

# Flagg Creek Heritage Society Newsletter

Spring 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, 7:30 p.m. Again at the Park District Rec. Center. "The Christmas Tree Ship" the story of how many Chicagoans got their holiday decorations.

Tuesday, May 15, 2007, 7:00 p.m. Tour of the Zook House on the grounds of the Catherine Legge Park, 5901 So. County Line Road in Hinsdale.

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About George Godfrey: A resident of downstate Athens, IL, George is a Citizen Potawatomi, a descendant of Shabonna the well-known Chief who sometimes took shelter with the Vial family in the 1830's.

George's ancestors includes Watch-ke, a daughter of Shabbona, who was caught up in the forced dispersal of Potawatomis from Indiana to Kansas, a fate often repeated in various locales during the 1830's.

George's lengthy career in Indian affairs includes work with the Illinois Natural History Survey, the Haskell Indian Nations University, and as Program Leader in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture working with Tribal Colleges to develop teaching and research capacities in the agricultural sciences.

## GEORGE GODFREY, Ph.D.

Citizen Potawatomi, educator, researcher, interpreter, and descendant of Chief Shabbona

In an illustrated talk

## "A Potawatomi History via Watch-ke's Trail"

**Sunday, March 18th  
1:30 p.m.**

Pleasant Dale Park District  
Recreation Center -- 7425 So.  
Wolf Road

The public is invited for this special event. We hope for a large turnout of FCHS members and their friends. Everyone welcome!

For more information : (708)  
246-1335

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## **ANNUAL MEETING COMING**

Mark Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. in the Pleasant Dale Park Rec Center, for the society's Annual Meeting and chicken dinner. Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. A donation of \$4.00 per person will help defray the cost of the chicken.

Following dinner the Election of Officers for 2007-2008 will be held, and then a presentation by Alice Latham and Peg Komendanchik entitled "World War II at Home and Abroad". Alice will discuss the home front here in the U.S. , while Peg will speak of her experiences in wartime England.

As this year's museum exhibit centers on WWII, we are hoping members will loan memorabilia or photos to round out the items from FCHS archives. We are particularly looking for someone who will loan a 1940's U.S. Army uniform to add to the Navy and Marine outfits in our collection. Please check with friends or neighbors to see if they have something to loan from the wartime era. Call Alice at (708) 839 - 9616, or bring items to the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **IN THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY**

The May meeting of FCHS will be held at the Katherine Legge Park, a very short "road trip" away at 5901 County Line Road in Hinsdale. At 7:30 we will gather in the Legge Lodge for a visit to the Zook

House, which was moved from its' original site in town to the park in recent years.

Restoration of the home is underway, a process well understood by veterans of the Robert Vial House project ! Harold Zook, a well-known architect in local circles, designed many homes with charming details and quaint roof lines. We'll hear about the restoration from a Hinsdale Historical Society docent. Refreshments will be served in the Lodge, a building with an interesting history of its' own. In case of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors.

## **SUMMER EVENTS**

Plans are being made for a dedication of the Prairie Garden in the rear of the Vial House. Funded by the Pleasant Dale Garden Club and memorials honoring Walter Rackow, the native plants will soon emerge from snow cover of our wintery weather.

The custom designed sign installed near the garden identifies the varieties of plants, along with a photo and brief biography of Mr. Rackow.

The date for the dedication will be announced soon.

Planning for the Park District's annual Fourth of July celebration is also underway. The FCHS Museum and the Vial House will be open and the highly anticipated Corn Roast is scheduled for the late afternoon and evening hours.

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## **“TRAIL OF DEATH” LOGO**

The logo shown here and on the front page were designed by David Thomas Anderson of Seattle, Washington. Mr. Anderson is an artist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Band. He designed the logo for the Trail of Death Regional Historic Trail which was the route followed by Watch-ke on the 2-month march to Kansas.

The logo represents “ the little family walking the trail, led by a red-tail hawk who looks back to make sure they are coming o.k.”

