

# Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's

Quarterly Newsletter

September 2012

## Trivially Speaking...

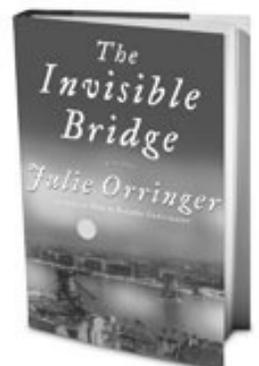
Ask someone to name a coffee chain—down on the list, after Starbucks and Caribou, Gloria Jeans will probably come up. Gloria Jeans was the original “national” coffee house—franchising a couple of years before Starbucks. Did you know that Gloria Jeans was started in downtown in Long Grove? It still exists and you can still get a cup of coffee there! It's gone independent—no longer part of the Gloria Jeans chain, and it's changed hands a few times over the years. It is currently run by Karen Krahn and is called Beans and Leaves (or just Karen's if you're a downtown regular). Not only was it ground zero for Gloria Jeans, but it was used as a training site for many of the initial franchisees. It sits back from Old McHenry road a ways—between Seasons and Red Oaks, at 320 Old McHenry Rd.



## BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE!

It's the time of year when children bid goodbye to summer and parents breathe a sigh of relief—back to school! If you think it seems to get earlier every year—you might well be correct. Check out the excerpt on Page 3 from a 1901 Daily Herald—looks like school used to start in October, back in the day.

The Historical Book Club will be meeting again on **Monday, October 8th** at the Village Tavern for lunch and to discuss “The Invisible Bridge”, by Julie Orringer. It's a love story set in Budapest and Paris in the 1930's. 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”.



## Mark Your Calendars

- **Monday, Oct 8th, 12pm**  
Historical Book Club at Long Grove Village Tavern

## 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.

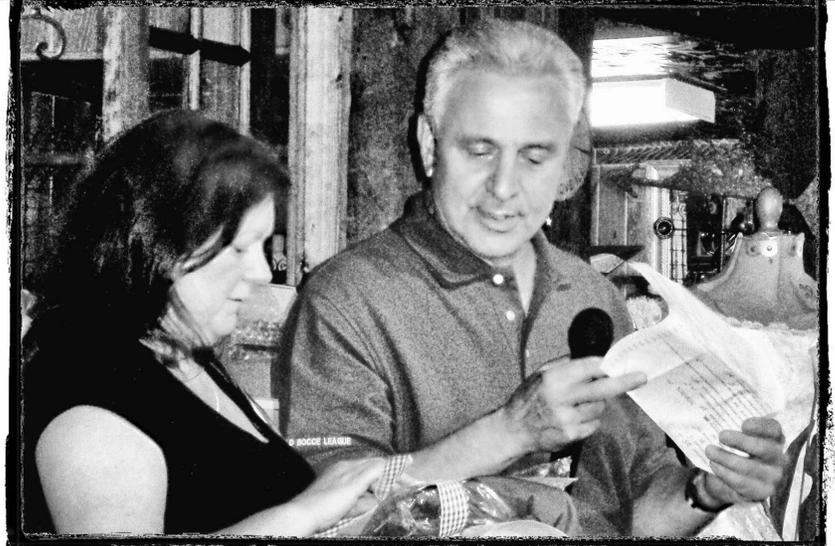
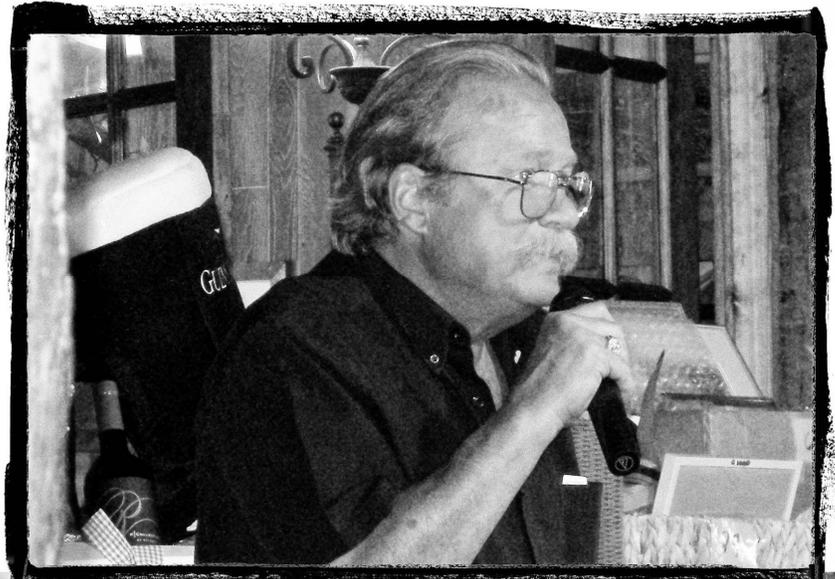
### 2011/2012 Board

