

*Preservation is Progress
...may we be worthy stewards...*

Chautauqua Historical Society

Volume 5, Issue 2, Number 12

Spring 2007

- The Newsletter is published three times a year: winter, spring, and fall.
- The Newsletter is a membership benefit at the Piasa Bluffs Assembly (PBA), Patron, and Regular levels.
- **PBA** members have a membership in the Chautauqua Network
- CHS members are encouraged to submit articles to the editor for inclusion in the Newsletter.

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We have 19 PBA, 65 Patron, 7 Regular, and 16 Golf Scholar members, and will send this Newsletter to 170 households.



Glenncliffe: the Cow Barn in 1932, now a dormitory. Story on page 7.



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The President's message

Much of the activity of the Chautauqua Historical Society in recent years has been focused on papers and photographs that describe our community's past, its people and events. The collection is impressive and growing. We have been sorting and cataloging these materials, and storing them in archival folders and boxes. We buy our

archival supplies from companies that provide these materials to museums and historical sites.

When Katrina hit the southern coast of the United States, it damaged greatly homes, businesses, and the economic and social life of the region. It also weakened the historical fabric of the area. I visited Biloxi, Mississippi five months after the storm and, after talking to folks, learned that many of the records and photographs collected and saved by local historical societies were destroyed, along with the buildings themselves. Katrina forced me personally to think about the storage of our Chautauqua records. We need to not only protect these materials in an archival environment, but also move on to the process of storing the records electronically. It has been a dream of the Historical Society to preserve these records beyond the traditional way. This means scanning the documents and placing the records on CDs. The CDs require little storage room, but a secure storage space is still needed. Perhaps a safe?

Some of us have been dreaming about a safe for years. Now the dream has come true, thanks to Linda Schaeffer. One of Linda's clients had a small safe she wanted to give away, and it became ours for the cost of moving. We now have the safe in the Kentucky Home. Our thank you note to the donor was also a receipt for a tax deduction, thanks to our IRS status.

The Society will now begin the process of buying an archival materials software package. Our own board member Pat Miller, Executive Director of the Illinois Heritage Association, has recommended we use *Past Perfect*, a program used by many small museums and historical societies/homes. Our plan is to store and preserve our materials by scanning or entering information into computer files, using *Past Perfect*, then placing the information on discs and storing the discs in the new safe.

Archival work will be done on Tuesday mornings again this summer. One specific project will be researching and collecting data on the many memorials located throughout the grounds. The memorials have come to us in many forms: trees, chapel windows, garden benches, even the rug in the Indian Giver. We will be contacting lots of folks for help with this project.

We are really pleased with our membership numbers. Our *Piasa Bluffs Assembly* level increased by almost 100% from 2005-06. The most recent "membership drive" netted six new members. Thanks to all of you for supporting the effort to preserve our past.

Rose Tomlinson

2007 Memorial Flag Exchange Schedule

May 29

June 10

July 4

July 7

July 8

August 8

September 3

Raise the flag
Jack Hormell
Jim Thatcher
William Clarkson
Chautauqua
Veterans
Memorial Day
William Grundmann
Paul Hattery
Retreat the flag



PRESERVATION IS PROGRESS

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The mission and purpose of the *Chautauqua Historical Society* is the preservation and enhancement of the historic traditions and culture of New Piasa Chautauqua, Chautauqua, Illinois, the encouragement of historical research on the Chautauqua community and nearby historic districts, the publication of historical brochures, pamphlets, and other written material on New Piasa Chautauqua, remaining permanent assemblies and chautauquas in other parts of the United States and the national Chautauqua movement, and the establishment of an educational program to inform the Chautauqua community and the general public of the historical and educational value of New Piasa Chautauqua.

Centennial Cottages

Our Chautauqua, known locally and nationally as the *Piasa Chautauqua*, celebrated its 22nd season 100 years ago. Six cottages were added that year. Cottage building, which began in 1890, was important in 1907 as the community continued to develop its sense of permanency.

