

PALATINE PALAVER

Newsletter of the Palatine Historical Society



Fall/Winter 2023

30th Annual Cemetery Walk



This was a special year for the Cemetery Walk - the 30th annual year since Connie Rawa began planning this yearly event, the 150th year the Clayson House has been standing and we had some special visitors. Cherri Wood Brown, the great great granddaughter of Hannah Wood was here. So was Petronelle Smith, the great granddaughter of Matilda Meissner Foreman, and Pet brought her own daughter Carrie, Matilda's great great granddaughter.

We woke up to heavy rain, lightning and thunder, wondering if there could even be a Cemetery Walk this year. As if by magic, the heavy rain let up, and after one more short shower, the sun came out. Somehow Joe and helpers managed to get the cemetery set up in time to start the tours. Visitors met some of Palatine's most interesting families - Hackbarth, Wood, Harris, Converse, Allard, and Foreman.



Many thanks to the actors Jim Frost, Ken Gorham, Nathan Etter, Marlee Buenroostro, Sara O'Hara and Margaret Plank, to Joe Petykowski and to Lisa Tomlin from Troost Monument for event information, to guides Elizabeth Ossmann, Kris Piepenburg, Anji Larsen, Claire Locasio, and Holly Petersen, to event volunteers and pre-event support Nancy Cairns, David Hammer, Lesley Hansen, Bev Keagle, Greg Langer, Joshua Ludolph, Kathie McCarthy, Roger McCarthy, Alec Owens. Sue Minott, Joan Scovic, Bob Weder, and the Palatine Park District C & M crew.

Visitors commented that this year's Cemetery Walk was one of the best they had seen, the stories were interesting, the actors were well prepared, and the volunteers were friendly and helpful. Everyone worked well together to make things run smoothly. Guests left the cemetery feeling welcomed, entertained and educated. Thank you to all who made this a successful event.

Join us for a Holiday Open House!



Sunday, December 3
1:00pm-4:00pm

224 E. Palatine Road – Parking lot located off Oak Street

Stop by to enjoy the spirit of the season featuring Victorian decor and a beautifully decorated tree!

The entire Clayson House Museum will be decked out with a variety of decorations from the collection.



Stop in at the Carriage House to see the Doll House decorated for the season as well!

- Free admission.
- Cookies and punch will be served.
- The decorations will be on display through January 7.

Visit www.palatinehistoricalsociety.com or call 847-991-6460
for questions/information

We'd like to thank
Sweet C's Bakery in
Palatine for donating
their delicious cookies
for the event!



www.sweetcsbakery.com
847-496-7929

The Ancient Past of Palatine, Illinois

Dave Hammer

Did you ever wonder what you would see if you could climb into a time machine on your front lawn and take a trip back to an ancient world? Back before settlers arrived from the east? Before Native Americans came in from the west? Before glaciers slid down from the north?

I don't own a time machine, but Palatine does have a pair of time capsules in the form of water wells. In 1969 the J. P. Miller Artesian Well Co. dug a thirteen-hundred-foot well at 550 N. Smith St. Two years later, the company dug a two-thousand-foot well at 148 W. Illinois Ave. The wells supplied water to the village before the introduction of Lake Michigan water in 1986.

'Cuttings' that were removed from the boreholes were described on site in a 'mud log' or well log. The cuttings were then transported to a huge warehouse at the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) in Champaign, Illinois. With geology as a guide, we can read the well logs, study the cuttings and learn the story of Palatine's ancient past.

And what a story it is! For millions of years Palatine was the site of rainforests, beaches and shallow tropical seas. Tropical because our 27-mile-thick granite crust floats on a taffy-like ocean of basalt. The whole continent once sat squarely on the equator but has moved north over the eons.

In time grains of sand pressed together to become sandstone. Coral and seashells crushed into limestone. Debris from rainforests fell on the ground and compacted into shale and coal. The sedimentary rock beneath us can be seen today in cuttings at ISGS. Well logs can be read on their website.

Below Palatine 4000 feet of sedimentary rock lies atop a basement of smooth granite. Our hypothetical trip begins then with a time machine sitting on bare rock and proceeds through hundreds of millions of years of sun, wind, rain, snow and ice eroding the granite. Please be prepared as shallow seas will be washing around us, ebbing and flowing in an endless cycle. A few chapters of our story are missing from the boreholes because glaciers destroyed the evidence. However, we can look at cuttings from other wells around the region to fill in the missing pieces.

