

Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

June 2015

Trivially Speaking...

In the late 1960's, if you used the phrase, "nine-eleven", what would you have been referring to?

That's the number you'd call in case of emergency. The system ran into some immediate difficulty as users under duress wasted precious seconds trying to find the "eleven" on their phone dials. The information campaign was changed to refer to the system as "nine-one-one" to resolve this issue.

In 1911, only three Long Grove establishments had telephones—Bowman Dairy (e.g. the Cheese Factory), Victor Sauer & Co (e.g. the General Store), and the Zimmer Brothers Buffet (e.g. the former hotel).

Mark Your Calendars

- Have a fun summer!
- October 30, downtown LG Ghostwalk

Tombstone Mystery

At last year's ghost walk, one of the tales involved the discovery and subsequent disappearance of an old pioneer tombstone. The story was based on some oral history, but an old photo was recently unearthed, which adds a few facts to the story... A barely legible tombstone for Charles Stempel was

discovered in the 1960's, buried in the ground by the covered bridge. It was "on display" at Mel's gas station for a few weeks before someone made off with it in the middle of the night. Charles Stempel opened the first general store in Long Grove in 1855. He passed away April 6, 1914 and is buried in Arlington Heights.

Mystery #1) Why would there be a rogue tombstone in Long Grove for Charles? Closer inspection of an old photo of the discovery reveals it to be Charles Albert Stempel—a son of the shop keeper who was born January 10, 1866 and died in infancy in April, 1866. That child is buried in the Long Grove Cemetery, complete with a nice monument. Mystery #2) Why would there be two tombstones around for a

small child? The answer lies in more careful reading of the date of birth inscription on the found tombstone—it reads January 15, 1866. They got the date wrong! It's interesting to note that the real tombstone is considerably larger and more ornate than the found one... maybe a free upgrade on the part of an embarrassed chiseler?



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.

2015/2016 Board

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Kathy Wiberg, Programs
Marie Borg, Programs
At large—

Lee Bassett, Georgia Cawley, Margie Federer

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 Country-side 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... Kathy in the barn, Georgia, Barbara, and Laurie at the Annual Meeting, and President English receiving an award for her efforts these past two years as President.



PAST YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some highlights from outgoing President Barbara English's Annual Report...

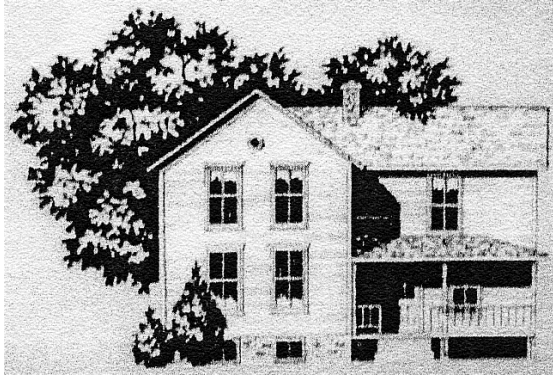
The last fiscal year has been a time of trying different ideas and repeating the successes of the past, of eliminating some events and elaborating on others. In all, I think we can say that it was a time of testing and trying. We worked hard to give members and the general public, especially the citizens of Long Grove, the opportunity to enjoy events and programs with an historical basis and we kept ourselves ahead of the game financially.

- Annual income somewhat less than hoped for, but with no major expenses, we were able to contribute positively to our reserves
- Hosted a public program featuring dramatist Paddy Lynn for an excellent one-woman show in the character of Harriet Beecher Stowe
- Teamed in June with the Long Grove Artists Guild to jointly celebrate Flag Day, offering docent led public tours in downtown Long Grove
- Hosted a public program featuring the "Those Were the Days" Radio Players of Lake County at Reed Turner for a rousing demonstration of how programs were acted and aired
- Hosted a public program featuring Karen Kruse, author of "A Chicago Firehouse: Stories of Wrigley Engine 78"
- Held our second annual Ghost Walk, with attendance noticeably exceeding last year—over 200 people attended
- Hosted two public performances of the "Velveteen Rabbit" by the Kirk Players at the Long Grove Village Hall
- Supported Long Grove Living's Family Fun Fair at Royal Melbourne



Our restored one room school, Archer School, enjoyed another successful year entertaining area school third graders. Our related Herb Garden continues to be well maintained, also. The docents celebrated with a Tea at the Victorian Bed and Breakfast in Wauconda.

Thanks to all our board members and who volunteer their time, creativity and energy to keep our Long Grove history alive. And thanks to all of you that contribute and attend our functions!!!



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YE OLDE PLACE NAMES

Our neighbor to the north, Mundelein, has gone through a number of name changes over the years. It was christened "Mechanics Grove" by its original settlers from the east coast—in honor of their former professions back east. In the 1870's, a local land owner, John Holcomb, donated several acres to the railroad to encourage a stop there. The stop, and hence the town was named Holcomb, in his honor. That name was short lived, however, when it was discovered another Holcomb, IL already existed. Continuing in the spirit of trying to be nice to the local railroad, the stop/town was renamed Rockefeller, in honor of the owner of the railroad. Then, in 1909, an educational entrepreneur, Fred Sheldon, created a 600 acre campus for a business school which taught a philosophy he termed—Ability, Reliability, Endurance and Action... Area for short. He asked the townsfolks to rename the town to Area, in honor of his large school. Maybe it's just me, but using a word which means a generic place as a name for yourself seems like a really bad idea.

World War I took its toll on Sheldon's enrollment, and in 1921 he sold the property to the Catholic Church who started St. Mary's Seminary on the grounds. But the town retained the name of Area, at least until 1924 when the railroad intervened again. The Soo Line requested of the good citizens of Area that they change their name to Mundelein, in honor of Cardinal George Mundelein and St. Mary's Seminary. The locals agreed and the town has been known as Mundelein ever since.

Our neighbor to the north, Mundelein, has gone through a number of name changes over the

LIFE

in all its phases is governed
by Natural Law, not Luck.

**SUCCESSFUL SALESMANSHIP IS NO
EXCEPTION**

**THE
SHELDON SCHOOL**

87 University Drive

Area, Illinois