



**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**
111 W. Fox Street • Rooms 209 and 210 • Yorkville, IL • 60560
(630) 553-4141 Fax (630) 553-4179

AGENDA

December 19, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Eric Bernacki (Secretary), Elizabeth Flowers (Vice-Chair), Kristine Heiman, Marty Shanahan, and Jeff Wehrli (Chair)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of November 21, 2022 Meeting (Pages 2-3)

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of a Donation to the Kendall County Historical Society for Preparing Burial Information for Soldiers in Kendall County in the Amount of \$50.00; Donation to Be Paid from PBZ Department’s Historical Preservation Line Item 11001902-63830

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of 2023 Meeting with Historic Preservation Groups (Page 4)
2. Discussion of Historic Preservation Awards (Pages 5-10)
3. Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County (Pages 11-15)
4. Discussion of Historic Survey Project/Certified Local Government Grant (Page 16)
5. Discussion of Cemeteries (Pages 17-18)

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. December 2022 Edition of The Bell Tower (Pages 19-26)
2. November 27, 2022, Farnsworth House Email (Pages 27-33)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting January 18, 2023 (Wednesday)

If special accommodations or arrangements are needed to attend this County meeting, please contact the Administration Office at 630-553-4171, a minimum of 24-hours prior to the meeting time.

KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
Yorkville Masonic Lodge
Second Floor
214 South Bridge Street, Yorkville, Illinois
6:00 p.m.

November 21, 2022-Unofficial Until Approved

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairwoman Elizabeth Flowers called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eric Bernacki (Secretary), Elizabeth Flowers (Vice-Chairwoman), and Marty Shanahan,

Absent: Kristine Heiman and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier (Senior Planner) and Brian Holdiman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Shanahan made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to approve the agenda. With a voice vote of three (3) ayes, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Tour of the Masonic Lodge

Brian Holdiman led a tour of the building and provided a history of the building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Shanahan made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2022, gathering, and October 17, 2022, meeting. With a voice vote of three (3) ayes, the motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of 2023 Meeting with Historic Preservation Groups

Mr. Asselmeier provided a list of potential meeting locations.

The Planner for the Village of Oswego agreed to speak regarding their new downtown historic district.

The suggestion was made to have the meeting at the Oswego Brewery. Mr. Asselmeier will contact the Planner at Oswego to see if this was a possibility.

Discussion of Historic Preservation Awards

Mr. Asselmeier provided the list of nominees for 2022. He said that the Henneberry Barn and winery on Plattville Road were not completed projects.

The award applications are due February 28, 2023.

Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County

Commissioners reviewed the list of registered historic places in the County and the list of bi-centennial plaque locations. Mr. Asselmeier said the Plano Railroad Station is small and the Plano hotel is still under renovations. Discussion occurred regarding underground railroad locations.

Discussion of Historic Survey Project/Certified Local Government Grant

Mr. Asselmeier read an email from Ken Itle stating they hoped to start the field work after Thanksgiving. The postcards were mailed to impacted properties.

Discussion of CAMP Training

Mr. Asselmeier provided an email from Mike Bortel regarding the training.

Discussion of Cemeteries

Mr. Asselmeier provided an email regarding the list of servicemen and women buried in Kendall County.

CORRESPONDENCE

October 29, 2022, Farnsworth House Email

Commissioners reviewed the email.

November 5, 2022, Fern Dell Fundraiser

Commissioners reviewed the email.

Plano Historical Society Opening

Commissioners reviewed the announcement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shanahan made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to adjourn. With a voice vote of three (3) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM
Senior Planner

Possible Meeting Locations

1. Lyon Farm
2. Oswego Police Department
3. First Allied Bank on Orchard Road
4. Oswego Library
5. Yorkville Library
6. Little White School Museum
7. LaSalle Manor
8. Chapel on the Green
9. Charles B. Phillips Public Library
10. Church of the Good Shepherd, Oswego (No Response 12/13/2022)
11. Oswego Brewery
12. Oswego Mason Hall



KENDALL COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

111 West Fox Street • Room 204

Yorkville, IL • 60560

(630) 553-4141

Fax (630) 553-4179

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 13, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chairman Jeff Wehrli, (630) 553-4139

Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission Announces Historic
Preservation Awards Application

The Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission invites applications for recognition of historic preservation in Kendall County. Awards will be given for structures that have undergone exterior or interior preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, landscape restoration or sympathetic additions. Awards will also be given to a person or group that exhibits dedication to the field of historic preservation or for a site that possesses importance to the history of Kendall County, State of Illinois, or the United States. The County Historic Preservation Commission reserves the right to grant multiple awards in the same category or zero awards within a category.

Applications may be found on the Kendall County website at: <https://www.kendallcountyil.gov/departments/planning-building-zoning/historic-preservation>. Completed applications are due by February 28, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. and can be submitted by mail to the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission, 111 W. Fox Street, Yorkville, IL 60560 or by email at masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov.

The Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission shall review applications at their April meeting and the awards will be distributed at a County Board meeting in May as part of Kendall County's celebration of Historic Preservation Month.

The Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission was established to influence comprehensive historic preservation planning within the County and to recognize, support and protect the quality of life enjoyed by the residents. The Historic Preservation Commission uses the technical standards issued by the Department of the Interior which produces reliable, understandable, and up-to-date information for decision-making related to the identification, evaluation, and protection/treatment of historic resources. The Historic Preservation Commission is composed of 5 volunteers appointed by the County Board Chairman with the approval of the County Board and normally meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building on Fox Street in Yorkville. Our meetings are open to the public and we invite anyone interested in Kendall County history to attend our meetings. More information can be found at <https://www.kendallcountyil.gov/departments/planning-building-zoning/historic-preservation>.

Annual Historic Preservation Award

Application for Award Nomination Announcement:	January 13 and February 14
Deadline for nomination:	February 28 by 4:00 pm
Date of HPC Review:	March and April HPC Meetings. <i>HPC shall be provided with applications prior to the March meeting for their review</i>
Date of final selection:	April HPC meeting
Award given:	Second May County Board meeting

How the final selection will occur. The HPC will review the nominations at their March and April meetings and make a final selection at their April meeting. The Secretary of the HPC will notify award recipient(s) by May 1. The Kendall County Board will bestow the award via a proclamation at their second May meeting, which typically occurs the third Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am.

Physical Description of Award: At a minimum, the recipient will receive a certificate, which will be bestowed at the County Board meeting. The HPC also aspires to provide award recipients with a small sign that they could place on their property. County staff is still researching whether the HPC has funds to purchase signs annually for this program. If the County does not have funding for this, donations may be sought.

Aluminum garden flags cost around \$70



Wooden garden flags cost around \$25



Nomination Procedure: Each nomination must include a completed application form and a minimum of five photographs or quality digital photographs. Applications will be available on the County's website as well as in hard copy form at Planning, Building and Zoning Department at 111 W. Fox Street in Yorkville.

Award categories and number of awards to be given: Nominations may be for a structure (residential or commercial) that has undergone exterior or interior preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, landscape restoration or sympathetic additions OR for a person or group that exhibits dedication to the field of historic preservation OR for a site that possesses importance to the history of Kendall County, State of Illinois, or the United States.

The HPC reserves the right to offer one or more awards based on the quality of submitted nominations. The HPC also reserves the right to offer zero awards.

Award designation may simply be: “2023 Historic Preservation Award (s),” “Person of the Year,” or “Project of the Year.”

Examples

- “2023 Kendall County Historic Preservation Award” *for the restoration of the home at* _____
- “2023 Kendall County Historic Preservation Award” *for the adaptive reuse of the building at* _____
- “2023 Kendall County Historic Preservation Award” *for the sympathetic building addition at* _____

Award Review and Selection Criteria:

Preservation/Restoration

- Only completed projects shall be considered.
- Historic character and features of the property shall be retained and preserved.
- Features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property shall be retained.
- Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
- Original materials shall be retained (example: slate roof repair/replacement, removal of artificial siding, repair/restoration of wood siding).
- Historic materials and features shall be repaired rather than replaced.
- When material is replaced, the new shall match the old in composition, design, color and texture.
- Landscape and site features original to the site shall be preserved.

Architecturally Compatible New Addition:










- Only completed projects shall be considered.
- New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property.
- The new work shall be differentiated from the old but shall be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.











HPC Commissioner Award Selection Procedure

- **Meeting:** Each Commissioner secretly ranks applications by number of applications. For example, if there are 7 applications then you they are ranked 1-7 with #1 being the highest ranking.
- Rankings are discussed.
- Recommendation made on number of awards to be bestowed followed by a recommendation and formal vote on awardees.
- A tie may result in a second vote for one.

