



# Grayslake Historical Society

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

# UPDATE

September 2009

Grayslake Municipal Historical Museum  
Closed until 2010  
Contact by phone: 847-223-7663  
Visit us at [www.grayslakehistory.org](http://www.grayslakehistory.org)

Temporary Museum Office  
Hours: Thursdays 9:00 - 2:00  
Lower Level  
Grayslake Village Hall  
10 South Seymour  
Grayslake, Illinois 60030

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## YESTERDAY

Although the heading says "yesterday", this yesterday actually begins with the start of 2009. Change is the buzz word of the day. And change is what the Grayslake Historical Society is experiencing. Although all artifacts, pictures and documents formerly housed in the Grayslake Historical Municipal Museum are in storage, the Grayslake Historical Society continues to function.

The monthly Museum open house was held on January 11. The Society was represented at the quarterly meeting of the Lake/McHenry County Historical Alliance held at the Volo Auto Museum on the 26th. Packing of the artifacts began.

A slide presentation was given to the senior group of the Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church on February 3. Youth baseball had a pancake breakfast at the fire station so the Museum was open on the 7th. We held our usual open house the next day. Kristi Holst gave a program to the Society on February 11 at the State Bank of the Lakes on the life of Abraham Lincoln. She talked; she showed pictures; she sang; she was wonderful! Packing continued and the moving began with most items going to the storeroom behind Churchill's law office one block south.

Even though the Museum was already half in storage, it was open on March 8 for the monthly open house. The agenda of the annual meeting of the Historical Society was a full one. Chris Brenner gave an updated report on the Grayslake Heritage Center. Volunteers, who were present, received a Certificate of Recognition. The following officers were elected for a two year term: Charlotte Renehan - president; Lori Baumgartner - vice-president; Kathi Starzec - secretary; Connie Dunbar - treasurer. Terese Douglas and Bill Leider were chosen as directors for three year terms. Hold-over directors were Chris Brenner, Tim Holst, Ron Roselli and Ken Yopp. Ron Roselli has recently resigned and that position is open. Joanne Lawrence obtains programs for the Society. Rob McClasky is webmaster while Lori Guenther takes care of the

membership records. On the 21st of March, Joanne Lawrence gave the final tour of the Museum to a scout group.

A walking tour of historic downtown Grayslake was given to a scout group on April 4. Diana Dretske of the Lake County Discovery Museum gave the monthly Society program on the 8th. On April 17 a slide program was given to the 400 seventh graders at the Grayslake Middle School. This program has been given to the students for over ten years. A Society representative attended the quarterly meeting of the Lake/McHenry County Historical Alliance held at the Raupp Museum in Buffalo Grove.

On May 6 two representatives from Taylor Studios of Rantoul came to the board meeting of the Grayslake Historical Society. This is the company with whom the society has a contract for designing and fabricating the permanent gallery of the Grayslake Heritage Center. The four hour workshop introduced the board members to the involved and lengthy process of constructing an effective educational display telling the history of Grayslake. Five speakers were featured at the monthly program on the 13th. They were Sue Kirby, Cheryl Whiteside, Larry Tonies, Cynthia Lee and Hank deGroh. On May 19 the Museum office moved to the Grayslake Village Hall. Joanne Lawrence and Charlotte Renehan gave a program at St. Gilbert School for their first graders on May 20th. The Grayslake story was told and artifacts were shown. Pat and Ken Yopp drove their bright red vehicle with the Grayslake Historical Society sign on its doors in Grayslake's annual Memorial Day parade on May 25th.

Members of the Society Board traveled to Kenosha, Wisconsin on June 5 and toured three museums: the Kenosha Public Museum, the Civil War Museum and the Kenosha County Museum. They used the experience to evaluate ways in which to do displays, memorial plaques and other museum details. Since the Museum can no longer be open the second Sunday of the Month, the board decided to host a walk each month. A Park Avenue Stroll was held on June 14. Starting at the east end of Park Avenue, the history of each house and its residents were detailed. Along the way, the group stopped to enjoy the beautiful backyard garden of member Lori Murrie Guenther. This was a fee event with proceeds to benefit the Grayslake Heritage Center exhibit fund. The Society had a booth at the Grayslake Chamber of Commerce's booth at their annual Arts Festival. Downtown Grayslake's Farmers Market started on June 10 and will continue until October 7. The Grayslake Heritage Center is promoted at this event.

