



251 North Wolf Road • Wheeling, Illinois 60090

WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 2010

A Bit of History... Childerley Chapel



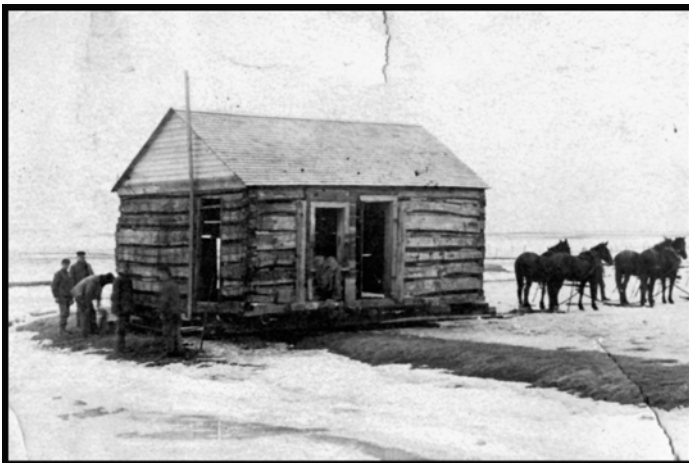
In 1928, the Calvert Foundation around 1941. Just 50 years ago, on August 13, 1961, the Calvert Foundation celebrated with an open house to mark its 20th anniversary. But its operating funds were already running low.

In 1977 the property was purchased by the Wheeling Park District. The chapel was then renovated by members and friends of the Wheeling Historical Society. In 1981 it was dedicated as Lorraine E. Lark Chapel of the Orchard. Lorraine Lark, a prominent community leader of Wheeling, and President of the Board of Park Commissioners, was instrumental in the preservation of the meadows and orchards of Childerley Park from destruction and development. Childerley is located at 506 McHenry Road in Wheeling. ♪

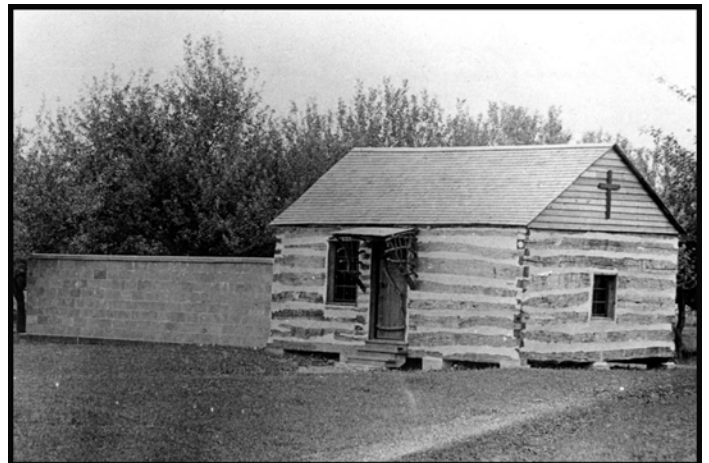
Dr. Frank Lillie and his wife, Frances Crane Lillie, owned the Buffalo Creek Farm. This was a working farm and dairy, with more than 600 acres, that supplied Wheeling and the north suburbs with milk. That's where Dr. Lillie experimented with cattle raising while his wife employed the most advanced methods in child nurturing. And that's where Mrs. Lillie founded Childerley, financed by her father's plumbing company, Crane Plumbing in Chicago.

Mrs. Lillie opened the farm to help families who lost their breadwinners during the Depression. Her friend, school teacher Elisabeth Port, managed the school. The property was later known as Childerley Home for Widows and Orphans. Childerley means "Children's Meadow".

The Chapel you see now, standing since 1928, was one of several buildings. The Chapel and the adjacent Lillie and Port houses served Catholic students of the University of Chicago as a retreat center when the property was turned over to the



Moving the Chapel Across the Creek – 1910



Childerley's First Chapel

"The object of this Society shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the Community of Wheeling."

**WHEELING
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Located in the
Wheeling Park District's
Chamber Park
251 Wolf Road
Wheeling, Illinois 60090

Museum Hours
April through October
Sunday 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Dates
Board meetings are on
the 3rd Thursday
of the month
General meetings are on
the 4th Wednesday
of the month.