Award Ballot

- Kohlhammer Barn (19 North Street, Oswego)
- Historic Yorkville Jail and Sheriff's Residence (111 W. Madison Street, Yorkville)
- Union School (7935 Route 71, Yorkville)
- Fern Dell School
- Misner Blacksmith's Shop
- Bev Casey
- Yorkville Historic Preservation Society

[3]	Name on the Register	Image		City or Town
1	Bristol Congregational Church	 More images	107 W. Center St.,  41°38'51"N 88°26'50"W	Yorkville
2	Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Depot	 More images	101 W. Main St.  41°39'44"N 88°32'17"W	Plano
3	Evelyn Site		Midway between Newark and Lisbon Center Rds., east of Big Grove Rd. ^[3]  41°31'49"N 88°30'26"W	Newark
4	Farnsworth House	 More images	14520 River Rd.  41°38'15"N 88°32'07"W	Plano
5	Kendall County Courthouse	 More images	109 W. Ridge St.  41°38'25"N 88°26'53"W	Yorkville

[3]	Name on the Register	Image		City or Town
6	Plano Hotel	 More images	120 W. Main St.  41°39'44"N 88°32'21"W	Plano
7	Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	 More images	304 S. Center Ave.  41°39'33"N 88°32'09"W	Plano
8	Albert H. Sears House	 More images	603 E. North St.  41°39'55"N 88°31'49"W	Plano
9	Lewis Steward House	 More images	611 E. Main St.  41°39'54"N 88°31'47"W	Plano
10	Yorkville School	 More images	201 W. Center St.  <u>41°38'52"N 88°26'53"W</u>	Yorkville

20 Historic sites to be marked

Kendall County Record

July 1, 1976

Plaques will be placed at 20 locations in Kendall County this year marking important spots in county history.

In Yorkville, a plaque will be placed on the lawn of the County Office Building marking the spot the time capsule is buried.

The site of the first Kendall County Courthouse will be marked with a plaque. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Ketchum now stands on the property at the northeast corner of State Street and Fox Road in Yorkville. A private dwelling on the site was rented shortly after Kendall County was formed in 1841. At the time, \$30 was set aside for fitting up the courthouse. The original building consisted of a brick basement and a frame second story. It was tom down in 1898. That first courthouse, which housed county government until 1845, was the scene of the county's first murder trial and also the only slave auction in the county.

A plaque honoring the first mill in the county will be placed in the Yorkville City Park where that mill's stone now sits. The mill was started by John Schneider in 1834 along the Blackberry Creek.

The Yorkville Congregational Church, West Center Street, Yorkville, will be marked with a plaque as the oldest standing church in the county. The church traces its history back to early settlers in Pavillion in 1834. The present sanctuary of the church was dedicated in June 1855.

A plaque will also be placed on the Kendall County Record building, 222 S. Bridge St., Yorkville. It is the oldest existing business in the county. John R. Marshall printed the first issue of the Record on May 7, 1864 in the building, which now houses the Variety Shop. In 1868, he built the present building. Marshall's son, Hugh, and grandson's, John and Robert, published the paper until 1966, when it was sold to Howard Pine. Present owners are Jeff and Kathy Farren. Among early items in the Record were Civil War news and black-bordered pages announcing the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in April, 1865.

A plaque in Oswego will mark it as the oldest village. It was laid out in 1835 by L.F. Arnold and L.B. Judson, who planned to name it Hudson. The name was changed in a vote by early settlers, some of whom were from Oswego, N.Y.

Oswego was the county seat from 1845 to 1864. Petitions had been sent to the state legislature asking for the change in January 1845 and in an election Sept. 1, 1845, Oswego received a majority of the votes for county seat. A contract was let to Luke W. Swan for the construction of a courthouse there, which was paid off in 1852. By 1859,

pressure grew to move the county seat to a more central location and in 1862 a site in Yorkville was chosen. The move was completed in 1864 after which the Oswego courthouse building was used as a village hall and later a school. Now the site is the location of the post office, bank and city park. Both Oswego plaques are at this site.

Two Indian reservations will be marked with Boulders, the Waish-kee-shaw in NaAuSay and Mo-ah-way in Oswego Township. Waish-kee-shaw, a Potowatomi, was the wife of David Laughton who it is believed settled in the county about 1828. She was granted one and a half section at or near the source of the Aux Sable Creek in an 1829 treaty. Mo-ah-way was granted one quarter section adjoining the north edge of Waish-kee-shaw land in the same treaty. There is no information available now on Mo-ah-way, but it is believed that the name was a woman's.

The Chicago to Ottawa Trail will be marked with a plaque on the Ray Vickery farm on Chicago Road in Seward Township. This stagecoach route was established by Dr. John L. a weekly stage from Chicago to Galena through Little Rock. That route "is marked with a plaque on the Charles O. Smith property on Galena Road.

The home of Jean Morrison, Joliet Road, Lisbon, will be marked with a plaque, as it was once a stagecoach stop.

The V. F. W. hall in Plattville site will be marked as the site of the National Guard Armory.

Representatives of the Underground Railroad In Kendall County who lived in Lisbon will be commemorated at the Lisbon Grade School. Some of the early families believed to have worked on the underground were Bushnell, Kendall, Hills, Russell, Kellogg, Holderman, Sherrill, Wright, Caton and Moore families.

A plaque to mark the site of the first settlers' cabin, built by Robert Beresford, will go on the Gerald Vogen farm In Section 31 of Big Grove Township, in the far southwest corner of the county. Beresford arrived in the county in 1826 and settled In Holderman's Grove.

Another plaque has been dedicated at the Pearl Coomer home, 102 Van Buren in Newark, the site of the first store in the county. The store was opened by George Hollenback in 1831. Called Hollenback's Trading Post, it was burned down during the Blackhawk War.

The first schoolhouse in the county was opened in a log cabin at Pavillion in 1834. Classes were taught by C.B. Alvard. The plaque to mark this first school will be at the site of Pavillion.

A plaque will be placed on the Plano Molding building in Plano because the company had its beginnings in the early reaper company in the county's first factory.

WSPY's radio station will have a plaque as the county's first radio station.

The Illinois Midland Railroad, which ran for two miles between Newark and Millington
In about 1917, will be marked with a plaque.

From: [Itle, Ken](#)
To: [Matt Asselmeier](#)
Subject: [External]RE: Survey
Date: Monday, December 12, 2022 9:17:26 AM

CAUTION - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt:

Field work has started. Jeff W. and Amanda from our office were in the field on Friday, and there are a couple of other upcoming dates on the calendar. The field work will be continuing through January no doubt.

-Ken

Kenneth M. Itle

Associate Principal

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

Engineers | Architects | Materials Scientists

330 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062

tel 847.272.7400 | direct 847.753.6465

www.wje.com

kitle@wje.com

From: Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:01 AM

To: Itle, Ken <kitle@wje.com>

Subject: Survey

Ken:

Any update on the structure survey ?