The Society board held a second workshop with Taylor Studios on July 8. Connie Dunbar led the July 12 Grayslake Business District Walk. Starting at Millennium Tower buildings and businesses were discussed. The Lake County Forest Preserve's Stevenson Home hosted the quarterly meeting of the Lake/McHenry County Historical Alliance.

St. Andrew Episcopal Church was the starting point for the August 9 Park Avenue Stroll. Penne Lawrence gave a history of the church as the group admired the interior of the structure. After walking along the street and learning about the houses and residents, refreshments were served in the rectory of St. Andrew.

Board members of the Society manned a booth in the business area of Grayslake's Summer Days on August 22. They received many positive comments about the Heritage Center plans. Throughout the month the plans were also on display at the Grayslake Library. Kathi Starzec arranged the display. The Yopps rode in the Summer Days parade while volunteers handed out flyers about Society events.

#### TOMORROW

The Museum continues to be closed but the Society is still very active. Plans for coming months include:

**Wednesday, September 9** - Program, "History of the Masons and the Grayslake Masonic Lodge", 7:30 PM, Rising Sun Masonic Lodge, 2 Center Street, Grayslake, Free. Come and hear the history of the Masonic Organization whose history can be traced back to the time of cathedral building in England. Learn that the local Masonic Lodge was started by Elijah Haines in Hainesville and moved to Grayslake. While in the present lodge building, learn the history of the structure which was the first church building in Grayslake. Refreshments will be served.

**Sunday, September 13** - Grayslake Business District Walk, 1:30 PM, Corner of Lake and Center Streets, \$10.00 donation. Enjoy a one hour walking tour of downtown Grayslake. The history of the buildings and businesses will be highlighted. Each additional family member is \$5.00.

**Saturday, September 26** - Grayslake Community High School Alumni Reception, 9:30 AM, Grayslake Village Hall, 10 South Seymour, Free. Graduates and friends of the Grayslake High School are invited for coffee and chat. Pictures and items will be on display. A special invitation is extended to the Class of 1959 which is celebrating their 50th anniversary.

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, September 28-30** - Jewel-Osco Shop & Share Days. Local members have two coupons enclosed in this newsletter. Use the one having the preceding dates to shop at any Jewel-Osco store. The Grayslake Historical Society will receive five percent of the amount before taxes. Prescriptions can be used.

**Saturday, October 4** - Living History Tour of Grayslake Cemetery. 1:30 and 2:30 PM. NE corner of Lake Street and Belvidere. Donations appreciated. Six costumed interpreters will tell their story. An interpreter portraying former Mayor Warren Chard will lead the tour and introduce former residents Amelia Winkel, B. F. Hendee, Albert Thomson, Mary Hall, Susie Whitehead, and George Rife, each will tell a little about him/herself and something about Grayslake's history.

**Wednesday, October 14** - Program, "My Cousin, Herbert Hoover", 7:30 PM, State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Drive, Grayslake, Free. While doing genealogy, the Wray family learned that they are distantly related to former President Herbert Hoover. Charlene Wray Rockenbach has researched Hoover and his accomplishments and will share her research with the audience. Refreshments will be served.

**Wednesday, November 11** - Program, "Update on Grayslake Heritage Center", 7:30 PM, State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Drive, Free. Driving by 164 Hawley Street one can see the Grayslake Heritage Center construction progressing. This is a huge undertaking with much happening behind the scenes. The Historical Society Board will explain to Society members and the public construction details, permanent gallery design and fabrication process, fund raising progress and plans for the future.

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, November 30 - December 2** - Jewel-Osco Shop & Share Days. Use the second enclosed coupon and participate in the Society's last Shop & Share of 2009.

