

RECORD

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

Morgan Park - Jerusalem Delivered

It is interesting how one little question can lead to an entire line of exploration. Geoffrey Baer hosts a segment on Chicago Tonight (WTTW) called, "Ask Geoffrey," where he takes time to answer people who have written in with Chicago area history-related questions.

One recent query came from someone who grew up in Morgan Park and who "walked up Monterey to the (Walker Branch) library." The writer

wondered why it was called Monterey when it was really 111th Street.

The answer we gave when Geoffrey's assistant called RHS is that Monterey and 111th are actually two completely different streets, though they do run into each other - at their intersection with the Rock Island, now Metra, railroad.

From a current map it is clear that Monterey is an angle street and 111th is merely broken up

by Morgan Park High School and the relatively small area of street grid in tandem with Monterey's angle.

In the early days of Morgan Park, however, all this stretch of 112th to Monterey to 111th was called Morgan Ave. When Morgan Park was finally annexed to Chicago in 1914, it is likely that Morgan was changed because there was already a Morgan St. running north and south in the city, just two blocks west of

Halsted. Thus, the new name of Monterey was applied to the angle portion of that roadway. *Streetwise Chicago* by Don Hayner and Tom McNamee, which gives the origins of most street names in the city, suggests the name Monterey might have come from Monterey, CA, though no support is given for this supposition.

Well, we answered the question and assumed that was that, but the following week Mr. Baer called. He had now become quite interested himself, from looking at a current map, in how Morgan Park was laid out and the streets were named. What were the origins? What were the early street names? How did annexation change Morgan Park?

Some early history

Morgan Park came about through the efforts of the Blue Island Land and Building

SEE MORGAN PARK, PAGE 3

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RIDGE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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Open to the public
Tuesday 2 - 5 p.m.
Thursday 2 - 5 p.m.
Sunday 2 - 5 p.m.
or by appointment



In the early days of Morgan Park, the entire stretch of 112th to Monterey to 111th and on up the hill was called Morgan Ave. This stately pre-annexation vista looking east from about the (111th St.) suburban line tracks is long gone. Note the distinct bend in the old street car line in the immediate foreground, where Monterey Ave. and 111th St. meet today.

New exhibit opening at RHS: Mapping The Ridge

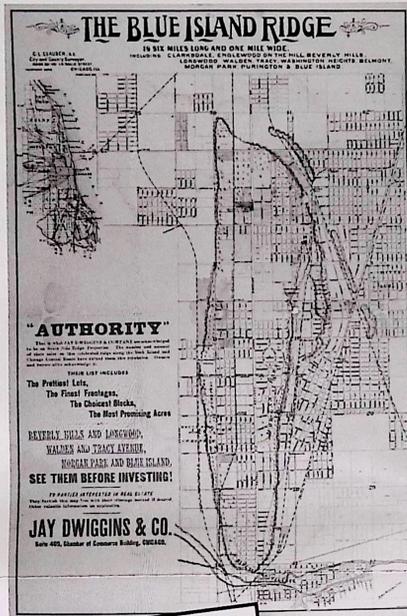
Maps and mingling benefit

After several weeks of renovation, RHS is eager to show off our new exhibit space in the former living room and foyer. New paint, updated lighting, modern window coverings, and an expanded exhibit floor plan accompany the new "Mapping The Ridge" opening. And for those of you who know the old living room – well, there will be another surprise – but you have to come to RHS to see it.

The opening reception will offer visitors the first look at the new exhibit and renovated RHS, as

well as a chance to visit with friends and neighbors. Wine, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. The admission to this benefit will go toward continuing upkeep and renovation of the Graver Driscoll House.

"Mapping The Ridge" will feature our in-house collection of maps and photographs. Maps represent a scale model of the world and have many uses: navigational, political and physical. Maps are a major tool for historians to interpret the past, offering a source of primary historical evidence and visual confirmation of change over time.



