

Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

December 2010

Trivially Speaking...

This quarter's newsletter features a story about one of the first baptisms in Long Grove. One of my newsletter reviewers (who I'll leave nameless to prevent any abuse of historical facts that are about to ensue...) pointed out to me that there has only been one US President who was NOT baptized. He was raised in a family with strict morals and rules, but his mom was more the religious enforcer than his dad. Right before his baptism was to take place, his dad got into a fight with the church parson, and he ended up going home "dry". His name – James K. Polk.

February's Program...

Her friends stated she was the first woman to run for President. Her enemies said she was the first prostitute to run for the presidency. Others called her "Mrs. Satan."

Victoria Woodhull (September 23, 1838 – June 9, 1927) was an American suffragist described by Gilded Age newspapers as a leader of the American woman's suffrage movement in the 19th century. She became a colorful and notorious symbol for women's rights, free love, and spiritualism as she fought against corruption and for labor reforms. She is most famous for her declaration and campaign to run as the first woman for the United States Presidency in 1872.

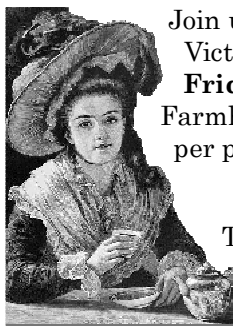
Feminist...advocate of free love...first woman stock broker... spiritualist... believer in social freedom...and found "not guilty" in a federal obscenity trial, Woodhull was not an everyday Victorian lady. In fact, some said she was not a lady at all. Hear the story and listen to her truth

Join us for this free program, Wednesday February 16th, 2011 at 11am at Long Grove Village Hall as local dramatist Jeanmarie Dwyer-Wrigley becomes Ms. Woodhull. The program is sponsored by the Long Grove Historical Society.



Mark Your Calendars

- **Friday, Dec. 10, 1pm**, Victorian Holiday Tea at Old Victorian Farmhouse in Wauconda
- **Monday, Jan. 10 at 12pm**, Historical Book Club at Long Grove Café
- **Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7:30pm**, Genealogy Interest Group at Ela Library
- **Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 11am**, February Dramatization Program at Long Grove Village Hall



Join us for an old fashioned Victorian "High Tea" on

Friday, December 10th, 1pm at the Old Victorian Farmhouse, 26668 S. Main Street in Wauconda. The fee is \$20 per person. RSVP to Marie Borg at 847-438-7656.

Other Fun Things To Do

The Historical Book Club will be meeting again on **Monday, January 10th** at noon at the Long Grove Café for lunch and to discuss "Sin and the Second City", by Karen Abbot. The Genealogy

Interest Group will be meeting on **Tuesday, January 11th** at 7:30pm at the Ela Area Library in Lake Zurich, where there will be a short presentation on how to use the library for genealogy research. Even if you've not attended before, feel free to show up and join in with any of our interest groups.



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 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.

2009 2011 Board

- Angie Underwood, President
- Laurie Borawski, Vice President
- Diane Trickey, Treasurer
- Barbara English, Recording Secretary
- Ann Dickson, Past President
- Aaron Underwood, Communications
- Bob Borg, Buildings & Maintenance
- Georgia Cawley, Membership
- Caroline Liebl, Outreach
- Kathy Carlson, Archer School Program
- Kathy Wiberg, Programs
- Tina Mall, Curator
- Marie Borg, Ways & Means
- Lori Lyman, Landscaping
- Lee Bassett, Village Board Liaison

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 News... Pictorial highlights of this past quarter include our Andrew Jackson book dramatization, the Long Grove Oktoberfest parade, and a movie night at Reed-Turner Nature Center.



Back in the Day...

If you think our modern day image of Santa Claus is a commercial creation – you are correct. But most people guess incorrectly when it comes to naming the company responsible.

Before the 1930's, there really wasn't a common Santa image. The closest thing to a pre-1930's standard Santa was probably the one created by Thomas Nast for Civil War era "propaganda". That depicts Santa as a "Union lovin', Rebel hatin'" tiny stern elf.

Do you drink hot chocolate in the summer? Most people would say no – illustrating that consumers can have strong seasonal preferences for certain beverages. In 1930, a Coke was something you had on a hot summer day, but didn't drink in the winter. Coca Cola needed an ad campaign to change this perception. The ad graphics would have to convey the winter season and feature someone likable downing a Coke. Who better than Santa Claus – perhaps the most well known and seasonable character of all? But the "elf Santa" was the wrong image for this ad – not wholesome or realistic enough. So Coke commissioned a new interpretation of Santa – based on Clement Clark Moore's 1822 poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas". This new Santa was pleasantly plump and very human. The ad campaign was christened "Thirst Knows No Season."

