



LAKE FOREST  
**HISTORICAL  
 SOCIETY**  
 LAKE BLUFF

APPRECIATING HISTORY AND ITS RELEVANCE

# The Timepiece

MARCH 2014

## Be Part of the News!

The second annual mock newspaper, renamed *The Gem*, will be mailed late spring. Covering all the news of 1926, it will be mailed to every household and business in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. If you are interested in promoting your business through sponsorship and advertising opportunities, please contact the Historical Society.

## Coming events

Sunday April 6 • 2 pm  
 Downton Abbey Tea

Thursday April 10 • 7 pm  
 Frances Willard Lecture

Saturday April 12 • 11 am  
 Tour the Frances Willard Home

Friday April 25 • 6 pm  
 West Side Stories Exhibit Preview

Sunday May 4 • 2 pm  
 Centennial Family Awards

Friday May 9 • 5:03 pm  
 Club Car Excursion

Saturday May 10 • 10 am and 1 pm  
 Tour of Crab Tree Farm

Details inside.  
 For tickets call 847-234-5253  
 or visit [www.lfblhistory.org](http://www.lfblhistory.org)

## The Ups and Downs of Dining à la Downton Abbey: An Edwardian Tea

Join us for an afternoon tea inspired by the show *Downton Abbey* – authentic Edwardian food served in the British Manor House style. The tea and interpretive program will be presented on Sunday April 6, 2014 at 2:00 pm at the historic Schwegge Estate. Guests will also have a chance to tour the first and second floors of this spectacular lakefront house. Tickets, which must be purchased in advance, are \$60 for members and \$75 for

guests on the proper way to set up a British manor house. They will present the program in costume using period tools and historic recipes. Dress is

The Schwegge mansion was a wedding gift from John Shedd, president of Marshall Field & Co., to his daughter Laura, Mrs. Charles Schwegge.



*The Schwegge mansion, perfect location for an Edwardian tea.*



*Mrs. Eaton and Mr. Howe will instruct guests in proper Edwardian manners.*

non-members. This event is generously supported by The Green Teaist of Lake Forest.

The themed event will be conducted by “head cook” Ellie Carlson and “butler” Mark Howe who will instruct

dressy casual with Edwardian attire optional.

Afternoon tea originated among the wealthy classes in England in the 1840s and evolved as a mini meal to stem hunger until the 8 pm evening meal. The ritual became more formal after Queen Victoria began hosting “tea receptions.” The menu generally consists of tea, served with milk and sugar, accompanied by small sandwiches (cut into delicate “fingers”), cakes and sweet pastries.

Designed in 1915 in the French chateau style by architect Frederick Wainwright Perkins, the home boasts 30 rooms with 12 bedrooms and  
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**THE GREEN TEAIST®**  
 SALON DE THÉ VERT ET L'ATELIER



## From the Executive Director

### Mock newspaper

It is always an honor to be recognized by our colleagues. The Historical Society's Mock 1916 newspaper *The Gazette* was given a **Superior Achievement Award** by the Illinois Association of Museums. The awards committee noted the ambitious undertaking, calling the promotional piece a "model for the museum profession." Lisa Frey and I travelled to Peoria for the awards banquet and it was a privilege to be among the select honorees from museums both big and small.

The mock newspaper (which can be found on the Historical Society website) was so popular, we will be doing a repeat this year. Renamed *The Gem* (after the community's first printed newspaper), this year's addition will cover all the news of **1926**. Lake Forest High School student Will Morris is helping with the research and has become an expert reviewing the on-line *Chicago Tribune* papers from the era. The newspaper will be mailed to every home and business in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff later this spring. If you are interested in placing an ad in the newspaper, please contact me.

