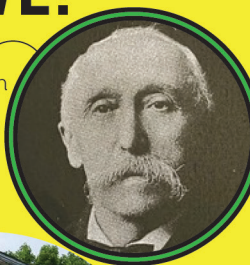


WATCH HISTORY COME ALIVE!

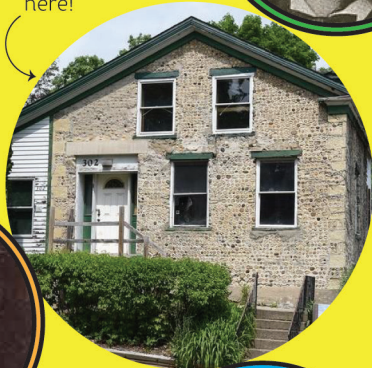
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

virtual tour available at 9 am

ran the
Washington
Hotel for
17 years!



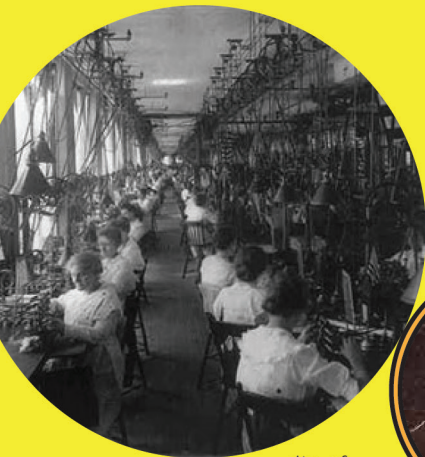
a founding
settler lived
here!



brigadier
general
in the War
of 1812!



site of
a 1916
epidemic!



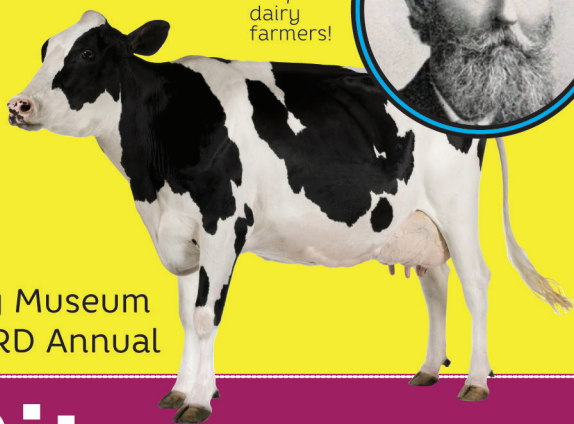
dairy
farmers!



crazy
whiskers!



Elgin History Museum
presents the 33RD Annual



Bluff City Cemetery Walk

Elgin, Illinois

Produced by Elgin History Museum

360 Park Street • Elgin, Illinois 60120

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WELCOME TO ELGIN'S HISTORIC CEMETERY WALK

2020 has impacted all of us in different ways and the Bluff City Cemetery Walk has adapted to meet the challenges we all faced this year. The Cemetery Walk could have been easily cancelled, but we felt the legacy must go forward by presenting the Walk as a virtual event. We are very excited to have you view this event and enjoy our presentation.

Today you will be meeting eight people from Elgin's past who have returned briefly to tell you about their lives in an earlier time. What you will discover is only a small portion of our city's rich and fascinating history. Additional programs of this type may be planned to introduce you to other such persons in future years.

By continuing this event, it is hoped that many more people begin to see a cemetery in what might be a new or different light. Here is a place of peace and quiet where lives, not deaths, are commemorated. It is here where family members as well as historians, may find a variety of records carved in stone. These stones remind us that every life is important, and worth remembering. Such a setting is a very appropriate place for an historical reenactment.

We hope that you will enjoy this years virtual event and we invite you to learn more about Elgin's fascinating history by becoming a member of the Elgin History Museum.

