



The Return of the 96th (see p. 8)

Spring 2015

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

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Calendar of Events

April

April 18

Civil War Day

Guided Walking Tour

Waukegan's Civil War Sites (p.5)

April 18

Free Presentation

The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln (p. 5)

May

May 31

Courthouse Cornerstone Exhibit Unveiling

Society General Meeting & History Fair Award

Presentation (p. 6)

June

June 6

Ray Bradbury's Dandelion Wine Arts Festival

Exhibit closing: The Civil War: The Efforts in

Waukegan

Exhibit closing: The Lincoln Assassination: 150 Years

Ago

June 20

Guided Walking Tour

Historic Homes of Sheridan Road

June 21

Tour of Homes

June 27

Guided Walking Tour

Discover Bowen Park

June 28

Waukegan's Independence Day Parade & Festival

President's Letter

Harry E. Came

Spring is on its way and I have actually seen some green beginning to show in my garden—it cannot come too soon. As a transplanted southern boy I really enjoy the spring in Waukegan. We have the greenest grass and the most beautiful tulips and peonies; it almost makes it worthwhile to live through our winters (almost). The Historical Society, in conjunction with other local museums, will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. On April 18th, Ty Rohrer is giving a Civil War tour at 10 AM and then a 3 PM program will feature Jim Gibbons talking about the Lincoln assassination. On May 31 we will have our Annual meeting and the dedication of the cornerstone from the 1870's Lake County Courthouse, which has been installed next to the History Museum in Bowen Park.

June begins this year with the Dandelion Wine Festival on the 6th in Bowen Park. This event becomes more popular each year and the Society is a partner with Park District for the event. The Museum will be open with some exciting new additions especially for the attendees. On June 21 we will have the Annual Tour of Homes. This event showcases Waukegan's beautiful neighborhoods and brings visitors from far and wide. This is our largest fund raising event of the year and we need your support. Buy tickets for yourself and as gifts for friends. Members receive a discount for tickets purchased in advance of the tour. You will be receiving an order form prior to the event so make your plans to attend. This year's tour is on Father's Day so be prepared to honor Dad with a tour ticket.

The beginning of our fund raising efforts for the museum and library addition have raised a total of over \$8,000 for the project not including the \$100,000 given by Joan Callahan and her family to the Park District specifically for the addition. This will be a long term project in partnership with the

Park District, and we are determined to make it happen. With Illinois state funds tightening we are looking at grants and gifts from other sources. We are also looking to our members and friends to generously support these efforts. In order to carry out our mission to preserve Waukegan's history for future generations we need to expand our library, storage for our artifacts, and space to display our collections. Please think seriously about a donation and do not forget us when making your estate plans.

I hope to see you at our upcoming events and your support of the Society is truly appreciated.

Special Thanks

We thank Stuart Stefany and his family for taking the time to construct the Abraham Lincoln Springfield, Illinois home dollhouse that is on display at the museum in the exhibit *The Lincoln Assassination: 150 Years*. We hope to be able to lend out this unique visual to schools at the conclusion of our exhibit to help tell the story of Abraham Lincoln.



Walking Tour

Waukegan's Civil War Sites

April 18, 2015
10:00am

Learn the history of Waukegan relating to the Civil War while walking the streets of downtown in this guided tour led by Museum Supervisor, Ty Rohrer. The tour starts at Veterans Memorial Plaza located on the southwest corner of Washington and West Streets in Washington Park.

Pre-registration is required for the free tours. Please stop by or call the Jack Benny Center at 847-360-4740.

Program

The Assassination of President Lincoln

April 18, 2015
3:00pm
Jane Addams Center in Bowen Park
95 Jack Benny Drive

The Waukegan Historical Society is hosting a free program by historian Jim Gibbons titled *The Assassination of President Lincoln* to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln memorabilia from the Waukegan Historical Society and private collectors will also be on display.

Unveiling the Outdoor Exhibit for the Courthouse Cornerstone

May 31, 2015

2:00pm

Waukegan History Museum



Join us as we unveil the cornerstone of the old Lake County Courthouse in a new outdoor exhibit. This cornerstone—for the second Lake County Courthouse building in Waukegan—was laid by the Waukegan Masonic Fraternity in a ceremony on Thursday, April 18, 1878. In the mid-1960s when the current courthouse building was built, it was preserved by Howard L. Peterson and his daughter has passed it to the Waukegan Historical Society.

