

- EST. 1958 -

WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

VOLUME 5



May - Remembering Those Who Served and Gave of Themselves

The beautiful World War I Memorial pictured above is one of the many memorials to honor those of Wyandotte who served our country and sacrificed their lives. The series of memorials begins on Superior Blvd., west of Biddle Ave. with the Purple Heart Memorial Garden. It is a lovely place to sit and reflect before crossing Biddle Ave. to view the WW I Memorial, the Veterans Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Continuing into Bishop Park, the "In Memoriam" completes the series of tributes.

MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

With Memorial Day approaching this month I wanted to focus on the origin of the holiday. The Civil War took the lives of thousands of people. Brothers, husbands, uncles, cousins, children and even women lost their lives.

In 1866 the National Cemeteries were created in the United States, the first one being one of the most famous cemeteries in the nation, Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1868 Decoration Day (or as we call it today, Memorial Day) was celebrated for the first time. It was created for people to go out and decorate the graves of fallen soldiers and to honor their lives. The first Decoration Day, more than 5,000 volunteers came out to Arlington National Cemetery to decorate over 20,000 Civil War veterans' headstones. In 1890 Decoration Day became an official holiday to remember the Civil War Veterans who died while in battle. Years later the holiday started to focus on any soldier who lost their life in battle.

This Memorial Day I would like to challenge all of you! Stop by a local cemetery and visit a veteran's grave. Say a prayer or even place a flag on a hero's grave. If getting to a cemetery is difficult, then I challenge you to be creative! Draw a picture, tell a joke, write down words of encouragement, say thank you or whatever comes to your mind, and adopt a soldier. Once you are done with your message, mail it to:

America's Adopt a Soldier®
P.O. Box 1049
Springfield, VA 22151

Mary-Johna Wein, President



"Second Monday in May, Mother's Day"

The title of this article is part of a saying trademarked by Anna Jarvis, the founder of the Mother's Day holiday, which made its official modern debut in 1907. Inspired by Jarvis' own mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, who passed away two years prior, the holiday is derived from the "Mothers for Peace" movement. Ann Reeves Jarvis and other mothers had assembled during and after the Civil War to ask that their husbands and sons remain out of the various conflicts as they attempted to promote peace.

Although many states quickly came on board, it took time for the American government to recognize and attribute national holiday status to a day for mothers. One thought was similar to the mindset of, "If we give mothers a national day, we will also have to do the same for every other member of the family," and so on. Eventually, Mother's Day did become a holiday in 1914. By this time, companies were already reaping the commercial benefits by selling various items to present to mothers. These included greeting cards, flowers and candies.

Early on, Jarvis and others began to see the downside of Mother's Day, as it was meant to be a day when the action of sentiment took center stage, and not commerciality. Sons and daughters should be celebrating their mothers by writing them letters, giving them their time and being affectionate. Boxes of chocolates and premade cards were thought to be ingenuine and did not speak to the true emotions of families. Protests were held outside various establishments. In the end, most efforts failed and Mother's Day was on its way to becoming one of the most lucrative U.S. holidays.

Today, Mother's Day is celebrated in many countries throughout the world and each brings its own cultural flavor to the holiday. Worldwide, it is observed in various months, stretching from February to December. Anna Jarvis' sentiment has carried over to at least ninety-six other countries, all of which also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Monday in the month of May, as we do in the United States.

So, what about Father's Day? Although early variations have been around for centuries, the first official day celebrating fathers occurred shortly after Mother's Day was founded. That year was 1910. However, Father's Day was not granted national holiday status until 1972 – fifty-eight years after Mother's Day!

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"Second Monday in May, Mother's Day"

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Mother's Day in Wyandotte

Taking a look at the history of Valentine's Day, which was published in an earlier newsletter, the two holidays are almost exact in terms of how they were celebrated in the City of Wyandotte and what was purchased and given to recipients. Various cultural institutions and organizations hosted dances to celebrate mothers. Women's clubs held galas during the month of May, offering conferences, selling raffle tickets, dancing the night away and participating in elaborate potlucks in an effort to bring awareness to mothers and the holiday.

Wyandotte businesses were no stranger to Mother's Day and all the profits which could be gleaned. By 1930, jewelry and clothing items had accompanied flowers, candy and cards as gifts to mom. Stores throughout the city catered large portions of their business to selling these items. In 1927, McLaughlin Bros. Pharmacy cashed in by selling candies from all over the United States. Marketed items ranged in price from \$0.20 (\$3.26 in 2022) to \$8.00 (\$130.44 in 2022) per pound or box! See the advertisement to the right in this article to learn more.

One of the most interesting aspects of doing research is the rabbit holes one may go down, such as the items Wyandotters were gifting to one another in years past. Here is more information about the worldly candies the McLaughlin Bros. sold in their ad:

Heart of Wyandotte

In 1907 (20 years ago) the founder of McLaughlin Bros. Pharmacy (then mayor) issued the first Proclamation urging a clean-up of our city. Everything necessary was provided to make a grand clean-up which was done to the Queen's taste.