Rudy & Lillian Galfi
Cemetery Walk Co-chairs



ELGIN
HISTORY
MUSEUM



CAST

GEN. GEORGE MCCLURE

Portrayed by
Andrew Cuming



RUTH ANN KIMBALL

Portrayed by
Carolyn Larsen



JOSEPH TEFFT

Portrayed by
John Maxwell



PETER BURRITT

Portrayed by
Steve Lewandowski



PAUL KEMLER

Portrayed by
Scott Toppel



TYPHOID FEVER EPIDEMIC

Nikki Macey
R. Scott Purdy
Riley Galfi



CHARACTERS

General George McClure 1771-1851

General George McClure was born in Londonderry, Ireland. He emigrated to America in 1793, settling in Steuben County, New York. By 1795 his military career was taking shape. He was a militia commander and was appointed Brigadier General, a position he held until the close of the War of 1812.

He came west at the age of 64 to build again in fresh, new country. He opened the first post office in the Elgin-Dundee area on a tract of land on the west side of Rt. 25, near the Milk Pail restaurant. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees for Elgin Academy.

He died in 1851 was interred in the Old Cemetery on Channing St. His remains were moved to Bluff City in the early 1900s to make way for a school expansion.



Ruth Ann Kimball 1821-1908

Ruth Ann Kimball came to Elgin in 1837 with her mother Nancy and her brother William. She spent the first 14 years of her life in New Hampshire, where she received her formal education.

In 1840 she married Edward Harvey, an attorney and a captain with the Mexican American War. They had 2 daughters, Isabel and Florence. Sadly her husband died from a fever while returning home from battle.

In 1851, she married Chauncy Thiers. They had 2 sons, Henry and William. A citizen of Elgin for 61 years, she had witnessed many important changes in the county.

She lived at 302 W. Chicago St in a cobblestone house that was built in 1846. The house was built by the Kimball brothers and presented to her mother, Nancy Kimball, widow of Joseph. At the time of her death in 1908, she was considered to be living in Elgin longer than anyone else at the time.



CHARACTERS

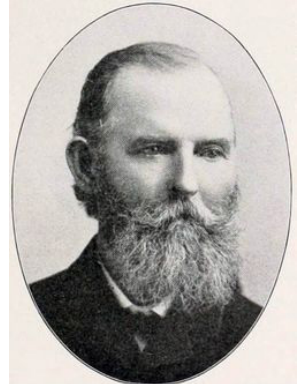
Peter Burritt 1816-1892

Peter Burritt was a wealthy dairy farmer from Hanover Township. When the value of Elgin real estate began to rise, he invested heavily and owned 90 pieces of property in Elgin.

His first wife, Henrietta died in the 1880s. Four years later he married a much younger woman, Rebecca McBride. Mr. Burritt died in 1892 and Rebecca married William Gilbert, a well known book store owner.

In 1908, two buildings were constructed in downtown Elgin to honor her late husband.

1. The Peter Burritt bldg. at 25 S. Grove
2. The Henrietta bldg. at 51 S. Spring



Dr. Joseph Tefft 1812-1888

Dr. Tefft was Elgin's first doctor, who practiced here for 40 years. He was the primary force in getting Elgin incorporated as a city in 1854. He was also the first mayor of Elgin, serving for 5 terms. He was also an election judge and served 2 terms as a police magistrate and township supervisor.

Tefft was nominated as the first president of the Elgin Board of Trade and the Elgin Dairy Club. Dr. Tefft served as president of Elgin Academy Board for 33 years, and is credited with getting the school built. He was very involved in the community and was a strong advocate for social issues of the day.

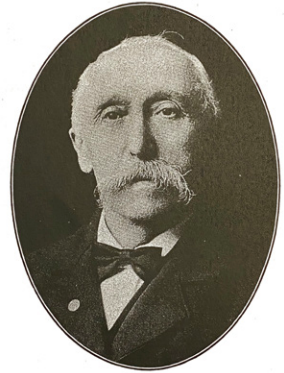


CHARACTERS

Paul Kemler 1837-1915

Paul Kemler Sr. was born in Germany and moved to Chicago in 1856. He worked for a tanner. By 1861 he responded to President Lincoln's first call for troops and served in the 24th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under General Grant.