Historical Society

General Meeting and Program

May 31, 2015

2:45pm

Jane Addams Center in Bowen Park

95 Jack Benny Drive

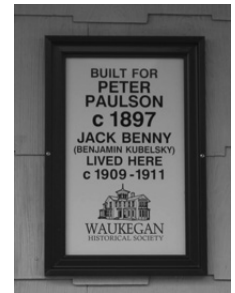
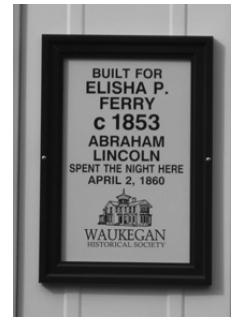
Mark your calendar for the Waukegan Historical Society's Annual Meeting. Join us for a brief meeting that includes the elections of new Society board members, followed by a program on the Lake County Courthouses and a special presentation by the Waukegan High School Metro Fair winner.

Historic Markers

The Historical Society is pleased that we were finally able to install a marker on the only home left in Waukegan where Jack Benny (Benny Kubelsky) lived. The house on 518 Clayton Street was his family's home for only about two years but there is a wonderful picture of him standing on the front porch on one of his many visits home to Waukegan. Hank Bogdala contacted Jim Durkin, the owner of the property, and he agreed to allow the Society to install the marker. The Mayor unveiled the marker on a blustery cold Valentine's Day in honor of Jack Benny's birthday.

Hank Bogdala also obtained permission to install a marker on the Ferry house at 308 Julian Street where Abraham Lincoln spent the night of April 2, 1860. The owner, Mirjana Nikolic was pleased to honor the history of Waukegan and of Abraham Lincoln in the 150th anniversary year of his assassination.

The historic marker program has installed about 60 markers throughout town on residences and businesses that were built prior to WWII and have some architectural or historical merit. This is an educational outreach to the community by the Society and we hope to have residents apply for more. The main emphasis of the markers is the approximate date of construction in order to educate the public on architectural styles of the period.



Historically Speaking

The Return of the 96th

Ed Link

“Huzzah. The war is over. Huzzah.”

That is probably how the men of the 96th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry greeted the news of Lee’s surrender in April, 1865. Many of them had served throughout the regiment’s three years of existence and were anxious to get home.

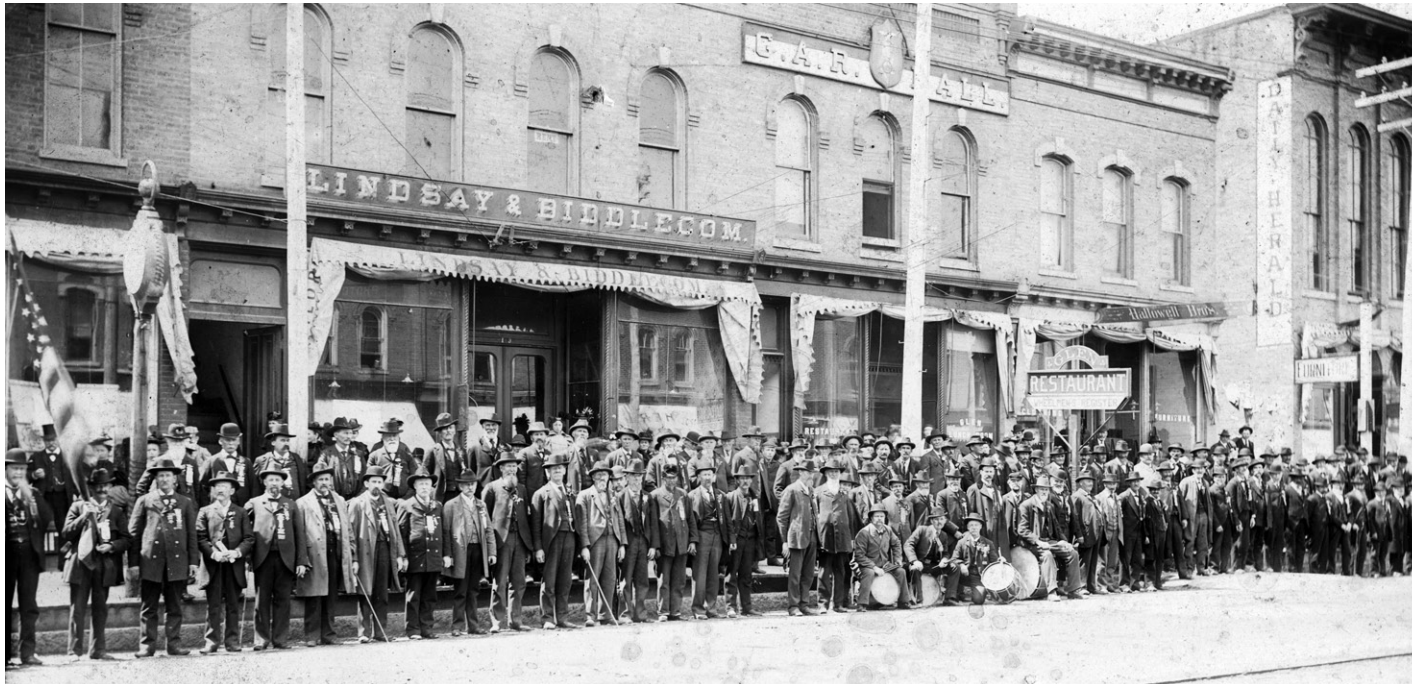
They were stationed in eastern Tennessee when they received the news. It was a long way to Lake County, but the men were used to a lot of travel. During the war it was estimated that they covered over 5,000 miles. Nearly 200 men had been killed or died from disease with another similar amount discharged for wounds or illness. Given that the regiment was engaged in over 25 confrontations with the enemy those numbers are not surprising.

