

# Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

December 2009

## Trivially Speaking...

George Washington's Teeth—most likely you've heard they were made of wood. That's an urban legend. They were very expensive—made of ivory and gold. And he had two sets of them. They were also unique in that they contained a spring which forced them apart. This helped them stay in place, but also meant when George relaxed his jaw, his teeth opened up somewhat. It has been speculated that this "opening up" was what gave him a stern look in his portraits—try it yourself—open your teeth a bit and try to smile. Most of us carry a portrait of George around in our pocket—it's called a \$1 bill. Check his stern look and see if you think it's the result of spring loaded teeth.



## MARTHA WASHINGTON TO VISIT LONG GROVE

Join us on February 17th, 2010, 11am at the Long Grove Village Hall, as our first president's wife, Martha Washington, entertains us with stories of her life with George at Mount Vernon. She will share her favorite recipes, including one for cough medicine. Hear her tell the true stories of George's chopping down the cherry tree and of his love of books and farming. She will tell how George helped in America's fight for independence during the Revolutionary War and how he became our first President, the Founding Father of our nation and her resulting role as our 1st "First Lady."



## Mark Your Calendars

- **Feb. 17, 11am**, General Meeting and Program—Martha Washington, at Long Grove Village Hall

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

A special welcome to our newest members—Karl and Marlene Riehn and Bruce and Sue Lyons.

