

Lake County History Symposium 2019

10–10:40 AM

Going Dry: Pre-Prohibition Lake County

Diana Drestske, Curator, Bess Bower Dunn Museum
Al Westerman, Independent Researcher

Prior to Prohibition, there was a united effort to impose temperance on the local level. This presentation will discuss the history of pre-Prohibition efforts in Lake County from the 1840s – 1910s to eliminate saloons and prevent the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

10:50–11:30 AM

Ballots, Babes, and Beer

Debbie Fandrei, Museum Curator, The Raupp Museum

This session explores the relationship between women's suffrage and Prohibition in Illinois – how desire for Prohibition sparked women's interest in voting and also fueled the drinking opposition.

11:40 AM–12:20 PM

Al Capone in Waukegan

Ty Rohrer, Manager of Cultural Arts, Waukegan Park District

Find out what Al Capone, as well as other notorious gangsters, were doing in Waukegan and throughout Lake County during the Prohibition era.

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Poster Sessions

By Popular Vote: Highland Park was Dry for 104 Years

Catherine Lambrecht & Nancy Webster, Highland Park Historical Society

On November 1, 1972, Historical Society President Bob Robinson made the first legal purchase of an alcoholic beverage since 1869 as Sunset Foods owner John Cortesi, and Mayor Ray Geraci looked on. Residents could purchase liquor legally during a brief period after an Illinois liquor law canceled local charter provisions in 1934, but city leaders voted perpetual prohibition back the next year.

Colonel Asbel V. Smith

Rosanne Fitko, Independent Researcher & Volunteer, Bess Bower Dunn Museum

Colonel Asbel V. Smith, a WWII war hero, was Lake County State's Attorney from 1921 to 1933, during the Prohibition era. He prosecuted many noteworthy cases during his three terms in office.

Gangsters and Prohibition

Julie Vollbrecht & Ray Syverson, Ela Historical Society

Gangster activity during the Prohibition era in Lake and Cook Counties.

Grayslake: From Saloons to Stills

Jane Trump, Board Member, Grayslake Historical Society

A look at Grayslake's early saloons, local reaction to Avon township's vote to go dry in 1916, and one family's foray into moonshining.

Wet or Dry in Libertyville?

Jenny Barry, Libertyville – Mundelein Historical Society

Libertyville became a dry township in 1914, five years before national prohibition went into effect. Explore the wet/dry battle in Libertyville and the role women played in it.