

PLAY BALL



BASEBALL IN WAUKEGAN

WAUKEGAN HISTORY MUSEUM

EXHIBIT

OPENING DAY-APRIL 1, 2013

Spring 2013

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

Calendar of Events

April

April 1

Baseball Exhibit opens

April 21

Annual Society Meeting & Program: Baseball Memorabilia Collecting and Show & Tell

May

May 19

Annual Society Meeting & Program: Metro History Fair Award Presentation & Reminiscing about the North Shore Line

June

June 1

Dandelion Wine Fine Arts Festival in Bowen Park. The Waukegan History Museum will be open and the Society will have a booth at the festival.

June 6

New "Holding History" hands-on area for kids opens at the museum

June 23

Tour of Homes

June 30

Waukegan's American Independence Day Parade and Festival. The museum will be open during the parade and festival.

President's Letter

Dennis Moisio

From the Calendar of Events you will notice we have a full line-up of activities scheduled for this spring and early summer. We hope you will partake in as many of these as you can, particularly our April and May meetings. Here, after a brief business meeting, we will move into our programs that offer you, our members and friends, the opportunity to participate.

At the April 21st meeting we will be exploring the wide-ranging topic of Baseball in Waukegan. We invite you to bring along and share your memories and significant items that tell of your baseball experiences.

At the May 19th meeting we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the demise of the Northshore Railway. Help us provide a nostalgic trip on the railway again by sharing your memories and reflections with us. Both programs begin at 3:00 p.m. and will be held in the Jane Addams Center (see pages 4-5).

Finally a word about two of our Board members. Just after our last newsletter was sent out, we learned that Josh Bill had been named the Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year for the whole country by the Gilder Lehman Institute of American History. Congratulations to



Joshua Bill
Waukegan High School, Waukegan, IL

**2012 National
History Teacher
of the Year**

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

Josh on this outstanding achievement!

Mary Goljenboom recently published *Have Courage, Work Hard: Quotations on Work and Success from the First Women of Business* a follow-up to her earlier work, *First Ladies of Business*. While our current museum exhibit looks at the changing role of women in Waukegan in 1913, Mary's books explore a wider range of issues that these very courageous and tenacious women have taken on. Both books will be on display at the Museum and can be purchased from Ferret Research, Inc. (email: info@ferretresearch.com or phone: 1-847-623-4744).

WHS Board

Officers

President

Dennis Moisio

Vice President

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Treasurer

Yvonne Sylvester

Secretary

Ellen Frew

Directors

Betsy Alleman

Josh Bill

Gail Dever

Mary Goljenboom

Sara Griffin

Jim Maguire

Denyse Waters

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Upcoming Program

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Recent Acquisitions

April Program

Baseball Memorabilia Collecting

Presented by Jim and Steve's Card Shop

Sunday, April 21

3 p.m.

Jane Addams Center

95 Jack Benny Drive

Bowen Park, North Entrance

Join us as we learn about baseball memorabilia collecting. Please bring in a special piece of baseball history that you own for the audience "Show and Tell" time that will conclude the program. We'll share some of the unique baseball artifacts from our collection as well as memorabilia from Waukegan great Bob O'Farrell. Free baseball stadium snacks will be provided during the program!

Nominations for the Board of Directors will take place before the program.

Bob O'Farrell



May Program

Reminiscing about the North Shore Line and Waukegan Historical Society Metro History Fair Award Presentation

Join us as we remember the beloved North Shore Line. Fifty years has passed since the last running of the line. Audience members are welcome to share their North Shore Line memories. We will jump start our memories with a look at pictures taken during the last run of the North Shore Line on January 21, 1963. At the end of the program we will show the movie "Remembering the North Shore" while we continue to reminisce and enjoy the refreshments.

Prior to the program, there will be a brief Historical Society update as well as the voting on the Board of Directors.

The Waukegan Historical Society Metro History Fair Award will also be presented to the winning project team prior to the program.

