

* Warmest Greetings *

For A Wonderful Holiday Season

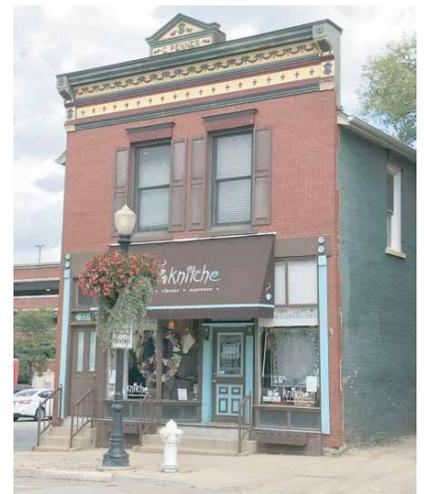
The Downers Grove Historical Society would like to thank you for all your support during our 50 year history. We are very busy planning for 2019. Our goal is to keep history alive for future generations by preserving and promoting the heritage of Downers Grove. We rely solely on public support to continue these efforts. Please donate your time and resources as you can.

Penner Building named as 2018 Historic Site

On October 20th, the The Downers Grove Historical Society dedicated the plaque recently installed on the Penner Building, marking it as our 2018 Historic Site. This building, which was built ca1894 represents a part of the early history of Downers Grove.

Conrad Penner was born in Germany in 1862 and came to America as a young man. He made his home on Maple Avenue, married and raised a family of 5 children. Trained as a harness maker he opened his first shop on the corner of Main & Curtiss to sell harnesses made to order and all things related to the needs of the farmers in the area. He moved his shop to the Main Street location around 1920, adding his name to the top of the structure. As times changed Penner expanded his store goods to include Montford and Sterling tires. Penner also added shoe a shoe repair service offering prompt service along with selling work shoes and children's shoes by Endicott-Johnson, advertising that these shoes would "wear like iron".

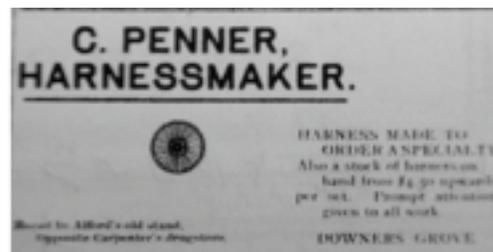
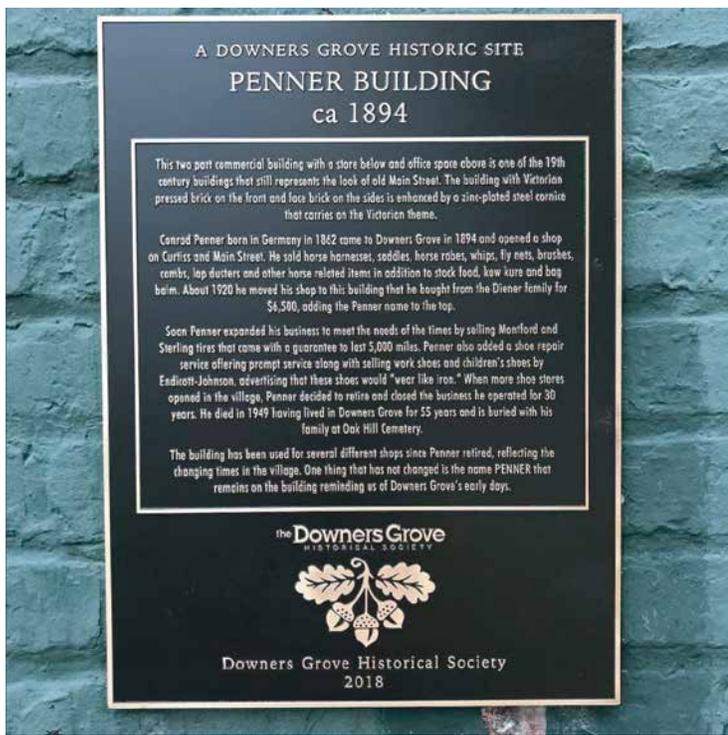
Conrad Penner operated his shop in Downers Grove for more than 30 years. He continued to live on Maple Avenue after his retirement from the store and was buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery when he died in 1949.