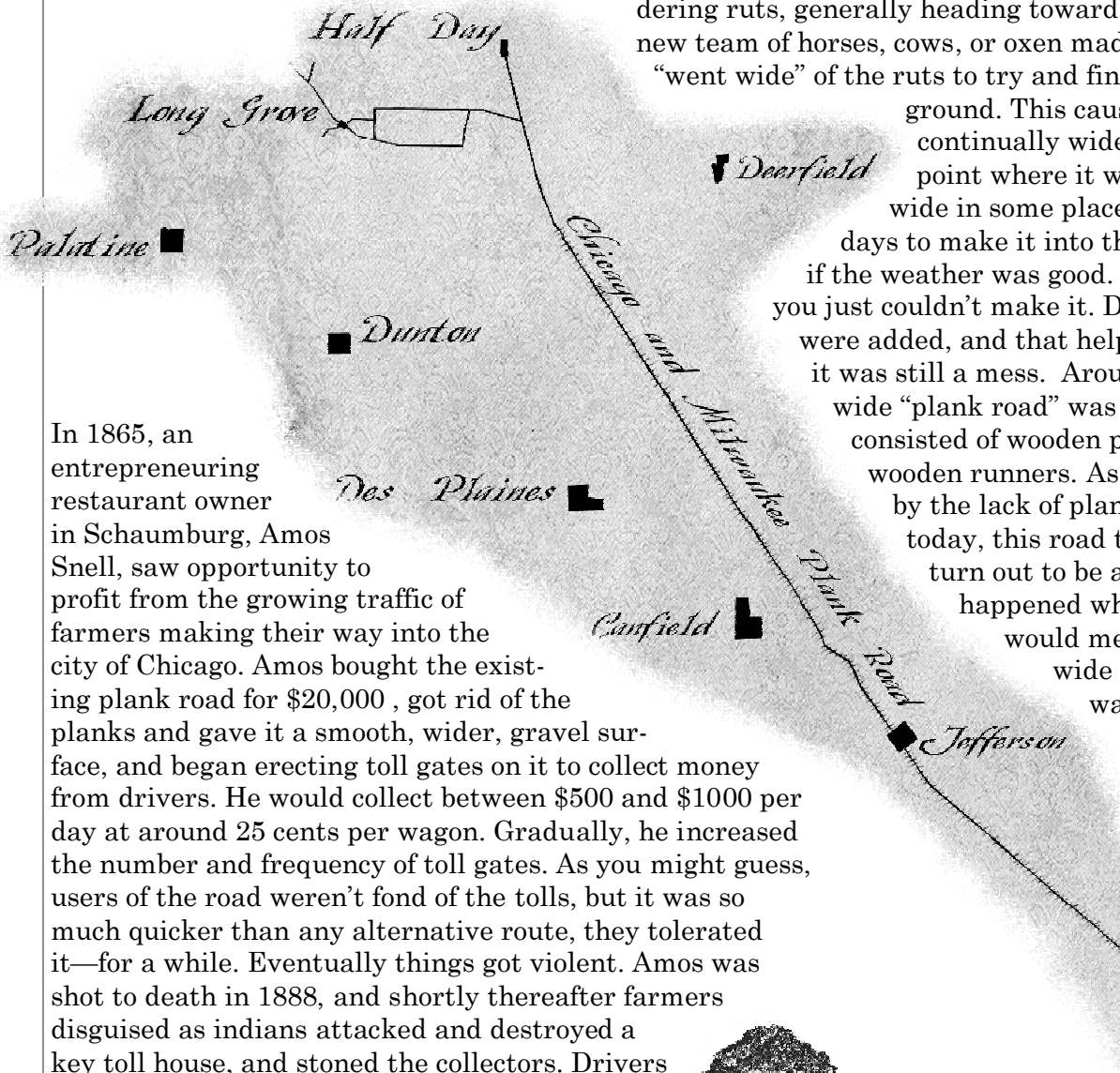
# TREASURE MAPS

Traveling to the city of Chicago from Long Grove has changed radically over the years. The road we currently know as Milwaukee was the earliest route. When Long Grove came into existence in the 1840's though, you wouldn't call it a "road" so much as a collection of meandering ruts, generally heading towards Chicago. As each new team of horses, cows, or oxen made the trip, they "went wide" of the ruts to try and find some smooth

ground. This caused the "road" to continually widen until it got to a point where it was almost a mile wide in some places. It took about 4

days to make it into the city by wagon—if the weather was good. If it was rainy, you just couldn't make it. Drainage ditches were added, and that helped somewhat, but it was still a mess. Around 1850, an 8 foot wide "plank road" was constructed. This consisted of wooden planks laid on long wooden runners. As you might guess by the lack of plank roads around today, this road technology didn't turn out to be a "keeper". What happened when two wagons

would meet on an 8 foot wide road? The lighter wagon would have to move off the planks to let the heavier wagon continue on.



In 1865, an entrepreuneuring restaurant owner in Schaumburg, Amos Snell, saw opportunity to profit from the growing traffic of farmers making their way into the city of Chicago. Amos bought the exist-ing plank road for \$20,000 , got rid of the planks and gave it a smooth, wider, gravel sur-face, and began erecting toll gates on it to collect money from drivers. He would collect between \$500 and \$1000 per day at around 25 cents per wagon. Gradually, he increased the number and frequency of toll gates. As you might guess, users of the road weren't fond of the tolls, but it was so much quicker than any alternative route, they tolerated it—for a while. Eventually things got violent. Amos was shot to death in 1888, and shortly thereafter farmers disguised as indians attacked and destroyed a key toll house, and stoned the collectors. Drivers began using the road and refusing to pay. Snell's heirs sought help from the state of Illinois, but were turned away as the courts eventually decided that Snell's toll road scheme was never legal to begin with.

If you wonder why Milwaukee Road has the occasional "jog" in it's course... this was purported to be the result of savvy tavern owners bribing the survey crew with food and drink if they would "jog" the road past their establishment.



# SNAPSHOTS

From left to right, John Clemetsen, Carolyn Christensen, and Barbara Turner entertained at our November “*Fireside Chat*” program with their childhood memories of Long Grove.



From left to right, Barbara English, Aaron Underwood, Lee Bassett, Jeri Monroe, and Angie Underwood took to the stage in October to present a campy look at some “*Long Grove Lurid Legends*”.

Takako Bassett provided some authentic Koto music at our annual book dramatization in September.



## 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.

# OLDE PHRASES...

Long Grove's local blacksmith in the mid-1900's, George Umbendstock, was known for his

fine metal working skills. As we found out from one of the "Fireside Chat" speakers in November, George also had a way with words. John Clemetsen commented—"George taught me how to swear - if you got him around a mean horse he could cuss for 15 minutes and not repeat himself."

