



*Hawthorne Place*  
*Neighborhood Association*  
December 1, 2011

## Life in Historic Hawthorne



Robert G. Larson (in a self-portrait) and 1409 Whittier (in the 1970s)

## The History of a House

Who wouldn't want to have a written history of their house? Most of us living in an older home can only wonder about when it was built, who were the previous owners, and what changes were made in a history of over one hundred years. Robert and Mary Larson moved to 1409 Whittier in 1963 and lived there for twenty years. They compiled a history of the house and donated a copy of the document for the Hawthorne Place centennial time capsule in 2002. The current owners, Marcel & Deb Yoder, also have a copy. Read about 1409 Whittier beginning on page four.



## Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 3 at 9:00 AM

Every year holiday decorations are installed around our Hawthorne signs. Volunteers are always needed. If you can help, volunteers will meet at the Hawthorne sign at Lowell and South Grand on 9 AM on Saturday, December 3.



## Holiday Party

Sunday, December 11, 4-6 PM

A holiday gathering is planned for the north end of Lowell on December 11. There will be a bonfire on the boulevard, trolley rides, and a warming center where refreshments will be available. Each attendee is asked to bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. A flyer with more details will be distributed soon.



## Luminary Display

Christmas Eve at Dusk

Luminaries will be placed at the garden areas on the boulevard and at the smaller signs on Holmes and Whittier. Any neighbors who can help should gather at the Hawthorne sign at Lowell and South Grand before dusk on Christmas Eve.



## Raking the Boulevard

The city offered a free leaf pickup for the entire month of November. Several of our neighbors helped rake and bag the fallen leaves on the Hawthorne boulevard on Saturday morning, November 12. These volunteers included Peter Beaty, Amanda Becker, Peter & Henry Clines, Beth Faulkner, Jill Friday, Corrine Frisch, Chelsy Hopper, Nancy Huntley, Kate McKenna, Jim Moore, Joe Moore, Maria Moore, Tim Moore, Michelle Oliver, Beth Trojahn, Lindsay Trojahn, Mike Trojahn, Thomas Trojahn, and Marty Vandiver. A round of applause with sincere gratitude from the whole neighborhood.



## Ward 6 Revitalization & Rehabilitation Fund

Alderman Cory Jobe has initiated a beautification fund for neighborhoods in Ward 6. The first grants will be awarded in the spring of 2012. Consider neighborhood projects for Hawthorne Place and share your thoughts with your block captain or attend a monthly meeting of the Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association. The criteria and deadline as well as the fund application forms will be given to neighborhood association representatives by December 18.

## MOVING ON

Some of our friends and neighbors have moved from Hawthorne Place in 2011. Among them are two women who have been among our most senior residents.

With a fond farewell to:



Tiss Cullen moved to Hawthorne Place in 1919. (She was a baby.) The Milligan family lived at 1427 Holmes. In 1948, Tiss moved to 1609 Lowell, her home until this year. She is holding a painting of 1609 that was given to her by her realtor. No one has resided longer in Hawthorne Place than Tiss Cullen.



Arvid & Julie Hammers acquired 1421 Lowell in 1994. They raised three children (Ted, Alex & Margot) in Hawthorne Place. Margot is pictured with her parents.



Karen Newbold is pictured with her sons, Harrison (left) and Jack (right). The Newbolds moved to Hawthorne in 2004.



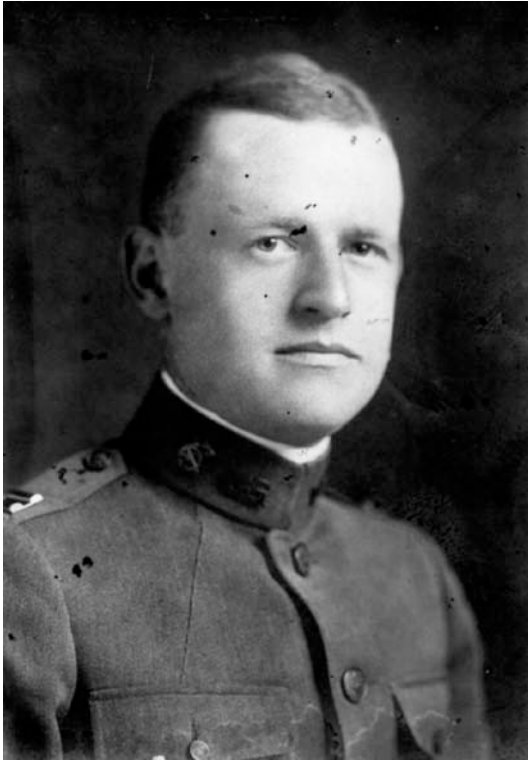
Joan Reisch lived on Whittier as a child and visited her grandparents at 1504 Lowell. They had moved there in 1924. 1504 became Joan's home in 1944. The Pomeranian in the photo is named Peanut.



