

Waukegan

A History



by Ed Link

Coming Soon! See page 8.

September 2009

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

President's Letter

Sara Griffin

I hope all of you have enjoyed the summer of 2009. We enjoyed a beautiful July day for our Tour of Homes and had a very successful event. We are grateful to the homeowners, the City of Waukegan, the Waukegan Park District, the tour committee, and volunteers for all of their hard work. I also want to thank all of the folks who attended this event.

The building committee is hard at work meeting with Jim Johnson of The AT Group, Project Manager and the architects from David Woodhouse and Associates. We have compiled a list of wants for the proposed building addition and now will begin to see if we can come up with a practical and affordable plan. I am personally grateful to all of the committee members for their dedication to this project.

The new book authored by Ed Link, *Waukegan, A History* is at the publisher. We are anxious to have the completed book this fall. It will make a wonderful Christmas gift so please let our Museum Director, Ty Rohrer know how many copies we should set aside for you. Many thanks to all of those who have worked so hard to make this book possible; Ed Link, Margaret Martin, Harry Came, Denyse Waters, Yvonne Sylvester, Bev Millard (and her volunteers) and Ty Rohrer. Thousands of hours have gone into this book. I know you will be proud of it.

The Oakwood Cemetery Walk will be held on September 19, and our next meeting will be held the following day at the Schornick Theater at 2:00 p.m. The program for this meeting will be about Abraham Lincoln's watch given by Doug Stiles.

A special thank you goes out to the Waukegan Rotary Club for their generous donation to the Society.

As you can see, we have a lot going on. Please volunteer to help us, you will be among friends.

Meeting and Program

Abraham Lincoln's Watch

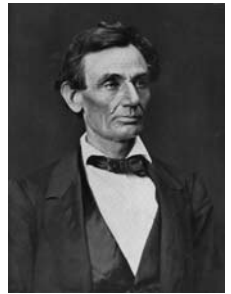
Doug Stiles

Sunday, September 20 at 2p.m.

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

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln brought his watch to a Washington D.C. jeweler to be repaired. Did the jeweler, Jonathon Dillon, add an inscription inside the watch? Hear the fascinating story of how this question was recently answered as told by Waukegan attorney, Doug Stiles, a descendent of Dillon's. This unique story made worldwide news coverage. Come hear the first-hand account of how everything transpired.

The Waukegan Historical Society will have a brief meeting about our current projects that will precede the program. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program.



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Free Event

Oakwood Cemetery Walk

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Celebrating 150 Years of Waukegan History

An annual free event, the Oakwood Cemetery Walk provides specific tours of the city cemetery. Visitors to Oakwood have been taken back to a time and place that has ranged from pre-Civil War to as recent as 1979. This year's featured profiles include:

Philip P. Brand: Born in Germany, Brand came to Illinois in 1854 and opened a barbershop. He later established the first public bath house in the area. Mr. Brand shaved Abraham Lincoln during his 1860 visit to Waukegan.

WHS Board

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John Stein

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Ellen Frew

Directors

Betsy Alleman

Harry Came

Gretta Dieck

Tim Hagan

Jim McGuire

Dennis Moio

Denyse Waters

Rollen Hill: Pioneer of Waukegan who came here in 1845. He delivered mail by stagecoach from Chicago to Milwaukee, stopping in Little Fort (Waukegan) on the way.

Emma L. Jones: Emma was born in Waukegan and was a lifelong resident of the city. She was in the first graduating class of Waukegan High School. She was also a school teacher for many years.

Samuel Lincoln Payne: Samuel was born in Alabama and moved to the Frog Island area in the 1920s. Frog Island, an area settled in Waukegan by African Americans, was located between Grand and Glen Flora Avenues and Lewis Avenue and New York Street. Upon arriving here he was employed at the tannery and later worked as a drawer at the wire mill.

Bud Wilkinson: -“Bicky” was a natural athlete and played on several area baseball teams, including the West Ends. His team played against the Chicago White Sox and the Chicago Cubs. Roger Brenaham, manager and catcher of the Cubs said, “If Bicky Wilkinson was five years younger I would sign him today.”

Bess Bower Dunn: Bess was an employee at the Lake County Courthouse for 60 years. At her death she was eulogized as having done more for the preservation of Lake County history than anyone else. She was head of the Lake County Historical Society. She was also famous for the boxing match in the film “The Boxing Girls” for Edward Amet.



Some of the actors and docents for last year's Oakwood Cemetery Walk.

Tour of Homes Recap

The annual Tour of Homes was held on Sunday July 12, 2009. A beautiful day and a fine selection of homes resulted in over 400 visitors! The Tour of Homes was first held in 1969 and serves as the main fundraiser for the Waukegan Historical Society. In recent years the Tour has become an important community event, promoting the fine architecture and neighborhoods of our city. More than half of the attendees come from outside Waukegan.

