



Mrs. Bowen with campers at the Bowen Country Club.

See page 13.

Fall 2012

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

WHS Board

Officers

President

Dennis Moisio

Vice President

Doug Stiles

Treasurer

Yvonne Sylvester

Secretary

Ellen Frew

Directors

Betsy Alleman

Josh Bill

Gail Dever

Mary Goljenboom

Sara Griffin

Jim Maguire

Denyse Waters

Inside

Page 5

Upcoming Program

Pages 8-9

Historically Speaking

Pages 12-13

Recent Acquisitions

Pages 13

Current Exhibits

President's Letter

Dennis Moisio

Recently I had the opportunity to take a group of out of town friends on a tour of the History Museum and Bowen Park. I was once again reminded of what a treasure Bowen Park is for us here in Waukegan. It's amazing how many different recreational, cultural and social activities this northeast corner of Waukegan readily accommodates without losing its natural woodlands appeal.

But it might not have become a park at all. That it did so is largely due to the foresight of two women from Chicago, who one hundred years ago chose this site for their "Country Club," a place for youngsters to experience an environment different from the streets of Chicago. This part of the Park's story is featured here in this newsletter and in our current exhibit at the History Museum. We hope you will take the opportunity to visit it.

The second part of the story begins about fifty years ago when the Waukegan Park District acquired the property. Their foresight and stewardship throughout the years have made the Park what it is today. The Society feels fortunate to have the History Museum and the Research Library as part of it, and we are ever grateful to the Park District for their ongoing support.

One example of the diverse activities offered at Bowen is the "Summer Arts in the Park" Program that recently received the Dorothy Mullen Arts and Humanities Award from the National Recreation and Park Association. Congratulations to the Park District's Cultural Arts Department for their innovative efforts here.

Cultural Arts Museum Internship

Lola Chevreau

When I learned that I would be an intern at the Waukegan History Museum this summer, I started to search about the city of Waukegan, its history, and what happened here.

During the first days of my internship I quickly realized that finding information about the French fur trading post that was settled in Waukegan would not be as easy as I thought.

We started looking at different maps in French, English and sometimes French and English at the same time. In the footsteps of Marquette, Joliet, La Salle, Father Allouez and other explorers we have attempted to trace their journeys, the villages visited and the Native American tribes met along the way. The research has proved to be more complicated than expected. We cannot find any other maps, besides the ones we have already, mentioning Waukegan city or Little Fort, neither the presence of a fur trading post at this place. Where did the explorers go and which cities did they visit exactly?

Even though we do not have many of our questions answered yet, I have learned more than I expected during this month and a half of internship. Doing research is a long and interesting process which always brings new questions. I discovered a lot about the early history of North America, about the Native Americans and their relations with the settlers. I learned that some European countries were an important part of the history of the early settlement in North America. I also realized that the French do not know what role their country played in this history.

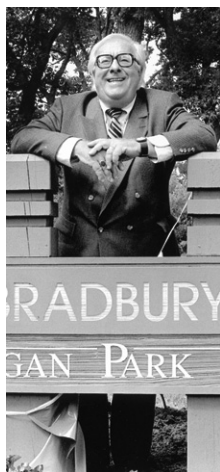
This internship opened my mind to subjects I did not know before and made me discover the Indian Center of Chicago. Thanks to this new experience, I discovered how interesting the Native tribes are,



Lola Chevreau, our summer intern from Nantes, France

their history, their point of view about the European settlement on their Native lands and their way of life today.

Remembering Ray Bradbury



On the evening of this past June 6th, the Waukegan community gathered at the public library to pay tribute in word, story and film to Ray Bradbury who passed away the previous day at the age of 91. Although it was a solemn occasion, it was also a celebration of his wonderful creative imagination and his contributions to Waukegan and the rest of the world.

Though he left Waukegan at the age of 13, his story and our story are intimately intertwined. He occasionally returned to Waukegan (both publicly and privately), recalling those early years expressed in books such as *Dandelion Wine* and *Farewell Summer*, the two great memoirs that bookend his prolific career. In person as well as in his work, he revealed his joy in living and writing.

