



Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439
lemontahs@sbcglobal.net
www.lemonthistorical.org

**FRIENDLY REMINDER
NON – LIFE LAHS
MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN MARCH**

March 2012 Newsletter
**March 10: St. Patrick Parade with Quarrymen
1pm. Safety Village**
**March 27: Gen. Meeting 7pm. +
“Take Me Out to the Ballgame” Program**
May 11 Evening Civil War Picnic
May 12 Volunteering Quarrymen Challenge
June 6 Volunteering Classic Car Show
June 15 & 16 Volunteers Needed Tag Days

**“CROSTOWN CLASSIC TICKET RAFFLE”
RAFFLE TICKETS \$5 OR 5 FOR \$20.00**

**GET IN ON THE RAFFLE!!!!
WIN TWO PREMIUM TICKETS & PARKING
FOR EACH GAME
Cubs/Sox at Wrigley Field
May 18-19-20 One Game**

**Sox/Cubs at U.S. Cellular Field
June 18-19-20 One Game**

All members will be receiving raffle tickets to sell – a new idea that sprung forth from John Quinn. We thought it was worth pursuing so please go out and sell as many tickets as you can. The winner will have an enjoyable, fun time and by selling tickets we will be helping preserve Lemont’s history and our beloved museum – a win – win situation

**We also will have raffle tickets on sale at:
Toms Place 110 Stephen Street
Smokey Row 112 Stephen Street
LAHS Museum**

**QUARRYMEN BASEBALL RETURNS!!!!!!
Home Games: June 24, July 21, August 18**
Good old fashioned fun for the whole family. Circle these dates on your calendar and join us



**“TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME”
MARCH 27, 7PM. MUSEUM**
**See John Owen’ Emmy Award Winning
Documentary on Chicago baseball narrated by
Rick Kogan (on loan from Chicago Tribune)**

Get an early start to America’s favorite pastime baseball. It maybe too early to “Play Ball” but you can still join us for baseball hot dogs, peanuts & Crackerjack.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR BASEBALL
MEMORABILIA TO SHARE**

We all have our favorite team that we live and die for and with Chicago baseball teams you have to be strong of heart to deal with the highs and often the terrible lows. We all have stories both funny and sad and yes, even frustrating – let us hear about them – we all have been there.

Life Memberships will also be given at March General Meeting to Paul Froehle and Dr. Glenn Groselak for the recent donation of an office computer. Thank You gentleman!

CARSONS COMMUNITY DAYS
Coupon Books for \$5 (will be coming in soon).
Packed with savings for everyone in your family.
Dates of Sale: April 27 & 28

President's Message. .



Dear Members,
With Spring right around the corner we have a lot of exciting events ahead of us.

First of all, on **March 10**, we have the Village **St. Patrick's Day Parade** and the official kickoff to our **Crosstown Classic Raffle**. The Historical Society will have a place in the parade and any of you who would like to join us are more than welcome to do so. We will also be serving corn beef and cabbage at the Inn at Smokey Row for those who participate with the Historical Society. The Lemont Quarrymen will also be walking with us. Hopefully, the weather will be pleasant!

You will be receiving your **Crosstown Classic Raffle tickets** in the mail within the next week, if you haven't received them already. We really appreciate your support in this raffle as it will help to make much needed improvements to the Old Stone Church. Also, tickets can be purchased at the Museum, Tom's Place and Smokey Row Antique Shop. Again this year, we will be having a bonus raffle for anyone who purchases or sells 6 or more raffle tickets. The raffle drawing will take place at our **Civil War Picnic on the evening of Friday, May 11th**.

Our **March 27th program** is also going to be a lot of fun! We will be presenting John Owens' Emmy Award Winning Documentary on Chicago Baseball narrated by Rick Kogan. You are all invited to bring in any baseball memorabilia that you would like to share with the attendees that evening. Hot dogs will also be offered along with, of course, peanuts and Cracker Jack!!! We hope you will join us or tell your friends about it. Admission is free.

