

# MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KEEPING HOMETOWN MEMORIES ALIVE

# MUSEUM JOURNAL

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## POSTCARDS: THE ORIGINAL INSTANT MESSAGE



The Mount Prospect Historical Society recently acquired a postcard that was mailed nearly 100 years ago.

Posted on Nov. 17, 1916, from the Mount Prospect Post Office, the message reads:

“Dear Friend:

Just a few lines [to] let you know that we have 15 doz eggs so you people can get them Sunday.

Best Regards to all from all. As ever, Melinda K.”

The postcard was sent to Mrs. E. Nehmzow at 1913 N. Kimball Ave. in Chicago.

It is uncertain who Mrs. E. Nehmzow was, particularly in relation to Melinda Krohn. It is certain, however, that this postcard was sent to Mrs. Nehmzow as an advertisement. The Krohn family consisted of parents John and Louise, and children Fritz, Ludwig, Julia and Melinda. John Krohn’s occupation was listed as a farmer in the 1910 Census.

Like all farms at that time, chickens were raised for meat and eggs, which were collected to feed the family and to sell. Regardless of how Mrs. E. Nehmzow knew the Krohn family,

she was certainly one of their targeted customers. Melinda wrote this postcard on behalf of her family specifically to advertise the eggs that they had to sell.

This postcard is comparable to today’s email blasts. Not only does it include the who, what, when and why, but it also includes the where. The front of the postcard is a view of Emerson Avenue looking north (presumably from Busse Avenue.) If you look closely, you can see a black “X” marked on the second house from the

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### SAVE THESE DATES...!

**April 16, 2016:** 5th Annual History in the Headlines: “A Celebration of the Golden Age of Hollywood” at Rob Roy Country Club, 505 E. Camp McDonald Rd., Prospect Heights, 6 p.m.

**May 20-21, 2016:** Mount Prospect Community Wide Garage Sale.

**June 16, 2016:** Mount Prospect Stories: “Busse’s Flowers & Gifts: A Community Heirloom” at the Mount Prospect Public Library, 7 p.m.

**June 25, 2016:** “Feel the Burn 5K” for Central School.

*For more information contact the Historical Society, 847/392-9006.*

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Lindsay Rice  
Executive Director

Mount Prospect is quickly approaching its 100th Anniversary in 2017. Our Village was officially incorporated inside Central School on Feb. 3, 1917. To commemorate this significant date in our town's history, the Village

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

of Mount Prospect has a lot of exciting things planned for 2017.

One thing that the Village's Centennial Commission has done to kick start the celebration is the creation of a Centennial Website, which went live on Feb. 1, 2016. This website not only allows users to learn more about local history, it also allows users to keep up with upcoming Centennial celebrations throughout 2016 and 2017.

Community clubs, groups and businesses are encouraged to "brand" their events and programs with the Centennial theme. They are also able to submit their Centennial

events to the calendar on the Centennial Website.

The Historical Society has also begun planning for Mount Prospect's 100th year. A committee of eight talented people will organize and lead the Historical Society's Centennial planning. There are even rumors that Mount Prospect might be treated with a 2017 Cemetery Walk!

With little less than a year to go until Mount Prospect's birthday, I encourage our members to not just check out the Centennial Website, but to also think about what Mount Prospect means to you. What changes have you seen in Mount



Prospect? Were they good changes? Bad changes? What things about Mount Prospect have remained unchanged? Think about how far our community has come, and where our community is headed. 2017 will be an important year for Mount Prospect. It's up to us to make it historic.

Centennial Website:  
[mountprospect100.com](http://mountprospect100.com)

## A JOB WELL DONE!

Seven newly-constructed wooden benches that can be conveniently converted into picnic tables have been donated to the Historical Society by Eagle Scout candidate Steven VanDyke of Boy Scout Troop 23.

Steven planned, organized and implemented the construction of the benches as his Eagle project. The benches will be used for educational programs, events like our annual Silent Movie Night in August and possibly even for off-site events since they are mobile.

When they are not being used for programs or events, the benches can be converted into picnic tables and placed around the museum grounds. Because they are coated with water sealant, they are weather resistant and can stay outside during the warm seasons. Visitors to the museum, as well as museum staff, can enjoy their lunch or read a book at one of the picnic tables while soaking up the beauty of the museum campus.

"The work that went into this project goes above and beyond our expectations. Thank you, Steven and Troop 23, for your hard work and generous donation," said Lindsay Rice, MPHS executive director.



Above: Boy Scouts sanding the benches.

