



Wildwood Historical Society

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

May 2020

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

May Updates and Moving Forward

A Message from the President

We finally have beautiful weather and we would love to get together but due to this Covid 19 Virus, we are not yet allowed to gather other than in groups of 10 or 6 feet apart, and that just won't work to have a Historical Society Meeting. As of right now, we THINK our June 16 meeting will be our first meeting this year-we HOPE. The speaker I had scheduled for April will be our speaker for June. That is Mark Leach-Cahokia in Chesterfield.

The Car Show and Open House for July is still being debated. It all takes very much planning. If we cannot get together to do the planning, we cannot hold an Event of this proportion. On the good news side: We have a newly drilled 300 ft. well. Now the area will be graded, seeded and strawed. And we finally have a new roof on the small

portion/annex of the barn/museum. Now work needs to be done on the inside of that annex.

Stay safe, stay healthy. We will see you SOON.

Sincerely,
Sandra K. Becker-Gurnow
President

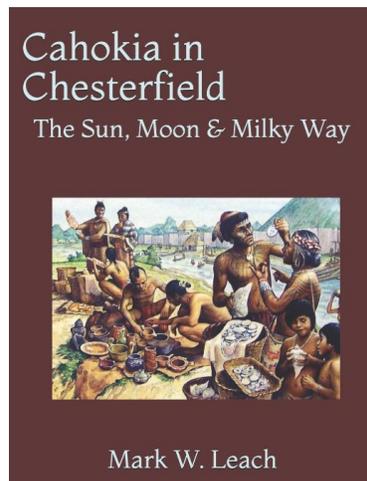
****Please Note: There will be no May Meeting****



Mark Leach author of Cahokia in Chesterfield

When: Tuesday, June 16, 7PM
Where: 18750 HWY 100 (just west of Stovall's)

Join us to hear Mark Leach speak about The Cahokia in Chesterfield. Nearly 1,000 year ago, a vibrant Native American community filled the entire Chesterfield Valley. Though only a small portion of the community has been professionally studied, over 100,000 artifacts have been discovered including exotic



materials from the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico.

Cahokia in Chesterfield has been the focus of professional archaeological research for over 70 years. Research is ongoing, and most excitingly, the very heart of this ancient city lies well preserved under six feet of flood deposited soil. You will never see your local area in quite the same way again!



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 Joyce Mercer about what went into generating the Society's book, *At Rest in Wildwood: Burial Sites, History of Cemetery Traditions, and Stories of our Passing, St. Louis County, Missouri*.



How did the book come about?

WHS members were starting a process for a comprehensive

history book. Chapters were assigned to individuals. Progress was slow on this huge undertaking so I suggested to the rest of the Board that we publish a cemetery book as the records were already in a database on my computer. With help from many the book was published. Among those involved were: Joyce Mercer, Lynne and Jim Martin, the Dovie Berry, Inez Kroenung, Patty Schaege, Leslie Williams, Yvonne Holladay, Jennifer Bates, Megan Martin, Travis Humphrey, Ruby Downs, George Gaehle, Eric and Scott Rhodes, the City of Wildwood and the hundreds of city residents who have shared their knowledge on the location and contents of the cemeteries in our area.

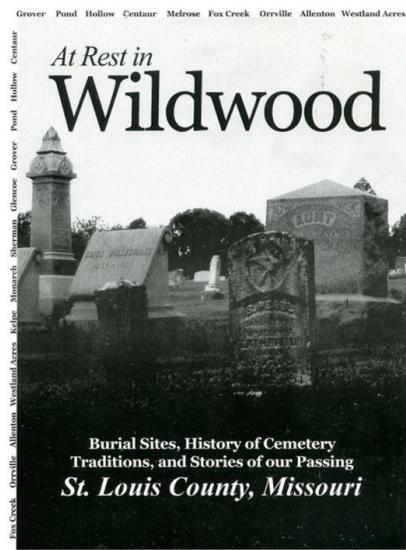
(Note: The above mentioned comprehensive history book, Celebrate the History of Wildwood, Missouri, written by the City and WHS's Archivist, Jill VonGruben, will be published by the City of Wildwood in October 2020.)



What is an example of how the physical work occurred?

A dozen or so members walked Bethel cemetery in pairs and recorded records from gravestones. In addition a group probed for stones on

Strecker Road. Several of us watched as the Andrae site on Old State Road was excavated and the remains moved to Bethel cemetery. Mark Trout was the code enforcer for the City of Wildwood at the time and was very helpful in finding burial sites. As we found them, he put them on the City map to protect them from developers.



