



DATE: March 4, 2024
TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee
FROM: Alyssa Firkus
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 at this time.

BACKGROUND: The Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County (“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 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 Collection Policies. Donations that do not meet these criteria are declined. Since August 2023, the museum has received offers of donations from 12 individuals of which four offers were declined.

The donations listed on the attached Exhibit A meet the criteria established in the Dunn Museum’s approved Collection Policies and have been reviewed, and are being recommended by, the Museum’s Collections Committee 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 \$30,000.00.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Exhibitions and Collections Manager, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Manager of Board Operations and Corporate Counsel

MOTION: Motion to approve and accept new acquisitions into the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County’s Collections as provided in Exhibit A to staff’s March 4, 2024, memorandum.

APPROVED:

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

New Acquisitions Inventory

March 4, 2024

- John Rouse barn photos- digital images
- Orchard sign- Quig's orchard sign.
- Girl Scout uniform- Girl Scout uniform from 1980's
- Union Soldier portrait- Framed portrait of John S. Deinlein, Sr. and Jr.- father and son served with 39th Illinois Infantry.
- Westphalian stallions- 1 8x10 Photo and 2 color slides.
- Ethel's Woods photos- 11 4x6 photos taken of Ethel's Woods by Ethel Untermyer in 1995.
- Elijah Haines home- 3 slides taken in 1964.
- COVID-19 items- Dunn Museum COVID-19 protocol sign, LCFPD mask, hand sanitizer bottle.