



# Newsletter of the

# WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME V NUMBER 1

MARCH 2005

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*Check us out online!*

### President's Letter

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

Our Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 12 was a huge success, with over 200 people stopping by during the afternoon. The house looked absolutely wonderful - just like a scene from a Christmas card. I would like to thank those who helped decorate the house - Denyse Waters, Norma Jensen, Sara Griffin and especially Harry Came, who also loaned many of the pieces used to furnish the dining room.

We have two upcoming meetings that should both be of interest to our members. Our April program will feature Nancy Schumm-Burgess, who will be giving a talk on her recently published book entitled *The Barns of Lake County*. In May, Tony Figueroa will be speaking on the history of the Puerto Rican Society in Waukegan, and we will also be holding our Annual Meeting with the election of officers. See page 2 for further details.

The Waukegan Historic Preservation Commission will be sponsoring a free seminar entitled "Your House Has a History" at the Waukegan Public Library in March. Attendees will learn all the basics necessary to research their home and its former occupants. See notice on page 6.

Planning for our annual Tour of Homes is well under way. Mark your calendar now for this wonderful event - we have some great homes lined up this year. The Tour will be held on Sunday, June 26, from 1:00 to 5:00pm.

A recent article in the Waukegan Times reminded me of how important our mission is to preserve the history of our community. In May, Waukegan will honor John H. Jansen, the first Waukegan firefighter to be killed in the line of duty. This long-forgotten story was uncovered recently when a great-great grandson was doing genealogical research, and learned the details of the fire at the North Shore Electric Company on April 23, 1908 that claimed the life of his ancestor. A marker will be dedicated to this fallen hero on May 21 (see page 6 for details). In addition, the Fire Department is now hard at work on a history of the department, and is looking for donations of information and artifacts. Please call Fire Chief Patrick Gallagher at 847-249-5410 if you can help.

The files of the Waukegan Historical Society are full of interesting stories such as this. We hope you will take advantage of all that we have carefully preserved over the past 37 years, and learn more about the rich history of your community.

Bill Tyre, President

## News from the past!

The following article appeared in *The Waukegan Daily Sun*, on November 25, 1925:

### SKELETON THAT OF WHITE BODY IS THE BELIEF

Excavating For Building Being Done on First

Burying Ground of Little Fort

### WAS LAID OUT IN 1847

"The skeleton excavated from the basement of the new Standard Oil building, that is to be constructed at the corner of Spring and Clayton street, might have been that of a white person, according to E.P. DeWolf who is well versed on the early history of Waukegan and Lake county.

The building is being built on the site of the first cemetery laid out in Waukegan, then known as Little Fort. It was started in 1841, at the time the village was platted.

Mr. DeWolf has learned through his historical research that several Indian skeletons were found in the same spot by whites digging graves to bury their own people. Leading to the belief that the Indians first buried on this ground.

The city cemetery was later forsaken and the present Oakwood site was purchased by the city, and still financed by the city.

This it can be seen that it is just as likely that the body was that of an early white settler as that of an Indian."

## Welcome to Our New Members

**New Life Members:** Michael & Teresa Rodriguez Michael Hohf Frank & Linda Cizek Henry & Faith Clark  
**New Members:** Elizabeth M. White Tim Hagan Paul Shannon Robert Stefanowski Kathleen Perkins Frank Plotka  
Rosemary Alfredson Nancy Salmela Margaret Sykes Brian Bailey Emiline Follensbee Gail O'Connor

## Current Exhibit!



### Genesee Street: Through the Years

Whether you come to downtown Waukegan to shop, eat, work, or play Genesee Street has always been the place to be! Genesee grew up as the 'pulse' of Waukegan, from the vaudeville stage to the trolley system that started the North Shore Line. A special feature of the exhibit will be several fragments from the recently demolished Academy Theatre.



## Announcing Our Spring Programs



### BARN OF LAKE COUNTY

Sunday, April 17, 2005, 2:00pm  
Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre,  
39 Jack Benny Dr., Bowen Park

Writer/photographer Nancy Schumm-Burgess, the author of *Gardens and Other Sanctuaries in Long Grove, Illinois*, *Hearts Full of Compassion*, and *The Barns of Lake County*, will be in Waukegan on April 17th to speak about the historic barns of Lake County! Burgess has been researching and photographing the remaining historic barns in Lake County since 1997. She is a former board member of the McHenry County Historical Barn Preservation Association, former Chairman of the Illinois State Historical Society Save-Our-Barns Committee, and founder of the Lake County Save-A-Barn network. A history buff, Schumm-Burgess has been writing historical articles in Lake County since 1994 for numerous publications. As a photographer, her photographs have been exhibited in several museums throughout Illinois, in local publications and on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

## HISTORY OF THE PUERTO RICAN SOCIETY / ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Sunday, May 15, 2005, 2:00pm  
Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre  
39 Jack Benny Dr., Bowen Park

Tony Figueroa, 4th Ward Alderman, will present this interesting program which will focus on the history of Puerto Rican immigrants moving to Waukegan, and their struggle in the areas of housing, labor and education.

