

MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KEEPING HOMETOWN MEMORIES ALIVE

MUSEUM JOURNAL

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1923 DRAINAGE DISTRICT MAP GIVES US THE “WHO WAS WHERE?” OF 1920S MOUNT PROSPECT

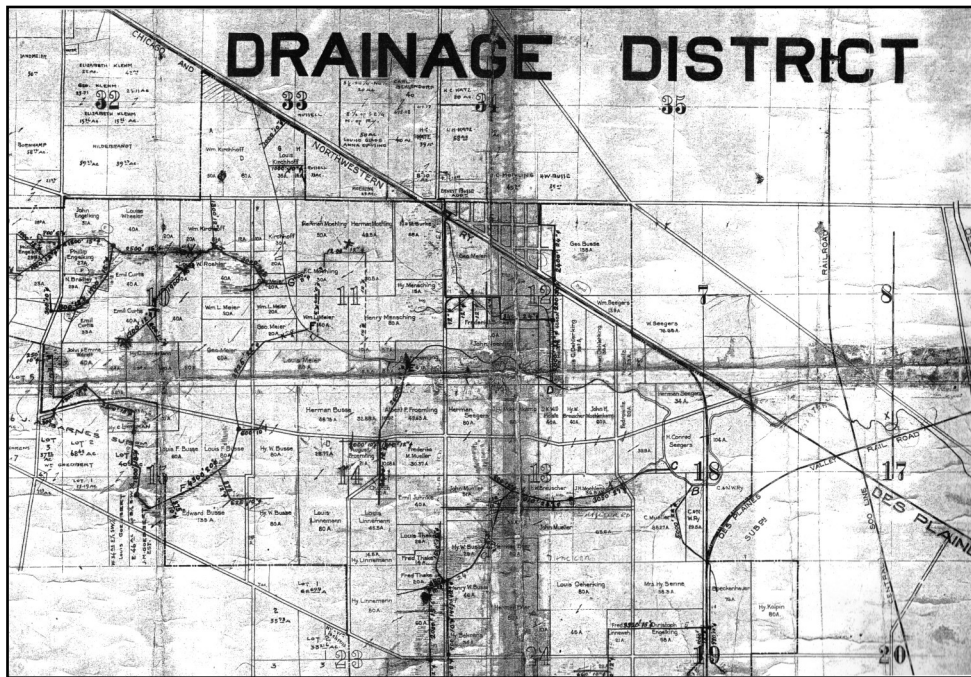
The Mount Prospect Historical Society is now the proud owner of a Drainage District map, dated 1923, showing land holdings (with acreages noted) in and around Mount Prospect at the time.

Mark Busse came across the map (pictured here) and recently shared it with the Society. It is the type of exciting find that helps us to understand and remember a by-gone era.

Although they are not labeled, it is reasonably easy to identify Central Road, Golf Road, Rand Road, Route 83, Busse Road, Mount Prospect Road and even Algonquin Road. Using these frames of reference, we can figure out which farms pre-dated which neighborhoods and commercial areas, which is exciting for history lovers.

For instance, just south of the North Western train track and bordering Mount Prospect Road on the west were the farms of Herman and Louis Oehlerking. One was 38 acres and the other was 39 acres.

Further south, but on the north side of Golf Road, between Mount Prospect Road and Route 83, there were five farms. Starting on the east and moving west, there was the 60-acre John Moehlenkamp farm, the 40-acre



Henry W. Breuscher farm, the 40-acre DK Will Holste farm, the 80-acre J. Henry Moehlenkamp farm and finally, the 40-acre Herman Seegers farm.

Further to the west, on the south side of Golf Road, there was Frederike Mueller’s 30-acre farm and August Froemling’s 21-acre farm (just north of St. John Lutheran Church) and arranged around the church to the south were the 45 and 95-acre farms, respectively, of Louis and Henry Linneman, for which a road in the area is named. Emil Juhnke also had a 40-acre farm adjacent to the Linneman holdings. Huntington Commons was built on part of the Juhnke property.

Louis F. Busse also had a large farm – 140 acres – on the south side of Golf Road, just west of the Linneman holdings and William Deeke had a slightly smaller farm (120 acres) on the west side of Route 83, just south of Algonquin Road.

Moving north, Herman Busse owned 81 acres of land, including the area which is now Clearwater Park. The Meier family had farms totaling 200 acres on both sides of Busse Road, about halfway between Golf and Central Roads. In fact, the land to the east of Busse Road was sold during the 1920s so that the Northwest Hills Country Club golf course (now the Mt. Prospect Country Club) could be built. Two of their farmhouses remain on the east side of Busse Road and the oldest, built in 1890, still

stands at 1702 W. Myrtle Dr.