Larry & Peg Singer came to Springfield through Larry's long career in the military. They acquired 1608 Holmes in 1984.



## 1409 WHITTIER : A HISTORY



Richings Shand ( 1867-1939)

Hawthorne Place was a new subdivision when a local carpenter named Coffin purchased a lot and built an American foursquare. Coffin had been influenced by all the publicity generated by William Conkling, the man who developed and promoted Springfield's first planned subdivision.

Coffin completed the house in 1904 and then feared it was located too far from town. Fortunately, Richings Shand was looking for a larger home for his growing family which included husband and wife, five children and a live-in maid. The Shands moved to 1409 Whittier in 1905. The house would remain in the family for the next fifty-seven years.

Richings Shand was a life-long soldier. He was born in Rockford, Illinois, in 1867. He began his military career at the age of nineteen when he enlisted in the National Guard. He served in the Spanish-American War and quickly rose through the ranks.

Shand began as a private and within ten years achieved the rank of major. He was a colonel when he moved to Hawthorne. In 1911, he was appointed assistant adjutant general by Governor Charles Deneen and served continuously in the office under six governors. He retired with the rank of brigadier general in the Illinois National Guard.

Richings Shand was active in Springfield's civic and fraternal organizations, particularly in veterans affairs and Masonry. When he died in 1939, his passing was the front-page headline in the *Illinois State-Journal*. His widow, Mary Shand, continued to live at 1409 until her death in 1962.



The Shand buggy stone at the curb of 1409 Whittier. It may be the only one in Hawthorne.

Robert & Mary Larson and their daughter, Kara, moved to Springfield from Alpine, Texas, in 1963. Robert had accepted the position of artist/curator with the Illinois State Museum. When the Shand family put their home on the market, the Larson family came to take a look. Mr. Larson wrote: "One late afternoon, we spotted the imposing Shand residence. It was bathed in sunlight and it looked magnificent to us. After examining the house closely, we knew it was the one."

But the Larsons were aware, as with each succeeding owner, that an older home is always in need of work. They began with the interior and the rooms that would be most used. They removed wallpaper. In some rooms there were three layers of wallpaper. They patched walls. And they stripped

varnish from woodwork and refinished the surfaces. In time, they would replace plumbing and electrical wiring and significantly reconstruct several rooms.

One of their regular visitors was Richings Shand II (1900-1983) who would observe their restoration work and reminisce about growing up in the house. The memories that he shared with the Larsons – recollections of nearly sixty years – provided vital background for the history that they would write of 1409 Whittier.

The Larsons enjoyed the holidays and decorated the house for each occasion. It was important to them and important in creating special memories of childhood for their young daughter. And they loved to entertain. In 1978, a production company was filming a segment of *The Chisholms* a CBS miniseries, in New Salem. Robert Larson's role at the museum brought him and Mary into contact with the production. They even hosted a reception for the cast and crew at 1409 Whittier.



Robert Larson visits with actor Robert Preston on the set of *The Chisholms*. At 6'9", Robert Larson towered over most people.



Orvetta Robinson, from the Illinois State Museum, Mary Larson, and actress Rosemary Harris photographed at a reception for the cast and crew of *The Chisholms* at 1409 Whittier.

When they acquired their home the Larsons were dedicated to preserving its historical appearance. They wanted the interior to reflect a period closer to the time of the construction of 1409. They attended auctions in search of usable period furniture that would fit an arbitrary time period of 1910-1930. Their efforts were reported in a January 4, 1970 *SJ-R* story, "Robert G. Larsons Turn Back to the Turn of the Century."

They lived at 1409 Whittier from 1963 to 1983 and were able to later write: "we still relish many pleasant memories involving those twenty years in the old house."



Robert Larson at work on a mural for the Illinois State Museum. Robert Larson worked for the museum for nearly 25 years and into retirement. Much of his work is still on view.



### 1409 Whittier Over the Years:



1970s



1990



2002

The Larsons decided to sell 1409 as they approached retirement. They would move to a smaller home. But that decision would affect their large collection of antiques. On the weekend of June 20-21, 1983, they held a porch and yard sale and two neighbors – at 1400 and 1405 Whittier – joined with a sale of their own. Customers started to arrive at 7 on Saturday morning. By 4 PM the next day, the Larson house was devoid of most of its larger items.