Sunday, May 19

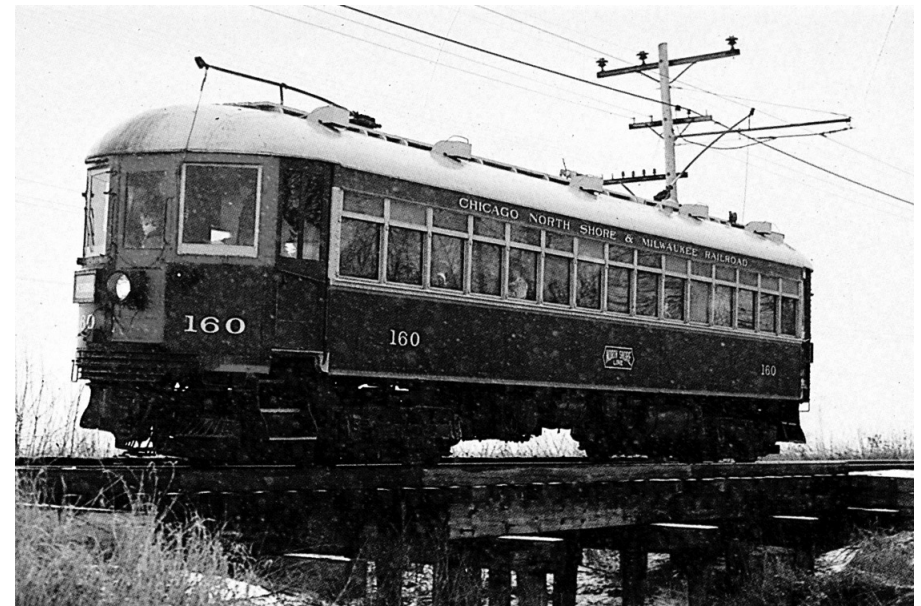
3 p.m.

Jane Addams Center

95 Jack Benny Drive

Bowen Park

North Entrance



Preservation Corner

Waukegan's rich history is reflected in the many fine historical buildings gracing its streets. The Society's Historic Marker Program gives building owners the opportunity to proudly display some of their building's heritage with a 12 by 18 inch weather-resistant sign. The Society will install the marker as well as assist homeowners in researching their property's history.

We are proud to announce that we have surpassed 50 historic markers around town! A recent addition is this residence at 638 N. Genesee researched by Society volunteer, Randy Bowcott. Here is what Randy found.

The diminutive, but pure form of a Greek Revival house at 638 N. Genesee sits on land originally purchased by Dr. David Cory in a partnership dating to the 1840's. Records show a flurry of activity in



638 N. Genesee Street

1854, including a sale to Emily and Isaac Kimball, who just eight months later, in December of that year, sold what was then previously known as "Lot 46" of Cory's addition for well over twice what they paid for the property in April, likely fixing the date of the house in that same year. This is supported by the record

showing the Kimballs mortgaged another property in this time period for \$800, presumably to finance the building of 638.

Though appearing small from the eastern facade, the house, through the years has seen numerous, sensitive additions to the west, incorporating more living space, and, of course a functional contemporary kitchen. This home, clearly one of Waukegan's earliest, resembles "model" homes touted in publications such as Godey's Lady's Book, and was said to be the temporary residence of Robert Douglas, the noted forestry expert, who was building his own "Larchmere" estate in what is now Upton Park. Long term occupants include the William Hallowell, Jr.

family, living there for nearly half a century, commencing in 1886.

More recently, the home was the subject of considerable neighborhood controversy in the 1970s. Purchased by a developer determined to tear it down to be replaced by a 12-unit apartment building, his intent was met with growing local historical sensitivities, resulting in an offer to the Waukegan Historical Society to own the house—provided it was moved from the lot, at the Society's expense. In 1977, his plan was withdrawn, and the 1854 historical gem remains in its original setting, just south of Upton Park, and "Larchmere."

If you are interested in having a marker at your home or business, please let us know. They cost \$75. Visit our website for more information or to fill out an application for a marker.

Exhibits at the Museum

Play Ball: Baseball in Waukegan

(opens April 1, 2013)

Baseball has been a favorite past-time in Waukegan since the 1870s. Learn about some of the great Waukegan teams over the years as well as players who became "Local Legends," and the ball fields where they played. A highlight of the exhibit is a section featuring Bob O'Farrell, the most accomplished ball player out of Waukegan.

Slit Skirts and Voting: Waukegan Women in 1913

(through June 1, 2013)

The role of women in society started to change in 1913. In Illinois, women were able to vote on certain offices for the first time but locally they were still running into laws that did not reflect their increasing social and political stature. No law epitomized this more than the "Ban on Slit Skirts" for women in Waukegan.

Historically Speaking

Waukegan's Baseball

Ed Link

Next month the Historical Society will unveil an exhibit entitled "Baseball in Waukegan". It will cover this city's long association with the sport and many notable individuals who took part. While extensive, the exhibit will not cover every aspect of the sport throughout Waukegan's history; that subject is simply too big.

Baseball has been played in Waukegan for 140 years. Thousands of individuals played during those years and many have interesting stories. Unfortunately the records of most of those years have been lost to history. What was 'Cinder' Williams' batting average in 1909? How many more home runs were hit in the lively ball era compared to earlier years? Who were the all-stars during the 30s and 40s? Even if the records did exist, it would take a Herculean effort and a gargantuan data base to sort and store all the information.