Plan to join us for an opening reception and benefit on Sunday, November 22nd, 2008 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

"Mapping The Ridge" will feature our in-house collection of maps and photographs. Wine, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

Admission is \$25 per person or \$45 per couple for RHS members, and \$30/\$50 for non-members. Call 773-881-1675 to make your reservations today.

MORGAN PARK, FROM PAGE 1

Company, which was incorporated in 1869 and set out to develop “the choicest of Chicago’s suburbs” (a description from an early real estate promotion).

Officers of the Blue Island Land & Building Company, some of whom lived locally, included Frederick H. Winston, George C. Walker, Col. George R. Clarke, John F. Tracy and others.

Frederick Hampton Winston, a primary involved in the Union Stock Yards and other commercial ventures, was president and it was in his name that most of the transfers of land from the estate of Thomas Morgan and other previous owners were made to the building company.

John F. Tracy, also a key player in establishment of the Stock Yards, was president of the Rock Island Railroad, which was singularly important in the development of these suburbs because transportation was crucial to selling suburban property.

Beautiful winding streets on large lots were laid out by English civil engineer, Thomas F. Nichols, to give the impression of an English park, while over 10,000 trees were purportedly planted along streets in a single season.

Civil War veteran Colonel George R. Clarke and his second wife, Sarah J. Dunn, together in 1877, opened the Pacific Garden Mission, which was funded

in part by Morgan Park land deals.

It was Col. Clarke who became so enamored of a 300 year-old Italian Renaissance epic poem titled *Jerusalem Delivered* written by Torquato Tasso that he took many street names from those of Tasso and his characters, as well as the poem’s most popular translator, Edward Fairfax. Before the 1914 annexation the following were some of those that graced Morgan Park’s lovely streets in tribute to Tasso’s poem:

- Today’s 108th Pl., between Longwood and Hoyne, was Tasso Place.
- 112th St. was Rinaldo Ave.
- Hoyne Ave. was Armida Ave.
- 110th St. was Fairfax Ave.
- 110th St. between Longwood and Hoyne was Borso
- 109th St. was Ebuda
- Lothair is one of the few early Morgan Park street names that remain

• 118th St. east from Longwood to the Rock Island tracks was Unadilla

• 115th St. east from either Lothair or Longwood was Raymond

• Oakley from 112th St. to either 115th St., or all the way to 119th, was Geneva

• Bell Ave. from Lothair & 118th down to 119th was Pedro.

Other streets were given women’s names after the wives and daughters of the village founders, including Clare and Joan. Weston was a member of the building company. Today’s Homewood Ave. between Prospect Park and Monterey was called Walker Ave. Still other names were descriptive of the natural surroundings – Oak, Park, Grove, Meadow, Woodland, and the like.

Before the sidewalks at intersections in Morgan Park were graded for wheelchair accessibility many of these old street

names could still be seen engraved in our curbs. We’d be interested to know if any still exist, and we’d be delighted if anyone has pictures of them.

George C. Walker was a successful business man and philanthropist. While he never lived in

Morgan Park, he was one of its greatest boosters and supporters. In 1890 he gave to the Village of Morgan Park the beautiful, limestone George C. Walker Library, which he also periodically stocked with books. This is today’s Walker Branch Library – the one Geoffrey Baer’s viewer used to take Monterey Ave. to visit at the top of the hill on 111th St.

Col. Clarke became so enamored of a 300 year-old Italian Renaissance epic poem titled *Jerusalem Delivered*, written by Torquato Tasso, that he took many street names from those of Tasso and his characters.



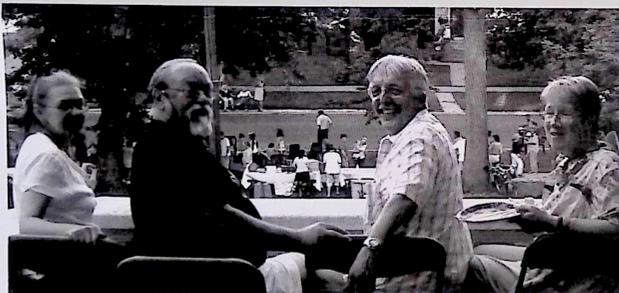
Rinaldo Avenue sweeps up the ridge in this photo taken from Prospect Avenue, now Longwood Drive, south of 111th Street. Early in the village’s development, the hilltop lots were not always considered desirable as those on lower ground, as horses would be forced to struggle up the steep grades. This scene still appears much the same today.