1409 Whittier was acquired by John and Linda Loftus in 1983 and the Loftus family continued the work of restoration.

Marcel & Deb Yoder moved to 1409 Whittier in July 1999. According to Deb, “When we moved in it was livable.” But, she added, “We chose to do a lot of work on it.” They hired a contractor to replace the porch which had been enclosed. They recreated the look of the original porch, including the unique railing. Marcel & Deb then began work on the exterior themselves. They removed the siding and painted the wood frame in shades of green with an ivory trim. Marcel made the storm windows himself. They then turned their focus on the interior.

It was all quite perfect. The Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association gave the Yoders a Golden Paint Brush Award for their dedicated efforts.

But there were times in the long history of 1409 when it seemed the devil was at the door. In the early 1920s, there was a chimney fire. The damage necessitated replacing the whole interior of the third floor. In December of 1978, a fuel delivery man pumped gasoline into the fuel tank in place of fuel oil. That blunder could have caused a fire in the furnace and destroyed both life and property. In the fall of 2006, a contractor placed tarps over a totally exposed roof. There were heavy rains for three consecutive days. The damage was so extensive that the interior had to be gutted. Marcel remarked: “Our home was literally down to the studs.”

Sutton Siding and Remodeling, along with its subcontractors, restored the home to its former glory. It is once again one of the most beautiful homes in Hawthorne Place.

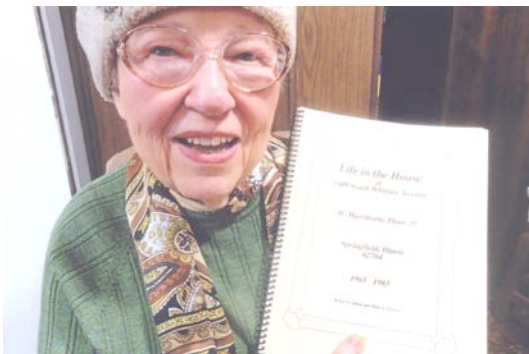
In 2008, Marcel & Deb Yoder were given a much deserved Mayor's Award for Historic Preservation. Their award was a front page story of the *State Journal-Register* on April 30, 2008. They also received another Golden Paint Brush Award from the Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association and their very grateful neighborhood.



Sam, Marcel, Deb & Ben Yoder

According to the Larson memoir, the carpenter who built 1409 was a man named Coffin. He was most likely Jerome Bartlett Coffin (1859-1913) who worked as a carpenter-contractor in Springfield during the last twenty years of his life.

1409 Whittier has been with us for 107 years, maintained and beloved by each of its occupants: the Shands, the Larsons, the Loftuses, and the Yoders.



Mary Larson holds a copy of "Life in the House at 1409 South Whittier Avenue" that she and her husband, Robert, wrote. That memoir is the source of much of the information for this story.



## THE STORK ARRIVES – AGAIN – AT 1525 LOWELL

A daughter was born to Andy & Theresa Lambert on October 21. Jane Elizabeth has four sisters: Grace, Hannah, Caroline & Kate. Congratulations to the Lambert family.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Chelsy Hopper is working with information from this year's membership forms to update the 2009 Hawthorne Place neighborhood directory. The new information will be available as a separate page to be inserted in the 2009 directory. It is hoped that this addendum can be distributed in December.

## YELLOW WALLPAPER ON FILM

Aasne Vigessa (1319 Whittier) starred in a production of *The Yellow Wallpaper* in 2009 at the Vachel Lindsay Home. The production was an adaptation of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 1892 story, conceived and directed by Kevin Purcell. Aasne had continued to present the one-woman show over the past two years and will again present *The Yellow Wallpaper* at the Lindsay Home this December for First Night. Earlier this year the production was filmed by David Cain. That film was premiered on October 8. It is available for loan at Lincoln Library, Springfield's public library.

## FIRE ON WHITTIER

A fire broke out at the home of Brian & Rachel Alexander (1334 Whittier) on the morning of Friday, September 2. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The Alexanders are in the process of repairing the damage to the porch and the front of the house and replacing carpeting and insulation. The whole neighborhood wishes them well.



## HALLOWEEN IN HAWTHORNE



Yes, that is Jennifer Manthei in the dark and ominous background. In the foreground is her daughter, the unsuspecting Cadence. It was first Halloween for Cadence.

There was a lot of activity in Hawthorne on October 31.

