

Rotary Global History Fellowship



“A Virtual Community”

<http://www.rotaryhistoryfellowship.org>

Established 11 October 2000

On the evening of 23 February 1905, Paul Harris invited three friends to a meeting. They were Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer; Hiram Shorey, a merchant tailor; and Gustavus Loehr, a mining engineer. Schiele and Harris, after dinner together, met with the two others in Loehr's business office in Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago on Dearborn Avenue. Thus, the Rotary movement was born and soon the Rotary Club of Chicago was formed. <http://www.1905timeline.org> has the entire story of ROTARY/One.

On 23 February 2005, that movement celebrated its Centennial. For over one hundred years, business and professional people, around the world, have gathered weekly for fellowship, service, and the “Rotary Ideal”. What do we know about those 100 years?

Nearly one million internet visitors each year are finding out “how it started,” on nearly 3,000 pages of The “Rotary Global History Fellowship” websites. Is this history important? Rotary International past President Frank Devlin on **20 June 2001**, wrote to the Rotary Global History Fellowship staff, stating, ***“Your web site is an instrumental tool for those forward thinking people who wish to learn from our history, in order to guide our future.”***



To that end, we have created individual pages for each of the first 100 clubs at <http://www.clubhistory.org>. In fact, the project includes pages for the histories of over 500 clubs. RGHF is collecting all of the histories of Rotary hundreds of districts at <http://www.districthistory.org>

One other expanding and interesting part of the “Rotary Global History Fellowship” is the “room” where Rotary began. Our project is the host for **“The Paul Harris - Room 711 Club”** <http://www.room711.org> where those four men met, on 23 February 1905, to hear what was on Chicago attorney Paul Harris' mind.

One of our most popular features of the project is a **“History Minute”** sent regularly by email. “What Paul Harris Said” <http://www.whatpaulharrissaid.org> features quotes from the founder's writing with brief commentary and is used by clubs around the world. We also feature “Why I am a Rotarian,” <http://www.whyi.am.org> and “Our Foundation Newsletter.” <http://www.ourfoundation.info> Subscriptions are free and can be obtained at <http://www.historycomment.org>.



In 2002, the website began a project to collect the contributions and stories of the “early leaders” of Rotary at <http://www.earlyleaders.org>

We also have preserved the goodwill tours of Jean and Paul Harris at <http://www.friendshiptrees.org>. You can even ask “virtual questions” of Rotary's founder at <http://www.meetpaulharris.org>

You can get a quick orientation to the history of Rotary at <http://www.historytour.org> and copy our most concise page of history at <http://www.onepagehistory.info>. (This is designed to be copied and added to all Rotary websites. A recent addition, with some history never published before, is at <http://www.jeanharris.org>. This web site includes the recollections of the first eight women district governors, as well as a timeline for women regarding Rotary.

Every president of Rotary International has a "home page" with links to our project's conventions, themes, theme graphics, home clubs, tributes and other web pages related to each president. Please see: <http://www.presidentshistories.org> There are histories of conventions at <http://www.conventionhistory.org> where you'll also find all of the president's themes.

We have become a point of reference for all Global Networking Groups <http://www.globalnetworkinggroups.org> where collection of those groups' histories are being preserved. We also have a study program at <http://www.historylearningcenter.org>, and timely tips at <http://www.howdoifindit.org>

This web-based project was started by John M. Selway, then of Rotary Club of Pueblo, #43, on 11 October of 2000. Since that time, contributions have poured in from hundreds of individual Rotarians, Rotary clubs, districts, RI Directors past and present, RI Presidents past and present and families and friends of the movement's early leaders, from every continent on earth except Antarctica.

We even have our own "search" page to handle an ever growing project <http://www.historysearch.org> We feature an extensive collection of peace articles and Rotary's history of peace at <http://www.peacehistory.org>

We are an affiliate of Rotary Heritage & History International Fellowship of Rotarians and maintain a website for that organization at <http://www.historyfellowship.org> RHHIF and RGHF are working together to make "Comely Bank," Paul Harris's Chicago home, a living history museum and headquarters. You'll find more about this at <http://www.paulharrishome.com>

At our main website <http://www.rotaryhistoryfellowship.org> you'll learn more about the project and our many features. We also have a useful forum for visitors to read at <http://www.rghfforum.org> Members have access to the full forum and can respond and post. Membership is available at <http://www.joinrghf.org> Visitors can add comments at <http://www.historycomment.org>

Another way to learn about the scope of the project is our "QuickLinks" page, found at <http://www.historyarchivelinks.org> . This page has links to our major websites and many of the subjects covered.

If you want to continue to keep up to date on the new material being published, subscribe to our newsletter at <http://www.historycomment.org> There's always something new at the Rotary Global History Fellowship. We also hope that you'll consider a membership in this most important continuing work at <http://www.joinrghf.org>

If your Rotary organization wants a speaker from RGHF for an event, visit <http://www.historyspeakers.org> to see examples of past appearances.