RHS 4th annual Party On The Hilltop celebrating The Beverly Hills Cycling Classic - July 11, 2008

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA LAMBERTY AND MATTHEW MALDRE



RHS President, Doris Moulton (sitting at far end of table) is having a great time talking with friends and board members on the patio in RHS's back yard, surrounded by towering burr oak trees.



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MEMBERSHIP

A newsletter subscription is a benefit of membership.

ANNUAL DUES

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Family \$40
Contributor \$50
Supporter \$100



These are just a few of the exciting scenes of the bike racers who competed for money, prizes and fame. Some of the racers came from all over the world to compete in this tour, which opened in Beverly on July 7.

Herman and Lois Schell (center photo at left) join other bike race party attendees on the veranda overlooking the race below on Longwood Drive.

Refreshments, games and great places to run and hide all make the bike race party as much fun for kids as adults.

**See you next year -
-July 10, 2009!**

Help with history

"Beverly Now"

P.S. BY SUE DELVES

This is a post script to our previous issue's discussion of the summer exhibit of several winning entries by local students in the 2008 Chicago Metro History Fair, which addressed the topic "Conflict and Compromise."

Students who cre-

ated these projects were invited to participate in the closing program, along with their parents. The three who came had selected as their subject "Beverly Now," the paper presented by L. Patrick Stanton to Christ the King Parish in July, 1971. That presentation launched the community thinking process that

determined a new course for BAPA and Beverly Hills/Morgan Park in how we would face integration in preference to the white flight that had preceded other changing neighborhoods. Stanton's grandson Patrick Kelly, a student at Mt. Carmel High School, had taken his paper to the National finals in Baltimore where he was a winner.

Pat Stanton visited BAPA and picked up his hand written flip chart used for that 1971 presentation, which he donated to RHS this summer.

Now it will be preserved as an important local history artifact in the RHS collection. At his presentation that afternoon, Stanton surprised the audience by playing a tape of his original C.K. program.

Sample research questions and answers:

RHS worked recently with Bernard C. Turner of Highlights of Chicago Press, who was working on a book project: *Chicago Neighborhoods with Flavor---Getting Out of the Loop.*

The book will feature 17 neighborhoods, describe the unique features, then focus on a restaurant, including a recipe. His visit to our Village in the City convinced him to include it as one of the communities featured in the book.

Georgian patios

Laura Freeman of Prudential Biros Realty was interested in learning if there is any significance to the lower level patios found between the Georgian homes built from 107th to 109th on Washtenaw and Fairfield.

A call to Jane Fockler, a first owner of one of the Fairfield Av. houses ca 1940, told us that the developer realized that it was cheaper to dig foundations of two houses at a time, and this created these "sunken gardens."

They usually were used as shared patio, picnic and playground space between each pair of houses involved, and had French doors leading outside to this lower level. "Eventually people stopped spending much time out there because the areas could be damp, which caused mosquitoes," Jane said.

Synagogue pix?

Robb Packer, author of Chicago's Forgotten Synagogues, Arcadia Publishing wrote, "I am interested in a photo of Beth Torah, a Reform Synagogue formerly located at 92nd and Vanderpoel. Would you be able to help me locate a photo to scan for my upcoming 2nd edition of the book? I would like to include your community."

Can anyone lead us to a solution for Mr Packer?

Appreciation for help & support

RHS would like to thank the sponsors of the 4th Annual RHS Party on the Hilltop:

Corporate Safe Co. (Ed and Lori McGunn)
American Perforator Co. (Bryan and Tina Spencer)
Malloy & Associates Realty
Tastefully Simple
Klees Golf Shop
Smith Village

Thanks also go to the "clippers" from the Morgan Park Woman's Club.

