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**KENDALL COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Henneberry Barn • 4098 Cherry Road •  
Oswego, IL • 60543  
(630) 553-4141 Fax (630) 553-4179

**AGENDA**

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May 20, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tour of and Discussion of the Henneberry Barn

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2024, Meeting (Pages 2-4)

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Three Plaques for Historic Preservation Awards and Related Invoice from Leo’s Trophies, Gifts and Engraving in an Amount Not to Exceed \$438.00; Related Invoice To Be Paid from Historic Preservation Commission Line Item (11001902-63830) (Page 5)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of July 15, 2024, Historic Preservation Group Meeting (Pages 6-8)
2. Discussion of 13860 Fox Road (Page 9)
3. Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County; Commission Could Determine Meeting Locations and Times
4. Discussion of Historic Structure Surveys
5. Discussion of Native American Tribes Associated with Kendall County
6. Discussion of Cemeteries (Pages 10-11)

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Kendall County Historical Society Spring Newsletter (Pages 12-19)
2. April 2024 Edition of The Bell Tower (Pages 20-23)
3. April 8, 2024, Email from Edith Farnsworth House (Pages 24-27)
4. April 18, 2024, National Park Service Email (Pages 28-30)
5. April 21, 2024, Email from Edith Farnsworth House (Pages 31-33)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting June 17, 2024

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**  
*Plano Masonic Lodge*  
*5 ½ Main Street, Plano, Illinois*  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**March 21, 2024-Unofficial Until Approved**

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Tour of Masonic Lodge***

Bruce Johnston led attendees on a tour of the Masonic Lodge starting at 6:04 p.m. He explained the history of the building, the organization, and the layout of the meeting area.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Eric Bernacki (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Flowers, Marty Shanahan, and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Absent: Kristine Heiman (Secretary)

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier (Director), and Bruce Johnston

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to the agenda. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2023, meeting, January 17, 2024, gathering and February 21, 2024, meeting. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Wehrli thanked the Masonic Lodge for hosting the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Approval of a Proclamation Declaring May Historic Preservation Month in Kendall County***

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Shanahan, to approve the proclamation. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

The proclamation will be presented at the May 7, 2024, County Board meeting.

Mr. Asselmeier would let the Commission know if a new theme is developed for the Historic Preservation Month proclamation.

***Review of Historic Preservation Award Applications; Commission Could Select Winner(s)***

The nominees were Chapel on the Green, Susan Kritzberg, Roger Matile, Lisa Wolancevich, and Naperville Preservation, Inc.

Mr. Asselmeier reported that plaques were approximately One Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$146) apiece and the Commission had approximately Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$450) remaining.

The consensus of Commissioners was to grant awards to the individuals nominated instead of the organizations because the organization would likely continue to exist in future years.

Member Shanahan made a motion, seconded by Member Flowers, to approve awards for Susan Kritzberg, Roger Matile, and Lisa Wolancevich. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

Mr. Asselmeier will contact the applicants and confirm availability for the May 21, 2024, County Board meeting.

***Discussion of 13860 Fox Road***

Mr. Asselmeier said that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources contacted the County regarding possible efforts to repurpose the former tenant house located on the Tribune Experimental Farm; this land became part of Silver Springs State Park. A study of possible uses for the property could be financed through a Certified Local Government Grant. The cost of undertaking the study was unknown. Discussion occurred regarding which entity would be responsible for maintenance. Discussion occurred about renting the property. The consensus of the Commission would be open to including the house in the survey for Fox Township and establishing agreements between various units of government and the Farm Bureau.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Discussion of February 2024 Meeting with Historic Preservation Organizations***

***Approval of Invoice for Food in the Amount of \$49.50; Invoice to Be Paid from PBZ Department's Historical Preservation Line Item 11001902-63830***

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Shanahan, to approve the invoice.

The votes were as follows:

Yeas (4): Bernacki, Flowers, Shanahan, and Wehrli

Nays (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Absent (1): Heiman

The motion carried.

***Follow-Up Discussion Regarding the Meeting***

Several Commissioners stated they felt the meeting went well. Member Bernacki discussed the LaSalle County museums passport program. The library passport program was mentioned. Member Flowers noted that it was difficult to hear the speaker over the computer.

***Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County; Commission Could Determine Meeting Locations and Times  
Henneberry Barn and Ashley Farm***

Commissioners reviewed the email about meeting at the Henneberry Barn. The consensus of the Commission was to have the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Henneberry Barn. Mr. Asselmeier will confirm availability.

Mr. Asselmeier will contact Ashley Farm about availability in June.

***Pickerill Pigot House for Summer Meeting with Historic Groups***

The consensus of the Commission was to have the summer group meeting at the Pickerill Pigot House on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Asselmeier will confirm availability.

***Discussion of Historic Structure Surveys***

Mr. Asselmeier reported that grant applications will be sent during the summer. To date, the grant reimbursement check has not been received.

***Discussion of Native American Tribes Associated with Kendall County***

Commissioners reviewed the email from the Illinois Department of Transportation on the matter. Chairman Wehrli will further research the matter.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

***December 28, 2023, Email from the Edith Farnsworth House***

Commissioners reviewed the email.

***Proactive Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse in Chicago Event Flyer***

Commissioners reviewed the flyer.

***Preservation Approaches for Cultural Landscapes Webinar***

Commissioners reviewed the email.

***Northern Illinois Regional History Conference***

Commissioners reviewed the information.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Seward Township will be exploring acquiring the Seward Mound Cemetery.

Little Rock Township will be exploring acquiring the Griswold Springs Cemetery.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Shanahan, to adjourn. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

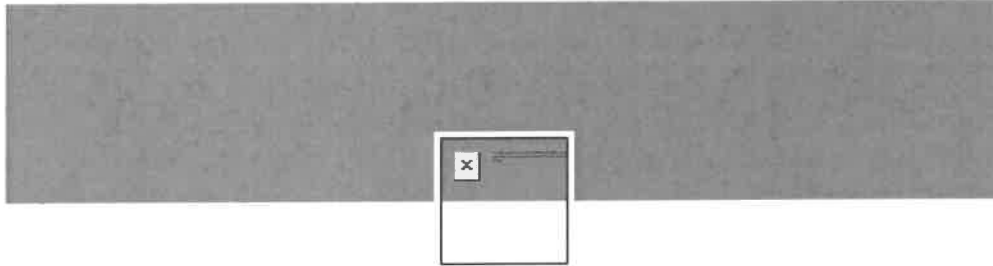
Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM  
Director

**Matt Asselmeier**

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**From:** Leo's Trophies, Gifts & Engraving <messenger@messaging.squareup.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 2:58 PM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]You received a new invoice (#3787)

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.



