

Tour of Homes
Sunday, June 25
1:00pm - 5:00pm
See page 4.



Child's Bedroom at the Haines Museum.



EVENT

Annual Tour of Homes

see page 4

June 2006

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society



President's Letter

by Bill Tyre

This is my final letter to you as President, and I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your continued support of the Society and its activities. I'm proud to have been a part of all the Society has accomplished in the past two years, including extensive work at the Haines Museum, a redesigned newsletter and website, expanded programs and exhibits and two highly successful Tours of Homes. My thanks to the board members and other volunteers who have worked hard on these projects.

I would like to thank Harry Came who has agreed to take over as President. One of the projects which Harry has worked hard on the past several months is an Historic Marker program to help educate the residents of Waukegan about our rich architectural heritage. See page 12 for a full description of this new initiative.

Our Tour of Homes, scheduled for Sunday June 25, promises to be one of our best ever. During April, I visited each of the four private homes featured on the tour, and was extremely impressed with what I saw. Be sure to watch the *News Sun* for a special pullout section on the Tour which will appear the week of June 19. See page 4 for further information.

The Haines Museum will hold a number of Open Houses in conjunction with various events at Bowen

Park during the summer, including the Dandelion Wine Festival, Civil War Encampment, and the American Independence Festival. See the calendar on page 16 for dates and times.

I would like to welcome Lucas Bucholtz, the Society's first intern, who began work on May 16. Lucas recently completed a certificate program in museum studies and will be working with the many facets of our museum and library operations.

As we look toward the fall, work is already underway on our popular Oakwood Cemetery Walk, scheduled for Saturday September 23. This year's theme will be Waukegan's parks, in honor of the upcoming 90th anniversary of the Waukegan Park District. We are also planning a special musical program at the Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre entitled "Hats Off to Music" in conjunction with our recently opened vintage hat exhibit. Full details on both of these events will be found in the September newsletter.

I hope you will all have the opportunity to take advantage of our offerings during the next few months, and please keep the museum in mind as a destination when entertaining summer visitors.

WHS Board

Officers

President
Harry Came
Vice President
Gretta Dieck
Treasurer
William Tyre
Secretary
Ellen Frew

Directors

Betsy Alleman
Sara Griffin
Margaret Martin
Denyse Waters
Sean Wiedel

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Events

June 9-11, 2006

Bowen Park Civil War Encampment

Waukegan's first Civil War encampment is being staged in Bowen Park by Battery G, a Civil War reenactment group based in the Rockford area. In order to properly educate the public about the Civil War era, Battery G strives for authenticity in their impressions, uniforms, equipment and encampments. Attendees will have the opportunity to view all aspects of a soldier's life, from the preparation of meals in camp to fighting a battle. Additional activities will include artillery demonstrations, a dress parade, and the opportunity for children and adults to "join" the troops and be put through drills. A full schedule of events is available at www.waukeganhistorical.org. The Haines House Museum will be open during the event on Saturday June 10 from 1:00-3:00 pm.

June 25, 2006

Annual Tour of Homes

This year's Tour will include interior tours of four private residences: 408 North Ave. (1853), 335 N. West St. (1885), 414 Julian St. (1903) and 1514 N. Sheridan Rd. (c. 1927), in addition to the Christ Episcopal Church and the Haines House Museum with recently installed exhibits. This is the Society's main fundraiser for the year, so consider inviting family, friends and former residents to participate in this enjoyable event. Tickets are \$10 in advance and may be obtained from the Haines Museum, Jack Benny Center or Victorian House Antiques. Tickets are \$12 at the door and may be purchased at any tour site the day of the tour. For more information, visit www.waukeganhistorical.org.