### Congratulations to Jill Chapman

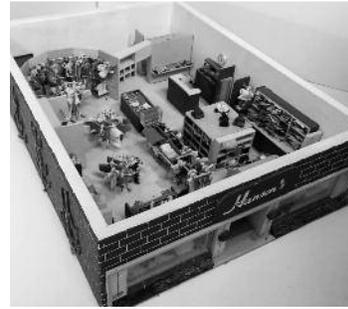
Our Sunday Manager Jill Chapman has been named the new Gallery Director of the Deerpath Art League. Congratulations to Jill! She is a very talented mixed media artist and photographer. In addition to working at the Historical Society on Sundays, Jill also photographs our events. We are lucky to have such a creative person on our team.

### Downton Abbey

Be sure to get your tickets right away for the Downton Abbey inspired tea. What could be better than a program that combines a beautiful home, authentic food, and history? Special thanks to Ann Lyon of Coldwell Banker for her assistance with the event.

Warmly,

*Jonice C. Hack*



At left, diorama of Hansen's Children's Shop. At right, Lake Forest Volunteer Fire Department helmet. Below, wooden nickels.

## Collections corner

During the past holiday season, the Historical Society held its first-ever Adopt-An-Artifact campaign. We launched Adopt-An-Artifact for #GivingTuesday, which is a movement to create a national day of charitable giving on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday.

For just \$20, adopters were able to choose from three artifacts in the Historical Society collection. In return, they received a certificate of adoption, a history fact sheet about the artifact, and future recognition on our Collections Cameo blog. Proceeds from Adopt-An-Artifact supported the preservation of our museum collection of over 15,000 objects, photographs and archives.

Artifacts available this year for adoption included:

- ◆ **Wooden nickels** from the First National Bank of Lake Forest (now Northern Trust) – these were good for one bag of fresh popcorn, popped in an old-fashioned machine in the bank lobby
- ◆ **Diorama, Hansen's Children's Shop** – created by an employee, this diorama captures a late 1970s view of the clothing shop for children and infants run by George and Frances Hansen on Westminster
- ◆ **Fire helmet, Lake Forest Volunteer Fire Department** – Worn by the fire captain in the 1910s, when the city purchased its first motorized hose-and-ladder truck

For its inaugural year, Adopt-An-Artifact proved a success, with six generous supporters, several of whom adopted as a holiday gift for a friend or loved one. Most popular proved the Hansen's Diorama, which even reached a Hansen family member all the way across the country.

Watch our Collections Cameo blog over the next few months, where these three artifacts will be featured on our website. And stay tuned for #GivingTuesday 2014, when we'll put three new artifacts up for adoption!



Suggestions are welcome.

# Winter and Spring programs



*Everett Train station*

For tickets, please visit  
[www.lflbhistory.org](http://www.lflbhistory.org)  
or call 847-234-5253.



*Dickinson Hall, designed by Edwin Hill Clark in 1929.*

## Members Preview of West Side Stories

Friday April 25, 2014 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Save the date! On Friday, April 25th, from 6 pm to 8 pm we'll host a special preview of our newest exhibition, just for members and special guests, at the Historical Society museum. West Side Stories explores Lake Forest's western regions, beyond the Skokie Highway. You'll get a chance to see the entire exhibit before parts of it go on tour out west. West Side Stories will be open at the Historical Society and various locations in the community through the end of 2014.



*Club Car 553*

## Club Car Excursion

Friday May 9, 2014  
5:03 pm sharp  
Tickets: \$75  
Space is limited

Relive the "Millionaire's Special!" Established in 1929, the Lake Forest Club Car is the only remaining private commuter railway car in the country. On Friday May 9th, you can join the most unique club in Lake Forest – Car 553 – as it makes its regular evening commute from Chicago. During the commute, Buzz Norton will share the history of the railway car and Norm Carlson will talk about railroad history. Tickets are \$75 and include happy hour refreshments. Space is limited. Information about how to board the 5:03 pm train in Chicago will be sent to participants.

## Walking Tour of Ridge Farm/Grove School Centennial Family Awards/Annual Meeting

Sunday May 4, 2014 2:00 pm  
100 East Old Mill Road, Lake Forest  
Free and open to the public

The 2014 Annual Meeting will take place at Dickinson Hall, home of the Senior Center. The location was chosen for the meeting because 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Ridge Farm Preventorium for which Dickinson Hall was originally built.