## Recent Donations:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Object</u>
Rob Proce.....	Blueprint & House Abstract; Masonic Photos, Doll Photo, Inventory List
Penny Ashton.....	Wight Family History 2cds, Phil Austin Original Watercolor
June Maguire.....	2003 & 2004 High School Yearbooks; 2 Programs Dec. 3, 2004, 1 unused ticket from the Genesee Theatre
Ronald Neumann.....	Glass Bottles - Pearce Drugs - Mackenzie Druggist
Kathy Leable.....	Assorted Waukegan Postcards & Pamphlets
Margaret Martin.....	Academy Theatre CD Photos Dec. 30, 2004
William Tyre.....	Blatchford Calf Meal Pamphlets; 2 Lehtimaki Funeral Home Visitor Registries
Clayton Christensen.....	Waukegan Daily Herald 1896
Elaine Eagon.....	Photos from April 30, 2004 - Griffin Tree Planting Ceremony
Jane Ames.....	Postcard from 1912 - Entrance to US Naval Training Center
Gretta Dieck.....	Framed Print, Shoe Form, Wooden Spoon, 2 Wooden Spools, 3 Civil War Memorabilia
Chandra Sefton.....	Misc. Clothing from the 1950's & 60's

***We thank each and everyone of you who thought enough of us to donate these wonderful objects!***

### MUSEUM WISH LIST

In the ongoing effort to accurately restore the Haines House Museum to its 1870s appearance, the Museum Committee has assembled a list of items that they are seeking for some of the newly furnished rooms. Any possible donations would have to be approved for inclusion by the Museum Committee, and of course any donation accepted would be tax deductible.

LIBRARY - library table, bookcases

DINING ROOM - large serving table, silver-plated flatware, Victorian table wares, napkins and napkin rings

In addition, our research library is always looking for any images of Waukegan, particularly architectural images and pictures of streetscapes.

If you have items you are interesting in donating, please contact the Haines Museum or the Raymond Research Library. Contact information can be found on the back page. Bill Tyre, President

### THE HISTORIC MYSTERY TRUNK PROGRAM

For over a year now, at the Waukegan Historical Society has been visiting area elementary schools and presenting the *Historic Mystery Trunk*. The trunk is filled with objects from the museum's collection and brought to local elementary schools for a 30-40 minute presentation. Students are able to handle and examine actual museum objects. This hands-on program has been highly successful and has even been expanded to schools outside of Waukegan's borders.

This program introduces the students to objects that are obsolete in today's world but were used everyday 100+ years ago. The program also allows children to look at objects differently, in a more historical viewpoint, by displaying the evolution of objects that we all use today.

This is the first of several Outreach Programs being developed and we look forward to helping Waukegan elementary students learn more about Waukegan's storied history! If you would like this program presented at your child's school, please give the Waukegan Historical Society a call at: 847-336-1859.



## THE RAILROAD

On the past January 11, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of an event important in Waukegan's development. (You did celebrate, didn't you?) On that day in 1855, the first train carrying passengers arrived in town. An enormous celebration followed.

The Illinois Parallel Railroad Company was chartered on February 17, 1851. Its charge was to build a railroad from Chicago, along the Lake Michigan shore, to the Illinois - Wisconsin state line. A dozen commissioners were appointed to sell stock in the company. Local notables in that group included Henry Blodgett, David Cory and Daniel Dickinson. That group first met on September 9, 1851. Construction was begun and, during that period, the name was changed to The Chicago & Milwaukee Railroad.

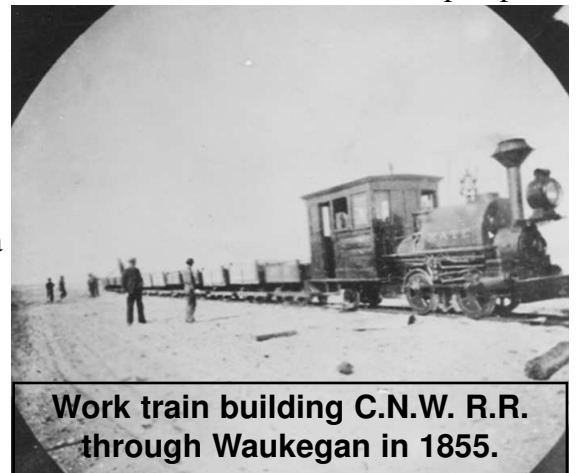
The first train reached Waukegan on December 19, 1854, but it was the following month when the first passengers were transported and normal service began. The celebratory train left Chicago at 9:30 that Thursday morning. After a three hour trip it reached Waukegan and was met by the ringing of church bells, the roar of cannons and the music of a brass band. Mayor J.C. Smith greeted the visitors, who included Alderman Stickney substituting for Chicago Mayor Millikin.

