



**“LEMONT STREET FAIR  
IS COMING!!!”**

Circle the date for a fun filled day for the whole family on Sept 17. We will have antique dealers, crafters, live music by the Holy Cross Marimba Band, DJ Rick Meyer, Bake Sale, children’s games, refreshments on sale and at the closing our “Limestone Raffle.” Space still available for crafters.

**NEED VOLUNTEERS!!**

**LIMESTONE RAFFLE  
PRIZES**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Weekend for two in Historic Nashville “Music City”  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$250  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Lemont Metra Parking Permit for 2012  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Experience Historic Lemont  
**For every 6 tickets you sell or purchase, your name will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gas card.**



**Fright Nite –Oct 25**

**CALLING ALL** –Anyone with any local haunting stories they wish to share on “Fright Nite” please call Susan Donahue or Sue Roy for more info.



Lemont Area Historical Society  
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439  
[lemontahs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lemontahs@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.lemonthistorical.org](http://www.lemonthistorical.org)

**Sept - Nov 2011 Edition**

**Sept 11 – Vintage Baseball Game  
Covington Knolls Park 127<sup>th</sup> Street  
12 Noon - Also a Memorial ceremony  
to the 9/11 victims**

**Sept 17 – “Lemont Street Fair”  
10am-4pm.**

**Limestone Raffle Tickets Now  
Available**

**Sept 27: Gen. Mem Meet 7pm.  
Election Slate Presented**

**Oct 25- “Fright Nite” Doors open at  
6:30pm. Admission Charged.**

**Nov 20? – 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Party of  
our beloved historic building**



**VINTAGE BASEBALL**

Hard to believe that the summer is almost over but you still have two more Vintage Baseball games to come and enjoy. The next game is Sunday, Sept 11, at noon at Covington Knolls Park on 127<sup>th</sup> Street bring your blanket, your family, and see first hand how the game of baseball was played in the 1800’s. Refreshments sold. A special Memorial to the victims of 9/11 will be held between games.

## ***President's Message.***



Dear Members

The summer has gone by quickly but it has been a hot and wet one. I keep statistics on weather, as well as photos and I witnessed two 100-year floods in Lemont and two tornadoes – one out near Romeoville and one in Downers Grove. Not good weather for tours but hopefully fall is coming and more time outside.

We are attempting to work with the Park District to see if they can help us with installing air conditioners, which they are most interested in. They also showed some interest in working with us to develop mutual tours with a historical flavor. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the old stone church (our museum) is in the planning stages with the cooperation of the current United Methodist Church and a special Sunday in October to start the celebration. A target date is November 20<sup>th</sup> for a joint celebration. Since parking is a major problem, the church is recommending having the celebration at the new church with buses running back to the old church for tours. See the website for updates:

[www.lemonthistorical.org](http://www.lemonthistorical.org)

*Sincerely, Richard Hoyt Lee, President*

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*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 contact or 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 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](http://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  
. 1st Vice President  
Carol Garibay, 2nd Vice President  
Gary Roy, Secretary  
William Uznanski, Treasurer

### **Board Members**

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

### **Committees:**

#### **Strategic Planning**

Richard Meyer, Gary Roy, Susan Roy

#### **Resource Center**

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

#### **Community Outreach**

Rose Yates  
Publicity, Historic Sites

#### **Human & Financial Resources**

Fund Raising, Grant Writing

#### **Exhibits**

Richard Lee

#### **Program**

Gary Roy, Susan Roy

#### **Sunday Volunteers**

Doris Peterman

#### **Tours**

Gail August

#### **Membership**

Susan Donahue

#### **Wedding Committee**

Joanne Pick, Carol Garibay, Susan Donahue

#### **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*

### **Unforgettable You**

Numerous books about Genealogy suggest starting with you and working backwards. This is the point in your history you already know better than anyone else and there is no need to search archives for this information, you have experienced it first hand.

Not long ago my daughter happened to mention that the pictures on our mantel are of many ancestors, even those we have never met, along with current photos of relatives but not one of her dad or me. After she brought this to my attention I also began to realize that this has carried over to my research of our family history.

In articles I've written for this newsletter I have tried to emphasize the fact that starting with what you know is the best practice. Apparently I should have practiced what I wrote. In my research I have used what I know to include as much information as possible about close relatives but I failed to include anything about myself; no stories about events that have shaped my life.