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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...** Thanks to this summer's auctioneers Chip and Ron—over \$3500 was raised! The last pic is the Schultz School Teacher and one of her students from 1909.



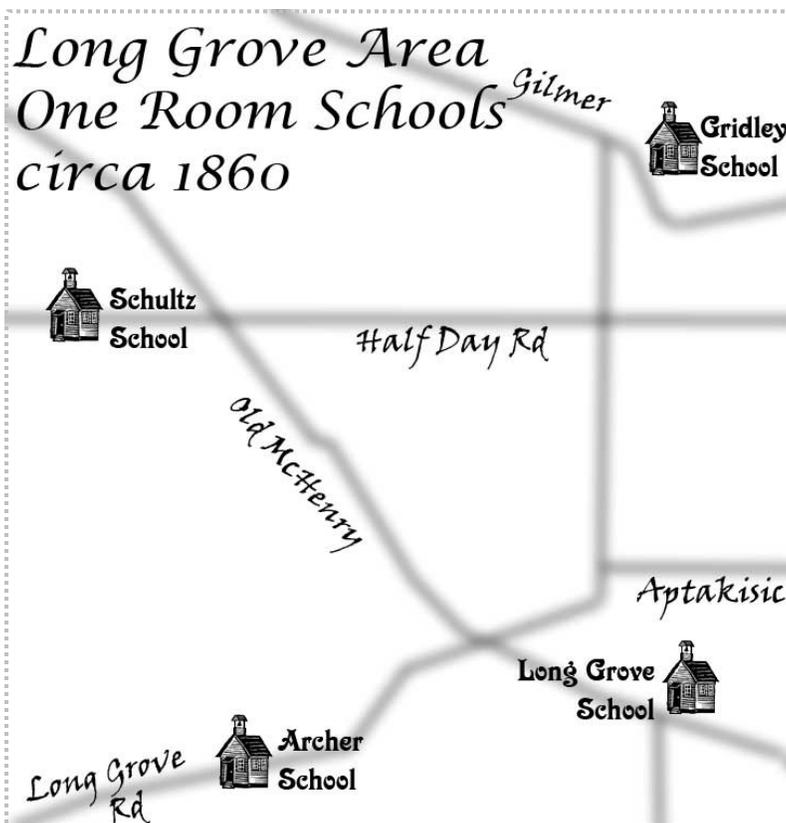
# BACK TO SCHOOL

The original schools in the Long Grove area were all of the “one room” variety:

Daily Herald October 4th, 1901 Long Grove News

Archer School house received a much needed coat of paint recently. The school begins its fall term, October 14th, with Miss May Kiess from Glencoe, as teacher. Parents please take notice and send your children. The German school commenced Monday. All children are requested to come soon.

## Long Grove Area One Room Schools circa 1860



Long Grove School (1850's) – still standing – a brown brick building on the northeast corner of 83 and Arlington Heights Road

Archer School (1849) – moved and restored in 1977 by the Long Grove Historical Society (now located adjacent to Village Hall). Portions of the building are original.

Gridley School (1838) – used as an American Legion Hall until it burnt in 1965.