If you're wondering how much swearing has changed in Long Grove over the years, the answer is... not much. The list of "cuss words" in 1850 is about 95% the same as the list today. If anything, there are probably a few words from 1850 that would not have been considered offensive then, but would be now. Which words are those? Well, we can't print them (they would offend), so you'll have to catch our newsletter editor Aaron at our next program and ask him to whisper a few examples to you.

The funny symbols you sometimes see to "tastefully" represent a stream of cuss words in print are called Grawlixes and came into use early in the 1900's in comic strips. The above example (in the title), was taken from an old Mickey Mouse cartoon. The symbols that can be used in Grawlixes are limited only by the imagination and creativity of the writer.

## Family History Corner

Did you know your father or grand-father may have military records, even if they weren't "in the war"? Draft records

covered a large portion of the population—the World War I Draft Registration covered all US males born between 1873 and 1900. Both of our area libraries (Ela & Vernon Twp) have free online access to all these draft cards via Ancestry.com's Library Edition. They can be a bit hard to read, as shown in this example below—the draft card of our local blue eyed, brown haired blacksmith from the above story:

REGISTRATION CARD

1. NAME **George B Umbendstock**

2. RESIDENCE **22 Prairie View Lake Ill**

3. AGE **36** DATE OF BIRTH **May 22nd 1882**

4. RACE **White**

5. U.S. CITIZEN **Yes**

6. PRESENT OCCUPATION **Blacksmith**

7. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT **myself**

8. NEAREST RELATIVE **Carrie Umbendstock (Wife)**

9. SIGNATURE **George B Umbendstock**

REGISTRAR'S REPORT **12-8-19-C**

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT		BUILD		COLOR OF EYES		COLOR OF HAIR	
Tall	Short	Slender	Stout	Blue	Brown	Black	Red
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. I certify that my answers are true - that the person registered has read or has been read to his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature on this card; and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true except as follows:

Signature: **Al Maechter**

Date of Registration: **July 12-1918**

Lake Co. Local Board No. 1

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

The stamp of the Local Board herein jurisdiction of the area in which this stamp is placed must be placed on this card.



# Back in the Day...

In the 1960's, the local women of Long Grove got together and created a cook book of their favorite recipes. For anyone interested in trying out some authentic old-time "Long Grove" cuisine, we've included one of the simpler recipes below.

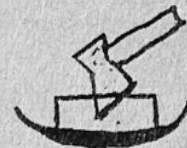
However... recognizing that not everyone likes to cook...we're working with a local baker to "cherry pick" one of the more interesting dessert recipes from the book and make it available for purchase. A portion of the proceeds will go to our society, so any calorie guilt can at least be partially offset by knowing the extra pounds were for a good cause. Watch for an email or postcard on this fundraiser in January or February of 2010.

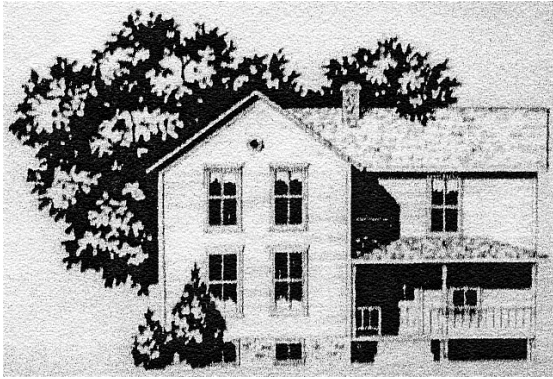
February (George Washington) Dessert  
 Merrill S. Hulff

One recipe of yellow cake mix  
 (bake in rectangular pan)

Cherry Sauce  
 Mix together in saucepan  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar, 2 tbsp. cornstarch  
 Stir in gradually  
 1 cup boiling water,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups juice & cherries  
 Boil one minute stirring 'til thickened  
 Add few drops of red food coloring

Serve a square of cake  
 A spoonful of sauce  
 A dollop of whipped cream  
 Topped with a miniature cardboard axe  
 (blade covered with aluminum foil)





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