



Winter 2017

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

President's Letter

Harry E. Came

Times are exciting at the Waukegan Historical Society. Our services to the community keep expanding especially in the schools where Ty Rohrer and Bryan Escobar estimate that over the past five years they have presented programs to over 50,000 students. Ty in particular has made a huge difference in our ability to connect with the schools but Bryan, who has only been on the job for a couple of years, is gaining fast. They have also offered many walking tours such as "Haunted Waukegan", a Civil War tour, Sheridan Road, and Ray Bradbury tour. All of these events are free as is entrance to the Waukegan History Museum. We also partner with the Park District for the Cemetery Walk, Independence Day Parade, and Dandelion Wine Festival.

In October we hosted a standing room only program on haunted Waukegan presented by Ty Rohrer. The Annual Tour of Homes was a great success with 67 more attendees this year than last and a net increase in funds raised of over \$2,000. Our guests seemed to like the change to October and we are scheduling it for Sunday, October 7, 2018. Please mark your calendars as we plan a very special tour to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Historical Society. I would like to specially thank the homeowners who allowed us to share their beautiful homes and all of the volunteers, musicians, and costumed docents for all of their efforts. Members will also be treated this coming April to a special luncheon being planned in honor of the 50th anniversary; keep an eye out for your invitation in March.

The biggest news I have to share with you is the Resolution passed unanimously by the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners on October 31. We have been working with our partners at the WPD since 1973 and we have been planning an addition to the Museum for almost 10 years. The Resolution #2017-20 states "that the WPD Board

of Commissioners lend their support, resources, and assistance in an effort to build an expansion to the Waukegan History Museum. The WPD will use a variety of methods to assist in obtaining funds for this effort through grants, capital and other opportunities that become available."

With the support of the Board we will be redoubling our efforts to obtain funds from our members, the community, and any outside sources we are able to identify. You have already received a letter outlining ways for you to contribute through our end of the year appeal for funds. In the Resolution it also states that the Society has already raised "over \$220,000" toward the project so we are on a roll. Please consider a gift before December 31 to be included in the 2017 tax year as no one knows where the tax change debate will end up as far as charitable donations is concerned. Also please consider including the Society in your end of life decisions. I have and I hope you will too. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.



A full house at the Society's Fall program

WHS Board

Officers

President

Harry E. Came

Vice President

Josh Bill

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Secretary

Vicki Mattson

Directors

Jennifer Berzin

Margaret Capitani

Patrick Cosgrove

Matt Crabb

Mary Goljenboom

Chris Lanning

Vicki Mattson

Doug Stiles

Maryfran Troha

Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 2

1:00-5:00 pm

Waukegan History Museum

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

Holiday Gift Ideas

We have a few different items available for purchase that we feel are great gifts for the Waukegan history fans out there. We have various publications and historic images for sale. You can also purchase a historic marker for your home or a friend's. Buying a membership helps to support our organization and also provides a lasting gift and donations can also be made in honor of someone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the museum at 847-336-1859. Many of the items mentioned can be purchased straight off our website at waukeganhistorical.org.

Building Addition Update

Preserving the past—Preparing for the future

In our recent letter to our members and friends we celebrate achieving our overall fund raising goal of \$20,000 for the building fund. Also cause for celebration is a recent resolution from the Waukegan Park District stating their commitment to partner with us in moving this project forward from the conceptual plan to a funding and construction time table.

We of course, need your continued support as well here. So, we once again ask that you consider a yearend contribution to this fund as we approach our 50th Anniversary year.

In recent months, we have received several donations to this fund as well as donations for the ongoing work of the Society, mostly during our Tour of Homes. Our grateful thanks to these contributors, listed here, for continuing to support the Society throughout the year.

Thank You!

Lake County Historical Alliance

The Waukegan Historical Society is a proud member of the Lake County Historical Alliance and were honored to host the Alliance in October. The morning started with a meeting in Lilac Cottage followed by tours of our museum and research library. The Alliance is comprised of around 30 different historical based societies and museums.

The Alliance has been collaborating on a new publication to celebrate the Bicentennial of Illinois that focuses on Lake County's role in the state's history. This publication will be available in early 2018.



Ty Rohrer speaks to the Lake County Historical Alliance

Save the Date: April 21, 2018

Fiftieth Anniversary

We Invite You to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Waukegan Historical Society

As we await the holiday season and prepare to flip our calendars to 2018, the Waukegan Historical Society is thrilled to announce a very special event. Fifty years ago this coming April, a group of dedicated citizens decided that this community needed to start preserving and protecting our city's history. To celebrate this monumental event, we are inviting all members of the society to a luncheon at Bonnie Brook Country Club on April 21st, 2018. Please mark your calendar and watch your mailbox in the new year for your personal invitation. The luncheon will be free of charge to celebrate our founders and members.