Penner Building at 5219-5221 Main Street Downers Grove, circa 2018. Image ©2018 Downers Grove Historical Society and © 2018 Downers Grove Museum

The shops inside the Penner building have changed over the years to adapt to the times, but his name can still be seen on top of the building reminding us of Downers Grove's early days.

Thank you to Director Lois Sterba for the coordination and research needed for this tribute.



2018 Living Cemetery

Once a cow pasture owned by Samuel Curtiss, the Main Street Cemetery is now a place to preserve and promote the history of Downers Grove.

On October 20th, in the Main Street Cemetery, 28 of our early settlers reawakened to tell their stories to hundreds of visitors in our annual Living Cemetery event. Thank you to the Herrick Middle School Drama Club members for their enthusiastic portrayals of pioneers such as Mary Puffer, Emma Miller, John and Arvilla Wells, Mary Carpenter, Samuel Curtiss, and many more. And many thanks to the many talented adult volunteers who brought alive such notables as the Downer's, the Blodgett's, Captain Blanchard, and others. It is always a privilege to hear the stories of our early settlers and founders retold. Thank you to all who helped create a memorable experience for all.

Thank you to Director Lois Sterba for the coordination and research needed for this event



Downers Grove Main Street Cemetery
 2018 Image courtesy of Slav Polinski, Slav Polinski Homes



Participants and guests of Living Cemetery 2018. Images ©2018 Downers Grove Historical Society and © 2018 Downers Grove Museum

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Memorial to Montrew Dunham

We have a chance to create a lasting tribute to Montrew Dunham for her contributions to Downers Grove. Montrew was a long-time director of the Downers Grove Historical Society, the co-author of our beloved history book (the Blue Book)...Downers Grove, 1832-1982 and author of the follow up book Downers Grove Revisited!

Montrew was a counselor for both North and South High Schools for more than 20 years. During the 1960's she worked with the Village, DG Police Dept, and local educators and clergy to establish the Youth Development Service to help guide and support Downers Grove youth during those challenging times.

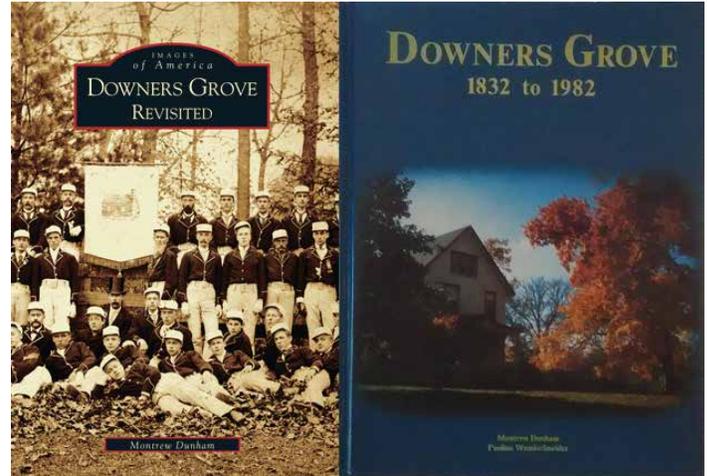
The Downers Grove Historical Society would like to memorialize her commitment to Downers Grove by having the small park at the corner of Blodgett and Elmwood named after her. We hope you will agree that citizens would appreciate being reminded of her contributions to Downers Grove and the preservation of its history.

The Park District Board will vote on this request early in December or in January 2019.

