04.03 Glencoe, accident: A 1 year old child of Conrad Lansell's at Glencoe Lime kilns, the other day upset a tub of

boiling water and was badly scalded.

1891.04.03 Orrville, wedding:
Dr. R.G. Coleman, of Orrville,
and Miss Lillie F. Coleman,
daughter of William H.
Coleman, were married by Rev.
W.T. Bolling at Covington,
Kentucky, on Wednesday the
25th. The contracting parties
are cousins.

1891.04.10 Pond, farming:
Wheat is looking well around
Pond. Fruit does not appear to
be damaged by the late cold
snap.

1891.04.10 Pond, medical:
Mrs. Weinraben met with a
very painful accident last
Friday, by falling off the porch,
breaking the wrist bone of the
left arm. Dr. Seinert, of Ballwin,
was called in, and we are glad
to note the rapid improvement
of the patient.