

# 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 - 2023

Saturday,  
August 19      SSAS Members' Excursion ~ 10:00 AM  
Tour of Chicago's Oak Woods Cemetery  
1035 E. 67<sup>th</sup> Street

Tuesday,  
Sept. 5      Officers' Meeting ~ 6:00 PM  
1453 Linden Road, Homewood  
Host: Will Kelley

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



Saturday, August 19 ~ 10:00 AM

### “SSAS August Members’ Excursion: Tour of Chicago’s Oak Woods Cemetery” with David Davison, MS

Mr. David Davison, who recently received his MA from DePaul with a focus on the Oak Woods Cemetery, will lead members of the SSAS on a tour of historically important Oak Woods ([1035 E 67th St, Chicago](#)) from 10:00 AM to noon on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. We will use cars to drive from one site in the cemetery to another, so heat and rain will not be enough of an issue to stop the tour.

This tour is free and open to all 2023 SSAS members and their guests. There is no charge for parking. After the tour, we can repair to a nice restaurant in Hyde Park (location to be announced).



**DIRECTIONS:** It is easy to get to Oak Woods Cemetery. Use the Dan Ryan, get off at 67<sup>th</sup> Street / Marquette Road, and drive east. The exit is at State Street, or 0 East/West. Drive east to 67<sup>th</sup> and Greenwood Avenue, or 1001 East 67<sup>th</sup>. On the south side of the street you will see the gates of the cemetery, and just beyond that the office. Please plan to arrive a little before 10:00 and park near the office.

For questions or to get on the trip roster, contact Will Kelley.

(Enclosed with this newsletter is an excerpted version of the excursion announcement sent to our members from Will on July 28.) We hope to see you there!!



**Search: “South Suburban Archaeological Society” or**

**<http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com/>**

**SSAS on Tumblr: <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>**

**South Suburban Chapter on Facebook:**

**<http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>**



*SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort and financial support.*

## LECTURES

**Tinley Park Public Library**  
7851 Timber Dr., Tinley Park IL

***Chicago's Ethnic Neighborhoods***  
Friday, August 18 · 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Economic opportunities and less discriminatory attitudes attracted millions of skilled and unskilled laborers to Chicago. These immigrants established strong ethnic neighborhoods based on their religious beliefs, cultural similarities, and ethnicity. Although stereotyping and long-held animosities established these strong ethnic neighborhoods, Chicago grew with a strong vitality. Join Ed Bara as he addresses the development of the neighborhoods until WWI. The class will cover multiple ethnic groups. Registration is required (708)532-0160.

***Chicago's Fabulous Fountains***  
Wednesday, August 30 · 6:30 - 7:30 PM



Learn about Chicago's wet and wild side! Chicago's beautiful fountains splish and splash in fun, artistic, and surprising ways. Many of them have fascinating stories to tell. Award-winning journalist, author and historian Greg Borzo will discuss the various types of fountains, who built them and why, how they have survived, and what they tell us about early Chicago. Registration is required (708)532-0160.

**Hammond Public Library**  
564 State St., Hammond, Indiana

***Digging the South Suburbs***  
Saturday, September 9 · 10:00 AM

At 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, Robin Scheldberg, SSAS member and President of the South Holland Historical Society, will present ***“Dig It: Historical and Archaeological Treasures of the Southside and South Holland Banks of the Little Calumet.”*** Her talk will be on the first floor of the Hammond Public Library.

## IAAA NEWS

***Illinois State Fair***, August 10-20

The IAAA is seeking volunteers to serve as docents in their booth at the fair in Springfield. It's a fun day! You can work a morning or an afternoon. Admission to the fair is included FREE, so you can explore the fair when you're not representing the IAAA. It's a great experience meeting all the people who stop by, especially the children!

Contact Anne Wilson-Dooley.

## Officers' Meeting

Our next business meeting will take place on **Tuesday, September 5 – 6:00 PM** at the home of Lisa Nicholson (1453 Linden Rd., Homewood. Our host will be Will Kelley.

# CHICAGO PORTAGE DAY EVENTS

Saturday, August 12 · 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Chicago Portage National  
Historic Site  
4800 S. Harlem Ave.  
Forest View IL**



Join the Forest Preserves, Friends of the Chicago Portage and other partners to celebrate this National Historic Site, its cultural significance, and the history of Chicago. From 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM there will be presentations, demonstrations, site tours, and games and activities for the whole family to enjoy. For questions or additional information about this FREE event, contact (312)533-5751 or [experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov)

## *Special Appearance!*

***Louis Jolliet, Fr. Jacques Marquette and Fellow “Voyageurs”***

On May 17th of this year, we celebrated the 350th anniversary of Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette’s landmark expedition of discovery from the year 1673. This expedition for Louis XIV, King of France, laid the groundwork for the settlement of the interior of the colonial American continent, from the western side of the Appalachian Mountains to as far west of the Mississippi river as colonists would dare, and from Hudson Bay in the north all the way south to the Gulf of Mexico.