After the war, he became a patrolman on the Chicago police force and served for 4 years. He moved to Elgin in 1872 and ran the Washington Hotel for 17 years.



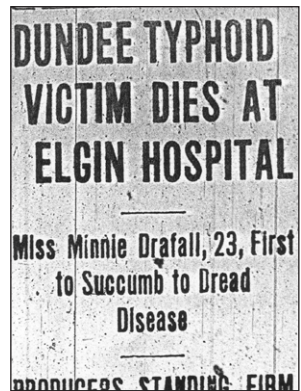
Mr. Kemler had everything from an Odd Fellow lodge named after him to serving as a city alderman in Elgin marking his legacy.

Elgin Typhoid Epidemic of 1916

July, 1916 was the hottest month on record for the City of Elgin. The lack of rain combined with 90 degree temperatures made for a very uncomfortable summer.

To make matters worse, there was an unusual prevalence of intestinal symptoms among the employees of the watch factory.

The source of the contamination was traced to a leaky valve which separated water from the factory reservoir on Watch St. and water taken from the river. The two sources of water became mixed in an uncovered catch basin under the floor of the blacksmith shop.



In total, 26 people died and many others endured a long recovery. The Watch Factory paid claims of \$40,000 to the families of the deceased.




Save the Date

NOVEMBER 7, 2020 AT 7PM

**2020
ZOOM
GALA**

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elginhistory.org



Cristina Castro
State Senate, 22nd District

www.SenatorCristinaCastro.com

ELGIN HISTORY MUSEUM

Congratulations

33rd ANNUAL CEMETERY WALK



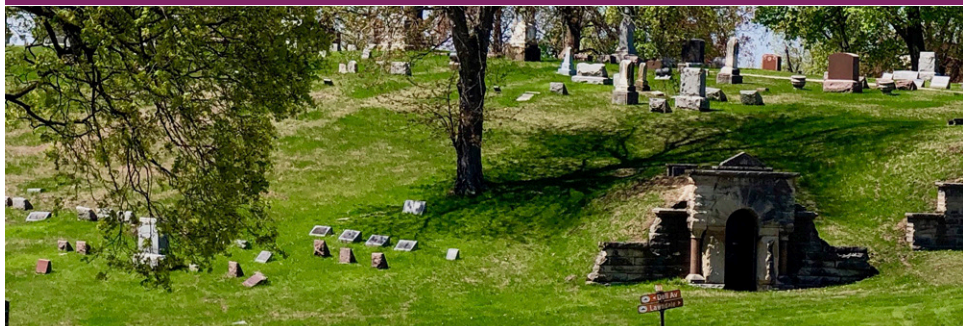
WE'RE OPEN

The Elgin History Museum is open Wednesday-Saturday from 11am to 4pm. The safety of our staff, volunteers, and visitors is top priority. Face coverings required. Tickets can be purchased online.

2020 EVENTS ARE ALL VIRTUAL

Check out upcoming virtual events on our calendar at elginhistory.org/events/

33RD ANNUAL CEMETERY WALK LOCATIONS



BLUFF CITY CEMETERY FOUNDED IN 1889

1. GEN. GEO. MCCLURE
2. RUTH ANN KIMBALL
3. PETER BURRITT
4. DR. JOSEPH TEFFT
5. PAUL KEMLER
6. TYPHOID FEVER EPIDEMIC
CHARLES HELDT
EDITH M ANDERSON
YOUNG GIRL



