

# Roselle History Museum

## Summer 2022 Newsletter

Official publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation  
39 East Elm Street, Roselle, Illinois 60172-2026 (630-351-5300)  
Email: [museummanager@rosellehistory.org](mailto:museummanager@rosellehistory.org)  
Website: [www.rosellehistory.org](http://www.rosellehistory.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rosellehistorymuseum>

### *President's Report*

I am incredibly pleased that after being closed for over two years the museum is now open for everyone to enjoy.

During the two-year period volunteers worked on two large projects. The first one was a serious mold problem on the first floor of the Coach House. All the documents and pictures we placed in boxes, along with the cabinets and furniture, and moved to the Sumner House. The wallpaper, carpeting and baseboards were removed and the glue had to be washed off the walls. Then the walls were painted with two coats of a special mold resistant paint and new carpeting and baseboard were installed.

This project cost the museum over \$10,000 in materials and labor. A very big thank you to all volunteers who worked on this project.

The second project, which is still ongoing, is to catalog all the "historic treasures" that have been donated to the museum over the past 25 years. We started with the items not currently on display. If we have too many of one item or if the condition was not good enough to be displayed, it was either destroyed or set aside for a garage sale. We must still catalog all the items currently on exhibit. If you would like to volunteer on this project, we would greatly appreciate it.

Check out the Centennial  
Banners around downtown!

By Ray Hitzemann  
RHM President



Photo Courtesy Roselle Sister Cities German Committee

*From the Archives*  
*By Joan Beauprez*

A glimpse into the past is hidden in a small book in the Roselle History Museum archives. It contains notes of a women's social club whose meetings, in 1931 through 1934, reveal activities from a small group of Roselle friends who met once or twice a month in each other's homes. One entry tells of playing air plane bunko and having a covered dish supper.

The women called it "The Thursday Evening Club." It was organized in 1913 by Mrs. Selma Thieman Warskow. Dues were collected to be used for special occasions, such as a charity gift basket or a corn roast picnic in the park.

Eight undated photos plus a few newspaper articles were donated along with the book. An early unidentified photo shows the club friends sitting on a lawn with their needlework. Other photos are of two different reunions. Of special interest is a photo taken by the Sumner House which is now part of the museum campus. In 1935, Miss Violet Sumner hosted a party luncheon honoring the founder of the Thursday Evening club.

Many of the members had names that some Rosellians might recognize: Troyke, Bokelmann, Hitzemann, Schmoldt, Hattendorf, Becker, Sauerman, Bortner, Baker, Scamehorn and Druehl.

Thank you to LaVonne Theis Presley for donating the book that last belonged to her mother, Clara Becker Theis.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Family and Children's Programming at The Museum*

The Roselle History Museum is planning many new programs for families and children. Going forward, we are dedicating ourselves to educating our community about Roselle's past and into the present.



We would like to invite all families to come to the Settler's Picnic on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Whether you

would like to pack your own picnic lunch or purchase a taste of German cuisine, we are sure that you will enjoy the day! Live music provided by Tank and The Beez will surely delight young and old. We also have games for the kids to enjoy as well as a few other surprises! We also invite you to take a tour of our historical museum and the 1920's era Richter House. I hope we see you there!

Looking ahead, there is a Halloween Hunt planned for October. Bring the kids to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon as they hunt for their Halloween goody bags on the beautiful grounds of the Roselle Historical Museum Campus. Participants are also invited to take a tour of the museum house, as well as the Richter House. This event will be free for all children 2 to 12 years of age. There may be other surprises in store, so stay tuned to our website as well as our Facebook page for further details.

## JOIN THE FUN!

*"It's a smile, it's a kiss,  
it's a sip of wine...  
It's summertime!" — Kenny Chesney*



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## *Marketing Manager's Corner*

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2022 is an important year for the village of Roselle as it is celebrating 100 years since its incorporation. Special events are planned throughout the year to recognize Roselle's history and introduce residents to what makes Roselle unique—its devoted organizations and friendly businesses.

The Roselle History Museum is hosting several exciting events to usher in a new chapter in Roselle history.

On June 18th, the museum will host an antiques appraisal event in partnership with Leonard Auction. Participants' first item will be appraised for free, and each thereafter is \$2. Have a large item like a painting or piece of furniture that is too large to transport? Bring a picture of the item from every angle—an appraiser can assess your item that way, too!



On July 16th, 3pm-6pm, join us outside the museum for the Old Settler's Picnic—reminiscent of the large picnics held in communities like Roselle in days past. Expect to see reminders of Roselle's German and agricultural roots. Making this event even more special, DuPage County's Centennial was commemorated with an Old Settler's Picnic on July 15, 1939 in Roselle—83 years before that same weekend.

