



November 2025  
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**The Historian -- Keeping the Public Informed**

**Thanks!**

Many thanks to Denny Rehn for hosting our September meeting at the Corn Crib Museum and providing pulled pork sandwiches..

Also, thanks to Carolyn Law for giving us an insight into several pieces from Denny's collection.

Great time had by all!



**Volunteers Needed**

Workshop every Monday from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the building, 309

South Fifth Street

**Join us!**

**Sunday, November 9, 2025  
at 2:00 p.m.**

***Singing Bird and the Importance of Native American Women in Illinois History***



Dressed in her native regalia, Kim Sigafus McIver gives a history of Natives in Illinois with a focus on Native women, or what was considered “The Hidden Half.” Her primary focus is women such as Singing Bird (Blackhawk’s wife) and Hononegah.

Kim will bring the audience into these women’s day-to-day lives, including courting, marriage, and child-rearing. She will also talk about their role in their husbands’ lives, and how those lives affected the history of Illinois. Kim will also bring items that women would have used in their daily lives, as she discusses the role women played within the family unit.

*This program is paid in part with a grant from the Mary E. Stevens Concert and Lecture Fund*

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

Pam Smith (class of '62) sent us the valedictorian speech given by her father, Marling J. Smith, in 1931. It is so perceptive of a teen-ager during the Depression of world affairs - no TV or social media. The original letter was typed, however, due to printing issues, I have reformatted it. The copy she sent us is at the Historical Society and you are welcome to read it over. This is Pam's last paragraph of her letter -- Despite his urging, have we, as a country, come any further in fulfilling "world citizenship," in honoring our alliances and rendering aid? How strong are the bonds we have forged? With great interest, Pamela Smith

### Worlds Citezenship

Friends, it is my privelege to welcome you to these commencement exercises. Your presence here tonight indicates that you are interested in the graduation class of 1931. For that interest we are grateful and it is our sincerest wish that you will continue te show an interest in us after we have taken our places with you as citizens of the community. Being interested in the successes of our fellowmen seems to us a mark of intelligence. .We are certainly affected by what others do, no matter where they are.

We graduates feel that we are not just citizens of the community or of the natiem, but we are citizens of the world. We are sometimes inclined to think that because our country is exceedingly rich and prosperous, our farms yield food in excess to our needs, our mines produce coal and ore which is unexcelled, our forests produce much more lumber than we can use, and our highly specialized industries turn out goods with which other countries find hard to complete, that no matter what happens to the rest of of the world, we are safe. This view of ourselves, however, is a most superficial one. one If shut off from trade with other countries for only a few months, every one of our industries would be serioudly injured and a large part of eur populatiem would be reduced to most straitened circumstances.

Every one of our large industries depends directly or indirectly on foreign trade. The steel industry depends almost entirely upon other lands for many- manganese, nichol and tungston which give the steel much of its strength. The silk mills which supply all parts of the world with silk, obtain their raw materials from China and Japan. Even the newsprint paper our daily paper comes to us largely from Canada.

Quite as important as our need of imported supplies is our need of foreign markets. Our products find markets in every portion of the globe. Shut off from these markets our industrial production woudd be greatly decresed. Great numbers of workmen would be thrown out of employment. One who has lived through the last few months can readily imagine the result. In our complex economic life of today we are far removed the old home production type of simple libing.

Dependence of nations upon another for necessities is of the strongest ties that bind people together. But there are other ties that are often unrecognized because their real sighiricance is not appreciated or is lost sight of because they are so common place. Every high schoel student of ancient conquered history knows that the barbarians camedown from nerthen Europe and Rome, and that the barbarians were in turn conquered by oman culture... and civilization. The barbarians victory gave them contrel of peeple and property, but the Roman victory, because it had to do with ideals and ideas, 'every was the lasting one. This conquest caused Roman culture to be carried to nearly country of Europe, and through them, to all parts of the world. Our country, because of its extensive industries and trade, holds a commanding a growing child, economic it positien in the world, but it is still very young, and like has much te gain from those nations whose civilization is the accumulation of centuries. We are indebted te other countiies for much of our language, laws, literature, art, and music, all of which serve to unite us with those older natiens from which mest of our people have come. Art and music are universal in their appeal. The\_architecture of our buildings is modeled after that of Eurepean cuntries, and our collections of of scuppture the work and painting consist largely of originals or repreductions in of Ital ian, French, German, and Dutch artists. Music composed one country is known and enjoyed the world over. Striking achievements may draw the attention of many citizens from various by countries. Colonel Lindbergh was generally acclaimed and rowally entertained Amundson, the peeple Nobile, of France, Belgikm, and England. The world applauds Peary, Byrd, Wilkins, and others risking their lives in in exploring appreciatien little of know deeds parts of the world. Race and nationality are fe gotten .

hen one country is stricken, the ether cuntries vie with one another te render it aid, whether it be an earthquake in China or a famine in Russia. Moderns means of communication bring the doings of all people to the whole world almost immediatly. International Conferences are given world wide breadcasts. Railroads, steamships, and aircraft have enormously increased travel and so greatly decreased time consumed in travel from one country to anpther that this world is small indeed compared to what it once was. So it is in all these respects that we young people, steadfastly loyal to our own country and proud of our citizenship, are reminded that we are also citizens of the world.

