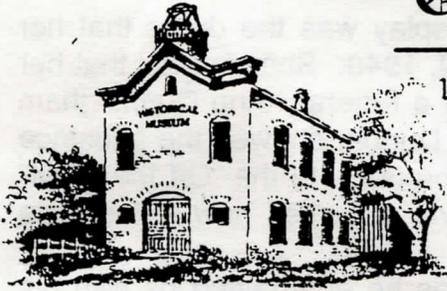


# Grayslake Historical Society



164 Hawley Street, P.O. Box 185, Grayslake, IL 60030

## Museum Hours:

Thursdays 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Second Sunday of each month

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Group Tours call 847-223-7663

## UPDATE

September 2002

Founded 1976

Meeting location is at the State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Drive, Grayslake, Illinois  
7:30 P.M. Refreshments

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### RECOLLECTIONS

The Grayslake Historical Society and Museum has been very busy.. We have had monthly open houses; we have had group tours; and we have had special events. The last *Update* briefly mentioned Grayslake's Winterfest held in January. While ice sculptures and quilts decorated Center Street, the Museum had children create a quilt square. The squares should be a quilt before the next Winterfest. The Grayslake Junior Woman's Club partnered with us to work with the children. Would you believe more that three hundred people came through the museum that day!

Bill Dunn of Libertyville gave an outstanding talk about blacksmithing at the February meeting of the Society. Bill was appropriately dressed as he explained the role of the village blacksmith. He brought with him the tools of the trade and demonstrated their use. It was indeed an informative evening!

February was the first month of the Scout exhibit. In addition to Scout memorabilia which belongs to the Museum or to Historical Society Board members, artifacts were loaned by Bette Best, Jim Rockenbach, Ian Thoms and Sharon Wells. The Museum played host to numerous Scout groups, just as it had in January.

March was the first month of the year long 4-H display. This youth organization is celebrating its centennial this year and we are pleased to be a part of it by housing an exhibit for the 2002 year. We had a unique program for our general meeting. It was called "Off the Shelf". Charlotte Renehan took the 1840 Avon Township minute book from the Museum archives and read the minutes of the first meeting of the newly formed township. Kathi Starzec held up the fiftieth anniversary guest book of Allen and Minnie Washburn McMillen and told about the McMillens. Allen was a painter and decorator in the Village of Grayslake but was better known as a former mayor and long-term fire chief. The Gardinier Hotel was remembered by Lori Baumgartner. The hotel was built for Mary Ann Turner Hook, better known as Aunt Polly, in the 1890s. She operated it with Willis Gardinier until he left. The building now contains Edward Jones Investments and Art 'N Blooms. The Museum has dinnerware from the Gardinier Hotel. Bill Leider had a thermometer, which was a business "give-away", from Faye Brandstter's garage on Lake Street and told about the Brandstetter family.

Karen Hook explained that the blue velvet dress on display was the dress that her grandmother wore to her parent's wedding on October 12, 1940. She recalled that her grandmother always bought a new black dress to attend a funeral. Ann Cunningham taught dancing in Grayslake from 1926 to 1930. Connie Dunbar showed the audience Ann's toe shoes, taps and castanets. The final object brought to the "Off the Shelf" program was a collar box described by Evie Turner. Evie remarked how styles have changed - no more stiff collars.

Reverend Orrell Ruth came dressed for the part as he entertained us with his presentation about the Pinkerton Detective Agency at the April meeting of the Society. Many in the audience were surprised to learn about the Pinkerton Connection to nearby communities. What an enjoyable evening! President Renehan attended the annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society held at Quincy in April. She reported that if anyone wants to see Victorian houses, Quincy is the place to go.

The Society learned about the Adolph LeDain family at its May meeting. Adolph's daughter Ruth Woodruff gave a delightful talk about her father. Adolph left farming when he came to Grayslake. Here he found employment at Hershberger's Implements, the Grayslake Gelatin Factory and at Hough's in Libertyville.

Connie Dunbar and Charlotte Renehan represented the Society at Lakeview School's last Discovery Day. They used pictures to tell the history of the school and sprinkled the presentation with human interest stories. The children made a "Game of Yesteryear" to take with them. As each participant left Connie gave him or her a mini-coloring book about the school which she had created.

