



# Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter



June 2014

We celebrate our Country's birthdate on July 4th. It also happens to be the death date of three of our first five presidents—Adams (#2), Jefferson (#3), and Monroe (#5). Though fierce political rivals earlier in their career, Adams and Jefferson became friends late in life. Adams last words were, "Jefferson Still Survives", apparently taking some comfort that his friend would continue on. What he didn't know was that Jefferson had died earlier that day. No telegraph, telephone, or internet back in those days.

## Downtown Tour

**This coming Saturday, June 14th,** is Flag Day and the Society has joined forces with Long Grove Artists Guild to celebrate this holiday with guided tours of downtown Long Grove and an art show and lecture on flags by the Guild.



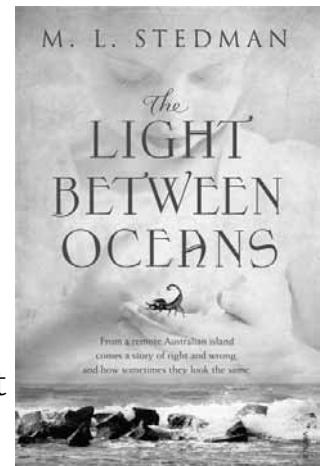
Aaron Underwood will conduct short walking tours of historic Long Grove, commencing at about 3:15 p.m. and again at 4:15 p.m. These tours will start from the Fountain Square area in downtown Long Grove. The tours will highlight some of the historically significant buildings in our village. Following the walking tour, guests are invited to tour the Civil War era Farmhouse, which is located adjacent to the Stemple parking lot at the end of Historical Lane. The cost of both tours together (or either one) is a donation of \$5.00.

The tours will follow an exhibit at the Long Grove Artists Guild entitled "Oh Say Can You See", which is offered from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The well known flag artist, Marie Roth, will be giving a presentation entitled "Old Glory in Barn Wood" from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. So come early to catch the art show and Marie's talk, then stay for the tours!

### Mark Your Calendars

- Saturday, Jun 14th, 3:15pm**  
Walking Tour/Farmhouse Tour
- Monday, Jun 30th, noon**  
Book Club

The HISTORICAL BOOK CLUB will be meeting again on **Monday, June 30th, noon** to discuss "The Light Between Oceans", by M. L. Stedman. It's the tale of remote lighthouse and its resident keeper and his wife who adopt and abandoned baby that arrives mysteriously in a boat. Email Gerri at Tycotoyz@aol.com or leave a message at 847-550-6292 if you're interested in attending.



# All About Us...



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 Margie Federer, LGHS Membership, 4423 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.

## 2013/2014 Board

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The Society was formed in March, 1974, to accept the Drexler Tavern building as a gift. A joint project with the Village Board made possible the relocation of the tavern to a site behind the current Kildeer Countryside School. Today we know the building not as Drexler Tavern, but simply as Village Hall. Two additional structures have also been relocated to this area—one of the area's one room schoolhouses, Archer School, and a mid-1800's barn, Ruth Barn. The school and the barn form the core of the program we run each year for our local schools, so that our children can experience first hand what life used to be like in Long Grove. Last, but not least, a mid-1800's farm house was relocated to an area bordering the southwest corner of the Stemple Parking lot. "The Farmhouse", as we refer to it, houses our archives, a meeting room, and several restored "period" rooms that we open occasionally for tours. In addition to maintaining the above properties and our educational programs, we actively acquire items of local historic interest for our archives and conduct a variety of historical programs for current residents. We receive no tax dollars and exist solely from your contributions and our own fundraising efforts.

*Thank you for your support!*

***Historical Society Pictures...***book club, latrine cleaning duty, and a former resident and board member returns for a visit.





HISTORIC LONG GROVE AT THE CROSSROADS  
IN THE COUNTRY... BROWSE, SHOP, DINE, ENJOY  
THIS UNIQUE, QUAINT AND COLORFUL VILLAGE!

Years before I ever thought I'd live in Long Grove, one of my first Long Grove memories was the little "old time" newspaper you could pick up in the downtown. Sure, it was thinly veiled promotion and not an actual paper, but there was usually some interesting historical content that helped trip your imagination as you strolled around the crossroads. The oldest one I could get my hands on is dated Fall of 1975, and that might well be the first one that was done.

