

Abraham Lincoln in Waukegan. See page 8.

March 2009

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

President's Letter

Sara Griffin

On February 23, 2009 the City of Waukegan had a celebration to recognize its 150th birthday and this year the Waukegan Historical Society continues the celebration of its 40th anniversary. I encourage everyone to visit the current exhibit "Treasures of Our Collections: Celebrating 150 years of Waukegan History" and our upcoming exhibit to honor the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

Over the years the volunteers of the Waukegan Historical Society, with the support of the Waukegan Park District, have spent countless dollars and hours restoring the Haines Farmhouse in Bowen Park. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard over the years! We have been successful in presenting a first-class museum with a professional Director, Ty Rohrer, and an excellent research library to our community. I am especially grateful to our Park District Commissioners Bill Durkin Jr., Wayne Motley, Bill Sarocka, Pat Foley and Terry Duffy for their support. We are working with Claudia Freeman and Executive Director Greg Petry to plan a museum addition. Soil testing and the selection of an architectural firm will take place this spring.

We have been working with Chandra Sefton who has the 62 years of diaries from her great-grandfather, David Simpson. At the age of nineteen he was a carpenter with Porther Brothers and details his work in 1873 on the Haines Farmhouse which included the large addition to the original 1840s house. David Simpson made \$1.50 per day. I had the pleasure of reading about the many homes and buildings this talented carpenter worked on in Waukegan. Chandra will eventually present this information in total to our library and will be working with Ed Link to prepare articles for future newsletters.

I am so thankful for your support through the years. Please plan to join us for our April and May meetings.

Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

If you are a fan of history, then you are in for a real treat in 2009. This year is very special in regards to local, state, and national history. It is the 150th Anniversary of the City of Waukegan and also the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The Waukegan History Museum is proud to recognize both historic events with special exhibits focusing on Waukegan's rich history as well as Abraham Lincoln's brief visit to Waukegan in 1860!

2008 was very busy with many organizations and groups making the museum a destination for social gatherings and outings. Also, this past year we saw an increase in our education outreach with more schools utilizing our historical programs in the classroom while schools continued to visit the museum as a destination for field trips. We hope that both museum attendance and education outreach continues to rise in the next year.

We are in need of museum tour guides. I am finding that with an increase in our education outreach and Park District duties that there are times when I am not able to be in the museum during our "open hours" to the public. I would ultimately like to find a group of 6 to 8 volunteers who can each work one 3-hour shift during the week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays. This would help out greatly and would ensure that our museum is always available to visitors. If you are interested please give the museum a call.

In today's tough economic times, the museum is a great local "get away" for both kids and adults, and it is FREE! We hope that you can stop by the museum this year to help celebrate Waukegan's Sesquicentennial and the Lincoln Bicentennial.

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WHS Board

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Sara Griffin

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Abraham Lincoln

In addition to the festivities for celebrating 150 years of Waukegan in 2009, the Waukegan Historical Society is happy to recognize the bicentennial anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. To help celebrate the Lincoln Bicentennial we have a program and exhibit focusing on the unique story of his visit to Waukegan.

Free Program and General Meeting

Abraham Lincoln Goes To Waukegan

Sunday April 5 at 2pm

Jack Benny Center-Shornick Theatre

Presented by Ty Rohrer

The presentation focuses on Lincoln's brief but eventful visit to Waukegan in April of 1860. Learn why Lincoln was in Waukegan, the many events that transpired during his stay, and the stories that have grown since to add to "Lincoln lore". A brief Historical Society meeting with nominations for the Board of Directors will preclude the presentation. Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the program.

Exhibit

Abraham Lincoln and His Memorable Visit to Waukegan

The exhibit tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's memorable visit to Waukegan on April 2, 1860.

On display in the exhibit includes a replica life mask of Lincoln on loan from the Lake County Discovery Museum and Lincoln's signature. Also on display in the museum is the bed that Lincoln slept on as well as parlor furniture from the Elisha Ferry home where Lincoln spent the night in Waukegan.

The exhibit is located in the Waukegan History Museum and will run through 2009.

Free Event

Beautiful Bowen Park Guided Tour

Schedule a time to take a free guided tour of beautiful Bowen Park! On the tour you will learn about the early years of the property when it was a farm, the 50 years when the Jane Addams Hull House operated the Bowen Country Club, and the later years as Waukegan's largest park.

