



# Kenilworth Historical Society

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## New Exhibits

**Preservation & Process at the Kenilworth Historical Society** opened in March, 2015. The mission of the KHS is to preserve, collect and interpret local historical materials and make them available to the public. Without historic materials we have nothing to interpret or share. In order to serve as a museum and repository for these materials we need ongoing attention to preservation. The exhibit highlights various preservation techniques used to maintain our archival, photographic and object-based collections. Included are building material and color display boards from the Kenilworth Assembly Hall, representing a part of the research project completed by Christine Poggianti. Also included in the exhibit are photographs and data on the National Register of Historic Places located in Kenilworth. Demonstrating the importance of paper preservation are items from the 1933 World's Fair and Dorothy Sears' diaries. An interesting portion of the exhibit details the process that took place restoring 19th century clothing damaged in a flood that occurred in July, 2014.

A second new exhibit, **Early Scouting in Kenilworth**, is in the foyer of the Historical Society. Photographs and charming items, including an early Girl Guide uniform.

The second set of panels detailing the early history of the Village is on display at the Kenilworth train station. The four panels are located in the two waiting rooms of the station.

## A Message from Tim Miller, Board President

The initial panels of the **Celebrating the History of Kenilworth** exhibit were installed May, 2014 in the train station, the same weekend that we had a strong presence at the Kenilworth Memorial Day Celebration.

The Children's Committee continued its wonderful presentation to the second grade classes at Joseph Sears School, and have laid the foundation necessary to continue this program. Those attending the Biennial Dinner enjoyed Bill Hinchliff's presentation on **The 1893 Columbian Exposition and Kenilworth**. The recent Spring Lecture, **Jewelry and Metalwork From the Arts and Crafts Movement, 1890-1940**, was a wonderful opportunity for the KHS to introduce an interesting speaker and topic to our community.

I look forward to the implementation of many of the projects that were initiated last year, including: the evaluation of our collection room and museum exhibit space; a film on the history of Kenilworth; formalization of the Sears School second grade program; the digitization of our collection; and continuing the creation of the **Celebrating the History of Kenilworth** train station panels.

My hope for the future is that we can all find a way to enjoy using our talents to share our village's history with our community.



Tim Miller and Gwen Sommers Yant installing the second series of panels at the Kenilworth train station.

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## Congratulations to Our Volunteers



Congratulations to Sally Dobroski for being named the Kenilworth Historical Society's **Super Senior** at the 42nd Annual North Suburban Super Senior Day Awards Luncheon at the North Shore Senior Center on May 21st.

Sally has been a volunteer at the KHS since 2010. Melinda Kwedar writes: "Her warm and friendly manner has

made her a welcomed addition to our volunteer staff. She is always eager to learn and get new assignments. She has been involved with a wide variety of projects. Her first and most extensive project was the rehousing of many of our clothing items from hanging storage to 33 flat archival boxes. She then completed processing two archival collections. As a former Art teacher, she has been an expert helper with many aspects

of exhibit fabrication. For Joseph Sears School programs, she created portions of new programs for schoolchildren and helped to conduct these and other programs with children. We are always happy to see her smiling face when she arrives."

The staff is grateful for the assistance of our other volunteers, Tom Prince, Sarah Simmons and board members Jean Patterson, who in her role as Chairperson of the Exhibits Committee gives so much of her time and talent to assure that we always have new interesting and enlightening displays to show our visitors. JoAnne Rankin works many, many hours at her computer updating and recording new information to further the KHS goal of learning about the history of each home in Kenilworth, as well as gathering information about its residents from the beginnings of the village to the present. And a big thank-you to every Board Member for help and guidance.

## Welcome to Our New Staff



Kyle Mathers began as our Assistant Curator in December, 2014. He has just finished the first year of the Master's Degree Program in Public History at Loyola University. He has worked as a graduate assistant at the Loyola University Congressional Archives, as a museum guide at the Richard H. Driehaus Museum, as an intern at the Pritzker Military Library and Museum, the National Hellenic Museum and the Chicago Historical Museum. He grew up in New Lenox, Illinois and attended Bradley University. Kyle has accomplished much since he began working at the KHS. He is a creative, well informed young man with a cheerful

personality and makes a great team member for the historical society.



Grace Lehner began working at the Historical Society in October, 2014. She completed the Master's Degree Program in Public History at Loyola University in 2014. Grace and her family, including two standard poodles, have lived in Evanston for thirty years. She is also working as a

research assistant at the Evanston History Center. Grace's main responsibility is to enter metadata (descriptive information) on the scanned photographs in our collection.

