

MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KEEPING HOMETOWN MEMORIES ALIVE

MUSEUM JOURNAL

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 1 SPRING 2017

GETTING TO KNOW THE KEY PLAYERS IN MOUNT PROSPECT'S INCORPORATION

It was 1917, 100 years ago in February, that Mount Prospect was finally able to declare itself a village. With the birth of Norman Pohlman on Jan. 31, 1917, Mount Prospect's population rose to 300, which was the required minimum for a town to be able to incorporate in Illinois. As soon as the announcement of Norman's birth became known, the petition to incorporate was sent to Springfield the very next day.

On March 20, 1917, a caucus was held to nominate the Village's first trustees. They were nominated by the village president nominee, William Busse. He chose the candidates with caution and care, and on April 17, 1917, they were all elected without opposition.

Mount Prospect residents of 100 years ago knew who these men were because they were neighbors, friends and family. But today, we are not as familiar with the cast of key players that fearlessly led Mount Prospect into the future. Who were they? Where did they live? What was their occupation? Read on to learn more about our founding Village board!



Who: William Busse (First Mayor)

Born: January 27, 1864

Died: July 16, 1955

Occupation: Cook County Commissioner, founder of: Mount Prospect State Bank, Busse Buick, Mount Prospect Public School (one-room schoolhouse), and Busse-Biermann Hardware.

Where they lived: 101 S. Main Street (Where Central Continental Bakery now stands. His house is now located at 808 E. Central Rd.)

Fun Fact: William Busse helped to make Illinois the "Land of Lincoln." While president of the county board, Busse was one of the charter members of the Lincoln Centenary Association. The group's aim, according to the *Chicago Daily Tribune* in 1908, was to make "Lincoln's State A World Mecca" and "celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln in a manner that will command world wide attention."

Who: Louis C. Busse (Village Trustee 1917-1919)

Born: May 21, 1865

Died: November 10, 1929

Occupation: Florist, a director of the Mount Prospect State Bank

Where they lived: 300 E. Evergreen Ave.

Fun Fact: Louis C. Busse, founder of Busse's Flowers in 1916, was reportedly one of the top notch carnation growers in the area. Florists who had been in the industry longer than Louis had no choice but to acknowledge the superb quality of his carnations.



(SEE "KEY PLAYERS," PG. 3)

SAVE THESE DATES...!

April 22: History in the Headlines: "Toast Our New Town!" at Rob Roy Country Club, 505 E. Camp McDonald Rd., Prospect Heights, 6 p.m.

May 7: Central School Open House, Central School, 103 S. Maple St., 1-3 p.m.

June 20: Senior Session for MP Stories: The Growth of Mount Prospect, 1917-1970, Mount Prospect Public Library, Room 154, 1:30 p.m.

June 29: MP Stories: The Growth of Mount Prospect, 1917-1970, Mount Prospect Public Library, Room 154, 7-8:30 p.m. Register at mppl.org.

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

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Lindsay Rice
Executive Director

Happy Centennial Year to all of our members and Happy Birthday, Mount Prospect! It is exhilarating that we have reached our Village's 100th year.

It is exciting to see so many entities throughout the community participate in the

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

celebration. The year started off with a bang on Feb. 3 when the Village launched fireworks set to 1917 music off the roof of the parking garage. What better way to celebrate 100 years of progress than with fireworks? The Village's Special Events Commission also put on a spectacular Centennial gala on Feb. 4 to celebrate 100 years. The Chamber of Commerce, the Mount Prospect Women's Club, the Mount Prospect Lions Club, and even churches and schools are incorporating the Centennial into their regularly planned events throughout 2017.

The Historical Society will also be celebrating the Centennial this year through various events and programs.

The next big Centennial party will be our "History in the Headlines: Toast Our New Town" spring dinner. See the section below for more information! In addition to the spring dinner, we also have an open-house taking place inside the newly renovated Central School on Sunday, May 7 from 1-3 p.m. Our Living History Committee has several programs scheduled for this summer including, "Centennial Girl," and of course our ever popular "Life as a Prairie Girl." We plan on hosting our annual Silent Movie Night, which is scheduled for July. Our Power of the Purse Auction is making a come back, and we are also bringing back our Cemetery Walk this fall!