**Leo's Trophies, Gifts & Engraving**

New Invoice

**\$438.00**

Due on May 16, 2024

**Pay Invoice**

**Historic Preservation Awards**

Invoice #3787

April 16, 2024

**Customer**

Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission

masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov

[Download Invoice PDF](#)

**Message**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Mr. John Purcell	United City of Yorkville
Mr. Terry D'Arcy	City of Joliet
Mr. Ryan Kauffman	Village of Oswego
Mr. John Argoudelis	Village of Plainfield
Ms. Jackie Kowalksi	Village of Millbrook
Mr. Doug Holley	Village of Millington
Mr. Paul Pope	Village of Lisbon
Mr. Ric Offerman	Village of Minooka
Mr. Jim Davis	Village of Newark
Ms. June McCord	Village of Plattville
Mr. Todd Latham	City of Sandwich
Mr. Matt Brolley	Village of Montgomery
Mr. Mike Rennels	City of Plano
Mr. Richard C. Irvin	City of Aurora
Lyon Farm	Kendall County Historical Society
Mr. Lee Hohmann	Kendall County Historical Society
Subash George	Oswego Historic Preservation Commission
John Brenneman	Oswego Resident
Kelly Schomer	Oswego Resident
Shaunna Barrow	Oswego Historic Preservation Commission
Juan Terrazas	Oswego Historic Preservation Commission
Kevin Zentner	Oswego Historic Preservation Commission
Rod Zenner	Village of Oswego
Rachel Riemenschneider	Village of Oswego
Jon Proulx	Plainfield Historical Commission
Michael Bortel	Plainfield Historical Commission
Roger Matile	Little White School Museum
Ted Clauser	Oswego Historical Association
Deanna Howard	Plano Library
Jeanne Valentine	Plano Historical Society
Ken Donart	Chapel on the Green
Suzie Kritzberg	Chapel on the Green
Sharon Lowery	Chapel on the Green
John Aman	Montgomery Historic Preservation Commission
Sonya Abt	Village of Montgomery
Robyn Sutcliff	Yorkville Historic Preservation Society
Krysti Barksdale-Noble	Yorkville
Victor Scott	Ferndell
Marilyn Thompson	Ferndell
Joan Hardekopf	Sandwich Historical Society
Chris Phillips	Sandwich Historical Committee
Kendra Parzen	Landmarks Illinois
Scott Mehaffey	Farnsworth House
Carolyn Lioce	Farnsworth House
Jill Morgan	Aurora Preservation Commission
Skydan Equity Partners, LLC	Gaylord House

Jayne Bernhard	City of Joliet
Greg Peerbolte	Joliet HPC
Sharon Merwin	Joliet HPC
Brook McDonald	Dickson-Murst Farm
Sarah Skilton	Oswego Public Library District
Lynette Heiden	Charles B. Phillips Public Library District
Lisa Pappas	Plainfield Library District
Tina Beard	Plainfield Historical Society
Amanda Bennett	Sandwich Public Library
Michaela Haberkern	Aurora Library
Megan Millen	Joliet Library
Shelley Augustine	Yorkville Library
Lauren Offerman	Three Rivers Library District
Michele Houchens	Three Rivers Library District
Anne Sears	
James Morris	
Jeff Mathre	
Ken Wolf	
Leigh Anne Scoghton	
Paul Burd	
Jeff Farren	
Todd Milliron	
Barb Klock	Village of Lisbon
Martha Stephenson	Village of Lisbon
Cliff Fox	Village of Newark
Natasha Didos Ritsma	Executive Director of Schingoethe Museum
Dr. Mark Soderstrom	University of Aurora
Dr. Gerald Butters	University of Aurora
Lisa Wolancevich	Save the Historic Jail
Valerie Burd	Save the Historic Jail
Johanna Byram	Yorkville Historic Preservation Society
Jason Peterson	Kendall County Board
Seth Wormley	Kendall County Board
Ruben Rodriguez	Kendall County Board
Matt Kellogg	Kendall County Board
Dan Koukol	Kendall County Board
Scott Gengler	Kendall County Board
Brian DeBolt	Kendall County Board
Elizabeth Flowers	Kendall County Board
Zach Bachmann	Kendall County Board
Brooke Shanley	Kendall County Board
Kristine Heiman	Kendall County HPC
Eric Bernacki	Kendall County HPC
Jeff Wehrli	Kendall County HPC
Marty Shanahan	Kendall County HPC
Todd Volker	Kendall County Economic Development Coordinator
Kelvin Johnson	Bristol

Ed Hatteberg	Norsk Museum
Sandy Vahl	Sheridan
Shannon Bronn	Minooka
Jane Lauterbach	Minooka
Bev Casey	Millington
Janet Blue	Millington
Mark Harrington	
Thomas Milschewski	
Angelica Carmen	Kendall-Grundy Farm Bureau
Scott Baietti	LaSalle Manor
Jon Pressley	IHPA
Annie Jordan	Oswegoland Park District
Jane Burke	
Jeff Nakaerts	
Philip Buchanan	
Ken Itle	WJE
Jane Johnson	Kanakakee County
Mary Lou Wehrli	
Eric Pry	Aurora GAR Museum



## Matt Asselmeier

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**From:** Barris, Anna Margaret <AnnaMargaret.Barris@Illinois.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2024 10:05 AM  
**To:** Lisa Wolancevich; Petragallo, Michelle  
**Cc:** Verden, Laura; Wilker, John; Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Silver springs state park

**Importance:** High

Good morning Lisa-

Thank you so much for your offer to do the leg work and research on the Tribune Experimental Farms. Yesterday I met with Michelle, Laura, and John (IDNR Regional staff) to discuss the farmhouses and next steps on our end. I want to reassure you that since the State of IL owns the properties they are protected from demolition and/or commercial development. Our office considers the properties locally significant and I'm hoping that through your research you may be able to help determine the integrity of the farmsteads. It would be helpful to know the various buildings and their use before, during and after the Tribune Experimental Farms period of ownership. Any changes that occurred during/or that were made as part of the Experimental Farm would be helpful to know as well.

At this point we (IDNR, the State of IL) are still in the information gathering stage so that we can ensure informed decisions are made – when they are made 😊 To be perfectly honest, we are likely 24-48 months (or more) from management making any decisions on the farmhouses. I know that this seems like a very long time- but the properties have stood for decades and in the meantime, we are taking steps to avoid further deterioration of the houses. I know it is a cliché, but state government does not move fast! Decisions and long term planning has to occur, evaluating the needs of the Silver Springs, the Office of Land Management and IDNR as a whole.

Any research that you can provide on the current integrity of the farmsteads from the period of the Tribune Experimental Farm use/occupancy would be applicable to determine if a National Register nomination/recognition should be pursued. Right now, we do not have enough information beyond knowing these properties are likely locally significant. If integrity can be established from the period of the Tribune Experimental Farm- then further research could be conducted regarding how the Tribune Experimental Farms contributed to the advances and developments in Agriculture in the region and State of IL as whole. So there are several more steps needed and I do hope you are still willing to assist- since none of us will be able to the research that would be needed.

