

RECORD

BEVERLY HILLS, MORGAN PARK, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS & MT. GREENWOOD

The Ridge as it pertains to the Chicago fire of 1871

BY LINDA LAMBERTY

The great Blue Island Ridge, described circa 1834 as "a vast and empty vegetable quietude," is now barely discernible beneath the crowded and busy National Historic District that we call home.

When the Chicago Fire forced residents out, many chose to migrate south to Hyde Park and Englewood, and others yet further out to the Ridge, into areas already pre-packaged for habitation by developers.

Some who chose the Ridge only did so seasonally, moving back to middle ground communities for the less clement months of the year. Laurin Palmer Hilliard, born in Otsego Co., NY in 1814, came to Chicago in 1836. In 1843 he married Marie E. (nee Boyer) Beaubien, born in 1820 at Reading, PA and ex-wife of Madore Beaubien, of the half-French/half-Indian family so well

known in this region in that day. Marie arrived in 1833, the daughter of another early Chicagoan, John K. Boyer. Laurin is known to have brought his family to the Ridge after the Chicago fire, and to have become involved in the community.

He was a founder of Bethany Union Church and a primary in both "Hilliard and Hitt's" and "Hilliard and Dobbins'," very early local subdivisions. He built a substantial home between Winston and Beverly (then Oak) Avenues on the north side of 99th Street, which was marked on at least one early real estate map of the neighborhood.

His children also became enmeshed here, both sons carrying on his real estate endeavors. Winston Avenue at the time of the Fire was THE street to live on, north of what would soon become Morgan Park. It was named for

Frederick Hampton Winston of the Blue Island Land and Building Company, formed in 1869, which purchased a large portion of the Thomas Morgan estate to subdivide and develop.

The new Rock Island Dummy Line made it most convenient to live on the stately diagonal streets like Winston and Oak, which ran from 95th down to about 103rd. In the early 1890s, Hilliard came to a dispute with one of his neighbors, resulting in his moving north of 95th Street where both of his sons built substantial homes.

Meanwhile, perhaps to aggravate the mean-spirited neighbor, Hilliard rented his expansive house and grounds to a cultist organization called the Koreshan Unity, a very unusual group that believed we exist on the inside wall of the earth rather than on top of it. The Koreshans ended up moving to

Estero, Florida, where there is a historic site marking their contribution to local history.

(Incidentally, RHS is in communication with their archivist, who has recently received a large donation of materials that might yet enlighten us here about our own history.)

Speaking of the Morgans: Thomas brought his family here from England in 1844, where he amassed several thousand acres along the Ridge before his death in 1851. His widow lived on at the head of their estate, called Upwood, in North Beverly until her death (in New Orleans) in 1868, after which their real estate holdings were largely dispersed and most of the children moved away.

At the time of the Fire, many Morgan family possessions were in and all of those were

PLEASE SEE FIRE, PAGE 2

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or by appointment

Why is peanut butter so smooth, creamy, and easy to spread?

Spreading peanut butter history



Dr. Leo C. Brown, a chemist for Derby Foods, Inc. who held numerous patents in food processing, lived in a Tudor Revival-style house at 2244 West 110th Place.

BY JENNIFER KENNY

Did you ever wonder why peanut butter is so smooth, creamy, and easy to spread?

Thanks to local homeowner Judy Polzin we have learned about one of the fathers of "America's favorite food." Judy, who dabbles in genealogy

research, contacted the Ridge Historical Society about the history of her house at 2244 West

110th Place.

The 1932-33 home is a handsome example of the Tudor Revival-style of architecture, yet RHS is even more intrigued with the home's historic significance.

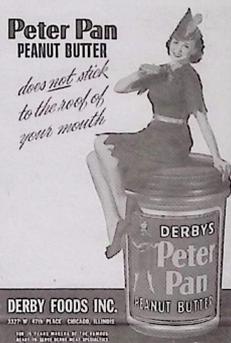
The two-story brick and stucco residence has longtime associations with one-time owner Dr. Leo C. Brown. Dr. Brown was a chemist for Derby Foods, Inc., holding numerous patents in food processing in his over 40-year career, and is considered a pioneer in the peanut butter industry.

