

ArkyFacts

Monthly Newsletter of the
SOUTH SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at
The Marie Irwin Community Center
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

AUGUST - 2021

Sunday, August 22	MEMBERS EXCURSION Bailey Homestead & Cemetery and Chellberg Farm
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Monday, August 30	Officers' Meeting ~ 6:00 PM Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood
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Deadline for material to be included in the next
ArkyFacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.
Contact Susan Saric

For more information about South Suburban Archaeological Society, or if you have a special need
because of a disability, contact SSAS President Will Kelley

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Sunday, August 22
SSAS Members' Excursion to Bailly Homestead & Cemetery
and Chellberg Farm

The SSAS invites all members and their guests to join us on **Sunday, August 22** for a visit to the Bailly Homestead & Cemetery, and Chellberg Farm. **We will gather between 12:30 and 1:00 PM in the parking lot of the Chellberg Farm.** (There is no fee to enter this portion of the Dunes National Park, or for the tour.) From 1:00 to 3:00 PM rangers from the Indiana Dunes National Park Service will offer a public guided tour of the site. After the tour ends, we will head for a late lunch at **The Port Drive-In** (they also have a dining room) in Chesterton, Indiana. The Port is known for its hickory-smoked barbeque and the best root beer in northwest Indiana, at least (<https://theportdrivein.net>). After our meal, the Dunes National Park is offering folk music back at Chellberg Farm, beginning at 5:00 PM.

Bailly Homestead & Cemetery-Joseph Bailly was one of the earliest Europeans to establish a permanent fur-trading post, tavern and inn at the far southern tip of Lake Michigan. His half-Ottawa wife, Marie, made it possible to work well with the local Pottawatomie Indians, and the trading post flourished. For decades the Bailly family became increasingly important, which can be seen in the differing designs of the houses and outbuildings on the homestead. The private family cemetery has to be seen to be believed, since one of the later descendants took pains to see to it that no one could dig up the bodies. It also contains the grave of Marie Bailly who, known as "Monee" to the Pottawatomie, gave her name to a township and village in eastern Will County. For more information about the **Bailly National Historic Landmark**, visit https://www.nps.gov/indu/learn/historyculture/bailly_homestead.htm.



The **Chellberg Farm** represents a typical 1890 through 1910 Swedish/northwestern Indiana farmstead, built by the Swedish immigrant Chellberg family in 1885 to replace an earlier wood-framed house that was destroyed by fire in 1884. Once the now Indiana Dunes National Park purchased this land in 1972, the farm house was refurbished to reflect what it may have looked like during the turn of the century timeframe, between the 1890's and 1920's. The property also includes a water house/windmill and the original barn, along with a chicken coop/bunkhouse.

Please remember to dress for the weather. The trails are firm, and most of them are shaded, but this is an area with mosquitoes and the usual annoyances. Please dress accordingly. In addition, we will follow the current guidance for how best to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. There is very little chance the outdoor part of the tour will be affected, but we may be asked to wear masks when indoors at The Port. Those who do not care for masks may enjoy using the drive-in, so everyone is welcome in any event. ***For driving directions and a general map, see the insert page.***

This excursion is free and open to all 2021 SSAS members and their guests. Please confirm your attendance, make your lunch reservation and arrange for carpooling if needed by **Sunday, August 15.**



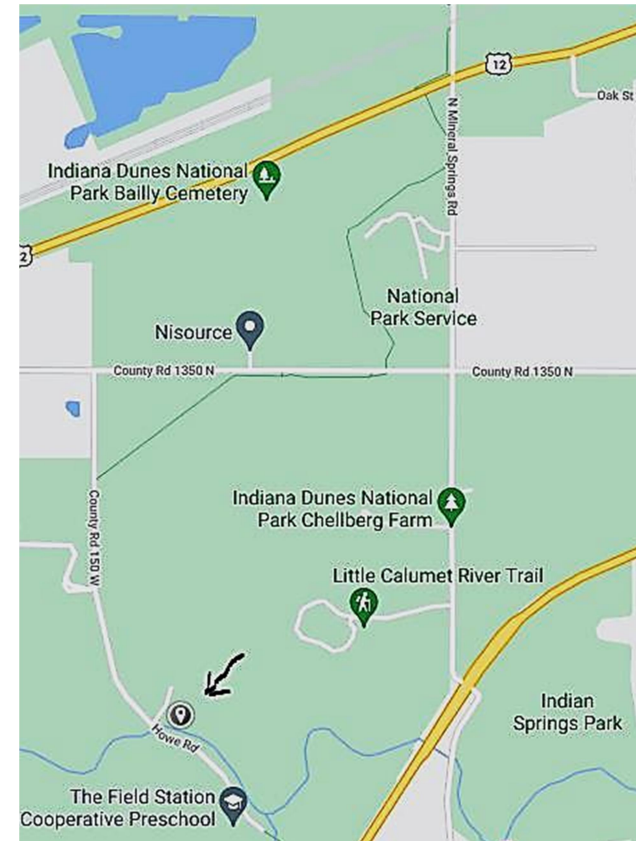
SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort, and financial support, and through the valued sponsorship of our friends at  nitel