Researching the past isn't the entire purpose of doing family history; there is also the passing on of the "torch" to a future genealogist to continue the story. If that story doesn't include the experiences of the narrator's life it is similar to omitting an entire chapter of the book. This doesn't mean that a genealogist must include an entire autobiography; just a few memories of their experiences which will provide the reader with some insight into the nature of the person writing the family history.

Genealogists I've talked to described the memoirs of their family. I've come to the understanding that you should never underestimate the effect of your written word on the next generation. They may treasure your story as a guide to help them through the stormy chapters of their life. I

hold dear the few sentiments included in cards that I have from my grandparents to my parents. To have memories of an entire lifetime would be priceless.

Begin by jotting down the important, very positive and also negative memories; choose first to write about the one that is most interesting. Give more than just facts and include reasons why you made certain decisions or changes in your life.

Tell about your childhood relationships with siblings, visits made to grandparents or aunts and uncles. The stories you remember that have been handed down from parents or other relatives. There may be something you are wondering about, some mystery that you want to learn more about. Include experiences about your school days; what teachers were important to you, what influenced you to take a certain course or chose a particular activity.

Incorporate your impressions of growing up in your home, your neighborhood, vacations, tasks around the house as a child and jobs as a teen, along with financial situations that you remember of your parents or other family members. What did you do to "play" as a child? Favorite books, movies, music, what sports you liked. What were your friends like? Tell about fun and funny situations.

Include in the story how you met your spouse, how did he or she propose, the wedding, where you went on a honeymoon, your first house, adjustments, joys and sorrows. Don't forget to include your children, growing up, schooling, marriage, vocations and accomplishments. Describe celebrations and holidays, impressions of ancestors you knew, anything you were told about those you didn't know and why you would have wanted to meet a particular one. Writing your own story captures the meaningful moments in your life, explains how you responded to different situations and will help when you try to encourage the next generation to pick up the torch and continue the never ending story.

Now you will have to excuse me, I better get started!



### **Mailbox**

If you have a general genealogy question please send it via regular mail or email to [lahsgenes2@yahoo.com](mailto:lahsgenes2@yahoo.com) with “Genealogy Corner Mailbox” in the subject and we will do our best to have the answer in the next newsletter.

**Q:** I have found my grandfathers age in the census and on a marriage certificate but cannot find his birth in that year. What should I do next?

**A:** Don’t believe an age even when it’s the same in more than one document. People have always lied about their age. Sometimes it’s not being old enough to marry or a woman not wanting to reveal her age. Or it may be that some people just didn’t know their own age. For a death certificate the details of a person’s age may have been given by someone just estimating the person’s age. It can help to expand your search one year at a time, to at least five years either way.

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Here are some photos from past Street Fairs:

### **Cold Oct, 2009**



**Happy Bakers '09:** Charlene Counter, Kristin Dasytch, Barb Bannon



**Puckerville Farms Street Fair 2008**

### **Entertainment**



**Holy Cross Marimba Band  
(Will be performing this year too)**

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### **General Fry’s Landing Restored**

**By Richard Hoyt Lee**

As I visited the farmer’s market downtown last week, I took a short walk along the I&M canal going west from Stephen Street. I noticed a lot of new limestone landscaping and several articles from the old Fry’s Landing park site. I was on the original Lemont Canal Commission in 1989 that had the first project to build that historic site, so it was good to see it back again and another point of interest for downtown Lemont.

## **The Civil War Is Not Over** **By Richard Hoyt Lee**

I picked up a copy of Time Magazine April 18 that caught my attention by the cover story, "Why We're Still Fighting The Civil War" and the article, "The Way We Weren't" by David Von Drehle. The main caption for the 10-page article is, "North and South shared the burden of slavery, and after the war, they shared in forgetting about it. But 150 years later, it's time to tell the truth."

I read the article with conclusions that I already was familiar with but picked up some interesting facts. First was the fact that the war actually began on May 21, 1856 in Kansas where a pro-slavery army destroyed an abolitionist settlement in Lawrence. John Brown heard about it and said the conflict is between free state men and pro-slavery men who were intolerant. Then came the Dred Scott decision that confirmed slaves as property, much to the disgrace of the Supreme Court.