William Sauvage leased lots 63 and 96 on St. Louis Avenue and built what is now the cottage of Tim and Rose Tomlinson. The first name we have for the cot-



tage is *Sunset* (1949); it is now called *The Gardens*. His cottage may have been the only one in the community with a full

basement. Sauvage built the original pool in 1904, and sold it to the community in 1925. He was an important committee chair in the state's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Lincoln-Douglas debates (1908), bought stock in the reorganization scheme in 1909, and was at one time Mayor of Alton.

Two families—Wennecker and Corrington, leased Phil and Dorothea Polster's principal lots, 79 and 80. The present cottage was first named *Oakhurst* in 1938, and retains that name. The Wenneckers were Chautauquans for almost fifty years. James Corrington was an influential Methodist minister, and friend of the Chautauqua founders—Benjamin St. James Fry, F. M. Van Treese, and others. He served in the Civil War, beginning as a private and leaving as a captain. He passed away at Chautauqua in 1907. A window in the Chapel is dedicated to him.

Lots 494 and 495, now held by Joe and LaVerne Smith, are another two family-two dates story. The former was held originally by a Lawrence Ewald, and secured by Piasa Chautauqua Assembly stock. The latter was

held J. B. Ulrich, also secured by PCA stock. Ulrich was a president of the corporation. The leaseholds were combined in 1921. Joe and LaVerne purchased the cottage in 1968 and named it *Camelot*.

Tom and Linda Hagemann are the leaseholders for lot 232, which dates back to 1907, leased to William A. Hockaday, and secured by Piasa Chautauqua Assembly stock. Over the years, additional parcels were added to the leasehold. The Hagemann's joined the Chautauqua community in 1986, and named the cottage *Mississippi Nights*.

As is the case with many Chautauqua sites, the leasehold(s) held by Ruth Nickols consists of more than a single lot, and the cottage is not the original structure. Yet, one of Ruth's lots dates back to 1907, leased to Mrs. Eunice Bliss of St. Louis, Mo., and secured by Piasa Chautauqua Assembly stock. The first name we have for the cottage is *Minnie-Hu-Hu*, dating back to 1931; Ruth still uses that name for the cottage.

The history of the present Adams leasehold dates back to 1907, when Mrs. Douglas Wall leased lot 59, secured by Piasa Chautauqua Assembly stock. The cottage is prominent in photographs of the early 1900s that show the St. Louis Avenue entrance to Chautauqua. Also, we have seen a letter from a Chautauqua official to Dr. F. William Grundmann, grandfather of Bill and Gordon, advising him of the building of a new cottage and commending the new owners to him. The cottage has been in the Adams family since 1959, and it has been *The Maples* since that time.



Roque at Chautauqua **by Bob Hormell**

Although the game Roque is for the most part unknown by the majority of Americans, it still has a bit of mystique to those of us at New Piasa Chautauqua (possibly in part because of the "Men's Court" which still exists – more or less). For those who arrived at NPC subsequent to the early 1970's this mystique may well in itself be mystifying; for those of us who were "in residence" prior to that time it was a natural phenomenon.

What seems to be known about roque is that it was clearly derived from croquet; removing the "c" and the "t" from each end of the word "croquet" yields the obvious result. Also obvious in some respects, it appears that this is a result of the American penchant to enhance/change a European-derived game into a clearly American owned game. It would appear that croquet, a game of royalty in the 18th and 19th centuries, was transported to the "new world" about 1870 or so and within a short span of thirty years was "enhanced" into what we more or less know as roque. The prime rationale for transforming croquet into roque seems to rest on a purely American trait of "complexifying" a simple game and making it "more scientific."

Roque, as a scientific endeavor, is akin to billiards in its reliance on a "constrained field" where there is a well-defined perimeter and very strict rules of play. Croquet merely set out wickets on a wide-open field; roque created a field that was confined with rigid exterior walls (be they wooden at first or concrete later) and immovable wickets. The presence of permanent perimeter walls allowed the technique of using carom shots to achieve goals to win that were not a part of the more open croquet.

