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In This Issue:

Over 100 Years on Milwaukee Avenue - Edward Fox • The Central Avenue Jog
The Graham's of Goodman Street - A Photo History

The Jefferson Park Historical Society (JPHS) is proud to announce the launch of a new website: www.jeffersonparkhistory.org. The new site includes a history of Jefferson Park, past newsletters, and upcoming events. Additionally, the site links to other important places in the area as well as pertinent historical information. This site is the best place to find out more information about JPHS and general local history.

In the past year, the organization commemorated several important historic venues and celebrated the advent of a new era in Jefferson Park history. Early in 2006, the Historical Society visited Our Lady of Victory Church in honor of their 100-year anniversary. Everyone heard an informative talk from the pastor, Fr. Chris Doering, and then they were treated to a tour of the complex. This included a walk through the church's mysterious (yet notorious) "secret tunnel." This past Fall, the organization then celebrated the anniversary of another influential church in the area. St. John's Lutheran Church celebrated 130 years, and members of the society were privileged to hear a wonderful presentation of the Church's history as part of the neighborhood.

The biggest accomplishment in 2006 was the naming of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park to the National Register of Historic Places. The society celebrated over the summer at an "Old Time Picnic in the Park," with live music and games.

This year, the first meeting and event will be held **Sunday, January 28, at 3:00 PM** at the Congregational Church of Jefferson Park, 5250 W. Giddings. Author, historian, and veteran journalist Jerry Crimmins will discuss the women of Fort Dearborn and his new book, 'Fort Dearborn'. The northwest side Chicagoan spent six years researching the early history of Chicago for his book. Copies of his book will be available for purchase, and there is no charge for attending this discussion. In addition to Jerry's book, postcards and pictures of historical Jefferson Park will also be available for purchase.

Look for more events and discussions in the upcoming months.

As we continue to grow and evolve we need your continued support. We are in need of dedicated volunteers and leaders. For more information, please contact us by phone (see inside front cover for contacts), or visit our website at www.jeffersonparkhistory.org. We would be happy to have you as part of our group! - Susanna Ernst

Mission Statement:

As the Jefferson Park Historical Society, our mission is to educate others about the history of Jefferson Park and the surrounding areas of Chicago. We will accomplish this through discussion at meetings, public tours and events, and dissemination of historical documents and photos through publications. Additionally, we desire to collaborate with others in the community to continue to maintain and preserve the history of our neighborhood. By linking the past with the present and the future, we will provide an awareness and create an appreciation for our place in Chicago's and Illinois' history.

The Jefferson Park Historical Society

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Vice-president: Janet Taylor
Treasurer: Gail Weber

Board Members:
Frank Suerth • Del Norwood
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Membership:
\$10.00 per calendar year
\$7.00 for 62 years old and over

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c/o Gail Weber
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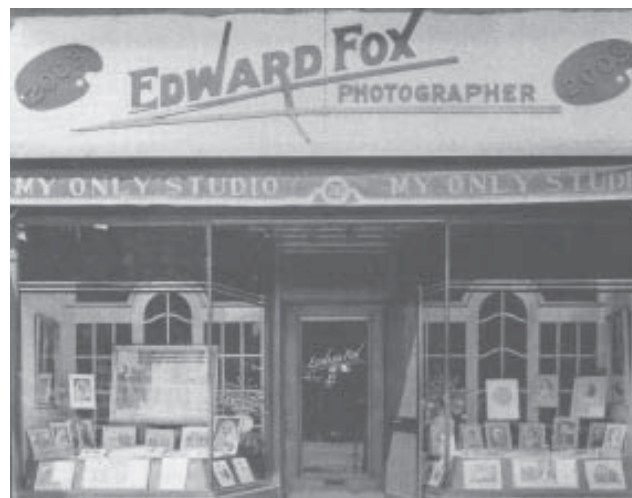
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Edward Fox

Over 100 Years on Milwaukee Ave.





