



Grayslake Historical Society

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

UPDATE

February 2013

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

Grayslake Historical Society
164 Hawley Street
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PAST HAPPENINGS

The Grayslake Historical Society strives to fulfill its mission of collecting, preserving, educating and displaying. One of its ways of educating is by offering interesting, informative programs.

On Wednesday, September 12, member John Baumgartner's presentation "Measuring Avon Township" added to everyone's knowledge of reading and understanding maps. All audience members should now know that the pin number on their tax bill tells what section their property is in. He brought in an actual measuring chain. If you like maps, there is a map display in the Archives of the Society.

The 2012 Living History Tour of the Grayslake Cemetery took place on Sunday, September 30 and Shawn Vogel played the role of Elijah Haines. Elijah and his mother came to what became Hainesville in 1836. Elijah led us along the Old Plank Road (Route 120). Along the way he introduced us to Lawrence Forvor (Tim Holst) who explained that land owners were asked to give right-of-way over their lands for the construction of the plank road. There were three toll stations between Hainesville and Little Fort (Waukegan). The audience next met Corenia Kapple (Virginia Fitzgerald). Corenia told about Waukesha Spring Water being piped through Kapple property to the 1893 World's Columbia Exposition. Zebulon Freeman (Daniel Graham) was a veteran of the War of 1812 as a member of the Ohio militia. He came to the area because he received land for his service. Jane Slusser's (Amy Edwards) husband was elected the first clerk of Avon Township. Nancy Whitney Smith (Krista Holst) explained that townships are divided into 36 sections and that the 16th section of each township was for school purposes and could not be sold by the federal government. From Doddridge Bryant (Jim Hassett), the crowd learned that a state road once ran from Belvidere to Little Fort and was called the Belvidere and Little Fort State Road. Today we know Route 120 as Belvidere Road. The last person Elijah introduced was William Lovejoy (Mark Wilhite). William owned not only land along the Old Plank Road but also at one time owned land needed for the Wisconsin Central Railway to travel through the area. The coming of the railroad was the impetus for the start of what became Grayslake.

On Wednesday, October 10 Shawn Vogel, with his great-uncle John Baier, told about the Baier Family. John Baier Sr. came from Germany in 1912. He and his wife raised their family on a farm along Alleghany Road and in semi-retirement he worked at the Grayslake Gelatin Factory.

Two Grayslake High School students brought a crowd to hear about their Metro History Fair projects. Corey Pearson's project was about prohibition. During this time Chicago gangsters were active in Lake County, particularly in Fox Lake. In Grayslake there were blind pigs or stills north of Grayslake. Jim Glass's project, Porkopolis, featured the Chicago Stock Yards. The stock yards started in 1865 and closed in 1971. It provided raw material for the Grayslake Gelatin Factory.

A Reminisce session was held on Saturday, November 17. The topic was "Holiday Customs and Celebrations". Christmas consumed most of the time. It was interesting to note that when presents were opened, either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, followed ethnic traditions.

The train exhibit "All Aboard! A History of Railroads in Grayslake" opened Saturday, October 13 and has been popular. It has appealed to all ages with a working model train to watch and a Lego train with which to play. A time line tells that the trains came to Grayslake in 1886 and in 1899.

"Aprons: Ties to the Past" is a colorful exhibit in the Upper Gallery. It opened Sunday, December 9. A blacksmith apron is on display with a forge and anvil. A unique mesh butcher's apron is featured with a meat slicing machine. Present day "Dog N Suds" has a carhop's apron on display. These are only a few of the occupational aprons shown. Colorful kitchen aprons adorn the walls.

The Society and Museum assisted in several school and scout group tours. The traveling basket went to Woodview School. The annual Christmas Open House included carolers from Grayslake North High School. Santa sat with children in the Society's beautifully decorated sleigh. Families did a craft together and refreshments were served.

The Society was represented at the Lake County Historical Alliance meeting held October 24 at the Lake Bluff Museum. School kits was the topic. Grayslake Historical Society offers local schools a "traveling basket" which features hands-on artifacts. Members of the Society help to keep the Grayslake Cemetery raked and decorated with flowers.