If you just slapped your forehead with the thought that now you know why Santa wears that red suit (think about the color of Coca Cola's logo)... you would be incorrect. The color of Santa's suit was one of the things carried over from Thomas Nast's version – it was not taken from Coke's corporate colors. Another carryover from Nast is Santa's current home at the North Pole. Perhaps with a twinge of guilt for how he had used Santa to advocate for the Union, after the war Nast drew Santa at the North Pole in hopes that no other country could claim him and use him for their propaganda.



Vintage Yarns



Quick – name someone from Long Grove whose portrait was in Life magazine? One answer I'd accept as correct is John Dumser. Who was John Dumser and what does someone from the Long Grove area have to do to get their picture featured in Life magazine? Read on...

Conrad Dumser came to the Long Grove area from Germany. In May of 1847, he and his pregnant wife Margaret purchased land near the cross roads – close to where the Long Grove Community Church stands today. The church hadn't been built yet, though construction started on it that winter and it was completed the following April. A bouncing baby boy, John Dumser, was born to Conrad and Margaret, and the little tike had the honor of being the first baptism in the new church. Before you guess, no, just being the first baptism in a Long Grove church doesn't get you in Life magazine.

A few years later, the family moved to the west of Long Grove. With the Civil War raging in February of 1864, a now 16 year old John recalls, "I raised my hand in school one day and asked to be excused. I hiked over to Elgin to enlist in the army. I had to forge my father's name on the muster roll because of my age. Later that year, when Lincoln was running against McClellan for President, my captain asked me if I'd voted yet. No sir, I told him, I am too young, to which he replied, 'You're old enough to shoot aren't you? Then you're old enough to vote.' So I voted for old Abe Lincoln."

John was a member of Company K in the Illinois 52nd Infantry. During the war, he saw rugged service. He was in the bloody battles of Chickamauga and Kenesaw Mountain. He was



with General Sherman on the famous "March to the Sea". During the siege of Atlanta, John suffered severe heat stroke and was shipped home for hospitalization.

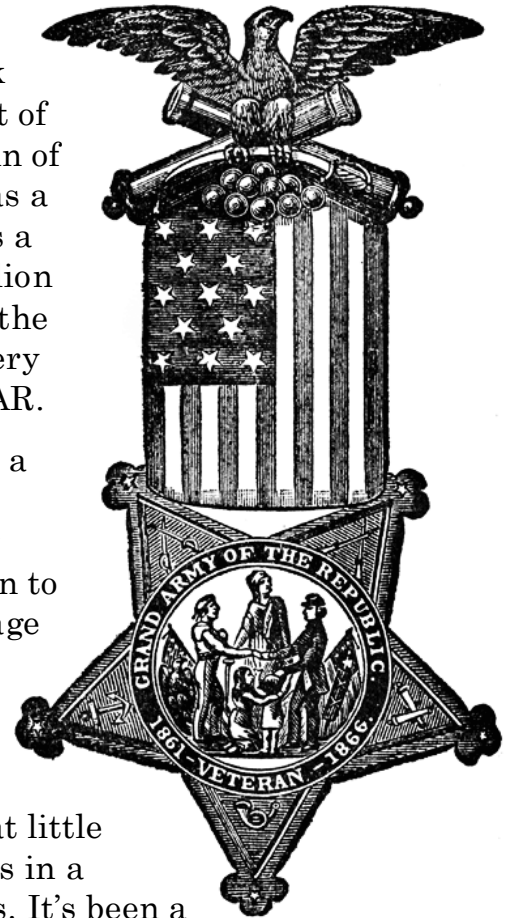
Vintage Yarns

After the war he married and raised his family in Elgin, where he worked at the Elgin watch factory. John retired to Oakland, California in 1899.

The portrait of John that you see to the left was taken from the May 30, 1949 issue of Life magazine. If you look closely at the picture, you'll notice he's wearing some sort of medal. It's not a military medal, but rather the official pin of the GAR – the Grand Army of the Republic. The GAR was a fraternity (e.g. club) for Union Civil War veterans. It was a huge organization – peaking in 1890 at nearly half a million members (one sixth of all that served). The big event for the GAR was their annual "encampment". John attended every national encampment held and was very active in the GAR.

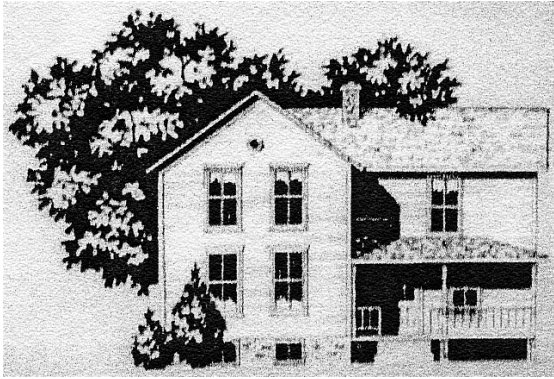
One of the challenges of creating an organization around a specific historical event, is that your number of potential members is pretty much guaranteed to get smaller every year. By 1942, eighty years after war, the GAR was down to only 500 members. John was a very healthy 92 years of age and took the reins as the Commander-In-Chief of what was left of the Grand Army of the Republic. The encampment he would preside over that year was to be held in Indianapolis. Traveling there from his home in California, he stopped to give a talk in Long Grove at that little church where he was baptized so many years ago. He was in a reflective mood - "Here I am, having seen all these things. It's been a wonderful adventure. There are even more wonderful things to come." He counted off the pillars of progress – the reaper, the automobile, the electric light, the airplane – like the beads of a rosary.