The original studio on Milwaukee Avenue near Armitage. Photo taken ca 1902. Photo Courtesy of the Richard Nopar

At 15, Edward Fox emigrated from Russia to live with his cousin in Chicago, who taught him photography and English. By 1902, 22-year-old Edward Fox had \$93.00 in working capital and opened up the Edward Fox Photography Studio on Milwaukee Avenue near Armitage. At the time, there were eight or nine photographers within a two-mile stretch of Milwaukee Avenue, but he had a plan. He would take pictures of brides and make them into ads. The ads would be placed on the Milwaukee Avenue streetcars.

At first his business consisted mainly of wedding and family portraits taken in his studio. Fortunately, his studio was in a neighborhood where many newly arrived European immigrants lived. These immigrants would send professionally taken pictures back to the old country and Edward received the bulk of their business.

One year later, in 1903, Edward married Anna Clyman. They lived in an apartment above the studio and Anna also worked in the studio. They were a good team and though hard work they carried the business through the Depression and World War II.

In 1969, the main studio was moved to its present location on Milwaukee Avenue in Jefferson Park. Four generations have now carried on Edward Fox tradition and presently they have branches in three states.

Edward Fox
PHOTOGRAPHY
SINCE 1902

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The Central Avenue Jog

Have you ever wondered why Central Avenue makes a jog (complete with stop signs) just north of Higgins Avenue? Believe it or not, its origins stretch back to an 1816 treaty between the United States and the Native Americans—long before Central Avenue existed.

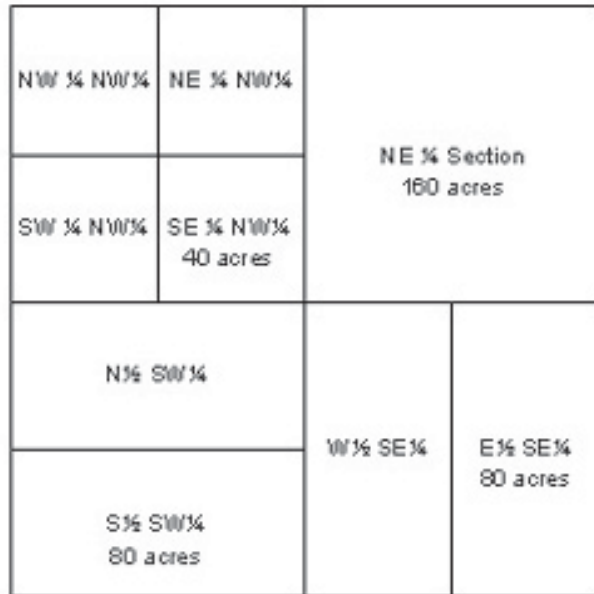
To understand this better, one should first examine the street pattern in Chicago. Most Chicago streets run north-south or east-west on a grid. During the 1800's, Chicago and many of the Midwestern states were surveyed and divided into square mile (640 acre) sections. In Chicago, major streets were a mile apart and were boundaries for the sections. As the sections were subdivided, smaller streets were added for access to the smaller parcels of land. The arrangement served a landowner well. If a road was needed, a landowner would not want it running through the middle of the property. Roads at the edges of properties, however, would benefit everyone.



The Central Avenue Jog at Goodman
Map Courtesy of the City of Chicago website

The diagram on the left shows the typical way a Section would be divided up. Major streets on the outside, one-mile apart with semi-major streets on the half-mile. The other information shown is part of the legal description of the properties.

DIVISIONS OF A SECTION



4.

