

# Flagg Creek Heritage Society Newsletter

Fall 2007



## Calendar of Events

Tuesday, September 18, 2007 6:30 p.m. Pot Luck Supper 7:30 p.m. Program: The Chicago Portage, film "Connecting Continents" about the important historical site. Pleasant Dale Park District Recreation Center.

Tuesday, October 16, 2007 7:30 p.m. Pleasant Dale Park District Recreation Center Program: "Iwo Jima", a talk and exhibit about one of the most dramatic battles of World War II. Guest speaker: Greg Clark.

Tuesday, November 20, 7:00 p.m. Again at the Park District Rec. Center. "The Christmas Tree Ship" the story of how many Chicagoans got their holiday decorations from Wisconsin forests.

Sunday, December 2, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Christmas at the Robert Vial House.

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## Corn Roast Volunteers

For many years, the same hard-working volunteers, led by Kevin Robbins, have staffed the FCHS Corn Roast at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Donors from the same group underwrote the cost of food and supplies this year, resulting in \$1460

profit. Sausage-on-a-stick was added to the menu and sold well. Thank you, volunteers, for another awesome fundraiser.

## Robert Vial House Awarded National Register Status

We are pleased to report that the Robert Vial House was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on August 31, 2007.

This honor is the result of a tremendous effort beginning with the nomination paperwork prepared by Joanna Hofmann Dowling. The requirements included a highly detailed technical description of architecture, materials and restoration of the house and further data.

A representative of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency visited the house in May. Then in July, the agency held hearings at the University of Chicago. FCHS President Alice Latham and Pleasant Dale Park District Director Rosalind Wendt Epting made a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions about the house. The Illinois agency people voted unanimously to approve and send the nomination on to Washington D.C.

The good news of acceptance for the National Register came in September.

While rejoicing about this honor, we remember the people who envisioned saving the house way back in the 1980's. The late Roger Anderson sold the house to FCHS for \$1.00.

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((House recognition cont.))

The Pleasant Dale Park District provided the land for relocating the house and underwrote part of the restoration costs. Their ongoing support has been indispensable.

The Historic Place designation would never have been achieved without the expertise and craftsmanship of the late Ron Nelson, our guide and mentor. Without the work of innumerable volunteers, the restoration would have been impossible. And the financial support of so many FCHS members and friends, and in-kind donations, were also key to reaching National Register status.

We are indebted to Joanna Hofmann Dowling who created the National Register nomination as part of her Master's degree from the School of the Art Institute. Thanks Joanna, and congratulations on this achievement!

## WWII PROGRAM

The photo of the American flag-raising on Iwo Jima during World War II is one of the most iconic images in 20<sup>th</sup> century history. On Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Park District Recreation Center, speaker Greg Clark will talk about the battle that cost so many lives, on both sides of the conflict.

Mr. Clark, a retired history teacher, did not serve on Iwo Jima, but visited the island with a reunion group of veterans who did. Because visitors are allowed on the site only one day a year, this is a rare opportunity to gain insight and perspective decades after the famous battle ended. World War II veterans are encouraged to attend his presentation, along with members of FCHS and friends. Refreshments will be served.

## Holiday Programs

With the holiday season approaching, our program on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the Park District Rec Center, will feature author Rochelle Pennington of West Bend, Wisconsin. Her story of the "Christmas Tree Ship" is all about the transport of holiday trees on the waters of Lake Michigan to Chicago. Many will remember the well-known painting by Charles Vickery depicting one such a ship docked in the city.

Ms. Pennington's book will be for sale in time for holiday giving. Refreshments will be served.

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY STARTING TIME: 7:00 P.M..

Questions about our programs: Call Alice (708) 839-9616, or Hazel (708) 246-1335

## Visitors Welcomed

The Daisy Hill Questers toured the Robert Vial House this summer, as did the County Line Questers. These groups are made up of people interested in antiques, most of whom collect a very specific category of treasures from the past. Recently FCHS has received checks from the Daisy Hill, County Line and Petticoat Patriot groups. FCHS is grateful for their continued interest and support.

A group from Washington Square in Hinsdale visited the World War II exhibit at (Cont.)

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## Visitors (Cont.)

the FCHS Museum.

The visitors shared their own recollections of wartime on the home front and recounted stories of friends and loved ones in the service during the 1940's.

## Recent Acquisitions

Interest in the World War II exhibit at the museum generated a number of donations for our permanent collection:

- Air Force and Navy uniforms
- Army uniform jacket, shirts and ties
- A World War II parachute
- V-Mail letters from servicemen overseas
- Air Corp "sweetheart" jewelry
- Assorted uniform patches
- Scrapbooks of memorabilia
- Photos
- Wood and canvas army cot
- Graphic material related to Japanese dictator, Tojo.

Several items were loaned for exhibit:  
A Marine uniform and scrapbook,  
German field radio, U.S. cavalry boots,  
CCC photos and memorabilia.

## Special Events

### "A River Runs Through It" The Rendezvous

Sat. & Sun - Sept. 29 & 30  
Columbia Woods  
Willow Springs

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### Open House & Cemetery Walk

Historic Lyonsville Church  
Joliet & Wolf Roads

Sun. Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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Tune In :

"The War"

PBS - Channel 11

Check newspapers for starting times

Ken Burns' compelling multi-part documentary about World War II abroad and on the home front. A historic TV event.