



Students explore the Lincoln Assassination exhibit.

Summer 2015

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

Calendar of Events

August

August 22

Guided Walking Tour

Discover Bowen Park (p. 5)

August 23

Special Ceremony

Civil War Flag Showing (p. 6)

September

September 11

Exhibit opening: *Combat Photographer: Waukegan's Albert Klein in World War II*

September 19

Oakwood Cemetery Walk (see back cover)

September 26

Guided Walking Tour

Waukegan & the Movies (p. 5)

October

October 18

Society Program

“Show and Tell Double Header (p. 6)

October 23 & 24

Guided Walking Tour

Ghost Tours (p. 5)

October 31

Guided Walking Tour

Ray Bradbury's Green Town (p. 5)

November

November 7

Guided Walking Tour

Remembering Our Veterans (p. 5)

WHS Board

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President's Letter

Harry E. Came

We are now midway through the summer and, as usual, we seem to cram more and more into our schedules when there is no snow on the ground. Ty keeps giving his popular tours around town such as his "Civil War" and "Sheridan Road" tours which have been very well-attended. In April the cornerstone from the 1870's courthouse was unveiled in its new home at the Waukegan History Museum and was rededicated by a large group of Masons from all over the State and the Chief Judge of Lake County. After the cornerstone program we continued to the Jane Addams Center with a program on the history of the Lake County Courthouses. June brought the return of the very popular Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival at Bowen Park which grows in attendance every year. The Museum was open and we had dozens of visitors walk up from the festivities in the lower park to tour the Museum.

In late June the Annual Tour of Homes was held and we were once again blessed with beautiful weather. This event takes so much work to achieve but it is our largest fund raiser and is the only way we are able to keep the Society moving ahead each year. Our thanks to the homeowners who graciously allowed us access to their beautiful homes, the Tour Committee, and to the many volunteer room watchers that make it all succeed. The dues we collect and the Tour allow us to print and mail our newsletter and provide supplies for the very well used Library, as well as continue our outreach to the community.

The fall brings several interesting events. On 9/11 through 11/11 an exhibit of images by Waukegan combat photographer Albert Klein. On the 19th of September the Cemetery Walk will be held at Oakwood Cemetery. This event is one of the most popular events of the year and always brings great reviews.

On October 18 we are bringing back one of our

more popular programs but this year with a twist. We are calling it our “Show and Tell Double Header” and Ty Rohrer will be presenting a few of his favorite items from the Historical Society’s collections that you may not know or realize we have. Everyone who attends is asked to bring an item to share with others at the program. These may be Waukegan related or simply items that you think will fascinate, educate, or amuse the other attendees. You may also bring small collections if you think they will be interesting to others at the event. I plan on bringing part of my collection of great ocean liner silver. I have items from the *Queen Elizabeth*, *Queen Mary*, *Normandie*, *United States*, and others—you get the idea. Please let us know at the Museum if you need a table to display your items and we will make arrangements.

Our fundraising for the Museum addition keeps bringing in more generous donations and it is sincerely appreciated. It will take a long time to raise enough money along with our partner the Waukegan Park District but it will happen and we appreciate everyone who keeps thinking of the Society. Please also consider remembering the Society in your estate planning.

I would also like to thank Betsy Alleman, Denyse Waters, and Yvonne Sylvester for their many years of service to the Society. All three were long time Board members and their efforts are appreciated. We can always use volunteers and if you would like to serve on a committee or volunteer at the Museum please let Ty know.

Historic Marker Update

On June 8, Andrew Cooke Magnet School at 522 Belvidere Street celebrated the installation of a historic marker on their building. Cooke School was named after Andrew Cooke, president of the school board who died at the age of 38. The original name of the school was to be Ravine Park School. In 2016, Cooke School will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Walking Tour

Upcoming Guided Historical Walks

Please pre-register for walking tours at www.waukeganparks.org, call the Jack Benny Center for the Arts at 847-360-4740 or visit the Jack Benny Center- 39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park.

Discover Bowen Park

Saturday, August 22 at 10am

Starts at the Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

Waukegan and the Movies

Saturday, September 26 at 10am

Starts at the Visual Arts Center-533 Grand Avenue in Powell Park

Ghost Tours

Friday, October 23 at 6pm

Saturday, October 24 at 6pm

Starts at the Douglas House in Upton Park-732 N. Genesee Street

Ray Bradbury's Green Town

Saturday, October 31 at 10am

Starts at Ray Bradbury Park-41 North Park Avenue

Remembering Our Veterans

Saturday, November 7 at 10am

Guided walk through Oakwood Cemetery

Shuttle van to cemetery leaves from Lilac Cottage in Bowen Park

Limited Parking at Oakwood Cemetery

Special Ceremony

August 23, 2015

2:15pm

**Waukegan History Museum
1917 N. Sheridan Road in Bowen Park**

See page 12 for a photograph of the flag.

