



# **THE CIVIL WAR**

## **THE WAR EFFORTS IN WAUKEGAN**

**EXHIBIT OPENS APRIL 12, 2011**

**WAUKEGAN HISTORY MUSEUM**

**Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration**

**Spring 2011**

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

# President's Letter

**Dennis Moisio**

Over the past few years we have commemorated and celebrated the anniversaries of significant events in our local history. This year we turn our attention to one of the defining events of our nation's history—the Civil War.

When the war began, in April, 1861, Waukegan had only been on the map for about 20 to 25 years and just a city for two. How did its citizens (about 3400 people in 1860) respond to the looming conflict facing the nation? We will explore this question with a terrific new exhibit opening at the Museum in mid-April. So be sure to come and see it.

We have a full line up of other events this spring and early summer as well. As usual, the Society will meet in both April and May and we will host our annual Tour of Homes on Sunday, June 26th. I'd like to extend a special invitation on behalf of the Board to the Annual Meeting of the Society on May 15th. This year's meeting is a special one where we will be honoring and thanking both our volunteers and dedicated members for their service to us. See the invitation enclosed in this newsletter for the details. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Museum Supervisor's Report

**Ty Rohrer**

The Waukegan History Museum celebrates the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War (1861-1865) with the exhibit *The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan*.

The exhibit opens April 12, 2011 and is scheduled to run through the year. Events leading up to the war, the war years, and the post-war reconstruction efforts are focused in the exhibit. Local events and key individuals such as the "little drummer boys" Orion and Lyston Howe are also showcased.

The museum is also proud of the exhibit *Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary*.

This exhibit is in celebration of Ray Bradbury's 90th birthday and looks at the life of the author from when he was growing up in Waukegan to his prolific career as a fantasy, horror, science-fiction and mystery writer.

The exhibit focuses on the books *Dandelion Wine*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, and *Farewell Summer* that take place in the fictional town of Green Town, a pseudonym for Waukegan.

There are also other great events scheduled throughout the spring and summer at the Waukegan History Museum, and we hope you can make it in to see the new exhibits.

If you would like to take a more active approach as a volunteer at the museum, research library, or during special events, please contact the museum at (847)336-1859.

## Heritage Preservation Fund

The Board of Directors recently established the Heritage Preservation Fund to provide the financial support for the long-term preservation of the work and the historical materials of the Waukegan Historical Society. Separate accounts will exist within the Fund for specific projects, activities and collections, and for designated memorial funds. The initial focus of the Fund will be to provide financial support for the proposed new building addition.

Please consider supporting this Fund with a year-end contribution or a gift in memory of a treasured person or event.

## WHS Board

**Officers**

*President*

Dennis Moisio

*Vice President*

Doug Stiles

*Treasurer*

Yvonne Sylvester

*Secretary*

Ellen Frew

**Directors**

Betsy Alleman

Gretta Dieck

Mary Goljenboom

Sara Griffin

Jim Maguire

Denyse Waters

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Area Events

## Tour of Homes

Tour of Homes  
Sunday, June 26, 2011



Purchase your tickets now  
at these locations!

Waukegan History  
Museum  
1917 N. Sheridan Road  
Waukegan, IL 60087  
(847)-336-1859

Jack Benny Center  
39 Jack Benny Drive  
Waukegan, IL 60087  
(847)-360-4740

Victorian House Antiques  
650 Grand Avenue  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
(847)-599-0325

Advance tickets \$12.

The Tour of Homes is an annual event that showcases the beautiful homes of Waukegan. Participants are able to learn the history of some of the finest homes in the city as well as tour their interiors. The Tour of Homes, started in 1969, is the main fundraiser of the Waukegan Historical Society.

Featured homes for 2011:  
614 N. Genesee Street  
918 N. Sheridan Road  
434 Center Street  
310 Douglas Avenue  
The Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

## Waukegan, A History

*Waukegan: A History*, by Ed Link, is available at the Waukegan History Museum and local retail outlets for \$20. We can also mail the book to you or to a friend. See the web site for more information.

Ed Link's lively text explores the rich and diverse history of Waukegan and takes the reader from its earliest beginnings to today.

Over 200 photographs, maps, and other images from the Waukegan Historical Society archives and other sources, including many never previously published, bring the story of Waukegan to life.

## Oral History Project

We are assembling an Oral History Team to go out and interview throughout the community. If you are interested in being part of this unique project to record the history of Waukegan, please call the museum at (847)336-1859.