The return was done in several stages. The first

step was to be sent to Nashville. About 150 later recruits were assigned to the 21st Regiment Illinois Infantry to fulfill the terms of their enlistment. Remaining members were mustered out June 10. Boarding a train the men moved north to Louisville. Problems concerning rail availability arose but eventually were resolved and the regiment reached Chicago June 14.

A dinner was given by the city in their honor later that day. The men went to Camp Douglas to await their final pay and discharge. During this idle time the war claimed yet another casualty. Herrick Millett of Company E had served throughout the war and escaped physical damage. While waiting in Chicago he walked to Lake Michigan to fish. En route he was struck by a passing train and killed.

Final disbandment occurred on Wednesday, June 28. The members of the Lake County companies boarded a special train for arrival in Waukegan that afternoon. When the train reached the Waukegan depot at 3:30 p.m. it was greeted by a reception com-



Veterans line up outside the Grand Army of the Republic Hall on Genesee St., ca. 1900.

mittee, a band and a crowd of citizens. Thousands more were lined up along the bluff. Amid a booming cannon and ringing bells the men got off the train to hear the locals cheering them. A procession began to the top of the bluff where young women ringed the men and showered them with flowers. The parade continued on Washington to Utica Street, north to Clayton, down to Genesee and back to Washington. A platform stood in front of Dickinson Hall and welcoming speeches were given.

Following the speeches everyone entered the hall to an enormous feast. After the repast the men were given cigars and heard additional speeches citing their accomplishments. Much cheering rolled over the veterans as they departed for their homes.

On Thursday the Jo Daviess companies left Chicago. Receptions similar to that in Waukegan were given for them in Warren and Galena.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!
WAUKEGAN HISTORY MUSEUM EXHIBIT

THE CIVIL WAR
THE WAR EFFORTS IN WAUKEGAN

Closes June 6, 2015

WAUKEGAN
HISTORY MUSEUM

Commemorating the 150th
anniversary of the end of the
Civil War (1861-1865)

Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

This Spring at the Waukegan History Museum we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War as well as the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Back by popular demand is the exhibit *The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan*. A new exhibit *The Lincoln Assassination: 150 Years Ago* explores the local reaction to the news as well as unique ways that Waukegan is connected to Abraham Lincoln. The last day to see both exhibits will be during the Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival on Saturday, June 6th.

The next few months will be busy as we finish out the school year working with teachers and students while at the same time gearing up for our summer events and activities. We are looking forward to wrapping up our education outreach programs and hosting the students at the Waukegan History Museum during end of the year field trips as well as taking the kids around Waukegan on guided bus/walking history tours.

To learn more about what is happening at the Waukegan History Museum, like us on Facebook. If you are interested in history related events occurring throughout Lake County like "Northeast Historical Happenings" on Facebook.

Tour of Homes

Save the date for Sunday, June 21st for our annual Tour of Homes. The Tour Committee is hard at work planning this year's event. If you are interested in showcasing your home on the Tour this year please give us a call!

