



Kenilworth Historical Society

Volume 10, Number 2

March 2016

Board of Directors 2015

Angie Anderson
 Jon Atkin
 Anne Hill Bird
 David Birdwell
 Carol Booth
 Jackie Bossu
 Joan Callan
 Steve Crawford
(Vice-President and Treasurer)
 Kendra Cunningham
 Stacy De Luca
 Ray Drexler
 Laurie Flentye
 Mary Glerum
 Bill Haljun
 John Hart
 Ned Hedley
 Judy Konen
 Judy MacLeod
 Hester McCarthy
 Tim Miller *(President)*
 Sheila Mitchell *(Past President)*
 Jean Patterson *(Secretary)*
 Ann Perce
 Ann Suker Potter
 Eleanor Prince
 Agnes Prindiville
 JoAnne Rankin
 Carol Schulz
 Richard Schumacher
 George Sorich
 Julia Szafranski
 Peter Tyor
 Anita Worthington
 Gwen Sommers Yant

In This Issue

Upcoming Events	1
New Exhibit:	
<i>Focus on Violet Wyld</i>	1
Items Recently Added	
to the Collection	2
Letter from President	
Tim Miller	2
Decorating the KHS	
Christmas Tree	2
Dorothy Sears' Diary	3
We Honor Mary Remien	4
In Memoriam	4

The Kenilworth Historical Society Puts the *Focus on Violet Wyld*

By Jean Patterson

Violet Wyld chronicled life in Kenilworth for more than 30 years, capturing local events, homes, pets and families. Now, the Kenilworth Historical Society's current exhibit, *Focus on Violet Wyld* reveals the many dimensions of her eventful life through her own words, rarely seen images, recollections of family and friends and, of course her extraordinary photographs.

Born February 20, 1906, Violet was the daughter of Arthur Wyld and Francis Books Wyld. She grew up in Winnetka a few blocks from her aunt Bess Brooks Maher and uncle architect George Maher. Her close association with her extended family influenced her artistic creativity. Photographs of Violet's summer visits to the Maher Michigan farm exhibit her life long love of nature and devotion to animals.

Violet Wyld was a dedicated friend, caregiver, horticulturist and, of course, an extraordinary photographer. Come and view our portrait of Violet Wyld and the images of village and family life she captured from the 1940's through the 1970's.

The Kenilworth Historical society is the fortunate recipient of her photographic works. Browse through her family portraits, images of children and babies with their pets and see who you can identify.



Violet with friend.

Digital Photograph Campaign



We continue our Digital Photograph Campaign, for the purpose of collecting and preserving digital photographs of the people, places and organizations of Kenilworth. Please contact us if you would like to contribute.

Upcoming Events

- Kenilworth Historical Society Annual Meeting, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.
- Memorial Day Open House, May 22, 1-4 p.m.
- Biennial Dinner, October 21, 6 p.m.

Items Recently Donated to the Museum By Kyle Mathers

Throughout the last year, the historical society received dozens of donations. Over the course of the year, I processed 17 accessions, which included over 60 individual artifacts. They consisted of everything from books, documents, textiles, photographs, scrapbooks, and much more. Each of these artifacts tells a small part of Kenilworth's story.

One of the most interesting accessions was the last one, 2015.17. All of the materials came from Blann's Pharmacy. We received various dessert and ice cream glasses, an antique radio, and old menus. This fits nicely with an earlier donation of a soda fountain from Blann's. The most interesting artifact of this donation is

a piece of a plate glass window with "Blann's Pharmacy" painted in gold. This object is also interesting from a preservation standpoint, ensuring a large piece of glass remains intact over time requires some ingenuity. This rare donation speaks to the history and nature of past businesses in Kenilworth. We hope to be able to display this interesting piece in an upcoming exhibition.



Some of the items we have received.



Thank You Troop 112

Our beautiful Frasier Fir Christmas tree, donated and set-up by the Robert Keith family, was decorated with the KHS collection of ornaments, often handmade, donated by Kenilworth families through the years. The seventh grade Girl Scouts did a terrific job placing the ornaments on the tree. The group included: Natalie Duquette, Ava Bozzo, Caroline Ellerman, Claire Nodine, Kate McClamroch, Grace Mangel, Ellie Ponko, Neve Tribe, Eden Hunsader and Kate Helle. Lili Duquette, their leader accompanied the group and was photographer. Ginny Anderson, KHS executive director, is also included in the picture.

News from President Tim Miller

The Kenilworth Historical Society Board and staff members have been working very hard in creating ways in which to present the interesting history of our village. This May, our Children's Committee continues its tradition of making a presentation to the second graders of Sears School both in the classroom and during a trolley tour! The Exhibits Committee continues to develop display panels for our ongoing exhibit in the Kenilworth train station. These panels depict the various organizations and people of our village – look for our four new panels this summer! The Film Committee is working with producer John Newcombe to create a film highlighting Joseph Sears and the early history of Kenilworth. John has produced many award winning films, including *Winnetka Story*, and has recently completed *Indian Hill Club – The First One-hundred Years*. As the keynote speaker at our Biennial Dinner this fall, John will be speaking on the filmmaking process and will introduce his Kenilworth film. I hope to see you at our Dinner on October 21st!

