



# Kirkwood Historical Society

*“The history of Kirkwood is too valuable to lose.” – Nancy Reeves*

## NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2019

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mudd’s Grove is closed to the public during the month of January 2019 – public tours will resume on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 1:00 pm. The Harlan Gould Memorial Library will be open Thursdays and Sundays from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm for research.

### SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JANUARY 2019



1<sup>st</sup> – Happy New Year. - 21<sup>st</sup> - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### MUDD’S GROVE

Home to the Kirkwood Historical Society is located at 302 W. Argonne Dr., Kirkwood, MO 63122. Telephone: 314-965-5151.

**Hours:** - Thursday’s and Sunday’s from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Mudd’s Grove is closed to the public during the month of January.

**Harlan Gould Memorial Library** – is open to the public for research purposes Thursday’s and Sunday’s from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Year round.

### MEMBERSHIP

#### Interested in joining the Kirkwood Historical Society? Here’s How:



1<sup>st</sup> - Choose the level of membership desired:

Historian	\$35.00	Family	\$75.00
Kirkwood	\$125	Henry T. Mudd	\$250
George Dana	\$500	William Bodley Lane	\$1,000
Lifetime	\$2,500		

2<sup>nd</sup> – Complete a membership application (you can do this online at: [www.kirkwoodhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.kirkwoodhistoricalsociety.com)) or complete and mail in a paper copy. Membership year begins on June 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on May 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Member benefits include the quarterly publication “The Kirkwood Review” and the Kirkwood Historical Society Newsletter published monthly is delivered by email and quarterly if delivered by Postal Mail.

## DOCENTS - VOLUNTEERS



Interested in becoming a Docent at Mudd's Grove or volunteering at special events such as our Strawberry Festival in May, The Greentree Festival in September or perhaps helping to decorate Mudd's Grove for the holidays? Then send an email to: John F. Crowley, Docent Coordinator at [kxn896@hotmail.com](mailto:kxn896@hotmail.com) or call 314-764-0809 and be sure to include your contact information and the best time to contact

you.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**James P. Kirkwood** – for whom the City of Kirkwood, Missouri is named for was a Civil Engineer who constructed the Pacific Railroad of Missouri as well as Barrett's Tunnels and the City Waterworks pumping and filtration plant at Chain of Rocks. Mentioned here are just a few of his projects.

## KIRKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

### THE FAMILIES OF MUDD'S GROVE:

*This publication is for sale in both the Gatehouse Gift Shop and Mudd's Grove.*



### William Somerville Family

In 1926 Lawrence Mahan had an opportunity to sell Mudd's Grove and he did. The buyers were William and Grace Somerville. The Somerville's had two children a son and a daughter. Grace Somerville's sister Sarah Jane Lockett and here husband, Charles Lockett evidently worked out an agreement with the Somerville's to rent the west side of the house while the Somerville's occupied the east side.

In an interview with a North Glendale Student, Mrs. Elizabeth Lockett Lord, one of Sarah Jane and Charles Lockett's two daughters, remembers that she was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade when their family moved in next door to her and aunt and uncle at Mudd's Grove. She and her sister, who was nicknamed little Sarah Jane, who was nicknamed "Lucy," attended the Adams Avenue School and continued in the Kirkwood Public Schools until their freshman year in high school when they transferred to John Burroughs school.

Like most of the families who lived at Mudd's Grove the Lockett's had hired household help. Mrs. Lord remembers that a farm girl from Illinois lived with them and did house work. She lived in a room on the third floor which was traditionally considered the "servants' quarters."

Apparently, the hired help also spend a great deal of time in the gatehouse, which was referred to as the "wash house" by several of the interviewees. According to both Martha Blanner and Pat Williamson, laundry was done in the little house during the time when the Dana's lived at Mudd's Grove and this use may have continued during later occupations.

On the third floor Elizabeth Lord recalls there was a room, separate from where the farm girl lived, where she and her sister had a "wonderful playhouse." She also remembers swings and play equipment in the west yard.

During the time his family lived at Mudd's Grove, Charles Lockett worked in St. Louis in the insurance business. Mrs. Lord states that her father was an economically conservative but one day surprised the family when he bought a silver Franklin convertible. Mrs. Lord recalls that this was in the early 30's.. The family had another auto which Mrs. Lockett used to run errands and

take the girls to school at Burroughs, but Mr. Lockett drove the Franklin, which the girls nicknamed "The Silver Flash" to work.

