

Dedicated to Ed Link— Official Waukegan Historian

Spring 2020

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

President's Letter

Josh Bill

First and foremost, I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits during this difficult and unprecedented time. For many weeks now, the Waukegan History Museum, our research library, and all the facilities of the park district have been closed. Schools and many other businesses have shuttered as well. We all look forward to better days, and we know those days will come. Until then, let us be there for each other as much as we can, and let us also do our best to stay in touch with family and friends to lift their spirits or have them lift ours.

Typically, I use this space to promote our upcoming events. At the time of this writing, I cannot be sure of what will still be held and what, for the good of the community, will have to be postponed or cancelled. If you are looking for the most current information about events, please keep an eye on our Facebook page. If you have not already done so, go ahead and join that page; you can find it by searching for "Waukegan History Museum" if you are on Facebook. We will be doing our best to keep our website up to date as well: waukeganhistorical.org.

Traditionally, we hold our annual meeting during the month of May. Given the public health crisis, as well as state guidelines, we are postponing our annual meeting indefinitely. We hope to have our annual meeting at some future date, but right now all of our health and well-being takes precedence. While we are all at home, the work of the society continues. At the start of 2020, a committee was formed to look over and potentially revise our society's Constitution. We have been meeting via phone and video conference to discuss possible changes to the Constitution. Per that document, any changes that we are considering will be provided to the membership in writing at least thirty days prior to a membership-wide vote on language changes. Over the next month or so, as you keep an eye on our ever-changing schedule

using our website, you can also look for explanations of possible revision to the Constitution.

In this edition of our newsletter, we are honoring the memory of longtime member, exceptional researcher, and great friend of the society, Ed Link. We were very sad to learn of Ed's passing in February. Ed was the author of *Waukegan: A History*, which I know is on many of your shelves. Among so many other things Ed did for us at the society, he wrote a column in this newsletter. For this volume, we are running some of Ed's favorite stories. Please also see the resolution from the Waukegan Park District, which honored Ed Link with an official declaration that Ed Link will forever be remembered as Waukegan Historian. Thanks for your help and friendship, Ed; you will always be remembered at the Waukegan Historical Society.

COVID-19 Updates

The Waukegan History Museum is currently closed due to COVID-19. That does not mean that the history has stopped. We have started to add some of our old exhibits to the Waukegan Historical Society website. Please enjoy these at your leisure in your homes. Also, the Waukegan History Museum Facebook page has daily activities and posts to enjoy.

On Fridays at noon, join us on Facebook Live on the Waukegan History Museum Facebook page to experience History Lunch & Learns with museum staff.

Find us at

www.waukeganhistorical.org

Waukegan History Museum on Facebook



Join us on
Facebook Live
on **Fridays** for
"History Lunch
& Learn"

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Resolution Honoring Ed Link

Longtime Waukegan Historian and Volunteer

WHEREAS, Ed Link was a lifetime member of the Waukegan Historical Society, having served as its volunteer for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Ed Link dedicated his retirement years to the research of Waukegan history; and

WHEREAS, Ed Link was the author of two major publications on Waukegan history: "Images of America : Waukegan, Illinois" and "Waukegan: A History"; and

WHEREAS, Ed Link self-published accounts on numerous subjects such as Waukegan and the Motion Picture Industry, Industries, Dr. Vincent C. Price, the 96th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Transportation, Mayor Henry C. Hutchinson, Baseball and more; and

WHEREAS, Ed Link shared Waukegan's rich history throughout the region in public presentations; and

