



# NEWS FROM THE GROVE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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## **A Word from the President** ~ by *Megan Carroll,* *GHA President*

Fall greetings friends. It has been a very busy past couple of months here at The Grove. I am hoping you were able to enjoy our annual meeting with the very interesting presentation on bird migration, The Blue Grass Bash, Grove Fest, or just visiting the grounds. Thanks to the crazy weather this year mosquitos seemed to be a nuisance, but the wildflowers, animals and fall foliage made a trip worth it.

For those of you who were unable to make it to the Blue Grass festival, you missed seeing our new Grove video. Beryl Bills led the project along with help from Grove staff and outside actors. It has become a wonderful tool for newcomers to see our grounds and learn what we are about. You can check it out online. Beryl and the Park District staff have also been working hard on our website. Please visit it at [groveheritageassociation.org](http://groveheritageassociation.org). You can also access it from The Grove's Glenview Park District web page. As always, one of our goals is to continue to increase interest in The Grove. Our best public relations come from our current members. So please encourage your friends or family to come to The Grove or check us out online. Thank you again for your continued support.

Lastly, as you know, the holidays are approaching. The best place to start your holiday shopping is The Grove Arts & Craft Faire. Kris Van Voorhis and Carol Di Lorenzo along with many others have been hard at work setting it up. If you have never been, you must come. I haven't been to many other craft fairs but ours is the best! Remember...it is a fundraiser for GHA and The Grove. Please come to shop or volunteer.



## **Congratulations to Beryl B. Bills** **Grove Heritage Association Treasurer!** ~ by *Liz Kopp, Grove Archivist*

On October 24, 2014, Beryl Bills was awarded with the Illinois Association of Park Districts' "Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year" award. According to the IAPD, this award recognizes "citizens' volunteer efforts to enhance a park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation, or special recreation agency program, service, parkland, open space or facility." This award is intended for an "active citizen volunteer."

Beryl Bills has been the longest serving Grove Heritage Association treasurer. During her tenure of almost 20 years, the Grove Heritage Association, in partnership with the Glenview Park District, has realized some very ambitious goals. These include the acquisition of over 50 acres of land as well as the construction of numerous buildings, facilities and structures.

In addition, Beryl chaired two very successful fundraising events that brought in nearly \$15,000.00, which will assist in funding additional land acquisition and help to realize program goals for The Grove. Finally, Beryl worked tirelessly to produce a marvelous educational video about The Grove which will be used for marketing, fundraising and promotional purposes. We invite our readers to visit the Grove Heritage Association website at [groveheritageassociation.org](http://groveheritageassociation.org) to view this touching and delightful video.

We at The Grove and the Grove Heritage Association are so lucky to have such a wonderful volunteer like Beryl Bills. We wish to thank the Glenview Park District for nominating Beryl Bills for this prestigious award. And thank you Beryl for all your hard work. You certainly deserve this recognition. You are a gem!





## Blue Grass Bash!

~ by Mary Lee Attea, GHA Board Member

In late August, the Grove Heritage Association hosted its first ever Blue Grass Bash and BBQ at The Grove Pavilion. Over hundred guests enjoyed the music and the lyrics of the trio who call themselves, the *Sanctified Grumblers*.

Beryl Bills designed the master plan, which organized Grove volunteers for a variety of jobs. Wild flowers from The Grove were gathered and colorful bandanas served as placemats for individual settings. Jeff Beckman made and donated dozens of yummy mini cupcakes for the dessert table. Sean Kelley designed the poster, which advertised the event, and were sold.

Cheri McNish and Terry Anderson checked in guests. President Megan Carroll greeted guests as they made their way to the pavilion and Neal Anderson was the roaming photographer for the evening event. A delicious buffet dinner was enjoyed by all. Donation cards indicating specific Grove projects were placed at each table and were collected following the showing of a new video that spoke to the legacy that the Kennicott family left for The Grove and its benefits for future generations.

At the October Grove Heritage Association meeting, Beryl Bills was happy to report that GHA members and friends had raised \$4,000.





