

SPRING 2022



THE WAY IT WAS...

TIME & PLACE

Vol.6 No. 2

# Carol Stream Historical Society

## REGULAR MEETINGS 2022\*\*

JANUARY 25	JUNE 28
FEBRUARY 22	JULY 26
MARCH 22	AUGUST 23
APRIL 26	SEPTEMBER 27
MAY 24	OCTOBER 25 (ANNUAL MEETING)

We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. January - October.

**\*\*MEETINGS MAY BE HELD ON ZOOM.**

*Please check the Carol Stream Historical Society Facebook page for meeting information.*

- *In person meetings are held at the Historic Farmhouse, 301 W. Lies Rd. in Carol Stream*
- *Zoom meetings will be held as appropriate.*

## OFFICERS 2022

MARGARET LEABRU, *PRESIDENT*

SUSAN BENJAMIN, *TREASURER*

KAREN SHREVE, *SECRETARY*

OPEN POSITION, *COMMUNITY RELATIONS*

LAURA SCHMIDT, *HISTORIAN*

BARB SIMKUS, *MEMBERSHIP*



## On our cover

Barns are critical buildings for farmsteads. Dairy barns like this one were once prevalent in DuPage county. Can you guess where this specimen was located? Read more inside about the barn and the growth of dairying in the area.

*Correction:* The snow scene on our Winter Issue was from 1979 not 1967 as indicated. We apologize for the error. The photo was snapped at the Kenneally home on Silverleaf by Michael Kenneally.

***Newsletter: Carole Ellermeier***

## *Time & Place Newsletter*

*Published quarterly by*  
**CAROL STREAM**

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**PO BOX 88791**

**CAROL STREAM, IL**

**60188-8791**

**630.473.8308**

**CarolStreamHistorical  
Society@gmail.com**

**VOLUME 6, Number 2**

# Shades of Bygone Days

The cover of this issue is done in sepia tones reminiscent of a bygone era before photos recorded realistic vibrant color. There's a certain nostalgia that these old monochromatic pictures evoke. They can transport us to another time and place when life was very different.

In this issue you will learn more about the imposing structure pictured on the cover. You may be surprised to discover where it was located or perhaps you remember seeing it before it disappeared. The barn is a vestige from our past. Few of these connections to the rural history of our town remain. We share them as a way of honoring the foundations of the present and those who came before us.

June is National Dairy Month and the farm that once surrounded the Historic Farmhouse was a dairy farm. Join us for Farmhouse and Dairy Promotion Day at the Farmhouse on Saturday, June 25 to celebrate that heritage. The event will pay homage to the dairying roots of the area.

Nearly every local farm had a barn before the development of Carol Stream. If you have photos of area farm sites, families, or events from prior to 1990, we'd love to receive and archive them for the future. Unless you specify otherwise, originals will be scanned and returned. Help us to preserve the way we were. Share your local vintage rural photos, memoirs, or artifacts relating to the Carol Stream area for our new Farm Exhibit which will open on June 25. For more information please contact us at:

[carolstreamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:carolstreamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

Read all about it on our Facebook page!



Please submit your artifacts & photos by June 1, 2022





# TIME & PLACE

## Carol Stream Historical Society

### Our Rural Roots

## *Of Dairy Farms and Dairy Barns*

The majestic structure featured on the cover of this issue harkens to a by-gone era when dairy farming was prevalent in the area. The barn which once stood to the northwest of the Historic Farmhouse was demolished when Pasquinelli began its housing development on the site in the 1990's.

According to our records, the large dairy barn was built in 1909, quite possibly by the Joseph Stark family. We know they were engaged in dairy farming at the time. Joseph Stark is listed as a member of the Illinois Milk Producers Association in its 1914 directory.

Dairy farming in the area began to grow due to a number of factors. As Chicago grew in the mid 1800's, families could no longer keep cows within the confines of the city. As the demand for milk grew, local grain distillers began keeping cows at their establishments, feeding them the slop generated by the distilling process. The milk produced by these cows, however, though cheap, was of very poor quality and lacked nutrients. It is said that plaster of Paris was sometimes added to lessen its bluish tint.

According to *History of Dairying in Illinois*, the northeastern portion of Illinois began to shift to dairy farming at that time. The profitability of grain farming was waning in this part of the state. However, water, an important resource for milk production was plentiful.



*The dairy barn viewed from the southwest. Note the Historic Farmhouse on the right behind the trees. Photo circa 1930.*



*Typical milk can.*

In 1852, P.H. Smith who farmed two miles east of Elgin, took a single eight-gallon can of milk by wagon to sell at the Old City Hotel in Chicago. The journey took three days. His enterprise, however, launched what was to become a thriving industry for the area.

The proximity to the city was ideal and the new Illinois Central Railroad could transport farm goods quickly and efficiently. This made it possible for milk to be quickly transported from the Cloverdale depot to Chicago. Quick transport was important before the advent of refrigeration to keep the product fresh.