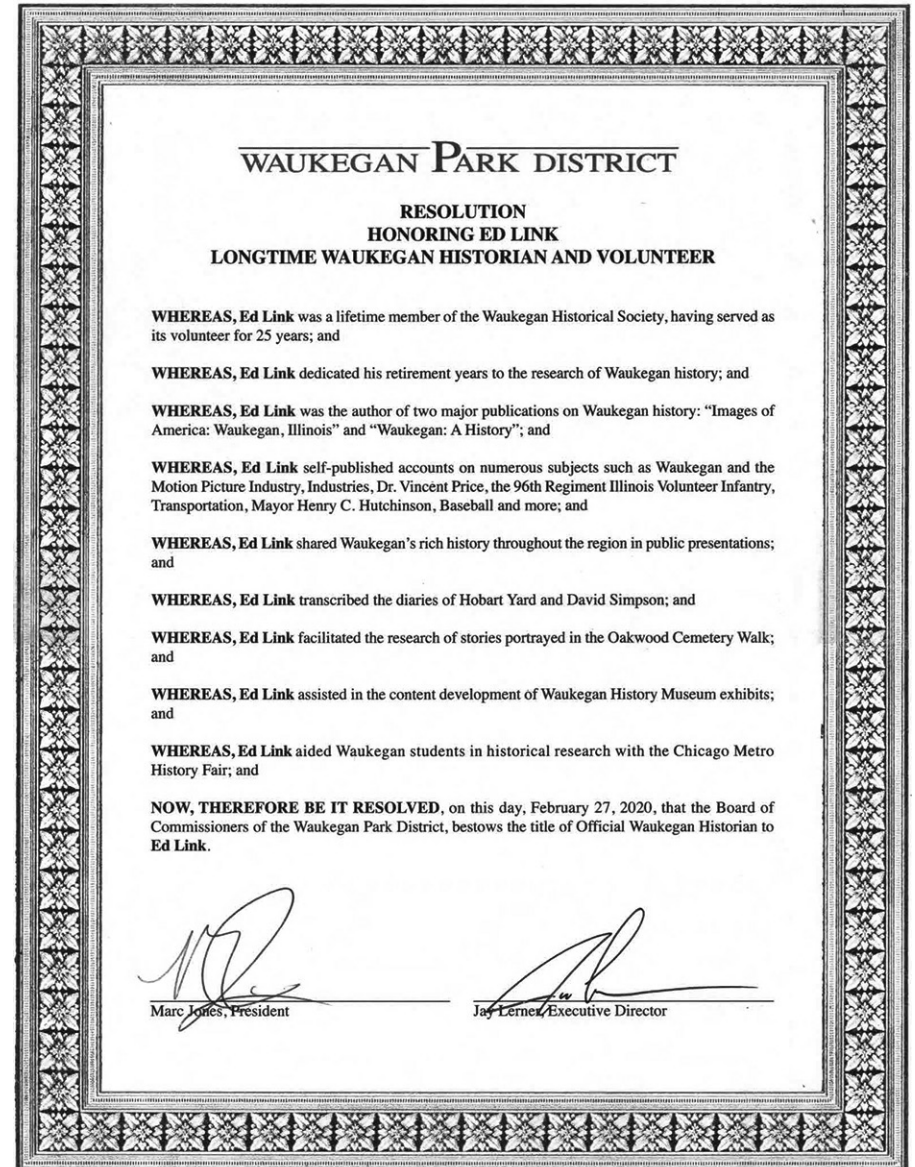
WHEREAS, Ed Link transcribed the diaries of Hobart Yard and David Simpson; and

WHEREAS, Ed Link facilitated the research of stories portrayed in the Oakwood Cemetery Walk; and

WHEREAS, Ed Link assisted in the content development of Waukegan History Museum exhibits, and

WHEREAS, Ed Link aided Waukegan students in historical research with the Chicago Metro History Fair; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this day, February 27, 2020, that the Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District, bestows the title of Official Waukegan Historian to Ed Link.



Historically Speaking by Ed Link

Ed entertained and educated us through his newsletter column “Historically Speaking” for over 20 years. For your enjoyment during these tough



times, let Ed entertain and educate us one more time. We have selected some of Ed’s favorite stories about subjects that he researched. Ed’s two favorite historical figures from Waukegan’s past were Dr. Vincent C. Price and Henry Hutchinson. As an avid lover of cinema, Ed enjoyed Waukegan’s history with the motion pictures and theatres. The American West was another of his passions, so finding a connection with Waukegan and Custer’s Last Stand at the Little Bighorn was a favorite story to share. And

of course Ed had many baseball stories. Please enjoy this five historical stories from Ed Link!