Because of all these wonderful events that we are hosting this year, we have made the decision to make house tours of the Dietrich Friedrichs House museum a \$10 admission fee for non-members, and 50% off for members. This generated revenue will allow us to do even *more* wonderful events and programs beyond the Centennial year.

We hope to see everyone at the many Centennial events throughout 2017, for it is a year for celebrating!

For more information on Historical Society events, visit our website, www.mtphist.org.



MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY RAFFLES TWO TICKETS TO "HAMILTON"

If you have been intending to travel downtown to see the hit Broadway musical "Hamilton" at the Private Bank Theatre, but haven't been able to justify the cost, you will want to purchase a ticket for the Mount Prospect Historical Society raffle being held in conjunction with its "Step Back in Time to 1917 and Toast Our New Town" dinner on April 22.

The winner need not be present to win, so even if you can't attend the dinner, you could win those highly sought-after tickets, along with a copy of Ron Chernow's biography of Alexander Hamilton and a CD of the show's original music. The total value of the prize is \$240.

Raffle tickets are available for \$10 each or six for \$50 through PayPal at <http://www.mtphist.org/shop-2/> or at the museum, 101 S. Maple St., Mount Prospect.

Tickets are now on sale for the Society's sixth annual "History in the Headlines" fundraiser at Rob Roy Golf Course clubhouse, 505 E. Camp McDonald Rd., Prospect Heights.

This year the Mount Prospect Historical Society will re-imagine the rather modest, German-style celebrations that probably took place in local establishments following the incorporation of Mount Prospect 100 years ago.

As with the Society's five previous History in the Headlines dinners, patrons can choose from two meal options. The \$30 "Wille's Tavern" buffet meal will feature sausages, Chicken Limone, German potato salad, bread and vegetable medley. Those who wish to dine more elegantly can choose the \$75 "Wille's Hall" dinner featuring a glass of wine, soup, bread, sliced beef with sauerbraten sauce on the side, buttered noodles and green bean almondine. There will be dessert and a cash bar for everyone with signature cocktails of the era offered.

Party-goers, who are invited to dress casually or elegantly and even to wear clothing of 1917, will be entertained after dinner by "Suffragette Alice Paul," played by living history actress Leslie Goddard. There will also be a Mount Prospect trivia competition during Ms. Paul's intermission.

Tickets are limited and may be reserved individually or in tables of ten. For more information or to purchase tickets via PayPal, visit www.mtphist.org. You may also phone 847/392-9006, Tuesday through Thursday during office hours, to reserve tickets and pay by credit card.



("KEY PLAYERS",
CONT FROM PAGE 1)

Who: Henry Beigel (Village Trustee 1917-1930)

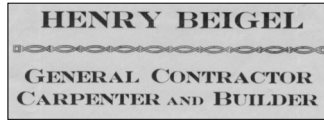
Born: July 22 1877

Died: March 1, 1936

Occupation: Carpenter

Where they lived: 21 Edward St.

Fun Fact: According to the 1900 U. S. Census, Henry was a servant for the Edward Busse household in Elk Grove Village. It was very common for young able-bodies to seek employment at a neighboring farm. He was 22 at the time. His brother, Herman, was the manager of the Schillo Pickle Company. Henry built many of the homes in Mount Prospect.



Who: Henry Haberkamp (Village Trustee 1917-1919)

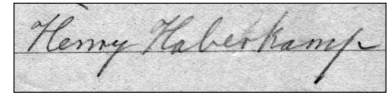
Born: November 17, 1863

Died: November 16, 1940

Occupation: Florist

Where they lived: Elmhurst Ave. and Central Rd. (Currently where the U. S. Post Office now stands.)

Fun Fact: In addition to being one of the original Trustees, Henry Haberkamp was also the driving force behind the establishment of the Mount Prospect Citizen's Band in 1927. He argued that a town was not complete without the presence of music and entertainment.



