

NEWSLETTER

March 2014

Millburn of Old Mill Creek

NEW MAILING ADDRESS
H.M.C.A., INC.
 P.O. Box 56
 Wadsworth, IL 60083

Historic Millburn Community Association, Inc.

**THE 2014
 MEMBERSHIP
 DRIVE HAS
 BEGUN.
 PLEASE RENEW
 YOURS NOW.**

ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK SUPPER

APRIL 10TH AT 6:00 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH, 6:00 PM

Come one, come all. The annual meeting and potluck supper will be held Thursday, April 10th, at 6:00 p.m. in Lauren Hall (Millburn Church). Please bring a dish to pass. Encourage your friends to join our historical society and bring them along! Enjoy a presentation by Sandy Vasko of the Will County Historical Society and the Will County Historic Preservation Commission about *The Illinois and Michigan Canal*. Read the article on page 5 to learn about Millburn's link to the canal!

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

MONDAY, MAY 26TH, 2:00 PM

Mark your calendars. The Memorial Day Service at Millburn Cemetery is scheduled for Monday, May 26, 2013, at 2:00 PM. Bring a lawn chair, if needed, and flowers to place on veterans' graves. Cookies and lemonade will be provided after the service.



The Opening of the Illinois and Michigan Canal 1848 <http://www.dailykos.com/story/>



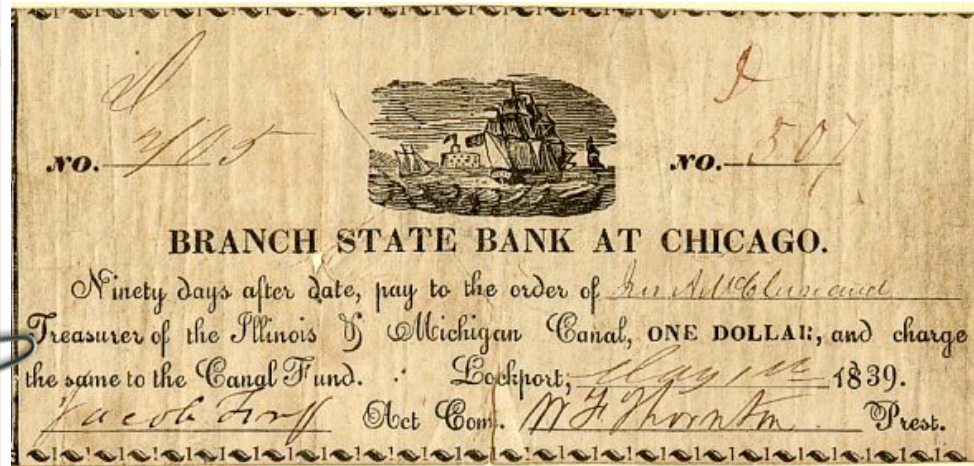
I & M Canal Route <http://www.sos.state.il.us/>



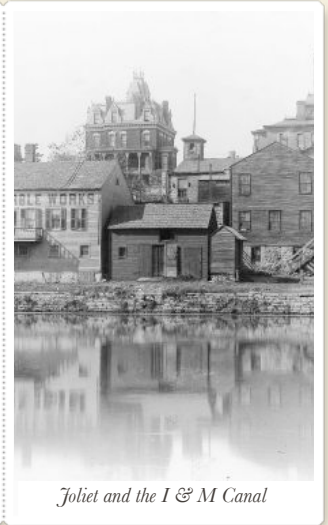
I & M Canal

Read inside this newsletter to learn how anticipation of the Illinois & Michigan Canal led to Chicago's first boom in the early 1830s.





Illinois and Michigan Canal Promissory Note - 1939 Bank of Chicago



Joliet and the I & M Canal

MUSEUM HOURS

Martin's General Store Museum will be open by appointment again this year. We are working on new signage with contact information so that interested visitors can make an appointment to visit us.

NO INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues enable us to pay the utilities and insurance for Martin's General Store Museum. They are also used to sponsor the Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper, the Memorial Day Service, and the Fourth of July fundraiser. Membership dues also cover the postage needed to mail postcards and our newsletter. Dues also cover the costs of hosting our wonderful Website.