The Bowen Country Club, operated by the Jane Addams Hull House of Chicago was a summer camp for the underprivileged children of Chicago that operated from 1912 to 1962. 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, flowers 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.

Please contact the Waukegan History Museum to schedule a tour.



HULL HOUSE CAMP. THE COMMONS. BOWEN COUNTRY CLUB. WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

The Museum and Library Need Your Help!

Aside from our Museum Director, the museum and library are supported solely by our volunteers. Opportunities include: Museum Tour Guides, Museum Behind the Scenes, Library Assistants, Special Events (Tour of Homes, American Independence Day Parade and Festival, and Oakwood Cemetery Walk).

If you would like to learn more about what you can do for the museum and library, we have started two new free classes to show what we offer. This is also a great refresher course if you are a current volunteer or if you have helped out in the past. To sign up please contact the Waukegan Park District.

Make History Matter (High School-Adult) Free
Learn about the numerous ways that you can help your community by volunteering for the Waukegan Historical Society. Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your life. Not only can volunteering give you a sense of accomplishment, but it is a great way to meet new people and also strengthen a resume. In each session you will meet other new volunteers and learn how you can make a difference in the telling and preserving of Waukegan's History.

Session 1

Saturday April 18, 1-4pm

Meet at Lilac Cottage. Session 1 covers Waukegan History Museum docent training, education program presenter, Tour of Homes, and the Research Library.

Session 2

Tuesday May 19, 6-9pm

Meet at Lilac Cottage. Session 2 covers Waukegan History Museum "behind the scenes volunteer", Bowen Park Tour guide, the Oakwood Cemetery Walk, and the Research Library.

Current Exhibit

Treasures of Our Collections: Celebrating 150 Years of Waukegan History

The new exhibition titled *Treasures of Our Collections: Celebrating 150 Years of Waukegan History* opened to the public on June 22, 2008 for the Tour of Homes. The exhibit showcases the collections of the Waukegan Historical Society. The Society has been collecting and preserving the rich history and heritage of Waukegan for the past forty years.

The exhibit focuses on the history of the City of Waukegan from its very earliest beginnings up to the present. The exhibit includes a detailed timeline highlighting interesting events and side notes from Waukegan's history. Artifacts on display include a relic from the Academy Theater/Fiesta Palace, the charred remains of one of the old courthouse's clock faces, a trunk used by Jack Benny during his early Vaudeville days, maps, a digital slideshow of Waukegan postcards, and souvenirs, trinkets, and other memorabilia.

The exhibit, located in the Waukegan History Museum, will run through 2009 in celebration of the sesquicentennial of the city of Waukegan.

New Book Coming in 2009

The Waukegan Historical Society is pleased to announce the publication of a new book on Waukegan's history. In recognition of the sesquicentennial of the city, Ed Link has prepared a wonderful review in *Waukegan: A History*. The book will also include extensive photographs from the Society's archives, some of which have not been seen for many years because of their fragile nature. The book will be available later in 2009; look for information about advance purchases and book-signing events in upcoming newsletters.

Historically Speaking

Abraham Lincoln in Waukegan

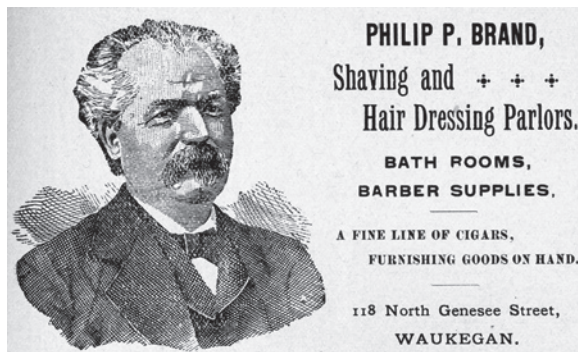
by Ed Link

That Abraham Lincoln visited Waukegan on April 2, 1860 for the purpose of delivering a speech at Dickinson Hall is an accepted fact. Stories in newspapers and books have referred to it beginning a few days after the speech and continuing on to the present. Typically the newspapers bring up the subject on the anniversary of the occasion or on Lincoln's birthday.

Lincoln began speaking to a reported 1500 people when a fire was seen at the lakefront. The crowd dispersed to help fight the fire at the Case and Bull warehouse and the speech was never completed. Afterwards a reception was held at Elisha Ferry's home, where Lincoln spent the night. (The bed in which Lincoln slept is on display at the Waukegan History Museum.) He departed the next day.