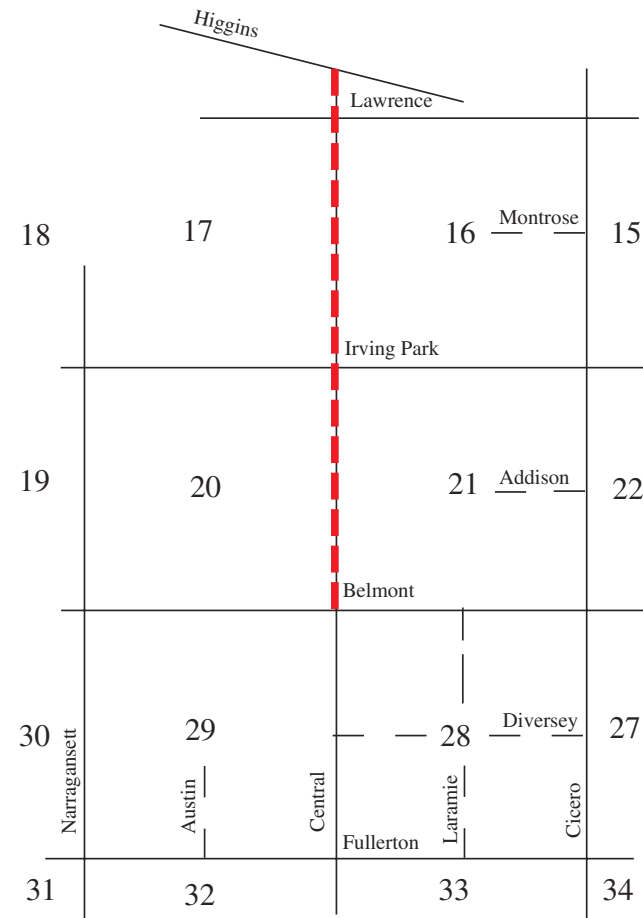


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Central Avenue was one of these streets that served as a boundary for a section. Frank D. Wulff, William Gray, A. J. Snell, Ed Goodman, Chester Dickerson, and ten other legal voters of the town of Jefferson petitioned the part of Central south of Higgins on April 16, 1868, to the Commissioners of Highways. The petition stated that the unnamed road was to be built “commencing on south line of Section Twenty and Twenty-one at the division line of said Section and running from there north on said Section line until it intersects the road running from the Village of Jefferson to the Union Ridge and designated on the plat of said village as Maynard Street”. The road the petitioners were requesting was Central Avenue between Belmont (Section Line) and Higgins (Maynard). But why does Central Avenue not continue straight north of Higgins? The answer lies in early Chicago History.



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5.

Following the Fort Dearborn Massacre in the summer of 1812, the United States government sought to protect the new surveyors and settlers by acquiring land from the Pottawatomi, Chippewa, and the Ottawa tribes. The government negotiated the Treaty of St. Louis, which included a tract of land 20 miles wide running southwest from the mouth of the Chicago River. This land tract would include the Chicago portage and prepare the way for the I&M Canal. Additionally, new European settlers would now be able to occupy and file homestead claims on this land. As soon as the Treaty was enacted, the government rebuilt Ft. Dearborn.

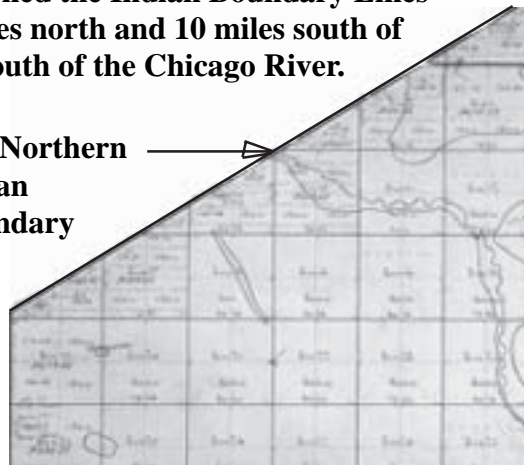
In the winter of 1818-19, John C. Sullivan surveyed the perimeter of this land tract, which became known as the Indian Boundary Lines. The northern Indian Boundary Line runs right through present day Jefferson Park. The Native Americans had to live outside of these boundary lines and were not allowed to bother settlers inside the boundary lines. In 1821, John C. Sullivan surveyed the land between these Indian Boundary Lines and homestead claims quickly followed.

The Black Hawk War of 1832 and the Chicago Treaty of 1833 were two historical events that forcibly removed Native Americans entirely from Illinois. At that time, European homesteaders were allowed to ignore the Indian Boundary Lines and surveying outside lines soon followed. For some unknown reason, the surveying on Central Avenue on either side of the northern boundary line did not line up. Why did this happen? Some people say it was because it was completed at different times, some believe it was equipment error, and some even attribute it to the fact the earth is not completely round. While no one actually knows why it happened, we have remnants of these miscalculations in our neighborhood today.



The sketch shows how John C. Sullivan positioned the Indian Boundary Lines 10 miles north and 10 miles south of the mouth of the Chicago River.

