



APPRECIATING HISTORY AND ITS RELEVANCE

The Timepiece

JUNE 2015

The Gem

Did you get your copy of *The Gem* mock newspaper with all the news of 1933? It was mailed in April to all local homes and business and Historical Society members outside of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. Call us at 847-234-5253 for a copy.

Coming events

Saturday June 6 • 10 am
Tour of Ragdale

Saturday June 13 • 2 pm
Howard Van Doren Shaw

Wednesday June 17 • 7 pm
Lake Forest in 1933

Thursday July 9 • 1:30 pm
Golden Age of Print Journalism

Saturday October 24 • 4 pm
Local Legends

Details inside.
For tickets call 847-234-5253
or visit www.lfblhistory.org

Inside:

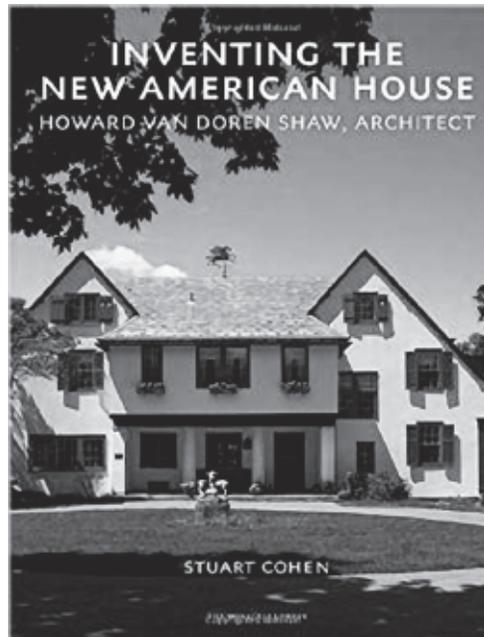
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Inventing the New American House: Howard Van Doren Shaw, Architect

Come celebrate, and learn more about, one of our own local treasures – architect Howard Van Doren Shaw! Join us for a lecture and book signing with Stuart Cohen, author of the new book *Inventing the New American House: Howard Van Doren Shaw, Architect*.

Cohen offers a new look at one of the best-known designers of the early 20th century whose name was largely forgotten on a national level after his untimely death at age 56. Cohen tells the story of the man who built homes for the leading industrialists of his era – Reuben H. Donnelly of printing fame, newspaper giant Joseph Medill Patterson, Edward Forster Swift, the meatpacking mogul, and Bertram G. Work, president of the B.F. Goodrich Company – hoping to bring his work back into the public eye.

Inventing the New American House features many previously unpublished images from the Shaw Archive in the Burnham and Ryerson Library at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago History Museum.



Howard Van Doren Shaw Lecture and Book Signing
Saturday, June 13 • 2 pm • Gorton Community Center
\$10 members \$15 non-members
Stuart Cohen's Book, \$65

It contains rare construction drawings, new color photos and a catalogue of Shaw's residential work. The text details the lives of the prominent homeowners and interesting facts about their business dealings, providing an historical glimpse into the era.

Books will be available for purchase for \$65 at the event.

Tour Howard Van Doren Shaw's own home, Ragdale, on Saturday June 6th.

See page 3 for more information.

Collections corner

Meet the 2015 Centennial Families

At our Annual Meeting on May 3, we honored two families with Centennial Family Awards at Dickinson Hall in Lake Forest.

To learn more about the history of each family, and see old photographs featured in the presentation, visit our website: www.lfbbhistory.org/news-centennial. Special thanks to Lake Forest Bank & Trust for sponsoring the 2015 awards.

Farwell-Winston Family, 1857

Nominated by Lucia Winston Heyworth

The Farwell family's roots are nearly indistinguishable from those of Lake Forest itself. Charles B. Farwell purchased initial shares in the Lake Forest Association in 1857, and the family's home, Fairlawn, became a focal point of the town when it was built in 1870. Senator Farwell and his wife, Mary Eveline, facilitated the opening of Lake Forest University as a coeducational institution in 1876 to support their daughters' education.