On **May 12th** we will again be volunteering at the **Quarryman Challenge 2012**. We will be at our usual water station at the finish line. If you are interested in volunteering with the Historical Society, please let us know. It is awesome to watch all the runners. Although you have to be there early, you are usually home by 10:00 a.m., so you have the rest of Saturday for other things.

On February 21st, Susan and I had an informative and interesting day at the State Capitol for the Illinois & Michigan Canal Day Meeting. It was also just great to spend time in the beautiful historic architecture. We were also grateful to Paul Chialdikas of Pancake Café for providing the lovely continental breakfast for the bus ride.

This week Gary and I took a couple days off and visited Springfield for the Illinois Bed & Breakfast Association's Annual Meeting. While we were there, we visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential

Library and Museum. Although we have never heard anything but positive and impressive comments from previous visitors, we were just astonished! If you ever have the chance to go, don't pass it up. You will be very happy that you went. Hope you all have a Happy Spring and Blessed Easter!

Best Regards, Sue

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

President Susan Roy
1st Vice President Rose Yates
2nd Vice President Richard Lee
Secretary Susan Donahue
Treasurer Gary Roy

Board Members

Barbara Bannon, John Bushman,
Carol Garibay, Richard Homerding, Doris Peterman,
Wm. Uznanski

Committees:

Strategic Planning

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- Richard Homerding, 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, John Bushman, Richard Homerding

Web Master

Paul Froehle

Society members are encouraged to participate in Committees and Subcommittees.

Genealogy Corner



By Barb Bannon

WHOSE HOUSE WAS IT?

Since I was young I have always had a high level of curiosity, which is most likely why I am so interested in doing family history research. If we had not purchased our house from the original owners, I would have been digging into county records years ago. We were lucky enough to have been handed the original 1926 blue prints and now that I think about it, the keys we received were probably originals. We also have old tax bills and other papers pertaining to the original construction of the home.

Fewer and fewer people live in the same state let alone the town they were born in these days. Job transfers being among the most common reason for moving, many families are in their third, fourth or even fifth home by the time they become adults. We are most likely among a minority in that respect during this age of mobility.

Have you ever wondered about the history of your house, apartment, or other building, possibly an ancestor's home? Did you ever wonder when was it built, who built it, who owned it or what happened to the people who lived there, were they famous? You don't necessarily need to be looking for documentation for historic status; it may be just unavoidable curiosity. Tracing the history of a property and learning about the previous residents can be fascinating. A house history may consist of date of construction, architect or builders name, physical changes and historical facts on the residents or interesting events connected with the building or area.

To get started begin by reviewing the type of materials used, the shape of the roofline and windows. These **features are useful in identifying the architectural style** of the building and an approximate construction time period. Look for obvious additions or changes to the building or lot. Talk to neighbors who might have information about the house, land or former owner. If you are doing any remodeling, be vigilant for old newspapers (sometimes used between studs for insulation) and other items or writings on wood. Repairing a window, we found a date written on the wood and a matchbook cover used as a shim.

A title search could be time consuming but can be the best way to show the chain of ownership. Not only can it provide the names of owners, it can also show

construction dates, changes in value or use and even plot maps. Begin with the county where most deeds are recorded; you can search with the property tax identification number on the Cook County Recorder of Deeds website:

<http://www.ccrd.info/CCRD/il031/index.jsp>. If you need PIN # the Cook County Assessors website:

<http://cookcountyassessor.com/index.aspx> can be searched by address. The address, local newspapers, utility records, photographs and maps can provide clues. You may now have one or more names of the previous owners and more familiar research sources can be used to enhance the details of the story. Phone books and city directories can provide you with a timeline of former occupants and possibly extra details such as occupations. Keep in mind that street numbers and names occasionally were changed over time; old maps may help with these changes. Census records, newspapers and obituaries can provide a wealth of details about the former occupants of your home. You may even find an article on your home if the owner was a prominent member of the town.

The homeowner's history is intertwined with the history of a house. You may want to consider researching the former owners all the way down to living descendants and contacting them to learn more. Occupants of a home can provide tales that cannot be found in any records. They may also have old photos of the building. Contact them with care, you don't want to annoy the best source if information you may have found.



A house is just a house until it talks to you!



