



# Grayslake Historical Society

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

# UPDATE

## SEPTEMBER 2020

Grayslake Historical Society  
164 Hawley Street  
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Grayslake Municipal History Museum  
164 Hawley Street  
Grayslake, Illinois 60030  
Hours: Wednesday - Saturday Noon to 4:00 pm  
Tours by appointment

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### THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED

**Wednesday, March 11, 2020** - Grayslake Historical Society board member Jane Trump presented the informative program "Prohibition, Before and Beyond: A Boozy History of Grayslake". The following is summary of the talk.

We can trace Grayslake's boozy history back to the late 1800s, when George Thayer opened a saloon at the location that's now Charlie's Garden Tavern. William Brandstetter operated a saloon at the corner of what's now Whitney and Center, where the First Draft brew pub is now being constructed. Both locations offered a "free lunch" of salty items like frankfurters and sauerkraut to patrons who purchased beer for a nickel. Two social movements that picked up steam in the early twentieth century had a profound effect on saloons and their customers. The first was the temperance movement and the second was women's suffrage. In 1913, in spite of intense lobbying by liquor interests, women got the right to vote in Illinois. Their participation in Avon Township's "local option" election question in 1916 contributed to a "dry" victory that closed local saloons. "Wet" supporters challenged the results to no avail. The Village Board then shut off all street lights, stating that with the loss of tax revenue from saloons they could no longer afford them. When they relented and turned the lights back on a year later, residents were so happy they serenaded the home of Mayor Fred Battershall.

During Prohibition local folks enjoyed movies at Peter Newhouse's Star Theatre and picnics at his Grays Lake Park. They danced to the music of the Brandstetter orchestra at the Opera House. Booze was available in a few places, notably at Sheldon's Farm Resort. George and Theresa Sheldon welcomed guests at their farmhouse on Rollins Road and their cottages on Fourth Lake. Rick Lawrence remembers his grandmother, Irene Bacigalupo Wray, telling stories about George moving his moonshining equipment and supplies to her family's barn when he sensed that a raid was imminent. Mr. Sheldon was sometimes arrested but earned the

nickname "George the Immune" from the press because again and again juries acquitted him of selling moonshine. Theresa wasn't so lucky. She was sentenced to a month in jail after a dawn raid found 3 stills and 8 gallons of moonshine in their cottages in March, 1921.

Leo and Josephine Angley, who operated the Grayslake Hotel from 1928 to 1932, also sometimes defied Prohibition laws. In 1932 they were both jailed after a raid confiscated 200 bottles of beer and whiskey. According to the Sheriff, the raid was prompted by farmwives' complaints about the state their husbands came home in after attending cattle and horse auctions in Grayslake. Elsewhere in Lake County gangster Bugs Moran was active in beer distribution and was implicated in, though not charged with, the infamous Fox Lake Massacre.

**Wednesday, April 8, 2020 & Wednesday, May 13, 2020** - Due to COVID - 19, the programs scheduled on these dates were cancelled and rescheduled. See the Calendar of Events printed under Coming Attractions in this newsletter for the new dates.

**Saturday, August 8, 2020** - The Grayslake Historical Society worked with the Village of Grayslake and the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge to have a historic free-standing bronze plaque installed at the northeast corner of Lake and Center Streets in downtown Grayslake. This plaque is the fourth one in a series titled "The Story of This Land". The others are in the Grayslake Cemetery, Central Park and Gelatin Park. Society member Dan Graham, posing as George Thomson, Grayslake's first mayor, represented the Society at the unveiling event. The plaque says:

*In 1889 religious services were held in a store on the main street of present-day Grayslake. The members of this group held a vote to decide on a church affiliation and a Congregational Church was organized. Property at the northeast corner of Lake and Center Streets was purchased and construction began in the fall of 1891. The Grayslake Congregational Church was dedicated on March 20, 1892.*

*During the late 1940s, due to a lack of a Congregational minister the town's Methodist Church and the Congregational Church began to worship together. The United Protestant Church officially organized on June 20, 1950. The former Congregational Church building was sold and became Grayslake's Masonic Temple.*