[Buy our Books here](#)



A New Roof for the Museum Building Annex

A huge shout-out is due to our President, Sandy Becker-Gurnow, for the time and effort she spent working with Allen Roofing in getting the new roof for the museum building annex. The old roof was a mess and had lasted far longer than its expected life. The new roof looks great. Thanks again, Sandy. And thank you to Allen Roofing for their work.



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/>

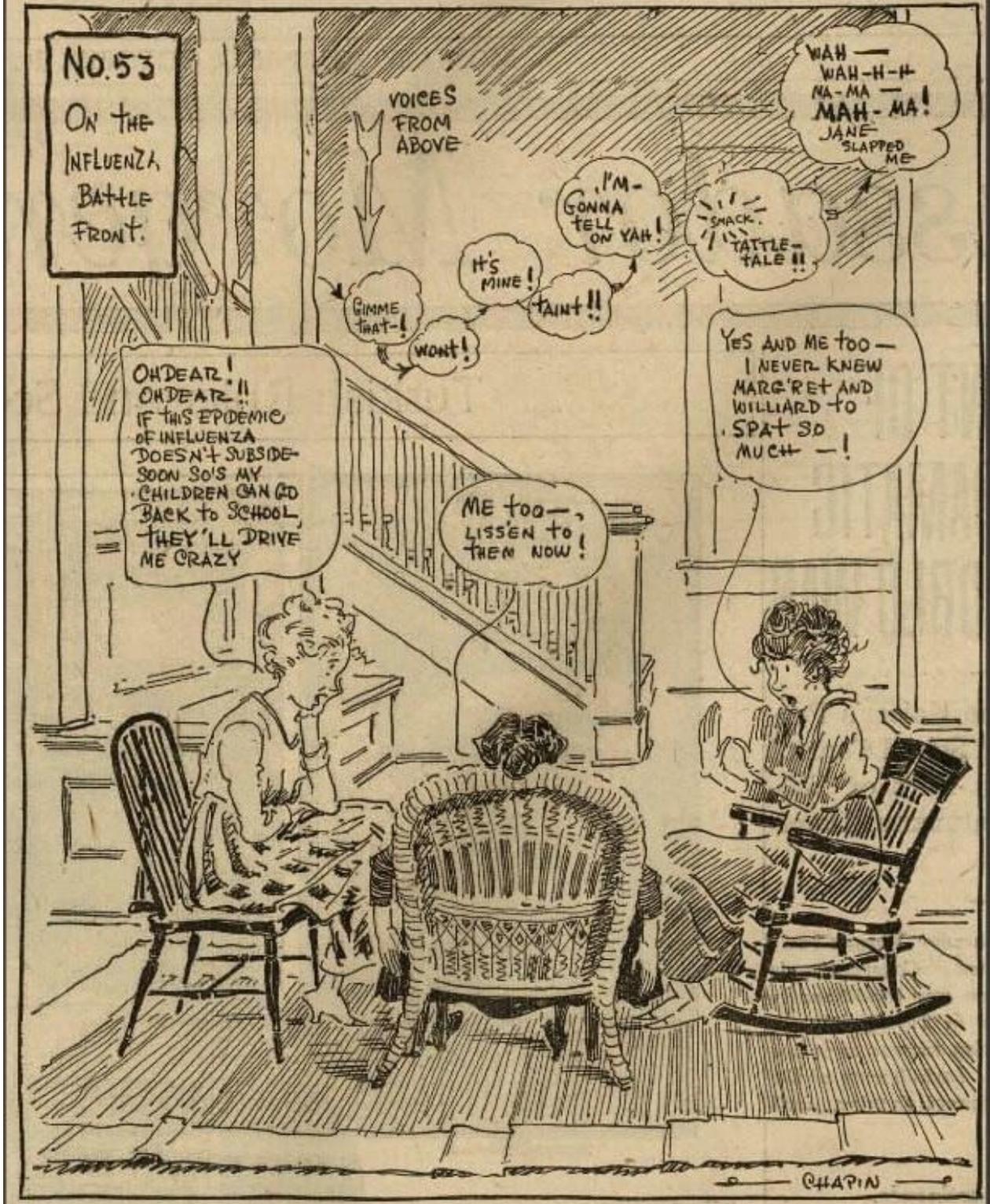
A similar program from the National Archives is:

<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist>

Sincerely hoping everyone is safe and healthy!