We will send you a quick email to let you know when it will be on the agenda or you can check the Park District website at www.dgparks.org



Montrew Dunham. Image ©2018 Downers Grove Historical Society and © 2018 Downers Grove Museum



Books by Montrew Dunham. Image ©2018 Downers Grove Historical Society and © 2018 Downers Grove Museum

Our 50th Anniversary was Celebrated in STYLE!



The invitation for our 50th celebration. Courtesy of Greg Elisha Three Lakes Creative.

WE HAD QUITE THE PARTY! The Historical Society received it's 501c3 charter in 1968, and we got to celebrate our 50th anniversary with you!! The party was held at Alter Brewing Co. from 1-3pm on November 3rd as we toasted 50 years of celebrating and preserving Downers Grove history and Congratulating our 2018 Historian of the Year, Joyce Tumea. Thank you to



everyone who attended and thank you to all who have supported us over the years. We couldn't do it without your help.

It all started in mid-1966 when Mayor Behoff asked for some volunteers, an organization, or group to collect Downers Grove historical information for the upcoming Illinois sesquicentennial and Downers Grove's 135th celebrations in 1968. Pauline Wandschneider and Edythe Goding called a meeting of

interested citizens which became the Downers Grove Historical Society. The Village gave us our first home in two upstairs rooms after their move to the 'new' Village Hall at 801 Burlington in 1968, the same year we received our 501c3 Charterand the rest (as they say) is history.

Here are some great photos from our 50th Anniversary even and thank you for being a part of our journey!



Sears Homes of Chicagoland

The Downers Grove Historical Society recently hosted an educational event at the Downers Grove Recreation Center titled "Sears Homes of Chicagoland".

More than 70 people showed up for this event which featured guest speaker Lara Solonickne, creator of the Sears Homes of Chicagoland website. This presentation was the final of a series of four educational events that the Historical Society hosted this year and we're already planning next year's line-up. Stay tuned for more details!



Five Homes Recently Recognized Under Historic Home Program

The Downers Grove Historical Society and the Downers Grove Museum are pleased to announce nine homes have recently been recognized under the Historic Home Program! Thank you to the homeowners for choosing to participate in this honorary program whose purpose is to preserve the history of homes in our community. The chart below lists each home, along with a photograph, house, name, year built, and architectural style/type.

Homes Recently Recognized by the Historic Home Program				
Photo	Address	House name	Year built (circa)	Architectural type/style
	5535 Dunham Road	The William Arthur Nielsen House	1930	Sears "Elmhurst"
	4220 Highland Avenue	The Allen J. Kreitzer House	1926	Dutch Colonial
	844 Maple Avenue	The Lyman Clifford House	1876	Gable Front & Wing
	1217 Parkway Drive	The W.J. Herring & J.O. Daily House	1893	Queen Anne
	4823 Prince Street	The William F. and Clara Reideler House	1923	Sears "Langston" American Foursquare

New Downers Grove Landmarks

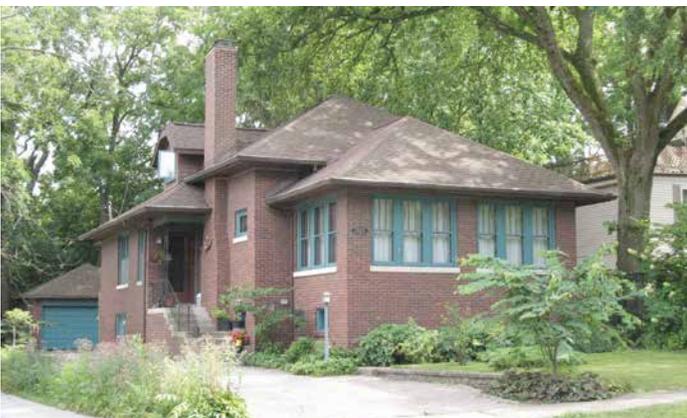
We are pleased that the Village of Downers Grove designated four homes as historic landmarks this year. Three of these landmark applications were completed with the assistance of Downers Grove Historical Society directors and members. Thank you to the homeowners for making the decision to help preserve Downers Grove history!

