

Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

March 2013

Trivially Speaking...

The former Hillcrest Country Club, recently underwent a name change – it's now known as The Royal Grove Country Club. For those who need a geographical refresher, we're referring to the country club associated with Country Club Estates subdivision, which features street names inspired by the Civil War. Did you know that Hillcrest wasn't the club's original name? When first proposed to the Village for approval in 1962, it was to be called the Land of Oz Country Club. I was unable to find the original proposed street names for Country Club Estates, but one's mind wanders immediately to Emerald Boulevard, Cowardly Court, Flyin' Monkey Lane, Toto Street, Dorothy Circle, etc.



Annual Meeting Luncheon

The Long Grove Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting on

Wednesday, April 10th at

The Cedar Grill (330 Old McHenry Rd., cedargrill.org.) The meeting will start at 11:00AM for the election and installation of the new officers and committee chairmen, lunch to follow (Dutch treat.) Please join us and meet your new board for 2013-2015! RSVP to Laurie Borawski (847-949-5264.) Hope to see you there.

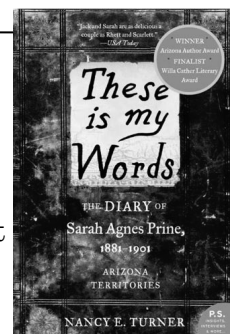


The 2013-2015 Executive Officers Slate is as follows: President-Barbara English, Vice President-Aaron Underwood, Treasurer-Diane Trickey, Recording Secretary-Myra Buettner, Past President-Laurie Borawski.

Mark Your Calendars

- **Wednesday, Apr 10th, 11am**
Annual Meeting Luncheon
- **Monday, Apr 29th, noon**
Historical Book Club at Biaggi's, Deer Park
- **Friday, Jun 21st**
Garden Club Walk including Historical Herb Garden

The Historical Book Club will be meeting again on **Monday, April 29th, noon** at Biaggi's in Deer Park for lunch and to discuss "These is My Words", by Nancy E. Turner. It's an American saga based on the diary of a frontier woman. Even if you've not attended before, feel free to show up and join in with our book club. Lunch is "Dutch Treat".



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.

2011/2012 Board

Laurie Borawski, President
Barbara English, Vice President
Diane Trickey, Treasurer
Myra Buettner, Recording Secretary
Angie Underwood, Past Pres/Vilg Brd Liason
Aaron Underwood, Communications
Bob Borg, Buildings & Maintenance
Georgia Cawley, Membership
Caroline Liebl, Outreach/Archer School Pgm
Kathy Wiberg, Programs/Ways & Means
Tina Mall, Curator
Marie Borg, Ways & Means/Programs
Lori Lyman, Landscape/Curator
Lee Bassett, Buildings/Maintenance

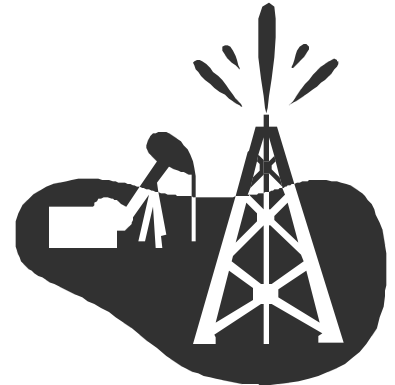
The Society was formed in March, 1974, to accept the Drexler Tavern building as a gift. A joint project with the Village Board made possible the relocation of the tavern to a site behind the current Kildeer Country-side School. Today we know the building not as Drexler Tavern, but simply as Village Hall. 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 Farm-house", 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...December's Victorian Tea, February's Fireside Chat given by John Byrne, and March's Historical Book Club lunch.



THE GREAT LONG GROVE OIL STRIKE



In the roaring 1920's Tulsa, Oklahoma was known as the oil capital of the world and there was big money to be made in successful oil exploration. But you didn't have to go all that far to get in on the action, as evidenced by this article from the September 9th, 1921 Daily Herald:

Geologist Claim Oil is Beneath Long Grove Farm, Chance for the "Oil Sports"