One of those daughters, the artistic Grace Farwell Winston McGann, recreated Fairlawn as a magnificent 20th-century estate after it burned in 1920. Her son, Farwell Winston, presided over Lake Forest as mayor during a period of extensive growth in the 1920s. Since then, the family has continued to serve as a pillar of the community and their legacy lives on as Lake Forest and its college continue to flourish.

page 2

Foster-Stirling Family, 1895

Nominated by Leslie Foster Stirling Basedow

For more than a century members of the Foster family have been known for innovation and leadership in Lake Forest—a founder of the Onwentsia Club and “the father of Sheridan Road” among them. The Foster name has also become synonymous with fashion. When Margaret Baxter Foster opened the Sports Shop in 1922, her collections of sportswear set the tone for a whole new mode of dressing. Now under the leadership of her granddaughter Ellen Foster Stirling, the Lake Forest Shop is Market Square's oldest tenant – and continues its trend-setting tradition.

Through their support of local institutions such as Lake Forest Open Lands, Lake Forest Bank & Trust, the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest

Country Day School, and the Elawa Farm Foundation, the Foster family has also helped to fashion Lake Forest into a more beautiful place and flourishing community.

The Stirling family's early legacy in our town lives on at the Grove Cultural Campus. When Stirling Hall was built in 1927, Alice May Stirling Dickinson, founder of Ridge Farm, named the building to honor her parents William and Alice Ives Stirling.



Lucia Winston Heyworth (at left) and Curator Laurie Stein



The Stirling Family in front of Stirling Hall

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the Centennial Family Awards for 2016, please contact Curator Laurie Stein at lstein@lfbbhistory.org or 847-234-5253.



From the Executive Director

Our membership is growing by leaps and bounds! Thanks to all of you who support us and make it possible to develop exciting new activities each year. Many of our programs sell out and we work hard to give our members first notice. As a member you can come to exclusive members' only events and receive discounts on several programs during the year.

If you have an idea for a lecture, book signing, tour or some other program, I would love to hear it. There is so much to celebrate and learn about Lake Forest and Lake Bluff.

Stuart Cohen's upcoming book and lecture on Howard Van Doren Shaw are a “must see” and “must have” for anyone interested in the visual nature of our community. How fortunate we are to have had such an accomplished architect, a homegrown star, create a legacy of beautiful buildings. Mr. Shaw is certainly a Local Legend from a bygone era.

Warmly,

Janice C. Hack

Summer and Fall programs

For tickets, please visit
www.lfhistory.org or call 847-234-5253.



Ragdale



Lake Forest Post Office, built in 1933

Tour Howard Van Doren Shaw's Own Home, Ragdale

Saturday June 6, 2015 10:00 am

Meet at Ragdale, 1260 North Green Bay Road, Lake Forest

Cost: \$10, Reservations required

Contact Ragdale at 847-234-1063

Ragdale was designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw as a summer home for his family and there, each member could explore their artistic talents: Shaw as an architect, his mother as a painter, his wife Frances as a poet and playwright, and his daughter Sylvia as a sculptor. Howard Van Doren Shaw's granddaughter, Alice Judson Hayes, created the Ragdale Foundation and turned the home and farm into an artist's retreat where artists can go to create their own brilliant masterpieces. The tour includes the main house, the historic Barnhouse, the Ragdale Ring and gardens.

Contact Ragdale directly for reservations at 847-234-1063.

Advance reservations are required.

This program is a special tour in connection with the lecture and book signing for the new book on Howard Van Doren Shaw – *see page 1*.



Mike Conklin

Chicago's Golden Era of Print Journalism

Thursday July 9, 2015 1:30 pm

Lake Forest Place

Free!

Mike Conklin, retired editor and writer for the *Chicago Tribune*, will look back on the events and institutions of Chicago's newspapers and the variety of contributions made by their influential writers, photographers and cartoonists. Included in the talk will be the impact of such influential literary figures as Joseph Medill, Eugene Field, William Randolph Hearst, Robert Abbott, John T. McCutcheon, Ben Hecht, Carl Sandburg, Sigrid Schultz, William Shirer, and Gwendolyn Brooks.

