

VOLUME IV NUMBER 4

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Holiday Open House, December 12, 2:00-5:00pm

*see page 2 for details

President's Letter

Recent events have reinforced the importance of preserving our history for future generations. During the summer, the County announced that they had purchased the Simmons-Cooke house (formerly Quietdale Funeral Home) with the intention of razing it to expand their surface parking lots. And then, at the end of October, a devastating fire gutted the Academy Theatre building at Genesee and Clayton, resulting in its demolition.

The Historic Preservation Commission for the City of Waukegan is working closely with the County to find a way to save the Simmons-Cooke house from demolition, most likely by moving the structure to another site. The Academy on the other hand, was damaged beyond the point of repair, but the Society did work with the city in the removal and preservation of significant pieces of terra cotta from the façade, which hopefully can be incorporated into whatever building is eventually constructed on the site.

In this issue, Ed Link provides a look back at the history of these two important structures and the role they have played in the development of our city.

I'm excited to announce two events planned for the month of December.

Our annual holiday open house will be held on Sunday, December 12th from 2:00 to 5:00pm at the Haines House Museum. And on the same day, at 2:00pm, Craig Pfannkuche will present a fascinating slide lecture on the history of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway in Waukegan, at the Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre in Bowen Park. See page 2 for further information on both these events.

Our Museum Committee continues to work hard in restoring the Haines Museum to its 1870s appearance, and you'll enjoy seeing the new items that have been put out on display, especially in the dining room. As December is the traditional time of year to draw up a "wish list," the Committee has also made a list of items we need to complete the various rooms in the museum. See the listing on page 3.

I wish all of our members and friends a happy and joyous holiday season. May the memories and traditions of holidays gone by play an important role for you during this special time of the year.

Bill Tyre, President

News from the past!

The following article appeared in the first issue of the first paper ever printed in Waukegan, then Little Fort, on March 4, 1845. The newspaper was "The Little Fort Porcupine and Democratic Banner", owned by Archimedes B. Wynkoop.

"The village of Little Fort is situated upon the shore of Lake Michigan forty-five miles down the lake from Chicago, nine and a half miles south of the north line of the state, and sixteen up the lake from Southport. There is nearly one-half section of land laid out in lots, a great portion of which are sold and improved. A Court House, the best in the State has been constructed the past season, and sixty-one other buildings, among which we enumerate a brick block of three stories, by D.S. Dewey; a 'fine tavern house' by Michael Dulanty; a large addition to Dickinson and Company's warehouse; and a warehouse 100 x 24 feet, two and a half stories high, by A.B. Wynkoop."

"The place contains 452 inhabitants, three commodious public houses, seven stores, two groceries, two blacksmith shops, one tin and sheet metal factory, two shoe-shops, three tailor shops, one chair and cabinet factory, one watchmaker, one gunsmith, two wheelwrights, one plow factory, three warehouses, one pier, and a second being constructed by A.B. Wynkoop. The timber is now being framed for a steam flouring mill. There is good clay and two yards, where brick is being made of superior quality. The facilities of this place for a heavy produce and lumber business are not surpassed by any place on the western shore of the lake, north of Chicago. It is backed up by the best wheat growing country in Illinois, and must become a town of considerable importance ere it gets to its teens."

Welcome to Our New Members

Nancy Samela

Margaret Sykes

Brian Bailey

Gail O'Connor

Current and Upcoming Exhibits!

Education in Waukegan

In this newest exhibit, we have put together objects and images within our collection that display how learning has changed in Waukegan through the years. Come see how schools both past and present continue to shape our children.

Genesee Street: Then and Now

The changing face of Waukegan's famous Genesee street through the years. Exhibit starts January 15th.

Holiday Open House and December Program



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



Sunday, December 12, 2004, 2:00-5:00pm
Haines House Museum
1917 N. Sheridan Rd., Bowen Park

Join the Waukegan Historical Society for a journey back in time and experience the charm of a late 19th century Christmas in the setting of the beautifully restored Haines House Museum.

Highlights include:

- A huge parlor tree decorated with vintage and reproduction ornaments
- A children's tree surrounded by antique toys and games
- A display of antique dolls, recently restored
- Elegant stairways draped in pine roping
- The recently furnished dining room readied for the Christmas feast

THE CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY IN WAUKEGAN

Presented by Craig L. Pfannkuche
Sunday, December 12, 2004, 2:00pm
Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre, Bowen Park



Waukegan became a station stop on the Chicago and Milwaukee Railroad time tables on December 19, 1854 after crews finished laying rails northward to the Illinois state line. By 1881, the road was known as the Chicago, Milwaukee, and Northwestern Railway, extended through Milwaukee to the farm and timber lands around Green Bay. Waukegan businesses were quick to use the line once they realized how irregular steamship traffic was, due to ice and other weather conditions.