Schultz School (1857) – still standing as a private home – to be torn down as part of the remaining Route 22 widening.

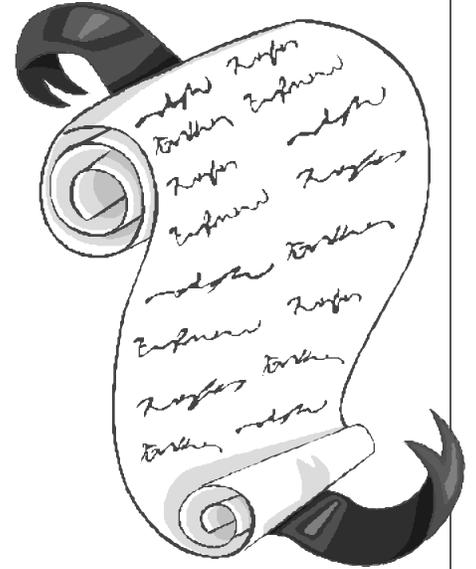
The original log structures of the school houses were prone to fire and remodeling – those that survive today probably don't resemble their original appearance too strongly. In the early 1940's efforts were begun to consolidate the one room schools into a more modern, centralized system. Initial efforts failed, due to the strong allegiance farm families had to “their” school. The Gridley School families were the most negative. They must have just needed more time, though, because they soon formed a “Community Club” for Gridley School families – monthly meetings and social events. The other three school's families were also invited and social ties between all the schools developed. In 1946, a second attempt was made and the Kildeer Countryside School was created to consolidate the four one room schools. Kildeer Countryside School is located on Old McHenry Road, just a few hundred feet north of the crossroads of downtown Long Grove.

# BACK TO SCHOOL

The German School mentioned in the 1901 article was held at Long Grove Church. Class size at the turn of the century was around 16 kids for Archer, and about 10 kids for the German school. It is assumed their schools were roughly similar in size.

Where did the money come from to get these schools started? Years before Illinois was officially a state, it was decreed that when a township was

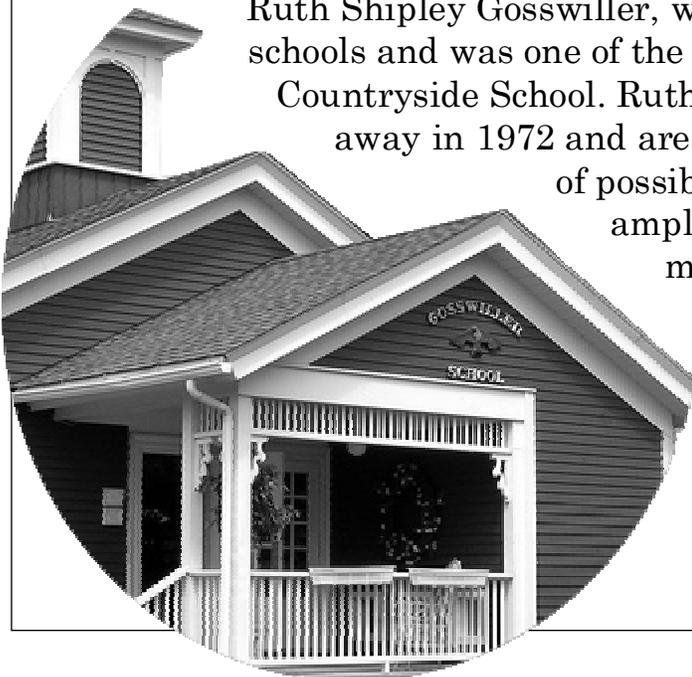
organized, section number 16 of that township must be set aside for maintenance and support of public schools. In Ela Township, section 16 is the square mile bordering Route 22 on the south, just east of Lake Zurich. In Vernon Township, it is the square mile bordering Route 22 on the south, about a half mile west of Milwaukee. In 1818, Illinois was officially surveyed and land could officially be purchased. Section 16's were not for sale as they continued to be reserved for school use. In 1825, the State of Illinois passed a law requiring the establishment of county schools which were to provide free education to white citizens ages 5 to 21. Section 16 lands were to be leased and the proceeds went toward these schools. In 1834, a further law was passed permitting Section 16 lands to be sold outright and the proceeds given to the schools. Any money from Vernon and Ela's Section 16's was probably long gone by the time the four area one-room schools were formed in the Long Grove area. Up until the 1850's, families with schoolchildren were assessed a tax to help pay for the schools. At that point, another law was passed that spread the school tax to all citizens.



