



Look Into the Past
To Discover the Future

March 2026
Volume 19
Issue 1

The Historian -- Keeping the Public Informed

Always things to do on Mondays between 1 and 3. If you can help out, we'll appreciate it.

- Help with exhibits
- Preserve newspaper articles
- Preserve collections and photographs
- Help with housekeeping
- Help with fundraising
- Help with keeping the grounds neat and weedfree
- Proofreading the obituary information, family history and marriage

Volunteers Needed

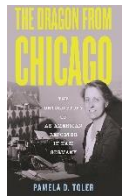
Workshop every Monday from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the building, 309 South Fifth Street

Join us!



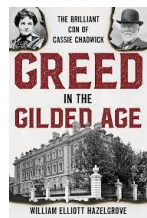
Sunday, March 8, 2026 at 2 p.m.

Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. We are pleased to welcome historian Pamela Toler who tells the story of *The Chicago Tribune's* Berlin bureau chief and primary foreign correspondent for Central Europe from 1925 to January 1941. Sigrid Schultz spent years courageously reporting the news from Berlin -- from the revolts of 1919 through the Nazi rise to power and Allied air raids over Berlin in 1941. At a time when women reporters rarely wrote front-page stories, Schultz regularly reported the truth about Nazi Germany in the face of censorship and the threat of expulsion, internment, or death.



The Nazis called Schultz "that dragon from Chicago." One of her fellow correspondents called her "Adolph Hitler's greatest enemy." Schultz herself claimed to be "just a reporter." Her story is a powerful account of one woman standing up for truth in an era marked by the spread of disinformation and propaganda spawned by hate.

Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 2 p.m.



This is the third Sunday rather than our usual second Sunday program as we did not want to interfere with Mother's Day celebrations.

Author William Hazelgrove will return with another fascinating tale. *Greed in the Gilded Age, The Brilliant Con of Cassie Chadwick* is a Gatsby-esque tale of mystery, money, sex, and scandal. 'Millionaire' had just entered the American lexicon and Cassie Chadwick was front page news, becoming a media sensation before mass media. Combining the sexuality and helplessness her gender implied, Chadwick conned at least 2 million dollars, equivalent to about 60 million today, simply by claiming to be the illegitimate daughter and heir of steel titan, Andrew Carnegie. Playing to their greed, she was able to convince highly educated financiers to loan hundreds of thousands of dollars, on nothing more than a rumor and her word.

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

2026 KHS Events – You Won't Want to Miss These!

In addition to the two programs highlighted on the front page of this newsletter, there are three more events you will not want to miss!

Saturday, July 25th – Annual Fundraiser and Auction

YES! – Peggy Stuntz is back to lead this fun event and our only fundraiser

Sunday, September 13th at 2 p.m. – Fires in Kirkland

We will be putting together a presentation on the fires that have occurred in Kirkland throughout it's history. The KCFD will also be asked to make a presentation on fire safety.

Saturday, November 7th at 3 p.m. – World War II Radio Hour

Nostalgia Entertainment will be back celebrating Veteran's Day and have us rocking with their entertaining show featuring the songs from the WW II era.

Memories of Kirkland

Kirkland Contributes to America's Transportation Growth

During America's 250 years, Kirkland has contributed to its transportation's growth. In 1875 William T. Kirk gave land to the railroad for a right-of-way through Kirkland with the stipulation that every passenger train had to stop at Kirkland's depot. This increased revenue for our hotels, restaurants, dime store, millinery, haberdashery.... This part of the contract was met until the mid-70s, long after the contracts were abandoned.

Kirk's astute push for a railroad also paved the way for his sheepyards to grow exponentially. A federal law was passed requiring livestock to be watered and fed after 36 hours of travel. We happened to be that distance via rail for livestock being shipped from Omaha, Nebraska to the Chicago stockyards.



To make the railroad a reality, Kirk worked with Illinois' governor and various boards to dynamite the Kishwaukee River east of town to straighten it so the railroad tracks could be laid. (Previously the river meandered south toward the old Firkins' farm, west toward Tutt's farm and back north just behind the houses on First Street, across the Pearl/72 intersection through Hines Lumber to where it runs now.)

In the 1930s, when curves were replacing four-way stops throughout the rural areas, John MacQueen worked with the governor to route 72 through our town and use it as Main Street. Prior to that, traffic from the east came down Hortense and either kept going straight on 72 or turned north on 6th Street, our "Main Street" (which held the Lutheran Church, a car dealership, Blake Oil, a cheese factory and a livery). Worden and Yeager's Livery was removed from what is now the 6th and 72 intersection so 72 could run through town as it does now.