Who: Herman Wuerffel (Village Trustee 1917-1918)

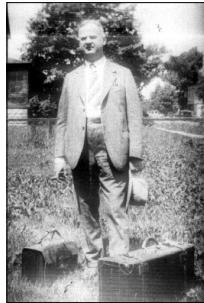
Born: 1876

Died: 1932

Occupation: President of the Utility Battery Company and Northwest Power and Light Co.

Where they lived: Downtown Mount Prospect

Fun Fact: Being the owner of the electric company in town, Herman and his wife made it their ritual to get up in the middle of the night and walk together to the power company to read the dials and check on things. It was one of his wife's fondest memories. Can we say, "power" couple?



Who: John Pohlman (Village Trustee 1917-1927)

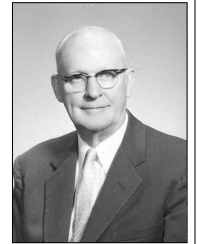
Born: March 30, 1889

Died: March 2, 1975

Occupation: Station Master for Mount Prospect's train station

Where they lived: 1 S. Owen St.

Fun Fact: Despite John's young age and inexperience at the time, William Busse asked him personally to be a charter member of the Village's board. When John questioned Busse's choice, he told John, "I noticed that you can sit up and listen and pay attention, and that's all you've got to do, and use your judgment." According to John's oral history, William Busse was like a father to him, and he often went to Busse for advice.



Who: Ernest Gosch (Village Trustee 1917-1924)

Born: May 20, 1874

Died: January 25, 1946

Occupation: Reporter for the Cook County Herald, employee of the Mount Prospect Creamery, and custodian of the Mount Prospect Public School (Central School.)

Where they lived: 106 S. Elm St.

Fun Fact: To celebrate Ernest's 40th birthday in 1914, four wagon loads of old and young people gathered outside his home at 8 p.m. to surprise him for his birthday. Men, women and children convened in his home for cards, games and good conversation until the guests departed his house at 3 a.m.!



Who: Henry J. Ehard (First Village Clerk 1917-1924)

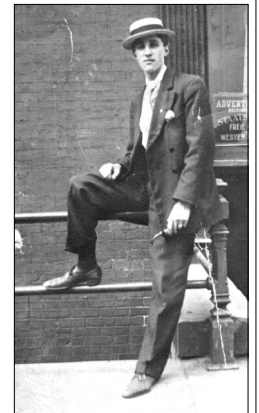
Born: July 15, 1888

Died: September 21, 1942

Occupation: Chief Accountant for the Cook County Highway Department

Where they lived: 106 S. Maple St.

Fun Fact: Henry J. Ehard was married to Mathilda Busse (Wm. Busse's daughter,) on Thanksgiving Day in 1910. He was a member of the Arlington Heights Twn. High School board from 1928-1934 and the treasurer for St. Paul Lutheran Church from 1926-1931.





MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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GET YOUR CENTENNIAL "FLARE" TODAY!



There is a variety of commemorative Mount Prospect Centennial items available for sale both locally and on the Centennial website, www.mountprospect100.com/store.

Yard signs proclaiming a homeowner's support for the celebration are being sold for \$15 each (cash or check only) through the Mt. Prospect Park District's Central Community Center, 1000 W. Central Rd., and RecPlex, 420 W. Dempster St., as well as through the River Trails Park District's Marvin Weiss Center, 1500 E. Euclid Ave.

All other items are available for viewing and purchase through the Centennial website at www.mountprospect100.com/store. Shipping and handling fees will be charged and there will be a minimum merchandise charge of \$20 to use PayPal or a credit card. Items may also be purchased at the Mount Prospect Historical Society museum, 101 S. Maple St., on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., (847-392-9006). They may also be sold on occasion at a "pop-up" type of shop during selected local events like the Farmer's Market.

The items which are being sold through the website, Historical Society and at local events to help support the celebration include:

- Centennial Baby Onesie: \$20
- Centennial Posters ("Train Station at Sunset," "French Market," and "Rainbow over Downtown."): \$20/each or \$50/set
- Centennial Lapel Pin: \$5
- Centennial Coin & Ornament Set (silver 75th Anniversary coin and Centennial crystal ornament): \$75
- Centennial Yard Sign ("We Are Proud Centennial Supporters"): \$15

