

Waukegan History Museum. Photo by Wayne Munn, WHS Life Member

## **Winter 2015**

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

# Calendar of Events

## December

December 5

Holiday Open House at the Waukegan History Museum

December 24 through January 1

Museum Closed

## President's Letter

Harry E. Came

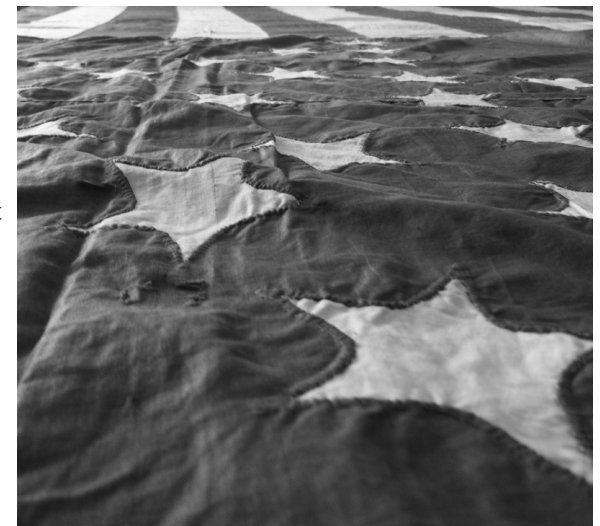
Each time I sit down to write this letter I am reminded of the many years I have been a member of the Waukegan Historical Society and how far this organization has progressed over the years. There have been huge changes in Waukegan since a small group of volunteers joined together to form the Society in 1968. Now we are nearing our 50th Anniversary and we are stronger than ever. While other organizations are closing their doors, we welcome more and more visitors to our Museum and Library. Our Museum Curator Ty Rohrer participates with the schools to provide programs for thousands of students every year, and our partnerships with the Park District, City, and other groups provide exciting events such as the Cemetery Walk and Tour of Homes each year. We have programs that are free to the public several times a year and celebrate local history through walking tours and special events. Thanks to our ongoing partnership with the Waukegan Park District, our volunteers, and a hardworking Board of Directors, our glass is not half full—it is three quarters full.

Several events have taken place in the past few months which are worth mentioning. In August we were privileged to be able to donate a magnificent Civil War flag, that had been in our collection, to its proper home; the Waukesha Historical Society in Wisconsin. This was a very moving program and

seeing the huge flag displayed on four six foot tables was unbelievable. In September the very popular Cemetery Walk took place with beautiful weather and happy attendees, even with a delay from the bus company. We had an interesting program in October with a “show and tell” that had not been held in many years. It turned out to be very positive and it will be repeated. I thought the full table exhibit of silver from ocean liners, that I personally provided, would be the star attraction but I was totally outshone by what Marilyn Moio brought to the event—a small tin box that was designed to *mail* a dozen eggs from your family farm to relatives in other states. It still had her family’s addresses on the box to return the empty box, designed for reuse, and said “eggs” on the outside. I had never seen or even heard of such a thing before. I was mesmerized.

I would like to thank our membership for your support over the years and in the years to come. The Society is the repository of Waukegan’s history for future generations and we take this responsibility seriously. In conjunction with the Park District we are working on plans for a major addition to the Museum which will add secure storage for our artifacts, a new library, exhibit space, and access to the second floor of the Museum, as well as tying the upper and lower areas of Bowen Park together. The Park District has been very supportive of this project and we hope to be able to proceed in just a few years. Our members and friends will be receiving year end donation materials shortly and we hope you will seriously consider a donation to the building fund.

Civil War era hand-made American flag that was on display at the Waukegan History Museum.



### WHS Board

#### Officers

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Patrick Cosgrove

Matt Crabb

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Mary Goljenboom

Vicki Mattson

Jim Maguire



## Holiday Open House

Waukegan History Museum  
Saturday, December 5  
1:00-5:00pm

Members and friends of the Waukegan Historical Society, join us at our holiday open house to visit with old friends and new! The Museum will be all decked out for the holidays and refreshments will be served.

## Civil War Flag Ceremony

This has been a year of once in a lifetime events at the Waukegan History Museum. First the Historical Society unveiled the cornerstone from the second Lake County Courthouse with the help of Freemasons from around Illinois. In August we said goodbye to a very special artifact, an American flag hand-made during the Civil War. After extensive research we found that this flag did not have the Waukegan connection that was once believed and its origins were traced to Waukesha, Wisconsin. It was decided to send the flag back home, with the blessing of the original donor, and we were privileged with having representatives from the Waukesha Historical Society on hand.