Former south side based Derby Foods,

once owned by Swift and now Con-Agra, made nationally-known brand Peter Pan Peanut Butter. As director of research for Derby, Dr. Brown patented ways to make "America's favorite food" more palatable. After learning about Dr. Brown from RHS, Judy located his son in California, and RHS is grateful for his donation of a portrait of Dr. Brown, Dr. Brown and his wife, and a list of Brown's food processing patents.

Consumers can thank one of our own Beverly-Morgan Park residents for inventing ways to keep peanut butter's oils

from separating from the nut paste, keeping our peanut butter from becoming dry and lumpy. We sure enjoy that signature smooth spreadability!



CHICAGO FIRE, FROM PAGE 1

lost. (We are quite fortunate that some of the estate was moved south. A direct descendant of the Morgan family living in Atlanta has since shared some fabulous things with us!)

Another local person with a peculiar connection to the Fire was Michael Smith. He was the English-born son of Irish parents, and around 1850 came to Monmouth, Ill., where he ran a general store.

After the Civil War he came to Chicago and entered into the hotel business, building the National Hotel at Wells

and Randolph.

In 1869, he divested himself entirely of his successful hotel and bought 40 acres atop the Ridge just west of Western and north of 111th Street. Here he planted an orchard of apple and pear trees. Four generations of his family flourished there in a farmhouse which was recorded in John Drury's classic Old Chicago Houses, written in the late 1940s. Drury states that one day, Smith looked up to the eastern sky and saw a strange light - it was the Chicago Fire and it completely destroyed all of his former holdings.

The site of the old Western Avenue and Arlington Schools, approximately where Clissold and its playground stretch today, is directly across from the old Smith Orchard. In early days, their graduating classes would cross the street to have class pictures taken against that picturesque backdrop. Thus, RHS has many photos that include the old orchard!

We know that the Barnard family - great founders and benefactors of RHS - built a lovely home at the northeast corner of 103rd and Longwood Drive and came out here to live af-

ter the Fire. They owned several farms in the area over many years since first coming to the Ridge in 1844, but it was to this house that they fled after losing their home on Ontario Street to the Great Chicago Fire.

We have a written account of their experience in that catastrophe, such as an incident where they were forced to throw all their good dishes out the window in order to save any of them. Included in one or more of their generous bequests to RHS are items salvaged from the ruins after October 8, 1871.

PLEASE SEE FIRE, PAGE 3

Annual Fund appeal, including \$10,000 challenge match, achieved within RHS membership!

BY GENE DELVES, CHAIRMAN

The 2006 Annual Fund appeal included a \$10,000 challenge match, which was successfully achieved, without reaching beyond our own membership! We thank the following members for such generous support.

\$500 or more:

Meg & Dan Hack
Edis & Steve Hoover
Betsy McGrail
Sue & Gene Delves
Ruth Secord

\$250 to \$300

Patricia Boyd
Pat & Gene McGrail
Billie Marie & Donald Keyser
Marie & Bill Sandstrom
Lois & Herman Schell

\$200

Lois Grayston
Judy & Tom Hynes
Berniece & James Matthews
Allison & Doris Moulton
Wendy Schulenberg

\$125 to \$150

Mary Quinn & Kurt Olsson
Helen Rudin
Maureen Gilligan

\$100

Patricia & John Ahern
Jane & David Barclay
Kate Eaton & Bill Barnhart
Norine & Charles Beirne
Russell Carlson
Pat & John Coffey
Julie & Mike DeHaan
Philip A. Doran
Janice & Wayne Helge
Cathi & Tom Hagan
Eleanor & Ted Hollander
Elizabeth Johnson
Linda Lane
Kathy & Matt Maldre
Lori & Ed McGunn
Harriette & Henry Melin
Marcella Meyer
Morgan Pk. Woman's Club
Bernadette Malloy
Malloy & Associates
Lilyan Nash
Sharon Ostrowski
George Ralston
Megan & Brian Riordan
Betty Siegel
Richard Sikes
Sheila & Mike Sise
Lorraine & Pat Stanton
Dean Miller & Martha Swift
Richard A. Wiley

\$50 to \$75

Barbara & Don Akers
Dorothy Angelo
Donald Atkinson
Rollin Dix
Asa M. Bacon
Susan Burnet