He never forgot Waukegan and Waukegan won't forget him. His memory will live on again at the annual Bradbury Story Festival, October 26 at the Genesee Theatre and in the Waukegan Park District's annual Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival held each year in June.

Outreach Programs

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

School is back in session, so teachers please consider what outreach programs you would like presented in your classrooms this year. We are more than happy to present to multiple classes during the day, so talk with your other teachers to see if they would like to participate.

Each year the demand for our programs has increased, so that means the calendar fills up early. Please don't wait! We want to make it to as many schools as possible, and we don't want anyone to be left out.

Also, we present to adult groups, too, so don't think we are just for the schools. If you have an idea for a program, please pass it along our way, and we'll see if we can develop and present it for you!

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

Program

Jane Addams in Waukegan

Remembering Bowen Country Club

Ty Rohrer

Sunday, October 14 at 2:00p.m.

Jack Benny Center for the Arts-Shornick Theatre

39 Jack Benny Drive-Bowen Park-North Entrance

Join us as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Bowen Country Club. Very few realize that the Hull-House of Chicago, under the guidance of Jane Addams, had a large operation right here in Waukegan. The Bowen Country Club (today's Bowen Park) was a summer camp for the underprivileged and immigrant children of the Hull-House neighborhood. We'll share stories of what the children did at camp, see many pictures, hear from former campers, and also learn more about Jane Addams and Mrs. Louise deKoven Bowen, who purchased the site and made the dream into a reality.

Museum Supervisor Ty Rohrer will present this program and he will also give a guided walking tour of Bowen Park at the conclusion of the program.

The program will take place in the Jack Benny Center's Schornick Theatre, formerly Goodfellow Hall during the Bowen Country Club era.

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

Tour of Homes Recap

Yvonne Sylvester

The annual Tour of Homes was held on June 24, 2012. The event was very successful as in past years with over 200 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 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 2012 Tour included the Waukegan History Museum, Lilac Cottage, 408 North Avenue, 823 N County Street, 1215 Hickory Street, and the First United Methodist Church.

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: Gretta Dieck, Ty Rohrer, John Stein, Yvonne Sylvester, Denyse Waters, with a special thank you to long standing members of the committee, Sara Griffin and Chandra Sefton. 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 for then. If you are interested and would like your home to be considered for the Tour, please contact the Waukegan History Museum.

Buy Historic Waukegan Photographs

We are pleased to announce that copies of photographs from our book, *Waukegan: A History*, are now available for purchase from the Society.



Seven prints are now available:

Waukegan skyline and lakefront looking West, ca. 1930

The Beachfront in summer, ca. 1900

The Lighthouse during the winter storm of 1913

A horse drawn bus in front of the Waukegan House Hotel, ca. 1890

The Besley Brewery delivery wagon, ca 1910

A horse drawn steam pumper used for fire fighting, ca. 1875

Besley Brewery advertisement

These may be purchased as matted prints you can frame or preserved on a plaque that is ready to hang. Prices range from \$25 to \$45 depending on size and type. Society members receive a \$5.00 discount per image. See waukeganhistorical.org to view the images and place an order.

Historically Speaking

Early Waukegan Medicos

Ed Link

The children of Eliakim and Sarah Cory were extremely important to early Waukegan in their contributions to community health. David (1809 – 1854) came to Little Fort about 1838 and built a log home on State (Sheridan Road) Street. He was the first physician in town. The 1845 business directory has him in partnership with Moses Evans in an office at the corner of Genesee and Washington Streets. David died at a relatively young age of Asiatic cholera.

Benjamin (1805 – 1885) was also a physician and came to Waukegan in 1854. Besides his medical practice he was a Senior Warden at Christ Church for many years. Cory's Stomachic Bitters were manufactured by B.S. Cory & Son in Waukegan. A stomachic is a stimulant or tonic for the stomach. One of his sons was James Y. Cory, newspaper publisher and abolitionist. A granddaughter was

Kate Thompson, noted painter of the Hopi Indians.