It's interesting to compare and contrast local historical research today vs. the 1970's. Today, of course, we're blessed with great instant, online access to historical documents, newspaper, and records. But what we don't have today is the people that lived some of the history, or knew someone that did. I suspect much of the content for informal local history stories in a paper like this are "oral history" - stories passed down and around local people. While they most often have some basis in fact, they also degrade from being passed around, embellished and mixed with other stories. The truth is probably some interpretation of these stories against actual records and documents.

One of my favorite local stories involves what we'd today call Red Oaks. Here's the story as it was recounted in The Long Grove Gazette in 1975:

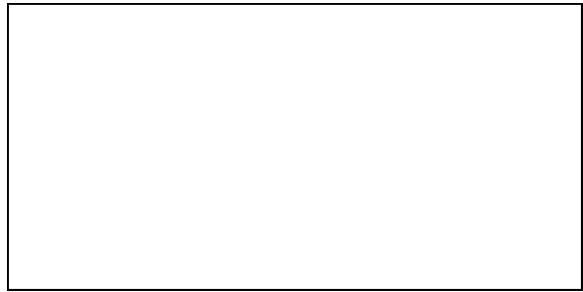
The tall pine trees standing in front of RED OAKS were brought from Alsace, Germany by Coral and Charles Herschberger in the mid 1800's. They were planted the day their house went up. Everyone came from miles around, bringing their own yellow pine lumber (which was floated to Chicago from Michigan) and their own square nails, so nothing matches. And that's the way a house went up in those days . . . The front of the wandering shop is the original farmhouse, built in a day in a house-raising in 1847.



Other variations I've heard on this story include the name Red Oaks being given because of the oak trees brought over from Germany and planted there, and the house being built in a day for free as a way to convince a local businessman to set up shop in Long Grove. In chasing down this story, here's what I found out... Charles and Cora Herschberger were born circa 1870 and bought the home from the Cordes family in 1918. Prior to Cordes Family, it was owned by the Lemkers and Ruperts. It was constructed originally around 1860 by George Quentin, who subsequently started the Long Grove Cheese Factory. The Quentin family were famous local merchants, and they did migrate away from Long Grove around the time the house was built, so there's a ring of truth to the idea the house was built by the community in a day to keep someone from leaving. But probably for George Quentin, not for the yet to be born Herschberger's. As for the trees on the property, I had an arborist look them over one day, and he didn't see anything that was anywhere near old enough to date to 1860. By the way, the 1847 date is the date Long Grove officially became a town (albeit called Muttersholtz), so that's how that date likely crept into the story. If I ever get a chance, I'll have to check the interior for mismatched wood and square nails.



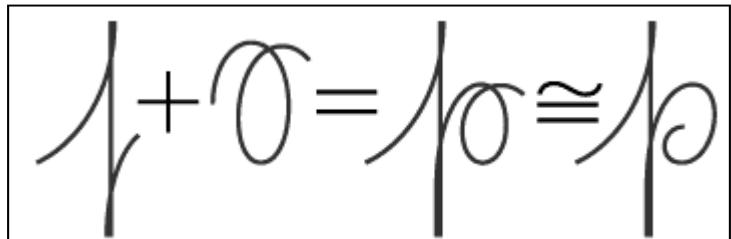
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# Ye Olde Letters



Ever use the word Ye in front of something to give it some historical flare (e.g. Ye Old Tavern, Ye Old Story, etc.)? I always assumed the Ye was simply an old version of The—maybe Old English or some such thing. The truth is, it's exactly The, and pronounced exactly the same as The. In days gone by, there were a couple of characters in the alphabet that we don't use anymore—one of them was called "thorn" and was a short hand for letters "th". Visually, it's most like a lowercase p, but if you get fancy with it, it looks more like a "y". Use of "thorn" never caught on outside of England, and came to an end when the world discovered printing technology. Early printing alphabets had to be obtained from craftsmen in German and Italy, and they had no knowledge of "thorn". So, in print, either you didn't use the abbreviation, or substituted the letter y, which best approximated the look of the thorn. Eventually, "thornites" threw in the towel, admitted the savings was small and confusion great, and just used "th".



*How to draw the Thorn character in two strokes.*



The word  
"the" in  
script using  
the "thorn"  
character.