Tour of Homes

1:00pm-5:00pm

408 North Ave.
335 N. West St.
414 Julian St.
1514 N. Sheridan Rd.
Christ Episcopal Church
Haines Museum

Continuing Exhibits

The Photography of Dr. Julius Wineberg

Between 1976 and 1978, Dr. Julius Wineberg spent countless hours recording the architectural heritage of Waukegan for future generations. It was during this period that twenty-seven buildings were designated Bicentennial Landmarks and the Near North Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Dr. Wineberg documented dozens of buildings, both residential and commercial, creating stunning black and white images that were artistic as well as documentary. This exhibit includes approximately thirty images from the Society's collection, ranging from stately homes in the historic district to prominent downtown buildings. Through November.



1018 N. Sheridan Rd.

A Visit to the Millinery Shop

The Waukegan Historical Society possesses a large collection of vintage hats, ranging from late-Victorian examples with elaborate feathers and bows, to stylish cocktail hats of the 1940s. This exhibit showcases some of the finest hats in the collection, along with pieces on loan from the Irving Park Historical Society in Chicago. The setting of the exhibit is a recreation of an early 20th-century millinery shop, based on a vintage photograph in the Society's research collection. Information on the history of hats and a small collection of men's hats are featured as well. Through January. In conjunction with the exhibit, our fall program will be an entertaining show entitled "Hats Off to Music" by talented singer and pianist Kirstin Synnvestedt.



Historically Speaking The Howe Family During the Civil War

by Ed Link

The Howe family brought recognition to Waukegan in an unusual way. At the start of the Civil War in



Colonel Oscar Malmberg and Orion Howe



Lyston Howe

1861, father William and his sons Orion and Lyston enlisted in the army, all as musicians. While William was a veteran of the Mexican War, the boys were getting their first taste of military life at a very tender age.

Orion Perseus Howe was born near Hiram, Portage County, Ohio on December 29, 1848. After the death of his mother in 1852, the family moved to Waukegan. He entered the Union Army as a drummer boy, but was soon discharged so he could continue his schooling. He left school and re-enlisted in the 55th Illinois Regiment.

During the 1863 battle at Vicksburg, Orion, at age 14, was injured. He was wounded in his thigh on May 19, and ordered off the field. He refused to go until he reported to General Sherman that his company needed to be re-supplied with ammunition. Ironically, in the heat of battle, the commander, Colonel Oscar Malmberg, had requested the wrong caliber of ammo.

He was discharged as a corporal in November 1864 in New York City. He soon returned to the military because he was given an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy for his gallantry in action. By contemporary regulations he was too young to be eligible for West Point. He was appointed in July 1865, but stayed at Annapolis for only two years. After he left he joined the Merchant Marine. Later he was said to have been an Army scout and a saddle and harness maker. Finally he graduated from the

University of New York as a dentist and practiced that profession in the mid-west.

For his actions in 1863, Orion was given the Medal of Honor, but not until April 23, 1896, and he was the youngest recipient ever of that award. He died in Springfield, Missouri on January 27, 1930 and is buried in the national cemetery there.

Lyston Druett Howe has his own distinction. He was born near Hiram on August 27, 1850. When he entered the army, also as a drummer boy, he was only 10 years, 10 months and 9 days old. This made him the youngest soldier in the Union Army. He was discharged a few months later because of measles, but he too ran away and re-enlisted. Lyston died January 11, 1937.

A book written for children, *Diary of a Drummer Boy*, was published in 1998 and relates the story of the Howe boys.



Civil War re-enactment at Lake County Museum (date unknown)



Silas Nichols (right) died in 1945 as Lake County's last surviving Civil War veteran.



Grand Army of the Republic members, all Civil War vets, at a gathering c. 1914.



Soldiers and Sailors Monument at the courthouse square was dedicated August 29, 1899.

Collections Cameo

by Brian Hora

Jack Benny (real name Benjamin Kubelsky), one of the world's most treasured and influential entertainers came from Waukegan. From stage to screen Benny thrilled audiences. At the Haines Museum



Salisbury and Benny trunk with a view of the top (inset).

one can view a part of his legacy: his first Vaudeville trunk!