Sara (1819 – 1898) married William Calvin Barker. He was the first to practice homeopathic medicine in Waukegan. That procedure uses minute doses of a remedy that produces symptoms of the treated disease.

The first female doctor in Waukegan was Beatrice Pearce (1866 – 1948). She was the sister of William W. Pearce, three time mayor of Waukegan. Beatrice graduated from Waukegan High School in 1883 along with journalist Hobart Yard. Following graduation from the

Dr. Beatrice Pearce,
Waukegan's first
female physician



BEATRICE PEARCE, M. D.,
WAUKEGAN.



Woman's Medical College in Chicago, she practiced in that city and Des Moines, Iowa before beginning her business in Waukegan in 1889, specializing in diseases of women and children. Her office was above the family drug store at Genesee and Washington Streets.

She met Dr. George Dickenson of Ketchikan, Alaska at a medical convention. Following their 1908 marriage, she moved to Alaska and practiced medicine with her husband in Ketchikan.

Here are a couple of other entrants in the 1845 business directory:

J.M. Howard, Drugs & Medicine

Dr. E.E. Earll, Botanic Practitioner

In this photograph from 1896, a crowd gathers in front of the Pearce family drug store to watch the new Bluff City Railway.

The second story window advertises "Doctor B. Pearce."

High School Reunion Groups

Do you have a high school reunion coming up? If so you may want to include the book *Waukegan: A History* written by Ed Link as a special favor to all participants. For more information please call the Waukegan History Museum (847) 336-1859.



Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

It was a busy summer at the Waukegan History Museum with many people visiting to see the exhibits *Bowen Country Club: The Jane Addams Hull House in Waukegan* and *TITANIC: A Fateful Ticket to Waukegan*. Visitor attendance was also high during special events this summer.

The Museum has been "on the road" a lot lately participating in numerous special events throughout Waukegan including a Lake County Chamber of Commerce Event at the Waukegan Yacht Club, the 100th anniversary event for the YMCA, Main Street's Wine and Art Stroll, and the Welcome Back Waukegan reunion event. Temporary exhibits, pictures, and historical programs were all part of what we were able to add to these fine events.

Many of our exhibits have been created with the intention of showcasing them in the community. If you would like to display one of our past exhibits at your business, school, etc., please give us a call. Exhibit topics that we have for display include; the Civil War, the Underground Railroad, Waukegan's famous drummer boys, the Girl Scouts, and Dr. Vincent Price.

Lastly, I would like to give my sincere thanks to Lola Chevreau for her wonderful job as intern for us this summer. Lola came all the way from France to be a part of our team. She helped us research and study the early French fur trade in North America. We still have many unanswered questions so we hope that we can still collaborate with Lola overseas.

If you want to know more about what is happening at the Waukegan History Museum, like us on Facebook. If you want to know more about the history related events occurring throughout Lake and McHenry counties like "Northeast Historical Happenings" on Facebook.



Former Bowen Country Club campers singing old camp songs in Goodfellow Hall (today's Schornick Theatre in the Jack Benny Center).

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
- Edward Amet and the Motion Picture Industry in Waukegan
- Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary
- Jack Benny: From Waukegan to Hollywood
- Haunted Waukegan*
- "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.

From the Library

The Research Library was open for the first time during the Tour of Homes, and the staff was thrilled with the number of visitors that came in. Many had not been in the library before and were amazed to learn what a great resource it is. Many questions were answered that day, and other people made appointments to come back in to spend a little more time with the staff and the archives.

It's Renewal Time...

Just a gentle reminder to those with yearly memberships in the Society—it's time to renew. Use the membership form on the last page of the newsletter to accompany your payment. And once again, we encourage you to consider becoming a life member, thereby avoiding the need to renew each year.

