

MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KEEPING HOMETOWN MEMORIES ALIVE

MUSEUM



JOURNAL

VOLUME XV, ISSUE 3

FALL 2024

DUDLEY AND LOUISE BUDLONG: THE DYNAMIC DUO OF 1930S MOUNT PROSPECT

BY EMILY DATTILO

Have you ever met a couple who seems to be active in just about every organization in town? In the 1930s, that couple was Dudley and Louise Budlong.

Dudley and Louise Budlong moved from Chicago to Mount Prospect in the 1920s, shortly after their marriage. Dudley built a Sears home for them at 312 S. Emerson Street, which is still standing today. Together they had four children: two boys and two girls. Despite all the demands of family life, they carved out time to stay involved in numerous local community organizations.

One organization where Dudley and Louise worked together was the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 (VFW). In fact, this couple was so invested in the VFW that they stopped by the 1931 VFW state convention in Rockford while on their 10th wedding anniversary road trip. Dudley was a charter member of this Post and served as Senior Vice Commander and Quartermaster. His World War I

overseas service took him to Europe in 1918 where he was a corporal with the Machine Gun Company of the 131st Infantry. Louise was the charter president of the VFW Auxiliary and is noted as an especially influential lady at the organization's beginning. A May 15, 1931 article in the *Arlington Heights Herald* stated that "[The VFW Auxiliary's] first years were those of struggle, (the town never having had an organization of this kind before and wondering what it was all about), it pushed slowly forward." Louise would have been on the front lines of organizing and recruiting new members during these tough early years. She likely reached out to other VFW wives in an effort to increase membership and build support for the new organization.

Dudley and Louise were just as active outside of the VFW. For instance, one of Mount Prospect's major exports at this time was onions, and Dudley was responsible for processing and shipping some of those onions as manager of the

H.H. Chester onion warehouse. The location of the Chester onion warehouse is unknown, but it may have stood alongside many other warehouses on N. Pine Street, near Northwest Highway. The Chester warehouse

was also the location of many VFW dances during the 1930s, likely

due to Dudley's connection with the business.

Dudley was elected to the Village of Mount Prospect Board of Trustees in 1929, taking office with fellow VFW member Lee W. Barcroft under Mayor Herman Meyn. Dudley already had experience working with Mayor Meyn; both men served on the board of Mount Prospect's volunteer fire department. While a trustee, he was also appointed chairman of the Street and Sidewalks Committee.

Louise was busy not just with the VFW, but also the American Legion Auxiliary after that was established in 1931. Although she was not listed as a charter member, by the mid-1930s she was hosting meetings in her home.

Outside of the military organizations, Louise participated in activities at South Church, the Mount Prospect Woman's Club, and the Mount Prospect Parent Teacher Association.

Louise seems to have been responsible for either the refreshments or the entertainment at gatherings for each of these organizations. Newspaper accounts record her singing at

(Continued on page 3)



This photo shows the VFW Post 1337 Charter Ceremony held in Owen Park in April 1925. Dudley and Louise are almost certainly in attendance.

IN THIS ISSUE:

DYNAMIC DUO	1
FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR	2
FROM THE COLLECTION	2
DYNAMIC DUO CONTINUED	3
HOUSEWALK	3
UPCOMING EVENTS	4

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR



Emily Dattilo
Director

It's been a busy fall at the Historical Society! The start of a new school year brought students back to the museum campus for Living History field trips, led by our talented team of schoolmarms. Recently we welcomed classes from a local homeschool co-op and Indian Grove Elementary School. Also Prospect High School students from Latinos Unidos helped with chores around the museum during the annual Prospect Gives Back event, a day of service for school clubs and sports teams.

A few of our fall activities were centered around books. Martha Nelson led a wonderful discussion of *The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey at the MPHS Book Club session, and little readers enjoyed the StoryWalk set up outside the Dietrich

Friedrichs House, thanks to a partnership with the Mount Prospect Public Library. Earlier in the season, crafters created beautiful wreaths out of vintage books.