Finally, on Saturday, September 24th, Trinity Lutheran Church and the Roselle History Museum will host a cemetery tour at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery on Irving Park Road. Costumed docents will share stories and memories of Roselle's citizens who walked the same streets as us years ago.

At such a time as this, I am proud to be a Roselle resident and be able to be a part of the Centennial celebration. I hope that the events this year instill a sense of pride in Roselle and allow residents to become more engaged with their community and its legacy.

*Keri Soukup*

*Marketing Manager*

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## *From The Museum Manager's Desk...*

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With the warmer weather upon us, we once again venture outside in search of fun and interesting things to do. The Roselle Historical Campus is a welcoming space, filled with wonders - such as the Richter House, the Sumner House Museum and, of course, the beautiful museum grounds!

The Richter house is frozen in time with 1920's era artifacts that will amaze and delight you and yours. Take a tour with the docent as you hear of the Richter family and delight in a story or two. The Richter House is where we film all of our Christmas video's and delve into Roselle's family history. Who were the people of Roselle and how did they live 100 years ago? It's fascinating!

The Sumner House museum has been, and will continue to be, the center of Roselle history. Each room is dedicated to a different subject; from farming to military artifacts, to Roselle's rich government history, as well as the changing face of Roselle over the years. Coming soon will be a Compare and Contrast exhibit where you can compare modern-day Roselle with what used to occupy that space... was it a farm? Was it a factory? Is your house an original structure? Or did another occupy its space? Who were the pioneers of Roselle and where did they live?

Of course no tour of the campus would be complete without an invitation to take rest at one of the original Pizza Cottage tables and benches on the grounds, or to stroll the beautiful vintage gardens. Strollers, joggers and dog walkers are always welcome – we love all of our visitors!

Don't forget to check out our Facebook Page, [Facebook.com/rosellehistorymuseum](https://www.facebook.com/rosellehistorymuseum) as well as our website, [www.rosellehistory.org/](http://www.rosellehistory.org/) for information about upcoming events and newly expanded hours.

Whether it's a suggestion about programming – which is always welcome; or just a hello, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to drop me a note at [museummanager@rosellehistory.org](mailto:museummanager@rosellehistory.org)

Stay well and stay curious!

*Leslie*

*Leslie Drewitz, Museum Manager  
Roselle Historical Museum*



## Roselle Oral Histories Roundup



Do you have any awesome memories or stories about Roselle? Would you like to sit with the museum manager and recount those memories for an oral history?

We would LOVE to hear personal recollections about living and working in Roselle! Your personal oral history will be archived for future generations to enjoy and will be kept in the museum in perpetuity. C'mon! Join the other Rosellians who have trusted us with their personal remembrances. We make it so easy – you can even do a phone interview if you would like!

We love Roselle and we know you do too! So contact the museum manager and schedule a meeting today!

To hear the details and set up an appointment, email Leslie Drewitz at

[museummanager@rosellehistory.org](mailto:museummanager@rosellehistory.org)



We are in need of volunteers to help us with the events we have planned for our Centennial year and for other projects we work on throughout the year. If you can spend some time helping us, please contact our Museum manager, Leslie Drewitz at [Museummanager@rosellehistory.org](mailto:Museummanager@rosellehistory.org) or call our main number (630-351-5300.) Thank you in advance for your help. It is most appreciated and it's also fun!

*Volunteers don't necessarily have the time,  
they have the heart!*

*Elizabeth Andrew*

## Presidential Piece

It is too easy to forget that historical figures were, at their core, regular people. They become villains or they become heroes, but rarely are they ever just seen as humans who lived their lives. Often, it takes a mundane fact about them to help those living today feel a sense of connection to those who lived in the past. One of these facts that has always stood out to me was that Abraham Lincoln loved cats. With the weight of a whole nation on his shoulders during the height of the Civil War, Lincoln was not above taking the time to scratch a kitten behind the ears. There is something about Lincoln doing something so mundane that seems odd to many people. He was known for his humor, sadness, and compassion. But even with all this, this mundane fact seems remarkable.

The stories about Lincoln and his love for animals are legion. He was known for having many pets, both before and during his time in the White House. Cats, though, always seemed to have a special place in Lincoln's heart. In addition to strays, Lincoln had two cats in the White House. Lincoln received two kittens as a gift from his secretary of state, William Seward. Naming them Dixie and Tabby, Lincoln doted on them. Much to Mary Todd's horror, he even once fed Tabby from the table during a formal state dinner. Like for so many people throughout history, his cats became his companions as he would often sit and talk with them while sorting through his thoughts on the issues he faced.

What is most remarkable about all of this is how unremarkable it all is. While the image of high-level military decisions being made by a man cooing over three kittens seems a bit odd, it is not all that different than someone getting work done with their cat sitting on their lap or their desk. This image helps to humanize Lincoln and remind us that he was, at the end of the day, just a person. By remembering that great historical figures were just people like the rest of us, it makes it so that the lessons of history start to feel more applicable to our current situations. Mundane facts about their lives help in connecting us to them. Lincoln led the nation through its greatest trial with consummate skill, becoming a globally revered and downright beloved figure in the process. And like us, he loved his cats.