Voted "Best of the Rest" 2002 by ROTI & ICUFR

"This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again!"

~ Paul P. Harris Page 253 "This Rotarian Age"

<http://www.whatpaulharriswrote.org/library/rotarianage/rotarianage.htm>

Committee and board: <http://www.historycommittee.org>

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<http://www.rotaryhistoryfellowship.org> - Rotary Global History Fellowship *
<http://www.100partners.org> - Rotary's First 100 Clubs and other early clubs
<http://www.1905timeline.org> - The history of the Rotary Club of Chicago since 1905
<http://www.1905society.org> - Honoring leaders who support our history
<http://www.30000partners.org> - Links from the clubs of Rotary
<http://www.actiongroupshistory.org> - The history of Rotary Actions Groups
<http://www.africaclubshistory.org> - Rotary history in Africa
<http://www.archivohistoricoderotary.org> - Spanish version of the history archive
<http://www.asiahistory.org> - History of Rotary in Asia
<http://www.austaliacclubs.org> - The first 20 clubs of Australia and Rotary history for Australia
<http://www.canadaclubs.org> - The early clubs of Canada
<http://www.clubhistory.org> - Histories of early clubs of Rotary around the world
<http://www.comelybank.org> - The home of Paul and Jean Harris
<http://www.conventionhistory.org> - The conventions of Rotary International
<http://www.districthistory.org> - Histories of each Rotary District
<http://www.earlyleaders.org> - The first Rotary leaders
<http://www.europeclubs.org> - The early clubs of Europe
<http://www.fellowshiphistory.org> - The history of Rotary International Fellowships 1947 - present
<http://www.foundationhistory.org> - The history of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International
<http://www.friendshiptrees.org> - Trees planted by Jean and Paul Harris around the world
<http://www.globalnetworkinggroups.org> - The history of Fellowship in Rotary
<http://www.harrisoffice.org> - The preserved "Harris Study" at RI headquarters
<http://www.historyarchivelinks.org> - Helpful links to the 1,600 pages
<http://www.historycalendar.org> - Month by month events that shaped Rotary
<http://www.historycomment.org> - Ask questions, volunteer, contribute to history
<http://www.historycommittee.org> - Meet the Rotarians and volunteers who maintain this project
<http://www.historyfellowship.org> - Rotary Heritage and History International Fellowship
<http://www.historyhelped.org> - How this website helped me or my club
<http://www.historylearningcenter.org> - Continue your Rotary education here
<http://www.historylibrary.org> - The project's library of documents
<http://www.historynewsletter.org> - RGHF
<http://www.historyphilosophy.org> - The Philosophy of Rotary, Rotarians, and great thinkers
<http://www.historysearch.org> - Google Search page of the entire website
<http://www.historyspeakers.org> - RGHF presentations
<http://www.historytour.org> - The entire history of Rotary by date
<http://www.howdoifindit.org> - A few suggestions for navigating this huge archive
<http://www.jeanharris.org> - The story of the founder's wife
<http://www.joinrghf.org> - Membership in Rotary Global History Fellowship
<http://www.latinamericacclubs.org> - The early clubs of Latin America
<http://www.meetpaulharris.org> - The questions we wish we could ask the founder of Rotary
<http://www.missinghistory.org> - Help us find missing or partial histories
<http://www.newzealandclubs.org> - The first clubs and the history of Rotary in New Zealand
<http://www.onepagehistory.info> - A single page, ideal for websites
<http://www.ourfoundation.info> - The history of TRF and current newsletter
<http://www.peacehistory.org> - Rotary's history of peace and understanding
<http://www.presidentshistories.org> - The presidents of Rotary International
<http://www.recentposts.org> - Find out "What's New"
<http://www.regionalhistory.org> - How Rotary got started in all the regions of the world
<http://www.rghf.org> - Our features page
<http://www.rghfactivities.org> - Our fellowship activities
<http://www.rghfforum.org> - The Fellowship's members only discussion area
<http://www.rghfpeacejourney.org> - An Interactive Journey of Peace
<http://www.room711.org> - The place where Rotary began, 23 February 1905
http://www.rotaryfirst100.org** - The First 100 years and Beyond
http://www.rotaryfirstfifty.org** - The original page of the first fifty clubs, the first 100, districts, and zones
<http://www.ukirelandhistory.org> - History of Rotary in the United Kingdom and Ireland
<http://www.whatpaulharrissaid.org> - Our longest running weekly feature.
<http://www.whatpaulharriswrote.org> - The continuing legacy of the wisdom of Rotary's founder.
<http://www.whyyiam.org> - Read why others are Rotarians and submit your own
<http://www.worldpeaceandunderstanding.org> - Peace and Friendship Monuments around the world

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