



NEWS BULLETIN

1. **Starting March 1 memberships will renew once a year in March (Letter will be sent to explain)**
2. **Newsletter will be sent out via email or post**
3. **No longer have PO Box**

SHOW & SHARE PHOTO NIGHT LEMONT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY JANUARY 25 -7PM.

Gather up your old Lemont family photos and bring them to the Historical Society on Tuesday, January 25 at 7pm, as we kick off the New Year with a Show & Share Photo Night.

Who's that person standing next to Uncle Buck? What's that building in the background? Society members will attempt to unravel these mysteries with help from the audience. Everyone likes looking at old photos, so share your bit of history with your neighbors and friends. Photos can be scanned and swapped too!

40th Anniversary Conclusion



It was good to see many of you at our party on Nov. 23. Hard to believe in a way that we have been at the "Old Stone Church" that long. We have been truly blessed with some outstanding members who have volunteered to further our cause of preserving Lemont history.

The Committee chaired by Gail August presented a brief program, a **cd (available for \$1)**, a raffle was held under the guidance of Doris Peterman and Susan Donahue helped with the **souvenir booklet (free)** that can be picked up in office.

Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society
306 Lemont Street Lemont, IL 60439

www.lemonthistorical.org

Email: lemontahs@sbcglobal.net

Jan – Feb Edition

January 25: General Membership Meet &
Show & Share Photo Night -7pm.

March 22: General Membership Night 7pm.

June 4: Quarry Tour & National Trails Day 8:30am.

July 26: Program at This Must Be the Place (details pending).

(Cont)

We had Mr. Tom Ludwig gave a short narrative on the beginning of the Society (see Stepping Back In Time) and thanks to Dianne Butkovich we had the beautiful cake you see in photo and some light refreshments. A social hour followed.



President's Message. . .



Dear Members

Prospects for the New Year

Last year was a good one for the society with several new projects and programs. We hope to continue that trend and find ways to redecorate our office to make it more appealing to bridal parties and increase the number of weddings. We have some new programs and events this year related to the start of the Civil War 150 years ago and the building of the church in 1861. We are also associating with the old time "Quarrymen" baseball team to sponsor more games locally. We plan to make a new exhibit to honor the Civil War this year so watch for news about that. The Civil War program will be in May and include reenactments and maybe a visit from Lincoln. We have a couple of Boy Scouts wanting to do projects with us and hope to restore the Keepataw Trail in the south part of Waterfall Glen. We have a new board member, Rick Meyer, who brings on some fresh perspective and youth (compared to the rest of us.) The Methodist Church celebrated it's 150 anniversary in October with a nice day of activities and you can see a story about that on the church's website with some photos. We are hoping for some members to become Life Members this year to help us out of the financial slump of 2010 and tell your friends and neighbors about us or better yet bring them along! We will be working more closely with the Lemont Library to share programs and resources so you may see more of our programs where there is more parking. This is especially true of the Civil War history and maybe slavery. We will continue to develop new tours this year and e have the Irish tour set up and can start advertising it. The Slavic Tour is still in development but should be ready this spring. We did not get any help from the Corridor but will look for other sources of help. Weather maybe another concern we need to think about.

Richard Lee, President

Cornerstone is the official newsletter of the Lemont Area Historical Society, a not for profit organization as set forth by the provisions of the State of Illinois. *Cornerstone* is published six times a year with a circulation of 200 to 300 issues. Issues are mailed to all members of the Lemont Area Historical Society. Complimentary copies are available. Publication offices for *Cornerstone* are located at 306 Lemont Street, Lemont, IL 60439. The editor may be contacted by writing to the Lemont Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 126, Lemont, IL 60439, or leaving a message at the museum at 630-257-2972. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome, although acceptance of copy does not imply that the article will be published. We reserve the right to edit and rewrite to comply with our style. For information about membership in the Lemont Area Historical Society and memorials in the name of a family member or friend, see the membership application elsewhere in the newsletter.

Lemont Area Historical Society

In the Old Stone Church at
306 Lemont Street
Lemont, IL 60439
630-257-2972
www.lemonthistorical.org

Museum Hours

10 am to 2 pm Tuesday, Friday
10 am to 1 pm Saturday
1 to 4 pm Sunday

Library Committee

meets 10 am to 12 noon on Wednesday.
Visits by appointment only.

The main floor of the museum is available for weddings, meetings, and events.