The Northern Indian Boundary Line



This is part of John Sullivan's 1821 survey just south of the Indian Boundary line. Note the mile square Sections are shown.

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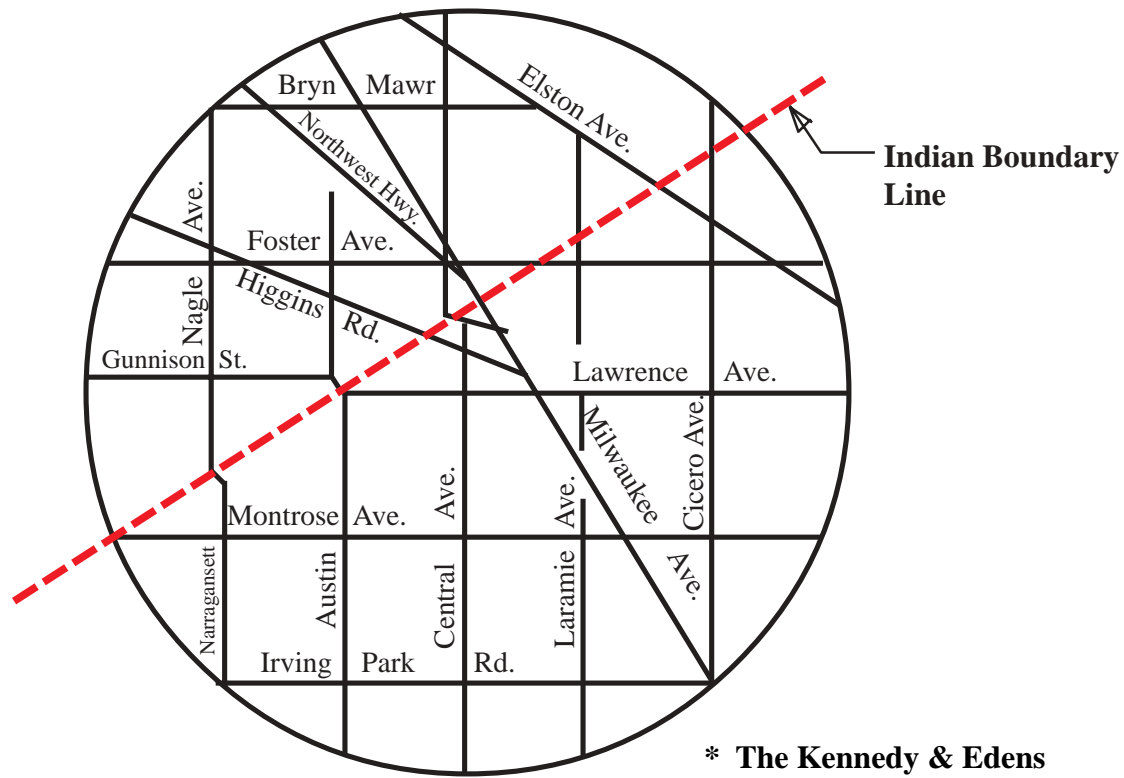
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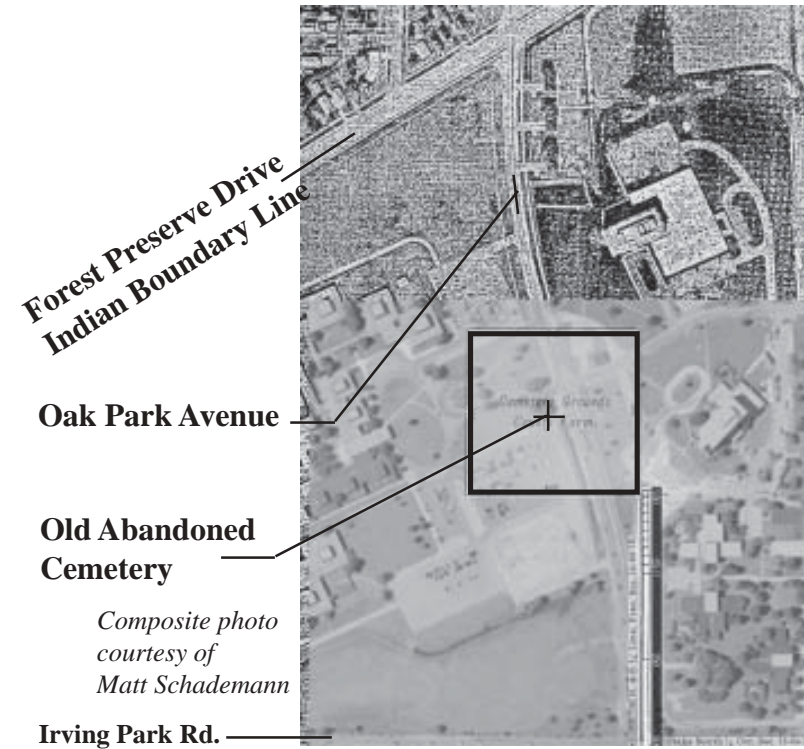