Craig Pfannkuche, the Genealogical Archivist of the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society, will discuss the history of railroads in Waukegan as well as explain how interested researchers can obtain access to the archives of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, considered to be the most complete of any of the Chicago area railroads.

Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Recent Donations:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Object</u>
Richard Bairstow.....	Newspapers, Dance Cards, Newspaper Clippings, Programs, Postcards, Pamphlets
Randy Bowcott.....	4 Dining Room Chairs
Harry Came.....	2 Dining Room Chairs; 2 Iron Planters
Mary L. Canty.....	1937 Letter from Mancel Talcott
Ann Darrow.....	WWII Veterans Buried at Oakwood Cemetery U.S.S. Connolly - World War II
Jo-Ellen Killoran Domalski.....	2 Framed Wedding Photographs
Ela Township Historical Society.....	10 Waukegan Postcards
Alene Falk.....	Antique doll dress & petticoat
Douglas S. Farnham.....	Howe Genealogy
Kathleen Kinderfather.....	Cook book from Christ Episcopal Church - St. Catherine's Guild
Brian Leekley & Rev. Kayle Rice.....	34 Diary-Journals kept by Hobart P. Yard 1875-1935
Edward Link.....	Gold Rush Journals Joseph Porter & French's Express
Margaret May.....	Smithsonian Guides to Antiques - Williamsburgs Productions - Kovel's Know Your Collectors
Rebecca Patton.....	Wall clock & porcelain bowl
Rob Proce.....	Blueprint and Abstract of Home, Masonic Photos, Doll Photo
Janet Sarsha.....	10 photographs, 3 postcards, 1945 newspaper, Walgreens Pill Box
Mr. & Mrs. John Schwab.....	Waukegan Map 1959 - 1923 News Sun - National Envelope Co. Pamphlets - Photos of Dr. Goodbouts home
Chandra Sefton.....	Antique doll; 1 pair of ladies black shoes.
James Somers.....	Photos from Tour of Homes, Cemetery Walk and new City Hall. Postcard, 1870 Sketch of Waukegan.
Mr. & Mrs. Styx.....	Picture History Portfolio 1929
William Tyre.....	American Legion Medal; 3 19th century prints.

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

UNIQUE DONATION

Brian Leekley and Rev. Kayle Rice from Marquette, Michigan recently have given us 34 yearly diary-journals from 1875 to 1934 by Hobart P. Yard. Some of these were handmade by Mr. Yard who was a newspaper correspondent for all Waukegan papers as well as contributor to Chicago papers for over 60 years. Our library volunteers are finding a lot of interesting material in them.

We thank Mr. Leekley and Rev. Rice for this wonderful donation!

Beverly Millard

Academy Theatre / Fiesta Palace 1916-2004

Located on the site of an early school known as the Waukegan Academy, the theatre opened June 10, 1916 featuring a thousand seats for 10 cents each (party loge seats cost a quarter). Built by George Spoor of Essanay Studios fame, it was managed by his brother Walter. Early ads emphasized its perfect ventilation, being absolutely fireproof and the "only theatre in Waukegan with a real pipe organ."

When the Genesee was being built, management of both theatres was taken over by Great States, and the Spoor family connection was ended, although they continued to own the building for another dozen years.

One of many remodelings took place in 1929. That time it was for the installation of a sound system, so that the first "talkie", "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" could be shown on November 12. Most of the other alterations concerned interior areas, but three distinct marquees existed over the years.

Promotions were a normal part of doing business. There was the appearance of Miss Illinois, along with other bathing beauties. China Nights provided free dishes and bank nights gave the opportunity for free money. But the promotions couldn't always guarantee sufficient attendance. It was closed for extended periods during the Depression.

Management switched to Plitt in 1974. When they threatened to close the theatre in 1982, it was sold to George Kallianis, who continued to show movies for a few more years. In April, 1989 Jorge Torres opened the building as the Fiesta Palace, a Hispanic Cultural Center. The City of Waukegan purchased the building in 2003, and a fire removed this familiar downtown landmark on October 27, 2004.



