



251 North Wolf Road • Wheeling, Illinois 60090

# WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 2011

## Wheeling Historical Society's Installation Dinner 2011



Patti and Wedge Hancock (above),  
Joan Wiener and Bev Rossmann (below)



Officers Christine Brady, Bill Hein, Elaine  
Simpson, and Marilyn Chromy

Members and supporters of the Wheeling Historical Society met on a sunny evening, the first day in June, at Chevy Chase for the annual installation dinner.

Geege Masterson of Hackney's Restaurant, was honored for his involvement in our community. Hackney's closed their Milwaukee Avenue location on April 30th, after 46 memorable years. The society also recognized Bev Rossmann who has been a longtime volunteer at the museum.

President Joan Wiener spoke about the growth and activities of the historical society. Vice President Bill Hein introduced Geege Masterson, and related a bit of history about the beginning of Restaurant Row. Bill noted that Hackney's employed many local teens, who kept busy earning money for their college tuition—and for their cars.

After the installation of officers, the evening continued with good food and conversation, followed by the Silent Auction and Raffle Prize. We appreciate

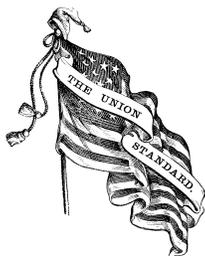
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Joan Wiener and Bill Hein with Geege Masterson;  
Hackney's location on Milwaukee Avenue



Photos: Charles Vallas



**Board meeting**  
**Thursday, June 16,**  
7:00 p.m.

**General meeting**  
**Wednesday,**  
**June 22**  
7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, JUNE 22, 2011**

### **BASEBALL IN THE MOVIES**

Program at our General Meeting  
in Chamber Park Community Center at 7:00 p.m.

***See back page for details***

"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.

**2010–2011  
OFFICERS**

**President**

Joan Wiener

**Vice President**

Bill Hein

**Treasurer**

Marilyn Chromy

**Secretary**

Christine Brady

**DIRECTORS**

Barbara Forke

Elaine Simpson

Becky Vogel



**Curators**

Patti Steilen, Curator  
Donna Vallas, Assistant

**Web Site**

Terry Steilen

**Newsletter Editor**

Donna Vallas

This newsletter is  
published monthly as a  
benefit of membership



**Wheeling Park District**

**Liaison**

Cheri Klumpp  
Commissioner



**Message from the President**

**Dear Members and Friends,**

I hope that those who attended the Annual Dinner had a nice time. I enjoyed giving an award to both Bev Rossmann for her years of service and to Geege Masterson for his many years of service through Hackney's. Thirty-seven people attended the Installation Dinner at Chevy Chase.

Congratulations to the new officers for 2011-2012: Bill Hein, Vice President; Christine Brady, Secretary; Marilyn Chromy, Treasurer; and Elaine Simpson, Director. We also want to welcome two new members, Erica Young and June Popke.

Bill Hein gave us some history on Geege Masterson of Hackney's, and thanked him for his many contributions to the Wheeling community. I gave a short history of the society and extended an invitation for new members.

Please remember these dates: the board meeting is Thursday, June 16, and the general meeting is Wednesday, June 22.

Enjoy what good weather we do have, and say thank you that winter is finally gone. Have a good summer.

**Historically Yours,  
Joan Wiener, President**

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and thank our supporters, as well as those who volunteer their time to the Wheeling Historical Society!

Thank you to the following sponsors of the Raffle and Silent Auction:

- Bill Stasek Chevrolet
- Kilcoyne's Redwood Inn
- Market Square Restaurant & Catering
- MB Financial Bank
- The Original Granny's
- Rise N Dine Pancake Café
- Shedd Aquarium
- The Experience Salon & Spa
- Wheeling Garden Club
- Wheeling Farmstand Market
- Wheeling Park District ☆



**AMVETS Memorial  
Day Parade  
in Wheeling**

Participants in the Memorial Day parade in Wheeling on May 30, 2011, included Brian Sellergren (left) who served in the Army infantry in Afghanistan and Iraq.



## Curator's Report

We've begun to catalog memorabilia from the Armbruster estate. There are many old ledgers and insurance forms that are quite interesting.

We're always working on the obituaries, and we continue to find more businesses that were once in Wheeling. Soon we'll be scouring the files to see if we have duplicate items that might be consolidated.



Stop in the museum and take a look at our new Family Fest display.