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 2009 Tour included the Waukegan History Museum, 921 Rogers Court, 922 Rogers Court, 218 Gillett Avenue, 433 Gillett Avenue, and 2230 Chestnut Street.

Significant assistance was provided by the City of Waukegan, the News Sun, the Waukegan Park District, the graphic design of Margaret Martin, the generous home owners, and the many volunteers who staffed the tour homes.

Special thanks to the Tour of Homes Committee: Harry Came, Sara Griffin, Ty Rohrer, Chandra Chandra Sefton, John Stein, Yvonne Sylvester, and Denyse Waters.



Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

2009 was another busy and successful year at the Waukegan History Museum. We had over 500 visitors attend the museum during the American Independence Day Parade and Festival and the Tour of Homes! Our education outreach numbers rose drastically with many schools and organizations utilizing our numerous history based programs. The plans on the addition to the museum have been

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

progressing nicely, and they will be finalized in the upcoming months.

A special thanks to all of the volunteers who have helped at the museum and research library over the last year. We had the daunting tasks of continuing the museum inventory, giving tours, research for our various programs, and assisting with the book *Waukegan: A History*.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Kirsten Lampi for the exceptional job that she did during her internship at the museum. I would also like to thank the Waukegan Park District as well as Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Cultural Arts, for providing the necessary funds for the museum's paid internship position.

Current Exhibits

Last chance to see...

Treasures of Our Collections: Celebrating 150 Years of Waukegan History

Exhibit focuses on the history of the City of Waukegan from its earliest beginnings up to the present. The exhibit includes a detailed timeline highlighting significant events and side notes from Waukegan's history. Artifacts on display include a relic from the Academy Theatre/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.

Exhibit on display at the Waukegan History Museum through 2009.

Closing in November...

Abraham Lincoln and His Memorable Visit to Waukegan

Exhibit tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's visit to Waukegan on April 2, 1860. Artifacts on display include a replica life mask on loan from the Lake County Discovery Museum, furniture from the home that Lincoln spent the night in, and Lincoln's signature.

Exhibit on display at the Waukegan History Museum through November 2009.

Continuing and Upcoming

Jack Benny: From Waukegan to Hollywood

Exhibit shows the life of Jack Benny from when he was growing up in Waukegan to his prolific career in Hollywood. Memorabilia include historic photographs, programs from Jack Benny performances, and autographed items.

Exhibit on display at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts-39 Jack Benny Drive Waukegan, IL 60087 in Bowen Park. There is no scheduled closing date for the exhibit.

Snapshots of Waukegan: 1840s through the 1960s

Photograph exhibit shows a glimpse of the early history of the City of Waukegan from the 1840s through the 1960s.

Exhibit on display in windows of the parking garage retail space on the corner of County and Clayton Streets. There is no scheduled closing date for the exhibit.

What's In a Name?

Learn about various streets in Waukegan and the prominent people they have been named after.

Exhibit on display in the Waukegan History Museum starting January, 2010.



Historically Speaking

Writing a Book

Ed Link

When I first became associated with the Historical Society I found a limited amount of written history on the Waukegan area. That led to bits of research, resulting in some short articles which were published in the Society newsletter. Others were filed away for possible future expansion.

As the number of stories increased the question arose as to what to do with them. There had not been an overall history of the city published since the Osling sisters produced *Historical Highlights of the Waukegan Area* for the nation's bicentennial in 1976, so a book seemed a possibility. But what to include?

It was during a vacation in Michigan that my life partner, Barbara, and I decided that a book could be done. We discussed at length what subjects needed to be in it, the format and the sequence. I felt comfortable with subjects I had previously studied: industry, entertainment, military, early history, etc. She suggested explaining how people once lived and that became "Daily Living". She also insisted on a chapter covering the architecture of the city's buildings and homes. This I strongly resisted because of my lack of knowledge. She stated that help would be available, and guess who won that argument.

The potential size of the project was daunting and I wanted to see if I was up to it before making any pronouncements about the final goal. Some of my earlier articles needed more substance and so I began. Those initial chapters went smoothly enough that I felt I could do it (unwarranted optimism). The city's sesquicentennial would arrive in 2009, so that seemed good timing. Early structure planning called for 15 chapters. Eighteen months to research and write seemed sufficient, so on July 1, 2007 I began writing a book.

Very few people knew of this project at the beginning. Gradually others had to be brought on

board as I asked of their memories and expertise. Although my name is the only one on the book, it couldn't have been done without a lot of help. Acknowledgements are given in the book, but they don't cover all the efforts. Friends read and critiqued the chapters as they were written, often without knowing how that piece fit in the whole. Others provided documents, as well as their time for interviews. The noted architecture information would never have been completed without the patience and willingness of a few.

