

# Landmark News & Views

## The Holden Library Celebration

by Alison Ross

Growing up in the Park, every time I biked by the library, I felt that something was special about the building. Its scale and proportion were simple yet monumental. Walking inside, even if you didn't know it was a library, you would know to be quiet, thoughtful, and that this was a place of learning. Two years ago, after hearing rumors that the building was designed by the architect Henry Bacon, Trude Fitelson and I traveled to Princeton, NJ to track down some evidence. Bacon is most known for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. When we found our library listed in his body of work, we made the most jubilant scene possible in a silent archives room. Now, it all made sense.

It is remarkable how we lost the identity of the architect. The 1903 Classical Revival Style building has been able to stand on its own merit through its sheer architectural power. Have you ever walked up the Lincoln Memorial's steps and felt overcome with awe? As a child, I would climb our library steps, open the door, and feel overcome with the possibilities of stories I hadn't read yet. Skillfully designed spaces have that effect.

Preservation is collaborative – many parties are needed to create and maintain valuable community assets. Mamie Heath, who has served as librarian for fifty years, along with the Landmark Society and the Corporation, are excited to announce the Holden Day Celebration on August 2 in honor of Mrs. E. R. Holden, the library's main benefactor. Mike Stedem has conducted research into the Holden Family and has uncovered a fascinating American story. We have invited the Holden family to join us to celebrate their family's contributions to the Park. The Tabernacle is co-sponsoring Dr. Christopher Thomas, Henry Bacon's biographer, to speak at the event and he will share the historical context for the architect's work.

The TI Park Corporation, acting on recommendations and research provided by the Landmark Society, is presently enacting a plan to return the steps to their original design. The current steps are a repair that fails to accurately replicate the original appearance. Bacon's wider design for the steps accentuates the temple front of the portico and invites you inside the building. With this restoration, the Corporation is protecting the architectural integrity of one of our most significant buildings.

We value the library for its simplicity and grandeur. We feel the spirit of the community in its legacy. Some of us, like the children who linger a moment in front as they walk up St. Lawrence, can't yet put our finger on why we love it, but its presence improves our quality of life. The restoration of the steps to the specifications of their iconic designer helps to underscore the fact that the Park benefits from an incalculable wealth of architectural history. Authentic architecture draws people to the Park and ties us all together with a powerful sense of place. Historic preservation needs many hands to be effective and this summer's 111th year library celebration is also a celebration of collaboration and preservation in TI Park. Together, we can continue encouraging our children to explore and treasure our built heritage.

### Photographs, a guide to restoration.

1905 photo of the Thousand Island Park Library found on page 36 of *Ah, Wilderness!: Resort Architecture in the Thousand Islands* by Pierre du Prey (2004). This book is part of the TIPLS reference library.



## 2014 CALENDAR

**Saturday, May 24**

*Then and Now 2014*

**Photo & Artifact  
Exhibit Opening  
2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 28**

**Landmark Society  
Annual Meeting  
9:30 a.m.**

**T.I.P. Chapel**

**Dedication of  
Historic Marker**

**Landmark  
Shop & Office**

**Open for the Season  
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, June 29**

**"Sunday Afternoon  
in the Park"**

**Golf Cart Tours Begin  
12:30 p.m.**

**Monday, July 21 & 28**

**Young Architects &  
Preservationists**

**Afternoon Activities**

**Thursday, July 24**

**Members' Event**

**Rock Island Tour  
Departs 4:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, July 26**

*Cottage Styles of TIP*

**Photo & Artifact  
Exhibit Opening  
2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Friday, August 1**

**Members' Event**

**Holden Day Eve**

**Saturday, August 2**

**Holden Day**

**Celebration**

**Begins at 2:00 p.m.**

**at the Library**

**Saturday, August 30**

**Volunteer Thank You**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As outgoing president of the Landmark Society, I want to take a pause to highlight some of the collective efforts of leaders and volunteers over the thirty-eight-year journey. Since we were incorporated in 1976, under the name Thousand Island Park Preservation Company, we have come to be called the Landmark Society and our mission of preserving the historical and architectural resources of the Park has remained clear. Documentation of this historic district's built environment, while operating with limited funds, was a focus in the early years. In the 1980s, completion of the National Register Survey led to recognition by the National Register. Other major efforts yielded development of the Preservation and Architectural Review Code and our first Park history booklet. The Landmark Society led fund-raising efforts for the Pavilion and McIntyre Photo Shop restoration projects, and we continue our stewardship of these buildings with easements on both. Many annual and biennial activities have strengthened community awareness, appreciation and society funds. Member Only events expand our knowledge of historic sites along the River. Collections of publications, archives, reference library volumes, or exhibits, along with chats and workshops help to build a better sense of the importance of education as a means to preserve this rich architectural heritage. I applaud those who helped to define and widen the path over nearly four decades and urge you to continue preservation efforts.

## MEMBERSHIP

### NEW & RENEWALS

*The Thousand Island Park Landmark Society, founded in 1976, is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization created to promote the preservation and appreciation of the unique architecture and social heritage of Thousand Island Park.*

*You are cordially invited to become a member or renew your current membership in the Thousand Island Park Landmark Society. Membership year runs from May 30 to the following June 1. Contributions are tax deductible. Please complete and return the membership envelope by mail or to the Landmark Office. Members will receive a gift packet of Michael Ringer note cards. We hope you join us! We need and welcome your support.*

## LANDMARK BOARD

President - Jean Ris  
Vice President - Katherine Zimmerman  
Secretary - Janet Keane  
Treasurer - Dick Greene  
Directors - Susan Donovan  
Andy Hills  
Peg Hoyser  
Julie Mathien  
Amy Phelps

Advisors to the Board - Trude Fitelson & Alison Ross

## LANDMARK SHOP & OFFICE

Opens Saturday June 28th

Tuesday - Sunday  
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



### The SHOP

**Back By Popular Demand** - Note Cards & Post Cards, Wooden Cutouts, TIP Walking Tour Guides & other Printed Materials, Seasonal Annual Calendars, Coasters, Landmark Holiday Ornaments, Landmark & TIP Apparel

**New for 2014** - Stemless Wine Glasses, Landmark Golf Shirts, New Ornaments & Coasters



### Displays and Reference Materials

National Register Survey Notebooks, Reference Library for Children and Adults on Architecture, History, and Preservation

Interested in volunteering in the shop or becoming a docent? Contact Peg Hoyser - 315-482-6349.

Stop in to meet the 2014 summer Preservation Intern co-sponsored by the Landmark Society & Preservation and Architectural Review Board.

## MEMBERS' ONLY EVENT

This season the Landmark Society is sponsoring two events for members only. The first event on July 24th will be a visit to Rock Island on a Clayton Island Tour boat. We will visit the lighthouse and former keeper's home, now a museum and shop. A wine and cheese reception on the boat will follow, as we tour and return to the Pavilion.

Our second event, held the evening of August 1st, will be a private reception at the Pavilion to celebrate Holden Day, August 2nd. This will be an opportunity to meet Holden Day guests and planning committee and to enjoy time together at this historic site.

Specific details about each event and sign-up for the Rock Island tour will begin June 28th at Landmark.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Thousand Island Park Landmark Society's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 28th at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. All community members are welcome to attend. A review of the past year, discussion of the 2014 season and election of new board members will occur. The membership table, for those wishing to join, opens at 9:00 a.m. Current members for 2014 are eligible to vote.

## LANDMARK NEWS & VIEWS

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