



April 2014

# Wildwood Historical Society Newsletter

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

## April Program

### **An Evening with Ralph Gregory**

Ralph Gregory is a 104-year-old with a passion for history. The Wildwood Historical Society has the unique opportunity to learn about this extraordinary man's life at our next meeting. Steve Claggett will be presenting a Powerpoint presentation about Mr. Gregory's experiences, from his unusual World War II time to his tireless work as a local historian. Mr. Gregory has extensively researched and written articles about Washington, Franklin, Warren, and St. Charles Counties and helped to establish the Washington Historical Society Museum. He also worked in Hannibal with the Mark Twain Museum. We will have the opportunity to ask Mr. Gregory questions, as well as purchase his book, *Ralph*, for \$15. Please join us!

### **April Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 15, 2014**

**7:00 p.m.**

**New Meeting Hall**

### **Trivia Night – Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.!**

The Wildwood Historical Society's third annual trivia night is coming up quickly! Don't miss this opportunity to support the Society *and* have fun. Our emcee for the evening will be Dr. John Oldani, radio host and author of numerous books, including *St. Louisisms: Lingo, Lore, and the Lighter Side of Life in the Gateway City* and *Christmas in St. Louis: Traditions, Displays, and Celebrations*. We will have a silent auction in addition to 10 entertaining trivia rounds. Mulligans will be available, too. The Society will provide chips, soda, and water. Bring anything else you want to eat or drink. Trivia night will be on **Saturday, May 17, 2014 at the Society, 18750 Highway 100, Wildwood, MO. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; trivia starts at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person or \$160 for a table of eight. For reservations, call Joan Schmid at 636-458-3962. Tables fill up quickly so reserve your spot today!!**

## Local Newspaper Digitization

The Scenic Regional Library has completed the digitization of several regional newspapers for selected years shown below.

*Bland Courier*, 1914-1924  
*Pacific Transcript*, 1895-1921  
*Franklin County Observer*, 1893-1926  
*Sullivan News*, 1910-1950  
*Franklin County Tribune*, 1899-1916  
*Sullivan Sentinel*, 1901-1914  
*Gasconade County Republican*, 1905-1922  
*Union Republican Headlight*, 1904-1919  
*Hermann Advertiser and Advertiser-Courier*, 1875-1922  
*Union Republican Tribune*, 1919-1922  
*Marthasville Record*, 1901-1922  
*Warrenton Banner*, 1902-1924  
*New Haven Leader*, 1903-1918  
*Washington Citizen*, 1905-1923

You can access the newspapers by going to [www.scenicregional.org](http://www.scenicregional.org). Click on "Local Historical Newspapers" on the left side of the page. Select the newspaper you are interested in, then you can search by keyword or date.

*Thank you to Wildwood Historical Society member Joyce Mercer for providing this information.*

### **May Meeting**

The classic American movie *Gone With the Wind* is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Society member Anna Kelpé will present a program with fascinating trivia on everything "GWTW". You'll learn about behind-the-scenes work, filming, the Missouri connection, and much more. Whether you've seen the movie once, twice, or ten times, or if you've never seen it before, you're sure to learn facts you didn't ever know about this cinematic success. Join us on Tuesday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the new meeting hall!

### **Save the Date!**

The Wildwood Historical Society's 15<sup>th</sup> annual bus tour will be on Saturday, October 25, 2014. This year, the theme is parks. Wildwood has three historic park lands and all three will be featured on the tour – Rockwoods Reservation, Babler State Park, and Greensfelder County Park. Mark October 25 on your calendar. You don't want to miss this year's bus tour!

## 2015 Calendar

The 2015 calendar's theme is the Civil War. Would you or someone you know like to advertise your business and support the Wildwood Historical Society all year long? Business card ads are only \$75 each. Contact Joan Schmid at 636-458-3962 today.

## Society Wishlist

- 1) Windows 7 computers for our library
  - 2) Money for meeting hall chairs
  - 3) Snacks & drinks for trivia night – bottled water, soda, snack-size bags of chips (please bring to April's meeting or drop off at Kelpo Contracting, 17955 Manchester Road in Wildwood)
- If you can help the Society by providing any of the above items, bring them to a meeting or let us know if you need to meet at the Society at a different time. You can also mail your money for chairs to P.O. Box 125, Wildwood, MO, 63040. Thanks for helping the Wildwood Historical Society!

## Upcoming Meetings

We have some great topics scheduled for the rest of the year. We hope you can join us! All meetings will be at the new meeting hall (18750 Highway 100 in Wildwood) at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

**June 17 at 6:00 p.m.** – Terry Schott will share the history of his family's Fox Creek Pontiac dealership, Schott's Pontiac. We will also have a potluck.

**July 15** – We will learn the history of and sing patriotic songs in the month of our nation's birthday. We'll also hold an ice cream social.

**August 19** – Charles Staats, a Civil War doctor re-enactor, will present a program about Civil War medicine.

**September 16** – To be announced; annual WHS elections

**October 21** – To be announced

**November 18** – The annual WHS Antiques Roadshow is always a great evening, when members bring their own antiques and share about them.

**Saturday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m.** – The annual WHS Christmas party!

## Officers

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## Society Website

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

*4/7/1893 – The young folks of Hollow assembled Saturday evening and enjoyed themselves hugely at a raffle and dance.*

*4/14/1893 – Weekly Weather Report. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Co-operating with Mo. Weather Service. Meteorological Report of Voluntary Observer at Fox Creek, St. Louis Co., Mo., for the week ending April 8, 1893. ....*

*Remarks. On 5th, whip-poor-will calls heard; 9th, the cold wave passing with a margin of 14 degrees above freezing point.*

*Supplement. Mean temperature for March was 49.91 degrees, highest 80 degrees, on 31st, lowest 10 degrees on the 4th, monthly range 70 degrees, total precipitation 5.02, unmelted snowfall 2 ½, clear days 5, partly cloudy 10, cloudy 9, prevailing winds s. w., thunderstorms on 1st, 21st and 23rd. Damaging winds occurred on 10th but very high on 9th, 11th, 21st, 23rd and 30th.*

*Remarks. Frogs calling on 6th. First snowdrop on 12th; Crocus, scarlet maple on 25th. First sweet iris on 29th. Bat and catbird on 30th. First March bloom on 31st.*

*Wm. Muir, Observer.*

*4/28/1893 – Various articles were raffled by Peter Steffan at Orrville Saturday evening, which the occasion for a large gathering of young folks. They danced all through the night to the music of Russell's orchestra, and enjoyed the affair hugely.*

*4/20/1894 – Mrs. Keller, of Lime City, gave a quilting last Thursday which was enjoyed by old and young.*

## 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). Thanks for your support!