

HISTORICAL UPDATE

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 1 WINTER 2012

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the new year begins, we all spend time looking back and looking forward. As members of the Warrenville Historical Society, my hope is that you can look back with pride on the many ways in which we as an organization have preserved and promoted Warrenville history during the past year. A big “thank you” goes to our Director, Sara Phalen, for all she did with the museum collection and our programs, while still preparing for her November wedding—congratulations, Sara and Brad! Thanks, also, to all the volunteers who helped in many different ways with the Cemetery Walk, which was attended by more than 130 individuals. Let me extend a special word of thanks to the Museum Guild for all their work throughout the year, culminating in the annual Christmas Fest. I am grateful to you who supported our Member Open House in December. Finally, thanks to all who served as docents, assistant docents, or Board members, or who volunteered in other ways during the year.

As members of the Warrenville Historical Society, my second hope is that you will look forward to how you can become more actively involved with our museum and our programs in the coming year. In this newsletter, you will read about our plans for 2012. Will you plan to attend our “1862 in 48 Minutes” program on January 23rd? Will you visit our website? Will you contact our Director to volunteer to become a docent or assistant docent? Will you let Lucy Bernard or me know that you would be willing to serve on the Board? I hope many of you will answer “yes” to one or more of these questions.

I look forward to seeing you at the museum and at our upcoming programs. I welcome hearing from you about how we can better serve you as members and how we all can further our mission.

--David Anderson (630-393-1768)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan. 23 1862 in 48 Minutes

Feb. 5 Museum Reopens

Feb. 17 Mornings at the Museum

March 16 Opening Art Exhibit

March 27 Mornings at the Museum

Warrenville Historical Museum & Art Gallery

February - May,

September-December

Sun. 1-4 p.m.

June, July & August

Wed. & Sun. 1-4 p.m.

1862 IN 48 MINUTES

On Monday, **January 23, at 7:00pm**, at the Warrenville Public Library, the Historical Society will host “1862 in 48 Minutes,” a program detailing the historic second year of the Civil War, month by month, highlighting local and national events. Aided by a visual presentation, presenters will detail life in Warrenville and the events facing our country during the War.

As our nation continues to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, this multi-media talk is part of the Historical Society’s four year program “Warrenville & The American Civil War.”

The program is free to the public and light refreshments will be served. Please contact the Historical Society with any questions.



Ashley Carpenter,
Warrenville’s first Civil War casualty

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THOSE WERE THE DAYS BY CITY HISTORIAN LEONE SCHMIDT

As our country honors the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, many are promoting the places President Abraham Lincoln visited. The following is taken from City Historian Leone Schmidt's response to the question of whether or not Lincoln was ever in Warrenville, originally published in the *Warrenville Digest* on August 26, 1993, and reprinted in the pamphlet "Ask the Historian." "Ask the Historian," as well as *For the Honor of our Flag*, a book written by Leone Schmidt about Lincoln's friend Mason Brayman, can be purchased at the Museum.

"There was a close association between Abraham Lincoln and Mason Brayman, who lived in Warrenville in the 1850s. Brayman settled in Springfield in 1842, when Lincoln was finishing his third term in the state legislature. Both were highly regarded practicing attorneys. Governor Ford chose Brayman to revise and codify the state statutes in 1844, and later to direct the conciliation efforts between

the Mormons and their Nauvoo neighbors. While Lincoln was away in Washington for the 1847-48 term in Congress, the Braymans leased Lincoln's home.

"After drafting its charter in February 1851, as general solicitor for the emerging Illinois Central Railroad, Brayman's task was to acquire right-of-way. The first attorney he hired was his friend, Abraham Lincoln. Brayman's association with the IC was over in four years when construction was completed, and he opened a law practice in Chicago. Lincoln, however, was trying its cases until he was elected President.

"It was in 1852 that Brayman first bought property in Warrenville. The family moved to the home at 3S476 Fourth Street the next year, and his eldest daughter, Ada attended the Seminary located next to their house. No record has been uncovered to indicate that Lincoln ever was a guest in the Brayman home, although the possibility exists. Meanwhile, I don't think Warrenville can post a road sign declaring 'LINCOLN SLEPT HERE.'"

MORNINGS AT THE MUSEUM

"CREATIVITY IS
CONTAGIOUS.
PASS IT ON." -
ALBERT EINSTEIN

On **Friday, February 17th, between 10:00 am and noon**, kids of all ages can stop by the Museum for **Mornings @ the Museum**, our drop-in craft event. During the February event, children will engage their creativity to design their own picture frame.

Many artists create their

own frames for original artwork, including the famous Albright family who used the Museum's building as an art studio from 1924-1952. Some of the hand-crafted frames made by Adam Albright and his twin sons, Ivan and Malvin, can be seen in the Museum's Art Gallery. Kids can gain inspiration from those frames and then decorate their own to frame a

photograph or piece of artwork.