In the early decades of the twentieth century roque was clearly a very popular game. It was an official game at the 1904 Olympics held in St. Louis. Unsurprisingly, the gold, silver and bronze medals all went to US citizens (probably because no one else was prepared to participate). As might be expected, roque as an official sport for the Olympics never surfaced again when the games were subsequently held in other countries.

As one might also expect, the game went through its own evolution, particularly with respect to the court itself. Originally, the court was a 45 by 80 foot space which then was modified to 36 by 72 feet and finally to 30 feet by 60 feet. In all cases it was not a true rectangle, but had "corners" of some eight or so feet in length and

set at a 45-degree angle that caused the corners to be also playable in the banking approach again akin to billiards.

Roque's popularity has also been captured in literature because it was a truly popular game across the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. John Steinbeck in his novel "Sweet Thursday" devoted a chapter entitled "The Great Roque War" to a discussion of the effect of the competitive aspect of roque on the community of Pacific Grove and Monterrey, California. This episode depicted the degree to which roque could cause a game to polarize a community and cause civil unrest. Another author, Stephen King, in his book "The Shining" has a perpetrator use a roque mallet as a weapon of death. Thus, roque has not gone unnoticed as a part of our cultural heritage by the literati. It also was so popular that Harpo Marx had his own personal roque court on the roof of his personal premises.

Roque in the past at Chautauqua

Roque was a popular game to play at Chautauqua from about 1900 into the 1960's. Today one can see only one court that was designated the "Men's Court". However it is clear from early pictures that there were once three roque courts at Chautauqua. The main court was the "Men's Court", the second court was the "Women's/Children's" court as it was known in the 1950's and was located between the Administration Building and the Milster cottage. There was a third court that is "hidden" today but appears in at least two pictures from the past. This third court was situated where the current horseshoe courts are. If you look closely at the concrete perimeter of that area, you will see the configuration of the third court which is confirmed by the referred to pictures.

In the mid-twentieth century there were still two courts that were used widely and often by Chautauquans: the Men's court and the Women's/Children's court. These courts were daily "manicured" to ensure that players could expect a quality environment in which to play. It seems, however, to be the case that Chautauqua "modified" the official rules of play compared to the official rules. For example, the official rules required four balls to be in play: one red, one white, one blue and one black. NPC used three black balls that were at all times available to all players. The start of play at NPC was that "teams" would play one of the three balls in the center of the two central wickets and, using the remaining two balls alternatively by team attempt to hit the central ball from a position in the opposing corners to initial play. The official rules also seem to permit a player/team to

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The Players

We used the email communications system to learn the identify of these gentlemen. Carolyn Schlansker, Buffy Griesedieck, Bill Osborn, Barbara Russell, and Betsy Drackett were helpful.

As best we know, they are, front row, left to right: M. Edwin "Captain" Johnson, Dave Coughlin, Christian Bernet, and Judge Robert Flannigan; back row, left to right: William Caulfield, not identified, Louis Haynes, and Price Showmaker. One sleuth thought the unidentified gentleman was the son-in-law of Mr. Haynes. *Photo, courtesy of CHS Archives.*

"clean the table" by traversing through all the wickets in one continued play

Over time roque as a game experienced a gradual but consistent decline in the interest of the populace of Chautauqua. The major players died or left Chautauqua. This is not inconsistent with what was also happening around the United States. Interest in Roque seemed to peak in the period between the two world wars and had a focus in the Midwest as evidenced by the fact that the National Roque Association had its registered agent located in Carlinville, Illinois. But as time went on, the participants also disappeared. Chautauqua seemed to lag in the decline of interest by about a decade or two.