Progress, Prohibition and Pragmatism: Lake Forest in 1933

Wednesday June 17, 2015 7:00 pm, Cash bar at 6:30 pm

Knollwood Club

Tickets: \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers,
Knollwood Club members free

Join us for a lecture that expands on the stories of 1933 and how the year played out locally. The lecture *Progress, Prohibition and Pragmatism: Lake Forest in 1933* will relate how two local architects made a splash at the Century of Progress Fair in Chicago, how a polo match lifted the nation's spirits, why North Shore Gas was designing kitchens and why 3% beer was available despite Prohibition.

This program is presented in connection with the Historical Society's mock newspaper which covers all the news of 1933. The mock newspaper, *The Gem*, was published in April 2015. The presentation takes place at the Knollwood Club, 1890 Knollwood Road, Lake Forest. The lecture starts at 7:00 pm. Thank goodness Prohibition ended in 1933 because a cash bar precedes our talk at 6:30 pm.



Save the Date!

Bike Tour of Lake Road

Saturday September 19, 2015
10:00 am

Local Legends

Saturday October 24, 2015
4:00 pm

More details in our next
newsletter in late summer.

Collections Cameo: Helen Farwell Stevenson Collection

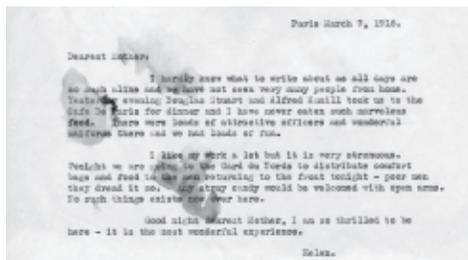
By Amber Craghead, Spring 2015 Leslie T. Chapman Museum Intern

The Helen Farwell Stevenson collection donated in 2000 by John (“Archie”) Stevenson is composed of loose photographs, letters, newspaper clippings, and scrapbook pages belonging to Helen Farwell Stevenson circa 1918-1919 detailing her experience as a WWI nurse in France. Helen Farwell was born on September 15, 1895 to Granger Farwell and Sarah Child Goodrich Farwell, both of Chicago. Helen was the last of the couple’s five daughters and the family resided at Knollwood, now located at 400 N. Washington Rd. in Lake Forest.

Helen, along with her sister Sarah Granger Farwell (born October 25, 1890), served as nurses in World War

often wrote letters home and fortunately, several of these letters were kept by Helen in her scrapbook pages. Based off the letters home, we know that the sisters were stationed at the battle of Chateau-Thierry which took place on July 18, 1918. This battle was one of the first battles led by General John Pershing and the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) as part of the Second Battle of the Marne.

The letters detail the conditions of France during the War and serve as an excellent resource as to what life was like for the French citizens and for French and American soldiers during 1918-1919. One of the letters, dated February 23, 1918 by Helen states, “My work consists of



A letter home from Helen Farwell

I in France with the American Red Cross and the American Fund for French Wounded (AFFW). The two sisters left for France on February 9th, 1918 aboard the S.S. Touraine and remained abroad until the following spring. While in France, the two journeyed as nurses across the French countryside to towns such as Sezanne, Epernay, Epinal, and Paris taking care of wounded soldiers. Helen and Sarah, who was nicknamed “Yebo,”

meeting the wagons from the depots, listing the cases and telling the men where to place them, and tracing lost ones. In between tomes we open the cases and sort the contents. I am one of the best nail pullers in the world now.” In another letter written by Helen on March 7, 1918 she says, “I like my work a lot but it is very strenuous. Tonight we are going to the Gard du Nords to distribute comfort bags and goods to the men returning to



Helen Farwell (later Stevenson)



Sarah Granger Farwell

the front tonight – poor men, they dread it so. Any stray candy would be welcomed with open arms. No such things exist now over here.” On March 19, 1918 Sarah wrote, “Mrs. Hillæ... gave me an introduction to a very attractive French person staying at this hotel. She has lost her husband and son in this war and has twenty-eight relatives fighting. We went to a French cinema tonight – all the plot was in French, but Charlie Chaplin was the hero, He is popular here too.”