Ty Rohrer, Supervisor of the Waukegan History Museum opened the ceremony. Transcribed is his speech:

Today, we honor the past. Since 1985, the Waukegan Historical Society's collection has housed a very special piece of history. An American flag, hand-made for soldiers who fought in the Civil War. The flag was made by six wives for their husbands who had volunteered to fight to preserve the Union. The soldiers were John Watson, Charles McGill, James Moyes, Alex Rodgers, Gottlieb Bohrman, and Benjamin Campbell. They enlisted through August and

September 1862.

The flag had been passed down through the generations of the John Watson family. Francis White, a long-time resident of Waukegan, was married to Lloyd White, whose grandfather was John Watson. Francis decided that the flag needed a new home where it could be properly preserved and cared for, and we were the honored repository.

We had decided to make the flag a focal point of our 50th



anniversary of the Civil War exhibit. The names associated with the flag though did not match our records of known Waukegan soldiers. Research led us to Waukesha County in Wisconsin. Much to our dismay, the origins of the flag was not Waukegan, but rather Waukesha. Waukegan and Waukesha, both unique names but similar to each other may have led to the confusion of the flag's origins, but for this we can not be sure.

Today, August 23, 2015 is a fitting day for the Waukegan Historical Society to send the flag home. On this date 150

Civil War era American flag on display in the Formal Parlor in the Waukegan History Museum.



years ago, the first of the six soldiers were mustered out of service and were now on their way home to Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

The six soldiers all served in Company F of the 128<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. They had the nickname "The Badger Guards." The soldiers fought valiantly in the war and all survived.

We thank the representatives from the Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum for coming down for this ceremony. We also have two bibles from the Watson family to present to the Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum to accompany the flag.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to care for this flag and we are honored to send it home.



Museum Supervisor, Ty Rohrer and Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum Curator of Collections & Exhibits, Bonnie L. Byrd.

# GREAT GIFTS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

HELP SUPPORT  
THE WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

**2015 HOLIDAY CATALOG**

SHOP ONLINE AT  
[www.waukeganhistorical.org](http://www.waukeganhistorical.org)

**MEMBERSHIPS-A Great Gift Idea!**

## LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

Life, Individual (\$100)

Life, Couple (\$150)

## YEARLY MEMBERSHIPS

Senior (\$10) (Age 60+)

Student (\$10)

Individual (\$15)

Family (\$30)

Patron, Organization (\$50)

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Quarterly Newsletter

Discount Tour of Homes Tickets

Name on Life Members Plaque

*Helps us preserve and showcase  
Waukegan's history!*







# HISTORIC WAUKEGAN IMAGES FOR SALE



**Size 11" X 14"**

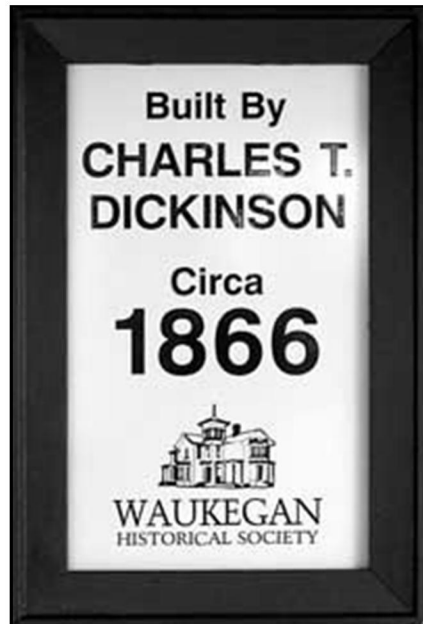
**Black Border**

**Prints are frame ready!**

**Framed prints come in a  
black frame ready to  
hang on the wall!**

**UNFRAMED PRINT \$30**

**FRAMED PRINT \$40**



**HISTORIC MARKERS** are a great gift for that house-proud friend or relative!

Historic Markers for Waukegan homes built prior to WWII. We will do the necessary research on your home or building if needed. You will receive a plaque that will include the date of construction, the original owner, and possibly other interesting historical information.

We will even assist with installation.