*** The Kennedy & Edens Expressways are not shown.**

This Indian Boundary Line starts out at Rodgers Avenue and Lake Michigan. It runs southwest along Rodgers Avenue then skips over cross streets until it appears again on Forest Preserve Drive near Narragansett and then goes to the city limits. The line then travels all the way to Bolingbrook, IL. Both Indian Boundary Park and Indian Boundary Golf Course are on this boundary line. Indian Boundary Road in River Grove, IL, and Indian Boundary Drive in Melrose Park, IL, are also on this boundary line.

Central Avenue is not the only street to be affected by the Indian Boundary Line. Austin Avenue makes a jog at Lawrence and Gunnison, calling for two stoplights instead of one. The Indian Boundary Line is responsible for the Nagle/Narragansett jog just north of Montrose and the Oak Park Avenue jog just south of Forest Preserve Drive. Here, the boundary line is at Forest Preserve Drive as it was much easier to put the jog in Oak Park Avenue over an old abandoned cemetery on the Dunning property. (See opposite page)

The next time you are sitting in your car waiting to get through those two stop signs on Central Avenue and Goodman Street, think about that 1816 treaty. Think about how some decisions can affect people for hundreds of years.



Composite photo courtesy of Matt Schademann

The composite photo on the left shows an abandoned cemetery on the Dunning property. Oak Park Avenue makes the jog over this cemetery instead of at the Indian Boundary Line, therefore avoiding an additional stoplight.

Additional notes about the cemetery: This cemetery was one of three cemeteries on the Dunning property and no records have survived for any of these cemeteries. As the cemetery became full, bodies were buried outside these boundaries. Because Oak Park Avenue passes over the cemetery, no storm sewers are on Oak Park Avenue or the parking lot west of Oak Park Avenue. Rainwater is left to run off the pavement and collect on the surface.



Photo Courtesy of Ron Ernst

The Graham Girls picking currants in a field that will some day be the intersection of Central Avenue and Goodman Street. Shown from Left to right Lela, their aunt Mary, Olive and Maude. Photo taken about 1902.

The Graham's of Goodman Street - A Photo History



The Graham house was located at 5622 W. Goodman and was the only house on the block when this photo was taken. In the photo above, Arthur Graham is sitting on a wheelbarrow style chair, holding a basket in his left hand while his dog Rover sits in front of him. On his right, are Olive and Andrew, on his left is Mabel. The photo is looking west with not another house in sight. It is believed that Arthur Graham came to Jefferson Park in the late 1860's from Michigan and his wife Emma came from Wisconsin in 1870. At one time, two streets in Jefferson Park were named after the Grahams. Graham Avenue is now Meade Avenue and Graham Street is now Major Ave. (4700N to 4900N).

The photo on the right is looking north towards the back of the Graham property. Andrew is sitting on the left with Olive next to him; Mabel is standing on the right. Photos taken about 1905.





This photo was taken in the last week of August in 1900 when the Grand Army of the Republic had an encampment in Chicago. The Graham clan is gathered in front of the Graham homestead at 5622 Goodman. Arthur Graham is sitting in the middle of the front row with fellow Civil War veterans on both sides of him. These veterans, the Grafmillers from Ohio, are his wife's cousins. A young Olive Graham is on the left in the second row with her Aunt Mary next to her. Next left to right, in the second row: Will Peacock, his wife Maud, Maud's sister Jesse, and her child Vernita Glass. Above Olive on the third row is Lela Graham, an unknown women, and Mabel on the far right. In the top row from left to right is Francis Peacock, Arthur's wife Emma, cousin Mary and Andrew Graham.