We were a visible part of Grayslake's Memorial Day parade and celebration. Leonard Burge accompanied by his wife Mary drove Ed Horvorka's Model-T car in the annual parade. Doug Rockenbach gave an outstanding speech (see insert) at the gathering in Memorial Park, recalling the veterans as our friends. The new memorial for our deceased veterans was dedicated. The plaque, which was being replaced, was donated to the Grayslake Museum where it will be preserved. Ken and Pat Yopp accepted the plaque for the Museum.

In June the Scout exhibit was replaced by an exhibit of aprons. "Aprons: Ties to the Past" was its title. In addition to board members, the aprons belong to Whitney Street Restaurant, Pik Kwik Foods, Sally Raymond and Nancy Johansen. Some of the aprons were numbered and children coming through the museum were encouraged to match a description with an apron.

The Grayslake Chamber of Commerce and Industry's annual Art Festival was on June 15. Joanne Lawrence and Kathi Starzec organized a local artist display for the Museum to coincide with the Festival. Once again we had numerous visitors.

The Society had a booth at the Grayslake Farmer's Market on July 10. With the help of Charles Groth, children could make a jump rope. We had our books, postcards and t-shirts for sale. Several people stopped to learn more about the Museum and Society.

"Great Times in Grayslake" took place on July 13. Bill Dunn stood under the tree - even though it was not a chestnut tree - next to the Museum and demonstrated his blacksmithing skill. Members of the Society were joined by high school students in helping children to learn "Games of Yesteryear". They jumped the rope they made; they played jacks, marbles and hopscotch; they made a cup and ball; they made a

hummer and a cat's cradle; and more. Over two hundred people went through the Museum. It was another successful event for the Museum.

The Grayslake Library display window was decorated by Kathi Starzec for the month of August. The theme of the display is "Remembering Lakeview". In addition to pictures, there is the Leo the Lion costume formerly worn by the building's principal. The school's 1999 First Place Illinois Odyssey Competition trophy is on display along with other memorabilia.

Talented Phil Chard, Florence Chard Dacy and Susan Roberts DeVillez joined together to read their prose and poetry about their families and growing up in Grayslake. These published authors did their presentation at the Museum on August 10. They proved that Grayslake was (and still is) a great place to grow up. The audience gave it a rave review. The video is available for viewing in the Outdoor Theater Room.

Grayslake's annual Summer Days was in August. The Museum was open on Saturday. On Sunday our faithful float builders, Ken and Pat Yopp, followed the parade theme "Grayslake Goes to the Movies" with their replica of the former Grayslake Outdoor Theater. The Historical Society had another entry in parade: President Charlotte Renehan was the honored Grand Marshal.

### PREDICTIONS

Students return to school and Grayslake Historical Society members and friends return to monthly meetings after a summer hiatus. All Grayslake Historical Society meetings are held in the Community Room of the State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Drive, Grayslake starting at 7:30 PM. The monthly open house at the Grayslake Municipal Historical Museum, 164 Hawley Street is the third Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 PM.

September is the last month to view "Aprons: Ties to the Past". The monthly open house is **Sunday, September 8**. The scheduled meeting for Wednesday, September 11 has been cancelled. That evening at 7:00 there will be a candlelight memorial service at Grayslake's Millennium Tower. Everyone is encouraged to take part in this ceremony. Don't forget to use your shop and share coupons at Jewel on **Monday, September 16, Tuesday, September 17 or Wednesday, September 18**. Grayslake Community High School will celebrate homecoming on **Saturday, September 21**. We will participate in the annual parade. After the parade we are inviting the alumni to come to the museum for coffee and commaradie.