Thanks,

Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM

Senior Planner

Kendall County Planning, Building & Zoning

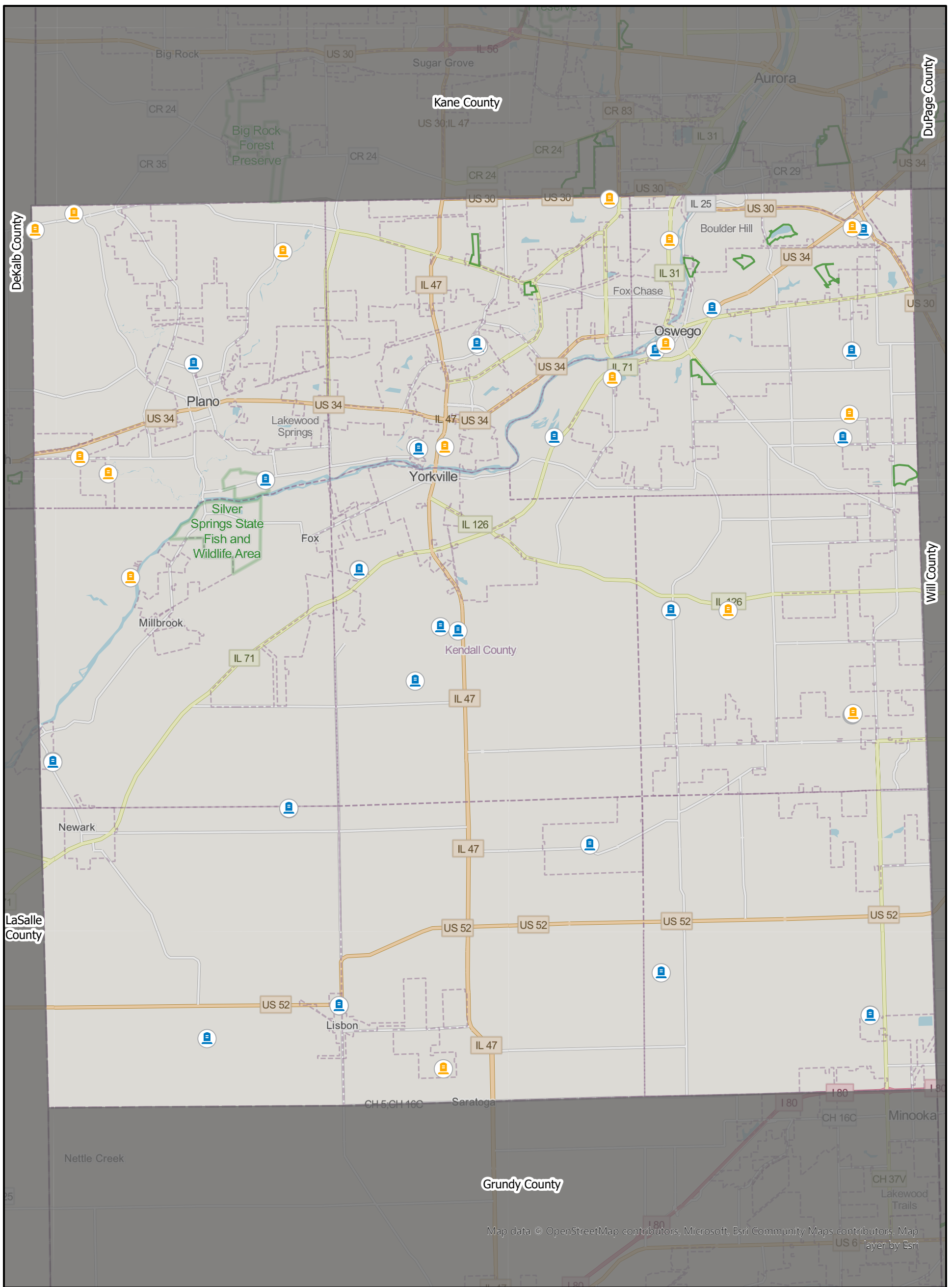
111 West Fox Street

Yorkville, IL 60560-1498


PH: 630-553-4139

Fax: 630-553-4179

pin	name	location	town	status	active	notes
02-26-300-006	Cowdrey Cemetery	SE SW Sec 26	Oswego	1.61 Re-Activat	Y	
02-24-401-003	Doud Cemetery	NW SE Sec 24	Oswego	0.58 Inact, Inat	N	
03-23-201-001	Evegreen Cemetery	NW NE Sec 23	Oswego	1.16 Inact, Inat	N	
03-01-351-001,03-02-400-005	Lincoln Memorial Cemetery	NE SE Sec 2 & NW SW Sec 1	Oswego	73.3 Active sinc	Y	
03-19-228-001	Oswego Cemetery	NW NE Sec 19	Oswego	6.75 Active	Y	
03-17-229-022	Pearce Cemetery	NW NE Sec 19	Oswego	2.2 Active	Y	
03-05-353-005	Wornley Cemetery	SW SW Sec 5	Oswego	0.75 Inact, Inat	N	
02-29-451-008	Elmwood Cemetery	SE SE Sec 29	Bristol	22.3 Active sinc	Y	
02-01-200-001	Keck Memorial Cemetery: 1841-1936	NW NE Sec 1	Bristol	1.13 Burials from	N	
02-16-476-003	Oak Grove Cemetery	SE SE Sec 16	Bristol	4.76 Active	Y	
02-16-476-005	St Patricks Cemetery	SE SE Sec 16	Bristol	2.28 Active, Not	Y	
01-30-476-008	Hart Cemetery	SE SE Sec 30	Little Rock	0.11 Inact, Inat	N	
01-06-100-003	Hubbell Cemetery	SW NW Sec 6	Little rock	13.3 Despoiled	N	
01-06-200-002	Orbit Cemetery	NE NE Sec 6	Little Rock	11.4 Despoiled	N	
01-15-300-003,01-15-300-004,01-15-300-006,01-22-126-001,01-22-126-008	Plano Township Cemetery	SW SW Sec 15 & N1/2 NW Sec 22	Little Rock	16.4 Active	Y	
06-18-200-003	Aux Sable Grove Cemetery	SE NE Sec 18	Na-Au-Say	16.4 Active	Y	
06-26-100-001	Bronk Cemetery	SE NW Sec 26	Na-Au-Say	4.55 Active	Y	
06-16-100-003	Sullivan Cemetery	W1/2 NE Sec 16	Na-Au-Say	1.5 Abandoner	N	
05-16-300-009	Cross Lutheran Cemetery	NW NE Sec 16	Na-Au-Say	45.3 Despoiled	N	
05-20-400-001	Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery	NW SE Sec 20	Kendall	16.4 Active	Y	
05-07-176-010	Pavillion Cemetery	NE NW Sec 7	Kendall	2.25 Active	Y	
04-30-335-013,04-31-126-001,04-31-126-002	Millington-Newark Cemetery	NE NW Sec 31	Fox	14.1 Active	Y	
04-08-200-008	Sacred Bluff Cemetery AKA Darrell Cemetery	SE NE Sec 8	Fox	1.47 Abandoner	N	
09-19-400-001	Plattville Lutheran Cemetery	NW SE Sec 19	Seward	3.33 Active	Y	
09-16-200-002	Seward Mound	SW NE Sec 26	Seward	3.37 Active	Y	
08-32-200-002	Munger Cemetery	E1/2 NW Sec 32	Lisbon	0.1 Abandoner	N	
08-02-176-001	Plattville Cemetery	SE SE Sec 2	Lisbon	5.11 Active	Y	
07-01-300-003,07-02-200-004	Helmar Lutheran Cemetery	NW NW Sec 1 & NE NE Sec 2	Big Grove	2.99 Active	Y	
07-27-300-002,07-27-300-004	West Lisbon Cemetery	NE SW Sec 16	Big Grove	6.17 Active	Y	
07-24-400-005,07-24-400-018,07-25-228-001	Lisbon Cemetery	SE SE Sec 24 & NE NE Sec 25	Big Grove	3.86 Active	Y	
03-26-300-003	Risen Lord Cemetery	SW Sec 26	Oswego	80.3 Active	Y	
01-35-251-001	Griswold Cemetery	SW NE Sec 35	Little Rock	1.09 Active	Y	
05-16-100-016	Cross Lutheran Cemetery	Unknown	Oswego	Active, Inat	Y	
	Albert Hassel	SE NW Sec 26	Na-Au-Say	DE	N	Approximate location - inactive before 1870
	Bingham	SE NW Sec 26	Na-Au-Say	DE	N	Also known as Bronk. Also known as Bingham
	Bristol Burying Ground	SE SW Sec 28	Bristol	DE	N	Also known as Bronk. Also known as Albert Hassel.
	Collins Cemetery	SW NE Sec 26	Oswego	DE	N	This cemetery no longer exists. The gravestones were moved to Elmwood Cemetery in Yorkville.
	Griswold Springs Cemetery	SW NE Sec 35	Little Rock	1.09 Active	Y	
	Hafenrichter Cemetery	SW SE Sec 14	Oswego	Active	Y	Also known as Griswold Cemetery.
	Kohlman Cemetery	NE SW Sec 16	Kendall	Active	Y	Also known as the Oswego Prairie Cemetery.
	Long Grove Cemetery	NE NW Sec 7	Kendall	Active	Y	Also known as Helmar Lutheran Cemetery.
	Milford Graveyard	NE NW Sec 31	Fox	Active	Y	Also known as Pavillion Cemetery.
	Minkler Road Cemetery	NW SE Sec 24	Oswego	Inactive	N	Also known as Millington-Newark Cemetery
	Nealusy Cemetery	SE NE Sec 18	Na-Au-Say	Active	Y	Also known as Doud Cemetery.
	North Lisbon Cemetery	NE NE Sec 25	Big Grove	Active	Y	Also known as Aux Sable Grove Cemetery
	North Prairie Cemetery	NW NW Sec 1	Big Grove	3.86 Active	Y	Also known as Lisbon Cemetery
	Plano Cemetery	NE NW Sec 22	Little Rock	16.4 Active	Y	Also known as Helmar Lutheran Cemetery
	Sandy Bluff Cemetery	SE SE Sec 30	Little Rock	0.11 Inactive	N	Also known as Plano Township Cemetery.
	Sprints Cemetery	SW SW Sec 1	Little Rock	DE	N	Also known as Hart Cemetery.
	Howard Cemetery	SW NE Sec 32	Little Rock	DE	N	Despoiled and abandoned.
	Oswego Cemetery	SW SW Sec 17	Oswego	DE	N	Despoiled and abandoned.
	Chapman Cemetery	SW NE Sec 26	Seward	Active	Y	Despoiled and abandoned.
	Union Burying Ground	SE NE Sec 18	Na-Au-Say	Active	Y	Also known as Seward Mound.
						Also known as Nealusy Cemetery. Also known as Aux Sable Grove Cemetery.



