

Official publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation
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Special Visitors

On October 7, during the 2022 Centennial celebration, three visitors from Laatzen, Germany were welcomed to tour the Roselle History Museum. Karen Ostrander led the Sister Cities Association German delegation as they enjoyed seeing the history of life in our village. They were all impressed with the Sumner House and especially the Richter House, where they took many photos.

The photo below was taken by Karen and includes delegation members, Luisa Oyen, Patrick Mewes, and Josey Rabehl. The photo also includes Joan Beauprez acting as a docent.



"Spring adds new life and beauty to all that is"
— Jessica Harrelson



"Halls of Power: Stories of the Sometimes Ridiculous Trials and Tribulations of National Leaders"

Following several cancellations, The Roselle History Museum is happy to announce the return of its annual **Historical Evening!** Come see presenter, Tom Piorkowski, as he talks about the humor of politics, ranging from the absurd to the somewhat risqué. Learn about the vice president who missed an important vote because his opponents timed it for his daily nap, the president who faked his temper tantrums to frighten opponents, and the house speaker who rose to power by haranguing an empty chamber. *See Page 5 for more historical stories.*

Tom Piorkowski is a long-time volunteer at the Museum and has been an adjunct member of the faculty at Elmhurst University since 2016, where he teaches US history.

Program

Saturday, April 15

6:30: Wine and Cheese Reception

7:00 Program



Following the program
coffee and cookies will be served

Tickets may be purchased beginning in
March at the Museum office
or the Village Hall

Adults: \$15 in advance
Tickets purchased at the door: \$18 for adults
Students age 6-12: Free

You may also reserve tickets by using the order
form enclosed with this newsletter

For more information, call the Museum
Office at 630-351-5300 or email
museummanager@rosellehistory.org

From the Archives
By Joan Beauprez

Slice of Life

In the museum research library, are several old handwritten logs from the Roselle Police Dept that were rescued and then donated to our archives. These random comments are from the 1962 Police logbook. Stolen cars, stray dogs, and very serious matters are all recorded for that year. No names, addresses, or dates are reprinted here for privacy purposes.

Note: "Heavy traffic for a hot day. The only cool place in town was Turner's Pond during the fireman's water fight. Routine Day."

Call: "Owner of Dog & Suds had me come over and remove a fellow that would not leave or move."

Note: "Spotted two little girls – preschool age, walking down Maple and waving at cars, no clothes. Got mothers to bring some. These children were four blocks from home?"

Call: "from E Thorndale, wild animal in yard, went to check out – raccoon – not doing anything, some women jumpy as heck."

Call: "from _____ Glendale. Woman's husband was at one of our Business Houses and he had a dog in the car. While inside dog locked the car with keys in it. Had to take another key down to him. (Believe me, this is the truth!!)

And there you have a little
slice of life in 1962.



Roselle is a species of flowering plant in the genus Hibiscus that is native to Africa, most likely West Africa and also found in India especially Maharashtra with local name ambali.

From the Museum Manager's Desk

Greetings and Happy New Year from all of us at the Roselle History Museum! As we start this year, it's hard not to reflect on the previous year. 2022 saw a lot of new activities at the museum, which I am very proud to say will be back this year - notably:

The Antiques Appraisal Event – which was a HUGE success. Reviews had a 97% approval rating! For a nominal fee, patrons had their treasures appraised by certified appraisers from Leonard Auction house. Carrie Young, the Managing Director has consented to come back in the Spring of 2023 and we couldn't be more pleased! Look on our social media for updates!

The Settlers Picnic was a fun time for all and is slated to be back again this summer, with more fun than ever! Adults and children alike make this a very popular event with food, drink, a live band, games for the kids and a pie eating contest that was the hit of the picnic! We cannot wait until the summer!

The Halloween Hunt will be back again in October with a hunt for treats, take home crafts and a magician that will delight the adults – as well as the children. Marshall Brodien has followed in his father's footsteps (Marshall Brodien Sr. – 'Wizzo the Clown' from Bozo Circus). Mr. Brodien really knows his magic!

We are so pleased to announce that all three on-site events will be back on campus this year! If you would like to help sponsor any of these events, we would love to work with you. Please contact us at museummanager@rosellehistory.org or (630) 351-5300. We hope you will join us this year to make all three events the biggest and best they can be. We hope we see you there!

Be on the lookout for other changes at the museum this year as well. We will be doing some exhibit remodeling, as well as opening a little store where patrons can purchase various things – most notably, penny candy!

Suggestions, Updates or Questions? Contact Leslie Drewitz, Museum Manager (630) 351-5300 or museummanager@rosellehistory.org

Stay well and stay curious!