Many individuals are memorialized in the Waukegan Sports Hall of Fame. Articles have been written on specific baseball leagues. Little, Bronco, Pony, Colt, American Legion, Shore Line, church, tavern and industrial are just some of the leagues. It was baseball, as well as 12" and 16" softball, which was played by those leagues. Major League teams came here for exhibition games against the locals. Traveling all-star teams from around the country also visited.

As was said earlier, no one exhibit or story could cover that vast array of baseball history. Let us enjoy what we have, along with our memories of the national pastime and its connections to Waukegan.



'Cinder' Williams

Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

Spring is here and that means end of the year field trips are right around the corner! We are proud to be a local and free destination for the Waukegan schools! We know that the school kids will love the dollhouse in the Children's Bedroom. The dollhouse is a recent acquisition to the Museum and its unique story can be found on page 14.

The traveling exhibit, *Waukegan's African American Past*, was up at the Waukegan Public Library in February to help celebrate Black History Month. The exhibit reflects on the early history of African Americans in Waukegan. Highlights include the Underground Railroad, Waukegan's Frog Island, and the Greene Tarver family. This exhibit as well as others is available for loan if you are interested in having something up at your business.

There are exciting exhibits planned for 2013 at the Museum. Up through June 1 is the exhibit *Slit Skirt and Voting: Waukegan Women in 1913*. Opening April 1 is the exhibit *Play Ball: Baseball in Waukegan*. Special thanks goes out to Ed Link for his time and effort putting together the story of baseball in Waukegan.

To learn more about what is happening at the Waukegan History Museum, like us on Facebook. If you are interested in history related events occurring throughout Lake County like "Northeast Historical Happenings" on Facebook.

Waukegan's African American Past at the Waukegan Public Library



Free History Programs

**From the Waukegan Historical Society
and the Waukegan Park District**

For your organization, group, social event, or classroom. Topics include:

Native American History of the Waukegan Area*
Early settlers of Little Fort*
Waukegan and the Underground Railroad
Abraham Lincoln Goes to Waukegan
The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan
Waukegan's Famous Civil War Drummer Boys*
The Early Industry Worker*
"Firsts" in Waukegan*
Waukegan: A History of Immigration
Lake Michigan History and the Lady Elgin Shipwreck
Waukegan's African American History
Influential Women of Waukegan's Past
Prominent Events and Visitors of Waukegan
Waukegan and the Motion Picture Industry
Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary
Jack Benny: From Waukegan to Hollywood
Jane Addams: Remembering Bowen Country Club
"What-Cha-Ma-Call-It" History Trunk (hands on program)*
TITANIC: A Fateful Ticket to Waukegan (new for 2012)

**for school groups only (all other programs are for both school
and adult groups)*

Program length is 45 minutes to 1 hour. Many programs are multimedia presentations with hands-on artifacts.

Programs presented in the schools are based on Illinois Social Sciences Performance Standards. Programs can be given for multiple classrooms on the same day and can be scheduled to be given on a weekly basis.

The Supervisor of the Waukegan History Museum

will present each program. 275 programs have been presented in the last 2 years, reaching over 7,000 students and adults.

For more information and to schedule a free program, contact the Waukegan Historical Society.

The Metro History Fair

Josh Bill

Each year the Chicago Metro History Fair provides an opportunity for students in the Chicago area to complete a local history project. Thanks to an ever-growing partnership with the Waukegan Historical Society, most of our students are able to do so. Each winter, the Society's Raymond Research Library opens its doors to our students, and the results have been phenomenal.

We have had three Waukegan-based projects in the last three years advance to the National History Day competition in Washington DC. This year, Waukegan High School is proud to announce that eight Waukegan projects are moving on from the Chicago-area to the state-wide competition.

In addition, each year projects are judged locally by a panel selected by the Society and a \$500 prize is awarded to the most outstanding project. This year "Waukegan in Uniforms" by Hwangchan Yu and Adriana Gonzalez won this prestigious honor. The project and the prize will be presented at our May meeting.



Waukegan High School students working in the Society's Raymond Research Library



Find Us on Facebook!

Like the "Waukegan History Museum" on Facebook!

For more information on local historical events and programs, like "Northeast Illinois Historical Happenings" on Facebook!