Active

 Yes

 No

Kendall County Cemeteries



Kendall County GIS
 111 West Fox Street - Room 308
 Yorkville, Illinois 60560
 630.553.4212

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri



The Bell Tower

The newsletter of the Oswegoland Heritage Association...

December 2022

facebook

Roger Matile, editor

The Oswegoland Heritage Association's Board of Directors

Judy Wheeler, President
Ted Clauser, Vice President
Tina Beard, Secretary
Jean Woolley Kent, Treasurer
Mary Hafenrichter Church
Linda Heap Dean
Ken Holmstrom
Brian LeClerc
Roger Matile

In this issue...

Donors assure Oswego's history preserved...Page 3

Stan Young, long-time OHA supporter dies...Page 3

Park district funds museum building projects, upgrades...Page 4

2023 fundraiser features Cat's Meow keepsakes...Page 6

Memorials help keep history alive...Page 7

We are tax-exempt!

Remember, the Oswegoland Heritage Association is a federal tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. All cash donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Before the colors fade...

New donations preserve memory of World War II engineers, Seabees

When it came to winning World War II, the combat arms of the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Corps have justifiably gotten most of the attention. But there were hundreds of thousands of others who fought and died to win the war, from the merchant mariners manning the Lend-Lease Liberty Ships carrying vital supplies across the oceans to truckers who kept the supplies going to front line troops.

In September, the Little White School Museum received two donations from long-time Oswegoland Heritage Association member and frequent donor Barbara Wolf Wood that added to our knowledge of how some of those unheralded participants in the war did their duty for their country.

The materials donated came from the estates of Oswegoans Ray Leifheit and Merrill Wolf. Leifheit served in Company C, 9th

Armored Engineering Battalion in the European Theatre of operations while Wolf served in the Seabees in the Pacific Theatre.

The Merrill Wolf donation included his Seabee footlocker, two complete uniforms—his blues and his whites—a 1940s hard hat, and a pair of khaki shorts of the kind Seabees wore during their hard work hauling supplies to Marine and Navy fighters as well as building the airfields on once unknown Pacific islands to allow the



Merrill Wolf

See Donations, Page 2...

Help us save Oswegoland's disappearing history: Send in your OHA membership today!

It's time to renew your Oswegoland Heritage Association membership. OHA memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each calendar year, so send your's in now.

Annual dues are \$20 for Friends, \$75 for Sponsors, and \$150 for Business/Organization members.

Member benefits now include three issues of *The Bell Tower*, the heritage association's newsletter, each year, one free copy of the *Oswego Discovery Walk*, a self-guided walking tour of some of old Oswego's most historic neighborhoods, and other perks.

Current membership categories and benefits include:

➡ **Friend:** \$20 one-year membership includes three newsletters each year; one free admission to an OHA-sponsored program, a

10% discount at the museum store, a Little White School Museum stylus pen, and one free copy per family of the *Oswego Discovery Walk* self-guided historical tour of the village per family.

➡ **Sponsor:** \$75 (or more) one-year membership includes all the benefits of Friend membership.

➡ **Business/Organization:** \$150 one-year membership includes all the benefits of a Sponsor membership, plus recognition in three consecutive newsletters.

➡ **Lifetime Gold:** \$1,000 lifetime membership includes all the benefits of the Sponsor membership, a free copy of *150 Years Along the Fox: The History of Oswego Township, Illinois*, a 192-page hardcoverd

See Memberships Page 2

Donation...from page 1.

bombing raids on Japan that eventually led to its surrender.

Wolf, an electrician, enlisted in the Seabees in June 1943 at the age of 32. The Seabees were the construction experts for the Navy and Marines. The name stems from the initials for Construction Battalion. The force was created by Rear Admiral Ben Moreell just weeks after the Japa-

Memberships...from page 1

book; plus a framed Lifetime Gold membership certificate.

Memberships are designed to keep supporters informed about OHA activities, promote participation, and provide operating revenue for Little White School Museum activities and projects.

“Oswegoland Heritage Association memberships also make great Christmas and birthday gifts for family, and friends,” OHA President Judy Wheeler noted.

To join or renew your membership, just fill out the membership form on the back of this newsletter. For a gift membership, send your name, address, and phone number, along with the name and address of the person you wish to gift with the membership, and a check for the appropriate amount to Oswegoland Heritage Association, Membership, Box 23, Oswego, IL 60543. ♡

Looking for an Oswego history fix?

Can't get to the museum but need an Oswego history fix? Just drop by virtually! Visit the Little White School Museum's web site at www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org, and click on "Visit" in the upper right and select "Galleries to Go." You'll find a wealth of Oswego-related history from brochures to videos, or click on "Learn" at the upper right for newspaper transcriptions and much, much more.

Have a comment, question, or suggestion? Contact us at info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org. You can also find us on Facebook. ♡

nese attack on Pearl Harbor. The original authorization was for a naval construction regiment consisting of three naval construction battalions to be comprised of construction tradesmen.

Wolf subsequently served throughout the Pacific Theatre, including aboard LST-244, working as an Electrical Mechanic First Class. LST-244, a large landing ship, tank, was ironically built not far from Wolf's home in Oswego at Evansville, Indiana. Launched on Aug. 13, 1943, the ship and crew participated in the Gilbert Islands Campaign in November and December, 1943; the invasion of Kwajalein and Majuro atolls in February 1944; the capture and occupation of Guam, July and August 1944; and the assault and occupation of Okinawa, April 1945.

After Japan's surrender on Aug. 15, 1945, he continued to serve on Okinawa for a few more months. He was shipped directly from there to Seattle, Washington and then to the Great Lakes Naval Station, where he was discharged on Nov. 10, 1945.

A future brother-in-law already in the Army Engineers

By the time Merrill Wolf enlisted, his future brother-in-law, Ray Leifheit, had been serving in the U.S. Army for almost two years. A carpenter by trade living in the Yorkville area, before the war Leifheit had volunteered for three years to serve in Company E, a unit of the Illinois National Guard's 129th Infantry Regiment based at Plattville.

After induction in the U.S. Army, Leifheit was eventually assigned to Company C, 9th Armored Engineer Battalion, an engineering unit attached to the 9th Armored Division.

He was shipped overseas to England in August 1944, where the 9th Armored Division and the 9th Engineers underwent additional training before being sent to France in October 1944 to aid in the defeat of Germany. The engineers assisted the division in its move across France, first seeing action in northern Luxembourg. The battalion was in the Ardennes Forest area in December 1944 when the Germans launched their offensive that became known as the Battle of the Bulge.



Ray Leifheit

Leifheit and the rest of his Company C mates found themselves desperately fighting to slow down the German armored spearhead. As U.S. forces retreated, C Company troops worked hard continually creating new defensive positions and even fighting as infantry as they withdrew, finally reaching the strategic crossroads of Bastogne on Dec. 19. The engineers then returned to their engineering skills and from Dec. 20-27 blocked six roads south and east of Bastogne to block German assaults from those directions.

It was during the furious fighting to block those roads on Dec. 26 that Ray Leifheit was wounded and captured by the German Army. He was first listed as missing in action, but in April his parents in Yorkville finally got the good news that he was indeed alive. As the Kendall County Record reported on April 11, 1945: “Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Leifheit received the glad tidings in the form of a telegram on April 7 from the War Department stating that their son, T-5 Raymond Leifheit, who was reported as missing in action Dec. 26, in Belgium, was a prisoner of war of the German government. Many friends and relatives rejoice with them at this word and hope he will soon be released to return home.”

He had been treated in German military hospitals for two months after his wound before he was liberated by Allied

See Donation, Page 3

Donation, continued...

forces, and then spent more time in U.S. Military Hospitals before being finally sent home.