Michelle mentioned that you have a lot of ideas regarding potential grant funds for the houses, please do share those with us– but at this point we need research to understand the integrity and significance of the Tribune Experimental Farms. Grant funding may need to be pursued at some point- but likely not until long term planning and management decisions are made. As you are researching the Experimental Farms more ideas and ties to potential funding may become apparent, so if you would keep a list of those ideas and possibilities that would be very helpful for consideration during the long term planning stage. I will admit I fell down a rabbit hole when I started researching the Experimental Farms, all of the connections, and thinking of the potential possibilities! So let's keep track of those potential possibilities for informed decisions to be made. However, we cannot forget that this is State property and there are specific laws and procedures that must be followed before anything besides research gathering can occur.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me and Michelle if you have any questions and/or need direction on next steps and how you can assist us. We are so thankful for your excitement and willingness to research the Tribune Experimental Farms 😊

I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

## Matt Asselmeier

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**From:** Tim O'Brien <sewtow@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2024 1:09 PM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]Re: Seward Mound Cemetery Question

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.

Good Afternoon Matt:

The Seward Mound Cemetery is still in the works. Our Attorney J Miller III, is waiting for the deed transferred and recorded in Seward Township's name.

Connie from Seward Mound was at our meeting on Tuesday and she spoke with Attorney J Miller III and she indicated to him that she has now hired an attorney.

Tim O'Brien  
Supervisor, Seward Township

On Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 10:01:34 AM CDT, Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov> wrote:

Tim:

Did Seward Township decide to acquire the Seward Mound Cemetery?

Thanks,

Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM

Director

Kendall County Planning, Building & Zoning

111 West Fox Street

Yorkville, IL 60560-1498

PH: 630-553-4139

Fax: 630-553-4179

## Matt Asselmeier

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**From:** Richard Wade <littlerockhwy@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2024 8:48 AM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]Re: Griswold Springs Cemetery Question

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.

The Township already owns that one on River Road. We are trying to get the cemetery on Sandy bluff and Griswold. That cemetery is on private land. It has one or two Civil War veterans there. We sent a letter to the Trust that own it to see if they would donate the cemetery to the Township. We are doing the maintenance now. The other cemetery that we were involved with was Darnell cemetery in Fox Township. Fox Township took position of it and we do the maintenance on that one.

On Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 10:02:19 AM CDT, Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyl.gov> wrote:

Dick:

Did Little Rock Township decide to acquire the Griswold Springs Cemetery?

Thanks,

Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM

Director

Kendall County Planning, Building & Zoning

111 West Fox Street

Yorkville, IL 60560-1498

PH: 630-553-4139

Fax: 630-553-4179



# Kendall County Historical Society

Newsletter  
Spring 2024

## **Easter Bunny invites children to Lyon Farm for pancake breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, March 23 from 8am to 12pm

Pancake breakfast will be served from 8:00 until 11:00. children's activities, and games 9:30-11:00 and an Easter Egg Hunt rain or shine. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. We will also offer a bake sale, and a raffle. The cost for entry to the event is \$5 for admission.

Please note: Pancake Breakfast cost is an additional \$ 5 per person for ages four and up.



## Letter From the President

As 2023 has ended and we are entering into our 50th year on Lyon Farm, many things have changed over the years many things have stayed the same the most important is that we are an all-volunteer organization, and it is the volunteers that make the farm a success. I would like to take the time to say thank you to all our volunteers but especially our board of directors who donate hundreds of hours of their personal time to keep Kendall County Historical Societies vision alive. This past year we lost one of our directors Jane Lauterbach who passed away this December shortly before our Christmas event. We hope to see you all on April the 20th for our annual dinner. We will vote for new board members at that time. Remember your **dues are due by April 1st** to vote in this year's election. At this time, I would like to introduce our current board of Directors

**President:** Lee Hohman

**Vice President:** Jack Jenkins

**Second Vice-President:** Dan Tilt

**Compliance Officer:** Wayne Greenwood

**Secretary:** Cindy Tilt

**Treasurer:** Pam Watts

Johanna Byram, Director      Beverly Casey, Director

Lisa Wolancevich, Director      Lynn Greenwood, Director

Karen Hohman, Director      Carrie Penley, Director

Bob Watts, Director      Jim Berkland, Director



**Lee Hohmann**

### Kendall County Historical Society,



### Membership Form

#### New or Renewed Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member names

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to volunteer.**

**Please mail this form with check to:**

**Kendall County Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 123, Yorkville, Illinois 60560**

#### Mark Box

- Individual      1 Year    \$20
- Family            1 Year    \$ 30
- Contributing    1 Year    \$ 40
- Business        1 Year    \$ 100
- Life Member Individual \$ 175
- Life Member Couple    \$ 300
- Endowment / Patron Life \$ 500
- Benefactor      Life        \$ 1000

Help us preserve Kendall County History

For Future Generations

# In Memoriam



**Al V. Wheeler**

Al V. Wheeler, passed away January 21, 2024. Al was a Life Member and served on the Board of Directors giving his time, talents, and financial support for over three decades. Those who worked closely with Al shared that he donated materials and built the stairs in the Oswego House when it was moved to the farm and help build the deck on the Train Depot. Al and his wife donated the bricks for the sidewalks to the Town Hall, School House, Corrigan Store and Oswego House. He built our outdoor grill and for years cooked burgers and hotdogs during our Fall and Halloween Festivals. Al was instrumental in initiating the car show at the farm. He was a lifetime member of the Draft Horse Association. He was the Ring-man at the Grundy County Draft Horse Show and Sandwich Fair Draft Horse Show for over 30 years. He loved his horses and drove his team of Shires in parades and Kendall County Historical Events. He was a skilled iron worker and craftsman creating the 200 lb. iron plowman with horses that sat on top of the Lyon Farm sign. Al's legacy will continue to touch the lives of those who visit Lyon Farm and all of us who knew him. He will be deeply missed.



**Jane Lauterbach**

Jane Laturbach passed away on December 15, 2023. Jane served on our Board of Directors since 1996. She served as President in 2005-06, and Head Librarian and Secretary for many years. She was always willing to give of her time whether it was serving on committees, planning and attending events, maintaining historic buildings, serving as a docent, and researching the county's history. Jane and her husband Dan resided on a farm in Minooka where they raised their four children. She was actively involved in Emergency Management and Preparedness on both the county and municipal level. Jane worked for FEMA coordinating recovery after hurricane Katrina. Jane possessed a positive outlook on life, loved helping people, and always had a kind word to share. Jane will be deeply missed by all who knew her and worked alongside her.

# A Map to The Past

By Johanna Byram, Director KCHS

In November of 2023, the library at Lyon Farm received a package from Robert E. Nelson of Batavia containing a very old map. The map was a hand drawn surveyor's map from July 22, 1865. It is in remarkably excellent condition for its age. The map was drawn on linen and hand painted with watercolors. It depicts land in both Little Rock and Fox Townships before there were any roads or buildings on the land. The exact coordinates are Section 4, Township 36 North, Range 6, East of the Third Principal Meridian. With help from Adam and Meagan at Kendall County's GIS Office, we learned the property hand painted on the map is north of Millbrook where Whitfield Road runs parallel to the Fox River.

The map tells us the names of five property owners and the name of the surveyor who created the map. Using the research done by the late Elmer Dickson and genealogy websites, we attempted to learn more about the individuals named on the map.

