



Newsletter of the

WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME V NUMBER 3

SEPTEMBER 2005

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Check us out online!

President's Letter

www.waukeganhistorical.org

I am delighted to report that our annual Tour of Homes held this year on Sunday June 26th was a huge success! Over 500 tickets were sold, making this the largest tour in memory. Nearly 50% of those attending came from outside Waukegan, including residents of over 40 communities in Illinois and Wisconsin. The success of the Tour is due to many individuals. I wish to especially thank our homeowners, volunteers, David Motley and the City of Waukegan, and Rich Ribando and the News Sun. The Genesee Theatre of course was one of the great highlights of the tour, and I wish to thank David Rovine for his cooperation in opening the theatre.

The Museum proved to be a popular destination at the annual Fourth of July festivities as well, and Brian Hora and I each took several groups through the museum prior to the start of the parade. In 2006, the Society hopes to participate in the parade. The Simmons-Cooke exhibit continues to draw interested residents to the museum, and additional press on the loss of this treasure has appeared this summer in *This Old House* magazine and *Architectural Salvage News*.

A number of exciting events are being offered this fall. Our annual Cemetery Walk, always a popular event, is scheduled for Saturday September 24th. A great amount of work goes into researching those former Waukeganites depicted each year. This year, the theme will revolve around Waukegan harbor. See page 6 for more details.

On Sunday October 9th at 6:00pm, T.O.W.N. (Taskforce on Waukegan Neighborhoods) will hold a public meeting at the First Baptist Church. I have been asked to participate in a panel discussion that evening on preservation issues in Waukegan, and the importance of landmarking our significant buildings.

On Sunday October 16th at 2:00pm, our own Ed Link will present a fascinating look at important events in Waukegan's history, utilizing the diaries of newspaperman Hobart Yard. These diaries span 1875 to 1943 and provide a marvelous snapshot of our city through the eyes of a longtime chronicler of our growing city. See page 2 for more details.

The new Veteran's Park will be dedicated on Veteran's Day, Friday November 11th. Brian Hora and Beverly Millard have both spent significant time assembling information on Waukegan residents who have served in all wars going back to the Civil War. The new park will be a fitting tribute to these men and women who served their country proudly, and especially for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

And it is not too early to plan ahead for our annual Holiday Open House, scheduled this year for Sunday December 11th from 2:00 to 4:00pm. This popular event showcases the Haines House Museum decked out in all of its Victorian splendor. Mark your calendars now and look for more details in our December newsletter.

Bill Tyre, President

NEWS FROM THE PAST

The following advertisement appeared in *The Waukegan Gazette* on February 7, 1857:

WAUKEGAN HOUSE PARRISH & DODGE, PROPRIETORS.

Corner of Genesee and Madison Streets

The proprietor would inform the friends of the house and the public generally, that they have refitted and refurnished the Waukegan House throughout, and are prepared to accommodate all those who may favor them with a call, in good and comfortable style. The tables will be furnished with all the delicacies that the market affords. We would like to say to the farmers that they can be accommodated at the following prices:

Dinner and horses to hay in barn, - \$.25

Supper, bed, breakfast, and horse to hay, - \$1.00

Guests conveyed to and from the cars free. - Please give us a call.

NEW MEMBERS

BILL KLOSS (LIFE) - DIANE VERRATTI (LIFE) - MARLENE GRAHAM (LIFE) - CHERYL GRAHAM/PTASIENSKI (LIFE)

MR. & MRS. JOHN KATALINICH - KATHRYN CLAY - MR. & MRS. GEORGE EMERY - JAN SCHROEDER

MR. & MRS. PHIL PAISER - CAROLYN BRODE - MR. & MRS. DANIEL DIECK - KEN DIECK - TOM & GINNIE LANG

MR. & MRS. GARY STARBRID - JAN YOUNG - BILL RUMMLER - BARBARA STONE - SUE & JOHN SCHWAB

SANDRA SORENSEN - MICHAEL DETHORNE - GEORGE & BARB DOYLE - JOANN D. OSMOND - WILLIAM BIANG

WAUKEGAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

FALL PROGRAM

"Through a Reporter's Eyes - The Diaries of Hobart Yard"

Sunday, October 16, 2005 - 2:00 p.m. - Schornick Theatre - 39 Jack Benny Drive - Bowen Park

Historian Ed Link will discuss important historical events in Waukegan in the late 1800s and early 1900s as recorded in the diaries of veteran newspaperman Hobart Yard. Yard was born in Waukegan in 1864 and spent his career as a stringer (independent reporter) for many Waukegan and Lake County papers. His diaries, spanning the years 1875 to 1943, were recently donated to the Waukegan Historical Society. Of particular interest are the diaries covering the 1890s, for which no newspapers survive. Learn about some of Waukegan's most important events as seen through the eyes of this prolific and colorful reporter. Admission is free, refreshments will be served.