The guests and locals moved to Dickinson Hall for a dinner for 300-400 people, with Hiram Hugunin as toastmaster. Nine more speeches were given on a variety of topics. Following the dinner, many returned to Chicago at 5 p.m., but others stayed here to enjoy a grand ball that evening. Those who remained returned home by train the following morning.

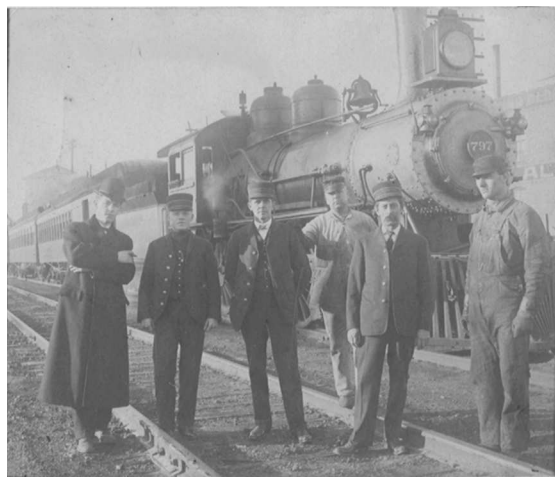
Regular service between Chicago and Waukegan began immediately with a train making a two hour journey each way every day. Stage service was provided from Waukegan north, going through Kenosha and Racine and arriving in Milwaukee that evening. The stage wasn't needed for long as the railroad tracks to Milwaukee were completed on May 19, 1855. Work had been progressing south from Milwaukee for some time.

The first station master in Waukegan was Charles B. George. Soon after he became a conductor and worked until 1872. He opened the Waukegan Railway Eating House at one end on the station. Later he operated the White Front Restaurant on Washington Street.

In 1866 the Chicago & Milwaukee RR, along with many other lines, merged into the Chicago & North Western Railway. Its emphasis was on passenger and long-haul freight. It wasn't until 1899 when the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern RR came to Waukegan that the industrial lakefront would develop. The C & NW became part of the Union Pacific System in 1995.



-Ed Link



Unknown Northwestern R.R. employees posing near engine #797.



Train arriving in Waukegan 1870s.



C & NW Depot in Waukegan, 1909.



C & NW Depot in Waukegan, c. 1915.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



*See page 2 for details*

**Sunday, April 17 at 2:00pm**  
*The Barns of Lake County*

**Sunday, May 15 at 2:00pm**  
*The Puerto Rican Society*  
*Annual Meeting/Election of Officers*



## TOUR OF HOMES

**Sunday, June 26, 2005**  
**1:00 - 5:00pm**

Mark Your Calendars Now!

## MUSEUM WORK DAYS

**Saturdays at 9:00am**

**March 5th & 19th**  
**April 2nd & 16th**  
**May 7th & 21st**



## BOARD MEETINGS

**Tuesdays at 7:00pm**

**March 1st**  
**April 12th**  
**May 3rd**

## DEDICATION OF MARKER



**TO HONOR**  
**JOHN H. JANSEN**

(First Waukegan firefighter to die in the line of  
duty April 23, 1908)

**Saturday, May 21 10:00am**  
**Fireman's Memorial Park, Dover St.**

## WAUKEGAN HISTORY: IN BRIEF!

Presented by the

***Waukegan Township Park Place Senior Services***

Overview of Waukegan history from 1835 to the  
present day, including a lecture and bus tour.

Presenters will be

***Chandra Sefton, Hank Bogdala, and***  
***Mayor Richard Hyde.***

**Lecture: Thursday, March 24, 10:00-11:30am**

414 S. Lewis Avenue

**Bus tour: Friday, March 25, 10:00-11:30am**

Includes a visit to the

Genesee Theatre and Haines Museum

Fee: \$19.00

Call:

Park Place at 847-244-9242 for reservations

## WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT EVENTS

March 6, 2005 4pm	Waukegan Concert Chorus-Voces in Spirit
March 12, 2005 Sunset Lanes	Special Rec 16th Annual Bowling Tour
March 13, 2005 4pm	Waukegan Symphony Orchestra-Urban Adventures
March 17, 2005 Bonnie Brook	St. Patty's Day Feast
March 26, 2005 2pm Belvidere Park	Eggstravaganza
March 27, 2005 Bonnie Brook	Easter Sunday Buffet
April 1, 2005 Bowen Park	Bowen Park Theatre Company
	The Tamin' of the Shrew
April 23, 2005 1-3pm Belvidere Park	Flying 4 Kids
April 23, 2005 7:30pm	Waukegan Symphony Orchestra & Concert Chorus
	Sounds of the Spirit
May 8, 2005 Bonnie Brook Clubhouse	Mother's Day Buffet Brunch