Leslie

Leslie Drewitz, Museum Manager

Marketing Manager's Corner

One of my favorite things about the Roselle History Museum is our digital archive of historical Roselle photos. In 2005, the museum partnered with Roselle Public Library and digitized a collection of nearly 800 photos documenting Roselle's growth and development. These photos present many different artifacts of Roselle's history: weddings, new construction, family photos, family homes, buildings, class photos, parades and festivals, and so much more. Museum archivists and volunteers selected photos, dated them when it was possible, and wrote informative and sometimes humorous captions for each photo.

I recently spoke with a museum visitor who was looking for historic photos of Roselle to display in his home. I directed him to the digital archive, which he was not familiar with, and assured him he would be able to find something that appealed to him! I have also seen several businesses around town displaying historic Roselle photos. I would encourage any and all businesses to follow suit and show their community pride and appreciation of local history.

If you follow the Roselle History Museum on Facebook, you will notice that we enjoy sharing these historic photos on our page—often generating happy reminiscence. I encourage you to visit the archive today at

<http://www.idaillinois.org/digital/collection/p16614coll6>

I've included one of my favorite pictures below. I hope you enjoy these and enjoy discovering the archive!

Keri Soukup

Marketing Manager



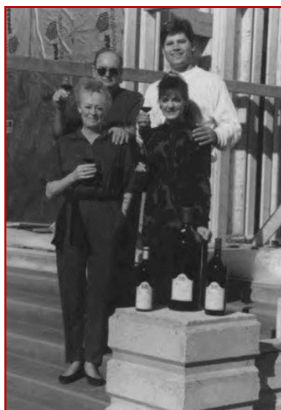
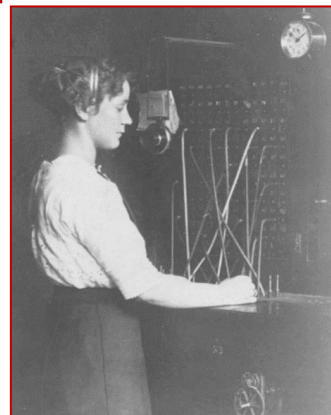
Henry Bokelman and Louise Poppe in front of the Bokelman house at 32 East Irving Park Road on their wedding day in 1913.

Looking Back.....



In late December 1978 through January 1979 a heavy snowfall dumped up to 2 feet on roofs and roadways. Jerry Tipperreiter measures more than 2 feet of snow on the roof of his home on Foster Avenue.

Mrs. Ethel Cooper McDougall, a telephone operator in the 1920s, would give the time or call firemen. In the 1930s, after a policeman was hired, she turned on the fire station's green light to notify the officer that he had a message or phone call.



Fred Koehler and the management group of the Lynfred Winery raise a toast to the construction of the new bed and breakfast addition to the winery. 1990.

The first public school in the Roselle area was built at the corner of Park Street and Pine Street. It was completed in April 1877. The school had one room and only four or five students.



1. Who was sometimes referred to as "Mr Roselle?"
2. What was Irving Park Rd originally called?
3. Who was Roselle's own Olympic Gold medal winner?



Keep reading to find the answers !



About Adams

In looking back at the drama surrounding the creation of the United States, it quickly becomes apparent that so many members of the founding generation have become mythologized to a large extent, coming across as either heroes or villains. George Washington has become the dashing military hero who continually put off his much sought after retirement in order to serve his country. Thomas Jefferson has become the country gentleman who seized his moment and drafted an eloquent document which has inspired countless individuals in the succeeding generations before he set out on a long career in public service. Benjamin Franklin has become the brilliant scientist who represented the best of America to the leaders of continental Europe and in the process secured money, recognition, and ultimately peace for the young United States. Aaron Burr has become the promising young politician who let his ambition and vanity overwhelm him until he eventually killed a fellow founder in a duel before embarking on a borderline treasonous endeavor in the southeastern United States. These sketches are ultimately true in a sense, but it is important to keep in mind that many historians over the years have poked countless holes in these narratives which give them more nuance and has allowed these figures to be treated as the human beings they were instead of the marble statues they seemed to be for so long. Despite this, there is still a certain aura which attaches itself to the members of the founding generation.

John Adams was unique amongst his colleagues because in many ways he has not received this treatment. Despite being present for many of the important events in the history of the Revolution and the early Republic, and often playing vital and sometimes key roles in them, he so often seems overshadowed by those who have become mythologized. In many ways this is because Adams presented himself to the world in a different manner than many of his contemporaries, creating the sense that they were somehow different from him despite their being similar in so many respects. This seeming difference has led many historians to claim that Adams is their favorite member of the founding generation due to the candor he so often displayed. While so many of his colleagues consciously attempted to present themselves in a manner which would appeal not only to their contemporaries but to posterity as well, Adams was always, whether in speech

or in writing, unflinchingly true to himself. This part of his personality becomes a combining thread which helps to connect many aspects of his life that seem at first to be paradoxical in nature.

