



Grayslake Historical Society

164 HAWLEY STREET ♦ P.O. BOX 185 ♦ GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS 60030-0185 ♦ 847-223-7663

UPDATE

February 2011

Village Municipal History Museum
164 Hawley Street
Grayslake, Illinois
Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 12:00 to 4:00
Tours by appointment

Grayslake Historical Society
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THE PAST IS HISTORY

Have you visited the Grayslake Heritage Center and Village Municipal History Museum? About 1900 individuals have since it opened in August 2010. This number includes scout and school groups. In addition over 300 people have been taken part in outreach programs of the Grayslake Historical Society. Neither of these numbers include those who listened to programs hosted by the Society in the Community Room. Here are some events which have brought people to our Museum.

In September two young Boy Scout dens met in the classroom of the Museum and then toured the galleries. Ty Rohrer, Museum Supervisor of the Haines House Museum operated by the Waukegan Historical Society and Waukegan Park District, gave the Society a wonderful, entertaining program about Waukegan's favorite son, Jack Benny. The audience enjoyed listening and seeing Jack in vintage clips.

October was a busy month. The thirteenth annual Living History Tour of the Grayslake Cemetery was held. Deceased Maria Forvor welcomed the audience to the cemetery. One hundred year old Sarah Longabaugh talked about cremation. Former Mayor and businessman Sid Carfield led the audience to six gravesites. Anna Struthers, wife of a Grayslake doctor told about the American Legion Auxiliary. Businessman and brother of Grayslake's first mayor, talked about the Masons. From World War I veteran Joseph Peterkort, Jr., the group learned about Grayslake's American Legion. Alma Johnson, the second wife of Bert Johnson, belonged to the Royal Neighbors. Ed Kapple of the pioneer Kapple Family

was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Jennie Heard's father was a Civil War Veteran. She participated in activities of the Eastern Star.

The Society and visitors heard the history of Abbott Laboratories at their October program. Using power point, member Tim Holst gave extensive information about the founder and the company.

Woodview third graders walked to the Museum and learned the history of Grayslake as they walked through the galleries led by Society docents. Prairieview third graders were bused to the Museum and enjoyed a similar tour. The Society was thrilled to have Grayslake High School history students come to the Museum for the first time. The students from Grayslake Central and Grayslake North also visited the Chicago History Museum the same day. In Grayslake, they toured the galleries, learned about the Society, had a slide presentation and viewed the architectural details of the building. First graders from Woodview School learned about various artifacts displayed in the Museum.

During November a Girl Scout troop came to the Museum. The Society learned more about the Sears house which unsuccessfully tried to move to a new location along the shore of Gages Lake. The house did not complete the "over the ice" experience. Diver Mike Kroack has researched the story and explored the ruins.

Santa and Mrs. Claus visited the Heritage Center and Museum during the Society's annual Holiday Open House held in December. The vintage sleigh was on display in the courtyard; families added a link to the decorative paper chain on the Museum tree; refreshments were served. The Heritage Center's new Executive David Oberg met the attendees dressed as a Charles Dickens era character.

Oberg comes to Grayslake from the Geneva History Center, where he was also executive director. Previously he worked at museums in Rockford. He is a former President of the Illinois Association of Museums. He is a salaried employee of the Village of Grayslake. He serves on the Heritage Center Committee, which oversees the operation of the Heritage Center. Other members of this committee are Grayslake Village Trustee Shawn Vogel, Grayslake Village Trustee Kevin Waldenstrom, Grayslake Historical Society Board Member Chris Brenner and Grayslake Historical Society President Charlotte Renehan. In January this committee held a four plus hour strategic planning session to move the Grayslake Heritage Center and Village Municipal History Museum forward in a coordinated way.

THE FUTURE IS CHALLENGING

The first program of 2011 for the Grayslake Historical Society will be presented by Grayslake resident Krista Holst on **Wednesday, February 9**. Her topic is "From Small Town Boy to US President: Celebrating Reagan's Centennial Birthday" Last year Holst gave an outstanding program on Lincoln, which was later booked by other groups. The program starts at 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Heritage Center. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Refreshments will be served.

Mark your calendar on **Sunday, February 27**. This is the date of the Grand Opening of the new exhibit, "Leave Nothing On The Field: Sports in Grayslake History". The changing gallery of the Grayslake Heritage Center and Museum will tell the stories of Grayslake athletes who were known outside the Grayslake area. Visitors will learn about Joe Nessinger, who graduated from Grayslake High School in 1948 and won the World Cup for Blind Golfers in England in 1990. Peg Behning was a harness race driver. Jim McMillen played for the World Championship Chicago Bears in 1924 and later became a professional wrestler. New York Mets pitcher Jay Hook graduated from Grayslake High School in 1953. There are others. There will be a hands-on area for children and the history of sports will be outlined.