The free program, which is open to anyone, will include our 2014 Centennial Family Awards and a historical and architectural walking tour of the site. This year's Centennial Family honorees are the Beye-Rickoff-Witberg-Stein family, nominated by Juliet Stein-Davies; the Larsen-Sneddon family, nominated by Jan Larsen Polep; and the Mark-Saville family, nominated by Katherine Saville.

The Ridge Farm Preventorium was established to allow children living in poor conditions a chance to come to the country with the goal of reducing their chances of developing tuberculosis. The institution grew with support from the local philanthropic community. Architects Edwin Clark and Stanley Anderson were called upon to design buildings over the years. As the threat of tuberculosis lessened, the preventorium was no longer needed. Grove School, for children with special needs, purchased the property in the 1960s and added several buildings.

## Annual Spring Tour of Crab Tree Farm

Saturday May 10, 2014 10:00 am and 1:00 pm  
Tickets: \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members

The Historical Society is honored to partner with Crab Tree Farm for the opportunity to visit this one-of-a-kind treasure. The annual spring event is a must-see for anyone interested in history, architecture or the decorative arts. A tour of Crab Tree Farm makes a great Mother's Day present! Advance reservations are required and tours fill up quickly. Parking instructions will be given at time of ticket purchase.

Crab Tree Farm was designed by architect Solon Beman as a model dairy farm for Grace Durand. The farm buildings have undergone extensive renovation and now house the finest collection of English and American Arts and Crafts furnishings in the country.



# Telephones

## From Operator to Direct Dial



By Margie Juedes, Board Member

The history of the telephone begins in February 1876, when two inventors, Elisha Gray and Alexander Graham Bell, both independently designed devices that could transmit speech electronically. The two men

growth of phones locally. John Chapman became the first night switchboard operator at Hogue's Drug Store. A direct line to Chicago was established in 1896 and the number of telephones doubled. Lake Bluff's toll station was



*Telephone exchange*

rushed their designs to the patent office within hours of each other. However, Bell patented his design first. Elisha Gray lived in Highland Park and was a lecturer in physics at Lake Forest College between 1882 and 1892. He was a founding partner of what became Western Electric Company.

Phone service in our area began in 1895, when a City ordinance granted three men "the right to erect and maintain a telephone system in the City for 15 years." Winding streets and deep ravines made it difficult to erect poles and string wires, limiting the

located in the J. Irving Pearce hotel and offered "summer service only."

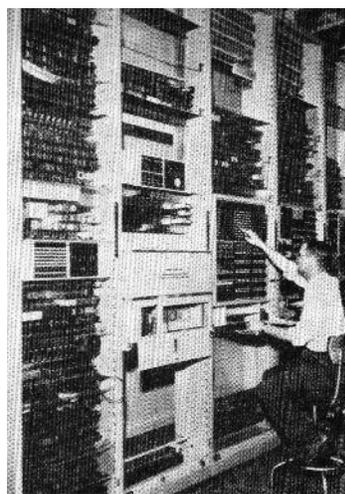
In 1899, George T. Gibbons became manager of the phone company and had to handle a special project – providing additional equipment to serve participants at the National Golf Tournament held at Onwentsia Club in July. By then total subscribers had increased to 113, according to historian Edward Arpee.

A site for a telephone building was purchased and the new exchange was completed at 235 East Deerpath in 1903. Phone books kept pace with the growth of the telephone.

The 1903 Bumstead's *Waukegan City and Lake County Directory* listed the name, profession and street of each telephone owner. Vocations were listed such as horse-shoer, domestics, butlers, and teachers. There was no need for street numbers at that time.