Was it worth the effort? I'll let the eventual readers decide. I learned that area libraries, particularly that of the Waukegan Historical Society, are tremendous repositories of local knowledge. If anyone would use this book as a starting point and expand the history of any part of it using those resources, then it will have been worth it for me. The book is entitled *Waukegan: A History* because so many more histories are waiting to be written.

An early image of Waukegan's beach.



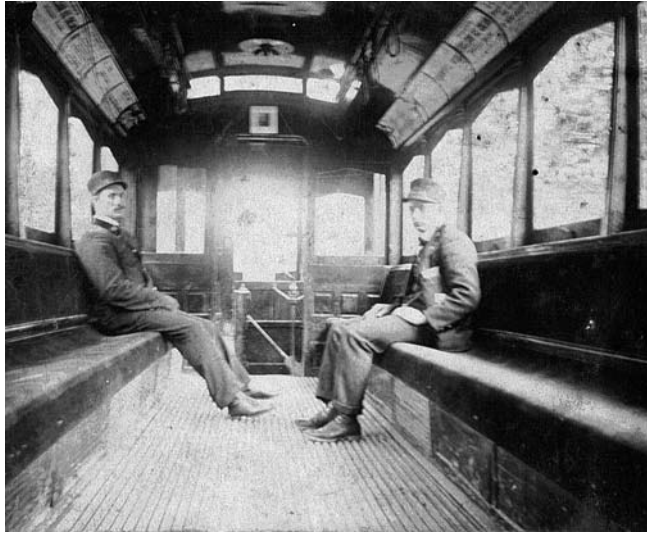


Image of the interior of a Waukegan streetcar. (donation)

Thank You!

New Members

Sydelle Brahin
 William Benjamin
 Tom Sisolak
 Richard Hershman and Penny Miller Family
 Mary Ann Johnson
 WTHS Reunion Class of 1964

New Life Members

Joe Zelenz

Donations

Mary Ann Johnson
 Rita White
 Rotary Club of Waukegan
 Shelia Somers
 Vernon Dale
 Sydelle Brahin
 Christine Kiel
 Harry and Kathryn Clay

WTHS Class of 1964

The Waukegan Historical Society would like to welcome the 45th Reunion Waukegan Township High School Class of 1964 as new members. We were proud to be a part of the reunion activities!

Richard Alvarez	Thomas A. Hanna	Delores F. Pizur
Sandra Jo Anderson	Norman H. Hansen	James B. Planey
Patricia Baldino	Glenn Haynes	Vicki L. Poole
Robert B. Barnett	J. Brad Herbeck	Ralph D. Ratliff
Lyman Behrens	Bert B. Hermelink	JoAnn M. Reconnu
Paul Bell	Ruth Anne Hickman	Carol J. Remter
Dan L. Bonnes	Nancy L. Hinze	Joseph Ribando
Kathie J. Brady	Bruce W. Hirsch	Kenneth A. Rice
Richard Wm. Brean	Ralph C. Hoff	Robert J. Riley
Maria E. Brehm	Charles R. Hyde	Vicki M. Rivelli
Tom E. Buntrock	Gerald C. Johnson	William J. Ryan
Richard W. Burkes	John A. Johnson	Linda S. Ryckman
Janice E. Burnett	Sharyn D. Johnson	Diane L. Schammert
Cranston O. Byrd	Kurt M. Keeley	Janet R. Scharnell
Dennis Byrne	Tom Kennedy	John R. Scheve
Dennis A. Carlson	Joyce A. King	John Schreffendorf
Richard Cisneroz	Roger T. Kirkland	Cheryl Schmeling
Diana M. Clark	Robert G. Koshkarian	Mary Ann Schmitt
Jacquelyn A. Couvall	Suzanne Koyiades	Fred W. Schumaker
Greg A. Crawford	Sally L. Landish	Demetri N. Selevredes, Jr.
Bruce K. Daydif	Shriley A. Larson	Tomas E. Shafer
Fred Dennis	Jeffrey Latz	Kathleen A. Sieja
James E. Dennon	Martin C. Laub	JoAnn D. Sokal
Kathleen A. Dever	Ronald E. Lauraitis	Dale M. Sorrention
Carol Dow	Judee A. Lingle	Marni A. Stanfield
Anita J. Elsey	Joyce A. Ludovic	Lee A. Swank
Margaret J. Engelmann	Julie A. Lundquist	Robert D. Sybrandy
Walter L. Ericson	Kemba A. Maish	William J. Traynor
Sarah E. Fantozzi	Bonita A. Marsico	Ethel T. Tsausis
Jo Ann Faro	Lynda L. Mason	William J. Uimari
Marc D. Fink	Richard L. Mathis	Joel T. Vigar dt
Norman J. Fornero	Margaert G. Merlo	Jane C. Waller
Gail Frances	Gary D. Miller	Charles J. Wallis
David Frizzo	Edward J. Miltimore	DiAnne S. Walsh
Gloria J. Geryol	Marcia J. Mitchen	David C. Ward
Nancy Gibbons	Dennis A. Mivshek	Valerie D. Weller
Mike Grampo	Charlie S. Moberly III	Opal Werenski
Ronald Griffin	Nancy J. O'Halloran	James E. Wigginton
Douglas R. Groat	Cheryl A. O'Meara	Donald E. Williams
Jule E. Groat	John F. Otahal	
Jerry W. Haines	Donna M. Parkhurst	
Roxana M. Hall	Geraldine A. Parr	