After Benjamin graduated grammar school, the entertainment bug got the better of him. He started playing at parties and in stores; he even traveled to Libertyville for an additional fee. His first year at Central High School, Benjamin found himself working as an usher and violinist at the Barrison Theater, which

housed vaudeville acts in the evening. His mother and father, Emma and Meyer, were not pleased with Benjamin's choice of employment. Meyer tried to put Benjamin to work at his haberdashery, but everyone knew that the job did not fit him, and Benjamin went back to work at the Barrison.

By 1912 Benjamin's work at The Barrison Theatre was soon to end. The pianist at The Barrison, Cora Salisbury, believed that she and Benjamin could travel the vaudeville circuit as a duo. After some coaxing, Benjamin's parents agreed and 'Salisbury and Kubelsky: From Grand Opera to Ragtime' was born. Unfortunately, the duo met their first bump in the road by popular violinist, Jan Kubelik, who wrote a letter of protest to the duo concerning the name Kubelsky. Benjamin, instead of causing a rift, changed his name to Ben K. Benny and the duo became 'Salisbury and Benny.' They found reasonable success and lasted two years before Cora had to return to Waukegan due to personal issues. Ben found a



After entering the Navy, Jack Benny, on the right, performed in camp shows.

new partner almost immediately in the pianist Lyman Woods. Ben was not done evolving his name and the new act became 'Bennie and Woods: From Grand Opera to Ragtime.' Bennie and Woods became so popular they landed a shot at playing the top vaudeville theatre in America, The Palace, in New York. The show did not wow audiences, and Ben K. Benny returned to Waukegan to help his ailing mother.



Promotional card dating between 1912 and 1913, which publicizes Cora Salisbury and 'Ben K. Benny.'

Following the death of his mother and the outbreak of WW I, Ben joined the Navy and changed his name back to Benjamin Kubelsky. During his three years of service he began to realize his gift for comedy during performances with Navy revue shows.

Following the Navy, he began his solo career as 'Ben K. Benny: Fiddle Funology.' Once again, his name became an issue. Ben Bernie, a talking and fiddle act at the time, believed that Ben Benny and Ben Bernie were too similar. Benny agreed and adopted the name 'Jack' for the first time.

Jack Benny's stage show was a huge hit and led to an appearance in Hollywood in the short film *Bright Moments* in 1928. The following year Jack appeared in two more films, *Hollywood Revue* and *Chasing Rainbows*.

One of Jack's most famous lines was uttered on March 29, 1932 while he made a guest appearance on his friend Ed Sullivan's radio show:

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is Jack Benny talking. There will be a slight pause while you say, 'Who cares?'"



Newspaper advertisement from New York displaying Jack Benny's growing popularity in Vaudeville.



Signed photograph of Jack Benny.

Thank You!

New Life Members

Dr. Julius Wineberg

New Members

Mayor & Mrs. Richard Hyde

Daniel Cretan

Patrons

Ellen Otis

Steven Rosswurm

Waukegan Fire Department

Sean & Victoria Wiedel

Donations

Robert Abbott

Carmen Fulkerson

Cora Hammarstrom

Sopttia Ninos

Doris Salmon

Jan Schroeder

Recent Acquisitions

Betsy Alleman

Photograph & Letter – Otto Graham

Book: *Echo House*

WKRS interview on audiotape

Photographs of Heins Department Store

1978 City vehicle sticker

Envelope – Swedish Glee Club

Brochure – McGruff Crime Prevention

Richard Bairstow

Republican pamphlets & organization by-laws

Jane Blew

Brochure – Marquette Square

Gordon Spoor Brand

Waukegan Gazette – Feb. 18, 1882

John Brencheck

Slide projector, slides & viewer

Ann Darrow

Handbook of Illinois Government 1974

Mrs. Newton Finn

Photographs

Mara Galusha

1993 Waukegan High School yearbook

Claudia Herring

Tewes Dancing School memorabilia

First National Bank pamphlet

Guy T. Inman

1910 Westerfield map of Waukegan

Glass negative of Waukegan Beach

Blueprints of Waukegan Ice Co.