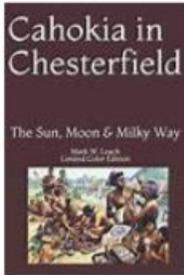
In April's Newsletter, Karen Fox described previous quarantine situations that affected our One-Room Schools over the past 100+ years. Below is an editorial cartoon which appeared in the *St. Louis Republic* newspaper in 1918. It is entitled "Home, Sweet Home - On the Influenza Battlefront" by Chapin. The issues of 2020 homeschooling during a Pandemic is nothing new!



The above cartoon is courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society Collections, #1080, originally published in a 2007 issue of the MHM's Gateway Magazine.



When: **TUESDAY, JUNE 16th, 7pm**
Where: **WILDWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
18750 Highway 100, Wildwood, 63069
(just west of Stovall's)



Join us to hear Mark Leach speak about *The Cahokia in Chesterfield*. Nearly 1,000 year ago, a vibrant Native American community filled the entire Chesterfield Valley. Though only a small portion of the community has been professionally studied, over 100,000 artifacts have been discovered including exotic materials from the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. Cahokia in Chesterfield has been the focus of professional archaeological research for over 70 years. Research is ongoing, and most excitingly, the very heart of this ancient city lies well preserved under six feet of flood deposited soil. You will never see your local area in quite the same way again!



Mark W. Leach is the author of several books on local archeology.

Please come and join us on **Tuesday, June 16th at 7pm** for a journey back in time to learn about the Native Americans in Chesterfield Valley

SOCIAL DISTANCING as required by St. Louis County will be followed.

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

Dave VonGruben - **Treasurer**
(314) 566-4743
dvgruben@gmail.com

Jill VonGruben -
Archivist/Librarian
(314)566-4743
jfvjgfv@gmail.com

Trustees

Helen Gaehle
Rich Hardt
Paul Eckler
Donna Kummer
Chuck Weber

Website

wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook

facebook.com/
WildwoodHistoricalSociety

Mailing Address

Wildwood Historical Society
P.O. Box 125
Wildwood, MO 63040

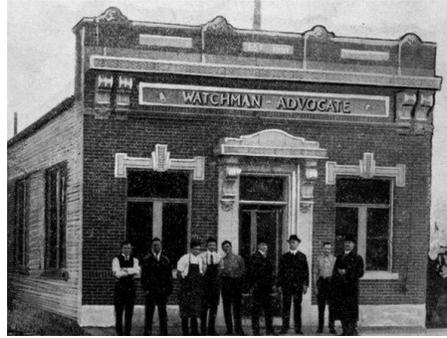
Meeting Hall

18750 Highway 100
Wildwood, MO 63069

info@wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org

Wildwood Historical Society is a
501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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.

1891.05.08- Meramec Tp, roads: The petition of freeholders of Meramec township asking for the establishment of a public road, 30 feet in width, beginning at the Wild Horse Creek road and terminating at the right of way of the St. Louis, Kansas City & Colorado R.R.; ordered that the Road Commissioner survey and mark out said road, and report at next term.

1891.05.08- Orrville sale: Henry Kesselring, of Orrville P.O., will sell all his personal property at public auction on Saturday, June 6, when he will move to St. Louis. This removal, we are sorry to say is caused by the severe illness of his wife, who is receiving medical attention in St. Louis.

1891.05.15-Pond, crime: Last Sunday evening during services at the Bethel church, Pond P.O., someone unhitched a bay horse from the buggy of the pastor, Rev. Brindley. Up to last accounts the horse and harness is still missing.

1891.05.15-Pond, animal: Mrs. James Shields, of Pond, has a hen and the hen laid an egg. This fact alone would not be of extraordinary interest to our readers were it not that the egg in question is a triple-yolk egg of large size and cigar shape. The egg will be sent to the St. Louis County Fair this Fall.

1891.05.15-Fox Creek/Melrose, wedding: Marriage license issued to August A. Poertner of Fox Creek and Lina Gimbal of Melrose.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.

1890.05.30-St Louis

County, census: Counting the People. Some of the Inquiries to be made by the Census Enumerators. ...The questions that will be asked call for the name of every person residing in the U.S. next Monday, with their sex and age, and whether white or black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, or Chinese, Japanese, or Indian. Inquiry will be made also of every person as to whether they are single, married, widowed or divorced, and, if married, whether married during the census year. The place of birth of each person, and the place of birth of the father and mother of each person,...profession, trade or occupation followed, number of months unemployed. For all persons ten years of age and over a return must be made by the enumerator as to the number able to read and write, and also the number who can speak English.

For those who cannot speak English the particular language

or dialect spoken by them will be ascertained. For children of school age, also the number of months they attended school will be recorded. In the case of mothers an inquiry will be made as to the number of children they have had, and the number of these children living at the present time. This official count of the people comes but once in ten years.