For further information call 847-336-1859 or visit www.waukeganhistorical.org.

EXHIBITS!

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 Academy Theatre, demolished in 2004.



Lost Treasure: The Simmons-Cooke House

The recent demolition of the historic Simmons-Cooke house at 104 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue was a devastating blow to Waukegan. The beautiful Greek Revival structure was among the very oldest buildings in the city, and predated the founding of the City of Waukegan. This exhibit traces the history of three generations of the Simmons and Cooke families, and their impact on Waukegan and Lake County. In addition, the fifty year occupancy of the building by the Quietdale Funeral Home is explored, along with an in depth look at the efforts of the Historic Preservation Commission over the past year to save this important part of our local heritage. Fragments salvaged during demolition will be on display. Through December 2005.



The Paper Clip: A Victorian Invention

It is generally believed that the first known fastening of papers started in the 13th century when a short length of ribbon was placed through parallel incisions in the upper left hand corner of pages. This was followed by a seal-method, the act of connecting papers with wax and textile ribbons. Almost 600 years passed before any serious attempt was made to improve the ribbon fastener. Come view our small exhibit unraveling the twisted history of the paper clip.

Recent Donations:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Object</u>
Betsy Alleman.....	82 photos, negatives from her father Earl Schlung
James Allen.....	4 Photographs
Kathryn Berry.....	Medical Books -Dr. John Foley
Irene A. Witek-Charcut.....	2 WWII Army Air Force Uniforms
Gretta Dieck.....	Scrapbook - Goodbout family, wedding photo, scrapbook pages, 1913 Telephone directory, 1959 Centennial, negatives and articles re: 503 N. Genesee St., decorative glass grapes
Robert Dugan.....	Waukegan High School Yearbooks
Elizabeth Eimerman.....	Photo of Hardware from Elks Club 1984
Tom Jansen.....	History of John Hobart Jansen
Mary Kaiser.....	Silver Serving Set
Joyce Metzler.....	Lakehurst scrapbook and aerial photo 1970-1974
Walter Monroe.....	1951 Map and Lawrence 1909 Map
Arline Potter.....	2 flag stands, 2 flags
Rosemary - News Sun.....	Bernice Just Bio and Obit
Steve Rossworm.....	20 Years of cooperative trading - 1931
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Rummeler.....	Leach Family History and Genealogy
Steve Sabourin.....	Photo CD of house at 2127 Ash
Don & Rosemary Scherwat.....	Furniture shawl, Ceramic Trivet
Kris Simmons.....	1910 and 1912 High School Yearbook
Mary Milnar Stephens - Daniel Webster School.....	3 DVDs Webster Student Project on Waukegan History
Roxanne Swanson.....	Photo of Jack Benny
Bill Tyre.....	Photos & CD- 8 E. Madison - 102 S. Sheridan, 2 Harper's Weekly
Tim Vavrek.....	1974, 1967, 1963 Lake County Atlas
Renee Werth.....	Kirkby Genealogy Info and Photos
Frances White.....	Asstd. Books, 5 dresses, tokens, wooden shoes, crocheted sampler book, wooden nickel

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

MUSEUM WISH LIST

The Society is grateful for all of the donations that members and residents have made recently, including several who provided items as they were in the process of "downsizing." The Museum is always most appreciative to have any materials relating to Waukegan, especially architectural photos for our archives. In our continuing effort to furnish the dining room, we are also looking for silver or silverplated flatware from the 1800s as well as napkin rings and possibly china. Please keep the Society in mind if you have items such as these and are looking for a good home for them.

WAUKEGAN TIMES TO FEATURE HISTORIC HOMES

Matt Pera, staff reporter at the *Waukegan Times*, has initiated an ongoing series of articles which will highlight some of Waukegan's significant historic homes. The idea is to showcase these architectural treasures and reinforce the importance of preserving them. Each article will contain photos and information on the architecture, history and previous owners, and will include an interview with the current owner and their work on preserving the home. The first three articles featured the Swartout house at 414 N. Sheridan Road (now the Shimer Admissions Office), the Ellis/Buck house at 710 N. Sheridan Road (now owned by Craig and Faith Wilson) and the Clarke house at 408 N. Sheridan Road (now the Peterson & Patch Funeral Home). If you have suggestions for homes to be featured in future articles, please contact Bill Tyre at w.tyre@comcast.net.

NEW OUTREACH PROGRAMS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Our Historic Mystery Trunk program for school-age children has been very popular this past school year. We are now in the process of creating another educational outreach program. If you or someone you know has a subject you would like to see covered, please contact the Historical Society.

HORSES

In our modern, urban community we often forget that this was once an agricultural area. The early settlers came here for a variety of reasons, including good farm land and a lake which allowed easier transportation of their goods. Among the many agricultural pursuits, an important one was the care and raising of horses.