Roque Today

The state of Roque in Chautauqua today seems to be consistent with the state of roque elsewhere in the United States. In Santa Monica, California as recently as January 23, 2007 the city council voted to eliminate the roque, shuffleboard and horseshoe areas in their Reed Park because of underutilization. (Sound familiar, at least in terms of where those facilities are commonly located??) A similar action had occurred in Saint Petersburg, Florida but at a much earlier time. The level of interest as expressed by the populace and also the level of support by the political entity has reached a low point. The fate of roque as a dynamic game rests upon the current populace and their desire or lack thereof to create a degree of interest in continuing a game that has an illustrious history in the United States and Chautauqua in particular.

Thanks to Carolyn Schlansker, and some of our archival resources, we offer the following personal information: "Captain" M. Edwin. Johnson was a long-time official manager of New Piasa Chautauqua, a minister, and a law-and-order person—he banned card playing on cottage porches. Mr. Coughlin was Walt Griesedieck's grandfather, and occupied the Tim/Katie Schaeffer cottage and the Griesedieck cottage. Christian Bernet was president of Chautauqua for fifteen years—1910-1925, and he was succeeded by Dave Coughlin. Judge Robert Flannigan was the step-grandfather of Bill Osborn, and at one time or another, owned the Thatcher/Armstrong, Conley, Foss/Whiteley, and present Osborn cottages. Mr. W. Caulfield owned the present Bob and Dianna Donnelly cottage. We think the unidentified young man was the son-in-law of Louis Haynes, who is standing next to him in the back row, and who owned the cottage that stood originally on the Schulenburg leasehold, that cottage destroyed in the 1957 fire. Price Showmaker was Carolyn Schlansker's father, and owned originally the cottage across from the Men's Court. She remembers her mother taking his breakfast and lunch over to the roque court—but never dinner!

Congratulations to our 2006-07 second semester **Chautauqua Golf Scholars**: Rachel Deluca, nominated by her grandparents, Herb and Norma Milster; Mark Drescher, nominated by his parents, Dan and Sharon Drescher; Jessica Hamm, nominated by her grandparents, Joy and Carl Raab; and, Jimmy Whiteley, nominated by Jim Whiteley, his father, and Karen Foss. We now have sixteen scholars as honorary members.

Flora B. Dawson

For Children of All Ages

STORY TELLING

EACH day the story telling hour relates to some particular country. Costumes of the respective countries are worn and many interesting curios are shown, and the future days of the boys and girls will be enlivened and brightened by the memory of the historical real points and beautiful stories gleaned from this hour.

Miss Dawson Tuesday afternoon had perhaps 150 children and nearly as many of their elders to listen to her program of miscellaneous stories. After the stories came the drills, which are of great interest to the youngsters. Thursday she will tell a number of Dutch and Scotch stories. —*Clatsop Journal*.

Folk Games and Dances

Fancy Marches and Drills

The folk games and dances, marches and drills are a pleasant feature in Physical training. We are prone to neglect this training unless we can meet in groups to pursue these exercises. To study, to play games or to exercise alone seems dull, but with a bunch of happy girls and boys together all these become very fascinating and thereby deriving a great benefit and pleasure at the same time.

Miss Flora B. Dawson, who so successfully organized this department last season, returns to us again. She has planned some interesting work which will comprise both the beneficial and the artistic. She with her class will have charge of one of the evening programs, which last year proved one of the best during the Assembly. She makes poetry out of Physical exercises. —*New Piasa Chautauqua Year Book*.



Director of Childrens' Work

SYNOPSIS OF STORY PROGRAM

Tales from the Land of Wooden Shoes. (In Costume.)
 Stories straight from China. (In Costume.)
 Japan Fairy Lore. (In Costume.)
 Indian Folk Lore. (In Costume.)
 Scotch Stories. (In Costume.)
 Bible Heroes.
 Patriotic Stories.
 Mother Goose and Her Story Treasures. (In Costume.)