Check-in Area



Bluff City Residents



Museum Store

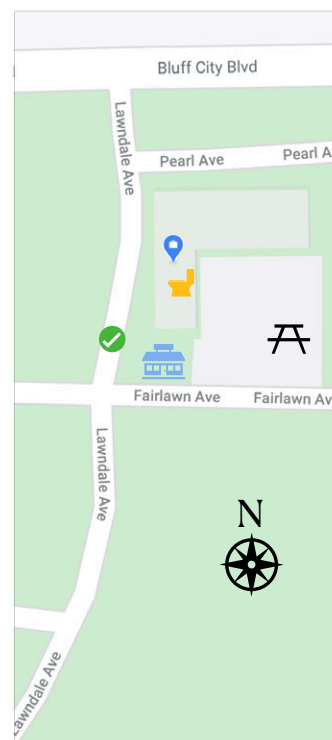


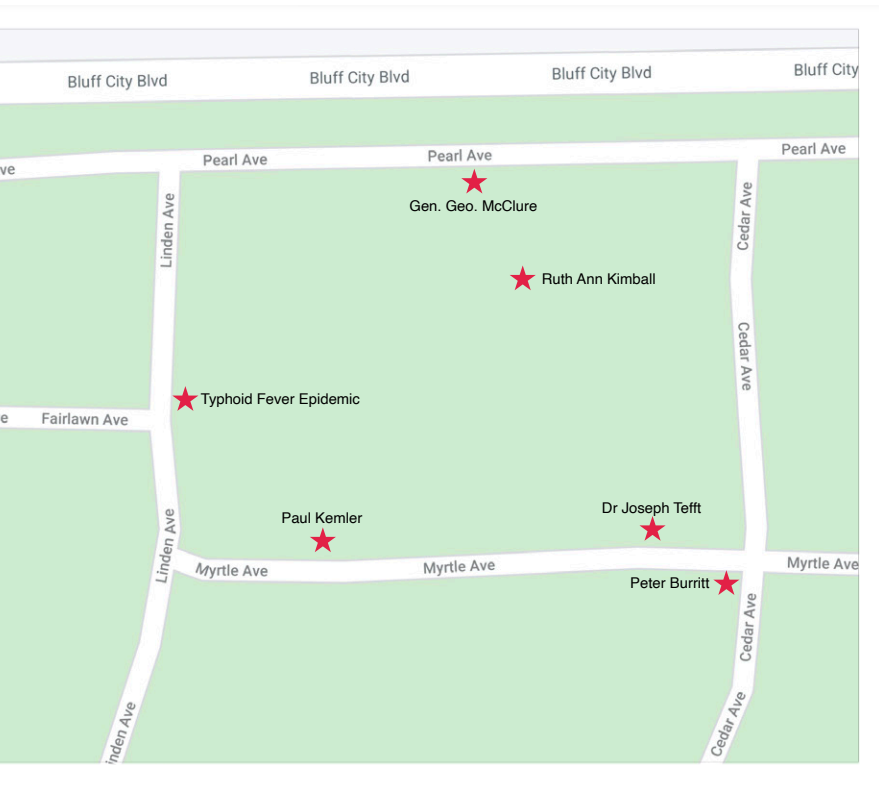
Staging Area



Restrooms

Once you have check-in or purchased your tickets, move to the Group card table for your group assignment number. Then move to the staging area and find your group number.





Dennis Roxworthy

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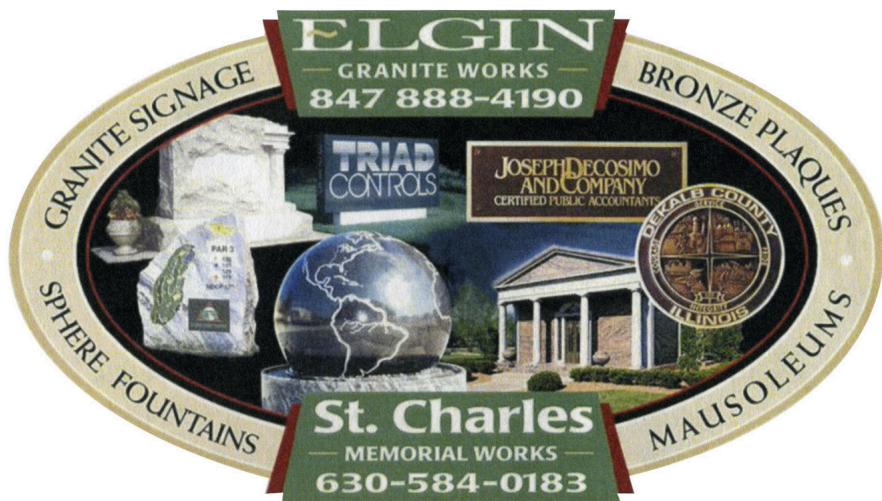
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service to our
community