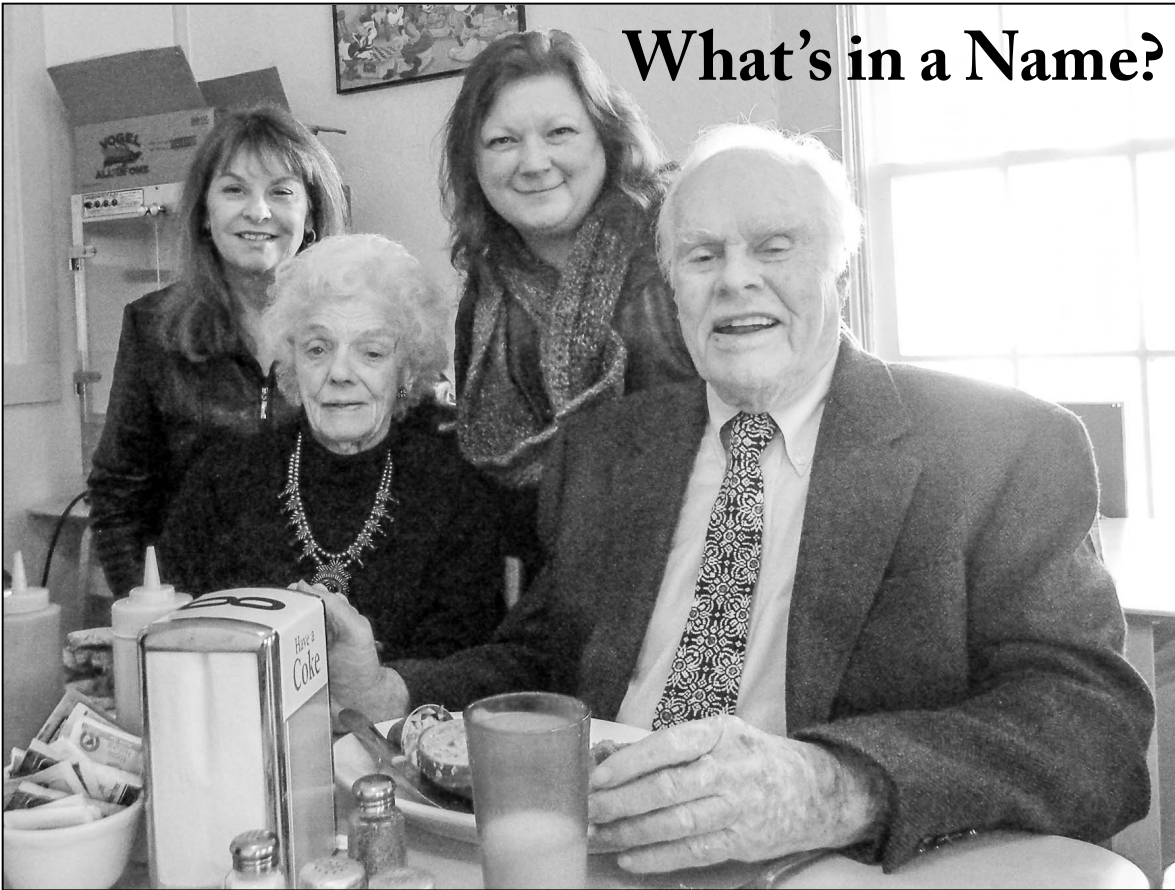
Rumors of a probable oil strike near Long Grove have been coming into this office rather frequently the past four months and Wednesday night, the editor started out on the trail of the "oil stories." When he reached Hackbarth's gas service station, the smell of oil became so strong that he decided to investigate. Inside of the garage, we did not find anything startling, but in the office we found the oil kings "to be" laying plans for the piping of the Long Grove oil flow down to Whiting, Indiana. Yet, the plans have reached such a stage. The only thing lacking is the drilling of the well and the selling of a few tractors by August that he may have some money to invest in the "sure thing." Strange to say, August and his assistant, T.C. Hart, were not backward in discussing their plans, even with a reporter. Here they are.

In the first place, August says that there is no need to spend money for car fare to go down into Kentucky or Oklahoma. All you need is an auto and if you don't have that, you can walk it to Long Grove. Mike "the oil king" Jannusch is a former Standard wagon man and now owns a farm north of Long Grove. Discovering that the grass was being killed by some unknown cause, he sent for a state geologist who reports that in all probability there is a vein of oil running through the Scharringhausen farm, the gases from said oil seeping thru the ground is what kills the grass. He estimates the oil about 1400 to 1700 feet deep. The trace of oil in the well used by Mike, and making it unfit for use, is another evidence that there is oil somewhere underneath.

The Standard Oil people have been asked if they were interested and replied that they bought only successful drilled wells. To drill is the next step. Now August is a believer in publicity and he is likewise ready to welcome all his friends who want to get in on the ground floor of a real at home oil company. If there are any more "oil sports" in this town, here is their chance. Note August has not yet sold enough tractors to buy an interest in this well, so if you want to really see the oil come up, help August with tractors. He will be at the Case exhibit at the Cook County Fair.