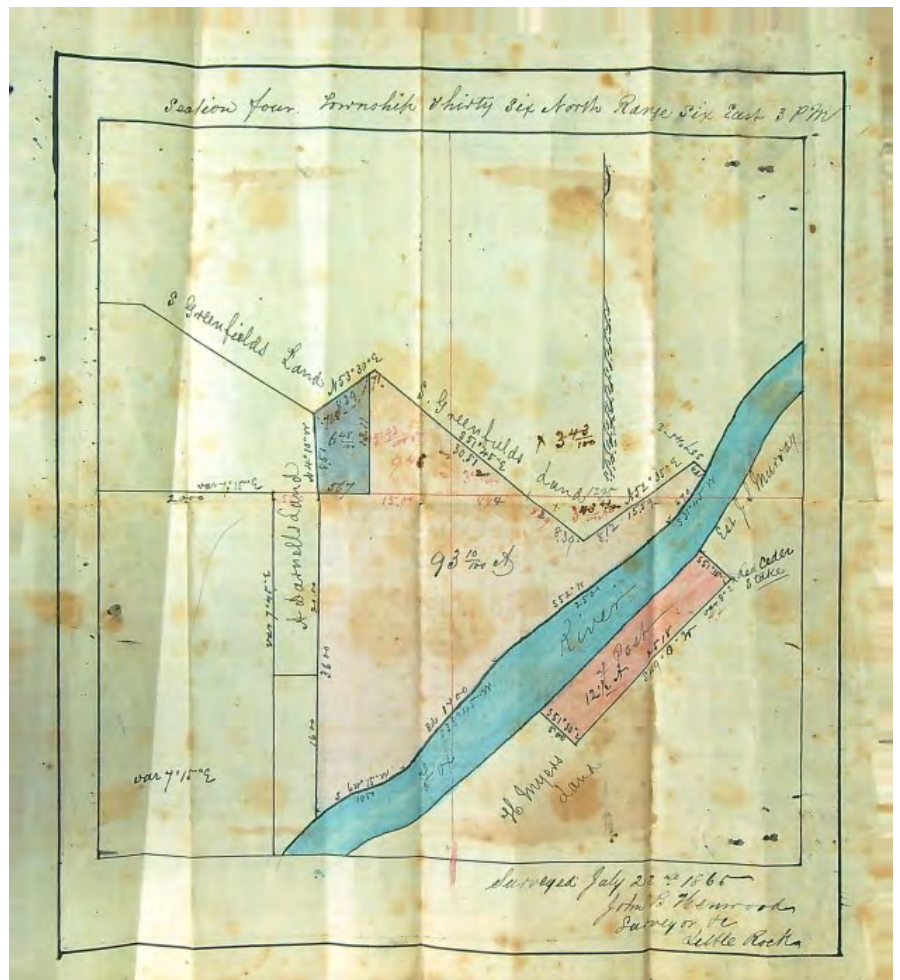
The land to the north of the painted section is identified as "S. Greenfield's

Land." In the historical records at Lyon Farm, there are several S. Greenfields in Kendall County of the correct age to have owned property in 1865. The S. Greenfield who is most likely to have owned the land was Samuel Greenfield who immigrated from Sevinefeet, England on July 29, 1823, at the age of fifteen with his family. He was the oldest of five children of Richard R. Greenfield.

To the west, the map says, "A. Darnell's Land." There are two possible men named A. Darnell, both are the sons of John and Leah (Jones) Darnell who came to Kendall County in 1831. Aaron Darnell was born in Fox Township in 1838 and served in the Civil War. His brother Alfred Darnell was born in Little Rock Township in 1840. Further investigation is needed to determine which brother owned the land.

The land to the south of the Fox River is identified as belonging to H. Myers. Henry Coleman Myers was born October 25, 1811, in Barton Tioga, New York. As of the 1880 census, he was living in Fox Township. Henry died on October 13, 1899, in Millington, Illinois at the age of 87. He is buried in Millington-Newark cemetery.

Southeast of the Fox River, the map says Est. of J. S. Murray. Plat maps from 1859 and 1870 have the Murray Estate owning land in sections 3 and 4 of Fox Township. In 1846 James Murray donated a log building to the school district and in 1848 the Austin School opened. The exact location of the school is unknown, but it is believed to be in either section 3 or 4 of Fox Township.



# Tales From the Graveyard

By Lisa Wolancevich, Director KCHS

On my first visit to Lyon Farm, I had the privilege of being given a tour of the Farm by Lyon Farm Patriarch, Jack Jenkins. My mind swam with thoughts of the sheer history of the place – the buildings, the covered wagons, the Native American that walked this land, and the pioneers who built Kendall County into what we know today. The vision and dedication to bring this about was utterly amazing. I am an historian, and have been a long time Yorkville resident, but I never visited Lyon Farm.

As Jack and I toured the grounds, I found myself drawn to a pile of old gravestones next to the Seward Townhall. The stones looked forlorn and forgotten. And I couldn't help but wonder why.

I asked Jack the question I've since been asked so many times myself. "Are there people buried here?" With a chuckle, Jack replied, "No, there isn't anyone buried here. People ask me that all the time." Jack told me I should speak with one of the last living original board members, Bill Perkins, and that he could give me a history of why the gravestones were here at the farm. We called Bill together, and he was a delight to speak with. He shared a wealth of knowledge about the many graveyards in Kendall County, and especially, the lost graveyards on people's farms.

## **This is the history of how the Stones Came to Lyon Farm**

According to Bill Perkins, there was a man from Newark named Ole Duvick who worked as a dairy farm inspector for the State of Illinois. In his travels, he would find headstones lying about. Time and redevelopment of the land meant that old stones would be discarded and forgotten. Ole would gather these stones to keep them safe, on one occasion recounted finding the stones from the Shonts Family lying next to the road in Little Rock Township.

Once Lyon Farm became part of the Historical Society, Ole felt that the discarded stones should have a permanent home at the farm. He knew Bill Perkins was active with Kendall County Historical Society. He felt that Lyon Farm was the perfect place to preserve this part of Kendall County's history. He reached out to Bill and asked if the stones could be donated to the farm, Bill agreed.

In May 2020, the graveyard at Lyon Farm found in disrepair, under the many years of accumulated soil and debris, Jack stated to me during the tour that he felt that there may be more stones buried underground. He started to tamp the soil with his shovel and eventually we heard a loud clink. Under the soil was the stone Rasmus Tjelle, one of the settlers of Big Grove Township and incidentally, the great great grandfather of Ole Duvick.

## **Reconstructing the History**

In 2020, Lyon Farm historians, Lisa Wolancevich and Johanna Byram, began researching individual gravestones. The stones were from some of the earliest settlers in Kendall County and date back as far as 1843. The Stones were from different corners of the county. From a lost and despoiled graveyard in Little Rock Township, to replaced family stones in Big Grove Township, and from Oswego township where stones Ole had recovered from a land that lost to housing development. The earliest settler represented is Peter Minkler who came to Kendall County in 1833 along with his family.

Continued on page 6...





## A Map to The Past Continued...

The rectangle painted deep pink on the map south of the Fox River says F. Post. Frederick Post immigrated to Kendall County from Prussia in 1850. He built dams across Little Rock Creek and Big Rock Creek to supply power for Grist Mills and Sawmills. He also built roads in Kendall County to access his businesses. In 1870, five years after this map was drawn, Frederick Post built a dam on the Fox River. The dam called the Millhurst Dam was eight feet high and twelve feet wide. The dam connected Fox and Little Rock Townships and allowed horses and wagons to cross the river. Frederick Post later sold his land and businesses and moved to Spokane, Washington Territory. He also founded the city of Post Falls, Idaho.

