



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: January 7, 2019
TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee
FROM: Nan Buckardt
Director of Education

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Acceptance of New Donations to the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County's Historic Collections.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Communication, Education, and Outreach

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no financial impact associated with accepting these donations.

BACKGROUND: The Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County ("Dunn Museum") "collects material culture representing the people, places, and events of Lake County, Illinois" (Collections Policies, Scope of Collections, p. 4). The majority of the Dunn Museum's historic collection were acquired by the County of Lake from the privately run Lake County Museum of History in 1965 for the purpose of "preserv(ing) and maintain(ing) for future generations the cultural history of Lake County" (Resolution No. 24, dated October 12, 1965). These collections were officially transferred to the Lake County Forest Preserve District in 1989.

The Dunn Museum is frequently offered donations by members of the general public. Each donation is considered against criteria established in the Dunn Museum's approved collections policies. Donations that do not meet these criteria are declined. Since October 2016 the museum has received 71 donation inquiries of which 48 were declined. Under the Dunn Museum's Collection Policy, the Dunn Museum will accept a donation only if it is first reviewed and approved by the Dunn Museum's Collections Committee, the Superintendent of Educational Facilities, and the District's Operations Committee, if the acquisition requires a purchase less than or equal to \$25,000.

The 22 donations listed on the attached Exhibit A, meet the criteria established in the Dunn Museum's approved collections policy and are being recommended by the Collections Committee and the Superintendent of Educational Facilities for acceptance into the Dunn Museum's historic collections. There is adequate space to properly store and care for these items.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Superintendent of Educational Facilities, and Corporate Counsel.

APPROVED:

Motion to accept the donations identified on Exhibit A as part of the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County's Historic Collections:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes:____ Nays:____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays:____

Exhibit A
New Acquisitions Inventory
January 2019

- **Rexettes jacket**, circa 1950
From 1929 to 1959, Dr. Eugene "Rex" King played a major role in the lives of the African-American youth of Zion, Waukegan and North Chicago. His basketball and softball teams, known as the Rexes and Rexettes, played across the region and won 50 championships.
- **Pine blanket chest**
brought to Lake County via the Erie Canal by the Shumway Family in 1844.
- **Murrie folk art display Lake County and McHenry County fair ribbons**, circa 1930
dating from 1899 to 1910 for their prize horses. The Murrie farm is now the site of Van Patten Woods.
- **Aerial photograph of Bonner Farm**, circa 1957
- **Tool chest**, circa 1940
made and used by John A. Rasmussen when he worked at Frank G. Hough Company in its tool and die department in the 1940s. Included are tools, his apron and order forms.
- **Framed portrait of Colonel Crofton**, circa 1894-95
15th Infantry, Commander of Troops at Fort Sheridan. Crofton assumed command at Fort Sheridan in January 1891, and commanded troops in the Pullman Strike in Chicago, 1894; and two handwritten cookbooks used by Crofton's wife and daughter while at Fort Sheridan, 1894-95.
- **Tabor Club (Bohemian Club) records**
Collection of photos, ledger books and miscellaneous paperwork related to purchase of land, dredging of lake, building of clubhouse, by laws, and membership.
- **Photo of groundbreaking for new Sheriff's Department radio station**, circa 1960
on Milwaukee Avenue, Libertyville.
- **Documents about Judge Francis E. Clarke** (1828 – 1899)
Includes County Judge certificate circa 1890 and Lake County Bar's memorial document circa 1899.
- **Postcards of Lake County (3):**
Farman Hotel, Lake Zurich; The Silo Restaurant, Lake Bluff; Hotel Karcher, Waukegan (real photo)
- **Postcard of Channel Lake Pavilion.**
- **Postcard of Art's Old House restaurant**
Rondout/Lake Bluff (1963 – 1994)
- **Fort Sheridan commemorative brick with "Blue Chip Award" attached**, circa 1994-95
The brick is a section of an original circa 1890s brick used in the building of the Fort.
- **Blanket made by Clarissa Cutler Nichols**, circa 1850
Made from wool that was grown, corded, spun, and woven at the family's cabin in Benton Township.

- **Booker T. Washington Progressive Club records**
Documents, photographs, and memorabilia from the Booker T. Washington Progressive Club in Zion, IL.
- **Jack Benny concert flyer and tickets, 1974**
from a benefit concert for the Waukegan Symphony Association
- **Deed for Fox Lake property, circa 1922-23**
- **Painting of White Way Farm, 1938**
Artist Frank Lackner was commissioned to paint the White Way Farm in Libertyville.
- **Deeds for the Palatine, Lake Zurich & Wauconda Railroad, circa 1930**
39 land deeds that acquired the right-of-ways needed to build the PLZ&W railroad.
- **Photographs of Grant Township flood, circa 1960**
- **Weathervanes from Lakewood Farm**
- **Traditional Native American Art**
A traditional woven basket from the Sault Ste. Marie band of Chippewa Indians
A traditional birch bark canoe by artist Pat Kruse of the Red Cliff Band of Superior Chippewa Indians