The fifth annual Grayslake Cemetery Living History Tour will be on **Sunday, October 6** at 1:30 and 2:30. The featured decedents will be eighteen year-old John DeGraff; Geraldine Wait Owen, who came to Lake County with her mother when her father left for California and never came back; Mary Robinson, who was the wife of Grayslake's first banker; Charles Whitehead, who once owned the land containing Grayslake's Central Park; Elvira Gardinier Richardson, the sister of hotel operator Willis Gardinier and Reggie Godfrey, who had a dry goods store in Grayslake and was a village clerk. Strang's Funeral Chapel and Crematorium is once again sponsoring the event. Rich Varner on **Wednesday, October 9** will tell the tale of his ancestor and early Lake County pioneer, Lemuel Edwards. A group of 4-Hers will present a skit in honor of the group's centennial birthday. Passport to Adventure Certificates will be awarded to this summer's participants. On **Sunday, October 13** the museum will

have the first showing of a toy display. It is hoped to have this a display of Barbie dolls and match box toys. Museum volunteers will be handing out candy and pencils during Grayslake's Trick and Treat event on **Saturday, October 26.**

The toy display will continue at the monthly open house on **Sunday, November 10.** "The Life of the American Soldier in 1860 Compared to 1970" will be the topic of Charles Nystrom talk at the Society's meeting on **Wednesday, November 13.** Mr. Nystrom teaches at the College of Lake County and will make comparisons about how veterans are treated following service in various wars. This program is very appropriate as Veteran's Day will have been honored the previous Monday.

**Sunday, December 8** will find Santa putting in an appearance at the Museum. Students will be encouraged to take part in a coloring event and to have a picture taken with Santa in our sleigh.

Mark your 2003 calendar on **Saturday, January 18** as the Museum will again be participating in the Downtown Winterfest and Quilt Walk. There will be a quilt square decorating opportunity for children at the Museum.

The Museum continues to be open Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Society members and guests are reminded that the Grayslake Historical Society Board meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 in the upper level of the Museum. Everyone is welcome.

**MEMORIES OF LAKEVIEW**

As you recall, in the last issue of *Update* those of you who attended Lakeview School were asked to submit memories. Over 100 people from fifteen states helped us to make our deadlines and bring the project to fruition. The 200 page book has received many positive comments. The stories take us through the depression and war years. One story reminds us of the polio epidemic. Writers wrote us about Mrs. Cheeseman and her penmanship lessons; about sliding down the fire escape tube; and about participating in the annual amateur hours. Some people remembered how they learned English from Mr. Dardenne. One person told about wearing shorts under her skirt so that she could go up-side-down on the playground apparatus. Doug Rockenbach related that before the gymnasium floor was completed, the Garden Club had a flower show using the dirt floor. Eugene Davis recalled that when a name was being considered for the building, some students suggested Belly Lake since it was at the corner of Belvidere Road and Lake Street.

If you have a memory that was not shared, the Society encourages you to submit it. Who knows, maybe we can get enough for *Memories of Lakeview School, Volume 2.* Until that time it will be placed in a file in the Museum archives.

*Memories of Lakeview School* was compiled by Charlotte Renehan who did the layout and historical notes. Connie Sheldon Dunbar's editing skills were invaluable. Dorothy Groth helped by proofreading. These three were joined by Charles Groth when it came time to packaging the book for mailing. The book is available for \$20.00 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling.

For those of you who have not heard, the School Board of District 46 decided to rent the building to West Lake Christian Academy, a Pre K - 12 private school, for three years. At the present time they are planning to use the money gained to then make the building into the administration center.

## Memorial Day Keynote Speech

May 27, 2002

(printed with the permission of Speaker Doug Rockenbach)

Honored Guests, Veterans, Students and Friends:

When I was asked to take part in the Memorial Day ceremony, I accepted willingly for two reasons: The first is because on Memorial Day fifty years ago I was Commander of the Grayslake American Legion and I was scheduled to be MC and give the Memorial Day address. At that time my wife Bonnie was very pregnant with our first child, and wouldn't you know, in the early morning hours we ended up at St. Therese Hospital in Waukegan, and I never made it to the ceremony.

I figured if it took fifty-two years to get the second invitation, at my age I didn't think I could afford to wait for number three! Seriously though, the second reason is Memorial Day has always been a special day in our family. My mother was a gold star sister, having had a brother killed in World War I, and we never let a Memorial Day or an Armistice Day go by without our remembering it in some way.

