

# Pandemic Edition MESSENGER

May 2020  
Volume XXXV

## The 1918 Pandemic in Glen Ellyn

— by Karen Hall

Glen Ellyn in 1918 was a very different community than we know today. The population was about one tenth of its current size. The village had started to transform into a residential suburb, but its major growth spurt did not happen until after World War I.

Even in 1918, there were still many fine farms in the community. Homes in town often had lots large enough to accommodate gardens where vegetables and fruits could be grown. Chicken coops were much more common than garages. There was a growing number of cars in the village, but horses were still prevalent. People usually walked where they wanted to go, or took the train.

Electricity was not reliable, so homes always had an alternative source for light, like gas or kerosene or candles. Daylight savings time began in 1918 as part of the war effort, to conserve electricity. The center of town had sewer lines, completed in 1914. Outhouses — or privies — were still common for homes further out.

Telephones were usually party lines, meaning that multiple homes would share a single line. The telephones themselves were hand crank style, usually fastened to the wall. (Rotary dial phones were introduced in 1919.)

In 1917, the United States had entered World War I. The United States was a country at war, which dramatically affected many aspects of life. There was an active military draft. Congress passed the Selective Service Act on May 18, 1917 which required all men between the ages of 21 and 30 to register for military duty. By the end of the war, 2.8 million men had been drafted.

There were 166 men from Glen Ellyn who went into service in various military branches.

Two were killed. Captain Paul Conyers Deily was killed in action, and Major Roberts Brooks was accidentally killed on the electric railroad. Two women served – Bertha Lang as an Army nurse and Charlotte Grimshaw with the Red Cross. Locally, there were 86 members of the Company G 6th Regiment Illinois Reserve Militia (Home Guard) to help with any security issues.

*With the Ehlers Hotel in the background on the northeast corner of Main and Crescent, the Home Guard is on review.*



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## *The 1918 Pandemic in Glen Ellyn continued*

In addition to a chapter of the Red Cross Auxiliary, various home and service groups like the Woman's Relief Corp formed to support the troops. They made surgical dressings, hospital and refugee garments, and knitted other items of clothing. Children in the village collected the tin foil found in the lining of tea packages, gum wrappers and chocolate bars. The Red Cross collected fruit pits and nut shells to make carbon for the soldiers' gas masks.

Americans were encouraged to practice food conservation and eat less, so there was enough food to send the troops. (Domestic food consumption dropped 15% during the war.) Local merchants were instructed by the United States War Industries Board to restrict deliveries to only one trip per day over each route, with no special deliveries. Groceries, milk and eggs, ice, animal feed, even hardware and building supplies were routinely delivered to homes by local merchants. Returns of merchandise were only allowed within three days.

In 1917, the high school expanded to a four-year course of study, and met in the third and part of the second stories of the DuPage Trust Building on the northwest corner of Main and Crescent. There were 430 students in Glen Ellyn's grade schools and 150 in the high school.



*This parade photo shows the DuPage Trust Building in the background, on the northwest corner of Main and Crescent, after the third story was added for the high school.*

The houses in the village were not yet numbered, and home mail delivery would not start for another year. After a January blizzard, four-horse teams drug snow plows through the downtown streets to help open them. In 1918, the Volunteer Fire Company bought its first fire truck — motorized — for \$1250.

The local newspaper was called *The Glen Ellyan*. It was published once a week and a subscription was \$1 per year. (The price had been reduced from \$1.50 per year in 1912.) One dollar in 1918 had the purchasing power of about \$18 today. (*The Glen Ellyan* did not print photographs — it was too expensive. The rest of this article is illustrated with text excerpts. The “golden age” of photojournalism did not begin until closer to 1930. It was also typical that newspapers used more eloquent language than we would expect today.)

In the fall of 1918, there is evidence of the influenza creeping into Glen Ellyn, and certainly into the concerns of the community. Because of World War I, many local residents had family members away at military camps and bases, or overseas. There was a regular feature in the newspaper called *In Trench & Camp* that relayed the latest news about Glen Ellyn's active duty military. Consider that one didn't just worry about a child or spouse in service given the risks of war. They could also be killed by the influenza outbreak.

The September 20, 1918 column notes that Norbert Knapp was just ready to go on a “subchaser,” when Spanish influenza broke out in the radio training school and he, with 499 others, were quarantined.” (A subchaser was a small and fast naval vessel specifically intended for anti-submarine warfare. The vessels were equipped with underwater hydrophones for detecting engine and propeller noises.)

### **In Trench & Camp**

■ Norbert Knapp was just ready to go on a “subchaser,” when Spanish influenza broke out in the radio training school and he, with 499 others, were quarantined.

