



The Globe Department store. See page 8.

Winter 2011

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

President's Letter

Dennis Moisio

I ran across a statement recently that I think captures what the Waukegan Historical Society is all about. It says: "Without stories, memory falters and without memory imagination fails." Bringing the many stories of our shared life together is what we do and love doing. In this regard, it's been great seeing so many of you, as well as new faces, at our recent events and programs.

Our fall events started with the Annual Oakwood Cemetery Walk in September. The Walk continued our exploration of the impact of the Civil War on Waukegan, our current museum exhibit, but from the perspective of eight individuals who lived through it. These were George Washington Bell, a slave freed during the war by the Union Army, James Y. Cory, an early pioneer and anti-slavery advocate, David Ballentine, Mayor at that time, and five Union soldiers who were impacted in different ways by the War.

For our fall program on October 23rd, our stories took a different twist. It featured Karl Gates, a certified appraiser, who gave a very entertaining talk on antiques and collectibles and then evaluated a wide array of family heirlooms and precious items that folks brought with them to the program.

Then on the Halloween weekend, we participated in the Vincent Price anniversary show and movie at the Genesee Theatre with a special exhibit put together by Ty and Ed Link.

Finally, as the holiday season approaches, we extend our best wishes for a time of shared stories and memories with friends and family. We look forward to continuing to bring our individual and collective stories to you in the years ahead.

Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

Happy Holidays from the Waukegan History Museum! Come see the museum's decorated parlor tree and the elaborate dinner setting for a holiday feast from December 6, 2011 through January 7, 2012. Our holiday open house will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 1-6pm.

If you're not in the holiday spirit you can visit our temporary exhibits. Immerse yourself in the exhibit *The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan* or catch the last glimpse of *Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary* which runs through 2011.

The Waukegan History Museum was proud to be part of the 100th birthday celebration of actor Vincent Price at the Genesee Theatre. A community exhibit was developed to provide the history of the actor's grandfather, Dr. Vincent C. Price, who was a prominent resident of Waukegan's past.

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

Mark Your Calendars!

Holiday Open House:
Saturday, December 10 from 1-6pm

Tour of Homes: Sunday, June 24, 2012

The Museum and Library will be closed for the holidays December 23, 2011 through January 2, 2012.

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A Look inside the Museum

Harry Came

The Waukegan History Museum is not a static entity—it changes with every new exhibit presented and with items in the house museum being added and sometimes deleted. A few years ago the Society was able to acquire a beautiful set of Victorian silver plate which had once been owned by the Besley family, owners of the Besley Brewing Company. The set consisted of a coffee pot, possibly a chocolate pot, a tea pot, a covered sugar, and a waste bowl.

All the pieces were in perfect condition and had been re-plated at some time in the past as evidenced by the marks on the bottom of each piece. The set was made by the Pairpoint Manufacturing Co. in probably the 1870s, which corresponds with the time period which the Museum seeks to display. The set sits on a card table which was also from the Besley family and is on display in the Museum's dining room.

There was a mystery with the set: where was the cream pitcher? When we acquired the set there was



The Besley silver set.

no pitcher, but we knew there had to have been one originally to make the set complete. With attention to the eBay auction site a search began that lasted almost five years. The pattern number on the set was #300 ½. This meant that there were probably patterns #300 and #301 and that there was a

good chance that #300 ½ was a rare pattern. At one point, having never seen this pattern appear in six years, a creamer was purchased in pattern #300 to see if the creamer could be perhaps be made out of the eBay purchase. Notice the creamer with “legs” in

the picture—should we just cut off the legs and re-plate the piece? We waited another two years and finally a creamer showed up in pattern #300 ½ and we jumped on it. The piece arrived and the decision was made to re-plate it so that it would better match for the other pieces. The re-plated piece now stands among the original set in the dining room of the Museum.



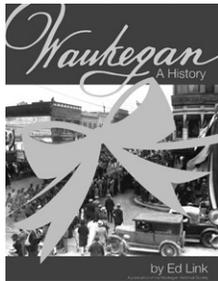
The two creamers.

Silver Experiment

House museums always have a problem in displaying their silver collections. Beautifully polished silver should be displayed to accurately portray the period of the room but frequent polishing will damage the sterling or silver plate. Many museums actually spray a coat of clear lacquer on freshly polished silver to keep it looking bright for a number of years. The problem with this method is that the lacquer eventually begins to yellow and it needs to be removed with thinners and the process of polishing and coating is repeated.

We are trying an experiment at the Waukegan History Museum on our Besley silver. The silver has been hand polished and then a coat of a special wax has been applied. This wax is called *Renaissance Wax* and it was developed for museums to coat all types of materials with a man-made wax that never yellows and provides a hard, clear finish for many years. We will see how this new product works on these pieces and hopefully allows us to present the rooms as they would have been in the 1870s while protecting our artifacts.

