

# Sesquicentennial Guide to Lake Forest History Resources



LAKE FOREST  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
LAKE BLUFF

## WHEN TO VISIT

The Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society is open **Tuesday-Thursday** and **Sunday** from **1 to 4 p.m.**, and Tuesday-Thursday morning by appointment. Researchers may drop in or they may set up an appointment with the curator. Our staff also welcomes research questions by phone or by email.

Photocopies are 10 cents. We also have pricing options for scanning images and creating CDs or emailing image files.

We are always looking to add items or information to our collection. Organizing our research materials is an ongoing project, so we welcome volunteers who are interested in cataloguing, indexing, and conducting research.

Our website, [www.lflbhistory.org](http://www.lflbhistory.org), contains links to other useful resources, as well as our own **Guide to Lake Forest Mayors** and **Lake Forest History Timeline**.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

**Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society**  
361 E Westminster, Lake Forest, IL 60045  
We are located just north of the Lake Forest Library. Parking is on the south side of our building.

**Phone:** 847.234.5253

**Fax:** 847.234.5236

**Email:** [info@lflbhistory.org](mailto:info@lflbhistory.org)

**Website:** [www.lflbhistory.org](http://www.lflbhistory.org)

**Janice Hack**, Executive Director: [jhack@lflbhistory.org](mailto:jhack@lflbhistory.org)

**Laurie Stein**, Curator: [lstein@lflbhistory.org](mailto:lstein@lflbhistory.org)



The Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society inspires an awareness of the community's history and an appreciation of its relevance through delivering engaging exhibitions, publications, and public programs; collecting and preserving local heritage and culture; and supporting historical research.

We maintain an active collection of resources for researchers of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff history. We collect and preserve a wide variety of materials, including:

- Records and archives
  - Genealogy and family history
  - Institutional/Organizational records
- Research library
- Photographs
- Periodicals
- Maps, plats, and blueprints
- Topical clippings files
- Three-dimensional objects

Our staff specializes in providing historical resources and information. Visit our research center to:

- Discover facts about your home or property
- Conduct genealogical research and learn about your family's past
- Document the history of your business or organization
- Study maps or photographs from bygone eras
- Find out more about the history of your community

## **RECORDS AND ARCHIVES**

We have an extensive archival collection of nearly 3,000 items. These are some of the highlights:

### Business Directories/Phone Books

Selected phone books, 1921-present

Bumstead's Directory of Area Businesses, 1908-1909, 1913-1914, 1919-1920 (excerpts)

### Cemetery Listings

Lake Forest, Church of St. Mary, St. Patrick

### Census Records

1840, 1869, 1870, 1900, 1930, 1862 Military Census

### Church Records

First Presbyterian Church Membership 1859-1893

Histories: St. Mary, Holy Spirit, First Presbyterian

### Social Registers

Onwentsia Club

Chicago Club

Who's Who in Chicago/the Midwest

### Institutional and Organizational Records

City of Lake Forest

Frazier, Raftery, Orr & Fairbank Architects

Lake Forest Hospital

Lake Forest Woman's Club

League of Women Voters

Police Department

Ridge Farm Preventorium

YWCA

## PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Our collection features over 5,000 photographs documenting Lake Forest history, including:

- Estate exteriors and interiors
- Clubs and organizations
- Market Square and downtown business district
- Railroads and transportation
- Past residents and prominent citizens
- Community events and milestones

Many of our images are digitized. Visitors can search by topic or browse through our collection.

## PERIODICALS

- *Lake Forester*, 1900-1985 – bound volumes
- *Country Life in America*, 1901-1942 – bound volumes
- *Lake Forest-Lake Bluff News-Advertiser*, 1973-1984
- *Lake Forest Journal*, *Forest & Bluff*, Preservation newsletters, school newspapers, various issues.
- City of Lake Forest newsletters and publications

## MAPS, PLATS, AND BLUEPRINTS

Lake Forest area maps

- 1857, 1869, 1881, 1885, 1896, 1907, 1912, 1922, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1981, 1993

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps

- 1917, 1929

Griffith Grant and Lackie Plats (subdivision index)

## TOPICAL CLIPPINGS FILES

One of our best-loved research tools, our clippings files contain real estate listings, journal articles, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, magazine images, and previous research compiled by Historical Society volunteers.

Categories include:

- Businesses
- Organizations
- City of Lake Forest
- Schools
- Architects
- People/Family names
- Churches
- Events
- Obituaries

And our most popular files:

- Residences (organized by address and/or estate name)

## THREE-DIMENSIONAL OBJECTS

Our artifact collection forms the basis of our museum exhibitions but also can be used for research purposes.

We have items ranging from fashions to paintings to milk bottles to family bibles to dolls to fire helmets to golf balls and everything in between. Our staff is happy to assist you in handling and examining these objects.

## RESEARCH LIBRARY

Our research library includes over 300 books for researchers to browse, reference, and use. Our library includes shelves focusing on:

- Lake Forest history
- Biographies of Lake Forest residents
- Lake Forest authors and illustrators
- Lake Forest recipes and cookbooks
- School yearbooks
- Architects and architecture
- Landscape architecture and garden history
- Lake County, Chicago, and Illinois history
- History of fashion
- Genealogy

These books on Lake Forest history are a useful place to start your research:

- American Communities Company, *Lake Forest: Art and History*, 1916.
- Edward Arpee, *Lake Forest, Illinois, History and Reminiscences: 1861-1961*; supplement by Susan Dart.
- Newton Bateman et al, *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Lake County*, 1902.
- City of Lake Forest, *City Charter and Ordinances*, 1898, 1909.
- Stuart Cohen and Susan Benjamin, *North Shore Chicago: Houses of the Lakefront Suburbs, 1890-1940*.
- Kim Coventry, Daniel Meyer, and Arthur H. Miller, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design, 1856-1940*.

- Kim Coventry and Arthur Miller, *Walter Frazier: Frazier, Raftery, Orr & Fairbank, Architects, Houses of Chicago's North Shore, 1924-1970*.
- Susan Dart, *Market Square, Lake Forest, Illinois*.
- Michael Ebner, *Creating Chicago's North Shore: A Suburban History*.
- Mary Lloyd Estrin, *To the Manor Born*.
- Virginia Greene, *The Architecture of Howard Van Doren Shaw*.
- John J. Halsey, *A History of Lake County, Illinois, 1912*.
- Junior League of Evanston, Inc., *An Architectural Album: Chicago's North Shore*.
- Susan L. Kelsey and Shirley M. Paddock, *Downtown Lake Forest*.
- Lake Forest Foundation for Historic Preservation, *A Preservation Foundation Guide to National Register Properties, Lake Forest, Illinois*.
- Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society, *Lake Forest Day: 100 Years of Celebration*.
- Arthur H. Miller and Shirley M. Paddock, *Lake Forest: Estates, People, and Culture*.
- National Register of Historic Places Historic District Nomination Forms
  - East Lake Forest
  - Vine-Oakwood
  - Green Bay Road
  - Deerpath Hill Estates
- *The Past and Present of Lake County, Illinois, 1877*.
- Stephen M. Salney, *The Country Houses of David Adler*.
- Franz Schulze, Rosemary Cowler, and Arthur Miller, *30 Miles North: A History of Lake Forest College, Its Town, and Its City of Chicago*.