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Fall 2013

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

Calendar of Events

September

September 21

Oakwood Cemetery Walk (p. 4)

September 28

Play Ball: Baseball in Waukegan exhibit closes

October

October 12

Exhibit *Back to School* Opens (p. 11)

October 19 & 26

Ray Bradbury's Green Town Guided Walking Tour (p. 10)

November

November 2

Exhibit *The Kennedy Assassination in Print* Opens (p. 11)

November 9

Remembering Our Veterans Guided Walking Tour (p. 10)

November 10

Free Historical Program "The Kennedy Assassination" (p. 6)

November 17

Free Historical Lecture "The Fallen Heroes Project: Honoring Waukegan Veterans" (p. 7)

December

December 7

Holiday Open House and Showcase of Doll Collection (p. 12)



President's Letter

Dennis Moisio

Having focused this past summer on our local history with our annual Tour of Homes and our Waukegan baseball exhibit, (still showing at the museum until September 28th), we now expand our view to explore three different historical events from three time periods.

First, our annual Oakwood Cemetery walk in September will look at various aspects of our country's westward expansion by enacting the stories of local residents from that period.

Second, a different historical event will be featured in a program presented by board member and history teacher Josh Bill and Amanda Flores, one of his students. In November they will recount their experiences from their visit to the gravesite in France of local resident First Lieutenant Robert Follensbee who fought in World War II.

Third, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of a somber event that many of us still vividly remember, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Historian Jim Gibbons will be here on November 10th to take us through that November day and its aftermath. This program will be accompanied by an exhibit at the museum containing articles about the event from our archives.

We look forward to having you join us for some or all of these three significant events.

Courthouse Cornerstone

The Society's heaviest artifact has found a new home. The cornerstone for the 2nd Lake County Courthouse can now be found on the east side of the museum off of the circle drive. The cornerstone dates back to 1878 and it is a very interesting piece of Waukegan and Lake County's past.

WHS Board

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Josh Bill

Gail Dever

Mary Goljenboom

Sara Griffin

Jim Maguire

Denyse Waters

Oakwood Cemetery Walk

Tickets: \$3 in advance,
\$5 on the day of the Walk

Sunday, September 21, 2012

12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Start at Lilac Cottage in Bowen Park (1911 N. Sheridan Road) with buses taking participants to and from Oakwood Cemetery.

Bus departure times and registration numbers:

12:00 pm (#4500)

12:30 pm (#4501)

1:30 pm (#4502)

2:00 pm (#4503)

3:15 pm (#4504)

Last bus returns to Lilac Cottage at approximately 5:00 pm.

Parking is not permitted at the cemetery.

The Cemetery Walk will include unpaved walkways and uneven ground.

The 2013 Oakwood Cemetery Walk is Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 12:00-3:30 pm. The Oakwood Cemetery Walk is an annual “living history” event that showcases the rich history of Waukegan through costumed actors portraying local historical figures with connections to the cemetery and Waukegan, Illinois.

This year’s theme is “Going West.” Unique stories have been chosen for this year, and they include the fate of the reporter who was with General Custer at Little Big Horn, how Waukegan Barbed Wire shaped the West, when Little Fort was “the West,” death exploring the West, Western politics and art, as well as Western justice with the story of the first public hanging in Lake County. Participants will also hear other unique “Going West” stories as well as the history of the City of Waukegan’s Oakwood Cemetery.

See more Tour of Homes photographs at www.waukeganhistorical.org.



Tour of Homes Recap

The annual Tour of Homes was held on June 23, 2013. The event was very successful this year as in past years with over 350 participants. The Tour was first held in 1969 and serves as the main fund raiser for the Waukegan Historical Society. In recent years the tour has also become an important community event. The Society works with the City of Waukegan, the Waukegan Park District, and the News-Sun to showcase the fine architecture and neighborhoods of our city.

More than half of the attendees come from outside of the community.

The event serves as an important opportunity to attract new residents who share our vision for a revitalized Waukegan that honors and respects our rich heritage. The 2013 Tour included the Waukegan History Museum, Lilac Cottage, 408 Gillett, 629 N Sheridan Road, 946 N Sheridan Road and 2511 Marshall Parkway. The Tour was a wonderful mix of architecture, decorating styles and time periods.

Significant assistance with the Tour was provided by the News-Sun, the Waukegan Park District, the generous home owners, and the many volunteers who staffed the homes on the Tour.

Special thanks to the tour committee: Gail Dever, Gretta Dieck, Ty Rohrer, John Stein, Yvonne Sylvester, and Denyse Waters. The committee works for many months to make this annual event possible.

We hope to see you on our Tour next year and we are actively seeking homes. If you are interested and would like your home to be considered for the Tour, please contact the Waukegan History Museum.



