



### **ELECTION 2011**

2 Year Terms:

President: Susan Roy

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Rose Yates

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Richard Lee

Secretary: Susan Donahue

Treasurer: Gary Roy

Board Seats:

Barbara Bannon – 1 Year

John Bushman – 1 Year

Carol Garibay

Richard Hommerding

Thomas Ludwig

Wm. Uznanski

### **LUMC Final Celebration**

**November 20, 2011**

We have not yet finalized our entertainment for the November 20 celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the old Lemont Methodist Church. But for sure we will have nice refreshments and the old church, now the Lemont Area Historical Society Museum (LAHS), will be open for tours and visits. It makes sense to have the main celebration at the new Lemont United Methodist Church (LUMC), with plenty of parking and some informative messages about our history.

We tried to get a choir from North Central College that is also celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to come without success. We had a nice visit October 9 by Scott Whitney who portrays General Ulysses Grant and President Grant. This was to commemorate the visit of General Grant in 1862 to recruit volunteers for the Union Army at the old church. I guess we can be proud.

# Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society  
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439

[lemontahs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lemontahs@sbcglobal.net)

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

Nov – Dec, 2011

Nov 20- 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration – Lemont United Methodist Church Custer +Tours of LAHS Museum – details pending  
Nov 22-Gen. Mem. Meet 7pm. Election  
Dec 4 – Christmas Choral & Cookie Fest  
Doors open at 1pm. Performances start at 1:30.

### **LUMC (cont.)**

such a distinguished person as the President visited our church.

### **CHRISTMAS CHORAL & COOKIE Fest – Sunday, Dec 4**

We hear that Santa may stop by to visit when we are having our annual Christmas Choral & Cookie Fest. He heard about the LAHS members being such good bakers and Lemont's talented choirs. See flyer – we don't want to disappoint him. You know he does remember if you are naughty or nice.



### **LIMESTONE RAFFLE WINNERS**

1st Prize: Byron & Pat McKinney

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Joy DuGhetti

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Ron Stapleton

4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Susan Donahue

Gas Card: Patti & Bobbie Shapro

Next year it could be you!!!

CALLING ALL BAKERS!!!!



PLEASE BAKE SMALL COOKIES  
FOR OUR DEC 4th EVENT!

**DROP-OFF DATES:**  
**FRI, DEC 2: 10AM-2PM.**  
**SAT, DEC. 3: 8AM-10AM.**  
**THANK YOU!**

Christmas Choral & Cookie Fest Dec 4th  
St. Alphonsus Church Choir  
St. Patrick Church Choir  
Doors Open at 1pm.  
Concert starts at 1:30pm.

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



*Dear Members,*

As we near the end of the year I want to thank everyone for your support and dedication to the society. We had some good programs and events with generally good weather, except for a hot summer. I think our income will be enough to keep us going without dipping into our meager savings.

I wish the new officers well and will continue to assist wherever I can. My main interests will be to continue digitizing the archival photographs and promoting more tours. We may be able to interest the Park District in assisting us to promote and transport tours, so we'll continue pursuing that approach, along with exploring new ways of publicity. We have so much history and beautiful natural areas we should be a destination if we can get the word out.

We will have a new exhibit early next year to help our Fire District celebrate their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so look for news on that. And with a little luck, we hope to find a way to install a couple of portable air conditioners for the museum and attract more weddings for the peak summer season. That would make the museum more comfortable for the office and library workers too.

We hope to see you in December for the choral festival and cookie sale, one of our more profitable events and also our community open house. The open house breakfast is usually the second Wednesday at about 9 a.m. *Sincerely Yours,*

*Richard H. Lee*

Members are encouraged to join Subcommittees and share your ideas with the Board.

## **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 Tues & 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

Carol Garibay, 2nd Vice President

William Uznanski, Treasurer

Gary Roy, Secretary

### **Board Members**

Barbara Bannon, Susan Donahue, Richard Meyer

Doris Peterman, Susan Roy

### **Committees:**

**Strategic Planning** Richard Meyer, Gary Roy, Susan Roy

**Resource Center** Carol Garibay  
Collections, Library, Genealogy,  
Oral Histories, Photographs

**Community Outreach** Rose Yates  
Programs, Exhibits, Publicity, Tours,  
Historic Sites, Web Site

**Membership** Susan Donahue

**Sunday Volunteers** Doris Peterman

**Wedding Comm.** Joanne Pick, Carol Garibay,  
Susan Donahue

**Building & Maintenance:** Bill Uznanski,  
Richard Lee

**Web Master:** Paul Froehle

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*Cornerstone* 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 issues. Issues are mailed or emailed 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, 306 Lemont Street, 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

## *Genealogy Corner*



*By Barb Bannon*

### **Piece by Piece**

Church records are made for religious reasons, not for genealogists to compile their family history. They were and are still currently made to report the operational success of a church in the community. Genealogists have discovered that church records are a great source of information but it cannot be assumed that records are available for every area their ancestors settled. Where they are kept and when they began are the two questions that must be answered before church records can be used in research.