Fall 2000

Dr. Vincent C. Price and the History of Baking Powder in Waukegan

Many people may recognize Vincent C. Price as the grandfather of the actor and the inventor of cream backing powder. Manufacturing baking powder through Steele and Price of the Price Baking Powder Co. would be the way that most visibility would be attached to his name, but how many would realize

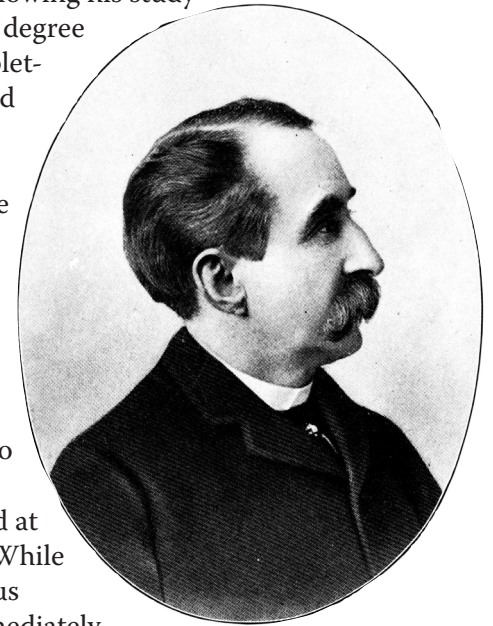
Dr. Price’s association with flavoring extracts, cereal food, cologne water and confections? All of these businesses will be discussed in greater detail as we chronicle Dr. Price’s life and investigate his entrepreneurial style.

Vincent Clarence Price was born in Troy, New York on December 11, 1832. Following his study of medicine he received his MD degree in 1856. After successfully completing course work in pharmacy and chemistry, he received the title of Pharmaceutical Chemist. He married Hattie E. White, and the family moved to Waukegan in 1860 or 1861.

While still a student, Vincent saw the difficulties faced by his mother when making biscuits. Uncertain ingredients often spoiled the baker’s efforts, but no alternatives existed. After much laboratory work, Vincent arrived at his formula for baking powder. While the product resolved the previous cooking problems, it wasn’t immediately or universally accepted. Vincent had to convince everyone of its efficacy. Through his appeals to grocers, samples given to housewives by door-to-door canvassing, and lessons given to hotel and restaurant chefs, he created a demand for baking powder.

To manufacture and distribute this new product, Steele & Price was formed in the mid-1800’s. The partnership remained until 1884, and Vincent continued on alone until 1891, when he sold the baking powder business. His influence continued through his associates, both of whom operated their own baking powder companies.

Right about the time of the sale of the Price Baking Powder Co., the Price Flavor Extract Co. was incorporated. Many of the products planned for the new company had been manufactured by the Price



Vincent C. Price

Baking Powder Company. Among the stockholders, along with Dr. Price, were his sons Russell and Gurdeon. The former would stay with the company for many years, eventually becoming its president. The latter would be killed in a shooting accident within a year of the incorporation.

In 1902 the state of New Jersey incorporated the Price Cereal Food Co. The following year the company was authorized to operate in Illinois, but that was not the end of its movement. A 1904 ad stated that its food mills were in Battle Creek, MI, with its main offices in Chicago. A 1915 ad had the Price Cereal Products Co. in Minneapolis.

Vincent had some interest in the manufacturing of candy. He wanted to use machinery, instead of hand labor. He also wanted to improve the flavor and color of the candy by using pure fruit extracts, rather than chemical dyes. He and sons Russell and Vincent L. began the Pan Confection Company in Chicago. In October 1902 it merged with 22 other candy manufacturers to form the National Candy Company. After the merger, Vincent L. moved to St. Louis to become Vice-President of the new enterprise.

Even all these enterprises were not enough to satisfy Dr. Price. In 1870 he had a small patent medicine company in Waukegan. It contained two employees and one pill machine. He also served as President of Lincoln National Bank in Chicago beginning in 1888 and lasting for 11 years. The importance of family is evident by Dr. Price's inclusion of his relatives in his businesses. His sons were associated with most activities. In-laws, and even his wife's half-brother were employed in many Price companies. Family concern even extended to his building several stately homes along Grand Avenue in Waukegan to house his children's families.

Dr. Price died July 12, 1914, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Waukegan.

Fall 2002

The Surprised Winner

We are in the election season and soon some candidates will be selected for public office. These people are actively campaigning for election and it is incomprehensible that anyone would be elected without his or her knowledge or consent. Yet that very thing happened once in Waukegan's history.

Born in Vermont in 1825, Henry C. Hutchinson moved with his family to Lake County, settling in Libertyville in 1843. Three years later he went into the mercantile business with Lyman Sprague. 1853 saw Henry and the business move to Waukegan, and in 1854 Henry bought out Sprague and continued the business by himself.