## COMMUNICATION

The Society strives to inform its members. Members and others can learn of Society doings by visiting us on the web at [www.grayslakehistory.org](http://www.grayslakehistory.org). We encourage members to share their e-mail address with the Society so that information can be sent quickly. Pictures of the construction progress have been sent to those with e-mail addresses on file. You may contact the Society by using this e-mail address: [ChaRenehan@aol.com](mailto:ChaRenehan@aol.com).

## MEMORIALS

Our memorial plaque received several more names since January 1. Memorials have been started for the following people Connie Winters Bobo, Harold "Shorty" Grant, Diane Vassau Fritz, Franklin & Marion Hendee, Rose Mary Horenberger Kilman, Fred Stone, Ray Vanderspool and Glenn Schalk. These people were long-time members of the Grayslake area and will not be forgotten.

## DONATIONS

The following people have contributed money to the Grayslake Historical Society between January 1 and August 15, 2009. Some of the funds were designated for the Grayslake Heritage Center. Some contributions were made in memory of a loved one. Many people send in extra money with their annual membership dues.

Duane Andrews, John & Lori Baumgartner, William & Janet Capra, Jack Clooney, Joan Crilly, Janet DeLoof, Frank & Darlene Dorfler, Judy Frickman, Louise Furstenberg, Judy Gronke, Judy Haga, Bill & Katy Hall, Evelyn Hesel, James & Leslie Kaiser, Roy & Sue Kellogg, Vivian Kuzelka, Dick & Joanne Lawrence, Marcella Lenzen, Moan McCaclin, John & Elizabeth McDonald, Charlotte Renehan, Nancy Rinker, Charlene Rockenbach, Doug & Bonnie Rockenbach, Stanley Rouse, Glenn & Marcia Sagendorph Family, Dan Shields, Margaret Sikes, Karen Thoms, Roberta Thomas, Dorothy Volkert and anonymous contributions in the Society Donation Jar.

The Heritage Center Courtyard will have donor bricks. Between January 1 and August 15 the following people purchased a brick. John & Lori Baumgartner, Edward H. Boss, Jr., Joyce D. Campbell Agency, Inc., Jack & Sharon Clooney, Jack Davis & Family, the J. Porter Duell Family, Marilyn Yopp Fraser, Roy & Sue Kellogg, Larry Herzog, Carl & Vivian Miller, Old Plank Road Travelers, Lou & Karen Thoms, Nancy Pease, Marvin Smith, the UPS Store, Fortunata Vidakovic, Glenn Winters, Ken & Pat Yopp, the Zipfrei Family,

Inside the Heritage Center will be a wall of contributor plaques of appropriate sizes. People, organizations or businesses who purchased either a \$500 or \$1,000 plaque between January 1 and August 15 are A-1 Cleaners, Connie Dunbar, Exchange Club of Grayslake, Grayslake Lions Club, Lake County Farm Bureau, Dick & Joanne Lawrence, Pete & Joyce Mule', Premier Chiropractic Center and Ken & Pat Yopp,

Another way of giving to the Society and Museum is through in-kind donations, such as copy paper, refreshments and miscellaneous supplies. These donors include Lori Baumgartner, Marie Frandsen, Mary Friis, Tim Holst, Sue Kirby, Joanne Lawrence, Charlotte Renehan, Kathi Starzec, Helen Thelen,

Ron Roselli, and Ken & Pat Yopp.

If your name has inadvertently been left off a list, please contact the Historical Society.

The Museum received artifacts and documents from these people. Rob McClaskey - DVD "Inventory Tour of Grayslake Museum"; Bob & Ron Parker - Marion Doolittle's blue velvet wedding dress; Clarence Collins - U. S. Government Thrift Cards; Dr. John Bouma - copy of picture postcard of M. E. Church; Duane Andrews - CD recorded recollections of Harold "Shorty" Grant; Judith Behm Elfering - three photos (Grayslake Lions Club, Grayslake Dartball Club, a parade); Village of Grayslake - booklet "Soil Survey of Lake County"; Ginny Roi - collection of Longabaugh family snapshots, photo of Charles Whitehead; Don & Mary Dietz - two booklets about Waukegan's history; Phyllis Rouse Family - Mrs. Illinois sash, pictures & clippings.

