

Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

March 2012

Trivially Speaking...

"Any fool can make a fortune - it takes a man of brains to hold on to it after it is made" is a quote from William H. Vanderbilt. And he should know - he's the only person in the history of America to inherit \$100 million and then make an additional \$100 million on his own. Believing that the burden of such a fortune was too great for one person to bear, when he died in 1885, he divided his fortune between all eight of his children. It worked - not even a hundred years later, his kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids numbered more than 100 and not a single one of them was a millionaire.

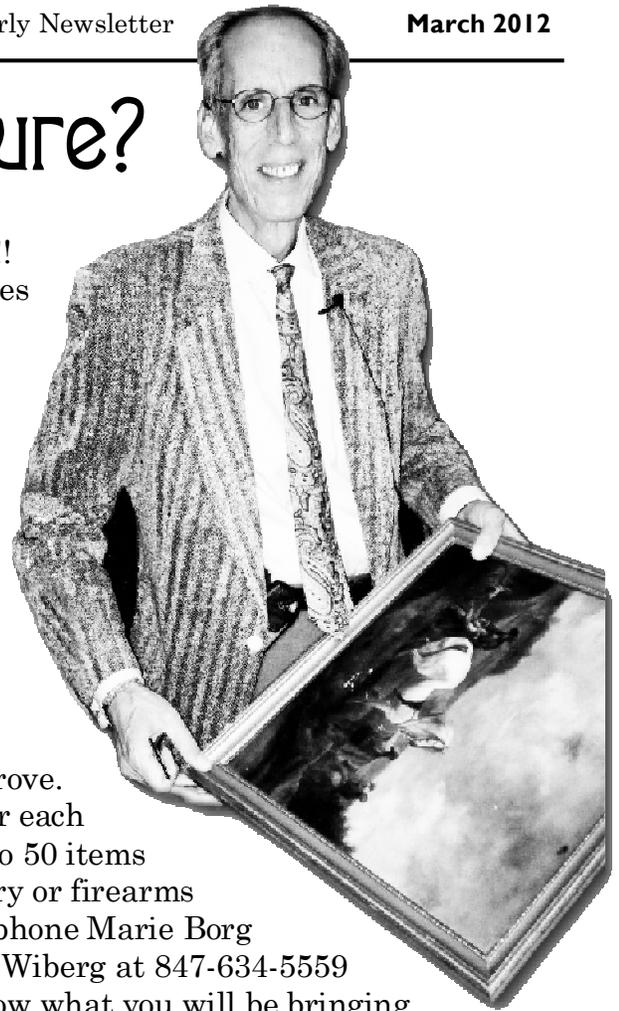
Got Treasure?

Back by popular demand!!! The antique and collectibles appraisal program by Frederick Dose. Mr. Dose is an absolute expert with outstanding knowledge and communication skills, making every item (regardless of value) interesting. The event will be held on Saturday, April 28th, 2012 from 1-3pm at the Reed Turner Nature Center, 3489 Old McHenry Road in Long Grove.

There is a small charge for each item, and we are limited to 50 items for the program. No jewelry or firearms produced after 1895. Telephone Marie Borg at 847-438-7656 or Kathy Wiberg at 847-634-5559 by April 1st and let us know what you will be bringing.

Mail your check with \$15 per item to be appraised to Marie Borg, 4363 RFD, Long Grove, IL 60047. Please include your name and phone number with your check. The program is open to the public with no advance reservation required.

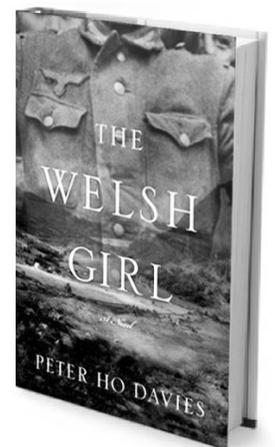
Light refreshments will be provided. A \$5 donation for those coming without an item will be appreciated.



Mark Your Calendars

- **Monday, March 12th, 12pm**
Historical Book Club at Sunset Foods
- **Saturday, April 28th, 1pm**
Antique Appraisal at Reed Turner
- **Thursday, June 21st, 7pm**
Charity Auction at The Village Tavern

The Historical Book Club will be meeting again on **Monday, March 12th** at noon at Sunset Foods for lunch and to discuss "The Welsh Girl", by Peter Ho Davis. It's a wartime (WWII) love story set in North Wales. Even if you've not attended before, feel free to show up and join in with any of our interest groups. Lunch is "Dutch Treat".