Our membership has been declining over the years, making it difficult to balance our budget. Please encourage family and friends to join the H.M.C.A. and support this worthwhile endeavor!

IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS

We welcome fundraising ideas and program suggestions. Are you interested in organizing a fundraiser or sponsoring a program for the membership? Please contact us and let us know. We need your help! It takes a village!

ELECTIONS 2013

Each year the membership elects four directors to serve a two-year term on the Board of Directors. The terms of the Board members marked with an asterisk (*) are expiring. Nominations are welcome from the membership.

- Jennifer Andrew
- Laurie Dolan
- Mike Dolan*
- Patrick Lamb
- Shirley Paddock*
- Thomas Steffenburg*
- Joan Stewart*
- Ruth White

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Have you noticed the wreaths on the historic district signs and the wreaths and candle lights at the museum? Mike Dolan and Jennifer Andrew have added these holiday touches for the last few years. If you are interested in taking over this duty, please let us know. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you interested in volunteering? We are looking for an organized person to maintain the annual membership list. We are also looking for someone who is able to keep our Website updated. If you are interested, let us know!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JENNIFER ANDREW
CHAIRPERSON

RUTH WHITE
VICE CHAIRPERSON

THOMAS
STEFFENBURG
SECRETARY

PATRICK LAMB
TREASURER

LAURIE DOLAN

MIKE DOLAN

SHIRLEY PADDOCK

JOAN STEWART

NORMA WELCH
DIRECTOR EMERITUS

2013 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT! PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND HELP US RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS FOR 2014

LIFE MEMBERS

JAYNE ADAMS-PIEHL
 ALICE ANDERSON
 EMILY J. ANDERSON
 JAMES ANDERSON COMPANY
 JENNIFER ANDREW AND FAMILY
 MARIAN LOSSMAN ATTERBERY
 PEYTON ATTERBERY
 ALAYNEL L. BARTLETT
 MR. AND MRS. WOLF BERTHOLD
 MR. AND MRS. RAY BOLLER
 NANCY AND HOWARD BONNER
 DOROTHY BRADFORD
 MR. AND MRS. ROBERT BROOKS
 MR. AND MRS. TERRANCE BRUNER
 AND FAMILY
 MR. AND MRS. JOHN CHOPE
 OLGA ERLNBORN
 MR. AND MRS. FRED FETTINGER
 ROBERT FRANK
 MERLE GROSS
 MILDRED HAISMA
 IRENE DRUCE-HOFFMAN
 MR. AND MRS. DON HOLEM
 REV. FATHER JOHN A. JAMNICKY
 MR. AND MRS. JOHN JOESTGEN &
 FAMILY
 MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH KONEFES
 PATRICK LAMB
 LAURENS LEFFINGWELL
 MARY LESTER
 MR. AND MRS. KEVIN LYONS
 SCOTT MARTIN
 JUDY MARTINI
 MARY MESSICK
 BARBARA BOCH MILLER
 RILLA MONROE
 MR. AND MRS. ROBERT MUDD
 SHIRLEY MURPHY
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOANN
 OSMUND
 SHIRLEY AND HAROLD PADDOCK
 DAWN AND WILLIAM REVENAUGH
 MS. ANITA SCHADECK AND MR.
 JAMES ROBEERS
 JOAN S. SCHROEDER
 MR. AND MRS. HOWARD SIMPSON

TEMPEL (TIM) SMITH AND FAMILY
 MR. AND MRS. GLEN STRANG
 DR. AND MRS. ALAN THAIN
 MR. AND MRS. JERRY WATKINS
 NORMA WELCH
 DR. BONNIE BROOKS WHALEN
 RUTH WHITE
 JEAN WOOLEY
 MR. & MRS. YAMIN YAMIN AND
 FAMILY
 MR. AND MRS. EDWARD YOUNG

HONORARY MEMBERS

MILTON ANDERSON
 DOROTHY BRADFORD
 MR. & MRS. FRED FETTINGER III
 SENATOR ADELINE J. GEO-KARIS
 RILLA MONROE
 KAREN RABE
 MR. DOUGLAS STILES