#### A NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Museum is closed but the Society and Museum want to keep children's minds open to the past. Members Lori Baumgartner and Joanne Lawrence are creating what many museums call a "Traveling Trunk". Items from the past, such as a candle snuffer, husking pin, rug beater and more, will be placed in a clothes basket. A member of the Society will take the basket to classrooms and scout groups. After the children have been challenged to identify the objects, they will be discussed. This new program will continue after the Museum reopens.

Other outreach programs of the Society and Museum include various slide presentations telling the history of the village and showing its changes. A "Big Book" program for younger students shows pictures of Grayslake's history while a volunteer tells the story.

#### PAGE FROM THE PAST

The following article is about a train wreck on the Soo Line Railroad near downtown Grayslake. It was first published in the *Grayslake Times* on August 27, 1927. It is titled "Fireman Killed in Train Wreck".

"Edward Manigan of Fond du Lac, Wis., aged 30 was killed Saturday night at 7:30 in one of the worst wrecks that has ever occurred in this part of the country. Arthur G. Myrand, a brakeman, sustained a broken wrist, and Arthur Davis, engineer, had his leg broken when they jumped from the train just before the crash.

The wreck was caused when a southbound freight which was traveling about 30 miles an hour, crashed into the northbound freight, the locomotive of which had not cleared the main track sufficiently to give a clear right-of-way. It is said that the crew on the southbound freight was unable to tell if the northbound train was on the main track or on the siding, owing to the fact that the bright headlight of the latter train prevented them from seeing the location of the locomotive. When the dimmers were finally put on, however, Engineer Davis realized that a crash was inevitable and he, together with Mr. Manigan and Mr. Myrand,

the brakeman, jumped from the cab. Engineer Davis had applied the emergency brakes and had reversed the throttle before he jumped but the iron monsters plowed together. Both locomotives were thrown clear of the track, while four cars were piled on top of the locomotive and tender of the southbound train. These cars contained flour, wheat and lumber, which was scattered along the tracks.

Frank Frazier and Elwyn Wightman were waiting at the crossing for the train to pass, and were eyewitnesses of the collision. Glenn Craft, who was at his home heard the crash and saw the flames shoot into the air, when the engines collided and he immediately hurried to the scene. Mr. Frazier started toward the locomotive as soon as it overturned, but just before he arrived there, a steam pipe on the southbound locomotive burst making it impossible to approach the wreck for some minutes.

Mr. Craft, assisted by members of the crew and others who had arrived, picked up Engineer Davis, who was taken to the office of Dr. Struthers, while Myrand's injuries were cared for by Drs. Shaffer and Clark. Mr. Manigan's body was found by members of the crew. He received a deep gash at the back of the head which caused almost instant death.

Mr. Craft's right foot was badly burned when he stepped into a pool of hot water while searching the wreckage for victims. It has been very painful the past few days.

A northbound passenger train which was due here at that time was flagged at the local station. None of the members of the crew on the northbound train was injured, as all of them jumped before the crash. A hobo, who had indulged rather too freely in "canned heat" and who was riding between two cars near the head of the southbound train was uninjured.

A wrecking crew was summoned, and worked all night to clear the tracks. The switch track was cleared about 9 o'clock Sunday morning and trains were run over the siding through Graylake and then onto the main line. The crews have been working incessantly since their arrival and at the present writing have succeeded in raising one of the locomotives and clearing up most of the wreckage. It is expected that the other locomotive will be raised by tonight.

Thousands of people visited the scene of the wreck. Many of them, including railroad officials, stated they had never seen a wreck in which so much damage was done. Roy Tindle was conductor and Chas. Cleveland was engineer on the northbound freight, while the southbound train was in charge of Conductor Anthony."

## A MEMORY

The *Update* is again publishing a story written by former Grayslake resident, Russell Ewing of California. It is titled "Roughing It".