Alice Dargan Clark
Herman L. Daniel
Robyn Dare
Suzie & Mike Eiben
Heather & Robert Fagan
Norma & Kevin Flynn
Heartland Historic Research
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Jeremy McGuire
Kathleen & David McKee
Shirley & Joel Morbito
Sue Mukahy
Carol & Brian Murphy
Eileen & Tim Murphy
Lucille & Pat O'Shea
Patrick Racey
Mary & Rob Rasi
Ellis & Norma Stukenberg
Audrey & Jack Sullivan
Sharon & Roman Swiercz
June & Kathy Valek
Lisa & Matt Walsh
Ethel & Robert J. Wirtshafer

UP TO \$50

Leroy Bryant, Sr.
Janet & Geoffrey Elmore
Paula Everett
Grace Borggren
Helenjean Foley
Bill Flynn
Terrance Hilliard
Louise & Cliff Hullinger
Linda & David Jensen
Karen & Charles Junkunc
Peg & Wendell Kapustiak
Mildred L. & Dirk Kitzmiller
Joan Klenk
Joyce & Richard Kopecky
Grace & Edward Larsen
Kristen & Charles Lopez
Sybil Maina
Norma Miller
Marie McDonough
Gretchen McDowell
Dan Moulton
Joe O'Connor
Fran Oehmen
Peggy Antonides Papp
Susan & Tom Paole
Salvig & Harry Robertson
Robert Rasi
Charles Shanabruch
Alan Shultz
Barbara Thompson
Elizabeth Turley
Marnie M. Vaghte
Dorothy & Harry Youngquist

The new slate of officers and board members was approved at the Annual Membership Meeting, which was held on Sunday, February 22, 2007.

Current board, serving until spring 2008

Doris Moulton, president
Lindsay Lambert, vice president/
program chair
William Sandstrom, treasurer
Carol Flynn, recording secretary
Peg Kapustiak, membership secretary
Edris Hoover, curator
Jennifer Kenny, historian

Serving until 2008

Mal Black
Herman Schell
Lori McGunn
Monica Somerville
Jeff Sebek

Serving until 2009

Joyce Black
Paula Everett
Mati Maldre
Dan Klaiber
Maureen Gilligan
Mary Quinn Olsson

Directors Emeriti

Julie DeHaan
Eugene Delves
Sue Delves
Lois Grayston
Linda Lane
Patricia McGrail
Joan Murphy
Carl Spencer
Audrey Sullivan

CHICAGO FIRE, FROM PAGE 2

The Chicago Fire had an interesting impact on historical research. Genealogists tracing their family tree in early Chicago soon learn that many traditional records - birth, marriage and death registers/documents, court records and myriad etc. - were destroyed by the fire.

On the other hand, one of the first things re-created afterward was

the city's history. Pioneers formed the Old Settlers' Society (welcomed by the Calumet Club on the near south side) and started to piece together the past with the same energy and enthusiasm as the real estate developers. They recorded and published information and gathered artifacts that had escaped the inferno. (Ironically, the Calumet Club was also destroyed

PLEASE SEE FIRE, PAGE 4

Preservation and archiving are key roles of RHS

Preservation of a history collection always becomes an "If only we knew then what we know now" situation. Thirty-five years ago, when our Society began collecting stories and artifacts relating to our community history, we inherited papers and costumes and books already brittle from years of attic storage.

So from the beginning, we were behind in storing and/or filing them. (We seldom receive single items. It's usually in 50 year bunches.) Information was typewritten, using onionskin and carbon paper or cutting a stencil for mimeograph duplication for multiple copies.

Beverly Bank allowed us to use its first Xerox copier, and bank employees waited while Bob White monopolized it for RHS. Costumes and textiles were left hanging on wire hangers in plastic

bags, or folded into cardboard suit boxes stacked on the attic floor. RHS became "Second Hand Rose." As businesses converted to computers, we happily accepted their old electric typewriters. Heavy wooden file cabinets came when businesses got new metal ones.

