

# Long Grove History

LONG GROVE LIVING  
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## Old Bricks

By Aaron Underwood · Long Grove Historical Society

Someone once asked me if there was any history to the bricks that make up Long Grove's famous (infamous?) sidewalks. Well, there are some very old bricks in the downtown, but you don't walk on them. Here's the tale...

In 1835, some 181 years ago, the first settlers arrived in Long Grove, the John Gridley family. John had been running a tannery and shoe factory in Onondaga, New York, but trade wars with England, along with instability in the US banking system made it tough for manufacturing businesses to survive. So they sold it all, and hopped aboard an Erie Canal boat to make their way to Chicago. From there, they hitched a ride on a wagon and rolled out to their new 800 acre homestead in Long Grove.

The Gridley's prospered in their new location. Son Elisha built the 20 room "Endwood" mansion, complete with a veranda porch and third floor tower. Over the years the mansion fell into disrepair and eventually was victim to a fire circa 1950. Endwood Drive, which joins Route 83, just north of Oakwood, commemorates the estate.



Society Member Kathy Wiberg and Some of the Blacksmith Shop Bricks.



Parts of the old Gridley blacksmith shop survive to this day, albeit repurposed. The bricks in the foundation of the Historical Society's Farmhouse came from its crumpled ruins. In 1986, in the true spirit of the Society, then President Tony Berg was volunteered (I know that feeling) to harvest the bricks. Tony was able to collect about 900 bricks from the crumbling Gridley ruins. The Society had acquired an old farmhouse, but it had to be relocated and needed a new foundation. "It was a lot of work to build the foundation, but I enjoyed every minute of it", commented volunteer victim Tony. Tony's wife Gwen would later serve as Society President a number of years and is known for the many articles on local history she contributed to the Village's Bridge Newsletter. While moving the building was done fairly economically for only \$16,000, it eventually would take another \$145,000 to make the old Farmhouse usable as our archives and the occasional meeting. The donation of the land and money all came from the community, either as individuals, as local groups or through community fundraisers. Illinois Governor Jim Edgar, then Secretary of State, attended the open house celebration that marked the completion of the project.

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TONY BERG · SOCIETY PRESIDENT, 1986

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The Society Farmhouse is located in the back corner of the Stempel Parking Lot and will be open for touring on August 22nd during our Vintage Day's Penny Carnival. Hours will be Noon to 2pm. For more details, see our website - [LongGroveHistory.org](http://LongGroveHistory.org). Join us in Historic Downtown Long Grove for Vintage Days (August 21 and 22)!