



DATE: August 30, 2021
TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee
FROM: Nan Buckardt
Director of Education

RECOMMENDATION: Approve and Accept New Donations to the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County’s 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 (the “Dunn Museum”) “collects material culture representing the people, places, and events of Lake County, Illinois” (Collection Policies, Scope of Collections, p. 4). The majority of the Dunn Museum’s historic collections was 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” (County Board 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 Collection Policies (the “Collection Policies”). Donations that do not meet these criteria are declined. Since January 2021 the Dunn Museum has received 39 donation inquiries of which 18 were declined.

The 21 donations listed on the attached Exhibit A meet the criteria established in the Collection Policies and have been reviewed, and are being recommended by, the Museum’s 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. Under the Collection Policies, the Operations Committee is authorized to accept the donations, because they do not require a purchase of more than \$25,000.00.

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

Motion to approve and accept New Acquisitions by the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County’s Collections as provided in Exhibit A to staff’s August 30, 2021, memorandum.

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

Exhibit A
New Acquisitions Inventory
September 2021

- **Lake County General Hospital Sign, 1914**
The Lake County General Hospital opened in fall 1914 on the grounds of the Lake County TB Institute's Lake Breeze "Cottage Colony." The official dedication was held on February 11, 1915. It was considered state-of-the-art. For many years, referred to as one of the best hospitals in the area, and was repeatedly mentioned as being a hospital where people of all income levels could afford to be treated. The hospital began the process of closing in 1972, remaining in operation through 1973.
- **Lake County Rifles (Football Team) Stock Certificate 1965**
Lake County Rifles stock certificate purchased by George Simmons of Mundelein in 1965. The Lake County Rifles Football team were in the semi-professional Central States Football League that played from 1965 to 1972. Among other places, the team played at Weiss Field in Waukegan and Carmel High School in Mundelein.
- **Abbott Labs Postcard Circa 1980s**
Aerial view postcard of Abbott Labs in North Chicago.
- **Abbott Laboratories Centennial Commemorative Plate, 1988**
Commemorative Plate created for the 100th anniversary of Abbott Laboratories.
- **2 slides of Eastern Winthrop Harbor, 1975**
Two slide transparencies of 7th Avenue in Winthrop Harbor which had been divided into residential lots in the 1920s by Chicago attorney, Leslie A. Needham. The development never came to fruition but the marble columns marking the cross streets remained for years. The slides are an unusual view of 7th Avenue from the 1970s before Spring Bluff Forest Preserves was developed, Illinois Beach State Park expanded, and North Point Marina was built.
- **Admin Tower Grand Opening pamphlet, 1968**
Program from the Grand Opening of the Lake County Administrative Tower in Waukegan, March 2-3 1968 (now known as the Waukegan Courthouse). The Program contains details about the structure and how it would be used.
- **Victory Memorial Hospital Brochure-1969**
Pamphlet for Victory Memorial Hospital given to patients prior to being admitted. Features a history of the hospital, photos, and describes the hospital and its departments and technology as it was in 1969.
- **4 Medals for WWII WASP Janice Christensen, Circa 2000s**
 - WWII American Theater Campaign Medal. This medal was presented to Janice Christensen's niece, Ellen Powell by Congressman Brad Schneider's office in recognition of Christensen's service.
 - Medal honoring Women Air Force Service Pilots (1942-1944). Act of Congress 2009. "The first women in history to fly American military aircraft."
 - WW II Civil Air Patrol medal.
 - Service Member Veteran medal

Janice Christensen, a Waukegan native, served as a Women's Air Service Pilot (WASP) during World War II. She was featured in the museum's 2020-21 exhibition *Breaking Barriers: Women in the*

Military. Photographs and an Air Transportation Command Pin relating to Christensen's service were donated previously to the museum.

- **Book, "Affectionate Advice to a Married Couple," Circa 1862**

The book was given to Peter W. Stewart (1839-1910) and Margaret S. Wedge (1839-1876) by Rev. William B. Dodge of Millburn, on the occasion of their marriage on November 25, 1862.

