

Linda Rock



Linda has been part of the Elgin Area Historical Society for over 30 years, starting as a board member in 1986. She has been a docent, participated in developing and presenting programs for schools and other children's groups, assisted in preparing exhibits, and organized artifacts and archival material. She is one of a group who researches and records programs for the WRMN radio program "Elgin 100 Years Ago." Linda served as the Historical Society's president in 2003. She co-chaired the Elgin Cemetery Walk from 2000-2007 and for many years portrayed Elgin women in the event.

Linda and her husband Jeff White are enthusiastic Elgin collectors with a large collection of Elgin manufactured products and memorabilia (lovingly known as the White Rock collection.) Many items from their collection are used in her presentations.

Linda has developed several presentations appropriate to share with organizations having a small or large audience. While many highlight local history, she also offers programs of general topics. Programs are prepared for a 30-60 minute presentation, depending on the request of the group. A question and answer time with sharing follows each presentation. Audio Visual and set up requirements for each presentation vary and options are always available to fit any audience.



Booking arrangements are made through the Elgin History Museum. Please email museum@elginhistory.org or call 847-742-4248 to learn more.

Herstory: Stories of Elgin Women

Dressing in period clothing and making costume changes during the presentation, Linda portrays a variety of Elgin women, including: Laura Gifford, Emeline Borden, Jennie Tazewell, Mary Lord, Alyce "Byrdie" Potter, and Anna Schrader. Each woman's story focuses on her accomplishments and connection to Elgin's past.

Elgin: How Sweet It Is

Never outdone by Chicago's candy producers, Elgin was a manufacturer of sweets and treats for many years. You can practically taste the sweet treats from ice cream to popcorn stands and various candies made in both factories and local homes. A fun candy quiz following the presentation gives the audience an opportunity to check their candy knowledge.

Tupperware: The Burp Heard Round the World

Linda shows off her Tupperware Collection to tell a story about the woman behind the popularity of Tupperware. We use Tupperware in our kitchens every day, but where did it come from? Who developed it and how did we keep our food fresh before Tupperware was invented?

Jane Peterson: Elgin Artist

Born and raised in Elgin, Jane Peterson studied at Pratt Institute, traveled the world, lived in Paris, and was friends with many well-known 20th century artists. Linda shares her rise from hometown girl to renowned, award-winning painter. Two of Jane's paintings from Linda's collection are displayed.

Hats Off to Elgin!

Linda's hat collection, both men and women's, highlights styles through the decades. She blends a showcase of hats, modeled by audience members, with interesting tidbits of Elgin history.

Elgin American Compacts: The Business of Making Women Beautiful

Using her own collection of Elgin American powder compacts, Linda describes the evolution of women's makeup from Egyptian times through today.

The Apron: from Blacksmithing to Baking

We often think of the apron as only used in the kitchen. Not so! Linda will showcase her collection of aprons to describe their uses for men and women throughout American history. Audience members are invited to model the aprons.

Elgin Women Educators: More Than Classroom Teachers

As Linda describes the evolution of Elgin education from cabin to classroom; she also shares the stories of female teachers who made significant contributions to the city beyond the classroom.

Working Women of Elgin

Linda will share the stories of women from Elgin's history that were leaders, educators, business owners, and many more. You will meet Ila Newsome, one of many tireless volunteers in the community.

Fun in Elgin

Linda will get you in a summer time fun mood by celebrating Elgin's past baseball games, carnivals and festivals with images from the Elgin History Museum collection. Whether you were an Elgin resident or not, you will enjoy this stroll through the good old days.

Elgin: A Women's City

In his book, *Elgin: A Women's City*, historian E.C. Alft compiled a list of notable Elgin women. Linda has selected several of these women and will highlight their influence in the community.

Elgin Christmas Memories

Meet Myrtle, an Elgin Christmas shopper, as she shows off her purchases from the 1950s. Linda's presentation includes a wealth of photos of downtown Elgin at Christmas time which illustrate local holiday traditions.

Compliments Of: Elgin Advertising Give-Aways from Years Ago

For many years businesses have used promotional items to advertise. Using items from her collection, Linda displays many types of Elgin advertising products from the late 19th century through the 1960's.