Mailbox

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

Genealogy Corner |Cont:

Mailbox

Q: In many early records I have found a relative with Jr. included with their name but his father did not have the same first name. Are there other meanings for Jr. or can I assume that this was just a nickname for some reason?

A: Never assume when doing research. I have found a case that Jr. was used when a father had died shortly before his only son was born (with the same name). Later he had a son of his own also with the same name and at that point they used Sr. and Jr. even though they were really the 2nd and 3rd. Other cases where Sr. was an uncle or grandfather of Jr. and the designations were used because they lived in the same area.



Connecting Branches

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

Ed Note: Barb Bannon writes about Genealogy and family ties and coincidentally we have the following newsletter article from one of her cousins, Pat Knight.

I also thought our readers might be interested in some additional background information on the author, Willa Cather.

She was born on December 7, 1873 in Virginia and moved to Nebraska in 1883. Willa Cather felt strongly that peoples and civilizations who live in harmony with their natural environments are, and should be, sources of inspiration.

She received critical acclaim for her work but in the 1930's Marxist Critics suggested she did not understand or show concern for modern social issues. What affect this had on her is not known but when she died on April 24, 1947 it was revealed that she had ordered all her letters be burned. Though thousands of letters escaped destruction, Cather's will prevents their publication. In Red Cloud the Willa Cather Pioneer Foundation was created to honor her memory. sd

FOCUS ON WILLA CATHER, AUTHOR

I am caught up in a world, far from Lemont, but alive in my mind's eye. It is western Nebraska, Willa Cather's world. Her stories are set there, her home was in Red Cloud, and her descriptions open a world most people would unknowingly ignore. Somehow I missed reading Willa Cather's works in school. My Antonia and O Pioneers! are perhaps her best known. Her most recognized works came later in her career such as Death Comes for the Archbishop published in 1927. Perhaps you have to see Nebraska first to really appreciate Cather's descriptions. Driving through Nebraska on an interstate is not enough. I lived in Nebraska for more than 10 years, and traveled throughout western Nebraska. Driving down a lonely road near the sand-hills of Nebraska, I saw a pheasant perched on a haystack clear of the wet grass, warming itself in the rising sun. What a sight!

This is a good example of her writing taken from "O Pioneers!"

Although it was only four o'clock, the winter day was fading. The road led southwest, toward the streak of pale, watery light that glimmered in the leaden sky. The light fell upon the two sad young faces that were turned mutely toward it: upon the eyes of the girl, who seemed to be looking with such anguished perplexity into the future; upon the somber eyes of the boy, who seemed already to be looking into the past.

The book that really impacted me was Cather's, One of Ours. Cather tells of a young Nebraska farmer who searches for meaning to his life eventually leading to World War I service. The book won Cather the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1923. Her work created much controversy about whether a woman, Cather, should write a war novel. Of course, that would not be debated today.

One of Ours was one of the most powerful books I have ever read. I could not put it down. The reader becomes part of the prairie and part of a young man's struggle. Somehow Cather brings the reader to Nebraska, then to the fighting in France as you too are facing the Hun line.

Have you read it?

Pat Knight



SOCIETY NEWS

By Susan Donahue

TOURS:

We will be having a tour group come in a few weeks from now – The Questers. The person booking it had a tour of our museum and downtown walking tour with another group and found it quite interesting and decided this would be a perfect destination for other friends. Needless to say we are very glad to hear this..

GET WELL WISHES:

We are sending out get well wishes to our fellow board member Carol Garibay and her husband, Art. As you know Joanne Pick is also on the sick list and we want only good health for all of them. Ellen Kucera also has moved to Palos from the Franciscan Village and Mother Theresa Home. We wish her all the best in her new surroundings.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

We are glad that quite a few of you have decided to renew without a reminder. Music to our ears. Thank you: James Browne, Patricia Browne, Rae Dyer, Ashley Ann Forzley, Miriam Giebel, Patricia Hallman, Lance Winterlund FA.

