



# Wildwood Historical Society

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

November 2020

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

## NOVEMBER UPDATES



### A Message from the President

I'm sorry folks, this sounds like a broken record and dog-gone-it anyway it is broken. It is so disappointing for me to have to sit here again this month and sing the same song. We are canceling the November meeting AND the December Open House. If the Covid-19 doesn't end, the beginning of 2021 doesn't look too bright either!

We don't schedule meetings in January and February anymore due to unpredictable weather.

Our next SCHEDULED meeting is March 16, 2021. I

have reluctantly started scheduling speakers for 2021. It's very hard to get anyone to commit though without a Crystal ball into the future. If you know something I don't about 2021, will you let me know?

All I can say for now is, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and PLEASE, Please love your families, when and while you can and STAY WELL.

Respectfully,

Sandra K. Becker-Gurnow  
President

**There will be no  
monthly meeting in  
NOVEMBER**



### Member Support

Thank you to everyone who has joined the WHS or renewed your memberships over the years and will do so for 2021. We are very grateful for your support, which sustains our organization especially through this challenging time. Joining or renewing for 2021 is easy to do. You may mail a check to the Wildwood Historical Society at PO Box 125, Grover, MO 63040 or go online:

### Membership:

<https://www.wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org/membership/>

During 2021, besides our normal expenditures, we had to have a new well drilled and a new roof put on the Museum Annex and maintenance expenses for our historic home.





WHS is going to hang our "stocking" in the hope that it may overflow with gifts. As mentioned above, 2020 has been a very difficult year for everyone and 2021 is going to need help.

Please consider making an additional contribution during this extraordinary time to help fill our "stocking." We thank you again for your past and future support of the Wildwood Historical Society.

**Donate:**

<https://www.wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org/donate/>



**The History & Genealogy Virtual Expo**

Saturday, Nov. 7 Session 1: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Session 2: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5 Session 3: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Session 4: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Connect to the organizations that can help you discover the history of your family and your community. Representatives of St. Louis-area organizations will give presentations followed by question and answer sessions.

Registration is required. Register online at [www.slcl.org/events](http://www.slcl.org/events) or call 314-994-3300.

For more information, contact History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library at 314-994-3300 or [genealogy@slcl.org](mailto:genealogy@slcl.org).

**History & Genealogy**  
Library at St. Louis County Library

## The History and Genealogy Virtual Expo

**When:**

Saturday November 7th  
Saturday, December 5th

**Where:**

<https://www.slcl.org/content/history-genealogy-virtual-expo>

A great congratulations and thank you goes out to two of our volunteers. Both Karen Fox and Lynn Link are participating in the History & Genealogy Virtual Expo at the St. Louis County Library on November 7 (2:55pm) and December 5 (10:55). Karen will be speaking on the public health challenges that the one-room schoolhouses faced in the 19th century and early 20th century. Lynn will be presenting about researching the 2021 WHS calendar which has been selected as an official Missouri Bicentennial Project. We are

incredibly appreciative of their continued work and promotion for the Wildwood Historical Society. You may still have time to register for access at: <https://www.slcl.org/content/history-genealogy-virtual-expo>.



## A History of Local Sports

*New exhibit based on items donated during the quarantine*

While 2020 has been a year of restrictions and quarantines, it has provided many families the "opportunity" to clean out attics, closets and basements. WHS has been the happy recipient of many of these treasures and our very dedicated volunteers have been busy inventorying items and collecting the stories that are part of the donated items. Your volunteers have used some of this restricted time to make use of some of these donations to work on new displays.



A glimpse into our work is our new Sports in Wildwood display which features a baseball bat from the Wardenburg Family.



At some point COVID restrictions will leave and your volunteers are preparing to WOW you when we are able to return to our full schedule of presentations and events. The above Sports Display is just a sample of things to come!



**PLEASE NOTE:**

While there are visiting restrictions, just as there are for all businesses in St. Louis County, we are open on most Monday mornings and by appointment. We look forward

to seeing you and to arrange an appointment, just email us at [info@wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org)



**Archivist Corner**



In recent Archivist Corners, we've discussed documenting all those photos your family has been sorting through over the past few months and sharing the stories that accompany them.

Another facet of sorting through all your family's treasures is documenting actual objects. For this Archivist Corner, I am going to use an item from my family.