Children's Program, 1912

This material was collected online, from the website of the Library of Congress. It is part of *The American Memory* project of the Library. The original document is held by the University of Iowa, part of its *Traveling Culture: Circuit Chautauqua in the Twentieth Century* collection. The collection provides access to documents that illustrate the history of the "traveling" or "tent" Chautauquas. These lecture circuits featured all types of entertainment. William Jennings Bryan, who visited our Chautauqua four times, was a leading figure on the traveling circuits, often speaking at more than forty venues each season.

Miss Dawson was at New Piasa Chautauqua in 1911 and 1912. She must have been a patient and formidable person—imagine having 150 children at a Tuesday afternoon program.

Glencliffe, by Kate

An important historical landmark lies just around the corner from Grafton. What is this place, and what is it used for? From the highway all that is visible is a stone estate house. There is a rich history in that house, and in the land surrounding it. What the land and buildings are used for today are very different than their original purpose.

Harry Hill Ferguson was the first owner of Glencliffe Jersey Farm. One of two children born to Jane Hill and

William J. Ferguson, H. H. Ferguson was born September 15, 1867. He lived all his life in Alton. At the age of 13 he dropped out of school and started working in a railroad office. In 1888 he took a job as a commercial agent with the Bluff Line Railroad and was soon promoted to general manager. The creator of the Illinois Terminal Railroad System, H. H. Ferguson was very successful in the railroad business. He then moved on to other ventures, such as the

Alton Waterworks and the Lewis and Clark Bridges. He was also responsible for the electrification of the Alton Street Railway System. H.H. Ferguson married Mary Baker. They had one daughter, Dorothy.

With all of his success he decided to build a country home. He purchased 2000 acres in an area west of Grafton called Camden Hollow in 1922. Ferguson wanted to develop his country home into a dairy farm. He hired Yugoslavian stonemasons for the estate buildings. They were completed in 1932, and consisted of an estate house, a carriage house with staff quarters, a cattle barn, and a calving barn. As a boy, Ferguson has a fondness for Jersey cattle, so he traveled to the Isle of Jersey off the coast of France to purchase cattle the year the house was completed. He purchased 1 bull and 13 cows. He also bought 7 Scottish Roman-nosed sheep.

1928 H. H. Ferguson Goes to Jersey Island for First Of Jersey Cattle Herd

Ferguson's cattle became international news in 1940 when the Nazis overtook the Isle of Jersey and killed all the island cattle for meat. At one time, Jersey County was famous for its elite breed of Jersey cattle, and Ferguson restored this notability to the area.

H. H. Ferguson was proud of his herd, and guarded it very carefully from disease and strangers. Whenever visitors came to the farm they were warned not to contaminate the cattle. If deemed worthy, privileged guests were required

to step onto a mat soaked with disinfectant, so as to discourage the spread of germs and bacteria on footwear entering into the barn. The cattle were well provided for as well. A thermostat to control heat was installed, and an air pump rotated foul air outside. Each stall's floor was designed with corkboard to provide comfort for the cow's hooves. The calves were kept separate from other cows and were kept warm in the winter with steam heat.

The dairy farm was Ferguson's pride and joy. He personally named each thoroughbred and kept close records of their breeding and bloodlines. The cattle were highly rated by livestock judges of that time. Ferguson made sure the cattle were fed their native diet, sugar beets, and carefully watched portions to avoid over eating. Herdsmen from the local area monitored all cattle day and night. Cows even had their own drinking fountain.

The dairy farm was more than just a hobby; it was also very successful. The cattle turned out to be a lucrative investment. In 1941 Ferguson made national news because he played music for his cattle, claiming it increased milk production. Whatever the cause, Ferguson made profits on Glencliffe Dairy Farm. In 1941 he was receiving 500 lbs of milk per day, delivering it locally, and selling the cream to one large buyer. The only setback for the farm was the roman-nosed sheep, the lambs of which could be carried off by eagles if left unattended.

Ferguson also had an interest in local history. The Marquette Monument on Highway 100 was dedicated in 1929 to the explorers Marquette and Joliet, on land H. H.

Ferguson donated from the estate. He was responsible for the original limestone cross overlooking the highway. More than 4000 people attended the dedication ceremony.