**\$75.00**

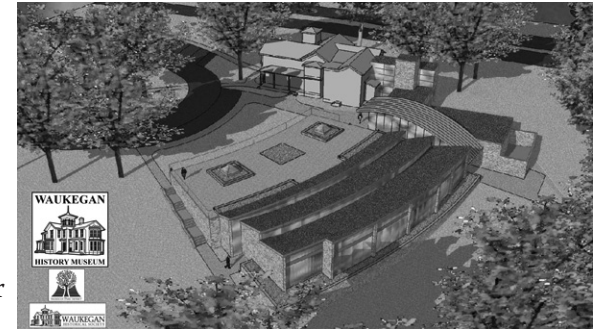
## Building Addition Update

*Preserving the past—Preparing for the future*

Two memorial gifts were received this quarter bringing the total amount collected this year for the Building Fund to \$10,380.00. The persons being remembered here were not only important to the gift givers but were significant contributors to the Society as well.

As was the case here, many of us have fond memories of special friends or family members who have impacted our lives. As we approach this holiday season, please consider making it a time of both remembering and celebrating them with a yearend gift to the Society.

And as always, we are deeply grateful for all your gifts to us and your commitment to our preservation efforts. We look forward to your continued generosity and support as we move forward with our plan for the future.



**Up to \$100**  
**Harry Came –**  
**in memory of**  
**Thomas Barrett**

**Up to \$500**  
**Anonymous –**  
**in memory of the**  
**Wight and**  
**Atterberry families**

## Tour of Homes 2016

The date of June 26, 2016 has been tentatively set for the Annual Tour of Homes. This is an event that is loved by so many and is so well attended every year. It is the biggest fund raiser for the Society and is such a positive event for the City. We have two homes already lined up and are still looking for two more homes to include. If you have a friend with a wonderful home please talk to them and ask if they might be willing to include their home on the Tour.

## Oakwood Cemetery Walk Recap

To see the videos of the 21<sup>st</sup> Oakwood Cemetery Walk, visit:

[waukeganhistorical.org/oakwood](http://waukeganhistorical.org/oakwood)

We had another wonderful and successful Oakwood Cemetery Walk (aside from a little problem with the bus being late)! This year's theme "Waukegan and the Movies" provided great stories to share. If you missed this year's walk you can find it on our web site. Look for a link to Oakwood Cemetery Walk in the footer, or visit [waukeganhistorical.org/oakwood](http://waukeganhistorical.org/oakwood).

We take a little time off before jumping into next year, but if you are ever interested in participating in this event please contact Ty Rohrer at 847-336-1859.

## Waukegan Images

Our downtown partner, Olson Ace Hardware has started selling our historic Images of Waukegan. A great holiday present at \$40, and they are already framed and ready to wrap. Ace also has the very last of our *Waukegan—A History* for sale for \$20. When these are gone there will be no more. We have sold almost 3000 in the past four years. Visit the downtown Ace Hardware and have a look at our items near the check-out lanes.

## Over 25 Years!

Our librarian, Beverly Millard, was recognized by the Community Action Partnership of Lake County's Retired & Senior Volunteer Program for giving over 25 years of service to the Waukegan Historical Society. Congratulations and thank you, Beverly!

## Museum Supervisor's Report

### Ty Rohrer

Our history programming continues to expand outside of the walls of the Waukegan History Museum. The education outreach program continues to serve many students in the Waukegan schools and surrounding area. The guided walking tours initiative seems to be really picking up steam. This past April, 50 participants to the "Waukegan's Civil War Sites" guided tour. In October, a new tour, "Ghost Stories," was very well received. This tour was given four times and over 150 participated. We hope to create more new guided walking tours. A tour taking people around to the various churches has been suggested, and it may become a possibility in the future, and if you have other ideas let us know.

Opening spring 2016 is an exhibit created by Grace MacKuch titled *Waukegan Artists*. Grace interned at the Waukegan History Museum and at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts over the summer and her exhibit focuses on four Waukegan artists; Phil Austin, Jan Debevic, Jim Harrington, and Bernardo Marigmen.

## Historic Markers

This program has really taken off in the past couple of years. We now have about 60 markers spread across the City. What a great holiday present for you to give to a friend or relative! The cost is \$75 and we do all the work of researching the home and fabricating a handsome marker to place on the front of the home.



# Thank You!

## New Members

Jan Debevic  
Janet Gibson  
Maria Telez  
Judith Manning  
Deanne Liebert  
Anton Mathews  
Tyler Prondzinski  
Nancy Gorton

## New Life Members

Roxanne Cheney  
Joel Graber

## Donations

Grace Welch  
Dorothy Evenhouse  
Gregory Alloian  
Zion Park District  
Doris and John Flynn  
Anton Mathews  
Lunette Eichler



## 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!

# 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](http://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





**Holiday**  
**Open House**  
Saturday,  
December 5  
1pm-5pm  
(see page 4)