*Note: research shows that the Franklin Automobile Company of Syracuse, New York, built their last automobile in 1934. Just prior to discontinuing the manufacture of automobiles, Franklin made drastic cuts in the sales prices of their autos. Perhaps this explains why the "conservative" Mr. Lockett bought the Franklin convertible.*

Sometime between 1928 and 1930, Mrs. Lord recalls that her Aunt and Uncle Somerville moved to Texas, but did not sell the house. The Locketts continued to live on the west side of the house while the east side was rented out to Wilbur and Jan Goessling who lived there for a short time.

Between 1934-1938 the Forrest Brewington Family moved into the east wing. Mrs. Brewington's name was Clothilda and they had a daughter named Clo. Both Pat Williamson, who lived next door to Mudd's Grove and Martha Blanner Ruder, who lived across the street remember Clo Brewington. In an interview, Martha recalled how Clo's mother would give her a tonic of peppermint stick mixed with lemon. Martha told her own mother that she needed some of that exotic brew, too, but Mrs. Blanner, a very practical lady, assured Martha she didn't need any tonic or vitamins because she got plenty of healthy food at the table every day.

In 1936, after the Locketts had lived at Mudd's Grove for ten years, they too moved. Pat Williamson, who lived at the house just to the west, remembers that the Lockett girls threw away lots of old sports equipment as well as a ukulele when they moved. She said that she was delighted to be the scavenger to pick up the discarded treasures.

The Somervilles continued to hold title to the house even after the Locketts moved out. They rented out both sides to various families during the next several years. When the Brewingtons moved out of the east wing, Fred Dreeste moved in. On the west side Ambrose and Roscoe Call were tenants sometime between 1936-1941. Sometime during that period the Edward Lanz Family also occupied the east wing.

Pat Williamson remembers well the series of families who moved in and out. Especially she recalls the Lanz's daughter, Carol, and how she and Carol used the gate house for their playhouse, making a bird cemetery behind it.

In 1941, Thompson Price, his wife Isolda, and their two sons, Thompson III and Dick rented the west wing. They stayed until 1944. A sad note to this family's tenure at Mudd's Grove is remembered by Pat Williamson. Pat recalls that just after the June 6, 1944, D-day invasion of France her father came into the kitchen from visiting next door at the Thompson's and said to Pat's mother, "The Prices have just received a telegram that Dick was killed on Normandy Beach." The Prices moved from Mudd's Grove shortly after that, but Dick Price's name can still be seen in Kirkwood. It is engraved on the tablet that commemorates they city's was dead next to City Hall.

Finally, after 18 years of ownership the Somervilles sold Mudd's Grove in 1945. The buyer was Mrs. Mina B. Muckerman, the wife of Francis X. Muckerman.

## THE TREASURES OF MUDD'S GROVE



### Pier Mirror –

Walnut. - Pier Glass is a mirror which is placed on a pier, (wall between two windows supporting an upper structure. It is generally long and tall to fit the space. This type of mirror was common in 18<sup>th</sup> century homes.)

## ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the newly elected members to the Board of Directors. Special appreciation and thanks to the outgoing members for their dedication and hard work. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

## LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

**THIS MONTH'S HUMOR:** - *If you've ever worked for a boss who reacts before getting all the facts and thinking things through, you will love this!!!*



Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?" A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week. Why?" The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks pay. Now get out and don't come back. Feeling pretty good about himself, the new CEO asked: "can anybody tell me what that goof did here?" From the back of the room a loud voice replied: "pizza delivery guy from Domino's!"

## COMING IN FEBRUARY TO YOUR KIRKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**A New Exhibit** – In honor of James Pugh Kirkwood for whom the Society is named. The display opens in February in the Display Room at Mudd's Grove. A very special vote of thanks to Kirkwood Historical Society member and former President Mr. Michael Kearney who did a fantastic job on making the laminated posters currently on display at Mudd's Grove. Mr. Kearney also generously donated these posters to the Society Library. Thank you Mr. Kearney for your excellent work and dedication.

## LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

**What's on your mind?** – What can we as a Historical Society do better? What improvements would you like to see? Have a comment? Share it with us. Send any thoughts to John F. Crowley, Newsletter at [kxn896@hotmail.com](mailto:kxn896@hotmail.com). All comments will be kept anonymous unless otherwise requested.

## HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR DECEMBER 1, 2018



Seen greeting guests to Mudd's Grove at the Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 1, 2018. Is Kirkwood Historical Society President Douglas Coombs and his lovely wife Cindy Coombs.

