

Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

September 2008

Trivially Speaking...

Most Long Grove residents would probably know that the name Long Grove comes from the long grove of hardwood trees that dominated this area years ago. But did you also know that wasn't what the village was originally called? Read on to discover the original name.

In today's geography, this long grove of trees ran diagonally from roughly the corner of Gilmer and Rt. 83 to the corner of Rand and Long Grove Rd. While now rare in Northern Illinois, some of the long grove's original shagbark hickory trees can still be spotted in this area.

Back to the original name part of this story... Many of the early German settlers who comprised most of the town came from a village in the Alsace-Lorraine region of Germany. They tagged their new village with the name of their home in the motherland, Mutterscholz.

Mark Your Calendars

- Monday, 9am, September 29, Arboretum Club, *Loving Frank* book review with Barbara Rinella

Breakfast With Frank Lloyd Wright's Mistress

Loving Frank, the recent best selling book by author Nancy Horan, comes alive on Monday, September 29th at the Arboretum Club in Buffalo Grove.

Area book dramatist Barbara Rinella will be performing the interpretation and review of the book. Ms. Rinella's unique style involves taking on the personas of the book's characters.

Loving Frank is a work of fiction based on events relating to the love affair of a brilliant, controversial architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, and one of his clients, Mamah Borthwick Cheney. Mamah, along with her husband Edwin Cheney, commissioned Wright in 1903 to design a house for their family on East Avenue in Oak Park, Illinois. This book portrays the period 1907 to 1914, during which the Wright/Cheney affair flourished.

While it's a fictional work, the excerpts of

news articles throughout the book are taken from actual press coverage of the time. On the other hand, all letters in the book are invented, with the exception of an excerpt from one of Mamah's letters to Ellen Key, written in 1911; and the editorial letter Frank Lloyd Wright wrote in 1914 to the Spring Green Weekly News.

The fame of these near-by people and the accessibility of their homes today render the drama and reality of this tender story and its violent end to be very close to all of us in spite of the intervening 100 years. You will not want to miss the experience of Barbara bringing to life the fascinating sequences that were the lives of Frank and Mamah.

The event is being sponsored by the Long Grove Historical Society and includes a



buffet breakfast. Breakfast starts at 9am, with Barbara's performance following at 10am. It is open to the general public and the cost is \$27.00 per person, with all proceeds going to support the Long Grove Historical Society. Advance payment and reservations are required—to reserve a seat or table (bring some friends!), print and mail the response form from our website LongGroveHistory.com), or contact Marie Borg (847-438-7656) or Laurie Borawski (847-949-5264) for more information.



ARTIFACT EXPLORED

When school groups visit Ruth Barn, the “pitchfork collection” is often the highlight of their tour. As the kids learn, it’s really a “fork collection” as the pitchfork is but one type of fork used during the Civil War era. The traditional pitchfork features three tines – it’s light-

weight and easy on your back if you use it to toss or pitch hay for a few hours. A manure fork, on the other hand, usually has 4 or more tines due to the lack of cohesiveness of the material it scoops. The more tines a fork has, the heavier it is. The heavier the fork, the

harder it is on your back. A farmer tended to use a fork with the minimum number of tines necessary to pick up the material being moved. Why is this the highlight of the kids tour? Well, as you might imagine, anytime pointed objects, counting, and doodoo is mixed with a group of third graders... it’s going to be entertaining.



Lee Bassett, our Vice President, docent, and resident fork expert.

Out and About

Adlai Stevenson II was Governor of Illinois from 1949 to 1953, ran twice for President as the Democratic National Candidate in 1952 and 1956, and served as Ambassador to the United Nations from 1961 to 1965.

During one of his runs for president, Adlai was told by a supporter that he was sure to get the vote of every thinking man. He is supposed to have retorted, “Thank you, but I need a majority to win.”

In 1935 Adlai E. Stevenson II and his wife Ellen purchased 70 acres of land in Mettawa on which to build a home. When he was at this home, Stevenson spent the majority of his time at his desk in the study, writing

speeches and books, and meeting with dignitaries such as Eleanor Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. Eleanor Roosevelt was a close friend of Stevenson's and a frequent guest at the home.

The Lake County Forest Preserves manages the property and will be conducting public tours later this year.

We’re organizing a tour for historical society members in the upcoming months. Stay tuned...