To avoid the inevitable onslaught of modern day fortune hunters, we will not divulge the location of the old Scharringhausen farm...

What's in a Name?



Incoming Society President Barbra English attempts to pry the lid of the Coffin name mystery with this report of a recent visit to downtown Long Grove by Robert Parker Coffin:

Robert Parker Coffin is a name familiar to most residents, as one of the streets that form the crossroads at the center of downtown carries that name. Mara Sabath, co-owner and operator of the Peppermint Stick in downtown, called Mr. Coffin and invited him to lunch at the

From left, Barbara English, Betty Coffin, Laurie Borawski, and Robert Parker Coffin.

restaurant and also asked him to answer a few questions. The Peppermint Stick is located on Robert Parker Coffin Road and customers are always asking her about the "Coffin" road. Where did the name come from? Why was it named after a "coffin"?

Mr. and Mrs Coffin, who now live in Lake Forest, were happy to answer questions and talk about the Long Grove of their residence here, which began in 1946.

R. P. Coffin worked as an architect and he and his wife were quite involved in shaping the development of the community. Mr. Coffin served on the School Board and then the Village Board. He served as Village Board President for 22 years and was instrumental shaping the Master Plan in 1957. At that time, Buffalo Grove was developing and Long Grove, which still had a great deal of open land, wanted to have control of the type of development in the community. They wanted no small lot development and wanted to keep open land as a priority.

He said he felt "it seems to have worked pretty well since there's still open land."

Mr. Coffin said his unusual name is English. He was born in Chicago, lived in Winnetka. His parents were from Nantucket Island where there is still a Coffin House Bed and Breakfast.

Both Coffins were Founding Members of the Long Grove Historical Society. Mrs. Coffin was president for 2 years. When living in Long Grove some of their friends were Freddie French, Barbara Turner and Gwen and Tony Berg. All of them were involved in the village and in social life, including dances and putting on shows at the Kildeer School.

Having been married for 68 years, it seemed a fair question to ask the Coffins what the secret to a good marriage was. They had two pieces of advice: 1) marry the right person; 2) be considerate. That seems to say it all!

TOOL REDUX

Occasionally, as we sift through the bags of newsletter fan mail each month, we come across a contribution from a reader worth sharing. Such is the case this issue. A few newsletters ago we shared a picture of an unknown tool we had in our collection—we could figure out that it was old and likely came over from France/Germany on a boat with some of the Village's early settlers... but we had no idea what it was used for. Reader Stuart Chignell came to our rescue:



"Just saw your newsletter from June 2012. The tool is a Twybill (English), Bisaigue (French) or Dopplestichaxt (German). It is essentially a builders chisel roughly equivalent to a slick that, being from America, you may be familiar with. They were used in timber framing where the timber member would be on a pair of stands. When mortising the beak would be used to chop the mortise while the chisel end would be used to clean out the mortise or dress the faces of a tenon. The idea was that you would hold the handle with the end you are to use pointing down and the other end over your shoulder. This allows you to push with the full weight of your body. As a rule even though they did sometimes have a wooden handle this tool would not have been swung."

*Thanks Stuart!
Pronouncing Twybill seems straight forward enough, but Bisaigue seems a bit tricky, and both are kinda wimpy names for such a menacing piece of iron.*

Dopplestichaxt...

Ah, now that's a proper tool name... and in my heart, I would still like to believe it was mounted on a pole by early settlers and used to threaten pesky developers eyeing Long Grove's open space.



From the June 2012 Newsletter—Bob Borg and his mighty Dopplestichaxt.



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 Long Grove Times Quarterly Newsletter
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ONLY IN LONG GROVE

normally think that, in modern times, we live more convenient lives... imagine being out on your Saturday errands today—how far and how many

The ad on the right ran regularly in the Daily Herald in the mid-1920's.

While we

stops would it take you to have your apples pressed and stock up on your dynamite? Jake Eissler's one stop dynamite cider mill was located just across today's covered bridge on the left hand side of the road as you would travel from the downtown crossroads.



Long Grove Cider Mill

**RUN TUESDAYS AND
SATURDAYS ONLY**

**Barrels and Kegs For Sale.
Also Dynamite Caps and
Fuse; Also Electric Fuses.
Special Cut Price on Dyna-
mite in 40-lb. lots.**

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