Maps & newspapers

Bicentennial plaques

Bank Money pouches

American Observer newspaper

Ed Link

Geographical Index for 1913-1914 City Directory

Index to 1928-1929 History of Waukegan by D.A.R.

Joe Neumann

Poem

Clarence Renouard

6 Photographs of Ernie Krueger

Nancy Salmela

“Climbing Your Family Tree”

Larry TenPas

Genesee Street postcard

Bill Tyre

Book: *Heavenly City: Architectural Tradition of Catholic Chicago*

Lake County Arts Magazine Spring 2006

Newspapers

Architectural fragments salvaged from the Simmons-

Cooke House

Roof tile shard from Academy Theatre

Tim Vavrek

Lake County Population Statistics

Economic Development Commission book 1988

1990 and 2005 Co-op Anniversary books

First National Bank pamphlet– 1927

Lake County Tower Report – 1994

History of Lake County – Martins General Store

Jennifer Williams

Research on TB Sanatorium and its architects

Alphonse F. Zabor

WWII Newspapers

Purchased Items

1929 Academy Theatre tickets

Postcard – Waukegan City Hall

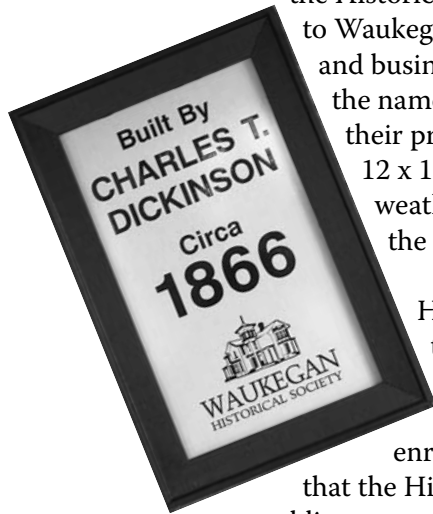
Framed Advertisement – G.W. Evans, Grocer

Postcard – American Red Cross

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

Historic Marker Program Debuts

In June, the Waukegan Historical Society will begin a new program for buildings of historical or architectural significance. The Board of Directors created the Historic Marker Program to bring attention to Waukegan's notable buildings. Many home and business owners can now proudly display the name of the original owner or builder of their property and the date it was built. The 12 x 18 inch sign will be made in attractive, weather-resistant materials for affixing to the exterior of the property.



The Mission Statement of the Historical Society states, in part, that our objective is "to preserve, study, and interpret the history of Waukegan and to educate so as to enrich public knowledge." The Board feels that the Historic Marker Program will make the public more aware of the rich history of Waukegan. With the commitment of the City in the restoration of the Genesee Theater and the on-going restoration of other commercial and residential buildings, the Marker Program is meant to be another source of pride for property owners.

Any building, including private residences, that are architecturally significant or have an historical connection to the City of Waukegan are eligible for the program. The program is being offered for buildings constructed prior to World War II; post-war buildings may be included at a later date. The cost will be \$75.00 per marker and any profits will be restricted to support the ongoing activities at the Raymond Research Library. An application form will be available at the Haines Museum or online at waukeganhistorical.org. Approval of applications will be by the Sign and Marker Committee and once approved and the individual marker manufactured,

it can be installed by the individual owner or by the Historical Society. Markers will be available by early summer and will make a great gift for that house-proud friend or relative.

If there are any questions regarding the program, feel free to call Society President Harry Came during the day at 847.599.0325.

Base-Ball Returns!

Brian Hora, Cultural Arts Museum Supervisor, has been in the process of creating a presentation that will educate and entertain those who are interested in how base-ball started. (Yes, it was spelled base-ball!)