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The following is a brief introduction to Palatine's ancient past:

We start our trip a half billion years ago on a hot, almost lifeless, surface of red granite. Please buckle up. Overhead masks will deploy because there is almost no oxygen in the air. Distant volcanoes belch smoke and a thin layer of slime can be seen on the rock around us, an early form of life on Earth. Moving forward in time crustal plates climb over each other forming mountains to the east and north. As the mountains erode, we notice granite boulders rolling downhill toward us. The boulders eventually break up into sand. The sand will get squeezed into sandstone.

Looking out the window our continent moves over a hotspot in the basalt which thins the crust. The crust sinks a little and a saltwater sea moves in and floods the area. Fortunately, our time machine floats! Mollusks and crabs live and die by the billions leaving their shells on the seabed. Eventually the shells will become limestone deposits.

As millions of years elapse, the first plants produce oxygen and usher in an explosion of animal life. Rainforest in our area teems with insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Remains of animals and plants will build up and under pressure turn rich soil into shale and coal. Suddenly, sixty-six million years before the present, a five-mile-wide meteor strikes the Earth creating the Yucatan Peninsula. A plume of noxious fumes blocks the sun. Acid rain and cold weather kill off the dinosaurs and many other creatures. (Yes, dinosaurs probably roamed ancient Illinois!)

Just as the continent returns to its previous elevation it moves into cooler temperate regions and we see mammals standing ten feet high at the shoulder. Mastodons browse among spruce trees and mammoths graze on prairie grass. The gentle beasts are no danger to us if we leave them alone. Soon the weather turns cold and one summer the snow from the previous winter fails to melt. Snow and ice build up and Palatine is overrun by a glacier. Growing a mile high, it slowly moves south scraping the Earth and destroying everything in its path.

The glacier finally melts and as we return to the present, we are relieved to find our house surrounded by trees gently swaying in the wind. Our dog is wagging its tail, and we realize that we live in a precious sliver of time within the fascinating story of Palatine's ancient past.

Prefer Email?



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Fall Foliage Walking Tour

We were delighted that 23 visitors enjoyed our Fall Foliage Walking Tour on Saturday, October 21.

Thank you to those that helped make this event possible!

- Marlee Buenrostro
- Sue Minott
- Holly Petersen
- Audrey Olsen
- Greg Langer
- Ken Gorham
- David Hammer



Palatine Historical Society Board of Directors

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1st Vice President: Jan Degner	Ken Gorham	Holly Peterson
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Palatine Historical Society 2024 Scholarships

Since 2012, the Palatine Historical Society has offered scholarships to senior students who live within Palatine Township. The scholarship can be used to further academic or occupational training.

Scholarship information will be sent to local high schools and posted on the Palatine Historical Society website in mid-December. Students who attend public or private high schools, or who are home-schooled are eligible to apply.

The 2024 scholarship winner will be awarded at our May Membership meeting. This meeting will be held at the Palatine Library on May 15, 2024.

These scholarships are funded by your membership dues. Thank you for supporting this important outreach program of the Palatine Historical Society.



Little Library Update

- Our little library needs more gently used children's books. Please help us spread the word and donate if you can.
 - Our little library sits on the front lawn of the Clayson House Museum and is free for visitors to enjoy.
-

Attention Members!



At an upcoming General Membership meeting, we will be casting votes to amend the Palatine Historical Society bylaws to include a Code of Conduct approved by the Board of Directors. Be sure to keep an eye out for more information.



Thank You to Our Sustaining Business Members!



- A & A Body Shop, Inc.
- Ahlgrim Family Funeral Homes
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- Cornerstone National Bank & Trust
- Colfax Welding
- Culver's of Palatine
- JP Wood Martial Arts
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- Lamplighter Inn Tavern
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PalatineHistoricalSociety



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Clayson House Museum

224 E. Palatine Rd, Palatine IL

Hours:

Tuesday 9:00am - 4:00pm
Thursday Noon - 4:00pm
Sunday 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Phone: 847-991-6460

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 134, Palatine IL, 60078-0134

Palatine Historical Society : Membership or Renewal Application

Name:

E-Mail Address:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Annual Membership Fees

• Individual = \$25

• Family = \$40

• Senior/Student = \$20

• Child = \$10

• Business Sponsor = \$200 annually

• Life Membership (couple) = \$350

Make check payable to: Palatine Historical Society, PO Box 134, Palatine, IL 60078-0134