Happy Holidays from the Waukegan Historical Society!



Waukegan, A History is available for \$20.

If you are looking for a great holiday gift, the book *Waukegan: A History* is available at the museum as well as local retail stores such as the downtown Ace Hardware and at all Waukegan Walgreens.

Visit the Waukegan History Museum on Saturday, December 10 from 1-6 p.m. for our special Holiday Open House.

Chicago Metro History Fair

Students, don't wait to the last minute to meet with the library staff to assist you with the research on your project that is due in February. The Waukegan Historical Society awards \$500 to the best project team or individual whose project focuses on an aspect of Waukegan's history! The 2012 theme is "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History."

A Note from the Membership Committee

Thank you to all that responded to our recent letter and renewed their Society membership, and special thanks to our new life members. This assures that you will continue to receive all of our member benefits, which includes this quarterly newsletter.

Membership benefits include:

Discounted Tour of Homes

Quarterly Newsletter

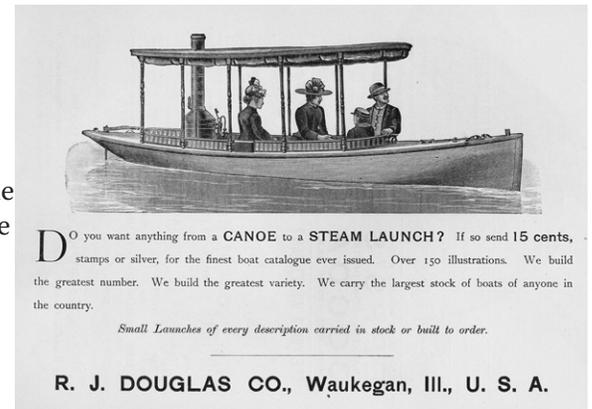
Society Members Only Programs and Events

Reduced Image Use Fees

From the Library

This section features recent research requests and findings that take place in our Research Library.

Librarian Beverly Millard was contacted recently with an interesting research request from a professor at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. The professor is working on the papers for the famed landscape designer, Frederick Law Olmsted. The professor had come across the name of Miles G. Nixon. Nixon appeared in correspondence letters with Olmsted regarding information on boat designs for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The letters were written on the company stationery of the R.J. Douglas Co. out of Waukegan. Our research team was able to locate Nixon and found that he was a Waukegan resident for a period of time and was the vice-president and secretary for the local boat building company of R.J. Douglas. Apparently Nixon and Olmsted corresponded frequently and advice was given for the types of boats to use on the lagoons of the "White City."



Preservation Corner

The Board of Directors submitted a formal letter of support to the Waukegan Historic Preservation Commission for the landmarking of the Lake County Tuberculosis Sanatorium. Dennis Moasio, President, read the letter during the public hearing process on behalf of the Society. The TB Sanatorium is a highly recognizable building with great historical significance.



Historically Speaking

The Globe Department Store

Ed Link

Women who fondly remember shopping at The Globe might be surprised to learn that the first store sold only men and boys wear.

When Charles Morrison moved to Waukegan in 1896 at age 21 he began working as a salesman for Columbia Clothing store. Two years later he opened his first store, Charles Morrison Clothing, on the south side of Washington Street east of Genesee Street. Business was good so he moved two doors away for more space. Success continued so he doubled his space within the following two years, and added dry goods to his product line. By now he began calling his business The Globe Department Store. The name was taken from a store in Scranton, Pennsylvania where Charles lived prior to coming to Waukegan.

By 1903 Charles correctly foresaw the future and bought the land and buildings at Genesee and Madison streets from Dr. Vincent C. Price. The buildings were removed and a new two story building was built by 1906. It was increased to a four stories in 1925 and another renovation took place in 1966. In addition to the building growing, the product line expanded as well. By 1935 clothing was available for everyone. Linens, toiletries, books and stationery, furnishings, draperies and appliances were just some of the other items available for purchase.

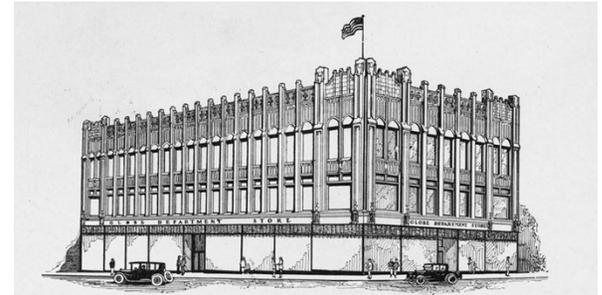
Running a successful department store was not Charles' only contribution to Waukegan. Actively involved in many community functions, he was a leader in the erection of Temple Am Echod, then located on Sheridan Road. His contribution was the first for the construction of Victory Memorial Hospital (today Vista East). He served on the boards

of the Community Chest and Chamber of Commerce.