The surveyor who drew the map was John B. Henwood, who at the time was the Kendall County Surveyor. The Dailey Illinois State Journal in Springfield announced his nomination and appointment to the position of Surveyor of Kendall County. The announcement was printed in the September 26, 1865, edition of the Sangamo Journal/ Illinois State Journal. John was born on February 8, 1928, in England. In late June 1849, at the age of twenty-one, he bought passage as a cabin passenger on a ship in Penzance, England and arrived in New York City on July 5, 1849. He married a woman named Harriet Kipp who was born in New Castle, Westchester, NY. on April 7, 1832. Together they had six children, the eldest son Willett was born in New York state in 1854. By the time of their second child, a daughter Mary (Minnie) was born in 1857, the family was living in Illinois. In June of 1863, John joined the Union Army to fight in the U. S. Civil War. His draft records list him as being 36 years of age and residing in Little Rock. His occupation is listed as Lawyer. Sadly, John did not live to see his children grow into adulthood. The January 14, 1869, edition of the Kendall County Record announced his passing on January 5, 1869, at the age of 40. His wife Harriet raised their children in Little Rock, she passed away on October 29, 1898, at the age of 66. John and Harriet are buried together in the Leland Cemetery in LaSalle County, Illinois.

The volunteers in the library at Lyon Farm have just begun to scratch the surface in our research on the people named on this old surveyor's map. It is remarkable what can be learned about the lives of people who lived 170 years ago from a map hand drawn on a piece of linen.

## Tales From the Graveyard Continued...

### Reconstructing the Graveyard

In March 2023, the board decided it was time to restore the graveyard to the best of our ability. Lisa Wolancevich would head up the project. A committee of historians met at the farm, together to complete this task. The committee members included: Lisa Wolancevich, Christian Landorf, Caleb Landorf, Scott Stevens, Johanna Byram, Mike Wolancevich, and Mark Anderson. There was much to learn, including the correct way to clean, prep and repair the broken stones.

The reconstruction of the graveyard our group conducted the restoration project, during the hottest days of the summer 2023. An extra thank you to Scott, Christian and Caleb who did the heavy lifting of the stones. Without their hard work this project would not have been completed. Phase two of the project will include stone repair, landscaping and fence rebuild. Today our little graveyard stands as a testament to the early founders of Kendall County, and to the individuals who are committed to keeping our history alive and vital for future generations.



# Christmas at the Farm 2023

## Christmas Tree Contest

Thanks to the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce and Valerie Burd



**Top Row L to R: A Royal Paint, Yorkville Juniors Women's Club, Lift HCM, Todd Milliron Insurance, American Legion Auxiliary Yorkville**

**Bottom Row L to R: Amos Kendall DAR, 100+ Women Who Care, Pets Supply Plus, Grace Holistic Academy, Mars Wrigley. Fox Valley Orthopedic not pictured**

## Thank you to the sponsors of 2023!

Wells Fargo  
Blain's Farm & Fleet, Oswego  
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Dempsey Dodge Chrysler  
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Jimbo's Place, Millington  
Macinano's Yorkville

Rosati's, Yorkville  
Wolancevich Family  
Pet Supply Plus, Yorkville  
Holiday Inn & Suites  
Raging Waves  
Exquisite Skillet, Plano  
Hair Cattery Yorkville  
Sports Clips, Yorkville

Extra thanks to Tom Martin of Martin Plumbing

# *Upcoming Events...*

## **March 23: Easter Egg Hunt &**

### **Pancake Breakfast**

8am - 11am: Pancake Breakfast

9:30am - 11am: Children's games & crafts

11am: Egg Hunt by age groups

## **Sept. 28 & 29: 50th Fall Festival**

Sat. & Sun. 10am - 4pm

## **Oct. 20 & 27: Halloween at the Farm**

Sun. 1pm - 4pm

## **Dec. 8 & 15: Christmas at the Farm**

Sun. 1pm - 4pm

Kendall County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 123  
Yorkville, IL 60560



# The Bell Tower

The newsletter of the Oswegoland Heritage Association...

April 2024

[www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org](http://www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org)

Roger Matile, editor

## The Oswegoland Heritage Association's Board of Directors

Judy Wheeler, *President*  
Ken Holmstrom, *Vice-President, Treasurer pro tem*  
Ted Clauser, *Secretary*  
Mary Church  
Tina Beard  
Linda Heap Dean  
Brian LeClerc  
Roger Matile

### Directors whose terms expire this year:

Mary Church  
Ted Clauser  
Linda Heap Dean

### In this issue...

OHA needs a treasurer, board member...Page 2

New donations assure more Oswego history preserved...Page 2

Museum will be a busy place this spring and summer...Page 3

OHA Treasurer Jean Kent passes away...Page 4

#### Moving?

Don't forget to add us to your change-of-address list!

[www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org](http://www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org)

## Grants fuel multiple improvements at the Little White School Museum



Remodeling the Little White School Museum's main entrance hallway included installing a colorized mural of the 1918 photo of the building's classroom. Jim Seidelman, a 1959 OHS grad, did the original colorizing work on the image.

Continuing major changes and face-lifts that began with a complete redesign and re-imagining of the museum gallery in 2018, the Oswegoland Park District has been overseeing a number of major projects designed to make the Little White School Museum more visitor-friendly.

Last fall, a new accessibility ramp was installed at the museum to assure a satisfactory experience for visitors of all abilities.

The ramp was designed to wrap around the outside of the museum gallery, and included a new automatic door and electronic security measures. The design included Greek Revival elements to blend in with the museum's architecture.

Funding came from a state grant and park district moneys. The grant was awarded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Capital Grants Program. The project's total cost was approximately \$124,000. The IDNR grant covered approximately \$78,000 of the total project cost. Park District Senior Park Planner Colleen McCarty oversaw the

grant process and the ramp project.

Once the ramp was completed and in place for several weeks, park district staff removed the old wheelchair stairlift in the main entrance hallway that formerly carried wheelchair bound and other less abled visitors up the stairs to the main floor.

"The old wheelchair lift, although supposedly commercial grade, was unable to handle ...see "Museum upgrades..." page 2

## Annual meeting set for May 30

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of the Oswegoland Heritage Association, an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation, is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Little White School Museum, 72 Polk Street, Oswego, Illinois, on the 30th day of May at the hour of 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing three (3) directors and for the transaction of such business as may come before the meeting.

The eligible members voting will be called upon to elect three (3) directors. To be eligible to be a director, a person must be an active member of the Association, at least 18 years of age, and a United States Citizen. A nominating committee appointed by the President will present nominees. Nominations from the floor shall be entertained. All directors shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by secret ballot. ♡

**Dated: April 1, 2024**  
**Tina Beard, Secretary**

## New Oswegoland Heritage Association board member, treasurer sought

Help!! The Oswegoland Heritage Association Board is looking for someone to help preserve Oswego's rich history and heritage. We need a new board member to replace Jean Woolley Kent.