It took some time before he was completely healed. But he eventually recovered and got back to his old carpentry profession. Then on Jan. 3, 1948, he married Mary Wolf, sister of former Seabee Merrill Wolf, linking the families of the

two World War II veterans.

Thanks to those recent donations from Wolf family descendants, the stories of these two World War II veterans will be preserved in the collections of the Little White School Museum, along with so many other stories of the men and women who have gone off to serve their nation in both war and peace whose memories we're committed to preserving at the Little White School Museum. ♡

History continues to arrive on our doorstep...

Donors assure Oswegoland's rich history will be preserved

Little White School Museum staffers have nearly finished clearing up and organizing the accumulated backlog of museum donations that were dropped off at the museum in the years prior to 2001, while they're attempting to keep up with cataloging new donations that arrive at the museum on a regular basis.

Since the last newsletter was published in August, the museum has received several historically significant donations. As *The Bell Tower* went to press, the museum database contained 35,943 items. That's a remarkable 2,677 more items than were in the database last year at this time.

Staffers engaged in cataloging during

the past year were volunteer Roger Matile, along with museum cataloging assistant Noah Beckman.

New acquisitions and their donors since our August newsletter included: A collection of scrapbook pages recounting the exploits of nationally-known environmental activist Jim "The Fox" Phillips, Joy Deyo; a collection of old Oswego postcards collected by her grandmother, Andrea Weidert Carlson; military photo portraits of Homer Adkins (World War II) and his son, Tom Adkins (Vietnam), John Adkins; childhood photographs of famed furniture designer Edward Wormley, Jim Wormley; collections of Linda Wolf Gates' Oswego High School memorabilia, Ray

Leifheit's military records and memorabilia and American Legion memorabilia, and Merrill Wolf's World War II Seabees footlocker, navy uniforms, and family memorabilia, Barb Wolf Wood; photos of the Oscar Shoger farmhouse after it was moved to make room for the Oswego Commons Shopping Center, Tina Beaird; and OHS memorabilia, Beverly Popp.

The museum is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 4-9 p.m. Monday; and 2-6:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. The museum is closed on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Direct Oswego area research queries to 630-554-4494 or email info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org. ♡

Stan Young, long-time museum supporter, dies

Stan Young, an Oswego native and long-time Oswegoland Heritage Association member, supporter, and volunteer died in Mena, Arkansas on Nov. 9. He was 99 years old.

Stan grew up in Oswego with his two brothers, Dick and John, and their sister, Margaret. He attended the Little White School and graduated from Oswego High School with the Class of 1941. He was drafted by the U.S. Army on Jan. 12, 1943, joined the paratroops, served in the Pacific and made four combat parachute drops with the famed 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was on one of the



Stan Young works to finish the museum's new bell tower in the fall of 1980.

first Allied planes sent into Japan to receive the surrender of Japanese military personnel.

He subsequently attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he married, had his first son, and got involved in radio entertainment. He and his family eventually moved back to Oswego where he became a well-known carpenter and contractor and raised his family.

When the Oswegoland Heritage Association was established to restore the Little White School into a community museum, Stan donated hundreds of hours of his time for projects that

ranged from stabilizing and restoring the front vestibule's floor joists and building sill, rebuilding the front steps and porch, and recreating the building's iconic bell tower.

"In 1980, Stan scaled the new tower off a 1901 photograph and he and his two sons, Glenn and Don, built it on the museum's front lawn," recalled museum director Roger Matile. After a Garbe Iron Works crane lifted it into place, Stan handmade the finial for the tower roof.

The heritage association honored him with a life membership, and he remained interested in the organization even after he and his wife, Lydia, retired to Arkansas.

"Stan was one of the people who made the Little White School Museum happen," Matile noted. "We'll greatly miss him." ♡

Your business name could be right here!
 To become a Bell Tower sponsor, purchase a Business/Institutional membership, and your name will appear in this space in three consecutive issues. See pages 1-2 for membership information.

Successful fall programming season wraps up...



The site of Oswego's old Red Brick School was one of the education history locations visited during popular school history walks hosted by the Little White School Museum this past autumn.

With the let-up in Covid-19 restrictions, the Little White School Museum resumed limited programming in the late summer and autumn of 2021.

OHA Board Members Ted Clauser and Linda Heap Dean partnered, along with museum assistant Shawna Sullivan, to present a number of Oswego History

Walks and Tours, both walking and bus tours, with the small tour bus again provided by the Oswegoland Park District. Popular tours this past fall included visiting three area legacy farms to celebrate Oswego's rich agricultural history and a school history tour, held in conjunction with the museum's "Back to School" exhibit. Special Oswego school music and sports open houses were also held at the museum in October.

Boulder Hill author Jeff Kehoe gave a program Sept. 10 on his new book, *The Illinois Midland Railroad*. Sept. 25 saw the museum's first-ever ethnic celebration, a German Heritage Jubilee created by Oswego Boy Scout Alexander Harrison.

The annual Oswego Cemetery Walk, hosted by the Oswegoland Park District and backed by heritage association and museum research, was held on Oct. 6. Nearly 300 area residents enjoyed the

tales told by "ghosts" of early Oswego residents at the Oswego Township Cemetery. Again this year, the walk was by reservation only.

OHA Program Chair Tina Beaird presented a virtual program for family historians on Oct. 9 outlining the once-a-year opportunity to use Illinois State Library on-line databases for free.

And then on Nov. 10, the museum's annual "Remembering Our Veterans" exhibit officially opened to good crowds. The annual exhibit again filled the Roger Matile Room with hundreds of photographs, uniforms, and artifacts related to Oswego area veterans.

In December, be sure to visit the museum during the Oswego Christmas Walk and enjoy the annual "Toys from the Attic" exhibit of vintage toys, holiday cards, sheet music and other items related to Christmas holidays past. ♡

Park district funds Little White School maintenance and upgrades...

During the past summer and autumn, the Oswegoland Park District has funded a number of maintenance projects at the Little White School Museum, making sure ongoing maintenance of the historic building is a top priority.

Money for the projects is generated by the separate Museum Fund real estate tax levy that is part of the Oswegoland Park District's real estate tax rate.

"Without the support of the Oswegoland Park District, for funding staff, maintenance and operations, the museum could not continue to operate," explained museum director Roger Matile.

Enhancements proposed at the museum during the current calendar year include gradually changing out the building's fluorescent light tubes with energy-efficient LED tubes and adding a ramp around the back of the building to allow handicap access. The ramp and new rear doors for the museum gallery are being funded through a grant the park district won.

This past year, a new whole-building dehumidifier was installed, replacing the four stand-alone dehumidifiers that were

in the basement. One of those was donated in the 1980s, and was used when it was donated. The new dehumidifier keeps the whole building at a stable humidity level, vital for the safe storage of the museum's collections of invaluable artifacts, photographs, negatives, and documents.

Also installed and upgraded this past year was a new internet router, all new high-speed computer cabling throughout the building, and upgraded internet service.

"Given the amount of on-line research, ordering supplies, and communicating we do via email and other means, the new enhancements are really welcome," Matile noted.

Garden Club pitches in, too

In addition, the Hilltop Garden Club has continued to brighten the museum's grounds—Heritage Park—during the past year by completely revamping the Heritage Garden along the park's east border with a new collection of heirloom perennials.

"There are flowers blooming there during just about every month during the



Members of the Hilltop Garden Club volunteer to maintain gardens at the Little White School Museum throughout the year.

growing season," noted museum director Roger Matile. "We really appreciate all the work the gardeners put in every year."

From the start of its restoration back in 1977, the Little White School Museum has been a community-wide project. Matile noted that with the cooperation of the park district, the garden club, and other volunteers, it still is. ♡

New programming features mix of fun, Oswego history

Mark your calendar now for this full slate of history-related programs either at or sponsored by the Little White School Museum, and hosted by both the Oswegoland Heritage Association or the Oswegoland Park District. The museum is located at 72 Polk Street, Oswego. Its phone number is 630-554-2999. For more information send an email to info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org or visit their website at www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org.

The heritage association will sponsor two winter/spring programs this year. Registration is \$5 for both programs. Either register at the door or by calling the Oswegoland Park District at 630-554-1010 or visiting their website at <https://www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org/> to pre-register.

Thinking Inside the Box: Display Your Family History in a New and Unique Way, Saturday, Feb. 25, 12 p.m. Creating a family history shadowbox is fun and easy! Candace Marx will walk participants through step-by-step from gathering supplies, planning a composition, and putting the finishing touches on a unique shadowbox that highlights your ancestors' achievements, hobbies, and personality. Learn some crafting "best practices" and look at great online resources to get your creativity flowing. Plus, we'll discuss the history behind shadowboxes and displaying treasured items from loved ones.