Building Addition Update

At our Annual Meeting last May, and in our year-end mailing, we presented to you the conceptual plan for our museum/library addition. In our view, this plan effectively addresses the current constraints we face in an attractive addition to Bowen Park.

Also, in our year-end mailing we asked for your financial support to help us make this plan become a reality. We are pleased and encouraged to report that to date, \$7,680 has been received. We extend our grateful thanks to those who donated (listed here).

However, we view this as just the beginning of our fund raising effort and look forward to adding more names to our list of supporters. Please consider making a donation or, as several already have, a memorial gift to remember someone special to you, or a legacy gift from your estate. We are always available to discuss these giving options. Call the museum at 847-336-1859 if you wish to discuss them.

Museum Docents Needed

Interested in welcoming and guiding visitors around the museum on a Saturday afternoon? Give us a call and we'll get you trained!



History Museum Addition Donors

Up to \$50

Judy and Joel Tabachnick
June and Peter Zaragoza
Jane A. Leonowitz—in memory of Otis and Margery Clothier
Patricia Hentosh—in memory of Mike and Betty Hentosh
Ann Olson
Roberta J. Jackson
Ann T. Richter

Up to \$100

Lynn B. Schornick
Gail Dever—in honor of Thomas C. Dever
Mike and Jane Waller
Joan Pecina—in honor of Tom Beckman
David Motley
Gregory M. Alloian
Douglas and Marianela Peterson—in honor of Harry Peterson's service to Waukegan and the H.S. Auditorium.
Beverly Millard
Penny Miller and Richard Hershman—in honor of Roman and Cresy Miller and John and Bea Hershman
Philip J. Tobin and Sandra D. Tobin
Michael Rodriguez and N.E. IL Heating and Air Conditioning

Up to \$500

Elaine J. Eagon—in memory of Paul H. Eagon
Robert and Laura Zacks
Robert Bruce Barnett and Rita Braver Barnett
Shirley Garnant Figeas—in honor of the family, who lived and died, proud citizens of Waukegan, H.C. Garnant and Walker
Robert and Michelle Crombie
Joan Alders—in honor of Virginia Alders Briner
Faith and Jason Clark—in honor of Henry I. Clark III
Margaret May
Harry E. Came
Charlotte A. Gissel—in memory of Margaret "Leaf" Toliver (Peggy Toliver).

Up to \$1000

Marilynn and Dennis Moisio
Dourelle Jay Kweder
Anonymous

THE LINCOLN ASSASSINATION

150 YEARS AGO

March 3–June 6, 2015

Explore Abraham Lincoln's visit to Waukegan and the reaction the people of Waukegan had after hearing the news of the assassination. On display will be a model of the Lincoln home in Springfield and it will be decorated as it was after Lincoln's death.



Find Us on Facebook!

Like the "Waukegan History Museum" on Facebook!

For more information on local historical events and programs, like "Northeast Illinois Historical Happenings" on Facebook!

Thank You!

New Members

Patricia L. Warren
Catherine Viau

New Life Members

Rick & Jenny Selle
Walter & Patricia Miltimore
Kathryn Clay
Joyce Knutel Ludovic

Donations

Howard & Cleone Petersen Memorial Fund

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+)	\$10.00
Student	\$10.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$30.00
Patron, Organization	\$50.00
Life, Individual	\$100.00
Life, Couple	\$150.00
My additional gift	\$ _____

Make checks payable to
Waukegan Historical Society.

VOLUNTEER

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Waukegan Historical Society

Founded in 1968, the Society collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits significant materials about the history of the Waukegan area. The Society, in cooperation with the Waukegan Park District, operates the History Museum and Raymond Library and publishes this quarterly newsletter.

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Waukegan, IL 60087
847-336-1859
www.waukeganhistorical.org
info@waukeganhistorical.org

Visit our website for more information
about events, exhibits, and our
extensive library.

www.waukeganhistorical.org

Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Museum Supervisor: Ty Rohrer
847-336-1859
museum@waukeganhistorical.org
Tuesday, Thursday: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 1pm-4pm

John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road
Librarian: Beverly Millard
847-360-4772
library@waukeganhistorical.org
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10am - 2:30pm



CIVIL WAR DAY

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War & The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln

Guided Walking Tour of Waukegan's Civil War Sites and a Presentation by historian Jim Gibbons on the Assassination of President Lincoln.

See page 5 for details.