The Cooke Family

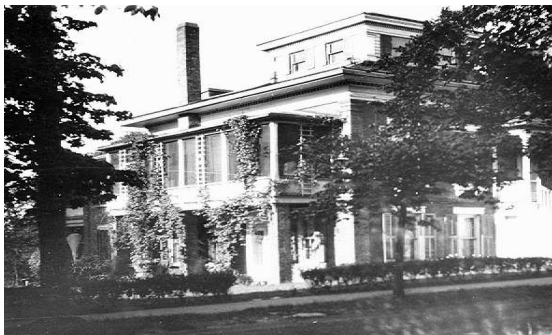
The Cooke family contributed much to the community over a long period of time. Homer Cook (the "e" would be added later) came from Vermont to Lake County along with his family in 1840. He became a lawyer and was one of those to greet Abraham Lincoln when he visited in April, 1860. Homer married Sally Simmons and they had seven children, one boy and six girls.

Their son, Andrew Cooke, served in the Spanish-American War, was Waukegan City Collector and President of Harris Trust & Savings Bank in Chicago. He was appointed President of the Waukegan School Board. Here he made considerable contributions. Among his innovations were modern accounting practices that saved much money, visiting nurses and the incorporation of kindergarten and evening classes into the educational process.

Homer and Sally bought the Simmons family home at Water and Utica (today's Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue) Streets about 1863. It had been built in 1854 by Sally's father Ichabod Simmons, an early Sheriff of Lake County. Later they sold it to Andrew. It was in this house that Andrew would lie in state following his untimely death at age 38 in 1916. The Ravine Park School, then under construction on Belvidere Street, was re-named in his honor.

It is somewhat ironic that the house held Andrew's funeral in 1916. In the early 1940s Eugene and Aileen Lehtimaki purchased the property and operated Quietdale Funeral Home from there for about 50 years.

Today the house is empty. Recently it has been purchased by Lake County so that additional parking can be made available. The Historic Preservation Commission is working with the County to preserve the building, most likely by identifying a new owner who will move it to another site.



ICHABOD SIMMONS,

Deputy United States Assessor

Of Internal Revenue for the 7th Division of the 2d District of Illinois, comprising the County of Lake, can be found in the office of the County Clerk from 10a.m. to 12p.m., and from 1 to 3 p.m.,
Waukegan, Nov. 19th, 1864.

Waukegan Weekly Gazette, March 9, 1867

IMPORTANT UPCOMING WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
<p>December 4th <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p>December 7th <i>WHS Board Meeting 7:00pm</i> <i>Home of Sara Griffin</i></p> <p>December 11th <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p>December 12th Holiday Open House 2:00-5:00pm <i>Program 2:00pm</i> See page 2 for details</p> <p>December 25th Christmas Day Museum Closed</p>	<p>January 4th <i>WHS Board Meeting 7:00pm</i></p> <p>January 15th <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p>	<p>February 1st <i>WHS Board Meeting 7:00pm</i></p> <p>February 5th <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p>February 9th <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p>February 14th <i>Valentine's Day</i> & <i>Jack Benny's Birthday</i></p>

OTHER EVENTS IN WAUKEGAN AND THE SURROUNDING AREA!

<p>December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 Libertyville-Mundelein Historical Society <i>Open House with Victorian holiday decorations</i> 1:00 -5:00pm</p> <p>December 3rd Raupp Memorial Museum <i>Exhibit: Everybody's Got a Gift</i> <i>Paintings of adult art students of the Buffalo Grove Park District</i> Through Dec. 31st 847-459-2318</p> <p>December 4th Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country <i>Open House: Tours of museum, photos with Santa Claus, gifts, refreshments.</i> 11:00-3:00pm 847-566-7743</p> <p>December 12th Grayslake Historical Society <i>Open House: Children can have their picture taken with Santa Claus in the museum's vintage sleigh.</i> 1:30-3:30pm 847-223-7663</p> <p>December 12th Warren Township Historical Society <i>Open House: Victorian holiday, children's coloring contest.</i> 847-263-9540</p>	<p>January 4th Warren Township Historical Society <i>Meeting: Board members will talk about items from the collections; members are welcome to bring unusual items for Show and Tell.</i> 7:00pm</p> <p>January 9th Grayslake Historical Society <i>Open House: Special exhibits feature doll houses from several decades, and boys toys.</i> 1:30-3:30pm 847-223-7663</p> <p>January 10th Raupp Memorial Museum <i>Exhibit: Why Here, Why Now?</i> <i>Explores the fascinating stories of the immigrant families from different lands who chose to make Buffalo Grove their new home.</i> 847-459-2318</p>	<p>February 5th Waukegan Yacht Club <i>Mardi Gras Masquerade</i> 6:00pm - 10:pm</p> <p>February 19th Waukegan Park District <i>Father / Daughter Date Night</i> 7:00pm - 9:30pm Registration Required 847-360-4700</p>
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**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

Holiday Open House
December 12th
See page 2 for details



<p>WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY</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><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 each 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 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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