## The Director's Report

~ by **Steve Swanson, Grove Director**

At the October Board Meeting, Steve Swanson shared architectural drawings and spoke enthusiastically for a 20' x 20' addition to The Grove Archives Building. Completed in 2005, the Archives Building serves as the repository of a huge collection of letters written by various members of the Kennicott family starting in the early 1800s; and, a wide variety of artifacts belonging to the family. There are some 5,500 photographs including many complete family albums. The collection also includes unpublished manuscripts and an original manuscript with unpublished portions.

Swanson stated that "few pioneer American families have such a wealth of comprehensive documentation that reflect nineteenth century America. Scholars and laymen alike are attracted to these materials and looking forward, it is time to expand our storage space so that we can be accepting of new materials." Funding for this important project has been received from the state of Illinois, the Glenview Park District and the Grove Heritage Association.

Archivist, Liz Kopp, concurs that space is exceptionally tight and she is looking forward to having more space to store and display these special materials.

Historical markers can now be found at various sites within The Grove. Each gives a few facts about a particular building or space and its importance in the development of The Grove. Several markers were gifts from the Grove Heritage Association. Two markers, Save The Grove and the Grove Heritage Association, were gifts from the Glenview Park District, in honor of the Grove Heritage Association's 40th anniversary.



## Grove Fest, First Sunday in October... a magnificent autumn day!

~ by **Mary Lee Attea, GHA Board Member**

It was busy, busy in the field alongside the Redfield House where activities for Grove Fest were located. Vendors were in place along the periphery of the field with many tables located closer in anticipation of the crowds of people who would soon occupy those seats while enjoying pioneer stew and the lively music that was the order of the afternoon.

The GHA pie tent was all set up and ready to sell slices of delicious pies. Cheri McNish and Beryl Bills had purchased 93 pies from The Elegant Farmer in Wisconsin and they had every expectation of selling all of them within a few hours. Earlier that morning, Lori Edelstein and Mary Lee Attea sliced many of the pies for easy serving. President of GHA, Megan Carroll was eager to greet customers and relay their orders to Key Club representatives from Glenbrook South High School, who were gathering community service hours. Thank you to everyone who helped us sell the pies and to all our wonderful visitors who attended The Grove's festive event.



## ..... The Grove by the Numbers .....

**1802** ...the year Dr. John A. Kennicott (JAK) was born.

**13** ...the number of siblings Dr. John had.

**7** ...the number of children born to Mary and John Kennicott.

**2** ...the number of Dr. John's brothers who were dentists.

**480,000** ...the number of acres the United States deeded to the State of Illinois for the creation of a land grant college (the University of Illinois) because of Dr John's work.

**1,100** ...the miles travelled by the Kennicotts to reach The Grove from New Orleans.

**1836** ...the year John, Mary, and sons Charles and Robert arrived at The Grove from New Orleans.

**886** ...acres originally owned by Kennicott extended family.

**1863** ...the year JAK died.

## A Generous Donation to The Grove Archives

~ By Liz Kopp, Grove Archivist

Welcome readers. On August 24, 2014, The Grove received an incredible donation from the Peattie family—Dana Peattie VanderMey, her sister Hilary, their cousins and Dana and Hilary's uncle, Dr. Mark R. Peattie. As you may know, the Peatties came into the Kennicott family through Cora Kennicott, Dr. John Kennicott's younger daughter. Briefly, Cora was born on March 24, 1843, at The Grove. On January 28, 1863, Cora married a young lawyer named James Redfield. Together they had four children—Agnes, born in 1864, Grace born in 1866, Josephine born in 1868 and Robert, born on October 24, 1870. Robert Redfield may have been named after his famous uncle, Cora's brother, Robert Kennicott.

On February 5, 1896, Robert Redfield married the beautiful Bertha Alexandra Dreier and they had two children—Robert II, born on December 4, 1897, and Louise, born on June 14, 1900. They lived in a home near the present location of the Redfield Estate. On May 23, 1923, Louise married famed author Donald Culross Peattie and they had a daughter, Celia Louise, and three sons, Malcolm Redfield Peattie, (the most beautiful little boy in the world, according to his grandmother, Bertha, and pictured right), Mark Robert Peattie and Noel Roderick Peattie. Malcolm Peattie married Margaretta (Retta) Forbes on June 24, 1950, and they made their home in Santa Barbara, California. In time, they had two daughters, Dana and Hilary.