The Reverend William B. Dodge (1783-1869) of the Millburn Congregational Church was an outspoken abolitionist and leader in Lake County's anti-slavery movement.

The book was found by the donor at a resale shop in Fayetteville, Arkansas where she works. An online search for the names inscribed in the book led her to the Lake County History blog post about Reverend Dodge by Diana Dretske.

- **Bonner Family Materials, Circa 1880s-90s**

- Circa 1890 photograph of Margaret Bonner with husband Samuel W. Dodge and family. Margaret "Maggie" Bonner was the daughter of William Bonner and Margaret Gordon Bonner, the original homesteaders of today's Bonner Heritage Farm.

Samuel W. Dodge was the grandson of Rev. William Dodge of Millburn. During the Civil War, he enlisted with his cousin George C. Dodge in the 96th Illinois Regiment and later transferred into the Signal Corps.

- Dodge School Photo, circa 1884. Pictured front left: William "Willy" Murrie Bonner (1880-1965), grandson of William Bonner. The names of the pupils are listed on back of photo. Dodge School was built by William Bonner and named for Rev. William B. Dodge, who spearheaded the fundraising for the new school to be built. The collection does not currently have a photo of Dodge School.
- Academic materials for cousins J. Gordon Bonner and Mabel Bonner: Arithmetic book used by J. Gordon and likely shared with Mable, reading list used by J. Gordon Bonner, report card for Mabel Bonner.

- **Digital Donation: Scans of "Urban Sketches" by artist Reshma Beeranthbail, Circa 2000s.**

48 digital images of artist Reshma Beeranthbail's sketches of Black Lives Matter rallies in Lake Zurich and Barrington, the earlier Barrington High School Students Walk Out to end gun violence, and general sketches of Lake County areas. The physical sketchbooks are still in use by the artist and couldn't be donated, but select images were scanned in-house by Digitizer Steve Ferrigan to document these recent events.

Beeranthbail is an urban sketcher, which she describes as meaning "I carry a little sketchbook and a compact set of art supplies everywhere I go and document my world one sketch at a time. Sketches are imperfect (and often incomplete) marks on paper that capture a fleeting moment in time." She is an active member of the Urban Sketchers League of Chicago.

- **W. C. Petty, Superintendent of Schools Commemorative Retirement Coin, 1971**

From 1931 to 1971, W. C. Petty served as Lake County Superintendent of Schools (supervised township schools, which included finances, teacher certification, advice on curriculum). This coin was created to commemorate his forty years of service. Petty's other accomplishments include being appointed in 1941 by Governor Green to the Illinois Public School Commission (9 members), teaching at Lake Forest College as evening school faculty, organizing the Special Education Joint Agreement District of Lake

County “to benefit children who could not be adequately educated in the regular classroom” in 1960, and leading the campaign to establish College of Lake County, overseeing the referendum to get the college approved by voters and the election of its board.

- **16 photographs of Cuba Marsh, Circa 1970s**

16 photos of Cuba Marsh and members of the Citizens for Conservation (CFC). The Forest Preserves allowed the CFC to use the farmhouse as their headquarters, in return CFC was responsible for opening the preserve gate each day.

Cuba Marsh was purchased beginning in 1976 with significant public support. The Citizens for Conservation were the main proponents of the purchase, which preserved extensive wetlands and adjacent uplands as open space rather than allow its proposed development. Cuba Marsh was named for Cuba Road. In 1978, the preserve was reforested with 80,000 trees (white and red oak, black walnut, and white pine), purchased with money donated by the Citizens for Conservation.

- **St. Therese and Victory Hospital Memorabilia, Circa 1979-2000**

Materials relating to Victory Memorial Hospital and St. Therese Hospital in Waukegan, such as newsletters, special event programs and menus, public newsletters, self-published brief histories, anniversary and commemorative materials.

These materials were selected by the donor while she was serving on the Victory Memorial Centennial committee, “in case anything happened to the hospital's own historical items collection.” The donor worked at St. Therese for about two years before moving to Victory, and was at Victory during the consolidation with St. Therese.