"Sergt. A. H. Ludeke, under date of October 3rd, wrote to Mr. Hoadley, 'We are in quarantine at this camp for the Spanish influenza. We have none in our camp, but a preventative quarantine was placed on last Friday and it hit some of the boys pretty hard for most had plans all made for Saturday and Sunday.'"

It was later that month, however, that the impact of the pandemic was felt by all in Glen Ellyn. Physical or social distancing, even though it wasn't called that, was recognized as a significant preventive measure for the spread of the flu.

Given what we know in 2020 about the silent spread of a virus, it is worth noting that on October 5, 1918, there was a huge War Fund Fair in Glen Ellyn, considered the "biggest event in the history of Glen Ellyn." Hundreds of people, perhaps more than a thousand, rallied downtown from Glen Ellyn and surrounding communities.

On Friday, October 11, 1918, a front-page headline in *The Glen Ellyn* is *Schools Closed as 'Flu' Spreads*. Public Health Officer and local physician E. S. Higley, after consulting with Village President Joseph R. Smith and the state's Department of Public Health, had closed the local schools and churches and the "motion picture house" as preventive measures. All public gatherings were also forbidden. Dr. Higley tried to reassure people that there was "no cause for alarm."

But there were already 20 – 30 cases in Glen Ellyn. There was a physician shortage because of the demands of war. There was also a shortage of trained nurses. Medical staff was stretched thin. Calls were coming to local physicians from "as far away" as Villa Park. Health care providers were overworked and exhausted. Dr. Higley reassured residents, according to the newspaper, that Glen Ellyn was "better off than many of her neighbors."

The newspaper contains notices of deaths, such as Mrs. Von Hollinger (Esther Gordon) who had grown up in Glen Ellyn, and had died of the flu at her home in Monticello, Indiana. "Death's angel came suddenly to the little home in Monticello." Her family had been summoned by telegram so they could be at the young woman's bedside. "God called her to serve on the other shore and we could no longer hold her here."

Mrs. James B. Pell (Alice Brady), a Glen Ellyn resident for four years, died of the flu in Chicago. "Devotion to her little daughter Alice, whom she nursed successfully through the pneumonia, left her in a weakened condition and she fell a victim to the epidemic that has claimed so many in the last few weeks."

Arthur Anderson died after suffering with influenza which had developed into pneumonia. "He made a strong resistance, being of a natural robust constitution and in good health when stricken. Physicians and nurses made every effort to save a life so generally popular. His widow and a two year old son survive."

The weekly newspaper reports on Friday, October 18, 1918 that *'Flu' Lid on Till Epidemic Ends*. The ban on public meetings will last "until the epidemic has been checked or has expended itself." Village President Smith said that "he believed it much better to take preventive measures than to let anyone run an unnecessary risk." Given that this wave of the 1918 pandemic was in the fall, they were hoping that cold weather would help to exhaust the epidemic. Some of the advice given to residents may seem familiar today.

But there is hope. On Friday, November 1st, *The Glen Ellyn* reports *Lid Off as 'Flu' Epidemic Wanes*. "The influenza epidemic has reached its height and is now on the decline. No new cases appeared this week in families where there had been no previous case." "Motion Picture Show Opens Saturday." (Movies were a huge part of local culture. The Glen Ellyn Theater was then on the east side of Main St.)

## OCT. 5th TO BE BIG DAY IN GLEN ELLYN

Bluejacket Band, Prominent Speakers, Baby Show and Hurdy Gurdy Featnes

October 5th, the War Fund Fair day, promises to be the biggest event in the history of Glen Ellyn. It even looks as though it would be the biggest day that DuPage county has had. Features such as the "Bluejacket Band", Judge Fenton W. Booth, David Shanahan, speaker of the lower house of the Illinois legislature, and others, as speakers; races, a dance, country store, pony parade, live stock exhibit and a baby show, will tend to bring many from other towns. All this, not to mention the dance on the pavement in the evening.

a Year. Single Copies 5 Cents

### DEATH SUMMONS

## MRS. J. B. PELL

Former Glen Ellyn Woman Victim of Influenza While Nursing Little Daughter through Illness