### Meeting and Program

## A Beginner's Guide to the Golden Age of Radio

### Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary

Steve Darnall

Sunday, April 3 at 2:00p.m.

Jack Benny Center for the Arts-Shornick Theatre  
39 Jack Benny Drive-Bowen Park-North Entrance

This presentation revisits those thrilling days of yesteryear-the dawn of radio in America and its growth into the nation's first mass medium.

This program includes background information and evocative sound clips of some of the biggest names to emerge from the Golden Age of Radio and discussion about radio's unique ability, then as now, to engage the imagination.

Steve Darnall is the publisher of "Nostalgia Digest Magazine" a quarterly magazine devoted to chronicling life during the Golden Age of Entertainment, and the host of "Those Were the Days" (heard every Saturday on WDCB-FM) and "Radio's Golden Age" (hear every Sunday at yesterdayusa.com).

The Society will have a brief meeting prior to the program that will include an update on Society happenings as well as nominations for Board of Directors.

## Old Yearbooks Available

We have inventoried our Waukegan High School Yearbooks and found that we have many duplicates. If you are in need of a yearbook, please give the Research Library a call (847)360-4772 to see if the year(s) you need are available. A \$10 donation is appreciated for each yearbook. We can also mail the books out if needed, and there will be a slight postage and handling fee.

# Bowen Heritage Circle History Classes

Presented by the Waukegan Park District

To register for a class, please call the Jack Benny Center (847)360-4740 or visit [waukeganparks.org](http://waukeganparks.org).

## Make History Matter

(High School Students)

Students, build your resume by volunteering for the Waukegan History Museum and Research Library. Learn how you can make a difference in the telling and preserving of Waukegan's history.

Space is limited; please pre-register by phone (847)336-1859 or (847)360-4740 by May 2.

Place: Lilac Cottage

Date: May 9

Time: 5:00-6:30pm

Cost: Free

Class Number #4562

## Junior Historian Workshop:

### Civil War Drummers

(4-8 years old; parent or guardian must attend)

Ty Rohrer, the Waukegan History Museum Supervisor, will introduce children and their parents to the life of a young drummer in the Civil War. Everyone will sample soldier's food, and parents will assist their child in making a Civil War drum.

Children will learn to play their drums to simple songs and rhythms from the era and have their picture taken in soldier's clothing. Register by July 9.

Place: Lilac Cottage

Date: July 16

Time: 10:00-11:30am

Cost: \$20 Residents/\$25 Non-residents

Class Number #4581

## Beautiful Bowen Park Guided Tour

Sign-up for a free guided tour of beautiful Bowen Park! On the tour you will learn about the early years of the property when it was inhabited by Native Americans, the first settlers to claim the land, the period of time when it was called the Bowen Country Club, and the later years as Waukegan's largest park.

The Bowen Country Club, operated by the Jane Adams Hull House of Chicago from 1912 to 1962, was a summer camp for the underprivileged children of Chicago. You will learn about the buildings that were constructed for the camp and the many things that were offered to the campers.

Walking on the trails in the park, flower and wildlife will be pointed out along with discussion on how the park's natural habitat is being preserved.

The tour will start outside of the Waukegan History Museum and will conclude with a tour of Lilac Cottage.

The tour will last approximately 1 to 1.5 hours. Walking will include hills, trails, and uneven ground.

Date: Saturday, May 21

Place: Start at Waukegan History Museum

Time: 11:00am-12:30pm

Cost: Free

Class Number #4589

Register by May 14

Date: Wednesday, July 22

Place: Start at Waukegan History Museum

Time: 10:00-11:30am

Cost: Free

Class Number #4590

Register by July 15

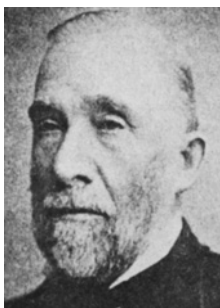
## Historically Speaking

# Civil War Snippets

Ed Link

*Ed Link (along with others) has been busy doing research on the Civil War and its impact on the citizens of Waukegan. This research will be used in the 2011 Oakwood Cemetery Walk and the new Civil War exhibit at the Waukegan History Museum.*

*Below is a "snippet" of some of the information on the Civil War that Ed has compiled.*



Henry Blodgett

### A Short History of the 96th Regiment

When President Abraham Lincoln put out a call for additional volunteers in the summer of 1862, two northern Illinois counties responded.