The South depended on the slaves as an important part of their cotton empire, the biggest export product at the time. They believed that slaves realized their role and were satisfied with it, except they had this nagging fear that someday the slaves might revolt and slay them in their beds. Many southerners had no slaves but dreamed of valiant battles and brilliant generals (which they had). And many men in blue had no interest in emancipation or freeing slaves, and even McClellan, the General in Chief of the Union Army believed the slave question was incidental to preservation of the Union and power of the federal government. But the fundamental issue was equality of all people, guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence. But many of the "Founding Fathers" were slave owners and depended on them for free labor to the elite of the land.

After the war many books were published that fed a curiosity for the accounts of

battles and the strategy of war. Even Woodrow Wilson wrote an account 50 years after the war and described the Ku Klux Klan as an "Empire of the South" created by men devoted to "self-preservation" and completely avoided the issue of slavery. *Gone With the Wind* also was very popular and glorified the "Old South." Yale's Phillips did a history bringing a systematic examination of the plantation economy and true conditions of slaves (he was a son of slave owners), but it was not until Harry Truman desegregated the armed forces did integration begin. Even at the centennial of the war, southern historians and politicians were praising the Confederacy's "gallant leaders and victory stories in defense of home ground."

Only recently did we begin to learn secession was about defending borders with pride, while Americanism is about tearing down borders. The north had many slaves and used them for cheap labor, with Wall Street's cotton trade and slaves even built the White House. Two fallacies prop up the wall of forgetfulness; that slaves were really happy and that slavery was only the South's problem. Lincoln's famous statement, "With malice toward none, with charity for all" has often been misquoted to support those who want to forgive and forget. But the preceding words of that speech need to be read to get the right context of freedom from slavery going back to Exodus where the "Judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." It remains a fundamental issue.

Note: The article mentioned, "The Way We Weren't" caused a negative stir at the Confederate Memorial Day Service at Springwood Cemetery in Greenville, S.C. on May 1, 2011. Moved to the first of May it traditionally is held on May 10 to honor Stonewall Jackson's death.



## **SOCIETY NEWS**

*By Susan Donahue*

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:**

We have had a few people renew and have also gained new members, which is always satisfying. They are: Emily Christian, and Cindy Malak

### **IN SYMPATHY:**



**Stephanie (1920-2011)**

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Stephanie Pudlowski Gwodz Brokenborough Welsh. She was a very vibrant, warm, tenacious, and caring person. She was the mother of P.J. Fitzgerald and Bill Gwodz – who most of you know – and Paulette Arnold and Lewette Fitzgerald.

Stephanie was a “Great Bookie”, art lover, served on the Lemont Library and Lemont PTA Boards when she lived here and was an activist long before it became popular. I was fortunate to have met her and privileged to call her friend. She will be greatly missed but her spirit lives on in her children, stepchildren, grandchildren and great – grandchildren.

### **GET WELL WISHES:**

We wish to extend our best wishes for a complete return to good health to Joanne Pick and Charlene Counter.

### **Best Wishes, Rose, on Your Retirement!!!**



Rose Yates (pictured above) will be retiring on Sept 2 as Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Lemont. We all wish her well and selfishly ponder the prospect of having her become more involved in the LAHS.

One of the projects she will be taking on is updating our Lemont history and the anniversary book. The night the Village honored her with accolades and a charcoal drawing of Village Hall with the bell tower, I was reminded of something that happened while doing the 125<sup>th</sup> Lemont Anniversary book. We were assigned different tasks and one of them that I was on was proofreading. We had a deadline set to have the galilees done by June 1 so the book would be sent to the publisher and introduced to the general public for sale at Heritage Fest. Rose opened the door to the Village Hall for Barb Buschman, P.J. Fitzgerald and myself on the morning of Memorial Day, 1998. It was like walking into a tomb, dead silence. We went over the final draft again. P.J. insisted on the book having an index and at first we tried to dissuade her that at this late date it would be impossible to complete such a task, but finally we agreed if she could get it done within 24 hours and she did. Rose also is a determined person and I know the new updated version will be a reality and another keepsake to treasure.