**Patti Steilen**  
Curator

## Wheeling FARM STAND MARKET



**The Farmers Market  
is now open**

**Tuesdays from 9 to 3  
Saturdays from 9 to 1**

**at Chamber Park on Wolf Road  
in Wheeling**

## Wheeling and the “Boys in Blue”



Thanks to the help of various local libraries, state agencies, and some work by the Wheeling Historical Society and Raupp Museum, we are pleased to note that the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War was not just a date to put on a calendar and set aside.

When President Lincoln requested the services of 70,000 men to combat the attack on Fort Sumter by the Confederates in mid-April 1861, Illinois and most of the northern states answered the call. When the war was over, a quarter of a million Illinois men donned the blue uniforms of the Union Army.

They represented a host of different locally-supported military units. In Wheeling, the 15th Illinois US Infantry, 88th Illinois US



Infantry, and 12th US Cavalry had the most volunteer soldiers in their ranks. We have found interesting cameos of the lives of the men who fought and died for the Union.



Wheeling joined the ranks of “northern Illinois villages (like Des Plaines, Half Day, Barrington, etc.) with 25th birthdays.” Wheeling as a township was a thriving political, economic, and social governmental body. The 36 square miles of our township had over 160 farms, almost 20,000 acres of planted crops, worked by at least 733 horses, and milked by 1447 cows. Land was valued at \$100 per acre. According to the 1860 US Census, Wheeling Township had two thriving communities: Wheeling and Dunton (Arlington Heights). At least 3 blacksmiths, 7 carpenters, 3 hotel keepers, 3 masons, 4 merchants, 4 physicians, 2 saloon keepers, and 2 wagon makers plied their trades or professions to meet local needs.

In the absence of viable national government in Washington, these townships, and the county, supplied the men and money to protect the borders of our state, then supplied the manpower to fill the ranks of various local fighting units to fight and win the War. Local taxes, at the township, county, and state levels paid the bills for the war (with bonds paying 6%–8% interest). In October 1863 and 1864 after the harvests, long lines of wagons, some two miles in length, carried food, clothing, medical and cleaning supplies to the troops at Camp Fry and Camp Douglas in Chicago. Widows, orphans, and disabled war vets were also served by local communities.

In the bloody conflict of the Civil War, more than 620,000 Americans lost their lives—more than all wars up to and including Vietnam. These losses came at the rate of 600 men dying a day along a battle front that stretched 1200 miles across America, from the Potomac River in the East to the Mississippi in the West. Of the 320,000+ men who died in the Union Army, over 300 came from northern Illinois. Over 60% of the men who died fell victim to disease, not an enemy's mine ball or shell.

We hope that the members of the Wheeling Historical Society will want to honor the 52 men who served our township well in that great conflict. We might want to raise the question of the status of the 13 or more African-Americans (ex-slaves) who were substitutes for the draft (conscription) in 1864. They enlisted in Chicago, supposedly for a bonus, to serve for local men who legally could buy their way out of military service. Their names are listed under official government “Township or Town listings.”

**Bill Kiddle**  
Raupp Museum

## baseball in the movies



**General  
meeting on  
Wednesday  
June 22**

Celebrate the greatest all-American pastime with a spectacular collection of clips from classic baseball films peppered with hilarious anecdotes featuring your favorite stars! Enjoy scenes from "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," "Pride of the Yankees," Abbott and Costello's "Who's On First" routine, and many, many more ...



## Baseball in the Movies

*presented by  
Steven Frenzel*

Steven Frenzel is a former math teacher whose students were learning more about film than fractions, so he began doing movie presentations for a living. He works at Alexander Graham Bell Montessori School in Wheeling, teaching film appreciation.

Join us at the Chamber Park Community Center on  
**June 22 at 7:00 p.m.**



**Cook's  
Kitchen**

## Summer Salsa

2 Cups diced plum tomatoes  
1 Cup diced onion  
Juice of 1 lime  
1/4 C chopped cilantro, if desired  
Season with salt

Optional—to add heat:

Mild: 1/2 jalapeno (no seeds)

Hot: 1 jalapeno

Makes about 3 cups. Serve chilled with scoop tortilla chips.

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## Things to do and Places to go

**Sunday, June 26, 2011**

**Palatine Historical Society's Garden Walk**, Noon to 4 p.m. Tickets available at the Clayson House or the registration desk of the Palatine Park District.

**May 7 through August 28, 2011**

**At the Arlington Heights Historical Society's Heritage Gallery**, view the traveling exhibition developed at the Michigan State University Museum, "Storytelling Through the Mail: Tall Tale Postcards." Over 80 examples of "tall tale" postcards from the US: for example, the "Jackalope", fur-bearing trout, and enormous vegetables. ★