



Waukegan audience for President William McKinley's visit in 1899. See page 6.

Spring 2016

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

Calendar of Events

April

April 16

Waukegan's Civil War Sites Guided Walking Tour

May

May 15

Historical Society Program: Appraiser Event & Chicago Metro History Fair Award

June

June 4

Ray Bradbury's Dandelion Wine Fine Arts Festival

June 14

New Exhibit: *Prohibition in Waukegan: 100 Years Ago*

June 26

Tour of Homes Waukegan

President's Letter

Harry E. Came

There are some very exciting things going on at the moment and I would like to share them with you. On Sunday, May 15th at 2 PM in the Schornick Theatre at the Jack Benny Center we are having our Annual Meeting to elect new Officers and Board members. Following the brief business meeting we will begin a three hour appraisal event featuring a very well respected appraiser named Mark Moran. Mr. Moran holds these events all over the Midwest and has even appeared on The Antiques Roadshow. This is a special event and attendees will have to make advance reservations and pay a fee of \$10 per item to offset the costs to the Society of hosting the event. Google him and I think you will be impressed. More information in this newsletter.

The Annual Tour of Homes is scheduled for Sunday, June 26 from 1-5 PM. We have wonderful homes this year along with a very special garden and all within easy walking distance of each other. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we rely on the

support of our members and friends to buy as many tickets to the event as possible. It has been held nearly as long as the Society has been in existence and has become a yearly event that shows off our beautiful neighborhoods not only to our local friends but to many attendees from neighboring towns.

It is always important to remember that the Waukegan Historical Society is a partner with the Waukegan Park District in everything we do and we rely on the expertise provided by Claudia Freeman, the Superintendent of Cultural Arts and our greatest asset; Ty Rohrer, the Museum Supervisor. We need to also thank Greg Petry, the Executive Director of the Park District and the Board of Commissioners for all they do for the Society. **Thank you.**

The Society is a volunteer organization and it is so important to remember all of the many members and non members that assist the Society in its goals every day. The Board members of the Society both past and present who give so much of their time as unpaid advisors to the Society and the Museum docents and collection volunteers, Library volunteers who have staffed the Library year after year need to be thanked. All the committee members who have helped with all of our special events such as the Tour of Homes, Dandelion Wine Festival, the Cemetery Walk, and the volunteer room watchers and re enactors are essential to keeping the Society moving forward. There are many volunteers that help behind the scenes such as Margaret Martin who has, for years prepared our newsletter for printing as well as the artwork for brochures and Tour of Homes handouts. Our membership also needs to be thanked for their incredible support. Not only has the Society grown over the years but we are financially secure, we have a wonderful physical presence in our Museum and Library and we are able to provide educational services to the community all due to our member's time and financial support. **Thank you.**

Finally, I would like to pass on a story that I think you will find interesting. For many years the Board

WHS Board

Officers

President

Harry E. Came

Vice President

Doug Stiles

Treasurer

Dennis Moio

Secretary

Gail Dever

Directors

Josh Bill

Erika Burt

Patrick Cosgrove

Matt Crabb

Ellen Frew

Mary Goljenboom

Vicki Mattson

Jim Maguire

has discussed purchasing a microfilm reader. We have quite a few rolls of microfilm but have never had a way to read them or copy the images. We have looked at used readers and have discussed the expense of getting a modern one that also prints the images and works with a computer. We never were able to accomplish this goal. Last fall we had a visitor researching in our very well used Library and they needed to access something on microfilm and were unable. The volunteers explained that we have been looking for a long time but have not been able to purchase one. At this point the visitor offered to anonymously purchase a microfilm reader for the Society. This wonderful person ended up writing the Society a check for over \$9000.00 and the reader was purchased. We also needed a new computer to work with the microfilm reader and one was found last fall but, in order to get a really good deal, it had to be purchased that day. While Dennis Moasio, Treasurer and Harry Came, President were trying to figure if we had to get approval of the Board and how to accomplish this that day... Marilynn Moasio offered to buy the computer as a gift to the Society. **Thank you.**

I was talking to a long time supporter of the Society and thanking her for a wonderful donation to the building fund when she said, "you never asked before." She was right that we had never asked before but we had to have a meeting of the minds with the Park District before we could start our campaign. Today we have a very special circumstance - we have been offered a \$10,000.00 matching grant from two of our members that will match dollar for dollar every contribution to the building fund given from now until the end of June. If you can give \$100.00 then it will be matched with another \$100.00 up to a total of \$10,000.00. I hope you will consider giving at this time so you can double your contribution to the Society and again,

Thank you.

Program

Antique Appraiser

Sunday, May 15

2:00 pm

Schornick Theatre

Jack Benny Center for the Arts

39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park

Mark Moran, very well known appraiser will be presenting a program from 2-5 PM at the Schornick Theatre. Bring in your antique items for a professional appraisal. The cost is \$10.00 per item and you *must make an appointment* in advance so that the event will go smoothly.

Everyone is welcome to attend and watch the appraisals and learn something—or bring something and find out if you can retire early!

Also, the annual Waukegan Historical Society History Fair Award will be presented and showcased during the program. This award goes to the best Waukegan High School project that incorporates Waukegan's history into the National History Day Theme.

Contact us now for an appointment (2-5 pm) with Mark Moran. Email Ty Rohrer (museum@waukeganhistorical.org) or call 847-336-1859.

Building Addition Matching Grant

Double Your Contribution

From now until the end of a June, any gift to the Museum Building Fund will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 thanks to offers from two Society members. Please give generously and make your gift worth twice as much. Just fill out the enclosed card and place in the envelope provided along with your check.