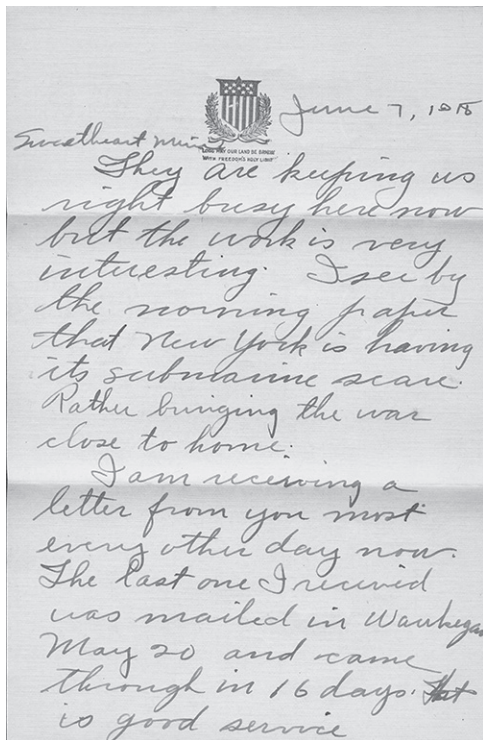
The luncheon will kick off our year-long celebration, which will include a special exhibit to mark our 50th Anniversary. We will also be honoring the founding members of the society and telling the story of our founding. We look forward to seeing you in April!

See It Now

This Issue's Unique Artifact from the Museum

Josh Bill

This month of November marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War. If you have yet to see the *Sweetheart Mine: World War I Love Letters* Exhibit, there is still limited time to see the story of love during a time of war. The exhibition brings early twentieth-century Waukegan to



life through the eyes of two local soldiers, Homer Dahringer and Westley Dyer, as well as stories of two families who were long-standing Waukegan residents: the Besleys and Tarvers.

Don't miss the original letters that are displayed as part of the exhibit. The letters recount the soldiers' involvement with the war as well as their desire to remain in contact with those back home whom they loved. Upon seeing the display, you can read additional letters that have been transcribed by society volunteers.

By popular demand, the exhibit will remain up through the rest of the year until we unveil a special exhibit to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Society.

Come on down to the museum and "See It Now"!

The Historical Society is proud to announce that the information and artifacts related to the exhibit are now available on waukeganhistorical.org.

History Notes

Dr. David Cory

Ty Rohrer

Dr. David Cory was born on April 18, 1809 in New York. By 1835, Cory was a medical doctor and he married Calista Amy Sanford. They would go on to have six children. The Cory family arrived in Little Fort (Waukegan) by 1840, making David the town's first doctor. Construction started right away on a log cabin home on State Street (Sheridan Road).

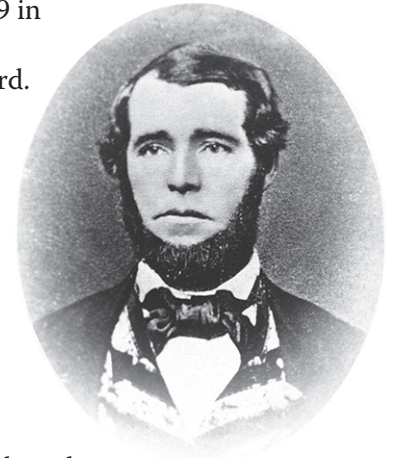
The Cory family must have liked the area because on May 26, 1841, David was one of the first people to buy lots of land when the town of Little Fort was platted. Around 1846, Cory and Dr. Moses Evans shared an office on the corner of Genesee and Washington Streets.

On August 18, 1847 Cory created "Cory's Subdivision" on the north end of Little Fort. The 45 acre subdivision was on the west side of State Street and two new roads were created with names as tribute to the founding days of the United States, North Liberty and Franklin Streets. Later, Cory gave land on Franklin Street for use as a school site, and this would eventually become the site of North School.

Dr. David Cory served the community well in various capacities and he was elected President of the City of Waukegan in 1852.

Dr. David Cory died at the age of 45 of Asiatic cholera on September 8, 1853. Calista Cory died on May 10, 1894. Both David and Calista are buried in Waukegan's Oakwood Cemetery.

In 1918, North Liberty Street was changed to Cory Avenue.



Dr. David Cory

Job Well Done!

A big thank you goes out to Kelly Brant, the Waukegan Park District Cultural Arts Summer Intern. Kelly is a senior at Illinois State University specializing in photography. She is already a very talented photographer and we were lucky to have her expertise.

