

Frederick Richardson

On the northeast corner of Grant Place and Clinton at 300 Grant Place, stands the home of Frederick Richardson, the talented illustrator, who helped to establish the Park Ridge Artists Colony in the 1890s. His wife, Josephine Welles, a sculptor, grew up in Park Ridge, where her grandfather and his family were early landowners.

The Richardsons lived across the street from her father, George Welles, a former Park Ridge Village president, and his second wife, Clara Barck Welles. In the 1890s, when photographs were few and expensive to print in newspapers, Richardson drew the news for large illustrated pages in the *Chicago Daily News*. He also created classic illustrations for children's literature, including a volume of Mother Goose rhymes and several books by L. Frank Baum, who created the Oz books.

He taught classes at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Many of his fellow instructors and students moved their families to Park Ridge in the years before World War I, launching the first generation of the Park Ridge Artist Colony.