As a child in grade school, I remembered standing silently beside my desk and facing the east at 11:00 in the morning on November 11th, and we all knew it was because that marked the end of World War I (supposedly the war to end all wars), and we were honoring the veterans of that war. Sadly enough, it wasn't the war to end all wars, and it became necessary to remember men and women from other wars. The day celebrated as the Armistice of WW I became a day to remember all veterans now called Veterans Day.

It is also very special for me to take part in this particular Memorial, at this park. From 1926 until I left to go into the service in WW II, in June of 1943, I lived on this street, Seymour Avenue, and played many games of football and baseball at the west end of this park.

In 1941 Grayslake was a small, closely knit town of approximately 1200 people, and there was great apprehension as to the outcome of the war in Europe, and more to the point, should we or would we get involved?

I vividly recall listening to the radio the morning of December 7th to a program which I think was called, "Meet the Press", and they were interviewing the Japanese ambassador to the United States, and he stated that they were our friends and that no way would they ever go to war against us. While I was only a junior in high school at the time, I will never forget the shock, nor where I was when we heard the news that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. I was right across the street in the basement of the white house at 221 Junior Avenue playing pool with my good friend Kent Johnson. The immediate concern for all of the neighborhood was the fact that we all knew that Bert Jacobson who lived in the house right on the corner of Seymour and Park Avenues was at Pearl Harbor aboard the USS Oklahoma. In those days with no TV and with all the confusion of the surprise attack it was days before it was reported that the Oklahoma had been sunk with only a few survivors. Bert's dad Barney had been in the Navy in WW I and was so very proud of his son. Barney was a Deacon of the Methodist Church just around the corner. He was my Sunday School Teacher. He kept the faith as long as he could, sadly to no avail. Bert's name is inscribed on the new monument. We are privileged to have Bert's younger brother, Stanley, and his family with us today.

While there was quite a difference of opinion whether or not we should get involved in the war before the attack on Pearl Harbor, after December 7th there was no question,

and the country was united as never before. I think the sheer number of people from all communities entering the armed forces was unprecedented. Just in a few blocks around this park for example, well over a dozen people were involved. On Seymour my sister Marjorie and I lived in the house farthest to the south. Marjorie joined the Waves, while I served in Europe. Next door, Tom Flood was a fighter pilot in the Pacific. Right across the street, Jack Richardson was a gunner on a B17 and was shot down over Munich, Germany, a POW until the end of the war. Jack's brother "Moon" served in the 1st Infantry all through the European campaign. Two doors down, Wes Druce was a tail gunner in the Pacific, stationed in the same area as Tom Flood. Just across the street at the Johnson house, Kent's older brother Bob was a navigator on a B17 and was also shot down over Germany and a POW for several years. Also on Harding Street, which is one block west, both Ed Hall and Gordon Smith served in the Pacific. On Westerfield, which is one block east, Wally Stang was a SeaBee also in the Pacific theater. Bud Murrie, who lived on Slusser Street, was wounded when his ship, the USS Birmingham, was badly damaged in the Pacific. Jim Davis, who lived next to Bud, served in the Infantry in Europe. And that only represents one small area of town where this park is, and why it means so much to me.

One gratifying thing about serving in WW II, (and there were many) was the attitude of the people at home. They couldn't do enough for you while you were away. They sent letters, cards, cookies, candy, gum and other things in short supply at home because they cared. I remember one time when I was overseas, a girl sent me a box of homemade cookies. By the time it got there by ship across the Atlantic, loaded and unloaded several times, I received a box of very stale cookie crumbs, but the thought was appreciated.

