

BECOME A MEMBER...

...by completing and submitting the form below.

- Membership dues assist with the maintenance and upkeep of the historic Shields' home and property and fuel our mission to preserve local history.
- We provide a library of reference materials and foster community involvement with our many volunteer opportunities.

Newport Township Historical Society Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email Address (optional) _____

Please check membership level desired:

Individual \$10 _____ Family \$20 _____ Student \$6 _____

Donor \$25 to \$99 _____ Patron \$100 and over _____

Total dues/donation _____

Please make checks payable to:

Newport Township Historical Society

Mailing address:

PO Box 98, Wadsworth, IL 60083

ALL DUES AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
YOUR SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED



Mary Bloom feeding chickens on the family farm in Wadsworth, circa 1915

Grampa's Farm

A place of grand affection
From early childhood days
Survives in fond reflection
Hot krapfens* sweet with glaze
Bare feet, chickens and fishing
Buttermints in the drawer
Gone from me so young in life
I long to visit once more

* doughnuts, German

-Shawn Ford
NTHS Historian



Cousins Harold Cashmore and Grace Shields in 1914

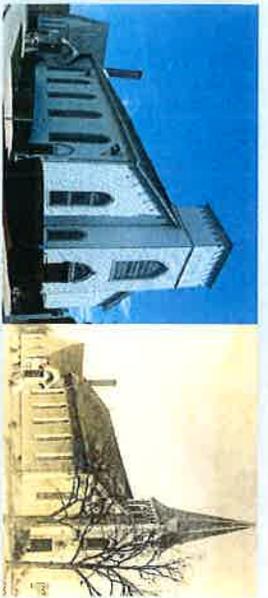
Newport Township Historical Society



SITUATED IN THE QUAIN VILLAGE OF WADSWORTH, the Newport Township Historical Society occupies the historic Shields' home. Since 1976, we have been collecting and preserving all things involving the history of Newport Township and its people. In 2002, Grace Shields, one of our founders, bequeathed her home and grocery store to the society in hopes of helping future generations know and appreciate the area's history.



Early railroad crew in Wadsworth, circa 1880-1900
The first railroad through the area in 1872 shaped early Newport Township. Two towns got their starts as coal and water stops for the steam engines on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad: Wadsworth and Russell, named after a major shareholder and a vice-president of the railroad company, respectively.



Old St. Patrick's Church in Wadsworth, today and circa 1920

One of the oldest parishes in the Chicago archdiocese, St. Patrick's got its start in 1849 as the St. Andrew Mission in Mill Creek. The name of the church and the adjacent cemetery changed to St. Patrick in 1864, when a new church was built on the site. In 1912, a new church was built in Wadsworth (pictured above), and was considered "one of the finest structures of its kind in Lake County." Our library includes historical information on the church and records of all four cemeteries in Newport Township.



St. Patrick's Cemetery, final resting place of many early settlers



Downtown Wadsworth facing west, circa 1905

Newport Township includes Wadsworth, Russell, Rosecrans and part of Old Mill Creek, Millburn and Beach Park.

Ongoing projects

- building and grounds maintenance
- data entry
- cookbook publication
- cataloging and archiving photos and documents
- website development
- creating new displays
- recording oral histories
- research of local families, sites and objects

We are an all-volunteer organization and invite you to join our efforts.



Samuel Miller and Isaac Winter in 1910, beside boulder marking the site and year of **Jacob Miller's sawmill along Mill Creek**. Jacob, Samuel's father, arrived in the area in 1835, building a sawmill and the county's first grist mill.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
15155 W Wadsworth Rd in Wadsworth, Illinois

General Meetings: Every other month beginning in March, the second Wednesday at 6 pm.

Open Houses: Every other month beginning in April, the first Saturday from 9 am to noon

Open for tours by appointment

Please contact us if you have stories or items of historical interest to share.

Email Address: newporthistorical@yahoo.com

Phone: call Shawn Ford at 847-553-1185

Follow us on Facebook

NTHS brochure, first printing, February 2018



The Russell train depot, circa 1900. Sold in 1957, the building was moved and is now a residence in Russell.

The last group of native peoples known to be in this area were the Potawatomi. Evidence of their time here includes

- a succession of mounds along the west bank of the Des Plaines River
- a camping ground on the river's east side
- trail marker trees
- the abundance of arrowheads and other artifacts found by area settlers since 1835.

With the 1833 Treaty of Chicago and its ratification in 1835, the Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa ceded all of their remaining lands in Illinois to the U.S. government.



Built in 1925, the old Wadsworth School became the Village Hall in 1985. This last of four "Wadsworth Schools" closed its doors to students in 1963. Other early schools in the township, some now residences, include: Achen, Biddlecome, Browe, Hockaday, Lone Oak, Rosecrans, Russell, Townline and Waterbury.