*The Rising Sun Lodge #115 A.F. and A. M. was chartered on October 22, 1851 in Hainesville, Illinois. Elijah M. Haines was appointed then elected its first Worshipful Master. The Lodge was located in several locations, and lost records and furnishings in an 1875 fire. In 1892 the Lodge moved to present-day Grayslake and met in several different community halls. From 1907 to 1956, the Lodge leased a hall on the second floor of a building at the northwest corner of Whitney and Center Streets. In 1956 the Lodge purchased the former Congregational Church building for its Masonic Temple. Many of the building's historical features remain intact.*

*Rising Sun Lodge #115 is a part of the international organization of Ancient Free and Acceptable Masons, whose mission is to promote community and human welfare and inspire acts promoting benevolence, charity, and good will toward all mankind.*

*Erected in 2020 as a project of the Village of Grayslake in commemoration of the Village's 125th Anniversary.*

*Source: Grayslake Historical Society*

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Wednesday, September 2, 2020 and the first Wednesday of every month -** Search & Share Genealogy Discussion Group. 2:00 P.M. Heritage Center Community Room. Free. This group is open to novice and experienced genealogists and includes all geographic areas. At the present time, masks are required and social distancing is practiced.

**Wednesday, September 2, 2020 -** Grayslake Historical Society and Grayslake Heritage Center event. 3:00 to 7:00 PM. Farmers Market booth. Downtown Grayslake. Children will receive a kit to make a vintage toy. Free.

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020 -** Grayslake Historical Society program. "Melodies and Memories of Grayslake, 1895 - 2020". 7:00 PM. Jane Trump will present stories and images for Grayslake's 125 years of history, while Bill Chapin of Chapin Jazz Studio plays popular tunes from each decade.

Having an in person audience will be impossible due to Covid - 19 restrictions, so we will make the presentation online via Facebook Live. It is not necessary to have a Facebook account to access the event. Just enter this link into your browser: <https://bit.ly/2PHZhnr> to view the program as it happens. It will be archived, so you can use the same link to watch it later if you prefer.

**Thursday, September 10, 2020 -** Grayslake Heritage Center concert. 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Centennial Park at southeast corner of Whitney and Center Streets. Earthmother, a jam band influenced by the 1960s and 1970s will perform. Bring your mask and a chair or blanket to enjoy this outdoor concert. Participants are expected to comply with proper social distancing. Space is limited. Reserve your ticket at [earthmother.eventbrite.com](http://earthmother.eventbrite.com).

**Wednesday, October 14, 2020-** Grayslake Historical Society program. "A Stroll Down the South Side of Center Street". 7:00 PM. Previously a well-received program on the north side of the street was held with audience participation. Due to Covid - 19 restrictions, this program will very likely be on Facebook Live. Check social media and other sources as the date comes closer.

The program will briefly tell the history of each building with known stories to add color. For example Peterkort's Hotel is gone. It became a bowling alley which in turn burned down. Centenarian Florence Carlson said that her parents met in the dining room of the hotel while others recall fighting the bowling alley fire.

**Wednesday, November 11, 2020 -** Grayslake Historical Society program. "The Influenza Pandemic of 1918 - 1919". 7:00 PM. Depending on Covid restrictions in November, this program will be in person or on Facebook Live.

It's fitting that we will be spotlighting the 1918 - 1919 pandemic on Veteran's Day. Influenza raged in army and navy camps and caused the U.S. to lose more military personnel to disease than to combat in World War I. Jane Trump will bring a local focus to the story of the virulent illness that killed fifty million people world wide.

**Friday, November 27, 2020 -** Grayslake Heritage Center and Grayslake Historical Society event. Annual Giving Tree display opens. The display will continue through December during normal Museum open hours. Covid restrictions will apply.

This display features decorated trees created by local organizations. Trees are to illustrate each group's mission. Visitors to the Museum may purchase a ticket(s) to vote for their favorite. The money received is shared with the participating organization.



**Calendar Notes** - All programs and events are subject to change. They may be added, modified or cancelled. Check the Village of Grayslake newsletter, and the Facebook posts and websites of the Grayslake Historical Society ([www.grayslakehistory.org](http://www.grayslakehistory.org)) and the Grayslake Heritage Center ([www.villageofgrayslake.com](http://www.villageofgrayslake.com)) for the latest information.

### **THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED**

Members and friends of the Grayslake Historical Society are greatly appreciated for their donation of time, talent and treasures.