Personally I was very distressed by the public's attitude during both the Korean and Vietnam so called conflicts. American service people were fighting and dying for our country and never got the respect they deserved. Now our country has been attacked again and as terrible as September 11th was, it has certainly restored the patriotism of the American people. Webster defines a patriot as having love and loyal or zealous support of one's country, and that is certainly obvious today. My question is, how can we veterans help to maintain this attitude? I think celebrations like this is one way. When we see the flag pass by and hear the band and see such fine representation of our youth like today, that feeling of patriotism stirs in us, and I think another way to restore patriotism is that veterans' stories must be told. It doesn't matter where you fought for freedom or in which war, future generations have to know there was a cost for them to live the way they are able to live today. The stories aren't always easy to tell, as Tom Brokaw found when writing his book *The Greatest Generation*. He opened the flood gates for many of the men and women who he interviewed. They had kept their stories locked up for over fifty years, but our children, for generations to come must hear them. Perhaps helping them know the price that was paid for their freedom will make them want to take the responsibility of assuring that everyone will continue to live free. We hear much about our rights today but not much about the rights of the other person. Freedom isn't just for someone like me, but for everyone. Regardless of their race, religion, nationality or life style, if we could have, as our common cause, love of country and respect for everyone in it, then this new millennium might find our citizens living in peace, not just with other countries, but with each other. Then we could stand and pledge our allegiance to the flag, truly meaning it when we say we are, "one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all". Thank you.

## DONATIONS

The Collections and Accessioning Committee of the Museum reviewed and accepted the following artifacts between January 1, 2002 and July 31, 2002: Robert Beasley - grinder; Lakeview School - 2001 yearbook; Judy Beard - 1887 spelling book; Laurie Epstein/Grayslake Gelatin Company - 1929 Gelatin display box, three gelatin containers, four brochures and books on Grayslake Gelatin; Roger Weichman - Grayslake Merchants yardstick, Louis Behm artifact, Decorative Color artifact, Hook Lumber Company apron, Diamond Jubilee booklet, flag, coin and three buttons, two First State Bank hot plate pads, Lakeland Publishers letter opener, two Whitey's Commercial Refrigeration artifacts, Lonnie Wick's history, miscellaneous newspaper clippings; Florence Liebig - Girl Scout uniform; Jeanne Eck - picture from Lakeview School; Catherine Andrews - five school pictures; Donna Bahde - old newspaper; Lori Guenther - three Grayslake postcards, Murrie Family information, Kent Rich - light, yardstick, two Hook Lumber Company aprons, soft collar box; Jill Rohrer - stove lifter, tobacco can, iron kettle, dipper, whisk, skimmer, curling iron, jar gripper, bottle opener, jar lifter, chopper, egg beater, iron skillet, corn popper; Fred Schaefer - Lake County Fair commemorative post card; Florence Carlson - food chopper; Ron Ward - Grayslake Times ruler; Donna Willerth - early Grayslake postcard; Grayslake School District 46 - teacher's desk, teacher's chair, Leo the Lion costume, nineteen picture yearbooks; Marci Hook - Cecil Hook family information; Glenn Wayman - Gelatin container; Joy DeGraff - Outdoor Theater employee pay check; Wally Stang - fire department picture; Bette Best - knife and fork from the Gardinier Hotel.

Placed on loan were items from the Grayslake American Legion Post 659: organization certificates, plaque from Memorial park

The Society and Museum have also received other donations. The McDonalds at Routes 45 and 120 donated the plastic cups that were used during the Society's presentation at Lakeview School's Discovery Day. Taco Bell on Route 83 donated the plastic cups the Society used for "Games of Yesteryear" during "Great Times in Grayslake". Ed Horvorka of the Grayslake Citgo donated the use of his Model T during Grayslake's annual Memorial Day Parade.

The Museum received monetary donations from the seniors of the Grayslake Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church and from the Grayslake Middle School for historical presentations. Appreciation donations of \$10.00 or more were received from Beth Bishop, Laurel Bruggan, Janet Deloof, Marilyn Fraser, Joyce Kleck, Estelle Sikes plus several anonymous donors. The Society and Museum are grateful for these thoughtful donations to the general fund. They help the Society and Museum to be viable parts of the community.

Not to be forgotten are the cookies, which we enjoy at each meeting of the Society, donated by the members.

## MEMORIALS

The Historical Society extends its sympathy to the families of the following members and friends who have recently died: Dorothy Donnelly was a life-time member of the Society. Former Mayor Ed Schroeder was a member and a leader in obtaining the Museum building for the Society. A memorial fund has been created in his name. A memorial has been established in memory of member Margaret Hodgkins. Margaret was the sister of museum volunteer and former president Dick

Lawrence. Florence Hook, a long-time resident of the community, has had a memorial started in her name.

