



# Wildwood Historical Society

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

## February 2016 Newsletter

### February Program

Wildwood Historical Society members Sandy Gurnow and Rich Hardt recently went on an amazing trip to Europe, and they are going to share some of their many photos with us! They will specifically focus on the historical stops they visited. **Please note that this program is on a Sunday afternoon! DO NOT come on the third Tuesday!** We hope that offering a program at a different time will allow people to attend who aren't normally able to, so please tell your friends to join us!

#### February Program

**Sunday, February 21, 2016**

**2:00 p.m.**

**WHS Meeting Hall**

**18750 Highway 100**

**Wildwood, MO 63069**

### Upcoming Programs

**March 15 at 7:00 p.m.** – Author Steve Claggett will share about his new German immigrant book, *The Germans: Their Arrival, Settlement, and Contributions*.

**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 (or bring it to a program) 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!**

## It's Time to Sell Calendar Ads!

Once again, we want to start on next year's calendar early so that we can get it into your hands sooner. We *must* have help in selling calendar ads, so please take an extra moment when you're at a local business to ask if they would buy an ad in the 2017 WHS calendar. The theme will be churches, paralleling the 2016 bus tour. Business card ads are \$75, double business card ads are \$145, and banner ads are \$300. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter, but we would love to start selling right now! Calendar ad sales are one of the biggest fundraisers for the Society, and we rely solely on volunteers, so start selling!

## 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!

## Book Review

*Society member Karen Fox asked us to share this book description/review.*

This month's featured book: *Guerrilla Season* by Pat Hughes - a 2004 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

**Audience:** Middle Schoolers

**Description:** During Missouri's Civil War, which pitted neighbor against neighbor, armed men often banged on doors in the middle of the night, shouting "Union or Secesh"? The wrong answer could get a civilian killed. In this gripping depiction of the Civil War in Missouri, a boy must choose from the madness around him while being tested by family ties, friendship, and loyalty.

**Review:** "Hughes's strong Civil War novel depicts the plight of families caught between warring neighbors...a compelling story about courage and sacrifice...History buffs will appreciate Hughes's accurate detailing of the events and moods of a tumultuous time." - Publishers Weekly



Happy Valentine's Day (February 14)!



## 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

jfvgifvg@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."

*2/22/1883 – Wednesday, the 14th inst., Wild Horse creek overflowed its banks and inundated large portions of land along the bluff near Orville, doing considerable damage to the wheat. The water rose so high that in some places only the top rail of the fences was visible, it rose so fast, that several hogs found a watery grave in the wild waters.*

*2/24/1888 – Mrs. Henry Hohmann, of Fox Creek, is reported to be very sick. Sickness and death seem to be of very frequent occurrence this winter so far. The mud and slush, accompanied with those very sudden changes, have their baneful influence upon the human system in regard to health, especially this winter.*

*2/22/1889 – The citizens of Allenton and vicinity are making preparations for a grand fox drive, to take place Saturday, March 2. Everyone in St. Louis and adjoining counties are invited to take part, and owing to the large number of foxes in that neighborhood, grand sport is anticipated. The arrangement committee consists of the leading citizens of that part of the county. No firearms or dogs will be allowed.*

*2/21/1890 – Mr. C. Frederick Ossenfort, a resident near Melrose, in this County for over forty years, celebrated the anniversary of his 68th birthday on February 12, at his home, in the presence of numerous relatives and friends, who came to congratulate the old gentleman upon the occasion. The R. C. Allen Camp, Sons of Veterans, attended the celebration. Congratulations to Mr. Ossenfort suiting the occasion, singing and fun-making was the order of the day, until a late hour at night, when all left for home well pleased. Mr. Ossenfort is one of these stalwart and brave German pioneers who came from Europe to the West, then almost in its infancy, first settling in Gasconade County, Mo., and after having resided in that county for several years moved into the neighborhood of Melrose, St. Louis County, where he has lived ever since, at which last place he succeeded by untiring, honest, and hard labor, in building up a snug and comfortable home, being yet in good health, and having the great consolation of looking upon prosperous and promising children, all of which love and respect him.*

*2/28/1890 – There was stolen, on the night of February 25, near Grover, three mules, two from Charles Dreinhoeffler and one from Henry Bilchman. It is no wonder we are overrun with horse thieves in this county. The Grand Jury, at the spring term of 1889, found a true bill against one John Miller for horse stealing. He was tried in the Circuit Court, found guilty, and sentenced to two years in the Pen. Under the two-thirds rule his time will expire in sixteen months from entrance into prison. He will then be turned loose to prey upon the community again. What an injustice to the people! I don't believe in lynch law, but if there should be anyone so rash as to undertake it, it would not surprise me if he would have the sympathy of the community. -One of the Grand Jurors*