Recent Donations

Loretta Jelinek Lieske (in memory of Lawrence M. Jelinek Jr.)

Waukegan Dairy Cream Bottle

Glen Rock Springs Bottle

Sue Schwab

Rotary Button

Doolittle and White Clothiers Souvenirs

Photograph

Bill Morris

Waukegan Political Buttons

Pat Oliphant Autographed Newspaper Cartoon

Norman Hansen

Karcher Hotel Key

Waukegan Salt and Pepper Shakers

Postcard

Waukegan Daily Sun-Aug. 20, 1902, Sept. 14, 1901

Nancy DePauw

Mob Cap

Man's Hat Stand

Lisa Zaragoza

Drafted Plans of the Waukegan History Museum

Drafted Axon and Section

Jan Young

Wire Mill Union Charter

W.J. Perz

Haines Farmhouse Decorative Plate

Penny Ashton

Phil Austin Print

Globe Department Store Commemorative Mug

Book "Pictorial History of the World"

Carolyn Bergman

Sony Cybershot Digital Camera

Tom Braze

Photograph of Washington Street

Erika Burt

Immanuel Baptist Church Pamphlets

Mary Blough

1935 Centennial Program and 1935 Newspaper Clippings

June and Jim Maguire

Mattress Co. Yardstick

Dr. Price's Flavoring Extracts Bottle

Donald Messer

1969 Waukegan City Directory

William Uimari

Scrapbook-Henry F. Wallenwein

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

Gloria Trout

Watrous Family Bible

Ethel G. Flesher

AARP Notebooks, Scrapbooks, Minutes

Yvonne Martin

Newspaper Clipping for 2230 Chestnut Street

Mary Goodley Estate

Typed List of Donated Items

Waukegan Public Library

Illinois Collection

Carol Bradbury (for F. Heinlein)

1925 Great Lakes Bulletin

WWII Ration Book

Exchange Club Photographs

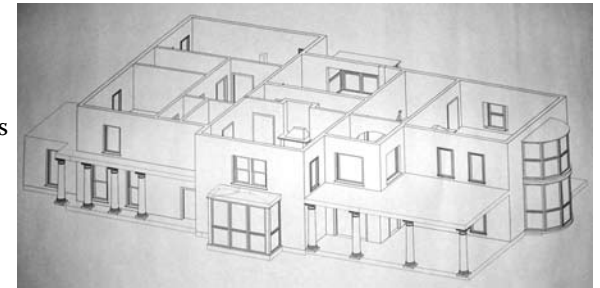
Immanuel Baptist Church

Brochures

Rex Butler

33 Photographs of

Waukegan



CAD drawing of Waukegan History Museum. (donation)

Special Thanks to the Waukegan Park District

The Historical Society would like to thank the Waukegan Park District for all of their hard work this year at the museum and library. The lawn and flowers were beautifully landscaped this spring and summer and the sidewalks were clear of snow during the winter months. The Historical Society could not run as smoothly as it does without the wonderful assistance of the Park District.

Also, Kirsten Lampi again worked for the museum this summer through a paid internship provided by the Waukegan Park District's Cultural Arts Division. Kirsten is an undergraduate in History at Southwestern University in Texas and is interested in pursuing a career in museums. We thank her for her hard work.



Free History Programs

From 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.

Area Events

Please call to confirm dates and times.

Grayslake Historical Society (847-223-5509)

October 4, Living History Tour of Grayslake Cemetery, 1:30pm-2:30pm.

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

October 29 through November 22, Theater in the Great Hall :“Sherlock’s Last Case” by Charles Marowitz. Reservations and ticket sales open on September 22.

Vliet Museum for Lake Bluff History (847-482-1571)

October 24, 100th anniversary of the Pink Rabbit Ball, at Pasquesi Home and Gardens, \$50 per person.

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



1917 N. Sheridan Rd, Waukegan, IL 60087

Upcoming Events

***Oakwood
Cemetery
Walk Sunday,
September 19***

**For details, see
page 3.**



This year's cemetery walk features Bess Bower Dunn, shown here in Edward Amet's early film "The Boxing Girls."