COMING EVENTS

The following programs and exhibits will take place in the Heritage Center and Museum.

Wednesday, February 13, 7:30 PM, Historical Society program, Sandy Schweitzer of the McHenry County Museum will present a program on aprons, Attendees are encouraged to bring aprons to show, Nominees for Society officers and board members will be announced, Refreshments, Free.

Saturday, February 16, 10:00 AM, Historical Society Reminisce Round Table discussion about "Hang Outs", Places in which you spent your free time growing up in Grayslake, Refreshments, Free.

Saturday, February 23, 2:00 PM, Heritage Center program, Charlie Banks of the Lake County Civil War Round Table will present "Lincoln's Funeral Train", Free, Donations appreciated.

Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 PM, Historical Society annual meeting and program, Society volunteers will be recognized and an election of officers and board members will be held. Douglas Stiles from Waukegan Historical Society will talk about "Lincoln's Watch", Refreshments, Free.

Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 PM, Heritage Center program, Civil War Museum Curator Doug Dammenn will tell about "The Most Talked About Man in America, Elmer Ellsworth, 1860", Free, Donations appreciated.

Saturday, March 23, Noon to 4:00 PM, Grand Opening of exhibit "Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America", Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln will appear at 2:00 PM. Exhibit ends June 12.

Saturday, April 6, 2:00 PM, Heritage Center program, Actor R. J. Lindsay will appear as "Walt Whitman", Free, Donations appreciated.

Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 PM, Historical Society program, Waukegan Museum Supervisor Ty Rohrer will present "Abraham Lincoln Goes to Waukegan", Refreshments, Free.

Sunday, April 14, 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Lions Club Pancake Breakfast at fire station, Museum will be open starting at 8:00 AM.

Sunday, April 14, 2:00 PM, Heritage Center program, Actors George Buss and Timothy Connors will portray Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, Free, Donations appreciated.

Saturday, April 27, 2:00 PM, Heritage Center program, Professor Sharon Z. Alter will present "Mary Todd Lincoln and Varina Howell Davis: Civil War and its Aftermath", Free, Donations appreciated.

Saturday, May 4, 2:00 PM, Heritage Center program, Actor Steve Cole will portray Frederick Douglass, Free, Donations appreciated.

Wednesday, May 8, 7:30 PM, Historical Society program, Village Trustee Kevin Waldenstrom will tell about "The Waldenstrom Family", Refreshments, Free.

Saturday, May 11, Noon to 4:00 PM, Grand Opening of exhibit "Picture This: Celebrating Grayslake", Community members will submit pictures of people, places & events of Grayslake, People's choice award to be given.

Saturday, May 11, 2:00 PM, Heritage Center program, Historian Ray James will demonstrate surveying techniques, Free, Donations appreciated.

Friday, May 17, 7:00 PM, Heritage Center program, Actress Lynn Rymarz will present "The Trials of Mary Todd Lincoln", Free, Donations appreciated.

Saturday, June 1, 2:00 PM, Heritage Center program, Musician Lee Murdock will perform "Thunder in the Distance: Illinois in the Civil War", Free, Donations appreciated.

COMING EXHIBITS

There are two temporary exhibits in the Museum. The train exhibit is in the temporary gallery and the apron exhibit is in the upper gallery. These will be replaced before summer.

"All Aboard! The History of Railroads in Grayslake" closes on February 23 and will be replaced by "Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America" on March 23. The Grayslake Heritage Center is only one of eleven museums which is hosting this exhibit

created by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. It features eight kiosks of fabricated Lincoln artifacts, each with a story. To complement the exhibit, there will be community events with a Lincoln theme. Check the calendar of events in this newsletter and in other media.

"Picture This: Celebrating Grayslake" will open on May 11 to replace "Aprons Ties To The Past". Members of the community are encouraged to take pictures of people, places and events of Grayslake. A People's Choice will be chosen and announced during Grayslake's Arts Festival. Matted ready to be hung pictures are not to exceed 16 X 20. Entries will be limited to 30. More specific information will be forthcoming.

A farm exhibit will follow the Lincoln exhibit and open in July. The title and specific content has not been decided.