**SHOP AND SHARE**

We did it in February. Can we do it again in September? Yes, in February of 2002 we increased our participation in the Jewel-Osco Shop and Share fund raising program. We increased both the number of people participating and the amount of money received. With everyone's help we can continue to expand this fund raising program. Sign an enclosed coupon and turn it in when you shop at any Jewel-Osco on Monday, September 16, Tuesday, September 17 or Wednesday, September 18. The other coupon is for you to give to a friend. The Grayslake Historical Society will receive five percent of each receipt excluding taxes. Your participation is one way you can help the Society to maintain the Museum.

**MICROFILM PROJECT**

The Grayslake Historical Society is looking forward to the time when the early issues of the *Grayslake Times* are microfilmed. These issues will add more details to what is all ready known about the early years in our community. Microfilming is an expensive process and the Society needs everyone's help to fund the project. Since the last issue of this newsletter the following names have been added to the list of donors: Citizens for Don Bauer in honor of Marion Parker, Grayslake Junior Woman's Club, Grayslake Garden Club, Liberty Prairie Conservancy and Ken and Pat Yopp. Your tax-deductible donation, noted Micro-film Fund, should be sent to the Grayslake Historical Society, P. O. Box 185, Grayslake, IL 60030. This project is just one more way in which the Society fulfills its mission of preserving Grayslake's history.

**A PAGE FROM THE PAST**

**COUNTY WENT WILD AS PEACE NEWS CAME  
CELEBRATION LASTS FOR TWO NIGHTS AND DAY - ALL BUSINESS WAS  
SUSPENDED.**

The peace that came to the world at an early hour Sunday morning, thru the signing of an armistice with the Central Powers was heralded far and wide. Perhaps there is no place in the world where there was no celebration - not even in Germany.

From information we are able to trace, the word first came to William Brandstetter, who has two sons in service and has been patiently waiting for such word. Having once celebrated on a fake report, he this time made sure that the report was true. Then he hauled out his snare drum and began to awaken the neighbors.

Soon after four o'clock a small crowd gathered and various kinds of implements were used in making racket. Soon word reached the night watchman of the condensing factory. When the wildcat whistle cut loose it brought the public up standing. The populace knew it was either a fire or peace, and in either event it was time to get up.

The improvised instruments in the hands of men gave the alarm all over the village.

As the morning wore on the population became enthusiastic, tension was high, everyone was happy. Mothers with sons in the front were hoping that to that time nothing had happened to them, surely after that joyous morning nothing more could happen as hostilities had ceased.

At 9 o'clock, C. J. Wightman and Everette Neville and others went to the school

house and organized the children into a parade, each one carrying a flag. It was after 10 o'clock when they marched down the main street of the village. While passing the bank corner, someone touched a match to a kaiser hung there for the occasion. In a few moments the form fell crumbling to the ground. The parade continued to the east side of the village. On the return the procession halted in front of the post office and sang several patriotic songs.

Having fully awakened the village there still remained a desire to celebrate more. The word was quickly passed about to bring out all available machines and take the children and others desiring to go to Round Lake. At 11 the procession headed for Round Lake. That village was out in gay attire. As the parade pulled into the village the same saluted by the whistle on the creamery and by the church and school bells. The Round Lake school had not been let out and the children were with longing eyes watching the passing parade on its way to Grays Lake.

In the afternoon more than fifty automobiles highly decorated formed a procession and started for Waukegan to join in the procession in that city. The showing was very impressive and the enthusiasm of the Avon folks was applauded by the people at the county seat. Some of the people returned home during the afternoon while others remained for the grand parade in the evening. The county seat has never seen a day with as much life as Monday, November 11, 1918.

The above news article appeared in the *Grayslake Times* on November 14, 1918.

### MEMBERSHIP

It is sad but true. We have some delinquents in our Historical Society. They are those people whose address label says 02. Their membership expired on February 28, 2002. It is hoped that they soon renew their membership as their support is important.

On a different note: We have added some new names to our membership list. If you are one of those, "Welcome". And to all our faithful members: "The Society and Museum could not exist without your continuing support."