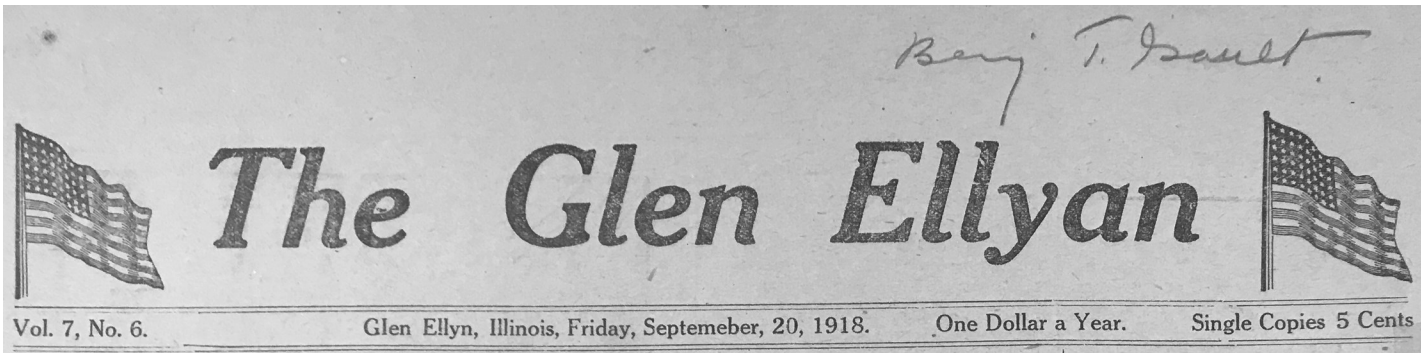
### 100% TRUE AMERICAN

Martyr to Sense of Intense Loyalty and Her Hatred of Pretense and Sham

Mrs. James B. Pell, for four years a resident of Glen Ellyn, died Sunday at her home, 1217 Jarvis avenue, Chicago, of influenza, after an illness of three days. Devotion to her little daughter Alice, whom she nursed successfully through the pneumonia, left her in a weakened condition and she fell a victim to the epidemic that has claimed so many in the last few weeks.

Among the many rules sent out by the state department of health, which are emphasized by the local authorities are:

- Don't cough or sneeze in any thing but your handkerchief.
- Avoid overcrowding.
- Eat wholesome food.
- Keep plenty of fresh air in the house.
- If ill, go to bed and call the doctor.
- To which may be added: "Above all things, keep your nerve."



*Newspaper masthead of The Glen Ellyan — note Benjamin Gault's name at the top of the paper. Gault was a well-known naturalist and ornithologist who championed the movement for a bird sanctuary in Glen Ellyn.*

Dr. Higley removed most restrictions on group gatherings, should there be no change for the worse. Schools could re-open Nov. 4th although "teachers and scholars" would first have to obtain a certificate of health from a physician.

The newspaper reports, to no one's surprise, that "All cheerfully complied with the order."

World War I was also ending. The signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918 between the Allies and Germany at Le Francport near Compiègne, France ended fighting on land, sea and air. The Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919 formally ended the war.

Glen Ellyn had survived the war and the pandemic, and was ready for a new explosion of optimism and growth. Better times were ahead!



**Schools**—Schools to open Monday. Principals and teachers to judge of physical condition of pupils. Parents are put on their honor and asked to co-operate with authorities to see that children with influenza do not attend school. Children with coughs, or sneezing, will be sent home. Children from families having the influenza are not expected to attend school, unless, these children have had the disease and have fully recovered.

**Churches**—Churches may hold all services Sunday, including Sunday school.

**Lodges**—Lodges can meet as usual.

**Glen Theater**—May be opened Saturday.

**Woman's Club**—Will hold its regular meeting Tuesday.

*Photo on left: A WWI Liberty Loan Drive in downtown Glen Ellyn*

*We are thankful to Benjamin Gault for his foresight in saving his copies of **The Glen Ellyan** which helped to make this research possible, and to Helen M. Ward and Robert W. Chambers for their book **Glen Ellyn: A Village Remembered**.*

### **About Upcoming Events**

Sadly, all spring and summer events have been postponed due to COVID-19 precautions. We look forward to moving into Phase 5 when we can offer in-person programming again. We will also re-open for rentals in Phase 5. Due to the small size of some rooms, Stacy's Tavern Museum will remain closed for now since social distancing is not always possible in the museum. In the meantime, please check our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/glenellynhistory>) for new videos and posts, and find more local history on our website, [glenellynhistory.org](http://glenellynhistory.org).



## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Dear Readers:

Since our History Book Discussion Group cannot meet right now, I contacted a few of the members to find out what they are reading as we all shelter-in-place. There is quite a variety of books and topics. I thought it would be of interest to share some of the titles.

Topping everyone's list is:

***The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz***  
by Erik Larson.

Other books about war include:

***Killer Angels: A Novel of the Civil War*** by Michael Shaara  
***To the Last Man: A Novel of World War One*** by Jeff Shaara.

If you are interested in learning about the 1918 influenza or other pandemics, here are some titles:

***The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic*** by John Barry  
***Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918: How it Changed the World*** by Laura Spinney  
***Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Pandemic*** by David Quammen.