Join us as we present and transfer a hand-made Civil War flag from our collections to the Waukesha Historical Society and Museum. This treasured artifact has been in our care for many years and it has a wonderful story. It was made by wives of soldiers who enlisted to fight for the Union cause in the Civil War. When the flag was donated to us, it was believed that the soldiers were from Waukegan; however, after detailed research we found that the actual origin of the flag was Waukesha, Wisconsin. We are excited to send this flag home and it will be on display in the Waukegan History Museum from 2:00-3:00 p.m. during the August 23 event.

October Program

“Show and Tell Double Header”

October 18, 2015

3:00pm

**Jane Addams Center
95 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park**

It has been some time since we have hosted a show and tell program. We want to share with you a few unique items from our museum and library while also giving you the opportunity to bring in something from your own personal collection to show off and talk about. Items can be Waukegan related or just something that you find interesting. If you would like a table to display your collection, please

call the Waukegan History Museum at 847-336-1859 to make arrangements. This free event is open to Waukegan Historical Society members as well as the general public.

Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

Our commemorations for the 150th anniversaries of the end of the Civil War as well as the Lincoln assassination have come to an end. Our Civil War Day on April 18 was very successful! The day started with the guided walking tour, *Waukegan's Civil War Sites*, in which 50 participated. The day concluded with the presentation, *The Lincoln Assassination*, by historian Jim Gibbons.



Currently on exhibit at the Waukegan History Museum is *Waukegan: Then & Now*. This is an annual exhibit that we continue to add to. This year we have incorporated more “then” and “now” pictures and stories along with artifacts and relics. Stop in to see what changes have or have not occurred over the years in Waukegan. This exhibit closes December 1, 2015.

We are collaborating with the Waukegan Arts Council in their launching of ArtWise: A Community Cultural Arts Series. This year's ArtWise theme is *Those Who Serve*. From September 11 through November 11 a special exhibit titled *Combat Photographer: Waukegan's Albert Klein in World War II* will be on display.

We hope that you can make the Waukegan History Museum a local vacation stop this summer!

Historically Speaking

Heoric Rescue

Ed Link

Many of you will recall the sinking of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* in a fierce storm 40 years ago next November. Memorialized in the news and in song it remains part of our consciousness.

But how many remember reading of a larger storm 62 years prior to that? Beginning November 7, 1913 the storm raged across the Great Lakes and when it ended a few days later 19 ships were destroyed, 20 more were stranded and over 300 sailors

lost. Waukegan had a part in that storm and fortunately no lives were lost.

Wallie Sunderlin was hunting along the lake front November 9 and a duck he had shot fell into the water. Anxious to claim his prey he jumped into a boat and rowed into the lake. He soon realized that it was an ill-advised decision. The wind and waves made rowing very difficult and one of his oars soon broke, virtually stranding him in the water. Yelling to the shore brought no help as no one wanted to risk his life in the rescue. Wind and the turbulent water pushed

Wallie further on the lake.

Finally someone alerted First Assistant Lighthouse Keeper Emil C. Tews (often misspelled as Tewes in news accounts) to Wallie's plight. Ignoring the obvious dangers Emil got into a boat and went out on a rescue mission.

With great effort he was able to reach Sunderlin just as Wallie's boat was swamped and he was tossed into the water. After getting Wallie into his boat Emil



Early picture of Waukegan's third lighthouse, undated

began the return to shore. Battling wind and waves took maximum effort by both men and over an hour to reach safety.

This wasn't Emil's first rescue, but the other wasn't so spectacular. Almost exactly a year earlier he pulled local dentist L.E. Thomas from the harbor after Thomas' launch was swamped. Tews' boat also was swamped within 200 feet of shore and the two men were able to walk from the water.

Rev. George McGinnis of the Baptist Church felt Emil's rescue of Sunderlin should be rewarded so he contacted the Carnegie Foundation to acquire a Hero Medal for Tews. Eventually he was successful as the medal was awarded October, 1915. Along with it, Tews received \$1000, part of which he used to settle the mortgage on his home.

A replica of the medal is on Emil's tombstone at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee.