Our collections were organized into the wood cabinets and shelves, or newly built wooden shelving in the attic. Newer, heavier cardboard cartons replaced shabby ones, and hundreds of old photos piled up, without identification or dates, and so it goes. "Happy problems," we call them, because without papers and pictures and things -- and also clutter -- we couldn't call ourselves a Historical Society.

We always are open to accepting nice second hand equipment. But today, what we know for sure is that cardboard

boxes and wooden file cabinets and shelving are not "archival quality." Copy paper, file folders and plastic sleeves for preserving photos and newspaper clippings must be acid free and archival quality if history is to be preserved. Electronic and digital storage is efficient, but it too, will be subject to obsolescence.

RHS uses dollars from fundraising efforts to purchase these materials, and always is searching for special purchasing opportunities. Last summer Jane Nicoll learned that Rotary International Headquarters was disposing of a large amount of almost new metal shelving at substantial discount.

Lois Grayston generously offered to fund the purchase price while Lois and Herman Schell began measuring all places we could possibly use shelves. This spring they are installing the shelving. Research books

and binders of newspaper clippings (assembled monthly by volunteers from Morgan Park Women's Club) are filling shelves placed in the new 2nd floor library.

In the costume workshop, new shelving holds costumes stored in correct new boxes purchased with two Illinois Association of Museums grants for the purchase of archival supplies. More shelving replaces those wooden shelves in the attic, to store more costumes and artifacts, and finally, along one wall in the basement, our growing photo collection can be safely stored as it is identified, sleeved and filed in new boxes.

Each step in these new storage conversions provides new opportunities for an expanded volunteer force. To volunteer, please call 773/881-1675 or e-mail ridgehistory@hotmail.com to discover how you can be a really active member of RHS.

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MEMBERSHIP

A newsletter subscription is a benefit of membership.

ANNUAL DUES

Individual \$25
Family \$35
Contributor \$50
Supporter \$100

CHICAGO FIRE, FROM PAGE 3

in a fire, fortunately after most of the history was published.)

In 1876 the nation celebrated its centennial at the World's Fair in Philadelphia, and one of Chicago's primary exhibits was a photographer's collection of contempo-

rary portraits of our city's pioneers.

It was likely because of the Fire these pioneers gathered and that the photographer had the opportunity to take their pictures. The collection is housed at the Chicago History Museum (formerly the Chicago Historical Society.)

Do you have an interest in architecture?

Home decorating? Finances? Food? Childcare? Health? National history? Women's history? More? All of the above?

If you checked "All of the above," read our next issue and watch for a tell-all new exhibit this Fall!

Antonides elected posthumously to Illinois High School Football Coaches' Association Hall of Fame

Robert C. Antonides, longtime Head Football Coach of the Morgan Park High School Football Team, was inducted posthumously into the Illinois High School Football Coaches' Association Hall of Fame, on March 31, 2007 at an induction ceremony in Urbana-Champaign, according to Phil Salzer, Secretary/Treasurer of the association.

Salzer said in the announcement letter to Dr. Beryl Shingles, Principal of Morgan Park High, "Our organization selected him for his contributions to the game along with the impact he had on the community and school he served."

Antonides was Head Football Coach at Morgan Park High from 1929 to 1960, with a career won-lost record of 135 wins, 69 losses and 20 ties, including a City Championship in 1932. The Board of Trustees of

the Robert C. Antonides Memorial Foundation nominated him for the honor.

of their coach. It was perhaps the best we have ever received." Duffy said

Ridge Historical Society and members of the staff of Morgan Park High School in provid-



Robert C. Antonides was Head Football Coach at Morgan Park High School from 1929 to 1960, with a career won-lost record of 135 wins, 69 losses and 20 ties, including a City Championship in 1932.

To the Nominating Committee, led by Board member Kurt Duffy, Salzer wrote, "Let me commend the Morgan Park personnel who made such a tremendous presentation on behalf

in his seconding letter, "His (Antonides') lessons in discipline, integrity and respect are things I have carried with me throughout my life."

The RCA Foundation is grateful to The

ing research assistance and information for the preparation of the nomination. Peggy Antonides Papp and Jean Antonides Weber, nieces of Robert Antonides and Morgan Park graduates, accepted the award at the induction ceremony on behalf of their uncle.