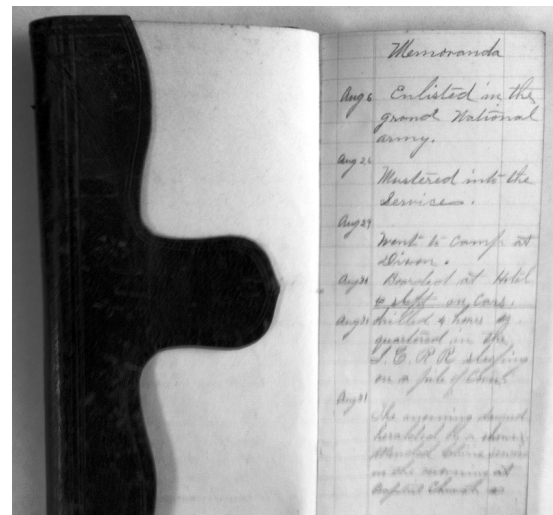
This program is free and materials will be provided. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Please contact us at (630)393-4215 or info@warrenvillehistorical.org with any questions.

Upcoming Mornings @ the Museum dates:

March 27th, April 6th

JANUARY ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

Ashley Carpenter, was the son of Sarah Warren and Abel Carpenter, the nephew of Colonel Julius Warren, the founder of Warrenville and of Philo Carpenter, Chicago's first pharmacist. Ashley was born in Warrenville in 1842. Like many of the brave men of Warrenville, Ashley volunteered his service to the Union during the Civil War. He enlisted on August 6, 1862, and joined Company B of the 105th Illinois Infantry, at barely 20 years of age. Ashley kept a diary of his months in the war, seen at right, before perishing due to typhoid fever on November 30, 1862. Ashley was the first of Warrenville's 17 Civil War casualties. His diary contains invaluable information about the day to day life of Warrenville soldiers.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

Do you know a Warrenville senior heading off to college in the fall? The Warrenville Historical Society is happy to offer a \$500 scholarship to a 2012 graduate from either Wheaton Warrenville South or St. Francis High Schools. The senior must have also graduated from Bower, Johnson or St. Irene's elementary schools and be a current Warrenville resident to apply. Please see our website

www.warrenvillehistorical.org for more information and to download the scholarship application. Applications can also be picked up from the Museum on Sundays from 1-4 starting February 5th. Students can also receive an application from their schools guidance counselor's office. We strongly encourage all students who qualify to apply. The application deadline is April 15, 2012.



2011 Scholarship recipient Caitlin Hutchison with her mother and Historical Society Board Member Lucy Bernard

NEW EXHIBITION: WARRENVILLE INSPIRED

The Historical Society is excited to announce its upcoming exhibition **"Warrenville Inspired."** With partial funding from the City of Warrenville Hotel Motel Tax Fund, the Historical Society has invited 20 artists to create a new piece of art work inspired by our collection and Warrenville history. Artists will work closely with our Director/Curator Sara

Phalen and guest curator and internationally displayed Danish-born artist Anni Holm, over the next couple of months. Warrenville inspired creations will be displayed from Friday, March 16th-Sunday, April 22nd at the Historical Museum & Art Gallery. We hope to see everyone at the **Opening Reception on March 16th** from 6:00-9:00pm. Artist talks and other programs will

be held during the exhibition. Extended hours will also be in placed during the exhibit. Please look for more information to come.

An exhibit of other original artwork from the 20 selected artists will also take place at the Warren Tavern, located next to the Historical Museum at 3S520 Second Street, during the show's opening weekend, March 16th-18th.

"I FOUND I
COULD SAY
THINGS WITH
COLOR AND
SHAPE THAT I
COULDN'T SAY
ANY OTHER WAY
-THINGS I HAD
NO WORDS FOR."
-GEORGIA
O'KEEFE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS HONORED

On November 10, 2011, the Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce honored the Historical Society's own volunteers Nancy Olufs and Connie Weimer. Volunteers from the Warrenville and West Chicago communities were acknowledged at a reception at Pheasant Run for their fine work. Nancy and Connie are both dedicated members of the Museum Guild that hosts the annual Christmas Fest-Craft & Bake Sale and also do a wonderful job planning the annual Summer Tea & Scholarship Fundraiser. Both events

raise vital funds for the Historical Society that allow us to continue our mission of preserving and presenting Warrenville history. These events are well attended every year, no doubt in part to the exquisite presentation Nancy and Connie work so hard at! Thank you for all your service and dedication! This is a well deserved honor for Nancy, Connie and all the other volunteers recognized.



Nancy Olufs and Connie Weimer along with other Warrenville & West Chicago volunteer honorees, including former Mayor Vivian and Dwight Lund, Jenny Lund, Fred Olufs, Emily Larson, Dorothy Deer, and Ted and Tina Coons.



WARRENVILLE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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Lucy Bernard

Lance Haack

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Troy Kibler

Connie Vuono

Board Meetings:

Second Monday of the Month

Newsletter Editor:

Sara Phalen, Director/Curator

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter to keep up-to-date on all of our exciting events!
And subscribe to our blog at www.warrenvillehistorical.wordpress.com to track the Civil War years in Warrenville and beyond as told through the diaries of Warrenville resident Hiram Leonard and Civil War soldier Ashley Carpenter.

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