Board meeting:
Thursday
August 19
at 7:30 p.m.

General meeting:
Wednesday
August 25
at 7:00 p.m.
*

Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

August is upon us and we are experiencing the hottest summer on record. At least now we can escape into air-conditioned homes. I can remember when we didn't have that option and had to depend on fans.

The general meeting was held on July 28th and Lori Hazelwood, Streets/Forestry Superintendent for the Village of Wheeling, gave us good lessons about the native plants in Illinois. She told us that many plants and trees have been lost forever to progress and also provided some good tips for the gardeners. She is a very good contact when you need information on trees or plants in your neighborhood. We want to thank her for her time and good information.

During the meeting Charles Vallas volunteered to order the ornaments for Lollipop Lane this year. We are purchasing two new tape recorders, one for the secretary and one to conduct interviews. We need volunteers to help interview people. I would like to start this program in September. We also discussed the Building Plaque project. Hackney's Restaurant will be the first one on the list.

The upcoming meeting on August 25th will be at 7:00 p.m. at the old church and our program will be a presentation by David Leider, author of the book *Wisconsin Central in Illinois*. Let your train buff friends know and hope to see you in attendance.

We need volunteers for the Museum on August 22nd and also in September and October.

Historically Yours,
Joan Wiener, President



Upcoming Programs

August 28, 2010

The Wisconsin Central in Illinois

We are pleased to present our guest speaker, David Leider, on Wednesday, August 28 at 7:00 p.m. David, a train enthusiast from Prospect Heights, is the author of *Wisconsin Central in Illinois*. In 1886 the Wisconsin Central Railroad came through Wheeling and our station was built. We'll learn the history of how the railroad came to Wheeling. ☺

To All of Our
Friends and Members
who have been ill or in the hospital:
We wish you all
Health and Happiness
and hope you are
Well on the Road to Recovery



Monday, September 6, 2010, is
LABOR DAY

- Held on the first Monday of September
- Originally organized to celebrate the contributions of labor (a "working-men's holiday") to the US economy, and pay tribute to the American worker
- Largely a day of rest, marked as the end of the summer season and the last chance to go on trips. In the past, custom dictated that white clothes were no longer worn after Labor Day. An opportunity to close government offices, schools, and businesses
- Often starts the football season
- Declared a federal holiday by Congress in 1894 ☺

Curator's Report



On July 29th and August 5th, Andrew and Alex Jensen of Wheeling and Scout Troup 36 of Prospect Heights came to the Museum to perform six hours of volunteer work towards a community merit badge. They are under the supervision of Scoutmaster Steve Maas.



They helped reorganize and clean the storage area above the Carriage House on July 29th, and returned on August 5th to clean the Carriage House of spider webs and debris. We appreciate all the work they did. They worked very hard in the hot weather.



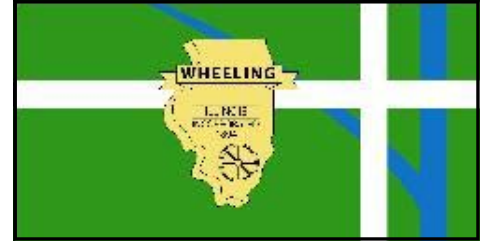
We received a two-drawer desk from the Wheeling Park District which is greatly appreciated. We have put it to good use already.

Joan, Patti, Bev, and I are going through some old pictures and doing some reframing. We're still in the process of reorganizing the downstairs and familiarizing ourselves with the many artifacts we have in our collection.



Patti Steilen
Curator

The Story Behind the Village of Wheeling Flag



This is Dan Van Loon's original design for the of Village of Wheeling flag. / Photo: Daniel Van Loon

Recently, former resident Dan Van Loon contacted village hall. In his possession was the original, winning design of the Village of Wheeling flag, and the local newspaper articles collected by his parents.

In 1972 the Wheeling Jaycees sponsored a contest to design a flag for the village. Daniel Van Loon won the contest and tells the story about his experience in his own words.

“Among the requirements for submitting an entry in the competition was the design had to incorporate the village seal, or part of it. I thought the village seal was used on the village vehicle stickers. That design was appropriately a big silhouette of a wagon wheel. So, my original submission did not have the Illinois map and banner image which was (and is) in the old village seal. It had a nice big and simple black silhouette of a wagon wheel, like the one in subsequent village logos.