Other attendees included Lexie W. Spurlock, current Head Varsity Football Coach at Morgan Park High School; Ronald T. Gill, Chairman of the Robert C. Antonides Memorial Foundation; and Morgan Park football team alumni Cambium Bruckner, Chris James, Sam Porter and Markus Thomas currently playing football for the University of Illinois.

Projects and volunteers

Spring is here and just like every homeowner RHS is ready to do some spring cleaning, repair and spruce up. We are cleaning out some of the rooms in the basement of this old house, washing walls and painting.

We are also cleaning up the hill, moving stones, wishing for planting or top soil,

along with someone to remove stumps and put in plants that will prevent erosion. Your help is needed. If you are, or have access to some of the youth of our community, who need to earn community service hours we need you.

If you are retired and looking for new projects, we need you. If you work but find that you

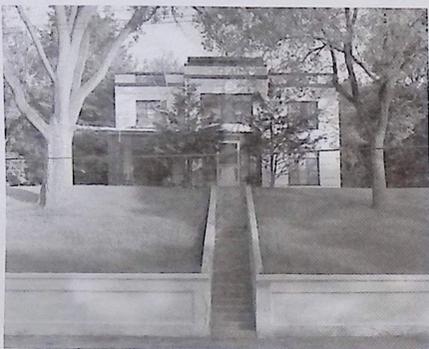
still have some time to spare, we need you. In other words we have a variety of work that needs to be done and *we need you.*

Please call and leave us a message phone 773/881-1976 or drop in to talk with us at 10621 S. Seeley Ave. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Chris Lichtenfeld to present program on the restoration of historical house of the future... the Armco-Ferro House

The Ridge Historical Society will present "Saving A House Of The Future" featuring Beverly resident Chris Lichtenfeld, restorer of the

boasts a revolutionary construction system of corrugated steel panels that are clipped together, resembling a cardboard box. The panels are



covered with a porcelain-enamel coating. The house, designed by Architect Robert Smith, Jr., was displayed at A Century of Progress Exposition, the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. For close to 70 years now, the house has

historical Armco-Ferro House, on Friday, May 18th, at 7:00 p.m.

The Armco-Ferro House is a seemingly structure-less house that

been located in Beverly Shores, Indiana. It was sorely neglected by its various tenants during this time.

Chris Lichtenfeld, a

retired General Electric engineer, has taken on the restoration of the Armco-Ferro House after falling in love with the house and its location on the shore of Lake Michigan. Following extensive research and consultation with architects, he is in year two of a massive project to save the rusting building. The current expected completion date of Lichtenfeld's "labor-of-love" project is late 2008.

The Century of Progress Exposition focused on innovations in architecture, science, technology and transportation. The Home and Industrial Arts Group invited architects and home builders to display homes that utilized new techniques of design, construction, and prefabrication in an attempt

to foster a more efficient housing industry. Over a dozen houses were on display. The Armco-Ferro House is the only remaining house from the Exposition that met the criterion that the "house of the future" should be able to be mass-produced and affordable for the average American family.

The display houses from the Exposition were never meant to be lived in. Following the event, they were to be destroyed, but a real-estate developer purchased a number of them and moved them, some by barge, to Indiana. In 1986, five of the homes, including the Armco-Ferro House, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most recently, a program to protect and maintain the houses through long-term residential leasing agreements has been instituted.

The May 18th program at the Ridge Historical Society to hear Lichtenfeld describe his project costs \$10 for Society members and \$15 for non-members. Refreshments will be served. Contact the Society at 773-881-1675 between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, for reservations or more information.



The Armco-Ferro House, designed by Architect Robert Smith, Jr., displayed at A Century of Progress Exposition, the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, is being restored by Beverly resident Chris Lichtenfeld, a retired General Electric engineer.



Frank Supple's identification, 70 years after the fact: Front row - L to R - Tom Supple, (another uncle), Bud Cummings, Jack Supple, proprietor, Don Cummings, balboy Frank Supple Middle row - Lefty Elliot, Bill Long, Paul Corlese, Bob Girsch, George Lynch Top row - Eddie Carney, Tony Duchinsky, Ernie "Swede" Johnson, Jack (Yock) Carney

Baseball team mystery solved!

