

# PALATINE PALAVER

Newsletter of the Palatine Historical Society



November, 2017

Our annual Holiday Open House will be Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We hope you'll stop by and enjoy our decorations and have some punch and cookies with us. If you can't make it on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, visit on any other Sunday in December (not Christmas Eve) – we'd love to see you!

This year's theme for our Open House is "A Dickens Christmas".

## CHARLES DICKENS TRIVIA

- From Denise Limburg

Dickens' use of "Merry Christmas" throughout the book popularized the greeting which was not widely used prior. Charles Dickens started writing A Christmas Carol in October 1843 and finished it six weeks later at the end of November so it could be published in time for Christmas. It hit the shops on December 17, 1843 and sold out the 6000 printed copies in three or four days. Two month after A Christmas Carol was published, Parley's Illuminated Library pirated it. It was called A Christmas Ghost Story and sold for a penny. Dickens sued and won the case. Parley's declared itself bankrupt, leaving Dickens to pay the court costs.

Dickens was the first famous writer to give public readings of his work. His first reading was of A Christmas Carol in 1853 in Birmingham, England. His last public reading was also of A Christmas Carol in 1870 when he retired from public performances due to health issues. Dickens visited American twice on his reading tours. In New York, during his second tour at Christmastime of 1867, people camped out in the snow to get a ticket. By the time of the performance, the line was a mile long. On the second tour, he earned the equivalent of \$1.4 million in today's money, which was far more that he was earning in royalties. It was said in the Chicago Tribune that surely Dickens would come to Chicago on that tour. It was thought that he would come not only to read, but to visit the grave of his brother, Augustus, who had lived in Chicago and had died the year before. But, Dickens never visited Chicago.

Tiny Tim was originally to be named Little Fred, possibly after one of Dickens's brothers, two of whom were named Frederick and Alfred. The name was changed just prior to going to print. A Christmas Carol was not the first Christmas ghost story written by Dickens: "The Story of the Goblins Who Stole a Sexton" was published in The Pickwick Papers in 1836-7. Many of the scenarios are carried over into A Christmas Carol. Novelist William Thackeray, not always an admirer of Dickens called the novella "a national benefit". Historian Thomas Carlyle went out and bought himself a turkey after reading A Christmas Carol.

Clayson our mascot, wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas!  
You can visit with Clayson and Santa at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony  
in Towne Square on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.



**We thank all of our members for supporting the mission of the Palatine Historical Society and wish you a happy holiday season.**

Special thanks to our Business Sponsors:

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AND WE WELCOME OUR NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS –

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**PALATINE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

**224 East Palatine Road**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017**

**1 TO 4 P.M.**



**Decorations  
Music  
Refreshments**



## Victorian Christmas Traditions

The Golden Nest – It is legend that good luck comes to the household that has a nest among the branches of the Christmas tree. Within the glittery nest are cradled the golden eggs of prosperity. May you be rich with health, happiness and friendship.

Gifts of Food – The most noble Victorian tradition is that of charity. It was the duty of the Victorians to bring gifts of food and good cheer to those less fortunate at Christmastime.

Cards – Christmas cards were first created and published in 19<sup>th</sup> century England. Long before that time, though, people sent Season's Greetings to loved ones. Louis Prang first published cards using the "new" chromolithography (color process).

Carols – the songs of Christmas have been popular since the early days of Christianity. These songs rejoice in the birth of of Jesus. Some of our favorite carols are so old that their origins are lost in history. Every country has its own special carols, but some – such as "Silent Night" – are universal.

Holly is a natural holiday decoration because it remains green throughout the winter. Ancients believed its greenness to be a promise that spring would soon return.



We welcomed visitors from France at the Clayson House in October. A group of people from Palatine's sister city, Fontenay-le-Comte, toured the Clayson House and Carriage House.

We had a chance to sit with them and tell them about Palatine's history while they enjoyed homemade cookies and hot chocolate.

Clayson our mascot gave them a warm welcome.

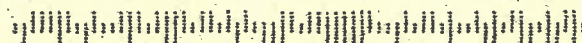
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**JOIN US!**  
**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**  
This year's theme is Dickens  
**DECEMBER 3, 2017**

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Palatine IL 60067

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Palatine Palaver

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**VISIT THE CLAYSON HOUSE MUSEUM!**

**TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 9:00AM TO 4:00PM AND SUNDAYS 1:30 TO 4:30 PM**

[www.palatinehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.palatinehistoricalsociety.com)

Palatine Historical Society MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL APPLICATION

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Annual membership fees: Individual (\$15) Family (\$20) Over 60 and under 19 (\$10)  
Business sponsor (\$100)

Optional: Life membership (\$250)

Please make your check payable to: Palatine Historical Society; PO Box 134; Palatine, IL 60078-0134