What is not generally accepted are the specifics surrounding the visit and the speech. Conflicting information has been provided, often by individuals who purportedly were involved.

- Philip Brand claimed to have given Lincoln his last shave on the day he visited Waukegan, and that Abe began to grow his beard afterwards. Lincoln was clean shaven at the time of his election that November.



- April 2 was Lincoln's only visit to Waukegan. He may have come here the previous month as well to hold a secret meeting with several local men on the slavery issue. There is also one report of a visit after his election.

- The Waukegan Weekly Gazette on April 7, 1860 said he only spoke a few minutes. J.W. Hull said he attended and Lincoln spoke for 25 minutes.

- Mrs. Elisha Ferry said the fire was at the Dickinson warehouse.

- The fire was started by local Democrats to disrupt the speech, or not.

- Lincoln helped fight the fire or just observed the volunteers.

- He slept in the Ferry home or the house immediately west of it.

- Ben S. Cory attended the reception at Ferry's home and claimed Lincoln was over seven feet tall. It is generally accepted that Abe stood 6'4".

So the basic facts are known, but there is much variation on the remaining information. That is one of the problems with historical research. Answers often create more questions, and one is forced to draw his own conclusions.

As a side note, the day that Lincoln left Waukegan, April 3, 1860, was the beginning of the Pony Express as riders left St. Joseph, MO and Sacramento, CA.

Free Historical Programs Offered By the Waukegan Historical Society

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

Topics include:

History of Waukegan (Pre-Native American to Present -Developed for the Waukegan Sesquicentennial)

Abraham Lincoln Goes To Waukegan-Developed for the Lincoln Bicentennial

Waukegan's Famous Civil War Drummer Boys

Louis deKoven Bowen-Her Life, the Hull House, and Waukegan's Bowen Country Club

Jack Benny-From Waukegan to Hollywood

Waukegan and the Underground Railroad

"What-Cha-Ma-Call-It" History Trunk

All programs are multimedia presentations with hands-on artifacts. Programs generally last 1 hour. All programs are free.

The Annexation Case & Other Historical Matters in the 1890s

By Mary Goodley

On May 6, 1895, the night before the election to incorporate the Village of North Chicago, which included the Washburn-Moen wire mill and the company's subdivision (the Waukegan Highlands) within its boundaries, the Waukegan City Council annexed the Highlands and a z-shaped strip around the mill as a result of a petition by the subdivision residents and Washburn-Moen.

By 1897, the Circuit Court ruled in favor of the Village of North Chicago and denied the annexation, but Washburn-Moen appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court with the result that in April, 1899,

the Supreme Court reversed the Circuit Court's decision! With that, Waukegan's boundaries were extended south from 10th Street, and the incorporation was invalidated.

Thereafter the Village filed for a rehearing, and on October 16, 1899, the matter was reversed—the Illinois Supreme Court ruled for the Village of North Chicago.*

A detailed chronology of the "Annexation Case," with profiles of the principals, can be found in my newly self-published book *A Considerable History: The Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company, The Waukegan Highlands (The Company Subdivision) & the 1890 Village of North Chicago, Illinois*. Exhibit maps and documents from the Supreme Court files are featured. There are 26 pages about the Waukegan Highlands.

The book's opening on Washburn-Moen provides recently researched information on Charles H.

Coster, J.P. Morgan's partner, as seller of the mill property to Washburn-Moen as well as the chief buyer from Wm. Jebb, Trustee, of right-of-way property for the Belt Line along the Waukegan "Flats."

The section on the Village of North Chicago covers fifteen different topics. The Waukegan Investment [Co.], whose 1891 Shields Township purchase from Joseph Durkin was commandeered by the U.S. government in 1918 to become the scene for camps and also a 1918 National League Champion Cubs exhibition game, is detailed. The 1899 Illinois Naval Militia encampment in the Village of North Chicago is also described.

An abridged table of contents and autobiographical notes can be found at www.waukeganhistorical.org. The book, which is not for sale, has been donated to the Raymond Library. Fifty copies were produced.

*The Village of North Chicago (1895-1909); City of North Chicago (1909 until present day).