Some books about U.S. American history and culture include:

***The Vagabonds: The Story of Henry Ford and Thomas Edison's Ten-Year Road Trip***  
by Jeff Guinn  
***Spying on the South: An Odyssey Across the American Divide*** by Tony Horwitz  
(retracing Frederick Law Olmsted's steps in the 1850's)  
***The Immortal Irishman: The Irish Revolutionary Who Became an American Hero***  
by Timothy Egan  
***El Norte: The Epic and Forgotten Story of Hispanic North America*** by Carrie Gibson  
***Imperfect Union: How Jessie and John Fremont Mapped the West, Invented Celebrity, and Helped Cause the Civil War*** by Steve Inskeep.

Other books of historical interest are:

***Last Boat Out of Shanghai: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Fled Mao's Revolution***  
by Helen Zia  
***History's People: Personalities and the Past*** by Margaret MacMillan.

There are many novels being read too:

***The Mirror and the Light*** by Hilary Mantel  
(final in a trilogy about Thomas Cromwell in 1500's Britain)  
***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** by Zora Neale Hurston.

Or you could delve into the Walt Longmire mystery series by Craig Johnson or the Maigret detective novels by Georges Simenon.....or read some poetry!

We will probably not be able to meet again until fall. And the books we have missed discussing will likely be added to our reading list for 2020-21.

Happy reading until we can meet again. Please take care!

— Dianne Saul



# Fly Swatting Campaign Leads to Mayhem and Mischief

By Anne Balogh

"The flyless community has been found," proclaims an article in the Chicago Tribune. Published in July 1912, the story describes Glen Ellyn as "the village where the winged transport of bacteria are tabooed and legislated against." This valiant but vain battle against the pesky winged warriors became the subject of great amusement among the town's citizens.

The prolific housefly was not only considered to be a nuisance, but also a serious health threat. Most homes and businesses had doors and windows with screens, but the flies would dart inside anyway. Until the swatting war was waged, the chief pest-control remedy was a "poisoned" piece of gray paper made sticky by moistening with water. Local grocers stocked a plentiful supply of the poisonous paper to meet the demand for controlling the pests. To keep flies that escaped this fate from feasting on their cooking, housewives set their dining tables with the plates and cups turned upside down and then tossed cheesecloth over the entire array.

Everyone in town seemed to jump on the eradicate-the-fly bandwagon. The visit of the insect to Glen Ellyn became a "capital offense," the Tribune story states, quoting the health commissioner in office at the time. The recruits upholding this legislation (as judge, jury and executioner) included the local Boy Scouts, who were said to have "slaughtered" thousands of flies, and the three grocery stores in town (which probably would have been McChesney's, Tellefsen's Grocery and the Wagner Grocery Store). It became a "legal necessity" for grocers to cover their fruit with a screen and for residents to place fly traps in their garbage cans. Although the health care commissioner boasted that, as a result of these concerted efforts, flies had become "as scarce as the proverbial hen's teeth in Glen Ellyn" the enemy fought back and prevailed.

Glen Ellyn's obsession with fly extermination—and the futility of the endeavor—inspired some practical jokes. Glen Ellyn historian Helen Ward shares this anecdote, describing a dinner she attended in the 1930s at the home of Walter Rogers.

"Amidst much merriment and wonderful food, two maids scurried about serving us. They did scurry because it seemed guests were finding flies in their coffee. Mr. Rogers seemed very embarrassed. He was sitting at my table and when I discovered a fly in my coffee, I tried to be unobtrusive in beckoning one of the servers. But no! Mr. Rogers made a great fuss about it. It turned out that it was just one of his jokes. If you used the lump of sugar in your coffee, a little wire fly inside the sugar floated to the top of your cup as the sugar dissolved."

Unfortunately, the "flyless community" was never to be. And the occasional housefly, real or otherwise, may still be found swimming in a cup of Glen Ellyn joe, giving new meaning to the term "caffeine buzz."

*In 1912, it became a "legal necessity" for Glen Ellyn grocers (McChesney Brothers General Store is shown here) to cover their fruit to keep flies away. Screened doors were also a common defense against this "winged transport of bacteria."*



# Doing Research on your Glen Ellyn Home

By Betty Scheet

We have heard from several folks who are interested in doing some research on their homes. There's a lot you can do simply from your computer. Here are a few things you might find interesting to research! (We have a link to this document on a Facebook page post so you can access the links without retyping.)

## **Retrieving ownership deed documents from 1960s through the present**

1. Go to the DuPage County Recorder of Deeds website to retrieve deeds that have been recorded at the time of property sales: <https://recorder.dupageco.org/Search.aspx>
2. Enter the street number, street direction (if appropriate), street, and city in the "Property Information" section of the form to retrieve records for exactly the property that you are searching. Then click on the blue SEARCH button at the bottom left side of the form.
3. Click on the Document Number (left-most column) of most current record whose type is "DEED".
4. Click on the blue View/Print Document button on the left hand side near the top of this form. Wait for the download popup, which should be a pdf document shown at the bottom of your screen.
5. Click on the download popup to view the deed document.