ANNEX NEWS

Grayslake Heritage Center Executive Director David Oberg has garnered a \$154,059 grant from the Illinois Public Museum Capital Grants Program managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. It is to be used to upgrade the Annex. The monies will provide museum quality heating, air conditioning and humidity control. Lighting will be improved and insulation added. The windows will be filtered.

The Annex has wonderful unique artifacts. They need to be displayed in a more professional manner. Upgrading the building is the first step. Storage is an on-going problem, which will be addressed. The work of the Grayslake Historical Society continues.

DONATIONS

The Grayslake Historical Society wishes to thank the following people for adding to its collections between August 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. Marlene Bjorkquist - framed drawing of 228 Park Avenue; Dawn Byrne - framed aerial view of a farm; Karen Weinert/Pat Harris - 2 Pat's Pizza menus, Pat's Pizza t-shirt, pizza spatula; Darlene Dorfler - 1953 E.J. Sheldon calendar, Home Extension cookbook; Connie Dunbar - Girl Scout uniform with belt & tie, Girl Scout bracelet, Girl Scout handbook; Marion Grinnell - railroad spike, 2 Grayslake Lions Club pins, Lake County Fair throw; Jean Collins - Ladies Aid cookbook; Veralee Jones - 2 hymnals; Lynnn Hoffman - Diamond Jubilee plate, Grayslake mug; Jane Tiffany-Hansen - Country Squire matchbook, Lake County Cafe business cards, railroad rubber stamp & picture postcard, 3 Piggly Wiggly signs; Rose Pech - Portrait of Charles Longabaugh; Jane Gottfredson - "Names, Place Events of Northern Illinois", 7 Sherman family images; Village of Grayslake - 7 documents, photos & blue prints; Fred Schaefer - 2 recognition plaques; Drs. Thomas & Patricia Schweitzer - 2 smocks, dental supplies.

The Society's mission includes collecting, preserving, educating and displaying. These goals could not be achieved without monetary help. The monies come from various sources, including memorial gifts and funds for special projects. Between August 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012, monetary donations have been received from Christopher Brenner, Anita Bumgarner and Family, Michael Ellis, Harold Flood, Penelope Lawrence, Emily Radfeldt, Charlotte Renehan, Ray and Shirleyann Russell, Janet Trieschmann, Roger and Bobbie Weichman, Ken and Pat Yopp,

Donations for use of the community room are shared with the Village of Grayslake to cover maintenance costs. Community users during the recent time period are Wladyslaw Bednarz, Melissa Meade, State Farm Insurance.

The Museum donation jar, with its anonymous donors, is shared with the Village.

The Society receives in-kind donations. Contributors include Lori Baumgartner, Marie Frandsen, Mary Friis, Phil Howe, Joanne Lawrence, Joyce & Terry Norton, Kristen Pearson, Charlotte Renehan, Charlene Rockenbach, Ron Roselli.

The Grayslake Historical Society thanks all for their generous support.

VOLUNTEERS

The 2012 volunteers of the Grayslake Historical Society and Museum will receive Certificates of Appreciation at the March meeting of the Society. Please review this list and let the Society Board know if a name is missing. Then join the Society in telling the volunteers, "Thank You."

Lori & John Baumgartner, Chris Brenner, Lois Brondy, Philip Bruno, Gayle Cinke, Doris Craig, Jim Crofton, Kim David, Darlene Dorfler, Connie Dunbar, Amy Edwards, Adam Eiden, Virginia Fitzgerald, Kitty Flary, Marie Frandsen, Richard Gaddis, Daniel Graham, Grayslake Fire Department, Grayslake North High School Choral Group, Grayslake Public Works, Grayslake Village Hall Staff, Kaysten Gross, Marion Grinnell, Judy Haga, James Hassett, Krista & Tim Holst, Phil & Kirsten Howe, Marjie Jobes, Dick & Nancy Johannsen, Amanda Johnson, Gemma Johnson, Joanne Lawrence, Cynthia Lee, Bill Leider, Vivian Miller, Karl Molek, Terry & Joyce Norton, Laurietta Parsh, Cory, Katie, Kristin, Scott & Shawn Pearson, John Potter, Indy, Joel & Nancy Reed, Charlotte & Linda Renehan, Charlene Rockenbach, Ron Roselli, Ethan Schoenborn, John Smiskol, Kathi & Nathaniel Starzec, Sean Thoms, Jane Tiffany-Hansen, Shawn Vogel, Westlake Christian Academy Students, Linda Willhite, Mark Willhite, Ken & Patty Yopp