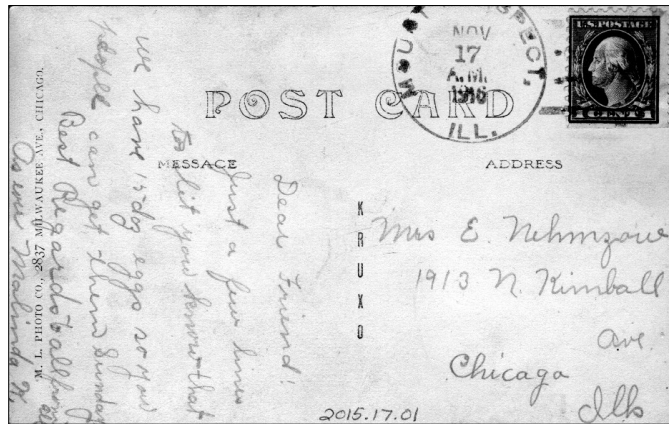


Left: MPHS executive director, Lindsay Rice and Eagle Scout candidate, Steven VanDyke.

("POSTCARDS",  
CONT FROM PAGE 1)

right. The purpose of this "X" was to tell customers where the Krohn family lived and sold eggs.

Postcards became very popular during the late 19th century. They were originally produced as a way for people to send quick notes. At the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, they were sold as souvenirs. People sent postcards to friends and family while on vacation to keep them "updated" on what their recreation might have entailed. Postcards have also been sent to long-distance



friends and family with "updates" on the current happenings of life. And in some cases, like our newest postcard, they were sent as advertisements.

Postcards made it easy for businesses and simple farming families to advertise their goods and services. Sending people quick and short notes, or

"texts" is nothing new. If Melinda Krohn were alive today and sold eggs, perhaps she would have posted a status on Facebook or sent out a text message to several people advertising her farm fresh eggs. Most of us don't think about it that way, but when we send someone a text message or post a status update on

Facebook, we are taking part in a tradition that has been practiced for over 100 years.

*This particular postcard, which now joins many others in our collection, came into the possession of Doreen Davis (not a Mount Prospect resident) about 20 years ago through a friend. Deciding it needed a permanent home, Davis mailed the postcard to the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society in the hopes that it would eventually reach the Mount Prospect Historical Society. Society volunteer Nancy Reese, a member of the Genealogy Society, was kind enough to deliver the postcard to the Historical Society where it will remain on a permanent basis.*

## GREETINGS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

In addition to hosting events and programs, the Mount Prospect Historical Society also offers other services that are available to the public.

### Research

People in Mount Prospect and the surrounding area are able to use the Historical Society as a resource. We have an extensive archives and a collection of photographs that have been used by many people in their research.

We have records on:

- 600 people
- 300 houses
- 150 businesses
- Schools
- 45 churches
- 100 organizations
- Mount Prospect governmental entities
- Events
- General research topics
- Approximately 10,000 photographs
- Approximately 7,000 artifacts

### House Tours

The Mount Prospect Historical Society staff is available to give tours of the Dietrich Friedrichs House Museum Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**We strongly encourage visitors to schedule appointments for research and house tours ahead of time.**

The museum staff works on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. When we know if we have visitors coming, we are able to prepare and make sure we can spend quality time with each person.

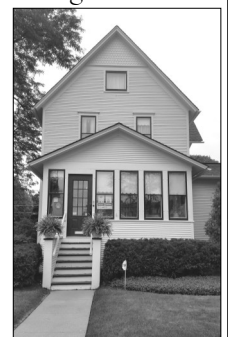
Admission is free, but donations are always welcome!

**Get in touch with us!**

847/392-9006

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101 S. Maple St.





## MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### “A CELEBRATION OF THE GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD”



“A Celebration of the Golden Age of Hollywood,” the fifth annual History in the Headlines dinner, sponsored by the Mount Prospect Historical Society, will be held at Rob Roy Country Club on Saturday, April 16.

This year the Mount Prospect Historical Society will re-imagine the days when folks in both small towns and large cities crammed local theatres

to see blockbusters, such as “The Wizard of Oz,” “Gone With the Wind,” “The Grapes of Wrath” and even “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.”

As with the Society’s four previous History in the Headlines dinners, patrons can choose from two meal options. Those who picture themselves as aspiring actors and actresses, working as extras and taking any role they can get, can choose the \$30 “Backlot Canteen” buffet meal of salad, bread, marsala chicken, penne pasta with marinara sauce and vegetable medley.

On the other hand, those who picture themselves as established stars or movie directors/producers may dine more elegantly. They will want to choose the \$75 “Brown Derby” steak dinner

including soup, bread, twice-baked potatoes and green beans. Two complimentary bottles of merlot will adorn each “Brown Derby” table.

There will be dessert and a cash bar for everyone with signature cocktails of the era offered.

No matter where you choose to sit, party-goers, who are welcome to dress casually or elegantly and even to wear clothing of the 1930s and 1940s, will be entertained after dinner by “Bette Davis,” played by living history actress Leslie Goddard. There will also be a challenging Hollywood trivia competition, inserted during Ms. Davis’ intermission, and a movie-themed raffle.

Seating is limited and may be reserved individually or in tables of ten. Reservations will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. *No tickets will be sold at the door.*

For more information or to make a reservation via PayPal, log onto [www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org).

You may also phone 847/392-9006 Tuesday through Thursday during office hours to reserve seats and pay by credit card.



Living history actress, Leslie Goddard.