The annual meeting of the Grayslake Historical Society will be held on **Wednesday, March 9**. At this time 2010 volunteers will be recognized and election of officers will be held. To be elected are president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and four directors. To coordinate with the sports exhibit, former Grayslake Community High School teacher, athletic director, coach Bill Eiserman will be the featured speaker. Friends, former players and others will be invited to share memories. The program starts at 7:30 PM in the Heritage Center Community Room. There is no admission charge.

On **Saturday, March 19** the Grayslake Historical Society will initiate a new event. The public is invited to "Bring Your Own Cup". Coffee and donuts will be served while members of the first few graduating classes from Grayslake High School will sit and reminisce. It will be a good time for everyone to learn a bit of Grayslake's history in an informal way and view a small display of related artifacts. The event will start at 9:30 AM in the Heritage Center. People may come and go as their personal schedules dictate.

The Museum will be open on **Sunday, April 10** during the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Station next door. The Lions will be serving from 7:30 to 1:00.

Heritage Center Executive Director Oberg will present the Society's April program. He chose the title "The Brothers' War: The Greater Grayslake Area in the Civil War" because during his research he learned how many of the area's Civil War Veterans were related. Oberg is a Civil War buff and will add much color to his stories. Oberg's talk will commence at 7:30 PM on **Wednesday, April 13** in the Community Room of the Heritage Center. Attendees can also view the Civil War display in the Center's lobby, exhibited in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the War. There is no admission charge.

Look for the Grayslake Historical Society's vehicle in Grayslake's annual Memorial Day parade. Stop at the Museum while shopping at Downtown Grayslake's Farmers Market.

A quilt exhibit will be hosted during the summer months. Check www.grayslakehistory.org for dates and details.

DONATIONS

It is through the generous support of many that the Grayslake Historical Society is able to collect, preserve and display the history of Grayslake. To them we say, "Thank You".

The following items have been added to the permanent collections of the Grayslake Historical Society during 2010. Russell Ewing - pictures of 1939 & 1941 Grayslake Grade School graduating classes 1939 & 1941 Grayslake Grade School class pins, W band pin, James Mattison - St. Gilbert School class pictures, 1947 St. Gilbert kindergarten diploma; Doug Rockenbach - program, photos, postcard, issues of the *Grayslake Times*; St. Andrew Church - bell; Tina Murphy - Rich Family trunk; Grayslake Fire Protection District - large fire department photos; Joanne Lawrence - UP Church booklet; Robert Churchill - Heritage Center dedication speech; Dorcas Brausch - Grayslake fire protection tag, early Grayslake postcards; Waukegan Historical Society - local history books; Leo Newhouse - images of former Grays Lake Park and *Grayslake Times* office; Mary Knigge - Grayslake School commencement program, Grayslake postcards; Darlene Dorfler - 1957 map of Grayslake, Marie Frandsen - Frandsen Brothers cigarette lighter; Wendy Petra - CD of Heritage Center and Museum construction; Gail Gloede - Pictures of Heritage Center and Museum including grand opening, Sharon Wells - clothes hangers from local

cleaners; Lakes Region Historical Society - Grayslake Gelatin Company items; Anonymous - Grayslake Junior High Band record.

Since the last edition of the *UPDATE*, numerous monetary donations have been received. Plaques were purchased by Shirley Christian and Philip Bruno. Brick pavers were purchased by Joan Annessor, Laurie Frank, Connie Dunbar, Jack and Marilyn Sheldon. Charlotte Renehan, Joanne and Dick Lawrence gave money in memory of Grayslake Historical Society members Mary Burge and Audrey Halsey Berglund. Donating to the general fund of the Society were Edna Smyth, Robert Frank, Loren Fandrei, St. Mary's Church Seniors, Pairievew School third graders, and Cub Scouts.

In-kind donations were received from Lori Baumgartner, Darlene Dorfler, Terese Douglass, Entwined, Marie Frandsen, Mary Friis, Grayslake Village Hall, Joanne and Dick Lawrence, David Oberg, Charlotte Renehan, Kathi Starzec, Strang Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, Ltd., Helen Thielen, Ken and Pat Yopp.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the life-blood of any organization. The Grayslake Historical Society is thankful for its helpful, faithful workers. The following will receive certificates at the March 9 program of the Society. If a name is missing, let a member of the Society Board know.