MEMORIALS

Memorials have been established for Bonnie B. Wolff and Russell Gwaltney. Bonnie was a friend of the Grayslake Historical Society while Russell was a long time member of the Society. People may donate to these memorials or other memorials at anytime. The name of the deceased is engraved on a name plate and placed on a plaque in the Upper Gallery. Contributions to memorials may be sent to the Society at P. O. Box 185, Grayslake, Illinois 60030. Funds obtained from memorials are used to the further work of the Society.

MEMORIES

The new exhibit "Aprons: Ties to the Past" in the upper gallery has sparked numerous memories.

Jane Tiffany-Hansen brought in two of her husband's grandmother's aprons with a story: "In the fifties and sixties, everyone dressed up for the holidays and various parties. The hostess for the occasion had a supply of aprons, often homemade. So the women would put on an apron to help out."

Several people, who lived in Grayslake during the forties, remember watching John Welte race from Marie Horenberger's delicatessen on Center Street to the fire

station on Hawley Street. He would jump on the back of the fire truck still wearing his white apron, often with the ties flying in the wind.

Joanne Lawrence contributed several kitchen aprons. Later she said that the Society could keep all of them except one. That was a red apron with the hand prints of her granddaughters on it.

Some of the members of the apron exhibit committee had never seen a wire mesh apron that belongs to a butcher at Jewel. One member of the committee immediately remembered reading about the knights of old with their armour covering a mesh garment.

The Piggly Wiggly apron sparks memories of shopping at the store. Former customers remember the friendly clerks with their personal service.

A red catering apron has memories for Jane Tiffany-Hansen as her mother owned the catering service. Her mother's cooking skills have been passed on to Jane who likes to cook but does not wear an apron. Jane did wear a little red pinafore apron when she watched her mother cook as a child.

Kathi Starzec brought in a child's apron, with a dog house appliqued on the pocket. It is special to her because of its story: "The 'In the Doghouse' apron has been a part of my family since I was a child. The joke of the apron being that the guy is 'in the doghouse' with his wife, so has to cook the meal. My Dad used his apron when doing outdoor grilling. As a little boy, my son wanted to do everything his Grandpa did. So, Grandma made a child size 'In the Doghouse' apron for him to wear when helping his Grandpa grill".

Seeing the baker's apron, visitors viewing the exhibit have remarked, "We used to have two bakeries on Center Street".

The apron exhibit is colorful and unique. Artifacts help to tell the story of the occupational aprons. Come and see "Aprons: Ties To The Past" before it closes on April 30.

The Historical Society will host a free program about aprons on Wednesday, February 13 at 7:30 PM. Sandy Schweitzer of the McHenry County Museum will present the program and the public is encouraged to bring in aprons "to show and tell".

PAGES FROM THE PAST

Throughout the years there have been several train derailments in or near Grayslake. Perhaps some of our readers remember the derailments of 1953, 1973, 1974, and 1980. There have also been instances of trains hitting cars. The following two articles tell about trains hitting each other. These events took place on the Soo Line, today's Metra North Central line.

From the May 25, 1911 issue of the *Grayslake Times*, we learn:

Two Men Killed In Head-On Collision

Two Freights Meet in Bad Wreck on Soo Line

Two men were killed and two injured Monday morning at 7:40 when a freight train from the north and an ice train from the south met in a head-on collision near Claire Doolittle's home, a mile north of town on the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie railroad. Those of the train crew who were unhurt telephoned to the village for help and Drs. Shaffer and Palmer responded. A large crowd was soon on the scene but the three injured men had been carried to the

home. James Carey, conductor of the freight train, died in a half hour, his body having been literally torn open. The other fatality was Fred Miller, a fireman on the same train whose feet were pinioned in his attempt to jump, the hot steam scalding him to death almost instantly. Both men were of Fond du Lac.