*"I just wanted to reach out and let you know how much my family and I have enjoyed the news/photo displays in the train station. When the first four posters were up, I devoured them and loved learning so much new information about our town. After that, we were headed to a Bulls game with our high school boys and I made everyone go to the station early to read the posters! There was something for everyone.*

*We have all enjoyed the last four posters as well and I understand there will be more! Finally, I take the train in later afternoon when people are moving at a more relaxed pace and I have seen folks reading these posters every time I am over there.*

*You all did an amazing job and I am so grateful to have such stewards of our community so hard at work!"*

*Elizabeth Dugan*



*The Kenilworth Historical Society was happy to host Girl Scout Troop 112 for their Bronze Award Ceremony.*

## Young Dorothy Sears, 1903-1904

Melinda Kwedar

On Sept. 1, 1903, Dorothy turned 18 and was away from home at boarding school for the first time. While at home on winter break on New Year's Day, Dorothy and some friends went to decorate Kenilworth Hall School for a dance. She had gone there for 11 years. She went to the dance with Ben Hinman. Also in the family home at the time were Helen and Alden until January 3 when he left to return to Yale.

On Jan. 6, she returned to the Lee School in Cambridge, MA, and was "awfully homesick—never knew what it was before." By Feb. 11, she was physically ill with mumps along

with several of her schoolmates who all had to go into isolation, missing classes and interaction with their friends. Dorothy was jubilant when she "went down to dinner" after 10 days of high fever and feeling very sick. During that time there was a big snow and some of the girls "shoveled snow in their bloomers." In March, she "Went to Providence on train saw Helen [sister] who gave a lesson & drove around Brown College." There were many discussions on Woman's Suffrage in the evenings and Dorothy also discussed the topic with her half-brother, John and went to Woman's Suffrage plays. In April she "Wrote



*Dorothy at the Beach*

paper on Woman's suffrage till four!" In June, she "Had Virgil exam—flunked it. Passed [sic] the other five."

She always had family contact. In March, she "Got letter from Phil saying that he is Engaged!!!" "Easter Sunday fairly good. Got up at 10. Went right after breakfast to Aunt Louise's and they went to "New Church" [Swedenborgian] I enjoyed it."

There were also fun times and pranks including some times when she "went to school house & sang & played ping pong also the boys chased mice! Lots of fun!" "Went with Harriet on long trolley ride to Newton & then back & into Boston & back. Lots of fun." Later, "Harriet & Ruth woke me suddenly by tickling and cold water." Some excursions were not totally enjoyable, particularly when they "Went in to Old North Church with Miss Annie, Ruth, Mary Lee & Helen. Lost our way in the slums of Boston!" In New York, she went to see Grant's monument and "to battery[sic] park & saw shipload of immigrants." Back in Boston she "spent  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour [viewing

a] new Sargent picture." For entertainment Dorothy and her schoolmates often enjoyed the symphony and one time they went "to concert of old fashioned instruments in Boston—It was delightful." She had music, singing and dancing lessons and ice-skated so she was very happy when she got her skates from home. Special foods were great treats for her including chocolate éclairs which she mentioned many times and also several feasts of Mandarins, peanut butter and candied fruit.

In June she was back home in Kenilworth where there was a full house with all her siblings, Phil, Barry, Helen and Alden were home. She and the family went to church as an every Sunday routine except one time at school when she "forgot to go to church." Then, "Helen & Phil & I drove home in runabout. [historic car]" Dorothy gave Helen singing lesson and she gave her sister harmony lessons. "Talked with mother about my future profession College exams vs. Singing! Came to no decision." "In evening went to "K.H. [Kenilworth Hall] dance. Had good time—nothing exciting no special person there." She and Clara went out and worked till 8 on the launch up on the beach." "Went out in launch in morning with Clara Phil & Barry." Later, "I dyed my riding skirt Light-lavender!" then went horseback riding. Other activities included tennis and golf.

This was Dorothy's first diary and she was pretty terse compared to all the subsequent years, but I was still able to get a sense of her first year away at school. Next issue we will see her starting her second school year.



*Playing Golf*

# *Kenilworth* Historical Society

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## Open to the Public

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Please call the KHS office, 847.251.2565 if you no longer wish to have the newsletter mailed to you. The entire issue can be found on the historical society's web page - Kenilworthhistory.org.

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## *In Memoriam*

*Dori Bachman*

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