Free Historical Program
Sponsored by the Waukegan Historical Society

The Kennedy Assassination

Sunday, November 10, 2013

3:00 PM

Jane Addams Center-95 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park

It's November 22, 1963 and you have just arrived home for lunch and decide to watch your favorite television program. You notice that your show is not on; instead a news bulletin from CBS News has just flashed up on your screen. Reporter Walter Cronkite is reading information to his audience when he suddenly gets a news flash. He states:

“From Dallas Texas the flash apparently official President Kennedy died at 1:00 p.m. central standard time, 2:00 eastern standard time some 38 minutes ago.”

“Vice President Lyndon Johnson has left the hospital in Dallas but we do not know to where he has preceded presumably he will take the oath of office shortly and become the thirty-sixth President of the United States.”

These were the words that riveted America. As soon as they were announced, everything stopped. For the next four days the country was plunged into total mourning.

Historian Jim Gibbons will relook at this most tragic time in our nation's history, presenting “The Kennedy Assassination.” If you were alive at that time you may remember where you were and what you were doing that fateful day in Dallas. If not, you will learn how everything came to a complete halt with just four words “The President is dead!”



Free Historical Lecture
Sponsored by the Waukegan Historical Society and Waukegan High School

The Fallen Heroes Project: Honoring Waukegan Veterans

Sunday, November 17, 2013

3:00 PM

Waukegan High School Auditorium-Brookside Campus
2325 Brookside Avenue

US History teacher and Waukegan Historical Society Board of Director Josh Bill and his student, Andrea Flores, will be teaming up to present: “The Fallen Heroes Project: Honoring Waukegan Veterans.” The program is specifically designed for teachers and community members interested in working with the Historical Society to learn about veterans of various conflicts in American history.

Bill and Flores will be speaking about their experience researching a Waukegan soldier, then traveling to the American Cemetery in Normandy, France where they honored Robert Follensbee with a eulogy near the hallowed grounds of Omaha Beach. The program will increase awareness for the contributions of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, while also encouraging teachers in Waukegan schools to use the Historical Society to bring fallen heroes into their curriculum where possible.

Waukegan teacher Josh Bill and his student, Andrea Flores will speak on November 17



Historically Speaking

Washburn and Moen & Barbed Wire

Ed Link

When Joseph Glidden invented barbed wire in 1874 in DeKalb, Illinois he unknowingly altered western American history in ways he couldn't have possibly imagined. The usual products used for fencing in the east, wood and stone, were not abundant in the west. Barbed wire was a cheap and easy to install alternative. Homesteaders could delineate their property and keep roaming cattle from destroying their crops. Fencing ended the open range grazing of cattle and led to numerous conflicts between cattlemen and the farmers—the famous range wars.

Cattle owners eventually came to recognize the advantages of wire in their own operations. An historic demonstration by John W. Gates in San Antonio, Texas in 1876 convinced the skeptics that barbed wire could contain even rambunctious long-horns without harming them. By surrounding their property with the relatively cheap and efficient wire ranchers could keep the cattle where they wanted and eliminate the time-consuming practice of the roundup. No intermingling of the entire herd also allowed for more selective breeding.

Glidden had to fend off numerous law suits contesting his claim to invention. Eventually they were settled in his behalf and he produced wire along with Isaac Ellwood. When Glidden wanted to get out of the business he sold his portion to Washburn and Moen of Worcester, Massachusetts. Demand for the



wire was enormous, with the greatest emphasis in the west. Washburn and Moen recognized the freight cost involved with shipping across the country and wanted a plant closer to their primary markets. When the railroad that would become the E J & E extended their route to Waukegan, Washburn and Moen acted. On January 16, 1891 property was purchased at the south edge of Waukegan and a giant plant was erected.

In that plant Washburn and Moen made Waukegan Wire, called “the improved Glidden.” Both two point and four point wire were available. Mountains of barbed wire were produced and long trains filled with it were sent west. While many other manufacturers also produced wire, Glidden or Waukegan Wire was the most popular.

The need for barbed wire waned over time and the Washburn and Moen plant was eventually taken over by American Steel & Wire in 1899. The head of the new company was none other than John W. Gates, of the San Antonio demonstration fame. The wire mill continued to operate until the 1970s, by then part of U.S. Steel.

Today barbed wire is still used throughout the west for the same purposes it was used over a century ago. A small museum in La Crosse, Kansas is dedicated to barbed wire. Examples of hundreds of types of wire are displayed along with the tools necessary for manufacturing and installation. It gives a good understanding of the importance of this simple item in our history.