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## Membership Form GRAYSLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

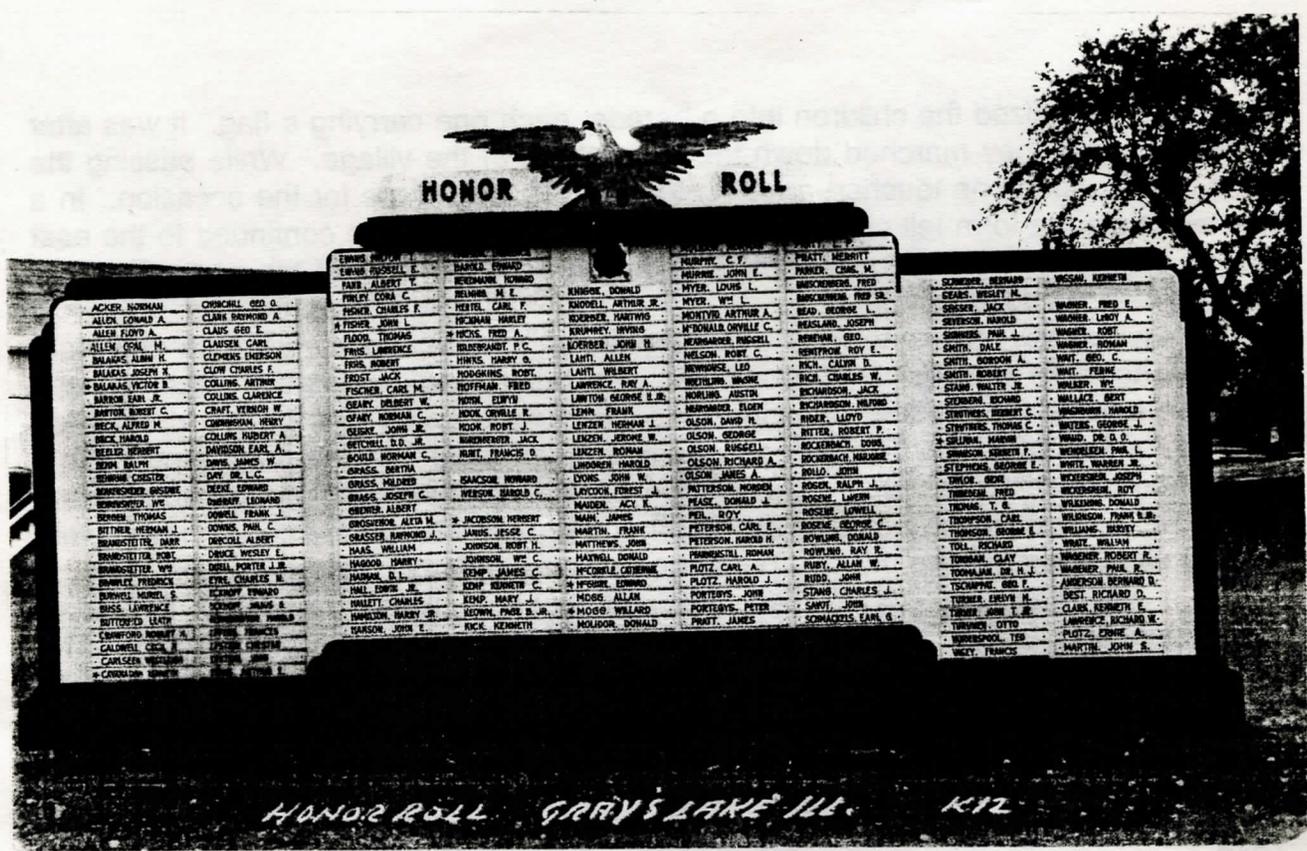
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Annual Membership \$5.00       Student Annual Membership \$1.00

Business Annual Membership \$25.00       Individual Life Membership \$100.00

Make checks payable to the **Grayslake Historical Society.**

Mail to: Membership Chairperson  
Grayslake Historical Society  
P.O. Box 185  
Grayslake, Illinois 60030-0185



World War II Honor Roll



Grayslake Historical Society  
 P. O. Box 185  
 Grayslake, IL 60030