Jean was the board's treasurer who was forced to resign due to ill health in November. She passed away at her daughter's home in Minnesota in January. (See story on Page 4) So the board is seeking a board member to replace her and serve

as treasurer, someone who, ideally, would be familiar with QuickBooks—or not be afraid to learn it—and who has an interest in helping preserve the history of the Oswego area and in the operations of the Little White School Museum.

The OHA Board consists of nine members who serve three-year terms. The new board member would serve out the last two years of Jean's unexpired term.

Treasurer's work generally takes about

an hour a week at the museum, either on a Thursday or a Saturday morning. The OHA Board meets the last Thursday of each month. Board meetings average about an hour and a half.

Interested persons should send a short note of introduction that includes why they'd like to be part of preserving the area's history and heritage to [director@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org](mailto:director@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org). ♥

### Museum upgrades...

the weight of many modern electric power wheelchairs," museum director Roger Matile noted. "It was also a complicated piece of equipment for museum staff to operate. And both the manufacturer and the company that installed it several years ago have gone out of business so getting it serviced was becoming a real problem."

Removing the old lift opened up space on the stairs up to the main entrance

hall and reception desk. It is an area that becomes cramped during events drawing large crowds. Removing the lift machinery has created a more inviting and welcoming entrance.

In addition, a new reception desk that is also designed to include a display case housing the museum store is also part of the project.

Another feature of the project is the

installation of a photo mural of the Little White School's classroom. The photo was taken near Valentine's Day in either 1918 or 1919, and was originally colorized by 1959 OHS grad Jim Seidelman, who worked in the film industry in Hollywood before his retirement.

The final piece of the current upgrade project will be painting the museum's exterior this summer. ♥

## Memorials create lasting tributes for friends and family

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 mission of the only organization dedicated to protecting and preserving Oswegoland's rich heritage and history.

Since our last newsletter, the following memorials were received: Karen A. Oswald, \$50; Lois Jean Kellen, \$25; and the Jean Woolley Kent family, \$1,000 in memory of Jean Woolley Kent.

Please note that our bank will no longer accept for deposit checks made out to the Little White School Museum. Instead, memorial checks must be made out to the Oswegoland Heritage Association and mailed to Memorial Chair, Oswegoland Heritage Association, Box 23, Oswego, IL 60543.

Memorials are deposited in the heritage association's Endowment Fund, which is designed to maintain the organization's fiscal health and protect the museum's collections for decades to come.

All contributions are acknowledged with personalized thank-you notes, and the names of those memorialized are recorded in a permanent Memorial Book. Finally, the names of the individuals honored are listed in the next available issue of *The Bell Tower*. Memorials are the perfect way to preserve the memories of both those friends and relatives who have passed away as well as Oswegoland's rich history and heritage. ♥

Find the Little White School Museum on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LittleWhiteSchoolMuseum>

## Even more Oswegoland history preserved! **Thanks, donors!**

Donations to the Little White School Museum have continued to roll in since our last report in December. As of March 20, there were a total of 36,337 items in the museum's collections database.

Items received since the end of November included: three photos of the 1972 demolition of the Oswego Depot, Don Crimmin; a collection of photos dealing with his World War II PT Boat service, Bill Wayne; two Janis Hoch paintings, one of the Union Block downtown and one of the depot, David Schmitz; four 1958 Oswegorama wooden nickels, Ken Holm-

strom; the 1914 2-volume history of Kendall County, Phil "P.K." McDonald; Tom Kelly's snuff box, Darryl White; Oswego True Value and Ameritech Oswego commemorative rulers & memorabilia, Bob Stekl; copies of *The Stories of the Windows, Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist, Oswego, Illinois*, 2-volume set, *Silent Victory: The U.S. Submarine War Against Japan* with numerous Slade Cutter mentions, a 1950s Valentine card, and a collection of children's clothing patterns from the 1950s, Judy Wheeler.

Are you moving or maybe doing some

spring cleaning? If you are, don't throw anything away with Oswego connections including photos, documents, and advertising items. Let us take a look instead. Remember, 50 years ago this year was 1974 and 1950 was nearly 75 years ago—time really flies when you're having fun! Give us a chance to see whether we'd like to preserve those items in the museum's collections.

Contact us via email at [info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org](mailto:info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org) or give us a call at 630-554-2999 during museum hours and we'll chat. ♥

## Historical Notes...

A full slate of Oswegoland Heritage Association (OHA) and Oswegoland Park District (OPD) programming has been scheduled for the Little White School Museum's spring & early summer program series, according to program chair Tina Beard and museum manager Anne Jordan. To register for all programs, call the OPD at 630-554-1010. If you wish to register online, go to [bit.ly/LWSMPrograms](http://bit.ly/LWSMPrograms) and check out the program listing.

To check for program availability, additional upcoming programming, or more information on the museum, check the museum web site, [www.littlewhiteschool-museum.org](http://www.littlewhiteschool-museum.org).

**Talking Oswego History with Roger and Dennis**, Little White School Museum, Saturday, April 13, 12 noon. Admission is \$5. Walk-ins welcome. The Oswegoland Heritage Association invites you to this special program! Two Oswego natives, Dennis Figgins and museum director Roger Matile, will be chatting with audience members and discussing all things related to Oswego's history. Bring your local historical questions and discover some of the community's most fascinating and entertaining history that happened over the last 50 years—or even before!

**Stuff and Me: Museum Mysteries**, Little White School Museum, Sunday, April 14, 12 noon. Admission is \$5. Walk-ins welcome. Calling all special stuffed animals and friends! You are needed at the museum to solve a history mystery. We received a suitcase full of objects and memories but we need YOU to help us figure out who it once belonged to! After the case it solved, guests are invited to walk around the galleries with their stuffy and play our version of "I Spy."

**Oswego History Tour – Family Cemeteries**, leaves from the Little White School Museum at noon on Saturday, April 27. Pre-registration is \$7 for park district residents, \$10 for non-residents. Have you ever noticed all the cemeteries around town? Why do we have so many? Did you know that some of those cemeteries started as family burying grounds? Who is buried there? Join members of

the heritage association and the park district on a bus tour of some of our local former family cemeteries and learn about the treasure trove of local history they contain. The tour begins and ends at the museum and will last about an hour. Pre-registration is required as there is limited space.

**"Lost Oswego" media presentation**, noon on Saturday, May 4 at the museum. Admission is \$5. Walk-ins the day of the program welcome. In recognition of the celebration of National Historic Preservation Month in May, museum director Roger Matile will present a survey of Oswego's lost landmarks, from architecturally significant homes to schools, churches, and other buildings the community's lost over the years, both accidentally and due to development as far back as the 19th Century. What happened to them? Why were they torn down or otherwise destroyed? Find out on May 4 at the museum—and find out about some preservation successes as well.

**The Black Chicago Renaissance**, noon Saturday, May 11, at the museum. In this free presentation, Dr. Amira Millicent Davis will guide participants through the Chicago Black Renaissance from the early to mid-20th century. The presentation will include a Q&A and an interactive component where audience members share their migration stories. For 35 years Dr. Davis has performed in schools and cultural institutions using African percussions, drums, storytelling, and song. Now she wants to share the insights gained in teaching Africana studies to audiences outside of academia. This free program is presented in partnership with the Illinois Humanities Road Scholar Speakers Bureau.