American Steel & Wire Company workers—
“coarse wire”

Guided Walking Tours

There are two different guided historical walking tours taking place this fall. Pre-registration is required for these free tours. Please stop by or call the Jack Benny Center at 847-360-4740 or register on the web at www.waukeganparks.org. These tours will be lead by Museum Supervisor, Ty Rohrer.

Ray Bradbury's Green Town

Walk the streets of author Ray Bradbury's "Green Town" on this guided tour of downtown Waukegan



led by Museum Supervisor, Ty Rohrer. The places, people, and events from Bradbury's fictional Green Town (Waukegan) books will be highlighted. The tour starts at Ray Bradbury Park at 41 North Park Avenue. A shuttle bus will return participants back to Bradbury Park at the conclusion of the Tour.

Saturday, October 19 10:00 am
Register by 10/12, Park District Registration #4595

Saturday, October 26 10:00 am
Register by 10/19, Park District Registration #4596

Remembering our Veterans

Veterans dating back from the War of 1812 are laid to rest at Waukegan's Oakwood Cemetery. On this guided tour led by Museum Supervisor, Ty Rohrer, participants will visit the graves of numerous soldiers and hear their heroic stories. Participants will first gather at Lilac Cottage at 10am and will take a shuttle bus to Oakwood Cemetery.

Saturday, November 9 10:00 am
Register by 11/2, Park District Registration #4597

Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

We have exciting new exhibits scheduled to open at the Waukegan History Museum this fall. The first to open is *Back to School*. This exhibit will be a re-creation of an old school room and it will feature a ten minute documentary on the history of the Waukegan schools. We look forward to sharing the story of the schools with both current and former students. Opening in November is the exhibit, *The Kennedy Assassination in Print*. November 22, 2013 is the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Our exhibit will take you back to that tragic time as you read how the story was covered in the local newspapers.

The guided historical walking tours that are in conjunction with the Waukegan Park District have started to take off. We had 30 people attend our second Civil War walking tour and 9 attended a Bowen Park tour. We are excited to continue to grow this program and look forward to many more successful walking tours in the future.

Special thanks go out to Jennifer Berzin. Jennifer spent the summer with us as the Waukegan Park District Cultural Arts Museum Intern. Jennifer was instrumental in the research and design of our school exhibit. She also had the brilliant idea of incorporating a new segment on the Waukegan History Museum Facebook page called "Pic of the Month." Jennifer is a senior in History at Marquette University and we know that she has a great future ahead of her as a museum curator!

We'll see you this fall when you stop in to see the new exhibits!



Waukegan Park District
Cultural Arts Museum
Intern Jennifer Berzin

**Free Event
Holiday Open House**

A Victorian Christmas at the Waukegan History Museum



Saturday, December 7

1:00-6:00 PM

Holiday Open House and Showcase of Doll Collection

Get in the holiday spirit with a visit to the Waukegan History Museum to experience the splendor of Victorian era decorating and traditions. On this day only, the Society's extensive doll collection will be on display. Light refreshments will be served.

Education Outreach

Students are back to school so our education outreach programming is gearing up for another great year! We have a few changes for the teachers and students this year. First for the teachers, we have lesson plans available to assist with preparing their students for the upcoming topic. For students we have incorporated two new programs. The first program will introduce the students to the Waukegan History Museum and the importance of studying local history. The second program looks at what it was like to be a student back when their school opened.

Teachers, don't wait to schedule history programs for your class. The calendar fills up fast!

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

Haunted Waukegan*

Titanic: A Fateful Ticket at Waukegan

Jane Addams: Remembering Bowen Country Club

Play Ball: Baseball in Waukegan

Day in the Life of a Student (corresponds to the year your school opened)

"What-Cha-Ma-Call-It" History Trunk (hands on program)*

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

The Supervisor of the Waukegan History Museum will present each program.

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



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!

From the Research Library

The Research Library now has a new copy machine thanks to the assistance of members contributing to the Library Equipment Fund. Our old machine served us well for the last 10 years, but it had become an antique (no we didn't add it to our collections). The library still needs a microfilm reader and hopefully one will be found or purchased in the near future.

The staff at the library has been busy with the start of the inventory of the archives. The staff is currently going through all books on the shelves and evaluating if they fit the scope of pertaining to the "research of Waukegan." With our limited space, some books will not be able to remain on the shelves.

Thank You!

New Members

Mariana Lozano
Tony Pignaloni

New Life Members

Dennis & Lori Mivshek
Margaret Martin
Michael & Emily Savage
Jonathan Miller

Donations

Howard & Cleone Peterson Memorial Fund
Waukegan Women's Club
Jane Leonowitz
Rita M. White
Theodore & Lynn Heitman
Robert & Sharon LaBelle

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

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CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

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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



Oakwood Cemetery Walk

Saturday, September 21

12-3:30 pm

See page 4.