All About Us...



The Long Grove Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization whose purpose is to preserve and disseminate the history of the Long Grove area. Annual membership is available for a donation of \$30 (individual), \$50 (family), or \$100 (sustaining). Members receive our quarterly newsletter as well as access to a variety of events held throughout the year. To become a member, send your donation to Georgia Cawley, LGHS Membership, 4509 RFD, Long Grove, IL 60047, along with your name, address, telephone number, email. If you have any special interests, skills, or things you'd be interested in volunteering to help out with, be sure to let us know that as well.

2011/2012 Board

Laurie Borawski, President
 Barbara English, Vice President
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 Myra Buettner, Recording Secretary
 Angie Underwood, Past Pres/Vilg Brd Liason
 Aaron Underwood, Communications
 Bob Borg, Buildings & Maintenance
 Georgia Cawley, Membership
 Caroline Liebl, Outreach/Archer School Pgm
 Kathy Wiberg, Programs/Ways & Means
 Tina Mall, Curator
 Marie Borg, Ways & Means/Programs
 Lori Lyman, Landscape/Curator
 Lee Bassett, Buildings/Maintenance

The Society was formed in March, 1974, to accept the Drexler Tavern building as a gift. A joint project with the Village Board made possible the relocation of the tavern to a site behind the current Kildeer Country-side School. Today we know the building not as Drexler Tavern, but simply as Village Hall. Two additional structures have also been relocated to this area—one of the area's one room schoolhouses, Archer School, and a mid-1800's barn, Ruth Barn. The school and the barn form the core of the program we run each year for our local schools, so that our children can experience first hand what life used to be like in Long Grove. Last, but not least, a mid-1800's farm house was relocated to an area bordering the southwest corner of the Stemple Parking lot. "The Farmhouse", as we refer to it, houses our archives, a meeting room, and several restored "period" rooms that we open occasionally for tours. In addition to maintaining the above properties and our educational programs, we actively acquire items of local historic interest for our archives and conduct a variety of historical programs for current residents. We receive no tax dollars and exist solely from your contributions and our own fundraising efforts.

Thank you for your support!

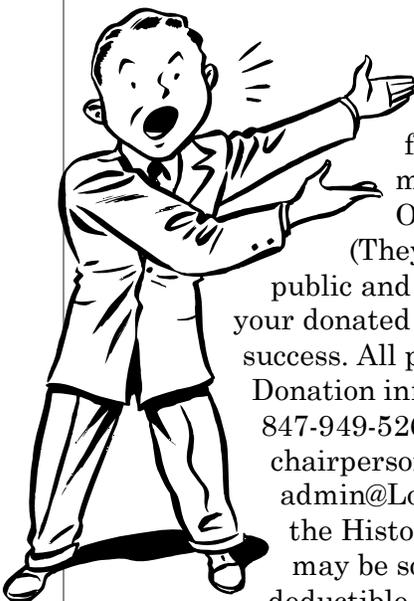
Historical Society News... Pictorial highlights of some recent activities—"Undaunted" book chat, Marie Roth's Wooden Flag Program, and the annual Victorian Tea in Wauconda.



**** FLASH ****

FUTURE PROGRAMS & FUND RAISERS

DIRECT FROM YOUR WAYS & MEANS/PROGRAM CHAIRPERSONS, MARIE BORG AND KATHY WIBERG



Coming, coming, coming our 2nd annual auction to be held June 21, 2012, Thursday evening. Then you will hear going, going, gone from our auctioneer. For a fun and different family evening, mark your calendar and come to Long Grove Village Tavern, 135 Old McHenry Road in Long Grove. Phone 847-634-3117 at 7pm.

(They do serve food and drinks too!) This program is open to the public and there's no admission or cover charge. Help us – we need your donated unwanted items big or small, to make our auction a success. All proceeds go to the Long Grove Historical Society.

Donation information call Laurie Borawski, Society President at 847-949-5264, co-chairperson Marie Borg 847-438-7656, co-chairperson Kathy Wiberg at 847-634-5559, or email admin@LongGroveHistory.org Don't miss on helping out the Historical Society and getting rid of your "trash" that may be someone else's "treasure." Your donation is tax deductible and we will give you a receipt. If you want to drop

off your donation, we will be at the Farmhouse on the following dates:

3/19/2012: 11am

3/21/2012: 11am

4/11/2012: 11am

Also, on May 16, 2012 we will be at the Long Grove Village Hall / Herb Garden at 11am.