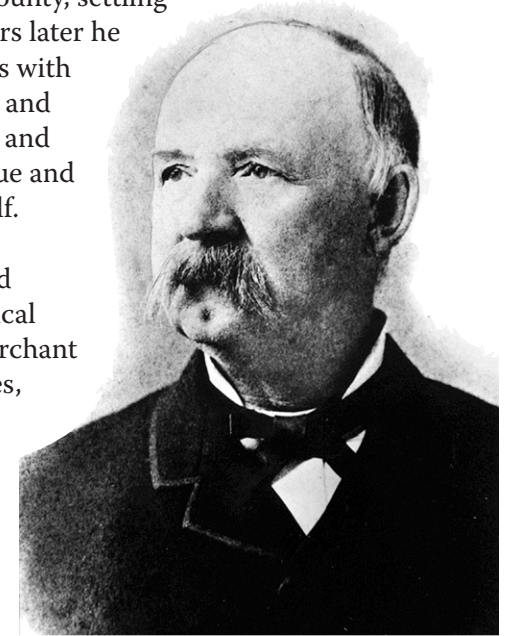
Henry's friends and associates admired his business acumen and regularly urged him to be a political candidate. Because he felt no merchant could afford to accept local offices, he continually declined their requests.

Not to be deterred, Henry's supporters campaigned for him and got him elected mayor of Waukegan in March, 1888 as a Republican. The only drawback was that Henry was in Iowa

throughout the campaign and had not consented to anyone working on his behalf.

Upon his return Henry's reluctance to serve was overcome by the arguments of his supporters and he agreed to be mayor. Staying true to his belief that business and politics don't mix, he sold his store within two months. At that time the mayoral term was one year. Henry was re-elected twice, increasing his margin of victory each time.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment as mayor



Henry C. Hutchinson

was facilitating the founding of the industrial lake-front. He convinced the belt line railroad to move its northern terminus (proposed for Highland Park) to Waukegan. With the transportation issue resolved, it was practical for the United States Sugar Refinery to build a plant at the southern end of Waukegan along Lake Michigan. Whether the train allowed for the industry, or vice versa, they obviously were symbiotic and opened the door for all the manufacturing plants that followed.

Following his time in public service, Henry returned to the business world until his death on April 19, 1902. His second wife, Annie, and his daughters, Frances and Gertrude, survived him. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Summer 2012

The Reporter

He moved around extensively throughout his life but it was at his final stop where he gained his fame.

Mark Kellogg was the son of an inn keeper who seldom stayed in any place for long. Simeon Kellogg and his wife Lorenda had ten children and one can follow their movements based on where the children were born. First they were in Canada, then Watertown, New York, back to Canada, McHenry County and finally Waukegan in 1850. At that time Simeon ran the Exchange Hotel at State and Water streets. Within three years the family relocated to La Crosse, Wisconsin where Simeon operated the Kellogg House for the rest of his life.

Mark was one of the first children born in Canada. Census records list his birth date as March 31, 1833, although 1831 appears in other sources. He shows up in the 1850 Census as a clerk working for his father. Apparently he remained with the family as he is in the 1860 Census in La Crosse.

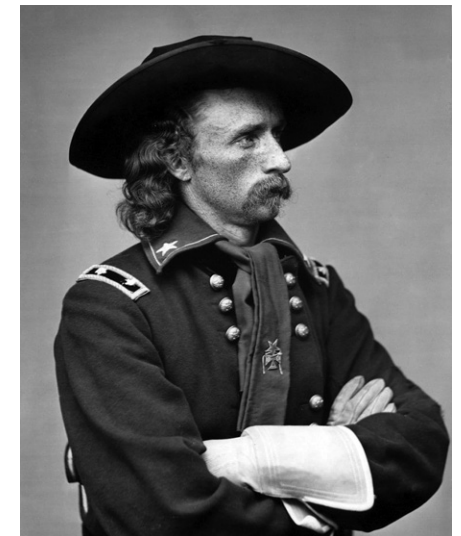
The following year he married Martha Robinson

and they had two daughters. At various times he worked as a telegraph operator and train dispatcher, but his ambition was to be a newspaperman. He worked for a paper in La Crosse. Following his wife's death in 1867 he left the girls with an aunt and moved around the mid-west working for papers in Iowa and Minnesota. In 1873 he joined the Bismarck (North Dakota) Tribune.