From War Plants to Prairie Plants: Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie and the Joliet Arsenal, Saturday, March 18, 1 p.m.: Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie is 26 years into an ambitious 100 year-long program to restore 20,000 acres of the former Joliet Arsenal (1940-1996) to native tallgrass prairie. But the history of the Arsenal Era isn't something to merely glance at in the rearview mirror of time. It represents a pivotal time in the saga of the United States. Over 50 square miles of agricultural land transformed in a matter of months into one of the world's largest explosives and weapons manufacturing and assembly plants. At its peak, it employed more than 20,000 people, many of whom had never before been a part of the workforce. From the tragedy of cata-

strophic explosions to employee-staged musical reviews much of our national life through three wars played out at the Joliet Arsenal. Join Midwin NTP Heritage Program Manager and Archaeologist Joe Wheeler as we explore some of those stories. Registration is \$5 per person, either at the door or in advance by calling 630-554-1010, visiting the Oswegoland Park District web site at <https://www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org/>

The museum staff will also host programs sponsored by the park district, both at the museum and off-site. Pre-registration is required for these programs by calling the park district at 630-554-1010 or visiting their web site at <https://www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org/>

History Happy Hour at the Oswego Brewing Company, Thursdays, Jan. 29 and Feb. 2, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. both evenings. Area residents 21 and older are invited to come to the Oswego Brewing Company, 61 Main Street in the heart of downtown Oswego, to learn about the "Who's Who" of Oswego. The first History Happy Hour of the year will feature stories on some of the most famous people to come out of our little town. Even if you didn't know we had a pioneer LG-BTQ+ advocate or a Civil War soldier at the first Juneteenth, or Kendall County's only Medal of Honor winner, now's your chance to learn all about them! Admission comes with one beer ticket to enjoy during the lecture. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Registration is \$15 for Oswegoland Park District residents and \$20 for non residents.

Junior Dragstrip Day, Sunday, Feb. 5, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If your child has a need for speed, than this is the program for them. They're invited to drop by the Little White School Museum any time between 11-2 to create their own miniature race car and race it on our own mini track harkening back to the exciting days of the Oswego Drag Raceway. Participants walk away with their own wooden vehicle and a medal for participating. Registration fee for this kid-friendly program, aimed at race enthusiasts age 3-10 years is \$12 for each participating park district resident

and \$15 for non residents. Pre-registration is required, and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Museum Make-and-Take: Felted Fox, Thursday, Feb. 16 and Friday, Feb. 17, 10 to 11 each day. If you're finding it too cold to play outside during northern Illinois' snowiest month, warm up inside our cozy museum gallery as we create the most adorable fox pictures, made entirely out of wool! This easy and fun make-and-take is perfect for all area residents ages 3+ because it only uses soap, water and soft wool to create a little picture honoring our region's favorite critter. Price is per person. Each child must be accompanied by an adult (who doesn't need to register). All supplies are included. Fee is \$10 per child, and pre-registration is required.

Homeschool Day at the Museum, Thursday, March 2, 12 to 4 p.m. Looking for a fun way to teach history? Let the museum help you out! We will have several stations open that allow students of all ages to learn about our local history while having fun! Participants will hear stories from the past, create a craft, and have free time to explore the museum. This event is designed to be at your own pace. Pre-registration, which is required, is \$10 per person.

Beer + History, Thursday, March 23, 7-8 p.m. An even better pairing than wine and cheese! Come hear local brewery expert and glass collector John Bittermann talk about the area's most historic breweries while sipping some of your favorite beverages! This is a BYOB event inside the museum, so no glass bottles allowed. Must be 21 or older to purchase a ticket. Pre-registration required at \$10 per person. 🍷

Please send in your membership now; we need your support to continue to save Oswegoland's history before it's gone!

Oswego area themed holiday gifts available at the museum store...

Latest “Cat’s Meow” historic miniatures on sale



The latest architectural miniatures in the OHA’s series, manufactured by Cat’s Meow, are now on sale. This year’s featured miniatures are the iconic 1961 “Follow Us” sign to the Boulder Hill model homes, and the landmark Robert Johnston House at Ill. Route 25 and U.S. Route 34 in Oswego, a landmark since it was built in 1907. The Boulder Hill sign encouraged visits to Don L. Dise’s model homes off the then-new Bypass U.S. Route 30. When Robert Johnston decided to quit farming and engage in a profitable new career as a farm implement dealer, he had a fashionable four-square home built at what was the intersection of Chicago and the East River roads—now U.S. Route 34 and Ill. Route 25.

The two latest entries on the Oswegoland Heritage Association’s Cat’s Meow miniature Oswegoland building collection are featured for 2023.

The latest additions to the collection are the iconic 1961 sign advertising Boulder Hill’s model homes and the Robert Johnston House at Oswego’s busy “Five Corners” intersection.

The first families moved into their homes on “The Hill” in the autumn of 1956. The new sign was designed in 1960 to lure drivers on the then-new U.S. Route 30 Bypass to stop and see the new Boulder Hill model homes.

In 1907, Robert H. Johnston quit farming on the west side of the Fox River and moved into Oswego. He had a new home built in the popular “Foursquare” style at the intersection of Jefferson Street, Chicago Road (U.S. Route 34), and the East River Road (Ill. Route 25). Construction began in March and was finished in late fall. The Johnstons—Robert, wife Minnie, and daughter Floi—moved to their new home in December 1907. Floi, who never married, lived in the home until her death in 1971. Since 1971, the home, located at one of Oswego’s busiest intersections, has been used for a number of commercial

purposes, most often real estate offices.

This is the ninth year Cat’s Meow historic building miniatures have been sold as the OHA’s main annual fundraiser.

Past building miniatures still available for sale are the Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist, the Korte-Zentmyer Building, the Hoze-Cherry House, the Chapman House, the Crothers-Jolly-Denney House, the Dairy Hut, the Schwartz House (Tripp Insurance), the A.O. Parke Building (American Male & Company), the Durrand House (The Village Grind), the Oswego Fire Barn (Oswego Cyclery), the Knapp Building (Masonic Hall-Oswego Family Restaurant building), the Rank Building, the Schickler Building (The Marmalade Tree and barber shop), the Little White School Museum, and the Oswego Woman’s Civic Club’s iconic “Welcome to Oswegoland” sign.

Each building facade is accurately rendered, and measures approximately 6 x 4 inches. The back of each miniature includes a brief building history. They are available at \$20 each. Proceeds benefit the heritage association and the Little White School Museum’s operations.

Complete building sets offer a quaint, and accurate, depiction of Oswego’s

historic architecture in and around the downtown area.

All buildings in the series are on sale at the Little White School Museum, 72 Polk Street (Jackson at Polk), Oswego and by mail by checking the museum web site, www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org.

Also available at the museum store is a selection of fine Great Bay custom Oswego-marked stoneware, along with books and pamphlets on Oswegoland history, and books and videos featuring the Oswego area’s home-grown environmental crusader, “The Fox.”

Copies of *Oswego Township*, a 128 page pictorial history with dozens of historic images from the museum’s collections are \$20 each. A few copies of the 192-page hardbound *150 Years Along the Fox: The History of Oswego Township, Illinois*, published in 1983, are still available at \$40 per copy. When all copies are gone, it’s unlikely any more of these books will be reprinted.

By Trace and Trail, a monograph on the history of the stagecoach era west of Chicago—including roads, stage stops, post offices and more—is available at \$10. Also available are monographs on aspects of Oswego history at \$1 each, along with a number of other local history-related books and pamphlets, including books and other items concerning Jim Phillips, the ecological hero who called himself The Fox, including “The Legend of the Fox,” a video on both DVD and VHS about Phillips’ exploits.

For more information, call 630-554-2999, or visit the museum web site at www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org. ☞

Send in your OHA membership today!

Remember, all yearly Friend, Sponsor and Business memberships expire on December 31. Our membership year is now the same as the regular calendar year. So if you haven’t sent your membership in yet, why not do it right now? We’re counting on you!

We're always looking for more Oswegoland history to save

As they put exhibits together during the past year, museum staffers noted that the Little White School Museum's collections have some holes that it would be good to fill.