Occasionally someone asks about "Gosswiller School", which is the name seen on one of the modern "homage" buildings in downtown Long Grove. As the story goes... that name chosen to adorn this faux school was a tribute to

Ruth Shipley Gosswiller, who taught at several of the one room schools and was one of the first teachers at the consolidated Kildeer Countryside School. Ruth and her Husband Walter both passed away in 1972 and are buried in the Long Grove Cemetery. A bit

of possible trivia about this building... it's an example of Long Grove's late 20th century remodeling to bring some quaint New England charm to town (the covered bridge being perhaps the most obvious). The "Gosswiller School" is painted red, as one room schools in New England were, not white as they were here in the Midwest.

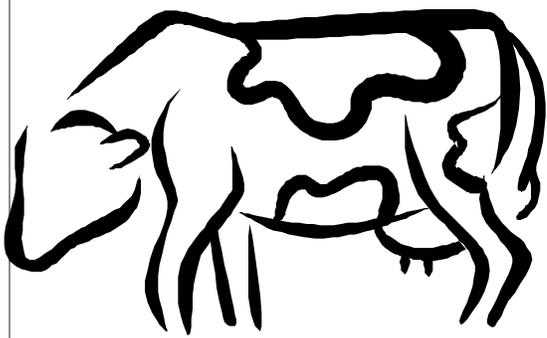


# Vintage Yarns



This rather smelly story was submitted by long time area resident, Tony Berg:

When Gwen and I and our five year old son Steve came to live in Long Grove in 1953, one of the many interesting people we came to know was William (Bill) Ernsting. He was an engineer from General Electric Co. It was only natural that he assumed the responsibility for the heating system in Long Grove Church, of which he was a member.



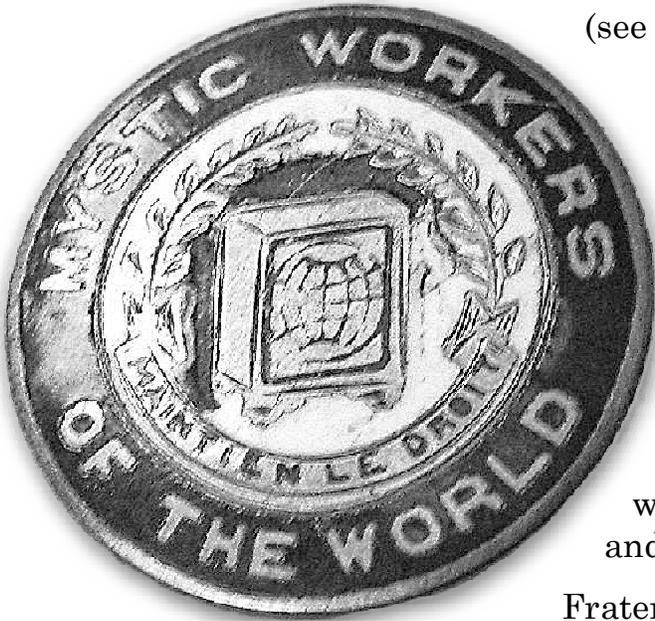
At the annual church board meetings, he would give a detailed report on how the heating system was functioning, along with suggestions on how to improve its performance. He suggested that during services on Sundays, the thermostat could be turned down a little, as the average person gave off 750 BTUs an hour, while the reason that dairy barns are so warm is because the average cow gives off 2500 BTUs an hour.