The Historical Society explored history out of state with a trip to Milwaukee this fall. Bus trip attendees visited the Pabst Mansion and the Best Place at the Historic Pabst Brewery where they learned about Milwaukee's rich brewing history. Then, in October, history arrived at the museum with a blacksmith demonstration from Timothy Wisniewski of Sable Fox Forge. Timothy amazed audiences with his forging skills, much like Mount Prospect's blacksmith John Meyn had done over 100 years ago.

One fall highlight for me was attending St. Raymond School's 70th Anniversary Celebration and Rededication Ceremony on September 26th. Board President Jean Murphy, author of the history book *The Faith Community of Saint Raymond de Penafort*, and I joined past and present

students, faculty, staff, and other special guests at this special occasion. This event was extra special for me because I am a St. Raymond School alumna! I graduated in 2007 and was thrilled to see some of my former teachers at the celebration.

With the 36th Annual Holiday Housewalk around the corner and plenty of plans in the works, I can't wait to see what 2025 brings for the Mount Prospect Historical Society.



The StoryWalk installed at the Dietrich Friedrichs House

FROM THE COLLECTION



opening of Lincoln School later that year. He thought the axe head was an important find and took it home. When he grew up, he reached out to the Field Museum for more information about this unusual object. In 2000 he donated it to the Mount Prospect Historical Society.

Although there are no recorded Native American settlements in Mount Prospect, the town was established on the traditional homeland of the Council of the Three Fires: The Potawatomi, Odawa, and Ojibwe Nations, as well as the Ho'Chunk, Meskwaki (Fox), Sauk, and Miami Nations.

There is also plenty of evidence showing that these people and their ancestors lived in and traveled through the area. Their descendants live here today too. Modern-day residents have found tools, such as arrowheads and this axe head, in various places around town.

This stone axe head is the oldest artifact in the Mount Prospect Historical Society's collection, dating to the Middle Archaic period (about 5,000—6,000 years ago). Prehistoric Native Americans living in this area shaped the stone and attached it to a handle. They used the axe to chop and split firewood and to shape wooden canoes that traveled up and down the Des Plaines River.

The donor, Paul Sandberg, found this axe head when he was a child in summer 1950 during the construction and paving of West Lincoln Avenue between We-Go

Trail and Wa Pella Avenue. This section of the street was paved in preparation for the



Detail of the Albert Scharf map of "Indian Trails and Villages of Chicago and of Cook, Dupage and Will Counties" showing Native American settlements in Wheeling and Elk Grove Townships. The recorded village on the right is along the Des Plaines River.

(Continued from page 1)

Woman's Club meetings and at the 1936 PTA Carnival of Fun. She organized luncheons for South Church and apparently earned quite the reputation. An April 1941 article in the *Arlington Heights Herald* advertising the annual luncheon comments that "from all reports, [the luncheon] will satisfy the most discriminating."

The Budlongs remained in Mount Prospect until they moved to San Diego in the early 1950s where they joined their daughter, Lois, and her family. Both Dudley and Louise passed away in 1960, less than a month apart.

Thank you to Anne Shaughnessy, MPPL Research and Genealogy Librarian, for her research assistance!

36TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSEWALK



1211 W. Lincoln

Tickets are now on sale for the Mount Prospect Historical Society's 36th annual Holiday Housewalk which will highlight the We-Go Park and Bobby Lane neighborhoods north of the Mt. Prospect Country Club. The walk will be held from 3:30 to 9 p.m., Friday, December 6.

The interiors of six private homes, built between 1962 and 2016, will be featured on the tour this year.

The homes that will have their interiors featured this year are: 1211 W. Lincoln Street, owned by George and Suzanne Busse; 210 S. Bobby Lane, owned by Kristin Almeirgi and Vincent Haufle; 305 S. Lancaster Street, owned by Kristin and Jeff Michalczk; 201 S. Lancaster Street, owned by Kristen and Michael Favia; 200 S. We-Go Trail, owned by Kristin and BJ Lindstrom; and 204 S. We-Go Trail, owned by Nayia and Joe Sivulka.