**Monetary** donations were received from the following between February 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020: Greg Alloian, Bette Best, Adrijana Bisevac, Dick & Maureen Blasisus, Bob Brown, Gary Burge, Jack & Sharon Clooney, Donna Cuilla, Darlene Dorfler, Connie Dunbar, Pete & Linda Fassbinder, Kitty Flary, Wm. Frank Family, Marilyn Fraser, Donna Freiburger, John Gleed, Peggy Gray, Marion Grinnell, David Haight, Justin Harris, Larry Herzog, Evelyn Hesper, im & Marie Jobber, Dick & Nancy Johannsen, Leslie Kaiser, Roy & Sue Kellogg, Janet Landrum, Michael & Mary Ellen Moley, Friends of John Potter, Marjorie Rasmussen, Charlotte Renehan, Nancy Rinker, Doug Rosene, John Smiskol, Tim & Sandy Smyth, Melissa Smyth & Jake Ellington, Jane Trump, Adam & Karly Tumminello, Diana Wagner, Linda Willhite, Dave Wurzbach,

**In-kind** donations were received from the following between February 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020.: Marjie Jobes, Karen Lenzen, Charlotte Renehan, Patty Yopp.

**Archival and collections** donations were received from the following between February 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020: Sheryl Roche - G.C.H.S. gym bag, Cub Druce portrait, 3 Hook & Co. clothes hangers, newspaper clipping; David Ryan - 4 1927 editions of the *Grayslake Times*; Ron Roselli - 1956 first grade class picture, copy of Tobias Subdivision postcard; Heather Pratser Strom - 4 Merchants & Farmers Bank Checks; Suzanne DeWees - 1962 G.C. H.S. letter sweater; Sharon Howard - Grayslake Monopoly game; Linda Fassbinder - 1998 Grayslake Rams/Colts booklet; James Krause - Wilbur Lumber Co. container; Brad Stickels - Grayslake Police Chief badge, 2 Volunteer Grayslake Fireman badges, newspaper clippings; Pete Mule' - 1995 Village of Grayslake Centennial Proclamation; Chuck Clow - 4 trading stamp books, 6 Lake County Home Bureau Year Books.

### **ANOTHER MOVE - THE OASIS**

When the Heritage Center and Museum opened in 2010, the office and collections of the Grayslake Historical Society were housed in the lower level of the building. It was a quiet, wonderful place until July 12, 2017 when a torrential rain caused six feet of water to flood the lower level. The Society declined to return to the area and the Village of Grayslake rented storage space two doors west of the Museum for the collections while the office and archives were moved to the south half of the Museum's temporary gallery on the first floor.

The Village owns the building at 151 Hawley Street, next door east of The Freeze, where the Oasis Youth Center was located. The Oasis closed in 2019 and it was decided to move the Society's collections to this location. The move has been completed with the help of the paid Museum staff and Grayslake Public Works employees. The Society office and Archives will move upstairs in the Museum building next to the Heritage Center office later this year. Items which were in this area have been moved to the Oasis building.

A small group of volunteers is nicknamed the Thursday Crew. Except for the first Thursday of the month, they work with the collections in the Oasis. On the first Thursday, they clean in the Annex and other galleries.

### **COME SEE, LEARN AND ENJOY**

The Grayslake Heritage Center and Museum closed in March due to Covid - 19 and reopened on July 1. It follows the directives caused by the virus: the wearing of masks and social distancing. Some Museum displays and exhibits have been modified to follow these and other directives.

Upon entering the Museum, visitors are given a mini booklet. The booklet engages a visitor with paper and pencil instead of doing hands-on. In the booklet are challenges: I -Spy, puzzles, multiple answer questions. There is also a historic tour of nearby buildings to do after leaving the museum. Answers are not checked in this souvenir take-home item.

The Esper A. Peterson Gallery, the second floor permanent gallery, features "Embracing Change: The Growth of Grayslake". Frequently touched surfaces in this exhibit as well as the others are sanitized each morning and on schedule during open hours.

The Charlotte K. Renehan Gallery, the first floor temporary gallery, which features "Sounds, Smells, and a Smokestack: Remembering Grayslake Gelatin" has been slightly modified. The hands-on recipe making magnetic board was removed and replaced with a visual challenge. Visitors are to find differences in images of gelatin container photos. The listening station with headphones has been removed. This exhibit was to end in June 2020 but since the Museum was closed for a period of time, the exhibit has been extended to June 2021.