Find the Grantor and Grantee for the deed.

Note the instrument type (Warranty Deed, QCD, Trustee Deed).

Note the document number and the date the instrument was recorded. This is usually near the top of the document for current deeds, but used to be put at the end of the document for older deeds. The recorder's name is the key to finding the recording date.

Note the date the instrument was signed. Make sure the signature names of the Grantors match the spelling of the typed name, as lawyers are not always exactly correct.

Read the legal description. Note the subdivision name, the document number of the subdivision, the year the subdivision was recorded, and the lot number and extraneous lot information (i.e. the South 100 feet of Lot 1) for the property.

Note the Property Index Number in the deed. The PIN has a format like 05-11-303-004 where 05 is for Milton Township, 11 is the section number, 303 is the subdivision number for Newton's Subdivision, and 004 is the lot number in that subdivision.

Check that the property listed in the document is the one that you are researching. Records sometimes are erroneously filed at the Recorder's Office.

6. Go back to the search results by returning to the DuPage Recorder's website and click on the blue "Back to Search Results" tab.
7. Find the next DEED. You may need to click on the page number at the bottom of the form if there are no other deeds listed on the first page. Unfortunately, the recorder's office website always brings you back to the first page when you come back to search results. Note which page number you are searching from — an active property could have 10 pages!

**Aerial Maps of Milton Township over time** can be found at the following website:  
<https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>

This can be used if you are trying to determine if a large addition was constructed on the property to ensure the owners have architecturally maintained the original structure. This works as long as there are not too many trees. Enter the address at the top and click on the Aerials button underneath your address. Scroll down to find the year you are interested in seeing.

## Who was the original patent landowner of your property -- in the mid-1800's?

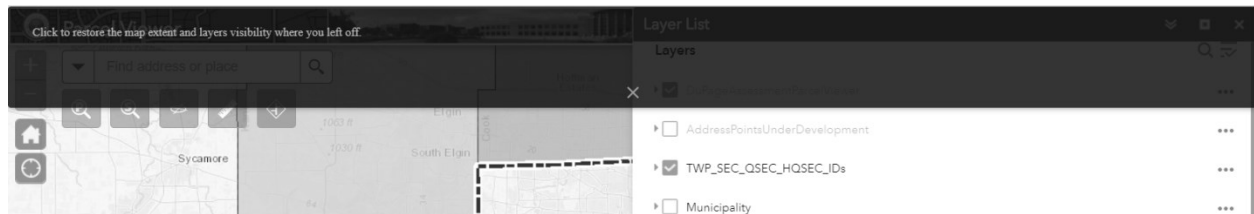
- Determine location and the original land patent owner
- Find out the section-Township-range where the property is located. Milton Township is always Township 39 North, Range 10 East of the 3rd Principal Meridian. The section and quarter-section can be found on the DuPage County Geographical Information Systems Map located here:

<http://gis.dupageco.org/parcelviewer/>

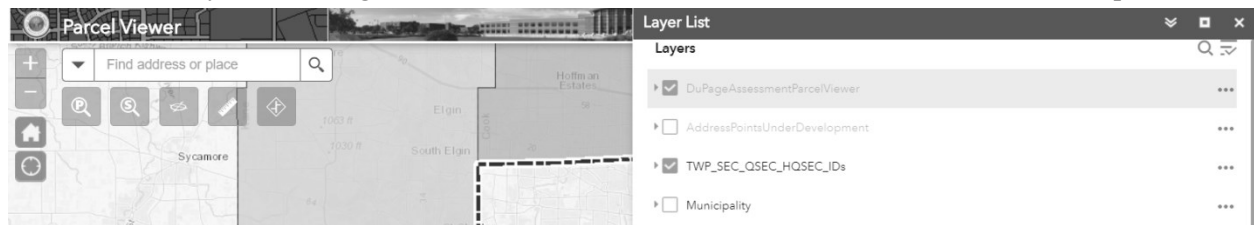


Click on “I agree to the above terms and conditions” box on the bottom left, then click on OK blue button on the bottom right.