The land which now features Melas Park, the Mount Prospect Public Works building, Bosch Tools and a number of other businesses was once owned by William and Louis Kirchoff. Louis owned 49 acres, roughly where Melas Park is now located and William owned 130 acres just to

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



It's hard to believe it's been a year since I took over as president of the Society. Time flies when you're having fun and all that, right? Looking back, the goal in mind as we switched officers was to shift our mindset from construction and

renovation of the 1896 Central School to education and programming and letting the community know what we have to offer.

In the past year, we've made a lot of progress toward that goal. In 2018, our summer programs for children (which included, "Prairie Girl", the "Science of History!", and "Living the Revolution") saw our best attendance numbers since the programs were initiated in 2014. Our Central School Living History Experience, led by a dedicated group of volunteer schoolmarms, has almost reached 1,000 children from local schools, home school groups and schools outside of Mount Prospect. This summer saw the launch of a brand new program, History Camp, being offered the second weeks of June and July from 9 a.m. to noon for children ages six to twelve.

Back in September 2018, the Society premiered its "Second Sunday" open-house on campus. Tours of the Dietrich Friedrichs House and a variety of seasonal-themed hands-on family friendly activities are offered free of charge on the second Sunday of every month.

We've also expanded our adult programming, with a series of ladies' teas and a bus trip to the

Joliet Correctional Center (see articles below and on page 3), while continuing to offer popular events such as the spring "History in the Headlines" dinner, "History Day" bake sales, the biennial "Purse Auction" and the "Holiday Housewalk."

A new, permanent blacksmith exhibit is planned for the beginning of fall, as well as a series of rotating exhibits in the Museum itself.

It's beyond thrilling to see how far we've come in the space of a year toward shifting our focus from construction and renovation to expanding programming and educational opportunities in the community. It's truly an honor to be leading the Society at this time. But as exciting as that's been, it's even more exciting to know this is just the beginning. We have plenty of plans, programs and learning opportunities still to come in the near future. So feel free to stop by and see what's going on at the Society. We're right in the neighborhood. Come see what we have to offer!

Deb Rittle

Executive Board President
Mount Prospect Historical Society

TEA, ANYONE?

The Mount Prospect Historical Society was pleased to host two ladies' teas recently.

In February, Louisa May Alcott, portrayed by Leslie Goddard, delighted several generations of guests, including moms, aunts, daughters, granddaughters and girlfriends, with stories of her life and how her beloved book, *Little Women*, came to be, while attendees sipped tea and enjoyed light refreshments. Karla Menze, who attended with her daughters ages 12 and 14, (pictured right) said, "[We] enjoyed tea with Louisa May Alcott at the Central School. Miss Alcott gave a very engaging account of her life with her family and as an author. My daughters said the best part was hearing the connections between her book and events from her own life. Some of the events reenactor Leslie Goddard recounted are not alluded to in [Alcott's] books, so there was a nice mix of familiar and new. It was a wonderful event by the Historical Society for both history lovers and book lovers alike..."



A second tea was held in June. On a beautiful spring day, Ellie Carlson of Ellie Presents presented "From Fedoras to Fascinators: A Delightful Parade Through the History of Ladies' Hats" to an enthusiastic audience, many of whom arrived decked out in their own festive hats. Society member Marlene Peterson (pictured left), was thrilled to share the story of the hat she wore, which she made herself many years ago. "I so enjoyed the presentation of the Ladies Hats. It was a perfect day to be in a schoolhouse with the sunlight and air wafting in. The tea in beautiful tea cups was wonderful, as were the cookies. The presenter was so knowledgeable and had a sense of humor. I toured the gardens too. Lovely day. I even got to talk about my hat of 60 years that I made."

Another afternoon tea is planned for September 7. Historic interpreter Martina Mathisen will portray Luella Parsons, Hollywood's most dynamic gossip columnist. Called the Queen of Hollywood, Luella could make or break a career with a few taps of her typewriter. Sip tea while hearing about the triumphs and transgressions of some of the era's biggest stars. Tickets for this

event "A Spot of Tea with a Side of Gossip" will go on sale in August. We hope you'll be able to join us!

(Continued from page 1)

the west where Bosch Tool and other businesses are today.

South of Central Road between Busse Road and the railroad tracks were the 100-acre farm of Herman Moehling and an 88-acre farm labeled as "N. and M. Burke."

To the east of the golf course and west of Route 83 there were farms owned by Henry Mensching (95 acres including where St. Raymond Catholic Church stands today) and Albert Froemling's 90-acre parcel which ended at the intersection of Route 83 and Golf Road. Herman Busse also had an 88-acre farm on the north side of Golf Road, to the west of Froemling's holdings.

And in the area surrounding today's post office, there was once the 70-acre farm of Louise Glade and Anna Clausing, the 40-acre farm of Carl Behlendorf and the 39-acre farm of Henry C. Katz, who also owned 20 acres to the east, on the other side of Route 83. His brother, L.F. Katz, owned 58 acres on the east side, too. Both were adjacent to the 40-acre farm owned by John Moehling, but farmed by Emil Grimm.