He told me once, that he lived on one of the oldest land grants in Lake County, dating back to the 1830s, and had not had a mortgage on it for more than a century. The farm house was located on the south side of East Cuba Road, slightly west of unincorporated Long Grove. The farm house had a long, winding gravel driveway running down to Cuba Road. One morning on the way to church, they came upon a skunk ambling along the driveway in front of them. They came to a place where they could drive around it, and as they passed the skunk, Helen Ernsting rolled down the window of the car and waved her arm around, while shouting, "Shoo-Shoo!" The skunk promptly raised itself up on its front feet and fired its spray through the window. Needless to say, the Ernstings did not make it to church that Sunday!

Mr. Ernsting subdivided his property around 1955, and it is now known as Ernsting, Hickory Hills, in the Village of Kildeer.



## Back in the Day...



Also in the 1901 Daily Herald Long Grove News (see Page 3) was a curious mention of a “Mystic Workers” dance held in Long Grove at Union Hall (now the vacant lot next to the “hotel”). Apparently it was a big success, with 90 tickets being sold and everyone reporting a good time. Who were these mystical workers?

Here’s an old membership pin. That’s not Latin, but rather a French motto, that means “maintain your rights”. Just a guess, but it probably signifies that the wearer has paid dues for the current year and is entitled to society benefits.

Fraternal organizations have been around since ancient Greece. Secrets were sometimes employed as a way of proving membership if you found yourself outside of your normal haunts. Perhaps it is these roots that cast an air of mystery and secrecy onto 19th and 20th century organizations such as the “Mystic Workers”. Here’s a snippet of their initiation ceremony (someone must have squealed):

*All march to the altar, salute, and retire. Candidate should all be made ready to enter before this order is given by Queen. When ready to re-enter, Marshal gives two raps on door and repeats. Warder opens door and says:*

*WARDER: Who comes here?*

*MARSHAL: The Marshal with a candidate seeking adoption.*

*WARDER: Mystic Queen, the Marshal with a candidate seeks admission.*

*QUEEN, rising, says loud and with dignity: Worthy Warder, open wide our doors, extend our hospitality and bid them welcome to our presence.*

*WARDER: By command of our Mystic Queen, I bid you enter and be received.*

## Back in the Day...

*Marches once around room and halts before the altar, and says:*

*MARSHAL: Mystic Queen, I present a candidate for obligation.*

*QUEEN, calls up Lodge: Worthies, gather around the candidate, form the Mystic Circle and witness the solemn promise.*

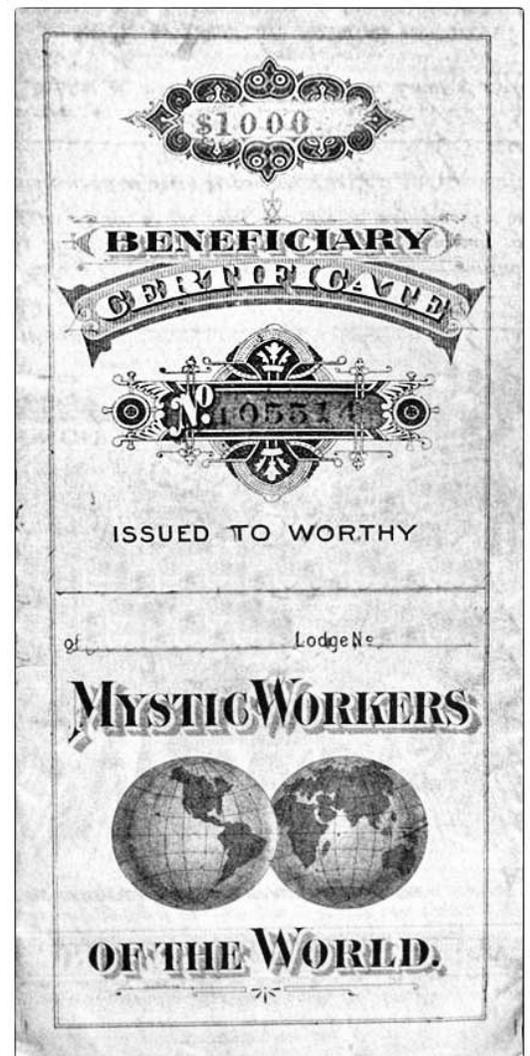
*QUEEN: Stranger to become one of us, you must make a solemn promise in which there is nothing to conflict with either your religious, or political opinions. Please repeat after me the solemn promise:*