**Item Title:** Iron Address Marker currently from the

Wildwood Area, while its original home was Glendale.

**Item Date:** c. 1947-49

**Item Provenance:**

The above photo is of a house marker for the first house my parents owned. My father worked at Carondelet Foundry after WWII while he was attending Washington University at night for his engineering degree. While he was at the Foundry, he made the above house marker. My parents moved into their first home in late 1951 and this marker was used for the first few years. And as a lot of families did, the old maker got put in a box in the basement and was moved from house to house without much thought given to it. In the late 1980s, my parents gave me the house marker since I was the eldest of the family and the only one of their children to remember it being used. My parents wanted me to use it as decoration in one of my gardens and that is where it has been since then.

**Condition Report:**

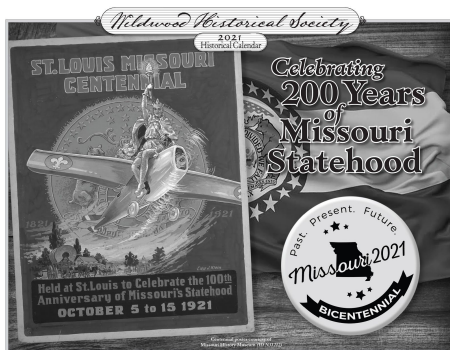
Since this is an item that needs some maintenance attention to maintain the integrity of the marker, I've also made notes of when and how we have taken care of the marker.

**Why go through this exercise?**



Because being the eldest of my family, I'm the only one who has this knowledge and I want my children to have that knowledge when the marker becomes theirs.

Not every item that you will come across as you sort through your family's items will need this extensive documentation; but attaching the stories to them, make them so much more treasured.



## Calendar Update

The 2021 WHS Calendar is just about ready to hit the streets! The Calendar is at the printers and will be distributed shortly.

We sincerely hope you enjoy this calendar that celebrates the Bicentennial of the State of Missouri. Note the State of Missouri Bicentennial Seal on the above-shown cover of our calendar! The dedication, which will be on the inside of the front cover reads: "As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the City of Wildwood's incorporation,

we look back at the rich history of our towns and people over the 200 years of Missouri's statehood. This calendar was researched during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our normal resources were not available during its composition. The finished work is a testament to the WHS staff's creativity in the face of immense obstacles. It's also a celebration of gratitude to our supporters who chose to continue to advertise with us during this unique time in world history."



### Officers

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wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org

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[info@wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@wildwoodhistoricalsociety.org)

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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.*

**1892.11.18-Kelpe, Death:** William Sandfos, son of John Sandfos, of Kelpe P.O., died November 13 in the Protestant Hospital in St. Louis after a two-day's illness, at the age of 24 years from peritonitis. The body was transferred to Centaur last Sunday via the Colorado R.R. He served as conductor on the Franklin Avenue cable.

**1892.11.18-Kelpe\Melrose, marriage license:** Adam Kesselring of Kelpe and Anna Barthold of Melrose were licensed to wed.

**1892.11.18-St Louis County, post office:** Free Mail Delivery in Farming Districts. ...extension and improvement of the free delivery system. 2000 letter-boxes a day will shortly be turned out by a factory at Norristown, Pa., which begins December 1 to manufacture those articles for the private use of householders all over the Union. They are designed for attachment to the doors of dwelling and other buildings, being of the patterns selected by the Post-office Department from 1,600 models offered. The contrivances are to be introduced to all places where there is free delivery, which extends to all communities having over 5,000 inhabitants.

**1892.11.18-St Louis County, post office:** Recent trials of these house boxes in cities having proved greatly successful in the saving of time, similar experiments are to be made at once on two rural routes selected for test purposes--one a village route and the other a farming district ten miles square--with mounted postmen....Two years ago Congress gave to the Postmaster General \$10,000 which was expended in trying the merits of free delivery...in one year \$3,600 was earned by the venture over and above all expenses. Owing to the increased sale of stamps...

1892.11.25-Eureka, bridge: The county officials of Jefferson County have determined to bridge the Meramec river at a point opposite Eureka. The structure will be 260 feet in length and of the latest build. It will be one more connecting link between Jefferson and St. Louis counties, though the cost will all be borne by Jefferson County. Residents of Eureka, Allenton and vicinity are now desirous of our County Court to bridge the Meramec at Votaw's Ford in this county.