Other drop off sites are:

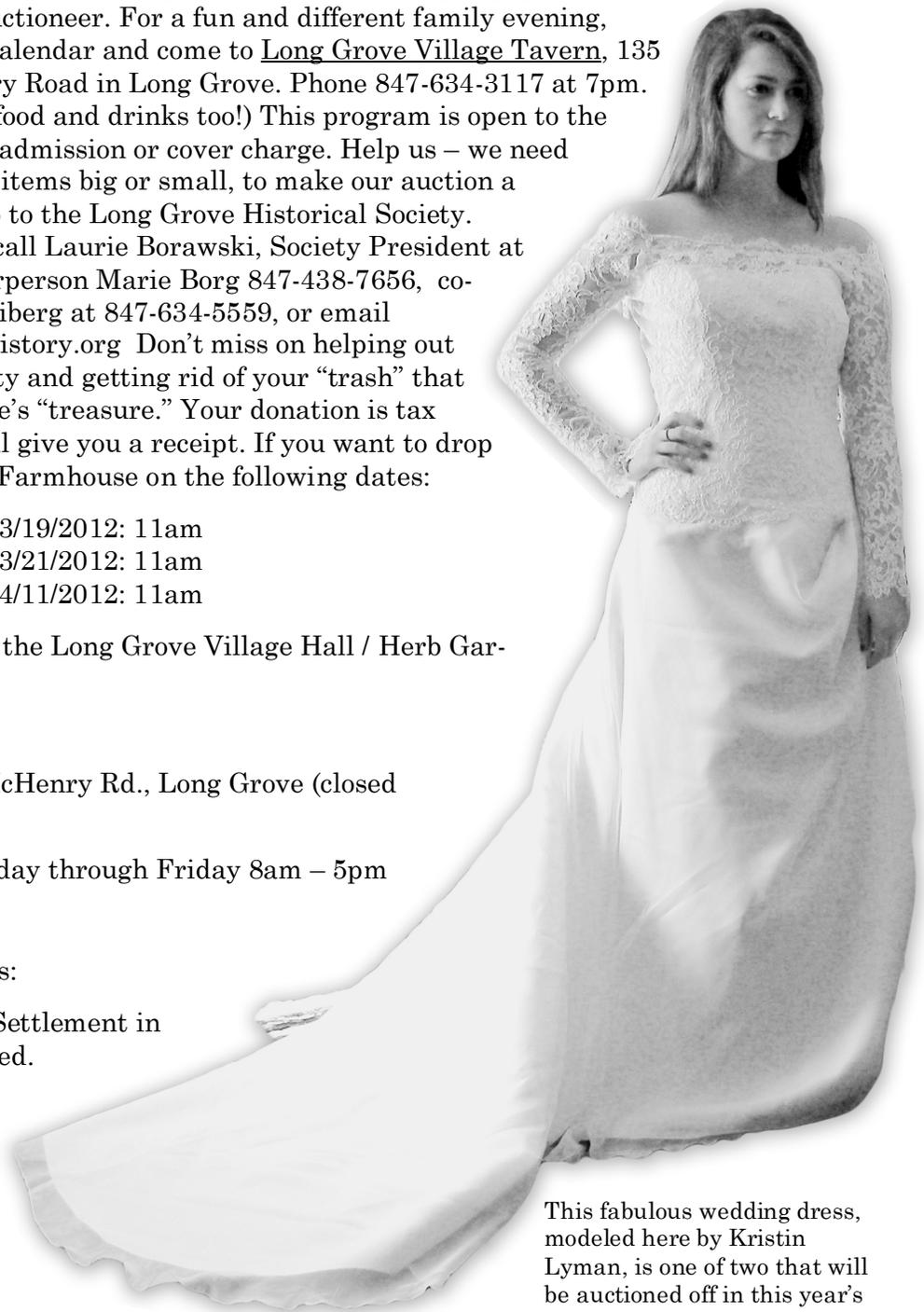
Long Grove Hair Studio, 143 Old McHenry Rd., Long Grove (closed Sunday & Monday)

Long Grove Village Hall, open Monday through Friday 8am – 5pm

Other upcoming events in the works:

October 2012 - Field trip to Naper Settlement in Naperville, IL - Date to be announced.