They clip articles about the people and happenings in Beverly/ Morgan Park from the newspapers for the RHS archives.

Grace Borggren
Anna-Marie Brodsky
Mary Curley
Julie DeHaan
Mary Goodman
Gretchen McDowell
Doris Moulton
Sue Mulcahy
Rosemary Polanek

Cheryl Tully
Judy Wagner

In addition, we would like to thank those who helped with the RHS Garage Sale:

Pat McGrail
Sue Delves
Gen Graf
Patricia Walsh
Lois Schell
Hermon Schell
Sue Cummings
Pat Stanton, for his presentation on "Beverly Now"
Our dedicated board members and docents
Our Longwood veranda now has an elegant, very comfy porch swing presented to us by our neighbor Ken Majeski and his daughter Dawn Birmingham. It was offered for our garage sale, but it is far too nice to sell.

So, many thanks to Ken and Dawn.

Campaign for president has a history here

Presidential politics is a burning subject as we plan this issue of *The Record*. That has led us on a fairly shallow search for any evidence of candidates for President or Vice President of the United States visiting The Ridge. The earliest

this Presidential candidate.

Although Franklin D. Roosevelt never visited here, his son-in-law had family roots in Morgan Park. (Alice Bates Pool, who lived at 1642 W. 105th St. for almost 80

years, wrote the following personal reminiscence, transcribed in the 1970's by her daughter, the late Alice Kerekes)

"Did you know F.D.R's

son-in-law once lived in Morgan Park? His name was John C. Boettiger, a newspaper man who worked for the Chicago Tribune. His home was at 10820 Prospect, he graduated from Morgan Park High School, and his family was active in Morgan Park Methodist Church. He married Anna Roosevelt Dall in 1935, and they had one son, John Roosevelt Boettiger. His aunt, Mrs. Alfred Schultz, lived at 2035 W. 110th Pl.

One day three big limousines drove up the hill and the Boettigers stepped out of the middle car and were escorted to the house by a uniformed guard. After about an hour's stay,

they came out and the little caravan drove away. Mrs. Schultz reported a relaxed and very interesting visit."

A call to Alderman Rugai's office caused a two minute "committee meeting" of those working that day, with an immediate response.

In 1992, four presidential candidates for the Illinois Primary Election marched in the Southside Irish Parade: Democrat Paul Tsongas, Republicans Pat Buchanan and Jerry Brown and Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, (accompanied by "The Arkansas Travelers," his on-call support group).

And, of course, among the other marchers was another future Presidential candidate, Hillary Rodham Clinton. Vice President Al Gore was on hand to celebrate opening of the CAPS program at the District 22 Police Station, and also made an appearance on 95th Street.

Mary Quinn Olsson tells of walking in the Irish Parade in 1988 with Michael Dukakis and his wife Kitty when he was a candidate for Democratic Presidential nominee and Mary was a convention delegate pledged to him.

Mary also unwinds an exciting tale of a visit to Beverly by Vice President Walter Mondale when he served with President Jimmy Carter. Mondale was in Chicago for a

large meeting at the Museum of Science and Industry stressing the importance of historic preservation, and it was important for him to visit Beverly to see what then was the largest designated National Urban Historic District. She had 36 hours notice to pull it off.

Needing a secure place for the reception, Mary suggested RHS and Driscoll House. Twelve cars of FBI pulled into the driveway, quickly inspected the house, and turned it down, declaring it a security risk because of the oak tree foliage. Quickly she called Ken Frederick and Tom Rowan who agreed immediately to host the reception at the Horton House, prominent in the Historic District. Next she secured Ridge Park for a military helicopter pad, over the "Not in my park" protests of the park manager.

The next afternoon Mondale helicoptered in, and was escorted by a mini parade of Secret Service and local leaders for the short drive down Longwood, lined for the final block by cheering St. Barnabas students.

Of course the Morgan Park Junior Woman's Club was on hand, lending emergency hospitality and providing food like professional caterers.



Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 with, from left, Eleanor (holding granddaughter Anna), daughter Anna Roosevelt Dall (holding her son, Curtis Dall Jr.), and Franklin's mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt.

was Abraham Lincoln, who spoke at a rally in "North Blue Island," as the entire Ridge area was known for many years.

There is reference to the rally in earliest family stories of the 1850's and 1860's when there was a considerable settlement in the vicinity of 95th and Western, east to Prospect where the Spring House School was located. That small building also was used for important meetings and church services.

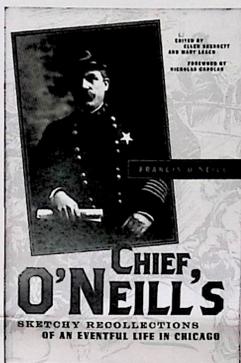
Any visitor of prominence would easily have drawn a crowd from miles around. So it is reasonable to believe that there would have been an enthusiastic turnout at the schoolhouse to meet

What do you give the person...

What do you give the person who has everything?

Something from RHS, of course!!

Holiday time is approaching, and that means it's time to come up with those special gifts for friends, family, neighbors, co-workers,



and others on your list. RHS offers a variety of services and products that could lend just the unique approach that you are seeking.

Membership

First, there is membership in RHS, for those interested in the history of the area and wishing to support a community institution.

Benefits include the RHS newsletter and free admission or reduced fees for programs.

Dues amounts are: Student (under 18), \$10; Individual, \$30; Family, \$40; Contributor, \$100; Patron, \$150; and Guarantor, \$500.

Historic building research

One of the most popular services that RHS offers is "house histories" for those who live in the Beverly/Morgan Park area. Using available resources, information such as when the house was built, who designed it, who built it and for whom it was built, who has lived in it over the years, and any recorded changes to the house over the years can usually be determined.

The cost for this service varies with the amount of time needed for the research.

Contact RHS to discuss this service.

Historic home plaque program

Homes in the Ridge Historic District (see map) that meet certain requirements are eligible to receive a cast bronze plaque for mounting on the home.

The plaque is 8 by 11 inches, and contains the original name of the house, the construction date, architect, and the logo of the Ridge Historic District (see picture).

To qualify, the home must be at least 50 years old and must not have undergone substantial exterior alterations and additions.

The application fee is \$50 and the cost of the plaque is \$250. Contact RHS for an application. A plaque is mounted at

RHS (the Graver Driscoll House, 10621 S. Seeley) if you wish to stop by and see it.

Books

RHS offers two books for sale:

Images of America – Chicago's Beverly/Morgan Park Neighborhood

By Joseph Oswald, published by Arcadia Press

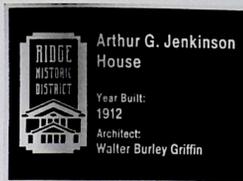
This book contains over 200 images gathered from the RHS archives, plus historical information on our community. The price is \$20 and it is available at RHS.

Add \$3.50 for shipping and handling.

Chief O'Neill's Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago

By Ellen Skerrett and Mary Lesch

Francis O'Neill settled in Chicago in 1871 and was Chief of Police in Chicago from 1901 to 1905. His recollections were edited by his great granddaughter, Ms. Lesch, and Ms. Skerrett who has written and edited a number of books



on the Chicago Irish.

Cost is \$30 at RHS, or add \$4.50 to mail it.

Please call RHS at 773-881-1675 about any of these items. The business office is open Monday through Friday, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Paver brick program

This program offers you the opportunity to have a message engraved on a brick paver stone, which is then installed in the landscaped garden settings at RHS.

This is a great way for a lasting record of any type of notable event or recognition. The size of each brick is 8 by 5 1/2 inches, and may include up to three lines of print. The cost of each brick is \$100



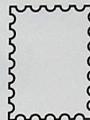
and includes a certificate of acknowledgement.

A picture of a completed brick is shown. You can also visit RHS and see the 80+ pavers already engraved and installed by the front entrance at 10621 S. Seeley.

Ridge Historical Society
RECORD

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

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