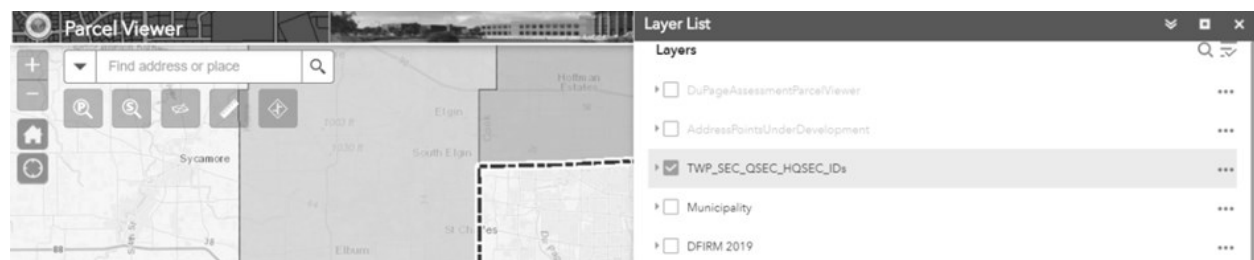
Remove the black box at the top of the screen by clicking on the X.



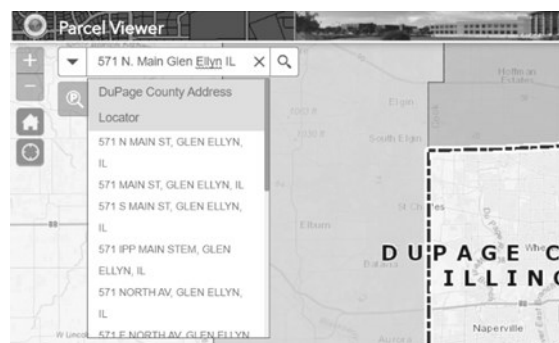
Click OFF the Layer Lit DuPage Assessment Parcel Viewer. There are tons of lines with this option.



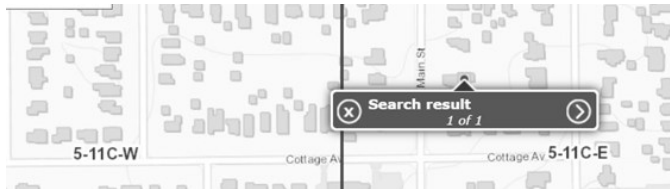
Keep the TWP\_SEC\_QSEC\_HQSEC\_IDs layer ON. Collapse the layer list by clicking the double down arrows on the right top of the screen.



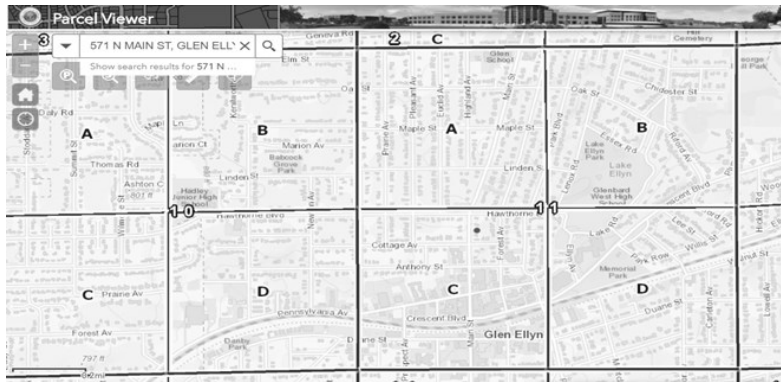
Enter the address of the property. Choose the option that the map provides. Then hit search button to the right of the address that you just input to get to the location on the map.



Turn off the Search Result box by clicking the X.



Now you have a map where the black dot shows you the property you want to search. Zoom out to see the total section. Note whether the property is in the NW, NE, SW or SE quarter. I also note whether the property is in either the east or west half, and in either the north or south half of the quarter.



Example: Sections 10 and 11 have four quadrants – the NW (A), NE (B), SW (C) and SE (D).

**Find out the original US Government land patent owner for the quarter section where the property is located.** Go to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Government Land Office Records here for all original owners in Milton Township (alphabetical order):

[https://glorerecords.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?](https://glorerecords.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?searchCriteria=type=patent&st=IL&cty=043&twp_nr=39&twp_dir=N&rng_nr=10&rng_dir=E&m=03&sp=true&sw=true&sadv=false)

[searchCriteria=type=patent&st=IL&cty=043&twp\\_nr=39&twp\\_dir=N&rng\\_nr=10&rng\\_dir=E&m=03&sp=true&sw=true&sadv=false](https://glorerecords.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?searchCriteria=type=patent&st=IL&cty=043&twp_nr=39&twp_dir=N&rng_nr=10&rng_dir=E&m=03&sp=true&sw=true&sadv=false)

Enter Illinois, DuPage County, and then enter Township 39 N, Range 10 E in order to focus on Milton Township records. Enter the section number that you found in step 1 and hit search. This will retrieve all the original patent owners for that section. Our example is Section 11, which is entered above. Then click the “Search Patents” orange tab at the bottom left of the form.

