



Newsletter

APRIL | 2025 | SPRING EDITION



MUSEUM & GARDENS COME ALIVE IN 2025

To book a tour or volunteer - Call 573-682-5711 or 573-982-9206

MARJORIE MOTLEY, Director

The museum will open for tours on May 4th, 2025, Sundays and Wednesdays 2-4 p.m. We will be celebrating 50 years of displaying Centralia history and memorabilia. You are encouraged to attend, view, and comment.

On display will be US President Plates, up to John F. Kennedy and replicas of White House china during the early years. The museum also has a collection of porcelain plates made in Austria by Patterson and Crews Co, depicting Centralia buildings; along with plates do-

nated with various area churches pictured. Of special interest is a display of the 1957 Centennial and musical instruments.

A first-time display (inside) of the beginning of the Chance Gardens (1937) and the Rose Garden, de-

signed and built by James Lee in 1995. Pictured are the start of the Garden and various plantings. Also, Eliza Cleeton of Thompson wrote and had published music and lyrics for a song named The Chance Gardens in 1937. The original copy is

on display. A visitor books were kept in the Garden starting in 1974, with registered visitors from 89 Missouri towns, 38 different states, and 11 countries.

The Civil War Room is always a special attraction along with

the updated Chance Room. All floors will be open for visitors. Several groups have already booked tours and the Society would welcome your group as well.

Books Available For Sale At Museum

There are several books available for sale at the Centralia Historical Society Museum for \$5 or \$10.

The book selection contains the following:
Rodemyer History of Centralia
Chance Wizard
Goodman's A Thrilling Record
A State Divided

Nell Sneed's Centralia book
the 1906 Pictorial Cookbooks

In addition to books available for purchase, the museum has most Centralia High School yearbooks on inventory for viewing and they have also been digitized for your convenience.

From 1935 to the present, the museum has each school year available except for the following years: 1942, 1944, 1946, 1947, 1952, 1953, 1958, 1959, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1976, 1984, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2024.

Does anyone have one of the missing years?

Centralia Historical Society will be open for our annual meeting April 15th, 2025 at the museum at 7 p.m.

CIS 5th grade student winners of Shark Tank Inventing Competition will be special guests demonstrating their inventions.

2024 Year In Review & Members

MARJORIE MOTLEY, **Director**

In 2024, the museum served as host for a Bridal and Baby Shower, along with tours from Hubbell, Wabash and Railroad enthusiasts, Carli Conklin's MU students, 100 CIS 5th graders and 100 8th graders. Edward Jones sponsored a retirement occasion for

Deborah Wehrman, attracting 88 visitors. The museum honored Dorothy Davidson for her 29 years of dedicated service as Museum secretary. With special openings and regular tours, a total of 1096 people visited the museum in 2024.

The current paid membership of the society is 72. Your

continued support is greatly appreciated and enables us to preserve the artifacts which depict the history of Centralia. The board and staff thank every volunteer and appreciate you giving your time and talents.

Marjorie Motley

Executive Director



All floors will be open to visitors with information guides assisting. Several groups have booked tours and the society would welcome your group as well. Come visit and bring a friend. Tour guides or 'docents' are needed, just volunteer. WE NEED YOU.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

Michael Hann
President

Deborah Wehrman
Vice-President

JoAnn Reichert
Board Secretary

Jim Lee
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Susie Getzlaff

Carolyn Romine

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Marjorie Motley
Executive Director

Ginny Zoellers
Museum Secretary

Centralia Historical Society, Inc.

319 East Sneed Street

Centralia, MO 65240

Phone: 573-682-5711

Email: cenhis@socket.net

Website: centraliamomuseum.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Donation April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026

_____ Single Membership	\$10.00
_____ Family Membership	\$25.00
_____ Friend (Mr. & Mrs.) (Single)	\$30.00
_____ Patron (Mr. & Mrs.) (Single)	\$50.00
_____ Business	\$50.00
_____ Special Patron	\$100.00-\$499.00
_____ Prairie Queen Patron	\$500.00-\$999.00
_____ Power Line Patron	\$1000.00-\$2499.00
_____ Golden Anchor Patron	\$2500.00-\$4999.00
_____ A.B. Chance Patron	\$5000.00

It is my desire to pay: ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Annually

Enclosed is my check for _____ to Centralia Historical Society.