Excursion Directions

To get to the parking lot of Chellberg Farm, use the method that best fits the needs of your starting location to get on I-94 traveling east as it enters Indiana. Continue on I-94 to Exit 22B - "East US 20 - Porter" - which will take you on a cloverleaf to the northeast-bound lanes of US 20. Continue a little more than a mile and a half to the stoplight at Mineral Springs Road. Turn left (North). Less than 500 feet north of the intersection there is a stop sign with signage for the Chellberg Farm/Bailly House. Turn Left for the parking lot. From the parking lot, the Chellberg Farm is a short walk north, and the Bailly House a short walk west. The cemetery is a bit further, eight-tenths of a mile from the Bailly House and a little more than a half mile from the parking lot for Chellberg Farm. However, for those who would prefer a closer parking space, the National Park Service has buildings and parking much closer to the cemetery, so it should be possible to just relocate one's car. For that matter, there is also a road that runs very close to the Bailly Homestead itself.

The Port Drive-In, at 419 North Calumet Road, Chesterton, Indiana, is only three miles and less than ten minutes from the Chellberg parking lot. Drive south on Mineral Springs Road to the stop light, and turn left to continue northeast on U.S. 20. After a little more than a half mile, make a soft right onto County Road 1350 (Oak Hill Road). The road is not well marked, so let's just say: once you see Leroy's Hot Stuff on the right, the turn is a very short distance past it on the right. After only 1000 feet, turn right (South) onto Waverly Road, which is the first stop sign after turning onto County Road 1350. Drive south on Waverly a little more than a half mile to the stop sign at Woodlawn. Turn left (East). After yet another short half mile on Woodlawn, turn right (SW) on Calumet Road. **The Port** will be a very short distance away, on the right (west side of the road).

General Map of the Excursion Area



A note on our July 17 excursion: Thank you Holly Labisky for being our guide on Saturday, July 17 as SSAS members and guests enjoyed a wonderful day touring historically significant cemeteries in the Elkhart, Illinois area! The outing was well-attended and we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Wild Hare Café in Elkhart.

Business Meeting..... Our next business meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 30 - 6:00 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood. Our host will be Warren Hastings.

Did you Know?? *City West Ghost Town*

THOUGH CHICAGO GREW UP TO become America's third biggest city, 30 years before the Civil War it wasn't much of a place. In the early-1800's, Chicago still only had about 200 residents. Hounded by disease and hardship, it almost joined a long list of American ghost towns. And in 1837, an ill-fated town called City West tried to knock the Windy City out of the running for good.

When Michigan City, Indiana became established as a railroad town and lumber port, rival investors started their own town a few miles down the beach. City West sprouted up about 60 miles across the lake from Chicago, in what eventually became the Indiana Dunes State Park. (Apart from a tiny frontier French outpost, before the 1830's there were few Euro-Americans living in the Indiana Dunes.)

But City West turned out to be a "dream" city, mostly doodles on a page, though a few buildings did see the light of day. A (mostly imaginary) plat map showed plans for a big town, time and place considered. One settler built a sawmill to turn out boards for houses. Gardens sprouted up in the sandy soil. Indians came down the lake in canoes to see the activity. About 20 American families showed up, maybe 200 people total. One man built a 22-room hotel and tavern, probably the biggest building between Chicago and Detroit.

Timothy Ball, an 11-year-old settler from Massachusetts, later remembered City West's short lifespan. The town had no church or school, so kids spent their time harvesting berries in the dunes and watching sails on the lake. A few settlers died there, but shifting sand dunes gobbled up the cemetery.

Then American banks and businesses began to collapse. Soon, City West's promoters abandoned it and the place became a ghost town.

Some families stayed in the area (now Chesterton), and children found a great adventure spot in the ruins. In a fascinating prelude to the housing bust of the early 2000's, which left suburban real estate developments empty, pioneer kids explored brand-new homes left open to nature, including the 22-room hotel. "The houses were there, but the place was in solitude," Timothy Ball wrote.

Some houses were swallowed up by sand dunes, but most were taken apart and carted away for lumber. Around 1853, "on a night of wild thunderstorms," Ball recalled, the last traces of City West burned down in a forest fire, sparked either by lightning or debris from a passing train. The Windy City itself burned down in 1871, but by that time Chicago, unlike City West, was important enough to rebuild.

Excerpted from Atlas Obscura