Since neither county could, by itself, gather enough men to fill an entire regiment (about 1000 men), Jo Daviess and Lake counties combined to form the 96th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

These two counties, from opposite sides at the top of the state, were united through the friendship of U.S. Representative E.B. Washburne of Galena and State Senator H.W. Blodgett of Waukegan.

Ten companies (six from Jo Daviess and four from Lake) were assembled at Camp Fuller near Rockford. Regimental officers were selected.

Colonel Thomas E. Champion of Warren and Major John C. Smith of Galena represented Jo Daviess County and Lieutenant Colonel Isaac L. Clarke of Waukegan represented Lake County.

Letters were drawn from a hat to designate the individual companies.

A, E, F, H, I and K went to Jo Daviess and B, C, D, and G went to Lake.

These labels would remain with the companies and their men throughout the Civil War...

To find out the rest of the story of the 96th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, visit the exhibit *The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan* at the Waukegan History Museum, opening April 12, 2011.

*Society Members, Volunteers, and Supporters,  
the Waukegan Historical Society  
cordially invites you  
to attend our May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting  
and volunteer recognition reception.*

*May 15, 2011  
at two o'clock*

*Jane Addams Center  
95 Jack Benny Drive  
Bowen Park  
Waukegan, Illinois*

*Ty Rohrer will present a program on the  
Civil War, and the Metro History Fair  
winners will be presented  
along with their winning entry.  
Hors d'oeuvres will be served  
following the programs.*

*Please respond no later than May 5<sup>th</sup>  
by email ([museum@waukeganhistorical.org](mailto:museum@waukeganhistorical.org))  
or phone (847-336-1859).*



## Preservation Corner

Something good is happening for all of Lake County, and it's happening on Washington Street at the former Karcher Hotel. A nationally-recognized non-profit developer, Artspace, has secured more than 95 percent of the \$12.5 million needed to turn this abandoned building into an arts facility with 36 units of affordable "live/work" space for artists and their families. Artspace owns and operates 27 successful projects in 17 cities across the country and is widely regarded at the nation's leading developer of properties of this type.

Artspace projects operate in the black, pay taxes, and are self-supporting. They have 100% occupancy, often with waiting lists. The challenge to Waukegan is to raise the final \$500,000 and a local task force is already hard at work securing contributions. Events at the Waukegan Chamber of Commerce, the Lake County Bar Association, and in partnership with the Lake County Art League have been held, and more are planned. To find out more and get involved, contact Jane Waller (jdwaller@comcast.net) or [artspacewaukegan.org](http://artspacewaukegan.org).

## A Brief History of the Karcher Hotel

The Karcher Hotel has been an icon in the Waukegan skyline since it opened its doors in 1928.

It was originally a luxurious 150 room hotel that also had retail, restaurant, and office space on the first two floors. The building stands over 100 feet tall and is a modified Italian Classical Revival design in light gray terra cotta, red and dark brick, and gray pulschrome terra cotta.

The hotel played a prominent role in downtown Waukegan until after World War II.

Attempts to revive the building ended in 1984 when a fire broke out on the main floor killing eight

people from carbon monoxide poisoning. Since the devastating fire in 1984, the Karcher Hotel has sat empty. On August 9, 2002 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

After years of ideas and proposals for what to do with the building, as well as concerns of demolition, the Karcher Hotel will again be an iconic structure on the Waukegan skyline with the assistance and guidance of Artspace.

## Chicago Metro History Fair Award

The Waukegan Historical Society would like to congratulate all of the Waukegan High School students and their fine efforts in this year's Chicago Metro History Fair competition. The Historical Society gives a \$500 award to the top project in recognition of excellence in the study, research, and presentation of projects focusing on the history of Waukegan, Illinois.