"What a great publication the RHS Record is! Thank you for using the picture and story about the Supple Service Baseball Team (Chicago 16-inch softball).

My dad, Charlie Supple, operated the station for 35 years with my Uncle Jack. Dad and Jack have died, but Uncle Frank, who now lives in Edina, Minnesota identified everyone. (He lived at 103rd and Seely for

many years.)

Frank, the young "balboy", says the picture was taken in 1938 or 39.

Supple's Service became Supple Brothers after the war, when Charlie and Jack became partners. My dad was not in the picture -- I bet he was changing someone's oil!

The RHS Record was shared with family all across the country at Christmastime. What a

delight it was to my aunt, Sister Mary, who is a Sinsinawa Dominican nun now living at the Sisters' House at the Mound in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin."

Editor's note

The previous issue asked "Why no mitts or cleats?"

Mitts are never used in softball and cleats were a luxury in the '30s.

RHS Wins IAM Grant

RHS won a grant from the Illinois Association of Museums in the amount of \$252, to be matched with an equal amount by RHS. The grant has allowed the purchase of acid-free boxes for the preservation and storage of delicate historic clothing.

Clothing from the 1830s

The clothing has been donated over the years by families of the Ridge community and dates from the 1830s to the present. Items from the costume collection are always on display during the Society's visitor hours.

This grant is the second in consecutive years that RHS has received from IAM for archival supplies.

It is only the second time IAM has ever awarded a grant to the same organization two years in succession.

Remembering Nancy Byrne

Nancy Byrne, librarian at both Walker and Beverly Branch Libraries, died November 1, 2006. She was very active at Ridge Historical Society in the 1980s and 1990s, serving on the board many of those years.

Nancy was involved with a number of projects and contributions that enhanced our collection, most notably color coding the maps from

the Chicago Historic Resource Survey that are hanging in the basement.

Each building footprint was color coded to show its architectural and/or historic significance in the community. Nancy and student volunteers hand colored all of the buildings.

Also, Nancy and Alberta Killie photo copied the entire 1909 collection of Postcard photos of all

Morgan Park Houses at the Chicago History Museum. This collection was donated by the late Gertrude Harvey Klingensmith a few years before RHS was founded. The pictures and the charts provide valuable aids to visitors researching our Architectural Resource Center, which has been organized for general use by Jennifer Kenny.

A number of people

have donated to RHS in memory of Nancy Byrne. They are: Ann & Chuck Connors, Phil & RoseAnn Maher, John & Pat Coffey, Sue & Gene Delves, Eva Kelly, Ruth Secord, Fran Peterson, Evelyn Lyons, Theology South and Literary Sunshine Club. Their contributions will be set aside for use by the archives committee for archiving and preserving books and documents.



S U M M E R P R O G R A M S C H E D U L E

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

What did the Morgan Park Woman's Club have to do with "better homes" eighty years ago this April? Why did it bring ten thousand people into the neighborhood in the space of one week?
 Watch for our next issue when all will be explained, and be prepared for an exciting RHS exhibit this coming Fall!

JUNE 24 - THE ARK IN THE PARK
 Curator Emeritus Mark Rosenthal from Lincoln Park Zoo will speak on the history of the zoo, and tell anecdotes about the animals and his experiences at the zoo.
 RHS Board Secretary and past LPZ docent Carol Flynn will display some live animals from her own "zoo" - small mammals, birds and reptiles. Planned for the front lawn of RHS, this will be a fun event for the whole family!

JULY 13 - THIRD ANNUAL RHS BIKE RACE PARTY
 Join the fun watching the bike race from the vantage point of the front lawn of RHS on Longwood Drive. Dine from a wonderful buffet! Fun activities for children and vendors are also planned!

AUGUST 12 - AN ARMCHAIR VISIT TO RIVERVIEW
 Riverview Amusement Park closed in 1967, but we still remember our summertime trips there. Join Presenter Larry Bergnach as he speaks about the history of Riverview and takes us back to the BOBS and Aladdin's Castle in our memories!

Brick Paver Fundraiser Continues
 Why not put your name in stone? For \$100 you can put your name or the name of a loved one in our new brick patio. You can also honor any serviceman with a paver surrounding the flag on the RHS front lawn.