**Oswego History Tour – Industrial Sector**, leaves the museum at noon Saturday, June 1. Pre-registration is \$7 for park district residents and \$10 for non-residents. Where do you think the "industrial section" of Oswego existed from about 1840 to 1910? Did you even know Oswego HAD an industrial section for more than a century? Join members of the heritage association and the park district on a fascinating bus tour of the industrial section "way back then." The tour begins

and ends at the museum, and will last about an hour. Pre-registration is required as there is limited space.

In addition, additional history-related programming is also in the planning stages, so stay tuned to the Little White School Museum's web site and the on-line registration page at [bit.ly/LWSMPrograms](http://bit.ly/LWSMPrograms) for more information as the year moves along.

Here's a list of proposed programs, with more info to be determined:

**Oswego History Tour - Downtown**, noon, Sunday, June 23. Registration, which is required, is \$5 for park district residents and \$10 for non-residents. Meet at the Little White School Museum and wear comfortable walking shoes for this downtown Oswego stroll. Expect easy walking conditions and be prepared to join the conversation. The exact focus of this tour is to be determined.

**Oswego History Tour - African American Heritage**, noon, Sunday, July 7. Registration is required, price \$7 for park district residents and \$10 for non-residents. Join park district and heritage association members for this fascinating tour of the Oswegoland area's African American heritage, which dates back to the arrival of Black farming families immediately after the Civil War and includes the five Black Civil War veterans buried in the Oswego Township Cemetery. Watch the museum's web page for more information.

**Oswego History Tour – Church Cemeteries**, leaves from the Little White School Museum at noon on Saturday, August 17. Pre-registration is \$7 for park district residents, \$10 for non-residents. Have you ever noticed all the cemeteries around town? Why do we have so many? Did you know that some of those cemeteries started as church burying grounds? And that some still are? Wonder who is buried there? Join members of the heritage association and the park district on a bus tour of some of our current and former local church-related cemeteries and learn about the treasure trove of local history they contain. The tour begins and ends at the museum and will last about an hour and a half. Pre-registration is required as there is limited space. ♡

**Free!**  
**Please Take One**

**Oswegoland Heritage Association**  
**Box 23**  
**Oswego, Illinois 60543**

## OHA Treasurer Jean Kent dies...

Oswegoland Heritage Association members were saddened to hear of the death OHA Board Member and Treasurer Jean Woolley Kent, who died Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024 at the home of her daughter in Minnesota.



Jean was elected to a three-year term on the board in May 2019 after longtime board member and treasurer Bob Stekl decided not to run for another term. Jean introduced the use of the QuickBooks accounting program to keep track of both the group's bank accounts and its endowment fund.

She had been dealing with a number of increasingly serious health issues for a couple years before announcing her intention to resign from the board due to health issues in November. She moved to her daughter's home near Minneapolis in December.

"Jean was a great asset to the board," President Judy Wheeler said. "She was a retired CPA and brought that expertise to the board just when we needed it most as our accounting got more complicated."

As a result of Jean's death, the board is actively seeking a new member and a new treasurer. OHA Vice-President Ken Holmstrom has agreed to be treasurer pro tem until a permanent replacement can be found. Ideally, the new member would take over the treasurer's duties. If you're interested in protecting and preserving Oswegoland's rich history and heritage, are computer-literate, and would like to contribute to the community, email an introductory note to [director@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org](mailto:director@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org) and tell us a bit about yourself. ♡

✂ *Clip and mail*

## Give a gift membership?

The Oswegoland Heritage Association has some exciting plans for the future. Why not take out a membership for a friend or relative who has an interest in Oswego's fascinating history and heritage? Benefits include museum store discounts, three newsletters a year, and more. Just fill out this form and mail.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **St.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive my newsletters electronically: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership type:**

Friend, \$20 per person: ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor, \$75 per person: ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Institution, \$150 ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Gold, \$1,000 ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the  
Oswegoland Heritage Association and mail to:

Membership  
Oswegoland Heritage Association  
Box 23  
Oswego, IL 60543

*Check out our web site at [www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org](http://www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org)*

**Matt Asselmeier**

**From:** Edith Farnsworth House <farnsworthhouse-savingplaces.org@shared1.ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 2:16 PM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]Springing into a New Season

**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.

# EDITH FARNSWORTH HOUSE

## Springing into a New Season



Emerging from a winter of preservation projects and interpretative planning, the 2024 season is blooming with new tours, programs, and events to welcome you. **Tours resume April 11!**



## Preserving the Past for Our Future

### Replacing Broken Glass

This past winter we embarked on a project to replace eight panes of glass which were broken or had deteriorated gaskets with moisture penetration and severe rust. Due to the magnitude of this historic endeavor, the house and site remained closed for over three months. Being enveloped in a protective cocoon of temporary structures for the duration of the work allowed for the safe, efficient removal and replacement of the glass. What has emerged is once again a beautiful, awe-inspiring sight.



## A New Interpretive Focus

### NATURE & CULTURE

Revelation and Inspiration at Edith Farnsworth House

Join our exploration of the land surrounding Edith Farnsworth House, and find inspiration in this place of retreat and renewal. From prehistory to the present, this riverside setting has offered beauty and repose to diverse peoples across time.



Now through December 2025

Engage with us this season to discover the site's rich history through the lens of *Nature+Culture*! Choose a **Guided Tour** filled with fascinating dialogue of the Edith Farnsworth House and the nearly sixty acres surrounding it, or walk, ponder, and view at your leisure with an **Exterior View** ticket. Extend your experience with special tours, events, and programs you won't want to miss!

Plan Your Experience Here

## Events & Programs

### Spring Wildflower Walk



### Spring Wildflower Walk April 13

Step into spring with horticulturist Heather Prince and experience the relationship of the Edith Farnsworth House with its natural areas and landscape. Discover the subtle beauty of the interaction of the architecture with the river, trees, and wildflowers in Edith's workday escape.

Opening



April 20th, 11 am, free admission

### Exhibit Opening April 20

Join us for the opening of Assaf Evron's installation, *Collage for the Edith Farnsworth House*, and accompanying exhibition. The fifth project in an ongoing series of interventions in buildings and interiors designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the interventions are based on the architect's paper collages.



### Educator Open House May 4

This free event is perfect for formal and informal educators interested in learning how the house and site can integrate into the curriculum of all grade levels and subjects. Explore customizable tours, field trips, and other educational opportunities while enjoying the house and surroundings.

Learn More and Reserve Tickets

## In the Museum Shop

Look no further than our Museum Shop for carefully selected merchandise and fresh looks this spring.

Start shopping now with a pre-order of the new title *The Edith Farnsworth House: Architecture, Preservation, Culture*. Charting the house's original design by Mies van der Rohe and periods of neglect, flooding, and new ownership by Lord Peter Palumbo, you'll want to be sure to secure your copy today! Pre-orders will ship the week of June 5th.