The examples he set in business and community service continued after his death in 1950. His children Clara, Jerome, Seymour and Robert operated the store and expanded the operation in later years. The Globe opened in Lewis Plaza in 1956 and was followed by stores in Fox Lake, Antioch and Lakehurst Mall.

Business began shifting away from downtowns throughout the country and Waukegan was no exception. The Globe at Genesee and Madison closed in 1979. While the other locations continued to operate for some time, they too were all closed by 1992. Various uses were suggested for the empty downtown building. A home for artists or a new City Hall never came to fruition. Finally in 1994 it was sold to College of Lake County. Classes began there in October, 1995.

Recently the Waukegan Park District posthumously honored the late Robert (Bob) Morrison at the Bowen Park Pavilion. Bob's lifelong commitment to Waukegan and his many contributions to both the city and the park district were celebrated, and the Pavilion, originally named for his wife Janet, was rededicated as the Janet and Robert Morrison Memorial Picnic Center.



Our 30th Year of Progress!

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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
- "What-Cha-Ma-Call-It" History Trunk (hands on program)*
- Guided Neighborhood Walking Tours*
- *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. Programs able to be scheduled to be given on a weekly basis.

The Supervisor of the Waukegan History Museum will present each program. 250 programs have been

presented in the last 2 years, reaching over 5,000 students and adults.

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

Oakwood Cemetery Walk

We had a beautiful day and a great turnout for the 17th annual Oakwood Cemetery Walk. This year, participants were treated to Civil War stories of past Waukeganites. The Waukegan Park District and the Waukegan Historical Society are proud to be able to continue providing this wonderful and unique event that highlights the history of Waukegan. If you would like to be part of the 2012 Oakwood Cemetery Walk, please contact the Waukegan History Museum.



Stuart Stefany



Timothy Horton

Recent Donations

Hans Matthiessen

Waukegan Fireman's Helmet

Kathy Hansen

Hometown Trivia Game Cards, Globe Department Store Gift Box, Globe Department Store Bag, Kehoe Drug Store Bottle, Glen Rock Bottle

Klaus W. Bassler

Coal Cart

Don Banick

"Sabonjian for Mayor" Tie Clip, Matchbook, Pen, Cigarette Holder

In memory of Olive Hallowell by William B. Ahart, her son, and wife, Joyce

Framed Watercolor by Lillie White

John E. Brencheck

Waukegan Buckshot Club T-Shirt & Info News Sun (1-14-1999)

Dennis & Marilynn Moisie

Fire Extinguisher, *History of Glencoe*

Janet Wilkins MacKenzie

Hein's Store Suit Box, 2 Ladies Suits

Kathyleen S. Zeller

Quilt "First Presbyterian Church," Spoon "First Presbyterian Church," George Kirk Collection, Photographs, Photo/Postcard Albums, Blueprints & Deed of Land Records, Autograph Albums, Tax Bulletins

Kathe Biondi

Washington School Pictures, Newspapers (1939-1951)

Renee Jones

Globe Department Store Ladies Coat, Ladies Fur Coat

John Bairstow

3 Wilkinson Photographs

Jerry McGonigle

CNS&M Photographs

Tom Tometz

Personal Papers of Shirley Tometz

Eamon A. Rago

Illinois Tollway Map, *Guide to the Great Lakes*

Morrison Family

Photographs, Newspaper Articles, Plaques and Trophies

Kay Larson

Newspaper Clippings, Photographs



Ethel Flesher

Yearbooks, Pamphlets

Nikles Hagopian

Abstracts of Titles

Gerald Clausing

Photographs & Slides, Promotional Material for Waukegan, 3 Notebooks of Slides

Lunette M. Eichler

Blue Print of Bonnie Brook Subdivision

Randy Bowcott

Menus, Newspaper Article

Thank You!

New Members

Michael Petz
Richard Frederick
Rick & Jenny Selle
Mary Walker

New Life Members

John G. Bairstow

Donations

Shelia Somers
Joyce Knutel Ludovic
Robert & Michelle Crombie
Howard & Cleone Petersen Memorial Fund



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.



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Senior (age 60+)	\$7.00
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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: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 1pm-4pm
Additional times by appointment.

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

www.waukeganhistorical.org



Like our page "Waukegan History Museum" on Facebook!

**Holiday
Open House**
Sunday,
December 10
1pm-6pm