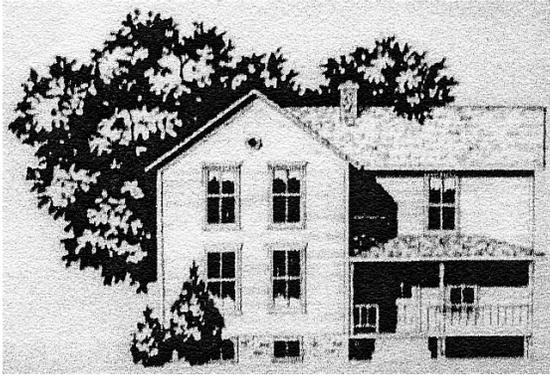
*MYSTIC WORKER OATH: I do most sincerely promise never to reveal, unlawfully any of the secrets of this Order communicated to me as such. I will be cautious in speech, helpful in good work and will aid in increasing the membership of this Lodge. I will not knowingly recommend for membership any person whom I know to be unworthy. I further promise that I will not communicate the annual password to any other than the proper officers of a lodge while at work.*

The ceremony concludes with a song and some further rituals involving the Goddesses of Hope, Love and Truth.

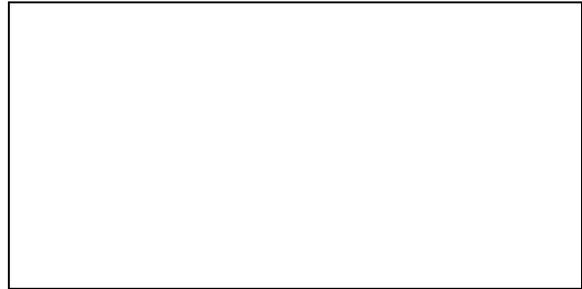
So... why would one want to become a Mystic Worker? Just to hang with the Queen and some cool Goddesses? It's real purpose (well, eventually, if not initially) was as a mutual aid society. If you were injured or died, the society rendered assistance – monetary and otherwise. Also scattered throughout those old newspapers are mentions of people being injured or dying and reporting what a great assistance their fellow Mystic Workers had been. Aside from member's dues, they probably held fundraisers also, such as the dance mentioned in Long Grove.

In 1930, the Mystic Workers changed their name to Fidelity Life Association. In the 1950's, the organization was converted from a fraternal structure to a more modern life insurance structure and joined forces with the Kemper Life and Zurich Life.





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## YE OLDE PHRASES...

naturally have to name them. Early pioneers in America encountered lots of new things they had to come up with names for – some examples are popcorn, sweet potato, eggplant, and bullfrog. There wasn't strict adherence to English either – pioneers made liberal use of non-English words when they saw fit... see if you can guess which language these words in our "American" English were imported from:

- 1) Hominy
- 2) Barbeque
- 3) Depot
- 4) Pecan
- 5) Hoodlum
- 6) Levee
- 7) Chowder
- 8) Raccoon
- 9) Tornado

Answers: French (3,6,7),  
Indian (1,4,8), German (5),  
Spanish (2,9)

You probably know what it means to "text" someone with your phone. Why do we call it "text"ing? When we encounter new things we

You have to figure there are names that people use for things that don't last also. For example – icebox and refrigerator... in 50 years, people won't know what an icebox is, but refrigerator will probably still be in use. Here are some "also rans" – names that pioneers used for things that didn't make it:

*moxa* - Indian moss burned on an area of the body, thought to cure gout

*hautboy* – an oboe

*gruntling* – a young hog

*muchwhat* – nearly

*revelrout* - a ruckus