We are today in a very similar position to help mightily in a general clean-up inside as well as outside of the home. Repairing, painting, etc., is not all, if the inside of the home is infested with vermin of all description you must for health and comfort make clean up inside.

We carry insecticides too numerous to itemize, all at

McGLAUGHLIN PRICES

SPECIAL

Timely and very useful Moth proof and Dust proof Cedarized side open storage bags, 28x56 inches. We offer at

23c or 3 for 65c

MOTHER

Will you forget her? Our Mother's Day boxes of candy are very exceptional as to QUANTITY, QUALITY and PRICE.

MARY LINCOLN CANDY

2 lb. Box \$1.29 1 lb. Box 65c

PARK & TILFORD, long known

Ranging in prices from 50c to \$1.00 per box

ELINES, VERY FINE

We have recently added the last coming Eline candy to our stock \$1.00 1 lb. Box, 65c

SPECIALS

Oh Henry candy in bulk 25c lb. Nut Chews 25c lb.

McLaughlin Bros. Pharmacy

HOME OF QUANTITY, QUALITY AND PRICE
Biddle Ave. and Orange St.

The Mary Lincoln Candy Company was founded in 1916 in Buffalo, NY and was named after the former First Lady. Much of their packaging included likenesses of both the President and First Lady. The company grew to include locations throughout the eastern and midwestern states. Sources list the company as being closed by the 1960s. How many companies can you recall, named after presidents and their spouses?

Park & Tilford started out as a grocer in 1840 and quickly began selling confections. The company was prominent in New York and was founded in Manhattan. By the end of the 1800s, there were numerous locations, including one in Paris. One second generation owner, Hobart Park, was married to Elizabeth Ives, whose father was one half of the famed Currier & Ives Company. The company was sold in 1923. Is there a nostalgic candy you still enjoy?

The Eline Candy Company was founded in Milwaukee in 1919 by the same family that started the Schlitz Brewing Company. The family attempted to recreate the success they had in the beer industry but it just did not work and the company shuttered in 1928, partly due to issues during the candy-making process. For instance, there was speculation a lubricant was used on the machinery when making the chocolate which made pieces taste fishy. Would you want to try fish-flavored chocolate?

The Oh Henry! candy bar is certainly known to most of us today as it was a mainstay in stores throughout our collective childhoods. Great debates exist surrounding the origin of the name itself. What was never debated was the glorious taste of the peanuts and caramel and fudge filling. Apparently, Ferrara (who purchased the bar from Nestle) discontinued the confection in 2019. When was the last time you had an Oh Henry! candy bar?

Happy Mother's Day!

-Jesse Rose, Museum Director

Martin Goodell and a Love that Would Never Be

The Goodell's were a well-known family, not only in Wyandotte, but in the Downriver area as a whole. There are claims that Elijah Goodell (1758-1820) was the first English-speaking settler in Downriver. Elijah and his wife had 11 children, including Elijah Jr., who went on to name Belle Isle. There were many members of this family in the area and almost all of the men that were of age served in the Civil War. We are lucky enough to have some of the original letters in the Wyandotte Museums Archives. One letter from Martin Goodell (grandson of Elijah) caught my interest. The letters transcription is as follows:

“Near Hartwood Church, Virginia

Sept. the 8 – 1863

My Dear Cousin I take the present opportunity to embrace to you in dropping you a few lines to let you hear from me. I am quite well at this time, thank god and hope when this reaches you it may find you all well. Dear Cousin you must excuse me for not writing to you often but I hope you will write to me again because I am very lonesome of you and would like to know who is courting you and also your Cousin Susan the same. Since I have been away let me know if there is a change in the girls of Ecorse and let me know if there is a change in the boys let me know what girl is that is going to get married before this war is over I would like to know who loves each other so much to married in as such a time of emergency. My Dear Cousin do not be so bashful to let me know who goes to your present seat and let me know who has taken my place since the day that you went with me and you left me there I suppose you have not forgotten that day my Dear Cousin if ever I return to home as sound as I am now it will be a sure thing that I will travel in the same road that you travel with me that day, I hope there is another day coming for you and me to go and pay them another visit. My Dear Cousin I suppose you have heard enough about the boys of Ecorse in the regiment we have been very lucky so far and I hope to return home this fall and I bid you good bye but not forever