I had the privilege to sort through the donated box of treasures so I could make an inventory for The Grove and was struck by the enormous generosity of the family. They donated beautiful family photographs, including many of their great-grandparents, Bertha and Robert (pictured below), pictures of their Danish ancestors,<sup>1</sup> as well as a wonderful photograph of Dana and Hilary's father at age 3 (pictured above). As



you can see, he was indeed beautiful. There are also some superb photographs of their grandparents, writers Louise and Donald Peattie and Louise's brother, Robert.<sup>2</sup> We received birth certificates, college diplomas, death certificates, military documents and many newspaper clippings predominately about Donald and Louise Peattie's books, and items concerning Donald Peattie's parents: Elia Peattie and Robert Peattie, who were also noted authors. There are pictures of Louise and Donald's children in France, North Carolina and later in life. What a wonderful gift to The Grove.

One very interesting newspaper article concerns Elia Peattie's girlhood home<sup>3</sup> at 7660 South Shore Drive, in Chicago, Illinois. The article explains that Elia Peattie's father was Frederick Wilkinson, a Kalamazoo attorney who came to Chicago shortly after the Chicago fire in 1871. Mr. Wilkinson built his house in 1880 in the South Shore area. At the time, South Shore Drive was a dirt road called Bond Avenue. Their home was in an area called Cheltenham Beach and there were only five other houses in the vicinity. Mr. Wilkinson lived in the house with his wife and four daughters and they reared their girls with a "bookish" education. Elia became interested in writing and later she married another writer, Robert Peattie. Elia and Robert moved into her parents' house when the elder Wilkinsons returned to Michigan and Donald Culross Peattie was born there. Elia and Robert's children were reared in a "literary atmosphere," and author Drury writes that this made Donald Peattie a "poet of nature."

I would like to make special mention of Donald and Louise's son, Dr. Mark R. Peattie. As many of you may know, this wonderful man sadly passed away in January. Dr. Peattie was a noted scholar of Japanese history, a prolific author, important member of academia and a great friend to The Grove. Dr. Peattie remembered The Grove before his passing and asked his family to ensure that The Grove received the items he earmarked for us. In August, Dana brought these items to us and we are very, very grateful. Donations like this one are so important and so greatly appreciated. Generations are tied together through their documents and artifacts and these items fill in the gaps in Kennicott family history.

I would like to give one final thank you to the Peattie family. I just learned that they donated a bench to The Grove in memory of all the Peatties who have passed away. This generous donation will allow our visitors to sit in a quiet place and enjoy nature like Donald Culross Peattie, Louise Redfield Peattie and their family did when they lived here at The Grove.

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<sup>1</sup>Bertha Dreier Redfield's family was from Denmark.

<sup>2</sup>Robert Redfield was a renowned American anthropologist and ethnologist based at the University of Chicago.

<sup>3</sup>*The Chicago Daily News*, *Old Chicago Houses*, by John Drury, February 7, 1941.



## Do you recognize this man?



This man, with large mutton chops and pince nez glasses is the next unidentified person in our collection. I wonder what he is thinking as he looks away from the camera.

You will note that the photograph was taken by Gehrig at 337 West Madison in Chicago. Joseph W. Gehrig came to the United States from Switzerland when he was 3 years old. In 1887, Mr.

Gehrig based his business at 337 West Madison, meaning this photograph was taken after this date, and Mr. Gehrig stayed at this location until his retirement in 1905. According to the website Broadway Photographs, "Gehrig possessed several traits that endeared him to colleagues and employees. He was generous, given to praise, curious, and entirely lacking in temper. He loved to work and communicated his enthusiasms to everyone near him. He had a singular gift for intuiting talent in aspiring photographers."<sup>4</sup> The website continues by adding that there are a few curiosities of style in Gehrig's portraits—foremost was his disinclination to have his sitters' eyes engage those of the viewer. Now I understand why our sitter is looking away from the camera!

Thank you for reading this my friends. Please don't forget. If you have a suggestion for a particular article, let me know. I will try to accommodate your request.