In the early years, a dialer would call the operator and ask for the person or business they wanted to reach by giving their exchange name and number—for example, Lake Bluff 327. Most calls through the operator were simply Lake Forest or Lake Bluff followed by three numbers, some businesses were two numbers, for example, Henry Strenger Plumbing was Lake Forest 94.

These switchboard operators occasionally were found "listening in" on conversations. The *Chicago Tribune* reported on June 20, 1916 that two Lake Forest switchboard operators overheard a conversation linking the accused, Will Orpet, to the possible



*Telephone automatic message accounting machine, circa 1960*

murder of Marion Lambert of Lake Forest. Two operators testified at his trial "they heard Lambert refuse his (Orpet's) offer to give her something to fix whatever was making her sick." Orpet was later acquitted.

With the growth of the telephone came the growth of the telephone exchange names—a word that was used to represent the first two letters of a seven-digit phone number as spelled out on a telephone

### From 'Number Please' To Bzzz ...

The changeover Sunday to dial telephone service will mark the completion of a giant improvement program which began in December, 1958 with groundbreaking ceremonies for the new dial building on Deerpath. Business offices are located on the first floor and the new dial equipment occupies the second story. The change from operator to dial system will become effective at 2 a.m.

dial. For example in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff, CEdar was the exchange. Highland Park was IDlewood, Deerfield was WIndsor, Fort Sheridan was FS. Long-time residents may recall that CE 4 fostered a sense of community for years.

In 1960, Lake Forest switched to a dial system and Western Electric expanded the Deerpath building to house equipment. There were 9,500 subscribers in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. Then a customer could dial direct locally using the CE 4 exchange with the 4 digit number. Some operators were still needed to transfer calls, provide information and connect to out of town calls that could not be dialed direct.

Exchange names and switchboard operators are long gone but they gave a sense of community during their day. With the growth of the Chicago metro area we have progressed through several area codes – 312 (established in 1947), 708, and now 847. With the introduction of the overlay area code of 224, we now have to dial a 1 before the area code locally.

**The Historical Society has a large collection of phone books dating back to 1903. Many of these have been indexed by dedicated volunteers and can be found on our website where they can be searched. They are a great genealogical and historical resource.**

# MVPs: Members, Volunteers and People behind the Scenes

## Welcome, New Members

Dr. and Mrs. Steve Ballis  
Ms. Jodi Barke  
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Derr  
Mr. David Forlow  
Ms. Maria Gipps  
Ms. Suzanne Kennedy Lohentry  
Ms. Marlene Koe  
Ms. Anne Maxfield  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Morris  
Ms. Helen O'Neill  
Ms. Wendy Posard  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Russo  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Sinclair  
Ms. Gina Zisook

## A special thanks to our Local Legends Sponsors

### \$5,000 Sponsor

Hunter Family Foundation  
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### Media Sponsor

Forest & Bluff  
The North Shore Weekend  
Sheridan Road Magazine

### \$1,000 sponsor

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Kate Wolf

## Volunteer spotlight

### Emilie Mobley

Interviewed by Museum Intern  
Rachel Collins

### Why do you volunteer at the Historical Society?

**Emilie:** I put off taking a required history course in college. The study of history was boring; memorizing names and dates! Thank goodness for my college professor who told stories, which I discovered, are what give significance to people, places and time before me. Volunteering at the Historical Society allows me access to snapshots of the people who lived, worked and helped maintain the beauty of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff.

### What project do you work on at the Historical Society?

**Emilie:** Once a month, I get out the old Lake Foresters and research what was going on

*Volunteer  
Emilie  
Mobley*



during that same month, 50 and 75 years ago. I pull out highlights and pass them on to Lisa Frey who shares them in letters to members.

### Based on reading the past Lake Foresters, what things have changed, what has stayed the same?

**Emilie:** Life has changed for all of us, world-wide (parenting in the new millennium, prices, etc.). What remains the same is the importance of family, community and friends.