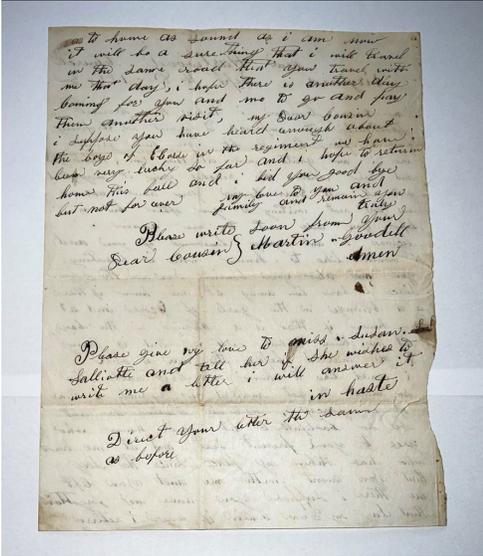
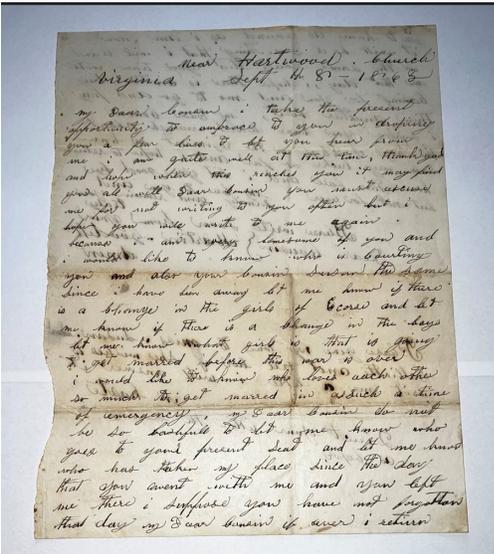
my love to you and family and remain yours truly

Please write soon from your Dear Cousin Martin Goodell

Amen

Please give my love to Miss Susan Salliotte and tell her if she wishes to write me a letter I will answer it in haste

Direct your letter the same as before”



**Martin Goodell and
a Love that Would Never Be**

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Martin was 25 at the time he sent that letter and was obviously looking for love. It was the 1860s in a rural town so exchanging semi-romantic letters with a cousin would not have been uncommon, but it is interesting that he was also eliciting the help of this cousin to prevail on her other cousin to write him. It sounds like he needed a matchmaker, especially one who knew all of the women of what was then Ecorse.

Susan Salliotte was three years older than Martin and one of seven children. The Salliotte family were farmers from Quebec. Susan ended up living a long life with a husband and two sons in a house that was where Major Biddle's Restaurant now stands. Sadly, she did not live that life with Martin.

Martin was captured as a prisoner of war during the Battle at Trevillian in early June 1864. He was initially kept at Trevillian Station in Virginia. In August of 1864, he was transferred to Camp Sumter in Andersonville, Georgia. Camp Sumter is known as the deadliest site of the Civil War. More than 45,000 Union troops were kept at the fort during the war – 13,000 of them perished there. Overcrowding, disease, and food shortages were extremely common. Martin was one of the 13,000. He died of diarrhea (likely a symptom of something larger) at age 27 on February 2, 1865. He was laid to rest at the Andersonville National Cemetery. We honor Martin and every veteran who gave the ultimate sacrifice this Memorial Day.

Did You Know?

On May 14, 1942 during World War II, an Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for noncombat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp.

**WANDERING OAKWOOD CEMETERY
Lewis Crist, a Civil War Veteran**

Lewis Crist was born around 1839 in Warren County Pennsylvania. When he was 22 years old he enlisted in the 83rd Pennsylvania Infantry, Company D. He mustered on August 26, 1861. On June 27, 1862 he was injured in battle at Gaines' Mill Virginia. On June 15, 1863 he was discharged due to his injuries.

Less than a year went by before Lewis re-enlisted in the military. This time he enlisted in the 21st Pennsylvania Cavalry, Company M. On February 8th, 1864 Lewis enlisted and mustered, the same day. On July 14, 1865 Lewis was discharged for being sick.

After the Civil War Lewis came to Wyandotte and worked at the Michigan Alkali Company. In August 1895 Lewis was painting a tank in the employ of the Alkali Company and fell off of a ladder. Lewis died from his injuries on August 24, 1895 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Wyandotte Michigan. His death was later ruled as an accident.

Following is the military pension record of Lewis Crist.

NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Crist, Lewis</i>				
NAME OF DEPENDENT: <i>Widow, Crist, Mary J</i>				
SERVICE: <i>D. 80 Pa Inf 70 21 Pa Cav</i>				
DATE OF FILING:	CLASS:	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
<i>1879 Oct 31</i>	<i>Invalid</i>	<i>319023</i>	<i>257817</i>	<i>Pa</i>
<i>1899 June 19</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>702567</i>	<i>499080</i>	
	<i>Minor</i>			
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS: <i>OK - 266</i>				

Mary Johna Wein, President of WOCA

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Wyandotte Historical Society

Burns Home

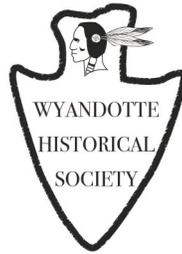
2624 Biddle Ave.

Wyandotte, MI 48192-5208

Phone: (734) 324-7299

Email: wyandottehistory@gmail.com

Website: wyandottehistory.org



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Address Label



- **MAY 7:** River Raisin National Battlefield Park in Monroe Michigan at 1:00 pm (Reservations required. RSVP (734) 324-7299 or email yandottehistory@gmail.com.)
- **MAY 13 thru 15:** Spring City Wide Garage Sale
- **MAY 14:** Oakwood Cemetery Cleanup at 9:00 am
- **JUNE 26:** Pie and Ice Cream Social

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