Lori Baumgartner, Marno Benande, Chris Brenner, Philip Bruno, Shirley Christian, Gayle Cinke, Doris Craig, Evonne D'Agostino, Darlene Dorfler, Terese Douglass, Connie Dunbar, Amy Edwards, Virginia Fitzgerald, Marie Frandsen, Richard Gaddis, Daniel Graham Jr., Grayslake Central High School Practicum Class, Grayslake Fire Protection District, Grayslake Public Works, Grayslake Village Hall Staff, Dorothy and Charles Groth, Ken Hansen, James Hassett, Carl Heiler, Tim, Krista and Codi Holst, Marjie Jobes, Nancy and Dick Johannsen, Michael Kroack, Joanne and Richard Lawrence, Cynthia Lee, Bill Leider, Tracey Nielsen, Joyce and Terry Norton, Laurietta Parsh, Kristin and Scott Pearsen, Charlotte Renehan, Charlene Rockenbach, Ty Rohrer, Kathi Starzec, Phyllis Stickels, David Strang, Jane Tiffany-Hansen, Shawn Vogel, Westlake Christian Academy, Christopher Wild, Pat and Ken Yopp.

A PAGE FROM THE PAST

This article comes from the archives of the Grayslake Historical Society.

"The Village Board met in regular session at the village hall Monday evening, transacting little more than the usual routine of business.

John Washborn (sic) was given permission to connect his new building opposite the Soo depot with the sewer on that street. While on the subject the water question came up, after a short discussion it was discovered that it was a matter of greater importance than many of the citizens think. As most of our readers know there is no cistern on the east side of the track, which means that in case of a fire the hose would have to be extended from this side of the railroad. Mr. McMillen stated that there was hose enough to reach to the Kuebker house from the nearest cistern on this side, but at present if the hose was to be laid across the track there is a possibility of a train cutting it in two at the critical moment. It was finally concluded that the proper thing to do was to place a box under the rails large enough to pass the hose through in case of fire. Most of the trustees expressed their approval and Mr. Brandstetter stated that in another year there might be a demand from the people on that side that would compel the village to build them a cistern, which would be an expense of \$400 or \$500, thus the necessity of a water system was again clearly shown. Since the last issue of the *Times* which contained an article dealing with this subject we heard many expressing their views and the majority seemed to be in favor of the water system.

Next came a short discussion of the cemetery line and sidewalk when Mr. Churchill arose and stated that he had found the deeds of the property and would go over them carefully and report at the next meeting. The *Times* wished to offer a suggestion on this subject to overcome this difficulty at a very small expense, and we believe the Cemetery Association will agree with us on the point. To place the walk in its proper place from the corner posts of the cemetery to the graves that are said to be outside the line, then run west to where the old walk laid, thence south past said graves which will be a distance of forty feet, thence east to the line and continue south on the said line. This would require about twenty-four feet of walk at 14¢ a foot and would give the hundreds that travel that way each day a good footpath at what we think a very small expense. It is our belief that there would be no objection to this from any one.

The lighting contract was returned, signed up by the officials of the North Shore Electric Co."

The above article was taken from the October 5, 1911 issue of the *Grayslake Times*. Grayslake received a central water system in 1914.

MEMORIES

The following memories were published in the book, *Memories of Lakeview School*, compiled by Connie Dunbar and Charlotte Renehan for the Grayslake Historical Society. The award-winning book was written in 2002 when Lakeview School at the northeast corner of Lake Street and Belvidere Road closed. The book is available for \$20.00 from the Grayslake Historical Society. Kent Rich shared these memories.

"The old building of Grayslake Grade School was surely different than the new part: wood floors in the halls, each room with a different way of hanging coats, a little right at the middle front of the second floor, a bell tower, the fire escape from the sixth grade (Why didn't we have more fire drills?), and the bathrooms in the basement. We'd jump from the last stair, grab the overhead pipe, and swing forward to a landing in front of a mirror.

Third grade was with Miss Adams, the teacher with the stiff knee. We had Book Club on Friday afternoon each week. Everyone had a chance, if they wanted to, to get up and do something in front of the class. Gay Loesser usually twirled her baton. Barbara Gotthoffer often played her cello. Sometimes several people would do a little, skit, some would read from last Sunday's funnies and some people never did anything. It was a good thing to get people used to doing something in front of an audience.

I remember sitting in Miss Cremin's, or was she Mrs. Johnson by then, fifth grade on December 8, 1941. We listened to President Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speech on the radio. Everyone was very subdued and not quite sure of what it really meant.

We had movies. It never seemed often enough. Mr. Dardenne would always have several of the infamous ERPI Classroom Films, about ten minutes each on some very education theme, for example: "The Valley of 10,000 Smokes", "How Milk is Pasteurized", "Native Cultures of Darkest Africa", and on and on. There was usually one film that lasted twenty or twenty-five minutes and then it was back to the real world. When I was in seventh and eighth grades, I got to get out of class and go down to help Mr. Gould put up the black-out blinds on the gym windows and put up the chairs for the rest of the school. I guess it paid to be restless and also have your work done.