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All six of Arthur and Emma Graham's children are in this photo: Lela, Jesse, Maud, Mabel, Andrew and Olive. Their first of many grandchildren is also present, Vernita Glass. Many of the Graham's descendants still live in Jefferson Park and the surrounding area.

All Graham Photos Courtesy of Joyce Jurek, Ron Ernst and Debbie Morgan



Two photos of Arthur and Emma's oldest child, Lela Weissert Graham. Lela was born in Jefferson Park on November 10, 1873, and she married Percival Stewart. She died on March 20, 1927, and is buried in Union Ridge Cemetery.



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Lela Graham was a teacher at the Avondale School. Every school day, she would walk to Milwaukee Avenue from her house on Goodman Street and take the Milwaukee Avenue streetcar to Diversey, and then walk two blocks to school.

The photo above is of Lela's class of 43 students at the Avondale School. The picture was taken on the north end of the school looking west. The photo on the left shows Lela Graham (at right) with some of the teachers at the Avondale School. These teachers look like they were very capable in handling a class of over 40 pupils.

14.



Twenty-three year old Olive Graham was ahead of her time, with her early version of a "Dollar Store". The store was located at 4774 N. Milwaukee. The building is still standing, but the front has been rebuilt. The sign in the window on some type of canned vegetables reads "This week 2 for 5¢". Other items for sale were bow-ties, fancy wine glasses, women's change purses, cups, dishes, cooking pots and other kitchen utensils. There was so few homes built at the time, Olive Graham could look out the back door of her store on Milwaukee Ave. and see her home at 5624 Goodman. Olive Graham, shown in front of her store on the right with her sister Maud Peacock on the left. Olive's niece Lillian Peacock is the little girl.

Olive Graham standing in the inside of her store with her sister Maud Peacock and niece Lillian Peacock peeking out from the back room where they lived. Photos taken about 1912.

Maude was born on March 15, 1877 and Olive on March 8, 1889, both in Jefferson Park.



15.



Mabel Imogene Graham at 16 years old is in the photo on the left. Mabel was born in Jefferson Park on May 28, 1881 and she married David McWatters in about 1910. She died in Chicago on October 3, 1950, and is buried in Cedar Park Cemetery.

The photo at the lower left is of Andrew Jackson A. Graham at his 1903 graduation from Jefferson High School. Andrew was born in Jefferson Park on March 18, 1885 and is the only son of Arthur and Emma Graham. He died on April 21, 1926, and is buried in Union Ridge Cemetery.

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16.



The top photo is of the inside of the Graham home at 5622 Goodman. Their home was torn down in 1965. The photo on the left is Arthur Graham's brother Daniel. Daniel Graham was a Presbyterian Minister and traveled around preaching in the 1800's. He did spend some time in the Jefferson Park area.



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The image on the left is the cover of a 1906 Independence Day celebration program. The celebration would start at Irving Park Road and Kildare Ave. at 8:30 AM and continue to Irving Park Road and Springfield Avenue, the future location of Independence Park. 60-year-old Emma Graham was chairman of the Butler Women's Relief Corps and they were in charge of the refreshment stand selling crackerjack, peanuts, etc. Mrs. Graham was also on the Executive Committee for this celebration. Emma's husband, Arthur Graham, belonged to the Butler and Thomas Post.

Emma Graham became ill after this celebration, and her husband Arthur Graham had a heart attack on July 5th. Emma died on July 7th of uremic poisoning and her husband Arthur died on July 8th not knowing his wife had died the day before. They were both buried at Union Ridge Cemetery on July 15, 1906.

Please join us at our next meeting of the Jefferson Park Historical Society—Sunday January 28th at 3:00 PM at the Congregational Church of Jefferson Park – 5320 W. Giddings, Chicago, IL 60630.

Meet author, historian and veteran journalist Jerry Crimmins as he discusses the women of Fort Dearborn and his new book *Fort Dearborn*. The northwest side Chicagoan took six years researching the early history of Chicago for his book. Copies of his book will be available for purchase. Admission is free



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