In May of 1949, recognizing that only 68 veterans from the civil war remained alive, Life magazine honored them by publishing each of their pictures – including a 101 year old John Dumser. The last GAR encampment was held in Indianapolis in August of that year, attended by John as usual. John passed away a few months later, in December of 1949. The last Civil War veteran passed away in 1956.

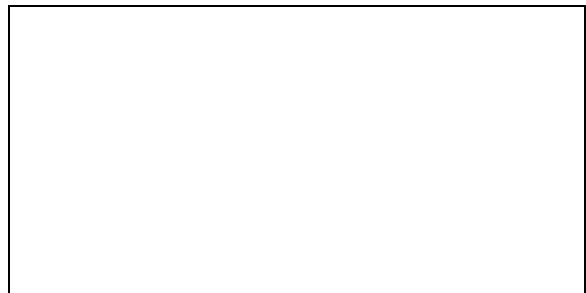


BORED? JOIN OUR BOARD!

Interested in serving on the Long Grove Historical Society Board? We'll be seating a new board in April and are always looking for volunteers. Contact Laurie at 847-949-5264 or email admin@LongGroveHistory.org for more info.

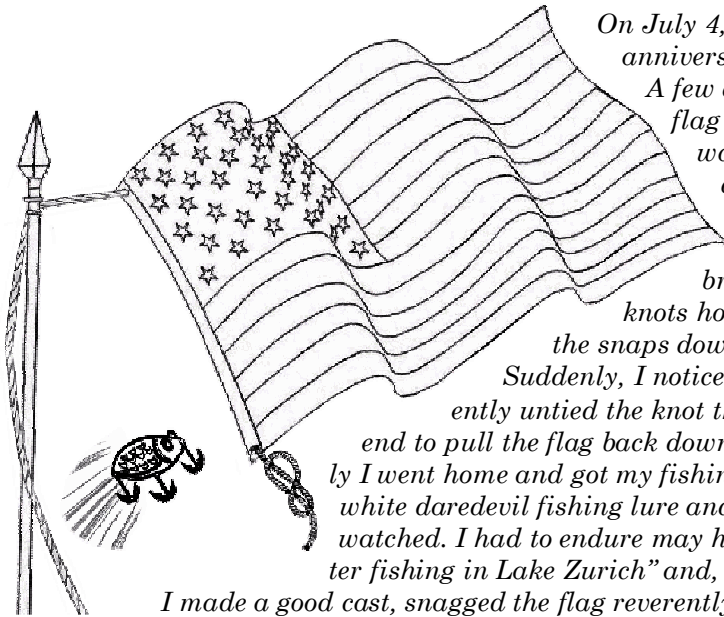


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FOLLOW UP

Last issue's story about the flag pole in downtown Long Grove (erected in honor of a veteran) sparked the following memory from long time area resident and one of the oldest veterans in the county, Tony Berg:



On July 4, 1976 our nation would begin celebrating the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

A few days before the big event, I noticed that there was no flag on the Towner Green pole. I had a flag at home. It was the flag that draped my father's casket when he died in 1960. He had served a year in France with the 158th Minnesota Infantry during World War 1. I went home, took the flag from the drawer, and brought it down to the pole and proceed to untie the knots holding the rope to the pole, then pulled the end with the snaps down and attached the flag and began pulling it up.

Suddenly, I noticed the flag flying far out from the pole. I had inadvertently untied the knot that made the rope circular I could not reach the loose end to pull the flag back down to retie it. I stood and pondered the situation. Finally I went home and got my fishing rod and reel. I came back, tied on a large red and white daredevil fishing lure and began casting up at the flag. Many people stood and watched. I had to endure may helpful (?) comments—"Sir, I'm sure you will find better fishing in Lake Zurich" and, "Tony, what are you doing—fly fishing?". Eventually

I made a good cast, snagged the flag reverently and got everything in proper working order. That flag continued to fly proudly over the business district for the rest of the year.—Tony Berg

Do you have a favorite Long Grove tale from days gone by that you'd like to share? Drop us an email at admin@LongGroveHistory.org, or write to us at the return address above—we'd love to hear from you.