JOSEPH SEARS
and his KENILWORTH



New residents of Kenilworth have received a letter of welcome

from the Historical Society inviting them to visit the museum and receive as a gift a copy of "Joseph Sears and His Kenilworth", Coleen Kilner's history of the village.

Young Dorothy Sears, At School and Home 1903

by Melinda Kwedar

Dorothy's summer continued to be very active in Kenilworth with her childhood friends and relatives. On July 2 she went in their boat called a launch up to Ravinia with siblings Phil, Alden and Helen and Phil's fiancée, Clara. On the July 4th holiday Dorothy won a golf tournament besting three boys, including Ben Hinman. Then they all did firecrackers "on our beach."

On July 11th, she and her mother started for Elk Rapids, in northern Michigan which was a 12 hour trip. Uncle Will [W.H.H. Sears] Aunt Kate and their children Joe, John, Louise and Ada had a place there as a summer home away from their residence at 354 Kenilworth Ave. The young teens had lots of fun with daytime activities and music on many nights at home. They played the gramophone, an early phonograph and Dorothy played piano for them in the evening. Other times were for serious subjects as on July 19th, "Ada and I drove to town. Read Swedenborg on the way" and they all discussed Slavery at supper. On July 17th, Dorothy reported that she and Ada rode the horse, Kit, bareback and the next day she learned to swim on her back! Meanwhile, brother, Aldy caught an 8-lb fish and then on July 15 the "boys caught 62 trout, [and they all] had a fish supper." Not to be outdone, two weeks later, Dorothy caught 14 fish, and one was a black bass. One evening they had a different kind of fun. "Ada & Aldy came home We four went to kitchen & drank 'booze!' lots of fun." On August 3, "Ada, Alden, John & I out for little launch ride. Came back & said good bye to Aunt K. & Mr. Milner. Joe,



Dorothy with her teachers.

Ray, Louise Ada, Alden, John & I started for boat for station in pouring rain! Said good bye! Oh! Terrible! Travelled till 12 P.M. gloomy!"

Dorothy was at home in Kenilworth by the 4th and in a few days,

"Clara [came] up to lunch and in afternoon, she & I went down and painted boat! Walked home with her." "Aldy & I developed Elk Rapids pictures." and after printing them they "fixed pictures and [she] had a grand fight with Aldy." During her remaining summer vacation she and friends often went out in the launch. Also they talked and played on the Mandolin and the piano and sang! There were outings and activities with the family as she prepared for school. On August 4th, she "Went in to see "Babes in Toyland" with Mother—Great! Played on piano in evening with Phil." In a few days she "Went in town with Mother on 10:12. Had fitting." Dorothy's birthday was on September first, when she turned 18. Her sister, Helen came home and left a week later. On September fourth, "Tyrell telephoned & asked me to play golf—Played from 3 till 6. Made a 46. Elliot M at shelter, Phil & Clara over on golf links." Later she "Walked with gang to pier." and after that "Phil, Clara, J. Findley, Alden & I took launch ride up to Glencoe. Got off and walked up & in a stream! back[sic] at one. In P.M. got wood for beach party." September 3rd - "I smoked new fashioned pipe!" On the 16th "Alden left for Yale on 11:40 Went to Station with him & came & sewed & practiced till 3." "At 4:30 "Nettie, Hinman, Gage & I started on horseback ride" and later she went horseback riding again. There were many beach parties in the evenings at which she had a fine time On the nineteenth, another family visit. "Left Kenilworth on 11:14 with Mother for Fond Du Lac—Arrived at 4:22. Mr. Roland met us. Uncle Nathan met us at the door! Everything just the same. Talked till supper." Maintaining extended family contact was always important.

Next issue, we will see Dorothy progressing in her active life at school and home.



Dorothy at 17.

Kenilworth Historical Society

Editorial Staff

Ginny Anderson
Melinda Kwedar
Kyle Mathers
Tim Miller
Jean Patterson

Kenilworth Historical Society
415 Kenilworth Avenue
Kenilworth, Illinois 60043
847.251.2565
kenilworthhistory@sbcglobal.net
kenilworthhistory.org

Open to the Public
Monday 9 am to 4:30 pm
Thursday 9 am to 4:30 pm
Other hours by appointment

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.

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MULTICOPY CORP



Remembering Mary Remien

The Historical Society lost an irreplaceable member when Mary Remien recently passed away. Mary worked throughout the year to maintain the attractiveness of the society's Kenilworth Avenue entrance by weeding, tidying up and even installing lights on the front walk at Christmastime. Her knowledge of proper plantings at the building and adjoining Memorial Park was shared with her friend Lou Maggi, retired Park Board Superintendent and together they worked to assure that the area was beautifully maintained. Mary was a longtime member of the Historical Society Board of Directors. She didn't shy away from taking on difficult tasks, including running the Silent Auction for a number of KHS Biennial Dinners.

Mary will be remembered with fondness by the many people whose lives she touched. The Kenilworth Historical Society Board will be planting a tree close to our building to honor her.

In Memoriam

Patricia Beuhler Blankenship

Stanton Cook

John McConnell, Sr.

Mary White Remien

Sue Andersen Toll

John B. Van Duzer