When they mounted the "Pollinators on the Prairie" exhibit back in 2021, for instance, museum staff noted a lack of beekeeping equipment, documents, and photos in the museum's collections. This despite the fact that Kendall County was once a huge honey producer. In 1939, 26 farms in Kendall County produced 9,032 pounds of honey. Beekeeping helmets and nets, smokers, hive frames, and other items connected with the production of honey in Kendall County and Oswego would be welcome gifts to the Little White School Museum.

Likewise, in 2021 when museum staff started putting the "Boulder Hill at 65" exhibit together, they encountered a lack of artifacts dealing with the subdivision.

"We have a fine collection of Boulder Hill Directories, a nearly complete of the old "Hill-a-baloo" community newsletter,

and a fair number of house plans as well as Ruth Skaggs' wonderful collection of Boulder Hill history slides," said museum director Roger Matile "But we don't have many three-dimensional artifacts connected to Boulder Hill."

The museum is looking for everything from Don L. Dise, Inc. memorabilia to advertising materials from stores that were once located in the Boulder Hill Market.

"You'd think, as long as Grimm's Drug Store was such an integral part of the community—and not just Boulder Hill, either—that we'd have more memorabilia from them, but we don't," Matile added.

Matile also noted that when the museum began combing through its collections to create the "Milk and More" exhibit featuring Oswego's dairy industry past, staffers found several gaps in the collection.

"While we have a milking stool, we don't have a milk pail," Matile noted. "Nor do we have a old-fashioned milking machine from an area dairy farm."

The museum is always looking for items with direct connections to the 68

square miles inside the Oswego School District. If you think you might have something of interest to the museum, email info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org. 📧

Moving? Changing your home or email address?

If you're moving, changing your home or email address, be sure to let us know so that we can keep you fully informed about how we're protecting and preserving Oswegoland's rich history. Send your changes to: info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org

Shop and save Oswego history at the same time!



amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you occasionally buy items on Amazon.com's web site? If so, you can use your purchases to benefit the Oswegoland Heritage Association and the Little White School Museum. Here's how:

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and sign in with your Amazon user name and password. For the organization you wish to support, type in Oswegoland Heritage Association. After you sign up and use the AmazonSmile site to shop, a percentage of your purchase will benefit the OHA and the Little White School Museum.

It would also be a good idea to bookmark the AmazonSmile site so you can easily go to it the next time you buy something. After you've used AmazonSmile a bit, the regular Amazon.com site will ask if you want to go to the same page on the AmazonSmile site.

Joining AmazonSmile is a quick, easy way to help support the mission and goals of the OHA. 📧

Memorials create lasting tributes to family members and other loved ones

A memorial gift to the Oswegoland Heritage Association is an especially meaningful way to recognize friends, family, business associates, and special occasions, while at the same time supporting the collections, educational programs, and mission of the only organization dedicated to Oswegoland's rich history. All families have to do is make sure their funeral director is informed that memorials should be addressed to the Oswegoland Heritage Association, Box 23, Oswego, IL 60543.

Since Jan. 1, memorials have been received from Leonard Burkhart in memory of Don Friebele; Linda Heap Dean and Wendy S. Held in memory of Roger Heap; Joy S. Rogerson, Julie Sippel, Linda Turok, Kathy Coburn, Karen Carlton, Craig Carlton, Cindy Sharp, Amy White, Susan Panozzo, Kay Hatcher, Paula Ode, Jan & Neal Woessner, Jim & Martha Cumpata, Patricia Rogerson, Mrs. Ronald Wheaton, John & Mary Rogerson, Craig & Linda Stevenson, James & Kathleen Flemming, Mary Heap, Linda Heap Dean, and Duane Hem in memory of Marilyn Marklein; and from Robert Nelson in memory of Bill Figgins. So far this year, memorial donations have totaled \$1,165.

Memorial gifts to the Oswegoland Heritage Association are deposited in the association's Endowment Fund. While the principal of the Endowment Fund is to be conserved, the fund's earnings can be used for heritage association operations and activities upon vote of the OHA Board of Directors.

All contributions are acknowledged with a personalized thank-you note sent to the honored family without reference to the amount of the gift. In addition, the names of the individuals being honored will be listed in future issues of *The Bell Tower*. 📧

Free!
Please Take One

Oswegoland Heritage Association
Box 23
Oswego, Illinois 60543

✂ *Clip and mail today*

2023

Oswegoland Heritage Association Membership Form

Now is the time to renew your membership in the Oswegoland Heritage Association. Memberships extend from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year. Just select from the membership categories below, and send your check to us today to assure Oswegoland's rich heritage and history will be preserved. Please add your email address to receive news about upcoming programs and volunteer opportunities.

Please remember to include one membership for each family member.

Select your membership category:

- Friend, \$20 Sponsor, \$75 Business/Organization, \$150 Lifetime Gold, \$1,000

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Email address: _____

Make checks out to Oswegoland
Heritage Association and mail to:

Memberships
Oswegoland Heritage Association
Box 23
Oswego, IL 60543



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www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org

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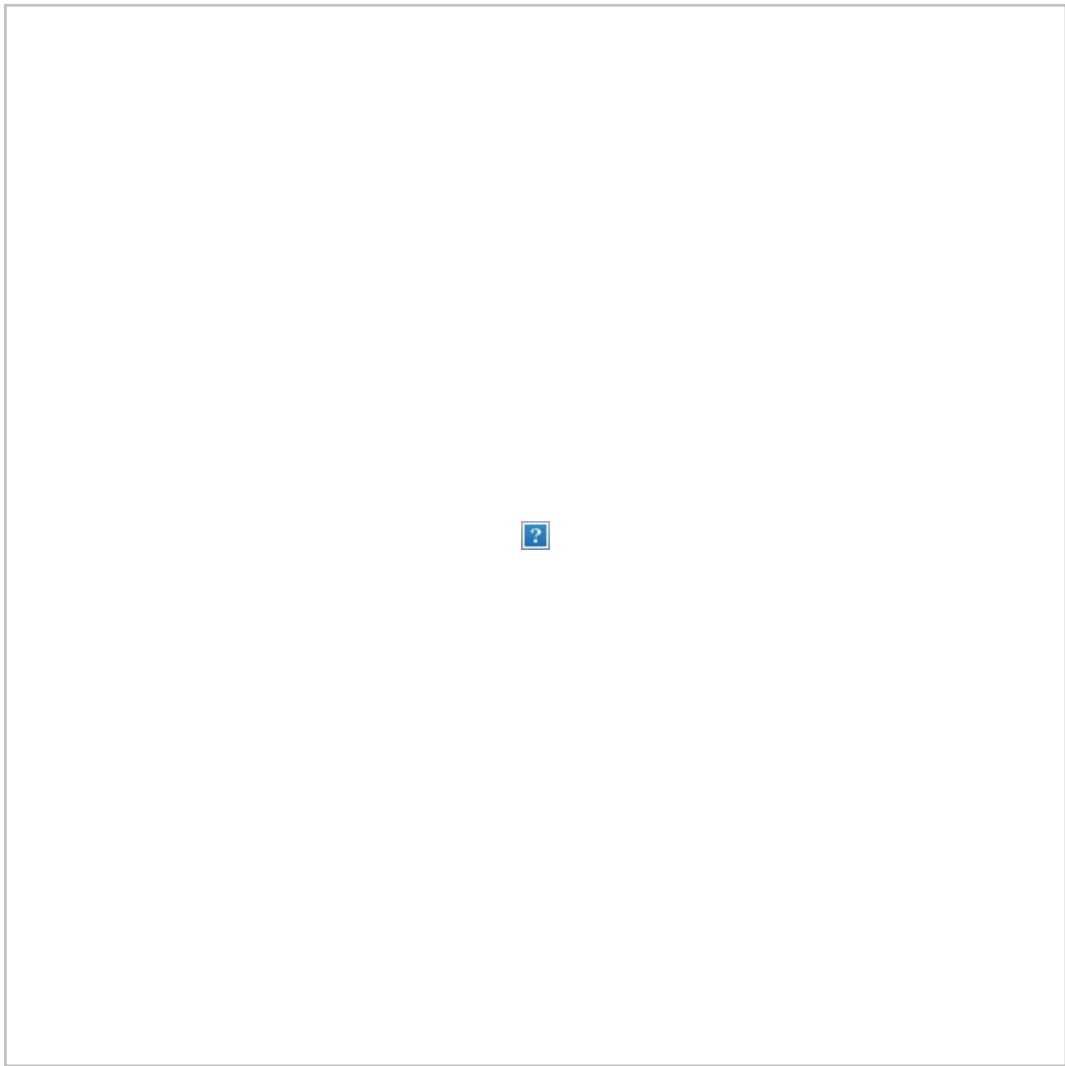
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Winter 2022 Newsletter


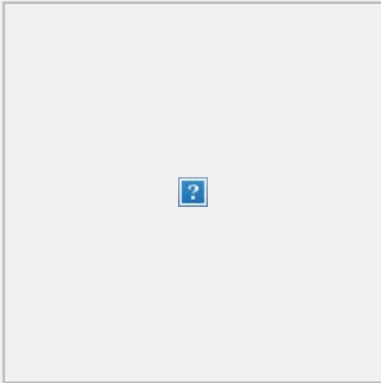
With the arrival of lofty white snow flakes and a nip in the air, winter is slowly making a return to the banks of the Fox River ushering in busy holiday celebrations that later transition into times of quiet contemplation. Throughout the season we invite you to join us for special events, tours, and programs to keep you connected to all that Edith Farnsworth House has to offer.