Submitted by Connie Worden

*If you have memories of Kirkland that you would like to share,
please send them to us at Kirklandhs309@gmail.com*

Singing Bird and the Importance Of Native American Women in Illinois History

Dressed in her native regalia, in November Kim Sigafus McIver offered the audience 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.

Our members enjoyed this presentation, even playing instruments along with Kim.



KHS Board of Trustees

A short bio of those who serve on our Board of Trustees in the right hand column of this page.

This dedicated group put in over 800 volunteer hours during 2025 and I’m sure many hours never made it on the list.



Back Row (l to r): Carol Stiegman, Jean Klock, Connie Worden, Jim Stuntz, Gary Ecklund.

Front Row (l to r): Sally Jones, Lindakay Ebel, Becky Lamont, Cole (non-voting trustee), Linda Fett

Note the “donor tree” on the wall behind this group that is referred to in the Legacy article on page 4.

We would also like to thank Pete Paulson who has done an amazing job this year of keeping the outside of the building neat and tidy. He cuts the grass, edges, and rakes the leaves so that we can be just as proud of the outside of the building as we are of our collection inside.

Who Are We?

The following people are active in the operation of KHS and clearly dedicated to its success.

Becky Lamont – The Lamonts, Olsons and Tindalls. What family is more embedded in the history of Kirkland? Becky has been an excellent secretary since its inception in 2007. Such perseverance and dedication.

Linda Fett – She has assumed the job of arranging speakers for our programs. She also coordinates and designs our newsletters, which is a time-consuming endeavor.

Sally Jones was the first female mechanic hired by United Airlines. Her innate mechanical ability (of which I have none) is useful especially regarding the mechanical system in our building. She is willing to do what is necessary at the Monday workshops.

Lindakay Ebel is faithful at our Monday workshops and assumes the responsibility to see that each picture, obit, etc. is correctly filed.

Carol Stiegman recently retired as Kirkland Village Clerk. She is now our treasurer with a wealth of accounting knowledge.

Connie Benson Worden is related to a large segment of the Kirkland Swedes. Connie devotes endless hours as our resident archivist – recording, preparing receipts and organizing our archival materials.

Jim Stuntz, whose claim to fame is that he is married to Peggy. Peggy and Alan Aves provided the vision and the motivation to establish the Society. Jim, a retired pilot, has contributed with his ability in maintaining the building.

Steve Squier recently volunteered to be a consultant. He is a retired engineer and college professor. His computer skills are greatly appreciated. It seems someone is always asking him questions related to the computer.

Jean Yates Klock’s family also has a long Kirkland history. In my opinion, she is the heart and soul of KHS. She devotes endless hours and thought to all matters large and small to the success of KHS.

I do not contribute much to the continuing operation, but I truly enjoy being a part of this Society which is working to preserve the history of the Kirkland area.

A group with a variety of abilities and all working well together to further our common goal.

Submitted by Gary Ecklund



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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.

YOUR LEGACY

We are grateful for the generosity of friends - you are included - who have financially supported the Kirkland Historical Society many for the past 19 years. We were able to purchase this building with gifts of \$100,000. Amazing. The donor names are recorded on a "tree" on the wall in the Stuntz Research Room.

Our income is limited but by carefully monitoring expenses we have been able to pay our bills. In order to guarantee continued viability, we would like to increase the annual income. We have an endowment with the DeKalb County Community Foundation. Gifts given to the Foundation are perpetually retained and invested by the Foundation with the assistance of professional advisors. Annually it makes distribution of income to the endowment beneficiary, which avoids this board or any future board from unwise investing or reckless spending.

You can make a contribution to the Foundation and designate KHS as the beneficiary. If the gift is \$10,000, or more, the Foundation and KHS will establish the endowment in your name, or the name of your family, or as you request. The name of the endowment is thereby perpetually held and annually you will be contributing to the on-going success of KHS. You may make a present gift and add to it, or it can be part of your estate plan. If you need more information, I suggest you consult with your attorney or look at the DCCF website.

We hope you will consider this method to perpetuate the name of your family in Kirkland.



Watch for more
information on
GIVE DeKalb
County this Spring



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 7 3pm Annual Meeting
- Dec 9 Board of Trustees Meeting