EXHIBITS:

We are very pleased with the interest in our new Lemont Fire Dept exhibit currently on display. If you have not had the opportunity to come and see it please do. There has been publicity about it in our electronic news, "Lemont Patch." We are grateful to former Assistant Fire Chief Rich Stech for loaning us photos, uniforms, dispatch radio, etc. We also received donations of memorabilia from Mr. Kaufman, who's dad was on the fire dept for many years. Fun to see photos of mock weddings, a poster from the 1930's of a Fire Dept picnic, and their stationary from the 1950's.



SPRINGFIELD TRIP:

I know Sue Roy briefly spoke about our Springfield trip in her President's Letter but I thought I would include my own thoughts and extra details.

We had been approached by the I & M Canal Corridor Assoc. to participate in a day bus trip to the state capital to drum up interest and yes, money, for improvements along the Canal.

We left Lemont about 6am. and our first stop besides the treats from Pancake Café was Joliet Junior College to pick people up and then later we went to a truck stop – we were puzzled why – but soon found out that a group was meeting us there in Dwight, too. There were two motor coaches in all.

We got to the Illinois State Capital Bldg. around 10:30am. Sue and I observed that the majority of our fellow riders had very little carry- on items – we surpassed them with at least three bags a piece of things we decided to bring to showcase the LAHS. Thankfully they stopped right in front of the Capital. We later learned the seasoned among us had stored their items in the baggage holder and retrieved them when they debarked.

We were in the lobby area and had tables assigned us. We got the opportunity to network with people coming in and meet people with our shared interest.

Unfortunately, the legislators were busy with last minute budget items and appointments that had been made to meet them and do some lobbying were canceled.

We collected our display items at 3pm. and headed to the Old State Capital Bldg. where a docent gave us a brief history and then upstairs to the upper floor and a presentation by a Union soldier portrayer who told us about his uniform, gear, and the hardships he would have encountered.

Sitting in the chamber where Lincoln and Douglas once conducted legislative business was awe inspiring. It is also the same room where Douglas spoke and rallied fellow legislators behind the Union cause. Here is where the assassinated President Lincoln lay in state. 100,000 people viewed his body. We walked in their footsteps that day. The Union soldier portrayer came outside and loaded and fired his weapon for us. (Pictures on last page.)

We arrived home about 9:45pm. after eating at a buffet restaurant in Springfield. Imagine my surprise when I turned on the tv and heard, "Late breaking news fire trucks have been dispatched to the State Capital bldg. in Springfield – suspicious odor – possibly electrical problem in wall – evacuated.." I could only imagine the scene and even chaos if it had happened earlier when all of us were set up and heard fire trucks, sirens blaring, and then realized they were stopping in front of where we were and us being told to leave the bldg. Thankfully that scenario didn't play out and all ended well.



STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue

We would like to first congratulate the Lemont Lions Club on their Golden Anniversary! All of you must be proud of the accomplishments that you have achieved over these many years. All the best in the coming years.

Now as part of our theme of baseball I came across articles and coincidentally they also deal with the Lemont Lions Club as well.

Lemont Reporter Met, May 20, 1954

This is for kids Only!

How would you like to see Minnie Minoso bash a triple, or Chico Carrasquel pull one of his dazzling plays at short, or Fearless Ferrie Fain smite a mighty drive?

All of these thrills are being wrapped up in a free package for youngsters by the Lemont Lions Club, which is sponsoring "Boys Day at Comisky Park" on Thursday, June 24, when the White Sox will meet the Washington Steelers.

All boys from 9-16 years inclusive are being offered this opportunity to attend the game free of charge as guests of the Lions. All they have to do is register, with written permission from their parents.

Lion officials say they will be able to take 150 boys in 3 buses and youngsters are urged to register for the trip as soon as possible, since the quota will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Youngsters may register now at D & M Motors (now Centennial Bldg) 112 Main Street or F.F. Kromryk & Son Auto Supplies (now Hayes Auto) 105 Stephen Street. All the boys have to do is bring their own lunch. The time and place of departure will be announced at a later date.

LEMONT REPORTER, June 17, 1954

Lemont Lions Club members were propounding a new baseball question today. If a screaming line drive upsets a carton full of refreshments held by an "Innocent Bystander" is it a ground rule double or is the batter guilty of assault?