Shop From Our House to Your Home and Support the Site, Too!

## Celebrate our 20th Anniversary with Us

TUESDAY EVENING JUNE 11 4:30PM-7:00PM



OF THE EDITH FARNSWORTH  
HOUSE HISTORIC SITE

IIT COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE  
S.R. CROWN HALL  
3360 S. STATE ST., CHICAGO, IL 60616



Celebrate the 20th anniversary of opening Farnsworth to the public, and the publication of *The Edith Farnsworth House: Architecture, Preservation, Culture* – the first comprehensive history of this international landmark! Make plans to join us for this milestone event!

**Celebrate Our 20th Anniversary**

**Connect With Us**

*Looking to make more connections with us? Volunteer and sponsorship opportunities are available. Email [farnsworth@farnsworthhouse.org](mailto:farnsworth@farnsworthhouse.org) and we'll connect!*



Edith Farnsworth House | [edithfarnsworthhouse.org](http://edithfarnsworthhouse.org) | 630.552.0052

14520 River Rd, Plano, IL 60545

**Visit our Website**

**Matt Asselmeier**

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**From:** NPS CLG Info <CLG\_Info@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 10:46 AM  
**Cc:** Brown, Megan J; Reid, Wiley C  
**Subject:** [External]Fw: Technical Preservation Services News: New NPS Resources on Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, Resilience, and Historic Buildings

**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.

Dear CLG Contact,  
Please find information about NPS Technical Preservation Services News below.  
Thank you for your commitment to historic preservation!  
Note: if the email below does not appear right away, check to see if there are 3 small dots at the bottom of this message to reveal the forwarded email.

Sincerely,

Grace Robbins

State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants Division  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW Mail Stop 7360 (mail sent USPS will be irradiated)  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-354-2020

<https://www.nps.gov/clg/>

[www.nps.gov/stlpg](http://www.nps.gov/stlpg)

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Learn more on YouTube! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQtHTIsXyd3VulfNcQ8agUg/>

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**From:** Goeken, Brian D <Brian\_Goeken@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 1:48:05 PM  
**To:** NPS WASO All Employees Cultural Resources <WASO\_All\_Employees\_Cultural\_Resources@nps.gov>  
**Subject:** Technical Preservation Services News: New NPS Resources on Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, Resilience, and Historic Buildings

FYI, please forward/share this information as appropriate.

April 15, 2024

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Technical Preservation Services News

## New NPS Resources on Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, Resilience, and Historic Buildings

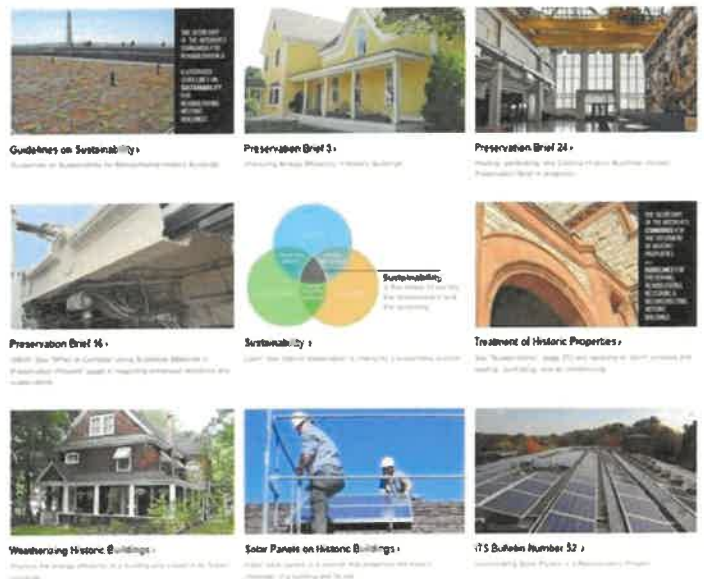
### New Website on Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, Resilience, and Historic Buildings

Historic properties can be made more sustainable, energy-efficient, and resilient, improving their performance and use while also preserving their historic character. Doing so not only improves their efficiency and livability but helps to ensure their long-term preservation as well.

The NPS has been providing guidance and technical preservation information on these issues in relation to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties for decades since producing one of its first Preservation Briefs on the subject of energy efficiency in 1978.

Current NPS guidance and information are [collected and presented in a new webpage](#) for easy access to further explore these topics.

#### Sustainability and Energy Efficiency



### New Guidance on Resilience to Natural Hazards and Historic Buildings

[New guidance on resilience to natural hazards](#) has been issued. It is adapted from the “Resilience to Natural Hazards” section in The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (2017) and from The Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (2021).



Technical Preservation Services, National Park Service,  
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7243, Washington DC 20240

Phone: (202) 513-7270

Email: [nps\\_tps@nps.gov](mailto:nps_tps@nps.gov)

[Website](#)

Brian Goeken, AICP  
Chief, Technical Preservation Services

National Park Service  
Technical Preservation Services  
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7243  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-354-2033 phone  
202-230-2960 mobile

[Brian\\_Goeken@nps.gov](mailto:Brian_Goeken@nps.gov) email

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/> website

[Sign up for updates from Technical Preservation Services](#)



**Matt Asselmeier**

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**From:** Edith Farnsworth House <farnsworth-farnsworthhouse.org@shared1.ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 4:00 PM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]Celebrate Earth Day with Us

**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.

The logo for Edith Farnsworth House features the name in a bold, sans-serif font. The words "EDITH" and "FARNSWORTH" are stacked on the left. To the right is a stylized graphic of a house with a central vertical line and horizontal bars representing the roof and base. The word "HOUSE" is positioned to the right of the graphic.

EDITH  
FARNSWORTH HOUSE

*A site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation*

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## An Opportunity to Celebrate and Support

**On this Earth Day**, we hope you will support the Edith Farnsworth House Historic Site! Around the world, people recognize the house as an architectural masterwork by Mies van der Rohe – but they may not remember the **60-acre setting** that inspired Dr. Farnsworth and Mies, and countless thousands of visitors ever since.

With over a mile of trails to maintain, a mile-long shoreline, floodplain woods and upland savanna areas, and a 7+ acre designed landscape surrounding the house – ***we need your help!*** To preserve and protect this special place, we are making the site an **integral part of the visitor experience** with outdoor programming and art installations.

At the same time, we have **recommitted to restoring the house**, recently completing over \$1.5 million of roof and window replacements, with additional exterior repainting happening over the summer months. During this, our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of opening the site to the public, we are also **beginning a multiyear rehabilitation of the naturalistic designed landscape** surrounding the house.

Our 2024-25 interpretive focus, **NATURE+CULTURE** will include a new Guided Tour, a new video and interpretive wall, a new exhibition guide – and many exciting art installations, gallery exhibitions, and site-related programs. We will also celebrate the publication of ***The Edith Farnsworth House: Architecture, Preservation, Culture*** written by Michelangelo Sabatino.



**Please help support our forward momentum with a gift today!**

With gratitude,

**Scott Mehaffey**

Scott Mehaffey  
Executive Director & Curator

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**Make Your Earth Day Gift Here**

Edith Farnsworth House | 14520 River Rd, Plano, IL 60545

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