Some may be shocked to learn that the game we all love today was not invented by Abner Doubleday. In fact the first recorded game of 'base-ball' was played in 1839 in Cooperstown, New York. Mr. Doubleday was a cadet at West Point at that time and nowhere near the playing field! Base-ball has many 'roots' from British cricket and rounders to stories of Nez Perce introducing Lewis and Clark to a game called 'base'. Whatever the origin, recognizable rules began to be followed in 1845, when the New York Nickerbockers began to hold annual conventions on the subject. Before 1873 the game was played by those who enjoyed sport; later teams were formed by trying to attract the most talented and professional.

In the month of May, Brian instructed five teachers at Beach Park Middle School on the details of Vintage Base-Ball using the 1860 rules. This instruction will culminate in an all day demonstration by almost 600 students of Beach Park Middle School on June 2, 2006. The students will use replica balls, bats and other equipment.



Annual Meeting Recap

The Society held its Annual Meeting on Sunday May 21. New officers for the coming year were elected as follows: Harry Came, President; Gretta Dieck, Vice President; Bill Tyre, Treasurer; and Ellen Frew, Secretary. Denyse Waters and Sara Griffin were reelected as Directors. The proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws as presented in the March 2006 Newsletter were adopted. Jim Maguire was honored for his many hours of volunteer work digitizing the huge photograph collection at the research library. Nine students from the College Studies Program at Waukegan High School were also recognized for their work in creating a fantastic exhibit on the Waukegan lighthouse which was displayed at the 2005 Oakwood Cemetery Walk. The students are Eleanor Holisky, Jessie Kempf, Robert Petrusky, John Rasmussen, Jason Reynoso, Jacob Ryckman, Eric Smith, Jourdon Sorg and Colin Swanson.

Corporate Gift Received

The Society is happy to announce that a \$1,000 gift was received in April from Kraft Foods/Altria, in recognition of the volunteer service of their employee Wayne Munn. Wayne presented our interesting April Program "The Time Capsule Apartment" and has devoted many volunteer hours to the research library, where the gift will be used.

Stop and See the Flowers

Joe Fontaine, one of the participants on this year's Tour of Homes, recently created a stunning silk floral arrangement which he donated to the Haines Museum. It has been placed on the sideboard in the dining room, and adds color and life to the room. Thank you Joe for sharing your talents with the Society.

Society Welcomes Intern

The Society is pleased to announce the creation of a new internship position in conjunction with the Waukegan Park District. Our first intern, Lucas Bucholtz began his work on May 16. During the summer, Lucas will be assisting at both the museum and research library on a variety of projects, providing him with a well-rounded experience. Lucas received his Certificate in Museum Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has had experience working at the Spertus Museum in Chicago and volunteering as a docent at the Ernest Hemingway Museum in Oak Park. Welcome Lucas!

New Gurnee History Book Available

The Warren Township Historical Society has produced a book on the history of Gurnee and Warren Township, as part of the Images of America series produced by Arcadia Publishing, the same company that published our Waukegan book a few years ago. The book includes scores of images from their Society's collection, which trace the history of the area back to 1835. Copies are available at the Haines Museum and Raymond Library.

Historic Excerpt

Waukegan Weekly Gazette, October 27, 1883

On Wednesday evening last, Mr. Geo. D. Slack, of this city, while crossing the Genesee St., bridge, now stripped of plank, fell from the narrow foot path to the ground beneath, some twelve or fifteen feet, and then rolled down the bank as much farther. A bottle of whiskey in his pocket was unbroken, and the gentleman was not seriously hurt, although so much shaken up that it was necessary to procure a conveyance and take him home. It is surmised that if all of the whiskey he had about him had been in the bottle mentioned, he would not have fallen.