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	<a href="#">IL1030_104</a>	ACKERMAN, JOHN D	9/1/1845	16388	IL	3rd PM	039N - 010E	NE¼	11	Dupage
	<a href="#">IL0930_105</a>	CHURCHILL, WILLIAM	7/10/1844	11887	IL	3rd PM	039N - 010E	SE¼	11	Dupage
	<a href="#">IL0940_378</a>	NEWTON, LEWEY Q	6/1/1845	10709	IL	3rd PM	039N - 010E	SW¼	11	Dupage
	<a href="#">IL0890_338</a>	STACY, MOSES	3/10/1843	9548	IL	3rd PM	039N - 010E	NW¼	11	Dupage

Look for the quarter section and the particular half section where your property is located. Click on the Accession document number to the left of that record. For our example, NEWTON, LEWEY Q purchased the SW ¼ . There were no further breakdowns, so Accession IL0940.378 is what to click.

At the top of the summary page, click the brown Patent Image button. A pdf will be created for you. Save the patent pdf by right-clicking on the document, then choose Save as. Browse to a folder where you want to keep the research.

You can get additional information regarding the sale of government land in Illinois at the following website: [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/data\\_lan.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/data_lan.html) This website also gives you a good tutorial regarding the sections in a township and the divisions of a section.



## SOME OF GLEN ELLYN'S FAVORITE TOYS

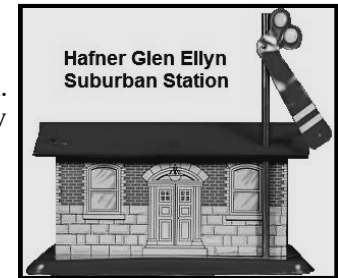
### BY KIRK BURGER

Here at the Glen Ellyn History Center, we house a small collection of toys that were cherished by the children of Glen Ellyn's past. The toys, ranging in age from 36 to 120 years old, span over eight decades of history. Think about it for a minute. The owners of our earliest toys would have been old enough to have fought in World War I and to have witnessed the tragedies of the 1918 flu epidemic.

If one looks closely, each of the toys in our collection has an intricate story to tell. Each holds clues about the time and place from where they come. There is a deeper meaning in them, hidden just behind their colorful surfaces. We thought we would introduce you to a few of them.

#### **Glen Ellyn Train Station**

Almost everyone is familiar with Glen Ellyn's history as an early railroad town. Few are familiar with Glen Ellyn's history as a Toy Railroad Town. In 2002, Roy Hoyle gave us his Hafner Tin-Toy, Glen Ellyn Train Station. The Chicago based Hafner Manufacturing Company was founded by William Hafner in 1901. His company's claim to fame was its tin, wind-up toy train sets. The Hafner tin train sets were inexpensive, selling for around \$3 throughout the 20's and 30's. Die cast train sets produced by his main competitor, American Flyer, were far more costly and less attainable for the average family.



In 1932 Hafner decided the company should make its own series of trackside accessories. He modeled a lithographed tin railroad building after a real train station near his home in Glen Ellyn. The name of this station, GLEN ELLYN, was clearly printed on the side of the toy building. The toy station was even accompanied by a passenger waiting platform, just like the one at the real Glen Ellyn Station. However, unlike the real station, the Hafner recreation was offered in several color variations. (Want to buy one of your own? They are often for sale on eBay.)

#### **Dionne Quintuplet Doll**

No matter the era, one of the most popular toys among young girls has long been the baby doll. Things were no different for Edna Burau, who entrusted her childhood doll collection to the History Center. One doll in particular has a very interesting history.

The Dionne Quintuplet Doll in our collection was originally sold as part of a set of five. They were one of the many products that came out of the craze known as "Quint-mania" which centered around the birth of the first surviving set of identical quintuplets. The five girls (Annette, Cecile, Yvonne, Emilie and Marie) were born just outside Callander, Ontario, near the village of Corbeil on May 28, 1934. Many viewed their birth as a sign of hope and strength in the face of the Great Depression. "They were born under the most adverse of circumstances, so to have them all survive was truly incredible," says Nancy L. Segal, director of the Twin Studies Center at California State University, Fullerton.



*The dolls originally came in a set of five. Below is the doll donated to the GEHS collection.*



They became the most famous babies in the world. Eventually, through a series of unique events, the Canadian government took custody and housed them in a nursery that eventually transformed into Quintland, a tourist attraction for visitors around the world. The girls became international celebrities and appeared in Hollywood movies as well as advertisements for products such as Heinz Ketchup, Lysol, Palmolive, Quaker Oats and Lifesavers. All five girls lived into adulthood. Annette and Cecile still reside in Canada.