Karmen Goodrich got some of the neighborhood kids together to select homes in Hawthorne that best presented the spirit of Halloween. They chose 1516 Holmes (Paul & Melissa Antonacci) as the scariest house. 1625 Holmes (David & Betty Youngren) was selected for residents in the best costumes. And the young judges identified 1330 Lowell (Kent DeLay & Randy Stieren) as "The House to See."

It was a clear and mild evening, a perfect night for our young neighbors to dress-up and play make-believe.



Charlie & Scarlet Clines.  
They are Zorro and the young senorita with whom Zorro is smitten.



An anonymous trickster  
with oculi that leave a blinding impression.



Hannah, Caroline, Grace & Kate Lambert as a happy ghost, a lovely vampire, a dedicated veterinarian, and a wise owl.





Each year the kids on the northern end of Whittier pose for a group photo before trick-or-treating. This image is reduced. It may be impossible to identify them but there were at least 25 kids in the photo.



Luke Trojahn as a robot.  
Luke made his own costume, reminding us that Halloween is an opportunity that inspires creative minds.



Willa Daniels (right) with her friend, Lola. They are dressed as high fashion models.



Cian, Niamh, Orlaith & Eamon Mahoney  
They are a policeman, Hermione, Hedwig, and, of course, Harry Potter.



Alex & Max Humphrey  
as two ducks in a Radio Flyer wagon.

It was a happy Halloween in Hawthorne.

And a heart-felt thank-you to all our sponsors:

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## HAWTHORNE PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**What is it?** – The Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association is an organization for residents of Whittier, Lowell and Holmes between South Grand and Laurel – the boundaries of the 1902 Hawthorne Place subdivision. The organization advocates for the neighborhood, sponsors social activities, and is a forum for working on neighborhood issues.

**History** – The Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association held its first meeting at Laurel Methodist Church on October 27, 1994. The organization grew out of the effort to get a stop sign installed at Holmes and Cedar. Neighbors discovered the benefits of a group effort and a group voice.

**How to join** – Membership is \$20 per family for a first time membership and \$10 per family for a renewing membership. To join, contact Membership chair Burnell Heinecke (522-3842). Also, let Burnell know if you do not want to be listed in the neighborhood directory.

**Directories** – Neighborhood directories are available to members. Contact your block captain if you need a directory.

**Neighborhood Officer** – Hawthorne Place is protected by the Springfield Police Department. Gerry Castles, our Neighborhood Police Officer, can be reached at 741-0988. His email is [gerry.castles@cwlp.com](mailto:gerry.castles@cwlp.com). If there is an emergency situation call 911.

**Alderman** – Hawthorne Place is in Ward 6. Our alderman is Cory Jobe. He can be reached by phone (622-9630) or email ([cory@jobeward6.com](mailto:cory@jobeward6.com)). His webpage is [www.jobeward6.com](http://www.jobeward6.com).

**Webpage** – [www.hawthorneplace.us](http://www.hawthorneplace.us)  
The webpage is maintained by Chris Oliver.

**Newsletter** – The neighborhood newsletter is published quarterly. And the newsletter is self-supporting – thanks to our advertisers. Three cheers to them! Rates are \$10 per issue for a business card space or \$40 per year. Interested? Call Marty Vandiver, the HPNA treasurer, at 523-3544.

**Block Captains** – The neighborhood is divided into six “blocks,” with block captains elected to represent each block on the association board. The blocks consist of the north or south section of a street, separated by Cedar Street. Three block captains are elected each year to a two-year term at the annual meeting in the spring.

The following is a list of the current block captains.

N. Holmes  
Beth Faulkner – 1420 Holmes (744-0295)  
Karmen Goodrich – 1324 Holmes  
(414-0783)  
Karmen is the secretary of the HPNA.

S. Holmes  
Chelsy Hopper – 1620 Holmes (528-7110)  
Chelsy is the vice-president of the HPNA.

N. Lowell  
Beth & Mike Trojahn - 1314 Lowell  
(744-7303)  
Beth is the president of the HPNA.

S. Lowell  
Mark Mahoney – 1520 Lowell (544-7944)

N. Whittier  
Lindsey Trojahn – 1317 Whittier (789-1315)

S. Whittier  
Linda Riebling – 1500 Whittier (523-1450)  
Marty Vandiver – 1528 Whittier  
(523-3544)  
Marty is the treasurer of the HPNA.

Jim Huston – 1524 Lowell (528-5256)  
(HPNA newsletter since 2006)

Volunteer. Get involved.  
Your neighborhood needs you.