Kelly's main project for the summer was photographing artifacts for the upcoming publication from the Lake County Historical Alliance that will celebrate the Bicentennial of the State of Illinois while showcasing the rich history of Lake County. Kelly photographed artifacts from our own collections as well as 20 other members



of the Alliance. The plan is to have the book available for purchase in early 2018. More information will be provided at a later date.

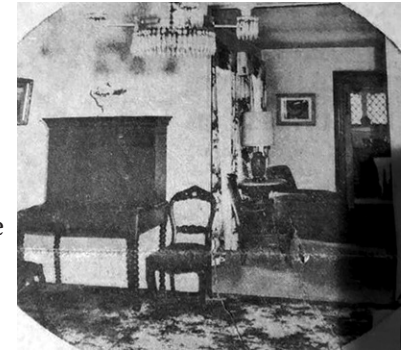
Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

At the museum we are always excited when new donations come in. We have had some very unique donations over the years, including just recently when the Foley family dropped off a historic desk. The desk originally belonged to Dr. David Cory, the first doctor in Little Fort (Waukegan). Dr. Cory was one of the first settlers in Little Fort arriving in the mid-1830s. He purchased the desk in the early 1840s and used it until he passed it down to another Waukegan doctor. Over the years, the desk continued to be passed down to Waukegan doctors and

was given to Dr. John C. Foley. In 1964, Dr. Joseph Foley, John's son, received the desk. The Foley family decided that the final recipient for the desk would be the Waukegan Historical Society, and for that we are honored. The desk is prominently displayed in the front parlor of the museum.

Over the holidays, we hope that you can stop in to see the decorated museum and also to catch the exhibit *Sweetheart Mine: World War I Love Letters*. The exhibit has been extended to run through early 2018. We are in the planning stages for our next exhibit, and for it to be successful; we will need your help. You will find out how you can be a part of the exhibit in spring of 2018.



Cory desk in the Foley home.

Thank You Claudia Freeman

Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Cultural Arts for the Waukegan Park District, is retiring at the end of 2017. Claudia has been a strong supporter and champion of the Waukegan Historical Society and we thank her for her dedication to the arts and Waukegan's history.

Oakwood Cemetery Walk Recap

The 23rd annual Oakwood Cemetery Walk was another great success! This year's theme "Celebration of the Waukegan Park District Centennial" provided us the opportunity to share many of the stories of how our award winning park district came to be as well as how it grew and prospered in the early years.

If you missed this year's walk, or if you want to catch it again, you can watch it on YouTube. Type in "2017 Oakwood Cemetery Walk" in the YouTube

search engine. You can also find it on the Waukegan History Museum's Facebook page.

Next year's Oakwood Cemetery Walk will be on September 22, 2018. Our theme will celebrate the Bicentennial of the State of Illinois. Planning for next year will not be for some time, but if you are interested in joining the Cemetery Walk team, contact Museum Supervisor, Ty Rohrer.

Pieces of the Past Comes to an End

Thank you to everyone who participated in *Pieces of the Past!* We had over 50 individuals and groups find all 50 puzzle pieces throughout the Waukegan Park District parks. This interactive and community wide exhibit was created by the Waukegan Historical Society to celebrate the Centennial of the Waukegan Park District. Many have expressed interest in the Historical Society creating another interactive exhibit in the future. We are open to ideas and suggestions if you have any.

Thank You!

New Members

Larry McShane
Janet Fluck
Geoff & Caryn Southwick
Helen Darsnek
Joyce Riddle
Mariana Lozano
Timothy Flynn
Ray & Pat Vukovich
Dorothy (Dodee) Yedinak

Recent Donations

Bob & Michelle Crombie
Ann Richter
Charles Lange
Ray & Karen Papp
Ethel Tsausis
Elaine Eagon
Sam Cunningham
Sara Griffin
Maryfran Troha

Building Addition Fund

Carol Alleman in honor of Betsy Alleman
Gregory Alloian
WTHS Class of 1954



Find Us on Facebook!

Like the "Waukegan History Museum" on Facebook!

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP	
Senior (age 60+)	\$15.00
Student	\$5.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Corporation, Organization	\$100.00
Life, Individual	\$150.00
Life, Couple	\$250.00
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
Arts & History Specialist: Bryan Escobar
847-360-4745
bescobar@waukeganparks.org
Tuesday, Thursday: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 1pm-4pm

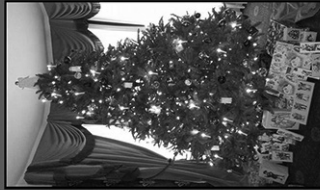
John L. Raymond Research Library

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

WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2017
1-5PM
FREE



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Waukegan, IL 60087