# The Menz Food Shop

The Kirkland Historical Society received several pages of the Menz family history and although interesting, it's too much for us to include the entire missive in our newsletter.

Several paragraphs are included here and we would encourage anyone who wants to read it in its entirety to stop by KHS. Many thanks to Nancy Menz Paulson and David Paulson for sharing.

*According to notes made by George Gibson in 1966-67, the Menz Food Shop building on Main Street had previously housed several of Kirkland's early merchants. Among them and their employees were Albert W. Haller (grocery and meat market), Sam Rowan, Russell Smith, Albert Peterson, Walter Haller, John Heward (grocery and meat market), Frank Coonley, Robert Maxwell, and O.H. Wennlund (insurance). For a few years, the front part of the upstairs of this building also housed the local telephone exchange.*

*In March 1928 Leroy Rote, 13 years old, was seriously injured when he fell into a hot tub of water that was being used to prepare chickens in the meat market operated by A.E. Menz.*

*In May 1929 Albert Menz and his son Carl, together with Fred Baxman entered into a partnership and leased the Rowan building at the corner of Fifth and Main. The large two-story brick building was built by Harley Rowan as a drug store and had previously been operated by Robb and Riley as a grocery store. Menz, Baxman, and Menz began operating the new store on June 1, 1929. The Menz meat market, which was located just west of there, was moved to the new location. The new store will serve a full line of groceries in addition to meats.*

*In January 1931, Albert Menz, Fred Baxman, and Carl Menz began operating a cash grocery store in Fairdale, Illinois. Baxman operated the store in Fairdale and the Kirkland store was now owned and operated by Albert Menz and his son Carl.*

*George Gibson's notes indicate that in 1939 A.E. Menz closed his business and leased his building to Frank and Opal Lyons for a café. It was later rented for use and the Atlantic Yellowstone Pacific Café. Bess Yeager is believed to have operated a novelty store in the building.*

*After the death of A.E. Menz, the Main Street property was owned by his widow Amelia "Millie" Menz. According to notes left by George Gibson, the restaurant was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Summerfield as the Kirkland Café, known to the locals as "Mayme's" until 1954.*

*Carl and Stuart Menz acquired the building from their mother in 1954. Two brothers, Henry and Harry Samet, operated the H & H Dairy Store (a Meadow Gold milk delivery business) out of the store.*

*Stuart Menz bought out the interest of his brother, Carl, in 1958 and in April of that year he opened the Menz Food Shop.*

*Stuart continued to operate the Menz Food Shop until 1987, when he closed the business, sold the building and retired.*



The A. E. Menz Meat Market on Main Street in Kirkland, Illinois - about 1926

Left to right - Stuart Menz, unknown, unknown, A. E. Menz, unknown, Carl Menz



2026

- Jan 14 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Feb 11 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Mar 8 2pm General Meeting
- Apr 8 Board of Trustees Meeting
- May 17 2pm General Meeting
- June 10 Board of Trustees Meeting
- July 8 Board of Trustees Meeting
- July 25 Fundraiser
- Aug 12 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Sept 13 2pm General Meeting
- Oct 14 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Nov 8 2pm Annual Meeting
- Dec 9 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Dec 12 4:30-6:30pm Christmas in Kirkland  
Franklin Township Park



Look Into the Past  
To Discover the Future

2026 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
- Business ..... \$30

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

KIRKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO Box 337  
309 South Fifth Street  
Kirkland, Illinois 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.

**We Serve**

**Kirkland Lions Club Annual Halloween Walk**

When: Sunday, October 26, 2025  
Time: 5:30 P.M.  
Where: Franklin Township Park

- Awards presented to the Top 3 of each age group...even adults!!
- This will lead into the Kirkland Methodist Church's Trunk-or-Treat event

**TRUNK OR TREAT**

**Date:** Sunday, October 26  
**Event Time:** 6-7 PM  
**Setup Time Begins:** 4 PM  
**Location:** Kirkland UMC, parking lot, and 3rd Street. 3rd Street will be blocked off.  
**Check in:** When you arrive with your vehicle, check in with the volunteer in an Orange Vest for the parking site.

Fill this form out and bring it  
with your check or cash to the  
November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting or mail it  
in to renew your membership  
for 2026.