### What part of Lake Forest history are you most interested in?

**Emilie:** The stories! Everyone has one (or two).

## Meet our New Board Members

**Katie Hale** is returning to the Board and is the chairman of the Collections, Exhibits and Publications committee. She and her family, including five children, live in an historical property in Lake Bluff. In her free time she is a muralist and oil painter and shared her en plein air paintings of Crab Tree Farm with the Historical Society.

**Tom Hunter** is also returning to the Board and previously served as President from 2008-2011. His children are the fourth generation of Lake Forest Hunters. Tom grew up in Lake Forest and "attended LFCDS back when ravines and open spaces were ok to explore and observe." He currently serves as Executive Director of the Hunter Family Foundation.

**Susan Kelsey** has been a resident of Lake Forest for eight years and is the Economic Development Coordinator for the City. She and her husband Bob have three children. Her interest in history started with her hometown of Birmingham, Michigan where she was the fifth generation there. Susan is writing a mystery eBook series for tween girls featuring local history and a historical fiction book about Chief Sauganash. Her favorite past-time is hiking around old Indian trails and finding Indian trail marker trees.

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LAKE FOREST  
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361 East Westminster  
Lake Forest, IL 60045  
847-234-5253  
www.lfhistory.org

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

## Downton Abbey

continued from front

16 baths. Exquisite wood and stone carvings line the Medieval style great hall, reception room and living room. Now known as Mayflower Place, the house was extensively restored in 1987.

More history and photographs can be found in the for-sale listing at [www.405MayflowerRoad.com](http://www.405MayflowerRoad.com).

**Parking for the event is at the Gorton Community Center. A shuttle will transport guests from Gorton to the estate between 1:00 and 1:45 pm. There is no parking at the estate.**

## Inside: A Downton Abbey Experience

## Frances Willard: Star of the Lake Bluff Camp Meeting

Lecture: Thursday April 10th at 7 pm

Optional tour: Saturday April 12th at 11 am

Don't miss your chance to hear Frances Willard's story in the very town where she used to lecture on the benefits of temperance.

Mary McWilliams, Docent Coordinator at the Frances Willard House, will give a talk on the renowned social activist and suffragist. Willard (1839-1898) lived in Evanston and was featured as a speaker at the Lake Bluff Camp Meeting Association.

Under her leadership, the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) grew to be the largest organization of

women in the country and spread its movement worldwide.

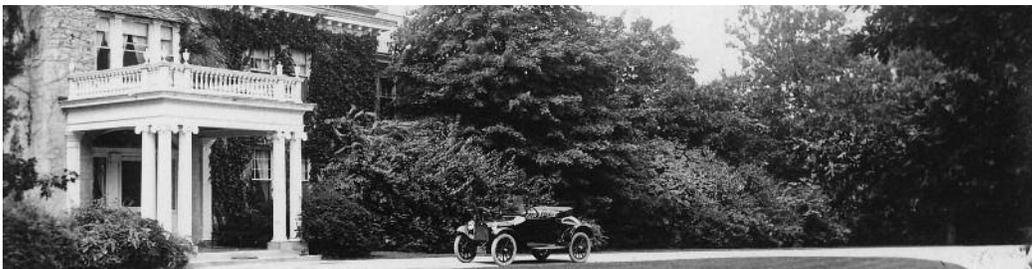
The lecture takes place on Thursday April 10th at 7 pm at the Grace United Methodist Church in Lake Bluff.

Guests can also join us at 11 am the Saturday after the lecture for a tour of the Frances Willard House museum in Evanston, which features a remarkably intact collection of original furnishings and objects from Frances Willard's residency in the later 1800s. For the tour, meet at 1730 Chicago Avenue in Evanston.



*Social activist and suffragist  
Frances Willard*

Tickets are \$10 for the lecture only and \$15 for the lecture and tour (members) or \$20 for the lecture and tour (nonmembers). Tour reservations must be made in advance due to limited space.



**On the cover:** Postcard showing Pembroke Lodge, the David B. Jones estate, at 500 N. Green Bay. Designed in 1895 by architect Henry Ives Cobb.