The gym was originally built to accommodate community functions. There was/is a hole in the wall high on the south end that was intended to have a large movie projector show movies at the far end. I don't know if there was ever a movie projected from this spot, but if anyone wanted to, it

was there. I am probably one of the few people who was ever up there. I once found a skeleton key that would unlock the door that was the access and I went up the ladder to that room. It was very dusty and dim and not too wonderful once you had seen it.

We played marbles on the little strip of dirt on the south side of the old building. That was a sure sign of spring. Softball was on the BIG diamond, with left field having the obstacle of the cemetery fence. In the fall there was touch football in the open north playground. We looked for fool's gold when a new load of gravel was spread on the driveway. Those of us who lived close to school went home for lunch. Lunch time was 11:30 to 1:00 for the little kids and 12:00 to 1:00 for the big kids. Once in a while, if a parent was not going to be home, a close-to-school kid would stay for lunch in the basement lunchroom, but this was not usually allowed on a regular basis. Mothers were nearly always home at lunch time.

With very few exceptions (Mrs. Cheeseman) teachers were Miss. The principal was the only male on the staff until Mr. Green came to teach seventh grade. He wasn't there very long. Mrs. Cheeseman taught PENMANSHIP to everyone. The worst handwriting at that time would probably be considered wonderful by today's standards. You had to pass the Zaner Bloser penmanship test in eighth grade. The eighth grade reports on "Julius Caesar" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" were graded on content by Mr. Dardenne and on penmanship by Mrs. Cheeseman. Mr. Dardenne was an advocate for good English. I think I learned everything I ever learned about grammar from him in eighth grade. All through high school grammar lessons were just a repeat of what he had given us in eighth grade and not always as well taught.

Athletic teams were there for each seasonal sport. We played Hainesville in football and softball, also Lake Villa, Round Lake and Antioch. Basketball took us to Antioch and Gurnee. Mr. Dardenne would crowd the whole basketball team into his Buick Club Coupe and off we'd go. Rather tight! Football and softball would require an additional car driven by some parent or teacher.

Patrol boys guarded the crossings at Slusser and 120, Lake and 120, and crossing Slusser at the end of the playground. We got to wear the Chicago Motor Club belt as our symbol of authority, very heady stuff.

There were at least four generations of my family who attended the school. According to my grandmother, the high school was upstairs in the

old building and the grades were downstairs. She said there were only two years of high school”.

Editor’s note: The high school existed from 1905 to 1919. For a period of time it included three years of high school. Students transferred to neighboring high schools to complete their education.

MEMBERSHIP

Check your address label. If it says expires Feb. 2011, your membership fee is due. Fill in the attached form and return. A SAS envelope is required if you wish a membership card. All members are asked to update their e-mail address if meeting reminders have not been coming via the internet. Send your e-address to ChaRenehan@aol.com.

Last year the Grayslake Historical Society had 263 members. Help us to maintain this level of membership. We need everyone’s support.

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Membership Form
GRAYSLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

	Indicate quantity of memberships desired
Individual Annual Membership	\$ 10.00 _____
Individual Annual Senior (65 years and over) Membership	\$ 5.00 _____
Student Annual Membership	\$ 3.00 _____
Individual Life Membership	\$ 250.00 _____
Couple Life Membership	\$ 400.00 _____
Annual Business Membership	\$ 50.00 _____
Please accept my additional donation	_____

Total dollar amount enclosed _____

Make check payable to: **Grayslake Historical Society**
Mail to: Membership Chair
Grayslake Historical Society
P. O. Box 185
Grayslake, Illinois 60030-0073

To receive a membership card, enclose a SAS envelope.
The membership year is March 1 to February 28.

NEW EXHIBITS - VISIT THE ARCHIVES

As this newsletter was being prepared, volunteers were busy working in the Museum and Annex. They were striving to achieve two goals. A prime goal was to move more artifacts from temporary storage. To achieve this goal, several objects were removed from the Museum Annex. Artifacts, such as some items from Dr. Goshgarian's home office, were moved to the upper gallery for display. His desk is now in the lower level archives and being used. A large desk from a local business and Dr. Goshgarian's medicine cabinet were added to the gift shop area. The pump organ is in the public area of the archive's reading room. A display "A Walk Down Memory Lane", which shows older Grayslake houses in before and after pictures, has been arranged in the upper gallery. Charlie, the Museum's horse hair coat, is again available for visitors to see. The moving of these artifacts means that the Annex is almost ready for the Society's 1954 fire truck to return home from being stored in Rockenbach's garage. It is hoped that by spring the Annex will again be open.

"Saving the Past for the Future"

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