"Adieu, dear reader, and expect me again."

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<sup>4</sup><http://broadway.cas.sc.edu/content/joseph-w-gehrig>.

## GHA Annual Meeting

~ by Mary Lee Attea, GHA Board Member

Members and guests of GHA gathered in the Program Barn on the evening of June 10 to celebrate another wonderful year of progress and accomplishment at The Grove. President, Megan Carroll welcomed everyone and went on to present the Proposed Slate of Officers for 2014-2015: Recording Secretary, Sue Munro, Treasurer, Beryl Bills and Membership Chair, Jeff Beckman. All received a unanimous vote of approval. She thanked the Nominating Committee: Kathy Carroll, Nan Hinchsliff and Susan Mann.

Treasurer, Beryl Bills presented the GHA Budget for 2014-2015 and asked for a motion to approve it. Motion carried.

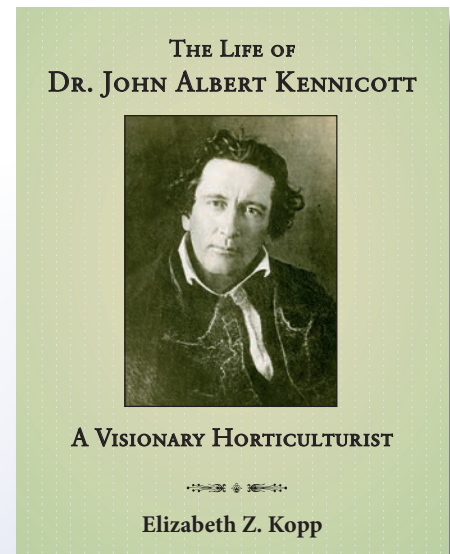
Grove Director, Steve Swanson thanked everyone for coming and told of the work being done on the newest acreage that had been acquired by the Park District. He introduced Chuck Balling, Executive Director of the Glenview Park District, who thanked Grove staff and its wonderful volunteers for all of their contributions which make The Grove an outstanding natural habitat. He too was excited to have been on the forefront of negotiations that led to the procurement of additional open space for The Grove.

Considering that 2014 marked the 100th Anniversary of the death of the last Passenger Pigeon worldwide, Steve Swanson and Judy Beck, former member of the Illinois Conservation Council and GHA board member, engaged two knowledgeable speakers from the Field Museum who are well acquainted with the topic of bird migration. He introduced Ms. Peggy McNamara, artist in residence for the Field Museum, who spoke about her paintings which appear in the book, *"The Art of Migration"* written by John Bates and James Boone. The audience also heard from Dr. Douglas F. Stotz, conservation ecologist in the Environment, Culture and Conservation Division at the Field Museum who spoke on migration and breeding birds along the Chicago lakefront and other prime locations in the state. Both speakers were well received and all who attended found that they had gained a better understanding of what measures were being taken in Illinois to protect existing bird populations.

## A Good Read! A Must Read!

Grove Archivist, Elizabeth Kopp has written a book, *"The Life of Dr. John Albert Kennicott"* in which she tells of his outstanding contributions to the state of Illinois and the United States. This book is the first of a trilogy of books about The Grove and its special first family. The cost is \$15 and can be purchased at The Grove Store in the Interpretive Center or by mail.

We encourage you to come to The Kennicott Archives Building on a Sunday afternoon between 11 am and 3 pm to view the extensive exhibit devoted to Dr. John, his family and his work. Please plan to visit the Archives Building after Craft Faire closes. The exhibit will reopen Thanksgiving weekend.



The Grove Heritage Association  
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## Hand-Crafted Charm! *The Holiday Store*

**Nov. 28-Dec. 21**

**Wed.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm**

**The Grove, 1421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview**

*Located in the historic Kennicott House.*

Didn't finish your shopping? Return for The Grove Holiday Store! Holiday Decorations-Gifts & Personalized Ornaments, Gourmet & Baked items, Unique Home Accessories.

**Free Admission/Free Parking.**

*Events are co-sponsored by the Grove Heritage Association & the Glenview Park District.  
Proceeds benefit GHA & The Grove.*