- **St. Therese Hospital U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps Training Program Items**

Materials relating to Jacqueline Gurske who was in the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps training program at St. Therese Hospital in Waukegan from 1945 to 1948. The program was created in 1943 to address the nursing shortage during World War II and ended shortly after the end of the war. The materials include Cadet Nurse uniform patches, a program for a 1947 School of Nursing choir program, St. Therese School of Nursing booklet explaining the program, a letter of acceptance, a photo of the Class of 1948, and a photo of Gurske in uniform.

These items complement a prior donation of a U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps uniform cape worn by Jacqueline Gurske while in training.

- **Mortgage Title Antioch Township, 1954**

1954 Mortgage title for property in Wedgewood Subdivision on Loon Lake, Antioch, Township sold to Susan Webb from Robert and Irene Gallimore. The title includes a racial restrictive covenant clause: “premises shall never be sold, leased or transferred to or occupied by persons of the African or Negro, Japanese or Chinese Races or their descendants.” Restrictive covenants, which prohibited the sale or rental of property to African Americans, Asian Americans and Jews were used in the United States from the late 1920s until the Housing Rights Act was passed by the Congress in 1968, outlawing discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity

There are only a few examples in the museum's collection (including the new mortgage title donation) of this practice. The majority of title deeds in our collection pre-date the use of restrictive covenants. Having these documents in our collection is an important reminder of how restrictions were legally included in some Lake County developments.

- **American Steel and Wire Co. Cooking Tongs, Mid-Century**
Cooking tongs made by American Steel and Wire Co., Waukegan Works used by the Powell family in Lake County. A subsidiary of U. S. Steel located in Waukegan Illinois, the factory was a major employer in Lake County for decades.

- **58 Negatives of Lake County Buildings and Fort Sheridan, 1920s or 30s**
Offered by the Lincoln Library in Springfield, the negatives consist of views in Lake County such as the Deerpath Inn and Market Square in Lake Forest, Hotel Moraine in Highland Park, and aerial views of Fort Sheridan.

- **Photographs and Postcards from the Shepard and Gage Families, 1800s**
Images of the Shepard family of Lake County were found among a collection of materials from the Gage family of Wilmette housed at the Wilmette Historical Museum. The Gage and Shepard families were neighbors in Warren Township at one point in time, and at least one Gage married a Shepard, explaining the likely reason for the materials being kept together.
 - Photo cabinet card of Joel R. Shepard (1807-1881) residence/farm in Warren Township. The family came to Lake County from Massachusetts in 1844.
 - Photo cabinet card of Henry Shepard residence/farm in Warren Township. Son of Joel R. Shepard.
 - Real photo postcard of wood frame Stearns School
 - Real photo postcard of brick Stearns School
 - Real photo postcard of unidentified Lake County wood frame school

The postcards have handwritten notes by a family member reminiscing about attending the schools and what it was like, enhancing the story of the images.

- **Hickory School Board of Trustees Ledger, 1849 to 1885.**
The ledger includes board minutes, the selection of officers, and payments made for services, including instructor's names and wages.

The School was located north of Millburn. Its last location was northwest of the corner of today's Route 45 and 173. In 1964, Hickory School closed its doors. It was noted in the *News Sun* as being the last one room school in the county. When the school closed, Eva Edwards Alling (1891-1968)—from the school's class of 1905—gave the ledger to the donor's father, Marc Warren Edwards.

The museum has a 1918 Hickory School history that was part of Bess Dunn's collection.

- **Lake County Fair Placards with Bonner Cattle Names and Lineage**
Three hand-painted and stenciled Lake County Fair cattle signs, found in a barn at Bonner Heritage Farm. The placards were made in the 1960s for cows raised on Bonner Farm by John Bonner and were displayed while the cattle were on exhibition at the County Fair. The signs connect to County Fair ribbons in the collection that were awarded to the cows named on the signs.