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*Continued on page 5*

# TIME & PLACE

## Carol Stream Historical Society


Following the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, dairies moved away from the city. The milk production industry grew as more and more farmers recognized the profitability of dairying. The invention of the Mehring milking machine, in wide use by the 1890's, also allowed dairy farmers to increase production.

Milking usually took place twice a day. The warm milk was poured into eight-gallon milk cans and cooled. Each morning, the milk cans, each weighing eighty pounds, were loaded into the farmer's wagon and driven to the depot, placed on the train, and sent to the city for distribution.

It was important to cool the milk on the farm before transport in order to retard spoilage. Well water cooling was one method that was used. In the cover photo, there is a small building called a milk house, at the right next to the silo. The lower frame of a windmill stands above it. It is likely that the windmill pumped cold water into a deep trough inside the milk house to cool the contents of the milk cans set inside to keep the milk fresh.

Farmers gathered for the daily 10 a.m. milk stop in Cloverdale a Gary and Army Trail Roads. In 1883, the Illinois Central Railroad shipped 55,000 of the eight gallon, eighty-pound cans of milk to Chicago.

Before glass milk bottles were introduced in 1885, milk was sold as a bulk item. It was simply poured into the purchaser's container for home use. Glass milk bottles were returned, washed and refilled for redistribution.

As more and more dairies were established, the production of other dairy products increased. Creameries, cheese factories and condensing plants were built to use the excess fresh milk. There a was a creamery in Cloverdale and Mr. Hill built and operated cheese factories in Bloomingdale and Wayne in 1865. Gail Borden of New York built a condensing factory in Elgin. In 1865 the greater area had 17 cheese factories. By 1870 the number had increased to 46. In 1874, the Illinois State Dairy Association was established to represent the industry. 

I'm the most common breed of dairy cow. Who am I?

See page 8.



*Dairy farmers gather outside Tedrahn's in Cloverdale for the 10 a.m. milk run.*

It is very likely that milk from the Stark farm was shipped by rail to Chicago and made into cheese or butter in Cloverdale or Bloomingdale. Dairying in DuPage continued well into the twentieth century. One example of the era is the then state-of-the-art Blue Top Farm featured on NBC's 1950's series, *Out on the Farm*. The Wilbert Landmeier family was featured on the farm that was located on the site of Carol Stream's Gregory J. Bielawski Municipal Center.



# **FARMHOUSE & DAIRY PROMOTION DAY**

**Saturday, June 25**

**11:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.**

**Carol Stream Historic Farmhouse**

**301 W. Lies Road**

*Honoring this early 1900's dairy farm*

**Dairy Info & Exhibit  
House & Garden Tours  
Prairie Farms Dairy Ice Cream Cups**

**Presented by  
Carol Stream Historical Society &  
DuPage County Farm Bureau**

**Dairy info will be distributed by  
The DuPage County Farm Bureau**

*In celebration of National Dairy Month*

**Come and enjoy!**



# Flag Day ☆ June 14

June 14, 1777, marks the date that the stars and stripes became our country's official flag.

The original flag bore thirteen white stars arranged in a circle; one for each of the thirteen colonies which became the original states. Each new state since then has received a star. The last two of the current fifty were added in 1950. The alternating red and white stripes commemorate the thirteen colonies.

The symbolism of our flag extends to its colors. **Red** stands for strength and valor; **White**, for purity and innocence; **Blue**, for vigilance and perseverance.

President Woodrow Wilson unofficially declared June 14 as Flag Day in 1916, but it wasn't until 1949 that President Harry Truman signed legislation making the observance official.



This proud symbol of freedom should be treated with respect. The [U.S. Flag Code](#) addresses the proper way to display the flag as well as how the flag should be used.



## National Preservation & National Volunteer Month

The Carol Stream Historical Society strives to preserve the history of the area and invites you to preserve the history of your family, organization, church, etc. with photos and stories. We welcome vintage and contemporary visual and written records of local history.

CSHS commends the many volunteers who generously give of their time and talents to the community. You are making history!

THANK YOU!

## Oberweiss CSHS Fundraiser June 21 *Mark your Calendar*

*Details on*



Historic Farmhouse, 301 W. Lies Rd.



Bring your  
gardening  
tools!

*Picture yourself here! It's spring cleaning time at  
the Farmhouse. Gardeners & cleaners welcome!*



### *Carol Stream Historical Society*

2021 Membership Form—JOIN US!

*Please join us in our quest to preserve  
the history and heritage of Carol Stream.  
Membership is open all who are interested  
in supporting this mission.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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*I am enclosing my \$10 dues for 2022  
I am enclosing a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

- CSHS is a Public Charity – tax deductible donation as allowed by law

Please make check payable to: CAROL STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAIL TO: Carol Stream Historical Society

P. O. Box 88791

Carol Stream, IL 60188

QUESTIONS—CALL: 630-665-0308 (Barb)

Thank you for your support! Connect with us today!



[Carolstreamhistorical.com](https://www.carolstreamhistorical.com)

From p. 5—I'm a Holstein, a dairy breed prized for high milk production.