He was a radical revolutionary who helped create a massive republic in a world still dominated by monarchies while he simultaneously believed fervently in the need for hierarchical structure in society, complete with aristocratic and monarchical trappings once they were divorced from heredity. He also fervently believed that he should be a member of this newly emerging aristocratic class. When describing how as a young man Adams adopted a pen name and writing style which replicated that of a farmer for a series of political articles, historian Gordon S. Wood adds that “[a]lthough Adams may have begun his career writing as a hick farmer, he had no intention of remaining one of the common people.” Wood further emphasizes this by noting how Adams never celebrated his humble origins, but instead tried to outdo those who could live by their lineages and family names. This was one of his main character traits which was almost always present in him, even though it was seemingly out of place when viewed alongside his republican ideals.

He could be an intensely pragmatic and grounded person who occasionally, for reasons of principle, honor, or emotion, could take courses of action or submit to paper writings which can only be described as sentimental at best and foolhardy at worst. The intensely practical side of his nature is most apparent when looking at how despite his ardent patriotism Adams never embraced the emerging myth of American exceptionalism, a sentiment shared by many of the founders. Instead, as he expressed when writing on U.S. foreign policy, he believed that the American people were “like all other people, and shall do like other nations.” Despite this Adams could be moved to write sentimental statements, such as how he believed that “the Revolution was effected before the war commenced” and that it produced a change “in the minds and hearts of the people.” It is this access to his emotional world that has made him a favorite of so many historians.

By Tom Piorkowski

Historical Evening

Stephen King once commented that it is easier to write history than fiction because fiction has to be believable. History is filled with individuals and events that are often absurd. There are few figures in history that this statement is more applicable to than Theodore Roosevelt. His life was a whirlwind and he lived it like as if he was an impatient child who could not sit still. When he passed away in his sleep, then Vice President Thomas Riley Marshall commented that death had to take Roosevelt when he was sleeping, otherwise there would have been a fight. He also loved to be the center of attention, leading his daughter to comment how he wanted to be the bride at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral. His hyperactive personality led him to do things that are at times impressive and at times ridiculous. Living what he called "the strenuous life," he pursued both physical and intellectual pursuits with gusto. While president, he would invite martial arts practitioners to the White House to spar with him. He was so proud of his achievements that he once demonstrated a judo hold on a Swiss diplomat during an official state luncheon. Also while president, he was even blinded in one eye while sparring with a professional boxer in the White House. His intellectual pursuits were even more impressive, however. He was fluent in German and French as well as being able to speak conversational Italian. He was a speed reader who regularly read at least one book a day and he was an author of multiple tracts on a broad array of topics.

What is even more impressive about all of this is that he did it while continuing to work with the same gusto he brought to his private pursuits. He invested in western cattle ranching, but instead of staying in the east and hiring people to work for him, he went out west and participated himself. This included him once tracking and apprehending some boat thieves and bringing them to the local sheriff. While serving as a police commissioner in New York City, he did not just sit behind a desk.

Instead, Roosevelt would wear a disguise and patrol the streets at night in order to find officers being negligent of their duties. His way of doing business alarmed many established politicians. Following the death of William McKinley's first vice president, the Republican party nominated Roosevelt as their vice presidential candidate in 1900. He had been serving as governor of New York and many party bosses did not like having a governor they did not feel they could control. The vice presidential nomination was meant to silence him by kicking him upstairs to an office where he could, in their eyes, do less damage. Many political bosses were greatly alarmed by this, with RNC Chairman Mark Hanna commenting to anyone who would listen that there was now only one life between that mad man and the White House.

By Tom Piorkowski



Upcoming: New Look



Fresh paint and a new look will be featured in the Sumner House Museum second floor this Spring! Two new Centennial banners will be hung on the newly painted stairwell walls. Reconstruction of the hallway has begun with the removal of a false ceiling, where a small boarded opening that leads to an attic was discovered. What lies beyond is yet to be revealed! Look for photos in the next newsletter and come to visit other exciting new additions to the exhibits in the Spring.



Subscriptions for Flags for Roselle's 2023 season are now open! Visit our website at flagsforroselle.weebly.com for more information!



1. William Sauerman moved to Roselle in 1882 and was active in Roselle throughout his lifetime.
2. Irving Park Rd was originally called Chicago Street.
3. Mark Gorski is a 1984 Olympic Gold medal-winning cyclist

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

39 E. Elm St

Roselle, IL 60172

Newsletter generously
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Itasca Bank & Trust Co.

Together we'll shape the future

"We are not makers of history –
We are made by history"

Martin Luther King Jr.



Sumner 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 our residents and visitors.

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Piorkowski

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Mary Beahan, Peggy Ott,
Sharon Jach and
Michael Drewitz

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

Editor: Janice Wood
editor@rosellehistory.org

CONTRIBUTION FORM

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

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

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

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TWO NEW WAYS TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION VIA PAYPAL

- 1) Scan the QR Code at the right to donate
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