The question stemmed from the annual Lions Steak Fry Monday night at Meyer's Gove (now where Walgreens is). Half a hundred hungry Lions consumed tender fillets prepared by Chef Cliff Proulx and, what with food and talk and some cautious exercise enjoyed their outing to the hilt.

The baseball rhubarb involved Lions President John Ludwig, who subsequently testified that he wasn't aiming at anything in particular when he clouted the debated line drive.

The "Innocent Bystander" decided, as a good Lion should, to overlook the whole thing since he had suffered only a dampened exterior.

A reasonably accurate accounting of the game gave a 17 to 5 victory to the team for which Dale Strand pitched and Red Ordman caught. The losing battery, graceful in defeat, was Eli Lubick and Gibby Wold.

Personal Reflections

Now we all know that anyone interested in baseball in Chicago has a favorite team either from the North or South sides.

Personally I am a White Sox fan. Inherited it honestly from my late dad, who seemed to live and die on each pitch and got quite a razzing from relatives who favored those rascal Cubs.

I think the first time I went to Sox Park was when my dad and I went with our neighbors who invited us along. I was in grade school. Did we met Minnie Minoso's children in the stands? We thought we did.

When I was in high school one of my late and dear friends and I would save up money to treat our dads (both Soxers) to a game as one of our gifts to them for Father's Day.

Will always remember those fun times at the old ballpark. They won when we went – probably should have gone more often and their record would have been better.

Our curse for many years was those darn Yankee's - sometimes I used to think that all they had to do was show up in their uniforms and it sealed our losing fate.

My dad and cousin Louie Novak (Cubbie through and through), who owned Nick's Tavern, had a bet each year on which team would end up higher in the standings at the close of the season. My dad didn't do badly with that bet and I have one of Louie's prize collector's bottle to prove it. They never bet on either of them winning the World Series – I wonder why?

Also one of my late relatives, Estelle Kaminski, diehard Cub fan, told me when they snatched defeat from the glove of victory when she was in her 90's, "Oh, my God they were so close right up to the end. I guess this means I have to live another year to see them win! I don't know how much longer I can hold out!" She I am sure is now routing for them in heaven.

Couldn't help but think of my dad when in 2005 the "Glorious White Sox" – did I mention I am a fan of theirs – clinched the World Series. I laughed and cried. It was amazing and I always figured dad pulled some strings up there to make it happen. Could see that smile lighting up his whole face that night and in a special way I shared that victory with him.

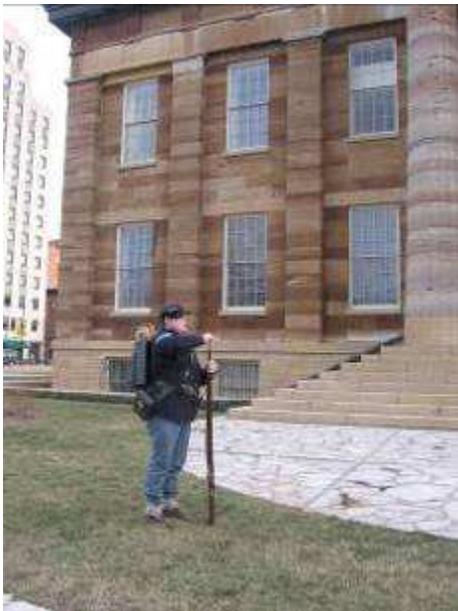
My definition of a true fan: It is the bottom of the ninth – your team is losing 9-0 and your teams worst hitter is up against their star pitcher – there are 2 outs – and you in your most resolute voice are saying, "I know we can pull it out – we can win this one – he's due for a hit!"

Pictures from Springfield Trip:

Union Soldier Portrayer Old State Capital



Union Soldier Portrayer Fires His Rifle



Union Portrayer Readyng His Rifle

Lemont Area Historical Society Membership

- Student**
- 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: _____

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Mail to:
LAHS
306 Lemont Street
Lemont, IL 60439

The 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 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.

ATHENS MARBLE CLUB MEMBERS
VILLAGE OF LEMONT
LEMONT TOWNSHIP
LEMONT PARK DISTRICT