## YOUR HOUSE HAS A HISTORY

A free seminar sponsored by the Waukegan Historic Preservation Commission

**Sunday, March 13, 2:00-4:00pm**

**Waukegan Public Library, 128 N. County St., Bradbury Room**

Learn the basics of researching your old house and the people who have called it home  
through the years.

## MUSEUM CLOSURES

Please note that the museum will be closed on the following dates: March 18th / April 1st / May 30th

**WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

In addition to learning more about the long and fascinating history of Waukegan, membership in the historical society comes with many additional benefits. Use the membership application below. Consider becoming a member, or giving a gift membership to a friend. It also makes a great welcome gift to a new neighbor.

**Benefits of membership:**

- \* \$2.00 discount on any ticket to the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra, Waukegan Concert Chorus, Bowen Park Theatre, or Bowen Park Opera;
- \* 10% off any entree at Kong's Restaurant, 40 N. Genesee Street;
- \* 10% off any entree at Madison Avenue, 34 N. Sheridan Road;
- \* 10% off any sandwich at the Uptown Cafe, 300 N. County Street;
- \* 10% off Society gift items including the Jack Benny CD and the book *Images of America: Waukegan, Illinois* when purchased at the museum.

*(Restaurant discounts at the discretion of management, call to confirm.)*

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE SOCIETY  
AND HAINES MUSEUM**

The Society is a volunteer organization, and we are always seeking new volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks. We have many different opportunities available to match your interest. No previous experience is necessary; we will gladly train you. Listed below is a summary of the positions available.

- \* **Museum Docent** - serves as a guide for visitors to the museum, including 'room-watching' during special events;
- \* **Program Aide** - assists with the educational programs;
- \* **Exhibition Assistant** - aids in the planning and implementation of displays and exhibits;
- \* **Collections Assistant** - helps with the historical collections, including cataloging and conserving objects;
- \* **Administrative Aide** - assists with clerical activities;
- \* **Researcher** - investigates subjects for upcoming exhibits and responds to requests from scholars and residents;
- \* **Maintenance Assistant** - assists in the upkeep of the museum facility.

*(Use the form below or call Brian Hora at 847-336-1859 to volunteer or to get further information)*



**Membership Application**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- 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
- Corporate.....\$500.00
- Please Accept My Additional Gift.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the **Waukegan Historical Society**

**Volunteer Application**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**(Check as many as you are interested in!)**

- Museum Docent
- Program Aide
- Exhibition Assistant
- Collections Assistant
- Administrative Aide
- Researcher
- Maintenance Assistant

Mail To: Waukegan Historical Society  
 1917 N. Sheridan Road  
 Waukegan, IL. 60087

*Spring Programs*  
*April 17th*  
*May 15th*



<p><b>WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b></p> <p>William Tyre.....President  Harry Came.....Vice President  Betsy Alleman.....Treasurer  Ellen Frew.....Recording/Corresponding Secretary  Sara Griffin.....Immediate Past President  Gretta Dieck.....Director  Margaret Martin.....Director  Denyse Waters.....Director  Sean Wiedel.....Director</p> <p>Website.....www.waukeganhistorical.org</p> <p>Contact:  William Tyre  Telephone (evenings/weekends).....847-625-7896  Email.....w.tyre@comcast.net</p> <p><i>Newsletter published quarterly in March, June, September, December</i></p>	<p><b><u>Haines House Museum</u></b>  1917 N. Sheridan Road  Waukegan, IL. 60087  Telephone.....847-336-1859  Email.....<a href="mailto:haines@waukeganparks.org">haines@waukeganparks.org</a>  Museum Supervisor.....Brian Hora</p> <p><i>Open for public tours:</i>  Monday through Friday.....1:00pm - 3:00pm  1st &amp; 2nd Saturday of each month.....1:00pm - 3:00pm  Group Tours by Appointment</p> <p><b><u>J. L. Raymond Memorial Library</u></b>  Lilac Cottage  1911 N. Sheridan Road  Waukegan, IL. 60087  Telephone.....847-360-4772  Librarian.....Beverly Millard</p> <p><i>Library Hours:</i>  Wednesday through Friday.....10:00am - 2:30pm</p> <p><i>Photocopying services available for 25 cents per page.  On site assistance with genealogical and general research.</i></p>
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