1205 Franklin Street



Built circa 1895, 1205 Franklin is a three-story home constructed in the Queen Anne style. 1205 Franklin Street includes a steeply pitched hipped roof with both hipped and gabled dormers. The windows in the gabled dormer are curved at the top, while the hipped dormer windows have been enclosed and surrounded by ornamental wood scales. A prominent feature of the northeast corner of the house is a turret that contributes to the asymmetrical form of the structure. Leaded glass windows and decorative soffits adorn the turret, and an oriel bay window protrudes from the west elevation. The north and east sides of the building are finished with a substantial wrap around porch with decorative columns and balusters.

1323 Maple Avenue



Built circa 1924, 1323 Maple represents the distinguishing characteristics of a bungalow. This one-and-a-half story brick home features a low-pitched hipped roof and deep overhangs, dark Tapestry brick, 3-over-1 windows and changing masses that hide the

one-and-one-half story; all leading to a rich textured appearance. Other original exterior features include: bead board tongue and groove wood on the porch ceiling and under the eaves, a front door that consists of mahogany wood and beveled glass, and lead and stained-glass windows on either side of the chimney. The owners included the detached garage in their landmark application. The brick garage has a hip roof and double-hung windows that match the primary structure.

1514 Thornwood Avenue



Built circa 1927, the home located at 1514 Thornwood represents the distinguishing characteristics of a bungalow. The bungalow at 1514 Thornwood is one-and-one-half stories with a partial front porch. It has Craftsman characteristics including a low-pitched Jerkinhead (clipped) gable roof on the front elevation, wide eaves, and dark tapestry brick. Many of the exterior and interior architectural features are original including doors and hardware. Additionally, the owners recently reconstructed the brick porch and stair walls to more closely resemble the original and a single large picture window was replaced with the 3-over-1 double hung windows which match the original window configuration.

844 Maple Avenue



Built circa 1876, the home located at 844 Maple Avenue is a vernacular Upright and Wing house which was popular from the 1870s through the 1920s. In addition to a gable front, this house consists of two wing extensions: while the west wing appears to be part of the original home, the east wing is believed to have been added in the 1920s. The home still retains many of its original interior and exterior architectural features; including doors, windows, storm windows, wood clapboard siding, window trim, 'hood' molding, and wood trim under the gable.

Board of Directors News

We would like to welcome Marty Acks to the board as our newest member. Marty is a retired computer software industry executive. He was a co-founder of a local business, Silvon Software, in Westmont, IL.



Marty has lived in Downers Grove since 1982 with his wife Carine. They have a son Brian and two grandchildren. Marty's community involvement has included volunteering at PADS, Montini Catholic High School, and coaching at the YMCA, DGYB, and St. Mary of Gostyn. In retirement his main pursuits have been spending time with his grand kids, golf, genealogy, and the Downers Grove Historical Society.

"I am excited to join the DGHS board," says Marty. "Working with the society volunteers and board members has been a true joy. Their passion for all things historical about Downers Grove is contagious."

We are excited to see the progress made from Marty's efforts thus far and will look forward to his talents being brought to bear on technologies to improve our outreach, including assisting with our newest Main Street Cemetery Web App project. Welcome, Marty!!!

2018 Membership

As you may be aware, the time and energy of the society is mostly drawn from donated time. Your financial support helps us to connect everyone interested in society news through event programming, social media technology and ongoing research. Additionally, current members in good standing are able to attend our seminars and special programs for FREE.

Dues pricing is as follows:

- Individual - \$15
- Family - \$20
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Business - \$25
- Life Individual - \$100
- Life Couple - \$200

We are always seeking additional support and if you would like to contribute, please feel free to support us in any way you can.



Like us on Facebook

the Downers Grove
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

