



November 2023  
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Issue 5

**The Historian -- Keeping the Public Informed**

**Current Board Members**

- Gary Ecklund, President
- Helen Davis, Vice President
- Jean Klock, Treasurer
- Becky Lamont, Secretary
- Lindakay Ebel
- Linda Fett
- Lori Finkle
- Valerie Norris
- Denny Rehn

**Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.**



**William Hazelgrove will return to KHS with his presentation of *Wright Brothers, Wrong Story: How Wilbur Wright Solved the Problem of Manned Flight***

This book is the first deconstruction of the Wright brothers' myth. They were not -- as we have all come to believe--two halves of the same apple. Each had a distinctive role in creating the first "flying" machine. How could two misanthropic brothers who never left home, were high-school dropouts, and made a living as bicycle mechanics have figured out the secret of manned flight? This new history of the Wright brothers' monumental accomplishment focuses on their early years of trial and error at Kitty Hawk (1900-1903) and Orville Wright's epic fight with the Smithsonian Institute and Glenn Curtis. William Hazelgrove makes a convincing case that it was Wilbur Wright who designed the first successful airplane, not Orville. He shows that, while Orville's role was important, he generally followed his brother's lead and assisted with the mechanical details to make Wilbur's vision a reality. Combing through original archives and family letters, Hazelgrove reveals the differences in the brothers' personalities and abilities. He examines how the Wright brothers myth was born when Wilbur Wright died early and left his brother to write their history with personal friend John Kelly.

*This program is sponsored by the Kirkland Public Library.*



**Volunteers Needed**  
Workshop every Monday from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the building, 309 South Fifth Street  
**Join us!**

Kirkland Historical Society, 309 South Fifth Street, Kirkland, IL 60146  
kirklandhistoricalsociety.com  
Also visit us on Facebook at Kirkland Historical Society

# WHAT A CHANGE!

*Many thanks to DCCF for awarding us a Community Needs Grant to get much-needed landscaping. DCCF's grant to Kirkland Historical Society also allowed us to replace an air conditioner with one that is up to date and energy efficient.*



## Historical Society South Patio Dedicated to John MacQueen



John MacQueen was born in 1867 in Perth, Scotland and came to America in 1887 at the age of 20. In 1896 he married Hortense Erickson and they lived at 212 West Hortense Drive.

That same year, he opened the sheep feeding yards in Kirkland. By 1907, he was feeding and shipping 1.5 million sheep annually. He prepared the sheep for Chicago contracts, including marketing, shearing, watering and feeding. John owned several thousand acres used for grazing his sheep.

Along with the growth of the sheep industry in Kirkland, John MacQueen is also responsible for the routing of Illinois Rte. 72 through Kirkland. In 1897 he built an electric plant with all night service to provide power for shears to be run for sheep shearing. He donated land for Camp Rotary MacQueen (located off Scout Road), the Kirkland Park, Hiawatha Schools, and the town's water works.

John was very active in the community. He was a member of the Kirkland Congregational Church (formally located on the site of the Kirkland Historical Society), a member of the Masonic fraternity (he was a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Mason), served on the Village Board, and was elected to Village President from 1911 to 1915.

John died in 1945 and is buried in the mausoleum at Maple Cemetery.



## **Kirkland Historical Society adds to the fun of Christmas in Kirkland this year!**

**We invite all to our Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 5 p.m.**

Tour the building and be amazed at our outstanding collection. At 3 p.m. we will feature Matt and Cynthia Gruel from Nostalgic Entertainment with a wonderful array of holiday songs. They'll be plenty of time after the show to get over to Franklin Township Park to enjoy the festivities there, including Santa arriving by fire engine!

Accomplished performers and husband and wife duo, Matt and Cynthia Gruel, delight audiences with their tight harmonies, theatrical performances and engaging arrangements! 'Make the season bright' with Matt and Cynthia in their Holiday Cabaret, "Under the Mistletoe!" 'Feel the jingling beat' with Jingle Bells, Holly Jolly Christmas, and It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas! Reminisce with Baby, It's Cold Outside, White Christmas, and Let it Snow. Rock out to Santa Claus is Comin' to Town, Run, Run Rudolph, Jingle Bell Rock, and Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree! And celebrate the sacred with Do You Hear What I Hear and The Little Drummer Boy. This joyful, nostalgic one-hour cabaret features the festive stories behind the music and is sure to get you in the Holiday Spirit!



This program is sponsored by the Kirkland Public Library with support from the Mary E. Stevens Trust for public concerts or lectures.



**Mark Your  
Calendar**

**2024**

- Jan 10 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Feb 11 2pm General Meeting
- Mar 13 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Apr 14 2 pm General Meeting
- May 8 Board of Trustees Meeting
- June 12 Board of Trustees Meeting
- July 10 Board of Trustees Meeting
- July Fundraiser
- Aug 14 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Sept 8 2 pm General Meeting
- Oct 9 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Nov 10 2 pm Annual Meeting
- Dec 14 2-5 pm Christmas Open House  
Entertainment from 3-4 pm  
5-7pm Franklin Township Park  
Christmas in Kirkland



*Look Into the Past  
To Discover the Future*

**2024 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Dues help pay for events and supplies needed to preserve the past

- Individual ..... \$15
- Family..... \$20
- Life (husband and wife)... \$300
- Organizations ..... \$30
- Businesses..... \$30

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

P O Box \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**KIRKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P o Box 337  
309 South Fifth Street  
Kirkland, IL 60146

Help preserve Kirkland's past by donating your time and/or sharing Kirkland historic items, photos, stories, articles, family trees, maps, abstracts, newspapers, etc.

**Great time at Denny Rehn's Corn Crib**

Chris Gardner, Interim Director at Boone County Museum of History spoke of their events and displays. An outing will be offered to tour the Funderburg House on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. If interested, please contact Jean Klock to get on the list. Tickets are \$10 each. We will meet at the Funderburg House



Fill this form out and bring it with your check or cash to the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting or the December 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Open House to renew your membership for 2024!