Recent Donations

Waukegan Main Street

2 signs "Lawyers Building"
Lakehurst Mall holiday gift card box
Burl Ives Christmas Recording 45-Lakehurst Mall Ad

Alicia Mentell

Oil Lamp and Urn

Jane Wilcox

Johns-Manville pin

Betsy Alleman

Matchbooks from Waukegan stores/restaurants
"Waukegan Bulldog Pin"
Peterson Funeral Home matches
"Belvidere Mall" rock
Assorted photos of Waukegan

Stuart Steffany

Edison Mazda Light Bulbs

Denis Peterson

Knights of Pythias memorabilia, photograph

Waukegan High School

Yearbooks (1986, 1992, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008)

Harry Came

Assorted advertisement cards and blotters
1884 Waukegan Harbor Map
2 Photographs of Price Home
1 Photograph of Sheridan Road
1 Photograph of unidentified family
Stereoscope view-President McKinley's address in
Waukegan 10/10/1899
1853 Map of Waukegan Harbor

Glencoe Historical Society

3 Photographs

Nicholas Palo

10 Waukegan High Yearbooks

May Nelson

"Thomas Wright" Genealogy and Photos

Jim and June Maguire

High School Annuals and Thirsty Elephant
2 Photographs of Waukegan Northwestern RR Station

Bill Tyre

"Chicago Historic Prairie Avenue"

Jim Somers

"Tour of Homes" photographs

Eleanor Pocius

"Lake County Roots" by News-Sun

Highland Park Historical Society

Photographs, postcards, and calendar

Jane Wilcox

Scrapbooks, photos, slides, and yearbooks

Eamon A. Rago

Postcards and photos

North Shore Railroad pamphlets and articles

Roxana Moise

Stock Certificate for Orchard Hills

Betty Oleson

George W. Morris-Nosco 25th Anniversary Program

James Tuohy

Blatchford Calfmeal ad, baby bonnet, US flag

Stan Jaronik

2 Videos of 1959 Centennial Parade

2 Videos of William Leslie diary

CD-Photographs of Wm. Leslie diary

Sara Griffin

10 Photographs from 1976

Guy Inman

Waukegan Map (1977), 8 glass negatives

Waukegan Baby Seat Co. materials and letters

Richard S. Fulton

Robling Family Genealogy

Ann Darrow

Waukegan Speedway Program

Ozone and Lake County Brochure

Grand Avenue Clinic ad

Assorted pamphlets, 1843 Letter

Margaret Denny

Waukegan Women Photographers

Ellen Frew

AAUW Pamphlet and Bookmark

Pamela Cardenas

Photo and article of Centennial Parade 1959

Eamon Rago

North Shore Line Service Poster

US Coast Guard Booklet

2009 Metra Newsletter

Great Lakes Scuttlebutt

Lake Michigan Fishing Booklet

CNS&M Poster (1925)

16 Photographs

Flyer from John J. List

Card from St. John's Church

Blotters from Underwriters Agency

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

Thank You!

New Members

Kris Seegren
Jonathon and Jennifer DeMaster

New Life Members

John and Brooke Brogan
Stephen and Jayne Nordstrom

Donations

Michelle and Jeff White
Robert and Michelle Crombie
Alice Kegley
James Peter Young
Doris Frohnsdorff
Yvette David
Jonathon and Jennifer DeMaster
American Association

Area Events

Please call to confirm dates and times.

Cuneo Museum and Gardens, Vernon Hills (847-362-3042)

March 21, The Cuneo Cabaret presents Sam Magdal in concert, Cuneo Estate, advance ticket sale, 8pm.
May 23-24, Cuneo Fine Arts Fest, Cuneo Estate, 10-5pm.

McHenry County Historical Society (815-263-9540)

May 1, museum opens for season.
May 3, New Exhibit Marengo Area and Its 1890s Residents, 2pm.

Kenosha Public Museum

Exhibit, Japanese Woodblock Prints, through May 24.



Save the Date!
*The Waukegan
Historical Society's*
Tour of Homes
will be held
Sunday, July 12
1pm - 5pm

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



Celebrate 150 Years of Waukegan History!

Save the Date!

Dandelion Wine Festival
Saturday, June 6

American Independence Day
Parade and Festival
Sunday, June 28

Waukegan Historical Society's
Tour of Homes
Sunday, July 12

Oakwood Cemetery Walk
Saturday, September 19