On August 12, Louis Jolliet, Fr. Jacques Marquette and fellow “voyageurs” will be at the I&M Canal. They will paddle their voyager canoes, tell of their travels, sing their native songs and demonstrate how they survived in the Illinois territory environment. Come and talk to them, and ask about their 1673 trip to The Chicago Portage.

## ***The Discovery of Chicago Bus Tour***

Visit the places where Chicago was born! Stand where history happened! This tour will begin at 10 a.m. at the monumental statue of Jolliet and Marquette in Portage Woods Forest Preserve.

Following a brief look at the last remnant of historic Portage Creek, we will board an air-conditioned motor coach to visit the places where Jolliet and Marquette carried their birch bark canoes over the old Chicago Portage 350 years ago.

The tour will continue downtown to visit the Centennial Fountain and explore its symbolic portrayal of the Chicago Portage. We’ll then stop as close as the public can get to the site of DuSable & Kinzie’s settlement. After a lunch break at a food court, the tour will follow the development of Chicago with a visit to the hidden site of an early farm and trading post on the South Branch of the Chicago River. Finally we’ll stop at the original terminus of the I&M Canal before returning to Portage Woods Forest Preserve.

The tour will conclude before 3:00 P.M. The cost of the tour is \$50 per person (\$40 for students) and includes a printed tour booklet with stunning images of how the tour stops looked in early Chicago.

For questions, or to reserve your seat call 773-590-0710 (8am – 8pm only please), or email: [gbmechanic@gmail.com](mailto:gbmechanic@gmail.com)

Please make out the check for the bus tour to **Friends of the Chicago Portage** and mail to:

Friends of the Chicago Portage  
c/o J. Langer  
605 E. Madison  
Villa Park, IL 60181

Once your payment is received you will be emailed a confirmation notice with complete information for the tour. Seats are limited so reserve your place on this historic voyage of discovery now!



# TOUR OF OAK WOODS CEMETERY

Saturday, August 19 ~ 10:00 AM

EXCERPTED FROM SSAS PRESIDENT WILL KELLEY'S  
ANNOUNCEMENT TO OUR MEMBERSHIP JULY 28, 2023

There has been a change of plans for August. Rather than going to the Field Museum, David Davison of DePaul University will lead us through the historically important Oak Woods Cemetery on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:00 AM. (This tour is FREE to SSAS members who are current on their dues.)

Happily, we were recently informed that David Davison has completed a Master's degree at DePaul University focused on Oak Woods Cemetery and the changes in historical memory surrounding it. As such, he has gained an ability to describe for the SSAS what it is that makes the cemetery a place of historical significance. For instance, if you attended any of the talks at SSAS by Michael Gregory, you may have heard about the mass grave of 6,000 Confederate prisoners of war who had been interned at Camp Douglas. This grave, together with the column, cannons, statuary, etc., that surround it, can only be understood when the history of its creation and elaboration has been told. But did you know that there is also a statue memorializing Union soldiers, nearby graves of those who fought to preserve the Union, and a tribute to Abraham Lincoln? And this is only the beginning. Many persons prominent in Chicago history are buried at Oak Woods, particularly many who mark the rise of African Americans over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century....people such as Jesse Owens and Harold Washington. There are also Jewish sections of the cemetery, which have recently

received new attention. And there are many other burials....such as that of Enrico Fermi. As time unfolds over the course of more than a hundred and sixty years, the importance of the cemetery, as an emblem of the history of the city itself, gradually emerges.

Thanks to Mr. Davison we are able to offer you a guided tour with no fee for SSAS members and their guests, no fee for parking, and a lunch venue (to be announced.)

For this reason, I hope you can take a few hours out of your day to join us at the Oak Woods Cemetery on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Since carpooling will again be very useful, please confirm your participation and let me know if you would like to offer to share a ride or accept one. We will meet a little before 10:00 AM at the office, which is just inside the main (North) entrance to the cemetery on 67<sup>th</sup> Street. The tour will not be too strenuous, since Mr. Davison will lead us to various sites in turn. We'll stop the cars, assemble around him, walk to several locations that are close to each other, get back in our cars, and follow him to the next location. The tour should be over by 12:00 Noon, after which we can repair to a lovely café in Hyde Park (which is only ten minutes north of the cemetery).

**It is easy to get to Oak Woods Cemetery. Use the Dan Ryan, get off at 67<sup>th</sup> Street / Marquette Road, and drive east. The exit is at State Street, or 0 East/West. Drive east to 67<sup>th</sup> and Greenwood Avenue, or 1001 East 67<sup>th</sup>. On the south side of the street you will see the gates of the cemetery, and just beyond that - the office. Park near the office.**