In 1876 he joined an expedition led by General Alfred Terry which was to settle the Indian troubles in the area. While moving west from Fort Abraham Lincoln he kept a diary and sent dispatches back to the Bismarck Tribune, and they were relayed to papers in Chicago and New York. In those dispatches he wrote of the ordinary events occurring in an Army march, described the Army itself and wrote glowing descriptions of one of its commanders, Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer.

When General Terry divided his command, Kellogg stated with Custer. This was in apparent disobedience of a telegram from U.S. Army Commandant William T. Sherman who advised not to take along newspapermen. When Custer divided his forces prior to the June 25 attack on the Sioux and Cheyenne at the Little Big Horn, Kellogg stated with him and died along with the entirety of Custer's troop.

Stories of the battle and its aftermath often are confusing and conflicting. Kellogg's body was either untouched or he was scalped and an ear cut off. His notes were in a pouch found alongside his body or left on a steamboat on which he had earlier worked. Regardless, his information was part of the first reports of Custer's massacre. Kellogg was eulogized by the eastern newspapers which claimed him as one of their own. The New



George Armstrong Custer

York Herald even sent \$500 to Mark's daughters. The Bismarck Tribune responded that he was its correspondent only and it was the only paper that funded his excursion.

In one of his final reports Mark Kellogg said "I go with Custer and will be at the death". Undoubtedly he was referring to the Indians after the Army met up with them. Little did he know how prophetic his words were.

The 1965 movie "The Great Sioux Massacre" showed a fictionalized version of the Custer story. In it actor House Peters Jr. played a character named Mark Cambridge. That character rode along with Custer, wrote favorable newspaper articles advancing the Custer legend, and died with him at the Little Big Horn. It isn't difficult to determine who the character was based on.

Spring 2002

20th Century Theatres

The Genesee Theatre is being restored. Lakehurst recently re-opened after an absence of about a year. Belvidere Cinema continues to provide entertainment, as it has since its opening in 1966. That is the state of the city's movie industry in the early 21st century. But what was its status in the 20th century?

By most definitions, the city's first movie house wasn't one at all. The **Phoenix Opera House** on Washington Street was the location of Edward Amet and George Spoor's initial demonstration of the first movie projector: the magniscope. This 1894 event marked the first time that many people could watch the same moving pictures simultaneously, but it wasn't really a movie. Amet and Spoor showed a series of action scenes, like horses running and trains moving. The motion picture industry was yet to be born.

When The Great Train Robbery and other movies



Edward Amet

as we know them began being produced, there remained a need of some place to show them. Movie palaces and cineplexes were far in the future. The typical showcase in the early 1900s was a converted store. Fixtures were removed, seats put in place, and Show Biz began. These entertainment Meccas were called nickelodeons or five-cent theatres, because of the standard admission cost.

The first identified movie exhibitor in Waukegan was not in a theater, or inside anything else for that matter. **Electric Park**, later named **Weiss Field**, was showing moving pictures in the pavilion during the summer of 1903. Their selection must have been limited due to the infancy of the industry.

The **Schwartz Theatre** at County and Water was built in 1905, but began showing movies in June 1906. Its emphasis remained with live performances at that time and for many years to come.

125 Washington was the home of the **Electric Theatre**, the first nickel theatre in town. Opening on November 1st, 1906, the house operated for little

more than a year. A short life span was not unique to this theatre, but was very common at the time.

Across the street at 120 Washington stood the **Madsen**. It was opened in 1907 and ran until 1912 when ownership changed as well as the name, to **Lyric**.

1907 was an active year for openings. **Hewitt's Family** (11 N. Sheridan), **Charles Amusement Co.** (223 Washington) and the **Buck Edisonia** (217 S. Genesee) all opened that year and ran for just a short time. **Wilson's** (104 S. Genesee) also opened in 1907, but made it at least to 1911. Emphasizing the smallness of the storefronts, the Buck Edisonia advertised seating for only 140 and Hewitt's held 250.

The most notable 1907 addition was the **Barrison**, on Sheridan Road next to the Carnegie Library. Converted from the Mohrman Livery Stable and seating 400, the theatre was created by vaudevillian Joe Howard and named for his wife Mable Barrison. Live performances were the only offering initially, with movies first being offered in 1909. Several name and ownership changes occurred, but the theatre did last for close to ten years.