A representative of the Jaycees came to my house after they had decided to award 1st prize to my design, but they requested that I replace the wagon wheel image with the village seal. I really did NOT want to do that, as I considered the simplicity, visual strength, and meaning of the wagon wheel FAR better.

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Wheeling Historical Society & Museum

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TRAIN STATION

Wheeling's beginnings came as an overnight stop for travelers from Chicago who were headed to the Wisconsin Territory via the overland trail now known as Milwaukee Avenue (Illinois Route 21). The string of inns, taverns and eateries established in the 1830's was the start of what is now Wheeling's renowned Restaurant Row.

Welcome :

The Wheeling (Illinois) Historical Society and Museum celebrates the link between the past and the present. The museum is a cooperative effort of the Village of Wheeling, Wheeling Park District, Indian Trails Public Library and Wheeling Historical Museum.

Mission:

"The object of this Society shall be the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the Community of Wheeling. "

The past is never lost – as long as it is remembered. Towards that goal, the Wheeling Historical Society collects and preserves significant materials related to our past and shares them through educational and recreational activities that promote community heritage and pride.

Dear Members,

Your access to our collection of newsletters is a membership benefit. Some sections of our new website are now password-protected. Here is your password with easy instructions to access the newsletters on our website:

Go to <http://www.WheelingHistoricalSociety.com/>

Click on “News and Events” at the top

Select one of the months and click on it.

Enter this password: DOBBIN

Click on the Verify button.

The password will change at a future date. Watch your newsletter for information about password changes. *Dobbin is the name of our horse in the Carriage House.* ☺

A Historical Look at Native Plants and Landscaping

Lori Hazelwood, a certified arborist and Supervisor of Streets/Forestry for the Village of Wheeling, spoke to our group at the July meeting. Lori gave an overview of our local natural landscape before the land was changed by development.

Who remembers the dirt roads and fields before this region was transformed? Only a fraction of our native landscapes remain. Illinois ranks 49th among states in percent of land remaining in original vegetation. Many plants are endangered and many are already extinct. When the European settlers arrived in northern Illinois they found prairies, wetlands, and forests. Our native plants lived here long before the settlers; an example of one is the silver maple with its “whirly-bird” or “helicopter” seeds.

Why is it preferable to use native plants? Because they’re part of the local food chain, they don’t require fertilizer, they use fewer pesticides, they hold water in soil better. Lori mentioned that another resource is the University of Illinois Extension, which provides information about native plants. Their website, <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/index.html>, is an excellent source of educational publications that includes farming, fruit and vegetable crops, gardening, and agricultural practices.

Is there an ordinance in Wheeling about mulch around trees? (Yes) Can I remove a parkway tree? (No) What do you do if you see a diseased tree? You can call the forestry division and they’ll check it out. At the Village of Wheeling’s website, you can find answers to questions online by clicking on Service > Public Works > Forestry Division.

Lori is doing a tree inventory and has already surveyed many subdivisions in Wheeling. There’s a very small oak population here; they are being gradually introduced so we have more diversity. Common trees in Wheeling are silver maples and ash trees; there are few elms left. Look for the elm tree off Hintz Road near Elmhurst / Route 83—it’s over 100 years old. If you know of a very old tree, bring it to the attention of the forestry division. These are “Heritage Trees” and the oldest trees are noted by arborists and watched over. ☺



This is the heritage elm tree behind Wheeling High School, near Hintz and Elmhurst Roads / Photograph by Charles Vallas



Our Village Flag

Continued from Page 3

I wished I had been around when the village seal had been created. (In fact, I believe that was also a Jaycees-sponsored design competition back in the 1960s.) But, I acquiesced and gave 'the client' what they wanted.

It turns out that was a valuable lesson in client relations, as today I am the founding partner of Design Corps (designcorps.us), a design firm in Batavia, IL and Colorado Springs. Winning that competition fueled my passion for design and had a positive impact on my life.”

For more photos and details about this story visit our website at <http://www.WheelingHistoricalSociety.com/>.

Thank you, Dan, for sharing your story with us! ☺

Auto Safety Tips from 1927



The ever familiar road hog. No street is wide enough for him. He wants to monopolize all of it.