In an undated, unsigned letter by one of the girls, it reads, “The people are awfully brave, but so sad. The children are underfed, hardly ever cry and pleased to death if they get any little thing we can find out of the comfort bags... We will always send you a cable if anything happens, so please take no news as good news always.” The letter continues with, “Everyone here has a “Jilleul” or an adopted soldier at the front whom they write to. The other night at the Canteen one boy in the artillery asked me if I would write him. He has been in the fight ever since the War started and I have had several letters, which I struggle to answer. They simply love to have someone to talk to.”

Another letter detailing the conditions states, “It is too bad the farm [Knollwood, in Lake Forest] is not nearer France, for milk is a great luxury – 12 cents for the

unbottled kind and that can only be bought at certain hours during the day. Living over here has certainly taught us not to waste anything. You do not take anything you are not going to eat, and you think before you help yourself.”

During her time in France, Helen Farwell would go on to meet Lieut. Richard D. Stevenson, also of Illinois. Stevenson was an ambulance driver who was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his service during an air raid. After a short time, the two were married in France on February 25, 1919 by Reverend Chauncey Goodrich at the American Church in Paris with Sarah Farwell and Joshua Stevenson (Richard’s brother) as witnesses. Following their wedding, the couple honeymooned in Monte Carlo and eventually returned back to the U.S. that summer.

The Helen Farwell Stevenson collection provides us with a priceless firsthand account of what life was like in WWI France between 1918 and 1919. The letters and photographs help piece together the amazing story of two sisters who gave up their lives of luxury in order to “do their bit” in the Great War. As the *Chicago Tribune* printed on April 4, 1918, “If there are any more young women like Sarah and Helen Farwell who want to come over to help us in the Paris depot of the American fund for French wounded we would love to have them.”

MVPs: Members, Volunteers and People behind the Scenes



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Volunteer spotlight

Kiersten Kolstad

Our Leslie T. Chapman Museum Intern for Summer 2015 is Kiersten Kolstad, a recent graduate of Lake Forest College with a double major in History and Theatre. The internship is named in honor of the Historical Society's former treasurer, Leslie Chapman, who was Vice President of Business Affairs and Treasurer of Lake Forest College for 22 years.

Kiersten is excited to hold this internship as her love for local history goes back to growing up in Temecula, California. In Temecula, she was constantly surrounded by the rich Native American, Spanish, and Western history of Southern California. From there, history became her preferred subject in school, and it was no surprise she eventually decided to make history one of her two majors at Lake Forest College.

After attending Lake Forest College for four years, she views this internship as a wonderful way to get to know



*Leslie T. Chapman Intern
Kiersten Kolstad*

the history of this town while gaining practical skills in the historical field. She hopes that she can use this experience for future jobs in the field or graduate school. For her internship, Kiersten is focused on conducting research about the history of Market Square to prepare for its centennial in 2016.

In addition to being a history major and LFLBHS intern, Kiersten is pursuing her love of theatre and works at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. She has been a part of countless Lake Forest College productions and hopes to continue theatre in one form or another now that she has graduated.

Business and Organization Memberships FY 2016

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LAKE FOREST
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
LAKE BLUFF

361 East Westminster
Lake Forest, IL 60045
847-234-5253
www.lflbhistory.org

Museum Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday 10 am to 4 pm
Friday by appointment
Sunday 1 to 4 pm

Thank you Program Sponsors

Centennial Family Award

Sponsor: Lake Forest Bank &
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**Progress, Prohibition and
Pragmatism Lecture Sponsor:**
Knollwood Club

The Gem Sponsors

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& Howe, LLP

Market Square
Carolyn Wells and Joe Koss
North Shore Gas
Private Bank



Can you guess our next Local Legend?

Save the Date! 2015 Local Legends October 24, 2015

Photo ca. 1960 Courtesy Chicago Tribune



On the cover:

A. A. Carpenter Jr. residence,
745 Barberry Lane, built
1906, designed
by Howard Van Doren Shaw.