

Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

#32—March 2016

Trivially Speaking...

Buffalo Grove Creek, which runs through downtown Long Grove is so named because... wait for it... Buffalo used to hang out there. According to early 1800's reports, the local herd of buffalo left the Wheeling area in the morning and grazed their way diagonally to Long Grove. Noon would find them in a grove of trees along the creek—drinking and resting and occasionally dying. Skeletons found along the creek helped inspire the name.

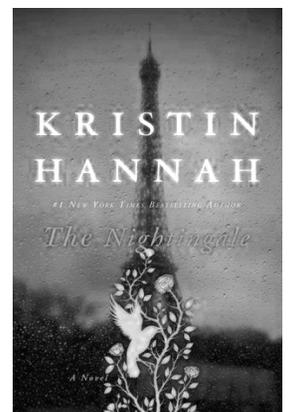
COMMUNITY PENNY CARNIVAL PLANNED

The Long Grove Historical Society will host its first annual Community Penny Carnival on Sunday, August 21st (during the downtown's Vintage Days) from 2-4pm at the Society's Farmhouse located adjacent to Stemple Parking Lot. Local families are invited to design and host their own carnival attraction for others to enjoy. If you'd like to get involved and help us organize it, we'd love to have you! Contact Aaron Underwood at aaron@aunder.com and express your interest. If your family is up for running their own game, or if you just would like to attend, get on our mailing list (via our website LongGroveHistory.org) to get more details as the date approaches.

Mark Your Calendars

- Monday, April 25th, noon
Book Club at Sunset Foods
- Sunday, Aug 21st, 2pm
Penny Carnival

The HISTORICAL BOOK CLUB is meeting at Long Grove's Sunset Foods, 2nd floor conference room at noon on Monday, April 25th to discuss the book *The Nightengale*, by Kristin Hannah. Of course we do get around to the book, but we enjoy each other's company and it is very social, pleasant time for all. The book is an emotional story of two sisters in Nazi occupied France. E-mail Gerri at gerridale@gmail.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 LGHS Membership, 338 Old McHenry Rd, 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.

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TBD, Vice President

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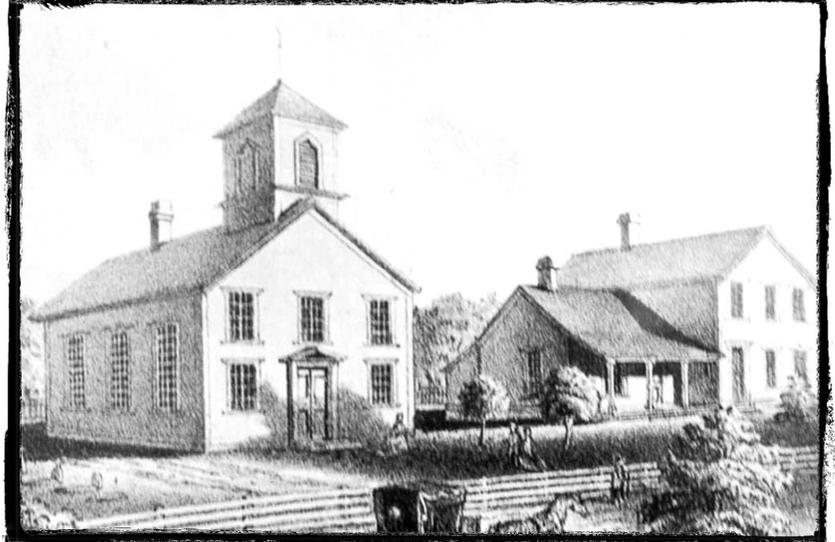
At large—

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... Kate Eisler and her homemade hat (circa 1920?), Long Grove Church before the Civil War, and the official Village logo, circa 1990.



Don't Fence Me In

doesn't allow fences. While that's incorrect, it struck me as interesting that a place that was once full of fences now has a reputation of forbidding them. It's only in the last forty years that people in Long Grove came to outnumber cows and horses. And with lots of cows and horses about, you need fences to keep 'em separated.

Barbed wire, was, of course, the norm for fences from circa 1880 onward. The fellow that invented it, Joe Glidden, lived less than 100 miles from Long Grove. If you look closely, it's pretty easy to see that much evidence of those barbed wire fences remain – hidden amongst trees that have grown up (and literally around) the fence that ran along those old property boundaries.

What did a Dairy Farmer do before barbed wire? Luckily, another Illinois fellow, Jonathon Turner, had figured out that if you grew Osage Orange trees 12 inches apart, the resulting natural barrier became “horse high, pig tight, and bull strong.” Incidentally,

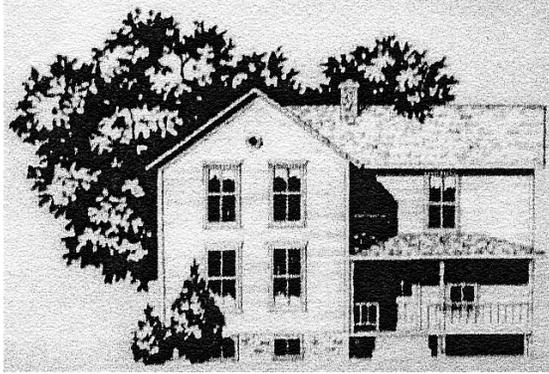


A piece of barbed wire running through a tree along Willowbrook road.

those of you that hail from either University of Illinois or Illinois State... Turner Hall is named for this Turner. Why Osage Orange and not some other tree? The branches contain barbs that are “hard as nails” and were actually used for nails back in the day (called tree nails). Another name for the tree is Bodark, which is a mutation on the French phrase “bois d’arc”, which means “wood of the bow”. Indians favored the strong and flexible characteristic of the wood for their bows.

These days Osage Orange trees are known mostly for those softball sized green knobby balls, sometimes called hedge apples, that you see laying around in the fall. The trees are dependent on humans to spread, as everything that used to eat the fruit and spread the seeds has gone extinct (it's apparently considered bad luck for your species if you eat those hedge apples).

When you get out for a walk this spring, take advantage of the lack of vegetation and see if you can spot any barbed wire. Later in the fall when you see those hedge apples, imagine the farmer that planted those back in the 1850's, and the cows peering back at you longingly through the branches...



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LONG GROVE PENNY CARNIVAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST

FOR MORE DETAILS

SEE LONGGROVEHISTORY.ORG