The Upper Gallery on the second floor features "Grayslake Bars & Prohibition". The hands-on dress up area for children now has a see yourself in a mirror with vintage clothes activity. This exhibit was to end in November 2020 but has been extended to January 2021. When it comes down, an exhibit concentrating on disasters Grayslake has overcome in the past will be installed.

In the Annex, the notebook describing the farm tools on display has been changed to a chart with numbers corresponding to the displayed tools.

The lobby display cases presently have steins from private collectors and prohibition signs.

The courtyard has become an outdoor gallery hosting pop-up exhibits that are changed monthly for those who are not yet ready to come inside. There are pictures and stories in the Museum windows.

Changes to displays and exhibits may be made as the year continues.

### **WHILE THE MUSEUM WAS CLOSED**

While the Museum was closed, the Heritage Center Director worked in the building while the Museum Assistants worked at home and when it reopened they worked in the Heritage Center in separate areas. Meanwhile the Society volunteers stayed-at-home until the Museum reopened and they felt comfortable greeting with a mask.

To keep in the public eye, the Grayslake Historical Society maintains two Facebook pages: Grayslake Historical Society and Museum and Stories of Grayslake Keeping History Alive. The Society page remained active the entire time the Museum

was closed. One day it would post a trivia question and the next day answer it. With the reopening of the Museum, the trivia question went to once a week and once a week there is a post about an artifact. In addition this page tells about programs, events and other news. The Stories page is for stories only. Any comments are to be on topic and conversations are discouraged. It often gives more details for the trivia answer. Both pages appreciate readers "liking" them. As they say, "Like us Facebook!"

### **THEY WILL BE MISSED**

It is sad that each edition of this newsletter states that one or more members of the Grayslake Historical Society has passed away. Condolences are extended to the family and friends of Grayslake Historical Society members Marv Smith, Marno Benande, Tim Powell and Vivian Gwaltney. Their names will be added to the Society's memorial plaques as donations have been received in their names.

### **A PAGE FROM THE PAST**

The Village of Grayslake was to celebrate its 125th birthday this year. Do you wonder what Grayslake was like in the 1890s? Here is a list of businesses from 1899:

F. D. BATTERSHALL - General Merchandise  
THOMSON BROS. - Hardware and Implements  
MERCHANTS AND FARMERS BANK - General Banking  
E.B. SHERMAN - Jewelry, Watches and Clocks  
CHARLES R. THOMSON - Pharmacist  
W. A. GARDINIER - Hotel and Livery  
C. YORDY - Delmonico Hotel and Restaurant  
F. C. WILBUR LUMBER - Lumber, Coal and Feed  
W. H. BRANDSTETTER - Wines, Liquors and Tobacco  
GEO. THAYER - Fine Kentucky Whiskies  
JOSEPH PETERKORT - Beer, Whiskies and Cigars  
MATT. SULLIVAN - Horsehoeing and Repairing  
D.G. WHITE - Barber and Hairdresser  
MILTON BOYD - Stonemason and Plasterer  
JOHN WASHBURN - Carpenter and Contractor  
GEO. E. STRANG - Furniture and Undertaking  
F.D. FRITSCH - Painting and Paperhanging  
DR. E.V. HARVEY - Dental Surgeon  
ALLEN MURRIE - Blacksmith and Horsehoeing  
HENRY MOGG - Summer Resort Hotel  
CHARLES W. READ - Tubular Well Drillers

### **STORIES OF GRAYSLAKE**

COVID - 19 did not stop the printing of *Stories of Grayslake*. Over seventy-five stories are found in its more than 126 pages. There are 126 pages of stories plus an extensive name index plus a topic index. The topics include buildings, businesses, disasters, factories, farms, mayors, parks, subdivisions and more. Vintage images compliment many stories. The stories exemplify the community spirit of Grayslake. The following are selected quotes from the book.

"I remember lots of other things...but mainly the launching of "Grayslake's Band", the Scotch Lads, (Dr. Gordon Falknor, Bill Hall, Warren Brown and Don Penfield) -- was historic. One night in 1965, I was asked to fill in for my role model (Don Penfield)



on the sax. It was a St. Patrick's Day dance at Renwood -- and after that event, I never looked back. The Scotch Lads, truly a Grayslake legacy, eventually produced a 50 year run that had 25 different players." - Larry Leafblad.