Recent Donations

YMCA

Camp Wyboca 1925 Letter

June Maguire

"Purple & Gold" Sheet Music

Marlene Graham

Barney's Clothes Hanger, Menu from Ted's, Apron, Public Library Coffee Mug, Public Library Christmas Globe, 1927 Waukegan Yearbook, Abbott Co. Memorabilia

Martha Sherer

Gas Lamp, Iron, 2 Sprayers, Assorted Memorabilia

Ann Darrow

Jan Debevic House Sketch, Elks Club Sugar Bowl

Cheryl Graham Ptasienski

High School Graduation Robe, East High School Band Jacket

Ed Link

Blue Jackets Mandel-1945 Time Magazine, Bureau of Navy Personnel, Germany Surrenders, US Navy Vessel Prints, Japanese Vessels

Cheryl Tanner

Jack Benny Cassette Tape, Jack Benny VHS Tape

Tom Jansen

20 Photographs of Zion & Winthrop Harbor

George Keane

"Highlights of Santa Clara County" by Jack Douglas-2005

Dr. Donaldo Batista

44 Waukegan High School Yearbooks, 5 Grade School Books, 8 Thirsty Elephants Books

Diana L. Thomas

Dress

Exhibits at the Museum

The *Titanic*: A Fateful Ticket to Waukegan

(through 2012)

The whole world held their breath with anticipation for the latest news on the disaster of the R.M.S. *Titanic*. People in Waukegan read the latest reports in the newspapers and some waited to hear from their loved ones who were aboard the supposed "unsinkable" ship. Learn more about the local reporting of the sinking as well as local passengers and their fates.



Last lifeboat filled with *Titanic* survivors. Photo taken by a passenger of the *Carpathia*, the ship that received the *Titanic*'s distress signal and came to rescue the survivors. 15 April 1912

Bowen Country Club: The Jane Addams Hull House in Waukegan

(through 2012)

100 years ago, the Jane Addams Hull House opened the Bowen Country Club in Waukegan, Illinois. The exhibit tells the story of this amazing camp that operated in Waukegan, at what is today Bowen Park, for 50 years.



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!

Thank You!

New Members

Sue Koesser
Roberta Jackson
Jeanneane Vecchio
Patrick J. Cosgrove
Barrie Fromme

Donations

Scott A. McKinzie, D.M.D.
Marlene Graham
David Rasche
Baxter Employee Giving Campaign

Volunteer Needed for Special Project



The Museum recently received a unique donation, a model replica of Abraham Lincoln's Springfield home. We plan to use the home during our outreach programs in the schools as well as in future exhibits. The problem is, the home has not been assembled. If you have an interest in putting together models and have some spare time, give us a call. We have the directions and the supplies; we just need a construction crew!

Society Is Going Green!

The Society is looking to cut printing costs and also help save the environment. If you would like for the newsletter to be sent to you via email, please contact the Waukegan Historical Society to let us know.

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



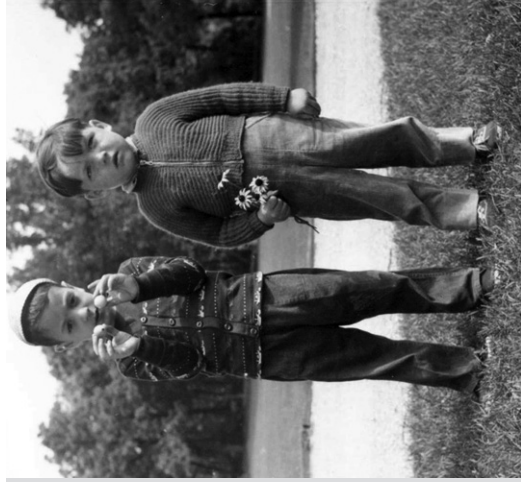
1917 N. Sheridan Rd, Waukegan, IL 60087

PROGRAM

**Jane Addams
in Waukegan:
Remembering
Bowen Country
Club**

Sunday, October 14
2pm

See page 5 for
details.



Two young campers enjoy Bowen Country Club.