Ferguson's health began to decline in 1942, when he was 75 years old. On September 14, 1942, Ferguson's Jersey cattle were sold to various buyers, netting over \$18,000. About a dozen cattle were kept at Glencliffe for Ferguson's own enjoyment. On September 24, 1943 Ferguson passed away from something similar to the flu.

This generous entrepreneur left his entire Glencliffe estate to the state of Illinois. At first the Illinois Conservation Committee used the land for offices and woodworking activities. In 1961 the Illinois Youth Commission took over the land, and it became a forestry camp for male youth. In 1981 the Illinois Department of Corrections made the facility known as Illinois Youth Center at Pere Marquette. In 2004 it became a female juvenile justice facility, and in 2006 it was transferred to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

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Glenciffe is seventy-five years old this year. It has all the requisites for historic place status. The original five main buildings retain their basic 1932 appearance and are in remarkable shape, though they have different functions



Estate House, 1932—now Administration Bldg.

from those of the Ferguson era. The estate house is the Center's administrative building; the carriage house/staff quarters building functions now as classrooms, offices, library, visiting rooms, and a control center. The cow barn is a dormitory, and the calving barn is the Center's "Dietary" or dining hall.

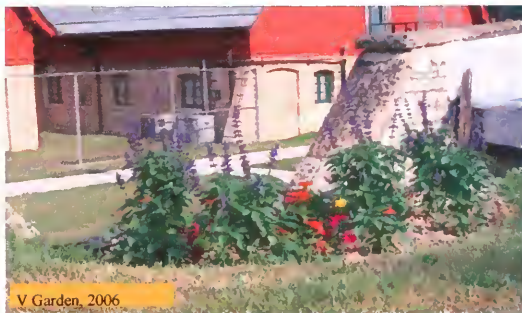
The Illinois Youth Center at Pere Marquette is one of eight youth facilities in the state, and one of two for young women. Anywhere from twenty-five to forty young women can be assigned to the Center at any given time. The mission of the Center is very clear:

Understanding that youth have different needs than adults, it is the mission of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice to preserve public safety by reducing recidivism. Youth committed to the Department's care will receive individualized services provided by qualified staff that give them the skills to become productive citizens.



Carissa's Circle, 2006

Pere Marquette has a full school program that spans generally grades 7-12, provides opportunities for 8th grade certification exams, high school credit, and prepares youth for GED exams where appropriate. Tim Tomlinson gave the 2006 Commencement Address last July; eight young women were involved in the cap and gown event. A well-planned counseling program provides guidance and promotes the development of skills and attitudes that speak to the Center's commitment to reducing the recidivism rate for the young women. A Recreation Coordinator recruits and provides structure for outside volunteers. Many of the current volunteers play an important role in the religious life of the youth. At least two volunteers tutor small groups on a weekly basis. Rose Tomlinson has developed an arts program, often including students from Principia College as assistants/



V Garden, 2006

mentors in the evening program. Tim Tomlinson is an education tutor, and has developed an education/horticulture program—Project GROWE.

GROWE was conceived by the Center's Assistant Superintendent, and is now in its second season. It is a volunteer program for the youth—they must apply to become members of the team. To date, fifteen young women have been involved in the project. In 2007 GROWE will develop and maintain ten separate garden areas, including around thirty "container" gardens, some of which are planted with strawberries and tomatoes. The Glenciffe landscape has been demonstrably changed and improved because of the efforts of the GROWE young women. It seems altogether fitting and proper that this historic local estate benefit from the hard work and educational development of the young ladies who have committed themselves to Garnering, Responsibility, Ownership, Work Ethic.

GROWE is an official outreach project of the Chautauqua Historical Society. A project folder will be available in the Chautauqua Library, this season. The folder will contain a Status Report and financial information. Photographs of the several gardens will be included. No youth will appear in any of the photographs to protect their privacy. The Glenciffe article on page 7 was written by a member of the current GROWE team.