Celebrate the Holidays With Us



Paused since 2019, Mod&Merry
Cocktail Parties return with a new



Create a holiday tradition with a visit to
Edith Farnsworth House decorated in

indoor-outdoor format and live DJ spinning the best tunes of the 90's. Sip, savor, and shop in the House with items available for purchase from the **ABLE Shoppe!** We hope you'll join us this December 2 and 3.

it's holiday finest! Experience the holidays ca. 1990's and delight in carefully crafted décor and design by the **ABLE Shoppe.** Be sure to allow time in the Museum Shop to warm up and browse unique gifts for all ages.

Reserve Tickets for Holiday Parties and Tours Here

Calling All FARNS FANS!

Edith Farnsworth House with 2022 Appeal



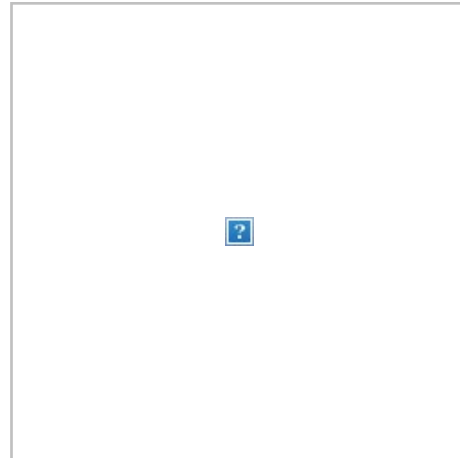
Are you a **FARNS FAN**? Show your support this year with a gift that will make a difference! **We invite you to be part of our future,** by supporting our preservation and programming in 2023 - the 20th anniversary of acquiring the **National Historic Landmark** for public use and enjoyment. **We are so grateful** you are part of our community and hope you will make an end-of-year gift today! **Learn more about the 2022 Appeal here.**

FARNS FANS - Click Here to Donate Today

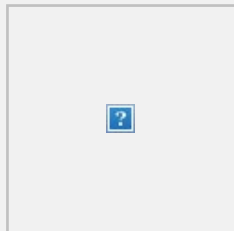
Did You Visit Recently? Share Your Experience!

Help chart our future with your past experience! If you visited in the past 12 months, we'd love to learn more from you as we embark upon strategic planning for the future. Participants who complete the survey will receive a 10% discount in our Museum Shop as a special thank you!

Access the Strategic Planning Survey Here



Shop With Us Anytime



Did you know Museum Shop purchases not only provide great and unique gifts but also support Edith Farnsworth House operations? Shop with us online 24/7 or in person when we are open for tours. Find that perfect something this holiday season or anytime!

Shop the Museum Store Online Here

Warm Up this Winter with an ArchiTea

Architectural history continuously evolves, including the legacies of great architects like Mies van der Rohe. This winter, our ArchiTea virtual lecture series will explore the ongoing influences of Mies and 20c modernism from a contemporary perspective. Our guest speakers will unpack the complexities behind the reinterpretation and adaptation of "Miesian Modernism" in the 21st century. Tickets are \$10 per lecture with a special discount package available if you register for all three - a great gift for the architecture fans on your gift list!

January 22



Who is the City for?: A
Conversation with Blair
Kamin and Lee Bay

February 12



Mies in Indiana: A
Conversation with Jonathan
Racek and Adam Thies

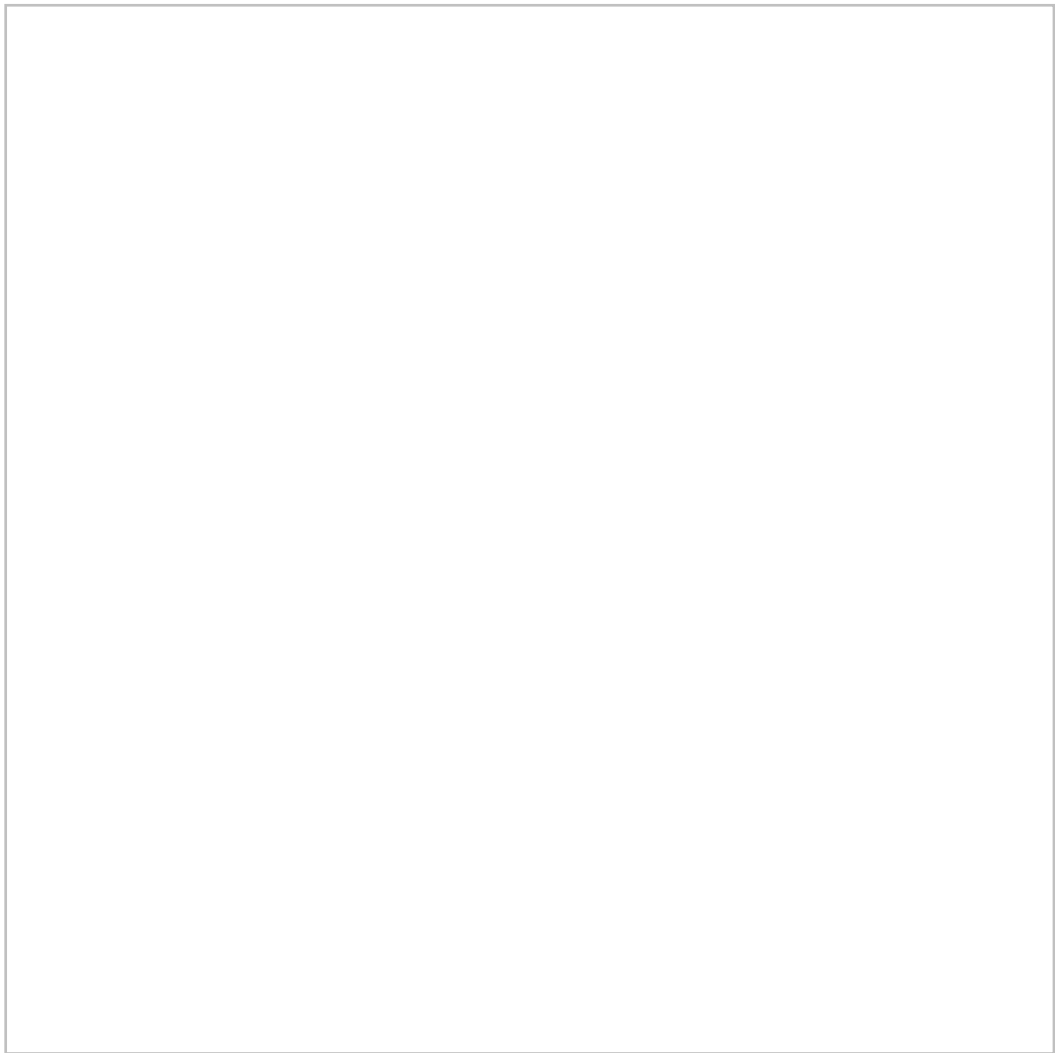
March 5



Mies Goes Future: Esenija
Bannan and House Lemke

[Find the ArchiTea Ticket Bundle and all Tickets Here](#)

Begin 2023 with a Quiet Season Tour



"Every Line is a Decision" continues through 2023, and we're open on Fridays and Saturdays this winter! Come take a guided tour of the Edith Farnsworth House during the quiet season. Guests will enjoy an immersive tour experience including music selected from Lord Palumbo's record collection.

[Reserve Quiet Season Tour Tickets Here](#)

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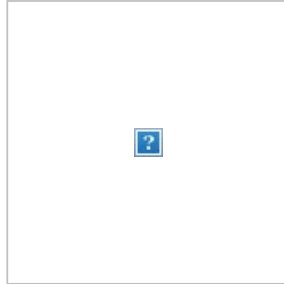
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