"A young junior in Grayslake High School asked for a job (at Hall's Grocery Store) and eagerly wanted to learn the meat cutter business. Ed Bauer learned the trade and together they took over the meat department and titled it ED'S MEAT MARKET, with its slogan, "Two Eds are better than one." - Bill Hall

"Every now and then, my friends and I talk about growing up. Among other things you talk about old TV shows that most of us watched. One that comes up occasionally is "Andy of Mayberry". We all say the same thing, "Wow, I wish I had lived in a town like Mayberry." I remember one of the guys remarking, "If you grew up in Grayslake during the 1960s, you came pretty dam close." Well, in my opinion, he hit the nail right on the head." - Randy Kick

"Being a volunteer fireman, John would many times be seen running out of the Deli, white apron flapping in the breeze, as he ran the one block, along with Soup Tegen, and hopped onto the fire truck. It was a sight to behold!" - Marlene Badgerow.

"For me, Grayslake was an awesome place to grow up. When I tell my kids about some of my memories, I feel that I'm telling them stories from a *Mark Twain* novel. I'm glad I had places like Tree Island to explore and make memories in. What a great place!" - Ken Groh

"Volunteer help was used to make Grayslake High School's first real football field. Sod was obtained from Farmer Doolittle's pasture and supplemented by other farmers' fields. Individuals donated the use of their trucks. Students worked beside adults to lay the sod to create Grayslake Community High School's first football field." - Larry Tonies

"I began school at the ripe old age of five. We had only one neighbor who wintered on Highland Lake and he was in school: being the sweet child I was, I cried every day that I wanted to go to school. My mother went to the grade school in Grayslake, but they refused to accept me because my birthday fell after the cutoff date to begin first grade. She even promised them I'd repeat first grade, but the answer was still a resounding, "NO!"

Since Highland Lake was in the Avon School district she decided to try there. At the time Avon was a one-room school. The only question asked was if I was toilet trained; with that answer affirmative, I was in first grade." - Merry Nessinger

"The Strang family tree is solidly rooted in Scotland. Three generations of Strangs lived and worked in Grayslake. In the early 1800s, a contingent of Strangs left Scotland and traveled across the Great Lakes. In 1838 several settled in Millburn, Illinois, originally called Strang's Corners." - Leslie Babcox.

"During that time he (Roy Kellogg Sr.) was a clandestine bank guard. In the back room of his (barber) shop, there was a bell similar to what was ringside at boxing matches. Below the bell was a 12 gauge shotgun. Theoretically, if there was a robbery at the bank, the bell would ring, and my dad would grab the shotgun and proceed to the bank to apprehend the robbers. Thankfully, this never happened." - Roy Kellogg

"My mother would give me a penny to make a purchase. That is perhaps why it was called "the penny candy store" by kids. - Linda Renehan

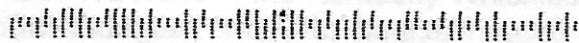
"Over the years, people with a variety of conditions sought treatment at Sally Potter's pool from those with polo (like my siblings), multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy to those who were blind, arthritic or recuperating from orthopedic surgery. The people who used Potter's pool were as diverse as the towns and communities it served." - John Potter

"My family and I have been going to Central Park for over twenty years, and we have countless memories of our times spent there. When my oldest daughter was a toddler, she began calling it the 'brown park' because of the color of the playscape." ..... "Although my daughters no longer play at the 'brown park' my hope is that many Grayslake families will be able to take advantage of everything Central Park has to offer and create memories of their own." - Mayor Rhett Taylor

The book sells for \$20.00 and is available at the Museum. Postage and handling is \$8.00. Checks should be made out to the Grayslake Historical Society, P. O. Box 185, Grayslake, Illinois 60030.

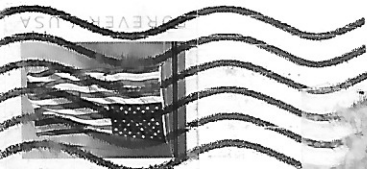
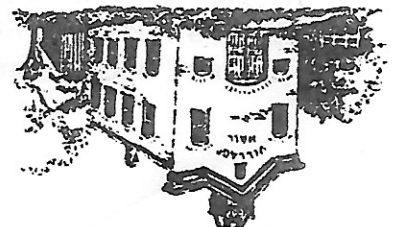
### 2020

The year 2020 lacked perfect vision. Events planned for Grayslake's 125th birthday were cancelled. Many of them will be held in 2021.



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