"June 1933, my family moved from Chicago to Gage's Lake, Ill., where my parents had bought a cottage. It was to be our summer home. However, because we enjoyed the cottage so much, my parents decided to convert it into a year-around home; at the same time keeping our apartment in Chicago.

Our house was two blocks from Gages Lake Road, the main business street. Because most cottages lacked their own water supply, community wells were provided. Our water came from a well about 150 feet from our back door. We took turns fetching water. Not for long, though, because my father soon hired a well driller, Henry Boysen, Libertyville, to drill a well on our property. The new well tapped into "sweet water" at 35 feet.

In 1933 it cost about 85 cents per foot to drill a water well, plus casing. When our next door neighbor, Jim Rimmer, learned our well was only 35 feet deep, he had the driller put one in at his house. Unfortunately, the neighbor didn't share our good fortune. His well was 180 feet deep.

Soon after we moved to Gage's Lake, Prohibition was repealed. Local taverns: Schubert's, Norling's and Mogg's thrived. On weekends, Dady and Decker's picnic ground was packed with campers who pitched tents, or slept in their cars.

The most popular place on Friday nights was Norling's Tavern and its fish fry. Kids were allowed in taverns with their parents.

While Norling's Tavern was the most popular spot for families, Mogg's Pavilion, a screened-in open dance floor above Mogg's Tavern was also very popular. Schubert's Tavern had a baseball diamond, and once a week there were free movies. All the taverns provided a small dance orchestra. A glass fishbowl, or a steel bucket labeled "Kitty" was always visible on top of the piano. Customers were reminded to feed the "Kitty." Piano player, Earl Bique Sr., was also a frequent entertainer in the local taverns. A talented musician, Bique did not seem to be hampered by being blind.

The owner of Mogg's Tavern, also owned the resort's only grocery store. Tom Mogg's General Store, besides selling groceries, hardware, shoes, clothing, meat, and hunting and fishing licenses, also served as the community's post office.

The grade school had one room for all eight grades. I attended the 1933-34 school year there in the third grade. On my left, my sister, Margaret, sat as a member of the fourth grade. My brother, Milt, a first-

grader, sat with other first graders around a circular table at the rear of the room. Our lunches which we usually ate in the school's basement were carried in syrup buckets. On good weather days, we ate outdoors on wooden picnic tables.

There was no bus to take us to school. Most children walked. We were lucky, though. Jim Rimmer, had a Model A Ford which he used to drive his daughters, Eleanor and Libby, to school. On bad weather days, Mom paid him thirty-five cents for us to ride to school with them. During the winter months, Mom paid Mr. Rimmer a dollar a week to carry the three of us to school.

Some of my schoolmates at the Gages Lake School 1933-34, were Dick, Ray, and Margaret Lawrence; Frank, Irene, and Frances (Sis) Dowell; Dorothy Mogg, Elaine Klindera, Kenneth Waldvogel, Donna and Art Knodell Jr., Earl and Neil Bique, John Quist, Neva Lew, Dorothy Sickles, John and Pete Portegys, Darlene Huff, Dolores Hughes (Later Mrs. Roy Wickersheim), Willard Mogg, Dorothy and Harry Hamilton, Jim Becky, Dick Stemberg, Eleanor (she later married Dick Stemberg) and Libby Rimmer; also Jeanne and Mary Jane Jacob (Mary Jane later was a teacher at the new Grayslake Community High School).

In 1933, my father didn't own a car; two years earlier, in 1931 he gave his Willys-Knight to one of my mother's cousins who used the engine to pump water to cattle on his farm near Peoria. Dad worked at the US Customs House in Chicago and rode with friends to Libertyville to catch a train.

A couple of episodes during my life at Gages Lake should be mentioned. My brother, Milt, nearly lost his life when he built a raft from scrap lumber he found along the shore. He used a board to paddle his "ship" out into the lake. Misfortune occurred when, after launching his vessel, he lost his grip on the makeshift paddle and could no longer navigate. A neighbor found him adrift near the middle of the lake and brought him ashore. He was seven years old. Needless to say, my father paddled him well with his razor strap.