We are pleased to announce the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Waukegan Historical Society Metro History Fair Winner:

*Lakehurst: The Rise and Fall*—Carolina Sanchez, Hector Uriostegui, Miguel Garcia

Honorable Mentions:

*The Karcher Hotel*—Danielle Cherry, Allisyn Ruttle, Lindsey Bennett, David Baza, Samantha Kinard

*The True Colors of Waukegan High School*—Citlally Delgado, Karina Perez, Megan Cook, Kimberly Anilao, Yesenia Rodriguez

*Effect of the EJ&E*—Khizar Khan, Chris Matute, Kevin Rivera

*Frog Island*—Michelle Johnson, Sydney Gartley

## Recent Donations

### David Van Abel

WWII Pilot's Jacket  
Typewriter from Greiss-Pfleger Tannery

### Steven & Patricia Ludwig

Security Savings Bank Books

### Wendy Dixon in memory of Larry Dixon

Political Pins  
Men's Jewelry  
High School Yearbooks  
Reunion Book  
Newspaper Clippings

### Dorothy Fuhrman

Waukegan Souvenirs  
Harry Kilbane Advertisement  
1907 Waukegan Business College Picture  
Jane Wilcox  
1953 Waukegan History Book  
Wilcox Genealogy

### Eamon A. Rago

Photographs of model Railroad Cars  
Union Pacific Book  
Notice of Pace Budget Hearing

### Ed Link

Veterans' Day Program (11-11-10)  
Orpheum Theater-1928 Newspaper Article

### Rich Ribando

EJ&E Statue Newspaper Article  
Howard & Cleone Peterson Estate  
Piano Sheet Music  
Genesee Theatre Newspaper Clippings  
Photographs of Ocean Spray Fire  
Zion Cookie & Lace Factory Construction Photographs  
Baptist Church on Genesee Street Construction  
Photographs  
Belvidere & Powell Store & Apartments Construction  
Photographs

### City of Waukegan

Veterans & War Memorabilia

### Kristina M. Simms

Photographs and Negatives  
Waukegan Public Library  
City Directories  
Waukegan High School Yearbooks

### Doug Stiles

Land Grant Papers

Thank you for your recent donations to our Museum and Library collections.

### Margaret Denny

Dissertation-Kate Cory: From Commerce to Art

### Grayslake Historical Society

Waukegan Speedway Park Programs

### Ann Darrow

Drs. M. & D. Fedder Orthopedic Pamphlet

### Mrs. E.S. Boyer Jr.

Chicago North Shore Railroad Pictures  
Book and Information

### Lake Villa Historical Society

Graduation Photograph from North Shore Studio

### Ellen Frew

Patterns of History Pamphlet 1835-1899  
Waukegan-It's History

### Betsy Alleman

Photograph of Fishing Nets

### Harry Came

Silver



Typewriter from Greiss-Pfleger Tannery

## Thank You!

### New Members

Eddie Kristan  
Eleanor Hall  
Janice Byers  
Steven Wool

### New Life Members

Gregory Alloian

### Donations

Sophia Ninos  
Howard & Cleone Petersen Memorial Fund  
Harry Came (Heritage Preservation Fund in honor of Hazel Came)  
William Tyre (Heritage Preservation Fund in honor of Hazel Came)

# Free History Programs

## From the Waukegan Historical Society

For your organization, group, social event, or classroom.

Topics include:

Early Native American History of the Waukegan Area

History of Waukegan (settlement to today)

Jack Benny-From Waukegan to Hollywood

Waukegan and the Underground Railroad

Waukegan's Famous Civil War Drummer Boys

Abraham Lincoln Goes To Waukegan

Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary

"What's in a Name?" (learn about streets, buildings, and parks in Waukegan that have been named for early prominent residents of the city)

Bowen Country Club—The Jane Addams Hull House in Waukegan

Lake Michigan Shipwrecks

Waukegan and the Motion Picture Industry

"What-Cha-Ma-Call-It" History Trunk (hands-on program designed for the classroom)

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 and can be presented to children and adults. Museum staff or volunteers will present the program. These programs reached 2,500 Waukegan students in the 2009-2010 school year.

For more information and to schedule a free program, please call or email the Waukegan Historical Society.

# 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.

## Contact Us

### Waukegan Historical Society

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

### John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road  
Librarian: Beverly Millard  
847-360-4772  
library@waukeganhistorical.org

### Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road  
Museum Supervisor: Ty Rohrer  
847-336-1859  
museum@waukeganhistorical.org

## Hours

### John L. Raymond Research Library

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
10am - 2:30pm

### Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday  
10am - 4pm  
Additional times by appointment.

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

[www.waukeganhistorical.org](http://www.waukeganhistorical.org)





## **Annual Meetings and Programs**

### **A Beginner's Guide to the Golden Age of Radio**

**Sunday, April 3 at 2p.m.**

**See page 5.**

### **Volunteer Recognition and Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, May 15 at 2p.m.**

**See page 9.**