Recent Donations

Charlie Cerk

Hat

Dr. John Schwab

"W" Letters

1950 School Handbook

1959, 1960, 1961 Waukegan High School Yearbooks

Norman Carlson

"The Road to Service"

Tom Sisolak

Henry Weeks Dorsett Genealogy Papers

March 9, 1889-Waukegan Weekly Gazette

Copy of March 9, 1867 Waukegan Weekly Gazette

Dennis Moisio

Book-"Black Journey" by McElroy

June Maguire

Items relating to National History Teacher of the Year-2012 Awards Ceremony

James M. Berry

"Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois & History of Lake County" by Bateman, Selby, Partridge

Ann Darrow

"I remember the North Shore" CD, Joseph Stefanec Obituary, Photograph, 2 Navy Cards, Mary E. Stefanec Obituary

Brian Leekley

Kirk Family Letters

Charles Lange

Photographs, Newspapers/Articles, Business Cards

Clara Stasior

Joseph P. Stasior Collection, Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, Service Bar, Purple Cloth Ribbon Gold Pin with Eagle, 1942 & 1943 PRCY Award for Bowling, American Legion School Award, Certificate of Birth & Baptism, Diploma from Holy Rosary School Diploma from W.T.H.S., Photographs, Book-"Forty-Fifth Infantry Division", Booklet-"Mission Accomplished" Discharge Papers, Certificate of Appreciation for Serving Armed Forces, Obituary, Prayer Card, Award of Thanks from President Clinton

Marlene Graham

Doll House, Clothes Hanger, Tool Apron, Screw Driver, Lindberg Store Tie Box, Misc. Historical Papers/Memorabilia, Wire from Wire Mill, Cassette Tape "90th

Anniversary of the Swedish Glee Club", Genesee Theatre Programs and Newsletters, History of Waukegan High School, History of Lake County Indian Trails, Obituaries

Glencoe Historical Society

Transcript of Dennis Letters

Al Westerman

19 Postcards

Eamon Rago

8 Photographs, Pamphlets for CNS & MRR

Betsy Alleman

1953 Johnson Motors Dealer Ashtray

John Brencheck

"Memories of McAlister Street"

William F. Hill

3 Photographs from Milton Staben Association from the 1950s

The Hyatt Family

Osling Book, Book-"Waukegan's Legacy" 2 Mathon Restaurant Postcards

YMCA (Barrie Fromie)

Notebooks of YMCA History, Photographs-YMCA

Jonathan R. Oye

Pencil Drawing Portrait of Jack Benny by Jonathan R. Oye

Diane Damos

Victory Memorial Hospital Nurses Cape Newspaper Clipping, Photographs

David Spaulding

Spaulding Genealogy

From the Library

We were extremely busy these last couple of months helping Waukegan High School history students with their Chicago Metro History Fair projects (see page 11). We averaged 30-40 students during each time we were open and on some instances we had even more. The library crew and files got quite the work out, but it was definitely worth it! Good luck to the students at the Chicago Metro History Fair Competition.

Thank You!

Donations to the Heritage Preservation Fund

Baxter International Foundation
Howard & Cleone Petersen Memorial Fund

The Doll House

Dennis Moisio

We welcome a new addition to the children's bedroom at the History Museum; Marlene Graham's doll house. Built for Marlene in the 1930s by her father and a co-worker friend, it was originally expected to be the size of an orange crate. But these two imaginative craftsmen created this 5-foot-tall eye popping castle. Its living room, dining room and kitchen plus the upstairs bedroom have been furnished over the years with miniatures purchased from Marshall Field's.

Each year at Christmas, Marlene's mother and grandmother would travel into Chicago on a buying



trip and paid \$1.00 per item for the furniture. Additional decorative items, many made by the family or garnered from friends, have been added to enhance the décor.

It previously resided in a prominent place in either Marlene's or her parent's home, and

was publicly displayed before, here at the Museum and also downtown at the NewsSun Building one Christmas. In addition, it was also a frequent field trip destination for West School students who could walk to Marlene's home from the school. In its new home here at the Museum we expect it will continue to be enjoyed by both the young and old for many years.

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+)	\$7.00
Student	\$7.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Patron, Organization	\$50.00
Life, Individual	\$100.00
Life, Couple	\$150.00
My additional gift	\$ _____

Make checks payable to
Waukegan Historical Society.

VOLUNTEER

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Waukegan Historical Society

Founded in 1968, the Society collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits significant materials about the history of the Waukegan area. The Society, in cooperation with the Waukegan Park District, operates the History Museum and Raymond Library and publishes this quarterly newsletter.

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Waukegan, IL 60087
847-336-1859
www.waukeganhistorical.org
info@waukeganhistorical.org

Visit our website for more information
about events, exhibits, and our
extensive library.

www.waukeganhistorical.org

Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Museum Supervisor: Ty Rohrer
847-336-1859
museum@waukeganhistorical.org
Tuesday, Thursday: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 1pm-4pm

John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road
Librarian: Beverly Millard
847-360-4772
library@waukeganhistorical.org
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10am - 2:30pm



1917 N. Sheridan Rd, Waukegan, IL 60087

PROGRAM
Baseball
Memorabilia
Collecting

Presented by
Jim and Steve's
Card Shop

Sunday,
April 21
3 pm

See page 4 for
details.