All of the homes will be exciting to tour in their own ways, whether because of the lovely decorating, the new construction or renovation work that has been done, according to JP Karlov, Housewalk co-chairperson.

The tour will begin in a tent at the corner of Kenilworth Avenue and Pendleton Place where last minute tickets will be sold; refreshments will be offered; and watercolors of the featured houses will be displayed. Museum store items and tickets for a raffle will also be sold there. The "will call" table for tour tickets ordered online will also be located in the tent.

As usual, this walking tour will be accented by beautifully lit luminaria. Parking will be available along neighborhood streets.

Non-refundable tickets will be sold for \$30 each through December 5 at the Mount Prospect Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson St.; River Trails' Weiss Center, 1500 E. Euclid Ave.; the Central Community Center, 1000 W. Central Rd.; Millie's Hallmark, 1024 S. Elmhurst Rd.; and the Dietrich Friedrichs House museum, 101 S. Maple St.

Tickets are also available at www.mtphist.org. Those tickets can be picked up at a "will call" desk located at the tent headquarters during the walk.

Last-minute decision-makers may also purchase tickets on the day of the walk, beginning at 3 p.m. at the headquarters tent, but the cost will be \$35 per person at that time.

"The Housewalk is the Society's largest fund-raiser of the year," Karlov explained. "Its proceeds support the many educational endeavors of the Society and help to pay for upkeep on our museum. We urge the public to support our effort to preserve local history through enjoying the Housewalk and our other activities throughout the year."

Phone the Society at 847-392-9006 for more information or log onto www.mtphist.org.

This year's Walk is sponsored by Hearth & Home, Busse Automotive, Novak and Parker appliances, the Mt. Prospect Park District and Mrs. P & Me.



204 S. We-Go



MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

101 South Maple Street
Mount Prospect, IL 60056-3229
www.mtphist.org

Located on the southeast corner of Maple Street and Busse Avenue

Phone: 847/392-9006
Fax: 847/577-9660
Email: info@mtphistory.org



NEWSLETTER
UNDERWRITTEN BY:



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 90
MT. PROSPECT, IL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Sundays at the Society
11:30am — 1:30pm
Location: Central School (103 S. Maple St.) and the Dietrich Friedrichs House (101 S. Maple St.) will be open for tours.
Fee: Free!

November 10: Turkeys

December 8: Gingerbread
.....

Afternoon Tea
1:00pm—2:30pm
Location: Central School (103 S. Maple St.)
Fee: \$25 members, \$30 non-members, registration required

November 9: Sacagawea Adventures with Louis and Clark

Bessie's Workbasket
10:00am — 12:00pm & 7:00pm — 9:00pm
Location: Central School (103 S. Maple St.)
Fee: \$10 donation, registration required
All experience levels are welcome.

November 13: Crochet Basics

December 11: Ornaments
.....

MPHS Book Club
7:00pm—8:00pm
Location: Central School (103 S. Maple St.)
Fee: \$5 suggested donation

November 14: Read Midcentury Boy: My Suburban Childhood from Ike to the Beatles by David Hoppe, and

join us in exploring one boy's view of Mount Prospect from the late 1950s through 1976.
.....

Holiday Housewalk
December 6
3:30pm-9:00pm
Location: We-Go Park neighborhood, near Lincoln Middle School
Fee: \$30 in advance, \$28 in advance for members when purchased at the museum; \$35 on the day



Annual Meeting
January 16
6:00pm
Location: Mount Prospect Village Hall Farley Community Room
Fee: Free!
Join us to celebrate another great year for the Historical Society! Homemade soups, chili, and dessert will be served.

For more information, visit our website at www.mtphist.org or call us at (847) 392-9006.