ANNUAL MEMBERS

DAVID ALENGO
 KEVIN AND JANE AMHAUS
 MR. AND MRS. WERNER
 BAECKLANDT
 CAROL STRANG BERCOS
 PAT BOUAS
 MR. AND MRS. BRUCE CHURCH
 JOHN & KATHERINE CULBERTSON
 MR. AND MRS. DOUGLAS
 DEMARTIN
 DR. AND MRS. ROLAND DEMARTIN
 MIKE AND LAURIE DOLAN
 GARY DOOLITTLE
 LOIS DOOLITTLE
 THOMAS DRUCE-HOFFMAN
 DIANE EUBANK
 MR. & MRS. ROBERT EBERHARDT
 MR. & MRS. TOM ERLNBORN
 LAUREN FLEMING
 SUE GOETZ
 JOHN AND MARGITTA GRIGG
 JUDITH & JOHN GURLEY
 MIKE HANSON
 KATHY HAROLD

BOB & JUDY HART
 WILLARD HELANDER
 PAT JENKINS
 SARAH KHAN
 JOHN & KAREN KOZLIK
 RICH & PAM LAHEY
 CRAIG HENDEE AND JANE LANGE
 LEIGH LILLIS
 ANNETTE LUBKEMAN
 KATHRYN LUTTKUS
 AL MAIDEN
 IRENE MARTIN
 ED MCCANN
 RAYMOND AND JANIS MCKOSKI
 REV. PAUL & YVONNE MELTZER
 KAREN MEZICH
 MR. & MRS. ANDRE MICHALIK
 JULIE MILLER
 RICK & LISA MOSER
 LINDA & BILL MUSAK
 DON & JANE NEVILLE
 MR. & MRS. JOHN NEVILLE
 SHIRLEY NICHOLAS
 MR. & MRS. WILLIAM PAULSEN
 MR. AND MRS. ROBERT REDING
 JAMES & DONNA REITER
 MR. AND MRS. ADRIAN RUSSELL
 MR. & MRS. DONALD SHANGRAW
 JOAN AND GEORGE SIMMONS
 CHANDRA & SCOTT SOLBERG
 BARBARA & ELGIN SOUTHGATE
 FLORENCE STEELE
 TOM STEFFENBURG
 JOAN & HARRY STEWART
 BARBARA & CLARENCE SWANSON
 LOIS THAIN
 KATHY THOMAN
 DEIRDRE TONER
 MR. & MRS. EUGENE TRAUTLEIN
 REV. JED WATSON
 CARYN WELSH
 LILLIAN WIRTZ
 BRUCE YOUNG

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2014

Fill in this form and mail it with a check payable to HMCA, Inc.

Historic Millburn Community Association, Inc.

38757 N. U.S. Highway 45

Old Mill Creek, IL 60046

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

[We would prefer communicating via e-mail if possible.]

Address: _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone: _____

Membership Levels

I've (We've) enclosed \$_____ to be applied toward:

_____ Individual annual dues (\$20)

_____ Household annual dues (\$35)

_____ Individual lifetime membership* (\$200)

_____ Household lifetime membership* (\$350)

_____ Donation for _____

_____ My company will send a matching gift.

- The name(s) of Lifetime Members are engraved on a brass nameplate on our display of lifetime members in the museum.

Suggestions:

If you have suggestions for how we might increase our annual membership or suggestions for fundraisers and program offerings, please let us know!

We thank you in advance for your support!



Your membership dues pay for:

- heat & electricity
- taxes
- insurance
- maintenance
- communications
- postage
- events
- speakers
- office supplies
- Website

The Illinois & Michigan Canal

The Strang family worked on the Illinois & Michigan Canal in the 1830's. The Illinois & Michigan Canal connected the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. It ran 96 miles from the Chicago River in Bridgeport to the Illinois River at LaSalle-Peru and opened in 1848. Before the railroad era, it helped to establish Chicago as the transportation hub of the United States.