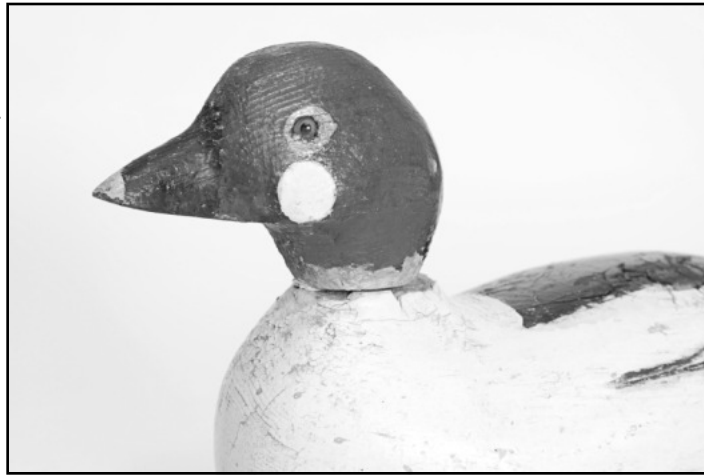
The Fine Print

The Long Grove Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization whose purpose is to preserve and disseminate the history of the Long Grove area. Annual membership is available for a donation of \$30 (individual), \$50 (family), or \$100 (sustaining). Members receive our quarterly newsletter as well as access to a variety of events held throughout the year. To become a member, send your donation to Georgia Cawley, LGHS Membership, 4509 RFD, Long Grove, IL 60047, along with your name, address, telephone number, email. If you have any special interests, skills, or things you’d be interested in volunteering to help out with, be sure to let us know that as well.

Vintage Yarns

We caught up with long time resident Barbara Reed Turner recently and she shared a few thoughts with us on what it was like growing up in “old” Long Grove.

“My family built a cabin here in the late 1920’s,” says Barbara. Reflecting on a summer job she had in the village, Barbara continues: “Around 1900, the citizens of Long Grove donated \$5 each for the construction of a local community hall to be used for local events and meetings. In the 1930’s, the building was converted over to a factory for making wood decoys. I spent one of my summers working in the factory painting those decoys. Unfortunately, years



later, all of the sawdust and wood in the factory contributed to a major fire which consumed the factory, so that building no longer exists today.”

Was Long Grove always known as an area tourist destination? No, says Barbara: “At the close of World War II, the general store at the crossroads had closed

and there were few operating businesses. However, soon after the war, two enterprising women opened up shops - Mrs. Fanning opened a general store, and Mrs. Shroyer

opened up a resale shop. In addition to antiques, the resale shop also featured peasant skirts made by the Shroyer's daughters as well as tea and pie made fresh by a local farmer's wife. That started people coming to Long Grove and soon other shops opened, also featuring antiques.

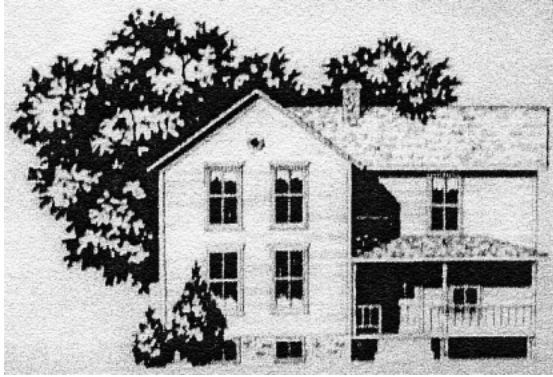
So in the time after the war Long Grove was thought of primarily as a place to shop for antiques.”

Family History Corner

Want to read an interview with your great-grandparents? It’s as close as your local library - both of our local libraries (Ela and Vernon Area) have PC’s that allow online access to family interviews conducted by US Census takers from the years

1790 to 1930. While the government might not have asked all the questions you’d like to see now, there are some pretty interesting items, such as “how many children have you had, and how many are still living”, “can you read or write”, “what year

did you come to this country”, and “what is the value of your property”, etc. If you’ve never looked up your family in some of these old documents, be warned... it can be very addicting and can develop into hobby.



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Back in the Day...

While the lead story in Chicago's February 10, 1889 Sunday Inter Ocean newspaper dealt with the State Street kidnapping of a local Chicago girl (little Annie Redmond), Long Grove was in the news that day as well. Seems a rabid dog had attacked several people near our fair little village, and one of them had unfortunately expired. While a death due to rabies would likely make today's newspapers as well, somehow we think the way it would be reported would be more... sensitive?

Waukegan - William Frost, one of the parties residing near Long Grove who were bitten by a mad dog a few weeks since, died in horrible agony this week. Grave apprehensions are felt for the safety of the other parties who were bitten.