Fun tidbits:

The family of Christian and Dorothea Linneman amassed a farm of 300 acres, buying it up gradually from neighbors. It was later split between their children. Christian was a German-born carpenter and cabinetmaker who also raised oats, hay and potatoes.

William Deeke's son, August, raised vegetables for Campbell's Soup on their 120-acre farm near Algonquin Road.

The Walter Berschet bungalow and brick barn on the south side of Golf Road was a wedding gift from Herman Busse and Mathilda Moellenkamp Busse to their daughter, Esther, and her groom Walter Berschet in 1929. It was built on the holdings of Louis F. Busse, probably Esther's grandfather.

George and Sophia Busse Meier built the farmhouse on West Myrtle Drive in 1890 and raised four sons and two daughters there. When their third son, Edwin, took over their farm, they retired to "downtown" Mount Prospect where they lived until the 1950s.

Henry Mensching raised both 13 children and lots of livestock on his 95-acre farm where St. Raymond Church now stands. But he is best known for joining forces in 1894 with Commissioner William Busse, John Moehling, and three other farmers, William Kirchoff, Henry Katz and William Seegers to create a school district (District 57) that included parts of both Wheeling and Elk Grove Townships.

The Carl Behlendorf farmhouse was built at 407 N. Prospect Manor around 1868. The home remains but the family's 40-acres were subdivided after the family moved in 1928.

Emil and Anna Grimm had eight children and rented a home and farm from John Moehling, eventually buying the home and half the acreage. The home still stands at 122 N. Emerson St.

JOLIET PRISON BUS TRIP & JOLIET AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

In early May the Society held the first of what it hopes will be a series of day-long bus trips to local historic and cultural attractions. Approximately 30 members and friends trekked down to Joliet to tour the long-closed Joliet Correctional Center and the Joliet Area Historical Museum with its Route 66 memorabilia.

The "Alcatraz of the Midwest" received rave reviews from participants who received a personal tour from Joliet Historical Society Executive Director Greg Peerbolte who previously served as the MPHS's executive director.

The limestone Gothic-style correctional center was built in 1858 and it held thousands of prisoners over the following 140 years. It was also featured at the beginning of the 1980 movie classic, "The Blues Brothers" and was recently featured in a "Washington Post" article, detailing the facility and the new tours.

Interestingly, as the Mount Prospect group was exiting the facility, it was greeted by "Blues Brothers" imitators who had driven all the way to Joliet from upstate New York to make a pilgrimage to the place where the movie they love began. It was a fun and fascinating "chance" encounter.



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Watch for announcements of further upcoming adult bus tours.

We are considering future trips to:

- Historic Pullman museum and neighborhood on south side of Chicago
- Harley Davidson factory and Pabst brewery in Milwaukee
- Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio and Unity Temple in Oak Park
- Downtown Chicago behind-the-scenes historic theater tours



MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

LIFE AS A PRAIRIE GIRL - Thursday, July 18

Life as a Prairie Girl I (morning session) 9:30-11:30 a.m.

For girls entering 2nd through 4th Grade

Activities: corn husk dolls, chores, games and gardening

Cost is \$25 per child*

Life as a Prairie Girl II (afternoon session) 1:30-3:30 p.m.

For girls entering 3rd through 5th Grade

Activities: sewing, paper doll chains, dessert making, flower
planting

Cost is \$25 per child*

HISTORY IS FUN! - Thursday, July 25

The Science of History! (morning session) 9:30-11:30 a.m.

For boys and girls entering 3rd through 5th grade

Activity: In honor of the 50th anniversary of the first lunar
moonwalk, we'll explore airplanes, rockets and phases of the
moon.

Cost is \$25 per child*

North and South: Kids in the Civil War

(afternoon session) 1:30-3:30 p.m.

For boys and girls entering 3rd through 5th Grade

Children will explore what it was like to grow up during the
Civil War: Find out what school was like and what games
were popular. Try some tasty food and drinks of the 19th
century. Learn what life was like when our nation was
divided.

Cost is \$25 per child*

**All programs are held at the Historical Society
101 S. Maple St.*

*(Cost is \$20 per session if you register for both morning and
afternoon sessions)*

BESSIE'S STORY HOUR

Tuesday, August 6 and Tuesday, Sept. 3.

10-11 a.m.

FREE

Mount Prospect Historical Society

101 S. Maple St.

SECOND SUNDAYS AT THE SOCIETY

Sunday, August 11 - Read in the Garden

Sunday, September 8 - Apple Crafts

11:30 - 1:30 p.m.

TEA AND GOSSIP WITH LUELLE PARSONS

Saturday, September 7 at 1 p.m. in Central School

Join us for another lovely tea with a historical talk!

*For more information visit www.mtphist.org or contact the
Historical Society, 847/392-9006.*