Society Events

JUNE

Board Meeting

1 2 3 Museum Work Day
9am-12pm

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 Museum Work Day
9am-12pm

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

EVENT
Tour of Homes
see page 4
1pm-5pm

25 26 27 28 29 30
JULY

JULY

Board Meeting

1 Museum Work Day
9am-12pm

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 Museum Work Day
9am-12pm

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

23_{/30} 24 25 26 27 28 29

AUGUST

Board Meeting

1	2	3	4	5	Museum Work Day 9am-12pm
6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				

Haines Museum Open House Dates

- June 3
Dandelion Wine Festival
1:00pm-3:00pm
- June 10
Civil War Encampment
1:00pm-3:00pm
- July 2
American Independence
Festival
12:00pm-3:00pm

Upcoming Events

September 23, 2006; Oakwood Cemetery Walk, focus on Waukegan's parks

Area Events

Please contact the organization to confirm programs and for more information.

Waukegan Park District
847-360-4740

Bowen Park

June 3, 11:00am – 3:00pm
Dandelion Wine Festival

June 20 - 24
Alice in Wonderland

July 1
Improvisation Workshop with "Libertyville's
Improv Playhouse."

July 11 - 15
Hansel and Gretel

July 25 - 29
The Sword in the Stone

Bowen Heritage Circle

Beginning Genealogy (Adults) \$8/\$13

Learn how to research your family's history and find answers to those questions you never asked your grandparents. Join Certified Genealogist Nancy Salmela as she explains how to begin searching for your ancestors and other family members. Handouts supplied. Register by June 14.



Academy Theatre tickets, 1929.

**Libertyville-Mundelein Historical
Society**

Cook House – Open House
Every Sunday in June, July and August
2:00pm-4:00pm

Deerfield Area Historical Society
Historic Village Opening Day

Every Sunday, June through September,
2:00pm-4:00pm

Medieval Cuisine
June 13, 7:00pm
847-948-0680

Grayslake Historical Society

Korean and Vietnam Wars Display, June 11
LEGO Display, June 17
Open House, July 9
847-223-7663

Cuneo Museum & Gardens

Outdoor Concert: Tribute to Old Blue Eyes,
June 21
Children's Art Fair, July 9
Outdoor Concert: Swing Favorites, July 19
847-362-3042

**Historical Society of the Fort Hill
Country**

History of the Church
June 22, 2:00pm
847-566-7743

Lake County Discover Museum

Fifteenth Annual Civil War Encampment
Living History Day, July 8
The Big Battle, July 9
847-968-3381

Preservation Corner

News from the Waukegan Historic Preservation Commission

On April 3, 2006, the City Council unanimously voted to designate the property at 518 Clayton Street as a City of Waukegan landmark. This is the last building standing in which Jack Benny lived during his years in Waukegan. In 1910, while living in the house, Benny received his first break in show business, obtaining a position as a violinist in the pit of the Barrison Theatre. The house was built about 1895 and still retains its elaborate wrap-around porch with fret-sawn trim.



518 Clayton St.

Six buildings on the Shimer College campus were designated landmarks by the City Council on May 1. Five of these buildings, located at 414, 420, 426, 430 and 438 N. Sheridan Road form the Shimer Historic



414 N. Sheridan Rd.

District, the first landmark district designated by the City. (The much larger Near North Historic District was listed on the National Register in 1978). The five houses all date to the 1840s, and three of the five still retain their original Greek Revival appearance. The other two were extensively remodeled and enlarged in the Italianate style by the early 1870s. The sixth Shimer property, designated individually, is the Prairie style house at 445 N. Genesee Street, designed by Tallmadge & Watson in 1913 for Joseph P. Arthur, a co-founder of the Cyclone Fence Company.

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+) & 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

Haines House Museum

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Museum Supervisor: Brian Hora
847-336-1859
museum@waukeganhistorical.org
Call or check the web site for hours of operation.

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

www.waukeganhistorical.org