## *STEPPING BACK IN TIME*

*By Susan Donahue.*

In doing tours of the museum we try to touch on the major points of our local history including those on some of the major past players of our community. I thought I would share with you excerpts from “Lemont & Its People”:

### **HORACE SINGER**

He was born in New York state in 1823. He received only minimal formal education, but he had inherited his family’s remarkable mechanical ability, and this was a valuable talent in the frontier. His father, John, managed to get a contract to build a portion of the newly surveyed Illinois & Michigan Canal. The sixteen year old Horace began working with his father and soon they were joined by his father’s younger brother- the wild, creatively talented Isaac M. Singer. Uncle Isaac did not stay long, but he did design, develop and patent a rock drilling machine in 1839. His rock drill speed up the difficult job of digging the canal through the bedrock. Horace later used it in his quarry industry. (Isaac in later years modified Elias Howe’s sewing machine and managed to earn \$5 million dollars through patent infringements and aggressive selling methods. Isaac was always in and out of legal trouble and Horace seldom mentioned him.) In 1854 he joined with Mancel Talcott (who gained wealth in the CA. gold mines) to form the Talcott-Singer Quarries. Horace supplied his technical knowledge and Mancel the money.

Politically conservative – a “Douglas Democrat” for the Union, but willing to compromise on slavery. After Stephen Douglas’s death and the beginning of the Civil War, Horace Singer joined the new party of Abe Lincoln.

The war years were good to northern businessmen, with industrial expansion there was a great need for building materials. By 1864, Mr. Singer had acquired enough wealth to purchase 100 shares of the newly created First National Bank of Chicago. Mancel Talcott invested money too and was elected to the Board of Directors. Talcott- Singer Quarries were now one of the largest quarry operations in the world.

By the end of the Civil War, Mr. Singer’s growing power and importance was recognized in the community, and he was elected Supervisor of Lemont Township. In 1866, he ran as a Republican for the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Illinois and won. In 1870 he returned to local politics and was elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners. He picked the right time to return to county level government, for midway though his term Chicago experienced the “Great Chicago Fire of 1871.” He was elected Building Chairman for the rebuilding of the county courthouse, and “Athens Stone” was used in the construction of that building and scores of others as Chicago rose from the ashes of that disaster. When Talcott died in 1878 he left no children and so Singer bought his partners shares from the widow. With complete control of the company, Singer went on to make mechanical improvements in the operation, introducing steam driven equipment the newest of machine tools. He also leased

other quarry operations to control the price of cut stone.

He was elected to replace Talcott on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Chicago.

He invested in a scheme with Ferdinand Peck to build an Auditorium complex for cultural events which also included a hotel and stores. There was little hope of financial return, but he considered his investment a cultural contribution to Chicago. The beautiful Sullivan and Adler Auditorium building on the corner of Michigan and Congress stands today, because of men with his vision.

Ironically, this first steel framework building let to the general decline of Mr. Singer's own product – stone. By 1891 he had sold his quarry business and left the area for the western frontier –CA. Before he left he donated money for a stained glass window in the Lemont United Methodist Church. He died under questionable circumstances in 1896.

Keepataw 2010



1917 Stanley Steamer

We would like to thank Howard Johnson and his family and their friend Gary White for allowing us to be in their priced possessions – their antique vehicles for the Keepataw Parade. We always enjoy the experience.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

We would like to congratulate the Lemont Fire Department on their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The dept will be honored at the Keepataw Parade.

There is also a mural that commemorates this special anniversary that has been unveiled and is at Station #1. We were happy to provide some of the archival photos they used as references.

### Lemont Area Historical Society Membership

**Student: \$10.00 -----**  
**Senior Citizen:\$10.00 -----**  
**Individual: \$15.00 -----**  
**Family: \$25.00 -----**  
**Corporate:\$50.00 -----**  
**Life Member:\$200-----**  
**Old Quarry Club:\$250.00 -----**  
**Friends of Keepataw:500.00 -----**  
**Athens Marble Club:\$1,000.00 ----**  
**Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**  
**LAHS**  
**306 Lemont Street**  
**Lemont, IL 60439**

ATHENS MARBLE CLUB MEMBERS  
VILLAGE OF LEMONT  
LEMONT TOWNSHIP  
LEMONT PARK DISTRICT  
Thank you for your support!