The two injured men, F. J. Bunk Breman, who had his leg broken and Ray Davis, brakeman, who suffered a broken arm were (taken) to Fond du Lac, Miss Ragadale accompanying them as nurse. Miss Ragsdale returned Tuesday afternoon and reported them both doing nicely. The bodies of the fireman and engineer were taken to Strang's undertaking rooms and Monday night shipped to Fond du Lac. Carey and Miller were both newly married. Miller having been married only about two weeks.

Mr. Doolittle's house was turned into a hospital, the injured being cared for as soon as the doctors could get to them.

The south bound train according to the engineer was making about thirty miles an hour and the north bound train, which was taking cars up to Knickerbocker ice house side track was going seven or eight miles an hour. Both were heavy engines and owing to the fog were together so soon that only part of the men saw it and only saved their lives by jumping instantly.

The two engines were telescoped together, it taking considerable force to pull them apart. After they were loosen Miller's body, which was pinioned in by the tender, was removed. One big steel gondola was up-ended on the engine, one beside it and a third lay across two others, one of wood and one of steel. Directly behind was a heavy furniture car which had enough trucks under it to move a steamship. Two ice cars on the ice train were badly damaged. Traffic was continued as much as possible. Passengers walked around the wreck and the mail and express were transferred by the section men. The wrecking train had enough of the wreckage out to allow trains through late in the afternoon.

The cause of the wreck will be inquired into at the inquest at the village hall Thursday at one, it being impossible to get the witnesses together before that time. Had it not been for the heavy fog the trains might have been saved as the collision took (place) on a a straight piece of track.

Then on August 27, 1925, the *Grayslake Times* printed:

Fireman Killed in Train Wreck

Edward Manigan of Fond Du Lac Killed When Freight Trains Collide

Two Leap To Safety

Edward Manigan of Fond du Lac, Wis., aged 30, was killed Saturday night at 7:30 o'clock 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 tracks, 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 and 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 Grayslake and then onto the main line. The crews have been working incessantly since their arrival and at the present writing have succeeded in raising use 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.

To learn more train history visit "All Aboard! the History of Railroads in Grayslake" in the temporary gallery of the Grayslake Heritage Center and Museum. The exhibit ends February 23.

STATISTICS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Grayslake Heritage Center and Museum, home of the Grayslake Historical Society, is open sixteen hours a week: Wednesday through Saturday noon to 4:00 PM. Hours are extended during Farmers Market, pancake breakfasts and downtown events. In 2012 over 2,850 visitors came to tour the galleries. This number does not include attendance at Society programs, the cemetery walk, etc. The Society's facebook page has over 225 likes.

The Society ended 2012 with 261 members. To maintain or exceed this number, members, who are not lifetime members, need to renew their membership. Your membership status is noted on the address label of this newsletter. Help the society save time and money by renewing without a reminder. If you wish a membership card, you must enclose a self-address stamped envelope.

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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.

ARCHIVES NEWS

The Archives of the Grayslake Historical Society is located in the lower level of the Grayslake Heritage Center and Museum. It recently received a donation of a microfilm reader from the Grayslake Area Public Library. Visitors to the Archives can read the *Grayslake Times* from 1905 to 2003 on microfilm. The Society is in the process of getting a printer for the reader. The Archives needs a large card file cabinet, like the ones formerly used in libraries.

There are displays in the Archives area. Longabaugh and Nicholas paintings are hanging on the walls. The maps, which were on display in the Upper Gallery, can be seen in the Archives. Other items on display include the Hildebrandt Drug Store table and chairs, the DeGraff loom, the Rollins Post Office desk, Star Theater seats. Two display cases have artifacts.

The Archives is the office of the Grayslake Historical Society. It is scheduled to be open on Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Many people come in to work and to chat. In addition the Archives is often open during normal Museum hours.

"Saving the past for the future"

Grayslake Historical Society
164 HAWLEY STREET + P.O. BOX 185
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