(The medal and background information were recently donated to the Waukegan Historical Society and can be seen there.)

Lighthouse keeper Emil Tews and family



Tour of Homes Recap

On Sunday, June 21, 2015 our Annual Tour of homes was again blessed with beautiful weather and beautiful homes to tour. About 300 people toured three homes plus the Genesee Theatre, which opened for three special tours of the amazing venue. As always, the tour showcases beautiful Waukegan neighborhoods and wonderful homes. Attendees are always so complimentary of the homes and homeowners, as well as the beautiful neighborhoods. This event is a very positive one for the Society and the City as well as being our biggest fund raiser of the year.

This year we were fortunate to have a beautiful Colonial Revival on Sheridan Road with many original architectural features and a spectacular garden and lawn rolling down the bluff at the rear of the home. A Georgian Colonial on Greenwood Avenue impressed visitors with a modern eclectic art collection. A Queen Anne (Free Classic Style) on Ridgeland Avenue shows how determined old-house lovers can restore a beautiful home to its original glory with hard work and love for the home. First time visitors to the Genesee Theatre were stunned by the magnificence of the interiors and the history of the building. Jan Gibson, the theatre's General Manager took three groups throughout the building including backstage. The Theatre, which is owned by the City, is attracting more and more events and increasing attendance in order to make it the focal point of Lake County entertainment.

Please mark your calendar for next year's Tour of Homes, tentatively set for Sunday, June 26, 2016.

Cornerstone Exhibit Unveiling

One of the most memorable events to occur at the Waukegan History Museum in recent memory was the re-dedication ceremony for the second Lake County Courthouse cornerstone. Dignitaries from the Grand Lodge of Illinois Freemasons performed their cornerstone laying ceremony. This was fitting as the Mason's had originally laid the cornerstone during a ceremony in 1878. The actions performed by the Mason's have changed little over the years. The Honorable John T. Phillips, Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Court gave brief remarks at the conclusion of the ceremony. In attendance was the family of Howard L. Petersen, original preservers of the cornerstone who donated it to the Waukegan Historical Society, and they performed their own little ceremony. In keeping with family tradition, they placed squirrel feed on the cornerstone, just as had been done while the cornerstone sat at their family home. What a unique and historical day at the Waukegan History Museum.



Oakwood

Cemetery Walk Help

We could use a few more volunteers to perform the role of docent at the Oakwood Cemetery Walk on Saturday, September 19. The docent is required to attend a few training sessions and learn as much of the history of the cemetery as possible. Being able to stand for a long period of time and walk long distances over uneven ground is a necessity. Sounds like hard work, but we have a great time! Contact Ty Rohrer if you are interested in learning more about becoming an Oakwood Cemetery Walk docent.

This hand-made Civil War flag will be transferred to the Waukesha Historical Society and Museum in August. See page 6.



Building Addition Update

Over the past several months, additional donations have been received from our members and friends to support the addition to our history museum bringing the total received to date to \$9,780.00.

We are very grateful for this continued support. But if you have not yet contributed, please consider making a donation, a memorial gift or a legacy gift from your estate.

Recent donors are as follows:

Up to \$50

Steven Potter
Ralph Zahorik
Dave Rasche

Up to \$100

Bessie and Ethel Tsausis
Sharon LaBelle

Up to \$500

Douglas Stiles
Gregory Alloian

Up to \$1,000

Sally Zeit



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!

Museum Docents Needed

Interested in welcoming and guiding visitors around the museum during special events open hours? Give us a call and we'll get you trained!

Thank You!

New Members

Evelyn Fraga
Steven Potter
Grace Welch
Michael Hill
Rod Miller

New Life Members

Oliver and Jane Hager
Jennifer and Jeffery Cribb
Vicki Mattson
Margaret Capitani
Sandra Sorensen
Charlotte and Martin Wozniak

Donations

Waukegan Women's Club
Caroline Dudkowski
Joan Alders

From right to left: Barry D. Weer, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois Freemasons; Sherrill Eichler, daughter of Howard L. Petersen, preserver and donor of the courthouse cornerstone; and The Honorable John T. Phillips, Chief Judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Court.



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



1917 N. Sheridan Rd, Waukegan, IL 60087

21ST ANNUAL OAKWOOD CEMETERY WALK

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!
WAUKEGAN
AND THE MOVIES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
12-3:30PM RAIN OR SHINE
SÁBADO, 19 DE SEPTIEMBRE
12-3:30PM LLUEVA O SOL