One of the planned projects of the Works Projects Administration (WPA) in the 1930's was an inventory of all U. S. church records. Because of the large amount of material and too many churches not cooperating, it was never finished. The WPA did publish many volumes listing historical data and the location of records as of the 1930's. Some churches, realizing the value of keeping church records, decided to set up depositories where their records are preserved and researched.

After determining what churches existed at the time and place for an ancestor being researched, a genealogist should consult the county, state and local histories popular in the 1870's and 1880's; these usually include information on church history. Local historians providing the background information gave an amazing account about the churches and realizing its historic nature often included vital records of the earliest church in their town.

A written request for a church record should be brief, specify the particular record sought, and include a self-addressed stamped envelope; a small donation may also help to

get a response. Some churches do not have staff available to do research, are dealing with un-indexed records and may have no one able to read the old-fashioned handwriting, which may add up to disappointing results or no reply at all. There may be instances where the pastor or clerk in the church office doesn't know the location of the old records; this usually is the case when the records were kept in a foreign language.

One of the best paper sources for locating records is E. Kay Kirkham's "A Survey of American Church Records". It includes most of the church records for most of the major denominations before 1860.

Electronically, a State Archives such as Illinois' [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) or the LDS site [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) would be of great help with locations.

After discovering where the records are kept, a researcher should consider the church's denomination, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc., since each of their records contains details important to that specific church. Some records will show baptisms or christenings of infants; others only baptisms of adults, marriages of members, and perhaps burials, along with officers of the church. With some church records, for example, few infants would be found because candidates for baptism are usually 14 years or older. The question of accuracy is also present because records of marriages and baptisms weren't always made on the day of the event but were recorded following the event from notes the minister made. Baptism records may give a month and a year, but may not have a day or even a name for the child. A marriage record may show the groom's full name but only state the first name of the bride or vice versa. If the recorder of the church book wasn't familiar with the family names, they may be spelled incorrectly. If a baptismal entry states "child of Mrs. Smith" or that the baptism of a child was performed "for Mrs. Smith" it doesn't mean that the father was deceased or the child was illegitimate; it may just mean that Mrs.

(Gen. Corner contin.)

Smith was a member of the church and Mr. Smith wasn't.

Church records may not be the easiest to find, the most accurate or the most complete but whatever information is retrieved, like all the discoveries in genealogy research, it will be another hard earned piece of your family history puzzle.

Genealogy: The marriage of a jigsaw puzzle to a dungeon & dragons game



Connecting Branches

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

Colleen Finlon - Michael  
Finlon/Finlan/Findlan family  
Jill Wildermuth - John Bromberek & Albert  
Bromberek family  
Dan Kelly - Ray Family  
Kathy Novak - Novakowski/Novak 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](mailto:lemontahs@sbcglobal.net)

LAHS Library Volunteers



Left to right: Charlene Counter, Gail Ahrens and Norma Johnson. They help genealogists do research, also file, access archives and are kept quite busy each Wednesday. They are Special!

**Editor's Note (sd):** In keeping with our buildings 150 Year celebrations, and having been used as a Civil War Recruiting Station and also the beginning of the Civil War I decided to add this sentimental poem I found from that time period. It is written by Josephine Smart Madden, the wife of Congressman Martin B. Madden, a cousin of John Warden, Lemont's Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. Untitled it reads:

The boys of Illinois heard the loud cry,  
"We're coming, Abe Lincoln, to do or die."  
Lemont, Downers Grove, Barbers Corner,  
Old Cass  
Responding to the call, turned out in mass.

The six-horse teams, girls all in white,  
'Neath waving flags and flowers so bright  
Young men on horseback, proud and brave,  
Fathers and mothers, serious and grave.

Higher and higher excitement ran,  
Louder and clearer the war songs they sang;  
Then that other cry, "Young men, enlist,  
Our country is in danger, will you assist?"

In innocent bravery their names they enroll,  
To those young men it was manhood's goal.  
Then in place of joy, it was grief run high,  
For in a few short weeks, Oh! the sad  
goodbyes.

The tenth of September, the hardest time  
came  
When all went to Lemont where they took  
the train,  
Fathers, mothers, and sisters, Oh! I see it yet  
Mothers hugging their sons, their darlings,  
their pets.

Forever it seemed, we were saying good-bye  
To fathers and sons who answered the cry:  
"To arms, to arms! Your country to save  
From disrupted Union and disgrace of the  
slave."



**Society Page**  
by Susan Donahue

**“HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!”**



We want to extend a very “Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!” to our life member and former Sunday Volunteer, Laura Hostert. She spent many Sundays through the years here at the museum with Mike McGrath. We appreciate her dedication and commitment and wish her all the best in the coming years.

**Speedy Recovery:**

We wish Rick Meyer, Board Member, a complete recovery from his recent surgery. We will miss him on the Board next year, but know he will still stay active and help us when he can.

**Tours:**

We have had a few tours of downtown Lemont recently with Cub Scouts and a museum/downtown walking tour with a school group from Chicago. It turned out decent weather for both. The school group even had a makeshift picnic on our grounds. The teacher said when I asked how everything was, “They are typical City kids.” She meant from my observation they spent more time fleeing bees and spiders than they did on eating their lunches. Walking around town was as one 9 year old told me, “Exhausting - I never walked this much in my whole life.”