Board of Directors

Richard Lee, President
Joanne Pick, 1st Vice President
Carol Garibay, 2nd Vice President
William Uznanski, Treasurer
Gary Roy, Secretary

Board Members

Barbara Bannon, , Susan Donahue,
Richard Meyer, Doris Peterman, Susan Roy, Rose Yates

Committees:

Strategic Planning

William Uznanski, Barb Bannon

Resource Center

Carol Garibay
Collections, Library, Genealogy,
Oral Histories, Photographs

Community Outreach

Rose Yates
Programs, Exhibits, Publicity, Tours,
Historic Sites, Web Site

Human & Financial Resources

Membership, Volunteers, Staff, Fund Raising,
Grant Writing, Building Rental

Building & Maintenance

Bill Uznanski,
, Richard Lee,

Web Master:

Paul Froehle

Society members are encouraged to participate on the Committee or Subcommittee of their choice.

Genealogy Corner



by Barb Bannon

Going into the New Year I was reflecting on the research I have done for my own family history and for others. As Genealogists most often our thoughts are centered on our Ancestors; Where did they go to do....? What did they do if....? Who did they talk to for....? What was it like when....? Many times we are submerged in our family history a little too much, however after I read this article I may soon be able to justify my obsession!

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at

<http://www.eogn.com>.

The Benefits of Thinking About Our Ancestors

I have always known that genealogists were smart people! Now we have proof. Psychologists have shown previously that thinking about our own mortality - 'where we're going' - prompts us to shore up our cultural world view and engage in self-esteem boosting activities. Little researched until now, by contrast, are the psychological effects of thinking about where we came from - our ancestors.

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Anecdotally, there's reason to believe that such thoughts are beneficial. Why else the public fascination with genealogy and programs like the BBC's Who Do You Think You Are? Now Peter Fischer his colleagues at the Universities of Graz, Berlin and Munich have shown that thinking about our ancestors boosts our performance on intelligence tests - what they've dubbed 'the ancestor effect'.

'Normally, our ancestors managed to overcome a multitude of personal and society problems, such as severe illnesses, wars, loss of loved ones or severe economic declines,' the researchers said. 'So, when we

think about them, we are reminded that humans who are genetically similar to us can successfully overcome a multitude of problems and adversities.'

An initial study involved 80 undergrads spending five minutes thinking about either their fifteenth century ancestors, their great-grandparents or a recent shopping trip. Afterwards, those students in the two ancestor conditions were more confident about their likely performance in future exams, an effect that seemed to be mediated by their feeling more in control of their lives. Three further studies showed that thinking or writing about their recent or distant ancestors led students to actually perform better on a range of intelligence tests, including verbal and spatial tasks (in one test, students who thought about their distant ancestors scored an average of 14 out of 16, compared with an average of 10 out of 16 among controls). The ancestor benefit was mediated partly by students attempting more answers - what the researchers called having a 'promotion orientation'.

These benefits weren't displayed by students in control conditions that involved writing about themselves or about close friends. Moreover, the ancestor effect exerted its benefit even when students were asked to think about negative aspects of their ancestors.

'We showed that an easy reminder about our ancestors can significantly increase intellectual performance,' the researchers said. 'Hence, whenever people are in a situation where intellectual performance is extraordinarily important, for example in exams or job interviews, they have an easy technique to increase their success.'

Fischer and his colleagues emphasized their research is at an exploratory phase. Future work is needed to find out what other benefits thinking of ancestors might have, and also to uncover other possible mediating factors, which they speculated might have to do with 'processes of social identity, family cohesion, self-regulation or norm activation elicited by increased ancestor salience.'



Connecting Branches

We have been made aware of the following people doing family research:

Kira Reinertsen - William Shuey Family

Cathy Gilbert - Luther, Derby, Miner & Mitchell Families

John Zimmerman - Henry Zimmerman Family

If you are doing research and would like to contact these or other

genealogists, please let us know by leaving a message at the

Museum 630-257-2972 or by e-mail to

lemontahs@sbcglobal.net



SOCIETY NEWS

By Susan Donahue

NOV ELECTION RESULTS

Rose Yates: 3 Year Term

Susan Donahue: 2 Year Term

Richard Meyer: 1 Year Term

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

Another year begins and we are looking for Sunday Volunteers, doesn't it seem that as much as things change they remain the same for the most part. You will get training and you will never be alone in the museum and you also get the opportunity to share our rich history and meet some never nice people. A win-win situation I would say. Join the winning team of: Gail August, Pat Browne, Norma Johnson, Barbara Lee, Richard Lee, Howard Mitchell, Doris Peterman, Joanne Pick, Maureen Rogus, Kim Savage, and Susan Donahue.