Obviously horses were the primary mode of transportation and power prior to the automotive age. But their influence was very wide-spread and extended even after the arrival of cars.

Waukegan had a fair grounds; 30 acres roughly bounded by Park, Jackson, Clayton and Washington streets. It contained a half-mile oval race track, where trotting races had prizes as high as \$150. Those events ended in the mid-1880s.

Raeside Bros. imported and bred Clydesdale horses and Shetland ponies. They were large enough to advertise in a national farm paper in 1888.

To secure these large investments, the Waukegan Horse Owners' Protective Association existed in 1889. They used members' dues to recover stolen horses and to prosecute thieves.

As late as 1917, the Prairie Farmer's Directory of Lake County listed four horse shoers, two blacksmiths and one harness maker - all within the city limits.

Horses were also used for many delivery services. There was a horse-drawn bus from the railroad station to the Waukegan House at Genesee and Madison. The dairies had home deliveries and the horses probably knew the routes better than the drivers. These routes lasted until 1949. While the fire department became mechanized in 1911, their records show that the fire horses continued to be exercised until at least 1919. The last horse-drawn cab was retired from city streets in 1922.

As the city expanded there was less and less space available for horses and the area was needed for other purposes. Carl Chope ran the Waukegan Riding Stables until his death in 1959. Today that property is the site of the Golf Road fire station.

Now agriculture is just a memory for Waukegan, but not so for horses. The police department acquired Freedom and Liberty to help with crowd control. They were later joined by Justice. All three help keep alive part of our past.

Ed Link



THE BUS AT THE WAUKEGAN HOUSE



WAUKEGAN FIRE DEPARTMENT



A CARRIAGE RIDE TO ONE OF WAUKEGAN'S MANY MINERAL SPRINGS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL PROGRAM

See page 2 for details

"Through a Reporter's Eyes - The Diaries of Hobart Yard"

Sunday, October 16, 2005 - 2:00 p.m.
Schornick Theatre - 39 Jack Benny Drive
Bowen Park

Admission is free.
refreshments will be served.

For further information call 847-336-1859
or visit www.waukeganhistorical.org.

MUSEUM WORK DAYS

Saturdays at 9:00am

September 3rd & 17th
October 1st & 15th
November 5th & 19th



BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesdays at 7:00pm

September 6th
October 4th
November 1st

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT EVENTS

Sept. 24, 2005	12-4:00pm	Oakwood Cemetery Walk
Sept. 16-18, 2005 22-24,29-Oct. 1		Bowen Park Theatre Company -And Then There Were None
October 1, 2005	2-3:30pm	Child Safety Day
October 1, 2005	6-10:00pm	Oktoberfest
October 29, 2005	3-8:00pm	Halloweenfest
November 12, 2005	11-2:00pm	Turkey Trot



VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

Dedication:
Friday, November 11, 2005

Southwest corner of Washington Street and West Street in Washington Park.

The Washington Park Veterans Memorial will honor military service personnel from Waukegan who served their country.

OAKWOOD CEMETERY WALK

Saturday, September 24, 2005 - 12:00 - 4:00pm
Celebrating Waukegan's Lakefront Legacy

The City of Waukegan, Waukegan Park District and Waukegan Historical Society invite you to join them as we step back into the past of Waukegan.

⚓ Buses will depart Lilac Cottage at 12:45, 1:45, and 3:10.

⚓ **No parking is available at Oakwood Cemetery.**

⚓ Free Guided Tour of Oakwood Cemetery Historic Sites

⚓ Free Bus Transportation to Oakwood Cemetery

⚓ Vintage Clothing & Uniforms Encouraged

⚓ Haines Museum Open Noon - 4pm

⚓ Free Activities & Prizes for Kids

⚓ Free Refreshments

For more information contact Brian Hora at 847-336-1859

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 11, 2005

2:00pm - 4:00pm

**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

*Fall Program
Sunday, October 16th
2:00pm
See page 2 for details*



<p>WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY</p> <p>William Tyre.....President Gretta Dieck.....Vice President Harry Came.....Treasurer Ellen Frew.....Recording/Corresponding Secretary Sara Griffin.....Immediate Past President Betsy Alleman.....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><u>Haines House Museum</u> 1917 N. Sheridan Road Waukegan, IL. 60087 Telephone.....847-336-1859 Email.....haines@waukeganparks.org Museum Supervisor.....Brian Hora</p> <p><i>Open for public tours:</i> Monday through Friday.....1:00pm - 3:00pm 1st & 2nd Saturday of Every Month.....1:00pm - 3:00pm Group Tours by Appointment</p> <p><u>J. L. Raymond Memorial Library</u> Lilac Cottage 1911 N. Sheridan Road Waukegan, IL. 60087 Telephone.....847-360-4772 Email.....lilac@waukeganparks.org 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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