November 2012 - Speaker - Program to be announced.



This fabulous wedding dress, modeled here by Kristin Lyman, is one of two that will be auctioned off in this year's auction.

-STOP-

Back in the Day...

Many Historical Society's can trace their origins to a specific cause or event, and the Long Grove Historical Society is no different. Back in 1974, an increasing number of villagers were concerned about the number of historic structures that were being lost to the wrecking ball. When word got out that the ol' Drexler Tavern was slated for destruction, it was the last straw... the Society was officially formed to receive the Tavern as a donation and move it to a different site. But a newly formed society has no money, so all was not rosy. Here's how it was described in a newspaper article at the time:

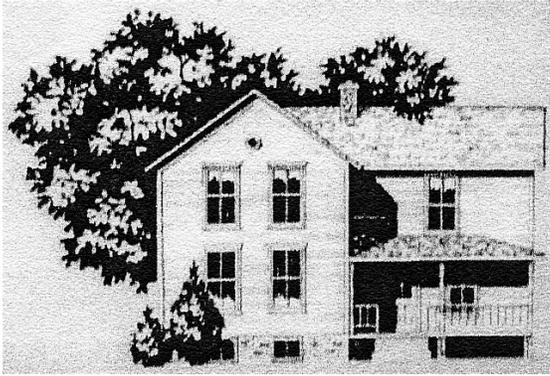


Abe Lincoln didn't sleep there and Ulysses S. Grant wasn't born there. Ethel Potts' father was. And Ethel Potts, of Long Grove, recently joined a group of fellow residents to make sure people spend time there again. The place: Drexler's Tavern in Long Grove, a small Lake County community known for its covered bridge, antiques, and its early American buildings.

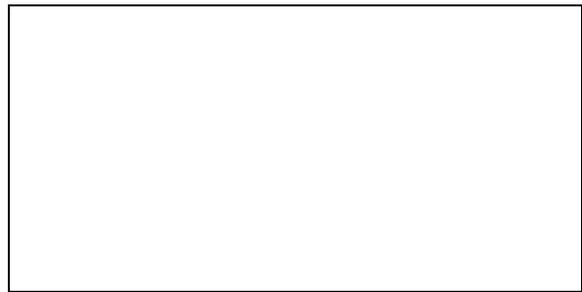
It all started in March, 1974, when Long Grove resident Leonard Van Dermuellen donated the tavern to the Long Grove Historical Society. Van Dermuellen's offer was simple the Historical Society could have the building if it would move it off his land.

The Historical Society took him up on the offer. So did a majority of Long Grove residents, who, when surveyed in December, said they would support a move by Village Board members to help provide the \$44,000 needed to move and restore the building.

At first raising the money was simple. The Society pledged \$7,500 for the project, the majority from private donors. The Illinois Bicentennial Commission provided a \$4000 grant to encourage the restoration. Even the Long Grove Park District was interested for a while in the project as a village landmark, and offered to sell to the village for \$5,000 one of the five acres it owns in the center of town for a building site. The balance of the project's cost was to be paid for with village funds.



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YE OLDE PHRASES

William Vanderbilt (see the trivia on page 1), by many accounts, did not have the respect of his father, who reportedly referred to him as "the Blatherskite" or "the Blockhead" in conversation.

Wondering what exactly a Blatherskite is? It's a person who talks a lot without making much sense. It's an old Scottish term (blather - meaning nonsense, and skite meaning a disliked person) The term hitched a ride to America during the Revolutionary War, used in the popular Scottish song, *Maggie Lauder*. The song featured the memorable toe-tapping phrase, "Jog on your gait, ye blatherskite, my name is Maggie Lauder". Was he really a Blatherskite? Probably not... reportedly, when asked why someone of his wealth didn't own a yacht, he offered this bit of concise wisdom—"It's true—a yachts are easy to buy, but they're almost impossible to sell."



A Blockhead? Well that's a person who's not very smart. The term blockhead originated in the 1500's and was a play on the wooden head on which a wig was kept.

Dad could have chosen from other available impugning terms of that era—idiot, dolt, dummy or numskull. He would not have used the terms moron, jerk and stooge, however, as they weren't "invented" until the 1900's.