TOURS:

Had a nice group of cub scouts come in on Dec. 6 and sometimes they bring their siblings. One was a red haired blue-eyed 5 year old with a Santa Claus hat on. I asked him what Santa was going to bring him and he said, "A sleigh." His dad chimed in, "Don't you remember Kris Kringle brought you that today." Have to keep those gift givers straight. Anyway, they were very curious and became quite excited when they saw Mr. Bill Mum, our Halloween greeter, peeking from the kitchen and it also gave me the opportunity to promote our "Fright Nite." It was a very good group and we always encourage young visitors for they are our future.

BOOK REVIEW:

We received from Pat Knight, former President the following review – Pat is an avid book reader and we appreciate her input cluing us.

"UNBROKEN"

I usually write about a book I have read, but this time I am writing about a book I am reading now. I am fascinated by stories of action and survival during WWII especially if an airplane is involved. UNBROKEN by Laura Hildenbrand is just out, and reviewers strongly recommend the book. Where some stories take a few pages to get started, UNBROKEN captures the reader immediately. If you have an interest in WWII or just want a "good read", try UNBROKEN.

GET WELL:

Wishing the following people a complete recovery:
Barbara Lee, Ellen Davey, Pat Browne, and Tom Ludwig.

MEMBERSHIPS:

We are very fortunate to have some new members and others who have renewed and they are: Gloria Abboud, Jim Browne, Pat Browne, George & Dianne Butkovich, Kristin Dastych, Vikki Knasiak, Mayor Brian Reaves, Maureen Rogus, Charlene Smollen, Maryann Trent, Laura Wolwicz and Rose Yates.

NEW LIFE MEMBER:

Robert Schwaan

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Student: \$10.00 _____
Senior Citizen \$10.00 _____
Individual \$15.00 _____
Family \$25.00 _____
Corporation: \$50.00 _____
Life \$200.00 _____
Old Quarry Club \$250.00 _____
Friends of Keepataw \$500.00 _____
Athens Marble \$1,000.00 _____
Additional Donation _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Mail to: LAHS
306 Lemont Street
Lemont, IL 60439

STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue



As I mentioned previously in this newsletter about our Anniversary Party we had Mr. Ludwig, our first President give a narrative about our beginning. It was very informative and we

were grateful for his insight.

Here are excerpts from his recollections:

In the spring of 1970, a group of Lemonters gathered in this building to lay the foundation for preserving the history of the Lemont area. The first officers listed were: Tom Ludwig, President, Don Urick, Vice-President, Helen Bittles, Secretary, Ron Hamelen Treasurer, along with a Board of Directors.

First Committees were the Museum and the Membership Committee. The Museum Committee was to collect and display artifacts, literature, pictures and other items pertaining to the history of Lemont and it's people, educate people about our history, provide materials and opportunities for research about the Lemont area and its people. The first chairperson was Madelyn Hamelen.

In early 1970, the Methodist Church moved to its new location and this building was empty. The group that had rented the building offered the Methodist Church a nominal amount for the purchase of this building. Since the congregation was trying to pay off a mortgage of over \$178,000 dollars and expected to sell this building for a good many thousands of dollars, this offer was turned down.

When the Methodist Church started its program to move, there was a very vocal minority who vigorously and I opposed this. They had roots in this building and did not wish to move, thereby abandoning the building. The congregation, recognizing their wishes, decided to do what they could to keep the building intact. The Telephone Co. offered \$200,000 dollars to buy the property with the intent to tear the building down and use the property for a parking lot. The offer was resoundingly defeated.

I met with Chester Davey and Ron Hamelen (we were all officeholders of the Church) and presented the idea that the Methodist Church sell the property to the Historical Society for \$10 dollars with a

reversion clause which simply stated that if the Society should disband, the property would revert to the Lemont United Methodist Church. Chester and Ron added the following ideas: sell the congregation on the idea that they would save by not having to pay for the insurance, utilities, and upkeep on an empty building, which could cost thousands of dollars.

The United Methodist Church has strict rules regarding the disposition of Church property which had to be followed. First step was to present the proposal to and get approval of the Local Church's Board of Directors; second, to present the proposal to the Local Church Conference with the stipulation that it had to be published 30 days in advance of the meeting – this was done and approved; next step to gain the approval and advise of the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Conference. This was done; and, we were told that we

Continued

needed the approval of the mortgage holder to remove the property from the list of collateral on the mortgage. We were making payments to the Orland State Bank, George Gee, President.

Follow-up in next newsletter.