"I am proud to support this special annual community event. My family and I have always appreciated the history, education and reflection from the Bluff City Cemetery Walk."

**ANNA
MOELLER**
43rd District STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY



ELGIN
THE CITY IN THE SUBURBS

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OF THE 33RD ANNUAL
HISTORIC CEMETERY WALK**



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facebook.com/LordsParkZoo





2020 CEMETERY WALK SPONSORS

Event Sponsors - \$500 Donation

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Friends of the Lords Park Zoo
Dwight & Betsy Armistead
Terry Gabel and Sue Brigham

Sponsor - \$350 Donation

Roxworthy Enterprise

Sponsor - \$250 Donation

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EFS Foundation
Karen and Dan Fox
Anna Moeller – State Representative 43rd District
Cristina Castro - State Senate 22nd District

Donor - \$100 Donation

Countryside Funeral Home
Nancy & Art Schuneman

Contributor - \$50 Donation

Ralph Helm

Thank You to all of the Cemetery Walk Sponsors

2020 CEMETERY WALK STEERING COMMITTEE

Rudy & Lillian Galfi.....	Co-Chairs
David Siegenthaler.....	Research
Rudy & Lillian Galfi.....	Character Selection
Rudy & Lillian Galfi, Gail Cannata	Actor Selection
Linda Rock, Carolyn Larsen and Actors.....	Scripts
Rudy & Lillian Galfi.....	Sponsorships
Anne LoCascio	Graphic Design
Gail Cannata	Director/Actor Consultant
All Dressed Up, Batavia, IL.....	Costumes
Trish LaFleur.....	Digital Media/Print Production
Liz Marston & Beth Nawara	Museum Support Staff
Rick Jones.....	Still Photography
Jerry Turnquist	Cemetery Walk Introduction
Jim Turner	Music

Special Thanks to:

*All Actors and Committee members for their support
during the early planning phase.*

The Bluff City Cemetery Staff

Rick Ellis..... Bluff City Cemetery

Darnella Walls..... Office Manager

ELGIN AREA HISTORY MUSEUM



Located at 360 Park Street, the museum is housed in “Old Main”, the original building of the Elgin Academy. The three story Greek Revival was designed by J. Quigley and was completed in 1856. Staff and boarding students lived in the building, which was heated by stoves connected to four chimneys. Classrooms were upstairs. In 1911 it was struck by lightning and the roof and cupola burned. The building was abandoned in the 1960s and was later sold to the City for \$1.00. After another fire the exterior was restored to its original appearance in 1980. The Elgin Area Historical Society leased the building from the City, restored the first floor and opened as a museum in 1987.



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IN MEMORIAM

John Scott Symonds, of Highland Park, beloved brother of Dan Symonds, was a partner and funeral director with the Symonds Funeral Home and Crematory, Chicago, Highwood and Grayslake. He graduated from Highland Park High School, Class of 1982 and graduated with a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in Mortuary Management. John served in the U.S. Army as a Captain during Desert Storm with the 719th Medical Detachment at Fort Sheridan, retiring after 20 years of service. He followed in his father's footsteps, dedicating his life to caring for others through funeral service.



*Dan, Joy,
Emily & Vivienne
Symonds*

OUR FAMILY



Marsh & Conn Funeral Home, circa 1930s



Schmidt Funeral Home, circa 1950s

OUR LOCATION

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