

Check our website
at: www.rosellehistory.com

MUSEUM HOURS

Open from 2-4PM every Sunday and almost any other time by appointment. Phone 630-351-5300 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS: We are always looking for people who are interested in helping preserve the history of our village and the surrounding area. Do you enjoy working on displays, gathering historical evidence, researching photographs or just putting around cutting news articles for our archives? We can also use people who are handy with tools to do miscellaneous repairs and modifications or, assist with building displays, floats, etc. There are no fixed hours and your compensation is the good feeling you get when you have helped us complete an important project. Please call us at 630-351-5300.



See page 3

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Roselle History Museum Newsletter

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Spring 2015 Issue

On April 11, 2015 we will welcome award winning folksinger and multi-instrumentalist Chris Vallillo to present his program, *Stephen Foster and the Rise of Popular Music*. The event will be at the Trinity Lutheran Family Life Center, 405 S. Rush Street, Roselle. A wine and cheese reception prior to the 8:00 p.m. program featuring wines from Lynfred Winery begins at 7:30 p.m. Please see the enclosed insert for ticket information.

From his first hit with "Oh Susannah" in 1848, through his death in 1864, Stephen Foster created music that touched millions of lives and still lives on to this very day. In his lifetime, his songs were known and sung around the world and played a large part in the creation of an emerging popular American culture. Looking back, they also reflect the complex, torturous relationship between black and white cultures of the young nation. Chris will perform nine of Foster's best loved songs while exploring the impact of this legendary American icon and his music on American culture.



A ROSELLE QUIZ

1. When was Roselle incorporated as a Village?
2. Who was the first woman Mayor of Roselle?
3. What was the original purpose of the building housing the Main street stores?
4. What unique vehicle did Police Chief Richard Lamar use in the 1950s?
5. What organization financed the Scout Lodge on Pine Street?
6. Where was the first Roselle Public Library located?
7. In the 1950s there were several taverns in one block along Irving Park Road. How many were there and what were their names?
8. When did Roselle first get electricity and where was it generated?

(Answers found on page 3)

Where did the Roses come from?

If you know the basics of our village's history, you know that it was named after a gentleman by the name of Rosell Hough. Mr. Hough was an entrepreneur, civic leader, and visionary. He was responsible for bringing the railway to the village; it was originally to follow Lake Street instead of Irving Park Road. Mr. Hough also started the village's first commercially successful industry, flax seed milling. While Mr. Hough did many great things for what would become the Village of Roselle, he was not known for his rose garden. In fact, there is no historical evidence to support he had such a garden! So why is it that our village's seal incorporates three roses? The connection from Roselle to rose is quite easy to make, but there is more of a story here.



It was not until 1961, 39 years after the village's incorporation, that Roselle was proclaimed the Village of Roses. A few years earlier the Rosellian Club was formed. This club was formed to create a better sense of community, and improve civic pride. Ultimately through many of the clubs initiatives, they would influence the Village of Roses proclamation and help to solidify the image of the rose with Roselle.

In 1956, Dr. C.F. Nagro, one of the founding members of the Rosellian Club, arranged "Roselle Dear Home Town". Dr. Nagro wrote the words of the song to match the music of "Moonlight & Roses" by Edwin H. Lemare in 1888. Lemare's work was previously put to words by Ben Black and Charles N. Daniels in 1921 and sold over a million copies. In Dr. Nagro's version, he declares that Roselle is his "choice of the golden crown," "destined for fame," and is known by the symbol of the rose. While not all of his assertions have come true, Dr. Nagro was correct in regards to the symbol of the town.

In 1960, Dr. Nagro and his Rosellian Club hosted the first annual Rose Festival from August 1st through the 7th (the festival is now typically held the first weekend in June). This village tradition has grown over the years, and now includes four full days of live music, food, carnival rides, politicians, and a parade. In 1972, at the suggestion of Dr. Nagro, a Rose Queen Pageant was incorporated into the festivities. Until 1984, a traveling trophy was used, where the winners name was engraved and they only held it for one year.

One large event was not enough for the village, and the first Taste of Roselle was held August 6th & 7th 1982. From a single booth at the Taste of Roselle, with grape stomping and seed spitting, Lynfred Winery has expanded to create the village's third festival, Oktoberfest.

While Rosell Hough may be our village's founder, we truly have Dr. Nagro and the Rosellian Club to thank for the rose theme of our town. Without them, we would not have a unique song, the Rose Festival, the Taste of Roselle, or our wonderful civic pride.

Jill Gross, *Etched in Time*, (Roselle Historical Foundation, 1991)5-10

Gross, *Etched in Time*, 49

"Edwin Lemare," *Wikipedia*, accessed January, 22nd 2015, <http://www.wikipedia.com>

Edwin H. Lemare arranged by C.F. Nagro, "Roselle Dear Home Town" (1956)

Gross, *Etched in Time*, 49

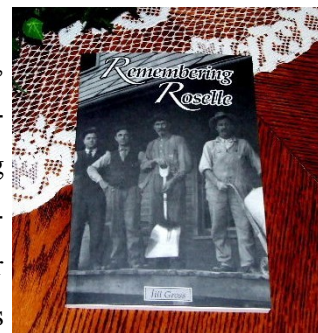
A Historical Vignette



In 1873, Roselle Hough may have used his position as president of the Chicago & Pacific Railroad Company to influence a rail route through the Roselle section of Bloomingdale Township. Originally the railroad was supposed to come from Halsted Street, through Bloomingdale, and on to Savanna, Illinois. Hough and a group of local businessmen lobbied to have the train route go through Roselle.

It was rumored that Hough paid \$10,000 to have the survey changed. Hough knew this new railroad would bring additional growth to Roselle.

The above information came from page 13 of our picture history book, ***Remembering Roselle***. The book contains 130 pages of pictures, descriptions and other historical information about Roselle and the surrounding communities. It can be purchased for only \$20 at the Roselle History Museum or the Roselle Village Hall. If you aren't already a supporting member of the museum, find out how you might get a complimentary copy of this great book by joining. See the application on the back page of this newsletter.



ROSELLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Roselle was incorporated in 1922
2. Sandra Birdsall.
3. It was a dairy that processed milk to be shipped to Chicago.
4. Richard Lamar drove a three wheel motorcycle.
5. The Scout Lodge was financed by the Roselle Lions Club.
6. The first Roselle Public Library was in the basement of the public school on Pine Street. It was built in the 1930's as a WPA government project. The Librarian was Mr. Marschand.
7. There were three taverns. They were the Brown Derby, Benhardt's, and Max's (or Jerry's)
8. The exact date is not known but we believe it was 1919 or 1920. It was generated in the Key & Chapell Dairy building which was on Main Street. A man named Saltzman started the I.R.B. (Itasca, Roselle, Bartlett) Electric. In December 1922 it was sold to Public Service Co. of Northern Ill.

Yes, I'd like to help the Museum! *Here's my membership contribution for 2015*

Mail to: Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St. Roselle, IL 60172

☐ *New* ☐ *Renewal* ***Circle One:*** \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 *Other* _____

☐ I have joined/renewed for at least \$50 and would like a free copy of the ***Remembering Roselle*** history book.

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The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation, and your contribution may be fully tax deductible

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM

39 E. ELM STREET

ROSELLE, IL 60172