It was during the early part of the construction of the canal that the Strang family first made their appearance in America. John Strang and his family immigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1835. When the 1837 Revolution in Canada broke out, three of the Strang sons (Robert, Peter and George) left Canada to avoid serving in the army. Having no money, they walked to Joliet by way of Detroit where for four years they worked on the Illinois & Michigan Canal. It is impossible to know exactly what work

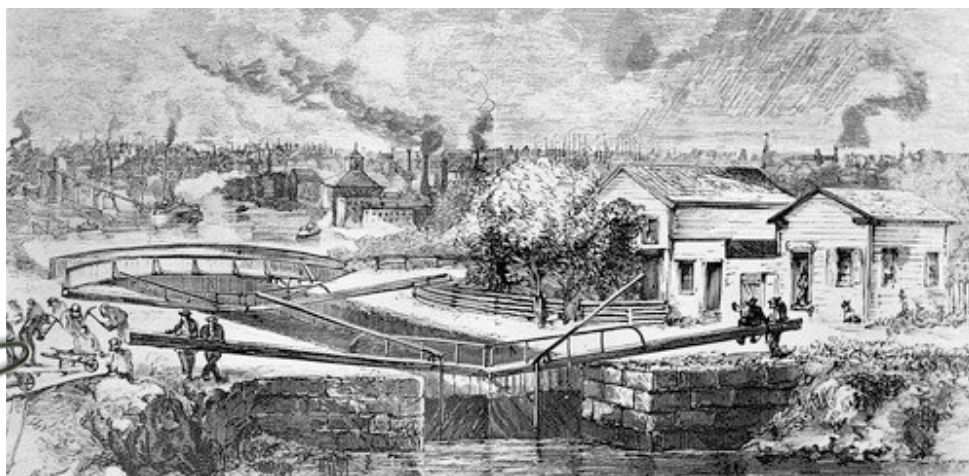
they performed on the canal, but we do know that during those years the following jobs were carried out: road building, blasting rock and digging the canal, driving mule or horse teams to remove rock from the canal, and surveying/engineering.

The Strang brothers managed to save enough money to purchase a claim in Lake County in 1838. The following year their father came from Canada and settled upon the claim. The land had not been surveyed, but it comprised between four hundred and five hundred acres, a part of which is the present site of Millburn.

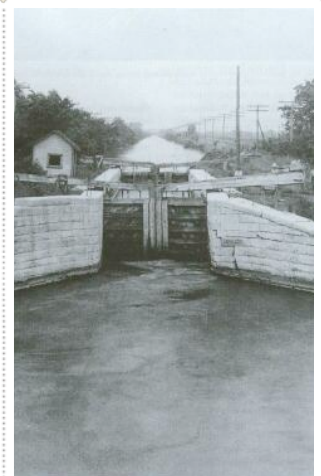
In Millburn, the Strang family distinguished itself. Robert Strang, who walked with his two brothers those many miles to work on the canal, spent numerous years successfully farming until 1856, when he built a store in Millburn. His store thrived and upon his retirement in 1874, he turned over the store to his son.

In 1850, the Strang brothers (John, Peter and George) traveled west to California lured by the discovery of gold. Apparently their efforts met with some success, for after two years they returned to Illinois with the means to acquire large farms around Millburn.

It is here that they remained, raising large families and participating in community life. The Strang family, one of the first pioneer families of Millburn, left an indelible mark on this area. In fact, Millburn was originally known by the name "Strang's Corners." Many of the eleven children and fifty-one grandchildren who descended from the senior John Strang populated the Millburn area. Upon her death in 1978, the family genealogist, Elizabeth Ruth Strang Jack, had records for hundreds of Strang descendants. It's probably safe to say that if you lived near Millburn you probably had a Strang somewhere in your lineage.



1840s View of Canal Lock in Summit, Illinois (Illinois State Historical Society)



Granite-lined Locks

The Illinois and Michigan Canal



Did you know that it was not long after the completion of the Illinois and Michigan Canal that railroads began to replace water routes for shipping goods?

Visit the H.M.C.A., Inc. Website
www.hmca-il.org

So much more can be learned about the Strang family and the other founding families of Millburn (along with a tremendous amount of local history) by visiting the Historic Millburn Community Association, Inc. website. Our website is filled with information about the history of the Millburn area. Take a minute to visit it—we think you'll find yourself immersed in the interesting information as you travel from link to link and learn about the history of this community.

The founders of the H.M.C.A., Inc. and Fred Fetting III created a lasting legacy. We are forever indebted to them for the countless hours they spent researching and publishing the information they gathered on this fascinating website!

FROM:
H.M.C.A., INC.
P.O. Box 56
Wadsworth, IL 60083

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