*By Tom Piorkowski*

## *Slice of History*



Tim Grasso, Roselle History Museum board member, volunteer and former business owner, wrote an article that was included in a supplement to the Daily Herald on March 20. The article was about suburban places that live forever in our memories. Tim started with the Pizza Cottage at the age of 14, when he got his first job. Tim was the owner of the Pizza Cottage from 1990 to 2007 when it closed its doors.

Exhibits showcasing Pizza Cottage and Shirl's Drive-In memorabilia are on display in the Roselle History Museum. Come in and see them and all the other interesting exhibits at the Museum.

### *Three Decades Ago*

Thirty years ago this spring, Roselle began the process of delivering Lake Michigan water into the homes of its residents. Lake Michigan water was and is a fabulous commodity in terms of quantity and quality. Water hardness is commonly expressed in "grains of hardness." Roselle well water averaged 29 grains of hardness and Lake Michigan water has about 7 grains of hardness.



By summer of 1992 homeowners began to notice a significant decrease in the amount of soap required for laundry, bathing, dishes, etc. Dingy looking clothes, water softeners, mineral stains and lugging heavy blocks of salt became history.

Bringing Lake Michigan water to Roselle residents is one of the most significant Public Works projects in the history of Roselle. It ensured us having a stable water supply for many decades to come.



Photo,  
Courtesy of  
Roselle  
Sister Cities  
German  
Committee

## **SHIRL'S ALERT!!**



Miss Shirl's Drive In?  
Dreamin' of that ice cream?  
Two special events  
this summer will feature  
authentic Shirl's ice cream--  
**You don't want to miss it!**

**Sunday, June 12:** Hotrod/Classic Car Parade & Shirl's Reunion. 1PM @ Trinity Lutheran Church

**Saturday, July 16:** Roselle Arts and Culture Foundation Mosaic Event, 3-5 PM @ Sparkle Lot @ Main & Prospect (next to 8000 Miles)--



### *Message from the New editor*

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all the Roselle History Museum newsletter readers. My name is Janice Wood. My husband and I lived in Roselle from 1979-1986. I moved back to Roselle in January of 2021. We always loved the village of Roselle and took part in many of the events over the years. Things have changed quite a bit since we first lived here and I've enjoyed exploring those changes.

I worked in the publishing and media industry for over 16 years. I was excited and a little nervous to take on the job of the new editor of the newsletter but was thrilled to be asked.

I want to sincerely thank Kay Cahill for the multitude of information and guidelines she has shared with me. Kay has been an amazing help to me in getting started with this new endeavor. She did a wonderful job with the newsletter for the past 10 years. I really hope I can do as well.

I am very open to any suggestions or comments you would like to pass on to me. You can email me at [editor@rosellehistory.org](mailto:editor@rosellehistory.org). Would love to hear from you!

*Janice Wood*

**How do you like our new design?  
Feedback welcome!**

# Roselle History Museum Newsletter

39 E. Elm St

Roselle, IL 60172



*A people without the knowledge of their past history,  
origin and culture is like a tree without roots.*

**MARCUS GARVEY**



**Summer House**

#### **Mission Statement**

To maintain and enhance a historically accurate museum with primary focus on Roselle and surrounding areas

To collect local facts and artifacts of today that will be part of our village history and pride tomorrow.

To provide a dynamic historical and educational resource for

#### **Board of Directors & Staff**

President: Ray Hitzemann  
VP/Treasurer: Glenn Spachman

Members: Joan Beauprez,  
Lee Beauprez, John Binneboese,  
Walter Brinas, Tim Grasso,  
Walter Lotz, Janice Wood

Museum Mgr: Leslie Drewitz  
Marketing Mgr: Keri Soukup  
Village Board Liaisons:  
Wayne Domke, Tom Piorkowski

#### **General Meetings**

Second Saturday of the Month  
10-11:30 am - 39 E. Elm St.

#### **Museum Hours**

Sundays: 2-4 pm  
Wednesday through Saturday  
10 am - 2 pm, by appt

#### **Newsletter Deadlines**

Jan 15 - April 15 - July 15 - Oct 15  
Editor: Janice Wood  
editor@rosellehistory.org

#### **CONTRIBUTION FORM**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:    \$30    \$50\*    \$100    \$250

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **TWO NEW WAYS TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION VIA PAYPAL**

1) Scan the QR Code at the right to donate

2) Go to <https://tinyurl.com/PayPalRHM>

\_\_\_\_\_ \*My contribution is at least \$50. Please send me a free copy of the "Remembering Roselle" history book.

*The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution may be fully tax deductible*