A year later, another episode from my life at Gage's Lake occurred. I was fishing from a pier at the lagoon when I heard someone shouting and making a commotion. An old man had fallen from his boat in the middle of the lagoon and couldn't get back aboard. My brother, Milt, and a cousin, Tommy Murphy, were with me. We quickly checked the many boats fastened to piers until we found one that wasn't locked. It had no oars. We used our hands to paddle to where the man was struggling in the water. We found he was very drunk and angry that we wanted to help

him. In spite of his efforts to resist, we managed to get him into his boat by using his oars we were able to tow him back to shore. About then, the man's wife showed up in a panicky condition and fell into the water. It was very muddy and slippery but we kids somehow managed to get her back on shore. I was nine years old, my brother eight, and my cousin was seven.

Roughing it in our cottage didn't last long. In September 1935, we moved into a permanent home on Westerfield Place at Grayslake; thanks to my dad's lucky day at a race track."

#### GRAYSLAKE HERITAGE CENTER

What was once a hole in the ground at the site of the Grayslake Heritage Center is now a maze of concrete, bricks, lumber and scaffolding as the Heritage Center is taking shape. The foundation for the new wing has been poured, brick work is beginning, the new courtyard can be seen and remodeling of the former museum is continuing. Completion is on schedule for next year. Come visit and be a sidewalk superintendent!

On the planning front, the board committee is in the final stages of design with the professionals at Taylor Studio. The \$200,000 contract with Taylor has been approved. Themes have been chosen for the permanent gallery, artifacts have been selected for the displays, a floor plan of what is going where has been developed. Pictures and graphics are being chosen. Remaining tasks include selecting and writing text for the displays and the actual fabrication of the displays.

Components of the Heritage Center include:

- \*Permanent Gallery where visitors can learn the history of Grayslake through artifacts, graphics, texts and pictures. A floor plan has been developed to guide the visitors through Grayslake's rich and unique history.

- \*The changing exhibit gallery where temporary displays will highlight specific aspects of the village's history. These displays will change periodically.

- \*A classroom where small groups can meet and work on various projects.

- \*A community room where clubs can meet and where social events can be held.

- \*A gift shop where Grayslake souvenirs will be sold.

- \*Archives where historians and genealogists can do research.

- \*Office and work area where volunteers can prepare upcoming exhibits and events.

- \*A storage area for the preservation of artifacts.

- \*A small courtyard between the two wings of the museum.

Society board committees are working on various elements of the Heritage Center including which brick company to select for the courtyard bricks, the style of the plaques to be used to list the donors to the project and what exhibits will be displayed in the changing gallery.

Funds for the Center continue to be needed. Various fund-raising events have been held and will continue to be held. They have included historic walks in the village, the society's informational display at the Farmer's Market and

Summer Days where donations have been received and books and magnets sold. Board members have presented the Heritage Center story to several civic and social groups in the community which has resulted in several significant cash donations for the project. More fund-raising projects are planned for the fall. With a visible Heritage Center structure taking shape, residents can see what is planned. It will help in raising funds.

Here's what happened this year on the museum front:

Construction of the new Grayslake Heritage Center began earlier this year with the demolition of the barber shop east of the museum. The project includes the two-story remodeling of the current museum and a museum addition to the east. The village is overseeing the construction phase. The Society moved out of the former museum by June. Museum artifacts are being stored at Churchill, Quinn, Richtman & Hamilton Ltd. in downtown Grayslake and in the annex behind the museum. The fire truck is being stored at Rockenbach Chevrolet.

The Society and its board are continuing to meet and offering a variety of programs and services. A temporary Society office has been established in the Grayslake Village Hall.

The project is being financed by a \$1.4 million grant to the Society from the village for a municipal building, substantial donations from the Esper Petersen Foundation, Society funds on hand and public donations and fundraisers both now and in the future.

The current Annex portion of the museum will remain. There will be improved parking.

*"Saving the Past for the Future"*

164 HAWLEY STREET + P.O. BOX 185  
GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS 60030-0185

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