## Lincoln Logs and Accessories



Most of us played with Lincoln Logs at sometime when we were children. But did you know the toy was the invention of John Lloyd Wright, the son of architect Frank Lloyd Wright? He came up with the idea of Lincoln Logs in 1901 and patented them in 1920. Did you know that Lincoln Log also sold a line of painted lead figures as accessories to the wooden construction set?

Richard Toye, who grew up in Glen Ellyn, generously donated dozens of his childhood playthings to the Histor-

ical Society, among them Lincoln Log “cowboy and Indian” figures, pioneer figures, and six train set-related figures. The train set figures date back to the 1940’s and include an engineer, conductor, a railway policeman, two passengers and a porter.



## Tin Toys

Tin has been a favorite metal of toy makers since the mid 1800s. Tin is lightweight, easy to manipulate, inexpensive, yet sturdy enough to withstand the demands of enthusiastic children. Production started in Germany, then France and England jumped into the manufacture of these popular toys. While many early tin toys were hand-painted, advances in photolithography techniques included the ability to print directly onto the tinplate before it was folded and shaped into its final form.

In the United States, George W. Brown of Connecticut partnered in 1856 with Chauncery Goodrich so that he could use the clockmaker’s locally made mechanisms in his wind-up toys. Edward R. Ives also got its start in Connecticut, sourcing his clockworks from the New Haven Clock Company. Brooklyn-born Louis Marx arrived on the toy scene later, but became the biggest of them all—by 1950, his company was the largest toy manufacturer in the world.

By 1894, after official hostilities between China and Japan ceased, Japan’s toy industry took off, fueled by technological advances in tin lithography and the punch machines that manipulated the metal to the exacting specifications of its designers.

Three of the tin toys in our collection, donated by Richard Toye and Dan Anderson, are a windup rabbit and a monkey riding a bicycle. In the center is a rotating amusement park ride.

You can see all these toys on display at the History Center, and enjoy their colorful, fun exteriors!



## Help Us Grow Our Toy Collection

We are trying to expand our toy collection. If you have toys pre-1970 that are in very good condition, please consider us if you would like to donate them. (Unless it is very rare, we can only accept smaller toys that would fit in a display case — no Big Wheels, for instance!) Vintage/antique cast iron and tin toys of any age are welcome.

We are looking for these and similar toys in very good condition:

- |  |                       |                            |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| — Classic Mohair Steiff teddy bear                               | — Shirley Temple doll | — early Cabbage Patch doll |
| — 1960s Chatty Cathy   | — G.I Joe doll        | — Betsy Wetsy              |
| — Monogram or Aurora Plastic Models in the box (or just the box) | — Tickle Me Elmo      |                            |
| — Historical American Girl dolls of the 1980s                    | — 1970s See’n Say     | — 1990s Littlest Pet Shop. |

We also welcome unique, homemade toys with a connection to Glen Ellyn, and photos (digital or paper) of Glen Ellyn children playing with toys.

Share your cherished memories with us and future generations. Have an item for us to consider? Email Kirk Burger at [info@gehs.org](mailto:info@gehs.org) or phone 630-469-1867. Thanks!

Dear Friends:

The last 15 months for the History Center have been a test of our endurance and creativity. We never expected to have to deal with the ravages of a flood and a pandemic between March 2019 and May 2020.

Now that social distancing and staying home have become a way of life, Stacy's Corners Store, like many local businesses, is anxious to welcome you back (masks and all) when shopping restrictions are lifted.

We sincerely hope that you will again shop our wonderful, *sometimes whimsical*, gift selections, jewelry, cards, kids' toys – well there are just too many things to list like Glen Ellyn items and Glenbard West and South gear! And if you have never shopped at Stacy's Corners Store, please put us on your post-shelter-at-home list of things to do. You will be glad you did.

We hope that you all are happy and healthy in your homes and we look forward to seeing you in the weeks ahead. Please don't forget us!

Warmest wishes,

Kathy Becker, Store Manager

Karen Hall, GEHS Executive Director

**Your purchases support the Glen Ellyn Historical Society and its mission to collect, preserve, educate, honor and share local history with our community.**



## **STACY'S CORNERS STORE**

**800 North Main St. - Glen Ellyn**

**630-469-1867 [store@gehs.org](mailto:store@gehs.org) [www.glenellynhistory.org](http://www.glenellynhistory.org)**

Right now, you can shop us online or by phone, with contactless pickup, shipping, and free local delivery. We will be open by appointment in Phase 3. Just call or email [director@gehs.org](mailto:director@gehs.org) to set up an appointment.

**Regular operating hours, once happily resumed:  
Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**