Historical Happenings

Presidential Visits

Ed Link

In this election year it seems fitting to reflect on visits to Waukegan by past presidents.

Although not yet elected, Abraham Lincoln was the first visitor and probably stayed the longest. He was scheduled to speak April 2, 1860 at Dickinson Hall, but was interrupted by a fire at the Case-Bull warehouse. Lincoln spent the night in the home of Mayor Elisha P. Ferry, and departed the following day.

The first incumbent to visit was Rutherford B. Hayes on September 12, 1878. School children were let out so they could see the President pass through town. He did pause long enough to shake hands with some citizens.

President William McKinley visited on October 17, 1899 as his train passed through town. He stepped off the train and spoke from a platform to a crowd which included an estimated 1,800 school children. Though not in Waukegan, President William Howard Taft was in the area when he dedicated Great Lakes Naval Station on October 28, 1911.

President Woodrow Wilson was en route to Milwaukee on January 31, 1916 when he stopped for about ten minutes. He spoke from a train car platform to about 10,000 people gathered at the C&NW depot.

The next two instances may not even qualify as visits. On June 7, 1925 President Calvin Coolidge passed through town on a special train. The same was done by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 9, 1934. There is no indication that either train stopped or that any speeches were given.

Some presidential hopefuls came to town, typically attempting to attract voters. The first was John Parker Hale of New Hampshire, the presidential

candidate of the anti-slavery Free Soil Party in 1852. He received only five percent of the votes in that year's election.

Lincoln's opponent, Stephen A. Douglas, as a U.S. Senator, probably was in the area several times. As a presidential candidate he was here October 13, 1860, shortly before his unsuccessful election.

On October 25, 1884, the Republican candidate, James G. Blaine, spoke to about 2,000 people. In 1896 William Jennings Bryan visited. Neither man was successful in his quest.

In more recent times, Walter Mondale, who had visited twice while vice president, took part in the 1984 St. Patrick's Day parade. He attended mass at St. Dismas the following day.

One of a pair of stereoscopic images captioned: "An Illinois Audience, as seen from rear car platform, during President McKinley's address—Waukegan, Ill."



Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

The winter months are generally slower times around the museum with fewer visitors braving the weather, however, that does not mean that we are not busy. Our collaboration and assistance with the Waukegan High School Social Studies Department and the Chicago Metro History Fair continues to grow. We are also continually busy in the grade schools with our education outreach programs.

Under development is an exhibit that explores the people of Waukegan voting for city-wide prohibition in 1916. This exhibit will open on June 14, just in time for the Tour of Homes and the American Independence Day Parade and Festival.

The end of the school year is always our busiest time. If you are interested in your class or group scheduling a museum tour, guided walk, or presentation, give us a call. The sooner you contact us, the easier it will be to coordinate.

Building Addition Update

Preserving the past—Preparing for the future

We are pleased and gratified to report that donations totaling \$11,926.00 were received from our year-end appeal. This brings the total donated or committed to the building addition to \$123,336. A huge “Thank You” to our recent donors (listed at right) for your generous response.

Take advantage of our matching grant challenge and double your donation (see page 5)! We are also now able to accept credit card donations online at waukeganhistorical.org.

Up to \$50.00

Christine Kiel & Michael Labellart
Elizabeth Edwards—In memory of Walter Edwards
Elizabeth and William Valko
Janet Young
Faith Clark—In memory of Henry I Clark, III
James Peter Young
Janet Kilkelly & Lawrence Kilbane
Kathryn Clay
Michael and Emily Savage—
In memory of Florence Dart and Frances Ford
Michael Smole
Anonymous

\$51.00 to \$100.00

Gregory Alloian
Sharon LaBelle—In memory of Bob LaBelle
Ann Rippel
Joan Pecina—In memory of Dick Pecina
Patricia Petitclair
Sara Griffin—In memory of Walt Griffin
Lynn Schornick



Rear entrance of the proposed addition.

\$101.00 to \$500.00

Patrick Cosgrove
Dorothy Buddenhagen—In memory Betty and George Hughes
Sharon Came—In honor of Harry Came
Michelle and Robert Crombie
William Tyre
Joan Alders
Gail Dever
Sue and Tom Koesser

\$501.00 to \$1,000.00

Rita Braver and Robert Barnett—In memory of Betty and Bernard Barnett
Sherril Eichler—In memory of Howard and Cleon Petersen & the Petersen-Eichler family
Charlotte Callahan Wozniak
Gregory & Susan Lerch—In honor of Betsy Alleman
Dourelle Jay Kweder
June and Jim Maguire
Craig M. and Anne Conzelman Linn in Memory of Murray R. and Barbara V. Conzelman
Anonymous

Over \$1,000

Rose and Raj Bhatt

Guided Walking Tour

Waukegan's Civil War Sites

Saturday, April 16

10:00 am

free

Starts and ends at the Veterans Memorial Plaza at corner of Washington & West Streets in Washington Park.

Pre-register with the Waukegan Park District (registration #20103408).

Thank You!

New Members

Gail O'connor/T. Sammy Readie
Mary Rose Strubbe
Gregory Schueneman

New Life Members

Yvonne and William Martin
Jane and Mike Waller
Valli Tolleson
Thomas Green

Donations

Marilynn Moisio
Ann Richter
Ralph Zahorik
Jeanne Balmes
Janice Schroeder

Volunteer Opportunites

Interested in helping out some way with the many wonderful things that we do? Give us a call and we'll get you on board!

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.

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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



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!



Tour of Homes

Sunday, June 26
1pm-5pm

Save the date!