North Chicago was not left out of this flurry of activity. The **Electric** at 18th and State (Sheridan Road) opened in 1908 and Werner's at 12th and State at the end of 1909.

Kastner's (219 Washington) was the last entry in the first decade of the 1900s. More theatres opened in subsequent years and stayed in business for longer stretches of time. But that would be the subject of some future article.

Spring 2003

Ah, Spring!

Ah, Spring! When a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of—baseball. At least that has been true in Waukegan for many years, and beginning earlier than most people know.

Waukegan has had its share of major league players, from the legendary Bob O'Farrell and John Dickshot to the more recent Jarvis Brown, Bill Krueger, Jerry Kutzler and Brian Traxler. But many other players, who never progressed through the ranks of professional baseball, performed for local teams.

Records exist of Waukegan teams as far back as the 1870's (Ed later found 1859 as Waukegan's first baseball game). A four team league played from 1878-1882 at the Washington Street fair grounds. Subsequent town teams played various county opponents and created great rivalries. The first fenced-in park was built in 1899 on the grounds of the future high school. In 1914 Thomas McCann built a ball park on Marion Street, with grandstand seating for 800. 1914 was a high water mark of sorts. Four local teams played and a city series was held between the McCann and Yourjevic/Benson teams to finish the season. 3,000 people attended the opener. It took three games for McCann to claim the title.

But maybe the highlight of that season was the Chicago White Sox coming to town on August 6th. Advertised as the first major league exhibition game ever held in the history of Waukegan, it was part of a Waukegan Day celebration.

The day began with a 25 mile motorcycle race, won by T. Anderson on an Indian cycle in 31 minutes and 10 seconds. Then the crowd gathered at the train station to greet the visiting ball club. The waiting fans were disappointed when the noon train arrived and they found that they team had decided to drive to Waukegan instead of taking the train. The

drive delayed their arrival and they just had time for lunch and to dress for the game.

3,417 paid admissions crowded into West Side Park, filling the grandstand and bleachers, and using all available standing room. The White Sox used essentially their regular line-up. They were mediocre that year, finishing 74-80 and in 6th place in the American League. But they were major-leaguers, playing a local semi-pro team.

Pitching for the Sox were two future Hall of Famers: Ed Walsh, nearing the end of his career, and Urban "Red" Faber, just beginning his. Faber operated a bowling alley in Grayslake after his retirement from baseball. Shortstop Buck Weaver would be implicated in the Black Sox scandal in 1919.

The Sox scored in each of the first three innings. Waukegan got a run in the third when Niemeyer scored on a hit by Goggins. Then the Sox got four more in the fourth and two in each of the seventh, eighth and ninth. The final 31-1 score probably demonstrated the skill levels involved.

It was not a smoothly played game though. Ten errors were made by the two teams, along with three hit batsman. Only two bases on balls were given up. Even with 26 hits (21 by the Sox) and all the scoring, the game was played in 1 hour, 45 minutes.

When the game was over the Sox returned to Chicago and the locals could have attended a dance, ending Waukegan Day.



Thank You!

New Members

Lucy Rios
Terry & Kathi Schultz

Donors

Greg Alloian
Frank E. & Alice G. Alviani
Daniel M. Anders & Lauren A. Sczygalski-Anders
Daniel R. Angarola
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Jennifer Berzin
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Karla Wool Bukstein (In memory of my parents Millie & Buddy Wool)
Monica Burmeister
Charlotte Callahan Wozniak
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Faith D. Clark (In memory of Henry I. Clark III)
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Jane A. Leonowitz (In memory/ honor of Otis & Margery Clothier)

Louis C. & Barbara L. Marell
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Mae & Glenn P. Smith
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Marilyn (Marni) Stanfield
Elizabeth M. & Douglas W. Stiles (In honor of Douglas Stiles)
Kathleen C. Swett (In memory of Leo & Carol Swett)
Wayne & Ann Taylor
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Student	\$5.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Patron, Organization	\$100.00
Life, Individual	\$150.00
Life, Couple	\$300.00
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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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
Manager of Cultural Arts: Ty Rohrer
847-360-4744
haines@waukeganparks.org
Arts & History Specialist: Bryan Escobar
847-360-4749
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



Ray Bradbury
Centennial Program
Waukegan History Museum
Facebook Live

Sunday, April 26 at 2pm