**RECENT MUSEUM VISITOR:**

I often say, “You never know who will come into the museum.” A few short weeks ago a lady in a wheel chair accompanied by a younger woman stopped by. The older woman was revisiting her early times in Lemont. It turned out she was related to the

Brown family and her parents had been married on the property near a lilac bush. They had a small house there too. She told of a carriage house for buggies before her time. N.J. had put in a large stone so that ladies could use it as a stepping stone from the buggies. It was fascinating. One of her family members was a minister of the Lemont United Methodist Church, Rev. Percy Red McMahan. (Oral History Interview in the works)

**SCAVENGER HUNT**

A teacher, Mrs. Ercoli, from Lemont High School, requested that the museum be opened one Monday evening. The purpose was that she had prepared a “Scavenger Hunt” for her foreign language class and wanted to include the LAHS Museum as part of the destination of hidden treasures of information about our history as it related to the early ethnic groups of Lemont. We always encourage young people to come here so it was a no brainer, of course, we would be open.

Between 4-7pm. teams roamed the streets of Lemont armed with clues and specific spots. They were having a good time with the added challenge of finding all the answers first. It was nice to see their enthusiasm.

**Membership Renewal:**

We are always grateful for those who renew or become new members as of this newsletter: Jack & Natalie Bort, Joseph Deskovich, Susan Roy, Gary Roy, Cindy Siwek and Greg Fasing.

**New Life Member: Rose Yates.**

**Christmas Tree:**

**“Oh, Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches”** Last year our faithful Christmas tree decided it had volunteered it’s services long enough and reluctantly with age began to break apart. Thankfully a call was put out and Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cimino donated a new tree to the LAHS. We are grateful. Can’t wait to see it up and all decorated. Picture time!!



## *STEPPING BACK IN TIME*

*By Susan Donahue*

We don't need to go back into the 1800's when you think of it yesterday is our history. In keeping with the recent celebration of the Lemont Fire Dept and their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I thought I would look for info on that worthy group. Here is the story from Lemont Met of Feb 28, 1980.

### **"Some Lemont teens being raised as new crop of Firemen"**

Lemont Fire Department is raising a future crop of fireman, starting in high school. At present, about a dozen Lemont teenagers, ages 16 to 17 participate in the fire department cadet program, sponsored by the Lemont Area Youth Service Bureau. Every third Monday night of the month the cadets go to the firehouse to receive the same kind of training as the regular fire department volunteers. Fireman, Bert Ercoli, who has been in charge of training the cadets for the past 6 months, says of the group, "They are a real good bunch of kids. They're really gung ho. We teach them all we know."

"All we know" includes basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction, learning how to climb ladders and use the firemen's equipment, and practicing tactics and procedures for saving lives on accident, fire and ambulance calls.

One recent Monday night the cadets were being taught how to search a burning house for residents trapped inside. Two by two the teenagers suited up, their gear complete with an air pack, the face mask taped to simulate the amount of visibility a fireman has in a smoke filled house. Given a rope that was to be their lifeline with the outside, the trainees were instructed to stay close to the floor, stick together and talk to each other. On all fours, the back partner holding the front one's boot, the cadets groped their way into a room partitioned off to represent a three room house. Their mission – to find and bring out a "body," a bag containing about one hundred pounds worth of hose.

On occasion the firemen in charge of the training may shut off a valve on a trainee's air pack to see how the two partners will react, if they'll "buddy breathe" or if they will panic. A fireman has 20 minutes of air in his tank, says Ercoli, or maybe 15 if he is breathing fast.

"If they can do it, the cadets might have a start on a job later. A record of their training is kept, and credited to them if they decide to join the department when they turn 18. Chief Robert Kowalski, points out, "they'll have that much ahead of the game." It is a way of testing a potential volunteer's real interest in the fire department. It costs about \$500 to equip new firemen, he says, and some leave after only six months. But if teenagers join the cadet program and stick with it "they've got it in their blood."

Several of the cadets have relatives who belong to the fire department, while others heard of the program from a friend. It was offered as an option of the LAYSB learning exchange program in the fall of 1978. They would like to see more girls in the cadets, and Jackie Forzley, the only female cadet agrees. Some only come on training nights; others respond when the fire department receives a call. Although the cadets cannot ride the trucks with the firemen they can come to the scene of the fire after the blasé is out, and help pick up the hose, according to Chief Kowalski. Back at the station they also wash trucks and aid in putting away the equipment. Except for riding the trucks, they do everything we do and admitted with a laugh, "we make them climb the hose tower a little more than we do. "

**Note: January program will feature Firemen Rich Steck, who will bring slides and narrate stories of the Lemont Fire Dept.'s rich history. A new museum exhibit will soon showcase artifacts that will be on loan from the dept.**



*2011 in Review*



**Mr. Machen remodeling Bride's Room/Office**



**Vintage Baseball Game**



**Lemont Street Fair 2011**



**Heritage Fest: Bingo Pat, Barb, & Rick**



**St. Patrick's Group Tour in April**

**LAHS 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!**